# The Binfield Beacon



Your Binfield Parish Community Magazine - there's lots going on!

April 2022



## Our Mission is to help people follow Jesus and his teachings

## **SERVICES & DIARY**

All services and groups are correct at the time of going to press, and will comply with government guidance, so may change depending on government advice. Any updates will be published on our website and facebook pages.

SERVICES						
APRIL 2022						
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	9.30am	Common Worship Communion				
	11.00am	Informal All Age Baptism Service				
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	8.15am	Book of Common Prayer Communion				
	9.30am	Common Worship Communion				
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY				
MAUNDY THURSDAY		(A reflective communion service)				
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm	GOOD FRIDAY				
GOOD FRIDAY		(An hour at the Cross - A Meditative Service)				
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April		EASTER SUNDAY				
EASTER SUNDAY	9.30am	Common Worship Communion				
	11.00am	Informal Celebration with Communion				
		(Followed by a Children's Egg Hunt)				
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	8.15am	Book of Common Prayer Communion				
	9.30am	Common Worship Communion				
MAY 2022						
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	9.30am	Common Worship Communion				
	11.00am	Informal All Age Baptism Service				

DIARY						
APRIL 2022						
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.45am	Men's Monthly Walk				
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir practice at St Mark's Church				
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir practice at St Mark's Church				
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk				
	7.00pm	Oasis Youth Group at St Mark's Church				
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.00pm	Choir practice at St Mark's Church				
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Whizz Kids at St Mark's Church				
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Silver Service at St Mark's Church				
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 7.00pm	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church Oasis Youth Group at St Mark's Church				
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir practice at St Mark's Church				
MAY 2022						
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.45am	Whizz Kids at St Mark's Church				
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Wednesday Women's Walk				
	10.00am	3G Toddler Group at St Mark's Church				
	7.00pm	Oasis Youth Group at St Mark's Church				
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Choir practice at St Mark's Church				



## Choir Practise - Thursdays 7pm to 8.15pm at St Mark's Church

We sing on Sundays at the 9.30 service at All Saints'.

You do not need to commit to come every week

For more information contact Michael Hawkins (01344 411681)

Whizz Kids

Children's Sunday Group at St Mark's Church 10.45am -12.15pm

For children of school years 1-6 Every Sunday (during term time except the 1st Sunday of the month)

ARTS & CRAFT, GAMES AND MUCH MORE!

Email daisyridell@gmail.com for info

Oasis

Wednesday Girls' Group at St Mark's Church 7pm - 8.30pm

Oasis is open to all girls in school years 7-11 Every Wednesday during term time

Come along for games, craft, general socialising and lots of talks and activities

Email daisyridell@gmail.com for info



We are delighted to announce that 3G, a baby and toddler group, is restarting on

Wednesday, 27th April at the usual time of 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 am, during term time, at St Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Mums and Dads, Carers and Grandparents over coffee and cake, also with refreshments for the little ones. There will the usual toys, craft, story and singing plus our prayer song to close. We assure you of a very warm welcome and a fun time for the children.

Jan Watts and Team

## MEN'S MONTHLY COUNTRY WALK DATES: Saturday 2nd April and Saturday 7th May

The Men's Monthly Walk takes place on the 1st Saturday of each month. We start at 7.45am from the car park at Oakmede Shops. The walk lasts approximately 1 hour.

Be ready for all weathers!
For more information contact Kim Swain
on 07894 469633 or kim.swain1@gmail.com

## WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S WALK

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Ik (which takes
d around Binfield

A gentle 2-3 mile walk (which takes about an hour) in and around Binfield

village, for women of mixed ages and abilities. Usually on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

The walks go ahead in all weathers and normally start at 9am from outside Foxes' Den Café and finish there around 10am for

a coffee. 6th Apr - NO WALK

20th Apr - 9am meet Foxes' Den 4th May - 9am meet Foxes' Den 18th May - 9am meet Foxes' Den For more information contact either: Gisele on 07724 889169 Claire on 07912 746289

### THE SILVER SERVICE

A traditional short service designed and led by our retired congregation members followed by a delicious homemade lunch at St Mark's Church.

**Tuesday 26th April at 12 noon**If you need a lift, please call
Beverley on 07704 437207

**PLEASE NOTE:** The articles in this magazine reflect the personal opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor or Editorial Team. Furthermore the Editorial Team are not responsible for any errors of fact printed in the magazine. Goods and services advertised in this magazine are not endorsed but readers utilising these facilities retain their statutory rights.

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### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RECTOR



As the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues, it can be difficult to find a sense of hope amongst such heartbreak. These stories are putting the generosity of the human spirit in full display.

#### Strollers at the Station

Photojournalist Francesco Malavolta was at a train station in Poland, hoping to document the arrival of refugees in the station when he noticed something. Empty strollers, some of which contained blankets and clothes, were lined up on a platform at the Przemyśl station, which sits at the border crossing between Ukraine and Przemyśl, Poland. The strollers were left behind by Polish parents for Ukrainian mothers fleeing with babies. "I thought of them both, about the solidarity of those who brought the strollers and the dramatic stories of mothers fleeing the war," Malavolta told TODAY. He snapped a photo and uploaded it to social media. It wasn't long before the powerful image went viral. "There is a strong feeling of solidarity," he said. "There should always be and for everyone, regardless of the starting points of the most fragile."

### **Sheltering with Strangers**

Thousands of German residents have offered housing, food, clothes and other necessities to Ukrainians who have fled their home country after the Russian military attacks began. With posters in hand, indicating the type of support they can provide, Germans stand at Berlin's central railway station, waiting to greet Ukrainians.

April, a Ukraine native who has been living in Germany for a year, is one of the many volunteers offering emotional and material support. "The least I can do is help people who were able to escape," she told NPR. "It's very important for me that my fellow Ukrainians feel welcome here, especially the children." Other volunteers are offering transportation, providing emergency accommodation, gifting mobile SIM cards and matching refugees with people who are offering rooms in their homes—a powerful example of the kindness of strangers.

### A Web of Help

In 2019, Mercer Island High School student Avi Schiffmann developed ncov2019.live, one of the first and largest websites used to track the spread of the coronavirus around the world. This year, on February 27, Schiffman, now a Harvard student, had another idea. He decided to build another site that would help Ukrainian refugees find hosts in neighboring countries throughout Europe and all over the world. With the help of his classmate, Marco Burstein, an 18-year-old computer coder, Schiffman launched Ukraine Take Shelter, an independent platform in 12 languages that allows Ukrainians to find hosts offering spare rooms, childcare support, disability support and legal assistance.

"It's really cool to develop something like that all the way from home and actually have it help people across the entire world, in a country I didn't really ever think about a few months ago," Schiffman told KIRO Newsradio. The website currently has over 4,000 listings in countries like Germany, Poland, Iceland and Australia. Within the first week of its launch, dozens of refugees were able to find shelter. Burstein, who feels grateful to have his family around and to live in a safe environment, told *The Washington Post*, "We felt it was our turn to give back."

#### A Noble Lesson

When war broke out in Ukraine and residents began to flee the country, Oleksiya Kayokhtin, a history teacher in the southeastern city of Mariupol, decided to stay. The 33-yearold teacher who has taught in Ukraine for the last decade, refused to leave helpless children behind. "I stay in town no matter what," Kayokhtin told ABC News. "I said I won't leave my children even if I'm killed." He helped evacuate an entire orphanage to Zaporizhia shortly after Putin declared war on Ukraine and took children, seniors and disabled people to a bomb shelter. He provides food and warm clothes for everyone in the bunker, which is currently sheltering 400 kids. While stepping out to find supplies, Kayokhtin put himself in danger and came in contact with military forces on the street. "We were driving past the so-called DPR (Donetsk People's Republic), bringing bread, and the troops started shooting for some reason, although there's a sign of humanitarian aid on our car," Kayokhtin said. "Somehow God helped us." With the help of two other people, a medical worker and a driver, he plans to continue helping children for as long as he needs to, with hopes that one day he'll continue teaching.

These stories of human kindness offer hope, inspiration and comfort. I guess the question is, will we do the same thing when we have the opportunity?



Jesus said this, Do to others, what you want them to do to you. Matthew chapter 7 verse 12.

Stories taken from https://www.guideposts.org/inspiration/inspiring-stories/stories-of-hope/help-for-ukraine-how-the-human-spirit-shines-during-the-darkest-of-times

Luke

### From the Registers:

### **Baptisms**

Chiara Grey Rosaria Gildersleeves-Pierce Siena James Wylde Gildersleeves-Pierce



### **Funerals**

David Prince Reginald Cardrick Rosemary Clayton

## CONTACT US: 01344 421079 office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

#### Rector:

Revd Luke Taylor 07939 526361 lukethevicar@gmail.com (Friday is Luke's day off)

#### **Churchwardens:**

John Hargreaves - 07973 842624 Neil Harrison - 01344 455174

#### **Church Office:**

Hayley Fourie, Administrator

Office number 01344 421079

Office mobile number: 07719 545292

office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

### Office opening hours:

Tuesday: 9.00am - 1.00pm Wednesday: 9.00am - 1.00pm Thursday: 9.00am - 1.00pm

### **Binfield Beacon Editor:**

Claire Thomas

beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

### P.C.C. Secretary:

Kate Hayes 07809 736372

### Organist & Choirmaster:

Michael Hawkins 01344 411681

#### **Bell Tower Captain:**

Jan Glen 07840 104455

#### Treasurer:

Sarah Muller 01344 428782

Treasurer@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

### **Stewardship Secretary:**

Andrea White 01344 421079

### **ARC Fundraising Team**

fund raising @binfield cofe churches. or g.uk

### **Church Website:**

www.binfieldcofechurches.org.uk



We are also on Facebook facebook.com/AllSaintsWithStMarks

The Church Office is sited in St Mark's Church

#### St Mark's Church

Popeswood Road Binfield RG42 4AH

#### All Saints' Church

Church Hill Binfield RG42 5NS

### PLEASE LET US STAY IN TOUCH!

We would like to improve our communication with everyone in the village and congregation. To do this we need to keep our contacts database up to date.

We have a new privacy policy in line with the new GDPR rules on our website.

If you would like to sign up to receive emails from

## Pastoral Care Visiting Team - need a friend?





### **Bereavement Support Team**

In All Saints' and St Mark's Churches we have a small pastoral care team who are happy to visit and befriend the people of Binfield. So, if you have recently moved to the area and don't know many people; if your family live far away; if you are a Mum at home with a baby and would like adult company; if you find it difficult to get out or just fancy a friendly chat over a cup of tea, please get in touch with one of us. You don't need to be a member of the church, just enjoy some company occasionally!

Jane Aylwin tel. 481692
Jill Hanson tel. 452694
Margareta Hawkins tel. 411681
Sarah Muller tel. 428782
Gisele Taylor tel. 07724 889169
Dave Dawson tel. 360389

Or contact the church office on 01344 421079 or email office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

We will all suffer loss, grief or bereavement at some time in our lives, mainly through death, but also in other ways such as relationship breakdown, loss of a job, or sudden disability. The Bereavement Support Team are not counsellors, but can offer support and companionship if you are suffering a loss of any kind. There is no charge for a visit. All support team members have ID badges.

### **Friday Morning Bereavement Group Coffee Morning**

Foxes' Den Café on Fridays 10.30am – 11.30am (term time only)

Peer to Peer support open to anyone dealing with grief. It is not a counselling group, just a friendly get together over a drink.

If you would like to talk to a member of the team, in confidence, please contact Liz Hall for more information orinocco@hotmail.co.uk /07850 799434 or Margareta Hawkins 01344 411681

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

## All Saints' Church Sunday Service Rotas

We are looking for help on a Sunday morning with:

Welcoming Reading Prayers

Refreshments after the services

To find out more or be added to one of these rotas please contact Hayley at the Church office on 01344 421079 or email office@binfieldcofechurch.org.uk.



### Praying for and with you

We have weekly prayer sheets — please email office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

if you would like something to be included.



### St Mark's Church Hall

Available for booking.

Please contact the church office on 01344 421079 or email office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk for more information or to make a booking.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**



Hi Everyone,

The kids and youth groups have been busy over the last month, and have more excitement to come in April! Here's what we've been doing...



At Whizz Kids we've been continuing our series called 'God is...' where we find out about some of the characteristics of God. So far we've learned that He is wise, kind, merciful, faithful, good, loving, eternal and holy! Each week when we find out about

faithful, good, loving, eternal and holy! Each week when we find out about a new characteristic, we do something to help us remember it, and our favourite week so far has been learning about holiness, because we all got a doughnut to remind us that God is 'hole-y'!

We have our Easter Egg-stravaganza on 5th April, which many of you have already signed up for. This will be a morning of fun and faith, exploring the Easter story through interactive activities, playing games and having fun! We're really looking forward to seeing lots of you there.





At Oasis we celebrated pancake day a day late with our own pancake decorating competition. Some of them definitely ended up with more toppings than pancake, but it was great to see what everyone came up with! We also play a weekly round of 'Taskmaster', where we

set the group an obscure task and see what they come up with in response. A personal favourite week has been to 'do an impression of a leader' which was very insightful!





In addition to our usual fun, games and toasties, we have been looking at mental wellbeing and some helpful coping strategies. Taking a short time to reflect and think about ourselves is really helpful when we get stressed or overwhelmed by life, and it's good to have others to talk with who are going through the same things.

The Oasis team also helped to decorate and serve at the Barn Dance fundraiser in March, where they sold cakes and desserts, and served the hotdogs too! A big thank you to the girls who gave up their evening to help make the night fun.

We've had a great month, and we're excited for April and all that Easter brings!



Daisy - Children's and Youth Worker (daisyridell@gmail.com)





### **BINFIELD PATIENT GROUP**

## LOOKING TO FIND NEW THINGS TO DO IN YOUR LOCAL AREA:

Get more exercise?

Learn a new skill?

Meet new people?

Bracknell Forest Social Prescribers can give you a call and help you find a friendly group or club near you.

Call 01344 35 2000 and request a ring back.

Or request your GP to refer you.

Information available at:

www.health.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/social-prescription

### **BRANTS BRIDGE, BRACKNELL:**

Brants Bridge is continuing to treat MINOR INJURIES.

Telephone direct: 01344 551100. Firstly, please telephone 111 to find out if this is the most appropriate service for your needs.

Call 999 for life-threatening conditions.

#### WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT BINFIELD SURGERY:

Please access the internet on <a href="www.binfieldsurgery.co.uk">www.binfieldsurgery.co.uk</a> where you will find all available information. If you do not have access to the internet please contact surgery reception after 11.00am Monday through Friday on 01344 286264 with the relevant question/s that you wish to ask.

### **BOWEL CANCER:**

If bowel cancer is found early enough, there's an excellent chance of successful treatment. If you are aged 60-74 years old and have not received your free screening test kit, please contact 0800 707 6060 or on the internet:

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/bowel

#### **ANTIBIOTICS:**

Antibiotics should only be used on your GP's advice and are not suitable for many conditions. If your GP prescribes antibiotics then they should work. In all cases please listen to your GP's advice and ALWAYS finish the course you have been prescribed.

#### **TELEPHONE 111:**

111 is the NHS non-emergency number. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 111 for the following:

- 1. Fast medical help which is not a 999 emergency.
- 2. If you think you need to go to A&E or need another NHS urgent care service.
- 3. If you are unsure who to call.
- You need health information or reassurance about what to do next.

FOR IMMEDIATE, LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES, CALL 999.

#### **BLOOD PRESSURE:**

It is important to check your blood pressure regularly. If you can lower your blood pressure the risk of stroke, heart attack, heart failure are significantly reduced.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE:

- 1. Improve nutrition and reduce salt consumption please visit <a href="https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/">https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/</a> public/heart/dash brief.pdf for information.
- 2. Improve calorie balance to reduce excess body weight.
- 3. Personal behaviour change on diet, physical activity, alcohol and smoking.
- 4. Regular monitoring of blood pressure for those aged over 40

If when checking your blood pressure the top number is above 145 (145/85 for example) please contact the surgery for further advice.

**Duncan Johnston - Binfield Patient Group** 



### Party 'Bye' The Pitch Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 4pm - 10pm

1st Binfield Scouts and Binfield Cricket Club are very pleased to announce that "Party Bye the Pitch" will be back at the Cricket Club this year Live Music, BBQ, Licensed Bar, Fete Stalls, Children's Entertainer and more!

Put the date in your diary now!
Tickets on Sale in June. More details to follow soon.



### **MESSAGE FROM DOCTOR VITALIY HERHEL:**

I am a Ukrainian born doctor and I work as a GP at Binfield Surgery in Bracknell. Devastating and sad developments in my

country are happening. I have an opportunity to contribute with vital supplies of various medications and dressings.

I am trying to raise funds to be able to pay for medicines. I aim to do this on an ongoing basis and send them to Ukraine.

We, as a nation, will be grateful to you, who contributes anything! Every pound matters.

Please see the website:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/vitaliy-herhel? utm\_term=QgWDXQdb5

### **FUNDRAISING NEWS**



### Cemetery Work Underway

Thank you so much to those who have given generously to our Cemetery GoFundMe campaign so far. We have been able to make a great start on work in the grounds, which has already made a huge difference. Accessibility has been improved, with the paths and steps being made easier to navigate. We would love some more input on this space – watch out for more details on how soon – and the campaign remains open for donations to support further work!

We're also happy to now be able to put on more events to help raise funds for our projects. Thanks as always for your support, please get in touch if you'd like to get involved!

### **Events and Activities**

Wow, what a fantastic night we had at the family **Barn Dance!** The Scamping Rogues were brilliant and we're very grateful that they came to lead us in such a fun evening of music and dancing to support our fundraising. A big thank you to Daisy and her Youth groups who were all stars decorating the venue and did such a great job helping to run the evening. Thanks to all who joined in!

Pop down to our **Easter Plant Sale** at the Foxes Den Café this month – we have always been lucky to have some fantastic plants and seedlings on offer to brighten up your garden. Thanks to all those who have donated.

This year's **Binfield Doorstep Sale Trail** is taking place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April (rain day 24<sup>th</sup> April). Please check our website for all the information including the link to sign up to host your own stall! It's another great community day!





## Easter Plant Sale

Saturday 9th April until Sunday 17th April 2022

at The Foxes' Den Cafe, Binfield during opening hours

We'd still appreciated any donations of plants or cuttings. Please get in touch! fundraising@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk

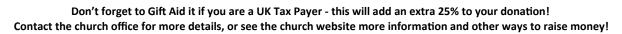
All proceeds to the Church Care Project

### How to donate or fundraise:

We would really appreciate your donation; however big or small, it will all help!



BACS: Name: Binfield PCC, Account Number: 80175528, Sort Code: 20-11-74
 Please add your name + a reference (as above) if you would like to specify where your donation goes.



Shop and raise funds at smile.amazon.co.uk and easyfundraising.org.uk: search for Binfield PCC







## Thames Voyces, a Bracknell based chamber choir, is recruiting!

Are you an experienced singer, good at sight reading (we tend to learn things quickly) and looking to commit to a new challenge? If so, Thames Voyces is in need of you. We currently have vacancies in all parts, but particularly sopranos and basses where the need is greatest (4), but also tenors (3) and we even could do with an extra alto!

The process to join is easy. Using the contact details below, you will be invited to attend two or three rehearsals followed by a simple audition and if all is well, that's it.

Our repertoire is varied (including 4 concerts a year) and importantly, we are a friendly group who enjoy singing together and when possible, socialising together too.

Contact: secretary@thamesvoyces.org.uk www.thamesvoyces.org.uk



### **EASTER LILIES**



Each year at Easter, we have had a display of lilies in All Saints' Church, and the names of family and friends that are no longer with us, displayed on a scroll with the flowers.

Inspired by the late Jan Vigar, this poignant way to honour our loved ones, will continue as Jan's legacy.

Easter is a time when we think about how the resurrection gives us hope.

God has promised us eternal life and He has prepared a place for each one of us in His kingdom where we will meet our loved ones again one day.

If you would like to include the name of a loved one who has died, please email the Church Office office@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk by Sunday 10th April.

This year, we will be <u>starting a new list of names</u>, so even if you had people on the list before, please make sure you let us know, otherwise they will not be included.

(There will be a new list each year, so please make sure you tell us each year)

Voluntary donations would be very much appreciated and will be put directly into the flower arranging budget.

Donations via BACS please ref: **FLOWERS**Cash donations can be dropped off at the office,
(Please add a note that it is for FLOWERS)



If you require any more information please contact Liz Hall 07850 799434





## Little Helpers Have Big Impact on Environment

You're never too young to clean up after yourself.

Early Years students at Newbold School are learning about how to care for the environment as they explore the Binfield woodland during their weekly Forest School lessons.



"I collect litter on our walks," said Early Years Teacher Mrs. Mel Jennings. "The children notice that, as they observe beautiful natural items during activities, I am collecting plastic and other waste materials. We even find items with teeth marks made by local wildlife."

The teacher said that this experience has led to many environmental responsibility discussions and a deep desire in the children to take care of their environment.

On March 25, 2022, Newbold School will be participating in the Great Big School Clean, a nationwide effort to clean up communities. Participation in the event helps the school make progress towards their goal of earning an Eco School Award. Mrs. Vicky Stanborough, Newbold's Forest School Leader and Eco School coordinator, has inspired the children to fully embrace this challenge.

Eco Schools are noted for involving their local community and leading change that results in more sustainable, environmentally responsible behaviour.

Collective responsibility for protecting nature is taught to all year groups at the Christian primary school. Newbold's family-like atmosphere, small class sizes and attentive teachers allows for children to learn respect for each other and the world around them in a nurturing, friendly and safe environment.

"We here at Newbold believe in the real, lasting impact that children can have on their communities and environment, and we aim to make sure that it is a good one," said Mrs. Jaki Crissey, Newbold School's head teacher.

Bjorn Karlman





**Environmentally aware**—The Binfield Beacon is printed in the UK on paper manufactured to ISO14001 standard in a European Mill. The paper is FSC approved, ECF acid and chorine free, biodegradable and sourced from a UK Merchant who is part of the Woodland Trust which helps plant more trees to reduce carbon footprint. Printed using vegetable oil based inks. Please do your part to help the environment by passing on your magazine to others or recycling it responsibly. **Thank you.** 

## BINFIELD3410K

### We are full!

10am Sunday BINFIELD 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022



At the time of writing we have around 8 weeks until the Binfield 10K and we are so excited! All of our places are filled and we have 850 runners signed up to run on the day and we can't wait to welcome you all. Unfortunately, this means the entries are now closed and you will no longer be able to enter.

If you have a place and you no longer wish to run, then you will be able to transfer your place to a friend – but only up until 15th April. From this point onwards, we are unable to offer any transfers or swaps. If you would like to swap with someone then please do by visiting thebinfield10k.eventize.co.uk

We are very busy behind the scenes organising marshals, sponsors, volunteer groups and we know that this year our event will be better than ever! On the field we will have the wonderful Foxes' Den providing coffee and cakes, as well as our usual BBQ providing bacon rolls, hot dogs and burgers. We will also have a bouncy castle and a couple of other activities on the field.

We are still in need of some marshals though, so if you are able to help, please send an email to volunteers@binfield10k.co.uk. Our marshals are some of the best in the area, and they really do provide invaluable support to our runners, so if would like to help, then please do get in touch.

If you are a local business, then there is still time for you to become a sponsor. Our sponsors are a key part of the Binfield 10K and we cannot run it without you. The race is expensive to organise and due to the kindness of our sponsors, we are able to donate ALL of our profits to local charities in and around the village. This year we are pleased to announce our partnership with Thames Valley Air Ambulance – a charity close to all of our hearts and they will be the charity of choice for the next two years.

enquiries@binfield10k.co.uk

www.binfield10k.co.uk



### THE BINFIELD BELLES

March winds will blow and we shall have snow... INSPIRING WOMEN so the rhyme goes. We have had plenty of wind but lets not hope for snow. Our WI like most

groups are enjoying coming out of the cold to meet up again...it feels good, although with war raging in Ukraine celebrations seem out of order, but we must push on and help in the only way we can. Like many we have collected clothing and all manner of items to be sent. Pray for their safe passage to other countries and welcome from here. Our ladies of the WI helped in the war effort to support our men at war in the forties. WI members played a big part in the war effort to help feed a nation by growing vegetables everywhere they could and bottling and making jams etc. Some of our members still have allotments in the village or grow in their gardens.

Others knitted....socks, gloves, balaclavas etc to send to our troops and the tradition goes on with our knitters in their group, meeting every month to knit and chat! Currently the group project is for Pom Poms, red, white and blue to adorn the diamond in the village for the Platinum Jubilee and more in silver and purple to decorate at the crossroads. Other members bring craft that they are working on, it is a great social way to meet other members and for our new members.

I remember buying books for my kids....Where's Wally? They had a great time looking for him, I see he is still around, but Where's Winnie? that's the latest from the WI Federation.

The royal corgi has arrived on the scene. There is a pattern to knit corgis for the jubilee and there will be a special one to find somewhere in the UK with a special prize.



So our WI will be knitting corgis in all colours using old, new and recycled wool, so watch out for Winnie on your travels....more of that next month.

We have had 2 meetings since my last article, 3D Art in February with Jane Fletcher, who has created artwork with a difference which she is mainly displaying in hospitals and community areas using everyday items in the picture but with an apt slogan. The talk and slides were inspiring and she sent a message about creating our own picture boards and using it as a way to display memorabilia.

Our meeting in March was our AGM a time to bring in a new committee and officers to run the group, always a nostalgic night, old committee leaving and some of our new members being welcomed on board. They will be meeting to decide on a President, Secretary and Treasurer before our next get together in April. Socially the AGM is great to chat with old friends and draw in our new members so they meet the group.

Jubilee celebrations are moving on and our Platinum lunch will be on June 17th in St Mark's Church. Lunch, 50's dress and music, plenty of chat and after our lunch our speaker will be Lady Rosemary Muir (I missed her first name from the piece last month, sorry), who was an attendant to Her Majesty on that Coronation Day.

More trips and activities are planned for the future months, our next meeting is on 14th April at the Binfield Memorial Hall at 7.15pm, our speak is Ailsa Claybourne with something for the Twitchers our Berkshire Birds. Visitors welcome, we still have a new members list but are welcoming some into our group in Aprils....Spring is on its way! Please contact me for more information. **Linda Willcocks** 

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## Binfield Church Fete 2022

We think it would be an amazing thing if the much loved Binfield Church Fete actually happens this year!

The event is penciled in to take place in September, but in order to make it happen we need some more hands on deck.

If you would be willing to join our team, or particuarly if you'd be happy to coordinate things, please get in touch so we can kick off the planning and bring back a fun, family day for the village!

email binfieldchurchfete@gmail.com



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### **Berkshire Family History Society** for family historians - wherever you are

Researching the history of your own house or one of your ancestors is becoming increasingly popular, especially after the success of the "A House through Time" BBC series with David Olusoga. The society's Heritage Centre in Reading, on the second floor of Reading Central Library, can give you access to records such as the UK census back to 1841, trade directories and old newspaper articles. Whilst the Berkshire Record Office contains the original records relating to tithes, land tax and enclosure. The latter is also available on their website for free.

Berkshire Family History Society also has a two-part online course in early May on this very subject. As a registered charity, number 283010, most of our events are open to all to enjoy, whether you're a member of the society or not. Pre-booking is required as places are limited. Sat 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May - House Histories Course (Zoom) with Margaret Simons £20

Researching the history of a house can be both exciting and rewarding, revealing fascinating stories of those that lived there before you. Do you have a house that you are interested in knowing more about, have you come up against a dead end or do you just want to know how to approach the subject? If so, then this short two-week course will help you reveal people, dates, events and much more and will introduce you to online and offline resources. For more information and to book a place see the society's website: https://berksfhs.org/

**Catherine Sampson** 







### G 2 SCHOOL COLLECTIO

DATE: THURSDAY, 5TH MAY 2022

WHERE: PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE CARPARK, BENETFELD ROAD

FOBS are holding a Bag2School Clothing Collection to help YOU declutter and at the same time raise money for Binfield C of E Primary.

Please bring your items already bagged between 8am and 10am on Thursday, 5th May 2022 to the Parish Council Car Park on Benetfeld Road.

To adhere to current COVID-19 safety guidelines, you will need to unload your bags into the designated area yourself, please maintain social distancing and do not attend if you are displaying COVID-19 like symptoms.

> Bag2School accept the following 'good quality' items only for re-use: Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)

Handbags

Hats and Belts Bags

Scarves and ties

Jewellery Lingerie and Socks Soft toys (no plastic please)

Household linen Household curtains Household towels

Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

#### They DO NOT accept:

Duvets and blankets Pillows and cushions

Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats) Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing School uniforms with and without logo

Corporate clothing and workwear Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

They reserve the right to refuse any unsuitable items.

Thank you for your continued support



### **BINFIELD GARDEN CLUB**

Life came full circle on Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Nearly two years ago when everything was closed down, we had our very first club Zoom meeting – it was a steep learning curve for us

all but Angela and Graham O'Connell helped guide us through that first session telling us all about the National Garden Scheme. This month they were able to join us in person at the Memorial Hall to tell us more of the Perils and Pleasures of opening your garden.

Prior to their talk, chairman Ralph opened our AGM with a round-up of how the club kept going last year with Zoom meetings and newsletters and a small Social gathering at Christmas. Members had been thanked for their support through all this by everyone receiving the gift of a garden voucher. Roland, our treasurer gave a summary of our accounts which remain healthy. An amazing amount had been raised by members selling their plants from their homes in lieu of our annual plant sale. This year our plant sale will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> and is not just for funds but to attract new people interested in gardening who hopefully may join us! Keep the date!

Ralph announced with regret that our secretary, Karen was stepping down from her post. She has helped guide us through all the problems of Covid and been a tremendous support and friend to all for many years. Karen was presented with a gift and bouquet with grateful thanks from the club. Members present voted their support for the committee to continue for the coming year.



Ralph then welcomed and introduced Angela and Graham. They gave us such an interesting talk, showing the derelict garden they began with and their amazing work to develop it into one which attracts hundreds of visitors a year and helps raise the fantastic amounts of money for several nursing charities. As Berkshire county

organisers of the NGS they described how the scheme had adapted to the pandemic challenge with virtual garden tours

online. These were free to watch but donations were requested and 3.3 million views took place. As restrictions loosened a little, pre-booked timed tickets were allowed with numbers strictly limited. Plant sales were still held and online talks. The Great British Garden Parties scheme was begun where anyone can hold a party in their own garden and raise funds.

Angela and Graham are delighted that life is all back to

normal apart from some small gardens which still have pre-booked timed tickets. They love opening their garden, Oakleigh in Frimley Green. It's a lots of work preparing and Angela described all the cakes she bakes,



how much milk must be bought, road signs and posters displayed. Their visitors range in number from 40 in the rain to 300 on a good day. Everyone agrees that the importance of our gardens and open spaces is so important for well-being. Gardens open for charity will be in full swing this year, so visit ngs.org.uk for all details.

Our monthly competition is now resumed and the winners of the Pot of Flowering Bulbs were 1<sup>st</sup> Nancy Bowen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trudy Inge, 3<sup>rd</sup> Carol Frazer, 4<sup>th</sup> Hazel White. Well Done!

Our next meeting will be on **7**<sup>th</sup> **April** and is all about dahlias. Richard Ramsey, of Withypitts Dahlias nurtures and sells all sorts of Dahlias and will bring many samples for sale. It promises to be a good evening so do come along and join us – guests and visitors very welcome. We always have a popular raffle and our competition is for a cactus or succulent so bring one along!



The Lighthouse Program is looking for volunteers to help with Meals on Wheels to support our homeless, vulnerable and needy.

We operate on a Tuesday evening and we are looking for drivers between 5pm and 6 pm, for local drops only within Binfield and Bracknell. Meals to be collected from St Mark's Church.

In addition we would like to recruit a volunteer shopper to help with weekly shopping for our cooks who prepare the meals, ideally being able to "shop n drop" on a Friday or a Saturday. Shopping and delivery to our chefs takes approximately 2 hours.

For further information call Amanda 07825 341559 <u>Amanda.thrower@hotmail.co.uk</u>

### ITEMS OF NEED THAT CAN BE DELIVERED TO ST MARK'S CHURCH PORCH ON A TUESDAY BEFORE 4PM:

- Long life/ part cooked bread/baguettes/rolls
- Biscuits
- Fresh fruit (Tuesday delivery)
- Individually wrapped cakes ie mini rolls
- Wet dog food
- Jars of cooking sauces ie curry, carbonara, sweet n sour
- Bottles of squash
- Orange & Apple Juice cartoons
- Old wool, even if partial balls. (We have a vulnerable client who is knitting blankets for Ukraine refugees. Any wool welcome.)



### News from the Parish Office – April 2022

### **Community Governance Review**

Residents are being encouraged to have their say on the Bracknell Forest Community Governance Review (CGR) to determine if the current parish and town council wards are meeting the needs of the local community.

Before the next local election in 2023, Bracknell Forest Council is required to carry out a review of all the parish and town council wards in the borough. This is to make sure residents have the right number of councillors, and the ward boundaries support the local communities they cover.

This is residents' first opportunity to have their say, with a further consultation to follow in the summer. The first stage of the consultation will run until Sunday 8 May 2022.

It has been nearly 20 years since parish and town council boundaries were last reviewed and there has been a lot of change in some areas. All residents will have the opportunity to give their ideas and suggestions to the process.

The goal of the review is to ensure parish and town councils are working as effectively as they should be. It also ensures that they reflect the identity and interests respective of their local communities.

### How to get involved and further information

We would encourage as many residents as possible to take part in the consultation.

If you would like to know more about the review or would like to submit comments to Bracknell Forest Council, please visit <a href="https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review">https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/community-governance-review</a>

Alternatively, please pop into the Parish Office and have a chat with us.

### **Binfield Parish Council upcoming meetings:**

### April 2022

Tuesday 05 April	Amenity Committee	8pm
Saturday 09 April	Councillor Drop-In Session (The Foxes' Den community cafe)	10am – 12pm
Tuesday 12 April	Parish Council	8pm
Tuesday 26 April	Planning and Transportation Committee	8pm

### **Future Events**

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Binfield 10K – Sold out but still require volunteers/marshals	8am-12noon
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	1950's Platinum Jubilee Party -looking for community groups/	3-9pm
	stalls and Marshalls	

### Parking outside the Parish Office/ Foxes Den

There has been an increase in complaints regarding inconsiderate parking in the Parish Office/Foxes Den car park. Please may we remind residents **NOT** to park in the drop off area during school drop off/pick up times. Vehicles parked in the disabled parking areas **MUST** display their blue badge. And finally, please do not queue in the car park for an available space as the queue sometimes leads onto Benetfeld Road causing issues and leaves insufficient space for vehicles to manoeuvre out of the car park safely.

### Could you be a Parish Councillor?

There are currently two vacancies to be filled by co-option and we would welcome applications from any interested parties. Please visit the Parish Council website to check application criteria, find out how to apply, and more about the role of a Councillor: <a href="https://www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-councillor-vacancies">https://www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-councillor-vacancies</a>

### Ceri, Amanda, Purveen, Tracey and Alisa

01344 454602 Binfield Parish Council at the Parish Office, Benetfeld Road, Binfield, RG42 4EW

Parish Office opening hours: 8.45am-1pm Monday to Friday

### office@binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.binfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



## **Happy Easter from the Den!**

It's that time of year again! Daffodils are nodding in the sunshine (or drooping under heavy showers), the birds are tweeting away in the mornings and shop shelves are loaded up with pricy chocolate eggs... over here at the Den we are looking forward to supporting the Binfield Easter Egg Hunt that is running 9<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April. We will have our egg on display and will be open for the duration for maps and toilet stops! And, of course, our fabulous toasties and milkshakes J

UPCOMING EVENT: We are very excited to be hosting our first charity fashion show! Save the date: Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be local businesses, a catwalk, refreshments and proceeds go to BEAT an eating disorder charity.

FEATURED GROUP: Thursday afternoon 'Crafternooners'. This group is free to attend and is an adult crafting group where we bring in our own projects or offer a structured craft for us all to work on together. 1pm - 3pm.

If you have more ideas for community sessions please get in touch! Claire x

foxesden.co.uk fb.com/thefoxesdencafe 07919 448254 Benetfeld Road, Binfield. RG42 4EW



### **FOXY LUNCHES**

If you are struggling to feed yourself or your family at any time, please don't go hungry.



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### Who still hasn't been in to see us?

It does still happen, but not as often now: someone will come into the Den and say "Ooh, I didn't know this was here" or "I've been meaning to pop in and see what it's like in here". We always reply with a "Thank you for coming to see us – welcome to the Foxes' Den!".

And we really mean it; please feel free to pop in and see what we're all about – you don't need to buy a coffee; just come and say hello and help with the community jigsaw (if you want to!) or potter in the community mindfulness garden. We are a community café, which means that we are here for our Binfield Community (we are 65% charity with the sole purpose of supporting our community).

With that in mind if you have an idea of what we can do to support activities and folk around Binfield please do pop in for a chat.

### **Board Games Night is back!**

Come along on the last Sunday of the month with your friends/family and your favourite games (bring your own refreshments too if you want to) we will have some games.
7.30pm-9.30pm – see you there!





### The Binfield Beacon



The deadline for Beacon contributions for the May 2022 issue

is Monday 11th April 2022

Please email: Beacon@binfieldcofechurches.org.uk
Claire Thomas (Binfield Beacon Editor)

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## What's been happening at Binfield CE Primary School (V.A.)?

### **Sports news**

On Thursday 24th February



we returned to Sporting events following the Halfterm break. We competed in the Year 3 Indoor Athletics competition. The event was split



across a morning and an afternoon heat. Every child in the squad of 12 was

required to compete in at least 1 run, 1 jump and 1 throw. The children performed brilliantly and gave their all in each discipline. Unfortunately we finished outside the medals but the children gained a lot from the experience.

### The learning fun continues!

### **Enrichment Week**

Last week we had our Enrichment Week - "Words, Words, Words." Post-lockdown, we have noticed that a lot of our children have found the technicalities of writing (handwriting, spelling and punctuation) more tricky. Our Enrichment Week focused on getting our hands warmed up before writing, spending quality time to ensure our writing was neat and joined correctly and also to practise our spellings. Spellings have been a particular





issue for us as a school recently, so we were so pleased with



how hard the children worked to improve their spellings during the week. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to our PTA (FOBS) for funding the week for us. Spelling was made so much more fun with the range of equipment we had letter beads, scratch art paper, sand, playdoh, letter scrabble tiles and more. Please take a look at the pictures to see what we got up to.

### World Book Day

Last week the children and staff joined in with World Book Day by dressing up as book characters and taking part in book themed activities during their lessons. We have captured some of the fun in the photos below. Please visit Twitter to see more videos of the fun the children had in the classroom.





### **Outdoor Learning**

The children have been making the most of the recent sunshine and using our outside spaces to continue their learning. The Reception children used our parachute to practise their listening skills and follow instructions in their outside



space. They also made

tens frames using sticks and then had an extra challenge of representing 9 using their frames. Maths is so much fun outside!



Last week our school community once again showed their kindness & generosity and came together to collect donations for the Ukrainian refugees. We collected almost half a tonne of much needed items which should arrive to those in need in the next week. Our children helped other volunteers to sort out all of the donations before they were collected by the charity.











### And this week the show must go on!

Our Year 3 & 4 children have been busy learning their lines, pratising their dance moves and putting on thier face paint on in order to put on our production of Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies to our parents and rest of the school.









The white-tailed eagle is the UK's largest bird of prey. These incredible birds were driven to persecution early in the twentieth century with the last one probably dying in Shetland in the 1920s.

There is strong evidence, both in terms of place names and archaeological finds, that the white-tailed eagle was native to the Thames Valley and probably gave its name to Earley, which is the Old English name for 'eagle wood'.



In the 1970s a reintroduction program was started in Scotland centred on the Isle of Rhum. A similar programme started on the Isle of Wight in 1999 with a small number of young birds being released every year for five years. Young white-tailed eagles range far and wide, before returning to where they were raised, when they are two to three years old, to try and establish a breeding territory. One of the Isle of Wight birds has travelled to the north of Scotland, probably meeting the eagles there; another has been to Denmark; while a third has travelled south through France and Spain. In 2020, one of the young birds joined the red kites in the Chilterns for a while and another has recently been seen in the Blackwater Valley.

The Isle of Wight project team have been studying what the

birds eat. There is a fear amongst farmers that they will take lambs. The Isle of Wight birds do take a wide range of prey from rabbits to cuttlefish. They have been seen catching corvids, gulls and other similar sized birds. They will also eat carrion and ambush other birds to steal their prey. Their size and shape means that they are not the most manoeuvrable of raptors, so their two main methods of hunting are fishing in shallow water and dropping from a perch. It is likely that a white-tailed eagle will eat a dead lamb and it is possible that it will kill a sick lamb. However, it is unlikely that the eagle would be able to catch a fit lamb, especially one that was being guarded by its mother.

It is likely that these incredible birds will be increasingly common in our skies and I am looking forward to seeing one in our area. A recent attempt to see them near Poole Harbour was unsuccessful but gave us a great excuse to explore a surprisingly unspoilt part of Dorset.

Unfortunately, there are still people that persecute these and other birds of prey as evidenced by the recent finding of a dead eagle in Dorset, which is currently subject to a police investigation. All birds of prey are protected by law and if you think you have found evidence of persecution then please report it – see <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-to-report-crimes/">https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-to-report-crimes/</a> for information on how to do this

Binfield Environment Group can be contacted by email at <a href="mailto:binfieldeg@gmail.com">binfieldeg@gmail.com</a>, via our Facebook group, or via our website <a href="mailto:https://binfieldeg.wixsite.com/binfieldeg">https://binfieldeg.wixsite.com/binfieldeg</a>

Mike Coker



### Royal Naval Association Bracknell Branch Update

The first Wednesday of each month is always about making the time to indulge in meeting up with friends and shipmates at the Bracknell RNA meetings, held in the Binfield Club. It

means catching up on gossip, current events and of course all things Navy – after all, "Once Navy Always Navy"!

One of the first orders of business is always remembering our shipmates who have sadly passed away in recent times, or in naval terms, 'Crossed the Bar'. A minute's silence is always observed and used as a time of reflection. With events going on in the world currently, that time of reflection is never more poignant than now. It also reminds us of events of the past and April this year also marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Falklands War starting, in which the Royal Navy played a key role. There will many special events in June to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which some of our members will be taking part in.

Committee members updated shipmates on all the Branch activities from the previous month. There was also news from our friends at the Maidenhead Sea Cadet Unit 'TS Iron Duke'. It was reported on how they were very successful in the Berkshire District Drill & Piping competition in March, coming away with 7 out of the 8 trophies available - very impressive.

We await their next set of achievements as they progress to the Area Competition in Portsmouth and wish all the cadets luck, and hope they continue their winning ways.

The second half of this month's session, as always, saw members enthralled by our after-meeting speaker. This month's presentation by S/M Mike Daley was on "Enoch Powell". Concentrating on the life of the Birmingham-born (but of Welsh descent) Enoch Powell before he entered Parliament, S/M Mike told of his early life, his intelligence, and his skill with languages. At the outbreak of war, he enlisted as an Australian (to avoid delay). He rose steadily through the ranks and was one of only two who rose from Private to the rank of Brigadier, being at one stage the youngest Brigadier in the Army.

For further information, please contact our Branch Secretary, S/M June Boddrell at <a href="mailto:secretary.bracknellrna@gmail.com">secretary.bracknellrna@gmail.com</a> or by telephone on 01344 311869. We look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours aye S/M Marcus Carpenter

### **ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY**



### Forty Years Since the War that Never Was

### By Paul Hammerstone and Terry Dilliway

One hundred and fifty years of dispute over the sovereignty of a group of South Atlantic Islands came to a head forty years ago this month when Argentina

invaded The Falklands.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1982, General Leopoldo Galtieri, leader of the Argentine military government, ended a century of diplomatic negotiations and sent ten thousand troops to occupy the Islands which had been British Sovereign Territory since 1833.

Shock waves reached London eight thousand miles away prompting Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to despatch a Royal Naval task force to recapture the Islands and rescue Governor Rex Hunt and the Falklanders from their plight.

The fleet of warships under the command of Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward RN sailed south carrying Marines Commando and land forces commanded by Major General Jeremy Moore on a mission to retake the Islands of South Georgia and East and West Falkland in a potentially treacherous amphibious operation.

Cheers in Downing Street greeted the April 26<sup>th</sup> announcement by PM Thatcher and Defence Secretary John Nott that South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands had been recaptured with no loss of life in a special operation by Royal Marines and Special Boat Service. But the main task force met with determined opposition from Argentine fighter bombers on arrival at San Carlos Bay, in the inlet between West and East Falkland. Royal Navy warship crews faced often extraordinary courage by Argentine pilots flying often outdated warplanes through a gauntlet of anti-aircraft ordnance and Hawker Sea Harrier vertical take-off and landing jets of the Fleet Air Arm flying off carriers *Hermes* and *Invincible*.

Grim battle raged in the bay. An Exocet air to ship missile penetrated the defences of Type 42 Guided Missile Destroyer *HMS Sheffield*; 20 crew were lost, and the warship was abandoned, sinking the next day. The first RN loss in engagement since the Second World War.

There followed Type 21 Frigate *Ardent*, taking hits from nine bombs; Type 21 Frigate *Antelope* blew up when an unexploded 1000lb bomb was being diffused below decks; Type 42 Destroyer *Coventry* sank after hits from three bombs. Container ship *SS Atlantic Conveyor*, carrying vital supplies, was sunk by two missiles. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> Argentine cruiser *ARA Belgrano* was controversially sunk by HM Submarine *Conqueror* with the loss of 323 lives. This engagement entered history as the first sinking by a nuclear submarine during military operations.

The night of May 19<sup>th</sup> saw the SAS preparing for an ambitious raid in the area of Darwin/Goose Green to tie down the Argentine garrison and enable the vulnerable landing force to get ashore unscathed a few miles to the north. Two hours after dark the raiding party clambered aboard a Sea King helicopter for a routine transfer from the carrier group to assault ship *HMS Intrepid*. Among those on board for the half-mile flight over open water was Binfield's RAF Flight-Lieutenant Garth Hawkins, an expert in directing air strikes to support special operations and regarded by the Special Air Service as one of their own.

But disaster was to strike halfway across when survivors heard a double report from the engine and the helicopter plunged into the sea. Twenty men lost their lives, including Flt-Lt Hawkins, in this single greatest blow suffered by the SAS since World War 2.

Garth Hawkins was brought up in Binfield Village and much loved by everyone who knew him. He went to the village junior school and became an outstanding sportsman, particularly as a goalkeeper with Bracknell Minors, before joining the RAF at age twenty-two.

between the tombs of England's greatest warriors the Duke of Wellington and Lord Nelson, lays the monument to those who gave their lives in the South Atlantic forty years ago.

Starting with those of the Senior Service – the Royal Navy – more than two hundred and fifty names are listed. And, towards the end, under the Royal Air Force, appears the one solitary name of Flight-Lieutenant Garth Hawkins from Binfield.

During Special Forces diversions and bombardment by RN gunnery, landings went ahead with 45 Commando going ashore at Ajax Bay and 3 Para, suffering some casualties, securing Port San Carlos to complete an encirclement of the anchorage. Thus began the land campaign. Iconic photographs depicted Commandos and Paras 'yomping' across Falkland moors towards Goose Green where superior numbers of entrenched Argentine infantry were attacked at night. Victory went to the highly trained British troops, but at the tragic cost of 2 Para commanding officer Lt Colonel Herbert ('H') Jones who fell under fire when typically leading from the front. Colonel 'H' was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. The enemy lost two hundred killed and nine hundred were taken prisoner.

British Special Forces squadrons, operating under cover by helicopter from Puntarenas, Costa Rica, continued carrying out clandestine missions rounding up Argentine observers' positions while the steady advance towards the prize of the Falklands capitol continued; RAF Vulcan V-Bombers, flying with US support from the Ascension Islands, had already 'softened up' Stanley Airport's runway.

But a dreadful price was waiting. Relentless aerial bombing of Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Sir Galahad*, attempting to land the Welsh Guards at Bluff Cove, caused an intense blaze which cost the loss of forty-eight British lives. The remarkable courage of the soldiers who made it ashore was later beheld in Guardsman Simon Weston, whose skilfully cosmetically repaired features became the recognised face of Falklands bravery.

The night of June 13<sup>th</sup> saw 2 Para, supported by the light armour of The Blues and Royals, capture Wireless Ridge and the Scots Guards retook Mount Tumbledown, the last remaining natural defences of Port Stanley. At this late stage of the advance, Sergeant Ian McKay of B Company, 3 Para, lost his life in a grenade attack on an Argentine bunker. Sgt McKay was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions.

Six weeks of defeats by Task Force troops, caused Argentine commander General Mario Menendez to surrender to Major General Jeremy Moore as British Commandos marched into Stanley on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Ten weeks of intense land, sea and air conflict ended -- without war ever being officially declared.

Argentina announced the loss of six hundred and fifty servicemen; a figure since believed to have been higher. British losses were recorded as two hundred and fifty-five. Eleven thousand four hundred Argentinians were taken prisoner and later released.

Ecstatic crowds welcomed troop ships *Canberra* and *QE 2* at Southampton in July and the Royal Navy returned into Portsmouth. October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1982, saw tens of cheering thousands line London streets to see the Task Force saluted in a triumphant march through London. Special Air Service and Special Boat Service had already returned quietly to Hereford and Poole.

Let your thoughts dwell today
On your country's greatness;
And when you realise her grandeur
Remember it is a heritage
Won for you by dauntless men
Who knew their duty, and did it.
Periclese (431 BC)

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