

# Bepton Parish Council

## Winter 2021–2022 Newsletter



### Save the Date!

In collaboration with Park House Hotel, Bepton will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee on Sunday 5th June in the gardens of the hotel. This will be an afternoon event, with a generous tea, a bar and lots of games to play. There will be a limited number of tickets, so please register your interest now by contacting Mike Balmforth at [balmforths@yahoo.com](mailto:balmforths@yahoo.com) (or text 07979 080120) with the expected size of your party. Most importantly, if you are willing to help organise the event, or volunteer on the day, please also get in touch.

### Mrs Claire Cox

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Claire Cox on Friday 14th January. Claire and her husband, Brian, are long time residents of Bepton. Claire served on Bepton Parish Council for 28 years, 5 as Chair. She had been engaged in village affairs until the very end. Claire was always a social person who brought together many aspects of the village. She will be much missed.

### The Great Swan Rescue!

Those Bepton residents who walk on Midhurst Common may have spotted a juvenile swan on the large pond a couple of months ago. It was there for a few days and obviously in distress as it was constantly calling. A local dog walker called Swan Support, who sent a volunteer from near Windsor immediately. She explained to us that it was a juvenile who had probably taken his first flight, became lost and found the nearest body of water. Unfortunately, because the pond is surrounded by trees, it was unable to fly off as swans need open space to take off and reach the right height. A Bepton resident brought his rowing boat down with the aim of trying to persuade the swan to reach the edge of the pond where the Swan Supporter was offering bread, but it became frightened and in the end tried to take off. It did crash into the trees but luckily was unharmed and the volunteer was able to catch it and secure it in their special 'coat' (see photograph). She was then going to take it to a swan sanctuary in Berkshire, where she was confident it would settle well.



### Broadband

The roll-out of fibre in the southern end of Bepton is now complete except for 2 properties, which should be connected in the next few weeks. Unfortunately, the application for the northern part of the village didn't get through before the government deadline and will now be part of a national plan.

### Climate Change

Our subgroup are meeting regularly and are focused on providing information and guidance to our community through our website. We are also engaging with ERA (Eco Rother Action) group and the Chichester District Council and its Climate Emergency Action Plan.

## Winter Resilience Plan

As the winter is not over yet, please remember that the village Winter Resilience Plan can be seen on our website. Please go to [bepton.org](http://bepton.org) and you will see a link to the plan in the bar at the top of the home page.

## Post Boxes

Please note that the collection times for both post boxes in Bepton have changed to 9.00am.

## Annual St Mary's Church Spring Clean and Churchyard Tidy

Tasks for all abilities! Coffee and Cake provided 10 - 12.30, 22nd March 2022

Please help us if you can, you would be very welcome. Tools will be provided

Please email : [lindasadler777@gmail.com](mailto:lindasadler777@gmail.com)

## News from St Mary's Church

### *Looking Back*

Our Carol service in December was a very reassuring return to normality after the depressing periods of lockdown. It was splendid to see the church beautifully decorated as usual and the Christmas tree, kindly donated by the Cowdray Estate, gleaming with its lights and baubles. We warmly thank Linda Sadler and others, including Alan Sadler, for their part in achieving this. Our next thanks go to our readers without whom the service would be much less interesting. We were honoured to hear Neil Hart read in his full, High Sheriff's regalia and two young voices, Zara Chinwala and Oscar Tyrell-Evans (supported by his father Ben). Other loyal supporters and excellent readers were Michael Balmforth, Jenni Rigby and Tessa Craddock. The finishing touches were the 'sweatmeats' and mulled wine. All who contributed cakes and helped to distribute the wine are sure to be asked to help again!

### *Looking Forward*

Our priest has planned plenty of services leading up to Easter Sunday and has introduced some lighter touches. On 1st March, Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day begins with Morning Prayer at 9.30am at St Catherine's Cocking and is to be followed by pancakes at Cocking Rectory at 10am, so do come along!

There will be a Lent course led by Dr Jonathan Jong, one at each church: at 12pm on 16th March at St Catherine's Cocking; at 12pm at St James' Heyshott on 23rd March; and finally at 12pm at St Mary's Bepton on 30th March.

A joint Palm Sunday service will be held at 10am at St Catherine's Cocking (10th April).

Good Friday (15th April) hymns and readings will be at 10am as usual at St Mary's Bepton and the Rev Canon Nigel Nicholson will take the Easter SUNDAY (17th April) service at 11.15am at St Mary's Bepton.

### *Voluntary Cleaning at the church*

Advertisements in this newsletter have in the past produced a bevy of helpers with mops and dusters who make short shrift of spiders and dusty ledges! Bepton PCC with ageing members express great appreciation of this help. Good done by stealth!

For details of regular services at St Mary's Church, please visit the website [bepton.org](http://bepton.org)

## Bepton Parish Councillors:

Chairman:	Rosalind Hart	815473	Mike Salmon	(Footpaths & Byways)
Vice-Chairman:	John Beckett	(Planning)	James Beaumont	(Website)
Clerk:	Lorraine Grocott	01428 741393	Duncan Hollowood	
Newsletter:	Carey Bower		(Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator)	
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:careybower@gmail.com">careybower@gmail.com</a>			