

 **BENSON BULLETIN REPORT – FEB 2023**

Well, that’s Christmas over with, pity really, I quite like Christmas as it is one of the few occasions

that we meet our two boys and their families, all together, as one big happy group. However, I am

well aware that it is not the same for everyone – many remain lonely through loss or even

enforcement, as in the current Ukranian diaspora. What a time like Christmas must be for them I

cannot even imagine. So wholehearted thanks are due to all those in Benson and beyond that gave

up some of their time to provide food and/or enjoyment to anyone who needed it. They embody the

true spirit of Christmas.

The Society’s last meeting, on the 2nd December, went well with the talk given by Mark Lewis being a seasonal one – Christmas Customs – which traced the origins of the use of Christmas trees, Holly,

Mistletoe and of course mince pies and mulled wine and many others that we just take for granted

as part of our Christmas festivities. Most enjoyable and enlightening.

There have been some major developments regarding the Village Archive storage. A room has been

identified in the Youth Hall. It requires some cosmetic work to be done and this is being organised by The Hall’s Manager, Tanya Hamilton-Gill, and members of the History Group (HG), following a site visit on Monday 16th January. This should mean that it should start to be used by our HG sub-

committee by the end of February at least.

In my last piece I gave the details of our January talk that will have taken place before you read this.

Our February meeting is our AGM for 2022 and the ‘Calling Notice’ will go out during the first week

of February. The date and time of the AGM is the 24th February at 7:00 pm. Please note the earlier

than usual starting time. The doors will open at 6:30 so that those who have not done so can pay their subscriptions. The talk will be “Baked Alaska or Mexican Chilli (Climate change explained)” and will be given by Nick Cook.

2023 will be our first full year following the Pandemic and, so far, it promises to be a good one. So

spread the word! We are the largest Society in Benson and surrounding Villages and are a respected

‘Voice’ with aims that can be summed up by a ‘strap line’ of Caring for Benson. We are an open

Society and would love to hear from residents of things they are concerned about that will make our

Village and surrounding area an improving place to live.

Regards to all and best wishes for the rest of the year.

David McGill