

BENSON BULLETING REPORT – JULY/AUGUST 2022

You can tell it's half term week (writing on 5th June) – the weather has got wetter and windier, although having said that one could have thought that it would be nice and sunny and warm as it always seemed to be when stuck in a large hall staring out of the window looking for inspiration to write a cogent answer to the next GCSE ('O' levels in my case), 'A level question or Finals. It could of course be that my memory is as variable as the weather!

Our meeting on the 27th did not go exactly as planned. It turned out that the high level window blinds in the Parish Hall had been removed for repair (or replacement) and so at 7:45 pm when our guest speaker was about to start his illustrated talk the slides could not be seen. However, the Society has learned over our 50 years to be flexible and adaptive. So, we switched the evening around and had our supper first. By the time all were replete it was past sunset and the talk could begin with some really beautiful slides of 'Exciting Wildlife from around the World'. I chose the word 'beautiful' because they were. They were not just 'tourist' shots but carefully composed after hours or even days of patiently waiting or stalking until the right opportunity to 'shoot' presented itself. For members who could not get to the meeting you can look at Tom's stunning images at: tomway.co.uk/gallery/ Because of the reordering of the agenda some members had to go before the talk and to them please accept our apologies, which must also go to Tom Way for delaying his departure.

We now start our summer break and our next meeting will be on the 30th of September. However, the members of the Management Committee can still be contacted, and we will still hold Committee meetings and should anyone wish us to discuss a subject please get in touch (contact details are on the Website).

When you read this all the Jubilee celebrations will be over but, hopefully, not forgotten and let us hope they went off well enough for you all to keep many memories that will remain for years. What splendid coverage by the BBC's team, of not just the parade but interviews, the Fly Past, the Queen and her family on the balcony, the Party at the Palace and the Platinum Pageant. I can't but agree wholeheartedly with Hon. Col. Kelly Holmes: "Pre do a best". Who needs a parade of bombs, rockets, tanks, and goose-stepping soldiers, particularly in today's febrile political environment?

At the Council's 'Sunnyside' event, the Society had a stand in the Parish Hall where we sold some of the Society's books and signed up new members. Judging by the attendance and obvious enthusiasm of people of all ages, it was a great success. The Council and all their staff should be congratulated. It must have entailed a great deal of planning and hard work. Let us hope it has helped to bring the 'old' and the 'new' parts of our great Village closer together.

Some of us also went to Ewelme Village Hall and saw their splendid display of their Village's history. It was put together by the Ewelme Society and managed by David Solomon, the author of Our Stream the 'biography' of the stream that flows through our two villages. It really was a splendid display and shows just what can be done with a carefully put together archive, particularly when given the enthusiastic backing of the Parish Council. Benson's own, history archive is also extensive and is managed by our History Group.

David McGill