



VOLUNTEERING IN BENSON

Benson Village Hall, February 26th 2025

AGENDA

- Introduction
- Events
- Examples of volunteering work
- How to get involved (forms!)

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk



INTRODUCTION

- Benson is growing:
 - More housing
 - More people
 - More lands to manage
 - More buildings
- Benson Parish Council has:
 - 2 full time staff
 - 5 further employed part-time staff
 - 12 councillors (all volunteers)

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk





EVENTS

- Benson has several events per annum that need support
 - Remembrance Sunday
 - Christmas decorations (took a full 7 days to put up this year - 90 minutes to take down)
 - We would like to do more...this year we are organising a VE day 80th anniversary celebration (8th May) and a Christmas Market
- To manage these, we also need to engage with a lot of organisations around the village:
 - Schools
 - Clubs / Societies (i.e. BANG, Bensington Society etc.)
 - RAF
 - Businesses (High Street & others - the likes of Hazell & Jefferies)
 - Charities (i.e. Millstream Centre)

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk

EVENTS

- Last November we had to say that:
Without volunteers the Remembrance Parade would not go ahead in future years - on the back of this 13 volunteers came forward to help run the event.
- In 2020 the centre of the village was beautifully decorated, but that hadn't happened since.
Again, without volunteers this would not have happened this year.

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk



EVENTS

- But it isn't just about events...
- There are many other activities that happen behind the scenes (some examples):
 - BANG activities
 - Millstream Centre supporting our older inhabitants
 - Organised hedge laying
 - Creating walkways
- The list goes on...& it all needs doing!

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk



BANG



Benson Area Nature Group

- Our mission – to help restore nature across our area.
- Our aim: wildlife friendly villages; people feel more connected to the natural world—whether through volunteering or simply spending time outdoors.
- How You Can Get Involved: Every effort helps!
 - hands-on conservation work
 - wildlife monitoring
 - Helping to run the group

Any comments: bensonareanature@yahoo.com



BANG



Our Big Projects:

- Support Farmland & Wetland Birds - Take part in bird surveys and contribute to vital data analysis.
- Protect Watercourses - Help manage riparian habitats, including the brook, ditches, and ponds.
- Monitor Nature - Join river fly monitoring, record wildlife sightings, and collect environmental data to track ecosystem changes.
- Enhance Green Spaces - Plant hedgerows and trees, create wildflower patches, improve roadside verges for pollinators, and develop wildlife-friendly gardens.
- Engage in Outdoor Conservation - Maintain natural paths, practice traditional land management (hazel coppicing and willow pollarding), and assist with sowing, weeding, and habitat restoration.

Any comments: bensonareanature@yahoo.com



EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEERING WORK

- Community Shed project
- Millstream Centre
- BANG
- Christmas decorations
- Christmas market
- Road closures management
- VE day support
- Litter picking
- Event marshalling
- Sound system set-up & management
- Speed checking
- Tree planting (Community Orchard for example)
- Hedge planting & maintenance
- Security & safety officers
- General organisation and event management
- Etc...



21st March - 6th April

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk

...
st, we're still going ahead with our walk-and-talk tour of the new green
ge tomorrow! We'll meet at 2pm at the new play park, on the north side
. Bring your thoughts and feedback—we'd love to hear what you think of
re!

BENSON'S NEW, COMMUNITY SPACE AT HOPEFIELD GRANGE

... LEARN ABOUT ITS FEATURES, AND DISCOVER THE
VELOPMENT, ON THIS SPECIAL WALK AND TALK TOUR.

Date: Saturday 4th Jan

Time: 2.30pm to 3pm

Meet at: the new play park,
north-side of the Benson
relief road.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Fill in the forms on the table as you entered.
- The details will be taken and put into a central managed database.
- Your details will only be used with YOUR permission & we will have to check periodically that you still wish to be involved (GDPR requirement - as written on the form).
- We WILL send you back a copy of this form for your records.
- We will contact you for those events you are interested in.

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk





QUESTIONS???

- Is this something you think would be worthwhile?
- Is this something you would support?
- Is this something you would get involved in?
- Are you happy to share your contact details?
- Do you have other ideas you would like to discuss?

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk

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y area which, when grown, will replace ti



CONCLUSION

- We live in a beautiful village
- There are events where volunteers can often get involved. Not just the big "events" but maintenance of our village
 - We do a lot of work making our green spaces the enjoyable environments that they are - along with BANG, the Wallingford Green Gym etc.
 - Litter picking
- Without your help these things become difficult to manage
- Let's create a community of helpers within Benson - and make it FUN!

Any comments: comms@bensonpc.org.uk

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CHAPEL LANE HAIR & BEAUTY

01491 838931

THANK YOU!

comms@bensonpc.org.uk

BARBER CHOP
TRADITIONAL TURKISH BARBERS
OPEN 7
DAYS A WEEK
NO APPOINTMENTS
NECESSARY
WALK INS
WELCOME
01491 612 831