Bepton Parish Council

Autumn 2026 Newsletter



Bepton, Cocking and West Lavington Fete

This year the annual fete moved location to Cocking Village Hall. A glorious, sunny early September Saturday brought regular and new visitors along to enjoy the fun. There were some new entertainments: the Pimm's Bar run by Philip and Trish Watts from West Lavington and a pop-up stall selling Bepton Sloe Gin and Vodka, homemade by George Tyrell-Evans from Bepton using fruit harvested from the Bepton hedgerows.

The fete had a different feel to it from the Cocking Rectory Garden, where previous fetes have been held, but everyone enjoyed the space and the community ambiance was embraced enthusiastically by volunteers who ran the stalls and helped with the parking as well as the visitors who came along to support the event.



The Bepton homemade cake stall was, as always, very popular and this year Bepton resident Kimberley Robinson donated an amazing 'Maltesers and M&M' cake which was raffled off separately. The Dog Show had a bit more space on the flat field surface and 'Best in Show' was won by new Bepton resident, Ash, with owner/handler Irene Bridgmont. The Human fruit machine (pictured above) was also very popular and a stilted butterfly lady, captured in the image added to the festivities.

All of the regular stalls run by Beptonians: vintage and gifts, books, produce as well as the aforementioned, cakes, The Human Fuit Machine and the Dog Show contributed to the funds raised - a total of just over £5,000 which will be divided between Bepton and Cocking Churches. A huge thanks goes out to everyone who donated, made cakes, bought raffle tickets and gave their valuable time to support this community event.

Bepton Parish Council Chairman Stands Down

Ros Hart has served as Chairman of the Parish Council for the past 8 years. She and her husband, Neil, are moving away from the village so sadly she has had to stand down from the Parish Council. A Bepton resident for over 40 years and member of the Parish council for 27 years, which is a phenomenal record of public service, her diligent, hard work on behalf of our small community will be sorely missed. She is an incredible woman who has given so much of her time and energy to our community.

Vice Chair of the Parish Council, John Beckett, will be taking on the role of acting Chairman until the role is permanently filled.

If you would like to join other villagers to wish Ros and Neil 'au revoir' and good luck with their next chapter, there will be an informal gathering on Saturday 31st October 11am - 12.30 on the Village Green by the coffee shop. Everyone is welcome.

Speed Limit change on Bepton Road

The speed limit on Bepton Road has been reduced to 40 mph after requests to implement the restriction and make the road safer for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists. It is still advisable for pedestrians and dog walkers to wear "hi-viz" on dark mornings/evenings.

Park & Co Coffee Shop on Severals Road
Ben Bilsland of Park & Co. will be opening up the village shop adjacent to the coffee shop in the next couple of months when they plan to have the venue open longer hours. At the moment the opening hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8am – 1pm, Saturdays and Sundays 9am – 2pm and closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Southern Bepton Noticeboard
With a grant from Chichester District Council the noticeboard at the southern end of Bepton has been renewed and moved to the more visible location on the verge by the T junction of Bepton Road and Bugshill/Bell Lane. Many thanks to Dan Hanrahan for his skilled work making it and putting it up.

Roadworks in Bell/Bugshill Lane
The project will involve laying approximately 4.7km of new water main along Bugshill Lane/ Bell Lane starting 7th September 2026. It is a major project that will be completed in several phases over a period of about 7 months.

To enable the works to be carried out safely and efficiently, an initial temporary rolling road closure will be in place. As the works progress, sections of the closure will be lifted accordingly. Two diversion routes will be implemented throughout the works, which will commence at the top of Bugshill Lane and progress towards Cocking.

News from St Mary's Church

Looking back

Annual Gift Day
Saturday 1st August brought a welcome stream of visitors to the Village Green where there were raffle tickets for a variety of great prizes and locally made cakes, pastries and homegrown produce were sold which raised £682. A big thank you to everyone who donated and shopped.



The Harvest Festival
The church was decorated with seasonal flowers and produce. Food donations were gratefully received by the Rother Valley Together Club held at The Grange.

Looking forward

Save the dates

Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 8th November, 10.45am
This year the service will be at St Mary's Church Bepton War Memorial joined by the parishes of Heyshott, Cocking and West Lavington. Traditionally the service is held outside so please wear appropriate warm clothing and footwear for uneven ground

The Annual Carol Service
Sunday 13th December, 3pm
This ever-popular village event will see our beautiful little church decorated for Christmas. Sweetmeats and mulled wine will be served after the service when we will all have a chance to share festive good wishes.

Bepton Parish Councillors:
Vice-Chairman: John Beckett (Planning) 07723 320330 Mike Salmon (Finance)
Clerk: Lorraine Grocott 01428 741393 Paul McCulloch (Winter Resilience Plan)
Sarah Port: (Footpaths & Byways & Newsletter) Ben Tyrrell-Evans
sarah.port@bepton-pc.gov.uk