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**BENSON BULLETIN REPORT – MAY 2023**

A month on and Spring has finally taken hold – it’s my favourite time of year as new life is “bustin out all over” (Apologies to Oscar Hammerstein). I hope you all had a good Easter break, at the time of writing the weather looks as if it should be good.

With any luck this Spring, we will finally be saying goodbye to Benson’s own swimming pool at the junction of Church Road with the A4074, when work on repositioning the junction and the installation of the Toucan Crossing is completed. The closure of Church Road to through traffic and the concomitant increase in traffic along Oxford Road for the duration will have been just part of the price we have to pay for better traffic/pedestrian safety.

At our meeting on the 31st we were treated to a talk about places that can be seen from the Whittenham Clumps and stories about the people who were associated with them. The stories were wide ranging and all more than just interesting. The storyteller Peter Adamson, without any visual aids just with his knowledge and his use of language and its modulation, painted pictures that made the need for visual aids totally redundant. Peter delivered what must have been one of the best talks the Society has heard to an almost full hall that included 9 new members who joined on the night. Five of them were from the Cala development which is very pleasing, as one of the Society’s Aims is to help keep our Village as an integrated whole.

Since our next meeting is on Friday 28th April it is highly unlikely that anyone will get the BB in time, but just in case, it is entitled “Beer, Sausages and Marmalade” – Oxfordshire food in the 19th century - and is given by Liz Woolley, secretary to the Oxfordshire Local History Association, who has previously given several local history based talks to the Society – all very well received.

At our meeting on 26th May there will not be a talk but a ‘Fun Quiz’. It will be based on Benson and its surrounding area but will be designed to be as inclusive as possible, no matter how long people have lived in the area. It should be fun, so even think of making up a table with some friends.

The May meeting will be the last before our summer break (June, July and August). We will reconvene on Friday 29th of September when the talk will be “Thames Bridges” – Abingdon to Goring and Streatley, given by Keith Parry.

Finally, I can’t close without a big ‘thank you’ to all the volunteers who make our evenings so successful: the makers of the various salads, Sue and David Cooper who run the bar, Jean Eldridge and helpers who manage the buffet, the door staff and Tanya and her team for laying out the hall and washing and clearing up after us. I also want to thank Steve and Karen at Benson Butchers who cook and slice the delicious ham and also provide the cheese.

David McGill