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 **BENSON BULLETING REPORT – JAN 2022**

A bit late but nevertheless just as well meant – A Happy New Year to all our members and the wider population of Benson and adjacent villages. Let us hope that 2022 will see us getting back to doing all we love to do while still having respect for the well-being of our whole community or as some would say ‘getting back to normal’. A British army Captain, Preet Chandi, has recently completed a trek in Antarctica from the coast to the South Pole. In an interview with The Times, she said: “I have been told ‘no’ on many occasions and told to ‘just do the normal thing’ but we create our own normal.” Now ‘Normal’ is normally a word that I think is quite normal but in the emergence from a pandemic, I am unsure what it means, so to create my own new ‘normal’ is going to be difficult. Firstly to get to a state of normalcy presupposes a period of time to establish the rules and envelope in which I feel comfortable existing, having consideration both to what I can or should do and its impact on others. It is already clear that the Government will gradually reduce its rules and regulations pertaining to our behaviour and so it will be up to each of us to find our own way to our own ‘normal’. The Bensington Society is no exception, and its Management Committee has recently been reviewing its Health and Safety Policy along with other rules, regulations and guidance, so that we can be as sure as we can be that our Friday evening meetings are as safe as we can make them, while keeping the essential social elements in place. I am sure members are as fed up with being given dates for our WELCOME BACK PARTY as the Committee is in sending them out but because of Covid-19 and lately the Omicron variant, building supplies have been erratic and builders in short supply. In addition, the availability of the new Community Hall has and still is, at the time of writing, subject to lease negotiations between Cala Homes and SODC – leaving the Parish Council just as frustrated as we are. However, we now believe that we will be able to hold the party after the AGM on the 25th February. This is still not set in stone, but we are all keeping our fingers crossed. In the event of a suitable venue not being available, the AGM will be deferred to March 25th when the party will follow on. As far as the Society is concerned, the main outstanding village issue is the use of the due CIL money and the Parish Council’s planned public meeting to help us all understand the expenditure rules and to take on board the residents’ views as to the spending priorities. This meeting was scheduled for the 27th January but I understand this is now changing. So, keep your eyes and ears open for the new date and attend if you can. The amount of CIL money is a significant amount, its expenditure is time limited and it can make a profound difference to our environment and the opportunity for residents of Benson to enjoy a better future.

So please attend.

David McGill