

## **March 2017 Supplement to the 2016 Evidence Report by Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee**

### **4.1: Community Action Press Reports: 'Tiny village makes history with giant oak waymarker'**

On 19 February 2017 the new Waymarker sculpture by Janine Creaye was inaugurated at Binsted. The ceremony began with a meeting in the churchyard, drinks and food. Over 50 people then processed down Muddy Lane to the site of the Waymarker, installed the day before. Dried rose leaves were thrown, and Camilla Lambert, chair of the Binsted Arts Festival, read her poem 'The fabricator'. The trio of Mike Tristram, Tony Elphick and Steve Matcham sang a Sussex ploughing song in three-part harmony.

Janine explained the imagery of her sculpture. It combines natural motifs of plants and animals – badger, dormouse, toad, cornflower, poppy, hops, oak leaves, bryony, bindweed - with the Green Man, a guardian figure from mediaeval iconography, and Knuckers or water dragons, mythical creatures from ancient Sussex folklore.

Littlehampton Gazette 2.3.17

## **Ceremony is held as sculpted landmark waymarker unveiled**

A village near Arundel has inaugurated a 6ft carved oak waymarker on the boundary of the National Park.

Dozens of villagers from Binsted took part in the ceremony last Sunday, which was steeped in traditional Sussex music and folklore.

The celebrations, which began in Binsted churchyard, included a colourful procession to a crossroads of footpaths on the boundary of the National Park, where the waymarker was showered with handfuls of dried rose petals.

Schoolchildren joined the party, carrying soft toy badgers and green dragons



**Janine Creaye and her waymarker**

from Cowfold, carved the landmark from an enormous piece of green oak to represent the 'spirit of Binsted'.

She said: "At the top there is a green man guardian figure, found in old churches with foliage growing from his face. Ours has hops, oak leaves and bryony. Beneath him are two knucker dragons, and between them carved bubbles."

The event's traditional theme continued with a poetry reading by chairman of Binsted Arts Festival Camilla Lambert, folksong and a 'wassail' toast to the waymarker.

to represent the Binsted Knucker – a creature of Saxon folklore said to live in bottomless ponds and featured in the design.

Sculptor Janine Creaye,

Toast was placed on the sculpture and a hearty Wassail shouted.

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# Tiny village makes history with giant oak waymarker

## Dozens take part in ceremony steeped in Sussex folklore

**STAFF REPORTER**  
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The tiny rural village of Binsted, near Arundel, made local history on Sunday, February 19, when it inaugurated a six-foot tall carved oak waymarker on the boundary of the National Park.

Dozens of villagers took part in the ceremony which was steeped in traditional Sussex music and folklore. The celebrations, which began in Binsted churchyard, included a colourful procession to a crossroads of footpaths on the boundary of the National Park, where the waymarker was showered with handfuls of dried rose petals.

Local school children joined the party, carrying soft toy badgers and green dragons to represent the Binsted Knucker - a creature of Saxon folklore said to live in bottomless ponds.

Cowfold sculptor, Janine Creaye carved the landmark from an enormous piece of green oak, to represent the 'spirit of Binsted'.

"At the top there is a Green Man guardian figure, found

in old churches with foliage growing from his face", she explained. "Ours has hops, oak leaves and bryony. Beneath him are two knucker dragons, and between them carved bubbles."

"The bubbles could be coming up from the adjacent winterbourne stream - or the knucker hole pond. In the bubbles are carved animals, with a sleeping dormouse in pride of place. On the back the knuckers are protecting local wildflowers, bees and crops."

The event's traditional theme continued with a poetry reading by the Chair of Binsted Arts Festival, Camilla Lambert; a folksong from Trustees of the charity, Sussex Traditions, Mike Tristram and Tony Elphick who both live in Binsted; and a 'Wassail' toast to the waymarker.

"In the middle of my poem comes the line, 'They insist Knuckers aren't real / but I know better,'" said Camilla. "Special places like Binsted need powerful guardians."

"We chose to sing an old Sussex folksong, 'The Oxen Ploughing' because people ploughed with oxen here for most of our church's 900 years. After the ceremony, the

villagers went on to inspect the year's hedge-laying which had been carried out by Rangers and Volunteers from the National Park and from local community environmental group, MAVES. National

Park ranger, Tom Parry and assistant ranger, Chloe Goddard from neighbouring Walberton, explained the traditional Sussex techniques. "I've enjoyed learning how to do this," said Binsted

resident Julia Plumstead. "It doesn't just make a better hedge; it's also beautifully crafted and a shelter for wildlife as well as for all the walkers who love these footpaths".

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Wassail toast was placed on the Waymarker. Sculptor, Janine Creaye is pictured left

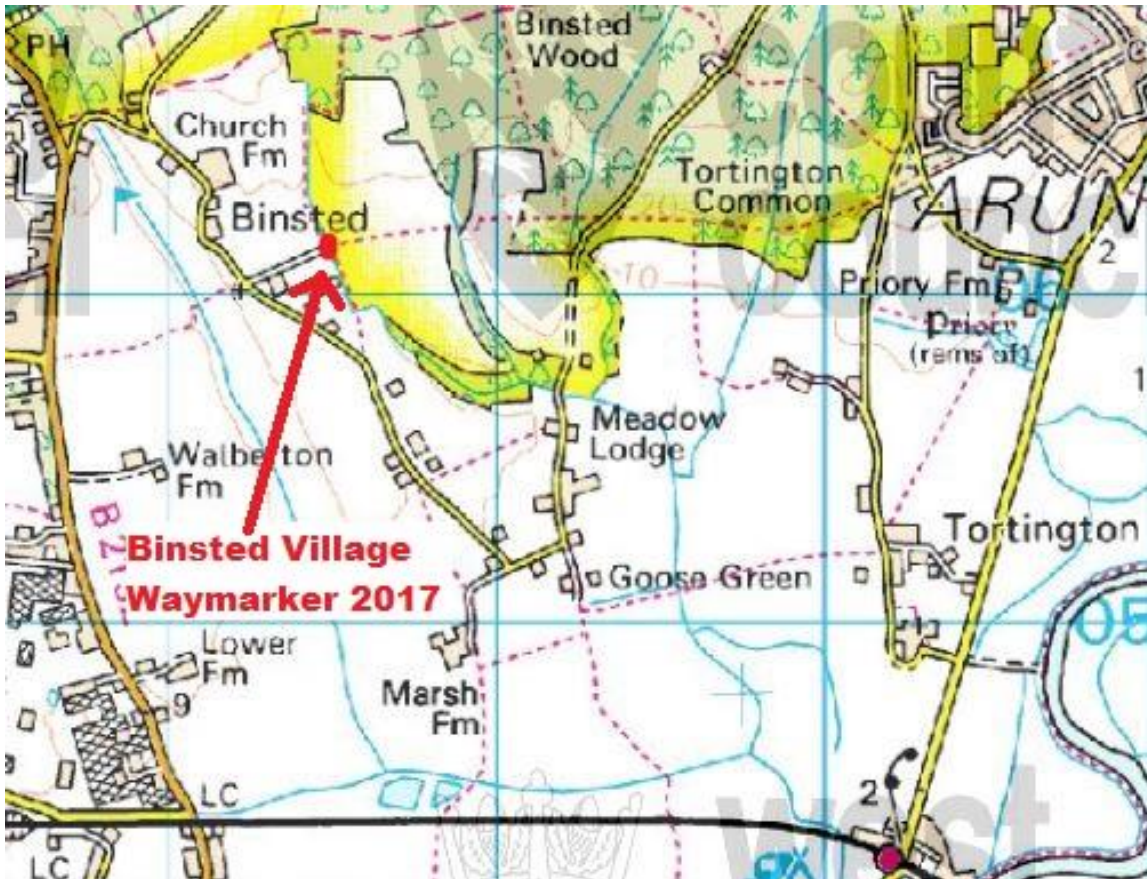


Wassail toast was placed on the Waymarker. Sculptor, Janine Creaye is pictured left

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WSA 22 Feb 2017

The waymarker is on the crossroads of two important footpaths, one north-south, one east-west. It is on the boundary of the South Downs National Park, at a quiet point where there is also a bench for enjoying the beauty of the surrounding countryside and the view of Binsted Woods. The National Park boundary is shown in yellow on the map below.



Binsted Village is spread out: its 38 houses form a ring within the beautiful countryside, and some are within the woods. It has no built up centre. But the Waymarker is roughly central to the village and stands guard over the rich agricultural fields in the centre of the old Binsted Parish.

The Waymarker is also in the path of the Binsted route for the Arundel Bypass (Highways England A27 Feasibility Study Route B, 2015). The route would destroy the waymarker and with it the 'spirit of Binsted'. Any other route through Binsted would also destroy its spirit by destroying the unity of village, fields and woods.



*The procession started from Binsted Church.*



*Getting ready to toast the Waymarker.*



*Throwing rose petals at the Waymarker.*



*Three singers singing the Sussex folk song 'The Jolly Ploughboy' by the Waymarker.*



*The Waymarker with Binsted Woods in the background.*