

# **Great Bentley Parish News**

**Produced by the Community  
for the Community**



# **January 2021**

# Village Information

## St Mary's Church

### VICAR:

Rev Sharon Miles  
The Vicarage, The Bury, St Osyth,  
CO16 8NY 01255 822055

### CHURCHWARDEN:

Wendy Smith  
Burnside, The Green - 01206 250098

### CHURCHWARDEN: VACANT

### TREASURER:

Annabel Stearn  
01206 251518  
email: wylieandsinger@talk21.com

### CHURCH VERGER:

Rita Baverstock  
Stonybroke, Station Road - 01206 251271

### READER:

Wendy King  
17 Larkfield Road - 01206 250852

### PCC SECRETARY:

Claire Pearson  
36 De Vere Estate - 01206 256433  
email: gbpcsecretary@gmail.com

### STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY:

Rosemary Branch  
4 Wents Close - 01206 250137

### TOWER CAPTAIN:

Roger Carey-Smith - 01206 250521

### SUNDAY CLUB:

Linda Hayes  
Ivy Lodge, Frating - 01206 250207

### ST MARY'S PARISH HALL BOOKING SECRETARY:

Carole Allington  
Poplar House, Station Road - 01206 251086  
or ring Church Verger

### PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR/ADVERTISING/ DISTRIBUTOR:

Mary Maskell  
Caldew Cottage, The Green  
01206 250524  
[marymaskell@sys3internet.net](mailto:marymaskell@sys3internet.net)

Carole Allington  
[carole@pncallington.co.uk](mailto:carole@pncallington.co.uk)

### METHODIST MINISTER

Rev Crawford Logan 37 Southcliff Park, Clacton on Sea,  
CO15 6HH - 01255 423640

### DOCTOR'S SURGERY:

Drs F. Bhatti, R.S. O'Reilly, A. Nambi, and G. Pontikis.  
The Hollies, The Green - 01206 250691

### CHIROPODIST:

Terry St George - 01255 820885: Mobile: 07775 833200

### POLICE:

Clacton 0300 333 4444

**24 hour Non emergency number 101**

**In an emergency ring 999**

**PC Rob Willmot - Tel: 101 extension 440356**

**PCSO Julia Brandon - Tel: 101 extension 440222**

[Julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk)

### PARISH COUNCIL:

Chairman - Pippa Dennitts, Cedarwood, Moors Close.  
Great Bentley, CO7 8QN. Telephone 07848 872018

Clerk to the Council - Karen Paradise

Correspondence to: The Clerk, Community Resource Centre,  
Village Hall, Plough Road, Great Bentley, CO7 8LD  
Telephone - 01206 256410

### TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

Lynda McWilliams, Boblyn, St Mary's Road, Aingers Green,  
Great Bentley, Colchester, CO7 8NN -  
01206 250732: Mobile: 07564 613603.  
email: [cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk)

### COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

Alan Goggin, Freshfields, Church Road,  
Brightlingsea, CO7 0QT 01206 308023 Mobile: 07860 519117  
email: [egog@btinternet.com](mailto:egog@btinternet.com)

### GOOD NEIGHBOURS TRANSPORT:

Rita Baverstock - 01206 251271

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

### MEDICAL AIDS:

Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

### TENDRING FURNITURE SCHEME:

Rocket House, Gorse Lane Industrial Estate, Clacton:  
01255 476068

### VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS:

email: [bookings@greatbentleyvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@greatbentleyvillagehall.co.uk)  
07494 234049

### METHODIST HALL BOOKINGS:

Robert & Janet Taylor, Dominica, Moors Close - 01206 250087

**GT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL:** - 01206 250331

**COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL:** - 01206 303511

### VILLAGE HISTORY RECORDER:

Heather Taylor, Granville, Plough Road - 01206 251004

**COLCHESTER HOSPITALS:** 01206 747474

**CLACTON & DISTRICT HOSPITAL:** 01255 201717

**FOOTPATH REP:** David Gollifer 01206 250309

**VILLAGE TRANSPORT REP:** Peter Harry - 01206 250511

### VILLAGE CARETAKER:

Bobby McWilliams, Boblyn, St Mary's Rd, Aingers Green  
01206 250732

### WHEELCHAIR LOANS:

Alan Bayliss, 01206 250450.

## EDITORIAL

Here we are at the start of a new year and let's hope that we may eventually return to a more normal everyday existence. It is always good to reflect on the year past and I think the last nine months have highlighted how much we take for granted the everyday freedoms and the small things in life which make it so enjoyable, like visiting friends and family, being able to give someone a hug to comfort or congratulate them and to travel locally and worldwide. Most of all I hope the enforced isolation will come to an end before too long. One or two people commented during the first lockdown that they felt the effect of the situation on people's mental health was grossly overstated but after a few months their assessment of this soon reversed. The great thing about all of this is the way that everyone pulled together in our community led by our wonderful Great Bentley Support Team. Neighbours and friends soon rallied to make sure everyone was taken care of with a friendly phone call to those who were on their own or more vulnerable and people's generosity helped us all through. Thanks also to St Mary's and the Methodist church who kept services going in various formats. As I proof read this for the last time it has been announced that Essex is now in Tier 3 but Tendring in Tier 2.

I expected us to lose a lot of pages of advertising this year but we start off with the same as last January which is amazing. Please note the new advertisers on page 5 and try and support our local businesses, it's great if you can let them know that you saw their advert in our magazine.

Christmas at the best of times encompasses a range of emotions and for many can be a very lonely time. This year will accentuate this solitude with many people unable to visit because of restrictions, so please keep an eye on friends and neighbours and give them a call to let them know you care and are thinking of them.

Lots of interesting articles this month and I love the school notes which Year 3 have written. They sound so excited with their discovery. See page 15.

Our "colour supplement" helps to illustrate how lovely our village looks at night time and what's going on too. Thanks to everyone who has submitted photos; John Merison, Lawrence Robinson, Pre-School.

On a positive note and working on from last month's editorial thank you to everyone who has made an extra special effort to brighten up our village.

**Mary Maskell**



## 2021

### CONTENTS

Editorial .. ..	1
Monthly letters .. ..	2
Church Services .. ..	3.
Wildlives .. ..	7
Deadline .. ..	8
Sesaw News .. ..	10
News from the Oaks .. ..	10
Pet Notes .. ..	11
District Councillor Notes .. ..	13
School News .. ..	14
Football Notes .. ..	15
Parish Council .. ..	17
Nature Notes .. ..	18
Running Club .. ..	19
Surgery Notes .. ..	20
Police Report .. ..	21
Farming Diaries .. ..	22
Children's Page .. ..	23
Cookery Corner .. ..	24
Quiz .. ..	26
Wine Tasting .. ..	27
Tendring Primary Recycling .. ..	28
Pre-School .. ..	29
Tendring Primary Recycling .. ..	33

### Front Cover

Aerial view of the  
Christmas lights.

Thank you to  
Lawrence Robinson

### DISCLAIMER

The statements, opinions and data contained in these publications are solely those of the individual authors and contributors and not of the Churchwardens, Parochial Church Council, the Editor nor the publisher. The appearance of advertisements in the Great Bentley Parish News or the website is not a warranty, endorsement, or approval of the products or services advertised or of their effectiveness, quality or safety.

## THE MONTHLY LETTERS - JANUARY

Greetings of last year from our past minister who is ill and needs your prayers at this time.

Dear Friends,

For many of us, Christmas time (in my opinion) is a time for time travel, the sights, smells and sounds seem to magically transport us back in time and we become the person we were many years ago and revisit and relive the experiences and events, some wonderful and, sadly for others, some very sad. The Christmas carols always transport me back to the days when I was a young teenager playing the tuba in the Salvation Band and going 'carolling', as we called it. We would go from lamp post to lamp post (as we needed the light to read the music) and in the freezing Scottish December evenings we would share the message of Christmas to all. One particular memory stands out clearly, when I was in England; I was playing with the Cadets' Salvation Army band in the famous Oxford Street, London. The street was packed with shoppers pushing and queuing and although people were being kind in their donations it felt like no one was taking time to listen to our music and that, if anything, we were 'in the way', as we were taking up precious pavement space! Suddenly I became aware somehow, even though I was focusing on my music, that someone was watching me; it made me look up - my brain could not compute what I was seeing - there before me, standing in clear sight and staring straight at me, with his piercing soul-searching eyes, was Jesus! Wearing a hoodie and jeans! I nudged my fellow bandsman standing next to me and declared hesitantly, being fully aware of what his reaction would be, 'Look! Over there! It's .....it's Jesus!'

His facial expression said it all, as he firstly looked at me in that 'have you lost the plot?' look, then to a look of amazement as he looked out and saw him too. It was an unforgettable moment, as two Salvation Army bandsmen stopped playing and stood transfixed, trying to make sense of what was going on. This was in the early 1980's - we had all been watching the powerful, then new, film, 'Jesus of Nazareth', starring Robert Powell and there he was, Mr Robert Powell himself, obviously doing his Christmas shopping, but for me, at that time, he was the face of Christ. It was in some strange way a deeply moving moment and for me re-echoed what is a much loved Christmas carol, 'Once in Royal David's City'. The verses go on to say 'and our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love'. Our eyes at last shall see him! I suppose, for a few seconds, before my brain could work out who was standing before me, I had a taste of how that moment will feel. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 13, that currently we see things through a glass dimly - but all will become clear when we see Him face to face.

May I wish you a happy time travel this Christmas - may your remembering of a past journey equip you for blessings to come.

God bless you, Crawford



---

It is so very strange writing the letter for January when we are just a third of the way through December! So, if you read this early, I want to wish you a great Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

If you are reading this after Christmas – I hope that, although Christmas 2020 was different, you still had a chance to catch up with relatives and friends. I do pray that 2021 is good to you and those you care about.

The new year is normally the time that we make resolutions and start to think about taking on new challenges and hobbies but this time I am just praying that the Corona Virus vaccine, when we get it, helps us all to feel safer and enables us to look forward. However, until that time please do take care of yourselves, your loved ones, your friends, and neighbours. I do pray that 2021 is good to all of us.

God bless.

*Sharon*



## GREAT BENTLEY METHODIST CHURCH NEWS



We wish you a  
peaceful Christmas  
and New Year.

We welcome you to worship  
at Church or on Zoom with  
us during January. We pray

for relief from the Virus.

All our activities are held at our Church in the  
centre of the green.

Morning worship will be held at **10.30am** unless  
otherwise stated.

The leaders of worship are set out below:-

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> The Church Leaders**

**January 10<sup>th</sup> Rev Tom Osborne Annual  
Covenant Service.** We always invite our friends  
from St Mary's to this service but we are aware that  
they may not be able to attend due to Covid  
restrictions.

**January 17<sup>th</sup> Week of Prayer for Christian  
Unity** We hope to be able to join our friends at St  
Mary's for this service, but realise that this may not  
be possible due to Covid restrictions

**January 24<sup>th</sup> Led by Maddy Whittle.**

**January 31<sup>st</sup> Led by Maggie Woods**

### Events in January:

All our activities suspended until further notice

## FOOD BANK

The container for the food bank is inside the  
Church.

Food required:

Sugar, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Tinned Fruit,  
Tinned Potatoes: Tinned Peas, Tinned  
Carrots, Tinned Soup,  
Cereals, Biscuits,  
Washing Powders, Toilet  
Rolls, Kitchen Rolls,  
Nappies,  
Children's Toothpaste.



Due to Covid restrictions we are  
unable to hold a  
Carol or Christingle Service this year.

There will however be a  
Midnight Service  
at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve  
and a Christmas Day Family Service  
at 10am.

Hope to see you there!

Wendy Smith  
Churchwarden



## SERVICES AS KNOWN AT THE TIME OF PRINT IN ST MARY'S CHURCH

**Sunday 3rd January - Epiphany**

*Isaiah 60.1-6:*

Service at 9.15am

**Sunday 10th January - Baptism of Christ  
(Epiphany 1)**

*Genesis 1. 1-5:*

We usually go to the Methodist Church for this  
Covenant Service but it may not be possible due to  
Covid restrictions.

Service at 9.15am

**Sunday 17th January - Epiphany 2  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

*1 Samuel 3. 1-10:*

The Methodist church usually join us for this service  
but it may not be possible due to Covid restrictions.

Service at 9.15am

**Sunday 24th January - Epiphany 3**

*Revelation 19. 6-10:*

Service at 9.15am Communion

**Sunday 31st January - Presentation of Christ**  
*Malachi 3.1-5:*

Service at 9.15am

## OH CHRISTMAS TREE, OH CHRISTMAS TREE.

It's 3am ish on 4th December and for some reason I am wide awake. As usual my mind wanders and I suddenly think about Christmas past and all of the fun times, largely centred around "The Tree", which is one of my favourite things. I start writing this article in my mind but resist getting up to type it as I am sure it will all be fresh in my mind when the alarm goes off.



Going to select and collect the tree was always fun, well nearly always, and involved travel, precision and a hugely important tick list top of which was a bushy appearance, ceiling height and evenly spaced branches. No thin and spindly specimen for us! We used to travel in Boxted direction where, with the boys, we could arrive at the farm, have a ride on a tractor and trailer to the growing site, select the tree and ride back to the farmyard where it was measured against a huge ruler on the building. One year on the way home the van we had borrowed broke down on a winding country lane and we had to walk to the nearest dwelling, ask to use a house phone (no mobiles then), wait for a taxi to take us to the railway station and travel back to Great Bentley on the train. The van and tree were recovered the next day!

We always aimed to get a floor to ceiling specimen and on one ambitious occasion once brought in to the house the top poked a hole in the ceiling. One of the boys' friends said he always thought our tree went through the ceiling and in to the bedrooms. Usually the trunk or the top would need to be chopped a bit but the scent of a fresh pine tree is one of the joys of Christmas I really look forward too.

Decorating the tree was usually undertaken by Ivan with a few tweeks at the end by me. Always sugar mice on the lower branched which the boys would surreptitiously nibble away when no one was looking. But my favourite decorations, which I still use every year are some quite heavy glass droplets which were free of charge.....even better. I had gone to the tip at Martin's Farm and bumped into a fellow villager who was throwing away a lampshade with aforementioned glass droplets attached which he kindly gave me. He later dropped off a matching shade on the doorstep, to double the decorative effect.

As I lay there still unable to sleep I couldn't help but smile about one of our earliest forays. Our original Caldew Cottage was a single storey bungalow built for Dr Atthill's mother in law, Mrs Mackenzie (of smelling salts fame I was informed). Ivan came in one afternoon and suggested we set off immediately in search of a tree as he had the use of a van for an hour or two. I left the freshly baked, golden brown, (I would have said), mince pies, cooling on the worktop and off we all went. We never locked the back door in those days. On our return it was obvious that someone had been in. The Parish Magazines were left on the side ready for me to deliver. A box of a dozen bottles of wine, gifts for Ivan's customers, had disappeared and worse still a note next to my Mary Berry baking efforts declared "These Mince Pies are grossly overcooked"!!! It took us some while to locate the wine which had been hidden all over the house. The culprits by their own admission some while later, was our Vicar, Rev Chris Boulton and a well known primary school teacher, still resident in the village. Happy days.

This year we all know that Christmas will not be normal, but I hope we will have new and happy memories and something to look back on and treasure and give us something to smile about in the years ahead.

### Mary Maskell

PS Do you remember the homemade gnomes that secretly appeared on people's doorsteps? As I recall this made the local newspaper and I have a very strong suspicion that the aforementioned incumbent had a hand in that prank too.



## MAGAZINE SUBS 2021

Subs remain the same  
at £5 and £4 concessions.  
We hope you agree that for 12 editions  
that is very reasonable.

This year St Mary's church has been  
unable to hold any major fund raising events.  
Every penny from the magazine sales  
goes to St Mary's church.

**If you would like to add on  
a little extra to your subs  
that would help to look after  
our church and the church yard.  
Thanks for your support everyone.  
Mary**

## GOOD NEIGHBOURS

### No booklet for 2021

Dear Fellow villagers,

Greetings for 2021 and here's to the end of  
the Corona virus

**2021 Booklet** Since so many of the village  
clubs are not operating during this pandemic and  
groups have not replaced officers, we have decided  
that there will be so little change that it is not worth  
producing a replacement free booklet to all in the  
village. We still hope to give a 2020 copy to people  
as they move into our village. Do not forget that  
there is a copy on the Parish Council Website. Do a  
search under Great Bentley Parish Council.

**Transport** For all residents of Great  
Bentley, volunteer drivers have helped with  
transport to Hospitals and Clinics etc As you will  
realise due to the high likelihood of cross infection in  
cars we have suspended our transport system run  
by village volunteers. We shall review this situation  
when the Government advise us that it is safe to  
resume.

Robert Taylor

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We wish everyone in great Bentley a peaceful  
Christmas and good health for 2021!

Thank you to ALL who kept our village going during  
this last year. It sets this village  
apart from others. We are lucky.

Best wishes  
Ulli & Dave Flinn



## ADVERTISING IN THE PARISH NEWS 2021

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the  
invitation to be included in next years magazine  
advertising section. It has been such a hard time for  
businesses but so many people have agreed to keep  
supporting the magazine and I can't tell you how  
grateful I am for your kindness. We have some new  
advertisers too and these include;

**Go Cruise & Travel** - 01473 551259. See page J

**Cleaning Services**, 07943104399. See page U.

**Pattern Perfect**,  
Painting, Decorating and Property Maintenance  
01206 251173: 07876 030073. See page F

**T. W. Tiling, Wall and Floor Tiling Services**,  
07737 513087. See page E

**Physio**,  
Book online [www.pysio3.co.uk](http://www.pysio3.co.uk) 01206 638482.  
See page H

**Ward, Home & Garden Maintenance**  
07947 344376 [nigel.ward@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.ward@gmail.com). See page B

**The Retreat - Hair Stylist** 07709 234969.  
See page R.

**Bentley Green Property Consultants**. See page G.

### Spaces available

Costs for 2021 are  
Medium size £90 per annum  
Small size £50 per annum  
Quarter of a page £150 per annum

Please support these businesses and tell them that  
you saw their advertisement in the Great Bentley  
Parish News.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our wonderful Dad

## RAY BROWN

who will be 90 years young  
on 24th December.

All our love  
Nikki and Celia  
Andy and Glen  
Josh, Harriet, Jason, Robert  
and family and friends  
xxxxxxx



# RMS TITANIC

by David Ettritch. Retired Curator of Shipwreck & Heritage Centre  
Charlestown, Cornwall

I am still trying to show you how Captain Lord of the ship Californian was blamed by both the American and English inquiries for his lack of help in the sinking of RMS Titanic and how politics and rich ship owners tried to find someone else other than themselves to blame. In one of the first books about the disaster things were said "The Californian 10 miles away" not true! Passengers in the lifeboats were told to row towards the ship on the horizon (Californian) not true! One passage in a book attributed Captain Lord saying "That will be the Titanic on her maiden voyage". This was told to Lord Mersey by third officer Groves of the Californian and put in the official record. What was actually said is as follows. Groves said "When I remarked about the passenger steamer's lights, Captain Lord said The only passenger steamer near us is the Titanic."

In the late sixties an article in a magazine written by Commander Joseph G. Boxhall, the Titanic's fourth officer in which he reportedly said "The ship on the Titanic's port side was now clearly visible, with portholes brightly shining, and contrary to the master's later given evidence was still moving slowly". And when this ship, the Californian arrived in port, the master decided not to make any report on the night's happenings, and if it had not been for a donkeyman (who accepted cash for his story) and left the ship (Californian) upon her arrival in New York, it is doubtful if the ship would ever be identified. This story had to be quickly stopped as it was clearly unreservedly withdrawing any unfounded reflections on Captain Lord's character. Captain Lord died 24th January 1962, and at the mercantile marine service association (MMSA) meeting on the 30th January 1962 to canvas members on their feelings on a draft article on Captain Lord. In the event an overwhelming majority supported the proposition that there had been a miscarriage of justice in Captain Lord's case and a full article to be published.

I have read many books on the Titanic tragedy and read about Captain Lord's career. He was a first rate merchant navy captain and he would never had not gone to rescue anybody who needed him if he had got the right information, and the time to enact the saving.

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

More to come.

Yours - David - [dettritch@outlook.com](mailto:dettritch@outlook.com)

**THE  
PLOUGH**

Great Food.  
Great Drinks.  
Great Bentley.

**THE FUSILIER**

We are still doing takeaways.

We are not serving meals on Christmas Day but open  
for drinks 12-3pm.

Open for food Boxing Day 9am - 6pm

To book ring

01206 250222

# Wildlives

## Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre

'Catkins', Frating Road, Thorrington, Colchester CO7 8HT

[www.wildlives.org.uk](http://www.wildlives.org.uk)

Opening hours: n/a 07802 767016

Outside of Wildlives' hours, please call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 or log on to our website for advice on what to do with a sick animal until we are open again in the morning. **[See the web site for extra pictures too!](#)**

### Black headed gull rescued

January 2021

The RSPCA was alerted to a black headed gull caught in high winds, high up between two very tall trees at Frinton sea front .Jess from the RSPCA attended, and soon called the fire brigade for assistance. They managed to retrieve it from trees, when it was found to be ensnared in kite string. Where it had been blowing around in wind, the string had got tighter and more and more entangling, and by the time he was rescued one wing was tied across his back at an angle, while the leg was caught up with the wing and sticking out at right angles. When he arrived at Wildlives the prognosis seemed poor as it seemed the wing and leg must be catastrophically damaged. However as the string was slowly disentangled, miraculously the wing and leg moved back into place, and the only major damage was a break in the clavicle. The wing was immobilised to allow the clavicle break to heal. At the time of writing the wing is no longer immobilised and he is holding it perfectly. He will be released onto our lake tomorrow.

### Tiny hedgehog found in chemical-filled drain

A tiny hedgehog was very lucky to be spotted when a building site worker spotted just his little nose sticking out in a chemical filled drain. RSPCA Jess brought him to the centre, where he was treated for ingested chemicals and given twice daily baths (pictured) to ensure his skin was free of chemicals.

### Bad month for buzzards

The first arrival was a collapsed buzzard found by a member of public in Jaywick. He was this year's juvenile, and was collapsed due to starvation, being less than half his proper body weight. After two weeks in intensive care he is now starting to regain both his weight (albeit slowly) and his attitude (not so slowly).

A veterinary surgery in Thetford was brought another collapsed buzzard. Peter from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust helped by going to pick him up, but sadly once he reached the centre he was found to have a spinal injury that the vet had not noticed, causing paralysis, so sadly he had to be euthanised.

An hour later the RSPCA had another call about a collapsed buzzard in Felixstowe. A sugar beet field had been ploughed up, which resulted in both thick mud and a bonanza of exposed worms. The buzzard, who was a juvenile male hatched this year, found that once he had finished his worm feast he was caked in mud and unable to take off. He was also found to be very underweight. Once he was cleaned and fed Peter from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust took him to recuperate and regain weight in his very large flight pen facility. Once he is fit and at full weight and strength he will be ringed and released.

Someone out on a walk along marshes came across a kestrel covered in mud and dragging one wing. She was found to be very underweight, but no broken bones were found. She was cleaned up and given pain medication and anti-inflammatories, as we suspected she had a head or spinal trauma. She responded quickly and positively and Simon from the BTO came to ring her before she was released successfully near where she was found.

**Happy New Year to all our friends and supporters!**

Let's hope that 2021 is a better year and we can all get back to normal life.

**Give the gift of kindness, dignity, memories, compassion**

Christmas is a time for exchanging gifts, sharing food and spending time with family. Your Hospice Lottery invite you to give your loved ones a gift that really matters, a lottery membership in support of St Helena, allowing them to continue providing care to local people facing incurable illness and bereavement this Christmas.

It is a unique and special gift that keeps giving as it not only gives the recipient a chance to win cash prizes every week they are in the draw up to £25,000, but keeps giving to St Helena too! Your gift could help a patient in their last days of life stay at home over Christmas with personal care from the St Helena virtual ward team.

Sally Thomas, Marketing Manager at Your Hospice Lottery, says *"I think people's shopping habits are changing and after a challenging year people are looking for gifts that are more meaningful and are also looking for ways they can support their local community. Our lottery gift memberships are a fantastic choice this Christmas as it is a rewarding way of giving that someone special a unique gift that makes a difference and they could even win a prize too!"*

Perhaps you know someone who simply has everything already or you want to purchase a charitable gift in memory of a loved one in recognition of a cause close to their heart? Your Hospice Lottery gift memberships are available from as little as £10 for 10 weeks in the draw or for £52 you can buy a membership that lasts the whole year.

As we find ourselves in another national lockdown, the festive season, which is just around the corner is set to look a lot different this year. Local employers may be stuck for inspiration on ways to treat their staff this Christmas to replace the traditional office party. The good news is that gift memberships with Your Hospice Lottery can be purchased as a corporate gift pack too! It is a gift that not only says 'thank you' but also gives back to your local community. Plus, employees can be in with a chance of winning one of 176 weekly cash prizes, with a top prize of £1,000. There is also a chance to win up to £25,000 in the rollover draw!

Your Hospice Lottery gift memberships are available to purchase online, simply visit [yourhospicelottery.org.uk/gift](http://yourhospicelottery.org.uk/gift) or you can telephone the lottery team on 0800 285 1390. Please note the recipient and purchaser must be 16 or over.

**DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE**

**FRIDAY 15th JANUARY**

Material to Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green, 250524 **AND**  
Carole Allington, Poplar House, Station Road, 251086.

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

**email: [carole@pncallington.co.uk](mailto:carole@pncallington.co.uk) AND [marymaskell@sys3internet.net](mailto:marymaskell@sys3internet.net)**

**IMPORTANT - PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO BOTH OF US**

**Great Bentley Website: [www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk)**



Bentley Green Ladies Club Committee  
 would like to wish Members and Friends  
 a Happy Christmas and  
 a Healthy New Year !

## WELCOME

Jenny and Stuart to  
 High Gables, Aingers Green  
 and new residents  
 to 15 Pine Close and 4 Rowan Close  
 and to residents on the Go Homes  
 and Admirals Green estates.



### MARIE COLE (nee Howe)

Marie passed away peacefully at The Oaks Residential Home at Aingers Green on 28th November 2020. She had lived in Great Bentley or Aingers Green all her life.

Her funeral service will take place on 22nd December at the Methodist Church followed by interment in St Mary's Churchyard where she will be laid to rest with her late husband Alf.

### EDNA MARY BETTELL - KNOWN AS BETTY

Betty sadly passed away on 11th November, Remembrance Day.

Her daughters Lesley and Catherine would like to thank all of Betty's friends and neighbours in Great Bentley who were so kind and supportive to her during the twenty nine years that she lived in the village where she was so happy. Our thanks to all of you so much.

## WASTE AND RECYLCING DATES OVER CHRISTMAS

Households in Tendring are being reminded their waste and recycling collection days will change over the festive period.

Waste and recycling collections will not take place on Christmas Day, the Boxing Day Bank Holiday or New Year's Day.

Changes are as below, and are also included on residents' collection calendars:

Scheduled date	Revised date
Friday, 25 December	Tuesday, 29 December
Monday, 28 December	Wednesday, 30 December
Tuesday, 29 December	Thursday, 31 December
Wednesday, 30 December	Saturday, 2 January 2021
Thursday, 31 December	Monday, 4 January 2021
Friday, 1 January 2021	Tuesday, 5 January 2021



Collections week commencing 4 January will be two days later, with Thursday households collected on Saturday (9 January) and those due for collection on Friday 8 January collected on Monday 11 January. For week beginning Monday 11 January collections will be a day later than usual, with Friday collections taking place on Saturday (16 January)

Collections resume as normal from Monday 18 January.

In addition to the above changes, for households' first wheelie bin collection after Christmas each household will be allowed an additional two black bags of side waste.

## SESAW NEWS

This time last year some people predicted great things for the new decade and I thought 'seeing in 2020' was having perfect eyesight. Although the volunteers are still talking about Brexit and Australian wild fires, they seem more interested in news of a vaccine bringing fresh hope for a normal life.

I'm hoping someone can give my canine pal, Teddy, a new life. He is a ten month old staffie cross with the potential to become a fantastic companion. This handsome boy will need lots of exercise and company. Would suit an experienced owner who can see the promise in him and is prepared to put in the work to realise that potential.

Ollie (the Black) Cat wants me to tell you we have many cats waiting for new homes too. Some, including several pregnant females, were abandoned to fend for themselves last year and now await forever homes. Lots of humans find animals give as much as they receive by enriching their lives, particularly for those alone and isolated in these difficult times. Visitors by appointment only, please leave a message on 01787 210888 or visit our website or email [info@sesaw.co.uk](mailto:info@sesaw.co.uk) Best wishes for 2021 from all of us, including me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Registered Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.  
[www.sesaw.co.uk](http://www.sesaw.co.uk)

## NEWS FROM THE OAKS

It's been a festive start to the season over here with the Oaks Christmas workshop now open.... it's top secret but we will let you in on what has been happening ... but remember it's a secret.

We've been making handmade Christmas cards, personalised calendars, Christmas placemats and snow globes with that extra added magical touch have been made, with baking being next on the list. Well it is Christmas and we think we deserve a little treat and it is in order so we're looking forward to making gingerbread and mince pies to enjoy with a nice warm hot chocolate.

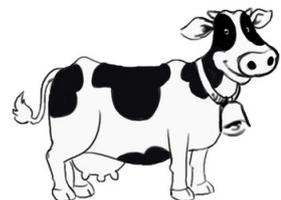
We've also had visits from some elves for Elf day and were each assigned our own elf name and role, as you can imagine there was laughter had by all and to finish the day off we all relaxed and watch the film 'Elf'

We've spoken with the children of Great Bentley Primary School who taught us all about the animals of the Antarctic so a big thank you to you all, you have all done so very well.

Well, we'd best get back on with the Oaks workshop as we've so many more exciting and upcoming events happening to bring the festive cheer to all including cheese tasting finished off with a glass of mulled wine. So that is just a teeny tiny snippet for you of what we have planned and we cannot wait to tell you all about it and so much more. So for now from our family to yours we wish you a Merry Christmas.

### WRITTEN BY A 10 YEAR OLD COCKNEY BOY EVACUEE - OCTOBER 1939

The cow is a mammal, it has six sides, right, left and upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush with this it sends the flies away so they don't fall into the milk. The head is the purpose of growing horns and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with and the mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk, the milk comes and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realised, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell, one can smell it far away. This is the reason for fresh air in the country. The man cow is called an ox. It is not a mammal. The cow does not eat much but what it does it eats twice so it gets enough. When its hungry it moos and when it says nothing it is because all the inside is full up with grass.



JC

# PET NOTES

If 2020 taught us one thing, it was the importance of looking out for one another to protect everyone's health. During the next wintery months, I ask us to extend this to our village's cats. Every winter since qualifying I have diagnosed at least one case of antifreeze poisoning. What a fantastic start to the year it would be if we could protect our neighbours' cats by using antifreeze responsibly.

## ANTIFREEZE Q&A

Q. What is antifreeze?

A. Ethylene glycol, present in car radiators, and some screen washes and de-icers. Its sweet taste attracts cats to drink spillages. It may also be consumed during grooming if a cat has walked through a puddle of it. Even a teaspoon of antifreeze is enough to cause fatality.

Q. How does antifreeze affect cats?

A. Antifreeze is broken down in the liver. The chemicals produced during this process severely damages the kidneys.

Q. What are the symptoms of antifreeze poisoning and how is it diagnosed?

A. Within approximately thirty minutes the cat may appear drunk due to his or her wobbly gait. Vomiting, weakness and lethargy may also be noted. As the kidney damage progresses the cat may drink and urinate excessively, appear very unwell and collapse. Your vet will run blood and urine tests to confirm the diagnosis.

Q. What is the treatment and prognosis?

A. Depending on how recently the cat ingested the antifreeze, vomiting may be induced or an antidote given. Unfortunately in the majority of patients, their owners only become aware of a problem once they are already showing symptoms. Aggressive supportive care, including intravenous fluid therapy, may be attempted but the prognosis is usually graded to poor depending on the severity of damage to the kidneys.

Q. How can we prevent antifreeze poisoning?

A. Safely store any products containing ethylene glycol away from children and animals. Use screen wash and de-icer sprays that do not contain this ingredient. If a spillage occurs during drainage of a car radiator, wipe it up completely and rinse the area thoroughly with water. If your cat appears suddenly unwell this winter, arrange to be seen by your vet *as an emergency*.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Dr April Young MRCV

## COMMERCIAL CARROT HARVEST IN GREAT BENTLEY

Many of you will have seen the large lorries passing through the village, travelling to Aingers Green with the name on the side reading Bartletts. They are off to load up with freshly harvested carrots from the field near St Mary's Hall which was planted with the seed back on 20th May. Two varieties have been selected to crop here in Great Bentley, Nairobi and Octavo and the attraction to use fields in this area is focussed on light loamy soils which allows for good quality nicely shaped carrots and the availability of irrigation.

Each lorry carries an average load of 29 tonnes and it is estimated that it will take 140 loads of carrots to clear the field. The harvest started on 13th November and is expected to finish by mid-December. All of the carrots are taken back to the factory in Chatteris, Cambridgeshire where they are washed, graded and packed for UK retailers.

I am sure you will be amazed to know that an estimated **2 MILLION PACKS** of carrots will be harvested from this field.

You may well have seen the carrots growing in other parts of the village in previous years and sometimes for late cropped carrots stored beyond January they are covered with a layer of straw to protect them from the winter frosts and keep them dark and cool into the spring which prevents re-growth.

I suspect Father Christmas might let the reindeers settle down for a little while to feed on any carrots which the harvester might have missed.

Grateful thanks to Toby Bartlett for supplying the facts and figures for this article. Ed

Thanks to John Merrison for the photograph.

### Village Christmas Lights

It takes many people to create our Christmas lights, Kevin, Jackie, Matt & Katherine would like to extend their thanks to the following people

George Wright for providing the Christmas tree & David Black for helping to erect the tree

Gordon & Edna Black for storing the access platform

Derek Burdett for his electronic expertise in automatically controlling the lights

Mary for pressing the button!

Thank you to Julie and Comer for keeping the set-up team supplied with refreshments

Thank you to Peter Harry, Matt, Nathan & Dan for erecting the lights

Thank you to Mick (Gt. Bentley Garage), Judy, Reg and Dot, Bev and Roger, Gordon and Edna and the Cricket Club committee for providing the power for the lights. We are indebted to these people, without their help there would be no lights

Thank you to Mark (R43) for switching your lights on in conjunction with the village lights and all the families who also had their displays ready for Saturday evening

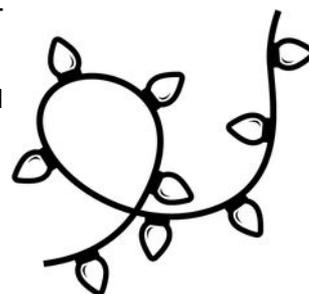
Thank you to George Wright for organising and sponsoring the fireworks and to Aurora for providing the display.

Thank you to those of you who happened to be in the village at the time of switch-on!!

We hope you all enjoy the lights, and it provides you all with a little cheer at the end of this difficult year

With our very best wishes

**Kevin, Jackie, Matt & Katherine**



# A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

## **AFTER COVID LOCKDOWN NUMBER 2**

Essex is back to a Tier 2 category with a few changes from the previous Tier 2, but whilst typing these notes it has been mentioned that some Tier 3 categories may be changed soon, no mention of Tier 2 whilst I am typing, though at the beginning of January it has now been considered that decisions will again be made to go before Government if there is a need to change Tiers.

## **AN AMBITIOUS VISION FOR AN INNOVATIVE NEW FREEPORT**

### **New Freeport in the East of England**

Public and private sector leaders have a joint vision for a new Freeport on the East Coast. The Port of Felixstowe and Harwich International Port – both owned by Hutchison Ports – would be a strategic hub linking UK importers and exporters with suppliers and customers across the globe and be situated at the heart of vital trading routes to Asia and Northern Europe.

The vision has been set out jointly by business and local government leaders from Essex, Suffolk, and the wider region, and work is now underway to develop a detailed bid following the publication of the Government's Freeports prospectus.

It has been said that the combination of the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich offers the UK a unique opportunity in the post-Brexit world, sitting as they do at the main junction point between the UK's principal trade route to and from the Far East and key freight links to and from northern Europe.

## **GREEN CORNER - HECKFORD ROAD**

I contacted Tendring District Councils Enforcement relating to the concerns that keep being mentioned about the lack of progress regarding the footway from the Go Homes site and other sites that are now coming to completion.

Tendring Enforcement came out to check progress last week and noted the work had not commenced; the developers were contacted, and TDC Enforcement were told the work was due to commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and due to be finished by 11<sup>th</sup> December. TDC Enforcement will be coming back to check progress.

## **LEISURE CENTRES IN TENDRING RE-OPENING TODAY**

Leisure centres in Tendring have re-opened today (Wednesday 2nd December) in line with the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. The Tendring District Council-run (TDC) centres had closed for the national lockdown period but are able to open as part of area's return to Tier 2.

Covid-secure measures are in place at all sites, and leisure centre users are reminded they must book sessions in advance. In addition, masks must be worn until your activity starts (unless otherwise exempt), and visitors must adhere to social distancing, one-way systems, and use the hand washing and cleaning stations.

People should come dressed and prepared for their activity, with no changing rooms available for gym users and wet-side changing rooms only open after swimming.

The full range of leisure activities are expected to be available, though detailed guidance is still awaited from national sporting bodies, so this may change and will be regularly reviewed. As per regulations the spa and sauna at Clacton Leisure Centre remain closed.

## **COUNCIL'S VITAL SERVICES TO CONTINUE OVER CHRISTMAS**

Critical issues will be handled as usual around Tendring during the Christmas and New Year period as most frontline services keep running for residents. Tendring District Council (TDC) will be delivering its essential front line services and will handle emergencies over the Christmas period, but will be closing its virtual offices from 4pm on Thursday, 24th December until they re-open again fully from 8.45am on Monday, 4th January 2021. In an emergency which requires TDC's assistance residents can contact the council's Control Centre on 01255 222022, available 24/7.

Waste and recycling collections will continue, with some changes around the bank holidays which will be communicated in due course. TDC is working with its contractor Veolia Environmental Services to minimise disruption. See page 9.

Residents can find updated information on TDC's Christmas services web page, which has full details of seasonal changes to services across the authority: <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council/christmas-and-new-year-services-and-opening-times>

I wish you all A Happy New Year for 2021 and I thank you for your support throughout 2020

Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Tendring District Councillor to the Wards of Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating  
Tendring District Council Cabinet Member with the Portfolio for Partnerships

email [lynda@boblyn.co.uk](mailto:lynda@boblyn.co.uk) or [cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk)

Telephone Number 01206 250732

Mobile Number 07564 613603



## **INSPECTOR RULES SECTION ONE OF LOCAL PLAN CAN BE FOUND SOUND**

A Planning Inspector has ruled that a blueprint for development in North Essex until 2033 can be found legally sound.

The Inspector had examined Section One of the Local Plan, shared by Tendring District, Braintree District and Colchester Borough councils (North Essex Authorities or NEAs), over the past three years.

Now, after scrutinising the plan, supporting evidence and hearing from stakeholders, he has said the document can be adopted – subject to including previously announced modifications – and be found legally compliant and sound.

The Planning Inspector's modifications, which have been subject to a recent public consultation, included the confirmation of a new Garden Community on land near the University of Essex on the Tendring/Colchester border.

Within the modifications he also stated that planning consent and funding approval for the A120-133 link road and Rapid Transit System are to be secured before planning approval is granted for any development forming part of the garden community.

Each authority will now work on their individual Section Twos of their Local Plans.

Section One contains overall strategic direction for growth, while Section Two will cover more localised aspects. The Section One Plan includes proposals for a new garden community on the border of Colchester and Tendring, adopting an infrastructure-led approach including a Rapid Transit System.

As part of his letter confirming the decision, the Planning Inspector also agreed that the NEAs adopted housing numbers are sound, and that no adjustment is needed due to later population projections. This means that 920 houses are required each year up until 2033 in Colchester, 716 in Braintree and 550 in Tendring.

**Cllr Graham Butland, Leader of Braintree District Council, said:** "I am pleased that Section One has now been determined and we can look ahead to promptly getting on with Section Two. This will mean our local communities can now move forward with more confidence. We wish Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council all the best with the delivery of their garden community."

**Cllr Neil Stock OBE, Leader of Tendring District Council, said:** "The collaboration and partnership working between the three District councils has been exemplary and ground-breaking; we have led the whole country in that regard. Our proposals and particularly our Garden Community aspirations on the border with Colchester have passed intense scrutiny, so I am extremely pleased with the progress we have made."

**Cllr Mark Cory, Leader of Colchester Borough Council, said:** "Local Plans are often a long and difficult process, our joint plan has been no exception to that. The Inspector has supported the infrastructure-first approach and he has set out strict policy guidance to support it."

"I welcome this and am clear about two things: One that these clear principles and guidelines of infrastructure-first are met, otherwise development should not proceed. And secondly, that engagement with local people comes first too; acknowledging that we must improve on what we've seen in the past."

Each NEA will now take the Section One Local Plan to its appropriate committee and/or full council.

The Planning Inspector's letter will be available to read on the NEAs shared online portal here: [www.braintree.gov.uk/localplans1](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/localplans1)

**10/12/2020**



## SCHOOL NEWS - REPORTS FROM YEAR 3

### **Gloomy dark mystery pot found in ground! Gloomy dark mystery discovered at primary.**

On Thursday 12th November 2020, Miss Hull discovered something very interesting in the ground. Miss Hull found it on the field at 8.15am in the morning.

Miss Hull explained "I thought it was just a pipe but it was a pot. It is a bell beaker from the bronze age. Miss Hull thinks it has been kept there for a very long time.

Miss Hull and Ken the caretaker saw it from a distance while doing some important site work.

It is 100% not dangerous it is a very good thing to find and very special and irreplaceable. It was found near the old sandpit upsidedown. It was very dirty and Miss Hull was puzzled from what it was. Miss Hull might find more history underground.

**By Johan**

### **Great Bentley Primary School found a pot. Great Bentley Primary school find a marvellous pot.**

On Thursday 12th November 2020 an extraordinary pot is found. No-one knew until Miss Hull discovered it.

The pot was found on Thursday 12th November 2020. It was found by the old sandpit upside down in Great Bentley Primary school's field. The item what was found was a pot. Miss Hull had Ken the caretaker with her. It was found at 8.15am. Miss Hull got it so she could keep it safe.

Miss Hull explained "Me and Ken were on our site work when I found it". She felt puzzled when she found it. Miss Hull thought it was a broken pipe but discovered it was a pot.

Miss Hull queried "I do not know why it was put there. It is very old and precious". She said "I think it is very old because it was very dirty when I found it.

She guessed it had been there for a long long time. Soon someone might replace it and the person who put it there could still be alive and get it back.

**By Isla**

### **The mysterious unexpected pot!**

There has been a mysterious pot discovered at Bentley Primary school. It was not expected. Miss Hull found it. It was muddy as a mud pit. It had cracks and chips in it. Miss Hull and Ken were on a site walk around the field to see if everything was safe for everyone. Then Miss Hull spotted something sticking in the ground. She thought it was a pipe but it wasn't a pipe it was a bell beaker pot. They were used in the bronze age.

It was dark, gloomy and grey. Everyone got excited about it. We all did an intgerview of it. She explained that "I don't know whose it is". Miss Hull was shocked when she saw it so was Ken.

**By Zach**

### **Small dark pot discovered on field A small dark grey pot has been discovered at Great Bentley Primary School**

On Thursday 12th November 2020 at 8.15am Miss Hull (the deputy headteacher) and Ken the caretaker found a dark, round dirty pot upside down on the field next to the old sandpit on the site walk. She explained "I thought it was a pipe". She said "It could be special". It's not dangerous at all.

She was really excited when she found it. She also thinks it had been there for a while. She does not know how it got there. Miss Hull could not see it from a distance. It's really precious. She does not know who put it there. She doesn't know why they put it there. Miss Hull wrapped it up in a small black cloth.

She doesn't know how long it has been there but we think a long time. It looks a lot like a bell beaker pot. It looks just like a bronze age pot with no patterns. Some people might not think it's a bronze age pot. They might not think it's a bell beaker pot but some people might. The children in year 3 are looking after it currently.

It was quite dirty when they found it. But it was in good condition when they found it. Only the bottom bit was sticking up when they found it.

**By Esme**

### **The Mystery Pot at Primary School. There's a pot at Great Bentley Primary. No one knows why it was there.**

On Thursday 12th November 2020 Miss Hull the Deputy Headteacher and Ken the caretaker were having a site walk on the green grassy field. Miss Hull and Ken saw something very peculiar. Miss Hull went to the old sandpit and she thought that item was a pipe so Miss Hull turned the thing over and it was an extraordinary pot. Miss Hull felt puzzled. So she thought it was a bronze age pot. The pot was dirty and rough. Miss Hull thought it was special. Maybe it was a birthday cup with no name.

So Miss Hull decided to show it to Class 3. The children said their interviews. So Miss Hull said, "I'll give it for you guys". Bye!

Year 3 children screamed THANK YOU. So Miss Hull walked out of the class to her office in excitement. So the class looked after the pot. The children are currently looking after it.

**By Isaac**

# FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

## Essex and Suffolk Border League Premier Division

All KO 2pm unless stated

December	5 <sup>th</sup>	West Bergholt	(H)	W 3 - 2
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Corinthians	(A)	Essex Premier Cup 1- 30pm
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Felixstowe & Walton Res	(H)	

## Essex and Suffolk Border League Division 2

All KO 2pm unless stated

December	5 <sup>th</sup>	St Osyth	(A)	W 0-1
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Rowhedge	(A)	
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Brightlingsea Town	(A)	

## Essex and Suffolk Border League Division 4

All KO 2pm unless stated

December	5 <sup>th</sup>	Kelvedon Social	(A)	W 0 - 2
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Stillwaters	(H)	
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Cavendish Res	(H)	

Apologies again this month. Due to the early magazine Christmas deadline, the second lockdown and the Border league not yet releasing fixtures for January 2021, content has been greatly reduced.

Unlike "elite" football who have 2 transfer windows in a 12 month period, in non league football there is a procedure called a "7 day approach" which is in place all year.

Under the 7 day approach scheme, a club can inform the league secretary that they wish to approach a player from a certain club with a view to transferring them. This can have a devastating effect on a club that is pushing for promotion, on the verge of winning a league title or on a great cup run.

In the week leading up to our first game after lockdown (5<sup>th</sup> DEC), the 1<sup>st</sup> team lost 2 key players to local senior clubs. Top striker Louie Olymbios signed for Holland FC, who had been chasing him for the past 2 seasons and Jake Allwood, 18 year old goalkeeper, signed for FC Clacton, Jake had played at GB since he was 9 yrs old. Both players deserve the chance to play at a higher level but we are going to struggle to replace them.

Why can't we have a transfer window across the whole of football ?

The Border league resumed on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec and we were able to use our new 6m x 3m gazebo for the first time. The original idea was that the visiting team would use the gazebo and GB players would socially distance across the 2 changing rooms. However when Essex was elevated to Covid tier 2, we had to rethink and now we change in the gazebo and visiting teams go back to coming ready changed. The instructions stated that it was easily erected by 2 persons. Well, Clive and I went to move it from the clubhouse to bring it outside and we couldn't even lift it. Eventually 6 of us managed to complete the task. Think we will do better next time ?

The GB team had started their pre match warm up when I went to look at the gazebo in action. To my amazement, Jake Allwood was getting changed into his goalkeeper kit. His FC Clacton match had been postponed so he had rung Gordon to see if he needed a goalkeeper. Fantastic. A good lad.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> was also the first time that we had served teas/coffee outside the clubhouse before the match and at half-time. With mince pies offered as a "substantial meal". Everyone delighted on a very cold afternoon.

After having an early goal disallowed, GB went 2- 0 down in the first half. GB scored a goal early in the second half from a Joe Hurd volley then Bergholt had a player sent off. GB then started to dominate the game more and drew level with a goal from Kieron Baker. With less than 10 mins to go Bergholt then had another player sent off for a second yellow card. It was not over, with 3 minutes to go, Jake Vaughan won the 3 points with a blistering shot from the edge of the box. The supporters on the line went wild.

Over at St Osyth, the reserves won 1- 0 on a very heavy pitch and the new 'A' team also won at Kelvedon Social 2- 0. A good day for the Bulldogs.

**Follow Great Bentley Football Club and Border League Football on Facebook and Twitter for all the up to date information.**

**Bentley Lives Matter. Follow the Bulldogs**

Mel



## Memories of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race 1978

The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race is one of the premier ocean yacht races, of approximately 630 nautical miles down the E coast of Australia, across the Bass Strait, part of the Southern ocean, to Hobart in Tasmania.

The race starts on Boxing Day and takes, on average, about 5 days; the fastest time is just 33 hours for a 100' yacht, with some smaller boats taking up to a week.

The race is non-stop, so sailing continues 24 hours a day, with the crew standing watches to helm the boat, and make any necessary sail changes as the conditions alter.

My experience in 1978 did not start well: we broke the rudder, which gives directional stability to the boat, the day before! The boat was out of the water to scrub the hull clean of weed, so we could go as fast as possible, but unfortunately the boat was dropped from the crane holding it, causing damage to the rudder.

I went in search of a friendly boat builder, and found him having a "QLD" (a quiet little drink!). Though reluctant at first, he was eventually persuaded and worked his socks off with the rest of the crew to repair the boat before the race start.

Our boat was 47' long, and had 12 crew members, which was about an average size at that time. I was a sail-maker in my mid 20s, and had been asked by the owner to race with him in a professional capacity.

The start is in the iconic Sydney harbour, going out through the Heads, and turning to starboard, (right) to go down the coast.

When the wind is from behind, as it was then at the beginning of the race, the colourful spinnaker sail was hoisted at the bow, or front of the boat. Sometimes, when the wind is not consistent, the sail can get wrapped around the forestay (the wire that helps to hold up the mast), and this was what happened to us after only about 3 hours racing.

This presented a dilemma, as due to the damage to the forestay, when we got the sail down, the white sails, used when the wind direction is more forward to the angle of the boat, could not now be hoisted in the usual way. Rather than retiring from the race and returning to Sydney, the owner asked me to redesign the way the sails were attached to the forestay, so they could still be hoisted, and we could continue with the race.

As well as a lot of hand sewing, which had to be done inside the boat, causing a degree of sea sickness, the sail would also have to be manually helped up the forestay.

To that end, I was required to be hoisted 60' up the mast in a "bosun's chair" (a canvas seat attached to a halyard for hoisting) to help the sail up and across gaps that had developed in the forestay. Each time a sail had to be changed I would have to do this (I was not only a sail-maker, but also the lightest person on board, so it was easier to haul me up, than someone heavier).

If the boat lurched in the waves, I would lose my grip and fly out to one side, (still attached!), and when the boat came back, so would I, and I would try and steady myself again on the forestay.

Instead of taking about a minute to change to a new sail, this method would take about 15 minutes, even after lots of practice; it took much longer initially.

During the course of the race, I must have undertaken this dangerous manoeuvre about 40 times! I had many bruises by the end of the race.

When we eventually arrived in Hobart, each boat was allocated a local, non sailing family to help. We were given the use of a car, could have a welcome shower in their house, (none whilst we were racing!), and a BBQ was of course, laid on as well. As far as I know this lovely tradition still remains to this day.

I returned to the boat later that evening, and other members of the crew went in to the town. About 0200, there was a knock on the deck of the boat; it was a local policeman, who said "Some of your crew are sitting in the middle of the road!" They knew which boat they were from as we all had team T shirts\*. Not wanting to disturb those already on board, I said "Why can't you take them back to the police station, and let them sleep off their hangover there?"

The policeman replied "It's already full!" So my team mates came back on board, and we got what rest we could for the remainder of the night.

There are 2 results for any yacht race: "line honours", which goes to the fastest boat that crosses the finish line first, and "handicap honours", which is the result after adjustments have been made for size, age and competitiveness. Handicap honours is what most people strive for, as line honours is generally won by the largest boats.

We did neither, and came about halfway down the fleet, a pretty average race.

After a couple of days partying, my time was up and I had to fly back to Sydney and work; the boat was sailed back by some of the crew who had more time to spare.

It was quite an experience, and much less straightforward than I'd anticipated, but the memories are still clear, even after over 40 years!

The T shirts were printed with the name of the yacht, and the warning "Mothers of Hobart, lock up your daughters!" Some years later the warning was changed to "Daughters of Hobart, lock up your mothers!"

**Dave Stearn**

## GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Community Resource Centre, Village Hall Plough Road CO7 8LG

Contact the Clerk on [clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk)

[www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Due to Government advice regarding Covid-19 the Community Resource Centre is still closed. Parish Council meetings are successfully being held virtually using Zoom. Agendas will be placed on the Parish Council website no later than 3 working days before the meeting. If you wish to join the meeting please email the clerk.

Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020:

### Planning Applications Considered

The planning applications shown in the table below were considered by the Planning Committee. If you wish to make a comment on these or other planning applications, you should log on to the Tendring District Council website. Follow the link: <https://idox.tendringdc.gov.uk/online-applications/>

20/01438/OUT Mr P Brown	Erection of two detached dwellings and alterations to existing vehicular access.	Land adjacent to Timberlea Mere Shair Lane, Great Bentley CO7 8QT
20/01480/FUL Mrs J, Miss K and Miss C Weller	Proposed external flue.	22 Cedar Way Great Bentley, CO7 8LT
20/01564/TCA Mr Frank Strutt	2 No. Silver Birch - fell and 1 No. Cedar - fell.	The Moors, The Green Great Bentley, CO7 8PG

**Funding for proposed Doctor Surgery:** Dr Bhatti of Great Bentley Surgery has asked, due to withdrawal of funding from the NHSE, if the Parish Council and TDC would be prepared to explore the possibility of funding for the proposed new Doctor Surgery through S106 monies obtained from a further housing development east of Admirals Green. The Parish Council is to seek further information from TDC and NHSE.

**Tendring Farmers Water Share, Storage and Distribution Project:** There is a proposed development of a second additional agriculture reservoir at Lufkins Farm and the planning application is expected to be submitted in 2021

### **B1027 Speed Limit Review Feasibility Report Recommendations:**

Summary of proposed actions for Great Bentley:

- a) Flag Hill - The issues along the stretch of road will be discussed by the ECC Strategic Development team with the District Council to see if anything can be done to assist in the medium to long term.
- b) Hollybush Hill - Extend the existing 40mph speed limit – South East of Dead Lane – incorporate the Lane and the property.

Next Virtual Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> January. Planning Committee 7pm followed by Parish Council Meeting for finance and urgent matters only.

### **Volunteers needed to support local COVID-19 vaccination programme**

Your local NHS is getting ready to deliver a COVID-19 vaccination programme and they need your help. They are looking for volunteer stewards across Essex and Suffolk to be at the forefront of the local fight against the virus – you could be part of it!

As a volunteer steward, you will help the vaccination process run smoothly and safely.

Local vaccination stations will be open from 8am-8pm seven days a week. Volunteers are asked to commit to individual sessions of four hours plus 15 minutes handover time.

**This is an exciting opportunity to play your part in protecting the community and saving lives.**

If you are interested in volunteering please email [epunft.businesssupport.volunteering@nhs.net](mailto:epunft.businesssupport.volunteering@nhs.net)

For more information visit <https://eput.nhs.uk/vaccine-recruitment>

## Great Bentley Scout Hut - yet more history

It was so interesting to read the article in December's issue "How a Scout Hut Was Born" and how the inspired efforts and hard work by villagers built the facility. Great stuff!

But it is also well worth recalling that about ten years later in the mid 1980's the Scout and Guide leaders of the time faced yet another challenge and it must have been around 1985/6 when our son was in the Cubs. At the time, the Scout Hut land was rented from Tendring District Council at an incredibly low "Peppercorn" rent of, I think, just £1 per year but this was set to rise dramatically to a virtually unaffordable commercial level. This was because all local councils were told by central government that they had to generate commercial rents for any land they owned and the Scout Hut fell victim to this.

Basically the choices were raise funds to buy the land from TDC or witness the end of the Scout Hut facility.

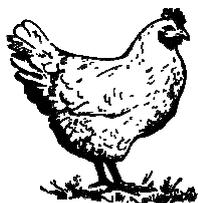
Of course, the dedicated Scout, Guide, Brownie and Cub leaders were extremely concerned that the facility would be lost for ever. The only option to secure the future was to buy the land so with the group leaders' blessing (and probably much relief) a group of us parents whose children attended the various groups decided we would raise the money to buy the land. We set up a fund-raising committee and decided that to keep us focussed and determined we would raise the money within the very short timescale of just one year! From memory I think we needed to find £10,000 - £12,000. In today's money, that would probably be in the region of £29,000!

Anyway, we organised monthly bulk collections of old newspapers (back then you could sell these to printing companies), a group of local needleworkers made and raffled a quilt, we held an event on Clacton beach with rides on an inflatable "banana" towed behind a speedboat. We held raffles, had an initiative where residents could "Sponsor a Brick" and held other events throughout the year. There is actually a photo of the quilt and quiltmaking team in the Great Bentley Past Vol. 3 publication.

Success! One year of meetings, hard work and wonderful commitment from both committee, the group leaders and the community helpers and subscribers alike meant that we were able to purchase the land from TDC on behalf of the Scout and Guide movement thus assuring the continuation of Scouting in Great Bentley.



**Ken Drew**



## NATURE NOTES

The notification to keep poultry shut up due to Bird Flu arriving in East Anglia is requiring a hasty sorting out of chicken sheds for my free-range birds. Normally they are only used for overnight roosting. But from December 14th they must be ready for full-time occupation potentially for three or four months. Although this issue has arisen before it also strangely mirrors what is happening with humans and Covid.

Today when starting, chicken interrelations came into sharp focus, with them milling round me unaware of their imminent confinement. Young cockerels just coming into full maturity eye each other suspiciously, they normally are able to "social distance" at moments of tension when outside. They live in an extended flock system over some half an acre so issues of the peck order are less apparent. It is quite easy to see parallels with human society with: hierarchies, dog-in-the-manger attitudes [in males over access to food], both overt and sneaky bullying and being aware how they should behave, but still testing the boundaries. Tree roosting when normally going into a shed is a good example. These all seem rather negative qualities but the maternal behaviour of chickens is heartening: hatching and managing their chicks often until several months old. Cockerels can similarly selflessly call surrounding females to an attractive item of food and be protective. The ordered structure of chicken society gives them clear benefits, but bringing them into close proximity twenty-four hours a day is taking some adjustment and planning.

**DRB**

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

**Christmas Tree Recycling will take place  
on Saturday 9th January on the Green near the Cricket Pavilion  
10am to 12 noon  
Donations please to be divided between Brain Tumour UK  
and Air Ambulance**



# RUNNING CLUB

Another month has whizzed by and although we are still very constrained as to what we can do at least we are out of Lockdown 2. So we are back to coaching again with one leader to a group of 5 runners. Although we have been urged to allow greater numbers, caution and common-sense dictate that we remain like this for some time to come. However, we have the gleam of a light at the end of a very long tunnel in that the vaccination process is imminent. So as we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas we are looking forward to 2021 being a bit more normal, as no doubt are all of you reading this article.

To try to keep everyone's spirits up in the meantime we have hit on a further plan. We have cobbled together a Pentathlon series of runs (although it now actually consists of 6 challenges we couldn't be bothered to change the name and anyway who's counting?). We want to see at least 100 GBRC members complete all 6 runs. They are over various distances and locations: there is a mile run at Abbey Fields; a (just under) 5 mile run in Bentley; a 10k (ish) off road run in Brightlingsea, a 6 mile (ish) trail run from East Bergholt which covers some spectacular countryside; a 5k probably in north Colchester and a 10 mile race on Clacton Seafont.

Competitors will go into divisions so that there is an opportunity for more people to be fighting out for a podium position. Racing starts on the 14th December with the last day to run being the 28th February. We're hoping that this is a little different to just doing a virtual run and has a number of distances for all to do. Another small event created a flurry of excitement. We had a series of trail runs through the summer and into the autumn. Everyone, completing all the runs gets an "I ran them all" t-shirt. The trail runs this year were a great distraction throughout lockdown and beyond, thanks as always to Rodger who found some great routes around some beautiful countryside. One of the highlights of these was running through Griff Rhys-Jones' garden. (The gardens were lovely by the way. We had some sympathy for Griff: he had signs up asking people not to use cycles on what are public footpaths. The clue would seem to be in the name and who wants their lawns churned to mud by mountain bike treads.)

Coming up events are somewhat few and far between for the all too familiar reason. It seems very unlikely that Runners versus Riders will be able to go ahead on Boxing Day. This will be the first time this wonderful challenge hasn't taken place since the war. However there is a small consolation in that one of our members Craig is putting on a charity Covid-secure trail run. The 27<sup>th</sup> of December sees the Layer Twixmas event with distances of either 4 or 7 miles on offer. And on the 31st Essex Trail Events have a run starting at Writtle College. At least these should help with the surfeit of Christmas provender!



**AGE Concern** Charity no 1142414  
COLCHESTER & NORTH EAST ESSEX

## Befriending

Would you like a lovely, friendly cup of tea, a chat or just some company to spend some time with?  
Our FREE local friendly Befriending service could be just the ticket for you....  
The chance to chat, share common interests or just enjoy some company.  
For Tendring area contact  
01255 447007 (option 3)  
For Colchester / Witham area contact  
01206 368420 (option 3)

Why not consider becoming a volunteer befriender?  
Covering Colchester, Tendring and Witham areas, we help people over 60 who feel lonely and isolated, by matching them to new friends in their local area.  
Could you spare some time to befriend a lonely or isolated person and help make a difference to their life?  
A regular phone call, or a cup of tea and a chat, could make all the difference.  
All volunteers go through DBS checks and personal

63 North Hill, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1PX  
c/o CVS, 22 Rosemary Road, Clacton, Essex, CO15 1NZ  
01206 368420 (Witham & Colchester) option 3  
01255 447007 (Clacton & Harwich) option 3  
befriending@ageconcerncolchester.org.uk  
www.ageconcerncolchester.org.uk

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"You never realise how good 'normal' is until you haven't got it" is a phrase I have had occasion to use more times than I would have wished over the years and never more so than now as we all battle our way through Corona Virus and the repercussions we face. However as far as I am concerned if I have to go through bad times Great Bentley is the best and only place I want to be! Please feel yourselves included in a huge heartfelt collective THANK YOU.

My Best Wishes

Judy Bishop

**FOUND ON SATURDAY  
12TH DECEMBER**

Station Road area

Black wide rimmed hat

Please ring 01206 250524



# Surgery News

*We would like to wish all our patients  
a very Happy New Year*

## NEW YEAR NEW YOU!

Did you know that if you are overweight this could really be having a huge impact on your health without you even realising it yet? With a huge increase in Type 2 diabetes, and other chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, your weight could be the number one cause! Likewise if you have one of these conditions, making some changes now could have a huge impact and prevent future complications that these conditions can lead to.

We know that looking after yourself today will protect you from some of these health conditions developing in the future. Better diet choices and increasing your activity/exercise can drastically reduce your chances of developing these conditions or even put them into remission. Sometimes all we need is to understand some simple changes to what we eat or some alternative ideas that will help. One of the main pieces of advice is to cut down on the amount of sugar you are eating. Stop having it in your hot drinks. Switch to a sweetener! Try eating eggs for breakfast, boiled, scrambled, poached instead of cereals. If it's a case of time making eggs for breakfast will only take 5 minutes! Try looking at everything you buy that is in a packet and asking yourself can I make this with real ingredients, real food? Or can I exchange this packet that I'm opening and have a better choice? It normally is much easier than you think. In the busy world we live in – it has become all too easy to buy snacks, jars, meals that are ready to eat almost instantly. **Sometimes all you need is a fresh approach.**

## FLU VACCINATIONS

All patients between the age of 50 to 64 are now eligible for a flu vaccination for this flu season. If you haven't booked your flu jab yet then please contact reception on telephone number 01206 250691 to book an appointment.

## SURGERY NEWS

We are sadly losing two valued members of our reception team. Linda who has worked at the Surgery for 19 years is retiring and Jackie who has worked with us for 5 years is moving away. All the surgery team want to wish them all the best for the future and say how much we will miss working with them.

## PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

At the time of writing the Newsletter there isn't a Patient Participation Group meeting planned in January. If this situation changes then PPG members will be informed by email and we will also advertise this on the Surgery website.

**Sue Mitson – Operations Manager**

## FRIENDS OF THE CHURCHYARD 100 CLUB

Many thanks to those who have  
renewed or rejoined for 2021  
We are now the **110 Club**.

The draw took place on  
Saturday 5th December

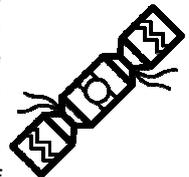
Congratulations to the winners

**1st Prize** Sally Hicks  
**2nd Prize** Rosemary Branch

## FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT THE FESTIVE SEASON

### CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

were invented by Tom Smith from Norwich. He got the idea from hearing a log crack in his grate, and he combined this with the French custom of wrapping sweets and novelties in sausage-shaped parcels.



**TURKEYS** were unknown in Britain until the sixteenth century when they were introduced from Mexico. Flocks were



later raised in Norfolk and Suffolk and just before Christmas they were driven to London, grazing on the roadside as they went.

# POLICE REPORT

## RECORDED CRIMES IN NOVEMBER

**CRIME TYPES** - Malicious communication - Harassment x3 - Residential burglary - Attempted burglary - Assault Actual bodily harm - Assault without injury - Theft x 4 milk/in a dwelling/pedal cycle/motor vehicle - criminal damage to vehicle/smashed window.

**Incidents reported** – 13

**Types reported-** Harassment without violence x3 - Burglary - Domestic- Assault ABH - assault without injury - Attempted burglary - theft in a dwelling - theft of pedal cycle - Theft of motor vehicle - Other criminal damage.

## TRUCAM Monthly Total 43

One session - Plough Road Aingers Green - 43 caught Top speed 53mph

## Theft of milk from Doorsteps.

Theft of milk and other items have again been stolen from doorsteps in the early hours of the morning. This is under investigation. If anyone has any other CCTV, footage or anything else that could help identify the suspects, please contact myself or ring 101.

Try and arrange a safe place, preferably out of sight, for the milkman to leave the goods.

## Hare Coursing.

There has been another spate of Hare coursing in the vicinity of St Marys Road, where 4 men and numerous dogs were seen.

## Theft from Vehicle.

A vehicle was broken into on the Green and items stolen from inside. Please do not leave valuables in your vehicles and put other items out of sight. Items left on show are like a shop window to a thief.

## Theft of pedal cycle.

A Carrera pedal cycle was stolen from a resident's back garden on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020. If anyone has any knowledge or has seen one being sold, please contact myself or ring 101

## Reporting incidents the correct way.

To report an incident **please ring 101**

Or report it online <https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/>

If residents have any concern on suspicious vehicles/activity/ drugs in the village, please feel free to contact me, with as much detail as possible, including contact details so I can investigate. (Unless it is an **incident**, which then needs to be reported as above)

Email- [julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk)

Tel- 101 Ext- 440222



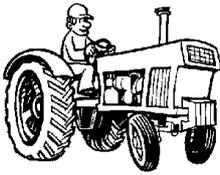
## SCAM WARNING

Customers are reporting money being stolen from their accounts after they've responded to fake emails from parcel delivery companies, like DPD.

Criminals are sending messages, pretending to be from parcel delivery companies like DPD or Royal Mail. The aim is to get you to click the link and give away your phone number and bank details. You will then receive a call from the criminals, pretending to be from your bank's fraud team, trying to persuade you to move your money to a 'safe account' or give away your card reader codes.

Many variations of this scam exist; from bogus claims of unpaid TV Licence or Vehicle Tax to fake HMRC Tax rebates and free Supermarket shopping vouchers.

We are working hard to keep you safe from fraud. If you think you may have given away your details to a scammer, please contact us immediately - we can help.



## Farming Diaries

During the winter months many local farmers carry out conservation work which can benefit a wide range of wildlife. An example of this is the management of hedgerows in the form of rotational cutting – so cutting a proportion of hedgerow every 3 years allowing certain parts to grow and produce flowers and berries whilst shorter cut back areas can provide a different form of habitat which would favour other bird species. Many people think that hedgerow removal is a big problem on farmland but in fact more miles of hedges have been planted in recent years than have been removed previously. You may notice that farmland hedges quite often have a variety of species in them, this is because no one hedge can provide optimal requirements for all birds. Farmland birds that use hedges often require dense cover for successful breeding as well as roosting, shelter, feeding and escaping from predators such as sparrow hawks and buzzards but also magpies who are known to eat songbird eggs and chicks, as do grey squirrels. Plants such as dog-rose, hawthorn and blackthorn make ideal nesting places. The growth habit of these species make it much easier for birds to conceal their nests from predators and raise young successfully. In early autumn blackberries, haws, sloes and other berries are an important food source for many farmland birds including fattening summer migrants like warblers before their long flight south and wintering thrushes such as redwings and fieldfares. You may still see sloes on the hedges now providing late food for wintering birds. The farmland hedge does not just provide habitat and food for birds but also mammals such as field mice, voles and hedgehogs. Successful management of hedges has been shown to increase numbers of birds and mammals on farmland. .

The garden hedge can also provide food, shelter, roosting areas and protection from predation. If you are thinking of planting a new hedge why not think of species which have berries on throughout the winter for birds and mammals (such as pyracantha) and flowers for bees and butterflies (such as hazel and hawthorn) in the summer months. Also think about the timing of cutting garden hedges. Birds begin to nest from March and can have another brood as late as July with fledglings present until August. Cutting hedges between March and July can lead to nests of many garden birds being abandoned and eggs, chicks and fledglings dying. This coming spring and summer maybe consider holding off trimming back hedges until late August. Over time with this simple management technique and feeding garden birds numbers can gradually increase.

**Vicki Brooks**

## Goodbye 2020

So goodbye to 2020

What a funny year you've been.

Your ups and downs -traumatic,

With not much in between.

But lessons learnt along the way

Have taught us many things,

The art of patience being one,

The pleasure, kindness brings.

From how to zoom a meeting,

To a cocktail hour with friends,

A ballet lesson - all online,

A meditation shared.

With faces covered

Glasses steaming,

Missing what was being said

We stumbled forwards

Onwards, upwards

Scrubbing hands till raw and red.

So I cannot say I'm sorry

To say farewell , adieu

You were not a pleasure knowing

But I learnt a lot from you

J.M.





# COOKERY CORNER

## HOMEMADE SOUPS

Homemade soups are much tastier and have no hidden additives, the cook knows exactly what is in the bowl. Also a big plus is that they are usually very easy and quick to make and only require the minimum of utensils so you will not be faced with a mound of washing up. A large saucepan and a blender for smooth soups, or just a potato masher if you prefer chunky soups, are more or less all you will need. Leftover herbs, vegetables, meat and fish can all be used or added to a completed soup, as can cooked rice, pasta or cream.

### Roasted leek and yellow pepper

4 yellow peppers	2 celery stalks	2 large leeks	1 onion	1 medium carrot
1 medium potato	2 garlic cloves	2tbsp fresh thyme	1 bay leaf	olive oil
2 litres vegetable stock				

Roasting the vegetables until soft but not brown gives a pleasant nutty flavour to the soup. Preheat the oven to 180 degrees. Seed and cut the peppers into strips or rings and crush the garlic cloves. Keep a few pepper slices or rings for garnish. Trim and wash the leeks and celery carefully, and cut into strips. Place the peppers and leeks on a roasting tray, sprinkle with the crushed garlic and drizzle with 2tbsp of olive oil. Season and cook for thirty to forty minutes in the oven. In a large saucepan cook the onion and celery slowly until soft and add the carrot and potato. Continue to cook for three to four minutes. Add the prepared leeks and peppers, stock, bay leaf and thyme, setting a little thyme aside as garnish. Bring to the boil before reducing the heat and simmering until the potatoes and carrots are soft. Remove the bay leaf and blend and season the soup. Always taste your creation before and after seasoning. Ladle into warm bowls and garnish with pepper rings and chopped thyme.

### Pulses

½ cup of each of the following: red lentils, pearl barley and yellow split peas.				2 litres vegetable stock
1 carrot	1 potato	1 garlic clove	1 tomato	spring onions
harissa or pesto paste		bay leaf		

Pulses are the dried seeds of legumes and come in many different shapes and sizes. They are rich in protein, fibre and minerals and low in fat, making them a great addition to any diet. A set of cup sizes is useful for standardising small amounts and is cheap to buy. You can vary the amounts of the ingredients according to how much soup you want to make. Soak the pulses overnight in a large bowl with plenty of water to allow for expansion. Peel and dice the carrot and potato, crush the garlic and chop the spring onions and tomato. Drain and rinse the pulses well and add to half the vegetable stock in a large saucepan or frying pan. Add the garlic, onions and tomato and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and cook until the pulses are soft. You may have to add more stock or water. Add the diced carrot and potato to the soup with a bay leaf and continue cooking until the vegetables are soft. Mix in a little harissa or pesto paste and salt to taste. You might want to vary the ingredients slightly, for example adding herbs or chopped mushrooms to the soup towards the end of cooking, or using an Asian stock instead of vegetable. There are many different types available to experiment with. Blend the soup or just mash slightly before garnishing with chopped parsley or coriander.

### Vegetable soup with rice

200g Swiss chard	100g broad beans	60g pancetta	garlic clove	
1 each of onion, carrot, potato and courgette		8 cherry tomatoes	100g Arborio rice	basil leaves
2 litres hot vegetable stock		grated parmesan cheese		

Pancetta is made from salt cured pork belly meat and is typically used in Italy to give depth to soups and pastas. Arborio rice is an Italian short grain rice and is often used in risottos. Chop the pancetta and courgette, and peel and chop the onion, carrot and potato. Separate the leaves and stalk of the chard and chop roughly. Heat a little olive oil in a large pan and sweat the pancetta, garlic, onion and carrot on a medium heat for about four minutes. Add the potato, courgette, tomatoes, chard stalks, broad beans and basil leaves. Season to taste. Stir and cook for one minute before adding the hot stock. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat to low and cook, covered for fifty minutes. Add the chard leaves and rice. Continue to cook on a low heat until the rice is ready, adding more stock or water if required. Taste for seasoning. Serve with grated parmesan cheese as a garnish. **M.E.**

## Looking Back

Mary asked in her editorial last month for more articles which got me thinking! As we all go through these unprecedented and difficult times with, there seems, little to look forward to I have found myself spending time looking back, way back to when I left school. I made the choice to stay on to do a fifth year rather than leave, it was an option then. Apart from maths, art and geography I enjoyed school in the main. I had found a Saturday job when I was about 13/14 working for a couple of hours at first then gradually up to a full day in The Irish Linen Shop, which was well known in Waltham Cross where I lived. It was owned by a very genteel lady and her daughter and it was under their guidance that I realised I wanted to work in retail. They gave me the grounding of discipline, respect, knowledge of the goods I was selling and most of all experience to take with me as I prepared to leave school and go out into the big wide world.....well actually it was Enfield! Some of you may have heard of Pearson's of Enfield as it was then, a very prestigious and highly respected department store and to get a job there was not easy. However with a reference from the proprietor of The Irish Linen Shop I sought an interview and I not only got a job but it was on their Linen Dept! That it has to be said was the 'easy bit'. I spent the first two weeks doing staff training with fellow newly employed people, I was only 16, dressed in my black skirt and white blouse (white blouses were only permitted during summer) winter it was black, the staff notice board announced the date of changeover it depended on when the directors decreed).

Training consisted of learning all the different transactions and what bill book to use and how to write it, role play, being the customer/assistant and countless different scenarios. How I would ever remember it all I didn't know but one thing I did know..... it was always best to be the first one to volunteer when the question was asked, "who is going to be first?" Get it over and done with was my motto! Staff training completed it was time to be taken to our departments, we sat and waited till it was our turn to be introduced to our Department Manager. The Linen Department was on the ground floor and consisted of bedding, blankets, pillows, bedspreads/eiderdowns (duvets hadn't reached Pearson's then!) all these goods were the domain of Mr Terry and he ruled it with a passion! I was rather in awe of this immaculate, straight backed, bespectacled elderly gentleman, at least I looked upon him as elderly which you do when you are only 16! Beneath his authoritative manner he had a heart of gold and was very patient with me as he demonstrated the correct way to wrap a parcel in thick brown paper and tie it securely and tidily with string! Bless him he taught me well and I have never forgotten. Another section sold felt, oil cloth, scrim and binca among a variety of other fabrics by the yard. Mr Wren a giant of a man towered over 'his counter' and cut with precision, thank goodness I'd served my apprenticeship at The Irish Linen Shop when I was first called upon to cover him for coffee/tea break or dinner hour! My lowly position as the new junior who had to earn her 'stripes' was to my nervous delight on Fancy Linen and Towels.

Memories are flooding into my mind there are so many, so Mary you can count on another article next month!

I have so enjoyed sharing them with you as I go on my own personal trip down memory lane

**Judy Bishop**

## THANK YOU

On the magazine front I am so happy with how everything has progressed through this difficult year. The April edition was compiled by the Coronavirus Community Support Group at the village hall. May was an online version only but then we continued in an almost normal format to the present day.

Here we owe a debt of gratitude to the four households who continue to collate and staple the magazine every month. Without them there would be no magazine so thanks very much everyone for keeping everything going against all odds.

Thanks as always to the following;

People who submit articles and photographs

Deliver the magazine to your door and collect subs (if you have not already done so please put your money through the deliverer's door ASAP)

Proof read

Carole for typesetting and printing

The collators.

Must mention the advertisers. Thanks you to those who have supported us in the past and to all the loyal businesses who have renewed for 2021.

Without all of you there would not be a magazine.

## Brian seaTing granmaAs!!!!

Rearrange the words in bold to solve the anagrams!

Make sure to cover up the answers! **Happy Quizmas!**

1. Strictly performer one <b>craned</b> to see	2. <b>Mail</b> sorted for a South American capital
3. Evergreen tree yielding a <b>fir cone</b>	4. Roundheads were their <b>ace rivals</b>
5. <b>Each</b> break can cause pain	6. Monarch's son, attacked with a <b>pincer</b>
7. Assorted highland <b>clans dot</b> this country	8. Hangs around <b>Oriel St</b>
9. <b>Carried on</b> picking spicy herb	10. Firm <b>stayed</b> in trouble
11. The <b>syrup Pa</b> made was useful in Ancient Egypt	12. <b>Hire one</b> for a brave female
13. <b>Rise late</b> but still arrive first	14. Four-wheeled carriage from <b>Luanda</b>
15. Lawyers must take <b>breath</b>	16. Dicken's orphan boy who is not <b>evil or</b> dishonest
17. Dried fruit and <b>nuts - alas</b>	18. <b>A girl he</b> mistreated whilst finding potatoes in the New World
19. <b>Spares</b> may be few and far between	20. Quite practical, <b>it is clear</b>
21. Storyteller collapsed <b>near court</b>	22. <b>In effect I</b> turn out to be very capable
23. Renovate with a type of <b>rush fibre</b>	24. Troublesome spirit <b>gets politer</b>



### Answers to Brain Teasing Anagrams

1.dancer 2.lima 3.confiter 4.cavalliers 5.ache 6.prince 7.scotland 8.loiters 9.corriander 10.steady  
 11.papyrus 12.heroiner 13.earliest 14.laudan 15.The Bar  
 16.Oliver 17.sultanas 18.Raleigh 19.sparse 20.realistic 21.raconteur 22.efficient 23.refurbish  
 24.polttergeist

**Great Bentley Wine Tasting Group**  
**For further details please contact Colin on 01206 252157**  
**or e mail [zindhum@hotmail.com](mailto:zindhum@hotmail.com)**

Fancy being part of an on-line wine tasting from the safety of your home then please do get in touch? Two clicks and you are in. It's free and great fun!

Wine recommendations this month very much in line with Christmas day in mind:

Fizz to start of course

**Conde de Haro Muga Cava. Waitrose £13.99**

A wonderful sparkling wine and a great wine to celebrate the start of the day. As good as many a Champagne. This is dry but has depth of flavour that lingers on the palate beautifully.

Or **Bollinger Special Cuve Brut, Champagne Asda £35.** A simply sublime Champagne of quite extraordinary depth of flavour. It's rich, dry and complex on the palate. Perfect with or without food. A real treat and sure to please everyone who gets to drink it. A special wine for a special occasion!

White wine for the starter or main course

**Macon-Uchizy, Talmard, France, 2019 Mr Wheeler Colchester £13.95**

Wow this the find of the year! A perfectly dry rich and fruity white burgundy with real intensity and refined complexity. You will not want to put your glass down. This delivers on pure pleasure, has serious depth and length of flavour.

Red wine for the main course

**Amarone della Valpolicella, Villa Annaberta, Italy. Co Op £18.99**

Amarone literally means the bitter sweet one. The palate delivers rich sweet fruit of cherry and dark chocolate that lingers and lingers on the palate. Although the wine is dry it has a perfect balance between delicious fruit and supporting tannins. Fantastic with Christmas fare matching perfectly your main course.



Pudding wine

**Chateau Roumieu, Sauternes, France Co op £10**

Half bottle of pure nectar. This has flavours of super ripe peach and apricot and marmalade complexity. Sip slowly, lay back and enjoy chilled

Merry Christmas everyone!

## ANOTHER WAR STORY

I thought of another story, when my father called me to come and look out from the back door of number 4 Plough Road. We stood there together, and for the first and only time I heard the distinct sound of a V1 known as the doodlebug and watched it fly roughly in line with the railway going towards London, and showing the flames at its rear end. I would recognise that sound if I heard it again, and have done a few times when wartime films have been shown.

I also remember being inside our indoor Morrison shelter, where us children used to sleep, and on this occasion our mother had crept in as well and said 'just listen' as some very heavy thumps of large bombs' being dropped in our area. I wonder whether one might have been at Kelland Farm which had a very big hole as shown in Gt Bentley Past Vol 1.

**Eric Fairweather**

# CENSUS 2021

A census has taken place in England every ten years since 1801 (with the exception of 1941). A census gathers information about our society so that appropriate services can be put in place for everyone to enjoy now and in the future.

Fans of TV programmes such as “Who Do You Think You Are” will know the value of historic census data to family historians and genealogists, but data from the census impacts our lives every day, often without us even realising it.

Did you know that water companies use census data to anticipate peak water demand? Or that the NHS uses census data to plan a wide range of services such as hospitals and GP surgeries, mobile chiropractors and home support? Everything from schools to care home places are planned using census data to make sure that the needs of all age groups are met.

Every aspect of our lives is impacted by the census, so it is vital that everyone participates to ensure the best possible understanding of the structure and needs of our society.

By taking part, you can make sure that your community is represented and gets its share of public and other funding to ensure the provision of services now and in the future.

The next official census date is Sunday 21st March 2021, but Census 2021 will be the first time that everyone will be able to complete the census online at any time from the beginning of March 2021.

You will receive a letter with your unique access code and will be able to complete the census online using any device.

Help will be available if you need it by phone, email or text. You will also be able to use web-chat or social media, or drop into a Covid-compliant Census Support Centre. Guidance will be available in a range of languages and accessible formats, and the paper option will still be available if needed.

The census is run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which operates completely independently of government and of any private sector interests.

All information submitted for the census is stored securely and anonymised. No personal data is ever sold nor is it shared with any other government department.

Information from the census is only released after 100 years when your descendants may be tracing their own family history.

Please make sure that you support your community by participating in Census 2021.

For more information go to <https://census.gov.uk/> or on social media @Census 2021

## Stay safe, warm, well and connected this winter



There are many words to describe 2020 as a year and some may not be suitable for sharing! But as we move into a hopefully more positive 2021, the message from the North East Essex Health & Wellbeing Alliance is to look after yourself this winter.

The Alliance is made up of 12 organisations who operate across north east Essex, from councils and healthcare providers to the voluntary sector. All are working together to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for local people.

There are many things you can do to help yourself stay well this winter. To keep warm, Livescience.com recommends layering up, particularly when venturing outdoors: “You lose heat through conduction whenever your body comes into direct contact with something cold, like when you sit on chilly ground. Wind steals your body heat through convection. But you can insulate yourself against both types of heat loss by wearing layers”.

Also recommended is being well-fed, ensuring you are consuming more calories than you are burning. Foods that are particularly important are fruit and vegetables rich in vitamin C, iron rich foods and those containing zinc (chickpeas, seeds, spinach, and dark chocolate!). All will help to boost your immune system. In addition to this exercise and sleep are also key in factors ensuring you stay as well as possible.

If you need any help, key points of contact are:

- For medical assistance 111 is your first port of call – dial 111 or visit [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk) – they can direct you to the right service
- In an emergency – dial 999
- For wellbeing support – contact the Essex Wellbeing Service, <https://www.essexwellbeing.co.uk/> or via the telephone: 0300 303 9988

For tips and pointers, as well as local links for keeping well this winter, visit:

<https://www.livewellcampaign.co.uk/winter/>

Please do reach out if you need any support.

[www.nee-alliance.org.uk](http://www.nee-alliance.org.uk)



Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank all the parents/carers and children for their generous gifts and kind words over the festive period.

We had a lovely end to the term last month, not our usual end but still just as fun. We performed our Nativity in Pre-school without an audience which felt strange, but we recorded it and all families were sent it digitally. Unfortunately, no visit from the main man himself but we had lots of individual parties throughout the last week. Thank you to the parents that supplied donations of party food for the children, they had a lovely feast.

When we return for the spring term, I would like to welcome Hudson, Zachary, Alana, Azura, Delilah, Seren, and all their families to our Pre-school. We all hope you enjoy your time within our Pre-school, and we look forward to working with you all throughout your journey within Early Years Education.

### **Primary School Applications**

Don't forget the closing date for 2021 Primary School applications closes on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Recruiting**

We are currently looking for a new staff member to join our team.

This will be a temporary post starting in January and finishing in July 2021, it is a part time position during term time and approximately 9-12 hours a week, this will be confirmed when the position is filled and could increase over the two terms.

If you have a Level 2 or 3 qualification in childcare then please forward your CV to our email address above, alternatively please contact me or Allison on 07522572303 for more information.



Thanks for reading and let's all hope 2021 is a better year.

Julie Wiles

## **TURKEY SQUARES**

Thank you to Hubert's Turkeys  
for the £50 turkey voucher  
which was won by  
Claire Thurlow

The hamper was won by  
Lorna Walton.  
Congratulations.

## **CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND PRODUCE STALL**

Thank you to everyone who donated  
greenery, helped to make,  
ordered/bought wreaths  
and donated to the produce stall

## **MEMORY TREE**

The tree will stay in place until 12th Night with your messages and  
memories written on the stars.

Thank you for taking part in this and for your donations.

**The total raised was £1347**  
**Thank you from St Mary's church**



## Taking a Holiday

During this past year it has been very difficult to take a holiday. With many travel restrictions in place holidaying abroad has been particularly challenging. Taking a break in this country was an alternative if the weather was kind.

Living through these Covid times many pieces of advice have been put forward with regard to the problem of not being able to go on holiday. One suggestion is to look upon any little trip as a holiday whether it is a weekend away or even just a day out. With this mind set I went on a day trip in August.

The weather was good and so I decided to visit Lowestoft by train. Why this destination and why travel there by train you may ask. Well I had never travelled on the line to Lowestoft before and also I wanted to try out the new trains that had been put into service on this route. In order to save time I started my journey at Manningtree. Here the 09.00 Norwich train pulled into the station. This was one of the new trains operating on this Inter-City service from Liverpool Street. For those interested these are Class 720 trains built by Bombardier in Derby. My short journey to Ipswich was enough to conclude that these were excellent trains and was about to give them a 'ten out of ten' when on arrival at Ipswich there was a technical hitch with doors not opening. I waited with other passengers and thankfully after a few minutes they did eventually open.

It was then a quick dash across the other side of the station to board the Lowestoft bound train. It was already in the platform and so I boarded it with interest. Again for those interested these are Class 755 bi-mode trains built by Stadler in Switzerland. Although it had been in service for a few months it still retained that newness and everything looked good, however looking up at the destination and information screen it just displayed 'Ipswich'. Even when the train departed the display remained the same and Sonia wasn't speaking. You may be thinking, who is Sonia? This is the name given by some to the female voice that gives the on board travel information, destination, station stops etc. I was watching one of those TV railway documentaries once when the origin of this name was explained. Railway staff working on the trains hear this voice quite a lot and say 'after a while it just get- son-ya nerves. I think the voice sounds very similar to Anne Hegerty from 'The Chase'

The train was making steady progress and I was enjoying the smooth ride although following the stop at Woodbridge I began to feel that this was a country branch line. There was that once familiar clickerty-clack from the un-welded rails in places and also there was a noticeable bumpiness on the track. Many of the stations on this line have the appearance of being well maintained and kept tidy. It's a shame more small rural stations don't receive the same attention. With the River Waveney in sight and the junction at Oulton Broad meant that it was nearly the end of the line. When I was young getting out of a train at a terminus station was quite an exciting event. Nowadays it is just that you have reached your destination. The stations are purely functional with the minimum of buildings with hardly any facilities or station staff. Lowestoft I felt was a pleasant surprise. There were still a few buildings on the station, one of which served as a tourist information centre. This was manned by a very friendly and helpful member of staff. There was also a rail memorabilia section with a selection of books and DVD's.

Making my way into the town centre I was pleased to see that it had fared pretty well during these times of shop closures and the general decline in retail business. As I remembered from previous visits the main shopping street, London Road North is mostly pedestrian and traffic free. I carried on along this street as my destination was Ness Point, the most easterly point in the British Isles. In order to get there you have to go against normal tourist instincts by heading for the industrial area. Once there Ness Point is one of those places where it is nice visit even if is just to say 'I've been there'. There is quite a nice paved area containing a circular plaque giving distances to various UK and European destinations. I left there and headed back to the town centre for some lunch.

On this day the sun had been a bit reluctant to show itself but by the afternoon it was glorious. With this in mind there was only one obvious place to visit, the beach. Walking back through the town and over the bridge revealed the very pleasant seaside resort area of Lowestoft. Being midweek there wasn't a great number of people there but those that were seemed to be enjoying the beach, the pier and all the other facilities there.

After I had spent some time there relaxing it was time to head back to the railway station. I once again had a look in the tourist information centre and in particular to the railway section where I purchased a book. This was 'Memories of LNER Steam'. Oh well that's bed time reading taken care of. I boarded the train and noticed that the information screen was actually working. It was displaying the correct information and for the entire journey back to Ipswich 'Sonia' was in full voice.

You can call it anything you like, a day trip or a very mini holiday but I did enjoy it. During these times of lock-down and restricted activities it is the simple things like the trip I took that can make life a bit more bearable.

**Roy Parker**

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

I was made aware in last month's magazine Police Report that there had been 7 reports of domestic violence. I am in the process of preparing a booklet of poems and watercolour paintings to raise awareness of this issue and possibly longer term to raise money for counselling. I also wish to make people aware of a free weekly support group and Whats App group run by a qualified Counsellor Mrs Nicola Olivia Ellis BSc. Hons, MBACP, BA Hons, it is called SAFSA. To enquire about this please ring 07561 128512 or email safsacharity@gmail.com.

Unfortunately I recently suffered domestic abuse and realised I had also been a victim of coercive control for many years without having a clue what was going on. The free SAFSA Support Group has been a great help in getting me through this. What I have found shocking is almost every third person I speak to has had experience of these issues.

Also helpful is the CARAEssex.org.uk support for victims and survivors of rape and sexual violence their phone number is 01206 769795. Next Chapter Colchester also help victims of Domestic Abuse 01206 500585 - open 24 hours. NCDR a national centre for Domestic Violence 0800 970 2070 give invaluable support especially their free legal team working for free to assist in matters such as writing your legal statement and giving advice on applying for anti molestation orders to keep you safe.

There are these wonderful people out there so please reach out and let them help. I personally feel a weight off my shoulders and can move forward with support to make a happier and more fulfilling life. I want to give a big thanks to those wonderful people and support agencies.



## BULLETIN FROM THE BELFRY

As a group, the Great Bentley church bell ringers have continued to meet virtually, on a weekly basis, to continue with our learning.

Normally, at this time of year, we would be planning our busiest season in order to ring the bells to announce the many church services and celebrations over the Christmas & New Year period. Sadly, we will not be ringing the church bells over Christmas this year due to the risks posed by COVID-19 and the need to keep ourselves and everyone else safe. Although this is sad, particularly as this will be the first time in 21 years that we have failed to ring the bells over Christmas and New Year, we have to accept this and concentrate on our plans for 2021.

This is a sad decision for all of us, and many people will miss the sound of the bells, the connections to Christmas and New Year that it brings, and the memories they invoke. Like a lot of others, we have all planned our Christmas family time and groups and the safety of them and ourselves is of paramount importance not just for the present but in the cause of defeating this terrible virus. One of our band commented that the absence of the bells this Christmas and new year may cause some to 'remember the lives lost, and the fight not yet won.

As a group we are already planning how we will continue our learning and the achievements in store for us in 2021. We will in some cases catch up on some of the commemorative ringing which did not take place this year so that we do not forget those anniversaries, commemorations, happy and notable events and milestones.

We will also, in time, and when safe, be able to return to teaching the skills and technique required to achieve this ancient and fulfilling art again.

Listen out for the bells ringing loud and often in 2021!

Roger Carey-Smith  
07422 880921

facebook

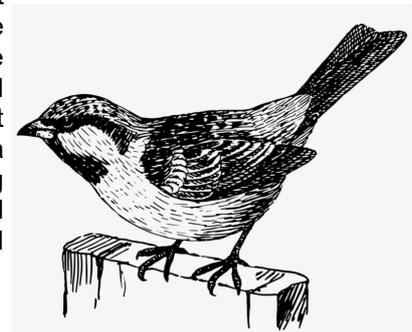
Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Greatbentleyringers>

Experts warn of the decline in the number of the feathered *Passer Domesticus*, the ever amusing and cheeky House Sparrow. If that is indeed the case, the remaining number of these loveable scallywags seem to be thriving in my garden owing in no small part to its longstanding and fearless bond with bird lovers, the RSPB referring to them as 'birds rarely found far from human habitation'. Born opportunists, they ignore sibling ties preferring gangs and are unashamedly noisy when showing off or squabbling, manifestly displaying a need for some guidance in the art of social order. Besides their passion for eating, usually carried out whilst mocking each other, our carefree vagabond also engages in 'bees and the birds' amusement and can deliver clutch after clutch of offspring with not the slightest consideration as to how they can support their fluffy hatchlings, snuggled together in ramshackle accommodation as their nest-building techniques would hardly make the front page of a show-house magazine. They avoid foraging for food in dangerous environments since any requirement to do so has been removed owing to loaded bird tables which and whilst strategically located in one's garden, provide for their every need. These ubiquitous bundles of energy are ever-present, to the jittery extent that should my garden become silent, I would immediately fear the impending arrival of an asteroid. But silence there is not, more the passerine pestering of the territorial Robin *Rubecula*, a champion of independence and while not seeking to be a trapeze artist they are now able to, albeit somewhat clumsily, invade hanging bird feeders, once the domain of the *Parus Bluetitus*. Some even move into affordable housing, neat wooden long-boxes akin to Soffit Street, rows of terraced dwellings built by humans and securely fixed high under the fascia, freeing the creature of the need to pop to B&Q for a flat-pack nest-building kit. Scallywags they may be but we love them.

The table etiquette of the species is a disgrace as unwanted seeds are heedlessly flicked aside which can attract other hungry creatures, particularly the wood pigeon and collared dove both of which are very partial to the discarded dinner. The 'sowing of seed' has many meanings in life but to the collared dove there is but one meaning only and is a practice which is never far from the mind of this cooing casanova, a persistence which includes the occasional wood pigeon assignation thought by some to be the result of observing human behaviour taking place in the bird's native woodland habitat. The collared dove, not known for its intellect appears to be confused but nonetheless remains determined. Dr Hablo Basura, an avian sex therapist is leading a team working to introduce 'speed-dating' for the collared dove designed to provide a more controlled sexual environment in order to address hygiene issues, and resolutely insists that the decaocto chick would need counselling at a young age, probably before it develops pubic feathers. "It is a matter of poor parenting," said the expert, adding, "their beaks may be straight, but their morals are warped." During a seminar at Canary Wharf, Dr Basura also voiced his concerns regarding the modern trend of cross breeding, earnestly focussing attention towards the prevention of avian designer hybrids. However and to his dismay, already the 'Dovgeon' is available from Amazon. "Birds are wonderful creatures," promised the expert. "In the eyes of a buzzard I see nobility, of the blackbird I hear rooftop lullaby and in the eyes of the owl I see wisdom. Looking into the eyes of a collared dove I see absolutely nothing. They need help," he sobbed. Today, an American research team can zap a monkey's brain to eradicate the primate's poor food choices. The same procedure could eliminate pigeon arousal but the implantation of the electrode in the brain of a collared dove is thought to be microscopically tricky.

Recent surveys carried out in Mablethorpe and Margate have shown that 78.063% of seabirds have quit with their toilsome fish food nutriment preferring chips, hotdogs and candy floss, cuisine so readily available using modern methodology similar to that of Tesco's 'Click and Collect'. The manoeuvre, called 'Swoop and Swipe' allows the marauding mariner to stealthily nick a hotdog from the hand of an unsuspecting pensioner as he nods off in the midday sunshine. No reports of avian gastroenterological problems have been reported but experts are fearful that the bird appears not only to be growing teeth but has also been seen to wipe its beak using a stolen napkin. Be that as it may, the Twitchers of Twitchester have tweeted their concern regarding a recent outbreak of pavement splattering avian gastro enteritis caused by mothers who force feed their children with veggie-burgers, an easy meal for a Herring Gull to steal particularly when the child is only too pleased to fob it off to the *Larus Argentatus* which swiftly swallows the bap-wrapped cabbage snack. The judicious juvenile has learned to quickly fake a crying fit whilst hiding a smirk.

Further west, the Anglesey Marine Conservation Centre has recorded that promenade walkers in Bangor are munching 'more defensively' thus denying the gulping guillemot a beakful of cheesy chips, the result of which is that coastal fish-stocks are declining as seabirds resort to eating fish, an arduous practice long since abandoned by this cliff-edge nesting ocean-goer. However and controversially, local residents in Seawick are supporting the fast-food diet for seabirds, preferring to have on their decking the bird guano of a chipolata sausage rather than that of stenchy cod viscera. Without wishing to be named and whilst taking cover under her peppered parasol, one local resident warned, "Look out! It's like aerial paintball here." I declined the kind lady's offer of an alfresco Birdseye butty.



## TENDRING PRIMARY RECYCLE SCHEME

A Happy New Year to you all. Let us hope that 2021 will be infinitely easier and happier than the year just gone, whilst knowing of course, that it will still be a while before life is able to return to the normal which we all used to know.

With these difficulties in mind, along with the ever-changing situations we continue to face, it is not possible at the time of writing, to say whether our drop-off points will be able to open this month or not. We certainly hope they will be operational, but it will depend on the COVID circumstances at the time. Please refer to either our Facebook page (Tendring Primary School Recycle Scheme TPRS) if you are able to; our website at [tendringprimaryrecyclescheme.weebly.com](http://tendringprimaryrecyclescheme.weebly.com), or call 07808239141 for the very latest information. In the case of enforced closure, we would be hugely grateful as ever, if you are able to save your items for us in the interim.

Over the Christmas period we all tend to find a huge number of extra items gradually creeping their way into our homes, whether it be in the way of food, cards, gifts or more, all of which comes with its usual burden of packaging.

And with Christmas just behind us, I wondered if we might be able to look at just a few of those items, to see what we can help you to save from landfill?

Did you know for example, that one of the many schemes we run is the **Ferrero Pralines Recycling Programme**? If you were lucky enough to have some of these delicious choccies over Christmas, we are able to take your gold plastic trays, the aluminium wrappers (but NOT the paper casings) and the transparent plastic boxes and outer wrappings. There, now you don't feel so guilty! This programme is brand-specific however, so can accept Ferrero Rocher products only. Or maybe Santa brought your children some toys from the vast L.O.L. Surprise!™ toy range, from which we can accept all packaging. And when the toys are eventually finished with, if you are unable to regift them elsewhere, we will be able to take all of the products and accessories as well.

Or, if the children received so many new toys that you are running out of room and need to have a blitz, were you aware that we take numerous games and toys in the Hasbro Toy and Games Recycling Programme as well?

The programme does not include any electronic toys and games from the Hasbro range, but is able to accept Hasbro items such as Monopoly, My Little Pony, Mr Potato Head, NERF, Play-Doh and Littlest PetShop to name but a few. For the full list, please visit the Hasbro website and please remember that this is another brand-specific programme, so toys and games from other brands are not permitted.

And if you are still trying to finish all the Christmas food, don't forget that through the KP Scheme we can take all wrappers from Nuts, Popcorn, Pretzels and Pork Scratchings when you finally manage to get through them!

Your empty crisp packets, confectionery, biscuits, cakes and crackers wrappers, along with any Pringles tubes, seals and lids in the meantime, will be gratefully received by the team at Gt. Bentley Primary School of course, in support of their own little school.

With regards to any drinks caps, please remember that we can now accept just beer bottle caps and those from milk bottles only. Plastic ring carriers from drinks cans can come in for our Ring Carrier Recycling Programme, but again be aware that we are no longer able to accept wine bottle screw caps, which we had been able to take previously. Ring pulls from drink cans can still be taken however, although not those from food cans.

And finally, just a reminder that the stamps from any Christmas cards you received, can come in to us to raise much needed funds for the wonderful charity Myaware. If you could please leave a 1cm border around the stamps we will love you forever, as it will save us many, many hours of trimming!

So there are just a few ideas to start off your 2021 recycling and the all important saving of items from landfill. Please just be sure to check that your local drop off points are open before leaving any items. Our huge thanks for your continued support as always.

Stay safe as we move into a very welcome New Year.

**June Barker**

## “Sing like No-one is Listening!”



I belong to a choir and I thought you might like to read about us and a few of our wonderful experiences. It is a community choir made up from all walks of life from all ages, for both men and women. We are not trained singers and we don't hold a sheet of words or music to sing from but learn our medleys or songs from memory. We are encouraged to sing with freedom to express ourselves and have fun. My choir is called Funky Voices and when we all sing together, we make a fabulous wall of sound. You don't need to be a great singer to join - it is designed for people who just want the enjoyment of singing and the benefits it brings and there are no auditions.

A little about our history. Funky Voices was formed in 2007 by Sandra Colston our Director who, with her music degrees and experience of teaching music in schools decided she wanted more people to benefit from singing and to get the feel-good factor. She started off with just 5 adults in a school hall and look at what she has achieved!! We have over 500 members based in groups around East Anglia from Brentwood, Braintree, Southend, Colchester and Ipswich, to name just a few and we attend rehearsals once a week in our preferred area groups. We learn in different harmony parts taught by either Sandra or her bank of qualified music tutors. The type of music we sing is pop and rock by artists such as Stevie Wonder, Take That, Supertramp, Toto, Prince, Robbie Williams, Whitney Houston and many more - too many to mention!

Then along came Covid, and we wondered what the future would hold but nothing could defeat our love of singing so 'The Online Choir' was formed on Zoom. There we are, all sitting in our little boxes 'meeting up' with other members and friends and singing current medleys or learning new ones. These sessions are always fun and uplifting and makes us really appreciate this opportunity to carry on.

We take part in many competitions in and around East Anglia, with great success. We have also had the wonderful opportunity to travel abroad with the choir, (although there is no pressure to do so), to 'gigs' in some fabulous venues including New York (singing in Times Square) Barcelona, Germany, Northern Ireland (where we sang on the top of the Giants Causeway), Corfu, Berlin, Bruges and Disneyland Paris.

We have also sung at the Ideal Home Exhibition, Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, London Barbican, The Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Britain's Got Talent, various town centres, churches, garden centres, carnivals, village fetes, hospitals, Colchester Zoo and Jimmy's Farm. Phew!! We record a CD most years at BBC Maida Vale studios in London with hundreds of us in attendance.

We've sung in the rain many times and laughed so much, especially on the occasion when we started singing Mr Blue Sky by ELO .....*'The sun is shining in the sky, there ain't a cloud in sight, its stopped raining'*.... and at that moment down the rain came so hard!! The audience all ran for cover but we thought we should carry on, trying not to giggle whilst singing.

Dressing up is another forte of ours! We have dressed up so many times for charitable events including Comic Relief and Children in Need with Pudsey for which we recorded a single, and as Ghouls, witches and spooky things for Halloween at the Zoo. Last month, on line, we sang one of our favourite choir songs "This is Me" from the Greatest Showman but with accompanying Makaton signing which we were taught by one of our tutors, Suzi, from her tutorial on Zoom – a new talent learnt in Lockdown.

In my opinion, the 'piece de resistance' must be this next account of two performances that were incredibly special.

A large contingent of us attended the European Choir Games and Grand Prix of Nations. We did this twice, one hosted in Riga, Latvia 3 years ago and one in Gothenburg, Sweden, last year. We were lucky to win a silver medal both times in our category. These are huge competitions with a variety of music styles and come from over 36 countries from all over the world, including USA, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Botswana and Ghana and also choirs from all over Europe. That makes several thousand choir singers being judged over a period of 2 - 3 weeks in different choir categories.

One of the experiences in Gothenburg is one which I will never forget. We sang at the Parade of Nations to open the event, parading one country behind another with its choirs (of which China brought 5) through the streets of Gothenburg in torrential rain and wind, singing to cheering and very welcoming crowds - this took about 2 hours! We were wearing see-through polythene ponchos over our uniforms whilst waving our Union flags, singing our hearts out and getting absolutely drenched! Amazingly the crowds stayed out to support us as did the TV cameras. We were squelching in our shoes by the time we got to the Convention Centre where the parade dispersed!

When all of the competitions had finished and the Presentations completed, we, Funky Voices, representing England, were asked to sing on the stage at the Closing Ceremony in a huge indoor stadium and were seated behind the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and recorded for TV and You Tube. The audience was made up of dignitaries from different countries and thousands of spectators - a great honour for us!

I am so lucky to have joined this choir a few years ago. We are fortunate to have an extremely talented Director, Tutors and Crew who offer us the chance to attend all the wonderful and varied events throughout the year.

So Funky Voices, thank you for keeping me fulfilled especially during these lockdown periods – I'm having the time of my life and I *'sing like no-one is listening!'*

**Liz Harry**

## CHRISTMAS FOODS

One of the nicest things about Christmas is the foods we eat. These may be the everyday foods such as Brussels sprouts, roast potatoes and parsnips that go with the main course. (Hopefully all home grown as there is nothing like vegetables fresh from the garden).

However it will most probably be the delights we save for Christmas such as the Christmas pudding and the cake that are the most enjoyable. Whilst the main course can be local it is most unlikely that the special ingredients in the pudding and the cake are. So where do they come from?



**Raisins, currants and sultanas** - what is the difference apart from how they look and taste. Well they are all dried grapes but of different varieties. Raisins are dried white grapes usually of the muscatel variety, and they come from a number of countries such as Australia, Greece, Turkey and the USA. Currants are dried seedless black grapes originally from Greece, and sultanas are really small raisins. They are sweet, golden in colour and are mainly produced in Turkey.

**Nutmeg - *Mysristica fragrans*** - The nutmeg tree provides us with two spices. The nutmeg is the inside kernel and the outside shell of this produces mace. Again these spices have been around for about 1000 years. It is mainly produced in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

**Almonds - *prunus dulcis*** - These have been grown in the Mediterranean countries for thousands of years. Indeed almonds were found inside the tomb of Tutankhamun. Not only are almonds chopped up or sliced and put into Christmas puddings, cakes etc. but ground almonds are the basis of the marzipan on top of the Christmas cake. Surprisingly most almonds come from the USA, where almonds are their 7th largest food crop export.

**Brazil nuts - *Berthalletia excelsa*** - Yes most brazil nuts do come from Brazil. Dutch traders brought the first brazils back to Europe in the 1600's, but it was not until the 1800's that larger quantities were imported into Europe. They can be eaten raw, cooked - eg roasted and salted. One thing to beware of is their high fat content as two thirds of the nut is fat.

**Cinnamon - *Cinnamon verum*** - This is the dried bark of the cinnamon tree and is mostly grown in Sri Lanka. It is said to be one of the oldest spices and was one of the first spices to be traded around the world from 1500 onwards.

**Dates - *phoenix dactylifera*** - As I am sure most of you know dates have been around a long long time and have been part of the staple diet for Arabian countries for several thousand years. They grow in large bunches of up to 1000 individual dates on palm trees and are usually dried to some extent before they get to the United Kingdom.

Whilst on the subject of Christmas how about the Three Kings gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

Well gold does not grow on trees, but the other two do. They are both gums or resins from trees. Frankincense comes from various trees from the *Bowellia* family. The trees grow in dry areas of Africa, Arabia, Madagascar and India. The resin is harvested by making small cuts in the bark and then a few weeks later collecting the "tears" of solidified whitish resin. This resin has long been valued for the sweet smelling fumes it produces when burnt. Myrrh comes from trees from similar growing areas but of a different genus - the *Commiphora* family. The gum oozes out from damaged bark areas similar to Frankincense. This resin had different properties in that it gums up insects that attack the trees such as termites and has good antibiotic powers. The ancient Egyptians used both resins in their religious rites and to preserve their mummies - one helped preserve, the other was sweet smelling which was a necessity I would think!

