

# **Great Bentley Parish News**

**Produced by the Community  
for the Community**



# **November 2021**

# Village Information

## St Mary's Church

### VICAR:

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CO16 8NY 01255 822055

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### ST MARY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

St Mary's Church, Great Bentley.

### METHODIST MINISTER

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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:

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Great Bentley, CO7 8QN. Telephone 07848 872018

Clerk to the Council - Denise Humphris  
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Village Hall, Plough Road, Great Bentley, CO7 8LD  
Telephone - 01206 256410

### TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

Lynda McWilliams, Boblyn, St Mary's Road, Aingers Green,  
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01206 250732: Mobile: 07564 613603.  
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### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

### MEDICAL AIDS:

Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

### TENDRING FURNITURE SCHEME:

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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

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**COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL:** - 01206 303511

### VILLAGE HISTORY RECORDER:

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**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

Christmas features quite heavily in this November edition and hopefully life will be rather more normal than last year. Christmas Lights Switch On is always such a highlight and brightens the darkest days of winter. Nean will be running her postal service in aid of the Food Bank and you can go along to write a message on a star to hang on the St Mary's Memory Tree. With the recent panic over petrol we were led to believe that the next major crisis would be a shortage of turkeys. How fortunate we are that we have locally produced Hubert's Happy Healthy Turkeys just down the road at Elmstead Market and for just £1 you can have a chance to win a £50 or £25 voucher in aid of St Mary's church and you can order one right now. All details inside.

Going back a good few years November 5th was always the one and only day to have your bonfire and fireworks. Now this extends over many days and again we are asked to consider neighbours and their pets and maybe have silent fireworks. Whatever you do please take care and think of others around you. Also before lighting bonfires do check that hedgehogs are not hibernating underneath. At the time of writing the weather is still quite mild so hibernation may take place a little later this year. If you see a hedgehog out in the daytime it is probably in trouble and needing help.

We include responses from government and enquiries to the powers that be to take more notice of housing proposals and also the state of our paths and roads. It is amazing that with the number of new homes being built the school and surgery are not in the position to provide adequate places, which seems unbelievable. However the surgery is administering the flu and booster jabs and we are encouraged to take full advantage of this as soon as we are eligible.

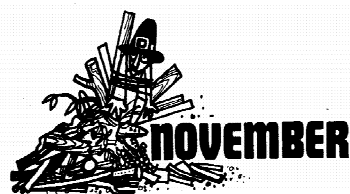
It would seem that there have been a few break-ins recently including mindless damage to a few allotment sheds although to date nothing appears to have been stolen. We sorely miss a police presence in the village.

Now is the time when we need to say thank you to our faithful advertisers who support us year on year. Inevitably we will have spaces for January (which we produce in December!!). So if you would like to advertise your business do please email me [marymaskell@sys3internet.net](mailto:marymaskell@sys3internet.net) prices are included in this magazine. We would love to hear from you.

Ending on a positive note congratulations to Paige Edwards who has raised the amazing total of £2,050 in aid of the Air Ambulance who attended her Daddy in a recent car accident. Along with her friend Logan, they ran, walked and scooted and what an inspiration they are. Well done.

Don't forget to alter the clocks at the end of the month and enjoy the autumn as best you can.

**Mary Maskell**



# 2021

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### Front Cover

Remembrance  
Photo by  
Lawrence Robinson

### DISCLAIMER

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# THE MONTHLY LETTERS - NOVEMBER

This is the time of year that we remember. At the end of October, we remember the recently departed and the loss of those significant people from our lives. We have a chance to give thanks for all they meant and still mean to us at our All Souls Service at 3pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

At the beginning of November, we remember all the Saints, then just a few days later there is - *Remember, Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November* and of course Remembrance Sunday on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Please don't forget that in Church we have votive candles, where we can light candles for those special people or significant dates.

Do take care and every blessing

**Sharon**

**Rev'd Sharon will be in church on Friday mornings from  
10am to 12 noon for enquiries, including baptisms.**

Dear All,

My eldest granddaughter has just started secondary school. She was very excited to be moving to a new school, where they have a large theatre and where she can explore her love of acting and singing.

The school is the other side of town so she has to get up at 6am so she can catch the school bus at 7am. However, she is so excited by all the new experiences she is having, and the new friends that she is making, that she loves it. Even arriving home at 5pm and still having homework to do doesn't seem to phase her, because everything is new and exciting! I was delighted for her and marvelled at her enthusiasm and joy.

It made me wonder, when it is that the 'new' and 'exciting' becomes mundane and a 'drag'. Is it experience that makes us start dreading new things? When do we cease wanting to make new friends, and not wanting things to change? Why do we often end up hearing the cry of "it didn't used to be like this? Things were much better in the past?"

We hear this often in the church too. People are reluctant to try new ways of worship, or meeting with different congregations, or at times welcoming new people (who are not like us) into their midst.

When do we, as people, start to develop a fear of the new and the different, and become inward looking? Is it as we get older? It is said that as we age we are likely to become more traditional.

Yet if we look into the bible we see that this is not what God is about. We hear time and again about singing a 'new' song to the Lord, and in Isaiah we hear:

*See I am doing a new thing (Is. 43.19)*

*See I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind (Is. 65.17)*

and in Revelation we read :

*He who was seated on the throne said, "I'm making everything new". (Rev. 21.5)*

I wonder whether it was something to do with this when Jesus took a child and said :

*"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven"(Mat. 18.3)*

I pray that we as a church will never lose the joy and enthusiasm for doing 'new' things. I pray that as individuals we can continue to look at life with excitement and expectation about what new things God will do in our lives.

Let's not become jaded and retreat into the comfortable and easy way of doing things.

I hope my granddaughter continues to love her new school and all the new experiences she is having, which will develop her as a person.

Every blessing,

**Deacon Janet**



## GREAT BENTLEY METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

We welcome you to worship at Church or on Zoom with us during November. Those wishing to, can still share with us on Zoom to see and hear the service in Church. If you would like to come along or join by Zoom, please ring 01206 250087 or 234241 so that we can make arrangements.

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

The leaders of worship are set out below: -

- November 7th** Local Leadership
- November 14<sup>th</sup>** Rev Tom Osborne  
Remembrance Sunday 10.00am
- November 21<sup>st</sup>** Lin Dickinson
- November 28<sup>th</sup>** Deacon Janet Jenkins  
Gift Service for Hope@Trinity

**Items required tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits, socks, boxer shorts, shampoo, shower gel, chocolates and sweets.**

Coffee & Chat Mornings are back! Come and see us on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. Call in between 10am and 12noon. Good conversation and various stalls.

We are now taking bookings for our halls. So, if you wish to have a party or event please contact Robert on 01206 250087 or [rjtaylor@mybroadbandmail.com](mailto:rjtaylor@mybroadbandmail.com)



### St. Mary's Church Facebook Page

St. Mary's Church now has a new facebook page!

Here we will be posting news of upcoming services, as well as any forthcoming events or fundraising. Please like and follow the page to keep up to date with our news, the page name is 'St. Mary's Church Great Bentley'.



## ST MARY'S SERVICES

**Sun 7th November - 3rd Before Advent**  
*Hebrews 9.24-end: Mark 1. 14-20*

9.30am Family Service & receiving of shoe boxes

**Sun 14th November - Remembrance Day**  
Service at the Methodist Church 10.00am.  
Please book your seat.

**Sun 21st November - Christ the King**  
*Revelation 1.4b-8: John 18.33-37:*

9.30am Holy Communion

**Sun 28th November - 1st Sunday of Advent**  
Benefice service at St Osyth starts at 10am:

### ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR NOVEMBER

#### Reading Rotas

- 7th Dick Wainer
- 14th Remembrance Sunday
- 21st Hannah Justice
- 28th Service at St Osyth

#### Prayer Rota

- 7th Wendy King
- 14th Remembrance Sunday
- 21st Nicky Justice
- 28th Service at St Osyth



#### Cleaning Rota

- 6th Edna Black
- 13th Carol Kerridge & Lea Howlett
- 20th David & Rosemary Branch
- 27th Help needed

## FOOD BANK

The container for the food bank is at the back of the Church.

We are at present up to full capacity for pasta and tins of baked beans. We would however welcome rice, tinned fruit, tinned custard and rice. Biscuits, cereals, coffee, sugar, toilet rolls kitchen rolls, dog and cat food.

We could also do with more washing up products, fairy liquid, cloths, washing powder, dishwasher tablets etc. Also items for personal hygiene including soap, deodorant, shaving foam and sanitary products etc. In the run up to Christmas a few little luxury items would be truly appreciated.



**THANK YOU**



**ST MARY'S CHURCH  
GREAT BENTLEY**



**CHRISTMAS TREE  
& CRIB FESTIVAL**

Theme - 'Pantomimes'

**SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER  
10.00am - 4.00pm**

**SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER  
11am - 4.00pm**

Christmas Food Stall: Bottle Tombola  
Christmas Gifts/Crafts:  
Tombola & Raffle  
Teddy Stall  
Light Lunches and Refreshments  
Christmas Music



**Entrance £1.00  
Children Free**

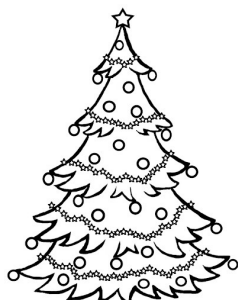
**CHRISTMAS TREE  
& CRIB FESTIVAL**

We would welcome any donations for the Christmas Tree & Crib Festival - cakes for selling and kitchen, bottle tombola, Christmas gifts (new), Raffle, Teddy stall (good as new or new).

These can be delivered to me at Burnside, The Green or left inside the church.

Many thanks

Wendy Smith  
01206 250098



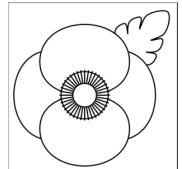
**Remembrance Sunday**

Message from the Methodist Church who are the hosts this year for worship.

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

In agreement with the leadership at St Mary's Church we will share this service together at Great Bentley Methodist Church starting at 10am. Due to Covid 19 still being about, there will be limited numbers in Church to space us out on that occasion. You will recall when everyone has been there on years passed it is very crowded. Therefore, it has been arranged that the British Legion and Bentley uniformed groups will not parade to Church or bring their "Colours" into the Church but assemble near the Playground and the Path and upon completion of the worship when the congregation comes out, to parade to the War Memorial for the ceremony to start at 11am.

In order to arrange the orderly use of the Church, people who would like to attend the Church Service are asked to register on 250087 or email [rjtaylor@mybroadbandmail.com](mailto:rjtaylor@mybroadbandmail.com) so that we know the numbers. We would hate to have to turn people away at the door.



**Great Bentley Tuesday  
Carpet Bowls Club**

Another successful month with a new member joining. Now that we are back in the swing of normality the enjoyment of general exercise in a friendly and stress-free atmosphere is rewarding.

New members over 55 are always welcome to join our happy group, so come along to the Great Bentley Village Hall at 2pm any Tuesday afternoon, no playing experience or equipment is required as instruction will be given.

The first two weeks are free then its £3 a week and £10 membership fee which covers Village Hall rent and insurance etc.

For further details please contact the Club Secretary Hilary or 01206 250969 or 07535 107335. We look forward to seeing you.



## Turkey Squares Christmas 2021

Thanks to the generosity once again of Hubert's Happy Healthy Turkeys, we are able to offer everyone the opportunity to win a £50 turkey voucher. There will be a second prize of a £25 voucher. Turkey Squares at £1 each are on sale now. If you haven't been offered this opportunity yet, from one of the numerous sellers in the village, but would like to purchase some squares, please contact me on 01206 250137 or 07802 268897 as I would be very pleased to assist.

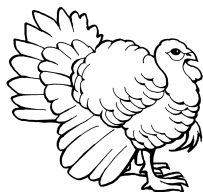
The draw for the £50 Turkey Voucher will take place at the Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Great Bentley, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

All proceeds will be much appreciated, as they contribute to the upkeep of our lovely 12<sup>th</sup> Century village church, open to the whole community.

Best wishes, and good luck!

### Rosemary Branch

PS: N.B. to the Turkey Square Sellers! All squares, sold or unsold, plus money received, must be returned to me **by Wed 1<sup>st</sup> December**. Please put through my door at 4 Wents Close, Great Bentley, or ring me for collection.



## Village Christmas Post

I will be doing my annual Christmas Post Box for the the village & Aingers Green throughout December. Saturdays 4th, 11th and 18th between 9.00am and 12 noon.

I will be taking up my usual position by the village sign.

All monies will be going to the Food Bank.

If any one would like to volunteer to help man the box or undertake deliveries please give me a ring or a text on 07751455132.

If you are housebound and unable to get to the post box I will be happy to collect your cards for you.

Many thanks Nean



Are you going to be booking your wedding at St Mary's church?

If so, your first point of contact is our new Wedding Coordinator,  
**Helen Brown**

Mobile Number  
**07969 484 504**



## GREAT BROMLEY ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR

**21st November**  
**9 am – 3 pm**

at Great Bromley Village Hall, Great Bromley, CO7 7JA

ENTRY - £1. ( Before 9.30am £2 ) No Concessions.

**Hot Food and Drinks available.**

E Mail [nigel@garden-shows.com](mailto:nigel@garden-shows.com) 07802 282193

Covid 19 Restrictions- Depending on Regulations

Table Bookings only in Advance.

## St Mary's Parish Hall

Looking for a venue

Why not hire our hall

Beautifully stocked with fine bone china

£15 per hour - minimum charge £30

Please contact Lyn Gordon  
79, Birch Avenue CO7 8LS

01206 681884 OR Mob 07870311610  
email; [linda.bear@sky.com](mailto:linda.bear@sky.com)

## PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES FOR GREAT BENTLEY SHOW 2022

Creepy Crawlies

Magic Moments

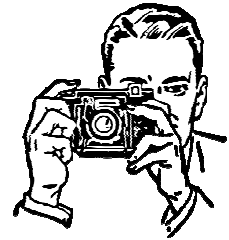
Sporting Chance

On Four Legs

East Anglian Skies

Up the Creek

Open ...



## The Hollies Surgery

It was very disappointing to read in the September Parish News of the significant increase in the number of patients being verbally abusive to Practice Staff. Whatever situations or issues arise there is no excuse to berate staff and will do little in achieving a compatible outcome or solution. Our Doctors Surgery is under enormous pressure with a never ending influx of new patients registering as a result of all the new builds not only in the village but the surrounding areas. The building is bursting at the seams with no hope on the horizon of new premises to meet the needs of their patients which was inevitable due to the fact that no notice was taken as people voiced their concerns when developers put their planning applications forward. We are so fortunate to have our Doctor's Surgery, listen or read about the experiences some patients go through in many areas around the country as a whole. We have been living in unprecedented times since the onset of the pandemic, we have all had the opportunity to have two 'jabs' and now a further booster plus the annual flu jab sessions which will have commenced by the time you receive this Parish News. All this alongside the daily running of the practice and looking after their patients welfare and health concerns. Our Doctor's Surgery needs and deserves our support and perhaps as patients to 'employ some patience.'

Judy Bishop

## CONCERT

Gilli Dulieu invites you to her new vocal quartet 'CANTATE', singing songs old and new plus a surprise or two! Saturday 6 November at 3 pm, St James' Church, Clacton CO15 1LE. Free admission with donations to charity.



## DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER MAGAZINE

### MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER

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)



## GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME

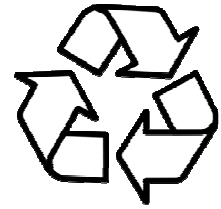
### We currently take:

Crisps and multi pack packaging  
Cakes, biscuits and crackers wrappers  
Sweets and chocolate wrappers  
Pringles tubes, lids and foil seal (no other brand)

If you could help by sorting the wrappers first this would be amazing especially with COVID current restrictions this would go some way to safeguarding the spread.

### We don't take

stretchy plastic such as bread bags etc  
cheese wrappers  
toiletries  
pet food pouches



BINS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL



Please can all your filled shoe boxes for the Samaritan's Purse be put at the back of the church in preparation for our family service

on the 7th November. They will then be taken to a central point for collection.



## COLLATING YOUR VILLAGE MAGAZINE

We are back to collating the magazine in the Church Hall from 9am to 11am.

We have a break for tea, coffee and biscuits.

If you could come along to help us that would be wonderful, a warm welcome awaits you.

We will be collating again on Friday 26th November

Everyone Welcome.

## CHRISTMAS WREATHS

We will be making Christmas Wreaths to sell at St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival.

They will be on mossed wire rings as usual.  
If you would like to preorder one please contact;  
Mary Maskell [marymaskell@sys3internet.net](mailto:marymaskell@sys3internet.net)  
Jackie Kilby [jackie@kilby-rawcliffe.co.uk](mailto:jackie@kilby-rawcliffe.co.uk)  
or 01206 250717



Our 12 inch wreaths will be £20.  
Our 14 inch wreaths will be £25

We will also make some smaller 6 inch ones at £12 suitable for the cremation area.

If you could leave your contact telephone number we can arrange for you to choose and collect your wreath on Thursday 2nd December.

## WELCOME & GOODBYE

New resident to 58 Birch Avenue  
Leonne to Allegro House,  
Aingers Green,  
Abhi, Rachel, Nathan and Zoya  
to Corner Cottage,  
Marion, Lynn and Steve to  
Southside of the Green

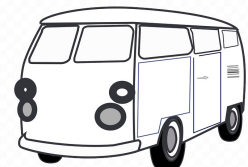


## Tendring Community Transport Door to Door Trips

Tendring Community Transport organise trips out each month and offer a door to door service. If this is something you feel you would enjoy just give them a ring.

**October trips** included: Day Out In Sudbury (Market Day), Mill Race Garden Centre Colchester, Romford Town Centre, Hearts Delight Garden Centre Lawford, Colchester High Street, Perrywood Garden Centre, Ipswich Town Centre, Parkers Garden Centre.

**For more information and to book all trips please phone 01255 436962.**



## FRIENDS OF THE GREEN

Welcomes you to ...

Annual General Meeting

November 24th at 7.15pm

Michael Wright Room  
at the Village Hall

# Wildlives

## Wildlife Rescue and 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!**

### **Uk is in the bottom 10% in the world for biodiversity November 2021**

Biodiversity is the term used to describe the variety of plant and animal species living in an ecosystem. The greater the variety, the stronger that ecosystem is. Britain's biodiversity plummeted in the industrial revolution, and has been falling ever since.

#### **Why should we care?**

Apart from the pleasure of seeing beautiful plants, birds and animals around us, biodiversity has a serious impact on the world.

- Trees and plants store carbon and absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, reducing greenhouse gases.
- Planted areas absorb heat, cooling the environment. Bare areas reflect the heat, increasing it.
- A wide variety of plants and animals in a healthy ecosystem are more likely to resist climate change. If one food source suffers, a different species might do better and be available to eat.
- Plants are the lowest level of the food pyramid, followed by insects and invertebrates. Worms, ants and bees might not be as cute as polar bears, but they are just as important. Without bees and other pollinators, we will have no food. Without insects, voles, mice and similar, small animals will starve. Without them, the bigger animals that eat them will also starve, and so on right up to people.

Wildlives has been seeing the impact we are having on the world around us for some time now; an increasing number of casualties arrive that are simply starving, without enough food to eat. The two seabirds pictured should be eating fish, but as oceans warm (Average sea surface temperatures around the UK coastline increased by 0.7°C over the past three decades), currents change, and the ocean becomes increasingly acidic due to absorbing 25% of carbon dioxide created by human activity, the fish are also suffering. An abnormally high number of hedgehogs are arriving starving to death, with reduced numbers of invertebrates to eat.

#### **What can we do to help?**

Everyone can take small actions that have big effects if enough people care.

- Plant a tree. Trees help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and support a vast range of other species. An oak supports a colossal 2,300 species, not including microorganisms, of which 326 are dependent solely on oaks. If you haven't got room for a tree, consider supporting the Woodland Trust, who look after our trees, at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/join/>.
- Grow plants, especially native species that support our insects as well as being beautiful. You could have patio pots, window boxes, let some of your lawn become a wildflower meadow. Clover makes a great lawn plant; it's hardwearing, doesn't need mowing, and bees love the flowers.
- Leave a leaf pile or a log pile, which will become home to a plethora of insect species and some larger animals too, such as hedgehogs.
- Start a compost heap. It will encourage worms, which aerate the soil and help plants to grow.
- Install a bug house. You can buy one or make your own. There are lots of instructions online.
- Don't use pesticides. Poisoning insects has an effect on everything in the food chain above them, and the chemicals are now increasing in the waterways.

Bonfire night is here again. Please check bonfires for hedgehogs before lighting, and remember fireworks are scary for both wild and tame animals. Try to keep it to the one night, and consider fireworks that are pretty but don't bang loudly.

# Thank You

Whatever the weather or the ups and downs of the troubled times we find our country in one thing remains constant 'my wonderful ladies who knit' who never fail to keep their needles clicking producing colourful, soft blankets. I have three bags full ready for Louise from Colchester Cat Crew to collect, these include ones that are the result of a lady who knits dozens and dozens of squares which I sew together. As I've mentioned before, I never know when Louise will find time to come she and her helpers cover a large area spending endless hours rescuing cats and kittens. Your kindness allows them to always have a cosy blanket ready for the felines who are fortunate to find themselves in the loving tender care she, her helpers and fosterers provide. I will always be pleased to receive donations of cat food, perhaps you have a cat who having been quite happily eating a particular brand or flavour of food suddenly decides they don't like it! They sniff it once or twice, spend a few minutes staring at it before finally with a look at you as if you've lost the plot and a flick of the tail they turn their back to find a suitable place to sulk! I know doting cat owners who buy boxes of pouches just to get the one flavour in it the cat will eat!! It is often said that we do not own our cat they own you!!

Judy Bishop, 5 Morella Close Great Bentley 251702

## **AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PERSON(S) WHOSE JOB IT IS TO MAKE SURE OUR ROADS AND PAVEMENTS ARE SAFE.**

Dear Sir/Madam.

As a resident of the estate known locally as the tree estate, can I cordially invite you to get off your backside and take a little stroll through the estate and have a good look at the state of the pavements and roads. Birch Avenue being the most used road on and off the estate is in a condition best described as appalling and the truth is you will not have to look very far to see what I mean.

Firstly, within twenty metres of entering Birch Avenue, there is a huge dip in the road where something has given way under the surface. Any unsuspecting driver that drives over that dip can get a nasty jolt and it doesn't do the vehicle much good either. Drivers are often seen trying to drive around this dip but unfortunately, most of the time are unable to do so due to parked vehicles on the opposite side of the road.

But if the dip in the road is bad the rest is pretty ghastly too. With road surfacing breaking up, pot holes emerging, and the general unkept look Birch Avenue resembles that of a third world country and not the fifth richest country in the world.

Then we have the pavements, or should I say somewhere you should be able to walk safely although you can't. Why? Because the surfacing is crumbling away, it's uneven and vegetation is growing through the tarmac. Drain holes are sinking into road, and of course there's the weeds. For the people who live here with walking difficulties, it can be a nightmare scenario, and should anyone fall and injure themselves this is a compensation claim waiting to happen. It gives a new meaning to phrase Trip Advisor.

The weeds really do give the estate a sense of the authorities not caring. Now I've heard on the grapevine that the onus for getting rid of the weeds will be passed on to the homeowners.

In other words, if the weeds are growing in the road outside your residence, deal with it yourself because the council are not going to deal with it anymore. So we could well have a situation where the residents do what the council should be doing and clearing their streets of unwanted vegetation, throw it away in the brown bin, then we're charged for the service.

The upkeep of our roads and pavements should be reflected in the council tax we pay. Failure to pay our taxes means we will end up in court and even prison. But in return what are these people in charge for the upkeep in Great Bentley doing? It seems to me that there's quite a lot of Ostrich Syndrome going around at the moment where the bodies concerned stick their heads in the sand and hope the problem goes away.

Of course there is another suggestion I can put forward. A reduction in our council tax. I'm not holding my breath on that one.

Regards  
**Peter Burnett.**

## Great Bentley Martyrs

### BELLRINGING NOTES

It's been very much back to business as usual for the bell ringers over the last month. We have been ringing for all church services and weddings and we are slowly re-learning all the skills we concentrated on up until the pandemic.

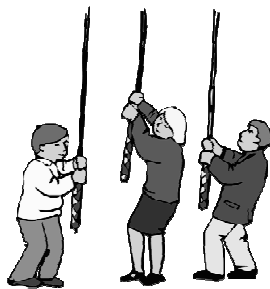
A major achievement this month has been that we rang our first quarter peal on the bells since January 2020! This entails ringing a 'method' continuously for 45 minutes whilst completing 1260 changes in the order of the bells. This requires huge concentration and we were suitably tired by the end!

In addition, a visiting band rang a full peal on the bells on Saturday 9th October. This comprised 5088 changes in the order of the bells, rung continuously, without repeating the order, and lasted for 2 hours and 47 minutes. This peal was rung to celebrate the 50th anniversary of 2 of the ringers ringing their 1st peal with 5 of the original band also ringing.

As a further update, you may have the bells ringing on occasional Wednesday evenings, this is because we have an extra practice evening every other week at 7.30pm to help with the return to ringing following the pandemic.

Please contact me if you are interested in learning this intriguing ancient art. We are a friendly and extremely sociable group.

Roger Carey-Smith  
07422 880921



Colchester Young Archaeologists are doing a project on the people who suffered martyrdom for their religious beliefs in the Tudor period, both under Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth.

Some of those were from Great Bentley and lived in a house that is now where the cricket pavilion is. They were the Munt father and mother with their daughter Rose Allen. Also suffering the same fate was a friend of theirs, John Johnson from Thorpe le Soken.

There is a memorial stone at the cricket pavilion.

The young archaeologists are hoping to speak to any of the descendants of the Munt, Allen or Johnson family and would also like to speak to anyone who has done any research into the family or the event that led up to their martyrdom.

If anyone has any information or can help in any way then please contact Barbara Butler at [barbara@peterbutlerdesign.co.uk](mailto:barbara@peterbutlerdesign.co.uk) or they could write to Young Archaeologists' Club, Colchester Branch, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester CO2 7BJ

Ann Turner



### THANK YOU

Thank you very much to the kind person who handed in the two books of stamps that I dropped after buying them from Sam in the post office. Thank you also to the chap in the garage who took my phone call, much appreciated. So many good people about. THANK YOU!

Carol McDougall

### ADVERTISING IN GREAT BENTLEY PARISH NEWS 2022

If you would like to advertise in our magazine for next year now is the time to get in touch.

We have 3 sizes of adverts.

Our **smallest** size will be **£55** for the year

**medium £95**

**quarter page £160**

Please contact Mary Maskell 01206 250524

or email [marymaskell@sys3internet.net](mailto:marymaskell@sys3internet.net)

We look forward to hearing from you.



## PET NOTES



I hope you all enjoyed Halloween as much as Tinkerbell did in her pumpkin costume. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Odams for sharing this photo with everyone.

As we bid farewell to October and embrace November, are you worried about Bonfire Night being back with a bang this year? Here are my tips for pet owners.....

Create a comforting den using boxes and blankets so your cat or dog can hide if they wish to.

Walk dogs well before fireworks are likely to begin.

Play some music to mask the sounds (repetitive beats work best) and draw the curtains.

Behave as normally as possible yourself. If you seem anxious, your pet will pick up on it and believe there is a reason to be too. By all means comfort your pet if they are acting scared and you feel they need it but don't employ this strategy straight away.

If you obtained anti-anxiety medication from your veterinarian, give it according to their advice.

Don't forget the pets in your garden can feel frightened too. Cover their hutches with a blanket or consider bringing them indoors for the evening.

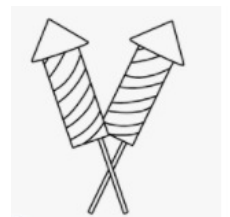
If you haven't already, get your pet microchipped in case they manage to escape. Note: By law all puppies should be microchipped by eight weeks of age and there are proposals to make microchipping of cats mandatory too.

Ensure all the escape routes from your home have been secured. Close all doors and windows, and don't forget to lock the cat flap.

Never punish your pet. Can you imagine how frightened you would feel if you didn't know what fireworks were and for how long the loud bangs would continue?

Keep warm and stay safe.

Dr April Young MRCVS



# Great Bentley Parish Council

## **Allotment bills**

Whilst allotment bills usually go out in September for payment by 29<sup>th</sup> September each year, with a new Clerk having only taken over the post a few weeks ago, the bills are going out a few weeks late this year. They are going out in stages and all allotment holders should have received their bills by the end of October.

We do have a small allotment waiting list but please do let us know if you would like an allotment as we do sometimes get plots becoming available for various reasons.

We do have another site that we are hoping to use for allotments in future, but we would need to see many more names on our waiting list before starting to get this up and running.

## **Remembrance Day**

To add to Remembrance Day commemorations this year the Council have agreed to purchase two 'Tommy' silhouettes which will be 'in situ' temporarily for Remembrance Day and then stored to be used each year.

## **Parish Council Website**

The new Clerk has had to undertake some training to learn how to update and maintain the website, which has meant that this has not been updated properly for some weeks. It is anticipated that this will be up and running and full of information again from the end of October.

## **Planning and Development Matters**

At their recent meeting the Council considered their comments to an application submitted to Tendring District Council as the Planning Authority as follows:

21/01560/FUL

Land to The South of Michael Wright Way Great Bentley

Proposed erection of six detached dwellings and associated garaging and infrastructure

The Council recommended refusal due to concerns about Highways access to Heckford's Road.

The Full application can be viewed at Tendring District Council's website

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/view-planning-applications-and-comment/planning-application-and>

It will now be down to Tendring District Council as the Planning Authority to make a final decision.

## **Office Opening hours**

The Parish Council office is at the Village Hall and is usually manned Monday Tuesday and Thursday 9am-4pm if you do have any questions or queries.

The Clerk can be contacted throughout the week Monday – Friday 9am -5pm using the mobile telephone number detailed below or by e-mailing [clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk).

We do hold a small stock of recycling and food bins at the office for Villagers to collect if needed.

**Denise Humphris**  
**Clerk to the Council**  
**Great Bentley Parish Council**  
**Tel: 01206 256410**  
**Mobile 07359 034865**

## **FOODBANK**

The Foodbank is there to help all in need and will be especially helpful in these difficult times, with winter approaching.

If you could benefit from this service please do give Win Pomroy a ring, she will be pleased to help you.

She organises this service in Brightlingsea.

Call Win on 01206 303902

or 079704 80968

# LINE DANCING



Want to learn a new skill and meet new friends?  
Come and try LINE DANCING – a fun way to exercise your  
body and mind

Classes for all levels at  
ELMSTEAD MARKET COMMUNITY CENTRE

## WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS 9 - 9.45AM  
EXPERIENCED BEGINNERS 10 – 10.50AM  
IMPROVER/INTERMEDIATE 11.00 – 11.50AM

## FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS 1.20 – 2.00PM  
EXPERIENCED BEGINNERS 2.15 – 3.00PM  
IMPROVER/INTERMEDIATE 3.00 – 3.45PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL SUZANNE ON 07808 098228

## Great Bentley Gardening Club

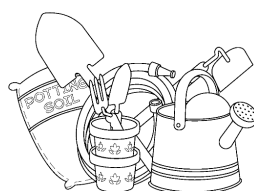
We're back!

Our November meeting will be on Tuesday 16th in the  
Mitchell Room of the Village Hall.

The speaker will be Ed Fairey who will talk on the Open  
Gardens Scheme.

Please note that the meeting  
STARTS at 7.30pm.

ALL are welcome.



## For Sale

2 Seater double sofa bed in chocolate brown fabric  
& in excellent condition.  
Good quality mattress  
(doesn't use the sofa cushions as the mattress).  
Bed only used a couple of times.  
Includes matching footstool with storage.

£250 ono

Call 07848 872018

## CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP

We will be having our annual clear up on  
Saturday 20th November from 9.30am.

Please bring a rake,  
loppers, pruners, rubber  
gloves etc. Tea and Coffee  
will be provided.

Everyone welcome.



## CHILDRENS SOCIETY MORNING

The  
Children's  
Society

Please come along and join us  
for a cuppa and biscuits on  
Saturday 13th November  
10am to 12 noon.

Please bring your Children's Society Box  
with you.

Look forward to seeing you,  
Lea Howlett 251846



Save the date !!

Fundraiser for the  
Queen's Platinum Jubilee  
Celebrations  
2022 on the Green.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> December 2 – 4pm

Village Hall

Christmas Fayre – details in  
December issue.

## A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

### **FOUR OF TENDRINGS PARKS AND GARDENS – HOLD THEIR GREEN FLAG AWARDS**

The district has been awarded, by Keep Britain Tidy, Four Green Flag Awards for open spaces at Clacton Seafront Gardens, Weeley Crematorium and Gardens, Cliff Park in Dovercourt and Crescent Gardens in Frinton.

Clacton Seafront Gardens won its first Green Flag in 2009, with Frinton's Crescent Gardens joining its ranks the following year, while Cliff Park was first awarded the flag in 2016.

Weeley Crematorium's grounds first received a Green Flag in 2013, this year the Judges described Weeley Crematorium as "a site Tendring can be very proud of".

Green Flags assess not only the visual aspects of a site, such as its beauty, horticulture, and cleanliness, but also the community's involvement, access, and management, which are a sign of quality.

### **GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE UP TO A SUM OF £5000 TO HELP BOOST BUSINESSES WITH COVID RECOVERY**

Phase three of Tendring District Council's (TDC) Business Adaptations Grants scheme has launched, offering again the funding to firms within the local area.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for Tendring businesses to help them recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. Funds are available to help pay for changes to practices. The money could be used for things such as developing a website, processing contactless payments, or moving newer start-ups out of homeowner's properties into purpose-built spaces.

Previous applicants can re-apply for further funds, and as with the previous phases the funding can also support physical changes such as screens to protect staff and customers.

There is plenty of support and advice from organisations such as BEST Growth Hub and Colbea – funded by TDC – to help navigate grant applications and apply for anything that is eligible.

Any independent, Tendring-based business can apply for a grant of up to £5,000, which includes purchases made since 1 June 2021, which can be back-funded. National chains and charities are not eligible, and businesses must have been trading since November 2020. The funding comes from Essex County Council and is administered by TDC. For further information and to apply visit [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/BAG](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/BAG).

**The deadline for applications is 15 December 2021.**

### **PLEASE USE FIREWORKS CONSIDERATELY**

Residents and event organisers planning to use fireworks are being urged to do so considerately, and stressing the importance of safe use, whether in your own garden or at an organised event, those using fireworks are asked to be sensitive to their neighbours and wildlife. Good practice would see people warn their neighbours, including farmers, of their intention to use fireworks, and the use of quiet fireworks is also being encouraged, especially in areas close to horses, livestock and other animals.

I said in a recent press release that, "We recognise many people enjoy fireworks, and absolutely want people to enjoy themselves and celebrate a moment in our history this Bonfire Night. This year may be particularly popular given how few events there were last year due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, as well as using fireworks safely we're asking people to use them considerately. Please think about your neighbours, who may have pets or children who don't like loud noises, and to please warn them in advance".

There are now lots of silent and quiet fireworks which may be a more appropriate choice for you to consider.

For advice around the safe use of fireworks please visit the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service website: [https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Home\\_Fire\\_Safety/Home\\_Safety\\_Advice/FireworksBonfire\\_Night/](https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/Home_Fire_Safety/Home_Safety_Advice/FireworksBonfire_Night/)

Purchasers are also advised to only use an approved fireworks vendor, and advice on anti-social use of fireworks can be found on the Essex Police website: <https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/fireworks/>.

**Please** do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns; I am always very pleased to help and hear from you.

Cllr. Lynda McWilliams

Ward Councillor to the Parishes of Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating  
and the Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Partnerships.

Email [lynda@boblyn.co.uk](mailto:lynda@boblyn.co.uk)

[cldr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk)

Tel. No. 01206 250732

Mobile 07564 613603



# NATURE NOTES

Thorpe Church tower's illumination may shortly be extended beyond the festive season. This is currently under planning consideration by the District Council. Issues of increasing light pollution are now taken more seriously for several reasons.

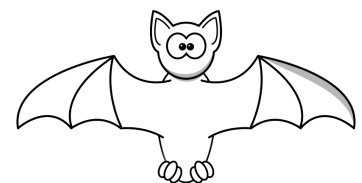
One of these is in relation to nocturnal wildlife, notably bats that are legally protected from interference. By coincidence I was involved in early August with a three-night trial of a static echo location bat-detector in the churchyard. It resulted in some twenty-five hours of dusk-to-dawn acoustic recording. The advanced technology is now able to identify most of the sounds to a species or at least family level. Expert help can then narrow the latter down.

Pipistrelles are the most numerous, with the species being divided only in 1999 with Soprano from the well-known common species, due to differing call wavelength. It favours places with larger water bodies. Nearby Thorpe Hall/Lifehouse and Comarques both have small lakes and large ponds. Our survey collected 786 and 2004 respective separate call signals from them. That does not however give a clear number of the actual individual bats involved. Pipistrelles as well as the commonest are also chief users of buildings such as Thorpe church, most other species in our region use tree cavities for roosting. In spite of this measured bat activity, they are rarely encountered in the church or regularly seen flying at dusk in close proximity – with droppings being the only obvious evidence of their presence inside. A probable maternity roost for 2-3 months in late summer has in recent years left regular droppings in the west end of the north aisle, though not noted this year. Bats have not been seen using a regular entry in this part or indeed other part of the building. The bell opening louveres would though be an obvious point in the tower. Indeed there was an interesting reported sighting of bats repeatedly swooping near the louveres when floodlit on a mild, early December evening. This raises questions about the impact of lighting and bats being attracted to their beams largely to catch insects, whose fascination with lights is well-known. While this may seem a positive impact, the concentration of insects at lights, many that are in sharp decline, is not regarded as a good thing. Indeed, the overall decline in bat numbers is well-attested, in spite of this survey's findings, is reason for their strict legal protection. The parallel reduction in their insect prey is a major reason. Bats using lit places may also lead them to potential greater risk of being predated themselves – by owls.

The interesting range of bats in this recent survey with a commendable seven species is probably more due to the churchyard with its mature trees and varied grassland, with attendant insect life, than the building. Some of the larger bats such as Noctule with only four recordings were probably just flying over. A positive aspect of the floodlighting it is only of the tower, not the whole building as seen with some other churches and the fourth side of the tower facing most of the churchyard will remain unlit. So, churchyard bat activity should not be greatly affected. But there should be some limitation on the lit up times especially in summer months when bats are most active, although the December sighting mentioned should be remembered. There is some evidence that while lights attract species like Pipistrelles but other species' hunting and roosting needs can be discouraged.

In conclusion, the other species identified were the attractive Long-eared bat but only seventeen recordings probably underestimates their presence as they rely more on acute hearing when hunting than acoustics. They do use buildings such as the church as might the Natterer's bat with twenty contacts. The remaining records were nine of Daubenton's or water bat, that is mostly seen flying very low across sheets of water. Finally, rather unexpectedly twenty-three contacts with localised stealthy, dark Barbastelle's, that are tree-roosters so not likely to be linked to the actual church building.

It is hoped the extension of tower lighting can be achieved to the satisfaction of all including our distant flying but fellow mammals. **DB**



## The Queen's Jubilee June 2022

As our country comes together to celebrate the amazing achievements of our Queen's reign, we have formed a committee to organise village events to celebrate here in Great Bentley.

### **Dates for your diary:**

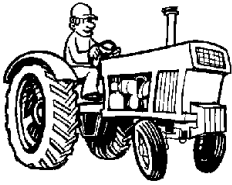
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** - lighting of the beacon on the green, joining with many other locations around the Country and the Commonwealth.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** - our main event will be afternoon tea for all the family in a marquee on the green followed by an evening party with a live band.

We do need your help – if you are a company and would be willing to sponsor part of the event or an individual who would like to donate - further details of how to do this will be in the December magazine. We very much look forward to celebrating this event together in the village.

**Lorraine Mann – Chairperson**

## FARMING DIARIES



As the air temperatures start to tail off the soil temperatures will also start to fall (albeit at a slower rate to the air temperatures) it will result in the slowing down of crop growth at this stage of the cropping year. Crop growth will almost slow to a standstill through the cold winter months before kick starting its development when temperatures begin to rise again in the spring. You can relate this to your garden lawn in terms of when we move from summer to autumn the requirement to cut the grass reduces and then stops completely during the winter months as little or no growth occurs when the soil temperature is below 2 °C.

During this time the arable side of a farming business may slow down bar pre-winter ploughing. This is so that the frost can weather the soil to help with spring cultivations prior to drilling spring crops. The livestock side will still carry on its long hours rearing calves and fattening cows for market. Cattle which for many months of the year are outside on grassland are brought into sheds in farmyards so as to not cause poaching (poaching is the heavy use of land around a feeder which can result in compaction and waterlogging during the winter months) and soil erosion around feeders and water troughs when the land is wet. The new lambing season will also soon creep upon us.

Many farmers locally carry out and plan conservation work at this time of the year which can benefit a wide range of wildlife. An example of this work is the management of hedgerows in the form of rotational cutting and the planting of many metres of new hedges which can provide habitats for various birds such as thrushes, and turtle doves. Many people think that hedgerow removal is a big problem but in fact far more miles of hedges have been planted in recent years than have been removed previously. No one hedge can provide optimal requirements for all birds so you often see a variety of species in a hedgerow. Nearly all farmland birds that use hedges require dense cover for successful breeding as well as roosting, shelter, feeding and escape from predators. Plants such as dog-rose, blackthorn and hawthorn 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. At this time of year 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. The farmland hedge does not just provide habitat for birds but field mice, voles and hedgehogs. The decline of the latter, in some recent articles, farmers are getting the blame for. There are a number of recent independent research projects that have been carried out showing that predation of hedgehogs by badgers (who also eat varying species of bees) have had a detrimental impact on hedgehog numbers along with roads and habitat removal from people's gardens.

Some of the local farms have shoots on their land. The cover crops such as millet, sorghum, kale and mustard can provide food for many songbirds including finches as well as providing nesting, brood rearing cover and shelter for game birds such as partridges and pheasants. Many studies have shown that there is a far greater number and variety of farmland birds where there is a shoot.

Pollen and nectar mixes are also planted which benefit the many bee species we have in the UK. These mixes contain a variety of species such as phacelia, fescues, vetches, clovers and campions. These plants flower at different times to extend the overall flowering period of the area planted and therefore extending the length of time pollen and nectar is available to the bees. You can also plant species in your own garden to provide food for bees including lavender, verbenas, scabious and buddleias.

**Vicki Brooks**

## FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

### Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 2

( KO 3.00pm unless stated)

Sat Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	Tiptree Jobserve Res	away	W 3 - 0	
Sat Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	Gosfield	home	W 5 - 3	Essex Junior Cup Rd1 2.00pm
Sat Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hatfield Peverel Res	away	D 2 - 2	
Sat Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Brightlingsea Town	home	W 2 - 1	Essex Junior Cup Rd2 2.00 pm
Sat Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	St Osyth	home		
Sat Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	West Bergholt	away		League KO Cup 2.00pm

### Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 4

( ko 3. 00pm unless stated)

Sat Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	Gosfield Utd Res	home	D 2 - 2	
Sat Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ramsey & Mistley Res	away	W 4 - 0	
Sat Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Roman Rovers	home	L 1 - 4 AET	Essex Junior Cup Rd1
Sat Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Kelvedon Social Res	away		
Sat Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mersea Island Res	away		
Sat Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	Gas Rec Res	home		

GB 1<sup>st</sup> team look to have had a good month results wise but have unfortunately suffered long term injuries to four key players along the way. Tom Gray and Chris Bowles will be out for a few weeks and Archie Herbert and Jake Bell. Archie and Jake are both needing knee surgery, so will be out for months. It has meant that the 1<sup>st</sup> team has had to call on some of the younger players from the reserves to help out in games. On each occasion they have risen to the occasion and played well.

In the league, a win at Tiptree Jobserve and a draw at Hatfield Peverel in horrendous driving rain has given us 4 point from 6. Goals coming from Jamie Pringle, young Toby Britton and 3 from Harvey "Grealish" Evans.

Our other 2 games were Essex Junior Cup fixtures. Round 1 was a "lively" 5 – 3 win on the green. GB were winning 3 – 2 with 1 min to go, when the referee disallowed a Gosfield goal attempt. The ball was then quickly played down the wing from a clearance from goalkeeper Jake Allwood, where Harvey Evans was then taken out by a horrendous two footed tackle in the box by the goalkeeper.

In the ensuing melee. The referee sent off 2 players from each team, including the Gosfield goalkeeper and awarded GB a penalty which was converted by Joe Hurd. The referee then blew the final whistle, making the score 5 – 3 to GB. He was then surrounded by the whole of the Gosfield players and officials, leaving us to walk off the field.

Our opponents in Round 2 were local team Brightlingsea Town. Still not having dropped a point in the league this season and scoring goals for fun. We think that they were over confident on the day and were expecting an easy repeat win after last month. From the very first whistle, GB pretty much outplayed them for the entire 90 mins. Lee Barrett marshalling the midfield superbly for the duration. When called upon, goalkeeper Jake Allwood again showed why he must surely be the best keeper in the Border League

GB scorers were Sam Winney and Joe Hurd. Man of the match for the second game running was new defender Jack Wood. We look forward to seeing who our opponents will be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round.

The reserves have struggled to field teams this season because of the injuries suffered by the 1<sup>st</sup> team. However they have beaten Ramsey & Mistley and drawn with Gosfield Utd res in the league. Scorers Gareth Evans with 3, Kurt Firkins 2, and Tom Walker.

Unusually, both teams were entered into the Essex Junior Cup by the Border League. Roman Rovers, a team from the new Div 5 and currently unbeaten were the reserves opponents on the green Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

GB held them to a 1 – 1 draw after 90 mins, with a goal for Adam Morton. However, Roman Rovers scored 3 goals in the first 5mins of extra time and put the game to bed.

The committee of GB would like to thank the Parish Council for allowing us to use portable floodlights on the green for our usual Tuesday night training sessions. These are small battery powered LED units, which means that we will be able to ensure minimum damage to playing areas by using alternate areas.

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

**Stay Safe. Follow the Bulldogs  
Mel**



## GARDENING NOTES



November is a good time to plan and or implement any changes to the garden as well as carry out any repairs to buildings, equipment and fences. If you propagate in a greenhouse and harden off plants in coldframes, next season will come very quickly and if left, repairs will become urgent and less pleasant to carry out.

For those of us still digging on heavier soils November is a good time to get the digging started. We may even see frosts this winter that will help to break down the soil. Lighter soils can be left until early spring. Whether digging or not it is necessary to deal with weeds and make sure none set seeds.

We suspect that the majority are aware the UK is hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) this autumn. To coincide with this the Royal Horticultural Society has launched a new sustainability strategy. It includes their own targets for climate change, biodiversity, biosecurity, water neutrality, use of plastics and landfill as you would expect. It also has targets for people such as, *Inspiring everyone to Grow*, *Blueprints for wellbeing gardens*, *Creating the next generation of gardening gurus* and *Accelerating equality, diversity and inclusion*.

In addition, it has a list of 'top ten tips' for action that all gardeners can take.

- Plant a tree (possibly to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee)
- Switch from tap water to rainwater for watering plants
- Go peat free
- Make your own compost
- Pull up a paving slab (ideas for planting, including pocket planting in front gardens)
- Plant for pollinators
- Grow your own bunch of flowers
- Electrify your garden (reducing use of fossil fuels where possible)
- Help map UK garden plant diversity
- Eat more homegrown, UK local and seasonal fruit and vegetables.

If you want to know any more about these topics there is a wealth of resource material on the RHS website. Just google RHS Strategy or use this link [10 ways to be more sustainable in your garden / RHS Gardening](#).

One comment from us on watering is not to use rainwater from tanks for seeds and seedlings. It is likely to contain pathogens even if you regularly clean your tanks. By all means recycle water from the house where you can. Using tap water is far safer for seeds and seedlings. It should not be used cold and if left for 24 hours, it will warm up and any fluoride and other additives should evaporate.

Our gladioli corms have already been lifted together with all the small cormlets they produce. Normally we buy in extra corms each year to supplement what we have from the previous year. It is becoming very difficult to source the exhibition varieties we like which come from the Dutch nurseries so we will be having a go at growing on our own which is more work and takes 2 to 3 years to mature sufficiently to produce full sized spikes (flowering heads), but has less airmiles or ferry miles of course.

You can still sow sweet peas and broad beans both directly in the soil or in the greenhouse or cold frame for protection to be planted out after germination. If you are feeling energetic, lawns can still be scarified and aerated. Asparagus ferns should be cut down as should any remaining peas and beans. Remember that pea and bean roots are worth leaving in the soil to break down naturally as they provide a good source of nitrogen.

A.O.

### **East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) are looking for volunteers**

Could you spend a couple of hours a week or even a hour a month helping a family with a child who accesses our hospices in their own home?

Caring for a seriously ill child or young person can put a lot of extra demand on a family. The aim of the Help at Home service is to put a caring individual into a family's home to provide everyday practical support such a cooking, sibling support, cleaning and gardening. We provide you with the necessary support and training, all you need to do is provide some of your precious time. If you would like any more information or to apply then please contact Hugh at [hugh.mcelhinney@each.org.uk](mailto:hugh.mcelhinney@each.org.uk) or call 07714737139. Thank You.

## **A Little Help along the way for a Great Bentley boy.**

I was born in Great Bentley and spent all my school years at the village school, which, back in those days, had senior children to the age of 15 years. I did reasonably well in the subjects taught and recall a discussion with Mr Storey who tried to persuade me to sit the 11 plus exam and he even wrote to my father about it. On reflection it was the fear of the unknown and the daunting prospect of a daily train journey to school at Colchester which resulted in my decision, even though I knew other children who did so. Sadly my mother had died when I was six years old and, although dad did a great job bringing me up, aided by my older siblings, he did not have the knowledge to assist me with this decision, so an opportunity was lost. Two years later I was faced with a second chance of higher education but resisted again and so remained at the village school.

I was eventually appointed Head Boy, then at the end of my last full year, in the summer of 1954, was awarded the school cup for the outstanding scholar, (see photo). I left school that December with no idea about what work I might do, woodwork classes being the only practical aid we received; two boys who were naturals did go straight into that trade. It seemed that the heritage of over 400 years as agricultural workers in my family would lead me the same way; although I had no knowledge of this background at that stage of my life. However, during a chance discussion with a neighbour, Mrs. May Watcham née Gosling, she mentioned that her son Tommy was working in engineering at Farrows of Thorrington and had 'done well'. She promised to ask him if there was any chance of me going there. I knew nothing about engineering or even what it meant. But this time I was much bolder and on a Saturday morning, as arranged by Tommy, I cycled to meet Mr. Farrow. He showed me around the engineering workshop and offered me the chance of a job starting immediately after Christmas.

As part of my apprenticeship, Mr. Farrow said that I could attend College, but I rather hastily said no; the fear factor struck again and therefore I did not enrol in September 1955. However, when cycling to work one morning in 1956 I rode along with David King, from Aingers Green, who was apprenticed to a shipyard in Brightlingsea. David asked if I was attending college, and upon learning that I was not, he immediately said that I should do so and explained the benefits.

David. (helper No 2), had been very persuasive so I duly enrolled at Colchester Technical College in September 1956, however, because I had no GCEs I was placed on a Preliminary Technical Course for the year 1956/57. I recall being hit by the wonders of algebra, a new language to me, and attended a special catch-up evening class; so finally the ball was rolling!

My exam results enabled me to enrol for the 3 year Ordinary National Certificate (ONC) course in Mechanical Engineering in September 1957, rather than the more practical City and Guilds course. I achieved satisfactory results in the first year of the course but Mr. Farrow told me that, as I was now 18, he was not obliged to pay me for my one college day per week; this was a blow because the alternative was three evening classes each week. Mr. Farrow's son John, who ran the Engineering part of the firm, took pity on me and agreed to pay me 10 shillings from his pocket to partly make up my lost day's pay, (helper No3). He expressed concern that I might not succeed as he had found it a difficult course. However, I completed the course in 1960 with good results and also completed my apprenticeship. I was one of three students to receive an Award of Distinction for the ONC course at the annual presentation in November 1960.

During the summer of 1960 I had begun looking for another job, hoping to be able to continue onto the 3 year Higher National Certificate course, on the assumption of good ONC results. I received a phone call at work one day from Mr. S.H.Potter, Head of Engineering at the Technical College, asking if I had considered the 3 year Higher National Diploma (HND) Course saying my ONC results would give me entry. The course format was a 'sandwich course' with each year involving two 3-month periods at college, interspaced with 3 months work experience.

**Eric Fairweather**

*To be continued .....*

## SESAW NEWS

At last people! Lots of them, painting, weeding, chatting and laughing. It was good to welcome a big work party from Axa Insurance last month. They tackled many jobs that have fallen by the wayside since Covid 19. We send them a big thank you and hope they were as glad to see us as we were to see them.

It was a particularly cold day when the humans came in for steaming hot cuppas and biscuits. My canine pals and I studied every crumb being quietly consumed until someone broke the silence with "Why don't dogs blink?" Haha, fooled you! We do blink, but the long soulful stare guilt trips most people into sharing a tasty treat. Apparently our meaningful looks stem from the way our ancestors, the wolves, communicated with each other.

SESAW volunteers are attending two festive events in November. Jeanette is back with her Terrific Tombola, 10-4pm on Saturday 13th at Bridge Farm Barns, Monks Eleigh, IP7 7AY. Sheila will have another classy selection of gifts at the Long Melford Christmas Community Market, 10-1pm on Thursday 25th at the Old School, CO10 9DX. Both ladies take great care with presentation and value for money so please call in if you are able.

I'm confused since Mum said the clock went back, it hasn't moved from the kitchen which is where dinner will be waiting for me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Registered Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.  
Tel: 01787 210888 [www.sesaw.co.uk](http://www.sesaw.co.uk)

## Friends of the Green

So, we come to the end of another year. A year which has put pressure on everyone and of course pressure on fundraising, ours included. The FOG were unable to do a full year of fundraising on biker nights (Wednesdays) and consequently, our yearly expectations have been severely curtailed.

The one effort of community spirit and continued determination, to keep the village and surrounding roads free of litter, is our monthly litter pick. Not only have people continued to turn up on the allotted day but many undertake to clean up their own specific areas in between. Well done to them and also Ken Drew for organising these days. It is very noticeable around the village. The added bonus to litter pick Saturdays (once a month) is that the landlord of The Plough has very kindly offered tea, coffee and biscuits at the end of each session. Free of charge! Very much appreciated.

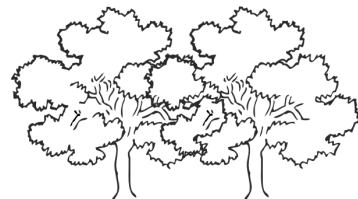
You will find advertised in this magazine, our AGM for this year. All are welcome, especially potential new members who are interested in protecting and enhancing our village green and its environs for future generations.

## Trees

Two of the trees that were financed by village families at the rear of Heckford Road cottages have been damaged, died and need to be replaced. Is there anybody who would like to finance a tree in this area? If so, please contact me on 01206 250799.

I have served as a tree warden for this village at TDC since the scheme began in the early 1990's. It is an important and interesting subject to be involved in. I feel (or at least my body feels) that it is time for a new person to take over and so, if anybody is interested, please contact me on the above number, for a chat.

**Michael Dorling**



**DON'T FORGET TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON  
SUNDAY 31ST OCTOBER**



# Christmas Fayre

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 3:30-6pm

This year we would love to welcome you to our outside Christmas Fayre so that we can celebrate this special time together as a community. There will be stalls, tombola, Salvation Army Band, Santa and perhaps even some carols!!

### Free entry

**Please come and support us if you can, alternatively if you would like to make a donation for the chocolate or bottle tombola you can do so by dropping them off at the school office.**

**Local business – if you would like you can sponsor a stall or offer any lights/decorations to make this occasion super special for the community we would be very grateful.**

### CAN YOU HELP?

Do you have any unwanted gifts sitting at the back of the cupboard that you could donate to the Friends of Great Bentley Primary School for our surprise gift room. The surprise gift room is put on for the children to buy a Christmas present for a loved one during school hours.

If you can please leave it at the school office by the 24th November.

Thank you.

### Exercise doesn't have to be about weight loss!

I know, I know - we have been told this for so long. Flicking through magazines seeing headlines of 'this fat blasting workout will give you a 6 pack, the winning lottery numbers and confidence to wear a cropped top'.

This isn't a 'beat yourself over the head' article. Generally, we have all been there. In this world of instant gratification, these workouts are appealing, even if you hate the idea of burpees.

I also don't want you to lose hope. Just because you have tried one of these workouts and didn't turn into an overnight millionaire from the lottery - it doesn't mean you have to swear off any type of exercise!

Over my time of being a personal trainer, a lot of people have asked me what the best type of exercise is and this is the answer I will always give: find something you enjoy doing because you are more likely to stick to it.

This is true for most things but especially true for fitness. Have a think about all the things you enjoy doing and how little effort they take compared to things you dread and how much time and energy it sucks out of you.

Now, sometimes there are specific forms of exercise that you need to do in order to reach your goal. An example would be if you had dreams of becoming an Olympic swimmer, you wouldn't necessarily be focussing all your time training on ballroom dancing. This doesn't mean you won't spend any time ballroom dancing but your primary focus will be on training for your goal. So what is the point of this article? I am so glad you have asked and stayed with me this long to finally get to the point.

Exercise needs to be enjoyable. It needs to be fun. It needs to complement your life. It certainly doesn't need to be about weight loss. I really enjoy seeing my clients get out of the 'I need to run off this Mars bar' mentality. It is utterly freeing for them.

Exercise has a multitude of benefits (more on that next month) which you can harness by finding something you enjoy doing. Whether that is walking, running, swimming, hiking, dancing, lifting weights - the possibilities are endless.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need a bit more guidance in your exercise routine. I specialise in resistance and strength training with free weights and I am unbelievably passionate about helping people move well, often and with confidence.

**Rebekah Drake**

**R J Fitness**

**email: [rebekahjanefitness@gmail.com](mailto:rebekahjanefitness@gmail.com) to book your free consultation.**

facebook: @rebekahjanefitness





This month I would like to welcome Archie and Ronnie who both began with us at the end of last month. I hope you enjoy your time at our Pre-school, I can promise you will gain lots of wonderful and exciting new experiences and make lots of new friends. I would like to welcome you as families as you start this new journey with your child, we look forward to working with you all over the coming terms.

### **Autism Coffee Morning**

Our next coffee morning is arranged for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 1:00.

These sessions are held to support parents with children on the Autistic Spectrum or for parents who are concerned and want to find out more about Autism. If you are worried or concerned about your child, going through the assessment stages, or have a child who has been diagnosed and feel you might like to share your experience please come along and join in the discussion, we would love to see you.

You do not have to have a child attending the Pre-school to come along, if you know of anyone that might benefit from this then please spread the word.

### **September 2022 Primary School Applications**

If you have children due to start Primary School in September 2022 it's not long before you can start applying for your allocation.

The actual opening date for applications is November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Below is a link to the government website that will provide you with all the information and details you will need.

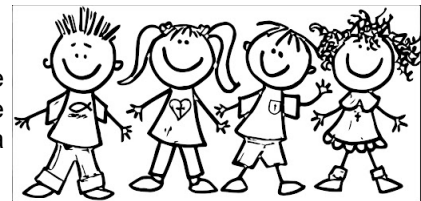
<https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

### **Registers**

This month I will be working on the registers for the new term in January.

If you would like your child to join our Pre-School, please get in touch so we can start the introduction process and arrange a stay and play before we break up for Christmas, this will give you the opportunity to start building a relationship with your child's key person prior to them starting.

Contact details are above or message via our FB page.



Thanks for reading.

## **WHAT'S IN A (HOUSE) NAME? by David Flinn**

Walking around the village, are you intrigued by the house names some of us have chosen or inherited? If you can add more for next month, then please email me at [davidflinn55@yahoo.com](mailto:davidflinn55@yahoo.com). Do you have an amusing / sad / historical reason or memory for naming your house?



**BURNSIDE** In the summer of 1952 my grandparents Christina and Alfons Kleist and Joan and Jock Smith were living next door to each other in Burnside Cottages in the Scottish town of Forres where Jock was placed on National Service and Christina originated.

Ian Smith and Wendy Kleist were born in Burnside Cottages that summer 3 weeks apart. Joan and Jock would eventually move back down to Great Bentley but stayed in touch with Christina and Alfons resulting in Wendy and Ian marrying in 1974. When they purchased Cilgwn in 1983 they renamed it Burnside after the Burnside Cottages they were born in. By Anna Walklett.



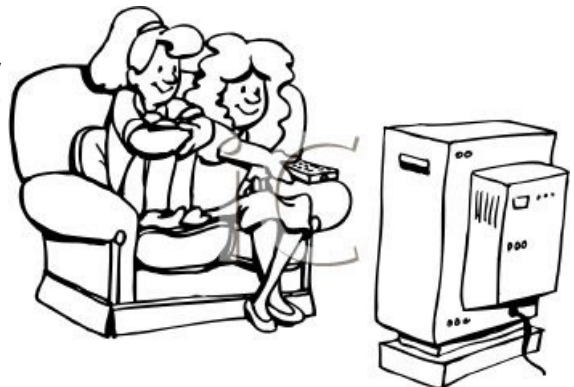
That mega electrical appliance shop has just delivered a new television to our door, one of those big screen types encased in an even bigger cardboard box. I always said I would never have one, a big telly I mean, not a big cardboard box. As a lad on our estate, everybody had a rented telly with a table lamp perched on top of it, our lamp being an ornamental lighthouse made by my dad, beautifully turned on his Black and Decker lathe but the top of our lamp didn't spin like a real lighthouse, it just had a bulb inside it. Dad gave the beechwood a lovely sheen finish, buffed with wax linoleum floor polish, so much so that when other people saw ours, they wanted one rather than buy a dreary model yacht with the bulb in the sail. After dad had switched it on, the telly I mean not the lamp, we waited for it to warm up, sitting quietly for the arrival on the screen of the test card but got fed up sometimes because of the snowstorm, not a winter snowstorm, this one was when the screen became covered in moving white dots. My little sister always became angry when the BBC played the national anthem at the end of the evening viewing because she loved the Royal family. There shouldn't be any moving white dots when the anthem is playing, that's disrespectful. The screen was so small that dad bought a magnifying glass which he placed in front of it to make the screen appear bigger and also to change the black and white picture into colour but not real colour, just a hint of red and blue. I had to sit to one side on the floor which made my view of the screen all funny. Sometimes I preferred to go with my mates to Tommy Hughes' house because Mrs Hughes always gave us orange juice and a biscuit but her telly lamp was useless, like a model yacht with a bulb in the sail. She got it from the Woolworth's. Anyway, that was years ago, it's all changed now, the white dots have gone but I don't know about the anthem, I fall asleep before it's played.

My big sister loved her telly. She used to stay up late to watch repeat CSI programmes as she was keen to know what would happen the following evening when she watched them again. She was deaf so had the volume very loud. On one occasion when visiting my sister I knocked next door to apologise for the loud volume. Her neighbour was a lovely person, she told me that she didn't mind, she just watched the same programmes as my sister did since she could hear the voices coming through the adjoining wall. Luckily the neighbour quite liked watching repeat CSI episodes which was a good job as it gave them something to talk about when she and my sister sat together to have their feet done by the local mobile chiropodist. Our present telly, the one we've just got rid of to buy a new one was my sister's old one. During the clearing of her home after my sister died, it was either take her telly to the tip or take it to our house as nobody else wanted it owing to the distorted sound system caused by the volume running constantly at full blast.

I don't know why we bought another telly, the programmes are still the same. When the two men in a van delivered the new telly they took my sister's old telly away but left me with the box that the new one came in. I asked why I must keep the box. They said it was in case the telly broke down and had to go back to the shop suggesting that I had to keep the box forever but no, I could get rid of the box after 28 days which was a relief since I'd never be able get the telly back in the box if it broke down within that time. What would happen if it broke down after 28 days and I haven't got the box? We didn't like the idea of having the telly mounted on the wall as our chairs face the wrong way but we were interested in activating voice control because the handset is always out of reach and it's hard work getting up out of my chair to get it. However, we changed our minds again when the men told us that they tried to activate voice recognition in a house recently but as the voice was being recorded, the man's wife put the kettle on. Now, when the owner wants to talk to the television, it will only recognise his voice if there's a whistling kettle in the background.

Why does everything have to be smart these days? I used to understand what the word 'smart' meant but today a phone is smart, a motorway is smart and now my telly is smart. I wasn't even smart enough to find the boxing on BBC 1 so I looked in the box for the instructions. The delivery man pointed at a square blotch and told me it was something called a QR and explained that all the instructions are on that. I'm beginning to regret buying this telly.

I'm fed up. The new telly's too big, it makes my neck hurt. The man in the shop told me there is an optimum distance to view any sized screen. I told him my optimum distance to view our telly is where my favourite chair is. I think I shall have it mounted on the wall, the telly I mean not the chair but I'll avoid putting the kettle on when I install voice control. Our kettle doesn't whistle anyway but we do have a budgie which keeps shouting, 'Who's a pretty little girl?' I would put her in the shed during this voice recognition but can't because there's no room, that's where the box is, the one the telly came in. I've only got a little shed and there's still 21 days to go before I can get rid of it, the box I mean not the budgie. Perhaps I should get a bigger shed. If I had a bigger shed I could put the telly in it to watch the boxing but if the shed comes in a box I'll have nowhere to put the box that the shed came in because the telly's in it. What's a QR?





# Surgery News

## UPDATE ON JO'S MARATHON CHALLENGE

I am very pleased to let you now that Jo, one of our Practice Nurses who I wrote about in the Newsletter last month completed the London Marathon on the 3 October 2021 in five and a half hours. All her colleagues are extremely proud of her achievement.

## WINTER DEMAND – Help us to help you!

As we head into winter, demand for our services usually increases substantially. We really do need all of our patients to consider whether they really need to see a doctor before calling and consider using other local services such as your local pharmacy, which might be more appropriate. Of course if you consider your problem is urgent we are always here to help and our daily on call doctor triage system will ensure you are contacted by a clinician in a timely manner.

## UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 BOOSTER/FLU VACCINATIONS

I am very pleased to let you know that we started our Covid-19 booster vaccination clinics for our patients on Saturday, 25 September 2021. Patients have to wait 6 months from their last (2<sup>nd</sup>) Covid vaccination before they are able to have their booster vaccination. The only exception to this is for patients who are immunosuppressed. Patients will be invited by text or telephone when they are due to have their Covid booster and this will be carried out at the Surgery in one of our Clinics on a Saturday morning. Although we have had delays with delivery of our flu vaccination if this is available it will be given at the same time as the Covid booster. Flu clinics will also be running for patients just needing their flu jab and again they will be contacted by text or telephone to book this.

## MEDICATION GIVEN BY THE HOSPITAL

If you attend the hospital for an appointment and are given a prescription to collect from the hospital pharmacy please ensure you do collect your medication from the hospital rather than coming back to the Surgery and requesting an urgent prescription from the doctor. Until we have received written notification that someone has had their medication changed or a new item started by the hospital our doctors are unable to prescribe this for you. By collecting your prescription from the hospital pharmacy it will mean there will not be a delay in starting medication.

## PRESCRIPTION REQUESTS

Please help our prescription clerks by remembering to order your medication at least 3 working days in advance of you needing this. We are happy for patients to put in their prescription requests up to 10 days before they are due to start their next lot of medication.

## PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP – MEETINGS RESTARTING

The Patient Participation Group will be holding a meeting at Great Bentley Village Hall on Thursday, 18 November 2021 at 6.30 pm for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

*Sue Mitson – Operations Manager*

## Calling all singers

We will be having our service of 9 Lessons and Carols on 19th December, 3pm at St Osyth and 6pm at Great Bentley. I will be asking a scratch choir to sing at both events.

If you would like to join us, please let me know by emailing [fibo12331@gmail.com](mailto:fibo12331@gmail.com)

Thanks,  
Fiona Bodmer



## CHRISTMAS VILLAGE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

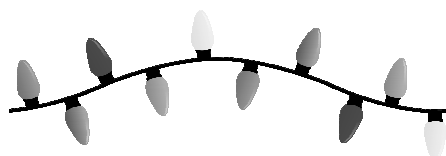
**Sunday 28th November**

**Refreshments from 4.30pm**

**Lights Switch on approximately 5pm**

**Followed by fireworks and a “special visitor”**

(The above, subject to no changes in COVID rules)



# TENDRING PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME

Since the time of last writing, sadly, for reasons outside of our control it has become necessary for us to move from the current location at Plough Corner, Little Clacton.

**We are very grateful to ECL who gave us somewhere to go when we needed to move earlier this year, but sadly they are not able to accommodate us in the long term and therefore we need to move. We are looking for a largish unit, small warehouse, barn, containers or similar, ideally in or around Clacton, Weeley, Tendring village etc. We would need to be able to access this regularly at hours to suit the team and would need volunteers to also be allowed access too. We will need to apply for grants and funding in order to be able to achieve this. We have no financial reserves to utilise, as historically all funds raised have been paid to charity and not retained by the scheme. Please help us spread our plight and thank you so much in advance for your understanding and support.**

Please know that we are working incredibly hard behind the scenes to get things fully back up and running as soon as possible. In the meantime, although it is not possible to drop to our main hub, we are still able to accept your items at any one of the following drop-off points as normal ....

- Lawford
- Capel St. Mary
- Frinton Triangle
- St. Osyth
- Stanway, Colchester
- Clacton (4 locations)
- Great Clacton
- Holland-on-Sea
- Tendring (2 locations)
- Dovercourt
- Thorpe-le-Soken
- Walton
- Weeley
- Stones Green



Please contact for full address details as required.

When gathering your donations please, please, please make sure that the items are clean, dry, empty and well sorted into the individual streams before dropping-off. To clarify what is taken in each stream, everything you need to know can be found on either our website at [tendringprimaryrecyclescheme.weeley.com](http://tendringprimaryrecyclescheme.weeley.com) or our Facebook page as always.

I ask because unfortunately, we were saddened this week to find multiple items at one of our drop-off points which had been tipped loosely into each of the bins (rather than separated into bread bags or similar) including dirty and highly smelly, wet pet food pouches, from which the unwashed juice had run all over other perfectly acceptable items. The contamination was so bad all affected items had to be binned. Numerous other items which had been left were not things we were able to take, although many could have been taken in the soft plastic collection bins at Tesco. These too had to go to landfill because of gross contamination. As you can imagine, this is incredibly difficult for our volunteers to have to find, and then subsequently sort through by hand. It really is unpleasant. To send, what would otherwise have been, fully recyclable items to landfill, also goes against everything we are trying to achieve. I know these thoughts will be echoed by the lovely volunteers and sorters at Great Bentley Primary School also.

Fortunately, most of what we receive **is** perfectly clean, dry and well sorted, and for that, as you know, we are truly grateful. Thank you as always.

Please do contact us if you feel that you might be able to help with any suggestions of possible premises. All calls or messages would be gratefully received on 07808239141.

Thank you for your continued support.

**June Barker**

# COOKERY CORNER

## WINTER TEATIME CAKES

### Yorkshire Parkin

This is a northern form of gingerbread and is traditionally eaten on November 5<sup>th</sup> using oatmeal which makes the cake slightly different. It is delicious as buttered cake, warmed as a pudding with custard, or used instead of sponge in trifles.

110g medium oatmeal	200g SR flour	1tsp baking powder	1tsp mixed spice	4tsp ground ginger
2tsp nutmeg	110g dark brown sugar	22g soft butter	55g black treacle	200g golden syrup
2 large eggs	milk			

Preheat the oven to 140 C and grease a 20 x 20 cm square tin. Beat the eggs and set aside. Very gently, heat the butter, sugar, treacle and syrup. Do not allow it to boil. Put all the dry ingredients in a large bowl and stir together, then gradually add the melted mixture, stirring thoroughly to coat. Beat the eggs into the mixture a few teaspoons at a time. You need a soft cake batter, so if it looks or feels dry, add some milk sparingly and stir well. Pour into the greased tin and cook for one and a half hours until firm, set and golden brown. Remove from the oven and leave to cool. Then cut into small squares and store in an airtight tin as it becomes increasingly moist and sticky if left for a few days.

### Bran fruit tea bread

The loaf can be kept in an airtight container or wrapped in foil, and like the Parkin, will become moist on keeping.

110g All-bran cereal	140g caster sugar	225g mixed dried fruit	55g chopped walnuts
110g SR flour	250ml milk	14g natural bran (optional)	

Preheat the oven to 180 C fan and grease a two pound loaf tin, lining and greasing the base with greaseproof paper. Put the cereal, sugar, dried fruit and nuts into a large bowl and mix thoroughly. Stir in the milk and leave to soak for half an hour. Sieve in the flour and bran a little at a time and mix gently until everything is completely incorporated. Pour the mixture into the loaf tin and bake in the oven for one hour. Turn out onto a wire rack and allow to cool.

### Italian carrot cake (from Umbria)

This recipe uses a technique called "folding" which slowly and gently combines a light airy ingredient (beaten egg whites) with a heavier one (batter) in order to introduce air into the mix so that the cake stays light and fluffy when baked. Spoon about half the egg whites on top of the batter. Place a spatula into the centre and pull it round to scrape the side of the bowl, and fold the batter on itself in a slow scooping motion, turning the bowl slightly until everything is just combined. Do not over beat as you will lose the air bubbles in the egg whites. This cake will serve eight people but is so full of delicious ingredients that eight slices may probably be eaten by much fewer people.

5 eggs separated	200g caster sugar	250g ground hazelnuts	2tbsp vanilla extract
85g fresh breadcrumbs		300g carrots	zest 1 lemon
½ tsp ground cinnamon		½ tsp baking powder	1tbsp white rum icing sugar

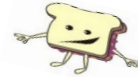
Preheat the oven to 180 C fan. Separate the eggs carefully, leaving the egg yolks in a large heatproof bowl, and the whites in another largish bowl. Peel and coarsely grate the carrots. Using butter, grease and line a 25cm round cake tin. Add the sugar to the yolks and stand the bowl securely over a saucepan of gently simmering water. Whisk constantly for ten to fifteen minutes until the mixture is thick and creamy. Remove from the heat and fold in the carrots, ground hazelnuts, vanilla, breadcrumbs, baking powder, lemon zest, rum, cinnamon and a pinch of salt. Whisk the egg whites until stiff, then carefully fold them into the carrot mixture. Pour into the prepared tin and bake for one hour until firm to the touch. Turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool, and dust with sieved icing sugar before serving.

**M.E.**





# Spread the Word!



Which of these anagrams would you not like on your toast?

e.g. 1. real madam (Dundee?)	marmalade
2. hips feast (Shippam's?)	
3. clone drum (not melon!)	
4. smarty brew jar (on a scone?)	
5. rat mime (love it or hate it?)	
6. panda hid screws (Heinz?)	
7. jab Mrs prayers (Victoria Sandwich?)	
8. near Diss (still swimming in oil?)	
9. erstwhile bra (tasty snack in Cardiff?)	
10. he ceded arches (nice with crackers)	
11. fig bed nipper (bygone treat on toast)	
12. past eight (alphabetti?)	
13. nasty cave hop (another fishy treat?)	
14. aaah bandsmen (fruity mess?)	
15. lose mad monks (posh but fishy?)	
16. Aunt Ell (chocolate treat?)	
17. pegged chaos (ill-gotten on toast?)	
18. naked babes (good for the heart?)	
19. reveal pit (de foie gras?)	
20. sea belly (what a sight!)	



1.marmalade 2.fish paste 3.lemon curd 4.strawberry jam 5.marmite 6.sandwich spread  
 7.raspberry jam 8.sardines 9.welsh rarebit 10.cheddar cheese 11.beef dripping  
 12.spaghetti 13.anchovy paste 14.mashed banana 15.smoked salmon  
 16.nutella 17.poached eggs 18.baked beans 19.liver pate 20.eyeballs!



## GREAT BENTLEY RUNNING CLUB

It has been another busy month for GBRC as racing has really started to pick up and events that were postponed in lockdown are now taking place. Many of us have been going far afield to get our race fixes. Martin Owen went to Bedford, Dave Jones down to Brighton for their marathon the Martins Cotton and Owen ran in Nottingham.

Our coaches have been putting on a wide variety of sessions throughout the week and at various locations around and about. Now the annual problem arises as it becomes harder to find good well lit areas for training now that the nights have drawn in. We have trialled a track session over at Northern Gateway which was well received. The facilities at this new venue are excellent and we immediately put in a weekly booking from the end of October onwards.

Looking ahead we have cross country coming up and many of the members already have their names down on the list. It looks like GBRC will once again have the highest turnout of all the clubs involved. Despite being a smaller club than most we maintain our position in Pool A of the league. Hopefully this year will be no different and we look forward to getting a sea of blue vests out on the courses and enjoying the mud. We have many new members who may well find the mud an interesting challenge! And hopefully they will enjoy sticking around at the end of the events and eating copious amounts of cake! So even if they're not sure about the running part, no doubt they will manage the cake eating!

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September saw the club's Geoff Day 5k race, a tribute to a sadly departed, club member. (If anyone wants to see how good a runner Geoff was just take a look at the top ten performances on the website: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ifsGNUP6-049cwtqD2hsrv-3xFVwZyMtlI6iTAMDIUE/edit>

Geoff tops the list in 7 of the 9 categories and is 2nd in the other 2 (just second!).

It was fantastic to see a large turnout from the club. We had revised the route for safety reasons but feedback so far is that it was a better route. It takes out a part of the course that is not paved with some sharp, busy bends on the road. Ryan and Donny, Geoff's talented sons and all of their family really appreciate this race being run every year and they always turn out with their friends and relations.



And Ryan looks set fair to follow in Geoff's footsteps: he posted a finishing time of 28 minutes dead at Ingatestone and then he upped his pace a bit to around 5.4 minutes a mile when he skipped around the 5k Geoff Day course. His 5 mile time puts him at 6th place in the all time top 10 runs whilst his 5k is 3rd on the list bettered only by Joe Alexander and you guessed it Geoff Day.

**Paul Carlisle**

### HELP REQUIRED WITH THE MAGAZINE

**WE REALLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT  
SO PLEASE COULD YOU SEND ME SOME ARTICLES TO  
HELP KEEP THE MAGAZINE FULL?  
THANK YOU, Ed.**



# WEELEY ROAD HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

As readers of this magazine will know, I tried earlier in the year to engage with our MP to find out his views on this and other housing developments in the village. Although two of his caseworkers replied, it was to tell me that they were forwarding my email elsewhere so I am still none the wiser as to his views. Subsequent to that, I wrote to Michael Gove MP who was recently appointed as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. I have reproduced that email below and the reply that I have just received from his office. It contains several interesting points which we may be able to use to resist the plethora of housing developments in our village. If anyone has any views (or even better, expert planning knowledge) or can suggest ways that we can move forward on the basis of this reply, please feel free to email me at: [aimclarke@gmail.com](mailto:aimclarke@gmail.com) or ring me on 07980 439911.

## 1. My email to Michael Gove, 21 September 2021

I am writing to Mr Gove in his capacity as the newly appointed Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities but specifically in relation to his portfolio as housing minister.

I understand that he has paused the government's recent proposals on reform of the planning system in this country in order to consider the issue more fully. I would like to suggest that he visits the village of Great Bentley in the constituency of Harwich and North Essex (the MP is Sir Bernard Jenkin) as an excellent example of planning gone awry.

Although this village has surpassed its housing development quota (and by some margin), the building continues apace. The latest one relates to a proposal to build 136 houses which was turned down at parish and district level but then allowed by a government inspector. This decision was made despite the very real problems of an overcrowded school (it really is bursting at the seams) and a GP surgery that cannot cope with its current patient numbers. In addition to that, the layout of the village will not accommodate the increased volume of traffic that this development (and others ongoing in the village) will generate.

To make matters worse, it is on a greenfield site (as are all the others). Given the food insecurity issues facing this country and the environmental impact of losing good agricultural land, this hardly seems sensible at this point in time.

Perhaps not surprisingly, people feel very strongly they have no voice anymore as the developments go ahead no matter what they say, despite the direct impact that these and other developments have on their lives.

Can I therefore implore Mr Gove to come here and listen to what we have to say as a way of starting his investigations into the proposals to reform planning rules.

Many thanks.  
**Alison Clarke**

## 2. The reply from Michael Gove's office, 8 October 2021

Dear Ms Clarke,

Thank you for your email of 21 September to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, about the impact of housing development in Great Bentley. We have been asked to reply on behalf of the Secretary of State. We hope you will appreciate that we are not able to comment on specific plans or proposals due to the role of ministers in the planning process, but we are happy to set out the relevant planning policies in this area.

The Government is very conscious of the effect that development can have on local communities and our environment. Through our planning reforms we have set out that local and neighbourhood plans are fundamental to giving local people more power over planning decisions that affect them. At the same time, there is no doubt that we have not been building enough homes to meet our country's need for too long. To help meet our manifesto commitment to deliver 300,000 homes annually by the mid 2020's, and one million homes over this Parliament, it is important for local authorities to plan to meet their full housing needs.

Our National Planning Policy Framework introduced a standard method for calculating local housing need which gives a starting point for local authorities in identifying the housing need in their area. We would emphasise, however, that local housing need does not set a target for the number of homes to be built. Local authorities take into account land supply considerations and environmental constraints, and cooperation with neighbouring authorities on whether need should be shared, before deciding the number of homes likely to be built. This recognises that not everywhere will be able to meet their housing need in full.



The Government knows how important it is to local communities that housing is supported by the provision of infrastructure. The National Planning Policy Framework asks local planning authorities to plan for the required mix of housing and supporting infrastructure, including roads and transport links, through the Local Plan process. Contributions from developers play an important role in delivering the infrastructure that new homes and local economies, require, and local planning authorities use the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 planning obligations to capture a proportion of the increases in land value that occur as a result of planning permission being granted. The proposal to create a new Infrastructure Levy, as set out in our 'Planning for the Future' White Paper, will support a more streamlined and accessible planning system. The new Levy will raise at least as much value as is currently captured through CIL and section 106 and will continue to be collected and spent at the local level, on priorities including infrastructure and affordable housing.

As you have noted, the Secretary of State is taking time to review the Department's programmes and engage with key stakeholders. The Government's consultation response to the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper, which will set out the way forward, will be published shortly.

Planning Inspectors are required to determine an appeal in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Inspector has to balance national policy, including meeting local housing needs and protecting Green Belt where appropriate, wider Government objectives and safeguarding local interests. In reaching a decision Inspectors give careful consideration to the planning merits of a case, having regard to the Local Plan and other material considerations. While Planning Inspectors may reach a different view from the local planning authority and allow the appeal, this does not mean that they have disregarded the views of the local authority or local residents, rather that they have given different weight to the issues in coming to their decision. Currently about three-quarters of all appeals are refused, so the decision of the local authority is upheld in most cases.

We understand your concern about the environmental impact of losing good agricultural land. The Government places great importance upon our agriculture and food production, and this is reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Framework asks local planning authorities to take into account all the benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is shown to be necessary, the Framework is clear that poorer quality farmland should be preferred. Local authorities should have regard to relevant policies in the Framework in deciding which land to allocate for development in Local Plans and deciding planning applications.

An important additional safeguard is that an authority must consult Natural England before granting permission for non-agricultural development not in accord with the Local Plan which would involve the loss of 20 hectares of grades 1, 2 or 3a farmland, or before the loss of less than 20 hectares of agricultural land in circumstances likely to lead to a further loss of 20 or more hectares of land in those grades.

Under the planning system, local communities have statutory rights to become involved in the preparation of the Local Plan and neighbourhood plans for the area, and to make representations on individual planning applications, and on planning appeals. We would advise you to continue to raise your concerns about the housing numbers, and any proposals for development on farmland in your area, as part of this process.

You may also be interested to note that planning applications that have not been decided one way or the other by the local council can be "called in" for decision by the Secretary of State. While each case will be considered on its own merits, the Secretary of State's policy is to be selective about calling in planning applications. He will, generally, only take this step if planning issues of more than local importance are involved.

Should you feel that a case should be called in for decision by the Secretary of State, then please get in touch with the Planning Casework Unit at [pcu@communities.gov.uk](mailto:pcu@communities.gov.uk)

We are sorry that the Secretary of State will be unable to visit Great Bentley at the present time, due to a busy round of ministerial and parliamentary commitments. We would, however, like to thank you for extending this invitation.

With thanks again for writing in on these matters.

Yours sincerely

**The Planning Policy and Reform Correspondence Team**



## Two Trips 'Back In Time'

I think it is fair to say that nostalgia plays quite a large part in many people's lives. I know that during the lock down in particular I found myself thumbing through old books, listening to some of my old records and watching a few old films and TV programmes. This exercise does bring into focus just how much things have changed over the years. These changes are even more evident when visiting museums and bygone collections. These were of course all closed during the Covid 19 restrictions but in the last few months many have re-opened once again. I have visited two such places recently which I found to be very interesting.

The first of these was 'Sounds of the Past' at Monks Eleigh, Suffolk. This is a collection of many home entertainment items. Basically if an item produced a sound or projected a picture it is represented in this extensive collection. It is radios that makes up the bulk of the display with examples ranging from the first crystals sets through to elegant cabinets of valve radios and the much smaller transistor portable models. There is a whole section featuring that well known British quality brand 'Roberts' radios. Being the owner of 'just a few' of these radios I can vouch for their quality and applaud their prominent place in the museum. There is also a good collection of items that reproduce recorded music. Right from the phonograph to wind-up gramophones, record players, radiograms and jukeboxes. And yes, there is a Dansette record player amongst the collection. Who remembers those 8 track cartridge players? There are examples of these as well as the more popular cassette players and recorders. There are a number of those once 'must have' items, reel to reel tape recorders ranging from the basic Grundig and Phillips models to the more advanced Brenell and Ferograph recorders with an array of knobs and switches. Definitely 'toys for grown up boys'. Old TV's and video recorders are to be seen there as well. Those enormous wooden cabinets housing the very early television sets which only had very small screens. All formats of VCR's are to be seen there. There was VHS, Phillips 2000 and Betamax, all very confusing at the time.

On occasions there may be some live entertainment at the museum as well the showing of some old 8mm films. There is always tea and coffee available and admission is by donation, the proceeds going to the Prostate Cancer charity. The museum is to be found along the A 1141, The Street in Monks Eleigh. It is housed in the old United Reform Church and although the turning can be difficult to spot there is usually a sign along the road. It is only open on the first Sunday of the month from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

My second visit was to a general bygones collection at a property in Little Tey near Colchester. At first glance it looks like any other residence but the frontage is deceiving as the rear of the property includes quite an expanse of land where there are a number barns and sheds housing collections of old agricultural and domestic items. These range from tractors of various makes and models together with associated implements, some vehicles and many hand held tools. In areas adjoining the bungalow there are rooms in the style of old shops and grocery stores displaying jars, bottles, tins and packets of products that would have been part of many families shopping list in years gone by. Near to these shops is an outside seating area which includes a collection of red post and pillar boxes through the ages. There is even a green one from the Republic of Ireland. Many walls display those old enamel advertising signs and some from the railway.

All in all it is an outstanding and impressive collection of such a varied and wide range of items. Visiting is by appointment only and admission is by donation. Teas and coffees are available and if you are lucky there may even be some lovely home baked cakes. All proceeds' are donated to the local church.

For more information telephone Alan and Pauline Mattin on 01206 210307

**Roy Parker**

## Bentley in Bloom

Good to see that the grand display of flowers has once again looked very good around the village. Thanks to the work of our small team of volunteers, headed by Jennie Moss. The watering has been done 'in house' with assistance from Kevin Plummer.

This year was our first year at renting out hanging baskets – these self-watering baskets were planted up by Deans and delivered to those in the village who had ordered from us. They seem to have been very well received, judging by the feedback.

These baskets were originally hung at various points around the village, but watering problems resulted in the change. We were able to make a small amount of profit from these baskets to help with costs next year. These baskets will be collected shortly.

Our thanks go to all who supported us this year, to sponsors and helpers and especially to Jennie Moss and Dorothy Nowak who organised the ordering, planting and finances.

Very sad to hear the passing of John Moss. Our condolences go to Jennie and her family.

John was very much involved in village life and especially remembered for his attendance and readings on Remembrance Day, his involvement with Bentley in Bloom and many other organisations that benefitted from his involvement.

**Michael Dorling**

## GIBRALTAR ADVENTURE PART 1

January 2001 found Janine (the Brightlingsea Guide Leader) and I going in a snowstorm to Cambridge for a days training. This we had to do at the Regional H.Q before we could take the Guides abroad. With a few exceptions the training covered all we needed to know. We went home excited about preparing for our adventure.

There was a lot to do before we could fly to Gibraltar. We had to link up with the Scouters to arrange dates and then find out who wanted to go on the trip. There were coaches to book this end and flights to book. The Scouters suggested we flew to Malaga as it would be cheaper and they would arrange the coach into Gibraltar. We had to work out the cost of the trip very carefully. We had to cover coaches, flights, food and payment of special trips. We also had to buy our international scarves and badges.

We were going to stay in the Scout H.Q. and Janine's husband offered to come along as our Chef. Two of their daughters were young leaders and the other one a Guide. Their son was a Scout so we couldn't leave him behind. With two more leaders from Great Bentley we were all sorted.

Exactly one year to the day when we first met the Scouts we set off to meet them in Gibraltar. Despite a very early 3 o'clock start and a very misty morning our trip by mini coach was uneventful and we arrived at Gatwick in plenty of time for checking in. A block seating for 18 created a few problems but was duly done. We saw our luggage go through a special area. All those straps from rucksacks caused problems.

These next paragraphs should really be headed how to amuse Guides at an airport for hours and hours. Something our training didn't tell us. However our Guiding skills stepped in and we got organised. We found a base and sorted out meals and waited to find out about our flight. We were each given a £5 voucher to buy breakfast. Some went to McDonalds and others had a full English in a café.

We used the time to sew badges on that had only arrived the day before and set up camp around a table and set of chairs. The Guides were able to go off in pairs and then touch base every 20-30 minutes. A young man who was also waiting for our flight kept popping over to see us with any flight updates. We found out that our plane had been delayed because of a fault when travelling back from Spain. The airline managed to find another plane and at 12 noon we got ready to board. In the meanwhile we had sent a message to the scouts in Gibraltar about the delay.

However more drama was to follow. We boarded the plane and settled down with seat belts on. Then we taxied down the runway and stopped. The pilot announced that a bomb had been planted at Malaga Airport and we were not allowed permission to depart until it had been dealt with. We eventually left at 1.30pm.

We had a smooth flight and landed at a deserted airport. In fact the only people to be seen were those from our flight. No customs! We sent Barry (Janine's husband) out to check on the situation and look for the scouts. We found our luggage and our friends who had been there for 5 hours. The leaders and scouts were in uniform and had been allowed to stay with the military personnel. We boarded the coach and two scouts escorted us as the others followed by car. The traffic was very heavy on the coast road to Gibraltar and we finally arrived at the border at 6.30pm. We were allowed through the border easily and we were finally on the Rock.

On the way to the Scout HQ we had to stop for a plane to land. Just like our level crossings but for planes.

More next month

**Barbara Fookes**

### **Friends of Great Bentley Churchyard 100 Club**

The 100 Club is run to financially support the up keep of the churchyard, which is a benefit to the whole village, not just the church community.

A square numbered from 1 to 100 costs £12 for the year, with a chance of winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize £100 or 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £50, at each of the 2 draws in the year. You can buy as many squares as you like! The year runs from December, with the first draw at the Christmas Tree Festival, on 4-5 Dec this year.

Anyone who already has a square or two, has received a renewal letter in the next few weeks; we thank you for your support this year, and hope this will continue. Please return to Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green.

If you are not yet a member, would you be interested in joining the 100 Club?

For more information, please email Annabel Stearn at [wylieandsinger@talk21.com](mailto:wylieandsinger@talk21.com) or call 01206 251518

# PAGES FROM THE PAST

Taken from 'How Green is our Village' by Carl Morton

**Jim Taylor**

There was a blacksmiths shop over opposite Cudmores bakery and another where the Post Office is now, but later that moved over to just opposite where the Doctors surgery is now. There was a sawpit over on the South side near the Cut and they used to cut the trees longways with a crosscut saw into whatever thickness of plank was needed. Goodings were the owners and they made wagons and carts and barrows or anything that was needed local.

Threshing machine engines were portable and the farmer had to take the machine from his farm, when it had finished, to the next. It took 3 horses and that came hard on a little farmer who had to borrow 1 or 2. I tried a flail once but George Barton always used a flail to thrash his beans. When corn was thrashed in the barn in my fathers time the drum was worked by a horse walking round and round on a pole with gear wheels same as they had on hay elevators, I never saw it but father used to talk about it. He was born in Bentley, so was my grandfather, so we can go back a couple of hundred years or more. I was born in 1878.

I've heard my father talk about the time the snow drifted so that it was nearly up to the eaves of the Lion. Those inside were alright for their beer but the others outside had to dig their way in. At that time Captain Delf lived at the Lodge and worked the Hall as well.

The first car came into the village in 1896. There was a fete at St Mary's Farm and Mr Noel Athill, brother of Dr Frank, got Mr Avery the scalemaker to bring one down from London. That was driven by oil or something and they called it a hossless carriage, it was 6d. a time to ride in it. When I was young there were two overseers had to look after the roads which were made up with ordinary stone dug out of the pits round here. There was one pit down at Sturricks and one the brickyard way and we had to cart so many loads a day. You had to pull it out of the carts into heaps and all they kept was one old man to spread it. It was like mud on the roads in winter time. We put in bush drains or stone drains on the land, all dug by hand.

Smythies built an aeroplane down at the Tye with machinery in it. He reckoned that was going to fly like a bird when he got in it because the wings were made to flack up and down like, but that didn't get off the ground. There weren't much wonder really, because he had it tied down so it shouldn't! He had a man come down two or three times a week and that cost the old man hundreds of pounds so he went bankrupt in the end.

There were two brickyards at one time, the London Brick Company and the Modern belonging to old Mr Went where Herb worked. Oh yes! I've carted corn down to the wharf. We had to carry the sacks on our backs across about ten feet of water using a plank. There was one big bargeman could carry a sack under each arm. NO, I don't remember any of the old songs, only the first verse of 'Buttercup Joe' which went like this.

Oi'm a true bred country chap  
My father comes from Fareham  
My mother, she's got some more loike  
Oi

And she well knows how to rear 'em  
Some people calls I baconfat  
And sometimes mutton-head  
But I can prove I'm non o' that  
Although Oi'm country bred.

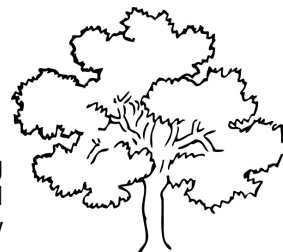
Chorus  
For I can drive a plough and milk a cow,  
For I can reap or sow,  
O'm as fresh as the daisies that grow in  
the field.  
And they calls Oi Buttercup Joe!"

Dialect: Bird starving - Scaring birds off corn.  
Mew - Mowed  
Gret - Great

Flail - A /stick-and-a-half.' In the transcription Jim Taylor seems to call it a 'flail', but this is usually the old plaited straw lunch basket. Flails consisted of a short stick attached to a longer one by a leather or sometimes snakeskin swivel, and used for threshing corn by hand.



## Hello from us all at The Oaks!



Have you got your cuppa and are you comfortable... right let's begin

Well there's lots to tell you! We're currently having a coffee break between doing something very exciting that involves charities, as you know we're not good with all this technology so we will have someone post on Facebook of the charities and how we will be fundraising so keep an eye out.

Anyway we've been playing basketball... yes you heard right and we are superstars at it and thoroughly enjoy playing. It's so much fun. We've enjoyed partying ... of course you know we love a party, dancing and a sing along.

Oh yes, we have our own bake off and we've made carrot cake cookies and 'Duffins' .... Don't worry it's not spelt incorrectly they are a mix between doughnuts & a muffin.... Delish!

Haha... excuse us while we laugh but we've also returned to school, well the lessons have been brought to us and we've been keeping our brains busy with maths questions and brain teasers. We must say they were fun but we needed a coffee after!

We've been keeping up with our fitness that you all know we love and guess what? Mr Motivator showed us some moves via a zoom (we think that's what they called it). So much fun was had.

Of course we've had our pamper sessions including facials, manicures etc. Oh yes, we've just had a nudge to remind you all that **we're looking for a hairdresser so if you know of anyone please give us a call.**

One last thing, we have put our Christmas gift wish list in - that was a tongue tie wasn't it. We're on Harris & Poole in Tesco Highwoods for our Christmas gift list so if you pop in there you'll see what's on our Christmas list.

Oh we've just heard someone say cake and we don't want to miss out on that so we had best go and get the biggest slice so we will say bye bye for now and we hope to see you all soon.

With Love from us all at The Oaks xx

## Could YOU be a **Bloodrunner**?

The **Essex Voluntary Blood Service** – or *Essex Bloodrunners* for short, is a charity providing medical courier services to the NHS and our local Air Ambulances. We are one of 30 such organisations in the UK.

From the NHS Blood Bank at Basildon, our unpaid volunteers deliver blood and blood products to A&E Hospitals in Essex and East London; deliver samples for analysis to a NHS Lab in North London, and via Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, supply blood to the Air Ambulances at Earls Colne and North Weald every night. Amongst many other tasks we also courier breast milk from donors to the Hearts Milk Bank and Addenbrooke's Hospital.

We operate every weekday night, and day and night shifts at weekends and Bank Holidays. Our enhanced support to Hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic has also introduced a weekday daytime shift. We now need more members. You choose in advance the days and shifts you work. We are looking for reliable and responsible men and women from all backgrounds, employed or retired, with a motorcycle, car or van, a mobile phone and internet access. You will receive training, documentation, full support and a hi-viz uniform jacket.

You will work alone on a delivery run with a typical round-trip distance from home of between 60 and possibly over 120 miles, and be the face of Essex Bloodrunners to the public and NHS staff. The work is not glamorous; can be tiring; you may work unsocial hours in all weathers and you will add thousands of miles to your vehicle. You are unpaid and cover all your own expenses... *so not much going for it really!*

However, rather like being a First Aider or Blood Donor, this is one of the very few ways that an ordinary member of the public can help **save a life**.

Most of you reading this piece will think "*sounds good, but not for me*", which we quite understand, but just one of you may wish to enquire further. If so, see our website at: **EssexVoluntaryBloodService.com** And thank you for your kind attention.

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

The season has got underway for all our teams but if you are a regular reader of my notes you'll know that there is limited information that can be provided on the younger age groups. When I say limited I mean not a lot at all other than they have played games, won some, lost some and drawn some. That said if you like to see some great football played with big smiles on the faces of the kids then the mini soccer pitch on a Sunday morning is the place to go!

Of the teams that I can tell you about there is one team that is currently unbeaten in the under 15 A league which is quite a statement. The A league in any age group is tough and the teams are all well trained and know exactly what they are doing even from a relatively early age. So Richies Under 15 blues are going well at the moment sitting in 2nd a point off the top having won their 4 games so far. In the under 12's both our blues and reds teams have started with a pretty similar record sitting 6th and 8th respectively in their leagues both currently with 3 points.

In the under 15 C league Matt's reds have not had a good start to the season but hoping to improve. Since last time they have beaten Parkston Welfare 4-2 with a hat-trick from Evan Brady and goal from Thomas Griffiths, but lost 1-0 in a close game with Col Villa and then 8-4 to Earls Colne despite another 4 goals from Evan Brady. Last Sunday saw them score 13 goals in a whopping victory against Brooklands with that lad Evan Brady scoring just 7 times! Once more they seem to be the team that you're almost guaranteed to see a load of goals. They are now sitting 5th with 6 points from their first 5 games.

Here are the results of the "competitive" games played so far:

10/10/2021	Great Bentley Y U12 Reds 1 - 4 Halstead Town Youth U12 Blue
03/10/2021	Stanway Rovers Youth U12 Blue 0 - 1 Great Bentley Y U12 Reds
26/09/2021	Great Bentley Y U12 Reds 0 - 5 Stanway Rovers Youth U12 Red
10/10/2021	Great Bentley Y U12 Blues 0 - 4 Stanway Villa Y U12 Red
03/10/2021	Great Bentley Y U12 Blues 2 - 4 Eight Ash Green Y U12 Blues
19/09/2021	Great Bentley Y U12 Blues 3 - 1 Wivenhoe Tempest Youth U12 Red
12/09/2021	Frinton & Walton Youth U12 11 - 3 Great Bentley Y U12 Blues
10/10/2021	Stanway Villa Y U15 0 - 2 Great Bentley Y U15 Blues
03/10/2021	Braintree Youth U15 1 - 3 Great Bentley Y U15 Blues
26/09/2021	Stanway Rovers Youth U15 Red 3 - 4 Great Bentley Y U15 Blues
19/09/2021	Great Bentley Y U15 Blues 3 - 0 Colchester Villa Y U15 Blues
10/10/2021	Great Bentley Y U15 Reds 13 - 0 Brooklands Y U15 Blues
03/10/2021	Earls Colne Youth U15 Reds 8 - 4 Great Bentley Y U15 Reds
26/09/2021	Great Bentley Y U15 Reds 0 - 1 Colchester Villa Y U15 Reds
19/09/2021	Parkeston Welfare Park Y U15 2 - 4 Great Bentley Y U15 Reds
12/09/2021	FC Clacton Y U15 Blue 9 - 3 Great Bentley Y U15 Reds



### Scott Young

## PAIGE RAISES FUNDS FOR THE AIR AMBULANCE

Paige put a positive outlook on a horrific event, she told me she wanted to raise money for the Air Ambulance that had helped her daddy by completing a run, scoot and walk and asked her friend Logan Dyer if he would like to support her with this. Her plan was to run 2k, scoot 5k and walk 5k.

I set her up a Just Giving page and asked her how much she wished to raise, initially she said £1000, we thought this was quite ambitious so suggested she reduce this amount, as a family we agreed £250 would be a good target to reach.

Overnight Paige had smashed this target and had received an invitation to appear on the radio to raise awareness of what she was doing. Paige confidently appeared on BBC Essex with Great Bentley's very own radio presenter Ben Fryer, who interviewed her about her fundraising event.

On the day we set out early due to the weather forecast to complete her run, walk and scoot wearing our EAHAA t-shirts. Without any complaints they completed these activities, arriving home just before the heavens opened.

A week later Paige and Logan were invited to the Air Ambulance base in Earls Colne to see the air ambulance, speak to the crew, learn about how they work and to be awarded certificates, medals and a little bear each.

Overall, £2050 was raised – thank you to everyone who helped her reach this amazing amount and who were out to support Paige and Logan that day.

### Kirsty Edwards