

Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community
for the Community**



October 2021

St Mary's Church

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EDITORIAL

As I write this, autumn seems to be on the way with some leaves beginning to change colour and the dry weather causing others to shrivel and drop. There is something beautiful in every season and we can look forward to Harvest Festival services to celebrate the bounty from land and sea and to thank those who carry out the work involved in producing our food. A great time also to glean from the hedgerows with damsons, bullace and sloes ready for the taking. Another marker for the autumn is the appearance of thousands of Cranefly or Daddy Longlegs which emerge from the green. I personally love Halloween when the children call to Trick or Treat, not for any sinister reason, its just lovely to see and meet the enthusiastic youngsters that I always find polite and appreciative.

Things seem to be getting a bit back to normal now and some Clubs are meeting. The Methodist church are resuming their Coffee Mornings so please go along to support them. We are trying to get the monthly diary back so please let us know if you would like anything included. We have also started an annual 2022 diary for the major events the village usually hosts. On a festive note Christmas is starting to feature in this months magazine. I for one am looking forward to the Christmas lights switch on, the availability of the Christmas postal service, and of course its time to start thinking about ordering your Hubert's Christmas turkey. Details on all of these included this month.

I would like to put out a plea for any articles both large and small to help add interest to our text. We can only keep the magazine full and hopefully of interest to all, with input from you, the readers. I am happy to publish articles without your name being included, if you are shy, so long as you submit them with a request to withhold your identity. Please help me out!

Thanks to the Bentley in Bloom team who will soon be removing the summer plants which have been so lovely and colourful and replacing them with the autumn/winter displays. Thanks to everyone involved.

I would like to thank all of the new people who have moved to our village in recent months for coming along to support various events and for volunteering to help in different ways. We will need lots of help with some major plans for next year. The Village Show committee are holding their AGM this month and they need **new committee members**. See page 24. Also we will be holding celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June. **Could you or a business support this by sponsoring the cost of the marquee or entertainment?** See page 29. I do hope so as both are very important events for the Great Bentley calendar. Looking back at previous October editions this months magazine would normally have been full of photos of trophy winners at the Village Show and all of the results but instead we have a "colour supplement" incorporating the Dog Show at St Mary's, The Flower Festival at the Methodist church and the Afghanistan Refugee Appeal. (I just knew you would respond to that so generously as Great Bentley always does.)

Hope you enjoy the autumn everyone,

Mary Maskell



2021

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Flower Festival
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DISCLAIMER

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THE MONTHLY LETTERS - OCTOBER

It is that time of year when the evenings have started to draw in and the good weather, we enjoyed over the summer is starting to be replaced with fresher, damper days. A sure sign that autumn is on its way. I don't think I will ever tire of seeing tractors at this time of year as it reminds me of the growing and harvesting cycle that we may otherwise take for granted.

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on 3rd October Please do come and join us, the service will begin at 9.30 and we will be singing our Harvest favourites.

Do take care of yourselves.

Every blessing
Sharon

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

Dear friends,

To talk about the weather is such a 'British thing' to do. I was at a Zoom meeting earlier today where we had gathered from a range of places into the virtual space and so it was a natural topic of conversation. Over the last few days, it has been really warm again. We've got into the mid or slightly higher 20's for those of us who work in Celsius but the nights haven't been that much cooler. This follows on from the last couple of weeks of August which were somewhat cooler.

I know that we can have real 'summer' weather in September but it is also the month that marks the beginning of Autumn. I often begin to think of apple crumbles and the shortening evenings during September and not so much about sun cream and sandals! It seems to be the wrong time in the cycle of the year. September marks the start of the new church year and school year. It is the time where we say goodbye to summer whilst recognising it as the start of something new as well. It was lovely to be wished 'Happy Methodist New Year' on Sunday as we shared in the Covenant service together.

The seasons change and the cycle of the year is ongoing. We are reminded in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 that 'there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens' before going on to give us many examples of this. It is true that seasons are to do with nature, but they are also to do with the times where we laugh and weep or a time to search or a time to give up. We remain in a world where we have been in a season where we have had to stop some things in order to protect others.

We do not yet know what the 'new normal' will truly be. We are in a transitional season. What we do know is that God is alongside us, walking with us and leading and guiding us on through the Holy Spirit. The encouragement is for us to continue to search for the ways in which we believe God is leading us as we seek to share Christ's love with others and the communities in which we are based. In that time, I hope we will laugh together but we will also need to search and seek God for what we should do.

As we go through this week, let's embrace the weather – whatever it is like and recognise the season we are in literally and metaphorically. Let's seek God in prayer as we discern together the direction for the churches in which we worship and the communities we serve.

God bless,
Chris



GREAT BENTLEY METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Greetings to you all

We welcome you to worship at Church or on Zoom with us during October. 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: -

October 3rd	Rev Tom Osborne Communion
	Chapel Anniversary
October 10th	Deacon Janet Jenkins
October 17th	Maggie Woods
October 24th	Maddie Whittle
October 31st	Our own leadership

Messy Church, Luncheon Club and Adventurers are awaiting to be advised about how to operate. Better be safe!

Parent & Toddlers have started again, although in a very modified form.

Coffee Mornings are back! Come and see us on Friday, 1st October. Call in between 10am and 12noon. Good conversation and various stalls.

Each week the following events are normally held at our Church.

Ring these numbers for more information.
 Messy Church once a month after school 250087
 Luncheon Club Alternate Tuesdays 12 Noon 234241
 Parent & Toddlers Group Thursdays
 9-15 a.m. 251537
 The Adventurers Club. Fridays 7 p.m. Ring 250087

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 3rd October	9.30am	Harvest Festival
1 Timothy 2.1-7: Matthew 6.25-33		
Sun 10th October	9.30am	Holy Communion
Hebrews 4. 12-end: Mark 10.17-31:		
Sun 17th October	9.30am	Holy Communion & Sunday Club
Hebrews 1-10: Mark 10.35-45		
Sun 24th October	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Holy Communion
Hebrews 7.23-end: Mark 10.46-end		
Sun 31st October	9.30am	Holy Communion
Revelations 21.1-6a: John 11.32-44.		

ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR OCTOBER

Reading Rotas

3rd	Linda Hayes
10th	Lynda McWilliams
17th	Stephanie Sadler
24th	Wendy King
31st	Chris Aplin



Prayer Rota

3rd	Wendy King
10th	Vicar
17th	Nicky Justice
24th	Carol Kerridge
31st	Vicar

Cleaning Rota

2nd	Mandy Miles & friend
9th	Nicky Justice
16th	Linda Hayes
23rd	Jennie Moss
30th	Bev Adams

FOOD BANK

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

Food required please:

Tinned vegetables: Tinned potatoes: Tinned tomatoes
 Rice (not pasta): Tinned fruit: Tinned custard and rice.
 Biscuits, cereals: coffee, sugar: All toiletries:
 Washing liquid/ powder/ washing up liquid etc:
 Toilet rolls: Kitchen rolls: Dog and cat food:

THANK YOU



Baptisms

5th September Elsie-Lou Wright
12th September Anwen Picken



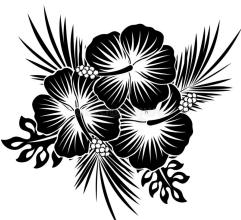
Flower Festival held in September at the Methodist Chuch

We enjoyed a wonderful weekend with beautiful displays of flowers and we had so many people glad to be able to visit us again. A huge thanks to Jackie and her team of flower arrangers and to Marion and her team who provided food and drinks all weekend. Many others helped us too-thank you to you all. The Quiz was a great success as usual. We had several Gt Bentley people who scored full marks. Marion Clementson on Saturday and John & Lucy, Alice and Alex Bell and Michelle Bee on Sunday. Our own minister. Rev Tom Osborne also scored full marks! Other prize winners came from Weeley, Clacton and Witham. We raised over £1000 for Church Funds. Thank you all for your support.

ANSWERS TO THE FLOWER FESTIVAL QUIZ 'A DREAM DESTINATION'

Adventurers Club	Losing Weight
Methodist Church	Mount Everest
Methodist Church	Camelot
Methodist Church	Death Valley
Bentley in Bloom	On the Beach
Bentley Green Ladies	Mexico
Anglican Sunday Club	To the Stars
Methodist Church	Hanging Gardens of Babylon
Methodist Church	Sydney Opera House
Methodist Church	Australia
Conservation Group	Thailand
St Mary's Bellringers	My allotment
Methodist Church	The Moon
Methodist Church	Great Barrier Reef
Methodist Church	Iceland (Fire and Ice)
Methodist Church	Neverland
Methodist Church	Hobbiton
Methodist Church	Venice
Parent & Toddlers	St Lucia
Gardening Club	Outer Space
Methodist Church	Valhalla
Methodist Church	The Amazon Jungle
Methodist Church	Hawaii
Methodist Church	Disc World (Terry Pratchett Book)

Many will have seen the word Caskets crept in and should have been Gardens. Blame the computer. Sorry. Still three people/groups got all right on Saturday and four on Sunday. Well Done!!



THANK YOU

A huge Thank you to everyone who came to the Church open afternoon on the 4th of September. £970 was raised, which will help a lot to offset the deficit that the Church has suffered during the Corona virus lockdown period. We are very lucky to live in such a supportive village and are grateful for all the stall holders who gave of their time for the afternoon, all those who donated cakes, produce and gifts and all those who came and spent money during the afternoon.

We sincerely hope that you felt welcome in the Church and will join us for our Sunday services which are now back to a more normal format with hymns being sung, Sunday Club for children and coffee, tea and chat following the service.

Our next special event will be our Harvest Festival on Sunday 3rd October when it would be lovely to see lots of people come together to give thanks for our abundance of crops around the village safely gathered in. Donations for the Food Bank will be gratefully accepted.

Nicky Justice
on behalf of St Mary's Church

A big thank you to Peter Bushby who took the lovely Flower Festival photos.

Great Bentley Tuesday Carpet Bowls Club

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

The club has had a good month with members enjoying the social exercise that they get from playing carpet bowls in a friendly non stressed atmosphere.

We are always looking for new members of any age, no playing experience is required. If you would like to join a jovial, friendly local village club come along on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm to Great Bentley Village Hall, playing lasts until 4pm with a tea break mid afternoon.

The first two weeks are free then its £2 a week towards tea and biscuits and a one off £10 membership fee which covers insurance etc.

For further details please contact the club Secretary Hilary or 01206 250969 on 07535 107335.



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

BRING THIS ADVERT ALONG FOR YOUR FIRST CLASS FREE IN OCTOBER

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



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



GREAT BROMLEY ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR

21st November

9 am – 3 pm

at Great Bromley Village Hall, Great Bromley, C07 7JA

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

Hot Food and Drinks available.

E Mail 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

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES FOR GREAT BENTLEY SHOW 2022

Creepy Crawlies

Magic Moments

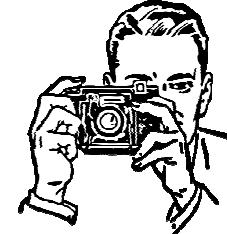
Sporting Chance

On Four Legs

East Anglian Skies

Up the Creek

Open ...



AFGHAN REFUGEE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who responded so swiftly to the flyer included in the September magazine. The porch swiftly filled up, and everything was transferred to the dining room and the photograph in the "colour supplement" shows just a selection of the goods transported to The Hub in Colchester. They were very grateful and I have to say shocked by the amount delivered in just one go. Special thanks to Dave Stevens who kindly chauffeured all of the donations in just one journey.

Some good quality children's clothes were left at church but were not being taken at The Hub and so I recently took them to some lovely ladies who organise Precious Bundles. They may be able to help you.

At the present time the appeal is closed as the centre was totally overwhelmed by kindness and donations. Apparently Essex has been one of the most successful centres, with amazing support.
Thank you everyone.

PRECIOUS BUNDLES

Needed: New and secondhand children's clothes (aged 0-5): shoes, trainers, boots and sandals (to infant size 12): bibs, muslins and towels: cotbeds, cot blankets, sheets, baby sleeping bags, toddler duvet sets: slings and baby carriers: baby bottles and sterilisers, new teats and dummies: stairgates: baby monitors: baby baths, bubble bath, baby wash, shampoo, baby lotion, wipes, cotton wool and nappy cream (all unused): nappies and nappy sacks (including open packs).

Donation points

Kingsland Church (above Aldi) 86 London Road, Colchester CO3 9DW
One Colchester Hub, 81 Culver Street (nr Primark), Colchester CO1 1 LF

Contact us: Email: preciousbundles@kingsland.org.uk

Web: www.facebook.com/PreciousBundlesColchester

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

FRIDAY 15th OCTOBER

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 **AND** marymaskell@sys3internet.net

IMPORTANT - PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO BOTH OF US

Great Bentley Website: www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME

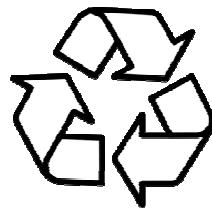
We currently take:

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

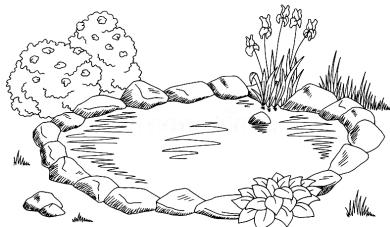
If you could help by sorting the wrappers first this would be amazing especially with COVID current restrictions this would go some way to safeguarding the spread.

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



St. Mary's Church Wildlife Garden and Pond

I was so pleased when an excited little boy said he had seen 2 froglets, one in the pond and another in the garden, must admit I got excited too. I have also seen plenty of insects, bees and quite a few butterflies using the area which means I must be doing something right to help the wildlife thrive. I know the area looks rather scruffy but there is a reason for it. The area will be cut soon and left to allow seeds to fall ready for next year and I will be partially covering the pond with a net to stop the fallen leaves fouling the water, don't worry, wildlife will still be able to access to the pond, or have other access to water.

Great Bentley school have done wonders with their wildlife area I'm so pleased for them, I wonder if they would allow me to come and have a look and maybe share some ideas. It is great to know areas large or small are being set aside to sustain our wildlife.

Mandy Miles

WELCOME & GOODBYE

Tom and Holly to Limetops,
Sturricks Lane
Dan and Laura to Plough Road

We wish Pat Steady all the best.
in her new home.



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 1st prize £100 or 2nd 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, will receive a renewal letter in the next few weeks; we thank you for your support this year, and hope this will continue.

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 or call 01206 251518

MESSAGE FROM PAT STEADY

Just to let all my friends and neighbours know that I have moved to Brightlingsea. Many thanks to Stephanie and Mandy and all who attended the Support in Loss meetings at the church, they were a great comfort at a difficult and sad time after losing my Jim.

I have lived here for sixty two years and I would like to welcome Dan and Laura to Plough Road in our village and wish them all the happiness that I have had.

Pat Steady

Wildlives

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre

'Catkins', Frating Road, Thorrington, Colchester CO7 8HT
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!](#)

Welcome to Rosa

October 2021

Welcome to Rosa, the newest Wildlives dog. She escaped the Athens fires, after being kept by an elderly man who didn't feed her, so she survived by stealing chicken food. She ended up in a shelter living in a wheelie bin (right) with food, from where she was rescued by Greek Animal Rescue and homed to Wildlives. After nearly a week long journey, she has taken some time to settle in; she was traumatised and frightened to wee, poo, eat and everything else.

However she has adjusted very quickly. She is a tad overweight, but with exercise and healthy food the weight will soon come off

Gull rescue ends happily

The RSPCA were called to a gull who had become tangled in fishing line around the primary wing feathers; the fishing line had then become caught on an overhead cable leaving him suspended by one wing. The RSPCA called the fire brigade who successfully retrieved him and he was brought to Wildlives. Although stressed, traumatised and dehydrated, miraculously there was no serious wing damage and he made a very rapid recovery.

Birds of prey not so lucky

A tawny owl was found in the middle of field by a couple out for walk and brought to Wildlives. He had a broken clavicle/coracoid (collarbone) and respiratory problems. Sadly he didn't make it; probably a fragment of the bone had damaged a lung. A kestrel was found in a garden emaciated and with a compound fracture which was not treatable, so sadly he had to be put to sleep.

Hedgehogs continue to flood in

Wildlives continues to be overrun with hedgehogs of all sizes. One had a horrendous strimmer injury across the face, and many have arrived with leg injuries or legs cut off. Sadly these have mostly been too severe and infected so that amputation was not an option. A little hoglet arrived covered in maggots and with a leg pulled right out. The wound has healed well with antibiotics and pain medication, and he is making a good recovery.

Baby Loss Awareness Week 9-15 October Remembrance Ribbon Display

A remembrance ribbon display will be at the Memorial Garden, Clacton on Sea, at the Seafrot again this year. If you or your organisation would like to sponsor a teddy or donate to the event please visit the [just giving webpage](#). Funds raised will be donated to Sands, stillbirth & neonatal death charity.

Air Ambulance Week Takes off with Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Onboard

Air Ambulance Week 2021, was 6th-12th September. Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) was onboard, celebrating and raising awareness of its life-saving work in the local community. The week is organised by Air Ambulances UK, and EHAAT is joining with the other 20 air ambulance charities around the country in a campaign called *Every Second Counts and Every Penny Matters*.

The campaign highlights how air ambulance charities such as EHAAT rapidly deliver advanced life-saving pre-hospital care directly to the side of patients with life-threatening injuries or medical emergencies; essentially bringing the A&E department to the patient when every second counts.

In 2020 EHAAT attended 2,366 life-saving missions across Essex, Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas, forming an important part of the emergency services supporting the NHS. Every penny matters as each mission costs on average around £2,200.

Because every second counts, each of EHAAT's critical care team consists of a pilot and co-pilot, a pre-hospital care doctor and a critical care paramedic, who once on scene can deliver advanced clinical care that is normally only found in the hospital emergency department. Once stabilised, the patient will be taken by air or land to the most appropriate hospital for their needs.

Natasha Robertson, Fundraising Manager at EHAAT said, "Essex & Herts Air Ambulance is calling on members of the public to do something amazing this Air Ambulance Week and donate to help us to continue to provide life-saving care. Visit www.ehaat.org/aaw21 to leave messages of support for the crew and to make a donation."

A patient that has experienced first-hand the life-saving work that EHAAT provides is Andrew Bord. Andrew was taking a shower when he blacked out and fell and had a seizure. Nobody knows if the seizure was because he banged his head, or whether his seizure began as he lost consciousness. When the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance team arrived, they quickly identified that they had to treat the large wound on Andrew's head and give him a pre-hospital anaesthetic in order to take over his breathing. This would start the process of reducing his brain injury and prevent, as best as possible, any further harm.

Once stabilised, Andrew was airlifted to a specialist hospital, The Royal London, which only took six minutes in the helicopter, whilst Emma his wife went by a blue lighted Police car which took nearly an hour. Andrew's wife Emma said: "Essex & Herts Air Ambulance is an utterly amazing service, and I am so thankful to them for saving my husband's life. I can't thank them enough for everything. The doctors on the helicopter, the speed of their work and the decisions they made were simply amazing."

Watch Andrew's story at <https://youtu.be/B8pKl8AaTK4>.

Commenting on Andrew's story Natasha said, "I am so pleased that Andy has made a speedy recovery. Andy's story is one of unfortunately many and really highlights the importance of your local air ambulance and the amazing life-saving service they provide. During Air Ambulance Week we aim to raise awareness that we are a charity and unlike NHS emergency services, we receive limited direct funding from the Government and none from the National Lottery."

"Keeping this life-saving service operational would not be possible without the generosity and goodwill of people and businesses across Essex and Hertfordshire. I would also like to thank our sponsor, Research Runner, a lead generation business based in Harlow, who is supporting us during Air Ambulance Week. If you are able to support us during the week and would like to make a donation, please visit www.ehaat.org/aaw21 because every second counts and every penny matters."

Andrew & Emma Bord
& family

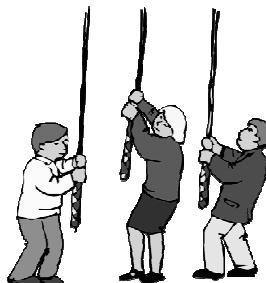
BELLRINGING NOTES

Now that we are back in swing of ringing so to speak, you will hear the bells on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings.

I have previously written about the unexpected problems posed with our return to ringing. As such, we have added an additional ringing practice on alternate Wednesday evenings so as to support other churches in the area and so as to focus our resources and available help.

We have resumed teaching, so if you would like to learn to ring and contribute to ensuring this ancient tradition continues, then please contact me on the number below.

**Roger Carey-Smith
07422 880921**



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Gt Bentley

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

A black and white line drawing of a person's head and shoulders, facing right. The person is holding a pen and appears to be writing or typing on a laptop keyboard. The laptop screen is visible but contains no legible text.

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.**



PET NOTES



Weeley
Veterinary
Centre

Covid-dependent, perhaps this October will see the return of trick and treaters to our village. Whilst this would be incredible for our children, it could also be a stressful time for our pets. Here's how you can prepare for a spooktacular Halloween....



Take care with candles and do not leave a lit one unsupervised. Risks include burns and accidental fire. You should also supervise battery operated items as these can cause big health issues if swallowed.

Open the door with caution so that pets do not escape. Often cat owners tell me they haven't got their cat microchipped because they never go outside but I recommend they give it serious consideration so that if the worst was to happen they can be reunited quickly.



If you plan on dressing your pet in a costume, try it on them in advance. Not every pet will be willing to wear one. Going slowly by adding one piece at a time and giving lots of (pet-safe) treats may increase your chance of success.



Frequent trick or treaters ringing your doorbell may be upsetting for some pets. Consider keeping them in a room away from the excitement if possible. Calming diffusers can be very helpful (e.g. Feliway for cats or Adaptil for dogs) but speak to your vet for advice on stronger options.



If you feel your dog or cat would benefit from a calming diffuser, it's a good idea to plug it in as soon as possible as it can take up to four weeks for the pheromones to build up in your home. I recommend leaving it plugged in (most will require replacement of the pheromone attachment every four weeks) until we reach January. This will provide a calming aid through Halloween, Bonfire Night, Christmas and New Year fireworks.



Keep all those yummy treats somewhere safe, i.e. not in a tub by the front door. Some sweets can make pets very poorly and others, such as chocolate, can be fatal.



Happy Halloween everyone and stay safe.

Dr April Young MRCVS

Great Bentley Parish Council

The Community Resource Centre, The Village Hall, Plough Road Great Bentley Colchester CO7 8LG
Telephone: 01206 256410 Mob: 07359 034865 e-mail: clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk
Chairman: Councillor Mrs P Dennitts Clerk to the Council: Mrs D Humphris

Council Meetings

We are pleased to announce that all our meetings are now back to normal and being held in person at The Village Hall. The Council Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month commencing at 7pm and they are always open to the public with opportunities for members of the public to address councillors about items that are on the agenda or to bring up matters they would like considered on future agendas. The agenda for each meeting is placed on the main Noticeboard next to the Plough one week before the meeting so you can easily see what is being discussed.

New Clerk

We have a new Clerk in place now who is usually available Monday – Friday 9am - 4pm. The office at the Village Hall is open Monday Tuesday and Thursday each week and if you need to contact the clerk on Wednesdays or Fridays when the office is closed you can contact her either by e-mail or on the mobile telephone number detailed above.

Planning Matters

The Planning Committee always meet first (before the Full Council) and the applications that are considered and the Council's comments can be found Tendring District Council's website – where you can also lodge your own comments on any applications submitted in the Village.

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

Speeding and Parking Issues in the Village

The most recent Full Council meeting on 2nd September was busy and the problems with speeding and parking around the centre of the Village were once again on the table for discussion, with councillors expressing frustration at the limited options available to manage this situation. Essex County Councillor Alan Goggin is organising a meeting between Essex County Council's Chief Highways Engineer and our Parish councillors to have a walk around the most problematic areas in the Village and discuss if realistically there is anything that can be done to improve things. We will, of course, report back to Villagers the outcome of this meeting and any proposals that come out of it.

Children's Play Area

We are also pleased to let everyone know that the swings and zip wire at Heckford's Road play area (which were taken away to comply with COVID restrictions) have now been re-instated and it seems many children are very happy to see these back in place. We have noted some issues with the wet pour surfaces at the bottom of the slide and on the basketball court and have placed an order for these to be fixed and will be looking at all of the surfaces in the near future to keep up to date with necessary maintenance.

Website

Thank you to everyone who has reminded us about the website recently which hasn't had anyone looking after it for a few months. The new Clerk is currently 'training' and it will be fully up to date by 30th September and will be kept up to date thereafter.

Allotments

If you have an allotment the Annual Rental Bills will be going out shortly and we are pleased to confirm that there is no increase to rent this year. Once again we are asking everyone to pay funds directly to our bank to avoid costly cash handling so, please look out for your bills and do let the Clerk know quickly if you do not want to continue with your allotment this year as we do have a small waiting list of people keenly waiting to take up an allotment. If you are interested in having an allotment, please contact the Clerk to ask for your name to be added to the Waiting List.

***Denise Humphris
Clerk to the Council***

HALLOWEEN ILLUMINATIONS

Halloween illuminations at Little Bentley woods Saturday 30th October promises to be a great event . Greg will be doing his magic with the lights and sounds. There will be the odd witch or ghost to look out for and a pumpkin walk. This year we are holding two competitions for children who are primary and secondary school age.

Best carved pumpkin so please bring along your entries and then we have a things to look out for on your way round the spooky walk!

All tickets include a hot dog or burger and soft drink for the children . There will be the opportunity to purchase some mulled Gin or maybe a glass of something else for the over 18s so please bring along some extra pennies.

We will also have a photo tent with spooky backdrops for you to take some scary photos. Dress up is optional but last year we had some fab costumes and hope to see more this year. The children will also receive a party bag. £10 adults £6 children for a fun packed spooky evening.

We are only opening this event up to local villages mainly because of parking issues so we may have to cap this event. Please phone 07772448781 for further information and ticket sales if you are interested. Thank you .

See us on Facebook LB events



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We would like to answer the comment made to the Speedwatch Team by a moron in a white van. We suspect that he does not come from the village so he may never see this, his comment was "have you nothing better to do with your time?". We can assure him that there is nothing we like better than to spend our time reporting idiots like him for speeding through our village. We have had lots of positive comments since we have restarted our presence on the roads of Great Bentley, we only stopped due to Covid 19 (a directive from the police coordinators) and the loss of our colleague Colin Legg who is sadly missed.

The Speedwatch Team



A JEWISH PRAYER FOR YOM KIPPUR

To those I may have wronged,
I ask for your forgiveness.

For those I may have helped,
I wish I could have done more.

For the many I neglected to help,
I am truly sorry.

To those who helped me,
I am deeply grateful.



Bentley Green Ladies Club

Due to the ongoing and still uncertain situation, it has been decided not to hold a meeting in October.

A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

THE QUEEN WISHED CLACTON A HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II wished Clacton a happy 150th Anniversary Birthday.

The Clacton 150 Project Team at Tendring District Council (TDC) wrote to the Queen to inform her of the occasion, and the commemorative programme of the planned events and activities. Buckingham Palace sent a response which detailed how Her Majesty had been interested to learn about the history of the town and how it developed. The letter, sent from the Loyal Greetings Officer at the Palace said: "That the Queen sends her best wishes to all concerned for a most successful and enjoyable programme of events celebrating this significant milestone in the history of Clacton-on-Sea."

COVID SUPPORT GRANTS HAVE HELPED MORE THAN 2,000 TENDRING BUSINESSES

More than £56million in Covid support grants has been given to businesses in Tendring since the start of the pandemic. Almost 2,300 companies in the district have been given more than £56 million payments by Tendring District Council, who has administered on behalf of the government's various schemes. At the same time as supporting businesses, TDC has also prevented payments totaling more than £800,000 going to firms whose claims were not eligible or even fraudulent.

ALRESFORD VILLAGE VOTES IN FAVOUR OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A neighbourhood plan is a blueprint to shape planning policy within a local area to allow residents to directly shape where they live and work for the future. Alresford's draft neighbourhood plan, prepared by the parish council, had already been through several stages of consultation, and been found sound by an independent Planning Inspector following an examination hearing. On Thursday 9th September the village went to the polls. 483 votes were cast in favour of the plan, with 18 votes against, meaning the document was backed by 96% of those who turned out to vote. A majority was required to proceed with the plan, and the result means the Alresford Neighbourhood Plan will now go to Tendring District Council's Cabinet for ratification and formal adoption.

TENDRING OFFERS SUPPORT TO AFGHAN INTERPRETERS SEEKING REFUGE IN THE UK

Afghan interpreters who supported our British Armed Forces are being offered help in Tendring.

When withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan was announced, it allowed Afghan interpreters and other staff, and their immediate family who supported the Army to relocate to Britain, for fear they may suffer reprisals. The Government announced plans to offer 20,000 refugees' relocation in the long-term, with 5,000 this year. Tendring residents have welcomed the refugees, with private landlords coming forward to offer accommodation. Tendring District Council (TDC) has recently housed two families in the district, as well as others under previous government schemes, and is looking at other ways it can support more Afghan refugees.

COUNCIL SHOWED SUPPORT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency Services 999 Day was marked in Tendring with the flying of a special flag on the 9th September at TDC's Clacton Town Hall offices to recognise the contribution made by the emergency services: Police, Fire, Ambulance and Coastguard. Also, the voluntary emergency responders, such as the RNLI, St John Ambulance, Coastguard, First Responders and Special Constables, were also recognised.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF TWO OF TENDRING'S SPORTS CENTRES

Both users and non-users of Brightlingsea and Harwich Sports Centres are being asked to share their opinions on the Tendring District Council run facilities to shape them going forward. The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism, Cllr Alex Porter is highlighting the importance of fitness and activity relating to Health and Wellbeing, and how these two sports centres are part of, as he says, "that mix". There is the need to provide residents with what they actually need in the right places. It is hoped that this consultation with the information received from those who use the sites, and those who do not use the sites with their reasons why, will give a focus on the need to then be able to shape services going forward and decisions on future investment. The consultation runs until 24 October. To have your say visit

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council/consultation-contact-and-complaints/consultation> or fill out a form at one of the sports centres.

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

Tel. No. 01206 250732

cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk

Mobile 07564 613603



NATURE NOTES

Further to my recent article about old orchards and their diverse wildlife I have hosted three moth surveys in my orchard. The first in July started at dusk and continued until after midnight with two mercury vapour lamps resting on white sheets with carton egg trays for the insects to settle on. Nowadays moths are not collected as formerly but identified and recorded and sometimes photographed before being released. The two further sessions involved leaving the lamps on over one night in August and a month later on September 13-14th to see the changes in variety as the seasons proceed and peak passes.

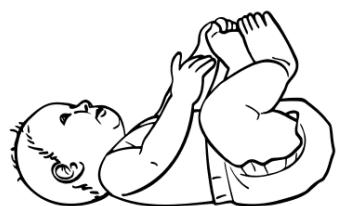
As well as moths, other insects were attracted to the light – notably beetles, shield bugs, flies, caddis flies and the occasional hornet. On the most recent session daddy longlegs were also prominent. Sometimes bats swoop over, attracted by the congregation of insect life and feeding opportunity. Compared with day-flying butterflies mostly nocturnal moths are less appreciated although with a much wider range of species - from large hawk moths to micros - the latter often only with Latin names. But the quaint English names of the macro-lepidoptera such as Burnished brass, Ruby tiger, Oak eggar, Dingy and Pink Footman, Lunar underwing and variety of Wainscots are just a small sample of the exotic rollcall made at the evening session or at first light checking the overnight hauls. The last and most recent, though with reduced range of only some 40 species nonetheless had over 350 Hebrew Characters – so named because of their text-like markings. The August all-night session produced over 70 species but not such a large aggregation of one species. Moth biodiversity focuses on the number of species but also the frequency. The loss of sheer biomass of insects in recent times is a matter of concern indicating environmental degradation.

So, it was all the more important to appreciate what turned up on our moth nights. The variation of shape, marking and colour, often in combinations of subtlest difference stand out to the expert eye. However, to anyone once seen spectacular moths such as the Elephant hawk are not easily forgotten with their size and powdery pinks and lime green. The caterpillar's resemblance to an elephant's trunk give the species its name. During the last eighteen months small outdoor mothings sessions have been among the few wildlife activities when more organised EWT gatherings were not possible. A myriad display of moth and other pictures taken are on the Tendring EWT Local Group community Facebook page.

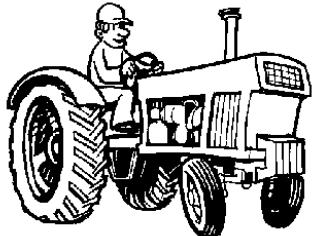
I have just found a poem written some while ago and it seemed timely to add it in to the magazine as the gentleman (sadly no longer with us) who penned it, would have been the grandfather of a baby girl recently baptised.

Matthews Day

Ten to two, wifes awake, complaining of a tummy ache
Back hurts too, and it's sure to say, that once again we're on our way.
Phone maternity, ask for Joyce, comfort comes from gentle voice.
"Be with you soon - about 3.15" - must make sure the house is clean.
Kettle's on, time to brew, and a glass of water for our Jo too.
Lots of pacing around the room, Jo hopes it will be over soon.
To lose this sleep, it can be hell, but so far I am coping well.
Half past 3, Omission seen, we haven't got a 'tens' machine.
This poses no problem at all, they've got one at the hospital.
So in my car I jump with haste, and down to Clacton Hospital I race.
As I arrived I expected to see, Adrienne Richer waiting for me.
But alas, not so, when I got there reception desk was completely bare.
Got machine from night porter, drove back through the wind and water.
Three cars I passed on the way. More expectant father pray?
Now half past 4, machine in place, still no change on poor Jo's face.
Cannot seem to quell the pain, constant shouts of "never again"
Daniel still remains in bed, preparing for the day ahead.
Should be fun to see his face, when he sees what's taking place.
Kettle on again, another cup, must keep caffeine level up.
Keeping active for o' sake, must make sure I stay awake.
Five o'clock things liven up, Jo is going into 'pup'
Gas and air, it's all a haze, reminds me of my Guinness days.
Half past six a very proud mother produces Daniel a little brother.
Matthew Jack is his name, and looks like Daniel just the same.
Well, all in all a hectic night, and everything turned out alright.
Now finally Jo'll go beserk, but I really must get off to work.



FARMING DIARIES



With the little rain we have had in the Tendring Hundred (this is where I jinx it) you may notice that many farmers have delayed drilling winter cereal crops. Their concern is that the seed would start to germinate with the roots (the radicle) emerging from the seed first followed by the coleoptile also known as the shoot and that a lack of moisture in the soil would result in the seed shrivelling and dying. If adequate moisture is present the seed will germinate and begin to establish well.

Sugar beet is a root crop, which is drilled in March and is not harvested until October but it can stay in the ground until January. Sugar beet is lifted from the ground and sometimes stored temporarily in heaps before being loaded into lorries and transported to a factory for processing. The closest factory which processes sugar beet is at Bury St Edmunds and can be seen from the A14. Here the sugar beet is analysed for its sugar content and then processed into a wide variety of products including granulated sugar, icing sugar and jam sugar. When you go to the shops look out for 'Silverspoon' sugar products as the sugar in these will have come from sugar beet grown in East Anglia and in particular some of the farmers in Great Bentley and the surrounding area.

Within the local area many farmers carry out a good amount of environmental work on their farms. Habitats have been created, thousands of metres of hedgerows have been planted this year, areas of fields have been left for environmental benefit and supplementary feeding of birds occurs. Many of these areas wouldn't be able to be seen from footpaths and this has a benefit because they are not being disturbed by the public thus enabling wildlife to thrive. On farmland locally there are many skylarks, a pair of turtle doves, little owls, lapwings, several buzzards, kestrels, hedgehogs, and numerous hares along with hedgerow birds such as blue tits, great tits, robins, black birds, starlings. Having mixed farms like here in the village is great benefit for smaller birds who feed on the insects found in muck heaps.

Whilst a lot of environmental work is being carried out and maintained currently, more can always be done on farms. Simple improvements can also be made in people's gardens – growing bee friendly plants, providing habitats for birds, feeding and leaving water out for birds and other wildlife, creating hedgehog highways, not paving or decking over large areas and even by simply leaving an area of the garden to go wild will attract and help sustain wildlife.

Vicki Brooks

WAITING LIST OF ADVERTISERS

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delafitness@outlook.com Bootcamp runs Sundays at 10am on the green, lasts around 45mins. £6 per person. All abilities welcome!

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I am a passionate, friendly and hardworking individual who loves working with animals. I am trustworthy, offering a range of pet services. Relevant insurance. DBS checked. Rates with both regular bookings and one offs welcome. Free meet and greet. 07909 608366
<https://emscompanioncare.wixsite.com/website>

We welcome Aaron, Window Cleaner, see p. L.

During November I will be sorting the advertisements for 2022. Full details next month.
ED

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 2

(ko 3.00pm unless stated)

Sat Aug 7 th	Thorpe Athletic	home	D 2 - 2
Sat Aug 14 th	Fifteen Degrees	home	W 6- 1
Sat Aug 21st	Brightlingsea Town	home	L 1-4
Sat Aug 28 th	Rowhedge	away	L 2 - 3
Sat Sept 4 th	Boxted Rovers	home	W 4 - 2
Sat Sept 11 th	Hedingham Utd	away	W 2 - 0
Sat Sept 18 th	Tiptree Jovserve Res	away	
Sat Sept 25 th	Gosfield	home	
			Essex Junior Cup 2.30pm



Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 4

(ko 3. 00pm unless stated)

Sat Sept 4 th	FC Clacton A	home	L 1 - 3
Sat Sept 11 th	Boxted Rovers Res	home	W 1 - 0
Sat Sept 18 th	Gosfield Utd Res	home	
Sat Sept 25 th	Ramsey & Mistley Res	away	
Sat Oct 2 nd	Abbey Fields	away	

Several GB club members joined with members of Clacton Golf Club and other Great Bentley parishioners to line the green on the morning of 24th Aug to pay their respects to the funeral cortege of Richard (Rigger) Morton as it made its way to St Mary's. Rigger had been a life long supporter of GB football club and was club patron.

Long time club stalwarts Richie Herbert and Sam Proctor have joined the committee this season. Ritchie had been running the reserves for many years and will continue to assist the club in many ways. Sam has taken on the role of providing media information etc on Twitter, Facebook etc. Utilising her marketing skills gained from her day job.

Saturday 21st August, the 1st team hosted Brightlingsea Town on the green. Brightlingsea fielded 4 of our previous seasons 1st team and had started the season unbeaten, scoring 21 goals and only conceding 1 in the previous 2 games.

GB made a great start with Tom Gray scoring from a corner in the first 5 minutes. Brightlingsea then slowly got into the game and started to dominate, ultimately winning 4 – 1.

The following week. The 1st team lost 2 – 3 away at Rowhedge. A disappointing display from GB until player/manager Jack "muzza" Murray came on as substitute in the second half, organised the defence and started getting GB back into the game building from the back. However the ball would just not go in the net. Away at Boxted. GB got off to a good start and dominated the entire game. Young "superstar" Harvey Evans scored a hat-trick in the 4 – 2 win. With Joe Hurd adding another goal as he gets ever closer to scoring 100 goals for GB.

Although bottom of the league, a trip to Hedingham is never an easy game. GB took all 3 points, with coach Lee Barrett scoring a goal in each half. Once again goalkeeper Jake Allwood had to make an outstanding save to keep us ahead early in the first half.

The reserves playing in division 4, did not start league matches until September. Hosting FC Clacton 'A' on the green. The Clacton 'A' team contained a lot of the youth set up at Rush Green and as the game progressed, the younger legs started to dominate and ultimately won 3 – 1.

Sat Sept 11 at home again, the reserves beat Boxted reserves 1 – 0. Mark "Grids" Griddley scoring the only goal.

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



You may be thinking of winterising the mower, although possibly less likely as grass grows most months of the year but be aware that the new variant of unleaded fuel E10, which came to our forecourts in September, rather than E5, has more ethanol and is more likely to be more corrosive if left to become stale in your machinery. It has an extremely short shelf life, with many not recommending it for garden machinery even if that machinery is deemed to be E10 compatible. There has been some press coverage of an additive that extends its useable life but this will only work on freshly purchased fuel. The general advice seems to be to continue using regular unleaded petrol, where you can get it. Hopefully more and better information will be issued soon.

We should see some warm and sunny weather this month and the warmth of autumn sunshine lifts the spirits and makes the gardening all the more pleasurable. After sorting all your borders, hedges and shrubs there are plenty of other tasks to prepare for next year. Traditionally it is the time to lift, split and replant rhubarb where it has been in position for some years. Also, you still have time for autumn sown garlic, onions and broad beans, which can be planted or sown as late as mid-November.

It is time to replace summer bedding with winter bedding and bulbs. Our many pots of summer geraniums are lifted, still in flower, and it can be a difficult decision to compost them. On balance it is better not to defer the work as it is preferable to allow the new planting to establish in reasonable weather conditions. You can cut the geraniums back, pot them up and over winter them in a greenhouse to reuse or take cuttings in spring. We prefer the simplicity these days of ordering plug plants to grow on in the spring! We replace them with winter pansies and bulbs.

As soil, beds and borders are cleared, fork them over and remember to weed them periodically as some weeds now grow all year. Don't forget to leave some protection for less hardy perennials, such as penstemons. It is generally the root area of plants that need protection and a garden mulch will help. Too much water followed by a big freeze is when roots are at their most vulnerable. The mulch can be soft compostable garden cuttings not yet composted, cut up small and wetted down a bit if necessary to save them being blown away. Save your main compost, with all its nutrients, for a good feed in spring.

Whether or not you are an active gardener it should be a good month to see the autumn colours changing on trees. Collect up excess leaves as they fall. Some can be left to protect borders. Collected and stored they will eventually rot down to create leaf mould. Nowadays we store them in black bags, rubble sacks from DIY stores are cheap and last longer than many bin liners and can be reused. On lawns the mower is a useful tool for picking up the leaves as the shredding helps decomposition. Leaf blowers are useful, or as we tend to do, wait for a good autumn wind to heap them up for you and get out and pick up a bag or two at a time. Leaves never all fall at once so as with many things little and often can be the most efficient way.

A.O.

ST MARY'S CHURCH - GREAT BENTLEY

Taken from History of Great Bentley by L.G. Newman

The Church of St Mary is a building of Red sandstone, with iron ore. Originally Norman, it is now partly Decorated style, and consists of Chancel and nave and an embattled tower at the West end, containing eight bells. The Chancel retains two niches at the East end. On the Southside is a priests' door-way. In the Porch are the remains of a stoup; a part of the old staircase in the rood loft is still in existence. On the South side of the nave is a very fine specimen of a Norman Arch in a good state of preservation. Five of the windows are also Norman, three early English and two perpendicular. The Church was restored in 1874 at a cost of £800. A new organ was provided and a ringing chamber constructed in 1897 at a cost of £212, and in 1904 the ceiling of the nave was restored costing £240.

There are three hundred sittings. The register dates from the year 1558, but entries were mixed until 1620, when marriages were separated, the burials not being individually kept until 1652.

The living is a Vicarage, net yearly value £375 with residence.

There used to be a De Vere Star set in the floor of the Great Bentley Church, near the Altar, but that was before our time.

The little window which used to be called the Lepers' window, was put in the Church many years ago at the expense of a Lady of the congregation to enable her to see from her home the Church lights at evensong, because infirmity prevented her attendance at service.

The Churchyard was extended in 1924, the new portion which was taken from Hall Field, being consecrated by the Bishop of Colchester.



MORE ABOUT GETTING TO KNOW NEIGHBOURS

Having broken the ice with our Gibraltan neighbours at the Essex Jamboree 2000 we had a wonderful week. Jamborees are very busy and from morning till late at night there is always something for the young people to see or do.

The daytime activities are allocated in rotation to the Sub camps. This means all the young people are able to try something if they wish. There is a big craft tent and crafts can include making a woggle, corn dollie making or tie dying to name but a few. The more adventurous activities included stilt walking, wall climbing, sailing and many more. The week we were there sailing was chosen by the majority of the scouts and guides.

They all went by coach to, yes you have guessed, Brightlingsea. The scouters went with them and by all accounts they had a great time. I never really found out if the guides from Brightlingsea were embarrassed or proud to show off their home town, as there was a mixed response when asked.

In the meantime a mysterious tent arrived on our site. A small silver dome tent arrived over night and was inhabited by an Alien. The alien was surrounded by metal tent pegs. You know how metal tent pegs are always getting lost, well we found out who had them. News of this arrival was leaked to the camp press and they came and took a photo. 'It can't be Sirius (serious)' was the caption under the photograph in the camp newspaper.

On a more serious note (Sirius) the Gibraltan scout camp had a visit form the World Chief Scout one afternoon. He came to present some of the scouts with their Queen's Scout and Chief Scout awards. We were pleased to watch this ceremony, especially when he gave us a wave. I can't remember his name but he was the one in a kilt.

In the evenings the young people either went to discos or the pictures. Some went for extra food and sat and chatted. We set a curfew time for them to return to camp. They were very good with the time keeping because if they were late they could not go out the next night. One day Joe the scout leader said the boys could not go out that evening. They were very upset and pleaded with the guides to get him to change his mind "You can't be serious Joe" as (Sirius) said to him so many times that he relented and the boys were able to go out for the evening.

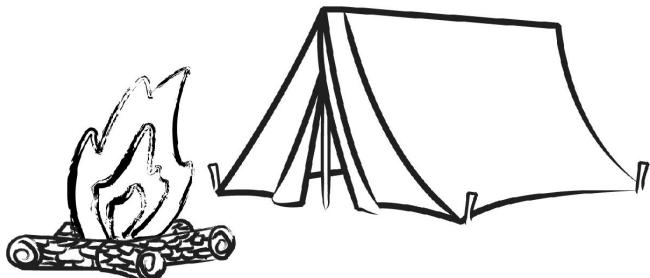
On the last night after the closing ceremony we leaders went for a farewell drink. We notified security where we were going to be, so if we were needed they could find us. We said we would be back before the young people.

The catchphrase of the week "You can't be serious' (Sirius) was repeated several times by me and my fellow leaders, when Joe and Ian invited us to go for a week in Gibraltar. We were really taken aback but they meant it and started talking about what we would be able to see and do. Email address and phone numbers were exchanged and we promised to keep in touch. Joe and Ian said they would be leaving very early in the morning and not to worry about getting up to say goodbye.

However the guides had other ideas. When a very subdued group arrived back that night they said they wanted to get up early and say farewell to our neighbours. We set the alarm clocks for 6am and we were all up, dressed and armed with tissues by the time the scouts were ready to leave. There were lots of photos taken, including a joint group one. With lots of hugs and goodbyes the scouts and their leaders left.

We put the kettle on and discussed the plan for striking camp. We had just started our coffee when Ian, one of the Scouters came running over. He asked if we had seen Tyrone. A head count when they went to board the coach to the airport revealed he was missing. A search of our camp found him hiding in a patrol tent. He still had his rucksack on and just didn't want to go home. Ian told him he would be able to see the guides soon when they came to visit him in Gibraltar. Yes we did all meet again in Gibraltar. That's another adventure that happened with our Jamboree neighbours.

Barbara Fookes



SESAW NEWS

Credit where it's due, that bumptious Chihuahua has acknowledged that, as a fine example of the species, I am presenting our October news because the 27th is National Black Cat Day.

There are many other celebrations of creatures throughout the year including the Hedgehog Awareness Week in May but they need our help all the time, particularly during Guy Fawkes preparations. Please take great care to check for the little chaps under the bonfire BEFORE you set light to it.

This has been a bad year for fly strike with hedgehogs suffering horribly. Should you come across a hedgehog, particularly in daylight hours, please do not leave it for several days. Take it to a hedgehog rescue or bring it to SESAW immediately. Advance apologies to those with a sensitive stomach but so many arrivals have been unfurled to reveal maggots eating them alive. The prickly little chaps are now classified as vulnerable on the Mammal Society's Red List

If "The Truth is Out There" stirs your imagination, an Autumn Charity Talk about UFO's by author Neil Nixon should interest you. The event takes place at Plough Corner Community Centre, Harwich Road, Little Clacton, CO16 9ND, 7.30pm on Saturday 16th October. Tickets £6 (concessions £2.50) from Susan Vouuden on 01255 813511.

Whilst on the subject of the unexplained, don't forget to keep your black cats safe and your dogs calm as we approach Halloween and the firework season. Which reminds me, it's time to evade Mother's efforts to keep me in at nightfall so that's all from me, Ollie (the Black Cat).

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Reg.Charity No.1124029. Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.
01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk

Shoebox Appeal

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Since 1990, more than 186 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.



Filled boxes, loose items to be included in boxes and donations can all be left at the back of St Mary's Church.

There are boxes at the back of the church if you would like to take and fill one.

Suggested items to include: A toy, a deflated ball and pump, a toy truck, doll or a musical instrument. Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc. Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel. Hat, gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, socks, T-shirt, flip-flops, hair accessories, jewellery set, watch, wind-up torch etc.

You could also include a card or photo from your family to add a personal touch.

DO NOT INCLUDE

Toothpaste, sweets, **lotions and liquids**; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

A suggested donation of £5 for each shoebox you fill is essential for the project. It covers: collection, processing, shipping, training and support for local churches where the shoeboxes will be distributed.

Collection at St Marys at the latest Sunday 7th November at the 9.30 service. Thank you everyone.

CRICKET CLUB

What a wonderful evening on Friday 3 September for our Colts Awards Evening – the sun shone at last for us. Happy children, BBQ and awards.

Alex Youngs, Head Coach, along with his team of Henry Fairbanks, Lee Barrett, Michael Giles, Mike Bourgoyne, Ian Morton, Darren King awarded the below:

Cricket All Stars Awards 2021:

Freddie Pope, Freddie Hood, Aimee Robinson, Zack Goodier, James Edwards, Jack Fairbanks, Isla Lancaster, Ella Wright

We ran three age groups jointly with Great Bromley Cricket Club

U11's

Jodie Black - Fielding / Attitude
Harry Batts - Batting
Harsh - Coaches + Watch
James Whitehead - Bowling

U13's

James Blacker - Batting
Jess King - Bowling
Hayden - Fielding
Alf Youngs - Coaches

U15's

Ed Kerridge - Coaches
Lily Wainer - Bowling
Brandon - Fielding
Issac – Batting



Our AGM will be held on 8 November 2021 @7.30pm, please contact us if you want to attend.
Peter Giles peter.giles@uwclub.net or Carol Kerridge: 07748 802690 kerridgecarol@gmail.com

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. Do you have an amusing / sad / historical reason or memory for naming your house?

Tharrics Lea

The current owners and baby son live in Tharrics Lea, which was built in 1969. The name is an anagram of the original owners' names Charles and Rita. When we purchased the house six years ago, we enquired about the name and found that not only were these the names of the original owners, but the subsequent owners were Rita and Alan, Alan's middle name also being Charles! When we purchased the house from Rita and Alan, we decided to keep the name because we loved the story so much and the history it tells. We are not called Charles or Rita, but who knows, maybe there will be others in the house's future.

Caldew Cottage

When we first moved to Caldew Cottage it was a single storey, asbestos cement building with the joints covered by black strips of wood. It was originally built for Mrs McKenzie (of smelling salts fame, Mrs Fookes informed me). Mrs McKenzie was the mother of Marjorie, the wife of Dr Frank Atthill and I believe it was more of a holiday retreat for her. It was named Caldew Cottage as the money to build it was left to her by her Uncle who lived in Cumbria and I guess somewhere near the river Caldew. We lived in the little cottage for 10 years before pulling it down and rebuilding the present house.

I have to add here that we bought the original property from the husband of a lady I taught with at Brightlingsea Infants school. After Ivan and Trevor had shaken hands to seal the deal at £21,000, Trevor was offered £3,500 more than any amount we had agreed, by a local builder. His reply,

"I've shaken hands and its sold". Forever grateful to a real gentleman. Wonder how many people would keep their word like that today?

Mary Maskell



Great Bentley Pre-school
www.greatbentleypreschool.co.uk
information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk



What a wonderful first few weeks we have all had, it's been busy welcoming all the new children and older children, they have all done so well. The older children have been great little role models and the new children are all settling well as they explore and become familiar with this new environment.

This month I would like to welcome Arlen, Lotan, Robin, Armani and Jack who all begin with us this month. I hope you all 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 all as families as you start this new journey with your child, we all look forward to working with you all over the coming terms.

Autism Coffee Morning

We have arranged for our first coffee morning of this term to be held on Thursday 7th October at 9:30. 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.

Hope everyone enjoys the half term break and any Halloween festivities.

Thanks for reading

Julie Wiles



NATIONWIDE DIGITAL CHURCHYARD MAPPING PROJECT BEGINS

The first of 19,000 churchyards has been surveyed as part of a Church of England project to create a free digital map of every grave and feature in every churchyard in the country.

The ancient church of St Bega on the shores of lake Bassenthwaite in the Diocese of Carlisle is the first churchyard to be scanned by surveyors using sophisticated laser equipment, as part of the national programme.

A new website will go online next year giving free access to the map which is expected to be of special interest to local community groups, conservationists, and those researching family history. The website will also enable the charting of biodiversity and green technology.

The Church of England has partnered with Cumbrian-based surveying company Atlantic Geomatics who will use back-pack mounted laser scanners to quickly and accurately map churchyards. They will also photograph all the visible headstones.

There are around 19,000 Anglican burial grounds in England, and the ambitious scheme will aim to digitally survey the majority over the coming seven years. Data on burials will be combined with other information, such as the National Biodiversity Network Atlas, to present the most complete picture of churchyards to date.

The project will come at no cost to parishes or dioceses in the Church of England and parishes will have free access to the map through a new web-based record system which is set to launch in Spring 2022. There will also be the option to subscribe to additional services.

Substantial funding for the programme has been given by Historic England with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Caring for God's Acre supporting the pilot phase as well as support from genealogy research websites, all of which has allowed the basic service to be made available to parishes free of charge.

Use of the latest surveying equipment and bespoke software built by Atlantic Geomatics has made the national scale survey a possibility for the first time. Operatives will aim to survey around nine or ten sites a day using back-pack mounted laser scanning equipment. GPS and cameras. Taking tens of thousands of measurements every second the surveyors will then process the data to create accurate maps of each churchyard.

Bishop Andrew Rumsey, who is a lead Bishop for church buildings said: "This impressive national project will make a huge difference to those researching family history, as well as easing the administrative burden on parishes.

"It will improve management of burial grounds, and make information more fully accessible than ever before, supported by additional services by subscription for those wishing to go further.

"It will soon be possible to visit almost any Anglican burial ground in the country and see in real time the location of burial plots. For those researching at distance in the UK or overseas, the digital records will place detailed information from churchyards at their fingertips."

Church by church, and diocese by diocese, it is hoped that the all Anglican churchyards will be surveyed over the next seven years. As well as capturing details of burials, the online interactive map will detail biodiversity in churchyards, including ancient trees and plant-life, as well as green technology such as solar panels.



Surgery News

London Marathon

Jo Tyrrel, one of our Practice Nurses was due to run the Virgin London Marathon last year but because of the pandemic this was cancelled. I am really happy to let you know that all Jo's training and hard work has not gone to waste as she will now be running 26.2 miles in the London Marathon on Sunday, 3 October 2021.

Jo is raising money for two very good causes – Diabetes UK and Addison's disease. If you would like to support her and help to raise money for these very worthy charities you can sponsor her by visiting her just giving page below:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JoanneTyrrel>

The whole Surgery Team wish Jo the very best of luck with her Marathon run.

Update on the Flu Vaccination Clinics



Since I wrote the September Newsletter we have been advised that there may be a delay of up to two weeks in receiving deliveries of our flu vaccination. At the time of writing this Newsletter in mid-September we are still waiting for confirmation of our delivery dates, but I can assure you that patients will be invited for their vaccinations once we have received this information.

Update on Covid-19 Booster Vaccinations

We have just received confirmation that patients in the following co-horts will be invited for a COVID-19 booster:-

- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 50 years or over
- frontline health and social care workers
- all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 and adult carers
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

Details of how the boosters will be administered are still being finalised. **Can we please ask that patients do not contact the Surgery about this as they will be invited in Group order to book their vaccination.**

Patient Participation Group

At the time of writing the Newsletter there isn't a Patient Participation Group meeting planned in October.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE SHOW

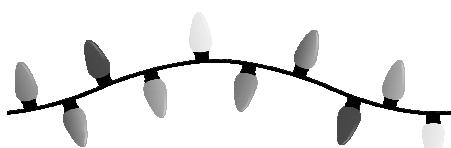
The AGM will be held on Thursday 21st October at 7.30pm in the Mitchell Room, Village Hall

We are looking for new committee members
so please come along or if you would like to find out more about the show please call Jackie Plummer on 01206 250158

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

will be held on Sunday 28th November

Details to follow next month



TENDRING PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME

I hope this finds you all well and that you have successfully now eased your way back into the old routine following the summer break.

Here in the Tendring Primary Recycle Scheme our work continues as ever and this month I have both some good news and bad news for you

The bad news is that unfortunately the very popular Pet Food Scheme is being closed by the scheme sponsor (Mars) in November, which we are hugely disappointed to have to tell you about. We will need to receive all of your pet food recycling donations by 1st November, in order for us to submit same on time, but please check either our website or Facebook page for the availability of your local drop-off point before attempting to drop-off. If you do not have any internet access, you can also contact us via our usual numbers of 07808239141 or 07956411166, and as always, we will be more than happy to help.

On the plus side, the good news is that Warburtons have recently launched two new recycling schemes, through which we are now able to take all of the bakery packaging which we have previously been unable to take within the popular Bread Bag Scheme.

The accepted waste on these programmes is:

- Warburtons waxed bread wrappers
- Bread bag tags / ties (rigid or flexible)
- Any plastic bread packaging, including the crinkly type
- Any plastic bakery packaging e.g.
 - Wrappers
 - Zipped bags
 - Plastic trays for things such as cakes, croissants and donuts – please ensure these are clean

As mentioned, the beauty of this programme is that it will now allow us to save wrappers such as those from pitta packaging, wraps, bagels, muffins, crumpets and teacakes from landfill, along with much bigger items such as the plastic trays as well for the first time. And all whilst raising charitable funds as well!

We suspect this will be an extremely popular scheme, so please add it to your list and start saving your bakery items for us today!

Thank you as always for your continued support.

June Barker

Children's Page

HALLOWEEN

Spot the twelve differences





COOKERY CORNER

GAME DISHES FOR COOLER NIGHTS

The name given by the Anglo-Saxons for October was Winterfylleth, the month of "winter" and "full moon", because winter was said to begin from the first full moon following the Harvest Moon.

When the harvest was over, and the next full moon appeared, communities would turn to hunting for the last time until the spring to provide food for the winter months to fill their larders and find comfort during the dark and cold ahead. This full moon was called the Hunter's Moon, a special lunar event that falls between October and November, and is one of the only two full moons, along with the Harvest Moon, that are not connected to a specific month. This year's Hunter's Moon will appear on October 20th for most of the world and should be worth watching out for, if only to impress your pals with your superior knowledge. The people of those early times would have hunted many creatures, but this would have necessitated great skill and patience and much time and danger, and possibly lengthy journeys. Happily for most of us the nearest source for stocking the larder is much nearer and hopefully less dangerous. Pigeon, rabbit, deer and pheasant would have been plentiful, as they still are now, especially during autumn time. As children living in the countryside during the 1940s and 50s the first two featured highly in our diets, and would regularly be found hanging in the butcher's window, along with a brace of pheasants. These recipes serve four people.

GINGERY PHEASANT WITH MUSHROOMS

The ginger wine will give a gentle bite and warmth to this casserole. Pheasant is normally sold as a brace or a pair, namely a cock and a hen.

2 pheasants plucked and cleaned	110g smoked streaky bacon	30g butter
350g small mixed mushrooms	1 onion	4tbsp ginger wine
1 dessertspoon fresh or ¾ tsp dried tarragon	250ml game or chicken stock	
salt and pepper and plain flour	2 cloves of garlic	olive oil lemon peel

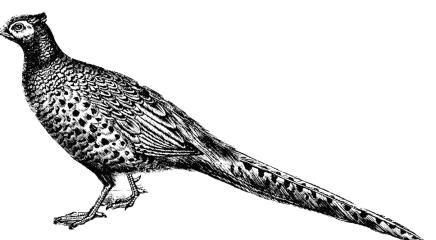
Preheat the oven to 150 degrees. Dice the bacon and peel and slice the onion and garlic finely before frying gently with a little olive oil in a large casserole dish until the onion is very soft but not coloured. Roll the whole pheasants in seasoned flour, then add them to the pan and cook on high for five minutes on either side to brown. Pour in the ginger wine and allow to bubble for a couple of minutes. Cut the mushrooms in half and surround the pheasants. Add the tarragon and a little seasoning and two strips of lemon rind. Finally pour in the stock. Cover and transfer to the preheated oven and cook for one and a half to two hours, depending on the size of the birds. They are ready when the leg falls away easily from the breast. Carve and serve with mashed potato and a green veg.

AUTUMN RABBIT

This is an underestimated meat. It is lean, cheap and tasty, although it must be admitted that the taste is distinctive.

1kg rabbit	170g shallots	250 ml real ale such as Bishop's Finger	4 juniper berries
30g butter	½ tsp English mustard	1tsp brown sugar	1tbsp olive oil
175ml double cream			

Buy a rabbit which has been jointed into pieces on the bone. Heat 20g of the butter and half the oil in a pan large enough to take all the rabbit pieces and fry a few minutes on either side to seal the meat. Remove the pieces and set to one side. Peel the shallots and chop them finely, before frying them over a gentle heat in the remaining butter and olive oil for five minutes, until soft but not browned. Return the rabbit to the pan, add some seasoning, the mustard, juniper berries and sugar and then pour in the beer. Turn the heat up and bring to the boil, stirring well. Turn the heat down to a simmer, cover and leave to cook for thirty minutes, turning the rabbit a few times during the process. Remove the lid, stir in the cream, turn up the heat to bring it back to the boil and keep boiling for about five minutes to reduce the sauce to your liking. You could top the dish with apple slices fried in butter and serve with boiled new potatoes. **M.E.**





POTLUCK FOR OCTOBER

1. Which couple have together won 12 gold & 3 silver Olympic medals?
 2. In which German city does the 'Oktoberfest' take place?
 3. Which TV soap is set in 'Weatherfield'? ?
 4. Which actor plays the young Morse in the TV series 'Endeavour'?
 5. Which author wrote 'War Horse'?
 6. What type of fruit are 'comice' and 'concorde'?
 7. Oenology (or Onology) is the science of making what?
 8. Which characters from Greek mythology had snakes for hair?
 9. Who is Tomasz Schafernaker?
 10. Which U.S. city is known as the 'Big Easy'?
 11. Ophidiophobia is a fear of which creatures?
 12. Which Australian state is an island?
 13. Which U.S. city is served by O'Hare airport?
 14. Which famous England cricketer died in August 21 aged 86?
 15. What do Bettany Hughes & Mary Beard have in common?
 16. How is the River Thames known as it flows through Oxford?
 17. Who is the new host of Channel 4's 'Countdown'?
 18.and who is the new question master on BBC's 'Mastermind'?
 19. In the Chinese Zodiac, which animal represents 2021?
 20. In which Asian country is the ringgit the currency?

1.Jason & Laura Kenny 2.Munich 3.Coronation Street 4.Shawn Evans 5.Michael Morpurgo 6.pears 7.wine 8.Gorgons 9.TV weatherman 10.New Orleans 11.snakes 12.Tasmania 13.Chicago 14.Ted Dexter 15.Classical historians/broadcasters 16.lisis 17.Anne Robinson 18.Clive Myrie 19.Ox 20.Malaysia



GREAT BENTLEY RUNNING CLUB

2021 is rushing past but at least we have had a brief spell of sunshine and warmth as we head towards autumn! It has been a busy month for everyone as races come back into the calendar and our own Mickey Edwards series running through August. It has been great to see lots of club members out and racing around the lanes in Great Bentley. There were some superb performances and some excellent times recorded, well done to Martin Cotton who came in 2nd overall in the series improving his time from 29:14 at the start to an impressive fastest time of 25:33 recorded.

The final round of the Trail Series is now live too – this one at Copford and is about 6 miles. I've really enjoyed the trail series again this year with some really nice courses set out by Rodger. I'm looking forward to this final one and bagging my 'I did them all 2021' t-shirt to go with the one I collected for last year. So looking forward to Cross Country season this will kick off with the Essex Cross Country relay which is taking place on the 2nd October in Brentwood. The NESS Cross Country league is back again this year and the provisional race dates have been pencilled in starting with Springfield on the 7th November, Halstead on the 28th November, our own race on the 12th December, Harwich on the 30th January and Hadleigh on the 20th February, the Colchester one is still to have an agreed date. Now our race will hopefully be at Hilly Fields again, we are in contact with the ranger and the school as we try and tie things down to use that venue again. I know the other clubs are also looking at confirming their race venues which is now slightly more tricky following COVID as all these places are looking at how events can be run on them and safely. Anyway, we are on the ball and hopefully we'll be able to confirm everything about our race shortly.

Plans are also progressing for this year's Geoff Day race – this is normally held on a Wednesday evening following on from the Mickey Edwards series but for anyone involved in the last race in ME's it was pretty gloomy by the end so we are looking at doing this on a Sunday morning and are targeting the 26th September.

Talking of plans – February 6th 2022 sees the return of our half marathon and we are once again dusting off our plans and list of jobs to do with that so that we can get this race back up and running. Although February seems a way off it takes a while to get everything in place so we are on the ball and starting to get things done.

For those of you who've been at the village hall you may have seen that our old sheds have been replaced by a new impressive structure which has been the summers' work for some of the members. Tom K. – we have quite a bit of equipment to store and things like the finish arch take up a load of space so we have replaced the old small sheds with this new big one that has plenty of room to store our stuff safely and make it easy to get to.

Paul Carlisle



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE JUNE 2022

In line with National plans we will be celebrating the amazing achievements of our Queen's reign on the weekend of Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June and have formed an independent committee to organise specific village events.

On the Thursday evening the beacon will be lit on the green.

We plan to hold our main village celebrations on the green on the Saturday with a family tea party in a marquee in the afternoon followed by an evening event with live band.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

The committee will be seeking sponsorship for the marquee and the entertainment.

If anyone would like to support us please contact
Pippa Dennitts, Chairman of the Parish Council
Via the Parish Office at the Village Hall, Plough Road.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

"Let's have a cup of tea, Vi," I once said to my sister Violet when she was well and living in the family home in Conwy, North Wales. She placed a teabag in each of two china mugs. "Can't we have a teapot?" I asked trying to interrupt her gaze of the kettle. "I haven't got a teapot," she replied, "you'll have to make do with a teabag." My eyes wandered upwards. On just one shelf above her head paraded a pageant of teapots; a Kitchen Table tea pot, a Pillar Box tea pot or a Brown Hen tea pot, just one shelf of many all of which displayed ceramic tea pots of some description. Some years ago I wrote a story in which I was an eleven year old and she a beautiful young woman of 24 years. Today she has gone from the house in which she had lived for 74 years, passed away leaving shelves of teapots, porcelain mementos now sadly collecting dust. Similarly her husband, a lovely man who died some years earlier, collected clocks. In the small parlour of the council house in which we all lived, the very room they occupied when they were first married, I can count seventeen clocks, each of a different design, every one possessing a unique facial countenance with characteristics as innately individual as the people who cared for them. Today no two clocks show the same hour unlike the past when the hands, like batons, would conduct a chronometric chorus as each timepiece proudly and simultaneously struck the hour but back then and although all working perfectly no clock must be the first to strike, the chorus had to one be of unisonous harmony. The periodic winding to generate their power was regarded as ceremonial as was the equinoctial task of adding or removing the hour, a duty after which each of the keys was restored to safe guardianship. Now the room is respectfully silent as if the clocks also mourn the loss of their custodian. All the treasures of one's life make the task of clearing a house all the more heart-breaking as the fabric of the place evokes a constant kaleidoscope of moments past, be they happy or sad. The picture of her husband on the sideboard becomes a visual stimulant awakening other senses, the smell of engine oil and petrol, engine noises or cold hands, sensory signals recalling the hours with him in his workshop as he fixed motor cycles. I was mostly in his way. In the photo he is in uniform, testimony to his days in India where he was an engineer servicing Liberator bomber aircraft at an RAF base. For some time I thought his nickname was of Indian origin, a rather saucy 'Shurupioo', a name my sister frequently called him until I later realised that she was laughingly telling him to be quiet.

There aren't any walls in this house, just shelving and display cabinets each of which is tightly packed with miniatures, some of the elephant but not perhaps so much the Indian or African, more china or wooden. The sheer quantity of figurines troubles me as the debate taking place in my head rages between the loving side which tells me to wrap each one carefully versus the pragmatic side which insists that I get a shovel from the garage. The statuettes appear to muster in small social gatherings or gangs huddled together as if plotting mischief. The zone of clowns in the lounge I shall avoid as I neither wish to peer behind the masks of those child-eaters nor, for that matter, venture near their satanic accomplices, the equally heinous scarecrow, a group of which live near the fireplace and all I fear menacingly watch my every move. Hardly more warming to the soul is a large band of supposedly joyful figurines, all about 6 to 8 inches tall and all bearing the hallmarks of aging yokeldom. Each of these bogus little blighters is smiling, sporting a crumpled hat and rumpled beard and is obviously colour-blind judging by the incongruous patches on the knees of baggy britches. Some are engrossed in what appears to be useful employment, a cobbler or bricklayer, no doubt designed to project a trustworthy 'grandpa' image but in reality they are sad old pipe smokers who have scant regard for personal hygiene, preferring to spend their daylight hours playing a squeezebox and drinking from a bottle of Remy Martin. They may appear to be creatures of worry-free righteousness but I wager that not one of them has ever bothered to complete a self-assessment tax return. But she loved them all.

Her hubby kept all records, letters and bank statements. I am not sure which of my concerns was the most acute, the inadequate size of the paper re-cycling bin, the stamina of the shredder or my mental fortitude. The task of sorting was as interminable as it was exhausting as the fear of missing something invaded my thoughts, a fear that changed to a loathing of the people who sent these letters and statements in the first place. Finally the emotions erupted as I screamed, "Why have you kept bank statements for August 2003?" Then there are the Insurance companies who sell warranties. It all sounds wonderful until it is realised that she had been paying for breakdown cover on her cooker for the past 22 years, amounting to a sum of money which would have made cheaper the hiring of Jamie Oliver. Annoyed that a reputable company should take advantage of an 89 year old lady, I cancelled the policy with immediate effect only to notice shortly afterwards that the drain outside was blocked.

Temporary relief arrived when the shredder blew up, a brief respite tinged with a little pride that a machine should surrender before my brain became scrambled. Naturally the shredder was not covered by insurance but there was little need to worry as, hidden away in yet another cupboard in a bedroom upstairs there lived a new shredder stored next to four boxed cordless kettles. It's common knowledge, everyone has a spare shredder.





Squirrels

Following the national launch by Scouts, 1st Great Bentley Squirrel Scouts held their first meeting on 14th September. The Squirrel Scouts had a great time getting to know each other and making their own indoor campfires with battery lights ready for a camp fire song with actions. Squirrel Scouts are a brand-new early years Scouting section aimed at 4 to 6 year olds, boys and girls, meaning that the village now has Scouting for young people from the age of four all the way up to eighteen, as below.

Squirrel Scouts: 4 to 6 years of age

Beaver Scouts: 6 to 8 years of age

Cub Scouts: 8 to 10½ years of age

Scouts: 10½ to 14 years of age

Explorer Scouts: 14 to 18 years of age

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers are also back into their meetings, this term working towards more of their Challenge and Activity Badges. We have been very popular with a lot of new enquiries for new members, leading most sections to be near current capacity. However, in order to provide Scouting to the youth of the village we also require adult volunteers within the Group, be that as full Leaders down to occasional helpers. We also have space for Young Leaders, who are young adults between the age of 14 to 18 years of age. If you have any interest in volunteering within the Group, please contact our Group Scout Leader, Jan Bovingdon, on greatbentleygroup@live.co.uk to express your interest.



We are already starting a waiting list for most of our Sections, even with now being allowed to take our full quota for the Leaders we have, so if you have interest in any of the sections within the Group, please also contact our Group Scout Leader, Jan Bovingdon, on greatbentleygroup@live.co.uk to express your interest.

We look forward to the term ahead of us and the activities it will bring, including returning to some kind of normality,

FOR THOSE BORN BEFORE 1940 ...

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox plastic, contact lenses, video, Frisbees and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens; before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes ... and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?) We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual careers, and when a 'meaningful relationship' meant getting along with cousins, and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for the bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and young men wearing earrings. For us 'time-sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan', meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in the exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable' grass was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you had on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was grandmother's lullaby, "Eldorado" was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble ... and petrol was 17½p per gallon = 3s.6d (Less than 5p per litre) - ANON

ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT BENTLEY GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The Great Bentley Good Neighbours held their annual meeting on the 22nd June 2021. The Chairman Robert Taylor reported as follows:

- 1) The Covid Pandemic has caused considerable disruption to the work of the Good Neighbours and we anxiously await with all around us the relaxation of the restrictive rules.
- 2) **The annual booklet** delivered to every house in Great Bentley is possibly the one area where all villagers can make use of our services. We took the difficult decision last November to not produce a booklet this year because few of the village organisations had been meeting and so there would be very small changes. Past years booklets are on the parish website at <http://www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk>. Look under "Village" and "Good Neighbours". Make it one of your Favourites. Sadly for your safety we made it a policy decision not to include personal telephone numbers in the internet version to prevent nuisance calls. If you cannot find the number for the person elsewhere please contact the Clerk to the parish council who has a copy of the booklet in the office.
- 3) **Neighbourhood Watch.** Still an important part of our work and Richard Nowak is keeping up the publicity regarding this. Please contact Richard should you need to mark your household items to make them easier to trace in the event of a burglary.
- 4) **Transport scheme.** This part of our work has been completely shut down since we could not ask volunteers to take other people in their cars.
- 5) We have always felt that the **Road Stewards** do a most important task for their neighbours and thank them all for their work. Yvonne Oxford coordinates this work.
- 6) **Medical Aids** The items we lend are intended to be for emergency or short term use since for long term use the health authorities or social services make the provision. We have many items out on loan at any one time such as Wheelchairs, Commodes, Walking Aids and Bathing Aids. We hope that those who are able to use this service will be able to contribute to the costs involved although we do not make a specific charge. We still have them available but due to the issue of cross infection we have had little call for anything this year.
- 7) All the work of the Good Neighbours does depend upon its volunteers. We thank them now on behalf of the village. Many of us have been working for Good Neighbours for many years and we now need some new Committee Members. Can you help and join our Committee. There are only three meetings a year?



**Robert Taylor - Chairman
01206 250087**



On 19th September 187 groups of horse riders and carriage drivers rode on the roads of the UK to highlight to other road users the need to pass horses Wide and Slow, to help keep us all safe.

Ride number 64 started from Edens Farmhouse, Weeley Road at 11.00 and progressed through the villages of Great Bentley and Aingers Green, stopping at the Fusiliers for a quick refreshment stop part the way round. A big thanks to the team at the Fusiliers for hosting us.

There were 14 riders and 2 pedestrians. The route was marked with orange and yellow balloons and we held a raffle for Essex and Herts Air ambulance raffling off a hi viz waistcoat and hat band donated by Equisafety (equisafety.com) raising £40 for a worthy cause.

We would like to thank the drivers through the village on the day for their courtesy, patience, and care whilst we were riding. We had fun, stopped to speak to pedestrians who took advantage of the horse stroking opportunity and were pleased to be able to take part in the national event.

Later on in the day I walked Anny the pony around the route to collect up the balloons and remove horse poo from pedestrian areas. This allowed for more stroking and a photo opportunity which helped someone with a school project.

THE BENTLEY MYSTERIES

DO YOU REMEMBER

Its 21 years this month since Donald Walker produced "The Bentley Mysteries" at St Mary's church. It involved a huge amount of work and Donald made many of the props etc the wardrobe was supervised by Carole Allington and there was a large cast....including a real donkey. We include an explanation of Mystery Plays and I am sure many of you will remember with fondness the Great Bentley version.

Programme Notes:

That St Mary's, Great Bentley should choose to stage some of the ancient Mystery Plays as their contribution to the Millennium celebrations this year is particularly apt since the early beginnings of such dramatic representations date from around the First Millennium. And we are not alone. Coventry have revived their cycle in the ruins of the Cathedral this year as have York in their Minster and there are other productions dotted throughout the land. In those early days, except in the principal seats of learning, the Latin Liturgy was understood by none of the ordinary members of the community and it became the practice of the more sensitive Priests to conduct a dialogue to illustrate the basic elements of the Bible stories. An early reference is to the Eastertime "Quem queritas ...?" ("Whom seek ye?") where a Priest would take the role of the Angel and three choirboys would be the three Marys. Scenes from the Resurrection were the first to be demonstrated in this way, then spreading forward and backward over the next century or two until all the bible stories had been treated. Another method of teaching was by the visual aids of Wall Paintings which decorated most medieval Churches.

From simple dialogues, the playlets developed into sometimes highly elaborate stagings in which separate "houses" for each scene would be set up either side of the Nave with a common acting area between. Traditionally, Heaven would be to the actors' right and a Firey Hell's Mouth in the form of a great beast to his left, a format still alive today in Pantomime when the Good Fairy appears to the Right and the Demon King to the left (from the actors' point of view). As the plays developed, it became necessary to bring in the laity to play some of the characters and with them came a more frequent use of the vernacular and inevitably COMEDY. All over Europe, the Authorities became concerned that these representations were becoming too crude to be housed inside the Church and market squares. In France and Germany, the emphasis was on the processional lavishness of highly decorated "floats", whereas in England, each play tended to keep its identity and was performed on a Pageant cart which was dragged from one vantage point or Station to another around the Town. In this way, townspeople could remain in one place and all the plays would come round to them in turn.

The name "Mystery Play" came from the German "Geistspiele", and gradually in most towns and villages, a cycle of these plays would be created and performed every so many years. What had previously been the responsibility of the Church was now seized upon by the Trade Guilds who took over whichever play seemed most suited to their calling, such as the Noah play falling to the Shipwrights or Cain and Abel to the Farmers, etc. They looked upon their play as a good vehicle for publicity and, far from being a rough, improvised affair on an old farm wagon, the Guilds would vie with each other year by year to produce the most magnificent pageant complete with full scenic effects and machinery for raising and lowering angels and devils, etc: Civic competition was the game now rather than religious education. All the players were amateur, of course though some payment was occasionally made from Guild funds to compensate for the loss of employment during the run of the play. This practice lives on today in the ten-yearly Passion Play at Oberammergau in Southern Germany which involves very nearly every resident in the village; all are amateurs but because the day-long performance takes the actors away from their normal employment, expenses are paid in compensation.

In England, the plays reached their zenith between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries and there was hardly a town or village even that did not have at least one play. In the mid-thirteen Century, Pope Urban IV decreed a new Church Festival, Corpus Christie (the first Thursday after Trinity Sunday) and most towns latched on to this as a suitable day to perform a cycle. After the Reformation, there was a gradual but firm suppression of the plays by the now Protestant Church Authorities. During the rise of the great Elizabethan playwrights, some of the old Mysteries were still being performed but, by the end of Elizabeth's reign, most had fizzled out. In many cases this was systematic: the local Church would call the Book in for "revision" but delay its return until it was too late for performance that year.



Today we have available to us only four of the major cycles: York, Chester, Coventry and Wakefield (sometimes known as Townley, the name of the Family in whose care the manuscript was preserved). There are a few odd single plays and snippets extant from Norwich, Newcastle, Northampton and others; records indicate in some instances that they belonged to complete cycles. Many of the plays belonging to smaller venues were probably never written down but simply passed from one generation to the next but major cycles were certainly scripted. Experts in late medieval literature rate them of high standard and importance and most likely penned by learned clerics. Influences from continental sources are apparent. However, for a modern audience, the language and the vocabulary would be far too obscure to be understood so adaptation is essential for the actor's sake as well as the audience.

PAGES FROM THE PAST

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

Jim Taylor

"I am 92 years old and was born on Bentley Green, down the South side, Eight of us were born there and I lived there 49 years. Purkiss Farm was a little farther down and Spicy Moore worked there then. I went to the school over at the Chapel, there were only two rooms there then. I started work when I was ten, for 2s.6d. a week, bird starving at Moorlands for about six weeks or two months, but I used to drive a cart to Colchester before I left school. Old Henry Sizer uster come after me when he had the mill. I uster drive the little hoss. Of course that's all I had to do, drive it up there and back down again with flour. Sometimes we took flour to the Union at Tendring. That was easy enough - the roads weren't quite so thick then. I went to work for Percy Barker at the Hall in 1900 and I was head hossman when I was 22. Edwards bought it in 1917 and I worked for him just on 40 years. I started off with a single furrow plough and then went on to a double.

I started work before the day of the binder, they uster mow with a scythe, one behind the other. The Lord always took the lead, he was the one who fixed the harvest money by bargaining with the farmer. Some places bargained for a month but we used to take the harvest so much money however long it took. You took so much a week and the rest at the end. We bound as we went along. We cut barley with a scythe but wheat was cut with a self-deliverer or sail reaper. We mew about an acre a day. Most farms had a gallon of home brewed beer per man per day for the harvesters. We used to say that was both food and drink because there was just as much good in beer as there was in food. We had 2½ bushels of malt and 2½ bushels of hops in with the harvest.

I always went to the lamb sales, they were held on the first or second Thursday in July, and the sheep came from all round. One year John Eagle of Walton Hall only missed having 1,000 sheep there by one; he farmed Cocketts Wick at St Osyth as well. I forgot to say I paid 2d. every Monday morning when I went to school, that was to keep it going, like. The Great Bentley Football Club started in the 1895-6 season, I paid my sub of 2s.6d. a year then and I've paid it ever since, I never played, but Ted Humm and Ernie Butcher did, and we had as much enjoyment then as they do today. The Headquarters were at the Victory when they first started but they moved over to the Plough after the First World War. The dressing room was in the old stable which was made into a nice little room.

Yes, I remember Blind Johnny. He lived by the Well Yard and used to walk down to Brightlingsea and catch fish with his bare hands and sell them on the way back. He could lead anybody off Bentley Green in the thickest fog, there was nothing messed him up only snow. He was born blind and could find his way anywhere using an old stick.

The Shades was an Alston's pub same as the Lion and the waggoners that went to the mill had their lunch there. The Willows was an ordinary house where the Clarkes lived. The pond near there was called Wires or Wades pond, then there was the Doctor's pond, Moorlands pond and one outside White Lodge called the Wading pond, because we used to wade in it in summertime and slide on it when it was frosty. Old Timmy Ellwood was a bit of a funny one with a big black beard, he wore gret old heavy boots and when Wires pond froze over he would go sliding across it with 5 or 6 boys holding onto his coat tails, that used to please him!

To be contd.....

