

Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community
for the Community**



February 2022

Village Information

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In an emergency ring 999

GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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VILLAGE CARETAKER:

Robert McWilliams, 07598 640622

EDITORIAL

I meant to start writing this on 6th January as the village looked so very dark without the Christmas lights on that night. Thanks again to the Plummer family and everyone who made the effort to make the village look so bright and festive. Thanks also to Jon and Brett who shredded our Christmas trees for charity, (see page 9) thus avoiding them being dumped by the roadside. This immediately brings to mind the disgusting state of Frating Abbey Farm Road in which tyres are scattered over a large area, a mattress, armchair and its cushions, paint tins etc also left the length of the road. My favourite ditches are along this "lane" which will hopefully be covered in primroses before too long. Please report anyone you see flytipping. Most of this area is covered by Thorrington Parish Council. We are a pretty unique village as we have a village caretaker, Bobby McWilliams and he is responsible for several aspects of keeping our village safe and tidy. Please see article on page 15. Thank you to our litter picking group who do such a wonderful job keeping Great Bentley looking neat and cared for.

I have been trying to help a teacher at the primary school with some information on the history of our village. She is so enthusiastic and I cant wait to see the work which the children will produce as part of this project. Even better is the fact that it is hoped that the children will in turn be able to point out points of interest to their parents as they walk around. The problem I have is that over the years I have given away quite a lot of village history books, so if you have any surplus to requirements I would love to have them so I can in turn help others. See page 23

Exciting information this month as we include details of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations which will take place at the beginning of June. It's a long while since we have been able to celebrate as a village and I for one am really looking forward to it. Plans are well underway and the committee have been working hard over several months to book everything and bring plans to fruition. Please put the dates in your diary. If you would like to support us financially see page 16.

Thanks to our fantastic advertisers we have as many spaces filled as we did at the end of 2021. That is truly amazing. Thanks also to everyone who has paid their subs promptly....please pay now if you have forgotten to do so! Thank you. Every penny goes to St Mary's church to help with the every day running costs.

You will have received your 2022 Good Neighbours Booklet now I expect, the little red booklet delivered annually. Thank you to everyone involved in producing this as it has all the information you need on who to contact for Clubs, Societies, and where to get help if it is required.

The winter has been kind to us so far and with February being a short month I look forward to spring in the not too distant future.

Stay safe and well,

Mary Maskell

PS Don't forget there will be brief road closures for the Great Bentley Half Marathon on 6th February at around 10.30am on Plough Road.



FEBRUARY

2022

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Front Cover

Photo taken
10th February 2021 at
the back of St Mary's Church

DISCLAIMER

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THE MONTHLY LETTERS - FEBRUARY

Dear residents of Great Bentley,

It is a new calendar year, and so many Methodists are in what we might call “Covenant Season”. This year I have discovered for the first time that in some places it is traditional that one of the hymns sung at the Covenant Service is Charles Wesley’s ‘And are we yet alive’ (*Singing the Faith* 456). For me, this has always been a Conference hymn – it is sung, unaccompanied, at the opening of each annual session of the Conference (our annual Governing body meeting of the Methodist Church). Yet, I can understand the wisdom of its being sung either at a Covenant Service or at a Watchnight Service on New Year’s Eve (often one and the same thing in Methodist history), or at the first service of the new year, whether calendar or Methodist.

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face? Glory and praise to Jesus give for his redeeming grace!	Preserved by power divine to full salvation here, again in Jesu's praise we join, and in his sight appear.	What troubles have we seen, what conflicts have we passed, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!
But out of all the Lord has brought us by his love; and still he does his help afford, and hides our life above	Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power, which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.	Let us take up the cross, till we the crown obtain; and gladly reckon all things loss, so we may Jesus gain.

The answer to the hymn’s opening question is clearly ‘Yes’, though we mourn those whom we love yet see no longer, those who have not reached this yearly turn with us. The second set of lines, however, remind us of where our focus is called to be in the light of this – not on good behaviour or on good fortune, but on God, to whom glory and praise are to be given through Jesus Christ. This is, of course, something we should seek to do in all our worship, indeed in all of our life, but at a time of change from one year to another it seems particularly appropriate to remind ourselves that in all that we have been through, and in all that will come, God is with us, and it is God for whom we seek to live and work – which clearly the Covenant Service also reminds us of.

The hymn is also honest about the realities of a life full of problems of one kind or another – the past twelve months have certainly involved challenges and conflicts, fights and fears, whether internal or external. We can be certain the next twelve will as well. Yet in all of this God has remained and will remain faithful. God has continued and will continue to hold us in love, assuring us that at the last all will be well, no matter the very real difficulties of the present age.

And so, in the light of that faithfulness, as we give thanks for God’s presence with us in all we have been through in 2021, we turn to the coming year and once again commit to face all that will come our way not for our own sake, but in the name of Christ and for his glory and his Kingdom. We will not get everything right. There will be mistakes along the way, yet we journey onward trusting in God’s mercy and grace – a grace that has forgiven us the mistakes of the past, and which goes before us into the coming unknown.

I may not have used ‘And are we yet alive’ in my Covenant Services this or previous years, but you may well encounter it in future years. In the meantime I commend it to you now for reflection alongside the Covenant Prayer – that as individuals and as a Circuit we might face the coming year with passion and praise, seeking always to trust in Christ whatever comes our way and to share his love, a love revealed in a manger, a cross and an empty tomb, with all those whom we meet on the way.

Shalom, **Tom**

I don’t usually like to wish the year away, but I am so looking forward to some drier, warmer and longer days. However, we have had some amazing, coloured skies lately, with pinks, blues, purples and oranges that have absolutely taken my breath away! God’s creation so often causes me to stop, look and say “Wow!” – which is usually followed quickly with a ‘Thank You God!’ The beauty of nature is a gift to everyone, do make sure you find time to enjoy it.

I am also looking forward to the celebrations this year when the Queen and the nation celebrates her Platinum Jubilee. I am sure there will also be gatherings and street parties in the village as we give thanks for her 70 years on the throne.

Do take good care of yourselves and each other.

Every Blessing

Sharon

ST MARY’S CHURCH WEBSITE
stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk



**GREAT BENTLEY
METHODIST
CHURCH NEWS**

Greetings to you all

We welcome you to worship at Church or on Zoom with us during February. We pray for relief from the Virus. If you would like to join our Zoom service by computer please ring 250087 for the connection link.

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

The leaders of worship are set out below:-

- February 6th Church Leaders**
- February 13th Rev Tom Osborne Holy Communion**
- February 20th Rev Dr Marion Cole**
- February 27th Maggie Woods**

Events in February:

Coffee & Chat 4th February 10am Delicious cakes and scones, raffle, books, cards etc. All money raised for local charities.

Messy Church 22nd February 3.30 welcomes children and their parents/carers for activities on a Christian theme. Arrive after school. We finish with a simple meal and leave at approx 5pm. No charge, but a donation towards the food and craft materials is welcome

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 251330
- 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

Tues 1st Bible Study, 10am in St Mary's Parish Hall

Sun 6th February - 4th Sunday before Lent
1 Corinthians 15. 1-11: Luke 5.1-11:

10.00am Holy Communion
Joint Benefice Service **at St Osyth**

Mon 7th February

10.00am Support in Loss,

Sun 13th February - 3rd Sunday before Lent
1 Corinthians 15. 12-20: Luke 16.17-26:

9.30am Holy Communion

Tues 15th Bible Study, 10am, St Mary's Parish Hall

Sun 20th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent
Revelation Chapter 4: Luke 8. 22-25:

9.30am Holy Communion

Thurs 24th February

2.00-3.30 Knit & Natter, St Mary's Parish Hall

Sun 27th February - Sunday next before Lent
2 Corinthians 3. 12-4.2: Luke 9. 28-36

9.30am Holy Communion

**ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH
FOR FEBRUARY**

Sidespersons Rota

- 13th Mary Maskell
- 20th Jennie Moss
- 27th Lyn Gordon

Prayer Rota

- 13th Vicar
- 20th Wendy King
- 27th Nicky Justice



Coffee Rota

- 13th Hannah Justice
- 20th Lyn Gordon
- 27th Zonia Woods

Cleaning Rota

- 5th Carol Kerridge & Lea Howlett
- 12th Nicky Justice
- 19th Linda Hayes
- 26th Rosemary & David Branch

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Unfortunately it has been necessary to cancel the History Society meeting scheduled to take place in February.

It is hoped to be able to resume in March. Apologies to anyone who turned up for the January meeting which could not take place either.

Jan T.



FOOD BANK

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

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

We could also do with more washing up products, fairy liquid, cloths, washing powder, dishwasher tablets etc. Also items for personal hygiene including soap, deodorant, shaving foam and sanitary products etc.

THANK YOU



Wanted: an old hot water urn!!

Do you have hiding away in the back of your garage or shed a metal hot water urn that you no longer need? Great Bentley Primary School Reception class would love to upcycle it to support their learning. (We won't be making mugs of hot chocolate, so it won't need to work, just have a working tap and not leak!).

Please contact the school on 01206250331 or email H.Whyte@greatbentley.essex.sch.uk



THANK YOU

To all the magazine subscribers in De Vere Estate, Great Bentley, thank you for paying your subscriptions early and supporting the magazine.

Happy New Year to you all.

Carol McDougall

Happy new year to everyone!
Thank you to everyone in Station Road and New Cut for putting their subs into my letterbox. It was much appreciated and made my job collecting it easy. All done for the next year.

Best wishes



Ulli

I would like to say a huge thank you, to all the lovely people of Aingers Green, who chose to join in lighting up their houses this year. I counted 102 this year, last year it was 89. I hope we can improve on this for Christmas 2022.

It certainly brightens our evening dog walks, and makes us smile.

I counted you even if it was a tree in the window or a wreath on your door, so long as it had lights and I could see it from the pavement. Happy New Year to you all,

Marion Bearham

I should like to say a big thank you to the kind people who came to my aid when I had a fall near Sturricks Lane on Wednesday 5th January. I was kept as warm as possible with blankets and even a duvet whilst waiting for the ambulance!

Grateful thanks.

Chris Hill



Following my appeal in last month's Parish News for sleeping bags and tents I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to those who so kindly responded. They were received with open arms by the volunteers at hope@trinity in Clacton. Such items are vital, particularly at this time of year and to be able to provide one or both to someone homeless and in the depths of despair touches your heart in a way I cannot put into words. The appeal is ongoing there will always be a need.

Thank you for caring.

Judy Bishop 01206 251702

**COLCHESTER OPERATIC
SOCIETY**

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

27th January to 6th February

Mercury Theatre

FOODBANK

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

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

She organises this service in Brightlingsea.

Call Win on 01206 303902

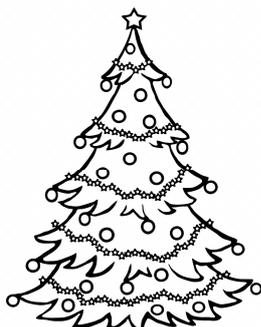
or 079704 80968



Aingers Green

Disappointed once again that nobody from Aingers Green had taken on the task of erecting a Christmas tree. In recent years a colourful tree on Fir Tree corner was a welcome sight as you entered or left the village. Costs need only be very low. David Gibbon in the past has donated a tree and electricity was supplied by David Shipp (who has now moved) but perhaps a few people with a few hours to spare at the beginning of Christmas could help to reinstate this colourful landmark for the festive season. I will be very happy to help organise if needed.

Michael Dorling



Anecdote No.7 A Flying Story

A friend of ours, we will call him John, was boarding a plane, and sat next to an elderly lady, who was looking a little nervous.

He started a conversation with her, to try and reassure her, telling her how safe flying is, say compared to driving a car, and that the pilot would certainly want to get to their destination in one piece.

“But you don’t understand”, she said.

“Yes, I think I do”, John said, “Please hold onto my hand as we take off”.

“No, you really don’t understand”, she said. “My son’s the pilot, and he nearly crashed the car coming to the airport. He’s very accident prone!”

“Oh!”, said John, “Then can I hold onto your hand, please?!”

D.S.



Anecdote No. 8: A landing story

It was early morning at Sydney airport, and my flight had just landed, along with several other long hauls, so the baggage area was full of people waiting to collect their cases. I thought to myself, this is going to be a long wait, and I need to get going, as I was due to join a yacht for some racing on Sydney harbour, very soon.

By chance, I noticed a sailing pal, who also worked at the airport, not far away.

“Hello Jack”, I said, “How am I going to find my suitcase amongst all these going round on the conveyor belt?”

“No worries, mate”, he said. “What does your suitcase look like?”

I described it to him, and arming himself with a stick, Jack stopped the conveyor belt, found my bag, hooked it off, much to the amazement of all the other passengers, and started the belt again!

I was just about the first through passport control, and made my appointment at the Yacht Club with time to spare.

It’s not what you know, it’s who you know!!

D.S.

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

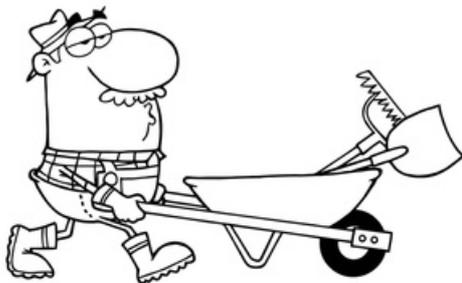
East Anglian Skies

Up the Creek

Open ...



God rest you merry gardeners,
Let nothing you dismay
For spring is soon to come again
With lengthening of the days
The sun will warm the soil once more
And send Jack Frost away,
Oh Tidings of composting and joy
Compost and joy
Oh tidings of composting and joy.



Great Bentley Tuesday Carpet Bowls Club

The carpet bowls club has recommenced with new members showing interest.

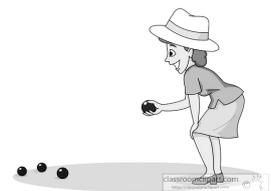
In January we held our annual Christmas lunch where 28 members and guests had an outstanding meal at The Fusilier Public House, Aingers Green.

We are always looking for new members who are over 55 to join a thriving village club where you can meet friendly people and enjoy the gentle exercise of indoor carpet bowls.

We meet every Tuesday afternoon at 2pm in the Great Bentley Village Hall, no playing experience or equipment is required as instruction will be given.

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

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



DEADLINE FOR MARCH MAGAZINE

TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY

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 PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME

We currently take:

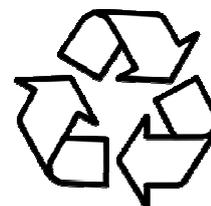
Crisps and multi pack packaging
Cakes, biscuits and crackers wrappers
Sweets and chocolate wrappers
Pringles tubes, lids and foil seal (no other brand)

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.

BINS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL

We don't take

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



FRIENDS OF THE GREEN

Report on last year's AGM (November 2021)

Covid Restrictions have resulted in a reduction of fundraising during the year, however the garage trail took place and was reasonably successful. Limited Wednesday fundraising nights on the green helped to keep funds ticking along. Thanks were expressed to members and non-members who have helped the FOG in many ways.

There was concern that correspondence to the Parish Council, dating back three years, regarding the erosion and damage to the green on the south side had not resulted in action being taken, although we understand that this is being looked into. As a reminder the suggestion was for restrictive barriers of some sort along the edge of the green to stop vehicles gaining access.

Our thoughts were for wooden or recycled posts, approximately knee high to be set into the ground with one or two lock in type, strategically placed, to accommodate access for carnivals, shows etc. This type of barrier can be seen on part of Moors Close and allows free access to the green for people. We see this as a completely separate item to the south side track (also part of the green). FOG have offered to assist financially if a scheme is put in place. This will relieve rate payers having to pay the bill.

Our thanks to Dee from The Plough for making tea/coffee and biscuits available FOC on litter pick days.

We are always looking for new members for either the committee or the litter picking group, who meet once a month. To join the FOG – please contact me on 01206 250799 and to join the litter picking group please contact Ken Drew on 01206 250177.

Michael Dorling
Chairman

COLLATING YOUR VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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

We have a break for tea, coffee and biscuits.

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

We will be collating again on Friday 25th February.

Everyone Welcome.

WELCOME

new residents to 74 Birch Avenue

Roselle and family at
Thornfield, Aingers Green

new residents at 2 Rowan Close



We welcome new advertisers

GE Alarms - 01255 870778

Security systems for home or business
See page L

Perfect Pet Service - 07706 052395

Dog Walking etc.
See page O

Wildlives

Wildlife Rescue & 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!](#)

Short-staffing causing difficulties

February 2022

Both Rosie's helpers are off with long term health issues, which has left Rosie trying to manage on her own. Apologies to everyone she was unable to help; she is working very hard and very long days to get the centre back on track.

Hedgehogs continue to arrive

Lots of very underweight hedgehogs are arriving very sick. Rosie is struggling to sort out their underlying problems and get them to start gaining weight. Because we have had several spells of mild weather many hedgehogs were able to be released back where they came from, where they will be back-up fed. They are released, once up to the required weight, with sufficient time with mild weather to settle in and find the hedgehog boxes provided for them to prepare for hibernation.

Several hedgehogs with severe mange have been admitted. Once they receive their treatment and the mange mites are killed they often shed their spines along with dead skin tissue. They are treated with aloe vera to soften the skin, but will probably end up completely bald before the spines and fur start to regrow.

Pigeons unwisely still breeding

Because of the relatively mild weather pigeons and collared doves have continued to breed but winter weather causes problems.

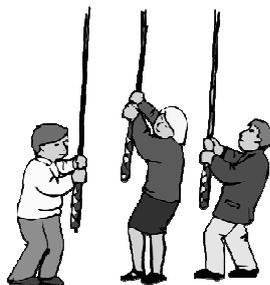
A collared dove was brought in by the RSPCA after being found by a member of the public when he fell out of his nest. He was cold, saturated, bedraggled and very sorry for himself. He is now doing very well.

When Craig Gregory from CMG resources went to net off some solar panels, he was surprised to find that a pigeon was still nesting. Sadly one of the siblings had already died of cold, but the other was quickly rescued and warmed up. He is now thriving.

Two little pigeons were blown out of their nest and were found cold and wet with their eyes still shut. They have recovered well and have grown into very active little pigeons!

BELLRINGING NOTES

Another year is upon us, presenting many dates to add to our ringing calendar. Of note, we will be ringing to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's platinum jubilee on February the 6th and the celebrations to be held from the 2nd to the 5th of June. In addition to this we will be ringing to support the celebrations for the 250th anniversary of Great Bentley Cricket Club!



Earlier this month we rang a 1¼ peal, this consisted of 1260 changes of plain bob minor. This was rung to celebrate the life of one of the members of the St Osyth band who sadly died recently. A ¼ peal takes approximately 44 minutes of continuous ringing of the church bells, and requires huge concentration.

Although church bell ringing is considered a hobby, our primary task is, by practicing, to ring the bells on Sunday mornings to announce services and other church events. However, it has a social side to it whereby some of us visit other practice evenings when we can also socialise with others.

We actively seek new members and are currently able to teach new members, although we still wear masks as a precaution. We have been joined by 2 new members this month who are keen to learn to ring. If you wish to learn to ring, or have perhaps learnt to ring in the past and would like to return, then please help us to perpetrate this ancient and uniquely English skill, by contacting me on the number below.

You do not need to be strong!
You do not need to have played a musical instrument!

Roger Carey-Smith
07422 880921

GARDENING CLUB

Tuesday 15th February

Village Hall at 7.30pm



We are delighted to announce that in celebration of 250 years of Cricket on Great Bentley Green 1771 – 2021, we are hosting a fixture against the MCC.

Sunday 17 July 2022
GBCC 250 NOT OUT

Like the Olympics we are celebrating a year late due to COVID! Save the date, get in touch. Are you a Gt.Bentley Cricket Club veteran and would like to share any memories/pictures please contact: Carol Kerridge on 07748 802690 or e:kerridgecarol@gmail.com

There will be a full programme of events with details announced in the Spring.

We have great facilities on the biggest village green in the UK run by a committee of local residents, dedicated to keep the game of Cricket a part of the village life.

For more information, come along to the Club House on The Green, or email Peter Giles peter.giles@uwclub.net or Carol Kerridge: 07748 802690 kerridgecarol@gmail.com

SUBS

**Subs are now overdue, and remain the same
£5 or £4 concessions.**

Thank you to everyone who has already paid for 2022.

If you have not already paid please put your money in an envelope, write your name and address on the envelope and put it in your deliverers door.

THANK YOU.

THE ITEM

I'm going to move it away today,
away, somewhere over there
It's been sat there for months and I always bump into it
when I tread down the last stair.

I offered it 'round, only wanted five pound
but no one was interested then
Which is strange in a way because back in the day
anyone would have gladly paid ten.

"Fair enough" I suppose you might say,
'cos mine's got a bit missing there
The bit that sits at the front of the hinge, on the right,
by the back-facing pair.

But that's about all and it's still got the ball
(and the ball is the first thing to go)
If it's used in the kitchen or out in the yard
but okay if it's kept in the hall.

Those people were bonkers, I'd seen one for yonkers
except on the telly last week
On "Flog It" or "Bargain Hunt" one of those progs
Fifty quid! some collector type geek.

Fifty quid! Fifty quid! It don't half make me think
that instead of just watching I'll go
and have an ol' scoot 'round the local car boot
and bag me a bargain or so.

So I'm not going to sling it, or chuck it, or bin it
You never know when it might be ...
... quite handy to have as a reas'nable spare
if my new one goes wrong, so you see ...

I'll just keep it ... and move it ..
sometime ..

Not today though.

KD



CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING

Thank you to Jon Glover and Brett Scott for
giving up their mornings paid work to shred
our Christmas trees with the money donated
being split between

Brain Tumour UK and the Air Ambulance.

Last year there were 66 trees and
£436.21 raised.

This year 74 trees and £306 raised.

Thanks to everyone who brought
their trees along and donated to
these two worthy charities.



Update on proposed development on land south of Weeley Road

First of all, happy new year to everyone.

I'm pleased to say that there is some good news to report about the proposed housing development on the land south of Weeley Road. For those of you not familiar with the history of this site, it was first turned down a few years ago by both the Parish Council and the District Council. The owner then appealed to the Planning Inspector who gave outline planning permission for 136 houses. However, he attached a number of conditions to that permission. One of these was a requirement for a pedestrian/cycle path of three metres in width leading from the development into Birch Avenue, specifically between numbers 74 and 76. The developers, Taylor Wimpey, discovered at some point that they could not comply with the requirement and so submitted an application to Tendring District Council to reduce the width from three metres down to two and to change its use from pedestrian/cycle to pedestrian only.

A number of local residents objected to these proposals mainly because reducing it from three metres to two metres would have huge implications for cyclists as well as people who use large mobility scooters. We were particularly worried that the new occupants would be discouraged from using the path if they had to dismount at staggered barriers that the developer was proposing to install. A fundamental point running through the Inspector's report was the importance of getting people out of their cars so that they would be encouraged to either cycle or walk into the village. As we all know, that is absolutely crucial in Great Bentley given the ever-increasing traffic volumes in the village.

The issue went to the planning committee of the District Council on 21 December and I'm happy to report that the members refused the application to vary. They then deferred a number of other matters that the developers also need to sort out (such as how to create a safe right turn from Weeley Road into the site). The decision of the committee members is on the Council's website if anyone would like to read their reasoning in detail.

The ball is now firmly in the developer's court so watch this space.

Alison Clarke





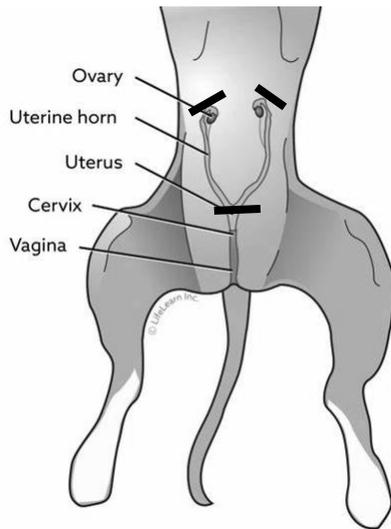
PET NOTES



Did you know the 25th February is World Spay Day?

Q. What does “spay” mean?

A. Spay is the name given to neutering a female pet. The medical term is ovariohysterectomy which describes removing the ovaries and uterus (womb). It is a highly skilled but commonly performed surgery in first opinion veterinary practices.



Ligatures (ties) are placed beneath the ovaries and at the “body” of the uterus above the cervix.

Female dogs (“bitches”) and rabbits are spayed through an incision along the midline of their abdomen. Female cats (“queens”) are frequently spayed through an incision through the muscle on the side of the abdomen (a flank spay) though may also be spayed in the same manner as the bitch and rabbit.

Q. Why is spaying my pet recommended?

A. Spayed pets generally live longer, healthier lives. There are several benefits of spaying, including removing the risk of unwanted pregnancy, reducing the risk of mammary cancer (the greatest effect is if the animal is spayed before their first season) and preventing pyometra. The latter is a womb infection which is very common in non-spayed cats and dogs. It is a life-threatening emergency with symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhoea, inappetence, lethargy and may or may not have a vulval discharge depending on whether the cervix is open or closed. Treatment almost always involves spaying but the risks are far greater than when the surgery is performed in a well patient. As the saying goes, prevention is always better than cure.

Q. At what age should my pet be spayed?

A. Cats are usually spayed once they reach 2kg body weight at around 5-6 months old. Rabbits can be spayed from around 4-6 months of age when they have reached sexual maturity. When it comes to dogs, different vets may give different answers as this question is surprisingly more complicated than you might expect. My advice is to speak to your own vet who can tailor their advice specifically to your pet.



Dr April Young MRCVS

‘Eddie’ Robert Woods **23.08.1949 - 18.11.2021**

After a long illness, sadly, Eddie passed away on 18th November 2021 and a Memorial Service was held at St James’, where Eddie and Janet were married some 48 years ago.

Eddie was born in Great Oakley and lived there until he was married. He served a 5 year engineering apprenticeship at Portals of Harwich and his motor mechanic skills from Norman Mills of the Ford Motor Company. His passions were his classic Austin Healey car and his garden especially when he had a ride-on mower to use. He also enjoyed his involvement with the racing car that his son Harvey drove, Janet being left to organise the food for them.

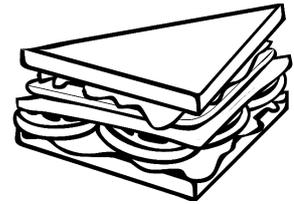
Both Eddie and Janet were involved with raising funds for the Friends of St James Charity including four auctions of goods sponsorship and other activities, providing much needed cash for the Church repairs and upkeep.

The Memorial Service was attended by invited family and friends in line with the current COVID guidelines.

SANDWICHES NEEDED PLEASE

We will be doing the "Sandwich Run" on Wednesday 9th February delivering to hope@trinity to help the homeless people who use this facility.

Thanks for your support in the past. If you can help us with our once a month delivery we would be so pleased. Each round of sandwiches needs to be wrapped in clingfilm with a label on to denote the filling and placed back in the loaf wrapper.



Please bring to the Methodist church between 9.30 and 10am

STOP PRESS

Dear Editor,

I'm disappointed that we have another new planning application in the village for 31 houses that will extend the Hills Residential "Admirals Green" estate across the Great Bentley Conservation area. The proposal is to make access from Michael Wright Way and build towards the northside of the Village Green and behind the current settlement line on Weeley Road. Further urbanisation of the Conservation area must be resisted, and the views in and out of the conservation area from the Village Green must be protected and maintained. Historical objections from village residents on previous planning applications have not been effective when only focused on subjects such as School places, Doctors or Road capacity – although these are valid arguments and what causes villagers most concern, the bureaucracy seems to favour the builders by letting them pay contributions towards Education, NHS and Highways, that is subsequently never spent improving Great Bentley's services. The new Local Plan will hopefully give residents and the Parish Council some support going forward – it clearly demonstrates that we have sufficient housing land supply for the next 6 years, so another major development within Great Bentley cannot be justified.

I will be objecting to this application on grounds that I hope others will also support, such as the protection of our Conservation Area and the District's housing supply is already being met. The closing date for comments on planning application 21/02176/FUL is the **7th February**.

Name and address supplied



FOR SALE

CAT CARRIER 2 SECTION PLASTIC BOX

Top and base sections can easily be separated
Wire Hinged Door at front
45cm long x 30cm high
£5 VGC

COVERED PLASTIC CAT SLEEPING POD

Open doorway. Top and base easily separated
57cm long x 30 high
£4 VGC

DUNELM TUB CHAIR

New Hampton Stripe Cream and Beige.
Fire safety label.
£ 20-00

JAY BE SUPREME DOUBLE FOLD AWAY GUEST BED

120cm W x 90cm H x30cm D when folded on wheels
Includes protective shelf and rebound mattress
VGC £30 (RRP £169.00)

2 x GLASS TOPPED WOODEN STACKING COFFEE TABLES

1@ 60cmx60cm
1@ 50cmx50cm beneath.
Very sturdy . VGC £ 35 for pair.

Tel 01206 250981 07761763921
Gt Bentley

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I was pleased to see that the rotten stile had been replaced yesterday with a metal one but there is now no way of getting dogs through, please see attached photo.

Luckily this morning I only had my Jack Russel with me, what would I have done if I had my 36 kilo GSD?

I can't believe that the people that installed it didn't take a moment to just consider the dogs, this is a well used route and most people have a dog with them.

It would be appreciated if you could look into this, I will also contact Netwo4k Rail.

Gill Baker

GREAT BENTLEY VETERANS CLUB – BY DAVID FLINN B.E.M.

On Saturday 8th January, ten military veterans met at The Plough for a breakfast of bacon rolls and coffee. The idea came about from seeing how successful similar groups are around the UK. Particularly during Covid when morale was low and a lot of colleagues needed cheering up. One particular group I visited in the North East have a thriving 'club' who meet regularly, not only for breakfast but other social activities. On the day I visited, I was re-united with a friend I joined the army with during summer 1971 in Surrey and now lives in the Durham area. Both of us having completed a 25-year career and been successful in civvy street.

Not wishing to disclose ages, our Great Bentley gathering consisted of some still serving and youthful, through to some retired (and beyond!) including myself. After a brief introduction, the banter flowed as it normally does in these veterans' groups. The first teasing began from a Navy person who will remain nameless only to say he was quick to point out that he was the Senior Service (Royal Navy) present! Others were re-united after many years including a couple who had served together and not realised they were living in the same village.

All ages, male and female, tri-service are welcome to attend. Our next get together is Saturday 5th February 09:30 at The Plough for bacon rolls and a 'real' brew of coffee and tea. If you are not on my list, please contact me on 251485 or see the notices on the Facebook group 'Spotted Great Bentley' where you can respond.

WANTED

Newspaper Delivery Driver required to join our family-run business in Great Bentley.

We have an opening for a reliable early morning weekend/holiday cover delivery driver - typically between the hours of 6am - 7:30am - approx 1hr of driving. Own transport essential. £25 per day.

For more info please call 01206 808483 or email info@mypaperdelivery.co.uk



A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

ADDITIONAL RECYCLING POINTS FOR TETRA PAK IN TENDRING

Tendring District Council (TDC) has funded the provision of Tetra Pak recycling banks at six new locations in Tendring.

Tetra Pak is used for products such as juice cartons and Pringle-style tubes and requires specialist processing for the three elements within the product – paper, plastic and aluminum – to then be recycled. The additional Tetra Pak bins are located at existing recycling banks at:

- Alresford Parish Council
- Bradfield Parish Council
- Brightlingsea Co-Op
- **GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET PAVILION**
- Barrack Lane, Harwich
- Station car park, Walton-on-the-Naze

PRIDE OF TENDRING AWARD

This year I put forward one person for the award and I am pleased that Judy Bishop has been selected. I wrote:

Judy is very well known in Great Bentley village for always volunteering and being available when an extra pair of hands are needed. If cakes, scones, and help with food preparation is needed for fund raising events, church events etc., Judy is always prepared and ready to help, and her cakes and scones are always very tasty.

More recently due to the high traffic volumes now through the centre of the village, there has been the need to have traffic cones strategically placed to prevent parking at the busiest times of day, Judy ensures they are in place, and cleaned on a regular basis.

She is well known for the caring of stray cats and ensuring in some cases they are caught to go to a recognised cat rescue to be re homed.

Judy also has a strong voice if she sees or hears of something that is detrimental to the village, for example road closures when no authority has been given to close a road, she is very quick to let the local district councillor know.

Judy just likes to be involved and have her say, she is always prepared to help and does not in some cases wait to be asked, she is just there, as and when needed.

I have given only a very brief description of what Judy does for Great Bentley, but due to the fact that she is always available to help in many areas and has been over many years, I believe she deserves to be recognised with A Pride of Tendring award.

BUSINESSES – PLEASE APPLY NOW FOR ADDITIONAL COVID GRANT SCHEME

Leisure and hospitality businesses can apply now for further grants following the announcement of additional financial support. The Government said last month it would provide extra Covid-19 support for the sector due to the impact of the Omicron wave. One-off grants of up to £6,000 are available, depending on the rateable value of the premises. Eligible businesses must apply for the grant support **by midnight on 13 February** and can do so through www.tendringdc.gov.uk.

To qualify a business must fall within the hospitality and leisure sector, which includes short-term let accommodation, it must have been trading on 30 December 2021, and must be registered for business rates (even if exempt or fully-discounted).

It had been hoped businesses who had previously received money under the Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme would not need to complete a full application again – however, Government guidance stipulates that due to a change on the qualifying criteria all businesses must apply again.

For the full eligibility criteria and how to apply go to

https://tendring-self.achieveservice.com/service/Omicron_Hospitality_and_Leisure_Grant.

TDC is still considering how to use the additional funding it received through the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme to best help local businesses, and further information will be added to the website once a scheme has been devised.

Cllr. Lynda McWilliams

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

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

Email lynda@boblyn.co.uk

Tel. No. 01206 250732

cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk

Mobile 07564 613603

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES



Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 2

KO 2.00pm unless stated

Sat Dec 11th	Tollesbury	H	W 3 – 1
Sat Dec 18 th	St Osyth	A	Postponed
Sat Jan 8 th	Thorpe Ath	A	Postponed
Sat Jan 15 th	Boxted Lodgers	H	D 3 - 3
Sat Jan 22 nd	Tiptree Jobserve Res	H	

Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 4

Sat Dec 11 th	Tiptree Jobserve Res	A	L 3 – 0	Reserve KO Cup
Sat Dec 18 th	Gosfield Utd Res	H	Postponed	Covid Cup
Sat Jan 8 th	Gosfield Utd Res	H	L 4 – 1	Covid Cup
Sat Jan 15 th	Boxted Lodgers	A	W 5 - 1	
Sat Jan 22	Bradfield Rovers	A		

Sat Jan 1st Annual Richard “Rigger” Morton Memorial Trophy Postponed

Unlike professional football, who have a heavily congested festive period over Christmas and New Year, “Grass Roots” football does not suffer from this. Particularly this year with Christmas Eve and New Years Day falling on a Saturday, both teams last game should have been December 18th and recommencing on Jan 8th.

However both teams games for Dec 18th were postponed due to the possibility of players testing positive for Covid and then having to isolate over Christmas. The Border League gave all clubs the authority to make the decision if they wanted to postpone games.

With no games taking place, the decision was also made to cancel that evenings Christmas gathering in the clubhouse.

This unfortunately also affected the inaugural Richard Morton memorial game scheduled for New Years day, which now will take place later in the year. The last league games played in December on the 11th were 1st team comfortably winning 3 – 1 on the green against Tollesbury. Scorers were Joe Hurd, Sam Winney & Archie Herbert. Archie scoring his first goal back after injury.

Reserves lost 3 – 0 in the Reserve League KO cup against Tiptree Jobserve Res. A tough game against a side doing well in Div 2. Jake Vaughn has returned to the club after moving to local rivals Colne Ath in the mass exodus prior to pre-season training. Jake had come through from GB youth a few years back now but was welcomed back with open arms.

Sat Jan 8th had a very disappointing outcome for the 1st team facing 2nd place Thorpe Ath at Kirby Playing Fields. Both teams had gone through 30 minutes of warm up routines and had gone back to the changing rooms to put match kit on when the referee stated that he was not prepared for the game to start as he was unhappy with the small amount of standing water in the far goalmouth. He asked for Thorpe to try to sweep the offending water away. Thorpe did not want to do this, so the game was called off. We feel that they had a weakened team and did not fancy it on the day.

So everybody drove back to the green to support the reserves who were hosting Gosfield Utd Res in a rearranged Covid Cup game from Dec 18th. The game was entertaining with both sides having early chances. Greg Wainer opened the scoring for GB, with Gosfield equalising just before half time. In the second half, GB lost the initiative after bringing on 3 subs. The final score being 4 – 1 to Gosfield. GB goalkeeper young Jack French had an outstanding game and did not deserve to be on the losing side.

After an enforced 5 week break, the 1st team took to the field on Jan 15th playing Boxted Lodgers. GB started brightly. Jake Vaughn finally playing his first game back with us. GB took a early lead when Harvey Evans was on hand to maximise on a goalkeeping error from a searching cross. Joe Hurd followed this with a fine headed goal on 20mins. Boxted had to replace their goalkeeper who somehow got injured coming for a unchallenged cross. Just before half-time Joe Hurd scored his second goal, turning his defender and curling his shot into the top right hand corner. Comfortably winning 3 – 0 at half time. Obviously GB must have thought that the game was won but they had forgotten to tell the Boxted players this. We simply imploded and were were indeed lucky to come away with a point in the 3 – 3 draw.

The reserves also took a 3 – 0 lead into the half-time break at Boxted Res. However they came out winning 5 – 1 to continue top of Div 4 by 2 points with 2 games in hand.

A special get well soon to Brian Owen. Brian has been a professional player at Watford, Wolves and Colchester who turned to coaching and then club physio when injuries had forced him to “hang up his boots” at an early age. He was physio at many clubs including Ipswich, England national squads and latterly Colchester. A long time friend of the club, he is currently undergoing various tests to try to determine the cause of the ongoing heart problems that he is suffering with. Everyone at the club sends Brian a massive get well soon message and we hope to see him on the green again soon walking his dogs and supporting Great Bentley FC.

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

TENDING NEWSPAPER DELIVERY SERVICE

We would like to thank all our customers for bearing with us over the first couple of weeks. It was a bumpy start to the year with delivery issues over the bank holiday weekend. I'm truly hopeful that these issues are now behind us and the normal delivery schedule has returned.



We have a great team of staff, and their support over this transition has been much appreciated.

If you would like to benefit from having your National & Local Newspapers, Weekly & Monthly Magazines delivered to your door then please do get in touch. You can find out more at

www.MyPaperDelivery.co.uk or phone us on **01206 808483**.

We look forward to delivering to you.

Thanks again,
Gary & Samantha Smith

See advert on page F
Delivery Driver needed see page 13

GREAT BENTLEY ART CLUB

Great Bentley Art Club February meetings in the Village Hall (Covid 19 restrictions permitting) will include:

Tuesday February 8th - Workshop details:

There will be a 'Design your own Cards' Workshop run by Julie Bowes, held between 10am and 4pm. We will explore ideas and the techniques of card making. Bring reference material for our chosen subjects, plus some basic equipment in our preferred art mediums (excluding oil paint). We will also take our own refreshments and a packed lunch. We would like to thank Julie very much for sharing her artistic expertise with us and all of the hard work she has done in setting up what promises to be a fun day of art.

Tuesday February 22nd:

The theme for inspiration will be boats (using our own reference material) 2-5pm.

VILLAGE CARETAKER

Many of you may be unaware that we have a **VILLAGE CARETAKER**

Below a list of duties carried out twice weekly. At present Bobby is responsible for

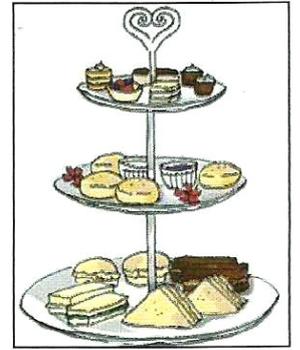
- Safety checking the Play Area and equipment on the village green, for damage etc.,
- Checks the benches and litter bins for damage and reports to TDC if not emptied.
- Checks village green for litter and vandalism.
- Checks Car park for surfacing, potholes and vandalism.
- Checks the recycling banks for general tidiness.
- Checks noticeboards to ensure no out of date information and their condition.
- Inspects all roads in the Parish, which includes taking pictures to report flytipping to TDC.
- Checks footpaths for ice in the wintertime.
- Checks pathways are clear in the allotments.

Everything is reported back to the Parish Clerk. So if you see flytipping or the bottlebank is overflowing please contact Bobby 01206 250732

Queens Platinum Jubilee

As you can see from the poster on page 17 arrangements are well on the way for village celebrations on June 4th & 5th.

Final details will be complete and published in the April Magazine. If you would be interested as a business or an individual in supporting this event by making a donation please contact Bev Adams 01206-250724



SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2022

AT 2PM IN A MARQUEE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

INCLUDING: CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER AND MUSIC BY PETER & JUDITH CLAYTON

THERE WILL BE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THIS EVENT

MORE DETAILS IN THE APRIL PARISH MAGAZINE

BUT THERE WILL BE SPACE FOR EVERYONE THAT WANTS TO COME ONTO THE GREEN

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS OR RUGS AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

LICENSED BAR + TEA & COFFEE ON THE GREEN

FULL PROGRAM OF ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE AFTERNOON INCLUDING:

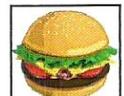


PIZZA

BOXTED SILVER BAND

CHILDRENS'S RACES

CLASSIC CAR SHOW – *TO BE CONFIRMED*



BURGERS

FIREWORK FINALE

SATURDAY EVENING - 7:30PM TO 10PM

LIVE MUSIC FROM 'THE GIFTED'



FISH & CHIPS



ICE CREAMS

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022

12NOON TO 4PM

VILLAGE PICNIC IN THE MARQUEE

COME AND JOIN IN WITH THE NATIONWIDE BIG JUBLIEE LUNCH

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC AND DRINKS

DJ MICHAEL BIRD WILL PROVIDE MUSIC

OWLS-R-Us. Our small contribution to the Tendring Barn Owl population.

Part 1. 'the Plot'.

Late in 2011 we received a phone call from a neighbour who wanted to sell a small plot of land adjacent to our garden. He was retiring and moving away and thought that with our interest in wildlife we could make this neglected area a refuge for nature. What an opportunity as, prior to this unexpected turn of events, we had only been able to create small areas for wildlife within our existing garden. Many hours of hard work ensued; carefully cutting a way through the two metres high jungle of nettles and brambles to create a network of paths. We did retain some nettle beds and bramble patches. Some of the Sycamore and Elder saplings were also kept but these would be replaced by a wider range of native species at a later date. Luckily, thirty years of neglect had resulted in several maturing trees on the 'plot', thus our thoughts turned to birds and bird boxes. Having been involved with a Barn Owl project previously it would be great if we could encourage Barn Owls to nest on our home patch.

Over many years we had visited local EWT reserves and noted the owl boxes erected on telegraph poles. We did not need poles as we had maturing trees, but needed a properly designed and constructed box. During our many reserve visits it was obvious that one box was becoming very decrepid. Part of the roof was now missing, the landing platform had gone and the gable ends beginning to fall away. Thinking it was worth a try we rang the Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) local reserve's manager with a request that we might be able to save the box. Oh dear not very encouraging. "There is a waiting list for boxes; they get refurbished and moved on to other reserves or suitable sites as part of a Barn Owl recovery programme". Several months later we found that a new box had been duly installed but the door-upper lay in a blackthorn bush in a really dilapidated state. Back onto the mobile phone with another plea and sales pitch. "We are located on the edge of a village, facing open country with paddocks, barns and stables close by. The latter house a ready larder of furry food for owls". Hooray, it's ours for a donation. Now we just have to get it home. At this point it should be said that these boxes are the size of a 'smallish' dog kennel with a pitched roof and accommodation on two levels. They are not light. So, with one of us at each end, off we struggle up the several hundred yards of rough track to the car. We really needed a film crew here because the box was like a reverse DIY assembly kit and the further we went the more the box, and ourselves, fell apart. By the time we got to the car we were only carrying the odd sheet of plywood. We then had to make several trips back down the track to retrieve all the panels. The missing roof section was not re-located for several weeks. By now exhausted, mostly from laughing, we sat and regained our composure.

It was by now the end of the 2014 breeding season and over the next few weeks we reconstructed the 'kennel' box; replacing the lost roof panel, staining the timber and felting the roof in order to extend its life. We then set about the construction of an 'A' frame box, using recycled plywood, from a plan down-loaded from 't-internet', in order to place a second* box on the edge of the 'plot'.

With the help of two local bird ringers we hauled both boxes up, three metres plus is ideal, into suitably prepared Sycamore trees, which in itself was no easy task. We then prepared the boxes with a thin layer of sticks and twigs on the floors. Now it was a waiting game. Will a female Barn Owl find the des-res and of course attract a suitable mate?

Read Part 2 next month. kim.

** It is the usual practise, but not essential, to erect two boxes for Barn Owls about 50 metres apart, or as far as space allows. Once the female has chosen 'the box', and after he has carried out his marital obligation, he will be banished either upstairs or to the second box. His duties now are to provide food for the female and owlets. There is also a safety element to this strategy as a male may become a threat to the owlets if food becomes scarce.*



GARDENING NOTES

We trust all gardeners were able to do as much or as little as they wanted or needed to do over the recent Christmas and New year break. If things were left undone try and be philosophical about it. Whereas keen exhibitors might need to be exact about sowing, transplanting or planting dates for the majority, tasks can be carried out in a fairly wide timescale and still achieve a good result.

For vegetables it is advisable to carry out crop rotation. This is an established system to help maintain soil health by reducing a build up of pests and diseases that are sometimes specific to one group of crops. It is also true that each group depletes different nutrients so it also helps to ensure that one particular type of plant food is not exhausted by growing crops with the same demands. It is simply planting crop families in a different part of the plot every year. There are many books and internet articles that cover it in far greater depth than is possible in this article and the detail can vary but here is a typical example using 3 rotating areas over a 3 year cycle and retaining 1 permanent plot.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Root Crops	Brassicas	Other
Plot 1	Roots	Brassicas	Other	Carrots, parsnips, beetroot, salsify etc	Cabbage, savoys, cauliflower, broccoli, sprouts, turnips	Potatoes, celery, leeks, peas, beans etc
Plot 2	Brassicas	Other	Roots			
Plot 3	Other	Roots	Brassicas			
Permanent Crops - Herbs, asparagus, rhubarb etc						

We use this as our guide but we break the rules somewhere most years as we don't always grow the same amount of each group and we don't want to leave fallow areas of soil for long periods. Also, different crops harvest at different times and we want to get second crops where we can.

We will often use lettuce, leaf salads and courgettes to fill empty spaces. We also follow early potatoes in the same year with leeks to make use of the cleared ground. Growing potatoes will involve opening up the soil to plant the tubers, earthing up and digging to harvest the crop. This means the area is well worked and ideal for root crops the following year. Also, as any manure incorporated for the potatoes will have been absorbed by the soil a year later and will not cause the carrots to fork.

Providing you ensure that you do not grow the same vegetable crop in the same ground several years in succession it will help to prevent the build-up of pests and disease. This is likely to become even more important in future whether or not you are organic growers as the availability of pesticides, insecticides and fungicides to amateur growers diminishes. This is one of the 3 P's that Monty Don is urging growers to avoid. (i.e., Pesticides, Plastics and Peat).

Finally, don't forget that any remaining hedge trimming should be completed in February to avoid disturbing nesting birds and possibly contravening the Wildlife and Countryside legislation.

Bentley Green Players

At a meeting recently it was agreed to 'raise the curtain' again, after an absence of almost two years, on a light-hearted production. Scripts are being circulated amongst the group for consideration and auditions will be held on Monday 7th February at 7.30pm in the Great Bentley Village Hall.

Production dates are 6th and 7th May with the possibility of an extra show on Thursday 5th or a matinee on the 7th.

If you would like to audition or have always thought about taking part in a play but have needed a nudge.... here's the nudge..... come along, whether it be for acting or back stage, you will be most welcome.

Bev Adams
Secretary
01206 250724

bev.k.adams@btinternet.com



Hygienist

I have often been asked which of my driving experiences I have most enjoyed. The answer is quite simple, the most blissful drive was the one that took me home after a visit to the dental hygienist.

For my most recent appointment at the dental practice of which I have been a customer for over 20 years, I arrived early to ensure my adherence to their latest protocol which now insists that I ring their doorbell exactly on time in order to avoid over-populating the waiting room. The image of the receptionist appeared behind the frosted glass as she approached, her hand reaching forward to unlock the door and having done so opened it. She checked my name on her clipboard whilst squirting onto my outstretched palm a substantial dollop of cold liquid from a five litre container of sanitiser. I was invited to take a chair in an empty reception room, a corner chair which, during a happier time was a toddler's play area but today is totally toyless having surrendered the space to accommodate an e-bike. I did not ask the reason for the e-bike. Sitting quietly and aware that it was already ten minutes after the time of my allotted appointment I was approached by a lady wearing a blue boiler suit over which was tied a disposable plastic apron. To have a bed bath before seeing the hygienist was taking this covid cleanliness to ridiculous lengths I thought but then noticed that she was holding a tablet, not the tranquiliser type, the electronic type used to collect one's personal details. We trundled through several pages of questions at the end of which she asked me for the phone number of my next of kin. I reminded her that I was only there for the hygienist who, at that moment, entered the room. "Mr Evans," she enquired loudly which was rather odd since I was the only person present.

I was asked to follow the hygienist up the stairs to her workplace and on arrival I was invited to sit in the dentist's chair which I did but instead of beginning the treatment, the enquiries began again. Did I have any serious medical problems, she asked, and what medication I used. The questions kept coming, moving then onto lifestyle habits like smoking. I told her I was a non-smoker. The interrogation continued. 'Do you take alcohol?' she mumbled through her mask. At that point I explained that my teeth were not at risk in that respect since I prefer to drink alcohol, that I did not chew it. I had been in that chair for thirty minutes and never once did she mention my teeth.

By this time I was mask free and lying on her examination lounger in a position which can only be described as vulnerable whereas she was towering over me wearing protective gear resembling that of a shipyard welder. Her mask resulted in her words bouncing off the bare walls of the theatre becoming unrecognisable to a 79 year old deaf person not wearing his fancy Phonak hearing aids. She was about to begin but not before I introduced a ground rule, namely a loose tooth with which any contact must be avoided as it was due for extraction by the dentist during my next visit in February. She agreed and began. I held the hissing saliva ejector firmly with my left hand as she manoeuvred her dental mirror into position whilst simultaneously chipping away with her plaque scraper, then opting for the more invasive water flosser followed by the dreaded ultrasonic cement remover. I have fewer tools in my shed than the number of hers in my mouth. I thought about the e-bike and realised its usage, it's an escape vehicle. 'Raise your right arm if you feel any discomfort,' she advised without stopping the onslaught. Instead of my arm, I raised an objection as water from the flosser was running down my cheek. I had been less wet during my scuba diving days.

Her saliva ejector collided with my loose tooth, I yelled. I gargled that she must avoid that tooth. She insisted that she needed to clean it. Removing the ejector in order to speak, I promised her that after the extraction of the tooth in February I would take it home and immediately put it in the dishwasher.

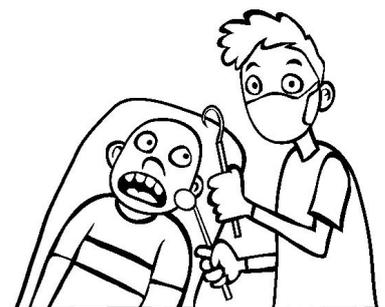
I'm a wimp, she hit the tooth again, I yelled again. I took the saliva ejector from my mouth and quietly protested adding that should this brutality continue, I would leave the room. She undauntedly continued, a cacophony of noises usually associated with forms of demolition, then, as the flosser spat water everywhere I was finally prompted to thank her for her thoroughness but informed her that the treatment was at an end. She lectured me that she was caring for my gums. I told her that I had looked after my gums for the last 79 years and that my gums would survive the few years that remain of my life as long as they were not victims of physical harassment.

I calmly sipped a mouthwash and drained the residue carefully into the receptacle provided and stood up, removed the tinted safety goggles which made me look like an aging American traffic cop except that those goggles were by now squiffy on the end of my nose. I folded them carefully, placed them on the tray and, in order to gain a little composure, I straightened my shirt after which I thanked her for her time and said my farewell.

As I descended the stairs my mind conjured up an occasion when my daughter took Barney, her beloved mongrel, to the vet to have similar canine dental work carried out. If only the hygienist could have shown as much compassion for me as the vet did for Barney. I immediately pledged that should I ever need my teeth scoured in the future, I would approach the local vet. People complain about extortionate vet bills. I paid £63.00 for that five minutes of unnecessary sadism, a sum that equates to an eye-watering £756.00 per hour.

The loose tooth popped out the following day, I decided against putting it in the dishwasher.

JE



YOUTH FOOTBALL



On behalf of us all at GBYFC, a very happy new year to you.

Our Under 8 Blue team ended the year on a high. This young team have won the last 8 games in a row and importantly they are growing into a super talented group who often play football at a level that is years beyond them. Manager Lee Barrett says they are a credit to coach, as they absolutely love playing games and love to develop and learn in training!

The Under 8 Red team ended the year seven games without defeat.

Watching the boys each week developing skills and enthusiasm for the game is a great thing to witness for Manager Alex Jones. Grassroots football helps teach young boys discipline as well as teamwork creating a win together lose together mentality.

Our Under 10's team only played two games in December due to other games being called off however registered a great victory beating Halstead and keeping a clean sheet which was a great game to watch for Manager Lee Jennings.

The Under 11's had a fantastic end to the year. Ellis Obia's team won all of their matches to set them up nicely for the second half of the season.

The Under 12's had a very strong December registering only one defeat. Manager Steve Palmer's team started the new year in spectacular fashion with a 7-0 victory over Wivenhoe Tempest, with goals from Jack Rokorasei, Harvey Durrell (2), Josh Trivett, Liam Durrell and George Nash rounded off by a first goal for the club for long serving Louie Brewer.

Our Under 15 Reds had a quiet December due to postponements however Manager Matt Lambert took the squad to Portman Road to watch Ipswich play Sunderland which was a great team exercise and was enjoyed by all.

They have started 2022 with a home defeat to table topping Gt Bradfords despite a spirited display that saw them lead 2-0, only to lose 3-6 with goals coming from Evan Brady, Hoby Bird and Charlie Dobson.

The Under 15 blues did not play during December, but have had a strong start to the season playing in the top division they sit 4th in the table.



Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Association Annual General Meeting 2022

WE NEED YOU!

Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Association will be holding an Emergency AGM at Great Bentley Village Hall, on Thursday 10th February 2022, Michael Wright Room at 8pm.

Unfortunately due to career commitments our Committee Secretary has stepped down. We will not be able to continue with the village Carnival and Fete without someone in this Committee position.

The Carnival and Fete raise much needed funds for local youth organisations.

If you are new to the village, it is a great opportunity to make new friends and get involved in village life.

If you are interested and would like a chat to find out more information, please contact me on 07585558660

Julie Wall

Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Association Chairperson

N.B. Meeting arrangements may be subject to change dependent on Covid Restrictions.

Gibraltar Adventure

Hello everybody.

Yes, I'm back again due to a stay in hospital and Christmas following on I missed the December and January magazine deadlines. I do hope I'm not too late to wish you all a happy and healthy 2022.

In the November magazine I wrote about the Guides Gibraltar Adventure party. I ended it with our arrival on the Rock. I do hope you will like to read about our week in Gibraltar.

Gibraltar Adventure 2

We were staying in the Scout HQ which was quite spacious. There was a big hall and a large kitchen, toilets and shower room downstairs and smaller rooms for the leaders. On arrival the girls claimed their spots in the hall and had a takeaway for dinner. Then Joe, the Scout leader, whisked them away for a karaoke in the town square. This gave the leaders time to sort themselves out. Ian, the Cub leader, took Barry and his wife shopping. They stocked up for a few days. The next day we were given an itinerary for the week. Joe wanted to take us over to Morocco. However we declined this as we had several Guides with us.

Our week started with a dolphin safari from Coaling Island where we swam and renewed friendships. We all managed to see the dolphins even though many of the pictures are of the sea - they were just too quick for us.

That evening we had a trip into the Rock to see the MOD tunnels with Kenny, Joe's father in law. The adults found it more of an interest than the girls. However a lot of history was learnt and to the girl's amusement we found we were locked in, the keys just wouldn't work. What seemed like a lifetime later the lock shifted and we were out.

Saturday Day 3 started with a trip on a police launch. These had only been in commission for 3 weeks and the police were very proud of them. We went as far as the border with Spain and back - as we turned we all got very wet. We spent the afternoon at Western Beach, swimming, sailing and canoeing. In the evening we had a BBQ with a Hawaiian theme. Everyone dressed up and we had a lovely time.

Sunday Day 4 we had a lay-in after a late night. In the afternoon we went to Camp Bay a beach with two swimming pools. The girls walked while the leaders had a tour of the Rock. We stayed until late.

Monday Day 5. Time for a little shopping. The Guides were let loose in town. In the afternoon we had a trip to Parsons Lodge - a fortress where the big guns remain to be viewed by visitors and where history is abundant. The Scouts and Guides were thoroughly bored until they found one of the ammunition storage areas that was completely pitch dark. All of a sudden screams and laughter rang out. It wasn't so bad after all to have more history!

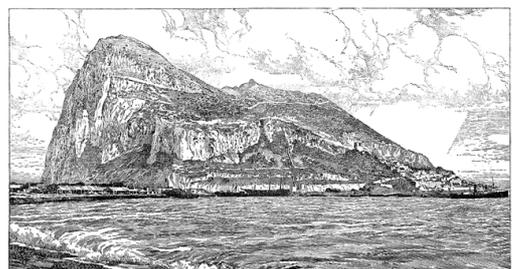
In the evening we entertained the Scouts with a Chinese meal cooked by Barry and helpers. The Scouts entertained us with a display from their marching band.

Tuesday Day 6. A day on the Rock. We left HQ early to meet Ruth, a Brownie Guider, and Ian's wife for the upper rock tour. We had a cable car ride to the top and then a slow walk down. We fed the apes and were amazed by their manners. We then went to St Michaels Caves where Jason's dad gave us a guided tour. They were very beautiful. We walked on passing the Guide campsite and on to the Scout camp where we had lunch. After lunch we continued to the Siege tunnels and some more history. There were more areas outside and they were very streetwise, stealing from cars and sitting on heads and shoulders. It made some great photos. It was a tired group of Guides that made their way back to Scout HQ after a very busy day. In the evening the young leaders went out with the Venture Scouts and the Guides put on an impromptu concert.

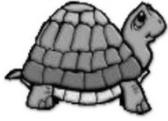
Wednesday Day 7. Today we visited the Mayor's Parlour and exchanged gifts. There was silver service and food and drinks just kept flowing. It was very hot in the room and we were there for about two hours.

A final shopping trip and frantic bag packing and then a last swim. This was followed by a BBQ with everyone who had helped make our stay so memorable. There was a cowboy theme and again everyone joined in. We exchanged gifts and hugged everyone. Another late night and a few tears before bedtime.

Thursday Day 8. The alarm went off at 5am for a frantic clear up in what still seemed to be the night - it was so dark. The Scouts came to say goodbye and help carry our bags to the coach. After a tearful goodbye we were off to the airport in Malaga. We crossed the border without problems and arrived early for our flight. We had a trouble free flight and arrived home in Essex at about 8pm. What a wonderful holiday!



Barbara Fookes



We have had a great first month back and have enjoyed welcoming in all our new children, they have all settled in so well with lots of independence, social skills and confidence gained already.

We have also welcomed Lily to our setting who is completing a student placement for her BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development (Year 1) that she is studying.

It's been lovely to welcome Lily and support her within her course as Lily use to come here when she was of age, Lily will be working within session every Wednesday and Thursday until Easter, good luck Lily in your course.

This term we are busy learning about different life cycles, this gets a bigger topic the more we head into Spring and covers so many areas of development.

We also go into another year where we continue to work with Beth from Jo Jingles and Chris from Cannons Basketball. These are both outside agencies that come in once a week and work directly with the children, Beth provides a music and movement session which involves lots of singing, dancing and use of musical instruments, and Chris teaches the children basic skills of ball control, physical coordination and control, and working in a team. It also ensures our children have a positive male role model in what is quite a female dominated environment.

Facebook Page

Don't forget we have our own Facebook Page that contains information and reminders.

If you are on Facebook search for 'Great Bentley Pre-school' and like our page so you are up to date with all that's going on.

Have a great month everyone and thanks for reading.

Julie Wiles



HISTORY BOOKS NEEDED AND OLD POSTCARDS OF THE VILLAGE PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

I often have requests for the pictorial books which I compiled some years back; Great Bentley Past Volume 1 and 2 both of which completely sold out. Any surplus ones I gather I send to people on a waiting list and donations are then sent to St Mary's church. I am now down to my last copies so if you have any spares I would be really grateful.

Volume 3 we have heaps of and these are priced at just £4 so please let me know if you would like one. They contain more modern images of our village including a very young Alan Titchmarsh at The Red Lion pub!!

How Green Is Our Village by Carl Morton and Michael Wright I would also be glad to receive and Leonard Newman's History of Great Bentley. I am down to my last copies of these and I am then loath to lend them to anyone, so I would be very grateful for spares.

I am very fortunate that in the past people have given me old postcards of the village and again I would love more of these. It all helps me to help other people with their enquiries and projects.

Thank you in anticipation,
Mary Maskell





Surgery News

PATIENT INFORMATION REGARDING VITAMIN D SUPPLEMENT

Vitamin D is made in the skin by the action of sunlight and this is the main source of Vitamin D for most people. It is essential for healthy teeth, bones and muscles. Trials are under way assessing the role of low Vitamin D levels in Coronavirus infections.

Public Health England advises that in spring and summer, the majority of the population will get enough Vitamin D through sunlight on the skin and by eating a healthy, balanced diet. During autumn and winter, everyone will need to rely on dietary sources of Vitamin D. Since it is difficult for people to meet the 10 microgram recommendation from consuming foods naturally containing or fortified with Vitamin D, people should consider taking a daily supplement containing 10 micrograms of Vitamin D in autumn and winter. This is available to be purchased cheaply from pharmacies and health shops.

SURGERY TRAINING AFTERNOON

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12.30 pm on Wednesday, 23 February 2022 for staff training.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

As these meetings are now held bi-monthly the next meeting of the PPG will be held on Thursday, 17th March at 6.30 pm at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

Bentley in Bloom

A new year and new enthusiasm! Members of Bentley in Bloom will continue with the ground displays this coming year. Plants have already been ordered. The hanging baskets supply of last year will continue this year with the assistance of Deans of Elmstead and we should be able to make a small amount of money from the baskets to go towards the costs. Funds have become somewhat depleted, more so than usual, by the servicing of and electrical units needed, for our water bowser last year.

The committee is made up of mostly senior members and we are always looking for help with planting and tidying up days. This amounts to only 4 or 5 times a year. Anyone who can help with the ground flower displays please contact Jennie Moss 252182. For those that would like to order one of our self-watering baskets for the coming year please contact Dorothy Nowak on 250204.

Another idea put forward was to try and find people willing to de-weed and de-head particular ground displays on the green. If you could help with this task, with a display near you or one you pass on a daily walk, please contact Jennie.

Finally, thanks to the committee and keen members who have put things in place and organised working parties. I mean of course Dorothy and Richard Nowak, Jennie Moss and to the volunteers that turn up on working party days.

**Michael Dorling
Chairman.**



Centre for Womens Justice

See their website or call 0207 092 1807

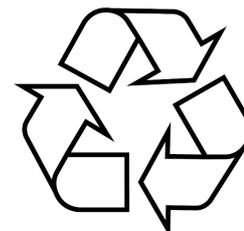
TENDRING PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME

As one year rolls into another, for many of us our thoughts turn to the making of New Year's resolutions. For many that might involve eating better or exercising more, but with the clock very much ticking with regards to climate change and global warming, eco-friendly considerations are another very good place to start.

A friend and I were chatting about this and she said that although she is an avid recycler, she knows that recycling should be our very last resort and that there is still much more she could be doing to cut down on her use of plastics. She was a little overwhelmed as to where to start however, so we came up with the idea of breaking it down into a room-by-room process. Her first choice she decided would be the bathroom, as it is often the easiest place in the house to start. So, with that in mind, what are the options?

There are many ways in which we can all be more environmentally friendly in the bathroom (water saving and the use of natural cleaning agents for example), but today, I wanted to focus on just toiletries and personal care items only. The following being just a few suggestions as to where we might be able to make changes, which could be buying ...

- Soap bars to replace liquid soaps and shower gels.
- Solid shampoo and conditioner bars to replace bottled versions.
- Bamboo toothbrushes in place of plastic.
- 100% Biodegradable cotton buds.
- Solid shaving bars and eco-friendly plastic free safety razors.
- Machine washable cotton facial pads for cleansing and make-up removal.
- Eco-friendly recycled or bamboo toilet paper.
- Period pants or menstrual cups in place of disposable sanitary items.



Unfortunately, it is not possible to discuss all of the above, but maybe we can look at the advantages of just a few. All of them however remove plastics from the environment which is always a good place to start!

If solid shampoo and conditioner bars are something you might like to consider, most people are delighted with the results, and find that the shampoo lathers up really well, leaving their hair soft and beautifully clean afterwards. Most of the bars available are vegan, cruelty free, silicone and paraben free, SLS (Sodium Lauryl Sulphate – a cheap, harsh foaming agent) free, and of course have zero waste. Many are also free of palm oil, an ingredient linked to deforestation and habitat degradation. Cost wise, the bars can appear to be more expensive, but if kept dry between uses, will last on average for the equivalent of two to three plastic bottles of shampoo making them very good value. Bottled shampoos on the other hand, are diluted with 80% water (up to 95% for conditioners!), giving the appearance that you are receiving more for your money, when in fact the opposite is the case. The weight of the bottles also means that transportation costs are increased, as is the carbon footprint. So, all in all, the bars have many advantages.

Bamboo toothbrushes are another good swap. But why?

Well, bamboo has a smaller ecological footprint than plastic as it is the fastest growing plant in the world, growing up to 44mm per hour and for some species, up to 3ft per day! It is an extremely renewable resource therefore. Furthermore, it compares well hygiene wise, as bamboo contains antimicrobial agents. You simply need to allow air circulation around the brush after use, to allow the handle to dry well. Bamboo is also biodegradable in its raw form, such as for toothbrush handles. If the bristles are removed when the toothbrush needs replacing, the handle can simply be placed in your compost bin where it will rot down within 6 months, or quicker if broken up. It can also be buried in the ground where decomposition will take approximately 5 years. A plastic toothbrush in contrast, will take from 400-500 years, and millions end up in landfill every year. If you are not using one already, it is definitely worth considering.

And whilst still on the subject of bamboo, have you ever thought about switching to either bamboo or recycled toilet paper? Or even considered why you might want to do so?

Toilet roll is the biggest single use throwaway product that we all have in our home, and according to the National Geographic, its production wipes out a staggering 27,000 trees a day or 9.8 million per year, threatening forest areas worldwide. Bamboo paper is just one alternative, with recycled toilet paper being another and they are both worth looking in to. The benefit of 100% recycled paper of course is that it can be made without using new materials, and unbleached, chemical and plastic free options are available for both. There is much more which could be said about all the possibilities mentioned above, but hopefully this will have given you a few little ideas which might just turn into belated New Year's resolutions for you too.

A Happy New Year to you all.

June Barker

COOKERY CORNER

SMOKED FISH

Originally people needed to find ways of preserving foods, and smoking fish and meat has been a widely used method for centuries, and is still popular today. Food is cured (preserved and flavoured) by various methods, one of which is “smoking”. The food is hung over burning or smouldering plant materials, usually wood which helps to seal the outer layer of the food making it more difficult for bacteria to enter.

Smoked haddock with mustard sauce

Make sure you buy the best quality fish and do not use too much seasoning in the potatoes as they are mashed using the milk in which the fish is poached. This recipe serves four.

4 x 170g fillets of smoked haddock 4 medium floury potatoes 30g butter ¾ pint of milk
2tbsp wholegrain mustard ¼ pint of crème fraiche

Peel the potatoes and cut into small pieces, then boil in salted water. Meanwhile, lay the fillets skin down in a large frying pan and cover with the milk. Poach over a very gentle heat until the fish is firm and creamy looking. Do not let the milk boil. Remove the fillets gently onto a plate, peel away the skin and keep warm in the oven covered with a damp piece of greaseproof paper to stop the fish drying out. Keep the milk. When the potatoes are soft, drain them thoroughly. Mash them, adding the butter and 100 to 150g of the reserved poaching milk. Season lightly with ground black pepper. Heat the crème fraiche with the mustard in a small pan. Stir and add a little water or milk to make a sauce. On each warm plate place a spoonful of mash and lay a fillet on top. Spoon over the sauce and garnish with a sprig of flat leaf parsley or dill.

Kipper mousse

A kipper is a whole herring that has been split in a butterfly fashion from tail to head along the dorsal ridge, gutted, salted or pickled and cold smoked over smouldering wood chips, typically oak. The Isle of Man is noted for its famous Manx Kippers. These are the best kippers to buy and are a deep bronze colour with a distinctive rich and smoky, salty flavour. This recipe is for four.

4 kipper fillets (about 350g) juice 1 orange 1tbsp lemon juice 1tsp gelatine
110g cottage cheese ¼ pint low fat natural yoghurt 1 garlic clove crushed
¼ tsp ground mace

Pour boiling water over the fillets and leave to stand for one minute. Drain, pat dry and remove the skin. Flake the flesh, discarding the bones and put into a blender with the cottage cheese, yoghurt, garlic and mace and blend until smooth. Mix the orange and lemon juices in a large heatproof bowl. Sprinkle on the gelatine and leave to stand for a few minutes until spongy. Place the bowl in a saucepan of hot water and heat gently until the gelatine has dissolved. Add to the kipper mixture and blend until everything is evenly mixed. Season to taste with pepper and put into an oiled dish. Chill for about an hour and serve garnished with lemon or orange slices and herb sprigs.

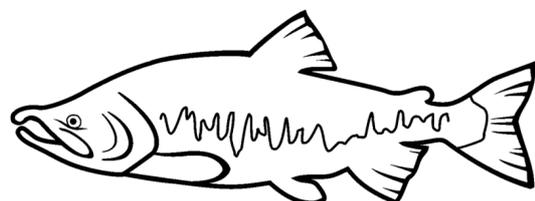
Taramasala

This is made using the eggs (or roe) of the female cod and can be bought either fresh or tinned. The best one comes from Iceland. It is rich in B vitamins and is popular all over Scandinavia.

230g smoked cod roe a garlic clove peeled and chopped 60g fresh wholemeal breadcrumbs
rind and juice 1 lemon 1 small onion chopped finely ¼ pint olive oil

Skin the roe and break it up. Blend with the rest of the ingredients until you have a thick puree. Season with pepper and serve with lemon wedges and pitta bread.

M.E.





ZOOM back to 2021



1. Who hosted the big interview with Harry & Megan?
2. Which former speaker of the House of Commons defected to Labour?
3. Who gave birth to August Philip Hawke Brooksbank in February 2021?
4. Which UK city hosted the climate conference COP 26?
5. Who partnered Olympic diver Tom Daley to win a gold medal in Tokyo ?
6. As Boris Johnson reshuffled his cabinet, who was made deputy PM?
7. Which footballer was awarded an MBE for his work around free school meals?
8. Who replaced Matt Hancock as Health Minister?
9. In which sport did Bethany Shriever collect her Olympic gold medal?
10. Which film won the Best Picture Oscar in 2021?
11. Name the new global environmental prize awarded by the Royal Foundation?
12. Which team won the 2021 FA Cup Final?
13. Who is the reigning Women's US Open tennis champion?
14. Which 90 year old travelled to space in Jeff Bezos' spaceship?
15. Can you remember the name of the spaceship?
16. Members of which environmental protest group glued themselves to roads etc?
17. In the Euros, who did England beat in the semi-finals?
18. After 240 years in business, which High St departmental chain closed?
19. Which former PM was investigated over lobbying on behalf of Greensill?
20. Which number US President is Joe Biden?

1. Oprah Winfrey 2. John Bercow 3. Princess Eugenie 4. Glasgow 5. Matty Lee
6. Dominic Raab 7. Marcus Rashford 8. Sajid Javid 9. Women's BMX 10. Nomadland
11. Earthshot 12. Leicester City 13. Emma Radacanu 14. William Shatner 15. Blue
Origin 16. Insulate Britain 17. Denmark 18. Debenhams 19. David Cameron 20. 46th



GREAT BENTLEY RUNNING CLUB

Weekend commencing 8th January saw racing back with a bang. We were able to bring back our [10 mile inter club road race](#) with [Harwich Runners](#) for the first time since 2019. A record-breaking field of 83 runners turned out to contest the coveted winner's trophy on the quiet lanes of Little Bromley and Great Bromley. The weather favoured us to an incredible degree. On the Saturday as the course was being sorted there was a steady stream of rain in very gloomy conditions.

However the Sunday dawned with wonderful winter sunshine which, when out of the shade actually gave some heat!

The first male runner home for Great Bentley was one of our newest members, Ram Osman, who crossed the finish line in 55:17, grabbing 15 valuable bonus points for winning the race. The first male runner home for Harwich Runners was Matthew Friend in 57:41. For the women, Justine Sheekey was the first Great Bentley runner to finish in 1:07:41, whilst Harwich Runner's Karen Stapleton crossed the line in 1:14:11.

However, as always with GBRC, this race isn't just about the faster runners and every single person who completed the course contributed to the points total for their teams. In the end, it was a very closely contended race, with Harwich scoring a total of 1749 points and Great Bentley just pipping them to the post with a total of 1752. Remember to [take a look at the full results](#). Well done to everyone who took part and a massive thank you to all the volunteers who made the race possible.

You'd have thought with so much at stake on Sunday, that Saturday would have been a quiet affair. But this wasn't the case! Meera Rajoo-Oakley represented the club at Saturday's [Essex XC Championships](#) in Basildon, where she finished 72nd on the super slippery course whilst Leoni Harvey completed 10k at Phoenix running's [SG-100](#) event.

At [Highwoods parkrun](#), Great Bentley secured the first three finishers' positions thanks to David Wright (20:44), Paul Connel (21:11), and Paul Davison (22:10), who all ran strongly on the undulating off-road winter route. Also running strong was Mark Jasper, who finished [Harwich parkrun](#) in 18:27, beating his time from last week by one second and moving one place up the finisher's list to claim the #1 token.

Elsewhere, Martin Owen ran his 27th different parkrun course at [Chilton Fields](#) in 25:23. This three-lap route was boggier than some of the XC route's Martin has run, but seeing as he's barely ever at XC due to a mud affliction, I'll leave you to decide exactly how boggy it may have been. Joining Martin at Chilton Fields was Rob Blackman who finished the course in 21 minutes exactly. Closer to home Dave Jones was amongst our runners at [Clacton Seafront](#), finishing in 29:03, whilst we also had runners at [Tilgate](#), where Martin Steinwand completed the course in 27:47, [Markshall Estate](#), where Simon Leggett completed the course in 22:31, and [Colchester Castle](#), where a total of eight Bentley runners took on the hills of Castle Park.

One of the thorny questions which has vexed the club for some time is the issue of water for runners. Traditionally we gave this out in bottles as this was easy for the runners to grab as they run through water points. However this created an unacceptable amount of plastic waste. So we have had a re-think and devised our own system. This involves lugging 5 litre water containers and sticking them up into a stainless steel pedestal. With a hose attached to the container we can fill up cups which we set out in racks we have made for the purpose. And the really great thing is that the cups are completely compostable. We trialed the system at the race mentioned above. The waste afterwards would have filled the bottom of a regular shopping bag and it was all totally biodegradable. And, unlike a bottle if we do miss the odd one as we clear up it will disappear in a short time of its own accord!



Sunday 6th February - Bentley Half Marathon, starting at Plough Road Centre at 10.30am with a 5-10 minute road closure.

LOST ON THE GREEN

Please if anyone has found an earring like this (see sketch) on the Green between the pond and the southside towards the two trees, could they leave it in the porch at Caldew Cottage and Mary will return it to me. It is of sentimental rather than monetary value and I would so love to have it back. Many thanks Polly.



GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Written by Lois Spriggs Year 5.
Inspired by 'Hope' is a thing with
feathers written by
Emily Dickenson

Anger is a thing with horns

Anger is a thing with horns,
Which pokes you in the heart.
And when you get the feeling,
The anger starts to rant.

When you are stressed,
The anger is on top.
And when you get the feeling,
You really want to stop.

Anger is a thing with horns,
It makes you want to cry.
And when you get the feeling,
You really want to hide.

Anger is a thing with horns,
It makes you want to fight,
And when you get the feeling,
You really want to bite.

Anger is a thing with horns,
It makes you go all red.
And when you get the feeling,
You want to go to bed.

Anger is a thing with horns,
It makes you feel all low.
And when you get the feeling,
You're red from head to toe.

Anger is a thing with horns,
You don't know what to do.
And when you get the feeling,
You could make somebody else feel it too.

Anger is a thing with horns,
It really cuts you deep.
And when you get the feeling,
You need to go to sleep.



CLASS NEWS

EYFS

In Reception we have been learning about travel and transport. We have had a really fun week of activities based on the book 'Naughty Bus'. We have been making our own naughty buses by using cardboard boxes, red paper and pens. We loved role playing bus station and bus rides and even had mechanics to fix the bus when it broke down! We have done lots of map drawing and painting of routes that the naughty bus takes.

Year 1

In History Year 1 looked at historical artefacts and compared them to their modern counterparts. Some of the artefacts were hundreds of years old, some were thousands of years old! We couldn't believe that we still used similar objects to help us, even though we live many many years later.

Year 2

During this term we will be looking at the Great Fire of London. We created our own version of the Great Fire of London in Art. Look out for our completed designs in our class windows!

GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL BUDGETS AND PRECEPT ON TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

In January every year the Parish Council must set its PRECEPT for the forthcoming financial year. (1st April – 31st March).

The precept is an instruction to Tendring District Council to collect a sum of money via Council tax bills to be passed on to the Parish Council. This funding is the only regular source of income that the Council receives to continue to provide necessary services for the benefit of the Village. The Council decides how much the Precept needs to be following a very rigorous budget process.

Serving councillors are not paid and give their time and efforts freely for the benefit of the Village.

Following a detailed and full financial review across two Finance Committee Meetings, (minutes can be viewed on our website) and taking into account the many projects that we know Villagers wish to see funded, as well as the ongoing costs of maintaining the largest Village Green in the country, it has been necessary to increase the funding we ask Tendring District Council to collect on our behalf through your Council tax bills for the financial year April 2022 to March 2023.

For the year 2021-2022 we collected a total amount of £94,652, but during this year we have added additional projects such as funding for improvements to The Southside Track, funding for traffic calming measures through the Village and funding for Speed Indicator Devices and as our General Reserves are low these things can only be achieved through funding from the precept for the forthcoming year.

In addition to this, the costs of electricity for Street Lighting have increased substantially, and whilst we have budgeted prudently, we have also had to account for inflation, predicted to peak at around 5% during 2022.

Further to this, we have an ongoing and costly problem with fly tipping in the Station Car Park and the costs of consistently clearing this and plans for a long-term solution to stop this will require funding.

We also need to make sure we have funding for things that we know people really appreciate. Grant funding for village organisations, a Christmas Tree and Christmas lights and some funding for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee have all been included, as well as continued funding for portable toilets for Village events.

This all means that, at their meeting in January 2022, the Full Council formally agreed that we will need to collect £127,252 from the precept for the year April 2022- March 2023. This will equate to £135.04 per annum for a Band D household equivalent to an increase of around 53p per week, per household.

In order to keep increases as low as possible we have decided to put off the installation of water to the new allotment site until the 2023/2024 financial year at the earliest which will save us £5,000, and we have reviewed the funds we had originally planned to spend on a much-needed new Tractor saving us a further £10000. We have decided not to pursue previous plans for improved kerbing and drainage in the centre of the Village for the time being saving us a further £10,000.

Further to this, as a Parish Council, we are very strictly regulated and have many financial guidelines we must follow. One of these relates to the fact that we must also keep a General Reserve fund to cover any contingencies. Following the set down guidelines, the Council have managed to improve their reserve account this year and are working towards ensuring these reserves are brought up to a more secure level for future years.

In order to maintain full transparency about our finances and the management of public funds, our Full Council meeting minutes detail all invoices paid on a month-by-month basis and can be viewed on our website. We are in the process of further updating the website to include details of our annual audits and budgets, showing details of income and expenditure year on year. It is planned that this will be fully updated by 1st April 2022. Additionally, this year, the Finance Committee minutes from November and December give full explanations as to how the budget process was managed and the finer details of the discussions and decisions and a copy of our projected expenditure for 2022/2023 is attached to the December minutes – all of which can be viewed on our website www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Date of next Parish Council meeting - Thursday 3rd February 7pm, Village Hall

Mrs D Humphris
Clerk to the Council
Great Bentley Parish Council
clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

The Oaks



Hello from us all at The Oaks

Firstly Happy New Year!

We had a lovely Christmas. We enjoyed the treats of course Lots of them! we even had our very own Christmas Eve boxes full of more treats, funny jokes, lots of Christmas cards from the community.... There were lots, we called it 'fan mail' HaHa. We wore our Christmas pyjamas and the staff even wore theirs, that was a funny sight!

We were read a lovely book, what was the name?? Ah yes, 'The Christmas Pig' by J.K Rowling. We had a hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows and it was so very cosy with the Christmas lights shining while we listened to the story.

We've started back at doing our fitness again after our festive celebrations. Oh yes, someone wants me to tell you that we've also been doing a little bit of cheerleading too, yes you read correctly and no don't panic we haven't been doing cartwheels. Well not just yet anyway!

Oh yes.... Who remembers the song 'I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch...'. That's been the song of the week this week

We have so many upcoming plans and we cannot wait to tell you but for now the kettle is on and we're choosing which biscuits are the best for dunking.

We will speak to you all soon



With love from us all at The Oaks x

Recycling in Great Bentley

Alongside the Bottle Banks there is a **NEW** container for Tetra Pak recycling, and in this you are able to dispose of;

JUICE CARTONS including caps and straws

PRINGLES TUBES No lids

MILK CARTONS including caps and straws

DOUGH PAPER CONTAINERS with metal ends

SOUP, TOMATOES & OTHER FOOD CARTONS

OTHER PAPER CONTAINERS with metal ends (no lids).

Don't forget the clothing banks at the station end of Station Road too.



RECYCLING GARDEN WASTE

Many people seem unaware of the "**Brown Bins**" which are for garden waste but for this service you do have to pay Tendring Council. It is really useful and negates endless trips to the recycling centre at Rush Green. You can of course pay for more than one bin.

So for a £75 joining fee which includes your brown wheelie bin you will receive 25 collections per year. (An annual fee of £50 will be needed from the next year onwards.) The bin holds a lot of garden waste and my fortnightly challenge is to try and fill my bin to the rim! You may like to consider giving this a go. And please don't tell, I know, some Councils provide this service free of charge AND I have been reminded by two different families in as many days that Colchester offers a wider range of recycling than Tendring District Council but I am afraid I cannot answer those questions.

Lets try to do our best to make the world a better place by each doing just a little bit each day.

M.M.

Fairs at the Annual Carnival.

Following the request in last month's magazine for information of the fairs that visit over the weekend of the carnival.

The fair was requested as an added attraction over Carnival Day around 1984. The carnival had increased in size, evolving from an annual fete and small procession, I believe run by the scouts and guides (correct me if I am wrong on this) and then taken over by a subsequent committee dedicated to the organising of the annual event.

I joined in the early 1980's and along with Kevin King heading a committee of approx. 18 people and continued to help organise the carnival for the next 20 odd years. One of the suggestions I put to the committee was to try and organise a fair to come along annually.

The first course of action was to ask the Parish Council for permission to come onto the green at the end of every June as part of the Carnival. This was agreed. Contact was made by an agent for a fair – he was very keen and agreed to give a donation each year to Carnival funds and also agreed to a number of rules that were put into place, in the interests of the village. They were to open on Friday and Saturday evenings from 5pm until 10pm and would be allowed to set up on the Thursday and leave on the Monday. In reality various rides and caravans arrived at various times and set up disregarding any verbal arrangements that were made. The agent was unavailable for all of this time, so not very successful!

A few weeks following, I had a visit from two gentlemen who had heard that we were not happy with the current fair and after discussions, they agreed to supply their own fair, starting the following year. The two gentlemen were brothers Robert and Chris Summers who were based in Felixstowe I believe. At the following Carnival meeting the committee agreed to the change and the Summers fair were duly booked for the following year, 1986.

Word had got back to the previous agent, who stated that Great Bentley Green was 'his' pitch and no other fair could be allowed on the green. I told him that as a committee we were not happy with the general behaviour of his fair and that we were unable to contact him and had therefore changed. A few weeks later I received a visit from Robert Summers stating that he was to be taken to a tribunal of the Showman's Guild for setting up his fair on a pitch that was supposedly 'owned' by another fair. I was asked to go before the tribunal to state the reasons of the change and sometime later I received a request to put the reasons in writing which I did, explaining that no person or authority could sanction the use of, or encroachment, of the village green without the authority of the Parish Council (owners) and that no fair had any given rights to appear on the green. This also applies to the fair in September that comes and has been doing so for many years – this fair also appears with Parish Council agreement.

Needless to say, the Summers fair set up in 1986 and has continued to do so to this day. Always following the rules and contributing to Carnival funds in many ways. For instance, in the early days cricket and dart matches were organised at The Plough between teams made up from the village and fair people. A cup was given annually to the winners and a good time had by all.

I met every year on the green with Robert, his wife Beverley and his then children, Robert Jnr, and Candy on the Sunday before Carnival Day to mark out the sites for various rides and then see them off on the Monday following carnival, which I still try to do.

The fair is now run by Robert Jnr. who keeps his fathers' standards. This year will be their 36th time on the green.

Ask any of the Summers family how they feel, coming onto the green the Monday before the Carnival, and they will all say It's like coming home.

Michael Dorling

PS.....Might be interesting to hear when the fete / carnival / procession started. Was there a strawberry queen pre carnival queen?

PPS...Hopefully enough people will have responded to the appeal put out by the current committee to join and help organise the day. Without people being on the committee and giving up some time on carnival day, there will be no carnival.



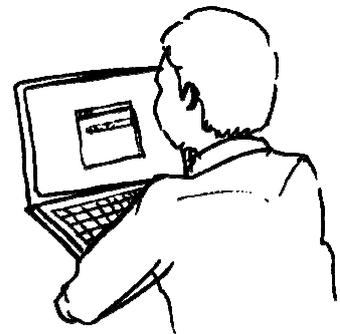
A few notes on fairs on the village green in earlier years.

These visits to Great Bentley were called fairs but were for the sale of cattle and sheep, alongside which were stalls selling all kinds of goods, usually accompanied by swings, roundabouts etc. These events were carried out under a charter granted 450 years ago for cattle to be sold on the Monday following Trinity Monday; the last Friday in September for sheep and the Monday after St. Swithins at which household goods and clothes etc were sold. Maybe that September fair from long ago has continued until recently, with our traditional Bentley fair at this time.

Interestingly in 1871, representation was made to Tendring Magistrates that the annual fair after St. Swithins, usually lasting two or three days, should be, in the interests and advantage of the public, abolished. This representation was sent to the principal Secretary of State. Reply received 16th April 1872 – It appears to be that it would be an advantage to the public that the said fair should be abolished. Now therefore, I as Secretary of State for the Home Dept., do hereby order the fair should be abolished. There is a line of thought today that fairs have a long permission or a charter to set up on the village green, but this is not correct. The only body to give permission of use for the green is the Parish Council.

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.**



SESAW NEWS

It's time for a cat's eye view of SESAW with a story just as good as Ken's dog-tale last month.

We recently had the delightful experience of reuniting with his owner, a cat that was missing for about eighteen months. Kind people fed him until new neighbours realised he belonged to no one nearby. They asked Mother to check him for a microchip – and he was reunited with one happy owner who had given up hope of seeing their beloved pet again.

If you befriend a stray please ask a vet or rescue centre to scan for a chip and have your own cats microchipped, we are just as important to our humans as dogs are to their owners. Speaking of canines, we have a friendly pair of seven year old dogs looking for a home where they can be absolutely spoilt.

Dougie and Hazel love their cuddles but tend to tell other dogs off so would be better as the only pets. Hazel is rather bossy and Dougie's sight is poor but that does not stop him, although sometimes he returns from walks in someone's arms! If you can offer this delightful twosome a loving home with a very secure garden, please phone for an appointment to meet them.

That's enough from me, rest assured the chatty Chihuahua will be back next time, hopefully having learned that people sometimes need to read the feline point of view and a prime example of the superior species is 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

FEBRUARY DIARY

Thurs 3rd	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING , 7pm
Sun 6th	HALF-MARATHON , starting at 10.30am from Plough Road Centre
Mon 7th	BENTLEY GREEN PLAYERS , 7.30pm V. Hall
Tues 8th	ART CLUB , Workshop see p. 16
Thurs 10th	CARNIVAL EMERGENCY AGM , Michael Wright Room, 8pm
Tues 15th	GARDENING CLUB , 7.30pm, Village Hall
Fri 15th	<u>MAGAZINE DEADLINE</u>
Tues 22nd	ART CLUB , Village Hall, 2-5pm
Thurs 24th	KNIT & NATTER , St Mary's Church Hall, 2-3.30pm
Fri 25th	MAGAZINE COLLATING , St Mary's Church Hall, 9am

ANNUAL DIARY

MAY

Sat 7th **ST MARY'S CHURCH MAY FAIR**

Sat 14th **GARDENING CLUB PLANT SALE**

JUNE

2nd - 4th **QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION WEEKEND**

26th **CARNIVAL**

JULY

17th **CRICKET CLUB CELEBRATE 250 YEARS.**

SEPTEMBER

3rd **VILLAGE SHOW**

Sat/Sun 17th/18th **ST MARY'S CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL**