

# Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community  
for the Community**



# August 2022

# Village Information

## St Mary's Church

### VICAR:

Revd Sharon Miles  
Vicarage, The Bury, St Osyth,  
CO16 8NX 01255 822055

### CHURCHWARDENS:

Wendy Smith  
Burnside, Great Bentley - 01206 250098

Mrs Mandy Miles  
7 Finch Drive, Great Bentley - 01206 251382

### TREASURER:

Annabel Stearn  
01206 251518  
email: wylieandsinger@talk21.com

### CHURCH VERGER:

Rita Baverstock  
01206 251271

### READER:

Wendy King  
17 Larkfield Road - 01206 250852

### PCC SECRETARY:

Mrs Claire Pearson  
01206 256433  
email: gbpcsecretary@gmail.com

### ELECTORAL ROLL SECRETARY:

Rosemary Branch  
4 Wents Close - 01206 250137

### TOWER CAPTAIN/BELL RINGERS

Roger Carey-Smith - 07422 880921

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

Lyn Gordon, 79 Birch Avenue  
01206 681884 Mobile: 07870 311610  
email: linda.bear@sky.com

### PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR/ADVERTISING/ DISTRIBUTOR:

Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green  
01206 250524

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

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

### ST MARY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

St Mary's Church, Great Bentley.

### ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE

[stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk](http://stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk)

### ST MARY'S SUNDAY CLUB

For details please contact Mary Maskell 01206 250524  
email: marymaskell@sys3internet.net

### WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR FOR GT BENTLEY & ST OSYTH

Jennifer Ford 01255 821199  
email: weddings.stosythchurch@hotmail.com

### METHODIST MINISTER

Revd Tom Osborne  
Email; [tom.osborne@methodist.org.uk](mailto:tom.osborne@methodist.org.uk)  
Mobile 07305 805444 01206 396654

### DOCTOR'S SURGERY:

The Hollies, The Green - 01206 250691

### PODIATRIST:

Terry St George  
45 Oakmead Road, St Osyth - Mobile: 07775 833200

### POLICE:

Clacton 0300 333 4444  
**24 hour Non emergency number 101**  
**In an emergency ring 999**

### GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman - Pippa Dennitts  
07848 872018

Clerk to the Parish Council Grahame Walkingshaw  
The Community Resource Centre, Village Hall,  
Plough Road Great Bentley CO7 8LD  
01206 256410  
[clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk)

### TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

Cllr Lynda McWilliams,  
Mobile: 07564 613603.  
email: [cldr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk)

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR - ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL:

Councillor Alan Goggin, Freshfields, Church Road  
Brightlingsea, CO7 0QT  
Mobile: 07860 519117  
email: [Cllr.Alan.Goggin@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Alan.Goggin@essex.gov.uk)

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

### MEDICAL AIDS:

Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

### TENDRING FURNITURE SCHEME:

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

### BOOKING CLERK FOR GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL:

Joanna Hesketh  
email: [bookings@greatbentlevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@greatbentlevillagehall.co.uk)  
07494 234049

### METHODIST HALL BOOKINGS:

Robert Taylor, Dominica, Moors Close - 01206 250087

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

**COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL:** - 01206 303511

### VILLAGE HISTORY RECORDER

Heather Taylor - 01206 251004

**COLCHESTER HOSPITALS:** 01206 747474

**CLACTON & DISTRICT HOSPITAL:** 01255 201717

**FOOTPATH REP:** David Gollifer  
Cambria, Weeley Road, CO7 8PD  
01206 250309

**VILLAGE TRANSPORT REP:** Peter Harry  
07503 153960

### VILLAGE CARETAKER:

Robert McWilliams, 07598 640622

### WHEELCHAIR LOANS

Alan Bayliss, 01206 250450

## EDITORIAL

We seem to have had an amazing number of events to entertain us recently with weather to match and enhance the enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to make these special occasions such a success. Being lucky enough to live on the green I see the hard work that goes into organising all of these festivities and I have to say that often the same faces appear at many of them. So a huge thank you to everyone involved in this years Carnival (more help needed for next year please, see page 15). Following on from the procession the green was full of people watching the arena events and taking part in the various competitions on offer and enjoying the refreshments. It was very successful financially too so well done to all involved. The weather was perfect if a tiny bit breezy for the birds of prey but it was obvious that everyone was having a great time.

The Running Club for the Friday 5 and the children's race on the green. The youngsters are so enthusiastic and all ages took part.

Last but not least the Cricket Club historic milestone of 250 years of cricket in Great Bentley was a major milestone for our village club. I wonder how many more teams in our country could match that? Perfect weather helped and the celebrations culminated on the green with a match against the MCC, and we include a full report. To top it off the Police Helicopter landed and spectators and village families were able to go and meet the pilots and even sit in the helicopter. I rather wish I had taken advantage of that offer, but someone took a lovely photo.

The Methodist church had their Flower Festival, which again was a big success with some amazing floral exhibits. Then there was a wonderful production of James and the Giant Peach, in St Mary's church yard on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon.

How lucky we are to live in such a vibrant community. Now its over to all of you as the Village Show is just weeks away. As I say every year, please consider entering just one thing, there are so many different types of classes for you to take part in.

Thank you to the Good Neighbours Committee and volunteers who make such a difference to us all and help in so many ways. If in turn you could help them that would be greatly appreciated.

I recently had a chance to meet Mr Bill Gibbon who has an amazing memory of life in the village stretching back further than even maybe he would like to admit. He has submitted an article on his memories of the wartime years when he lived at Cottage Farm on the Parish boundary which makes fascinating reading and I am sure you will enjoy this.

Stay safe and cool,  
**Mary Maskell**



# AUGUST

## 2022

### CONTENTS

Editorial .. ..	1
Monthly letter .. ..	2
Church services .. .	3
Deadline .. .. .	6
Pre-School .. .. .	8
Pet Notes .. .. .	10
Sesaw News .. .. .	11
Cricket News .. .. .	12
Parish Council .. ..	13
Great Bentley Show .. ..	14
Football Notes .. ..	15
Police Report .. .. .	16
Farming Diaries .. ..	17
Friends of the Green .. ..	18
Wildlives .. .. .	19
School News .. .. .	21
Gardening Notes .. ..	22
Surgery News .. .. .	23
Children's Page .. ..	25
Cookery Corner .. ..	26
Quiz .. .. .	27
Running Club .. .. .	28
District Councillor Notes .. ..	29
Clubs & Organisations .. ..	30
Nature Notes .. .. .	31

# GREAT BENTLEY CARNIVAL

### DISCLAIMER

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# THE MONTHLY LETTER AUGUST

Summer is here!

The Schools have closed, the temperature - thankfully has dropped back into the twenties and more time with friends and family has arrived!

Summer can be great if you have lots to do but it if the groups and clubs that you usually attend shut down for summer then they can also be quite lonely.

Do join us, if you want to, for Bible study on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Mornings at 10am or on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday for 'Knit & Natter' – everyone is welcome!

I do hope that you all enjoy the break and the leisurely pace for a while.

Please do keep an eye on the Church Diary – It would be great see you at our Coffee Morning.

Every Blessing  
Sharon

## ST MARY'S CHURCH SUNDAY CLUB

For children of  
primary school age.

We meet on the second Sunday of the  
month.

We start in church for a little while then  
go to the church hall for a story and  
crafting,  
then we join everyone back in church  
to tell and show them what we have  
been doing.

If you would like to join us  
Please ring  
Mary Maskell 250524

## PIANIST FOR OCCASIONAL SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

We have an organist who plays at our regular services, weddings etc but we need help for when she is unable to attend. Could you help us on those occasions?

Help would be given to adjust to playing the organ.

If you could help please contact  
the Church Warden

Wendy Smith 01206 250098



## St Mary's Church COFFE MORNING

Saturday 20th August

St Mary's Church Hall

10.00am - 12noon

Refreshments  
Cake Stall:  
Raffle



In Aid of Church Funds

## St. Mary's Church Facebook Page

St. Mary's Church now has a 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'.

facebook

## ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE

stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk



**GREAT BENTLEY  
METHODIST  
CHURCH NEWS**

Hire our warm, large or small halls with fully serviced kitchen.

Ring 250087

**Don't forget our Facebook page.**  
Search for  
GtBentleyMethodistChurch

## Greetings to you all

We welcome you to worship at Church or on Zoom with us during August. If you would like to join our Zoom service by Computer or iPad please ring 250087 for the connection.

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

The leaders of worship are set out below:

- August 7<sup>th</sup> Church Leaders**  
**August 14<sup>th</sup> David Bavister**  
**August 21<sup>st</sup> Rev John Allison**  
**August 28<sup>th</sup> Mr Doyle**

### Flower Festival

Thank you to all who helped raise over £1200 at our flower festival. The answers to the quiz are listed on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GtBentleyMethodist>

### Prayer Meeting

We meet for prayer on the second Wednesday of each month 9.45 for 10am at our Church. This month 10<sup>th</sup> August

### Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 10<sup>th</sup> August9

Each second Wednesday of the month at 9.30am we collect Sandwiches and take them to our Church in Clacton for those struggling to buy food for themselves. Collection at our Church before we go to Clacton at 9.30.

**All other activities closed now for the Summer restarting in September**

## ST MARY'S SERVICES IN AUGUST

Tues 2nd Bible Study, Church Hall, 10am

### Sunday 7th August

10.00am Joint Benefice Service

### Sunday 14th August

9.30am Holy Communion and Sunday Club

Thurs 18th Knit & Natter, Church Hall, 2-3.30pm

Sat 20th Coffee Morning in the Church Hall  
10-12 noon

### Sunday 21st August

9.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 28th August

9.30am Holy Communion

## ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR AUGUST

### Sidespersons & Readers

7th	Lyn Gordon
14th	Chris Aplin
21st	Carole Allington
28th	Hannah Justice

### Prayer Rota

7th	Vicar
14th	Carol Kerridge
21st	Wendy King
28th	Nicky Justice

### Coffee Rota

7th	Hannah Justice
14th	Mary Maskell
21st	Annabel Stearn
28th	Lyn Gordon

### Cleaning Rota

6th	Linda Hayes
13th	Jennie Moss
20th	Help wanted
27th	David & Rosemary Branch



## THANK YOU

I write to thank everyone who helped my family celebrate the life of my husband Dr Michael George. We were delighted that patients, friends from the village, from our past times in Great Bentley and from the twenty five years that we lived in Boxford came to the celebration and shared our memories of him. Michael never really left Great Bentley. A little bit of him stayed behind. Thank you so much.

### Dora George

May I express my heartfelt thanks to all my lovely friends and neighbours from Aingers Green, Great Bentley and beyond, who have helped me in so many ways, following my fall which has seriously reduced my mobility.

I am making slow progress and hope that I will soon be out and about in this wonderful village community in which we are fortunate to live.

Thank you

### Zonia Wood

The kindness and generosity of the growing number of folk in our community who make sandwiches or contribute in other ways allows Jackie and I the privilege of bringing a smile to the men and women who queue patiently outside hope@trinity. The number of people who find themselves in need of the support hope@trinity provides continues to increase and sadly I fear it is only going to get worse. It's a salutary reminder that being asked "what sandwiches would you like today?" may well be the only time they are offered a choice of anything when their life has been turned upside down. Be it corned beef, peanut butter, ham, egg, tuna and mayo, chocolate spread, or good old cheese and pickle it is no ordinary sandwich to those who receive them, it is proof that there really are people who care! Thank you.

### Judy Bishop

## STOP PRESS ....

As we go to press we learn the sad news of the death of Stephanie Sadler. Funeral at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 16th August at 11.00am.

## Ardleigh Annual Flower & Produce Show



Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society are hosting the Ardleigh Annual Flower & Produce Show on

**Saturday 20th August  
at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road,  
Ardleigh (CO7 7RS).**

Open to the public from 2.00pm with prizes presented at 4.15pm

There are classes for Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers, Dahlias, Flower Arranging, Homemade Wine, Cookery, Handicraft, Photographs and Children's exhibits. Refreshments are available.

Members and under 16s free, non-members £1

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

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

Jennifer Ford

01255 821199

email:  
weddings.stosythchurch@hotmail.com

The wedding co-ordinator is for St Osyth and Great Bentley



## FOOD BANK

We have run out of, or running extremely low on the following items.

If you could add one item to your shopping it would make a world of difference.

We have collection points in all major supermarkets, or you can drop to us Mon-Sat 10-2. We are next to BM at Tollgate Stanway .

Pasta sauce  
Tomato Sauce  
Long life Juice  
Long life milk  
Squash/cordial  
Tea bags  
Razors  
Shaving gel/foam  
Toilet rolls  
Size 5,6,7 nappies



We have run out of:

Shampoo  
Washing powder/gel/pods  
Washing up liquid  
Toothbrushes  
Deodorants male and female  
Can openers

You can also save your small change into a jar and donate it to the foodbank when it is full or leave food at the back of St Mary's Church

>>> *Could YOU be a Blood Runner?* <<<



↓ See our article ↓

EssexVoluntaryBloodService.com

## Apologies

to Ladybirds Pre-School, Thorrington

for their contact details being missed off their advert.

They should read

For further information, please contact:  
Kathryn Long (Owner / Manager)  
Pre-School mobile telephone: **07592 344367**.  
Email: [info@ladybirdsthorrington.co.uk](mailto:info@ladybirdsthorrington.co.uk)  
Website: [www.ladybirdsthorrington.co.uk](http://www.ladybirdsthorrington.co.uk)

## Annual Grand Garage Trail

**Saturday 10th September  
from 10am  
£7 per entry pre-booked  
(£10 on the day)**



**Closing date for pre-booking is August 26th**

**To book or for further information contact:**

**01206 250177**

**Proceeds go towards the upkeep of the village green**

## St Mary's Church Hall

Looking for a venue

Why not hire our hall

Beautifully stocked with fine bone china

£15 per hour - minimum charge £30

Please contact Lyn Gordon  
79, Birch Avenue CO7 8LS

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

## PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES FOR GREAT BENTLEY SHOW 2022

Creepy Crawlies

Magic Moments

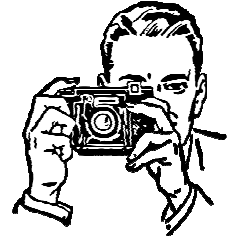
Sporting Chance

On Four Legs

East Anglian Skies

Up the Creek

Open ...



## DEANERY CHOIR

'The Deanery Choir' was formed in 2021 with the aim of supporting church music in the Tendring area. We sing in a four part harmony, both unaccompanied and with organ. We are able to provide music for various church services, including choral evensong, weddings and funerals, and for special festive times such as Christmas and Easter. Experienced support can be given to those planning such services in the choice of appropriate music if required. We regularly lead worship at St George's Church, Great Bromley, on the second Sunday of each month.



For further information please email our choir organiser,  
Graham Bell [grahambell493@gmail.com](mailto:grahambell493@gmail.com)

### ***THE DEANERY CHOIR***

#### ***CHORAL EVENSONG***

**All Saints Church  
Church Road  
Wrabness  
CO11 2TQ**

**AUGUST 7th 2022**

6.30pm start      Walmisley - Nardone - Ferial

### ***THE DEANERY CHOIR***

#### ***CHORAL EVENSONG***

**St Nicholas Church  
Church Street  
Harwich  
CO12 3DS**

**AUGUST 21ST 2022**

6.30pm start      Walmisley - Nardone - Ferial

## DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

### **SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST**

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

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

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

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



# GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME

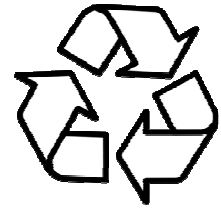
## We currently take:

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

## We don't take

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

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

## Spiders

Last time I wrote about snakes; this time it's spiders!

I'm going to write about 4, mainly Australian spiders: the funnel web, the trap door, the red back and the "bird eating spider".

The latter I encountered near where I worked at Palm Beach, N of Sydney, where "Home and Away" is filmed, if anyone watches that.

It's also known as an Australian tarantula, as it's large, with a 6cm body and a 16cm leg span. It makes a sticky web, usually between trees, and I walked into straight into it! It was early morning, and I didn't know what it was to start with, I just came to an abrupt stop, entangled in it, which was quite scary. The width of the web was about 4m, so a lot of work had gone into making it. I saw the spider moving away, so eventually I realised what was happening. Luckily, I was a bit too big a meal for it, as they are on the look out for insects, and hatchling birds mainly. Their bite is not fatal to humans, but it could kill a dog, so best to keep away.

The Sydney funnel web is considered to be the deadliest spider in the world, but there have been no human fatalities since the anti-venom was introduced in 1981. It is found in both urban and country areas of New South Wales, and makes a burrow in humid, sheltered places.

It is only 2-3cm long, but aggressive when threatened, and its fangs can pierce a toe nail. The venom attacks the human nervous system, but as its prey is usually somewhat smaller, a bite is not generally terminal for humans.

There are 40 other species of funnel web, none as deadly as the Sydney one. They are mostly found in Queensland, and feed on beetles and frogs. Their venom is less dangerous, and they are most active from November to March, the Aussie summer.

The trap door spider is often mistaken for a funnel web, but not as dangerous. It's about the same size 1.5 – 3cm, with the female slightly larger than the male. It camouflages the entrance to its burrow, and tricks prey into falling inside. It only inflicts minor symptoms on humans with some localised pain. The trap door lives longer than most spiders, with a life span of 5 – 20 years, whereas most spiders only live for about a year.

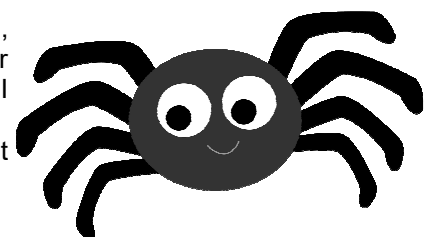
And lastly the red back: it is found in many dry sheltered places, such as sheds and under toilet seats! It is only about 1 cm long, and has a distinctive red stripe down its back, which makes it more colourful than most other spiders. About 2000 bites are reported each year, with about 250 of those needing anti-venom. The female gives the more serious bite(!), resulting in severe persistent pain, nausea and lethargy, lasting for some days; no deaths have been recorded since the anti-venom was introduced in the 1950s.

We were once staying at a motel in the state of Victoria; it was the beginning of the season, so the owner kindly went to his shed, and brought out some deck chairs, that has been in there all winter, for us to lounge around the pool, as it was quite warm. My wife sat on one, and I sat at the edge of the pool. Glancing up towards her, I saw a red back nest, carefully secreted in the end of the chair's metal frame. A female and lots of babies! I was lucky that on this occasion, my wife obeyed me, when I told her to get off the chair as quickly as possible! She is not always in the habit of doing that, but on the 2 occasions when she really needed to she did; the other time being when she had a close encounter with a stingray, swimming in the Caribbean. The motel owner was not very apologetic, but we decided the concrete pool surround was a better bet after that.

And finally, I'll leave you with a little Australian ditty about red backs, from the era when many houses had a "dunny" down the garden, rather than internal plumbing. "There was a red back on the toilet seat when I was there last night. I didn't see him sitting, but boy, I felt his bite!"

That's all for now; next time I will share with you what I know about sharks.

DS





## Great Bentley Pre-school

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

[information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk](mailto:information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk)

Well August has arrived, and it is that time again when we are on our summer break, hopefully enjoying the sun too, maybe not quite the extreme heat we are expected to have though.

Last month we said goodbye to lots of our children and their families as they move onto the next step in their educational journey.

We did this with a little leaver's production where they all learnt new songs about their time at Pre-school and moving onto their new 'big school'. All the children sang their hearts out with the songs they had been working hard on and they did us all proud, it was an emotional afternoon for all and is the hardest day of the year for us as staff.

We would like to thank all the parents/carers, nans, granddads, aunties, uncles, etc. for your continued support over the time you have been part of our Pre-school and for all the generous gifts and kind words we received.

### **New Children**

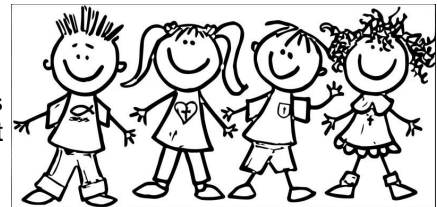
It has been lovely to meet all our new children and families last month when they came along for their 'stay n plays', we hope you all enjoyed yourselves and are looking forward to September as much as we are. Please don't hesitate to contact us throughout summer if you have any concerns or questions.

### **Farewell**

It is with sadness that Lorraine left Pre-School at the end of the summer term. Lorraine has been part of the team for 5 and a half years and has been a valued member of the Pre-school and community isiservices. Allison and I would like to thank her for her dedication and time she has given and wish her all the best for the future.

### **Registers**

Although the registers for the next term have now been completed there is still time to join us, if you would like your child to attend, please contact me by email on [information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk](mailto:information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk) or through our FB messenger.



I hope you all continue to enjoy the summer; we will be returning to start the new term on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Thanks for reading

**Julie Wiles**

*Welcome*

Heidi and Stefan to 7 Cherrywoods and a belated welcome to Matthew, Clare and Alfie to 14 Cherrywoods.

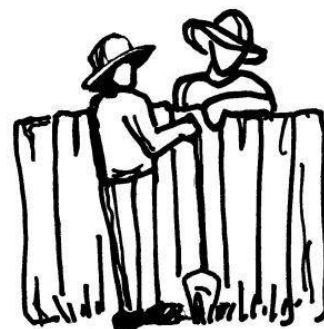
Welcome to new residents at 12 Pine Close.



# Annual Meeting of Great Bentley Good Neighbours

The Great Bentley Good Neighbours held their annual meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The Chairman Robert Taylor reported as follows:-

- 1) At the Annual meeting I gave thanks to all the volunteers who have served the village year after year and support the work of the Good Neighbours in the village.
- 2) **Covid** Last year I reported to you how badly our services to you had been hit by the advent of Covid. As you will have realised since all the restrictions have been lifted we have been able to restart serving you in the village. The part of our service which is taking time to get going is providing lifts to hospitals etc. see below
- 3) **Annual information booklet** This year we were able to produce our annual information booklet after a break for Covid. We post a copy through every door in the village in a dark red cover. We have continued to use this printed format since there are still many in our community who do not have internet. There is also a copy on the Parish Council web site. However due to our care of those who give us permission to print their telephone numbers in the booklet we do not give these on the internet to preserve them from misuse from criminals. Your views will be appreciated. All the telephone numbers of people mentioned here are in the booklet and approval for printing names is obtained from all mentioned.
- 4) **Neighbourhood Watch.** Still an important part of our work and Richard Nowak is keeping up the publicity regarding this. Please contact Richard should you need to mark your household items to make them easier to trace in the event of a burglary.
- 5) **Transport scheme.** We are currently appointing a coordinator for this work. We thank Rita Baverstock for her years of running this service. So shortly we hope to be up and fully running. **New volunteers for this essential driving work are always needed. The contribution made by users of this service to the cost of the drivers fuel is very welcome.**
- 6) We have always felt that the **Road Stewards** do a most important task for their neighbours and thank them all for their work. Yvonne Oxford coordinates this work.
- 7) **Medical Aids** The items we lend are intended to be for emergency or short-term use, since for long term use the health authorities or social services make the provision. We have many items out on loan at any one time such as Wheelchairs, Commodes, Walking Aids and Bathing Aids. We hope that those who are able to use this service will be able to contribute to the costs involved although we do not make a specific charge.
- 8) **Parish Grant.** Good Neighbours has received a Grant from the Parish Council to help with its work. We are grateful for this support.
- 9) All the work the Good Neighbours does depends upon its volunteers. We thank them now on behalf of the village. Many of us have been working for Good Neighbours for many years and we now need some new Committee Members. Can you help and join our Committee there are only three meetings a year?



**Robert Taylor    Chairman    01206 250087**

## COLLATING YOUR VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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

We have a break for tea, coffee and biscuits.

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

We will be collating again on Friday 26th August.

Everyone Welcome.



**Registration is now open at [www.weeleyvetcentre.com](http://www.weeleyvetcentre.com)** ahead of Weeley Veterinary Centre opening next month. It has been a long road and I'm beyond excited to welcome you at last.

If you were unable to attend the recent Weeley Residents' Association coffee afternoon and you do not use Facebook, may I draw your attention to WVC's **VIP (Very Important Pet) Club**? It's an affordable way to provide the very best care for your pets. In addition to providing preventative health care, VIP members are rewarded with a 10% discount on all medications and several other benefits. You can learn more by visiting [www.weeleyvetcentre.com/services/vip](http://www.weeleyvetcentre.com/services/vip)



We all know August can bring some very hot weather (or not, this is England after all!) and it's important not to underestimate how serious heat stroke can be for our pets.

If your dog is panting excessively:

- stop the exercise immediately
- find shade (and a cool breeze if possible)
- offer a bowl of water
- apply cool water all over their body
- apply cool towels (if available)

If in doubt, take your dog to your vet. Urgent veterinary advice is essential if your dog is weak, has a bright red tongue, is struggling to breathe, has vomiting or diarrhoea, or is drooling excessively.

As with most things in life, prevention is better than cure. Though we often think of heat stroke affecting dogs, much of the following advice is relevant for smaller pets too.

Here are my top tips for avoiding heat stroke this summer:



**Dr April Young MRCVS**

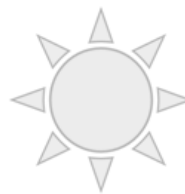
NEVER leave an animal in a car on a hot and sunny day. Leaving the window open is not enough to prevent the temperature from rising very quickly.

Keep walks shorter during warmer weather. Monitor your dog and if they begin to pant excessively or seem weak, stop immediately.

Wrap a full ice cube tray in a towel and allow your pet to lie next to it.

Provide your pet with a good fan.

Carry a water bottle and bowl with you everywhere you go.



Be aware hot pavements and other surfaces can cause serious burns to paws. These can be prevented by dog shoes.

Fill a paddling pool in your garden with cool water and allow your dog to take a dip.

Limit walks to early in the morning and late in the evening when it is coolest.

Constantly look out for - or better yet provide - shade. Rest in the shade as much as possible.

Protect your pet from sunburn using sunscreen and appropriate clothing. Hairless pets and those with light coloured fur are at the biggest risk of sunburn.

## Fireworks

I could not believe it when I was awakened at 11pm on the 19th July by the sound of fireworks! On the day that temperatures had reached the forecast record breaking highs, when reports were already coming in of grass fires and people being told to leave their homes which were in danger of being engulfed in flames, there were those who decided they would have a firework display for what reason I cannot imagine. It was irresponsible, reckless, totally thoughtless and an offence, it is against the law to let fireworks off between the hours of 11pm and 7am. However it is the apparent disregard of the potential danger of sparks igniting fires amongst tinder dry trees, grass, bushes, leaves etc that I find unforgivable.

Whoever you are think on and I trust your conscience will be suitably troubled when you see the faces of the people who were watching everything they own, that they treasure and can never replace overwhelmed by flames. Let us not forget the bravery of our fire service and let us be thankful that our familiar landscape was not changed and charred it so easily could have been.

**Judy Bishop**



## SESAW NEWS

The volunteers are wilting and the dogs have flopped down in the shade as I write this in the middle of a July heatwave. Luckily it was cooler a few weeks ago when the fundraisers held a sale at Newton Green. Thank you to everyone who helped to raise over £840 plus a generous amount from an anonymous donor.

Some of our ladies helped register runners at the Nayland 10K which raises money for local charities including SESA. Congratulations to Luke and his team for another enjoyable day with a great atmosphere. I felt most honoured when the girls returned with a spare 1K medal, although Mum says it was NOT named after me.

Make sure you visit SESA during August if you like a rummage sale. We desperately need a massive clear out, our stock has piled up over the last two years. There will be something for everyone, from pictures to pottery, books to bric a brac, furniture to flowers. Roll up and bag a bargain, 10am – 3pm, any Saturday or Sunday in August.

Another date for your diary is Saturday 10th September when we will be holding a £1 Sale at the Stevenson Centre, Stevenson Approach, Gt. Cornard, CO10 0WD. Doors open at 11am, these sales are always popular so don't miss it!

We are still open 10am to 1pm, Friday to Sunday during the Summer but check first to avoid disappointment. I'm far from disappointed with my 1K medal which I still think was made especially for me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

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



## The day Great Bentley Green became the Home of Cricket.

Great Bentley welcomed the Marylebone Cricket Club, more commonly known as the MCC to the village on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July, to play a one-day match against our very own village cricket team. The match was the climax of months of preparation for the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cricket being played on The Green -- the first recorded match being played in 1771 between The Essex Gentlemen and Tendring Hundred for the prize of eleven hats!

The day had begun early with a breakfast BBQ and a training session for the growing number of children who are taking up the game in the village. All the children were presented with a medal to commemorate the occasion.

At 11am, to the sound of a peel of church bells being rung to celebrate the event, as is traditional, the two captains, Alex Youngs of Great Bentley, Darren Eckford of the MCC and the umpires, went to the middle to toss a coin to see who would bat or field on scorching hot day. Eckford won the toss and elected to bat on a wicket expertly prepared by the club chairperson, Peter Giles and his grandson Jack.

As the sun shone brightly and the crowd of over 200 made up of invited guests, villagers and local cricket enthusiasts looked on, Michael Wright had the honour of bowling the first ball to MCC opener Ahmed from the "Pavilion end". Josh Fowler bowled the second over from the "Surgery end" to Robinson. Both MCC batters soon got into their stride hitting square cuts, pulls and drives often sending the ball racing to the boundary. Bentley captain Youngs used all the bowlers in his armoury throughout the morning session trying to break what was becoming a formidable partnership. While there were a couple of half chances no wickets fell and the MCC reached 227 without loss at lunch.

Lunch, provided by The Fusiliers pub and sponsored by Gibbons Farms, was served in the marquee, and went down extremely well. Perhaps it was the excellent food (or the odd glass of wine !) that reinvigorated the Bentley team but after lunch the wickets began to tumble with Ahmed finally out for an incredible 135 including two towering sixes in one over, closely followed by Robinson who fell for 92. When MCC batter Hills fell to a fantastic running overhead catch by Barney Morton off the bowling of James Pearce with the score on 282-5 the MCC declared. The pick of the bowling was from the excellent James Pearce who took four wickets for 31 in seven overs, the other wicket falling to the bowling of Greg Wainer who was, like the other Bentley bowlers, unlucky not to take more.

The Great Bentley opening batters Michael Giles and Joe Fowler started well chasing 283 to win but Fowler, who had picked up an injury fielding, fell to a leaping slip catch by Fernandes off the bowling of the very impressive Watts with the score on just 10. That wicket bought Barney Morton to the crease who set about making a match of it with some swashbuckling shots while at the other end Giles stoically kept the MCC bowlers at bay. Once Giles fell on 28, tea was taken at 78-2 - just after play was interrupted by the arrival of the local Police helicopter landing on the green much to the excitement of the children – some who were lucky enough to climb aboard.

After tea, James Snowdon fell for a quick fire 13, including three fours in three balls, Adam Cuthbert was clean bowled by Essex second XI player Fernandes for 4 then shortly after Morton fell, also bowled by Fernandes, for an excellent 84. Morton was applauded from the field, not only by the partisan crowd, but also the appreciative opposition. Despite the best efforts of the remaining Bentley batters; Greg Wainer, Ed Kerridge, Josh Fowler and Michael Wright, who all put up strong resistance the wickets were falling with a regularity that suggested only one result was likely. When Bentleys last batter, Lily Wainer, came to the crease there was a mountain to climb to save the game; the score was 178, nine wickets had fallen, the MCC surely has too many overs to get just one more wicket. However, through some classic defensive batting and hitting out when offered the chance, as the match entered the final over one wicket was still needed. The fielders closed in surrounding the batters looking for that vital catch but, very fittingly, the club captain and the only female player on the field held out and the match ended in a well-earned draw. An amazing end to what was a glorious day for both the club and cricket. For the record Great Bentley ended on 192-9 with Sharam and Fernandes taking four wickets a piece for the MCC.

The club would like to thank the MCC, all the sponsors and all those that donated their time and energy to help make this an incredible and memorable day.

The club is open to all abilities so even if you've never played before if you or your child are interested in playing. For more information, come along to the Club House on The Green, or email Peter Giles [peter.giles@uwclub.net](mailto:peter.giles@uwclub.net) or Carol Kerridge: 07748 802690 [kerridgecarol@gmail.com](mailto:kerridgecarol@gmail.com)

# Great Bentley Parish Council

**Abridged DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Great Bentley Parish Council at the Community Resource Centre Plough Road, Great Bentley at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 7th July 2022.**  
Full DRAFT Minutes are available on the arish Council Website.

## **22/55 Cadent Gas (Guest Speaker)**

Andrew Stone (Support Manager), Kate Bloomfield & Marc Robinson made a presentation to the meeting to explain the proposed gas pipework across the Village Green & Sturricks Lane. Andrew Stone explained the length of time the work would take, the type of pipework necessary and explained that they would not be storing any gas on the village green. The site would be returned to its normal condition by Cadent Gas once the work is completed. Cadent Gas will follow up with the Parish Council to ensure they are happy with the site once all work has been completed. Work on Sturricks Lane is due to commence on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## **22/58 The Green Working Party**

**New Allotment Takeovers** – Agreed that when a new allotment is taken over and it requires a lot of attention, that the new plot holder is given 6 months free rent in order to put the allotment back into a good working condition.

**Aingers Green sign** – The prompt replacement of the damaged sign was noted and appreciated

## **22/63 Planning/Housing**

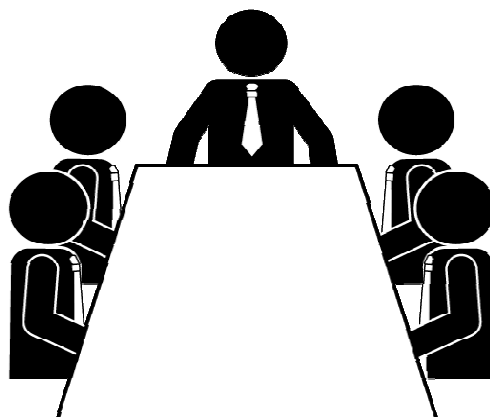
- 63.1 Applications for discussion at meeting  
**21/02176/FUL – Land at Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley** – Construction of 26 dwellings with associate access, perking, public open space, landscaping and other works (amended plans)  
Agreed to add an extra objection to this application to state: The Parish Council object to this planning application for the same reasons previously given and would object further to the removal of 2 mature trees  
**Comments:** The Parish Council object to this planning application for the same reasons previously given and would object further to the removal of 2 mature trees

## **22/70 Information Exchange/Items for next agenda**

Cllr Pippa Dennitts informed the meeting that:

- Residents from new developments obtain recycling bins from the developers of the site and not the Parish Council
- A new bench would be in memorial to Dr George and also be a “happy to chat” bench – Cllr Pippa Dennitts had been in touch with the family to discuss this further.
- The Environment Working Group now had 3 Councillors and 1 member of the public on it.
- There had been no further contact in regards to an insurance claim.
- That she had been keeping the website up to date and would link a page on the site for action groups such as the latest action against pylons group.

**22/71 To confirm date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at 7.00 p.m



**STOP PRESS!>>>STOP PRESS!>>>STOP PRESS!**



**The Great Bentley Show**



**1:30 p.m. Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022**

**ONLY ONE MONTH TO GO UNTIL SHOW DAY!**

**Calling all adults, children & dogs!**

**START Baking, Making, Growing, Picking & Snapping!**

To enter any of our varied show classes see our Schedule or visit the Show website to print off an entry form

**All COMPLETED FORMS** to be with the Entry Secretary at  
**The Warren, Sturrick Lane by 8.00pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

*Grand Prize Draw at 4.30pm*

*followed by Presentation of Awards & Prize Money in our  
Super-sized Exhibition Marquee*

**Flowers Produce Photography Art Cookery (and more!)**

**Companion Dog Show Tombola Tractor Display Stalls**

**Harmonettes Tea Tent Grand Prize Draw**

**Ice-creams Big Easy 5 Jazz Band Riverside Fish & Chips**

**Wine Club Games & Competitions Gin Tasting**

**Suffolk Punch Horses**

And much, much more for all the family!

For any further information contact our Secretary 01206 250158

Support us by becoming a Vice President

Visit our website at [www.greatbentleyshow.co.uk](http://www.greatbentleyshow.co.uk)



## FOOTBALL NOTES

### PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES

Sat	Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dedham	(A)	3 00pm KO
Tues	Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>	Brightlingsea u23s	(H)	6 30pm KO
Sat	Aug 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wormingford	(H)	3.00pm KO



Pre-season training started on the green Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July with 29 players attending including some new faces to the club. Always a good sign that we are seen as a club that is still progressing. The grass is freshly mown and marked out ready for play.

When you read this. Our pre-season friendlies will have started on Thur 14<sup>th</sup> July, with a home game against West Bergholt and an away game at Alresford on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> July.

At this moment in time no fixtures have yet been released by the Border league but the league is expected to start the first week in September.

The players are all looking forward to the tougher challenges (not the physical ones) of competing in Divisions 1 and 3.

**If you or anyone that you know has ever played for GBFC. Everyone is welcome to attend our “covid delayed” 125 yr celebrations taking place at the clubhouse on the afternoon & evening of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August. We have a live band “Contraband” playing in the evening, late bar and food vans attending. Please come along for a drink & a chat.**

Follow GBFC on facebook and twitter for all the latest news.

Stay safe

Follow the Bulldogs

## What a Great day!



It was lovely to see so many people at Great Bentley Carnival and Fete. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. The day felt like a much needed Community event. One of the reasons I wanted to live in a village like Great Bentley.

It was certainly challenging getting everything organised after a 2 year break. There are some people I would like to thank for their support and hard work: Matt Plummer, Chris Morris, George Wright, John Bacon, Mick Dorling, Bev Adams, Jackie Plummer, Muriel and Peter Neal and their daughter Rebecca, Sue Valliance, Sue Elliott, Suzanna and Mark Twyman, Gina Placey, Emma

Smith, everyone who helped with road blocks; Everyone who donated to Silent Auction, Jubilee Committee and anyone else I forgot.

Please keep reading.....Next year Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Association will need more people to come forward to help with organising this worthwhile event. We are only a small Association with 3 volunteers on the committee. This year Committee members have all worked really hard, double and triple tasking to get everything organised leading up to the day. There are roles we need people to come forward to help with, Carnival Court Co-ordinator, Collating Programme content, and Procession Co-ordinator. For more information contact me 07585558660.

Proceeds from the day are in excess of £3,000.00. The monies will be divided between this year's Beneficiaries.

I would like to personally thank Anna and Yee, my fellow Committee members, Brilliant ladies!!

**Julie Wall**  
**(Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Association Chairperson)**

# 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, tinned vegetables and fruit and jam. 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.

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

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 - See article on page 5.



# POLICE REPORT

## RECORDED CRIMES - 12

From 31/05/2022- 27/06/2022

## CRIME TYPES

Assault Actual Bodily Harm - Domestic x 2- Harassment x 2 - Malicious communications x 3 - Theft from Motor vehicle - Threats - Other x 2

## INCIDENTS REPORTED – 15

## INCIDENT TYPES -

Abandoned 999 x 2 - Attention to x 2 – Concern - Cows in road - Driving complaint - Fire - Highway disruption x 4 - Pedestrian - Road traffic collision - Suspicious circumstances.

## Theft of/Theft from motor vehicles.

These offences are a regular occurrence. Be vigilant.

Check vehicle is locked, park near cctv if possible and remove any valuables from unattended vehicle. Do not leave anything in sight to act as a shop window to thieves.

## SCAMS

Scams are an everyday occurrence, that do not just happen online.

If you are effected by any scams, please go to [www.actionfraud.police.uk/reportingfraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reportingfraud) for online form to report to action fraud, or by ringing **0300 123 2040** Monday to Friday 8am - 8pm.

The information you give to Action Fraud can help track down the scammer.

## Fly Tipping.

Fly tipping is still a big problem in most villages.

If you suspect anyone of fly-tipping contact the police on 101 or email [recycle@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:recycle@tendringdc.gov.uk)

Tendring District Council website has lots of information regarding carrier licences and what to check for, when paying someone to remove your rubbish.

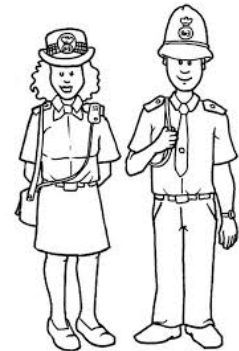
## Traders

If you are looking for a reputable trader, a list can be found on [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

## Reporting incidents the correct way.

To report an incident please ring **101** or for Emergency **999**

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



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Farming Diaries

### Concerns for Our Village

I find the proposal to move Tesco to the other side of the village staggering, what more can be imposed on us before Great Bentley as we know it ceases to be? Tesco is well established where it is, during lockdown they provided a life line often the only place where you could actually talk and have some company during those long and for many lonely days. Yes the traffic outside is often grid locked and if one of the reasons for relocating Tesco is to ease that issue then I suggest that those involved in putting forward these plans spend some quality time in the surrounding area and they will observe the cause for said gridlock ..... because people insist on parking on the yellow lines!!! Furthermore take account of the number of customers who have mobility concerns and use various walking aids from a stick right through to mobility scooters and of course many rely on a shopping trolley to transport their shopping back home. How would developers suggest people in that situation get across to Tesco in the proposed new location? Do they drag their trolleys across the Green in the wind and driving rain, do they attempt to bump their way across on a mobility scooter? There is no safe access even for those of us who are fortunate not to require mobility aids.

This is a thoughtless hard hearted proposal, I hope common sense prevails and that planning permission is refused.

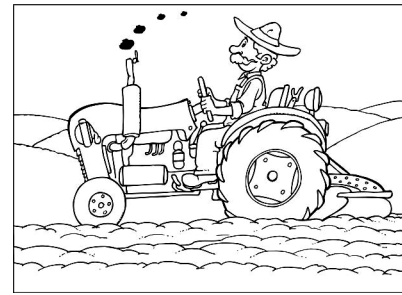
**Judy Bishop**

### Re - The relocation of Tesco

Am I the only person that is dismayed at the news that Tesco may be moved out of the heart of the village?

I am sure, that if any sort of survey was carried out the number of residents who rely completely on this shop would be enormous - Does this not matter?

Sadly, Great Bentley is becoming a town, we have traffic now that the village cannot cope with. The pavements where children and parents walk to school are so narrow it is hazardous. Speed restrictions are ignored, at some point speeding cars are going to cause a death!



You will have started to notice fields are very slowly turning from golden fields of barley and wheat to stubbles and then into cultivated land ready for the next crop. The farming year for arable farmers begins with the drilling of the new season's crops. Drilling of the crops could begin in August to early September for oilseed rape growers, the drilling of wheat from mid- September and normally into October or the spring drillings of crops such as peas, beans and barley. It takes a great deal of time, effort and knowledge to ensure crops reach a high potential yield ready for harvest at this time of year.

From the moment the crop enters the ground through a farmer's drill the potential yield of the crop decreases day on day until harvest. It is the farmer's job to help prevent this potential yield decrease by using cultivation methods to help improve and maintain soil structure, apply fertilisers and also by applying products to help prevent weeds, disease and pests from having a negative impact on yield. Farmers carry out these methods year on year adapting to the varying weather conditions we experience in order to maintain the yield.

In between managing their crops throughout the year many farmers get involved in local shows and events such as the Essex Schools Open Day held each year at Writtle College. This is an event where 3500 school children from across Essex and into London are invited to attend and are able to learn where food comes from and the practices involved in getting their food from field to fork. The Tendring Show is another event where many farmers take the time to help out in a number of ways. Farmers may assist by stewarding in a particular area of the showground or by taking part in the 'Theme area'. Many people may drive past fields seeing farming machinery working or pass them on the road and wondered what those machines do. It is times like these and the Schools Fair which allows farmers to educate the general public as to what they do and how their food is produced.

**Vicki Brooks**

## FRIENDS OF THE GREEN

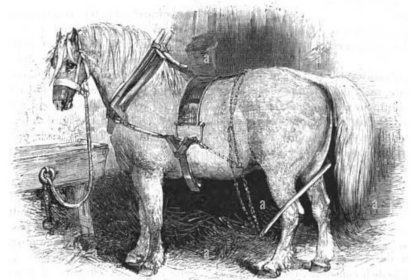
A meeting took place of the Friends of the Green Committee Members on 12th June - a rare occurrence these days.

Firstly apologies for the cancelling of the Grand Garage Sale Trail. This was due to unforeseen circumstances. It has now been rearranged for the 10th September (see page 5). Bookings to Ken Drew on 01206 250177. The entry fee is £7 and £10 on the day. Maps will be on sale at the Deli the week before and at various points en route on the day.

Having not received any replies from various correspondence in the past couple of years with the Parish Council it was decided to once again put forward reports and requests and ideas from the group. Our concern as always is the protection and maintenance of the Green. It is now used more and more by the public and the village users are also becoming more and more with all the new properties being built. To maintain this unique Green for future generations a strict maintenance operation needs to be in place which includes encroachment and misuse to be dealt with. The Friends of the Green will always support the Parish Council in these efforts.

The litter pick continues on a monthly basis with fewer members than the past. A few new members have been added to our list. The efforts of the Group was appreciated by the Queen's Jubilee Committee after assisting with a pick after the event. The pond is not in a very good state at this time and some serious maintenance work will be need in the Autumn. The two residents who have carried out this annual work are past their 'sell by date' and are unable to undertake this task in the in the future. The Group are to look into this problem and report to the Parish Council any recommendations for the future.

Finally the Village Show will include an attendance by Friends of the Green with the popular vintage tractors etc. and added this year is the appearance of two Suffolk Punches courtesy of John Latham a member of the Suffolk Horse Society (now confirmed). I know I have announced the appearance of horses in the past (4 times to be precise) but I feel quite confident this year! (The last time these rare breed horses were seen on the Green was at a past carnival when the Williams and Griffins pantechnicon with the Suffolks presented by Cheryl Grover did a few circuits of the ring).



Do visit our area and take a look at the magnificent rare bred animals. You will not be disappointed.

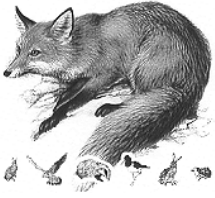
**Michael Dorling**

## JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

The Chameleon's Web Theatre Company are well known in this part of Essex for their outdoor performances at this time of year in various locations but this was a first for Great Bentley with a performance in St Mary's churchyard. If I am honest I would not have attended had it not been for the fact that my four year old granddaughter was staying with me. Were we in for a treat? Most definitely.

The weather was perfect and many people had come along with chairs or blankets to sit on and a picnic. The stage was set with props in place and we eagerly awaited the players on "stage". The performance was slick, extremely professional and lines delivered so that all present could easily hear. "Children" of all ages were enthralled and I for one cannot wait for next years performances and I am certain you do not need to have a small child to take along! I know that St Mary's church members were extremely grateful for the generous donation that was received too. A lovely new addition to the summer events to look forward to in Great Bentley.

**Ed**



# Wildlives

## Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre

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

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

Opening hours: n/a 07802 767016

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

### Hot weather devastating wildlife

August 2022

The heatwave has caused the food supplies of many animals and birds to literally dry up. Slugs, snails and worms are hiding deep in the ground that is too hard to peck or dig for them, Plants are dying and seeds are not as available as they should be. Water sources have vanished and there is nothing to drink. Hedgehogs, starlings, blackbirds and thrushes are especially affected, along with many others. They desperately need your help. You can keep your bird feeders clean and topped up and provide water bowls with clean fresh water daily. A bath will be welcomed by the hot little birds – a cat litter tray with a brick in it for them to stand on would be ideal. The hedgehogs can be helped with good quality dog food.

You can prevent the neighbourhood cats from stealing it by putting it under a storage box with a 6" hole cut in it for the hedgehogs to enter and a brick on top to hold it down. They will also be grateful for clean drinking water. Feed the hedgehogs at night after dark. The centre has started to be inundated with baby hedgehogs whose mothers cannot find enough food to feed them, or who have been unable to find food on their own. If you find a hedgehog lying in the garden, don't move it into shade; even in this weather they will get hypothermic and die. Put it in a warm box inside, with a heat source such as a heat pad, light or towel-wrapped hot water bottle. Call immediately for assistance as if it is left in the garden it will dehydrate and the flies will lay their eggs on it. When the maggots hatch (within hours) the poor hedgehog will be eaten alive.

A Little Ringed Plover was found newly hatched by the side of the road in Tendring. He made brilliant progress and as they fledge early he was soon ready for release. Dave from the BTO had a site where the rare Little Ringed Plovers are nesting, so he collected this one, and ringed it before release. It flew off successfully and hid. Hopefully it will build up strength to migrate to Africa later in the year.

A barn owl chick was found lying on the ground. We contacted David from the Barn Owl Conservation Trust, and he spoke to lady who found the chick and told her what to look out for to try and find the nest site. Once she had found it, David went out, and checked the nest box to discover 3 siblings, so the lost chick was returned to the nest and all four ringed, The nest box had the opening at the bottom, which is why the chick fell out, so the lady will continue to monitor it to make sure no others fall out, and in the winter David will change the box for one with the opening at the top.

A male barn owl was found collapsed in the road at Wix. Both eyes were shut and cloudy and he had a broken clavicle. The eyes have cleared after treatment, and he is on cage rest to allow the clavicle to heal. Eventually he will go into a flight pen to build up his wing muscles.

## **“Sixth gear, down Bray Hill, four G’s, elbow brushing the hedge...” John McGuinness**

Most people have heard of the Rovers Return, a familiar name for a pub perhaps, but the Rovers Return to which I refer has nothing to do with the popular TV drama based in Manchester, this pub is in Douglas on the Isle of Man and the mural on display outside the main entrance is of Joey Dunlop, the idolised ‘King of the Mountain’, a rider regarded by the biking fraternity as a legend of the world of motorcycle road racing. It is often said that the motorcycle is either loved or loathed, however, each year during the early part of June, a pilgrimage on a global scale takes place, a migration of aficionados of the motorcycle who find their way to that small independent island nation in the middle of the Irish Sea. There is no doubt that the Isle of Man TT is an annual sporting event in the realm of the extraordinary. It is difficult to imagine that during the two week festival, each morning for the residents is an existence not at all out of the ordinary, the local bus comes to a halt at the bus stop in a tiny village or perhaps an elderly gentleman leaves the local convenience store having bought his morning newspaper. However, that everyday street scene suddenly undergoes a transformation, as that very street outside that convenience store becomes part of the fastest road race in the world, part of the 37.4 mile track through the towns and countryside of the glorious green gem of the Irish Sea. At a designated hour, all roads are closed to traffic and all speed limit signs are then ignored, except for the sign that records a speed of 193mph through one village. This festival of speed is on every motorcyclist’s bucket list, but also an event creating an interest which generates an eye watering bonanza for the island’s annual economy.

Douglas, nestled in a beautiful bay with its colourful Elizabethan crescent, has the quintessential tram tracks of seaside yesteryear still in evidence along the extremely wide promenade providing walking areas and ample parking for thousands of visiting motorcycles. Every country is represented, batches of foreign number plates parked together, all having disembarked from the ferry terminal close by. With essential riding leathers removed, the riders now show their allegiance to a common love of a machine by wearing predominately black T shirts with their preferred biking designs embossed on their persons, no two designs are the same. “One Passion – One Family”, emblazoned on the chest of one Austrian biker epitomises the bond these devotees enjoy. The language may be different but the amity is universal. A track marshal and his son from Wales, two of 626 men and women responsible for track safety during racing declared to me, ‘It’s like being on holiday with 70,000 mates.’ The atmosphere is celebratory.

During a chat with a past Irish champion, he emphasised the absence of recklessness on the part of competitors, that they focus more on the importance of preparation beforehand and analysis thereafter, an understanding that, at those speeds, a single corner has several aspects to it, every detail subject to scrutiny. All agree that the six laps of the course are completed in a manner well within each rider’s safety limit, that nothing is left to chance and a comprehensive knowledge of the nature, the camber and the surface quality of every metre of that circuit is vital as is the controlling of a motorcycle whilst it is airborne having just crossed a hump-back bridge.

It is difficult for a non-biker to understand the attraction of road racing. Be that as it may, an insight into that world is provided by a stroll around the paddock’s workshops to watch and listen to record holders of this event casually discussing their philosophy with the many interested onlookers, discussing every technical detail of their machines. These men and women are always accommodating and approachable and only too willing to share their experiences. Unquestionably it is frightening and it is forgivable to ask why they take such a risk. The answer to that question is undisguised - it is because it is the Isle of Man, the most famous time-trial in the world where riders compete against the clock, each motorcycle being released at ten-second intervals to cover a course through villages and mountain passes. What is shunned is the notion that the prizemoney is a factor. Clearly it is not, these people are not interested in money, only the coveted Silver Lady trophy. Neither is it true that those thousands of followers make the journey to the Isle of Man in order to see their heroes injured, it is more that they marvel at the display of precision riding taking place at breath-taking speeds in an environment not found anywhere else. No one talks of the danger involved but all are aware of its presence. The Clerk of the Course is committed to make the event as safe as possible, the Air Ambulance helicopter flies overhead during each race and the volunteer trauma doctor stands by with his motorcycle, a machine as fast as any of those of the competitors which will have him at an emergency within minutes. Those fully trained line-of-sight marshalling volunteers mentioned earlier are on duty throughout the length of the course. But tears are shed on occasions, those feared tragedies can happen when the unexpected strikes. Men and machines are fallible and this year’s TT was no exception.

However, for competitor and spectator alike, the passion prevails, a devotion which transcends the good and the bad, a devotion which will herald a new pilgrimage to that small island nation again next year.

JE.





## GARDENING NOTES

For all gardeners August should be a month of plentiful harvest but it is also a busy time both for work to be done and planning for the year ahead. As beds become empty think about what you wish to grow for next year following some form of crop rotation. A typical one is year 1 potatoes and tomatoes, followed by year 2 by root vegetables including leeks and onions followed in year 3 by peas and beans and in year 4 by brassicas.

Given how high food prices are becoming, it is worth trying to maximise your output from the plot. As we dig out our main crop potatoes, we immediately plant some of the area with leeks from their nursery bed and there is still time to plant catch crops of saladings which are generally considered to be outside the rotation. You can also try a crop of green manure, grown through the winter and dug in during spring, it keeps down weeds and feeds the soil. If you have not yet planted winter greens it can be still done enabling the plants to become established in case we do have a colder autumn/winter than has become the norm in recent years.

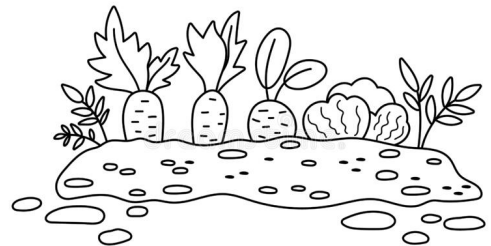
Onions will be ripening this month and some of the foliage will be dying back. Initially you can assist the drying by using a fork to slightly raise the plants and snap the roots, allowing them to dry out for a while before harvesting them. If you decide to lift them early and air dry them before storing under cover please ensure they are not left in strong sunlight. We made this mistake a few years ago and damaged (baked) a lot of reasonable sized onions. Shallots can be treated similarly.

August is a good time to create new strawberry beds using rooted runners from the existing strawberry beds providing they appear healthy. If in doubt buy in new plants. Although some strawberry beds will remain productive for many years, they will eventually need replacing. As it is advisable to pick very little fruit off a new bed it is better to plant the new bed before the old bed is exhausted. Running the two beds for a year or two is a reasonable way of ensuring continuity of supply.

August is the time to prune wisteria and many other summer flowering shrubs, such as lavender, once they have finished flowering. Wisteria pruning not only helps to keep the size of the plant under control, but done correctly, will improve the flowering for next year. The RHS website has a simple guide to wisteria pruning. Summer pruning of apple and pear trees training as restricted forms (cordons, espaliers and fans and pyramids) should be undertaken to allow sunlight to ripen the fruit and ensure good cropping for next year.

Ponds and water features are likely to require some maintenance, as well as keeping the water topped up to combat evaporation losses.

As show time approaches, a reminder of some dates: Ardleigh show on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August at the village hall (2-4:30pm), Lawford show on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the Ogilvie Hall (2-5pm) and Great Bentley show also on 3<sup>rd</sup> September which is not only a horticultural show in a marquee but includes other attractions on the village green. Why not try entering a class or two just for fun and of course children have their own special classes. Schedules are available from show secretaries.



**A.O.**

### **PETER BUSHBY L.R.P.S. - Photography Exhibition: 'The Strength to Change'**

Peter is holding an exhibition of his work in Great Bentley Methodist Church. Entry is free. Tea and cake available for donation to church funds. His intent is to remind us that nobody need stay in an intolerable situation, and that we all have the strength to change more than we think. There will be a chance to chat about his work at the end of every session, and to build on these chats with your own photographs in subsequent sessions.

Tuesday 2nd August 9.30—11.30am (Chat 11.30-12.30)

Friday 5th August 1.00-3.00pm (Chat 3-4pm)

Please let Peter know if you are coming or ask him any questions on 07795 230599 or email [pr\\_bushby@hotmail.com](mailto:pr_bushby@hotmail.com)





# Surgery News

## SURGERY NEWS

We are very pleased to welcome Kerry Noonan, Advanced Nurse Practitioner to our Surgery Team. In addition to all her normal Nurse Practitioner duties, Kerry who is an experienced Nurse Prescriber will be assisting the doctors with daily triage, home visits and seeing patients for minor illness conditions.

## SURGERY TELEPHONE SYSTEM

We have recently had an upgrade on our telephone system and have received some feedback from our patients saying that they are having problems either getting through to, or leaving messages for our Prescription Clerk.

The number to call for the Prescription Clerk hasn't changed and if you have a prescription query then you can ring through on the direct line number which is 01206 257557. When you phone this number you will receive the normal greeting message. If you continue listening to the message you will then need to press 2 for prescriptions.

Our prescription line is manned between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm Monday to Friday. If you ring during these times and the prescription clerk is busy, then you will go into a queuing system. If you would rather leave a message than continue to hold for her, you can press 1 at any point which will then allow you to leave a message. If you call out of the above hours, then you will receive a message saying the prescription office is closed. If you continue to listen to the whole message, you will be given the option to press 1 and leave a message.

I hope this information helps patients who are trying to contact our prescription line. Please remember that this line is only for patients who have a prescription enquiry, as we are not able to take requests for prescriptions over the telephone.

## COVID BOOSTERS

We will not be holding any Covid booster clinics at the Surgery during August. If you are due to have your booster and need to book an appointment, you can find details on the Great Bentley Surgery website or telephone 119.

At the time of writing this Newsletter we have not had confirmation as to whether patients will be offered a Covid booster in the autumn. If this does go ahead then we will contact patients about booking this.

## SURGERY TRAINING AFTERNOON

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 31 August for staff training. If patients require urgent care on this afternoon then they can contact 111 for assistance.

## PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

There will not be a meeting of the Patient Participation Group held in August.

**Sue Mitson – Operations Manager**

## BELLRINGERS UPDATE

The church bells are always rung to announce church services, but sometimes we ring them for other occasions such as a celebration of a momentous event. You will have heard the church bells prior to the Cricket Club's match against the MCC on the 17<sup>th</sup> July. This was to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the club. Ringing to celebrate this event was an honour for us as we enjoy being able to contribute to major events in the village.

Even though lots of us will be going away over the next few weeks, we will continue to ring the bells every Sunday morning during the holiday season. Monday evening practices though, are likely to be cancelled from Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> to Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August.

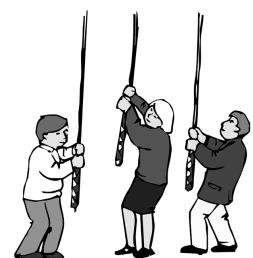
Please contact me if you are interested in watching what we do or if you would like to learn this ancient and quintessentially English art. Remember:

You do need to be strong

You do not need to have played a musical instrument

There is no home and away kit!

**Roger Carey-Smith**  
**07422880921**





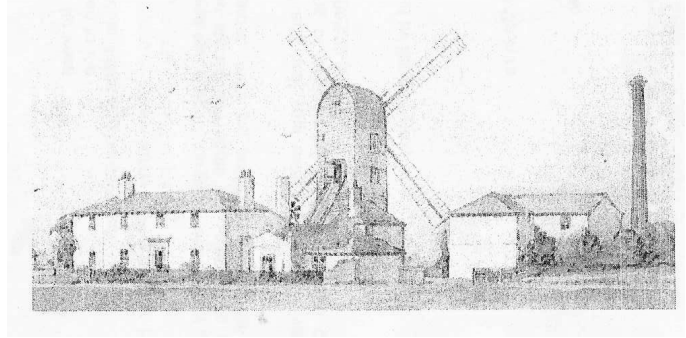
## Kate Sizer and The Mill

Beneath the oaks in the corner of St Mary's Churchyard lies Kate Sizer and her stone bears this legend.

In memory of  
Kate Thompson Sizer  
Daughter of  
George John and Esther Sizer  
Born at Great Bentley Essex  
September 13th 1857  
Died Ipswich May 24th 1909

I know not where his islands lift  
Their fronded palms in air  
I only know we cannot drift  
Beyond his life and care

Also in remembrance of  
Fanny Esther Sizer  
who died October 4th 1932  
Aged 78 years  
and is buried in Worthing.



Although Kate Sizer's life was beyond human recall the writer has included her because she made such an important contribution to the history of Great Bentley. She had written several stories and poems before publishing ~"Glimpses of Great Bentley in the Past" in 1882. Although she embellished this work with her imagination she did make good use of the sources available to her at the time and later historians have drawn on her researches.

Kate was the daughter of the local miller George Sizer. She lived at the Mill House in the centre of the green and later when her father retired, at Moorlands.

Kate was one of six children - there was Emma who later became Mrs Park, John Henry who married the minister's daughter, Fanny, mentioned on the tombstone - she became mentally ill and went to live in Worthing, Kate herself, then Evaline and lastly Wilfred who had a fine tenor voice and sang in local concerts.

In 1794 Kate's great-grandfather, John Sizer, who came from Bradfield bought the mill from old Thomas Algar who had removed it from Brightlingsea thirty-two years before and set it up on the green. John had also bought a plot of land beside the mill and another across the road with a cottage standing on it. This was beside where the Chapel now stands.

So here John lived, and worked the mill and the business was very successful. Then, in 1819 John Thompson of Brooke House Farm and Richard Carrington who later built St Mary's Farm, erected the first Methodist Chapel on the plot next to the Sizer Cottage. Shortly afterwards John Sizer died and his son - also John - took over the mill. He raised the height of the mill as the sails swung dangerously low. He also built a new house in front of the mill for his growing family. The first child was George, Kate's father; there was Robert who became a grocer in Tendring, Samuel a carpenter in Little Bentley and Carrington who farmed at the Tye and then St Mary's.

This George gave the new Chapel some land on which to build the schoolroom. George married Esther Thompson from Brooke House and took over the mill in 1855. The business was going very well and his father and mother retired to Moorlands. George built the steam mill as a back-up to the windmill the first of its kind in the country.

The original windmill at Great Bentley was a post-mill. The bodywork rested on an upright post on which it revolved. There was a system of horizontal and sloping beams which formed a trestle and kept the central post in position. The post was enclosed in a round house. The mill had to be turned to keep the sails facing into the wind and there was a fan tail fixed to the back of the mill for this purpose with a wheel that ran round on the ground as the mill turned. Imagine the creaking of this great high structure! The body of the mill was white boarded with the machinery and grindstones inside.

By 1891 (though some sources think a little later) the work had been taken over by the steam mill as the old windmill was unsafe and was demolished. The steam-mill continued working for some time and its chimney was brought down in 1927. The schoolchildren of the time were taken out to watch this happen.

But back to Kate. She was a talented girl, busy with her writing and her research. She was already at Moorlands when her "Glimpses ..." was published in 1882 by Mattocks of Head Street, Colchester. It was printed by Trinity Printing Works. She was twenty-five. There was a review in the Essex County Standard describing it as "a labour of love" and "positively refreshing".

Kate gives the history of the village in her book including an account of Rose Allin and the martyrs. She describes legends and ghost stories and the local dialect.

Kate and her sisters all went to a boarding school near Ipswich - Anglesea House. It was here that Kate gained her love of literature. Kate was an invalid. She couldn't walk. Medical consultants could not find anything wrong so it seems that this was some kind of psychological condition caused perhaps by the death of her beloved sister Evalina.

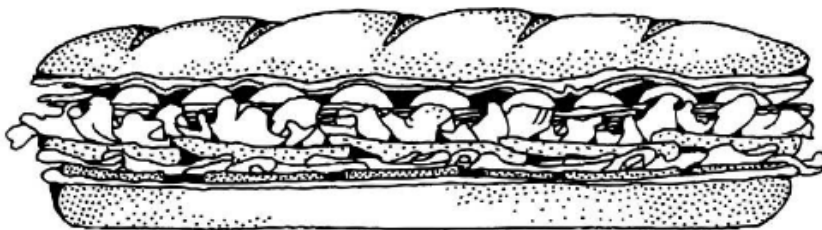
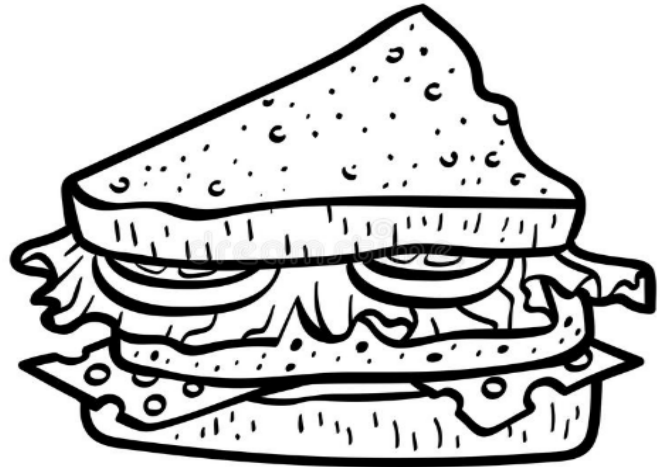
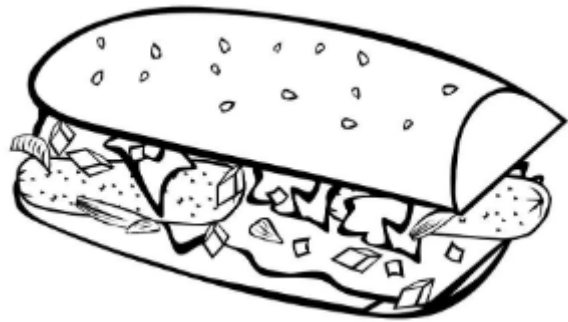
One Christmas when Evalina had only been at the school for a term she died suddenly during the holidays, a great shock for all the family and Kate did not walk again for many years. The Sizers eventually moved to Ipswich and it was there, after her father died, that her mother managed to get her to walk again.

It was in Ipswich that Kate - still ahead of her time, founded a typewriting agency. And it was there at the aged of 52 that she died - a lady whose name lives on in Great Bentley.

# Children's Page

Fun Fact for August – Did you know?

The first-ever sandwich was created in August 1762. It was named after the Earl of Sandwich when he requested a dish involving meat between two pieces of bread.





# COOKERY CORNER

## MORE CHICKEN DISHES

Chicken is lean, tasty, nutritious, and fairly cheap especially if you choose drumsticks or thighs. When money is tight, for a few pounds a family pack of chicken drumsticks will provide a tasty meal as long as you forget the idea of roasted dried offerings served at parties and cook them slowly in a casserole with onions and vegetables until the meat is starting to fall off the bone. Similarly, chicken portions (thigh and drumstick) can be casseroled or roasted slowly. A 2kg chicken stuffed with herbs and an onion will provide at least two meals and some satisfying soup. Chicken thighs are meaty and will roast well after a spell in a marinade, or when skinned and boned, can be used in casseroles and curries. Some people prefer the breast of chicken, a more expensive cut but excellent for quicker dishes such as stir fries.

### MARINADES FOR CHICKEN THIGHS

These marinades are for 8 skin on thighs, probably enough for 4 people. Try these mixtures or maybe invent your own.

2tbsp honey, a knob of fresh ginger peeled and cut up, 1 crushed garlic clove, 1tsp 5 spice, 1tbsp soy sauce and 2tbsp sesame or olive oil.

3tbsp olive oil, juice 1 lemon, 2 sprigs chopped rosemary and 2 crushed garlic cloves.

2tbsp olive oil, 2tbsp grain mustard and 1tbsp honey.

3tbsp olive oil, juice ½ lemon, 1tbsp honey, 1tbsp sumac or paprika, 2 sprigs thyme and a pinch of chilli flakes.

In a non metallic bowl, thoroughly coat the thighs in your chosen mixture. Cover and marinate in the fridge for at least an hour, turning over occasionally. Heat the oven to 200 degrees (180 fan). Remove the meat from the marinade. Place on a baking tray and roast for 15 minutes before turning and brushing the thighs with more marinade, scattering 1tsp of sesame seeds on top if you wish. Roast a further 10 to 15 minutes until browned and cooked through. Serve with salad and new potatoes or runner beans and rice.

### BRAISED CHICKEN AND BEANS

4 chicken thighs or 6 drumsticks  
1 tsp dried thyme  
parsley

1 crushed garlic clove  
½ pint dry white wine

1 chopped onion  
400g can flageolet beans

Drain the beans and rinse thoroughly under cold running water. Brown the chicken in a large frying pan. Add the garlic, onion and thyme and fry for 2 minutes before pouring in the wine and 150ml water and a little seasoning. Bring to the boil and then simmer for about 20 minutes, covering the dish half way through, until the chicken is tender. Stir in the beans and warm through. Scatter with chopped parsley. Serve with baby roast potatoes and a green vegetable.

### BARBEQUE CHICKEN

4 chicken portions (1 per person)  
a pinch of mustard

50g raisins  
3tbsp tomato ketchup

1 medium onion  
3tbsp fruity brown sauce

3tbsp syrup  
dash Worcester sauce

Preheat the oven to 190 degrees. Peel and chop the onion. Place the chicken portions in a roasting tin and cover tightly with foil and bake for about one and a half hours. Plump the raisins in a little boiling water and drain. Fry the onion in 1tbsp olive oil until soft. Add the raisins, syrup, ketchup and both sauces to the pan. Season with salt and pepper and a little mustard to taste and simmer gently until the syrup melts. Take the chicken from the oven and remove the foil. Pour the sauce over the chicken and return to the oven, baking for a further 15 to 20 minutes until the sauce is sticky and the meat is cooked through. **M.E.**



# Are you feeling board?



1. On a standard Monopoly board what colour is Vine Street?
2. Which card game is also known as pontoon?
3. What colour is the zero on a roulette wheel?
4. What is the alternative name for the castle in the game of chess?
5. Which 2 letters are worth 8 points in Scrabble?
6. Which is the highest ranked suit in bridge?
7. What colours are the counters in 'Connect 4'?
8. In 'Guess Who' which lady wears a green beret?
9. How is the traditional game of noughts and crosses known in the US?
10. Which board game gets its name from the Latin for 'I play'?
11. Who is the murder victim in 'Cluedo'?
12. Six different coloured pies are sought after in which game?
13. How many pawns start in a game of chess?
14. What were the six tokens used in the original game of Monopoly?
15. In a standard playing card pack, what is it that the queens hold in their hands?
16. What is the English name of the game Solitaire?
17. Which card game has given us the expression 'level pegging'?
18. In which game must you shout its name when you have only one card remaining?
19. Which game involves determining your opponent's colour-coded combination?
20. Which board game uses 144 tiles variously named dragons, winds & honours?



1.orange 2.blackjack 3.green 4.rook 5.J & Z 6.spades  
 7.red & yellow 8.Maria 9.tic-tac-toe 10.ludo 11.Dr Black 12.Trivial Pursuit  
 13.16 14. Battleship, Boot, Racing Car, Racehorse, Top Hat & Iron 15.flowers  
 16.patience 17.cribbage 18.UNO 19.Mastermind 20.Mahjong



## GREAT BENTLEY RUNNING CLUB

After a two year hiatus, the club once again put on our Friday Five on 1st July. Over 400 runners completed the fast and flat course through the village, whilst over 50 juniors took on the junior courses around the village green. Sincere apologies to anyone who got caught in the road stops we

have to put into place to allow the races to get along safely. We do keep these in place for as little time as possible but realise that traffic quickly backs up. We will trial a better system for giving advance warning for future races.

First home in the senior races were Colchester Harrier's Dean Williamson (24:21) and Stowmarket Striders Maddie Gordon-Lee (28:03). Twelve of our own runners took part including Lisa Briggs who continues to go from strength to strength, finishing with a new PB of 37:32. Daniel Harris Whymark also claimed a new PB, finishing with a top 20 age category performance, in 36:32, whilst the husband and wife duo of Paul and Sarah Davison were just happy to make it around the course (and the rest of the series) with their marriage still intact.

Despite this busy Friday night, plenty of blues were in action at Parkrun on the following Saturday morning. Special mentions go to the following:

Robbie Lee completed his quickest Parkrun at Colchester Castle this year in 22:11

Martin Owen, who was once again on the tourist trail at Mildenhall Hub (with the best vegan biscoff tiffin), where he finished 26th in 24:35.

Jo Weatherall and Patrick Auer who were also on the tourist trail with Heidi the dog at Peckham Rye.

Also straying far from home were Phil Presland and Yolande Arnold, who both took on the Holkham 10k, as part of the Outlaw Half Holkham Weekend. For Phil, this was his first race since returning from injury and his first 10k in over four years, so he was very pleased to finish in 51.06, whilst Yolande crossed the finish line in 1.00.37, despite the undulating course and breezy conditions. The next day, Vicky Presland completed the Outlaw Half Holkham, which consisted of a 1.2 mile lake swim, 56 miles on the bike and a half marathon to finish. Vicky completed the full course in the amazing time of 5:40:35. We are extremely proud of her!

Competing even further from home was John Booty, who went all the way to Wales to take part in the AEE Fan Dance Special Forces Test March. Described by the people who know as 'an absolute lung buster that throws everything at you', John completed the 24km march carrying about 36lbs of kit and provisions in 3:19:38, finishing within the 4hr SAS selection pass time, which secured him a second place finish in the master's category. For those who don't know the Fan Dance involves running up Pen y fan (the highest peak in South Wales) down the other side and then back all. Whilst carrying a 35 pounds in weight in a Bergin! The bag gets weighed several times at various points to ensure runners don't 'lose' any of their rocks!

Now, you might think going to Wales to march up Pen Y Fan is a long way to go for your weekend's racing, but that's nothing compared to Mags Komorowska, who was back home in her native Poland and competing in the Półmaraton Gęstwinami Murckowskimi, a technical 13.1 mile trail race through Polish woodlands. Mags finished the race as the fourth lady overall, and the first in her age category, with a finish time of 1:50:20.



**Paul Carlisle**

**GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE SHOW SCHEDULES  
NOW AVAILABLE FROM  
DAN'S DELI      THE POST OFFICE  
FAIRFIELD, THE PATH &  
THE WARREN, STURRICK LANE**

# A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

## **Three New Changing Places Facilities for Tendring**

Tendring District Council (TDC) has been given £300,000 from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to build three new specialist disabled toilet and changing amenities.

They will be located at the Promenade Way car park in Brightlingsea; the lower promenade at Holland Haven Country Park; and on the lower promenade below Marine Parade East and Clacton close to Beaches Café.

## **Love Tendring updated app.**

The latest version of Tendring's events app has been released for smartphone users to download. Love Tendring, which showcases what's on, places to go and other visitor information, is free to download on both Apple and Android devices.

Developed in-house by Tendring District Council (TDC), the app has recently been refreshed and now has a new-look home page, a featured event section, and also pulls through daily events submitted through the council's website.

To submit an event for inclusion on TDC's website what's on listing and on the Love Tendring app, go to [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/leisure/events-entertainment/whats-on](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/leisure/events-entertainment/whats-on).

## **Residents are being asked to have their say on Tendring's Future Heritage**

Communities across Tendring are being urged to have their say on how five heritage areas are protected – and how buildings might be preserved in the future

Tendring District Council (TDC) is developing a series of Conservation Area Appraisals, reviewing places which already have a heritage designation, to ensure they still work for those areas.

The five new Conservation Area Appraisals the council wants views on are:

- Clacton Seafront
- Dovercourt
- Thorpe-le-Soken
- Thorpe Station and Maltings
- St Osyth

A six-week public consultation will run from Monday 4 July until 5pm Monday 15 August. People can have their say by emailing [planning.policy@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@tendringdc.gov.uk) or writing to Tendring District Council Planning Policy Team, Planning Department, Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1SE

## **Finalists for this year's Tendring Youth Awards**

I do enjoy being one of the Judges for this event, this year we were given the hard task of assessing nominations for the 2022 Tendring Youth Awards applications which were whittled down to more than 50 entries in the final shortlist.

Now in its sixth year, the awards celebrate achievements by young people across a range of categories – along with a category for adults who support young people in Tendring.

Harwich Haven Authority is the headline sponsor of this year's Tendring Youth Awards, and are supported by Tendring District Council and Essex County Council.

We faced a tough job with so many nominations having been received this year and needing to even split the Learning Achievement category into a younger and older award in recognition of the high quality of entries. Finalists attended the glitzy presentation evening at Clacton's Princes Theatre on July 5th.



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

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

Tel. No. 01206 250732

Mobile 07564 613603



## GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

Members and guests spent a very enjoyable afternoon visiting Ed Fairey's garden at Mayfield Farm, Ardleigh in June and we have another garden visit arranged for **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 2.00pm** to Moverons Farm, Brightlingsea. The cost is £8.00 which includes tea/cake. Again guests will be welcome on this visit. We will meet at the Village Hall car park at 1.30pm and will car share to the venue. Anyone wishing to come and has not yet booked please contact **Bob on 01206 251433 or bob.newman@mac.com by 31<sup>st</sup> July.**

The Club are holding their Autumn Show, AGM and Social Evening on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Schedules will be sent to Members or can be obtained by contacting Bob. The staging of entries must be completed by 7.45pm for judging to commence at 8.00pm.

Our autumn meetings are at 7.30pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October when we will have a speaker from the Colne Valley Tea Company, and on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November when Darren Lerigo will make a return visit and treat us to another of his entertaining talks. Guests will be very welcome at both meetings. Do come along.

## BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB

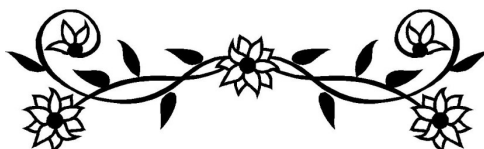
Our speaker for July was Barbara Faulkner with her talk entitled "When the Clock Strikes Twelve". Barbara started off by asking for ideas on what that phrase might mean. With each suggestion from the floor, she proceeded to tell us the background and folklore which surrounded each one. So she went through, amongst others, the history of 'Cinderella', 'The Witching Hour', New Year traditions with reference to 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'Big Ben'.

However, the final and most detailed part of her talk was a complete surprise and a secret to be kept from all except for those present at the meeting...sorry!

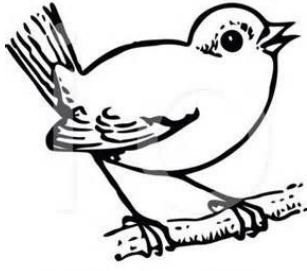
**Date for your diary...** next meeting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 2nd August** with **Sandra Price**, an experienced and well-known member of **NAFAS** (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies). This is always a popular evening and, as ever, guests are welcome.

## ANSWERS TO THE GREAT BENTLEY METHODIST "GREEN PLANET" QUIZ

Church	Equal Trade	14	Church	Clean Water for All	19
Church	Garden of Eden	6	Adventurers	I Recycle	11
Bellringers	Alpine Village	23	Church	Sailing on the Lake District	10
Church	Endangered Species	5	Mother & Toddlers Group	The Barrier Reef	9
Tendring Recycling Scheme	Group Recycling	4	Gardeners Club	My Garden	18
Church	Thailand	13	Church	Burn Less Fuel	8
Rainbows	World without Bees	3	Bentley in Bloom	Country Meadow	17
Church	Easter Island	2	Church	Use Locally Grown	7
Church	The New Forest	22	Playgroup	The Farm	16
Church	Adding Habitat	21	Church	Green Energy	15
Church	Deforesting for Palm Oil	1			
Church	Clean Beaches	20			
Church	Keep our Green clean	12			



## NATURE NOTES



Colne Point nature reserve at St Osyth is one of Essex Wildlife Trust's slightly hidden treasures on the coastal fringe and off the beaten track. It has come under closer attention with a collection of articles about to be published this autumn to coincide with Bob Seago's retirement as longstanding warden. It is over 680 acres, with saltmarsh behind a series of sand-gravel ridges with two spits divided by creeks – the longer Sandy Point recently extending in front of Point Clear. It has a classic shingle hook inclined into Ray Creek. Anyone familiar with Orfordness in Suffolk and some elementary geomorphology will have an idea of the processes involved. Orford was open to the sea in Tudor times and now has a long shingle spit in front of it. At St Osyth the outlet of the River Colne and with the double estuary with even some Blackwater material is deposited. The main source of shingle and sand is from the sea with longshore drift. Storm tides can both fetch and remove huge tonnages in a few hours and the changes at Sandy Point during Bob Seago's 22 years have been dramatic. Before becoming warden his predecessors feared the site would soon disappear due to erosion. Prior to it being purchased as a nature reserve in 1967 there had been longstanding commercial sand and gravel extraction, with great quantities removed by barge. At present despite increasing global warming concerns, with sea-level rises and widespread erosion, the gains here outweigh the losses - for the moment at least, although saltmarsh erosion is a slow insidious process even if here protected by the shingle ridge.

The recharged beaches, first at Jaywick and more recently between Clacton and Holland has benefitted Colne Point with drifted material. The flora has also been boosted, as similarly at Jaywick with large patches of sea holly there that a generation ago were hardly seen. Colne Point has this and the dramatic large crinkle-leaved Sea Kale, Yellow Horned Poppy, Sea Spurge and Sea Bindweed. Rock Sea lavender, the paler slightly earlier flowering cousin of the familiar Sea Lavender are both seen. The latter is just turning the salt-marshes purple after they were earlier pink with Thrift flowers. Less obvious is the small wiry Sea Heath, another with pink flowers, in its only modern location in Essex. While there are colourful plants here the general prevailing hue is duller greens both on the saltmarsh and ridges. The latter, with trees being unable to establish, is dominated mainly along the ridges by massed low bushes of Shrubby Seablite. It is found elsewhere in the world on the edges of deserts. A member of the goosefoot family – with Fat Hen the familiar weed and Spinach vegetable both cousins. Reed Bunting, Dunnock and Linnets nest in it. Its seeds are important food for birds as are those of the related Sea Purslane that dominates the saltmarsh. That is an Orache [Atriplex] and several other family members grow as plant pioneers just above the normal high-tide line with among others: Sea Rocket, Sea Mayweed and the marine form of Curled Dock that has not unattractive truncheons of massed seeds. Marram grass and other grasses could be mentioned with long roots binding the ridges - the plant roll call could go on!

Colne Point was famed for its Little Tern colony but this has dwindled and in recent decades often absent but in the past two years there have been signs of a modest improvement. Last year there was some success but this year the presence of large gulls has discouraged them. On a recent visit several with [misnamed] Common Terns have been fishing along the beach and a young flying Little Tern seen.

Fellow shore-nesting Oystercatchers and Ringed Plover still valiantly hold territories making this a reserve not suitable of many human visitor disturbance. The nature reserve is primarily a sanctuary for fragile wildlife and this should be respected. It is some comfort that some wild places can survive in this increasingly crowded land.

**DRB**

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH**

### **FLOWER FESTIVAL**

### **SATURDAY/SUNDAY**

**17th/18th SEPTEMBER**

**10am to 4pm on Saturday  
and 11am to 4pm Sunday.**

We hope to have some art for sale too.  
If you are an amateur artist and would like  
to exhibit some art for sale please contact  
Carole Allington on  
01206 251086 for full details.





## Memories of the Second World War by Bill Gibbon

I was nearly eight years old when the war started in September 1939. For its duration, excepting for the summer of 1940, we lived at Cottage Farm close to the head of Flag Creek, although during term time I was away at boarding school which was evacuated to the other side of the country.

A Coastal Defence Zone was created extending about five miles inland from the coastline. Within this area movement was greatly restricted and everyone was told to have a suitcase packed ready for immediate evacuation in the event of an invasion. Numerous concrete pill boxes were built at strategic points and bridges were mined ready to be destroyed should the Germans land.

Cottage Farm, had a long driveway along which were constructed emplacements for three 25 pounder artillery guns, these were serviced in our garage which gave my brother and me the opportunity to sit on them which was, of course, seventh heaven for small schoolboys. The guns were practice fired occasionally.

In our back yard the Army constructed its area telephone exchange the door of which had been salvaged from a beach hut in Jaywick and still bore the name "Bide a Wee" after which the exchange became known to the embarrassment of the soldiers who manned it.

There was, of course, much military activity in the area, particularly in the early part of the war when an imminent invasion was expected. Barbed wire entanglements were erected all over the place including across the field which separated us from the head of the creek, this did not prevent my brother and me finding our way through it and across the alleged mine field in order to go swimming and get to our small lug rigged sailing dinghy that we kept on the creek.

Apart from being used by the Home Guard for amphibious crossings of the creek in true Dads Army style (The part of Captain Mainwaring could well have been based on my father's involvement in this operation), we were also allowed to sail as far as Brightlingsea until on one occasion we went slightly too far and there followed a stentorian hail of "Ahoy small boat, report to Naval HQ immediately" from HMS Nemo, based in The Anchor pub. Having been given a good dressing down we were sent smartly on our way home by which time the tide had gone so we had to push the last bit.

Brightlingsea harboured quite a large contingent of minesweepers and various other naval vessels throughout the war. The area commander was ferried to and from Harwich in a slow and cumbersome Walrus flying boat with a single pusher engine giving a cruising speed of about 90 knots.

We experienced a significant amount of bombing although most of this was aimless and was dropped by German aircraft returning from raids on London. We had one heavy incendiary bomb raid which we were told was intended for Harwich but which ended up around us. Many of the incendiaries failed to ignite so my brother and I retrieved a couple and took them home "for further investigation and research" until mother ordered them to be thrown instantly into our pond where they probably still remain.

There were, of course, air defences including searchlights and barrage balloons. In the early part of the war there was a shortage of anti aircraft guns, but partly in order to convince the Germans that there were more of them, those that existed were moved from place to place in a convoy which used to pass by quite frequently.

We were able to witness many dog fights overhead and also, in the latter part of the war, we watched the massive formations of bombers from Langham and other local wartime airfields assembling overhead and setting off for night raids. We frequently saw aircraft returning with an engine or two stopped and bits hanging off. A Mosquito fighter bomber failed to make it and crashed in fields close to us; its fuel tank made an excellent raft and other bits were upcycled into all manner of things in our workshop.

A Mustang fighter plane crashed not far away with the unfortunate loss of its American pilot and we witnessed a B 17 Flying Fortress coming down near St Osyth, the entire crew having bailed out and landed around us. The rear gunner landed just outside our garden and was promptly transported to The Flag Inn to join the remainder of the crew who were assembled for "refreshments" on the house.

Although travel was restricted we made a weekly shopping trip by "producer gas bus" to Colchester. For the uninitiated a producer gas bus towed a trailer upon which was mounted a coal or coke fuelled contraption that produced gas; this propelled the bus at a stately 15-20 mph until it reached a hill when its passengers were asked to disembark and, if necessary, push.

We managed to keep a car in commission throughout the war but with a very meagre allowance of petrol it was only used for short and essential trips. All cars had cowls fitted to their headlights which reduced their light output to virtually nothing, so night driving in the blackout was much a case of hit or miss.

My father had decided quite early on in the war that in order to avoid having our house requisitioned for military use it would be a good idea to operate an unofficial officers' mess so that the "brass" could be kept entertained and would therefore not wish to boot us out. This obviously worked well since we remained at Cottage Farm and enjoyed visits from officers of both the army and navy and later by some American officers.



We did not have an air raid shelter as such but my father installed a number of tree trunks to support the main ceiling beams of the house and reckoned that it would be much safer than a tin shelter in the garden, this had the added advantage that we could sleep in our own beds during night raids.

The war in Europe came to an end while I was away at school and I can't remember any details of the VE Day celebrations, but I clearly remember the celebrations on VJ Day (15<sup>th</sup> August 1945) on the seafront at Clacton with huge bonfires and thunderflashes being hurled in all directions.

Although there was very strict food rationing we seemed to remain reasonably fit but we had to make do with some pretty awful grub including dried eggs, tinned snoek (South African fish) and bottles of concentrated orange juice which regularly exploded. At least we learned to "waste not want not". Like many others we grew our own vegetables and we also kept chickens for a spasmodic supply of eggs. We kept bees which entitled us to an extra sugar allowance in order to feed them. Not all of the sugar found its way into the hives.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war there was mass evacuation of children from London. Rather surprisingly some of these evacuees were sent to local villages including Great Bentley despite the fact that it was within the Coastal Defence Zone. However, very few of the evacuee children were happy in their new country surroundings and most quickly returned home to London.

Great Bentley, like all villages, had its "characters". Two that I particularly remember are Doctor Athill who always seemed to be smoking a cigarette with half an inch of ash on the end whether or not in his surgery. The other was Mr Lord the rotund and rubicund butcher. Despite the very strict meat rationing it was often possible to persuade him to reluctantly part with lambs kidneys and liver, neither of which were included in the rationing. The saying in our house was that "The Lord will provide".

Later on in the war I learnt to use a shot gun which enabled me to bag the odd rabbit for the pot. We also kept a pair of ducks (George and Elizabeth) but these became pets so were saved from the pot. During the latter part of the war we had two pigs (Gert and Daisy) sadly both of which became bacon.

Farming carried on around us but with the considerable use of Suffolk Punch horses which did not need valuable petrol. Harvest was traditional with a horse or tractor drawn binder throwing out sheaves which were then stacked by hand into stooks, these were collected in horse drawn wagons and stacked ready for threshing. Threshing was preceded by the arrival of the threshing tackle drawn by a steam traction engine which also provided the power to the threshing drum and the elevator by way of massive belts. I remember riding on the traction engine which was driven by a lovely man from Aingers Green who's name was, I believe Mr Wringe.

Wartime was an exciting period for us children, there was a great deal of activity going on around us to keep young minds fully occupied and interested. We were fortunate in being fairly self sufficient in fruit and vegetables although we missed the luxuries such as bananas and fresh oranges. We were, of course aware of the risk and possible consequences of an invasion during the early part of the war but from 1942 onwards there was a feeling of optimism as the tide turned in our country's favour.

There is no doubt that the wartime spirit existed strongly, everyone was prepared to help others, petty jealousies and class distinctions were put to one side in a common interest.

We survived the war even if the wartime spirit sadly didn't!

**Bill Gibbon**



## **GREAT BENTLEY FOOTBALL CLUB**

**TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS OF GREAT BENTLEY FOOTBALL CLUB**

**WE ARE HOLDING A CELEBRATION EVENT AT THE FOOTBALL CLUB ON**

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2022**

**STARTING IN THE AFTERNOON WITH FOOTBALL FOLLOWED BY MUSIC BY  
"CONTRABAND"  
FROM 7PM IN THE EVENING**

**LICENSED BAR/BURGER VAN/DONUT VAN**

**ALL PAST AND PRESENT PLAYERS, MANAGERS, SPONSORS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS,  
SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME**

## AUGUST DIARY

- Tues 2nd **BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Tues 2nd **PHOTO EXHIBITION**, Methodist Church, 9.30-11.30
- Fri 5th **PHOTO EXHIBITION**, Methodist Church, 1-3pm
- Sun 7th **CHORAL EVENSONG**, Wrabness, see p. 6
- Tues 9th **GARDENING CLUB VISIT** to Moverons Farm, 2pm
- Sun 14th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Thurs 18th **KNIT & NATTER**, 2-3.30pm, St Mary's Church Hall
- Sat 20th **COFFEE MORNING**, St Mary's Church Hall, 10-12 noon
- Sat 20th **FOOTBALL CLUB** celebration event, see p. 33.
- Sat 20th **ARDLEIGH ANNUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW**,  
p. 4
- Sun 21st **CHORAL EVENSONG**, Harwich, see p. 6.
- Fri 26th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, Church Hall, 9.00am

## SEPTEMBER

- Thurs 1st **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sat 3rd **GREAT BENTLEY SHOW**
- Sat 10th **ANNUAL GRAND GARAGE SALE**, see p. 5.
- Sat 10th **SESAW £1 SALE, GREAT CORNARD**, See p. 11.
- Sat/Sun 17th **ST MARY'S CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL**
- Tues 20th **GARDENING CLUB, AUTUMN SHOW, AGM & SOCIAL EVENING**, Village Hall, 7.30pm