

Great Bentley Parish News

Produced by the Community
for the Community



December 2022

Village Information

St Mary's Church

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CO16 8NX 01255 822055

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St Mary's Church, Great Bentley.

ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE

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ST MARY'S SUNDAY CLUB

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In an emergency ring 999

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Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

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01206 250309

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07503 153960

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WHEELCHAIR LOANS

Alan Bayliss, 01206 250450

TREE WARDEN

Sue and Faris Shimali 07973 534301

EDITORIAL

The end of another years magazines and time to say goodbye and thank you for your support to a few of our advertisers who are leaving. Next month we will welcome some new ones, full details in the January edition. If you are buying your magazine at the shops but you live in Great Bentley why not let us deliver it to you? Just let me know. Subs remain the same and are £5 or £4 concessions. (Bought at the shops you are paying £7.20!) Some people just read the online version but we do not publish the whole magazine on line or include our lovely advertisers.

There was a wonderful attendance at the Remembrance Day service and at the war memorial on 13th of November. As I walked to the church at around 9.15 the children from the Scouting Movement were already gathering. They then came for the 10am service and paraded to the service on the green. This meant they were "in action" for over two hours. The point I wish to make? Their parents and leaders should be immensely proud, they were an absolute credit to you.

In the Surgery Notes on page 26 you will see that it is now possible to have a blood test at Clacton Hospital but you will need to book an appointment. I am sure this will help many people especially as it is open seven days a week.

I was deeply saddened to learn that Peter Allington had died. He did so much for St Mary's church, Bentley in Bloom and many other village events and organisations. He was especially supportive of the magazine. Our thoughts go out to Carole at this difficult time and thank you Carole for continuing to help with the magazine right through this difficult period in time.

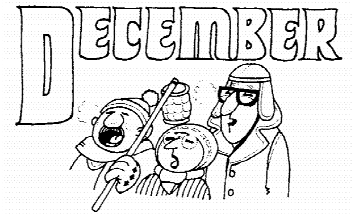
The Good Neighbours are looking for volunteer drivers to help take people to the Doctors, Hospital Appointments etc If you can help see page 13 for more details. They really do need and deserve your support.

Well, its beginning to look a lot like Christmas, the village tree is in position, soon the Christmas lights will be on (Sunday 27th November, HOORAY) and its nearly time for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's 3/4 December. You may need to build an ark to enjoy all of this but hopefully some dry weather will arrive!

From the day we complete this magazine we will be on to the January edition. PLEASE can you send me some Christmassy content by 9th December. Please!

Mary Maskell

**Happy Christmas
to all of
our readers.**



2022

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DISCLAIMER

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LETTER FOR DECEMBER

Dear Friends

As I write this we remember Rev Sharon who at this time is still in need of our prayers and we hope for her return in the new year. As members of St Marys we will continue to maintain the church and working together in faith to meet the needs of the parish.

From the 27th of November we enter the Advent season and this is for the church a new year. Year A gospel readings will be taken from Matthew. The church is still open for weddings and christenings. Please contact our church wardens should you wish to book a date. (See front inside cover for details).

The plans are in hand for our Christmas Tree Festival, Christingle Service and all of the usual Christmas services and we look forward to meeting new and old faces.

Blessings, love and peace to you all this Christmas time.

**Wendy King
Reader**

Rev Sharon Miles

Sadly the Rev'd Sharon Miles is unwell and therefore if you have any queries regarding services or other church matters please contact the church wardens.

Wendy Smith - 01206 250098

Mandy Miles - 01206 251382

MEMORY TREE

The Memory Tree will be in place on 26th November, 3rd December, 10th December and 17th December.

Each Saturday it will be manned from 10am - 12 noon. Donations to St Mary's Church welcome.

Please feel free to add a star for a loved one at any other time.

Volunteers will be needed to cover any Saturday.

If you think you can help please contact Wendy Smith 01206 250098.



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

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - CHRISTMAS EVE 5.30pm

Come and join us for a celebration of Christingle in the Church with carols and lighting of the Christingles for that special moment. The collection at this service will be given to the Children's Society. No need to book just come along.

St Mary's Church, 24th December at 5.30pm.

See you there!!!



**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 and especially good wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Welcome to worship at Church or on Zoom during December at **10.30am**

The leaders of worship below:-

December 4th Carol Service Robert Taylor
December 11th Rev Tom Osborne HC
December 18th Deacon Angela Shereni from Hope@ Trinity
December 25th 10am Rev Tom Osborne Christmas Day

Coffee & Chat Many thanks for your support in November Over £210 was raised for the local Food Bank and many items of food were also donated. Next one December 2nd 10am in aid of Hope@Trinity and Colchester Shelter.

A Christingle Event December 2nd 5pm making Christingles followed by a simple meal. **An event For Grandparents, Children and Parents**

Prayer Meeting. We meet for prayer on the second Wednesday of each month 9.45 for 10am at our Church. This month 14th December.

Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 14th December Each second Wednesday of the month at 9.30am we collect sandwiches and take them to our Trinity Church in Clacton for those struggling to buy food for themselves. Collection at our Church before we go to Clacton at 9.30.

For the Clubs below we are having a break for Christmas and the New Year. We'll be back. Look out for new dates.

Adventurers Club We have had an exciting term with trips to bowling and fireworks, pizza making plus our usual activities.

Messy Church More families are joining us for activities and games on a Christian theme. Ham and pineapple pizza for tea was very popular!

ST MARY'S SERVICES

Saturday 3rd December
Christmas Tree Festival 10-4pm

Sunday 4th December
Christmas Tree Festival 11-4pm
9.30am Holy Communion
Joint Benefice Service

Sunday 11th December

9.30am Service

Saturday 17th December

A Living Christmas - Deanery Choir, 7pm
A concert for all see page 6.

Sunday 18th December

9.30am Service
6.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve

5.30pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Midnight Service

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

10am Service at the Methodist Church

ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR DECEMBER

Sidespersons & Readers

4th Linda Hayes
11th Annabel Stearn
18th Chris Aplin



Prayer Rota

4th Nicky Justice
11th David Branch
18th Carol Kerridge

Coffee Rota

4th Christmas Tree Festival (No coffee)
11th Mary Maskell
18th Lyn Gordon

Cleaning Rota

3rd Wendy King
10th Nicky Justice
17th Wendy Smith
24th Jennie Moss

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST MARY'S CHURCH, GREAT BENTLEY

3rd December	Christmas Tree & Crib Festival	10am - 4pm
4th December	Christmas Tree & Crib Festival	11am - 4pm
4th December	9.30am	Joint Benefice Service
11th December	9.30am	Holy Communion
17th December	7.00pm	A Living Christmas with the Deanery Choir Concert
18th December	9.30am	Service
18th December	6.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
24th December	5.30pm	Christingle Service
24th December	11.30pm	Midnight Service
25th December	10.00am	We will join with our friends at the Methodist Church

METHODIST CHURCH, GREAT BENTLEY

27th November	10.30am	Advent 1 - Rev Marion Cole with Holy Communion
2nd December	10.00am	Coffee & Chat funds for Hope@Trinity & Colchester Night Shelter
2nd December		Christingle event - making Christingles including a simple meal
4th December	10.30am	Advent 2 Robert Taylor - Carol Service
11th December	10.30am	Advent 3 Rev. Tom Osborne - Holy Communion
18th December	10.30am	Advent 4 Deacon Angela Shereni from Hope@Trinity
25th December	10.00am	Christmas Day - Rev Tom Osborne sharing in carols with Tamil church

Christmas Day collection for Action for Children supporting Children in Need in Britain

1st January	10.30am	New Years Day. A service to welcome 2023
6th January		Coffee & Chat. TDC rep will be present to advise on computer/smart phones
8th January		Covenant Service, St Mary's are invited to join us for this special service.

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

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES FOR GREAT BENTLEY SHOW 2023

Coast to coast

Say cheese

H2O

Flying High

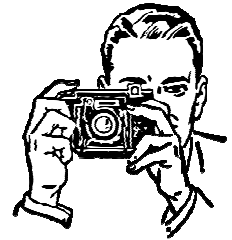
All the fun of the Fair

Gardener's Delight

Open

Children's Class

My Favourite Things



EARLY WARNING!

MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR JANUARY

Magazine collating will be on
MONDAY 19th DECEMBER
in St Mary's Church Parish Hall
starting at 9.00am

**ALL WELCOME TO COME
AND HELP COLLATE**

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



DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 2023 MAGAZINE

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER - PLEASE NOTE EARLY DEADLINE

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

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

email: carole@pncallington.co.uk **AND** marymaskell@sys3internet.net

IMPORTANT - PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO BOTH OF US

A LIVING CHRISTMAS

Music by contemporary composers

with

THE DEANERY CHOIR

and Peter Clayton (Organist)

*Rutter - Bullard - Jackson - Todd
Hewitt Jones - Chilcott - Forrest*

Saturday 17th December

7pm start

**St Mary the Virgin
Great Bentley**

CO7 8QG

Retiring collection for Church funds

CAROL SERVICE

A highly unusual forthcoming Carol service.

Called 'A Living Christmas' it is unique because all the Christmas music to be sung by the Deanery Choir is the work of living composers.

Choir organiser, Graham Bell, has planned this event for some time, and has put together a programme of music by a great variety of contemporary composers; Will Todd, Bob Chilcott, Dan Forrest, Gabriel Jackson, Alan Bullard, John Rutter, and Thomas Hewett Jones, which will be performed, with readings, at St Mary's Church, Great Bentley CO7 8QG at 7pm on 17th December.

No ticket is required but there will be a retiring collection after the service towards church funds.

The Deanery Choir was formed in 2021 and has grown rapidly in strength, performing at services, weddings, funerals and special occasions at churches in the Tendring area.

For further information contact Graham Bell at:
grahambell493@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS WREATHS

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

They will be on mossed wire rings as usual.
If you would like to pre-order one please contact;
Mary Maskell marymaskell@sys3internet.net
01206 250524 OR
Jackie Kilby jackie@kilby-rawcliffe.co.uk
01206 250717

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

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

Larger ones by request.

Please leave your contact telephone number.
You can come and choose/collect your **pre-ordered wreath** on Thursday 1st December.
from 2pm

Others will be available
over the weekend.



ST MARY'S CHURCH

**NINE LESSONS
& CAROLS**

Sunday 18th December

6.00PM



**Followed by
Refreshments**

PETER ALLINGTON

It is with great sadness that Peter passed away on 5th November after a long battle with Alzheimers.

The family would like to thank everyone for their help, kind wishes, flowers, cards and prayers during this time.

The funeral will take place on Wednesday 14th December 12 noon at St Mary's Church.

All welcome

Carole, Mark, Julie and family



CHURCHYARD CLEAR UP MORNING

Many thanks to Jonathan Hills and his team who did such a great job clearing the churchyard at St Marys, all of the help and machinery was greatly appreciated. Thank you also to all of the 14 volunteers who helped, it was great to see so much support.

Fortunately the rain held off until we had almost finished and it was lovely to see that a huge difference had been made in preparing this beautiful and peaceful place in preparation for winter.

Annabel Stearn

WE WELCOME

All of the new residents to Ufford Chase and the new residents to Michael Wright Way



SUBS

Subs are now due and remain the same £5 or £4 concessions.

With your December magazine you will receive a note which tells you who delivers your magazine.

PLEASE write YOUR name and address on an envelope and put your subs in and put it through your deliverer's door.

They will be so grateful if you help them in this way.

Thank you so much
Mary Maskell

FATHER CHRISTMAS

Father Christmas will be visiting Station Road, and the Birch estate on 10th December.

He will be back on 11th when he will be on De Vere, Abrey Close, Larkfield estate and Cherry woods.

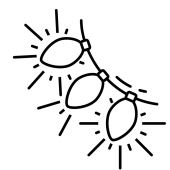
You'd better be good!

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON NEAR THE WAR MEMORIAL



Sunday 27th November
at 5pm approximately

Refreshments from 4.30pm including mulled wine and a visit from Father Christmas



GREAT BENTLEY GOOD NEIGHBOURS

A Quiz Night

Saturday 26th November

7.30pm at The Methodist Hall
Great Bentley

Tickets £5 to incl. Tea,
Coffee and Biscuits

Bring your own refreshments

Tickets early November from

Yvonne Tel 01206 250 413



THANK YOU!

The response following my article in last month's Parish News regarding hope@trinity in Clacton has warmed my heart and allowed Jackie and I the privilege of unloading a car full of desperately needed items of clothing along with an increasing amount of sandwiches and to top it off three very welcome sleeping bags!! Once inside this vital facility there is no escaping the commitment of the volunteers and Deacon Angela to ensure that all their guests needs are met, however there are times when such is not possible and from personal experience that is not a nice feeling. In light of of that may I make a special plea for men's boxer shorts? I can tell you there is nothing worse than being asked by a chap already down on his luck for something as basic as said items and having to say no! There are occasions when it is necessary to kit someone out totally from 'the inside out' as I call it and not to be able to begin with such a taken for granted item does not sit well with me. Such is the situation that although new boxer shorts will be very gratefully received by both volunteers and recipients alike they are open to donations of acceptable all ready worn laundered pairs, smaller sizes are most in demand.

For those of you who are not familiar with hope@trinity in a nutshell it is a day facility for the homeless, rough sleepers and vulnerable. The stories behind their own situation are varied and far too frequently make difficult listening but it may well be the first occasion that someone has ever taken the time and trouble to actually care, ask and most importantly LISTEN.

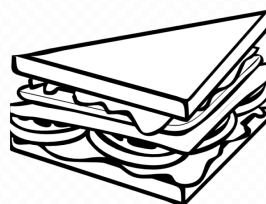
If you can help by way of making up a loaf of sandwiches placing them in individual sealed bags marked as to the filling, Jackie and I do a monthly 'sandwich run' details of which can be found in The Parish Magazine included in Great Bentley Methodist Church information and diary events.

Donations of warm clothing, underwear, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, sensible footwear, blankets, sleeping bags, fleeces, basic toiletries and also dog food, for some their dog is the reason and purpose to keep going for their faithful non judgemental companion.

Please bring any donations to me and be assured everyone at Hope will benefit from your generosity, be they the volunteers or guests, every little makes a big difference at Hope@trinity!

Thank you all for caring.

Judy Bishop 5, Morella Close, Great Bentley.
01206 251702



FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 1

KO 2.00pm unless stated

Sat Oct 22 nd	Thorpe Athletic	(A)	L	4 – 1	
Sat Oct 29 th	Bradfield Rovers	(H)	W	3 – 0	
Sat Nov 5 th	Cressing Utd	(A)	L	2 – 0	
Sat Nov 12 th	Silver End Utd	(A)	L	3 – 0	
Sat Nov 19 th	Something From Nothing	(A)		1.30pm	Essex Sat Cup
Tues Nov 22 nd	Brantham Res	(A)		7.00pm	Amos Cup
Sat Nov 26 th	Kelvedon Social	(A)			
Sat Dec 10 th	Harwich & Parkeston Res	(H)		1.30pm	Knock out Cup
Sat Dec 17 th	Gosfield Utd	(A)			

Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 3

KO 2.00pm unless stated

Sat Oct 22 nd	Frinton & Walton	(A)	D	2 - 2	
Sat Oct 29 th	Wormingford Wanderers	(H)	W	7 – 0	Res KO Cup
Sat Nov 5 th	Dedham Old Boys Res	(H)	W	1 - 0	
Sat Nov 12 th	Brantham Athletic A	(H)	W	2 - 1	
Sat Nov 19 th	Bradfield Rovers	(H)			
Sat Nov 26 th	Great Bradfords	(H)			
Sat Dec 3 rd	Sporting Rebels	(H)			
Sat Dec 10 th	Alresford Colne Rangers	(H)		1.30pm	Res KO Cup
Sat Dec 17 th	Flitch Utd	(H)			



The 4 – 1 loss at Thorpe was not a true representation of the 90 minutes. Thorpe took all their chances and then held on for the win, whilst GB could not finish off periods of good attacking play with a goal. Young Barney Morton came on as sub in the second half and scored our only goal on his debut.

GB hosted Bradfield Rovers in the league KO Cup. Harvey Evans opened the scoring, converting a penalty given for a foul on him as he prepared to shoot. Blake Keogh-Kedar and Jake Vaughan were our other scorers in a good competitive game somewhat spoiled by a display of “erratic” refereeing. Jake Allwood deserved his clean sheet in goal.

The away game at Cressing Utd was always going to be tough. To then get top goal scorer Harvey Evans to go down with tonsillitis during the week was a huge blow. Cressing deserved the three points in spite of some heroics from Jake Bell and Jake Allwood.

Another away fixture and another tough game with Silver End unbeaten this season. We did not get off to a good start . Jake Allwood making an uncharacteristic mistake fumbling a cross putting us a goal down after only 5 mins. Silver End then scored a second whilst GB were still in shock.

We also welcomed big Louie Olymbios back to GB. Louie had been playing at Holland FC for the past 2 seasons, trying senior football. However, he realised that he was not enjoying his football and started training again with us whilst we arranged his transfer with Holland. GB battled to get back into the game, dominating all of the second half. The Silver End keeper kept them in the game with a number of finger tip saves. The game finished 0 – 3 but GB deserved at least a point from a very good game.

It is good to see reserve goalkeeper young Jack French coaching the youth teams goalkeepers on a Saturday morning. Continuing the fine work started several years ago by Jake Allwood. Adam Morton and Elliot Mcmillan are both on a goal scoring spree at the moment. They both scored in the draw at Frinton and Walton, then, the following week in the reserve KO Cup game against Wormingford they claimed 2 goals each in the 7 – 0 win. Other GB scorers were Will Archibald, Anthony Chatter and James Wright.

Adam scored the only goal of the game against Dedham Old Boys on Nov 5th which finished with referee Simon Bird showing 3 red cards in the last 10 minutes. Matt Maunton was unfortunate to get a second yellow card after reacting to being headbutted for a second time. Not entirely unreasonable in my opinion, after him “turning the other cheek” on the first occasion.

Elliot McMillan added to his tally. Scoring the equaliser against Brantham Athletic A. Greg Wainer claiming the winning goal in the return fixture. The clubhouse will be showing all England games in the forthcoming World Cup. Everybody welcome.

Follow Great Bentley Football Club on Facebook and twitter for all the up to date information
Come on the Bulldogs

Turkey Squares Christmas 2022

Thanks to the generosity once again of **Hubert's Happy Healthy Turkeys**, (see page 35) we are able to offer everyone the opportunity to win a £50 turkey voucher. There will be a second prize of a £25 voucher. Turkey Squares at £1 each are on sale now. If you haven't been offered this opportunity yet, from one of the numerous sellers in the village, but would like to purchase some squares, please contact me on 01206 250137 or 07802 268897 as I would be very pleased to assist, or 01206 250524.

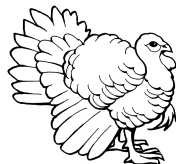
The draw for the £50 and £25 Turkey Voucher will take place at the Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Great Bentley, on Sunday 4th December.

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

Best wishes, and good luck!

Rosemary Branch

PS: N.B. to the Turkey Square Sellers! All squares, sold or unsold, plus money received, must be returned to me **by Thursday 1st December**. Please put through my door at 4 Wents Close, Great Bentley, or ring me for collection or Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green.



Village Christmas Post

I will be doing my annual Christmas Post Box for the the village and Aingers Green throughout December. Saturdays 3rd, 10th and 17th between 9.00am and 12 noon.

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

All monies will be going to the Food Bank.

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

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

Many thanks Nean

BENTLEY GREEN PLAYERS

AUDITIONS

a comedy

‘MURDER WITH GHOSTS ‘
by Simon Brett

Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.00pm

Village Hall - Great Bentley

Production week is 15th – 20th May 2023

Rehearsals will be once/twice weekly (Mondays and Fridays) as rehearsals progress from mid-January onwards.

Contact Bev Adams for further information and a copy of the script via email.

Tel: 01206 250724
bev.k.adams@btinternet.com

FOR SALE

10" Clark's table saw
complete with table.

Very good condition

£75

Buyer collects

01206 251424



'Tis the season to be jolly and many of us will get our pets into the Christmas spirit with a treat or two. But before you give your furriest family member that something special, check whether it falls on my naughty or nice list.....

NAUGHTY

- *Mince pies, eccles cakes, Christmas pudding and any other product containing raisins, sultanas and currants*
- *Chocolate*
- *Macadamia nuts*
- *Onions (and garlic, leeks, shallots and chives)*
- *Artificial sweeteners (xylitol may be found in sweets and chewing gum)*

NICE

- *Carrot sticks*
- *Cooked chicken*
- *Rice*
- *Boiled potato*
- *White fish*
- *Commercial treats*
- *My personal favourite is to give a couple of dental biscuits*

Why limit yourself to edible treats?....

- *A new bed*
- *A new toy*
- *Quality time*

Pet owners should also be aware of the following Christmas hazards:

- Plants (holly, ivy, mistletoe, poinsettia and Christmas trees should not be ingested)
- Silica gel
- Christmas decorations
- Potpourri
- Candles
- Cigarettes and alcohol



Announcing our Christmas Colouring Competition...

Open to children aged 16 years and younger. Full details available at www.facebook.com/weeleyvetcentre

Merry Christmas from myself and everyone at Weeley Veterinary Centre. We look forward to serving you and your pets in 2023. Best wishes, **Dr April Young MRCVS**

SESAW NEWS

What a cheek! Last month Ollie mocked me 'writing' our news for ten years when I claim to be eight? Well, the laugh is on him because he was older than me when he arrived in 2013! Our resident black cat was found nearly dead, came in after a week at the vet's, broke out of a pet carrier and headed straight for the house. We get on alright really and he gives a different view of SESAW life which is still very busy. Only last week two lovely tabby cats came in when their owner sadly died. They have always been together and they are used to living with two big dogs. We also have Signe, a ten year old Eurasier spitz type of dog that was living in a car with her owner when they lost their home. She is used to having company all the time so needs a loving human companion, maybe with another dog.

At this time of the year we express our appreciation for those who support the work of SESAW in many different ways. The list is endless but you know who you are and we send you a massive THANK YOU. That includes the shops and vets that host our food collection bins and Mary and Carole, Editors of this magazine, for giving us a 'voice' to talk to you. As we all face the future during such a worrying time everyone at SESAW wishes you peace, good health and happiness, including me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

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

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 or you can leave donations at the back of the Church.

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



BELLRINGERS NEWS

November has been a busy month again for the bell ringers with our annual departure from standard ringing to that of marking the anniversary of the Armistice and Remembrance Sunday.

Some of you may have heard the bells rung so very differently and perhaps thought that a visit to an audiologist might be required! However, do not think that your brain was decoding the sounds incorrectly! In order to make a different sound, we fix a thick leather pad to one side of the clapper so that when it hits the bell it emits the normal loud 'bong' sound, followed by a muffled 'bong', to create a kind of echo. This is a tradition observed by all church bells and ringers during the period of remembrance for the fallen from armed conflict. This is a marked contrast to the way that the bells were rung fully muffled during the period of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd.

A group of us rang a quarter peal, consisting of 1260 changes on 6 of the church bells on Friday 11th November to mark the anniversary of the Armistice. In addition, the tenor bell was tolled leading up to the act of remembrance at the war memorial on both the 11th & 13th November.

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.

Roger Carey-Smith
07422880921



Michael John Webster

18.02.1938-28.09.2022

Following Mike's passing Mary asked if I would like to write a piece for the magazine. Where to start? Something that would be of interest to those who did not know him whilst jogging the memories of those who did.

Firstly, Mike (also known as Mick) was a practical person: a 'fixer-upper' and a 'do-er'. He couldn't sit still for long. Having qualified as a plumber he picked up a number of skills while working on building sites. So much so that, in 1976, he designed and built the extension to the house we had moved into in January 1972. He did about 90% of the work himself, with the help of friends and the professionals who laid bricks and roof joists. He would effortlessly climb up the ladder to lay roof tiles while I watched on tenterhooks, bracing the ladder. His garage was a regular treasure trove of tools and equipment which were often loaned out to friends. He was a great DIY person, tinkering in the garage, mending items or designing and making anything that he thought would make life easier. He became the 'go-to' person if anyone had a little repair job, particularly in the plumbing line. He later enjoyed working on our children's homes when they managed to get on the housing ladder. It was a great distress to him when the garage caught fire late one evening and a lifetime of quality tools, some inherited from my Dad, went up in flames. We were extremely lucky that the fire didn't take hold in both our house and next door. However, we re-stocked and began again.

In the late 70s, when our son Neal joined the Cub Scouts, followed by daughter Helen joining the Brownies, Mike was soon involved with other parents in repairing the old scout hut behind De Vere Estate. Once again he was up a ladder fixing the roof. His contacts with building supply companies were invaluable in sourcing materials at a discount.

Another of Mike's qualities was his concern for the welfare of others. In the harsh winters he would be out and about, clearing snow from peoples pathways and digging cars out of the snow when the village was shut off for days. He would deliver hot drinks when the power was down, which was often in the 70s, (we had a camping gas stove to heat water) and check on our elderly neighbours. His only complaint was that he was known as 'Hilary's husband' to many, as working long hours as a Sales Manager they didn't usually see him.

He had quite a few hobbies over the years - DIY; sailing; playing and teaching our children squash, cards and chess; gardening on both his allotment and at home; caravanning and golf. His displays of sweet peas and annuals alongside the outer wall of our garden were a source of pleasure and admiration to many who passed by and stopped to comment.

Mike enjoyed his pints of bitter in the evenings in one or other of the local pubs (a choice of three at that time) and football club. Here he would put the world to rights, playing cribbage with the other regulars whilst our dog Lucky waited patiently at his feet. Mike also helped out behind the bar in the football club. Also, we both enjoyed the dances and regular quizzes held in the new Village Hall.

Unfortunately, ill health forced him to give up a lot of his hobbies but he was most upset at no longer being able to garden nor play golf. Arthritis in his spine from an old back injury resulted in him losing his mobility and, together with various other conditions, his later years were spent mostly confined indoors. On 23rd September he was taken into hospital following a heart attack and passed away five days later. He is sorely missed by me and our family.

Hilary

A PLEA BY GREAT BENTLEY GOOD NEIGHBOURS FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

to help transport village people to appointments at the
hospitals/dentists/opticians and the surgery.

A DBS check will be required but we can help you with this.

Please phone Bev Adams on 01206 250724 for details.

GREAT BENTLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB - CHAIRMAN UPDATE

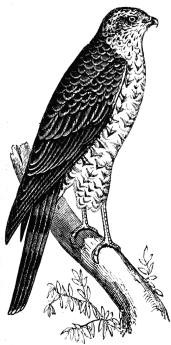
Great Bentley under 5's have already enjoyed transitioning from training on the grass to moving into the sports hall for the winter months! The change will be challenging with the speed of the surface, but the boys continue to make huge progress with their ball mastery and understanding of the game!

Our Under 9's Blues continue to enjoy their football and have also enjoyed training on the new 4G pitch in Brightlingsea. The boys have played 9 games so far this season and have already scored 37 goals, with some impressive results and performances!

The U16 Reds have recently increased their squad size and are enjoying a good run of form. They beat Brooklands 5-1 at home with goals from Charlie Dobson (2) and Jamie Lambert (3). This was followed up with a cup win against FC Clacton 4-0 with goals from Ronnie Thomson (2), Jamie Lambert and Laurence Cole. The best performance, however, was an unexpected 3-0 win away at Harwich & Parkeston in the league. Goals from Jamie Lambert, Jamie Latham-Wiles and a very special long range effort from Matt Watts. Manager Matt Lambert is hoping the form continues into the next game at home to Colchester Villa.

Yours in sport,

Great Bentley Youth Football Club



NATURE NOTES

Wildlife killed crossing busy roads is often lumped together as mere roadkill – collateral damage in a modern, fast-moving world. The most conspicuous casualties are larger mammals and among birds often pheasants. Recently on the road outside my house the barred wings attached to an otherwise flattened body proved not to be that gamebird but a female Sparrowhawk. Birds-of-prey are usually adept at not being killed themselves, I have never seen a Kestrel succumb to traffic though they frequently perch beside or hover over roads. The Sparrowhawk was probably flying at hedge height perhaps in hot pursuit of prey and hit a high-sided vehicle. Unlike other raptors, flying quite low, often parallel with the ground is very characteristic when hunting. Once I was standing talking to someone in the garden when one flashed between us at scarcely four feet. At other times they fly at more normal heights, with broader wings than the more streamlined Kestrel, that is a falcon. Alternate flapping a few times then gliding is very characteristic. In spring and warm spells, they will also soar high on the thermals like the larger, noisier Buzzards that are now so conspicuous in our skies. Sparrowhawks have adapted to taking garden birds by stealth that can sometimes prove their undoing by colliding with windows.

My road casualty had been so flattened its head, beak or yellow eye could not be appreciated. I could however tell it was a female as larger and differently marked from a male. The fine, striated pencilling of the front feathers was striking as well as the broader barred wings, of varied greys and browns. Thin yellow legs and toes showed the black talons not of even size, with the rear and one of the outer front talons much longer and the central toe protruded almost disproportionately. These differences presumably facilitate the handling and carrying of prey. A female Sparrowhawk can tackle a Woodpigeon but Collared Doves are especially favoured. Long persecuted then affected by DDT farm chemicals these small hawks' gradual return coincidentally occurred after the Collared Dove had colonised the UK and became so familiar especially from the 1980s onwards.

DRB

BENTLEY IN BLOOM

Baskets have been emptied and returned to Deans for next years displays. Ground displays have been cleared and replaced by pansies. Another year completed by the few. Hope you enjoyed all their hard work and thanks go to Dorothy Nowak and Jennie Moss for organising the ordering and planting programme and to all the other helpers with planting over the past year. Thanks also to those who purchased a hanging basket, especially to Dee at the Plough for his large order. A small amount of money is made from the baskets and along with a grant from the Parish Council, this goes towards plants and compost etc., for the ground displays next year. As this is the last entry for 2022, seasons greetings and a happy new year to everyone.

Michael Dorling
Chairman

Keep Great Bentley IN A RURAL CONSTITUENCY!

Dear Neighbour,

The Boundary Commission for England is currently undertaking a review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries. Worryingly, **the Commission's current proposal moves The Bentleys & Frating Ward (which includes Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating) out of our current Harwich & North Essex seat and into a constituency with Clacton!**

I imagine that this concerns you as much as it does me. As The Bentleys & Frating Ward's representative on the District Council, I find it preposterous that the villages' long-standing ties with the rural communities in North Essex, as well as the local centres of Brightlingsea and Manningtree, could be undermined in this way.

My fear is that, should The Bentleys & Frating Ward be moved to a more urban, tourism orientated, predominantly coastal constituency, our local concerns will not get the same attention - from schooling to farming, highways to public transport, the villages' influence will be diminished.

Our shared interests with other parts of our current North Essex constituency, help to amplify the voice of residents in Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating.

In particular, I am concerned about the potential knock-on effect for the education of local children. If the villages are moved into the Clacton Constituency, could it lead to a redrawing of school catchment areas - with local children required to attend schools in Clacton?

So, I am writing to ask for your help... Please support the campaign to keep The Bentleys & Frating Ward in a rural North Essex constituency, that maintains our traditional and important links to the local centres of Brightlingsea and Manningtree - make your views known to the Boundary Commission using the details below:

Comment - www.bcereviews.org.uk

Email - information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

Post - **35 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BQ**

The deadline for comments as part of the consultation is

Monday 5th December 2022.

I urge you to let the Boundary Commission know your view and help ensure the voice of Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating residents continues to be hard, loud and clear.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NOTES

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Boundaries Commission has proposed changes to the Parliamentary boundaries throughout England. In Tendering proposals have been made to move The Bentleys and Frating (Gt and Lt Bentley and Frating) and The Oakley's and Wix villages out of the **Harwich and North Essex Constituency** into the Clacton Constituency. Gt Bentley has been in North Essex for many many years primarily as **a rural area** and **not a Coastal area**. See above a copy of the leaflet that Bobby and I have been busily delivering to all households in Gt Bentley with friends Pam and Michael White.

The problem we do have is that the Boundary Commission has only given until the 5th December for responses. Hopefully you can support remaining in our present constituency.

I wish you all "A Very Merry Christmas"

Thank you all so much for your support and interest throughout the year

Clr. Lynda McWilliams

District Councillor for The Bentleys & Frating Ward

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

email clr.lmcwilliams@tendingdc.gov.uk

Home Tel. No. 01206 617981

Say that again

Morning Cledwyn, I'm glad I caught you. How's it going? I had to phone you mate, I've just had my hearing done, I've had my ears syringed. Well, that's not true actually, they don't syringe them anymore. I got so fed up with stretching my head towards people so I could have a guess at what they are saying, and starting all my answers with, 'Pardon? Say that again.' No, I didn't mean that you must say that again, I was just saying.....oh, never mind. Yes, dead right mate, I had them done in Clacton, it's good to have my hearing back. Lose what? No, I haven't lost an earring, I'm talking about my hearing. You should have yours done, mate. You are? OK then, you'll have to squirt some oil in them first, for a week or so before you go. I know about the special oil stuff, but that medical grade ear oil is around £6.50 for a tiny bottle. They say olive oil will do, you know, cooking oil, so I used sunflower instead. Gunpowder? No, not gunpowder oil, I said sunflower oil, Cledwyn, sunflower oil. Blimey, your hearing is terrible. Because it softens the wax, so it comes out easily. For three or four days, plenty of it, it makes the job easier. Nah, as I said, they don't do that old water cannon syringe thing anymore, scary looking things they were, squirting water in your ear, and swooshing as if the tide's coming in. These days it's much more modern. What? Say that again. No, Cledwyn, I didn't say my clothes were all sodden, I said the process was more modern. I'll speak up.

Anyway, I booked an appointment at Glassesarus. No, Cledwyn, Glassesarus has nothing to do with Dinosaurs, it's the shop next door, the eye clinic that does glasses, but they do ear clearing as well. Yes, there is another one, on the corner opposite MacDonald's. 'Eyes Open', yes, that's the one, 'Eyes Open'. They're shut, by the way. No, my eyes aren't shut, the shop is shut, that's why I'm going to Glassesarus. You go past the glasses counter to a little room at the back. Yes, it's a shame, all these shops closing, now Eyes Open are closed, it's a charity shop, I think. No, they don't clear the wax from your ears in charity shops, but Glassesarus does, they have one of those ologists who is allowed to remove earwax from a glasses shop. Yes, I got a quote for both ears. Actually, the cost isn't too bad but, to ease the payment, I thought I might get my ears done one at a time, my left one done first, then have my right one done later. Yes, I suppose it's best to have them done at the same time, well, you can't have both ears done at the same time, but you can have both ears done on the same day, but one at a time. Anyway, the bloke said if I didn't have them done at the same time, I might fall over. No, it wasn't too pricey, it works out at thirty quid an ear. What easy payments? No, it's not thirty quid a year, I said it's thirty quid each ear, or sixty quid for two ears. No, not two years - blimey - your ears are worse than mine used to be. Yes, you'll have to pay by card, these days every money transfer is electronical, you know, money is transmitted automatically by using a pin.

Yes, it's all quite straightforward, you sit on a chair and he takes a photograph. Blinking heck Cledwyn, a photograph of the wax in my ear, not a picture of me. I don't know why he wants a photograph of the wax, but that's what he did, sort of, 'before and after' thing, I suppose. Then, after taking a picture of the wax, he got to work with his probe thing, a bent hollow tube which sucked the wax out, easy. No, it doesn't hurt much, but tickles a bit and made me cough. When he's happy with my ear, he takes another photo. No, not another photo of the wax, a photo of the clean drum after he'd used his probe, you know, like I said, pictures of before and after. Why would I want copies of the pictures? Anyway, he showed me a picture of the drum on his computer screen, or really a picture of the drum after he had got rid of the wax because you can't see the drum because of the wax, horrible gungy stuff. No, there's nothing wrong with my hearing aids, it's just that they won't work if I can't see the drum.

Ugh, then there's the other thing that's in a person's ear. No, don't ask, it's embarrassing – ok, I'll tell you – hairs, I've got hairs in my ears. Stop laughing, that laughing must stop now or I'll be hanging up. I know I'm bald, I lost the hair on my head years ago. I don't know why the inside of my ears is hairy, but they must be there for a reason otherwise they wouldn't be there, would they? Yes, everybody's got hairs in their ears, including you, mate. Don't be silly, of course I didn't ask the bloke what colour the hairs are. Stop it, you're just loving this. Noisy? Not really. Remember, all those years ago, when my dad was trying to get Radio Luxembourg on his wireless, but the receiving of the signalling was always being interfered with? He used to get all cross with that hissing and whistling. Anyway, that's the noise the probe makes. It doesn't hurt, just hissing for a minute or two then suddenly there's a gungy thing stuck to the end of the probe. No, I didn't ask him what he does with the wax, he just wiped it on his hanky, I think. Why, Cledwyn, would they want to recycle ear wax? Don't be daft. Who told you they make bangles out of it? Bangles? Do you mean candles? No, they don't make candles out of it either, not ear wax. You should listen more carefully to people.....I-said-you-should-listen-more-carefu.....I'm hanging up now, Cledwyn. Go and get your ears syringed.

JE.





Autism Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning is arranged for Friday 2nd December at 9:30.

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

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

Job Vacancy

We are looking for someone to join our team from January to July. The successful candidate would need to work Thursday mornings and cover sickness and holidays.

A qualification in Early Years is not essential for this position, however this would be preferred. If you are interested, then please send your CV with covering letter via email and we will be in touch.

Christmas Tree and Crib Festival

We have been invited to take part in this event which takes place at St Mary's Church on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th December, it would be lovely if as many of you as possible took the time to support this event.

The theme for decorating the trees this year is 'TV Programmes', there will be a competition running for visitors to guess correctly all the entries so I can't disclose what ours will be yet.

Take the family out for a little wander over there, it will be lovely to see all the different displays and start to get in the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Nativity

This year our Nativity performance will be taking place at the wonderful St Mary's Church again which is such a wonderful and perfect setting on 5th and 6th December.

We totally appreciate the use of the Church, and I would personally like to say a big 'thank you' to all the relevant members of the Church for allowing this to happen; it really does make it extra special.

Registers

Registers for the new term have now been completed and we are busy welcoming our new children along for their "stay n play" that are joining us in January. If you would like your child to join our Pre-school, then please let me know as soon possible so we can arrange to meet you before the Christmas break.

You can contact me via FB message, email – information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk or phone – 07522 572303.

Finally on behalf of myself and the rest of the staff we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Allison and I would also like to wish our staff a lovely and peaceful Christmas break. They are all a wonderful team who work very hard and the children within the local community all benefit from their dedication, enthusiasm, care, and support.

Thanks for reading and I hope you all enjoy the festive season.

Julie Wiles

POLICE REPORT

RECORDED CRIMES - 14

From 23/09/2022- 28/10/2022

CRIME TYPES - ASSAULT X4 - ATTEMPTED BURGLARY- BLACKMAIL- CRIMINAL DAMAGE - DOMESTIC - PUBLIC ORDER X2 - OTHER X 2- MAL COMMS X2.

INCIDENTS REPORTED – 34

INCIDENT TYPES - ALARM - BURGLARY - CONCERN X3 - DOMESTIC X3 - DRIVING COMPLAINT - HARASSMENT - HIGHWAY DISRUPTION x8- MAL COMMS - MV FOUND - OTHER X5 - PUBLIC ORDER- ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION X2 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES X4 - THREATS - UTILITY-

TRUCAM Speed gun results: 10/10/2022- Zone T341 Plough Road Aingers Green

1 hour session **26** captured, top speed 39mph in the 30mph zone.

19th/10/2022 was National Safe speeds day. Zone T341 Plough Road Aingers Green.

1 hour 15 minutes with **35** captured, top speeds of **49mph** in the 30mph zone.

25th October 2022 Zone T362 Thorrington Road

1 hour session- **24** captured. Top speed **51mph** in a 30mph zone

Monthly total- 85 in 3 sessions.

DARKER EVENING- SAFETY

The dark evenings are drawing in. Make a habit of checking your car lights are working and use main lights for dark/ poor weather to be seen, keep light cover and registration plate clean. A helpful tip for anyone like me, that had a bulb go and panicked like mad. Halfords do a drive in service, where they supply and fit the bulb. They are open until 20.00 hours. Priceless!

DARKER EVENINGS- PREVENTION

You can do a few things for safety measures, whilst you are away from home. Put lights on a timer to come on when it gets dark, If you are going to be away from home for longer periods, let a neighbour put one of their cars on your drive, giving the impression you are home. Put in motion sensor lighting at the front/back of your house/ garage and/or CCTV for extra peace of mind.

DEPRESSION DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

A lot of people struggle with the blues during the winter months and with the cost of living and life in general affecting us, we can find our moods and wellbeing flagging. Some times we over think things and cause anxiety and find it hard to unwind. Guided meditation is a good way of calming your mind, especially before bed, when it seems like you have a full swing party/debate going on in your head, preventing you sleeping. You tube have lots of guided meditation videos which are free. Just lay back and let someone guide you through the process. Sometimes all we need is someone to talk to, no matter how small the problem is, it's enough to affect our state of mind. I am more than happy to have a chat with anyone that just needs a friendly face or ear to listen.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

If you see anything that does not look right, report it. Try and get as much information as you can, including registration numbers, which are key to a lot of activity. The more you have, the more chance we have of a positive investigation.

FLY TIPPING

Fly tipping is still proving a big problem in most villages. If you suspect anyone of fly-tipping contact the police on 101 or email recycle@tendringdc.gov.uk. Tendring District Council web site has lots of information regarding carrier licence and what to check for, when paying someone to remove your rubbish.

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/>
local PCSO - Julia.brandon@essex.police.uk

Christmas Present Surprise Room

Great Bentley Primary School

Do you have any unwanted gifts hiding in the back of your cupboard?

Could you donate a festive chocolate item?

A very special Christmas event at our school is 'The Present Surprise Room'. It enables the children to purchase "secret" presents to put under the tree for their friends and family (gift wrapped by The Friends of Great Bentley).

If you have any unwanted new gifts or can donate edible items such as festive chocolates, there will be a box in the main school foyer for donations.

In previous years we've collected items such as:

- Toiletry items and beauty gift sets
- Candles
- Stationery sets
- Books
- Mugs
- Socks
- Toys and games
- Stocking fillers
- Chocolate selection boxes
- Tubs and boxes of chocolates and sweets

**All donations gratefully received
until Friday 16th December.**

Thank you for your support.

The Friends of Great Bentley Primary School



**ST MARY'S CHURCH
GREAT BENTLEY**



**CHRISTMAS TREE
& CRIB FESTIVAL**

Theme - 'TV Programmes'

**SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER
10.00am - 4.00pm**

**SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER
11am - 4.00pm**

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



**Entrance £1.00
Children Free**

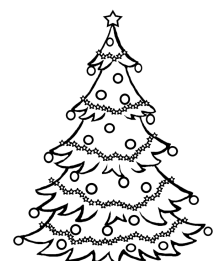
CHRISTMAS TREE & CRIB FESTIVAL

We hope to have a large Christmas produce stall at the Christmas Tree and Crib Festival so could you help by providing some cakes, biscuits, home made sweets, preserves or any other Christmas goodies. Cakes etc can be delivered to the Church that Saturday morning.

We would also welcome any cakes for the kitchen, Christmas gifts (new), Tombola and Raffle prizes and craft items

Items can be delivered to Wendy Smith, Burnside, The Green, Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green, or Carole Allington, Poplar House, Station Road
Raffle prizes etc can be left inside the church.

For any information contact
Wendy Smith
01206 250098



REMEMBRANCE DAY – GREAT BENTLEY & AINGERS GREEN VETERANS CLUB

Wasn't it a moving experience at 11a.m. on the 11th and 13th November? I guess it was a record number of people for a Remembrance Service at the memorial on Sunday. Families of all ages, organisations and veterans stood proud alongside each other to witness such an emotional service.

Our two excellent pipers, John Roy and Rod Richardson 'set the scene' as they played and led the parade, from St Mary's Church through the village centre. Both have today joined the Village Veterans Club which increases our number to 29.

It was always practise for the 3 Services to continue after Remembrance morning, into the afternoon in the NAAFI, Sergeants or Officers Mess where we could raise a toast or two to our absent comrades. Not only comrades from war and conflict but those who have left us during peace time, for whatever reason. Continuing a great tradition and following the Service on the Green, 22 of the Veterans and our families moved to the Fusilier at Aingers Green for a families Sunday lunch. Well done to the Fusilier staff for attending to our every wish and serving excellent roast dinners to us all. Apologies to the other customers and diners who endured our military way of doing things. Although I think most of them enjoyed the experience of hearing the loud bagpipes, within touching distance, in such a confined space (and free of charge!). You would have to pay a great deal to hear 2 talented pipers play at some venues.

Although Remembrance Day is over, our comrades are in our thoughts, always.

“WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”

I noticed a few more in uniform or wearing medals during the Service, so contact me please if you would like to join our group. The Great Bentley & Aingers Green Veterans Club meet ad-hoc for a breakfast or informally for a social. We welcome all 3 Services, retired or still serving, age or nationality inclusive. The next breakfast is 10a.m. Saturday 10th December at the Fusilier. Please let me know if you can make it so that I can give the Fusilier a 'heads up'.

David Flinn B.E.M.
Mobile: 0742 114 1131

FRIENDS OF GREAT BENTLEY CHURCHYARD 100 CLUB

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

A square numbered from 1 to 100 costs £12 for the year with a chance of winning (at least), 1st prize £100 or 2nd prize £50, at each of the two draws in the year. You can buy as many squares as you like! The year runs from December, with the first draw at the Christmas Tree Festival on 3rd and 4th December.

We thank you for your support this year and hope this will continue. Please return to Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green. Please walk in to the porch and the letterbox is in the inner door.

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

For more information, please email
Annabel Stearn at
wylieandsinger@talk21.com
OR call 01206 251518.

**These need to be
purchased by
1st December
please**





Wildlives

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre

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

www.wildlives.org.uk

Opening hours: n/a 07802 767016

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

Peregrine recovering from crash landing

December 2022

The peregrine falcon on the left was found by a member of the public as it crash-landed into her garden. Although there was an injury to the inside of the wing this was relatively superficial and easily treated. Because he was ringed we were able to identify him as one of this year's juveniles from a nest which is being monitored by Peter. This bird was ringed before he fledged. Rosie notified Peter who completed all the necessary notifications to relevant authorities and came and collected him. He will recover fully in one of Peter's biosecure isolation flight pens.

Don't just dump animals outside the gate !!!!!

A little bat who had been mauled by a cat was just left in a box outside. Since nobody knew he was there, it was some time before we found him, by which time he was dead. Since his injuries were catastrophic it is unlikely he would have survived anyway, but you should always phone before bringing an animal or bird, and then follow the procedures when you arrive. If we do not know it is here, we can't give it the attention it needs, and as the weather grows colder such abandoned casualties may well die of hypothermia before we find them.

Please help hedgehogs in need, don't just leave them to die

Despite the warm autumn, we are still seeing tiny hogs arriving with hypothermia. As they are so small they become hypothermic very quickly, and delayed action often means it is too late. We have had several phone calls from people who have seen tiny hogs in trouble, but by the time they have phoned Wildlives they can't find the hedgehog again. If you see ANY hedgehog out in daylight, or, at this time of the year, a small hedgehog AT ANY TIME immediately pick it up. You can place it in a box with a towel-wrapped hot water bottle or a drinks bottle full of hot water (again wrapped in a towel) while you call for advice. Immediate action will save many more little lives.

Another little hog arrived after he fell into a drain. By the time he was found he was freezing cold and saturated, and soon died of hypothermia. Please make sure all your drains have sturdy covers to prevent little animals falling in.

A hog was brought in after he was strimmed. The strimmer wire had gone right round and pulled his intestines out through his back, and he was crawling in mature maggots. Needless to say he could not be saved. The lady who brought him in (and was not the strimming culprit) was notified and was appalled. She is going to letter-drop all her neighbours to warn them to check before strimming, and post it on her local facebook group.

Please tell everyone, write posts on social media, write to the local paper – do anything you can to spread the information above. The more people who are aware, the more lives that can be saved.



GREAT BENTLEY RUNNING CLUB

The highlight of this month was definitely the first Cross Country (XC) race of the season in the North Essex and South Suffolk (NESS) league. It was especially amazing as it was hosted by Great Bentley. We constructed a varied and challenging route around Hilly Fields, one with mud and hills aplenty. The race was a two lapper and some of the runners did look a

little daunted at the thought of a second fling at some of the hills. The marshals were enthusiastic as always, even in the pouring rain. And in fact the rain throughout the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 5/6th November helped make the course even more challenging with many spills among the entrants on very slippery ground. A good percentage came through the finish funnel bearing enough mud to show a full length fall! Poor Rachel Taylor from GBRC managed to both tumble and twist an ankle. Although it was painful, fortunately it wasn't a break! We hope this hasn't made those from the club who aren't XC fans (and surprisingly enough, there are a few) even more suspicious.

Our women's team led us to 3rd place and our men's took 4th. Newbie Josh Beaumont led the men home and XC champion Vicky Presland led the women. A special mention needs to go to Lisa Briggs for being 2nd GBRC female. Having joined comparatively recently Lisa is making incredible progress in her running and her improvement has been remarkable. The Bentley kids came in 6th overall with Connor Sharp bagging 3rd U11's boy. Given the strength of the field well done Connor! Excellent racing everyone!

A little further afield Bev Shortley and Don Welch attempted to avoid the mud by doing Billericay 10K. It seems that Mother Nature may have had other plans and had the last laugh. The rain came down in bucket loads. All the runners sheltered in the hall until the race organisers practically threw them out to get the event started. Despite the wet and challenging conditions of the day they finished in 56:43 and 64:39.

And much further afield and in completely contrasting conditions Martin and Sammy Cotton took part in a warm and humid New York Marathon, running together and finishing at 5:36:50.

We end on a very sad note this month. Our oldest member, Michael Sommerlad lost his battle with a long standing illness. Michael featured in a book, Keep on Running, written by his son in law Phil Hewitt and made some remarkable achievements despite coming into the sport when his years were already advancing. It may be fitting to use some of the words Phil sent to us. We feel very proud that GBRC meant so much to Michael.

"Dear running friends, it is with huge sadness that I write to tell you of the death of my dear father-in-law Michael Sommerlad. He absolutely loved being part of Great Bentley. He loved all the friendship and generosity and support you gave him - and was always telling me I was daft never to join a running club myself. We ran eight of his 13 marathons together, including three London, two Paris, plus Berlin and Mallorca and La Rochelle - and he was forever telling me how much he loved your club. He did his first marathon at the age of 69 and went on to become World Over-80s Duathlon Champion (running and cycling) in 2014. He turned 90 this summer. All good wishes Phil (son-in-law)."

RIP Michael, you were an inspiration to so many of us and your modesty and quiet determination will be sadly missed.

Paul Carlisle

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

An excellent turn out by Great Bentley people for the two Remembrance Services.

There were a couple of hiccups on the 11th but a well run church and memorial service attended by hundreds of members of the public on Sunday 13th. Thanks to the buglers on both days and once again the attendance of the bag pipers, organised by John Roy. To all who helped in any way with the two services, thanks for your efforts in making them days the parish can be proud of.

Good to see service uniforms amongst those that attended, many as a result of the recently formed Bentley Veterans group, organised by David Flinn. A group that seems to be adding ex service members at a fast rate. Following the Sunday service, David organised a meal at the Fusilier in Aingers Green, attended by 25 plus members and family, which included a tune on the bagpipes by John Roy. For details on the Veterans group and their activities, contact David Flinn.

Michael Dorling

SCHOOL NEWS

The whole school respectfully took part in a 2-minutes silence for Armistice Day to remember the fallen. Year 6 laid wreaths at the village war memorial. The children were beautifully behaved and a credit to the school.

Year 1 have been learning all about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. We created some amazing fireworks pictures using chalk and paper and we discussed why Guy Fawkes and his fellow plotters wanted to blow up the King!

Year 2

The concepts of addition and subtraction have been emphasised recently. They have been practising crossing the ten with two 2-digit numbers. We have had a difficult time getting past this, but we are discovering new strategies to support us. In science they discovered a variety of mini-beasts and the micro-habitats they reside in, in our nature garden. They are starting to recognise the essential components of WANTED posters. From this they will create the desired character that they want.

We can't wait to show you our Nativity, which we will shortly begin rehearsing.

There is a wonderful display of the work Year 5 did on the history of Great Bentley at the back of St Mary's Church. The Church is open from 10.00am to 3.00pm to go and have a look.



GARDENING NOTES

In December there should be time to reflect on successes and failures to guide your gardening in 2023 but if like us you are forgetful, it is worth making a few notes during the year to guide your December decisions.

As of writing we are being deluged with rainfall, which starts to replenish the dry ground and the reservoirs after the summer drought. Assuming we get some brighter and less wet days in December, it is a good time to dig out any mature compost and use it in the garden or to bag it for later use. Established rhubarb can be re-invigorated by digging it out and dividing clumps with a spade so that the outer sections containing at least one bud can be replanted into enriched soil. Any surplus viable pieces can be potted up and moved into a greenhouse or tall cold frame for forcing to get an earlier crop next year. Cut back asparagus ferns to ground level, remove all weeds and top dress with compost. Whilst it is a good idea to cover empty beds with a mulch it is inevitable that birds will scratch through it possibly moving it onto areas from which you will need to clean it up.

Raking over the soil to disturb overwintering grubs will provide food for some pests whilst reducing the number of pests for next year. You can rake over several times between now and spring providing the soil is in a suitable condition.

Ponds should be cleaned out of excess leaves, vegetation and other debris. If a pond with fish in is likely to freeze over, provide something to help form a hole in the ice to allow gases to escape. It might be possible to use netting to prevent leaves entering the water but it is hard to do this attractively and to ensure it does not hinder access for frogs or small birds.

The RHS has published information that in 2020 the UK imported 84% of its fruit and 44% of its vegetables which may account in part for the high inflation on food prices. It is worth considering growing your own to save money. One RHS article suggests five easily grown vegetables that are a way of reducing your carbon footprint. These are beetroot, kales, lettuce, potatoes and runner beans. We have our own thoughts on the list and in view of the widespread failure of Runner Beans in this years heat you should consider growing French Beans instead or as well. The French beans do not need support and are harvestable in around 10 weeks. We would also add Onions, both spring and bulb. Cabbage and Broccoli may be a better choice than Kale. Sweetcorn is easy to grow but takes up a lot of space. Courgettes do very well and often create a glut. Some gardeners only grow early potatoes as they think the taste difference is more noticeable than with maincrop varieties.

For those with a large garden or allotment especially with a greenhouse there can be several opportunities over the Christmas New Year period to escape from the house to get a period of solitude and relative quiet. It can be harvesting the vegetables, checking there is no weather or vandal damage, sowing seeds that must be done in the last week of December, or taking suitable wrapping paper to the compost heap.

A happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy new year to all.

AO



DISAPPEARANCE OF MY GARDEN BIRDS

The bird situation has been most strange. Until the last few days we have been absolutely birdless for weeks.

The pairs of pigeons that have continually and noisily inhabited our garden for over 20 years have gone completely. We found the remains of one but we don't know if this was through attack or the remains of a dead bird.

We have not seen a sparrow, starling or blackbird for months, all regular visitors previously. In the last few days, however, great and blue tits, and robins seem to have returned to a feeder that had been unvisited for a long while. They appear to be in hedges where blackbirds have usually nested, as opposed to trees at the back of the garden that the tits and finches have normally used.

These events have mystified me but I'm pleased at what I hope is the start of a full return. Pigeons I believe are more susceptible to avian flu and their sudden disappearance may be due to that.

Reg Allington.

JOYE WATSON

Violet Joye was born on the 19th April 1932 at Ash Farm, Weeley, the home of her parents Henry and Lily and her brothers Harry and Roy.

They moved to Great Bentley and Joye attended Colchester County High School. Joye went on to attend Norwich teacher training college and on completion of her training Joye returned to Great Bentley to begin her teaching career. It was here that Joye met her future husband Adrian and they were married on the 19th May 1956.

Over the next 10 years they became parents to Roy, Trish, Angie, Andi and Pete.

Joye returned to teaching initially as a supply teacher but resuming a full time post at Great Bentley school in 1971.

Joye retired from teaching in 1994 and in 1996 to mark its centenary Joye wrote a book "100 years of Great Bentley School" using the school log books to find interesting and amusing stories.

Joye enjoyed history and tracing her family tree, involving lots of trips with Adrian to various registry offices. Joye and Adrian's family increased with the welcome arrival of grandchildren, Dan, Ben, Laura, Jamie, Gabbie, Jake and Lucy, and more recently great grandchildren, Anushka, Greyson and Zakariah.

After the death of Granny Saggs, Joye kept her promise to her mother to keep alive the 'Evergreens Club' by becoming its leader, arranging speakers and trips for the members. Sadly Adrian died in 2011, and shortly afterwards Joye bought a Labrador puppy to live with her at Westwood, and who became a very loyal and constant companion to her especially during Covid. Ira developed problems with his mobility and Joye was referred with Ira to Noel Fitzpatrick. The surgery that Noel performed allowed Ira to live a long happy life. Joye was asked to appear with Ira on the Alan Titchmarsh show to promote the Super Vet series, and an interview in the TV times magazine.

Joye has been such a big part of so many lives in Great Bentley. We have been overwhelmed with all the cards and messages we have received following her death on the 22nd September.

(Joye) mum has been an inspiration to us all.

She has left a huge gap in our lives, but we look back on so many happy memories made with her.

SURGERY NEWS

Merry Christmas from all the Surgery Team

On behalf of the whole team at the Surgery, we would like to wish all our patients a very Happy Christmas.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SURGERY OPENING HOURS

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday.
Over the Christmas/New Year period the Surgery will be closed on
Monday, 26 December, Tuesday, 27 December 2022 and Monday, 2 January 2023.

PRESCRIPTIONS

Please remember to order your December prescription in time for Christmas. You can order these up to 14 days before they are due, to ensure you don't run out over the Christmas period.

COVID BOOSTERS

We are running Covid Booster Clinics every Saturday up to and including the 17 December 2022. If you are entitled to a Covid booster and haven't had this yet, please contact the Surgery to book this. We are also able to give flu vaccinations at the same time to save you having to come in twice.

FLU CLINICS

If you are over 50 and still haven't had your flu jab, please contact the Surgery on tel. 01206 250691 and we will be able to book this for you.

BLOOD TEST APPOINTMENTS

With the increasing demand for patients needing blood tests, I am aware that we are not always able to offer patients an appointment for this as quickly as they would like.

I am pleased to let you know about the Phlebotomy Service at Clacton Hospital, who are able to offer appointments for blood tests seven days a week.

The opening times for the Phlebotomy Clinic are:-

Monday to Friday 08.00 to 19.45

Saturday and Sunday 08.00 to 13.45



If you wish to attend Clacton Hospital for your blood test you will need to ensure you take your blood test request forms with you. These can be requested from the Surgery, if one of our clinicians has requested you have a test. This isn't a walk-in clinic, so you will need to book an appointment in advance by contacting them on tel. 0300 303 5299. The lines for booking are open between 08.00 and 18.00.

Please remember the Patient Participation Group does not meet in December.

Sue Mitson - Operations Manager



COOKERY CORNER

These are some ideas for a few Christmas nibbles from a small cookery book of favourite recipes compiled by The University of Manchester Women's Club in the late 1960's. I have left the measures as they were originally.

Measures : 1oz = approx. 30g 1 cup = 6 fluid ounces

The following dips can be served with a selection of raw vegetables cut into chunks or sticks.

Guacamole (avocado dip)

2 large ripe avocados 2 to 3 tbsp lemon or lime juice cayenne pepper or minced chillies

This makes about one and a half cups. Cut the avocados in half, remove the stones and scoop out the pulp. Mash the pulp coarsely with a fork while blending in the lemon juice to taste. Add a little salt, some cayenne pepper and chillies if you prefer more spice.

Cheesy dip

5 oz sour cream a large carton of Philadelphia cheese a large carton of cottage cheese
black pepper and garlic

As these cheeses are now available already flavoured with garlic etc. you can vary the ingredients according to your preference. Blend all together until smooth.

More easy dips

Mix together $\frac{1}{2}$ cup each of sour cream and mayonnaise, 1 heaped tsp each of chopped spring onions and parsley and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp chopped dill. .

Mix equal parts of good mayonnaise and natural yogurt and add chopped chives.

Liquidise some tinned pineapple with cottage cheese and flavour with paprika for an apricot colour.

Mix a soft cheese with a little curry sauce or powder and add a little lime juice.

American potato salad

16oz cold cooked potatoes sliced 8oz chopped celery 2 chopped hard boiled eggs
4oz chopped onion Mix these with 1 tsp each of vinegar and sugar and coat with mayonnaise.

Winter salad which is popular at Christmas as a foil to rich food

Combine together a few finely chopped raw sprouts, chopped celery, 1 or 2 unpeeled red apples cut into cubes, 2 or 3 coarsely chopped satsumas and a few salted peanuts also chopped. Toss them all in a well seasoned French dressing and serve immediately. The exact proportions are not important but only a few sprouts are needed.

Special mince pies

10oz self raising flour finely grated rind and juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon 1oz ground almonds 6oz margarine
3 oz caster sugar 1lb mincemeat with 1tbsp sherry 1 egg and a little milk

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees and grease some tartlet tins enough for 24 pies. Mix the flour and ground almonds together. Cut the margarine into chunks and rub into the flour with your fingertips until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add the sugar, lemon rind and juice, beaten egg and milk. Mix to a firm dough and knead until smooth. Chill for 30 minutes before rolling out thinly onto a floured board. Cut out 48 circles and place 24 in the greased tins. Add a spoonful of mincemeat to each circle. Damp the edges of all the pastry circles, top the pies with the rest of the circles and press the edges firmly. Place in the centre of the oven and bake until golden. Dust with icing sugar.

Recipe for happiness taken from a book produced by the W.I. of Caernarvonshire in the 1960s Equal parts of healthy, honest work, rest and recreation, sifted to remove any lumps of covetousness and despondency, and stirred carefully with diligence, cheerfulness and even temper. Mix to a cream adding sympathy, and colouring with smiles and laughter. Keep where it can be seen. In season at all times and costs a mere thought! **M.E.**

Mince Pies & Xmas Pudding!

.....and other sweet treats!

1. Which 'spoilsport' banned mince pies in the 17th century?
2. What happens on 'stir up Sunday'?
3. For which sweet treat are 'Tunnocks' famous for?
4. How many calories in a McVities' digestive biscuit?
5. Which plant produces vanilla pods?
6. Which spice is used to flavour a brandy snap?
7. Which pastry is used to make profiteroles and éclairs?
8. 'Recipe for Life ' is the autobiography of which famous TV 'baker'?
9. Which nut is used to make frangipane?
10. Which flavour jam is traditionally used in a Victoria sandwich?
11. Which company makes the famous chocolate orange?
12. Name the popular baked good whose name translates as 'crescent'?
13. Which popular biscuit is named after a European dynasty?
14. Which biscuit is named after an Italian general?
15. In which capital city did 'Sachertorte' originate?
16. What is the filling in an Eccles cake?
17. Which two colours are used in a traditional Battenburg cake?
18. Who hosts C4's GBBO Extra Slice?
19. Chances to pack (anagram 6, 8) (my mum called them drop scones!)
20. This cookie is likely to be a favourite in Annapolis USA!

1. Oliver Cromwell 2. make the Xmas puddings 3. tea cakes 4. 71 5. orchid 6. ginger 7. choux
8. Mary Berry 9. almond 10. raspberries 11. Terry's 12. croissant 13. bournon
14. garibaldi 15. Vienna 16. currants 17. yellow & pink 18. Jo Brand 19. scotch pancake
20. Maryland

CHRISTMAS POSTAL DATES

UK Inland Services

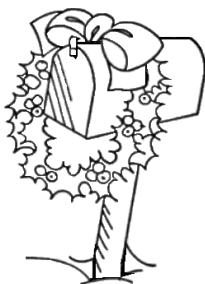
Mon 19 Dec	2nd Class, Signed for 2nd Class
Wed 21 Dec	1st Class, Signed for 1st Class
Thurs 22 Dec	Royal Mail Special Delivery guaranteed by 1pm
Fri 23 Dec	Royal Mail Delivery by 1pm with Saturday guarantee

HM Forces Mail

Mon 28 Nov	Operational HM Forces
Mon 5 Dec	Static HM Forces

International Standard and International Tracking and Signature Services.

Africa	Wed 7 Dec
Asia (except China People's Republic)	Wed 7 Dec
Australia	Thurs 1 Dec
Austria	Mon 12 Dec
Belgium	Wed 14 Dec
Canada	Sat 10 Dec
Caribbean (except British Virgin Island, Dominica and Anguilla)	Mon 5 Dec
Central America	Wed 7 Dec
China (People's Republic)	Fri 2 Dec
Cyprus	Thurs 8 Dec
Czech Republic	Sat 10 Dec
Denmark	Mon 12 Dec
Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia)	Fri 9 Dec
Finland	Sat 10 Dec
France	Wed 14 Dec
Germany	Mon 12 Dec
Greece	Fri 9 Dec
Hong Kong	Wed 7 Dec
Hungary	Fri 9 Dec
Ireland	Mon 12 Dec
Italy	Sat 10 Dec
Japan	Wed 7 Dec
Luxembourg	Wed 14 Dec
Malta	Thurs 8 Dec
Middle East	Wed 7 Dec
Netherlands	Mon 12 Dec
New Zealand	Thurs 1 Dec
Norway	Mon 12 Dec
Poland	Sat 10 Dec
Portugal	Mon 12 Dec
Slovakia	Mon 12 Dec
South America	Wed 7 Dec
Spain	Mon 12 Dec
Sweden	Sat 10 Dec
Switzerland	Mon 12 Dec
USA	Sat 10 Dec



THE CLACTON CHORAL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Bringing Christmas closer with music and song at St James's Church, Tower Road, Clacton, on Saturday 3rd December at 4pm.

Included with the carols are excerpts from the Messiah Part 1, and a carol composed and conducted by Peter Kenyvn Jones, the concert is conducted by Paul Siddall.

Tickets £10 obtainable on line

rogerbroomfield@hotmail.com

or phone 07949 127216,
also at the door.



The Friends of Great Bentley Primary
School present

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
at Great Bentley Primary School

MEET SANTA * GAMES *

SALVATION ARMY

RAFFLE * FOOD * CRAFTS *

TOMBOLA

FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER

3.30pm-5pm

Raffle to be drawn at 4.30pm

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET

FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER

4.30 to 7.30pm

Food and Drink: Independent Stalls:
Santa's Workshop: Festive Music:
Cakes: Santa's Grotto:
at St George's Church of England Primary School
Great Bromley

GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

At our October meeting Jim Paine of Walnut Tree Garden Nursery, Attleborough gave us a very interesting and thought-provoking talk on climate change and how we will need to adapt the way we garden.

Apologies that an incorrect date for our November meeting appeared in last month's Magazine. The meeting took place on 15th November with Darren Lerigo talking about British gardens and how for the benefit of wildlife and the environment we could change some of our gardening practices and use alternative plants to some of those that have always been familiar in our gardens. He said good gardeners should observe and adjust. Darren is a most amusing and entertaining speaker. Not everyone agreed with all he was saying but he made us all laugh and it was a very enjoyable and lively evening. He finished by saying we should share our love of gardening with others, so do consider joining us at the Gardening Club next year and we will aim to do just that.

We have no meeting in December but the Members are getting together on the 20th at the Barn Café and Restaurant for a Christmas lunch.

BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB

Our invited speakers for the evening were Dennis and Jim, both of whom are members of the 35 active crew at R.L.N.I in Clacton. Their combined knowledge and experiences led to an informative talk on the day-to-day workings of the station in Clacton and interesting facts about the Institution as a whole. The Clacton team is made up entirely of volunteers, as is 90% of the national workforce who man the 238 stations in the UK. The R.N.L.I. relies completely on public donations and receives no money from central government. Their aim is to save lives at sea and on average 23 lives are saved each day nationwide. If you want to see the Clacton lifeboats and crew in action, exercises are carried out every Sunday and Wednesday mornings. Dennis and Jim, who give up their own time to make local visits and to give talks, accepted our donation on behalf of the R.N.L.I.

Dates for your diary: Tuesday 6th December... Our Christmas Lunch, 1pm at The Barn, Aingers Green
No meeting in January

Tuesday 7th February 2023... **A.G.M.** at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

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

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 8th December 7.30pm Village Hall

A.G.M

Followed by a Christmas Social Evening with a quiz.
Please bring a small plate of goodies for a buffet,
and a drink of your choice, if wished, with a glass.

Please bring a raffle prize if you can.
Visitors who might be interested in joining the History Society are welcome.

ART CLUB

The Great Bentley Art Club will not be meeting up again in the village hall until February 2023, starting off with a 1 day workshop. Details of the workshop will follow in 2023. But for now we would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

PARISH COUNCIL

REDUCED DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Great Bentley Parish Council 4th November

22/137 Planning/Housing

137.1 Applications for discussion at meeting
22/01601/FUL – The Grange, Heckfords Road, Great Bentley – Retrospective application for the erection of a polyfunctional store building

Comments: Objection

Proposal to object on Policy SPL 3 Part A – b. the development relates well to its site and surroundings particularly in relation to its siting, height, scale, massing, form, design and materials.

22/01683/FULHH – Allegro, Aingers Green Road, Aingers Green – Proposed single storey rear extension with glazed roof lantern and first floor rear extension.

Comments: Observation

The PC noted that the ground floor extension had been allowed under permitted development however with the addition of a first-floor rear extension the Council are concerned about the privacy of adjacent properties.

22/138 Great Bentley Cricket Club

Cllr Pippa Dennitts read out a letter from the Cricket Club thanking the Parish Council for its support and a grant given to the Cricket Club.

The Cricket Club requested an extension of the use of the village green by Frinton Cricket Club for 2023 season. It was agreed that we accept the cricket club's request for 2023 subject to annual review in 2024.

The Cricket Club requested a conversion of the wicket pitch from grass to an all-weather pitch strip.

It was agreed to support the cricket club's due diligence to explore this first, and to ascertain whether this is possible or not and then bring it back to the Parish Council for further discussion.

22/140 Flag Hill Noticeboard

It was agreed for the Parish Clerk to obtain 3 quotes for a New Noticeboard.

22/143 Coronation Tree (Tree Warden)

It was agreed that a Red Horse Chestnut be planted and that the position of the location of the tree be agreed through the Green Working Group.

22/144 Heckfords Road Litter

It was agreed that the Parish Council support the local litter group and write to TDC to highlight the need for more litter picking.

22/147 The Green Working Party

To discuss Green Working Party Report

(a) Pond Annual

It was agreed that Cllr Bill Herbert source someone to complete pond maintenance.

(b) New Allotment Access. It was agreed to write to Network Rail to ask when they are planning to come forward to us on their proposals for this land.

22/151 Information Exchange/Items for next agenda

Cllr Kevin Plummer asked for fly-tipping to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr Pippa Dennitts informed the meeting that Locum Clerk Grahame Walkingshaw would be leaving at the end of November.

Cllr Peter Harry asked for Power On to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr Roger Adams asked for Standing Orders to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE GREEN



At our recent AGM the chairman reported a year of fundraising resulting in an income of £3,225.

During the year the replacement of white railings along Weeley Road was organised and paid for by FOG, with agreement from the Parish Council. Thanks goes to the following for their help towards the project; Norman Dorling for making up the wooden forms to form the new posts; Neil at Weeley Concrete for casting and delivering the new posts and RH

Carpenters for arranging for Nick Cook to assist in the erection of the posts and rails. The railings are part of the Green's history and village people who I have spoken to recently can remember water running from the South Side, past Moorlands towards the Waterworks. There are more railings on Heckford Road, marking water, running from Wades Pond area to the North side going under Heckford Road and eventually towards the Waterworks again. The Parish Council are obtaining costs to replace these.

The Chairman thanked the sponsors of the Suffolk Horses that appeared on Show Day. They were George Wright from Wright Turf, Admirals Farm and Tom Tredgett of ACC Ltd., South Heath Farm. We hope to repeat this next year subject to approval from the show committee.

Our next meeting is in January and we welcome everyone to attend, for details please contact the secretary Ken Drew on 250177. New blood is always welcome, and the main aim is the maintenance and protection of the Green. Judging by recent events and happenings on the Green by utility services the work of this group is even more important for the future of our 42.5 acres!!

Chairman
Michael Dorling

On a personal note the amount of damage on various areas of the Green caused by utility works is amazing. In the past it was common practice for companies to contact the Parish Council for permission (always given) and to liaise with them regarding rules and expectations. This seems to have ceased over the past few years. The complete disregard of some companies is certainly not acceptable, and they should when necessary, consult with the owners of the Green i.e. the Parish Council to make arrangements and follow their rules and in some cases, discuss compensation. Just an example of the last three weeks:

- A gas installation at Moorlands resulted in the company having to dig four trenches on the Green to find the mains connection (no accurate map)!
- A gas storage pipe was put under the ground at Green Corner which resulted in two trenches being dug and once again they could not find the main supply (no accurate map)!
- Two weeks ago, an amount of vans and machinery arrived unannounced on the Green, South Side of Weeley Road, and again no one was aware of what was going on. Apparently, they were to dig a trench from the South Side, down the Green to the new development of Hartford Green, Taylor Wimpey site. At the time of writing, they have left but are coming back at some point. In the meantime, the roadside verge where the traffic lights were has been pushed back towards the newly erected white railings by 12/15 inches, making them vulnerable to passing vehicles and machinery. As an aside they must have achieved what they wanted with the trench but managed to cut through BT connections and isolating 50 people until it was repaired. In all these incidents the first representative to the Parish Council has been Bill Herbert who probably in his polite way asked what they were doing. He was latterly joined by Peter Harry and between them are now looking after village peoples interests. One final note on the subject, a trench is to be dug for services to Hartford Green Estate, down the middle of the South Side track. We need a combined effort by everyone to try and protect the village Green.

Michael Dorling

DECEMBER DIARY

Sat	26th	Nov	QUIZ NIGHT , 7.30pm, Methodist Church
Sun	27th	Nov	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON , 5pm
Thurs	1st		PARISH COUNCIL MEETING , 7pm, Village Hall
Fri	2nd		COFFEE & CHAT , 10am Methodist Church
Fri	2nd		AUTISM COFFEE MORNING , 9.30, Village Hall
Fri	2nd		A CHRISTINGLE EVENT , 5pm, Methodist Church
Fri	2nd		CHRISTMAS FAYRE , Gt Bentley School 3.30pm
Fri	2nd		OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS MARKET , Gt Bromley
Sat	3rd		VILLAGE POST , See p. 10
Sat	3rd		MEMORY TREE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH
Sat	3rd/Sun	4th	CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL , St Mary's Church
Sat	3rd		CHRISTMAS CONCERT , St James Church, Clacton, 4pm
Mon	5th		PRESCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY , St Mary's Church, 6pm
Tues	6th		PRESCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY , St Mary's Church, 2pm
Tues	6th		LADIES CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH , 1pm, The Barn
Thurs	8th		HISTORY SOCIETY , 7.30pm, Village Hall
Fri	9th		<u>MAGAZINE DEADLINE - PLEASE NOTE VERY EARLY</u>
Sat	10th		VILLAGE POST , See p. 10
Sat	10th		MEMORY TREE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH
Sat	17th		VILLAGE POST , See p. 10
Sat	17th		MEMORY TREE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH
Sat	17th		A LIVING CHRISTMAS with the Deanery Choir 7pm, St Mary's Church. Concert.
Sun	18th		NINE LESSONS & CAROLS , St Mary's, 6pm
Mon	19th		<u>MAGAZINE COLLATING - 9am PLEASE NOTE</u>
Tues	20th		GARDENING CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Sat	24th		CHRISTINGLE SERVICE , 5.30pm, St Mary's Church