

# **Great Bentley Parish News**

**Produced by the Community  
for the Community**



# **April 2023**

# Village Information

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St Mary's Church, Great Bentley.

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# EDITORIAL

Let's start on a positive note. The Queen's Jubilee celebrations were hailed a great success in Great Bentley and we now look forward to the King's Coronation weekend which will include Afternoon Tea and a Dance with the return of the band The Gifted. A double sided colour poster is included on pages 23/24. **BUY YOUR TICKETS ASAP as numbers are limited.** I am sure it will be a sell out again. You can buy them from 1st April and Afternoon Tea Tickets can only be purchased until 24th as we need to buy the catering supplies.

The front cover is a unique photograph of a white rainbow or Fogbow, something I had never heard of before. Thanks Will Penny for allowing us to use the image. I wonder if any of you saw it? See page 15.

At last a glimmer of hope on the dire traffic problems in the village with hopefully the implementation of a Park and Ride scheme which you can read about on page 12.

There will be **road closures**, for the Corbeau Seats Car Rally, which will affect Frowick Lane, Highburch Road, Bentley Road and Tye Road to Tye Bridge. I am not sure if this is over the whole weekend **BUT** best to avoid this area on 22/23 April. I am sure you will be able to check this out online on the official rally site.

We include a lovely article on St Osyth and her life and death. I am sure many of you are probably unaware that she was an actual lady who was beheaded by the Vikings in 700AD. One thing made me smile about this tragic tale and that was that where she was beheaded a spring of healing water burst up from the ground and the local monks made a lucrative income from making this a place of pilgrimage and no doubt charging for the healing water. Nothing much changes then! See page 34.

It must be getting on for early summer and for the hail and snow to fall as the Cricket Club Bar and Practice Nights begin on the green on 21st April. I do really hope the weather is kind though as it is Bluebell Wood open days at Weeleyhall Woods and Thorringtonhall Woods on 29/30th April. Always an absolute joy to look forward to.

We all need something to make us smile so do read the Walknotes, Seven Lessons from Annabelle, pages 20/21 and Nye Bevan on page 35. You won't be disappointed.

I hope you will join us at the St Mary's Church May Favre on Saturday 13th May.

**Mary Maskell**



## 2023

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### FRONT COVER

Picture of a Fogbow or White Rainbow taken on the morning of Tuesday February 7th.

See page 15

Photo courtesy of Will Penny

### DISCLAIMER

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# LETTERS FOR APRIL

Recently, I have used public transport to travel to different places. I took a bus into Colchester the other day, it was rather a long ride, probably over an hour due to multiple stops, detours, and distance of the bus route, but it was a positive experience. I noticed areas that I had not seen before, shops, schools, new houses I did not know were there.

Waiting for the bus to turn up can be really hard and frustrating. But as I waited for the bus, I was reminded of the importance of waiting and being patient, rather than being anxious and worried about the journey itself.

Waiting is not passive; it is not just waiting for the bus to arrive. Waiting helps us to be in the moment, which brings us in the presence of God and helps us to be in relationship with our surroundings.

Waiting is at the heart of our Lenten journey, whether we are waiting for a doctor's appointment, or waiting for results, or waiting in the queue to pay for our shopping, or our turn at the service station, waiting is sacred space of growth and renewal. The psalmist, Psalm 27.14, encourages us to wait and hope in the Lord, our stronghold who can be there with us in our waiting.

Isaiah says, "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not weary, they shall walk and not faint." It is God who enables us to wait; and in our waiting, God renews us, and so enables us in our walking, in our running, and in our journeying.

Deacon Angela Shereni

Dear friends,

As we continue on our journey towards Easter and prepare for Holy Week we start our journey on Palm Sunday as we share a service with our Methodist friends who will be joining us at St Marys Church. All are welcome. Then on Tuesday 4th April, we will follow the footsteps of Jesus, as we gather for the Stations of the Cross. Our Easter preparations continue on Good Friday with the Children's Workshop, followed by a time of Meditation at the foot of the cross. Following the service we will be gathering together to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to help please contact Rosemary Branch. (Contact number in parish magazine). On the 23rd of April at 11:00am following the Morning Service we will be holding our Annual General Meeting in the Church Hall. This is open to everyone and you are all welcome.

A time to celebrate as a village as we prepare for the Coronation of our new King and we will be coming together to share in the celebrations.

We pray for Rev Sharon as she continues on her road to recovery and look forward to her return.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved through him' John 3.17

**Canon Wendy King**

## 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'.



**ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE**

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

## KNIT & NATTER

**Thursday 20th April**

**St Mary's Church Hall**

**2.00pm - 3.30pm**

**All Welcome**





**GREAT BENTLEY**

**METHODIST  
CHURCH**

Forge Lane CO7 8GD

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

Ring 250087

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

Greetings to you all

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

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

The leaders of worship are set out below: -

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> At St Mary's at 9.30**
- April 9<sup>th</sup> Rev Tom Osborne**
- Easter Sunday HC**
- April 16<sup>th</sup> Leadership and Sharing Lunch**
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> Anne Scott**
- April 30<sup>th</sup> Maddie Whittle**

**Don't forget worship with Communion on Maundy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm**

**Events in April:**

**Coffee & Chat** April 14<sup>th</sup> 10am to noon. (Avoiding Good Friday, the first Friday of April). Warm fellowship with drinks, cakes, books etc. Fund raising to help Gt Holland Methodist church with costly roof repairs.

**Prayer Meeting.** We meet for prayer on the second Wednesday of each month 9.45 for 10am at our Church this month 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 12<sup>th</sup> April**

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.

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

**Ring these numbers for more information**

Messy Church once a month after school 250087  
Parent & Toddlers Group Thursdays 9-15 a.m. 251537  
The Adventurers Club. Fridays 7 p.m. Ring 250087

Advance notice. It's our Flower Festival on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> July

**ST MARY'S SERVICES**

**Sunday 2nd April - Palm Sunday**

*Canon Wendy King*

9.30am Service with our friends from the Methodist Church

**Tuesday 4th April**

7pm **Stations of the Cross**

**Thursday 6th April - Maundy Thursday**

7.00pm Service at St Osyth

7.30pm Methodist Church

**Friday 7th April - Good Friday**

10.00-12 noon Children's Workshop

3.00pm Meditation at the foot of the cross

**Sunday 9th April - Easter Day**

*Archdeacon Ruth*

9.30am Holy Communion

**Saturday 15th April**

10-12 noon Coffee Morning

**Sunday 16th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter**

*Rural Dean Laurie Bond*

9.30am Holy Communion

**Thursday 20th April**

2pm Knit & Natter, Church Hall

**Saturday 22nd April**

10am-12 noon Coffee Morning, Church Hall

**Sunday 23rd April - 3rd Sunday of Easter**

*Rev. Stephen Carter*

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Annual General Meeting

**Sunday 30th April - 4th Sunday of Easter**

*Rev. Stephen Carter*

9.30am Holy Communion

**COFFEE MORNING**

**SATURDAY 15th APRIL**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL**

**10.00 - 12 noon**



**In Aid of Church Funds**

## ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR APRIL

### Sidespersons & Readers

2nd	Richard Wainer
9th	Linda Hayes
16th	The Wright children
23rd	Chris Aplin
30th	Carole Allington

### Prayer Rota

2nd	Wendy King
9th	Nicky Justice
16th	George Wright
23rd	Carol Kerridge
30th	David Branch



### Coffee Rota

2nd	Vicky Rothwell
9th	Hannah Justice
16th	Rosemary Branch
23rd	Mandy Miles
30th	Lyn Gordon

### Cleaning Rota

1st	Jennie Moss
8th	Mandy Miles
15th	Wendy Smith
22nd	Wendy King
29th	Rosemary & David Branch

A very special evening with

### RUSSELL WATSON

Accompanied by Mike Moran

(Including audience questions  
section)

**SATURDAY 22nd APRIL 7.30pm**  
Chelmsford Cathedral

Info/Book [www.oepilive.com](http://www.oepilive.com) /  
Box Office 01256 416384  
Or 07795 387108



## CLACTON CHORAL SOCIETY

*All we, like sheep ...*

### HANDEL'S MESSIAH Parts 2 & 3

#### Caryll Newnham, Musical Director

Gillian Wilson, Soprano  
Georgia Mae Bishop, Mezzo Soprano  
Lawrence Gillians, Bass Baritone  
Matthew Keighley, Tenor  
Duncan Archard, Organist

**Saturday 1st April, 6pm**

**St James Church, Tower Road,  
Clacton-on-sea**

Tickets £15 from  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/clacton-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clacton-choral-society)  
or from Roger Broomfield 07949 127216  
[rogerbroomfield@hotmail.com](mailto:rogerbroomfield@hotmail.com)

### Clacton Choral Society sing Handel

Clacton Choral Society will sing parts 2 and 3 of Handel's Messiah at 6.00 pm on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at St. James' Church, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1LE.

The Choral Society is under the direction of the newly appointed Musical Director Caryll Newnham. Four soloists will be supporting the choir, namely Gillian Wilson soprano, Georgia Mae Bishop mezzo soprano, Lawrence Gillians bass baritone, Matthew Keighley tenor, the organist Duncan Archard.

The ticket price is £15 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/clacton-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clacton-choral-society) and from Roger Broomfield 07949 127216 and [rogerbroomfield@hotmail.com](mailto:rogerbroomfield@hotmail.com).





## CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP



Friday 7th April

St Mary's Church Hall

Registration from 10.00am

Workshop will start at 10.30am until 12 noon followed by a short service in church presented by the children. Parents/Carers will be welcome

Come and decorate an Easter egg, do some cooking and make Easter cards, and simple craft activities.

For further information and to book your place please ring

Wendy King  
01206 250852

## EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

### THANK YOU

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Clacton on Sea and indirectly the people of Turkey and Syria can we thank you for your donation of £1,856 being the amount you raised at the recent coffee morning in Great Bentley.

We must thank you personally for all the work you did in arranging this coffee morning and all your helpers, the people who made the cakes, provided the teas and coffees and those who helped in any way.

Your morning venture was I know enjoyed by everyone who attended including ourselves. It shows that the good old English village spirit is still alive and well and yet again demonstrates the generosity of you all when looking to those less fortunate.

So many thanks

Regards

Brian Naylor

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Clacton

## EILEEN LADLEY

It is with sadness that we report the death of Eileen Ladley. Eileen was Great Bentley's postmistress for many years, with Colin, who the village lost four years ago, by her side. Like Colin, Eileen was a keen golfer and a stalwart supporter of village events. Ex-military, they were also involved with the local branch of the British Legion. If you're more recent to the village and do not think you know of Eileen, you will have inevitably bumped into her as she walked with stroller from Cherrywoods to Tescos, when doubtless she would have smiled and passed the time of day. She died peacefully in Colchester General after a short illness. Her funeral will be held at Weeley Crematorium on Monday 27th March at 3.30pm, followed by tea in St Mary's Church Hall. The family welcomes you all.



### Coronation Service

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 2.30pm

St Mary Magdalen Church  
Clacton Road, Thorington, CO7 8AH

Join us for a special service for the coronation of King Charles III.

The church will be decorated with knitted coronation items, flags and flower arrangements.

Light refreshments after the service.  
All welcome.

### Easter Lilies

After the service on Good Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, St Mary's flower-arrangers will be in action, preparing the church with colourful arrangements to celebrate Easter.

If you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of Easter lilies (approximately £2.50 each) or generally towards flowers, in memory of loved ones, please leave it with our Treasurer, Annabel Stearn, the Churchwardens or myself. Contact details are on the front cover of the Parish News.

With many thanks,

Rosemary Branch (250137)



# SCHOOL NEWS

Year 5 were excited to find their classroom had been turned into the tomb of the Ancient Pharaoh Tutankhamun. They had a visit from Lord Carnarvon and then entered the tomb by candlelight. The children worked in teams to search for items inside the dark tomb, entering through a tunnel. They then had to sketch what they had found before returning to investigate a different part of the tomb. They had to be quick, for fear of gases released when the 3300 year old tomb was opened - there was a lot of dramatic coughing and spluttering as they came out~!! They had a great time learning about why the tomb has left historians with so many questions.

On Thursday 2nd March Great Bentley School had a brilliant day celebrating World Book Day. Thank you to everyone for the effort that the children went to with their costumes and vocabulary choices.

## Year 2

The year 2 classroom has been quite busy over the past few weeks. While completing complex tasks in their lessons they have participated in a spelling bee competition with other schools. Multiplication and division have been focused and the children have flourished in each lesson. They have loved learning about the approaches we might follow when multiplying or dividing.

## Year 3

In PSHE we have been looking at healthy me and how what we eat gives us energy. They looked at the different amount of energy in food as well as their fats, salt and sugars. They were astounded that there were 35g of sugar in an energy drink. By the end of the lesson they were able to talk about healthy choices they can make and how less healthy choices can be eaten in moderation.

In science they have been learning about forces. They looked at the forces 'push' and 'pull'. They created freeze frames of different forces for the class to guess. Next they experimented with friction on different surfaces and learnt the more friction there is the higher they had to raise the plank.

## Year 4

Year 4 have been enjoying their new science topic Animals (including humans). They are learning about how the digestive system works and started exploring their own teeth. They used 'disclosing tablets' to see how clean their teeth were. The purple dye in the tablets stuck to any plaque on their teeth and also made their tongues very purple.

They have also been exploring human and physical geography features in their Geography lessons and in English and DT they have been exploring food groups and how they eat to stay healthy.

## RECYCLING

RECYCLING AT GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS BEEN SUSPENDED



## FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

### Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 1

**KO 3 00pm unless stated**

Sat Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> Holland Res	(A)	W	7 – 0	
Sat Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> Harwich & Parkeston Res	(H)	W	4 – 0	KO Cup 2 <sup>nd</sup> round
Sat Mar 11 <sup>th</sup> Brightlingsea Town	(H)	D	2 - 2	
Sat Mar 18 <sup>th</sup> Stanway Pegasus Res	(H)			
Sat Mar 25 <sup>th</sup> Earls Colne	(H)			KO Cup 3 <sup>rd</sup> round 2.30 KO
Sat Apr 1 <sup>st</sup> Clacton Res	(A)			



### Essex & Suffolk Border League Div 3

**KO 3 00pm unless stated**

Sat Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> Prettygate	(H)	D	1 – 1	
Sat Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> Flitch Utd	(A)	L	3 - 1	
Sat Mar 4 <sup>th</sup> Oyster	(H)	L	3 – 2	T Thompson Cup 3rd round
Sat Mar 11 <sup>th</sup> Flitch	(A)	W	2 - 0	
Sat Mar 18 <sup>th</sup> Frinton & Walton	(H)			
Sat Mar 25 <sup>th</sup> Gas Rec	(A)			
Apr 1 <sup>st</sup> Hatfield Peveral Res	(H)			Res KO Cup 2.30 KO

Bearing in mind that Holland FC took over £100 in gate money from GB supporters to watch a Border League game, they should invest in some more match balls for the reserve side. They ran out of footballs repeatedly when the ball went over the stadium perimeter fencing holding up the game while somebody was dispatched to get it.

Squad injuries and unavailability meant that manager Jack Murray was forced to start a game for the first time in over a year. Muzza showed that class is timeless as he rolled back the years and gave a superb performance in the opening 45 mins. Rory Warin claimed a well deserved hat trick, Archie Herbert scored with a bullet direct free kick. Other scorers were Ryan Grace and James “Jammo” Marsh. Blake Keogh-Kedar took a penalty that he will want to forget. The ball was still gaining altitude when it left the stadium! Keeper Jake Allwood kept a well deserved clean sheet.

After suffering from a frozen pitch on 2 previous occasions the League KO Cup game V Harwich and Parkston Res went ahead at the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt. With the Harwich 1<sup>st</sup> team playing away, Harwich supporters made the short journey and increased the total number of spectators on the green to well over 100. Half time teas and after match refreshments in the clubhouse kept Mary very busy. Rory Warin opened the scoring for GB with a powerful solo run breaking through the Harwich back line. Ryan Grace then headed in our second from a corner. Barney Morton then scored one of the best goals that I have witnessed on the green. The ball had been played out wide to Archie Herbert who beat his defender and crossed the ball, which Barney hit on the half volley from the edge of the box into the roof of the net. Jamie Pringle headed in our 4<sup>th</sup> goal. Jake Allwood kept a well deserved 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive clean sheet.

After a week of heavy rain and sleet, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> was blue skies and no wind. Perfect day for a game of football on the green. Yet again a crowd of over 100 spectators lined the pitch. A game against Brightlingsea Town is always going to be full blooded and competitive. This encounter did not disappoint. What a start though. Barney Morton burst through the Brightlingsea defence and buried the ball in the back of the net after 2 mins. Brightlingsea can always score goals but were showing how vulnerable they were at the back against the speed of Barney, Rory Warin and Jake Vaughan. Mid field player Ryan Gooch had to leave the field after taking a nasty knock to his knee. GB should have scored 2 more goals before Brightlingsea equalised when a free kick was turned into our goal by a GB defender. 1 – 1 at half time. Mid way through the second half Barney latched on to a poor clearance and volleyed the ball into the roof of the net 2 - 1. GB were the better team on the day and had chances to score more goals.

As so often happens with Brightlingsea they managed to equalise with 4 mins to play. A disappointing end to the game but GB are only the second team to take points from Brightlingsea this season.

This time of the season is always hard on the reserve team. Injuries and other commitments leave both squads struggling to field full teams. This particularly affects the reserves who have had James “Jammo” Wright and Jamie Pringle helping out the 1<sup>st</sup> team squad for the last few games. Leaving the reserves to struggle in recent fixtures.

A well deserved draw at Prettygate with Adam Morton scoring was followed by a disappointing 3 – 1 loss at Flitch Utd in the Covid Cup. Sam Winney scoring our consolation goal.

On Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> with the 1<sup>st</sup> team not having a game, they boosted the number of spectators watching the reserves defend the Tommy Thompson Cup V Oyster. Oyster are a new club to the Border league and have therefore started in Div 5. They have currently scored over 100 goals, including 28 in their last 2 games. GB took an early lead, Kurt Furkins scoring against the run of play and we held the lead going into the second half. Oyster played the better football throughout the second half and deserved leading 3 – 1 into the last 10 mins. GB then started to show some fight with Jake Vaughan scoring and then hitting the post in the final few minutes.

Flitch Utd were astonished when the reserves beat them 2 – 0 at their home ground after they had knocked the reserves out of the Covid Cup only 2 weeks ago 3 - 1. They were convinced that our 1<sup>st</sup> team must have had their game postponed and we had strengthened the reserves. It was only when they looked online at FA full time and saw that the 1<sup>st</sup> team had held Brightlingsea to a draw that they believed it was our reserve squad. Our scorers were Tom Jack, who was also “MoM” and Elliot Mcmillan.

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

**Come on the Bulldogs**

St Helena Hospice's popular sponsored walk is returning on Sunday 14th May 2023 and the local charity is urging people to sign up to help ensure more patients and families facing incurable illness and bereavement can receive the support they desperately need.

The family-friendly event is a favourite amongst local people, supporters of the hospice, and local businesses, attracting hundreds of people year on year.

The scenic walk starts from either Clacton or Walton Pier and participants can choose to walk the 7 miles between the two piers or challenge themselves to make the return journey – 14 miles in all! Many people walk to remember their loved ones, while others take part in groups, with their work colleagues, or simply just to support their local hospice.

Lisa Chenery, St Helena Hospice fundraiser, said: "We are so excited to launch everyone's favourite event, Pier to Pier! Last year over 500 people joined us on the beautiful Essex coast to walk for their local hospice and this year we hope to see even more.

"Our services are more in demand than ever as the local NHS faces extreme pressures and turns to us for support. Without the support of our incredible local community, we cannot continue to provide vital and essential care to the growing number of patients and families who desperately need it. So please sign up to Pier to Pier and raise as much as you can to help ensure St Helena Hospice can continue to be here for those who need us at the most difficult time of their lives."

Registration is just £5 for adults and children over 5, with under 5's and furry friends walking for free. Sign up now at [www.sthelena.org.uk/piertopier](http://www.sthelena.org.uk/piertopier).

St Helena Hospice's Pier to Pier walk has kindly been sponsored by Pickering Electronics Ltd.

## Community Speedwatch Update

The team has been monitoring traffic at various sites around the village during February. We all wear 'hi-vis', we put up signs, and we stand in full view in broad daylight. Despite all that, we have still had to report a further fifty-six speeding vehicles to the Police during the month. This brings the annual total so far to 104 - all of them driving through our 30mph zones at well in excess of that limit.

Thank you to all those who wave or stop for a chat. We do appreciate it and we do take notice of what you tell us. We won't give up and plan to be out in different places and at varying times of the day in the coming weeks and months as a result of what we're being told.

It's also very possible that we'll be joined by Police enforcement officers who are being specifically deployed to 'support' the activities of local Community Speedwatch teams.

So that's February. Please drive safely and as always, if you would like to join in with this voluntary and really worthwhile community effort, please do get in touch at [greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com)"



Many of us are getting excited for all the chocolate the Easter Bunny will be bringing this month. Last month I focussed on guinea pigs and this month I'd like to write about another species often seen as an easy pet for children. They don't require daily walks like a dog does, but there is a lot more to caring for them than may first appear....



### Diet

Did you know that a rabbit's teeth grow continually throughout life? This means they need to wear down their teeth to prevent them from developing serious dental problems. This is best achieved by making hay and straw the main component of their diet.



### Caecotrophy

Rabbits have a really interesting gastrointestinal tract and produce special droppings called "caecotrophs" which they eat in order to re-ingest the nutrients. Diarrhoea leading to a messy rear should never be ignored so speak to your vet asap.



### Flystrike

During warm weather you should check your rabbit's rear twice a day to ensure it is clean as faeces or urine staining can attract flies who lay eggs, resulting in very serious and often fatal "flystrike".



### Vaccinations

Just like cats and dogs, rabbits require vaccinations annually. We vaccinate them against Myxomatosis and two strains of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease, both of which can be fatal.



### Socialisation

Rabbits enjoy the company of other rabbits but should never be placed with a guinea pig as they become terrible bullies.



### Health Checks You Can Perform At Home

A rabbit's eyes should be clean and bright. They can suffer from eye infections, often indicated by development of a creamy white or yellow discharge. This requires veterinary attention, as does "Bumble Foot", a painful bacterial infection of the skin of the (usually hind) feet.



### Neutering

This is often given less priority than in cats and dogs, however neutering rabbits should be considered for the following benefits:  
Males: reduced urine spraying, reduced aggression allowing them to live safely with other rabbits.  
Females: reduced aggression, no risk of pregnancy, prevention of womb cancer.



### Grooming

Brushing your rabbit, especially those with long hair, is a good way to keep them clean as well as bonding with them. It gives you time to know your rabbit very well and you are more likely to spot problems quickly. You should also pay attention to their claws as these can require clipping.



Happy Easter from everyone at Weeley Veterinary Centre!



**Dr April Young MRCVS**

## SESAW NEWS

The garden is full of birdsong heralding the arrival of Spring but it's so cold at the time of writing! Poor old Ollie (the Black) Cat is tantalised by the nesting birds he can only watch from the window as he recovers from a little accident. He has enjoyed being pampered but he's getting restless now.

The improvements outside are coming along nicely, thanks to our willing volunteers and a work party from the Colchester based branch of Informa. The team braved miserable weather to spruce up the site and were still smiling at the end of the day. A big thank you to all of them, please come back soon!

Thanks are also due to Pets At Home in Colchester for choosing SESAW as the store's official charity for 2023. We look forward to meeting customers in store during the year.

Although we are currently 'hibernating' to facilitate site improvements, emergency admissions have continued as circumstances force people to part with their family pets. If you are in a more fortunate position and looking for a new four-legged companion, please check our website or drop us an email with your details. We have many cats and dogs including Boots, a Chihuahua Terrier cross. She's very loving and needy, having been through a lot in her life and needs a special diet to keep her fit and well. She's a real cutie, ready to walk into your home and be the one and only your heart desires.

I hope the weather has warmed up by the time the read this from me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

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

## COLCHESTER FOOD BANK

### **ADLENT CALENDAR - PLEASE USE #ADLENTCALENDAR TO SPR**

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 St Mary's Church, just inside the door are two plastic containers.**

**Thank you.**

Tinned fruit  
Jam  
Rice  
Tinned tomatoes  
Tea  
Sweets and treats  
Instant mashed potato  
Crisps  
Toothpaste  
Tinned potatoes  
UHT Milk  
Biscuits  
Coffee (Instant)

Pasta  
Long life fruit juice  
Nappies 6 & 7  
Angel Delight  
Laundry Detergent  
Peanut Butter  
Tomato/Brown sauces  
Squash  
Soup  
Tinned meat  
Toilet Roll  
Deodorants male & female  
Pasta sauces

Custard  
Washing up liquid  
Easter eggs  
Toothbrushes  
Long life sponge pudding  
Tinned fish  
Baby wipes  
Tinned vegetables  
Cooking sauce  
Shower gel  
Tinned meat pie  
Shampoo



# THE DEANERY CHOIR

## April 7th (Good Friday)

The Deanery Choir will be singing **Faure's Requiem at 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Little Bentley.** This wonderful work will be performed with soloists Patrick McCarthy (Baritone) and Shirley Davison (Soprano), conducted by Sally Pudney with Peter Clayton on organ.



## April 9th (Easter Sunday)

The Deanery Choir will be singing at **St George's Church, Great Bromley, CO7 7HZ at the 10.30am** communion service.

They will be singing **This Joyful Eastertide** a 1894 Easter carol. The words are by George Ratcliffe Woodward and the tune, from the Netherlands (1624), was harmonised in 1894 by Charles Wood, a truly joyful work!

## April 23rd

The Deanery Choir will be supporting the last service of Revd Margaret Shaw, Rector of **St Nicholas Church, Harwich, CO12 3DS at 3pm** with all the hymns chosen by Margaret, who retires on this day, the choir will sing **'The call of wisdom'** by Will Todd. This radiant anthem was commissioned as part of the celebrations to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and first performed in 2012 at St Paul's Cathedral by the 'Diamond Choir', formed from young singers across the UK.

The Deanery Choir wish the Revd Margaret Shaw many more years to come in her retirement and thank her for the sterling support she has given to us over the years.

**Graham Bell**  
Deaner Choir

## FRINTON FESTIVAL

Hello everyone,

I'm delighted to let you know that the 10<sup>th</sup> Frinton Festival will take place from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May. There will be four concerts of beautiful music over the bank holiday weekend in Frinton's atmospheric churches and in Voysey's *Homestead*. Ian Bostridge has offered to complete the trilogy of Schubert song cycles and Noah Max and his brilliant Echo Ensemble make a welcome return after their sensational Naze Tower event last year. String quartets will be seen and heard in a unique event in All Saints', Great Holland and our Barbican Piano Trio presents its annual festival recital. The Frinton Festival Choral Evensong will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> in St. Mary's Church, why not come along and sing?

Please put the dates in your diary straight away. Tickets will be on sale soon. If you'd like to support this year's festival, please click on this link.

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12221#!/DonationDetails>

If you'd prefer to make a bank transfer or send a cheque please email me and I will send the relevant information. Our supporters can book tickets before they go on general sale and are invited to champagne and canapés at the *Homestead*. If you make a donation please email me to let me know, sometimes the information provided by CAF isn't very clear!



	<p><b>Thorrington Bluebell Woods Open Weekend</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b></p> <p>Enjoy a walk and see the bluebells with a fun trail included for children at Hall Farm, Clacton Road, CO7 8AH.</p> <p>Open between 11am – 4pm with the last entrance at 3pm, dogs on leads please.</p> <p>Only open once a year with a small admission fee.</p> <p>The church will be open with refreshments available.</p>	
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## FOR SALE

Brand new 3 piece set M & S  
non-stick aluminium saucepans.

£10

### FREE

Family size Tower Slo-cooker  
Good condition.

**Tel: 01206 252182**

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Silver coloured Beko fridge freezer with  
water dispenser and automatic defrost in  
very good condition. It has adjustable glass  
shelves and clear freezer drawers.

£120 ono.

Three section extending aluminium ladder,  
each section approximately 2.5 metres.

£125 ono

Four section folding ladder,  
extended length approximately 3.6 metres.

£60 ono

Aluminium ladder stand off. £20 ono

**For further details  
contact Alison on  
07980 439911**

## LONDON MARATHON

In a few weeks time I will be running in the London Marathon, raising money for the Clacton Food Bank run by The Trussell Trust and managed by The Salvation Army. The work that they do in the Clacton area is phenomenal and it is nice to be able to give something other than a few cans of baked beans! Hearing from Tracy Dobbs about the levels of need, the logistics of the Food Bank and the amount of volunteer support that they have is very humbling and we count our blessings! I was lucky enough to gain ballot place which means that I have no specific target to raise but it would be lovely to be able to hand over a large amount for them, keeping it local. We have a number of items for sale at The Blue Garden Cafe to help with the fundraising so please take a look next time you visit. This is my second London Marathon with a rather large number of years in between but training is going well...so fingers crossed!

Here is a QR code where you can go straight to the Just Giving Page if you'd like to donate - thank you for your support.

**Julia Smith**



## TRAFFIC AND PARKING PROBLEMS

Good to know that problems of residents of Gt Bentley regarding traffic and parking is to be addressed by local councils this month. The plan put forward for discussion is for a mini park and ride scheme. Land off Heckford Road and Plough Road will be purchased and funded by the three building companies working in the village. A mini bus or buses will be hired or purchased with funding from central government. Only selected villages with particular parking problems qualify for this new initiative, lets hope this is successful!



## COLCHESTER DAIRY SERVICES



Thought this may be of interest to Great Bentley residents.

Milk is sourced from farms in East Anglia They don't currently deliver to Great Bentley but should they get sufficient interest they will do so

<https://www.colchesterdairy.co.uk/our-services/>



# TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR - Cllr. Lynda McWilliams

## Report for April

### **CASH GRANTS FOR ORGANISATIONS FROM TENDRING COMMUNITY FUND**

**PLEASE NOTE CLOSING DATE TO APPLY FOR A GRANT IS 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2023**

A fresh application round is now open to a community grant scheme which has already awarded almost £225,000 to groups across Tendring. The Tendring Community Fund, from Tendring District Council (TDC), was launched in Spring 2022 to provide capital and revenue support for groups, particularly those working to tackle social isolation, unemployment, or improving health and education outcomes.

A first phase of applications for the 2022 funding round closed in June, and were approved in October totalling £131,888, going to 15 different organisations. With grants up to £15,000. There is still around £131,400 available, and applications are now open for the next round of funding.

**Applications must be made by 5 pm on Friday 31st March, with forms available at; -**  
[www.tendringdc.gov.uk/community/grants-funding/community-funding](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/community/grants-funding/community-funding).

Remember, your application is stronger if you have match-funding, and bids can be for both revenue and capital projects.

#### **Council Tax Bills**

Residents and businesses across Tendring will have received a letter containing details of their council tax or business rates bill for the coming year. The annual letter details the precept for 2023/24 set by Tendring District Council (TDC), along with that set by Essex County Council, and the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, and any town or parish council if relevant.

TDC collects council tax on behalf of all the authorities, but only keeps its share – which is less than 10% of the total bill not including town or parish precepts. People are urged to check their bill, and if their circumstances have changed or if they have a query to contact TDC by using the online form found here: [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council-tax/changes-you-need-tell-us-about](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council-tax/changes-you-need-tell-us-about). The bills also include details of the Council Tax Support Scheme deductions, where relevant, passing on money made available by government. Any queries about other organisations' elements of the council tax bill should be addressed to that authority directly.

Also included within the letter are details of the Tendring Free Parking Householders' Permit, which will automatically renew on 1 April without residents having to do anything.

If you are applying for a permit for the first time go to [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/travel-and-parking/parking/season-tickets-and-permits](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/travel-and-parking/parking/season-tickets-and-permits) - or, to change your address or your vehicle call 01255 686969.

#### **Call for memories of Clacton Airshow ahead of milestone event**

One of the East Coast's landmark events is marking a milestone anniversary this year – and is asking for people to share their memories of it.

Clacton Airshow returns this summer for the 30<sup>th</sup> event, and to celebrate its Pearl Anniversary is looking for flight fans from across the decades to get in touch and share their nostalgia.

Whether it is memories of the first-ever Clacton Airshow, old photos or programmes from events past, or maybe people who met their future partners at the Airshow; all are welcome contributions ahead of the 2023 event, taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August.

To share your memories please email [clactonairshow@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:clactonairshow@tendringdc.gov.uk) donations to support the event can be made at [www.clactonairshow.com](http://www.clactonairshow.com).

Anyone looking to exhibit at or sponsor the Clacton Airshow 2023 should contact the team using the same email addresses.

#### **Commercial Beach Hut Leases**

New commercial leases allowing owners to rent out their beach huts will hopefully be giving more people the chance to use beach huts.

Tendring District Council (TDC) recently adopted a new Beach Hut Strategy, setting out the revised approach. Among the changes is the introduction of a new commercial lease for owners wanting to rent out their beach huts; and permission for those on a personal agreement to rent out huts for up to ten days each year.

The change to allow applications for a commercial lease presents an exciting new business opportunity, particularly for Tendring residents, who pay half the fees of non-residents, this could be an opportunity to start a new business and help to support our tourist economy.

### **Demolition is progressing well at the former Clacton Office building**

Demolition work on a former office building in Clacton is progressing. Carnarvon House, in Carnarvon Road, has been torn down as part of a redevelopment project for the area.

The building, owned by Tendring District Council (TDC) but most recently used by the NHS, was surplus to both organisation's needs. Demolition began on 16 January. An estimated 90% of materials from within the building, along with concrete from demolition, will be recycled by the contractors.

### **Energy Saving Measures being installed at Tendring Leisure Centres**

Energy-saving measures are to be installed at Tendring District Council-run (TDC) leisure centres.

Pool covers, to reduce heat loss, and LED lighting are to be fitted at the council's three centres in Clacton, Dovercourt and Walton-on-the-Naze. As well as being more environmentally friendly, the measures will also help the council to save money in the long-term.

TDC set aside £250,000 towards such measures in the budget, and contracts will be awarded soon for the installation work to be carried out. Exact details of the work programme are being finalised, and leisure centres will update users once these are confirmed

### **Tendring District Council Agrees the Garden Community Developments Plan for Consultation**

Councillors agreed to put a draft Development Plan to shape growth of a new garden community out for consultation.

Tendring District Council (TDC) on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March agreed to send the Development Plan for the Tendring/Colchester Border Garden Community (TCBGC) out for formal consultation, following backing of the TCB Joint Committee on the 27th February. TCBGC is a planned new settlement laying between Colchester and Elmstead Market, and forms part of the adopted Local Plan for Tendring and Colchester.

The decision is subject to Colchester City Council to also agreeing to send the plan for consultation, with the topic on the agenda for its next scheduled full council meeting on the 23rd March.

If approved, then consultation will take place in May and June, with all responses being sent to the Planning Inspectorate. A Planning Inspector will then consider these and assess if the Development Plan is sound and compliant with local and national planning policy.

### **More than 700 trees planted around Tendring.**

More than 700 trees have been planted thanks to a biodiversity grant scheme.

Eleven different species have been planted by Tendring District Council (TDC) staff and community volunteers at three locations, thanks to Essex County Council's Urban Tree Fund.

The grant includes almost £103,000 for the trees and planting materials, as well as just over £67,000 to cover maintenance costs for three years. Burrs Road Cemetery, Clacton, has had 200 Callery Pear, 150 Rowan and 250 Cherry trees planted, while Jubilee Field, Parkeston, has had 44 London Plains, 10 Liquid Ambers and 10 Ginkgos. Meanwhile 20 each of Bald Cypress, Black Alder, Sycamore, Scots Pine and Swedish Whitebeam have been planted in Lotus Way, Jaywick Sands, on the approach to the Sunspot development.

### **Community Safety Initiatives for Clacton Town Centre**

A series of projects to bolster community safety in Clacton town centre will get underway soon thanks to almost £400,000 of funding.

Tendring District Council (TDC) has been awarded £317,000 from the Office of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner towards the projects, which will include CCTV upgrades and community engagement work. In addition TDC is putting £82,000 in match-funding into the initiative. The project will see 29 new town centre CCTV cameras installed as well as existing ones upgraded, along with an improved Control Centre and increased monitoring, including a direct radio link with Essex Police. Lighting will also be improved in key areas, particularly around the town's seafront gardens and shelters.

The Tendring Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will carry out community engagement projects; including working with pubs and clubs on the Ask for Angela scheme; and days and nights of action focusing on personal safety and tackling violence against women and girls.

Many thanks

Cllr. Lynda McWilliams

Tendring District Ward Councillor for the Parishes of Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating and a Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Partnerships, which includes Education, Health, and Community Safety.

I am also Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board, I chair the Tendring Community Fund committee. I am a member of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioners Panel (EPFCC) , and involved with several other Partnership areas relating to TDC and Essex

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

Mobile Phone number 07564 613603

# NEWS FROM THE OAKS

Hello everyone!

How have you all been? We've so much to share with you so get yourself comfortable, get yourself a cuppa and a biscuit or 2... go on, we will pretend there's no calories in them.

Where do we begin, we've been up to our usual baking, dancing, singing, trips to the shops We will start with our trip to the school where we had so much fun! We were treated like royalty when we arrived and we were given some beautiful bunches of daffodils on arrival and then we listened to the children singing which was absolutely beautiful and then we sat with them while they read to us. This was such a lovely morning and we loved being a part of it and the Archie Project

We've been baking, we've made some delicious treats, our favourite being chocolate chip muffins oh and a GIANT cookie cake!

We've been doing housework - this helps us keep our independence and we love to do it and help out. We think they call it 'Montessori' style - yes that's what they call it. Even down to us baking and doing things for ourselves things that we love to do it's all to help us with our independence and more importantly having fun! Even when we Hoover the music is on and of course we sing!

We've been pampered as we always are, did you know we now have gel manicures - they tell us the colour lasts longer and they were right! So us ladies are looking very glamorous.

We've had some little visitors, I bet you can't guess what they were..... they were baby tortoises! They were teeny tiny and so well behaved.

We've enjoyed Valentine's Day with the place full of decorations, lots of pink everywhere and we enjoyed a 'Galantine's Day' lunch full of lots of laughter and treats.

We've had Pancake Day and also 'The Oaks treat trolley' full of waffles, chocolate, sweets... sorry we have to stop as our mouths are watering!  
Perfect timing we hear the kettle is on.

Anyway we hope you all enjoyed hearing about what we have all been up to and we will tell you more soon!

With Love from  
All of us at The Oaks xx



## Bentley Green Players

### Murder with Ghosts by Simon Brett May 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

Ladies and Gentlemen, Bentley Green Players are pleased to announce that we are now in full rehearsals for our May production which will be performed in the Methodist Hall as usual. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody that has supported us in the past and say that you are very much appreciated.

We have the usual suspects on stage and would like to take this opportunity of welcoming two new 'players' to our group, Louise and Leigh, who will be joining in the fun of our comedy, set in a stately home in the 1940's.

We are beginning to get to grips with the very different characters and the usual twists in the plot. Directed by Chris Whiteman, please be sure to keep the dates in mind. We will update you next month with our progress.

## FOGBOW OR WHITE RAINBOW

A fog bow, sometimes called a white rainbow, is a similar phenomenon to a rainbow; however, as its name suggests, it appears as a bow in fog rather than rain. Because of the very small size of water droplets that cause fog - smaller than 0.05 millimeters (0.0020 in) - the fog bow has only very weak colors, with a red outer edge and bluish inner edge.[3] The colors fade due to being smeared out by the diffraction effect of the smaller droplets.

In many cases, when the droplets are very small, fog bows appear white, and are therefore sometimes called white rainbows. When droplets forming it are almost all of the same size, the fog bow can have multiple inner rings, or supernumeraries, which are more strongly coloured than the main bow.





April is a quiet month for us as we are on our Easter break until Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. When we do return, we will be welcoming Theo, Iya and their families to our setting.

We hope you all have a wonderful experience within our Pre-school and enjoy your time within your Early Years Education.

Although April might be a quiet month for us, it is also a month which holds a significant date each year for many of our parents.

I would like to let our families know we will be thinking of them all on Primary School Allocation Day, which is Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April, we have our fingers firmly crossed for you all and hope you get the Primary School you want.

We would like to wish a very Happy Easter to everyone and hope you all enjoy the long bank holiday weekend, hopefully the sun will shine and you will get to enjoy the time off with your family and friends.

Thanks for reading.

**Julie Wiles**

## **GREAT BENTLEY ART CLUB**

Great Bentley Art Club will meet on the following dates between 2pm and 5pm in the Village Hall.

Tuesday 11th April - Subject - Bring an item made of wood to draw/paint.

Tuesday 25th April - Subject - Bring a favourite teapot to draw/paint.

The subjects are suggestions only, as some prefer to work on their own projects. If you have ever considered joining us, your enquiries will always be welcomed.

Both ideas could be potential still life exercises. With different drawing and painting styles, the level of texture and detail shown will vary greatly. As choices have to be made about composition and the medium used, it is worthwhile spending some time making observations about your subject.

Such as setting up a few basic measurements and a scale. Marking out a horizon line, setting up 2 vanishing points and fixing a maximum vertical height, to ensure that everything will fit within your paper size. If a line is then drawn between the ends of those vertical points to each vanishing point, it will create some perspective.

Noting the geometrical shapes and negative spaces within your subject's form. Comparing the angles against the horizontal and vertical edges of the paper and paying attention to any alignments or similarities in distance, all helps towards creating a true representation of your subject.

Use a single direction of light. From that source point, observe how the angle of light meets the form and then projects a shadow. Changing the angle of light source on an object, alters the length and shape of a projected shadow.

Observe how a fully cast shadow reduces in tone and depth between the core and outer shadow shape. How highlights of reflected light upon the object, graduate into half tones. Also where the termination point of the darkest core shadow, meets cast light on the form. Observing light and shade helps to set up tonal values, or a colour palette range.

If we ignore any preconceptions from our stored knowledge regarding our subject's. Then reduce everything to a collection of basic shapes, angles, alignments and tones of dark verses light, it may assist in reproducing a true image of our still life subject.

# POLICE REPORT

## RECORDED CRIMES

From 27/01/2023- 28/02/2023

### CRIME TYPES

**INCIDENTS REPORTED – 30**

**INCIDENT TYPES** - Attention to x 5 - Animal related - Assist other agency- Attention to - Burglary - Concern - Domestic - Hate crime - Information x 3 – Harassment - Highway disruption x 5 – Information - Making off without payment (taxi) - Malicious comments - Other - Road traffic collision x 4 - Suspicious circumstances.

### Coffee with Cops- Methodist Church.

10.30-12.00  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023



### TRUCAM Monthly result

01/02/2023- Thorrington Road- **5** Captured – Top speed **39mph**

11/02/2023- Thorrington Road- **13** Captured- Top speed **43mph**

21/02/2023- Plough Road- **12** Captured- Top speed **49mph**

### Considerate parking tickets

1 Considerate parking ticket was given this month.

Please park safely and sensibly, without obstructing others vision/access.

CEO,s will be around the village and fines could be given out rather than considerate tickets.

### Car registration plates

Car registration plates must be visible at all times.

It is an offence not to display one. This also includes dirty plates that cannot be seen.

If you are pulled over by an officer for displaying dirty unreadable plates, you could find yourself receiving a hefty fine.

### Scams

Scams are still a problem everywhere. If you receive Emails or phone calls that don't look right, **don't reply and hang up**. If you receive any calls like this, report to action fraud advising them what telephone provider you use. Or copy paste email and attach it to the online report.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> for online reporting and extra information.

**Telephone 0300 123 2040** to speak direct.

It is also worth ringing your telephone provider and asking for a call block for withheld numbers put on your phone line. This prevents all anonymous calls coming through to you, giving you some peace of mind.

### 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, with results.

### 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

# GARDENING NOTES

Despite the recent low temperatures, daylight is increasing and many of us will be keen to make a start. With recent weather patterns expected to continue, there have been several articles in gardening magazines about future proofing our gardens against climate change. The RHS journal, The Garden, makes 5 points to assist.



- Improve your soil by incorporating organic matter to aid water retention
- Create shade by planting fruit trees, bushes and hedges of nut and berries to create a micro climate. It is suggested these leafy plants cast a light shade helping to cool the plot during the heat of the day. It is suggested that lettuce, brassicas and broad beans grow well in light shade, whereas tomatoes and courgettes prefer warm sun.
- Save water by installing multiple water butts. Make better use of the water you apply by prioritising it. Peas, beans and sweetcorn in flower are a priority as are potatoes when producing tubers and large leafy crops. Carrots and perennial vegetables (unless recently planted) are the most drought tolerant. If an excess of water is your problem, plant on mounds or raised beds. The February rainfall was only 8% for the average for Essex and it is reported we had a deficit of 3 months of rainfall. At the time of writing though, it does appear that we are making up for some of that in March.
- Try to prevent diseases such as powdery mildew that is common in dry weather on courgettes and marrows. Watering and mulching can help as can spacing crops to aid air movement coupled with removing diseased material promptly.
- Stagger crops, sow little and often, and plant leafy vegetables and salad crops to enable harvesting before and after but not during the heat of midsummer. Try using bolt resistant cultivars that are available which are less affected by the heat.

As an update on our conversion to the 'no dig' method of gardening mentioned last month, I can tell you that in February we obtained mushroom compost to top the flower and vegetable beds with wood chip for the paths. We were a bit late doing so, as it should be done in the autumn because the compost can be quite strong initially. The beds also need time for the fungal, bacterial and worm activity to happen. However, with the recent cold weather and amount of rain in March, planting will be very late this year abating some of the potential problem. To further compensate, we will also carefully draw back the compost to plant the broad beans and peas to ensure the rootballs of the plants do not have contact with the compost in case there is any chance of burning. The same will apply to young lettuce, beetroot and brassica seedlings. We may also use a traditional compost planting mix in the holes where we feel the plants are particularly vulnerable. In addition we are unlikely to sow seeds directly into the beds this year other than carrots which have their own enviromesh covered raised bed to avoid carrot fly. Hopefully we will have taken enough steps to ensure healthy and abundant crops. By mid-April we should have all potatoes planted and be sowing sweetcorn, beans, cucumbers, and courgettes under glass or you could try this in the open ground, with added protection from fleece or cloches. In any event, the weed suppression from composting has so far been excellent, which is definitely a bonus.

## **DEADLINE FOR MAY 2023 MAGAZINE**

**FRIDAY 14th APRIL**

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

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

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

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



## WEELEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

We invite residents of Great Bentley to join us on any of our outings that we organise for our members.

All enquiries to Diane 07506 792840.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April A river trip from Broxbourne on the River Lea. All-inclusive price £49pp which includes a hot pie and vegetable lunch on board. Choices available when you book. Depart 9am from the Black Boy Public House. To book and for details contact Diane 07506 792840

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June A day trip to Windsor. £24pp. depart Weeley at 8am.

All bookings are with Diane and all prices include the gratuity for the driver. All depart from the Black Boy Public House. We use Kings Coaches, and all have a toilet on board.

**Diane Miles**  
**Chairman WRA**



## NATURE NOTES



A welcome recent feature in the countryside is the replanting of hedgerows on field boundaries. One person, Mike Wadham from Clacton is a leading local champion of this on a landscape scale. He has set up his own small company to put into practice what sometimes remains largely pious aspirations or poorly planted and maintained schemes. In recent weeks on farmland between Thorpe and Weeley no less than 20,000 shrubs or whips have been planted, that amounts to some two miles of restored hedgerow. The Essex County Council Forest Initiative is the major source of finance, beside other support from environmental charities, district councils and private individuals. A small team of school-leavers from Market Field College in Clacton are employed during the planting season. Mike ensures a good survival rate by mulching in April. Few large-scale hedge schemes can be watered, so this mulching is essential to offset dry summers. Last winter he used half a million litres of compost, mainly derived from council brown wheelie bins processed at Birch near Colchester. Tree-guards are another key factor, he has moved away from plastic spiral tubes to more sympathetic biodegradable cardboard, but at no small increase in cost.

Mike has been concerned that tree-planting though laudable in principle is often ill thought out and sometimes in the wrong places, such as natural grassland. Ambitious targets can result in crowded over-planting and the ground beneath increasingly starved of light. In 2013 he realised that many existing woodlands have been isolated amid surrounding arable land. The original patchwork of field hedges had been greatly reduced. The notion of wildlife corridors with ideas such as the Living Landscape and Nature Recovery have been current, as well as the larger ones of countering Climate Change and Carbon Sequestration. Mike saw an opportunity to put this into practice at Great Bentley with a sympathetic farmer agreeing to widening a field boundary into a 500-metre ribbon of new woodland linking two isolated ancient woods. It now appears on the latest Ordnance Survey map as Three Sisters' Wood, referring to the farmer's three daughters.

The Big Green Internet is a much more ambitious project of Mike's, and its proposals can be viewed online. The Three Sisters' Wood idea, or at least restored hedgerows, is expanded across the whole of Essex. Mike has drawn provisional links between existing green features to form possible corridors between the North Sea at Jaywick and Epping Forest! His capacity to engage farmers and engender support from the right organisations and people could just turn his Blue Sky thinking into something impressive on the ground. In the meantime he doggedly progresses planting a million hedgerow whips in Tendring and adjacent districts.

**For your diary: Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10.30 – 2 Plant Sale & Open Day at Barnes Spinney nature reserve, Hall Lane, Walton [behind Brenalwood care home]**

**Sun 30<sup>th</sup> April 11-4 – Bluebell Day at Weeleyhall Wood, Church Rd, Weeley  
Both organised by Tendring EWT Local Group**

## Seven lessons from 'Annabelle'

Having read the Parish magazine for some time, I have dared to write an article about the joys of walking around our exceptional village and how lucky we are to have rural beauty on our doorstep. Unlikely to win the Booker Prize, this is simply a middle aged, dog walker's (or M.A.D Walker) ramblings but hopefully the lessons will resonate or at least amuse you!

So to start the 'lessons', we embark from the train station and walk down Plough Road towards Aingers Green. Walking on the footpath, my furry companion (my dog) gets a little nervous due to traffic coming from behind, other walkers and also, on occasion, 'runners'. I admire the dedication of runners but question how much they enjoy it, running so fast, unable to appreciate what is around them and desperately trying to dodge the potholes in the road and paths. Fuelled by a music megamix of 'Eye of the Tiger', 'Welcome to the Jungle' and 'Living on a Prayer' hoping that they can reach their goal before the playlist finishes. Irrespective whether you run, jog, powerwalk, cycle or skip (only seen once!) - Lesson #1: Go fast enough to get there but slow enough to see.

On reaching Ufford Chase, we turn left and follow Cinder Path Way towards St Mary's Hall Farm. It amazes me how quickly the houses have been built and it seems that if you blink, you will see new houses around the village. Everyone will have an opinion on this but my respect is for the tradesmen who built these houses. I decorate badly and the building of flatpack furniture is an initiating event for a Decree Nisi but I have always wondered, if I had the training, education and dedication, could I build something (not necessarily a house). I am sure that I am not on my own but I do know that weaknesses are simply opportunities not taken? Learn a language, learn a new skill, try something new! - Lesson 2: Anyone who stops learning is old, whether twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.

Walking past the 'Bentley Bonshaw Herd of pedigree Aberdeen Angus' cows, I announce my arrival in the form of a 'Good Mmmooohhhning' whilst reassuring my furry companion that they 'won't hurt you' and ushering him up the path towards St Marys Road. On arrival at Aingers Green, my furry companion looks at me with nervous eyes for a very good reason, we are entering 'Catsville'! So clever are these ferocious purrboxes, they have dug trenches outside of their 'servants' (or owners) houses to surprise attack any innocent dogs as they walk past. Full disclosure, I am also a 'cat person' and fully understand where I stand in the hierarchy of our household and hopefully he (my cat) won't read this article!. Lesson 3: Being brave is not the absence of being afraid but the ability to conquer that fear."

Having survived 'Catsville' and reaching the cross junction at Aingers Green, I always admire the 'Old School House' with its stained glass windows. Always tempted to turn left to have a 'swift half' in the Fusiliers, we fight the urge and turn right to walk down Weeley Road. I often think about the origins of many of the names of the houses down the road, named after plants, places and even animals to name a few. My favourite is 'the Beavers' where I imagine Mr and Mrs Beaver have relocated from Narnia to now support the 'Upright Citizens' of Aingers Green. A cautionary warning though is not to get house number 3 ½ confused with Platform 9 ¾. Pushing a trolley into the garage door will definitely not transport you to the platform to Hogwarts!

Reaching the junction, we crossover Plough Road, go past the gate and follow the public footpath. Down the path, there are trees that provide a canopy of peace and quiet as you walk down the path. The field to the left and wood to the right are both private but I have always imagined what secrets the woods hold? Could it be hiding a secret bunker in the event of a zombie apocalypse or a science lab where dinosaurs are created to be released into the village or simply a private wood. What I do know, and quoted beautifully in the classic film 'An American Werewolf in London' is don't stray off the path!

Reaching the open field, we continue down the path across the field only for my furry companion to be taunted by the laughs (or quacks) from the geese and ducks in the pond. Unbeknown to them, we will have the last laugh when we are eating duck (the crispy variety) on Saturday night!

Reaching the bottom of the hill, we turn left and follow the fence line to a wooden stile. Reaching the halfway point of the journey, we often sit down and take in the views, grateful for having these green areas accessible to us and providing the opportunity to be away from digital platforms, emails and telephone calls. Lesson 4: In a world full of doing, doing, doing, it's important to take a moment to just breathe, to just be.

Crossing the stile, we walk down the hill to the metal gate and cross the first bridge. You would be forgiven if at this point you felt that I had consumed some hallucinogenic fungi during my journey but for those accompanied with children the tale may distract them from realising they have another two miles to go! This small wooded area is the home for two tree fairies and a group of creatures called 'Boggins'. The two fairies are called 'Fauna' and 'Flora' and their sole purpose is to ensure that the 'Boggins' do not leave the wood. The fairies feed the Boggins with single socks which subdue them to live in the wet and muddy areas. Sometimes people leave the gate open which results in the Boggins escaping and trying to find socks in houses within the village resulting in children's rooms becoming messy and creating a 'floor-drobe' with clothes strewn everywhere. Never seen, there is evidence that some dog walkers have attempted to feed the Boggins with poo bags which infuriates both fairies and Boggins beyond belief!

Having survived the 'Boggins' and crossing the second bridge, we follow the yellow arrow and walk up the field and turn right onto Frating Abbey Farm Road. Commonly mistaken for the *Goodwood Festival of Speed - Hill Climb*. I have often witnessed drivers trying to beat their PBs and keep to the side of the road as best I can.

Looking at the verges you can't help but notice the growing issue of wildlife substance misuse. Foxes getting intoxicated on Skol lager and K cider, pheasants vaping to relax and hares eating KFC, McDonalds and other fast food purely to keep their energy levels up after all that running around.....what!!, you mean it isn't the animals!. Despite being a special roadside verge, people continue to have a lack of respect and continue to litter and fly tip. I have often wondered, how can we best deter people from doing this but also how can we repair the damage already being done! Lesson 5: Environment is no one's property to destroy; it's everyone's responsibility to protect. Following the road I pass Abbey Cottage and turn right following the public footpath. Walking between the barns, I finally reach 'Annabelle'. Providing her with a salute usually reserved solely for magpies, I wonder how many lives, if any, Annabelle saved whilst in service. During the COVID lockdowns, many people found comfort in walking around the village and sometimes it was difficult to explain the routes available to people. 'Annabelle' became a reference point and to many, this route will always be known as 'Annabelle'.

Reaching the end of the path, we walk across the field towards the railway crossing. At the time of writing, the field had been 'ploughed' and I tentatively walked across trying not to twist my ankle in the process. Always looking for that roman coin to have been unearthed but never disappointed when I don't find it. Lesson 6: Stop searching the world for treasure, the real treasure is in yourself and others.

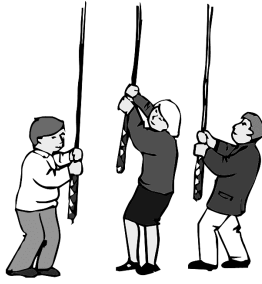
*Disclaimer: Despite watching two seasons of Clarksons Farm', if 'ploughed' is the wrong term, I beg forgiveness from all of the farmers in the parish.*

We cross over the railway line and follow the track alongside the railway line. Reaching the bottom, we cross over Bentley Brook and walk up the hill towards St Mary the Virgin Church. If you listen carefully you will hear the gentle flow of the brook and the water flowing from the fields reminding you that you have walked almost four miles and will definitely need a toilet break soon! Whilst walking up the hill, my furry companion and I are often met by other walkers and we follow the same ritual. The dogs meet, we (the owners) say that our dogs are friendly or nervous and then proceed to observe our dogs sniffing each other's rear ends! By no means would I suggest that humans attempt to imitate this ritual action (*you would definitely end up on the Parish Magazine PCSO page*) but consider having conversation and maybe make someone's day. Lesson 7: "For millions of years, mankind lived just like the animals. Then something happened that unleashed the power of our imagination. We learned to talk and we learned to listen."

Our arrival at the church marks the end of the route and also the end of this article. 'Annabelle' continues to provide me with the time to think and appreciate the green areas we are lucky to have access to. For those considering the route, try it and you might be surprised what lessons 'Anabelle' may teach you.

M.A.D Walker

## BELLRINGERS UPDATE



You will have heard the bells ringing for slightly longer on Monday evenings as we have been joined by 3 new volunteers who would like to learn to ring. We start earlier now so as to give our new volunteers separate time on their own with tutors rather than using the time set aside for our already experienced band who are busy learning and perfecting new ringing skills.

You will have read last month that we have a major project to restore the bells happening in the near future. The first part of this is to have a bell hatch installed between the first and ground floors so that the bell hangers will be able to lower the bells down from the belfry so that they can be taken to their workshop for re-tuning. The bells may be silent on occasion once the builders

have started this work.

We will of course be ringing the church bells for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III around the Coronation on May 6th and on May 7th prior to the village event on the Green at 14.00.

We will be displaying and using a small version of a set of church bells referred to as a 'mini ring' at the Church May Fayre on Saturday May 13th. Please come along to the event in the churchyard from 12.00 - 16.00, watch the mini bells being rung and have a go yourself. There is also a competition to guess the weight of the heaviest bell.


Please contact me if you are interested in learning to ring.


Roger Carey-Smith  
07422880921




The season is soon upon us:


Colts Friday night cricket practice and opening of the club bar will recommence from  
**Friday 21st April !!!**


 Timings for age group splits (from Year 1) : 5.30pm – 6.15pm for Softball then 6.20pm-7.30pm for Hardball

 We have a new website: [www.greatbentleycc.co.uk](http://www.greatbentleycc.co.uk)

This will enable you to complete all membership forms and pay any subs - please do help us to get forms completed & subs paid in a timely manner when requested

 There will be no cost increases on membership or fees for this season (that's 5 years running!) - we are focussed on continuing to provide a great club that supports our community in these tougher times

 This price freeze also includes the bar, with no drinks price increase - so you will be continuing to get great value on all levels!

 GBCC teams for 2023; NECL: Sunday league, U11, U12 and U13 Colts, Kwik Cricket. Frinton CC 3<sup>rd</sup> XI will also be playing on Saturdays.

The coaches, the committee and I are incredibly excited for the new season approaching!  
If you know anyone who is interested in joining as a member with or without kids, do point them our way!

Henry Fairbanks  
Interim Chair

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

For more information, come along to the Club House on The Green, or email: [info@greatbentleycc.co.uk](mailto:info@greatbentleycc.co.uk)



**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM 3rd APRIL**

**KING CHARLES 111**



**"A RIGHT ROYAL KNEES UP"**

**MARQUEE ON THE GREEN**

**GREAT BENTLEY**

**7.30PM -10.15PM**

**SATURDAY 6TH MAY**

*The  
Gifted*

band is back by popular demand after the Queens Jubilee

**ADULTS £10 UNDER 18'S £5**

**UNDER 12'S FREE**

**UNDER 18'S MUST BE ACCOMANIED BY AN ADULT**

**LIMITED TICKETS**

**TO BOOK CALL MARY MASKELL 01206 250524**

**BYO or Licensed Bar and Available to Purchase**

**Burgers - Fish'n'Chips - Pizza**



A Community Event Supported by Great Bentley Parish Council and Local Sponsors



**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM 3rd APRIL**

**KING CHARLES III**



**CORONATION AFTERNOON TEA**

**THE VILLAGE GREEN - GREAT BENTLEY  
SUNDAY 7TH MAY**



**Women in Harmony Choir**

**Children's magic & balloons**

**LIMITED TICKETS FOR  
AFTERNOON TEA AND  
ENTERTAINMENT**

**IN THE MARQUEE AT 3PM**

**TO BOOK CALL BEV ADAMS**

**01206 250724**

**ADULTS £7.50**

**ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN £4.50**

**ACCOMPANIED UNDER 3'S FREE**

**LAST TICKET SALES 24TH APRIL**

**OR BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS AND PICNIC**

**Activities open to all on the green from 2pm**

**Tendring Brass Community Band**

**Pimms & Prosecco Bar - Burger Van**

**Face Painting - Children's Races 2pm - Ice Cream**



A Community Event Supported by Great Bentley Parish Council and Local Sponsors



# Great Bentley Parish Council

*Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council: Jennifer Spear*

The Community Resource Centre, The Village Hall Plough Road Great Bentley Colchester CO7 8LG Tel:

01206 256410 Email: [clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk)

Website: <https://greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk/>

For your Parish Council March is the final month in the Parish Council Year, and this year is an even busier one because it's the end of the current Parish Councillors 4 year term! At the time of writing this article the nomination process has begun as the Notice of Election has now been made. All nominations for new and existing Councillors if they wish to remain one, must be received at Clacton Town Hall no later than 4pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. If you are thinking of applying to become one of Great Bentleys Parish Councillors, I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have. We have published the nomination forms on our website for easy access.

Coming up in May not only will we be holding the usual monthly meeting but also it's the time of year for the Annual Meeting of the Parish, at which we will be bestowing the Village Award to a most deserving member of the village, there will be a guest speaker and a chance to reflect on the past year and look forward to the exciting year ahead. We will publish details closer to the time but we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible, this will also be a chance to possibly meet any new members of the Parish Council that we may have.

**I want to thank all those of you have contacted me so far about the proposed Adult Gym Equipment for the playground, this is still an ongoing project with no decisions having been made either way, so if you do have any ideas I really look forward to hearing them and forwarding them onto the council to help with the decision making process.**

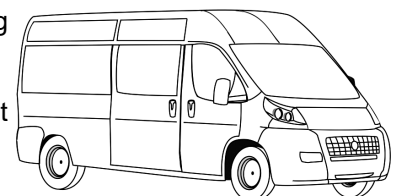
A few ongoing projects from the last meeting include updating an incorrectly spelt name on the war memorial, a new notice board has been ordered for the Flag Hill (the current one is in a very bad state of repair), the barriers around the War Memorial and also the ones on Heckford road have all been agreed to be replaced, we will be working hard in the background to make sure these projects are taken care of.

The Parish Council were very sad to receive the resignation of our longstanding Foot Path Officer David Gollifer who has served the village in this role for over 14 years, the Parish Council would like to extend their upmost Gratitude for the work that David has done while he has been in this post. We have been very fortunate to be able to appoint a new footpath officer who will be taking over the post as of the 1<sup>st</sup> April and we very much look forward to working together with the support of David to ensure the footpaths remain usable for all the residents of Great Bentley.

## Use It Or Lose It!

I recently decided that I would look into the provision of Community Transport locally and how it works. I rang Tendring District Community Transport on 01255 436962 and spoke to a very helpful lady who readily answered my question as to whether there was a service to Clacton Common Shopping Village? Well to my delight Dial -a- Ride have a Mini Bus which runs on Tuesdays, it comes from Brightlingsea and picks up passengers in Great Bentley at 11am it is a door to door service. The drivers are friendly and assist with your shopping bags and generally create an extremely pleasant journey experience. I enjoyed an unrushed leisurely look in the shops, Home Bargains are always worth a visit and as their name implies their prices are good so I took the opportunity to stock up on a few essentials in the knowledge that I only had to walk as far as the pick up point outside Choice. If you have not been to 'The Common' it is worth a visit, there is an MandS Outlet, Pavers, Klass, Cotton Traders, The Works, Card Shop plus other shops to have a wander round and a Costa, Greg's and an independent Coffee Shop to go in for a treat before the mini bus arrives at 2 to 2 15pm to take you home! All in all Dial - a - Ride provide an exemplary, professional, friendly, safety conscience service but it needs more people to make use of it, I do encourage you to give it a try, with a Bus Pass it is free! The service encompasses other areas which I'm sure the good people at Community Transport on the phone number at the beginning of my article will be happy to tell you about.

To keep this valuable service viable it NEEDS passengers....Use it or lose it and that would be sad!



**Judy Bishop.**

# SURGERY NEWS



## Easter Opening Hours

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday. Over the Easter holiday the Surgery will be closed on Good Friday, 7 April and Easter Monday, 10 April 2023.

## April is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

**Knowing the Symptoms of Bowel Cancer could save your Life:**

- Bleeding from your bottom and/or blood in your poo.
- A persistent and unexplained change in bowel habit.
- Unexplained weight loss extreme tiredness for no obvious reason.
- A pain or lump in your tummy.

If you have **any** of these symptoms or if things just don't feel right, go and see your doctor. You may need to visit your doctor more than once if your symptoms don't get better.

Find out more at [bowelcanceruk.org.uk/symptoms](http://bowelcanceruk.org.uk/symptoms)

## Bowel Cancer Screening

**Bowel cancer screening could save your life.**

- If you are 60-74 you will receive a screening test in the post every two years.
- The age that people are invited to take part is changing so you may get a test a before you turn 60.

For more information visit [bowel.canceruk.org.uk/screening](http://bowel.canceruk.org.uk/screening)

## Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 26 April for staff training.

## Patient Participation Group Meetings

There will not be a PPG meeting in April. The next one will be held on Wednesday, 17 May 2023 at 2.00 pm in the Michael Wright Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

**Sue Mitson – Operations Manager**

## The Great Bentley Show

We have a new Facebook page. Search on Great Bentley Show and you should find it.

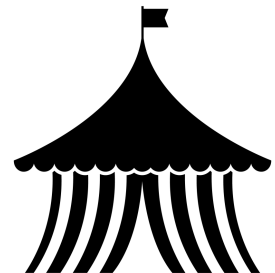
We are in need of more volunteers to support the committee now and on the weekend of the show. We are also looking for some new storage space.

We need space to get all the gazebos, art boards, car park signs etc. in one place.

Please can you help?

Many Thanks

Mary Barber [chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk](mailto:chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk) [www.greatbentleyshow.co.uk](http://www.greatbentleyshow.co.uk)



# COOKERY CORNER



Easter is deeply connected with food traditions, many of which are symbolic. The British Easter is mostly associated with the Christian faith and celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Christ, although many of the traditions can be traced back to Pagan rituals which welcomed the arrival of the spring equinox and the rebirth of the earth. The roots of Christian celebrations originate from the ancient Germanic goddess of spring, Eoestre or Ostara, and from the Jewish Passover. The Easter egg is a very potent symbol of spring and rebirth and its traditions can be traced to early Christians of Mesopotamia from where they spread to Russia through the Orthodox

Church and later into Europe through the Catholic and Protestant churches. There is a huge variety of dishes eaten at Easter in different countries, but eggs feature somewhere, whether they are boiled for breakfast, painted in bright colours and hidden, brought by the Easter Bunny or made of chocolate.

## **SLOW ROAST LAMB SHOULDER**

2.25kg bone in lamb shoulder	3tbsp olive oil	1 head garlic	3 onions	3 carrots
2 celery sticks	4 vine ripened tomatoes		1 large leek	2 bay leaves
rosemary	thyme		a bottle of red wine	
300ml chicken stock	sea salt and black pepper			

Use a bottle of good red wine and choose only fresh herbs for the best taste. Cut the garlic head in half, slice the onions thinly, and halve the carrots lengthways and widthways. Cut each celery stick in three, clean and trim the leek and halve lengthways and cut into three pieces. Cut the tomatoes in half. Preheat the oven to 230 degrees and rub the lamb with the olive oil and plenty of seasoning. Place in a deep roasting dish and cook for 20 to 25 minutes until it is nicely browned. Remove the dish from the oven and reduce the heat to 160 degrees. Carefully lift out the lamb and set it aside, then scatter all the vegetables and herbs into the dish and replace the meat on top. Pour the wine and stock over and cover the dish with foil, using plenty to make sure there are no gaps. Roast for 6 hours until the lamb is falling off the bone and the vegetables have shrunk and the liquid reduced. Serve with boiled potatoes.

## **HOT CROSS BUNS**

These are a symbol of the Crucifixion of Christ and are traditionally eaten on Good Friday. Buns which are cooked on that day are said never to go mouldy throughout the year. Tradition states that if you split one and give half to your friend and recite this rhyme, "Half for you and half for me, between us two shall goodwill be", then your friendship will strengthen.

750g strong white bread flour	1tsp ground cinnamon	1tsp mixed spice	1tsp salt
90g butter	60g light muscovado sugar	150g mixed dried fruit	
90g dried apricots	2 eggs	300ml milk	
7g sachet easy bake dried rice	90g plain white flour	2tbsp golden caster sugar	

Cube the butter and chop the apricots. In a large bowl, sift the flour and salt and rub in the butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the spices, muscovado sugar, dried fruit and yeast, and make a well in the centre. Warm the milk and beat with the eggs before pouring into the bowl a little at a time while mixing carefully to make a soft dough. Do not add too much liquid. Using your hands, turn the dough out onto a lightly floured board and knead for about 10 minutes until smooth and elastic. Place in an oiled bowl, cover with a tea towel and leave in a warm place for about 45 minutes to rise. Turn out and knead lightly a few times. Divide in two and shape into small buns. Place well apart on a baking sheet and cover loosely with oiled clingfilm. Leave in a warm place for another 45 minutes until they have doubled in size. Meanwhile heat the oven to 200 degrees. When the buns are ready cut a cross in the top of each with a sharp knife. Mix the plain flour with 3 to 4 tsp of cold water until smooth and pipe the mixture into the crosses using a piping bag. Bake the buns for 15 to 20 minutes while you mix the caster sugar with 1tbsp of boiling water until syrupy. Remove the buns from the oven and brush with the glaze while still warm. Cool, split in half, put the kettle on and invite your friend! M.E.

# General Knowledge!

1. Which English city is known as the Steel City?
2. Which former British colony was given back to China in 1997?
3. The logo for luxury car maker Porsche features which animal?
4. Which element is said to keep bones strong?
5. What does CIA stand for?
6. Who is the present U.S. Vice President? (April 2023)
7. Which fruit is found at the top of the men's Wimbledon trophy?
8. Haematology is the study of what?
9. What is the main ingredient in guacamole?
10. Which body sets the interest rates in the UK?
11. How many lives is a cat said to have?
12. Who founded the World Scouting Movement?
13. Of which country was Scott Morrison the previous Prime Minister?
14. What is a female elephant called?
15. Franz Josef Strauss Airport is located in which European city?
16. Which religion is based on the spiritual teaching of Guru Nanak?
17. On what date is Bastille Day celebrated in France?
18. Which mountain overlooks Cape Town in South Africa?
19. Caledonia was the Roman name for which modern day country?
20. Pyrophobia is the fear of what?

1.Sheffield 2.Hong Kong 3.prancing horse 4.calcium 5.Central Intelligence Agency 6.kamala  
Harris 7.pineapple 8.blood 9.avocado 10.Bank of England 11.9 12.Baden-Powell 13.Australia  
14.cow 15.Munich 16.Sikhism 17.14<sup>th</sup> July 18.Table Mountain 19.Scotland 20.fire

# RUNNING CLUB



Hello March, and hello a new month of Spring events for our keen Great Bentley runners to attend.

But in the meantime many have been off doing a variety of Parkruns.

Paul and Deb Hollidge went to Great Yarmouth to face the challenge of sandy terrain of North Beach Parkrun

The course was described by the run director as consisting of “mainly sand, in some places there was soft sand, in others there was very soft sand, some areas of the course were blessed with extremely soft sand and the remainder consisted of excruciatingly soft sand!!”

But this didn't put our runners off, and Debs finished 11th in a time of 29:59 and Paul followed her home in 12th place, also 29:59. Paul wasn't put off and said although runners are “unlikely to trouble the all time top ten on this course” he “highly recommends it all the same”.

And Bognor Regis didn't know what had hit it when Sammy Cotton, Donna Harris, Yolande Arnold and Laura Cook arrived following an, ahem, eventful evening. All four put in great effort on the course, followed by four rather excellent fry ups.

A little closer to home and Magdalena Komorowska visited Felixstowe – fun fact – the name means ‘happy place’ and this was certainly true for Mags, who ran her best 5k there in 21:54!

And several Essex tourist visits : Helen Taylor visited chilly Wickford and ran their Parkrun while over towards Romford, Mel Wismore, Bee Brent and Bev Shortley visited Raphael's Park for their 5k run – continuing their Parkrun tourism streak!

There was also the Chelmsford 10k/half marathon this month. Louise and David Balfour with Alison Clarke and Charlotte Hammond ran 10k in chilly conditions – a delayed start adding to the freeze factor! Pacian Andrews ran the half in 1:36 and John Ferdinand in 2:05 – excellent result in less than optimum conditions.

Essex 20 used to be a big event for the club when it took place at Langham. It still had a few Great Bentley runners turn up as finding a 20 mile road race is a challenge: so when one is available in Essex some found it too tempting to turn it down!

This was certainly the case for Charlie Keitch, who found it a challenge after his recent bout of Covid. He was joined by Chris Warren, Paul Davison and Inga Hayden-Cooper and all four found success. The race was around an old airfield and it was a ‘marmite’ event with some finding the constant laps tedious while to others it was a delight.

Chris and Inga both came third in their age categories, and were awarded bronze medals. Charlie ran a PB and Paul came fourth in his age category. Excellent running on a cold day!

Paul Brazier and Simon Leggett ran the Cambridge half in 1:33 and 1:28 respectively. Paul described it as a brilliant event, and a “mixture of rural and city running”. He recommends it for those hunting for a PB course!

Another big club event was The Grizzly. Some 30 GBRC runners headed down to Seaton for this annual event. The course matches the name with some serious hills, rivers, mud, shingle beaches and some serious cliffs to get up. However, all loved it and many are already talking about next year!!

## **MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR MAY MAGAZINE**

Magazine collating will be on **FRIDAY 28th APRIL**

in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am

## BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB

It was dark, cold, and damp outside... but indoors the complete opposite, as we welcomed our speaker, Mr David Webb, with a resounding 'Hi-De-Hi'!

David, with his twin brother Tony, played the twin Yellowcoats in the ever-popular BBC series 'Hi-de-Hi' which ran from 1980 until 1988. From the outset he delighted us with song, anecdotes and some very funny jokes. His professional delivery, illustrated with a variety of film clips and interviews, sparked a lot of nostalgia and laughter.

Growing up in Mistley, his love for the performing arts began as a boy with frequent visits to the Plaza cinema in Manningtree. He went on to join the Ipswich Operatic Society and featured in the cast of 'West Side Story', 'South Pacific' and 'Oklahoma'.

His professional career took off, and David and Tony went on to appear in theatres across the country with some famous names... Vera Lynn, Harry Secombe, Bruce Forsyth, Harry Worth, Dick Emery and even a certain young Gordon Sumner who of course went on to change his name to Sting!

He is now best recognised for his role in 'Hi-De-Hi' set in 'Maplins' the fictional holiday camp created by David Croft and Jimmy Perry. The series which was largely filmed in Dovercourt at the long-gone Warners Holiday Camp, won a BAFTA and was voted best comedy series for several years. It was evident that amongst the cast there grew a great camaraderie and those who are still able, have monthly get togethers and recall the great luck they had to have been involved in such a successful programme.

Members and guests thanked David for a wonderful evening's entertainment, and we have been told that the rapturous applause could be heard as far away as 'Crimpton-on-Sea'!

**Date for your diary: Tuesday 4th April...** our monthly meeting at the Village Hall 7.30pm ...**QUIZ NIGHT**  
(please bring own refreshments)

**New members & guests always welcome.**

## GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 13th April  
7.30pm Village Hall

### 'Colchester to Clacton - Part 2'

The second of Adrian Wright's railway talks.

The first of his talks was given in March

Members £2 at door

Visitors £4 at door

Contact: [thegreatbentleyhistorysociety@outlook.com](mailto:thegreatbentleyhistorysociety@outlook.com)

## GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

At our February meeting Members and Guests enjoyed a very interesting talk by Peter Simpson of Tending Tool Refurbishment, who told us about their work with TWAM (Tools with a Mission) refurbishing tools and making up kits to send to Africa to help communities start sustainable enterprises.

In March we will have welcomed Deb Hart, Willow Weaver, to speak at our meeting.

On **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** in the Village Hall it is our **Spring Show** when Members can exhibit their spring blooms and display their floral art and garden craft skills. Members, please enter as many exhibits as you can. There is a category for everyone. If anyone still needs a Schedule please contact Bob on 01206 251433 or [bob.newman@mac.com](mailto:bob.newman@mac.com). Please note that staging of entries is from 6.30pm and is to be completed by 7.15pm. Judging will commence promptly at 7.30pm. While judging takes place we will have some kind of garden-related activity and the raffle, and wine/soft drinks and nibbles will be provided.





# Wildlives

## Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre

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

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

Opening hours: n/a 07802 767016

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

### Climate massively impacting hedgehogs

April 2023

Hedgehogs are having a very difficult time at present because of the extremely changeable weather, which means they are continually hibernating, waking up, and hibernating again. The energy costs to wake up from hibernation are massive, and normally a hedgehog would need to only do this once, in Spring. You can help them by providing good quality cat biscuits or wet food, under an upturned box with a hole cut in it (otherwise the neighbourhood cats will probably start to visit) and clean water. Also, the periods of warming and rain have got the plants growing again, and people are strimming. The little hog on the left arrived weighing only 300g, with his strimmed leg massively swollen and infected to such a degree that even amputation was no longer an option, as the infection would have spread through his body. If you see anyone strimming, please politely remind them to check for hedgehogs; strimming to a level of three or four inches will miss any little sleepers in the grasses.

A juvenile pigeon was brought in after it was attacked. After treatment his wounds closed up nicely, and although he still has a somewhat strange haircut he is fit and well and will be released soon (left).

A buzzard was found by a member of the public on the side of the A12, almost certainly having been hit by a car. They called the RSPCA who collected him and brought him to Wildlives, He was in a very poor state, with both legs flopping. Although there was a nervous response in the legs and no breaks were found, he deteriorated quickly and we sadly concluded he had internal injuries, so he had to be euthanised..

A blue tit had a very lucky escape. A sparrowhawk tried to catch him at the bird feeders. Although the strike was unsuccessful, the blue tit did get a talon wound in his face. After treatment with antibiotics he recovered well and flew off at release; he has been seen back at the feeders later.

# Betty Tricker 1930- 2023

## Some memories



A few years ago, lifelong village resident and friend to many, Betty Tricker, Auntie Betty to her nephews and nieces and their families, told me that she had written some notes about her life, I think she had grand plans for writing a book, which she intended to call "Me, a name I call myself!" After she passed, we found those notes and I used them to help to write this.

Betty was born at the Plough Inn in Great Bentley, on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1930, the youngest child of Henry James and Nellie Vena Cowell. She had six brothers and sisters. The eldest George was born in 1915, then came Reg, who always referred to her as Babe. They were followed by Ida, Derrick, Peggy, Joan and three years later Betty.

Her early years were spent very happily with sisters. They often used to play in the loft above the stable at the Plough. The story goes that one day a certain young lady was responsible for a pot of whitewash falling from the stable loft all over Mr Griffiths, who was the headmaster of the village school, at the time.

Betty enjoyed attending Sunday School. Every year the church anniversary was an important day for her as it meant a new dress and bonnet. She looked forward to other village events, for example, the annual fair on the green where the swinging boats were her favourite. She adored dancing round the Maypole and taking part in fancy dress parades.

When she left Great Bentley school in 1944 at the age of fourteen, Betty went to work at North Primary School in Colchester as a trainee nursery nurse. She began her formal training in 1948. Little did she know that she would spend the next forty-six years of her working life in the nursery at the same school.

Every day, she would take the train from the village to Colchester. However, on her very last day, in July 1990, she decided to do something different. She asked her husband Harold to drive her in because she had an inkling that just maybe she would have a few extra things to bring home. The staff at the school had contacted British Rail who agreed to mark the occasion by presenting Auntie with a rail card and bouquet of flowers. When she announced her change of plans, there was a mad panic to contact Harold to ask him to divert to the station before heading off to Colchester. Television cameras were there, and Betty duly appeared on the local news that evening.

Betty had married Harold in 1960 and they moved into their bungalow which they had built on the south side of the green. They lived there happily for over forty years. They delighted in spending time with their nephews and nieces, taking them on day trips and organising family events, for example parties at Christmas. Sadly, Harold passed away in 2001.

Music and singing played a major part in Betty's life. At the end of the war, she started singing lessons and took exams in solo singing. As a twenty-first birthday present, a friend arranged for her to record one of her favourite songs at a professional recording studio. In the 1950s she was involved in Clacton Operatic Society appearing in many shows, even taking the lead in some. Betty was also a member of various choirs throughout the years.

Betty was a keen pianist and for several years she played at morning service at the Methodist Church, only giving up when her eyesight began to fail. Her own trusty piano was a magnet for the younger members of the family and Auntie would look on and listen with great pleasure and encouragement.

Everyone who knew Betty would recognise what a proudly independent lady she was. Every week she would take the bus that passed through the village to Clacton or Colchester to do her shopping. In her later years she continued to take part in village events, for example the various Jubilee celebrations. She was a member of various clubs and enjoyed outings with them.

Betty reached her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020, in the midst of Covid. We would have loved to have given her a big party but because of the regulations in force at the time, we had to organise a surprise event for her in the garden, with only a very limited number of guests being able to visit her at any one time. But it didn't matter, Auntie had a marvellous day!

Auntie Betty managed to look after herself until early December when she had some falls and was consequently admitted to hospital. Sadly, she never returned to her beloved bungalow and passed away on January 24<sup>th</sup> at Silver Springs Care Home.

Betty's passing marks the end of a generation. She was the remaining link with our parents. She was much loved by all who knew her and will be greatly missed.

### Isabel Barton (niece)

Betty's nephews and nieces would like to thank all those who attended her funeral on 28th February. She would have been very happy to see so many of you there.

## Osyth – An inspirational woman.

March was International Women in History month. It brought to mind the life of an inspirational woman who lived on our doorstep over 1300 years ago. Osyth was born an Anglo-Saxon princess. She was raised by her maternal aunts, St Edith of Aylesbury and Edburga of Bicester. Edith sent the child Osyth on an errand to deliver a book to St. Modwenna in her nunnery in Northumberland. On the way, whilst crossing a stream, the child was swept into the water and drowned. It was 3 days before she was found and the two holy abbesses prayed for her and she was restored to life. It is no wonder Osyth had an ambition to become an abbess following this miraculous experience. This was not a role that would have left her in a peaceful, prayer life of obscurity. Anglo-Saxon women were powerful members of society. As an abbess Osyth would have had the opportunity for a great deal of influence, perhaps patronising churches and training clergy. Her contemporary, Hilda of Whitby was credited as being a great influencer in the Christianisation of Anglo-Saxon England. She was said to be so wise that kings and princes sought her advice. It may well have been that the strong and fiercely independent Osyth desired a life with more influence than being a wife would have given her.

Not a lot is known about the Anglo-Saxon Nunnery, all that remains is a small section of wall. Osyth was part of a wealthy and influential family and related to powerful and influential abbesses who, like Osyth, left a saintly legacy. Interestingly, a memorial stone was discovered at Lindisfarne bearing the name Osyth. The stone is dated to 700AD, the year Osyth was beheaded by Vikings. Her family had connections in Northumberland. Her seal is now in the collection of Alnwick Castle in Northumberland. Was there a connection to the north of the country that saw her memorialised in this famous monastery?

Figure 1 replica memorial stone found at Lindisfarne Priory

Osyth is a famous cephalophore; a saint who is depicted carrying their own severed head. One might think this is quite an unusual event, however there are more than 120 head-carrying saints in Christian literature. These stories seem to have begun in Celtic Britain before spreading across Europe. Perhaps there is a connection with Celtic tradition and an attempted assimilation into Catholicism. Winifred of Wales was a contemporary of Osyth. Winifred was decapitated by her suitor who was enraged that Winifred had chosen to become a nun instead of marrying him. All was not lost as her uncle, Saint Beuno, was able to rejoin head to body and she was restored to life. Osyth is one of only a few who was made a saint by being martyred by Vikings.

As with Saint Winifred, where Osyth was beheaded a spring of healing water burst from the ground. The site became a place of pilgrimage and a lucrative source of income for the monks who later set up a monastery in the village. Following the Norman Conquest there was a revival of Anglo-Saxon saints, including the cult of Osyth. In 1121 work started to build a Priory on the site of the original Anglo-Saxon nunnery. It became a site of pilgrimage for the Holy Water and a centre of learning. It was soon upgraded to an Abbey but the name Priory had stuck. Relics of Osyth were kept at the altar of the massive church on the site and Osyth was expected to protect the community of the monks who venerated her. In medieval times the relationship with the saints and their relics was expected to be reciprocal. If monks felt that saints were not doing their part they would stop praying for them or even complete solemn rituals to curse them. These acts were designed to coerce saints into caring for the community who venerated them. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century the monks were faced with having a new Bishop appointed over them who they didn't approve of. Osyth did not appear to be aiding their cause and so the humiliation began, it reached the point where her relics were removed from the church. Osyth finally intervened and the Bishop was struck down with a lameness that prevented him from taking the position and the monks candidate was appointed instead.

Figure 2 stained glass window of Osyth in the Chapel at the Priory

Throughout medieval times Osyth was a common feature in people's prayers and nightly rituals with folk making the sign of the cross in the ashes of their hearth and praying to her for protection "from fire, and from water, and from all misadventure." John Aubrey *Brief Lives*.

Having not been included in Bede's Ecclesiastical history she has largely been forgotten by history. At St. Osyth Priory Education Centre we are working to rectify this and teach future generations about this powerful and inspiring woman who was a huge influence on her community in her lifetime and for centuries after.

## Nye Bevan

Bob: 'Good morning, Saint Peter. Is Nye there? You know, Aneurin Bevan, the father and founder of the British National Health Service back in 1948.'

St. P: 'Yes, of course he's here. He's so very proud of his achievement back then, but these days he swears a lot.'

Bob: 'What has caused his swearing? He was such a gentleman, except when he talked to that awful Morrison fellow.'

St. P: 'It's the state of his NHS - he's so cross. His shouting has caused a sore throat.'

Bob: 'Is the heaven doctor not available?'

St. P: 'No. Since the crisis, he's been very busy looking after several heavens.'

Bob: 'A crisis up in heaven? That's strange, some say our crisis down here was heaven-sent as well. Great changes had to be made because of it, but we didn't mind, we are so grateful.'

St. P: 'Grateful? Ha! Nye's hopping mad. Dr Williams, his village doctor back home when he was a child was always available. His old surgery is now closed at weekends, and also closed for training days - whatever they are.'

Bob: 'Yes - training days - essential for front-of-house staff. Nobody is ill on those team-bonding sessions. Is Nye there?'

St. P: 'No, sorry. He's in the garden, learning how to use a mobile phone. He was told not to attend the surgery because he may infect someone. Instead, he must phone in to talk to a receptionist. He doesn't understand, people in his day went to see Dr Williams because they had an infection, not stay away from Dr Williams because they have an infection.'

Bob: 'Nye will have to send a photograph of his tonsils to the heaven doctor. Tell him to poke a lollipop stick in his mouth and say *Aahhhh*, then take a picture at the same time. Is his phone an android? An adenoid can be photographed using an android. Try not to get those two confused.'

St. P: 'He can't hold a lollipop stick and a mobile at the same time, he's 125 years old. It's not fair. And he certainly dislikes the idea of waiting a month to see a doctor. His dream was that everyone contributed equally, so everyone was treated fairly.'

Bob: 'Yes, I know, but a patient can only be treated as fairly as the resources will allow, doctors have to share the load. That's why, when in hospital, a patient will never see the same doctor twice. Since the crisis, emotional attachment is frowned upon, so data sharing is vital.'

St P: 'Data sharing? Nye had Dr Williams writing records in the old days - notes scribbled down in a special code that only Dr Williams could understand. But it worked, he never got people mixed up.'

Bob: 'Yes, doc-script was legendary. But hand-written notes have now been replaced by the computer which makes it easier to get people mixed up. But the good thing about having all medical records on a flash drive is that staff can work from home, the new child-minding, puppy-walking normal.'

St P: 'Working from home? New? Dr Williams used to work from home back in the 1950's because his surgery was in his front room and Mrs Dr Williams used to bring his mid-morning cup of tea and a garibaldi. Why can't patients go round to the doctor's house like the old days?'

Bob: 'Because, on Mondays and Fridays, the doctor is working in a private clinic in the Seychelles.'

St P: 'Oh dear. Nye's just thrown his mobile at a cherub. He's upset. He promised everyone full access to medical expertise, people trusted him.'

Bob: 'Sssh, don't say the word, 'Trust'. It's a misnomer down here, they hate each other. Trusts have been around since April Fool's Day, 2004. The idea of a Trust was to waste somebody else's money more efficiently, and without being made accountable. The idea has worked really well. Anyway, at 125 years of age, nobody will listen to Nye anymore. Has he still got his pension money? He might have to go private.'

St P: 'Go private? But that's why he launched the NHS in the first place - to avoid discrimination.'

Bob: 'But it's different today, times have changed. For instance, down here, we will shortly have the new NHS Premium Clinicare Service. People can apply online for their free Clinicare card which will provide a fast-track option - for a fee. Just a few minor details will be needed: an email address; bank account details with a current utilities bill; and the name and address of your next of kin. Of course, extra regional non-medical staff will be essential in order to deliver this flagship service: a new Logistics Manager; an Internal HR Co-ordinator; and a Marketing Executive (salaries eye-watering). In line with government equality guidelines, those applicants most suited for the job need not apply. Again, it will be launched on an April Fool's Day.'

St P: 'Such progress. Oh dear, Nye doesn't look well at all, I think he needs a miracle.'

Bob: 'The great man in need of a miracle? The NHS once delivered miracles on a daily basis because of Nye. Today, it is the NHS which is in need of one. Poor Nye, that Morrison fellow must be laughing his head off.'

**JE**

Church Fair  
Saturday 13th of May

**MAY FAYRE**  
**St Mary's Church  
and Churchyard**  
**Saturday 13th May**  
**12 noon until 4pm**

Large BBQ, Lots of Cakes,  
Ice creams, Strawberries &  
Chocolate Fountain

Do come early and have lunch.

Tombola, Large Raffle, Bric-a-Brac Stall,  
Children's Activities, Book Stall, Plant Stall,  
Cake & Produce Stall, Gifts and Crafts.  
Bellringing demonstrations and music

Please call  
Nicky Justice  
07941 357122  
for further details

As well as all of our usual stalls this year, we are lucky enough to have an added attraction.

This is your chance to come and have a go at ringing the Mini Church bells and to learn more about them. There will also be a **chance to win a voucher kindly donated by the Barn Cafe**, if you can correctly guess the weight of our biggest bell in the Church.

We will be having a large **BBQ, chocolate fountain and refreshments** so make sure you come for lunch. We would be grateful for any **donations of cakes and produce on the day. Also any books, bric-a-brac, tombola prizes or plants** that can be left at the back of the Church or in the porch of Caldew Cottage on the green prior to the event. For further information contact  
Nicky Justice 07941 357122

**Saturday 24th of June**

Hooray the carnival's going ahead!

Theme for 2023: The Commonwealth



New volunteers, including some who recently moved to the village, are stepping up to help the committee contribute to the planning for the event.

Since January's meeting the Carnival and Fete Association has met twice and as we go to press are continuing preparations.

Entertainment confirmed so far includes Maverick One Man Circus Shows and Tailwaggers Dog Club. Further acts to be announced!

The event will bring our community together and raise significant funds for local children's' groups who will be grateful to all those who have already signed-up to advertise in the programme.

If you know of any businesses who would like to support the event and its beneficiaries then donations for the silent auction or raffle can be offered via [gb.carnival.secretary@outlook.com](mailto:gb.carnival.secretary@outlook.com).

Many hands make light work; if you're able to offer an hour or two on the day further volunteers willing to help with the following would be appreciated!

\* Road marshals \* Parking \* Technical / sound \* Preparing The Green \* Clearing away

Are you considering a career in marketing or perhaps have some technical skills and time available in the lead-up to the event? If you would like to help update our website or social media this would be welcome.

New volunteers are always welcome to the meetings. These will be at 8pm in the Methodist Church's Hall on Thursdays 20th of April and 11th of May.

Applications from stallholders new and old have been flooding in. As we go to press there are still a couple of spaces available in the programme. If you're interested in advertising or running a stall it's not too late to request a booking form from the Chair, Julie via 07585 558660 or [julestheedom@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julestheedom@hotmail.co.uk). Please note that stalls can only be booked via our official form.

To be kept up-to-date search Facebook for "Great Bentley Carnival and Fete".

**Make sure you save the date - Saturday 24th of June!**



## **CORBEAU SEATS CAR RALLY 22nd and 23rd April**

The Closed Roads will be from the Junction of the B1027 and Frowick Lane to the crossroads where it turns left on to Highbirch Road, turns left onto Bentley Road and then right onto The Tye Road and stops before Weeley Road.

These roads will be closed from 7:00am until around 17:00 or as soon as the Stage Commander deems it safe to do so.

Residents on Wick Road, Lovers Lane and St Mary's Road will not be able to access the closed road, but all residents will have passes to access property when it is safe to do so. The information on the leaflets (some have already been delivered the rest will be delivered to their doors in the very near future; describes what to do and who to contact to achieve access safely.



There is a spectator area at the junction of Bentley Road and The Tye Road which will be accessible from Wick Road.

### **Great Bentley Hedgehog Highways**



A Facebook page set up by Demi Harvey and Emma Garrood. Veterinary nurses from Kinfauns Vets based in little Clacton 01255 860555

We want to help people encourage hedgehogs into their garden. By writing a monthly diary, we want to increase your understanding of hedgehogs and how you can help them as the seasons change.

April is here, by mid April hedgehogs should be fully awake from hibernation and active. The hedgehog will be busy foraging each night. They will be searching for food such as insects, slugs, snails, earthworms and other small creatures. The hedgehog is nocturnal and has very poor eye sight and relies on their acute hearing and sense of smell to locate and catch food. The hedgehog will put its head to the ground to hear and catch an earth worm.

If you are lucky enough to have hedgehogs visiting your garden and already have a feeding station providing fresh food and water this is a good time of year to introduce a hedgehog house to encourage hedgehogs to set up homes in your garden. There are many different designs.

\*The house can be a purpose bought or a home made wooden house. The house needs a small door way, with a tunnel on the entrance, to try and prevent cats and other animals getting in. It also needs to have a removable roof for easy cleaning.

\*Brick built, is a very easy way to create a small structure with a small door way. Bricks can even be used to create a tunnel door way. The roof needs to be water proof corrugated plastic is very useful.

\* A log pile or compost heap is a natural option to provide a hedgehog home. With the added benefit of encouraging insects for prey.

\*A messy overgrown patch or corner of the garden. The area needs to be undisturbed so a hedgehog feels safe to make a nest for their young or for hibernation.

Whatever design of home you choose for your garden it is actually better to keep the food separate in a feeding station. By doing this it reduces the risk of other animals entering the hedgehogs home/safe place.

**Emma Garrood RVN, C&GCertVNES**

**CORONATION EVENTS  
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM 3rd APRIL**

## ANNUAL DIARY

29/30th April	Bluebell Woods Open Weekend
6th May	Coronation Dance on the Green
7th May	Coronation Afternoon Tea on the Green
13th May	Church May Fayre
20th May	Gardening Club Plant Sale
24th June	Carnival Day
1st July	Outdoor Theatre Production
1/2nd July	Flower Festival, Methodist Church
24/25 August	Clacton Air Show
2nd September	Village Show
16/17 September	St Mary's Flower and Art Festival
4th November	Autumn Fayre, Methodist Church
2/3 December	St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

**The Post Office is situated  
at the front of the Garage**

### **GREAT BENTLEY POST OFFICE**

#### **OPENING HOURS**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9am - 1pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9am - 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9am - 12 noon</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am - 12 noon</b>

## **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 Mobile 07870311610

email; [linda.bear@sky.com](mailto:linda.bear@sky.com)

## APRIL DIARY

- Sat 1st **HANDELS MESSIAH**, St James' Church, Clacton, 6pm
- Sun 2nd **PLANT SALE & OPEN DAY AT BARNES SPINNEY NATURE RESERVE**, Hall Lane, Walton, 10.30am-2pm
- Tues 4th **BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Fri 7th **GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP**
- Fri 7th **DEANERY CHOIR**, Faure's Requiem, 6.30pm St Mary's Church, Little Bentley
- Sun 9th Easter Sunday, **DEANERY CHOIR**, 10.30am, St George's Church, Gt Bromley.
- Tues 11th **ART CLUB**, Village Hall, 2-5pm
- Thurs 13th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Fri 14th MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Fri 14th **COFFEE MORNING**, Methodist Church, 10amSat
- Sat 15th **COFFEE MORNING**, St Mary's Church Hall, 10-12 noon
- Tues 18th **GARDENING CLUB**, Spring Show, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Thurs 20th **KNIT & NATTER**, Church Hall, 2pm
- Thurs 20th **CARNIVAL MEETING**, Methodist Church, 8pm
- Fri 21st **CRICKET PRACTICE BEGINS**, see page 22.
- Sat 22nd **RUSSELL WATSON**, Chelmsford Cathedral, 7.30pm
- Sat 22/Sun 23rd **COBEAU SEATS CAR RALLY**
- Sun 23rd **DEANERY CHOIR**, St Nicholas Church, Harwich, 10.30am
- Tues 25th **ART CLUB**, Village Hall, 2-5pm
- Fri 28th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, Church Hall, 9am
- Sat/Sun 29th/30th **THORRINGTON BLUEBELL WOODS OPEN WEEKEND**, 11-4pm