

Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community
for the Community**



July 2023

Village Information

St Mary's Church

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CO16 8NX 01255 822055

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ST MARY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

St Mary's Church, Great Bentley.

ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE

stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk

ST MARY'S SUNDAY CLUB

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PODIATRIST:

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

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

GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk to the Parish Council Jennifer Spear
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Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

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GT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL: - 01206 250331

COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL: - 01206 303511

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01206 250309

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07503 153960

VILLAGE CARETAKER:

Robert McWilliams, 07598 640622

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Alan Bayliss, 01206 250450

TREE WARDEN

Sue and Faris Shimali 07973 534301

EDITORIAL

Congratulations to April Young, the author of our Pet Notes and owner of Weeley Veterinary Centre. I was so pleased to be invited along to the awards presentation at Weeley Village Hall when April was awarded **Best New Start-Up AND Best Vet Practice in the UK**. No wonder they are all smiling!! What a success in such a short space of time.

Thanks must go as always to our Bentley in Bloom Team for the lovely summer displays. Congratulations also to Bentley Green Players for their latest production, which I was sad to miss. Well done to our Speedwatch Team who are doing a sterling job trying to make our village a safer place to live in. All these things are possible because of volunteers and if you could help to support them in any way they would, I am sure, be very grateful.

As I write this the sound of thunder pervades the air and the rain is pouring down, music to the ears of all gardeners and farmers alike. The lovely hot sunny days were wonderful but the watering regime was taking its toll and just does not do the same job as the natural solution. The plants are all looking better already.

On Saturday there will be a performance by Chameleon's Web Theatre Company of Peter Pan in the grounds of St Mary's church. Last year's production was amazing, so I do hope lots of you will be able to go. On the same day and on Sunday 2nd July, the Methodist church will be holding their annual Flower Festival. Another treat not to miss.

On Friday 7th July Running Club will be organising the Friday Five and on the green there will be a Children's Event. **Road closures will be in place briefly**. See Running Club Notes for further details.

Grateful thanks to everyone who supported St Mary's Church Gift and Open Day. It was so lovely that people came along to learn more about the church and its history. The donations given were truly generous too.

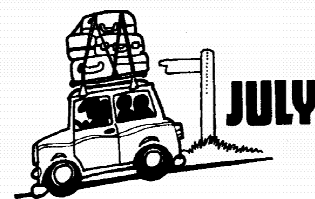
Thanks to Andy Owen who writes our Gardening Notes each month. I call him the Dahlia Man. He gave me some lovely plants and the money donated is going to the upkeep of the churchyard. There are a few left and I will leave them by my front porch.

Don't forget the Tendring Show on Saturday 8th July, a great day out for all the family. **Congratulations** to Bethanie Moore who has won the free tickets by answering the Quiz in the June magazine. We hope you enjoy your free day out.

Not long now until the Village Show and Show Schedules are available in the village shops. We include the Photographic Categories in this month's magazine.

Enjoy all the events going on in our village and around.

Mary Maskell



2023

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FRONT COVER

April Young on the right hand side of the sign holding her award (behind her daughter Alice), and members of staff from Weeley Veterinary Centre.

See Pet Notes on page 9.

DISCLAIMER

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LETTERS FOR JULY

Dear Friends,

Many thanks for all your support over the month and please join in our prayers for Rev. Sharon Miles as she continues in her recovery. We continue as a busy church and hope that all who attended 'Churches Count on Nature Day' enjoyed their exploration of the churchyard. We will be giving an update on all that was discovered by the children and adults at a later date. All those who took the bird feeders and sunflowers home I hope they are doing well. Our Gift Aid was a busy time and thanks to all that attended and all those who contributed to make the day a wonderful success.

We will be continuing with our coffee mornings which are held on the third Saturday of every month. Alternate months we donate profits from the coffee morning to a charity. This a reminder that the proceeds from the coffee morning in November will be going to the Children's Society. An invite will be sent out to all those with boxes to bring them along in the morning.

Please can I ask all those who visit the churchyard to either take their rubbish home with them or use the bins provided as a mark of respect to those visiting loved ones in the churchyard. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

Best wishes

Canon Wendy King
Reader

I was on the phone the other day with a friend who was seeking help and guidance, he was in distress and did not know who to turn to. I often wonder how to respond when someone says "I don't know who to turn to for help." Throughout our lives we face storms that threaten, confuse and disorient us; we experience a wide range of emotions, despair, anxiety, joy, anger, peace, fear, helplessness. Often, we begin seeking wisdom as a counterbalance to these movements of feelings that randomly overtake our lives, but not everyone finds it easy, like my friend, he did not know who to turn to for guidance. Who do we turn to for help and guidance?

When the psalmist felt distressed or afraid, he turned to God; he was not afraid to share his experiences; emotions, and feelings;

"O Lord hear me as I pray; pay attention to my groaning. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I pray to no one but you. Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.....Lead me in the right path O Lord." *Psalm 5. 1-3, 8*

To admit that we are distressed or afraid is not a weakness but courage; courage to seek help and guidance, courage to seek clarity and listen to our feelings. Awareness of our emotions and feelings can help us to know what is going on in our lives and from that we can make good decisions and take good actions. Like the psalmist, who when he looked inside himself and saw only fear, he looked up to God, and was able to put his situation into proper perspective. He felt God's love and presence and he began to see his way out.

Day by day, God is an ever-present help and guide who delivers us from our distress. He is a good friend who listens without judging and he gives us the freedom to choose what actions to take, and which way to follow, the way of peace and joy.

What are your emotional needs? Who do you turn to for help and guidance?

All good wishes,

Deacon Angela Shereni

St. Mary's Church Facebook Page

St. Mary's Church now has a facebook page!

Here we will be posting news of upcoming services, as well as any forthcoming events or fundraising. Please like and follow the page to keep up to date with our news, the page name is 'St. Mary's Church Great Bentley'.

facebook

ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE

stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk

**COFFEE
MORNING**

Saturday 15th July

St Mary's Church Hall

10.00am - 12 noon





GREAT BENTLEY

METHODIST CHURCH

Forge Lane CO7 8GD

Don't forget our Facebook page.

Search for Gt Bentley Methodist Church

Hire our warm, large or small halls with fully serviced kitchen. Ring 250087

Greetings to you all

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

July 2nd	Anne Beeton - Flower Festival
July 9th	Rev Tom Osborne HC
July 16th	Peter Wright
July 23rd	WL Marion Gourley
July 30th	Rev Steve Sutton

Events in July:

Reminder. It's our Flower Festival on the 1st & 2nd July. On the Sunday evening 7pm a concert by the Boxted Silver band. Tickets from jackie@kilby-rawcliffe.co.uk 250717 See the poster in this magazine.

Prayer Meeting. We meet for prayer on the second Wednesday of each month 9.45 for 10am at our Church. This month 12th July.

Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 12th July

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.

Messy Church 18th July After school for children and their Parent/Carer

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

ST MARY'S SERVICES

Sunday 4th July - Trinity 4 - Laurie Bond

10am Joint Benefice service with St Osyth

Friday 7th July

9.15am Standing Committee

Sunday 9th July - Trinity 5 - David Branch

9.30am Morning Prayer

Thursday 13th July

7.30pm PCC Meeting, Church Hall

Saturday 15th July

10-12 noon Coffee Morning, Church Hall

Sunday 16th July - Trinity 6 - Wendy King

9.30am Family Service

Thursday 20th July

2-3.30pm pm Knit & Natter, Church Hall

Sunday 23rd July - Trinity 7 - Wendy King

9.30am Morning Prayer

Sunday 30th July - Trinity 8 - Wendy King

9.30am Family Service

ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR JULY

Sidespersons & Readers

2nd	Vicky Rothwell
9th	Carole Allington
16th	The Wright children
23rd	Lynn & Roger Carey-Smith
30th	Linda Hayes

Prayer Rota

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

Coffee Rota

2nd	Lyn Gordon
9th	Mandy Miles
16th	Annabel Stearn
23rd	Nicky Justice
30th	Vicky Rothwell

Cleaning Rota

1st	Carol Kerridge & Lea Howlett
8th	David & Rosemary Branch
15th	Mandy Miles
22nd	Edna Black
29th	Bev Adams

AGEWELL EAST

Living happier and healthier

We welcome you to come to our

COFFEE MORNING Dementia Friendly

Every 4th Thursday of the month
between 10.00am - 12 noon

United Church, Chapel Road,
Brightlingsea, Colchester, CO7 0HF

A chance to have company,
chat and meet others over
tea, coffee and biscuits.

enquiries@agewelleast.org.uk
or phone 0300 37 33 333

Thursday 25th July

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

Mobile library in Great Bentley and Aingers Green

The details for Great Bentley are as follows:

Larkfield Road, Great Bentley
Postcode
CO7 8PX

Time

14:00 - 14:30



The details for Aingers
Green are as follows:

Crossroads Triangle, Aingers Green
Postcode
CO7 8NR

Time

14:45 - 15:15

2023 Dates

06-July, 27-July, 17-August,
07-September, 28-September, 19-October, 09-
November, 30-November, 21-December

WELCOME

New residents to 22 Birch Avenue
and Pandora to Cottage Farm



FOUND

Found on the Green
a House Key

Please contact
Carole Allington
01206 251086

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing a very happy
85th Birthday to
HEATHER TAYLOR
on 12th July

Love from Eunice and Barry
Sarah and Dan, James and Chy



THE DEANERY CHOIR

July 9th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at the 10.30am communion service. The anthem that they will be performing is, 'The call of wisdom' by Will Todd. Commissioned by the Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral for the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen, with generous sponsorship by The Worshipful Company of Horners. On June 5th 2012, The Call of Wisdom was presented on the occasion of a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, for the 60th Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, performed by the specially auditioned Diamond Choir, formed of children from all over the UK, alongside choristers of St Paul's Cathedral and the Chapel Royal, conducted by Andrew Carwood.

July 23rd

The Deanery choir will be singing at **All Saints Church, Wrabness CO11 2TQ** at the 6.30pm Choral Evensong service. The anthem that they will be performing is, 'When rooks fly homeward' by Arthur Baynon. This is a beautifully crafted setting of words by the Irish poet Joseph Campbell (1879-1944) – the second poem in a collection titled 'The Mountainy Singer' (Dublin, 1909). Its composer, **Arthur Baynon** (1889-1954), was briefly organist at St. Michael's College, Tenbury, in Worcestershire. The Choir will also sing a setting of Psalm 103 by Philip Moore and a setting of Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Orlando Gibbons.

July 30th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Mary's Church, Little Bentley CO7 8SE** at the 11am communion service. The anthem that they will be performing is, 'Locus Iste' by Bruckner. The text is the Latin [gradual](#) for the annual celebration of a church's dedication. The [incipit](#), *Locus iste a Deo factus est*, translates to "This place was made by God". The choir will also sing an introit, Lord make me to know thy ways by English composer William Byrd which was written in 1570.

Graham Bell

THANK YOU

John and Agnes Walters would like to thank everyone, including our family, for all the messages, cards, flowers and gifts for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We were also honoured to receive a card from the King and Queen.

Lorraine and Alan Bayliss

Congratulations on your
Diamond Wedding Anniversary
(60th)
on 27th July

With love from
all the family
xxx



SILVER WEDDING

Happy Silver Wedding Anniversary to

Gary Fairclough

for 1st August

Lots of Love
Tasha xx



SCHOOL NEWS

Great Bentley Primary School are proud to have made the commitment pledge towards being a Healthy School and are proud to share this.

Spelling Bee Victory for Great Bentley

The final round of the inter school Spelling Bee was hosted at the school. In three competitions children from Great Bentley have competed against the strongest spellers from Frinton Primary, Elmstead Primary, Engaines and Claydon Primary in a brutal knock out competition. The standard of spelling has been excellent and the competitions have been tough. In the KS1 and LKS2 competitions Great Bentley battled to the end, but other schools just had the edge. Jonah and Lois (both previous whole school winners of the Spelling Bee cup) competed for our school alongside Sam and James. They all got into the final two rounds and were faced with some very difficult words - delighted to say that Jonah then secured the victory for Great Bentley.

Year 3

Year 3 have been busy learning about the different layers of the rainforest. They learnt there were four different layers called the Emergent Layer, Canopy Layer, Understory Layer and Forest Floor. They have looked at the type of conditions you would find in each layer as well as the animals. They then used their collaging skills in art to work in a group to create each layer.

Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed a train ride to Colchester where they visited the Mercury Theatre for a tour and scriptwriting workshop. This linked with the work they are currently doing in English where they are writing their own play scripts. They were also able to enjoy a picnic in Castle Park before returning home. They were able to go on stage, behind the scenes, explore the tech box, go into costume design as well as have a Q and A with the members of the theatre team.

Year 5

Year 5 have been learning about the lifecycle of birds. They cracked some eggs and used magnifying glasses to identify the different parts and then learnt about the functions of these parts. They didn't crack a single egg onto the floor - what a miracle!

In English the children have been passionately debating whether footballers deserve to be paid so much money - they are then listening to other people's views in order to compose a balanced argument - it is quite tricky to keep it balanced when they have very strong views!

RECYCLING

RECYCLING AT GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS BEEN SUSPENDED

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

Sadly the season fizzled out disappointingly for both teams. For the 1st team after winning the Amos Cup semi-final. The much anticipated final against Cavendish FC has now been held over until a date to be confirmed for next season.



The reserves last league game of the season against Barnston Res which was to be played at home and would have had good support from the club was called off when Barnston could not raise a team. Both teams had been promoted this season and comfortably consolidated their places in the higher leagues. 1st team finishing 6th in Division 1 and finalists in the Amos Cup. Reserves finishing 4th in Division 3 and finalists in the Reserve KO Cup.

For next season 2023/24 we will be running a 3rd team. To be known as Great Bentley 'A'. With a number of players moving up from the youth under 16 side, it is hoped to provide a stepping stone into the adult ranks. We hope to use the pitch on the southside.

Pre-season training will commence on the green Tuesday 4th July at 7 00pm. New players are always welcome. Please come along & introduce yourself to Jack Murray or Greg Taylor.

Saturday May 20th. Clacton Golf Club hosted our end of season presentation evening. In nice surroundings over 70 people sat down to a very nice meal which was followed by some hilarious speeches and presentation of trophies to players. After the meal, some dodgy dancing was seen on the dance floor before the evening ended at midnight.

Thanks to everyone at Clacton Golf Club. Also to Gordon "Gumby" Lawrence for liaising with the golf club and Sarah Walker for arranging bouquets etc.

Great Bentley FC would also like to thank all the friends of the club and local businesses that have helped and sponsored the club this season.

Follow Great Bentley Football Club on Facebook & Twitter for all the latest information.

Come on the Bulldogs

GREAT BENTLEY ART CLUB

Tuesday 11th July.

A Brightlingsea resident has very kindly invited us to paint and draw in her garden during the afternoon and we are all very grateful to be given this opportunity.

Tuesday 25th July.

One of our long term club members, an Alresford resident, has kindly allowed us to hold our meeting in her garden during the afternoon.

We are all hoping that the weather remains fine for both events.

FOOD BANK

The main needs at the moment are for basic tinned and packeted foods, Longlife milk, squash, biscuits, tinned fruit, vegetables and meat. (At the present time they have a good stock of pasta thanks).

Thank you for your continued support as donations have decreased recently.

Please leave any donations at the back of St Mary's church in the boxes provided.

Willow Weaving Workshop

Debrah (Deb) Hart is a local and well respected artist in all forms of willow weaving and plans are for her to run a Garden Structures Willow Weaving workshop in Alresford, Essex on Sunday 2nd July.

The workshop will be hosted by an Alresford resident in her large garden and as it's an outdoor event, Sunday 9th July has been set as a reserve date should the 2nd be poor weather.

The workshop is aimed at all levels including absolute beginners, and all materials are included in the cost which is £80. (The workshop would normally cost £90).

During the workshop you will be shown how to construct an obelisk to take home for your garden, the cost of this if purchased via Deb's website would be £40 to £50

For more details or to book a place please contact Chris on 07484 334698.

Deb's website is at www.debhart.co.uk

Great Bentley Methodist Church
in the centre of Great Bentley Green

Flower Festival

Theme "Famous Monarchs"



Light Lunches, Stalls &
Strawberry Teas

Join in the fun Quiz guess the Monarch/Subject

Saturday 1st July 10am to 5pm
& Sunday 2nd July 11.30am to 5pm

Plus Sunday 7pm Concert by
Boxted Silver Band tickets £10

Sales Jackie Kilby 01206 250717 Jackie@kilby-rawcliffe.co.uk



Village Hall AGM

Tuesday 11th July 7.30pm

Village Hall - All welcome

Always looking for new
committee members

Bev Adams 250 724

Friends of The Green

Grand Garage Trail

**This year will be on
Sunday September 16th**

To book an entry onto the map:
Tel: Bev 01206 250 724

(Entries for the map by August 31st
and £7 in advance please)

P.S. You can also enjoy the
Church Flower Festival on the same day



**Weeley
Veterinary
Centre**

PET NOTES



Announcement: Weeley Veterinary Centre wins “Best Vet UK 2023”

June was a huge month for my team at Weeley Veterinary Centre. Every year VetHelpDirect presents awards to the veterinary practices with the most four and five star reviews. I was hoping, with the help of our clients, we could win the award for Best New Start-Up but we surpassed my wildest expectations and won the overall competition. My humble little practice is officially the Best Vet in the whole of the United Kingdom!

This is the first time a new practice has won this prestigious award and I am truly grateful to every single pet owner who supported us by writing a review.

On Wednesday 14th June I attended a red carpet awards ceremony in London with my Practice Manager and Head Nurse. Growing up I always knew I wanted to be a vet and had lots of dreams for the future. Opening my own practice was one whereas attending a red carpet event where I would accept the main award and make a speech was never even on my radar.

The next day representatives from VetHelpDirect made a special journey to Weeley to meet our entire team. Following a photo shoot at the practice, we held a celebration in the village hall where Councillor Lynda McWilliams presented our team with several awards in the company of as many pet owners as the hall could comfortably accommodate. There was cake, bubbly, a buffet and a whole load of gold balloons. Thank you to everyone who joined us. I thoroughly enjoyed the London award ceremony, however the celebration with our local community was the highlight for me.

It truly was an incredible week. I would like to sing the praises of every single member of my team at Weeley Veterinary Centre. One vet does not a practice make. My colleagues are the hardest working, caring and dedicated professionals I have ever worked alongside and I am delighted to spend the remainder of my working life serving your pets with them.

Dr April Young MRCVS

SESAW NEWS

We had perfect weather for lazing in the sun last month but a chap can't relax with all that tweeting going on. Not the volunteers, they don't have time to look at their mobile phones! I was worried about a little bird constantly calling until Mum told me to leave it alone.

Apparently, it is normal for a fledgling to spend time on the ground whilst learning to fly. If you see one, observe it discreetly, return it to the nest or place it on a branch away from predators. If it is injured, call the nearest wild life rescue otherwise wait for the parents who may be nearby waiting to feed it.

I also saw bees in the garden which prompted one of the girls to say: a swarm in May is worth a load of hay, in June it's worth a silver spoon but July is not worth a fly!

Hay was on the menu for the many rabbits we have, including two and a half year old sisters, Millie and Billie. They have been with us for a long time because they had territorial issues on arrival. Since moving into larger accommodation they have become more sociable and like to 'help' on cleaning out days! They are very fond of each other and sit together, watching the world go by.

If you are looking for a new pet please visit us, 10am-1pm, Thursday to Sunday. Animals bring so much joy to families and those living alone. Some even rule the roost like me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

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

Millie Billie Rabbits

**Christopher and
Virginia Palmer-Tomkinson
invite you to the Little Bentley Hall Son et
Lumiere
Friday 8th September, 4.30-10.30pm**

**In aid of Local Churches and
Alzheimer's Society**

Little Bentley Hall offers a rare chance to have a look round one of East Anglia's finest private gardens just outside Colchester, famous for its Lake and Ancient Waterway. You will be able to enjoy unique light and music illumination show, all raising funds for local charities including churches and the Alzheimer's Society. The Gardens will be open for you to enjoy from 4.30pm. A variety of hot food, drink and Bar will be available all evening. Sorry no food or drink to be brought into the Gardens. At 7.30pm take your places on the lawn for the Son et Lumière show, with spectacular lighting of the lake, plus a selection of informal music including Rogers & Hammerstein, Mozart, Bernstein, Rossini and Verdi, performed by Orlando Jopling - stunning young singers and a miniature orchestra. We will provide seating for you all around the Lake & Ancient Waterways so don't bring extra seating.

Our event sponsor TLC Chartered Accountants.

01255 436000
www.tlccharteredaccountants.co.uk
admin@tlccharteredaccountants.co.uk

CLACTON
choral
SOCIETY

presents
BRANNS
Love Song Waltzes
Mendelssohn
Hear my Prayer
(O for the Wings of a Dove)
Bob Chilcott
Irish Blessing

Caryll Newham, Musical Director
Leila Saleh, Soprano
Duncan Archard, Organ & Piano
Michael Daves, Piano

Saturday 8th July 2023, 7pm.
St James Church, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea
Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/clacton-choral-society
Or from Roger Broomfield 07949 127216 -
rogerbroomfield@hotmail.com

The fun and easy way to give back to St Helena Hospice!

Did you know you can play the lottery in aid of your local hospice? It's a fun and easy way of supporting St Helena Hospice, whilst giving you the chance to win big!

You can play Your Hospice Lottery to support St Helena Hospice for only £1 per play, giving you the chance to win 217 guaranteed cash prizes up to £1,000 every week, plus a rollover that, if not won, rolls over to a maximum of £25,000!



With 1 in 344 tickets entered into the draw winning a prize, the odds are definitely in your favour!

People play the lottery for St Helena for many different reasons; whether as a fun way to support their local hospice, in memory of a loved one who was cared for, or of course to win some money!

A new Your Hospice Lottery player said: "My mum won £1,000 a couple years ago, so I thought I might be lucky too and wanted to give it a go. I also know where my money is going, so that made me want to support as well."

Around 7 in 10 of the people supported by St Helena Hospice are funded through the local community giving donations, buying in St Helena shops, paying for care from Radfield Home Care in support of St Helena, leaving gifts in Wills and playing Your Hospice Lottery.

By playing Your Hospice Lottery in aid of St Helena Hospice, you will be helping ensure more local people receive the end of life care and bereavement support they need, when they need it.

Visit www.sthelena.org.uk/lottery to find out more and sign up to play.

St Helena Hospice Magdalen Street furniture shop auction and raffle event

Pop along to St Helena Hospice's Magdalen Street furniture shop on Friday 14th July, where St Helena will be hosting an exciting auction and raffle event to help raise vital funds to support local people across north east Essex facing incurable illness and bereavement.

Join the fun at Magdalen Street furniture shop in Colchester from 7pm to 10pm on Friday 14th July where you will find many hidden treasures and incredible bargains to be had. The night will see a wide range of fantastic gems up for auction, while there will also be a raffle on the evening with lots of brilliant prizes up for grabs.

The auction and raffle will include a range of great prizes such as restaurant vouchers, limited edition artwork, a signed Tottenham Hotspur playsheet, gin, a florist voucher and much more! You don't want to miss out!

All the money raised on the night will be going to St Helena Hospice, allowing the hospice to be there every step of the way, helping life to go on in the face of dying, death and bereavement. Please help us to raise money to ensure St Helena Hospice continues to be here for those who need hospice services at the most difficult time of their lives.

The furniture shop will be open throughout the evening for you to browse at your leisure, and there is ample parking on-site for your convenience. St Helena Hospice is delighted to announce that there will also be a variety of craft stalls in attendance on the evening selling their goods to help raise funds of the Hospice, in addition to the Munchbox Mummas who will be serving delicious Caribbean Street food on the night.

Come along to win some fantastic prizes, have a great time and show your support to ensure more local people can live and die well with compassion, dignity and choice.

Find out more at www.sthelena.org.uk/events



GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET CLUB

Playing cricket on The Green since 1771.

Website: greatbentleycc.co.uk Email: info@greatbentleycc.co.uk

In a packed calendar of fixtures for the Colts ten matches were played across the three age groups in the last month. All teams performed well with some very good individual and team performances. U11s winning twice including a close fought affair with Brightlingsea. U12s won one and lost one while the U13s won twice – including two big wins by nine wickets. Details of results and individual highlights are below. Well done to all the Colts and thanks to all the coaches and parents. If your child is interested in giving cricket a try, please contact the club via the above email address.

Date	Great Bentley	Score (Net)	Opposition	Score (Net)	Result	Highlights
15th May	U13s	79/1	Brightlingsea	76/6	Bentley won by 9 wickets	
17th May	U11s	53/3 (238)	Tendring	45/7 (210)	Bentley won by 28 runs	Freddie Hood top scored on 17, Luke Ager 3-0-3-3
18th May	U13s	78/8	Wivenhoe	140/2	Wivenhoe won by 62 runs	James Whitehead 20, Freddie Hart 2-0-6-0
19th May	U12s	54	Coggeshall	143	Coggeshall won by 89 runs	Aimee Robinson high scored with 14
21st May	U11s	63/6 (233)	Tendring	55/2 (245)	Tendring won by 12 runs	Oliver Lukey 2-2-0-0, Esme Giles 2-0-4-0, William Self 2-1-4-0
24th May	U11s	92/8 (252)	Brightlingsea	60/4 (240)	Bentley won by 12 runs	Freddie Hood 4-0-14-2, Oliver Lukey top scored with 16.
25th May	U13s	35	Mistley	210/3	Mistley won by 175 runs	
7th June	U12s	58/6	Eight Ash Green	57/6	Bentley won by 4 wickets	Connor Sharp 2-0-3-2, R. Esposito 12* A. Robinson 9*
8th June	U13s	121/1	Wivenhoe	120	Bentley won by 9 wickets	Jodie Black taking 3 wickets, Harvey Durrell 44*
11th June	U11s	289/6 (259)	Frinton	291/3 (276)	Frinton won by 17 runs	Oliver Lukey 2-0-3-1, Freddie Pope 2-0-7-1, Oliver Lukey 9, Zach Goodier 5
11th June	U11s	262/7 (227)	Gt Bromley	319/6 (289)	Gt Bromley won by 57 runs	William Wright 2-0-10-1, Henry Brown 11

The adults saw less action playing three matches in the last month, all in the NECL Div II T40 league. The first, at home on a chilly and cloudy, Sunday 21st May. After losing the toss and being put into bat by Eight Ash Green (EAG) a composed Lewis Brandom opened alongside Dan Barker who was playing his usual array of shots. After both openers nicked behind batter of the day Johnny Hesketh (40) and James Pearce (23) formed a series of solid partnerships with the incoming batters all adding valuable runs. Sam Busby, coming in at seven with the score on 117-5 ensured we posted a competitive score of 180-8 with an entertaining innings of 32 off just 23 balls. The now familiar opening bowling pair of Sam Busby and Mike Wright kept it very tight in the first 10 overs minimising the scoring to just 33. Although there were a few chances EAG began to score a little too freely and it took a wonderful one-handed diving catch at mid-wicket from Lily Wainer to inspire the team. Dan Barker and Mark Busby combined well again from the Surgery End, bowling nine overs for just 20 runs between them. As the game entered the final overs, Bentley wicketkeeper-captain Alex Youngs was injured after a fast ball from his son Alfie took off and he had to leave the field, replaced by stand-in keeper Hesketh. EAG then started to swing the bat looking for the runs they needed to force the win. However, the bowlers and fielders kept their nerve and EAG ended on 171-4. Pick of the bowlers were Sam Busby and Alfie Youngs, 7-1-14-1 and 5-1-16-2 respectively. Our second league win founded on a brilliant team performance. Bentley Player of the Match: Sam Busby.

Our first game in June was home to West Mersea which we won with ease. However, West Mersea have since withdrawn from the league due to lack of players so the result had to be expunged from the record – sorry to those who made runs and took wickets but these won't count to your averages!

Sunday 11th June saw us play away against EAG. EAG won the toss and batted first on a sweltering hot day. Ashton Rees opened the bowling with an impressive 5-1-17-0 spell while Sam Busby toiled at the other end. The EAG openers were starting to make their shots but just as they seemed to be on the front foot and looked like getting away Mark Busby (6-0-27-1) took a wicket, a great catch at mid-off by Tony Collinson which slowed the scoring dramatically. As the innings progressed Mike Wright (6-0-37-2) took two wickets, one a classic nip back off the seam, hit middle stump, the other a fine low catch by Collinson. James Snowdon (8-1-28-0) bowled at high pace and accuracy causing all sorts of problems to the batsmen but was luckless. EAG ended on what seemed a reasonable score of 218-3 off their 40 overs. Perhaps enraged by his lack of luck with the ball Snowdon opened the batting with Jonny Hesketh in positive fashion. Once Hesketh fell on 13, Dan Barker joined Snowdon in the middle and, to put it mildly, the fireworks began. Barker (49) was hitting fluently including back-to-back sixes while Snowdon, the undoubted star of the innings, was crashing the ball around the tree lined ground. When Barker fell after a partnership of 166 with Snowdon Ed Kerridge came in and took up the baton with some more powerful hitting. Snowdon was finally out caught behind, after he had amassed a huge 129 off just 77 balls including 14 fours and 6 sixes. With just six runs left to win Kerridge (14*) and new bat Tony Collinson saw us home with 17 of our 40 overs to spare. Our third league win out of four games leaves us solidly in second place in our first season back in the league. Bentley Player of the Match: James Snowdon.

Our third league win out of four games leaves us top of the league in this our first season back!

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	Void	Batting	Bowling	NRR	Total
Great Bentley	4	3	1	0	0	2	1	0.48	63
Chelmsford	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	2.08	60
Eight Ash Green	3	0	3	0	0	8	8	-1.80	16
Galleywood	2	0	2	0	0	5	9	-1.48	14

GBCC are always looking for new players so if you or your child is interested in giving cricket a try, please contact the club via the email address info@greatbentleycc.co.uk.

Upcoming Adult and Colts Fixtures:

JUNE

Sun 25th: U11 Away v Mistley 10am
Tue 27th: U13 Away v Frinton 6pm
Thu 29th: U13 Away v Mistley 6pm

JULY

Sun 2nd: U11 Away v Frinton 10am
Sun 2nd: Adults Away v Galleywood 1pm
Mon 3rd: U11 Home v Brightlingsea 6pm
Tue 4th: U12 Home v West Bergholt 6pm
Sun 9th: U11 Home v Mistley 10am
Tue 11th: U13 Home v Frinton 6pm
Thu 13th: U12 Away v Chappel 6pm
Mon 17th: U12 Home v Coggeshall 6pm
Sun 23rd: Adults Home v Galleywood 1pm

GBCC is a volunteer run, family friendly club welcoming new playing and non-playing members at any time during the season. The bar is open every weekend, all summer from 5pm Friday and 1pm Saturday and Sunday serving a wide variety of drinks and snacks.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

There is not much to report at present due to the various changes that are occurring within TDC after the recent elections.

30th Airshow for Clacton

BBC Essex will once again be presenting Radio Airshow over the 2 days of the show on Thursday 24th August and Friday 25th August. This is one of the biggest events in the East of England. Hospitality tickets are available to purchase at www.blackjacketgroup.com/even-tickets.

Anyone looking to exhibit at or sponsor the Clacton Air Show 2023 should contact clactonairshow@tendringdc.gov.uk and donations to support the event can be made at www.clactonairshow.com

Tendring District Council's First Full Council Meeting Following the recent Elections.

The first Full Council meeting was held on the 23rd May 2023.

The results of the election gave the Conservatives 19 seats, it meant there would be a need to have 25 seats to achieve a majority for the Conservatives to continue its 13 years run of being the Administration. But with 8 Labour seats, 4 Liberal Democrat seats, 1 Tendring First and 2 separate Independent Groups of 5 seats and 11 seats these groups have joined together to now make up a new Administration.

The new Chairman of the Council is Cllr. Gary Scott, his Vice Chairman is Cllr Dan Casey, and the new Leader of the Council is Cllr. Mark Stephenson and the Deputy Leader is Cllr Ivan Henderson.

Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Tendring District Councillor for The Bentleys and Frating Ward

Mobile Phone number 07564 613603

Bentley Green Players

We were so pleased to be back again with another production, this time with the comedy “Murder with Ghosts” by Simon Brett.

The group thoroughly enjoyed this production and were very pleased to welcome some new members to the group.

Our audiences must have enjoyed the production as well with there being plenty of laughter throughout each of the performances.

I was so very pleased to receive the letter below from Pam and Michael, who have given permission for it to be in my notes and published in the Parish Magazine.

Dear Lynda,

We just have to write to thank the Bentley Green Players for a really great night out at their recent production of “Murder with Ghosts”. The Players are always well worth their round of applause, but this production deserved a standing ovation.

Right from the start, the well-staffed and welcoming front of house team greeted us with smiles and directed us to our seats ready for the action to begin. The play’s writer, Simon Brett, is well-known for his humorous murder mysteries with eccentric characters and intricate plot-twists (the Bill Nighy Charles Paris Mysteries are his) so we had high expectations for the evening. This was going to take a quality director and a talented cast...

Chris Whiteman, the director (and actor), brought out the very best from the strong cast, with each a good fit in their role, clearly working together as a team. The drama unfolded with fast-paced, action-packed scenes, some great on-stage tussles and tumbles, and all with superb comedy timing. It’s unusual to have a cast so well-matched, and not a weak performance among them. High drama and comedy, joy and pathos, multiple accents and changes of character – they took it all in their stride. A special shout-out goes to Bev Adams for her mastery of such a sizable script but, really, it’s impossible to single out one star, as every single member of the cast was so good.

The producer, Peter Harry (also a key performer), had his work cut out too, managing the logistics of the plot in an inventive and memorable way, but the flair of the backstage team produced well selected costumes, inventive designs, pitch perfect lighting, sound and special effects; they did not let him down. The charming set conjured a country house scene perfectly, enabling action both inside and outside in the grounds to be portrayed believably. Multiple complex methods of despatching victims were convincingly delivered by cunning devices, hidden cupboards, impressive sound effects and smart lighting. Last but not least, we mustn't forget the hilarious furry character, Kitchener the dog, who by the end we all believed was real.

Who needs the West End when you can get such quality in Great Bentley? Murder with Ghosts was a great production with bags of surprises and even more laughs, - thank you!

Pam & Michael White

Thank you so much Pam and Michael.

We are members of the North Essex Theatre Guild and the adjudicator has also given us a glowing report.

Thank you to so many people and residents for coming to see the play. It was great to hear and receive your wonderful comments when you were leaving.

There is more to come from BGP.

Many thanks

Lynda McWilliams – Chair of Bentley Green Players

FIRE SAFETY

I think the following may be of interest to those of you who are elderly or disabled. I am not sure if the Fire Service provides the service in my article to younger/able-bodied people.

Following a fire in our garage some years ago the local Fire Safety Officer surveyed our house and fitted extra smoke alarms, with the advice that we call them when they needed renewing. However in the intervening years my late husband renewed them himself. A few weeks ago one of the alarms `beeped` to alert me to the fact that it was failing and as I was not happy to be on a ladder above the stairwell I thought I would telephone the Fire Service to see if they still offered the replacement service. I had a visit from a very pleasant young lady who carried out a survey, checking all the plugs, sockets and alarms and offering advice, particularly where I was using multi-plugs on one socket and extension leads.

Before she fitted a new alarm I had mentioned that I was totally deaf in one ear and partially deaf in the other. This meant that, at night whilst sleeping, I would not hear an alarm. No problem. She fitted an alarm outside my bedroom door which digitally `teamed up` with one downstairs, with a small unit sited on my bedside table which would flash in the event of the alarm activating and a small pad under my pillow which would vibrate to alert me. She left with instructions to test them on a monthly basis and call the Fire Service when they needed replacing. All free of charge. What peace of mind that has given me

Hilary Webster

hope@trinity

I continue to receive donations of items that bring a smile to a tired face and a feeling of worth in dark times. Amongst them were a tent and sleeping bags very timely for the souls who had been sleeping rough on the beach....such really does happen! Hopefully as I write summer has arrived making life a tad bit better for those seeking all that 'hope' offers, some lighter weight clothing is welcome and fresher footwear, even something as basic as a baseball cap to protect a bare head. For too many life is difficult and prospects of it becoming easier are few and far between, however your continued help provides volunteers with the 'tools' needed to bring about hope@trinity & make it become a reality.
Thank you for caring.

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

TAKEN FROM COOKERY SERVICE NOTES MARCH 1945

DATE OR FIG PUDDING

4 oz. Self-raising flour	2 reconstituted dried eggs
4 oz. Breadcrumbs	1 heaped teaspoonful mixed spice
4 oz. figs, dates or other fruit	¼ teaspoonful grated nutmeg
2 tablespoons sugar	¼ teaspoonful bicarbonate of soda
3 oz. margarine	2 tablespoonsful milk ¼ teaspoonful salt

Sieve the flour, salt and spices into a bowl. Add the breadcrumbs and chopped dates or figs and mix together. Melt the margarine and the sugar together, cool slightly, add the bicarbonate of soda and mix with the dry ingredients, together with the egg and milk. Beat well, put into a greased pudding bowl, cover and steam for 1 hour.



I can't believe it's that time again when we are in the last month of the academic year, this also sadly means it is that time again when we have to say goodbye to lots of our children as they start the next step in their educational journey.

This is always the hardest part of our job and can be quite emotional as we bid farewell, some of the children can be with us for nearly 3 years at such an important time of their development and many bonds and attachments are made during this time. It's always an absolute pleasure though to see how they have all developed, progressed and matured within their time at Pre-school, and to know we have been a part of that. We hope you have all enjoyed the challenges and experiences we have shared in your time with us and that you all will take away lots of happy memories.

The whole team at Great Bentley Pre-school would like to wish every one of them good luck in their next step and hope they enjoy and have lots of fun at their new 'big school'.

Autism Coffee Meeting

Our next coffee morning is arranged for Wednesday 5th July at 9:30.

Please come along if you have a child on the autistic spectrum, maybe just going through the assessment stages, or have any concerns or worries about your child.

You do not have to have a child attending the Pre-school to come along, we are here to support and listen to everyone.

Summer Trip

We have our summer outing this month to look forward to which is on Wednesday 5th July and at Brightlingsea beach where we hope to have a fun filled day, fingers and toes crossed we continue with this glorious weather we are having as I type.

This is a great day out in the Pre-school calendar as it is open to all Pre-school children that attend the group, we invite parents and carers to come along too so we can all enjoy a day out together, we just hope as many as possible can join us and the weather is kind.

Leavers Assembly

As mentioned earlier we will be saying goodbye to lots of our children and their families this month so they can begin the next stage of their education. We are planning a little goodbye show for parents, carers, grandparents, etc. on the last day of term which is Friday 21st July.

We hope to see many of their extended family there as we wish our little ones farewell and good luck for their continued journey.

September Term Registers

Registers for September are already looking quite full. If you would like to become part of our Pre-school or would like any information, please contact me through our email address at the top of this article or through FB messenger.

We will be shut and on our summer break from Friday 21st July until Monday 4th September, please bear this in mind if you are thinking of enquiring as we would love to meet you before we do break up.

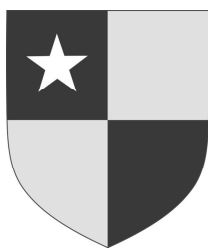
Finally

Allison and I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment over the past year, they really are a fantastic, dedicated team.

We would also like to thank the parents for their continued support and wish you all a happy and healthy sun filled summer.

Thanks for reading

Julie Wiles



GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council: Jennifer Spear

Tel: 01206 256410 Email: clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

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

At the end of May Great Bentley Parish Council held their Annual Meeting of the Parish where we reviewed the last year of the Parish Council and celebrated the community spirit of Great Bentley Village.

We received a few nominations for the Pride of Great Bentley Award, Mary Maskell for being the backbone of Great Bentley village, Matt Plummer for his tireless efforts of working behind the scenes to help all the community events in Great Bentley run smoothly, Len Clayden for being the driving force for litter collection along Heckford Road and also Lucy and Russel Brown for your support in hosting the Ukrainian family who have been displaced by the awful war.

The overall winner this year was Matt Plummer who has for many years overseen the installation and safe removal of the Christmas lights, has supported lots of the community events in the background and has been described as often the first to arrive and the last to leave when help may be needed.

This year the Footpath Officer David Gollifer stepped down after keeping an eye on all the public rights of way through Great Bentley for the last 14 years. As a thank you for all the hard volunteer hours that have gone into this the Parish Council together with Gibbon Farms presented David with a Long Service Award and have dedicated Footpath Number 13 to become The David Gollifer Walk.

A date for your diary – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 6th July at 7:00pm at the village Hall

KNIT & NATTER

Thursday 20th July

St Mary's Church Hall

2.00pm - 3.30pm

All Welcome



GARDENING NOTES

Traditionally in July you could expect to be undertaking a lot of watering as well as harvesting and trying to find new recipes to use all the produce. Alternatively you could be identifying family, friends or neighbours who may be glad of fresh produce from the garden, although experience tells us that over a relatively short period people can get fed up with courgettes. Whilst dealing with the current harvest you need to keep in mind any necessary later sowings. If you can avoid having bare areas of soil it will usually reduce the weeding chore and helps to produce more food or flowers.

You can expect to plant out leeks and winter brassicas possibly as a follow on from new potatoes, early peas and broad beans. Our leeks have done extremely well this year in their nursery bed, probably due to the excess rain we had early in the year. On transplanting, we trim the leaves to about 300mm, tidy up the roots and drop them into holes made with a dibber. The ground needs to be very well watered otherwise the holes will collapse, and then keep them watered until the plants have re-established themselves. Our winter greens have been moved into 150mm pots until we can plant them out.

Salading crops will often be suitable to be replaced with other saladings. Second or third sowings of French and runner beans can be undertaken as ground becomes available. French beans will generally be ready to harvest in 10 weeks whilst runners will take slightly longer, both of which should be harvestable before the onset of frosts should we get them this autumn.

It is worth harvesting some of the crop early, when they are on the small side, but very tender, rather than leaving it later and risk harvesting vegetables that are past their best. Rows of lettuce, beetroot and spring onions can be harvested by pulling alternate plants without disturbing their neighbours which can then be left to grow on for a later harvesting. Try and find the time to hoe regularly to keep on top of the weeds.

The forward forecast does not give much hope of considerable rainfall. If you can mulch plants it will help to conserve the moisture still in the soil, as well as anything extra you are able to add whether it is from stored water or water previously used for other household uses.

As the roses will be in full flower you may need to decide whether to dead head everything hoping to get further flowers or leave some to form hips that are attractive, provide food for wildlife or can be used later for seasonal decorations.

We have started to notice powdery mildew on some of the delphiniums and expect it will affect other plants as well. It is usually more prevalent in a dry year particularly if you also get periods of high humidity. Standard advice is to avoid overcrowding, and if possible, to increase airflow. Clean up fallen infected leaves and lower dead leaves, and in some cases prune out affected stems to reduce the chances of it returning next year. In reality we always expect to get it on courgettes and marrows but it generally does not appear to affect the crop.

Remember that all crops currently producing fruit or flowers will benefit from a regular feed. Avoid feeding plants that are dry at the roots.

A.O.

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST 2023 MAGAZINE

SATURDAY 15th JULY

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

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

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

IMPORTANT - PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO BOTH OF US

NATURE NOTES



Readers may recall our Owls R Us articles in previous editions. This is by way of a, if slightly down-beat, update on the Barn Owls at home. Last season we had five eggs but it soon became apparent that they were not being brooded and late in the year the eggs remained cold. This year has also proved a little frustrating as one morning we found that one box was not up as the tree had fallen into the adjacent field. It was carried back into the garden and essential repairs carried out. However, the 'dog-kennel' box is far too large and heavy for one person to raise back up to its three-meter high perch in a Sycamore tree. After a couple of weeks, on a Sunday evening, a local nature warden came to our assistance and we hoisted the box, only dropping it once onto the hedge, into place where it is now secured and ready for use. It should be said at this stage that the box was occupied by Grey Squirrel and Jackdaws. The impact of the fall had, however, ejected most of their nesting materials. Fortunately there were no eggs in the nest. Let us hope for a late owl brood. Whilst working on the box we could see the adjacent farmer out in his crop 'topping-off' patches of wheat as part of a national, granted, scheme to help Turtle Dove and Skylark.

Whilst chatting in the orchard we were brought up to date with what has been happening on the local wildlife front. Disappointingly a dead dolphin (bottle-nose) was washed ashore on a Tendring beach. The positive side of this incident is that it is another example of these Cetaceans moving into the warming northern waters of the British Isles.

Tendring District Councils ground staff are involved in an Essex County Council granted tree planting scheme with over 1000 three-to-four meter (12-15 ft), mixed species, trees having been planted around the district. The most obvious are those bordering the open space at Burrs Road Cemetery. All aspects of these trees are fully funded with sufficient allowance for the employment of two casual staff members dedicated to watering. Bearing in mind last year's heatwave, this provision is the most crucial aspect of any planting scheme. The trees are fitted with a water reservoir 'boot' that holds about seven litres that slowly drains through pin-holes at their base.

In his role protecting wildlife the district nature warden and his team rescued a Muntjac deer that had become stuck in the TDC depot railings. It had managed to get its head, shoulders and body through the tight gap but was stuck at the hips. The animal was safely retrieved, not without a good deal of shrill screeching, and released, slightly scuffed and worn, back into the wild. ("A moment on the lips a lifetime on the hips"!) Another amusing depot incident involves birds. Whilst on the spring holidays the Dog Wardens vehicle was parked in the depot. Upon the staffs return it was discovered that a Herring Gull had built a nest on the vehicle roof. Neither the vehicle or nest could be moved as this would be unlawful under the various wildlife protection acts. An officer rashly attempted to approach the vehicle and was immediately viciously attacked by the very protective Herring Gull. It's going to be some while before the vehicle will be back in use. On Sunday the 28th May Tendring Local Group held a very successful Open Day at Great Holland Pits featuring three pond dipping sessions. Several interesting migrant birds were reported including Hoopoe and Redstart however the highlight for most visitors was a Nightingale loudly singing from the bushes near the Nissan hut refreshment area. This bird entertained visitors for most of the day without, I think, being seen by anyone.

For your diary: Open Day at Essex Wildlife Trusts Wrabness Reserve in Wheatsheaf Lane, Wrabness Saturday 22nd July Time 11:00 to 15:00.

**Chameleon's Web Theatre Company
presents
An Outdoor Production of**

PETER PAN

Written by J.M. Barrie

By arrangement with the Great Ormond Street
Hospital Children's Charity
and Samuel French Ltd

Adapted by James Potter

Saturday 1st July

4.30pm (gates Open 3.30pm)

**St Mary's Church, Great Bentley
CO7 8QG**

Tickets £14 adults: £11 Concessions
£45 Family 2 adults and 2 children

Box Office www.ticketsource.co.uk/chameleonsweb

Tel: Box Office 0333666 33 66

All other enquiries
07749 652127

BENTLEY GREEN PLAYERS

I was fortunate to secure a ticket to Bentley Green Player's latest production, Murder with Ghosts. The whole production was a delight to the senses: staging, scenery, lighting, special effects were superb. The acting, overall, was excellent. I am sure the cast will not mind me singling out Bev Adams for her Tour de Force presented under difficult circumstances. Well done.

It all took me back to March 1990 when Lynda McWilliams asked, via our Parish Magazine, if anyone was interested in forming an Amateur Dramatic Group. I was one of those who attended the initial meeting where the Group was formed and a committee elected. We then set about raising funds, getting as much information as we could from more experienced members of the North East Essex acting community in order that we could present a play that people would be willing to pay to see.

We were also lucky to be supported by volunteers who came together to make up the set prior to production (including all of us turning our hands to painting the sets), put up the lighting, making costumes and doing hair and make-up on dress rehearsal and performance nights. All for 3 or 4 shows after which those same volunteers would take it all down and store until the next time.

I had a wonderful few years with the group: acting, directing, back stage and front-of-house. It is nice to see one or two of the original members still going strong and I wish you all the best for the future.

Hilary Webster

BELLRINGERS UPDATE

The bells have been a bit quiet in June due to work taking place in the ringing room. For safety reasons, this means that we cannot enter the ringing room until the work is complete or the area made safe. Ultimately, this work forms a vital part of our project to restore the bells to a condition where they can be easily and successfully rung for the next 150 years.

We have been able to ring for Sunday services due to pauses in the work and the area being made safe for us. We will be returning to our normal ringing schedule once the work in the ringing room is complete and safe for us to return.

Roger Carey-Smith

ANNUAL DIARY

24/25 August	Clacton Air Show
2nd September	Village Show
16/17 September	St Mary's Flower and Art Festival
16th September	Grand Garage Trail
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

Monday	9am - 1pm
Tuesday	9am - 12 noon
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	9am - 12 noon
Friday	9am - 12 noon

GHOSTS, GHOULS AND GHASTLY TALES IN ESSEX

Let me introduce myself. My name is Sharon Mooney and I am relatively new to Aingers Green. With husband Chris, I moved here a little over a year ago and have found everyone to be so friendly and welcoming, and we feel like we have been here a lot longer. We absolutely know that we made the right move for us – so thank you all for being such fantabulous neighbours.

I thought it would take a lot longer to settle in, because I was so engrained in the New Town Community where we previously lived – in the heart of Colchester. I am a Qualified Green Badge tour guide, and I am proud to be entertaining tourists by taking them on tours in the City of Colchester. I am particularly well known for knowledge of New Town and my tours of the original Victorian Cemetery on Mersea Road. If you haven't been on one – then come along on Heritage Open day for free. Join me on Sunday 17th September. There is a 10am tour and a 2pm tour – where you will learn all about the history of the land, why it was chosen to be the cemetery, hear about opening day, and follow with a leisurely walk learning about some of the people that rest there – including who was the very first burial. It's an informative and great tour, even if I do say so myself... I have a wealth of tours and talks up my sleeve (as they say) – social history intrigues me – but don't know much about Great Bentley – please feel free to contact me to share the information. I can be contacted at mooneys1970@hotmail.co.uk

So now for my plug – I am entertaining with a talk on Ghosts, Ghouls and Ghastly tales in Essex at The Fusiliers in Aingers Green on Monday 24th July at 7pm. The cost will be £5 per person and all proceeds will be for the GO4 café -New Town Community larder – a Social enterprise scheme that I am still avidly supporting. If this one is well received, I will put on another to support another more local good cause of my choosing in August.

You can contact me to book a place as spaces will be limited. Rest assured, these tales will not disappoint – We will journey into the unknown and resurrect those spooky tales as told in the Victorian era – some of which are long forgotten today. So come along and join me if you dare to learn more about the ghastly goings on in Colchester and beyond... I hope to hear from you soon.

Community Speedwatch Update

Speed monitoring continued around the village during May. Limited time and placing ourselves really obviously in hi-vis jackets in full view of oncoming traffic meant we 'only' had to report a further 30 speeding vehicles during the month. We have been told that 'word travels fast' when we're out and about and that people tend to slow down as a result. Great! At the end of the day, drivers slowing down to within the limit is all we really want to happen. The running total of reports for 2023 however is now 236, with more than half of those recorded in May travelling at over 40mph (often nearer 50!) in our 30mph zones!

We've had lots of helpful and welcome feedback from people as always, whether that's just a wave, having a quick chat as they walk past or taking the time to stop the car and give us their view of where speeding is at its worst in the village. We are working actively with the Police on increasing the number of approved monitoring locations we can use.

Community Speedwatch will continue and if you would like to join our small team in this voluntary and really worthwhile community activity, please do get in touch at greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com"

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

would like Home Communion, a visit to your home, or if we can help with a phone call, please contact us. We have, all three, recently passed our first level of training and we look forward to hearing from you.

Lyn Gordon 681884, Mandy Miles 251382, Mary Maskell 250524

Patient Participation Group

Our Great Bentley PPG Celebrates it's 10th Anniversary this year and as a committed member since the inaugural meeting I have very recently taken on the role of Chairman and am proud to do so. We are not large in number but have remained constant in providing help or advice for each other should any of us find ourselves caught up in health issues or battling our way through the NHS system at our hospitals and equally sharing positive experiences and outcomes. However the most important aspect is the relationship between ourselves and Great Bentley Surgery which we are eager to maintain and strengthen, the pressure on our GP's is increasing at an alarming rate and with the worrying prospect of more and more new builds it is only going to worsen.

Let there be no doubt how fortunate we are to be served by such a wonderful GP Practice where, in whatever capacity, everyone does their best for us and we in turn must cherish them.

The next Patient Participation Group Meeting is on Thursday 20th July at 6 30pm in The Michael Wright Room of The Village Hall. It will be our pleasure to welcome Doctor Bhatti as our guest GP that evening and this will continue with one of our GP's giving their time to join us bringing surgery news and offering an opportunity for questions.

I do urge you to come along and join us, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Judy Bishop 01206 251702

CHURCHYARD NATURE AFTERNOON

The Churchyard Nature afternoon held on the 3rd of June was very much enjoyed by everyone who attended. We were blessed with a beautiful day and the children all enjoyed searching around the Churchyard for clues to the wildlife quiz, making bird feeders and planting sunflower seeds. Adults also enjoyed recording all the diverse flora and fauna. The afternoon was complete with lovely cakes and refreshments. Many thanks to all those who helped to make it so special.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OPEN AND GIFT DAY 2023

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this very successful day, which took place on Saturday 17th June.

There was a lot of interest in the historic record books, which were kindly lent to us by the Essex Record Office, where they are held.

Many people reminisced about earlier events such as the Millennium Mystery Plays, the Atthill dolls and scrapbooks, and photos of the church and churchyard in former days.

The church was seen in a new light by people who took the time to look at the points of interest that were highlighted. The church has a rich history which was lovely share.

And so many thanks to all those who made a financial contribution, towards the church's maintenance; the final total is likely to be over £4,000, once Gift Aid has been claimed, so we are extremely grateful to the whole community for showing their support in this way, which will help to keep the church alive and at the heart of the village.

The day only takes place once every 5 years, so join us again in 2028!

Thank you one and all.

Great Bentley Show

This year's show will take place on Saturday 2nd September.

If you received a cup last year, please remember to return it as soon as possible to enable us to clean them in time for the show.

They can be returned to 23 Newman Fields or if you are unable to deliver it please email chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk to arrange a pick up.

Show schedules are now available from Tesco, Post Office and the Deli.

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES FOR GREAT BENTLEY SHOW 2023

Coast to coast

Say cheese

H20

Flying High

All the fun of the Fair

Gardener's Delight

Open

Children's Class

My Favourite Things





Surgery Newsletter

COVID BOOSTERS

The spring booster is currently available for patients who are over 75 years old, or are immunosuppressed. If you haven't had your spring booster yet and still wish to book this, you can find details of clinics either on-line at www.sneevaccine.org.uk or by telephoning the NHS Helpline on telephone 0344 257 3961.

Testicular Cancer in Men

Cancer of the testicle is one of the less common cancers and tends to mostly affect men between 15 and 49 years of age.

- Typical symptoms are a painless swelling or lump in one of the testicles, or any change in shape or texture of the testicles.
- It's important to be aware of what feels normal for you. Get to know your body and see a GP if you notice any changes.

The testicles are the 2 oval-shaped male sex organs that sit inside the scrotum on either side of the penis. The testicles are an important part of the male reproductive system because they produce sperm and the hormone testosterone, which plays a major role in male sexual development.

Typical symptoms are:

- A painless swelling or lump in one of the testicles, or any change in shape or texture of the testicles.
- The swelling or lump can be about the size of a pea but may be larger.
- Most lumps or swellings in the scrotum are not in the testicle and are not a sign of cancer, but they **should never be ignored**

Other symptoms

Testicular cancer can also cause other symptoms, including:

An increase in the firmness of a testicle

A difference in appearance between one testicle and the other

A dull ache or sharp pain in your testicles or scrotum, which may come and go

A feeling of heaviness in your scrotum

If you have any symptoms or concerns about Testicular Cancer,

please contact your GP Surgery on 01206 250691

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Tuesday, 25 July 2023 for staff training. If you require urgent care on this afternoon, then please contact 111 for assistance.

Patient Participation Group Meeting

The next PPG Meeting will be held on Thursday, 20 July at 6.30 pm in the Michael Wright Room at Great Bentley Village Hall. Please note the change of time for the PPG meeting.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager



COOKERY CORNER

SUMMER FRUIT DESSERTS who can resist a bowl of juicy cherries, raspberries and strawberries just eaten as they are? For any of you with steely resolve, here are some equally attractive ways of emptying the bowl.

BAKED CINNAMON PLUMS

a knob of butter 450g ripe plums 115g fromage frais 150g caster sugar
3tsp ground cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 220 C. Grease a wide, oven proof dish with the butter. Halve and stone the plums and arrange them in the dish cut side upwards. Spoon the fromage frais into the scooped-out halves and sprinkle all over with the caster sugar and cinnamon. Bake for 15 minutes or until bubbling. Remove from the oven and leave to cool for 5 minutes before serving. This will serve four and goes well with ice cream.

SOUR CREAM CHERRY CAKE

150g pitted cherries 75ml white wine 150g golden caster sugar
¼ tsp bicarbonate of soda 2 medium eggs 60ml groundnut oil 1tsp vanilla extract
100g self-raising flour sifted 250g sour cream 50g icing sugar

Preheat the oven to 180C/160Cfan. Using oil, brush the inside of a 20cm cake tin, at least 5cm deep and with a removable base. Heat the wine and half the sugar in a small saucepan over a lowish heat, stirring until the sugar melts. Stir in the bicarbonate of soda and set aside for about 20 minutes. Whisk the remaining sugar in a bowl with one of the eggs, the groundnut oil and vanilla. Stir in half the flour followed by half the wine mixture, then repeat. Transfer to the prepared tin and bake for 25 minutes until firm and shrinking from the sides. Turn the oven up to 200C/180Cfan. Whisk the sour cream in a bowl with the icing sugar, then whisk in the remaining egg. Pour this over the surface of the cake and scatter the cherries over the top. Return the cake to the oven and bake for about 25 minutes until golden at the edges. Leave to cool then run a knife around the edge of the cake and remove the collar of the tin.

RICH RASPBERRY TART

375g shortcrust pastry 300g plain chocolate 200g double cream
100g unsalted butter 250g fresh raspberries

Ready made pastry is readily available of course but you may prefer to make your own. Preheat the oven to 190C. Line a 20cm tin with pastry, prick the base and chill in the fridge for 5 minutes. Fill the pastry base with scrunched up foil or greaseproof baking paper and bake for 10 minutes. Remove the foil or paper and continue to bake for 5 minutes then remove from the heat. Break up the chocolate and put it into a bowl with the cream and butter over a pan of simmering water. Stir until all is melted. Remove from the heat and stir until thickened. Pour into the pastry case and leave for about 30 minutes until almost set. Arrange the fresh raspberries on the top.

VERY FRUITY FOOL

350g of a mixture of soft fruit 55g caster sugar 150ml whipping cream
grated zest of a lemon 150g plain yoghurt

Strawberries, raspberries and blueberries work well together. Put a small selection aside for decoration. Place the fruit in a saucepan with a splash of water. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and cook for about 5 minutes until the fruits have broken up and are soft and juicy. Stir in the caster sugar and remove from the heat. Pour into a blender. Blend until smooth and set aside to cool slightly. Whip the cream with the grated lemon zest in a large bowl until nice and thick. Add the yoghurt and whip lightly together, then swirl in the fruit puree mix to make an attractive pattern. Chill well for an hour or more and serve in four individual glass dessert bowls, adding some reserved fruit on top of each bowl of fool. M.E.

Hidden in Plain Sight

Can you find the answers hidden within these sentences?

e.g. The plane took off and landed on Mars. The plane took off and landed on Mars.

1. Pick from selection, a choice snack.
2. Cotton found in musical I composed.
3. American in Jamaica hiding an aggressive teenage turtle!
4. In Canada, gentleman became a foreign spy.
5. This bandit chose to live in a gully.
6. Wealthy men usually dine à la carte.
7. This small rodent was not a danger, Bill thought.
8. This book shows us history of Japanese food.
9. A ray is Kate Middleton's favourite fish.
10. This girl was too lively for me.
11. They swam to Capri, sleepily.
12. Country held by Afghan army.
13. Grub available in a spectacular variety.
14. Collar gets somewhat big.
15. The curse of broken coat hangers.
16. Fine powder in metal container.
17. Dog which sounds like a screech owl.
18. Can't I change this daft behaviour?
19. Scent of a Romantic poet.
20. Hero valiantly reveals egg shape.

1.macho 2.calico 3.minja 4.agent 5.ditch 6.menus 7.gerbil 8.sushi 9.skate 10.planet 11.sle
12.Ghana 13.larva 14.large 15.oath 16.tale 17.chow 18.antic 19.aroma 20.oval

RUNNING CLUB

This month was a rarity in that it had 3 bank holidays. On the third of these a group from Great Bentley went off to Kendal in the Lake District for a social weekend. We had sole use of a large private hostel in the centre of the town and made the most of the sunny weekend. We couldn't just relax, of course, and more than 25 Bentley Blues ran the Rothay Park parkrun in Ambleside, making it almost a GBRC takeover. Despite the setting among the local fells it was actually a flat course!! Which was just as well as the next item for the day was a climb up the Old Man of Coniston. There was also a relaxing (but cold) swim in Low Tarn on the way up! Sunday was equally busy with a climb from Grasmere to cover 5 Wainwrights. Many of us were glad to get back to work for a rest!!



There was more local tourism runs that weekend. Mel Willsmore ran at Leavesden Country parkrun near Harry Potter Studios; Patrick Auer ran Hafan Pwllheli parkrun, a course in North Wales run entirely on sand; Richard Moor ran New Earswick in York; Matthew Grant ran Orpington parkrun in Kent whilst the Sharp brothers ran Medi

Robbie Lee merits a mention as he completed the Groundhog Day section of the parkrun app – same time, same parkrun two weeks in a row. For anyone who does parkrun, the parkrunner app adds an extra element to parkruns with things to tick off by attending different venues. We found out about it after meeting people dressed as pirates doing the 'seven C's and an R!

That Saturday also saw four Bentley Blues join the start line of the 50th Long Distance walkers association (LDWA) annual 100 mile challenge, taking place this time in the Midlands. It was named the Elephant, Bear and Bull 100 after the traditional symbols of Coventry, Warwickshire and Birmingham, through which the route passes. Rob Dyer completed just over 102km of the course, getting to the start line after recent illness. Tomasz Komorowski and Paul Davison finished at 4:43pm on the Sunday, just under 31 hours later. Fiona Gosling finished on Monday morning. A great achievement for all.

This was only topped by the efforts of Adam Waller-Toyne 2 weeks before. He really set the bar in May with his fantastic performance at the Five Rivers Ultra, where he finished the 103-mile route, taking in the rivers Stour, Orwell, Deben, Butley and the Ore/Alde, in 29 hours, 1 minute and 20 seconds. Outstanding running indeed!!

Our Friday Five race takes place this year on **7th July**. There will be the usual children's event of the green before the adults get to run. Please come and give the runners some vocal support! **Please also remember that there will be some brief road closures at the green and along Plough Road.**

NEW ADVERTISERS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT, Catering and Events - Contact @foodForThoughtCateringAndEvents.co.uk
See page 36

SLIMMING WORLD Great Bentley Village Hall, See page 36.

MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR AUGUST MAGAZINE

Magazine collating will be on **FRIDAY 28TH JULY**

in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am

BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB

For our June meeting, members and guests enjoyed an 'Indian Takeaway'...but not a single bhaji or grain of pilau rice was consumed!

Instead, our speaker Cherry Mullins, escorted us on a brief tour through the lands of the Maharajas. For many years Cherry was a tour manager and, in her job, had travelled widely, however she had never been to Asia nor had she ever been a lone traveller. By chance she met a man who suggested that she could accompany him on his travels through India...she grasped the opportunity and off they went. Having laid down 'ground rules' before embarking on this journey, Cherry soon realised that he was probably not the ideal travelling companion, and so they quite quickly went their separate ways. Her experiences in India were wonderful even though at times a little scary. The sights and smells of the sub-continent delivering a real 'culture shock' around every corner. With the help of her photos and excerpts from her diary, we were taken from the foothills of Kashmir to the Red Fort in Delhi and onward to the Taj Mahal, finally arriving on the banks of the Ganges at Varanasi. Cherry left India on the day that her 3-month visa expired but went on to travel through south-east Asia.

Dates for your diary.....7.30 pm at Great Bentley Village Hall

Tuesday July 4th N.A.F.A.S. Floral Art Demo with Helen Bird

Tuesday August 1st 'Garden Party' at St Mary's Church

Tuesday September 5th 'Farmhouse Restoration' with Jenny Gibbs

Tuesday October 3rd 'Medical Detection Dogs' with Norma Howell

Tuesday November 7th 'An Evening of Magic' with Paul Clancy

December Christmas Party T.B.A.

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY



Our speaker on June 8th was Charlie Haylock who spoke about the History of Spoken English and Why our Spelling Makes No Sense. Charlie is a well-known and popular speaker and as usual his talk was very humorous and he brought in crowds of visitors.

There will be no meeting in August. Unfortunately, the proposed visit to the Alpaca Farm at Brightlingsea cannot take place. Something to do with The Council and their rules and regulations, possibly Health and Safety.

Instead there will be a visit to the Marks Tey Brick Works on Monday 10th July. Community Transport will be available from the Village Hall. This is for members only. For more details contact Frances Boardman on 01255 436886 or email frances_boardman_uk@hotmail.com
Contact: TheGreatBentleyHistorySociety@outlook.com

GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. Our speaker will be Ruth Goudy, professional garden writer and speaker who has also run a nursery and garden centre with her husband for 20 years. Her subject will be "Flower Power – How Flowers benefit our Wellbeing". Hope you can come along and join us for what will be a very interesting evening. Guests welcome (£2.00).

In August we have no meeting.



Wildlives

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre

'Catkins', Frating Road, Thorrington, Colchester CO7 8HT
www.wildlives.org.uk

Opening hours: n/a 07802 767016

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

Mystery badger cub found

July 2023

A badger cub was brought in by the RSPCA after a lady found her collapsed in her garden. By the time she arrived at Wildlives she had started to pick up albeit still very cold and flat. Once at the centre she responded to treatment very quickly. Rosie contacted Adrian from the badger group who went out to check where she had come from. To his surprise it was a very small walled garden, with no way in or out. He also checked the local active sett, where all seemed good so Adrian collected the cub and took her to the sett, but she did not recognise it and was totally uninterested. He contacted Wildlife Aid in Surrey who had a group of cubs of the same age, so he took her to join the other cubs. When they are ready Wildlife Aid will build them their own sett. The area where she was found has a high population of red kites and buzzards, so the only reasonable solution to the mystery is that a bird of prey picked up the cub and went to perch on the wall to eat her. The cub must have managed to wriggle free and dropped into the walled garden, which, being a small enclosed space, the bird would not have followed her into.

A kittiwake was brought in by the RSPCA. These birds are endangered due to loss of nest sites, so a group in Lowestoft built them an artificial 'kittiwake hotel' near an existing nest site on Lowestoft pier. Unfortunately they neglected to clear up all the netting, and this bird got caught in it. The netting had caused only minor injuries but she was also starving and emaciated. At Wildlives she made rapid progress, eating really well and soon recovering enough to fly perfectly. She was ringed by the BTO and the RSPCA returned her to Lowestoft. When she was released she flew off and joined other nesting kittiwakes. You can see a video of her release on our facebook page.

Gull chicks started to arrive in droves. Herring gulls are now red-listed as under threat; the population is plummeting and a recent survey showed nesting pairs to be 60% less than previously.

A tiny fox cub was found by a lady on the sea front at Clacton. When he was brought in he was found to be starving and emaciated, weighing only 800g. By comparison our other fox cubs of similar age weigh over 3kg. Despite our best efforts and him eating really well, he proved too far gone with starvation.

A swan was brought in, emaciated and weak, from a vet, who said they had xrayed her. In spite of being fed, she remained unable to stand, so Rosie took her to her own vets (Colne Valley) where further xrays showed she had a broken pelvis, so had to be euthanised.

URSULA DORLING

How can I describe Ursula? She was the most loving and caring lady, who despite enduring difficult periods over the years, always showed those qualities, to not only us as a family, but to those who happened to cross her path in life.

Ursula was born beside the Mosel River at Traben Trabach when her mother was evacuated from Koln during the blitz in 1943. Soon after, they returned to Koln. Her father died after the war from wounds received, so she was brought up for many years by just her Mum. Life in 'post war' Germany was difficult but Ursula had her happiest childhood years when they lived in a small shack on a smallholding with a garden and animals. At this period of her life she was able to go to ballet lessons – something she never forgot and frequently talked about.

In later years she helped her mother run the family pub and it was here that I first met my future wife to be. It was Christmas 1959, and I was stationed in Koln, living in a RAF hostel nearby, and with a couple of friends discovered a pub playing rock and roll music and when walking in, spotted two girls standing by the jukebox. I smiled at one and received a smile back. A smile accompanied by a small gap in her front teeth. A smile and a memory that lives with me to this day. From that evening onwards, I can honestly say, I had found a purpose in life.

We married in 1960 and came to this country. We lived for a couple of years with my parents. Not an ideal start (as my father would have probably said – you can't have two queens in one hive)! Beverley was born in 1961 and soon after, whilst looking locally, we spotted what was to become the 'rest of our life home' in Great Bentley and moved in, in December 1963. I can still remember on our first morning, looking over the breakfast table at each other and smiling with happiness.

With hardly any furniture and a new mortgage, we made a family home with Ursula taking on the main role of what the Americans call, home maker and this sums up Ursula to a tee, with Michael being born in 1965, she worked tirelessly at making a happy home as well as working locally and joining in village life.

In the early years, to help with finances, Ursula worked at Lufkins Farm pulling and boxing spring onions and rhubarb for the London markets. During the 70's she ran a dress shop in the High Street in Brightlingsea, driving to London regularly to hand pick the stock.

As well as continuing, at times to work on the fields, in later life she turned to the caring profession and worked at Well House in Brightlingsea. It was here she obtained her NVQ qualifications, something she was so proud of. She then moved on to become a mobile carer in the local area, often staying with people overnight to help. This was Ursula – she genuinely cared for people and did all she could to help, often staying well over her allotted time.

In her early days she joined a keep fit club in the village, appearing in demonstrations and competitions in London. She joined the Carnival Committee with Beverley in the early 80's and for many years organised the afternoon teas for visiting carnival queens and courts – they all wanted to come to those as she had a reputation for the best strawberry flans and cakes. I joined the committee along the way at which time she stepped down... '3 Dorlings on one committee is too many' she said ... however she continued to support the Carnival for over 25 years.

She played Badminton and Squash to high competition levels, even winning the odd trophy along the way. Both these sports she learnt at the Aqua Vista Club in St. Osyth and every June would find her in front of the TV avidly watching Wimbledon. Cake making was another skill that many people benefitted from at birthdays and weddings.

She loved playing golf and joined Clacton Golf Club and played once or twice a week for many years until she was unable to swing a club anymore. Her highlight was a hole in one! We didn't stop hearing about that! She was supported by some very good friends, playing until almost the end.

We were lucky to enjoy many holidays together; and I have many happy memories of our times visiting faraway places as well as many trips to Germany. One place she loved was Florida and we were able to visit there several times. Disneyworld was a great favourite of hers and we spent many happy times there with all the family, making wonderful memories. She never stopped talking about these trips. Something she focused on three years ago was arranging a big family reunion in Germany. We met up with many people we hadn't seen for years, and this gave her such great pleasure – I can see her now chatting away, smiling with a glass of Kolsch in hand. I am so very glad she achieved this.

Ursula had more than her fair share of medical problems over the years but endured them with fortitude. She loved her family, they always came first, and in later years she got so much joy from being a Nanny and 'Nanny Oma' to her grandchildren and great grandchildren, welcoming two more into the world quite recently. She loved and adored us all, as we did her. To me, she was the person who was always there for me, and my purpose in life to the end. I am so grateful that I have been able to share my life with her and to me, she was and always will be, the love of my life.

The family would like to thank everyone that attended the funeral and for the many cards and messages received. It's quite ironic but Ursula always said she didn't know many people but by the many that attended and the cards received, she got that wrong. They say life goes on, time will heal etc., but for me, life will never be the same again.

Michael Dorling



Great Bentley Hedgehog Highways

A Facebook page set up by Demi Harvey and Emma Garrod. We are both 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 of a hedgehog's life.

July is here, this is when the baby hoglets are three or four weeks old. Their mother begins to take them out to look for food, teaching them how to forage food for themselves.

This time of year it is especially important to start providing a shallow bowl of water and food, if you are not already. By providing food and water it will help the young hoglets survive.

*Provide either a purpose bought hedgehog food or cat or dog meat (not fish based, as they can not digest fish) or crushed dog or cat biscuits (again not fish based). Avoid biscuits containing colourant or E numbers. Tesco's or Sainsbury's sell a basic kitten food, which is a small biscuit, so no need to crush and contains no colourant or E numbers. NEVER Feed milk and bread, as hedgehogs can't digest this and will develop diarrhoea, dehydration and die.

We get a lot of hedgehogs brought into the vets that are dehydrated and needing our help.

How to know if a hedgehog needs our help at Kinfauns vets in six basic signs:

- 1 Lethargic – hedgehogs don't sunbathe and if it doesn't curl up in a ball in defence then it is sick and needs help.
- 2 Flies – if there are a lot of flies around a hedgehog it needs help.
- 3 Wobbly – if the hedgehog is wobbling as it walks there is something wrong it needs help.
- 4 Obviously injured – wounded or clearly in distress it needs help.
- 5 Trapped – if hedgehog has been caught in a drain, netting, pond etc. It will need help if it has been trapped for a while and is dehydrated, or the netting can not be untangled from it's limbs.
- 6 Hoglets – seen out during the day without an adult

Have you found a hedgehog out in the day? If it is early evening and hedgehog is active it is hopefully fine. Provide food and water and observe it eats with no effort. If it is a large hedgehog running around frantically collecting leaves in its mouth. This is a female hedgehog making a nest ready for her young. – provide food and water and anything she can use to make a nest. Observe from afar.

Here is a more in depth check list to asses a hedgehog's health.

- Are it's eyes bright and clear, with no discharge
- Is it alert and interested in it's surroundings?
- How well and how fast is it breathing? A normal respiration rate is between 50 to 110 respirations per minute. A sleeping hedgehog is 25 to 50 rpm. During hibernation this rate drops to 13 rpm or less. Normal heart rate is 120 to 170 beats per minute. During sleep 140 bpm. During hibernation 5 to 10 bpm.
- Is it cold?
- Is there any blood, either on it or coming from it? If so, check where from. Can you see any visible external wounds?
- Is it restless?
- Is it reluctant to move? Or lethargic? (reluctant to move should not be confused with the hedgehogs defence of curling up in a ball) If a hedgehog curls up in a ball this is a good sign, a sick hedgehog sometimes can't curl up. If the hedgehog has curled up in a tight ball, it should be observed from a distance, for if the hedgehog uncurls and walks away with no wobbles.
- Can it walk properly?
- Are all the limbs intact?
- What does it smell like? (hedgehogs normally smell earthy) If you can smell rotten flesh, it probably has an infected wound and needs help.
- What is the condition of it's spines and fur? Are they bald in areas?
- Can you see parasites such as ticks or fleas? (if it is absolutely covered with fleas and ticks this may be a sign that it's immune system is down and needs help).
- Is it dehydrated? (eyes sunken and skin tenting).
- Has it passed any urine or faeces? If so what did it look like? (green faeces is a sign of a heavy worm infestation).
- Is anything such as netting or plastic wrapped around part of the body?
- If you have a hedgehog that normally visits and eats well and then it noticeably is eating less. It is worth getting it checked. I have seen so many hedgehogs with things stuck in their mouths. From elastic bands, springs from a pen, to peanuts.

If you have found a sick hedgehog place it in a cardboard box with a hot water bottle. Ensure the hot water bottle is wrapped in a towel to prevent burning the hedgehog. Provide water and if possible food. Warming the hedgehog up could be a life saver and contact us at Kinfauns vets.

Emma Garrod RVN, C&GCertVNES

Breaktime bell of 1953.

It was the end of another maths lesson with Neddy, Jim's teacher. The class was silent - compliant - waiting for the bell to signal breaktime. Eleven-year-old Jim, sitting quietly at his desk in the middle of the roomy parquet-floored classroom knew what Neddy was going to do next because it happened at the end of every maths lesson; Neddy was going to write a number of vertical lines on the blackboard. Jim wasn't interested, he couldn't wait to get out into the yard. God knows who gave Neddy that nickname, but for years at this school all the teachers were afforded some epithet - some descriptive nickname bestowed upon them by legions of former pupils. Even Jim's big sister at the school before him knew Mr Edwards as Neddy; this balding, lugubrious man - vacant of humour who always wore a dark blue double-breasted blazer with leather patches on the elbows. It was hard to imagine that he was once young.

Minutes before the ringing of the break bell, Mr Edwards, as always, would stand upright facing the class and begin drawing on the board behind him a row of large, bold vertical chalk lines about six inches high, each standing to attention as if awaiting their execution. On completion of his scrawling of what appeared to be a random number of lines - about fifteen or twenty perhaps - he would then lower his hand to place his chalk stick in the groove provided at the base of the blackboard. The essential 'stage prop' for this charade was his beloved board duster, a wooden block with felt on one side used for cleaning the blackboard. He had a thing about that duster did Neddy, forever running his thumb and two fingers of his right hand over the ergonomic contours of the wooden handle, like a gunfighter caressing his six-shooter.

"Before you all leave," began the pedagogue, "one of you has to make me, Mr Edwards your mathematics teacher, erase the last of the lines displayed on the blackboard behind me." Suffering a minor panic attack, Jim closed his eyes. "Who would like to begin? Do I have a volunteer, a challenger, or do I select a name from my register?" There was a pause, a nervous silence as every pupil in the room studied their desktop, desperately avoiding any contact with those searching eyes. Neddy continued playing with the board duster, swinging it back and forth using his thumb and middle finger as a pivot. No one stepped forward. He finally held the board duster aloft as if offering it to a contestant as he menacingly arranged his class register on the desk in front of him. He removed a pencil from behind his ear, looked away and effusively lowered the pencil onto the list to indicate the name of a pupil. "Very well. Number twenty-seven on my register is..... come forward, James Smith."

Jim dragged himself out of his seat and walked slowly to the front, avoiding eye contact with Neddy, preferring to look at the row of lines, trying to appear as though he was thinking of an opening move - he had no idea. The game was about to begin. "Now remember, Mr Smith," Neddy haughtily announced as if in the Friday assembly, "each of us will, in turn, erase between one and three lines. One of us will be deemed the winner if his opponent is made to erase the last line. If you understand, we shall begin. I will go first."

"I'll go first, sir," interrupted Jim, turning to look at the class in search of support.

Raising an eyebrow, Neddy looked at Jim whilst placing his board duster on the edge of his desk, making it available. "And what reason makes you insist on making the first move, Smith?" asked the teacher.

"Because Kathleen Jones had to go second last Tuesday, sir. And she lost," answered the lad.

"Ah, yes. Kathleen was, unlike you Smith, an intelligent opponent. But sadly, like you will be James, she was unsuccessful on that occasion."

Jim reached forward to the teacher's desk, picked up the duster, hesitated and then removed two lines from the row. He replaced the duster. Neddy swiftly retrieved the duster and confidently removed a number of lines. He then replaced the duster, but only after having fastidiously brushed away the chalk dust left by Jim on the desktop.

Following a number of exchanges, and aware that the bell would sound any second, Jim counted the number of lines remaining - why? - he still had no idea. But it was his turn to continue. At that very instant, Kathleen Jones coughed. Jim glanced at her - just for a moment - after which he took the duster and removed three lines leaving five large vertical stripes still standing. The duster he replaced on the desk, then stepped aside to allow sufficient space for Mr Edwards to pick it up and make his move. The class, still waiting for that bell, lost interest in the contest, everyone, that is, except Kathleen Jones who sat with a mischievous smile on her face as she viewed the five lines still on the board. With heightened interest she awaited Neddy's response. There wasn't one. The bell sounded triumphal, heralding the end of the lesson.

Sporting a huge grin, Jim joined the line of pupils as they silently filed out of the room - he had been saved, he thought. Neddy, still with talismanic board rubber in hand, stood upright by the exit door. The last pupil to leave however was Kathleen Jones who, on passing Mr Edwards paused for a second, glanced at the five remaining chalk lines then turned her head to face him. With a smile she offered a respectful but retaliatory nod.

After all, both she and Neddy knew that it wasn't Jim who had been saved by the bell.

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**TAKEN FROM
I REMEMBER ... A GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY
PROJECT COMPILED BY BARBARA TRICKER, PUBLISHED 1996**

Mrs Gwen Cross tells the story of Great Bentley Dairy

The Dairy at Great Bentley was started by Mr Harold Fookes at about 1925. He had bought the house in The Cut now known as Sunnyside, also the cottage next door named Belmont. Belmont had a garden at that time to the side the same as the adjoining cottage Dinmore. Mr Fookes took the garden from the front and used the land to build the Dairy onto the side of Sunnyside. This left just a passageway to the rear of Belmont.

The Dairy at this time was known as Paynes Dairy, as Mr Fookes used to buy the milk from Paynes Farm at Little Bentley. At this time he did not have any bottles but used to deliver from hand cans which he carried on a motorcycle. The motorcycle had been a combination sidecar. The sidecar was removed and a platform made to carry the churns.

Later on he did have his own bottles. The bottles were washed and rinsed in old tin baths in a shed at the back. The water was heated in a copper. There was no mains water and this had to be carried from a standpipe at the corner of The Cut.

In the mid thirties Mr Fookes sold the business to a Mr Thomas. He was only there about three to four years we think when he sold it to another Mr and Mrs Thomas. My husband bought it from Mr Thomas in 1948. The round then covered Great Bentley, Aingers Green, part of Frating and Thorrington. All round the Green the milk was delivered from a trade cycle - a three wheeler with a platform at one side to carry the crates. The rest of the round was done with a Ford 8 van.

The milk was collected in the morning and late afternoon in ten gallon churns from Mr Black's at Hall Farm, and a farm at Tendring. Later on we did have some milk from Mr Gibbon at The Lodge. The bottles were still washed by hand, but with help of a small electric washer. In 1953 the law was changed, all milk had to be pasteurised, and all bottles had to have the metal cap which covered the top of the bottle instead of the push in board cap which we were using. The small Dairyman could not afford the plant which was necessary for the new regulations, few had the space anyway. We had already been buying the milk for the school third pints ready bottled from Lord Rayleigh's Dairies. When the new regulations came into force we had all our milk delivered ready bottled from them.

We were not allowed to sell cream again, this was delivered to us in cans, we filled it into cartons ourselves.

In 1960 Lord Rayleigh thought to revolutionise the Dairy Industry with the introduction of the Tetra-Pak carton. We went to a meeting where the Hon. Charles Strutt extolled the virtues of the carton. It all sounded very exciting and impressive. When we started to use them it was a different story, the public just did not like them. After a few months we were forced to change our supplier to Drury Farm Dairy and back to the good old bottle. The Hon. Charles predicted that the Glass Bottle would disappear in a few years, but over thirty years on it is still with us.

After the houses in Birch Avenue had been built and were being occupied we bought Dolly the horse and a flat cart with her, for our daughter to deliver the milk to them. This caused much amusement to newcomers. I think that they thought that they were really living in the sticks. The children loved her. When she became too old we replaced her with an electric truck. This was used until I sold the business in 1974.

"Sunnyside" is next door to Tesco's.

JULY DIARY

- Sat 1st **FLOWER FESTIVAL**, Methodist Church, 10-5pm
- Sat 1st **OUTDOOR PRODUCTION OF PETER PAN**,
St Mary's Church, 4.30pm
- Sun 2nd **FLOWER FESTIVAL**, Methodist Church, 11.30-5pm
- Sun 2nd **WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP**, Alresford
- Tues 4th **LADIES CLUB**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Wed 5th **AUTISM COFFEE MORNING**, Village Hall, 9.30am
- Thurs 6th **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, Village Hall, 7pm
- Sun 7th **FRIDAY FIVE RACE**
- Sat 8th **CLACTON CHORAL SOCIETY**
St James Church, Clacton, 7pm
- Sat 8th **TENDRING SHOW**
- Sun 9th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St Georges, Gt Bromley, 10.30am
- Mon 10th **HISTORY SOCIETY VISIT** to Marks Tey Brick Works
- Tues 11th **ART CLUB**
- Tues 11th **VILLAGE HALL AGM**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Fri 14th **ST HELENA AUCTION & RAFFLE**
- Sat 15th **COFFEE MORNING**, St Mary's Church Hall, 10-12noon
- Sat 15th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Tues 18th **GARDENING CLUB**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Thurs 20th **KNIT & NATTER**, 2pm Church Hall
- Thurs 20th **PATIENT PARTICIPATION MEETING**, 6.30, Village Hall
- Sat 22nd **OPEN DAY AT WRABNESS RESERVE**, 11-3pm
- Sun 23rd **DEANERY CHOIR**, All Saints Church, Wrabness, 6.30pm
- Mon 24th **TALK ON GHOSTS, GHOULS AND GHASTLY TALES**,
Fusiliers, Aingers Green, 7pm
- Tues 25th **ART CLUB**
- Fri 28th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, Church Hall, 9am
- Sun 30th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St Mary's, Lt Bentley, 11am