

Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community
for the Community**



June 2023

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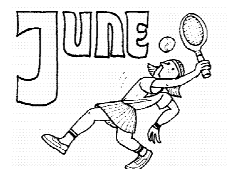
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Sue and Faris Shimali 07973 534301

WEDDING COORDINATOR

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

EDITORIAL



2023

I know that many of you enjoyed the bluebell wood open day at Thorringtonhall Woods recently and it is estimated that 900 adults and at least 130 children attended raising a fantastic £3,000 over the two days. One of the organisers was saying that many of the villagers expressed sadness that Thorrington no longer had a magazine, which is a good way of publicising village events.

Here in Great Bentley the Coronation weekend was a huge success with all tickets sold out for both events and a waiting list for dance tickets. The band, The Gifted had everyone up and dancing and it was a truly family event. One of the nicest comments was that it was "Just like the village used to be". This is not a reflection at all on the new housing developments but more the fact that dances were a regular occurrence, usually held in the village hall and organised by the football and cricket clubs and the PTA etc.

I have to say that many new residents have thrown themselves into village life joining in various clubs, helping with the magazine, litter picking, village show and so much more. If we all did a little bit just imagine how amazing that would be. Thank you to Jo for her letter of thanks to the organisers of the Coronation event and urging everyone to help with village events even if it is with the setting up, clearing away of tables, chairs etc. It means so much to have those extra pairs of hands. As ever it's the same stalwart families that keep our village ticking over....you know who you are and THANK YOU. Having read what other villages were organising I believe Great Bentley can be justifiably proud of the community effort.

On the same note we now look forward to Carnival Day at the end of June. I am absolutely certain that the organising committee would love some extra help so do contact them if you are available.

St Mary's May Fair was a big success and raised £1,800 and best of all it was not raining! Thank you to everyone who supported this event. It may surprise you to learn that it costs **OVER £100 A DAY** to keep our wonderful church open and of course we could not do this without the support of our wonderful village community. This month we will be having a Gift Day on **Saturday June 17th** to try and raise funds to help with repairs and restoration. (It is 5 years since we did this). Do come along and learn of the history of our church, look through record books loaned by the County archivists and enjoy a cuppa. Of course, if you could donate to this worthy cause it would be greatly appreciated. A letter will be delivered to every household explaining all of this. We look forward to seeing you.

Our churchyard will be explored on Saturday 3rd June "God's Acre" as churchyards are known have much to offer so come along and learn more. All ages are welcome.

I do hope the weather stays kind and everyone can enjoy their gardens and allotments and the lovely countryside which surrounds us all. Have a happy June.

Mary Maskell

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FRONT COVER

Coronation
Afternoon tea
in the marquee

DISCLAIMER

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LETTER FOR JUNE

Dear Friends,

As I compose this letter we offer up our prayers and best wishes to Rev. Sharon as her recovery continues and we look forward to seeing her soon.

The Church celebrated Pentecost on the 28th May saying goodbye to our Easter season. We now enter a period of Ordinary Time sometimes known as Trinity where you will find that for most of the year our Church vestments and hangings will be green only changing colours for special occasions. But we cannot sit back on our laurels as June is now proving to be a busy month.

We start off the month with a Bat and Moth evening on the 2nd June, (weather permitting) and this is an opportunity to explore the churchyard in the evening. On June 3rd at 2pm we have an afternoon exploring the churchyard. See below for further information.

As the month continues we have our planned Gift Day further details on page 15. If you are unable to attend but wish to make a donation please make cheques payable to 'Great Bentley PCC'. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible as we have on display archive church records.

On the 24th June the village opens up for our yearly carnival. The church will be open for those who wish to visit.

Our Church looks forward to welcoming weddings and baptisms. Please contact the Churchwardens if you wish to book a wedding or baptism.

A special note on the 1st July we will be welcoming our Outdoor Theatre with a production of Peter Pan starting at 4.30pm gates open 3.30pm. Bring your own chairs Ticket prices £14 adults, £11 concessions £45 for 2 adults and two children. See page 18.

Wendy King
Lay Chair

CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE 2023

Saturday 3rd June 2-4pm

We have a large beautiful and peaceful churchyard available for the benefit of the whole community.

Come and join us, (weather permitting) to look at and record its diversity: flowers, trees, insects and birds.

- Children's nature activities
- Refreshments available

We are also hoping to have a Bat and Moth evening, Friday 2nd June, again weather permitting.

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'.



BAPTISMS

20th May - Harvey Black

28th May - Alice Groom

ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE

stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk



GREAT BENTLEY

METHODIST CHURCH

Forge Lane CO7 8GD

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

Ring 250087

Don't forget our Facebook page.

Search for

GtBentleyMethodistChurch

Greetings to you all

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

June 4th	Eirwen Grenfell-Essam
June 11th	Rev Tom Osborne HC
June 18th	Maggie Woods
June 25th	Local Leadership

Events in June:

Coffee & Chat June 2nd 10am to noon. Disaster Emergency Fund

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

Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 14th June

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 20th June 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

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

ST MARY'S SERVICES

Friday 2nd June - Bat evening

Saturday 3rd June

2-4pm Churches count on nature.

Sunday 4th June - Trinity Sunday

10am Joint Benefice service at St Osyth

Sunday 11th June - Trinity 1

Laurie Bond

9.30am Holy Communion

Thursday 15th June

2pm Knit & Natter, Church Hall

Saturday 17th June

Gift Day & Coffee Morning 10-4pm

Sunday 18th June - Fathers Day

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 25th June - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Morning Prayer

ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR JUNE

Sidespersons & Readers

St Osyth
11th Richard Wainer
18th Lyn Gordon
25th Chris Aplin

Prayer Rota

St Osyth
11th Nicky Justice
18th David Branch
25th Carol Kerridge

Coffee Rota

St Osyth
11th Hannah Justice
18th Vicky Rothwell
25th Lyn Gordon

Cleaning Rota

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



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 22nd June

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

THANK YOU FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make our May Fayre on the 13th such a success. We are lucky to have such good support from our lovely village. It was wonderful to see so many people have a try at our mini bell ringer, which we will have again at the village show. Thank you also to all the helpers who set everything up, manned stalls then packed everything away again at the end. £1,800 was raised for Church funds.

Nicky Justice

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

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

WELCOME

We welcome Ed, Rob and baby Eliza
to Weeley Road, Great Bentley

GREAT BENTLEY GOOD NEIGHBOURS

AGM

Thursday 22nd June

7.30pm at the Village Hall

All welcome

Bev Adams 01206 250724

THE DEANERY CHOIR

JUNE June 10th

The Deanery Choir will be supporting the Flower Festival at St Mary's Church Lawford CO11 2JX at 11am. They will sing a number of anthems suitable for weddings which is the theme of the Festival. Composers, Walford-Davies, Bob Chilcott, Victor Young, Thomas Tallis and John Rutter will feature along with a few surprises. Peter Clayton will accompany them on the organ.

June 11th

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, 'Blessed are the pure in heart' by Henry Walford-Davies. This verse is generally believed to have been taken from Psalm 24: 3-5 either by Jesus or the author of Matthew who was adding this verse that is not found in Luke. A number of scholars have been certain that there were originally seven Beatitudes, as seven was a holy number. Since this verse is similar to the Psalm some believe it was the one incorrectly integrated into the Sermon on the Mount.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir

THANK YOU

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my lovely friends and neighbours for the beautiful cards and good wishes I received recently on the occasion of my 90th birthday. I feel so lucky to live in this friendly and caring community. I have been truly blessed with a loving supportive family and a long and healthy life.

None of us know what the future might bring, but at this time, as we are all thinking about the Coronation of King Charles the third, I would like to quote from the speech given by his Grandfather, King George the sixth in his Christmas message to the nation in 1939.

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'

And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way! So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night'

I hope you have enjoyed the Coronation Celebrations, thank you and best wishes to you all!

Zonia Wood

Agnes and John Walters

Congratulations on your
Diamond Wedding Anniversary
on 1st June

With love from
Steve, Rosie, Julie, Colin, Keeley,
Grant, Jodie, Dom, Francesca, James,
Alex and Riley



THANK YOU

To EVERYONE who has been involved in the organising of the party and afternoon tea on the Green
THANK YOU.

It was brilliant and showed Great Bentley at its best. Our family really enjoyed both the evening and the afternoon. It takes a lot of dedicated people to make it look so easy. Cakes, drinks, decorations, entertainment for children and adults. Fantastic.

Thank you from
the Flinns



SCHOOL NEWS

The school have had a wonderful time celebrating the Coronation. It was lovely to see the children dressed in their red, white and blue.

Year 3 have been learning how to group objects based on their attributes and created their own data branches with yes/no questions. They have also completed our author studies on Anthony Browne. They have worked hard to research about his life and have studied his books in depth.

Year 4 have been working on sketches of elephants in readiness to create a sculpture of clay. This work compliments their Class Reader "The Girl Who Stole an Elephant". They chose a pose that they liked and then carefully sketched it, considering how this would work when it is moulded in clay.

Year 5 in their geography lesson have been using Flight Radar to track planes as they travel through time zones as part of their learning about Prime Meridian and time zones.

Year 6 have been absolute superstars: they have shown resilience, determination and maturity during their SATs papers. They had breakfast together each morning and lots of extra games and giggles in order to reduce anxiety. We are incredibly proud of them all.

RECYCLING

RECYCLING AT GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS BEEN SUSPENDED

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES



ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Division 1

KO 3 00pm unless stated

Tues April 18 th	Silver End	(H)	L	3 – 0	6 30pm
Saturday May 13 th	Tiptree Jobserve	(A)	W	4 – 0	Amos Cup S/F 2 00pm

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Division 3

KO 3 00pm unless stated

Saturday April 15 th	Brantham 'A'	(A)	W	2 – 1	Res KO Cup S/Final
Monday May 1 st	Gas Rec Reserves	(A)	L	3 – 1	Res KO Cup Final 11 00am
Sat May 6 th	Flitch	(H)	W	3 – 0	
Tues May 16 th	Bradfield Rovers	(A)	W	3 - 2	
Sat May 20 th	Barnston Reserves	(H)			

The last few remaining games for both teams were continually being amended by the Border League. Almost changing on a daily basis. The Amos Cup semi final against Tiptree Jobserve a good example. After waiting for over 4 months and having no games for 3 weeks, we get 6 days notice of the fixture. The reserve teams last 3 games also changing on numerous occasions.

Players from Brightlingsea Town and Thorpe Athletic came to watch the 1st teams last game of the season against Silver End. Silver End had games in hand over both clubs and could take the title from Brightlingsea Town at the last hurdle. Thorpe Athletic could also still finish 2nd. On the evening. Silver End were just too strong for the side we had out and deserved their win. They have since now played more mid week games and have won the league.

The Amos Cup S/mi Final v Tiptree Jobserve was finally played at Florence Park. Colchester United training ground. The Amos Cup has a set of unique rules. For players to appear in a semi final they must have played three 1st teams games this season. With a group of 1st team players away together on a holiday and some injuries in the squad we were struggling to field a team. Thankfully Lee Barret after coaching a youth squad in the morning on the green took to the field plus Matt "monty" Beard and James "Jammo" Wright from the reserve team squad. Aaron Clifton who was out injured was nominated as our only sub, should the need arise. The rest of the reserve team squad had to watch from the sidelines unable to help in this situation.

Credit to Greg "brains" Taylor and Lee Barret because whatever they said in the pre match team talk certainly lit a fire under the team. Straight from the off we went on the attack and shut Tiptree down at every attack. Jammo opening the scoring. The final result was a great team effort and it would be wrong to single out any individual player on the day. The final will be against Cavendish, who are also in Division 1. Date yet to be arranged.

The outcome of the abandoned KO Cup game against Earls Colne was decided by the Essex FA. To say it was disappointing would be an understatement. Both teams were excluded from the competition. Earls Colne Football Club and the two Earls Colne players involved were heavily fined but we were still found guilty of not controlling our players even though it was agreed that we were not the instigators of the incident !!!! Words fail me.

Tim counted 57 GB supporters on the touchline at Tattingstone Village playing field, Suffolk as the reserves faced Brantham A in the Semi Final Reserve KO Cup. Brantham used local knowledge to lob goalkeeper Jack French on what was a very short pitch. We hit back almost immediately with goals from Elliot McMillan and Adam Morton. In the second half we took the opportunity to use all 3 subs, giving everybody some valuable minutes. I felt that it weakened our team but they held on, proving me wrong.

Little Oakley FC hosted the Reserve KO Cup Final on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May. A good sized crowd turned up to witness the game versus old rivals Gas Recreation Reserves. Gas Recreation Reserves is predominately made up of some of the older 1st team that folded and some of the Gas Recreation vets side. Unfortunately we showed them too much respect and as one of the GB management team said " we allowed them to bully us out of the game". The final score was 3 – 1 to Gas. Greg Wainer scored our consolation goal.

The evening KO at Bradfield Rovers was eventful. The referee blew his whistle to start the game also signalled a 15 min hail storm that nearly flooded the pitch and soaked players and spectators alike. After being 2 goals down at halftime it was a great performance for Great Bentley to take the win 3 – 2. Goals from Harvey Evans, Sam Winney and Lewis Sillet. Bradfield Rovers are top of Division 3 and favourites to take the trophy.

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

Come on the Bulldogs

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



GREAT BENTLEY TUESDAY AFTERNOON CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Carpet Bowls Club celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with a lunch held in The Fusilier Pub, Aingers Green on Tuesday 9th May 2023 attended by 20 members and guests, an enjoyable afternoon and meal was had by all.

The club is always looking for new members so if you are over 55 and would like to join a village club for a jovial, friendly afternoon of gentle exercise in a social atmosphere, no experience needed, and all equipment is supplied including instruction if required.

We play every Tuesday afternoon between 2–4pm with a tea break. The first two weeks are free, after that it's £10 annual membership and £3 a week towards the Village Hall rent and insurance.

For further details please contact our Club Secretary: Hilary on 01206 250969 or 07535 107335 or just turn up. We look forward to meeting you.



AGNES AND JOHN WALTERS
01.06.1963 - 01.06.2023.

Congratulations to my dear friends and neighbours on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.
Hope you have a wonderful day.

Love from Hilary.



Did you know animals can receive acupuncture? It is a very safe treatment option which can only be performed by a trained Veterinary Surgeon (or trained Veterinary Nurse under the Vet's supervision).

What is acupuncture?

The insertion of needles into specific points on the body to produce a healing response. Each acupuncture point has specific actions when stimulated.

How does it work?

Acupuncture can assist the body to heal itself by affecting certain physiological changes. For example, acupuncture can stimulate nerves, increase blood circulation, relieve muscle spasm, and cause the release of hormones, such as endorphins (one of the body's pain control chemicals) and cortisol (a natural steroid).

Which conditions can be treated using acupuncture?

The list is long but generally conditions involving pain and inflammation. My favourite condition to treat using acupuncture is arthritis. I studied acupuncture for one particular Golden Retriever for whom modern medicine was no longer sufficient to keep him comfortable. I was sceptical but his owners and I felt there was nothing to lose and it made the most incredible difference to him. Acupuncture can be used alongside – and sometimes instead of – modern medicine.

Is veterinary acupuncture painful?

The needles used are very fine and their insertion is virtually pain-free.

I think acupuncture might be helpful for my pet. What is the procedure?

I tailor the treatment protocol to my individual patient starting with an initial consultation to assess the pet's overall health and advise on whether I believe acupuncture is appropriate. I generally begin with weekly acupuncture sessions and taper after four depending on the patient's response.

In other news.... Are you a Weeley Veterinary Centre client?

If you are, keep a look out for an email during the first week in June containing a very special invitation. It's going to be an exciting month for my whole team.

Dr April Young MRCVS



St Osyth summer lunchtime Recital series

Please join us at the church in St Osyth on 16th June for the first in our series of summer lunchtime concerts. Emma Nash, local classical pianist, will perform a recital on our Broadwood grand piano to include music by Debussy, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Sibelius. The recital will start at 12.30 and run for approximately 45 minutes. No tickets are required but we would appreciate donations to the music fund for the church.

SESAW NEWS

My mission, this month, is to find a home for two retired racing greyhounds that tower over me and have languished at SESA W for over a year.

Bodie and Mikey, aged five and four respectively could be separated but that would be a shame as they have always been together. They need an experienced home with no cats, two on-lead walks a day and a comfy sofa. If you have room in your heart and home for these beautiful creatures, please leave a phone message or email with your contact details.

By the way, we will be selling various items at a Boot Sale on the Football Ground in Long Melford, CO10 9JY, 2.30pm on 9th June. We will also have a stall and a Pets Corner at the Summer Fete on Leavenheath Village Green, CO6 4PY, 1pm of 17th June. Do pop in to say hello if you fancy a trip out.

More volunteers are still needed to look after the dogs, cats, rabbits and other small animals until the right persons comes along. If you would like to help or are looking for a new pet to complete your family, please visit our website or call in to see our many rescued animals. We are open 10am to 1pm, Thursday to Sunday and look forward to seeing you. You may even catch a glimpse of me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

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

GREAT BENTLEY FLAG RAISING

Flying flags are a very British way of expressing joy and pride – they are emotive symbols which boost local and national identities, strengthen community cohesion and mark civic pride.

Flying the Union Flag, the flag of the United Kingdom is a symbol of national unity and pride. The flag of St George is flown on Saint George's day notably England's patron Saint. The date 23rd April is traditionally accepted as the date of the Saint's death.

Flying a flag at half-mast means that the flag is flown two thirds of the way up the flagpole (with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole). The flag remains at half-mast between notification of a death and the funeral of a member of the Royal family.

The following dates are when a flag is flown on the Great Bentley village flagpole. They should be raised at 8am and lowered at 8pm except for Remembrance weekend and State Funerals.

17 th June 2023	Trooping of the Colour (Official Kings Birthday Parade)	Union Flag.
21 st June 2023	Birthday of Prince of Wales.	Union Flag.
8 th September 2023	HM Accession Day.	Union Flag.
11 th November 2023	Remembrance Day. (Half-mast at 11am)	Union Flag.
12 th November 2023	Remembrance Sunday. (Half-mast at 11am)	Union Flag.
14 th November 2023	King Charles III Birthday	Union Flag.
11 th March 2024	Commonwealth Day (Normally 2 nd Monday in March)	Union Flag.
23 rd March 2024	Saint George's Day.	St George Flag.
6 th May 2024	Coronation Day	Union Flag.

In addition, the Union Flag will be flown on the day of the opening of a Session of the Houses of Parliament by His Majesty and the day of prorogation of the Session of the Houses of Parliament by His Majesty.

Flags should be flown on these days even if His Majesty does not perform the ceremony in person.

Malcolm Channing
Great Bentley Flag Warden

Wills Month 2023

You can make a real difference while planning for the future. Simply make or amend your Will this June or July as part of St Helena's Wills Month and help local people facing incurable illness and bereavement in your local community.



St Helena is working in partnership with local solicitors who are waiving their usual Will writing fees, in return for a donation to St Helena Hospice. There is no set fee, but instead suggested donation amounts of £150 for a single Will and £175 for a joint Will.

Having a Will is really important, whatever your age or circumstances. Making a Will can allow you to ensure your affairs are in order; final wishes are met; your loved ones are looked after in the future; and to support the charities close to your heart.

Did you know gifts in Wills currently provide the funds for us to care for 1 in every 5 people we support?

Your support can help create a community where everyone is able to live and die well, with care, compassion and dignity, because everyone deserves that right.

For more information or to sign up please visit our website at www.sthelena.org.uk/will23

GREAT BENTLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB Chairmans Update – June 2023

The Under 5's have loved being back on the grass following their winter sessions indoors, having fun in some rain affected sessions! Our Under 9 Blue squad accompanied them during an Easter egg hunt in Great Bentley Spinney and lots of fun was had by all boys!

Our Under 9 Blues have continued to enjoy their football! They have scored lots of goals and played very well in recent games, particularly impressive with the team goalkeeper being injured long term for over 8 weeks! The team has shared the responsibility of goalkeeper amazingly well showing super teamwork!

Some of boys from our Under 9 Reds have recently travelled to Thailand on holiday during the Easter half term. Whilst in Thailand the boys played football against a local school helping raise some money and donating their kits and lots of other items also.

The U16 Reds finished their season with some mixed results but have been playing some great football. Back in March they beat FC Clacton 2-0 in the League (Goals from Matt Watts & Evan Brady) and had a great 4-1 result against top of the league Earls Colne with a hat trick from Evan Brady. April's games were losses to Stanway Rovers and Stanway Pegasus with a hard fought 2-1 win against Halstead (goals from Jamie Lambert & Evan Brady) on the village green. The last game of the season was an entertaining 6-3 loss over at Wivenhoe Town with goals from Evan Brady (pen), Jamie Lambert and Ellis Gilders. This was the last game for the boys as a group as U16 is the last year in the youth league. The club, and coach Matt Lambert, would like to add what an amazing group they have been and a credit to the club. We wish them all the best on the next step in their football journey.

Yours in sport,

Great Bentley Youth Football Club

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all my friends and neighbours who gave me flowers, gifts, cards and treated me out to afternoon tea on the occasion of my 80th birthday. It was a lovely day and I feel really blessed to have so many friends.

Carole Allington



GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET CLUB

Playing cricket on The Green since 1771.

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

The first Colts practices took place on The Green on Friday 21st April in glorious sunshine with around forty children taking part in the two sessions. If your children are interested in playing Colts practice is held every Friday evening at either 17:30 (softball) or 18:20 (hardball) – please contact the club for more information about which session would be best for your child. At the time of writing nine Colts matches are taking place over the next fortnight – their first matches of the season -- good luck to everyone taking part!

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather in the morning and the forecast for the evening our much-anticipated pre-season adult friendly against the Frinton Barflies on 21st April was cancelled. Such are the vagaries of the British weather by the time we would have played the only issue would have been did everyone apply enough sunscreen! Adult practices will be held every Thursday from 6:30pm, also on The Green.

The first league game to be played on The Green for close to a decade took place on Sunday 7th May against a strong Chelmsford XI. Great Bentley won the toss and elected to field under a cloudless blue sky. Sam Busby bowled the first over from the Pavilion end while Lily Wainer took the second over from the Surgery End. Both bowled excellent long spells keeping the run rate down but had no luck. Captain Alex Youngs rotated through all the bowlers but when chances came the ball always dropped just short of, or between, fielders. It wasn't until James Snowdon bowled the 40th and final over of the Chelmsford innings, by which time their openers had amassed 220 runs, that the first wicket fell. Just like buses, when one turns up it is quickly followed by two more, one to a stunning diving caught and bowled. Chelmsford ended on 221-3 with Snowdon returning figures of 9-2-32-3. Great Bentley began their innings strongly with some powerful batting from Snowdon and Dan Barker who put on 44 for the first wicket. Snowdon was taking the Chelmsford bowlers to task with some superb hitting including one huge six that disrupted the large number of spectators outside hitting the pavilion roof on one bounce! Unfortunately, the Chelmsford bowlers were bowling very well, and wickets were falling at the other end with some regularity. As drinks were taken at the halfway stage, Bentley had scored 104-5 -- the match was poised on a knife edge. However, when Snowdon fell for a magnificent 105 stumped by some sharp work from Chelmsford's young keeper with the score on 138-6 the remaining Bentley batters had a mountain to climb. They put up stiff resistance, but Great Bentley were all out for 146, some 76 runs short of the required total. Despite the loss, it was a good team performance and great to have league cricket back on The Green. Great Bentley Player of the Match: James Snowdon.

On a bright and sunny 14th May Gt. Bentley played our second league game away vs. Galleywood. Bentley won the toss and decided to bat. Adam Cuthbert opened setting the groundwork for a long innings nudging ones and twos whilst Dan Barker was the more aggressive coming in at number three after an early wicket. After Barker fell (33), Alfie Youngs (23) along with the rest of the middle order supported Cuthbert (83) before a late burst from the lower order including a massive six from Sam Busby saw Bentley finish on a competitive 207-9. Mike Wright and Sam Busby opened the bowling and did so brilliantly. Keeping it very tight, both were unlucky not to take more wickets — at the end of their spells Galleywood were struggling on 44-3 off 11 overs. Dan Barker and Mark Busby tied up an end with spin allowing the quicks to rotate at the other. The fielders hardly put a foot wrong with Barkers direct hit run out and Captain Alex Youngs two sharp catches behind the stumps being prime examples. Pick of the bowlers were Ed Kerridge who bowled accurately with aggression (but no luck!) and Alfie Youngs who ended with very impressive figures of 6-3-6-2. Special mention to young Jakes Pearce bowling very well off his 3 overs. As the sun started to fall behind the trees around the ground Galleywood were all out for 155. Bentley winning by 52 runs. Bentley Player of the Match: Adam Cuthbert. A great team performance and first win in the league!

As a reminder to all existing members: membership and training fees are now overdue. Please pay both. All fees (and bar prices) are frozen for another season. Registration and payment should now be made via the website.

Upcoming Adult and Colts Fixtures:

MAY		JUNE	
Mon 15th:	U13 Away v Brightlingsea 6pm	Sun 4th:	Adults NECL T40 Home v West Mersea 1pm
Wed 17th:	U11 Away v Tendring 6pm	Sun 4th:	U13 Away v Sudbury 10am
Thu 18th:	U13 @Bromley v Wivenhoe 6pm	Wed 7th:	U12 Away v Eight Ash Green 6pm
Fri 19th:	U12 Away v Coggeshall 6pm	Thu 8th:	U13 Away v Wivenhoe 6pm
Sun 21st:	U11 Home v Tendring 10am	Sun 11th:	Adults NECL T40 Away v Eight Ash Green 1pm
Sun 21st:	Adults NECL T40 Home v Eight Ash Green 1pm	Sun 11th:	U11 Home v Frinton 10am
Tue 23rd:	U12 Home v Eight Ash Green 6pm	Tue 13:	U13 Home v Eight Ash Green 6pm
Wed 24th:	U11 Away v Brightlingsea 6pm	Thu 15:	U13 Home v Brightlingsea 6pm
Thu 25th:	U13 @Bromley v Mistle 6pm	Wed 21:	U13 Away v Eight Ash Green 6pm
Sun 28th:	U12 Away v West Bergholt 10am	Thu 22:	U12 Home v Chappel 6pm

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Two New Blue Flags for Tendring Beaches as Essex Sunshine Coast Holds Four Top Awards

Seven beaches in Tendring have now been handed prestigious awards by Keep Britain Tidy – including four of the top Blue Flags for the first time in eight years.

Two new beaches along the Essex Sunshine Coast have been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag for 2023, at Frinton and Walton-on-the-Naze's Albion beach. Brightlingsea and Dovercourt Bay also retained their Blue Flag status.

In addition Brightlingsea, Harwich, Frinton, Walton-on-the-Naze's Albion and Naze beaches, and Martello Bay in Clacton have all been given Seaside Awards in recognition of their quality.

Frinton last held a Blue Flag in 2016, while Walton's Albion Beach had previously held a Blue Flag award but was not entered by Tendring District Council (TDC) last year as coastal works were anticipated to lead to a temporary drop in water quality.

Seaside Award beaches have amenities at a high standard where they are provided, and a Blue Flag is an even higher globally recognised accreditation for quality beaches, taking into account factors such as water quality and availability of nearby facilities.

It was said the awards recognised the quality of seafronts around the district as well as their beauty. The Essex Sunshine Coast is wonderful place to enjoy, whether you live locally or travel in to visit.

In recognition of the importance of our coastline to the local economy, particularly tourism, TDC invests a lot of time, effort and money into its seafronts – and it is fantastic to have this work recognised with Blue Flag and Seaside Awards.

Keep Britain Tidy's Chief Executive, Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, said: "Visitors to a beach flying a Blue Flag or Seaside Award can be assured the beach will be clean, safe and meet the highest environmental standards, as well as international bathing water quality standards. The Blue Flag is the world's most recognised award for beaches and marinas and to qualify each applicant must meet and maintain a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety and accessibility criteria".

Have your say on Garden Community Development Plan

Members of the public and stakeholders can have their say on the submission version of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) Development Plan during a six-week consultation running from Monday 15th May to Sunday 25th June.

The submission version of the Development Plan contains policies, visions and a preferred masterplan layout option that will shape growth of a planned new settlement between Colchester, Ardleigh and Elmstead Market, which forms part of the adopted Local Plans for Colchester and Tendring.

In March, Tendring District Council and Colchester City Council voted to send the TCBGC Development Plan out for formal consultation, following backing by the TCB Joint Committee on 27th February.

Residents and stakeholders are being invited to comment on the soundness of the Draft Plan during the consultation period. Once the consultation ends, all responses will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate. A Planning Inspector will then consider these and assess if the Development Plan is sound and compliant with local and national planning policy. Once the Plan is formally adopted any future planning applications to develop the Garden Community must conform to the policies set out in the Plan.

The policies in the Draft Plan include: Development at the Garden Community, Land Uses and Spatial Approach, Community and Social Infrastructure, Buildings, Places and Character, Economic Activity and Employment, Movement and Connections, Sustainable Infrastructure, Nature and Infrastructure Delivery and Impact Mitigation.

Lindsay Barker, Executive Director of Place at Colchester City Council, said: "It is vital to have local engagement and scrutiny of the Development Plan, to help shape the growth of a new garden community that will bring benefits to our residents and the local area for decades to come.

A huge amount of work has already been done to ensure these proposals are sound, are viable and can command public support. We would urge residents to have their say during this consultation either in person, at one of the eight drop-in events or online. All views will be sent directly to an independent Planning Inspectorate, who will then determine the soundness of the Plan."

Gary Guiver, Director of Planning at Tendring District Council, said: "While our plans for this new and exciting garden community have gone through extensive work – in particular building upon the comments made at the first consultation – we still want to hear people's views on the latest plans. Therefore, I would encourage people to review the proposed Development Plan Document and give their thoughts on whether it is viable and legally sound."

To view the Submission Version and comment online, visit <https://talk.tcbgardencommunity.co.uk> For anyone without internet access a Freepost address is available. Residents should write to **Freepost TCB GC** for more information.

Tendring District Council's Elections

I was very pleased to be re-elected to represent you as your District Councillor for the ward of The Bentleys and Frating.

The election turnout was down but pleased to note that the majority for me percentage wise was high compared with other areas. On the night of the count several wards were needed to be recounted, and in some cases several times.

The Full Council meeting was held on the 23rd May. At the time of writing this for the magazine it was not 100% clear as to who would be leading the administration.

I would though like to thank residents for your support throughout the 16 years that I have been your District Councillor with 14 of those years being part of the Administration as the Cabinet member for Partnerships.

Many thanks

Cllr. Lynda McWilliams
Tendring District Council
Ward Councillor to the Parishes of
Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating

Mobile Phone number 07564 613603

THANK YOU
from the Gardening Club

Great Bentley Station

Coffee Morning

Saturday 17th June

10am - 12 noon

Methodist Church Hall

Come along for a Cuppa Cake and Biscuits

Have a chat about our plans
and please feel free to offer help and ideas

Looking Forward to Seeing You



For the second time in a week the weather was good to us and it was beautiful for our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on 20th May, and what a great event it was! A very big thank you to those who donated plants (including Shrublands Nursery, Clacton Garden Centre and Hilltop Nursery) raffle prizes and cakes, those who came along and bought them and those who worked hard to make it happen. We are very happy to say that £875 was raised, 50% of which will be given to St Helena Hospice.

-
Thank you all for making the morning so successful and enjoyable.

FRIENDS OF GREAT BENTLEY STATION

It has been many months since I became the adopter of Great Bentley station and some of you might be wondering why it does not look any tidier or more decorative! Winter is one reason but the other is the ongoing work on the station platform which has meant that my team of volunteers and I have not been allowed to get out there to start work.

However, there is now some good news. Firstly, the work should be finished by the end of April/beginning of May. Although that's long past the original deadline, it means that we can soon get started with planting some spring seeds and bulbs. So if anyone would like to donate any to us, they would be most welcome.

Secondly, the children of Great Bentley Primary School are now involved in our project and, to celebrate the coronation, they have drawn some really amazing pictures. These will soon be on the fence at the station on the Walton platform as part of the celebration for the king's coronation.

Thirdly, we have also now got permission to put up posters on some of the walls along the same platform and we would love to receive ideas for what we can put up there. Perhaps there are budding photographers out there who would like to send us their photos of different areas of Great Bentley or perhaps some budding artists who would like to paint something reflecting an aspect of life in our wonderful village. In addition, we are looking for someone to help us design a logo for our group.

That leads me to my last point about the need to set up a more formal community group. I am therefore looking for people who might be able to help us to establish ourselves as a committee so that we can open a bank account and apply for funding for all our ideas! If you would be interested in helping me to do that, I'd be really grateful.

We are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 17th June in the Methodist Church Hall, 10am - 12 noon. See page 14.

You can get in touch as follows:
dawn@vinn.co.uk 07903 670448

Many thanks
Dawn Vinn

ST MARY'S CHURCH GREAT BENTLEY OPEN & GIFT DAY 17TH JUNE 10am - 4pm

St Mary's church will be delivering a letter to everyone in the village. Please open the letter and try not to treat it as 'junk mail'! The letter will give you information about our Gift Day this year.

This will be our third Gift day; the last one was 5 years ago, in 2018, which was very successful. The object of these days is to give everyone in the Parish the opportunity to contribute financially to the church and its ministry in order that it remains an institution of which the village can be rightly proud and happy to use. We know that, however occasional, many people find the church a source of celebration or comfort.

It costs over £100 EACH DAY to keep the church running; although the Church of England itself may have large financial resources, at parish level we have to find most of the money to keep the church going ourselves, mainly through the fundraisers we have throughout the year, and the parish magazine.

The Gift Day comes after we have had our Quinquennial (5 Year) report, which highlights the maintenance of the building that has become necessary, requiring even more funds to carry this work out. As a Grade 1 listed building, dating from c.1130, we have a duty to keep it in good order.

We will look forward to seeing as many of you as are able to visit the church building on the 17th June, see some of the history of the church and have coffee or tea with us, but please do open the envelope and read the letter of information inside when it comes.



I hope everyone had a fantastic month last month with all the long bank holiday weekends. This month I would like to mention Lancelot and his family who began with us last month. We welcome you all and hope you enjoy your time within your Early Years education journey, you will be sure to gain lots of wonderful and exciting new experiences and memories.

Primary School Transition Sessions

This month, our cohort of children that are due to start Primary School in September, start the transition sessions that we provide at Great Bentley Primary School. This has always been such a beneficial experience for the children before they attend the Primary School. It helps to reassure them of any anxieties they may have about 'big school', prepares them of new expectations, and helps them to become confident and familiar of their new environment and teachers, all while still being supported by Pre-School staff that they already have a trusting relationship with.

We are all excited about being able to attend these sessions and would like to thank Mrs. Whyte and everyone else within the school for working with us to provide this opportunity for the children, and for always being so accommodating.

Carnival

I hope you all have the date in your diary - Saturday 24th June, we'll see you there.

Picnic and Sports Day

Our annual sports day and picnic will be taking place on The Green on Tuesday 4th July.

This is an event where all the children that attend and their families are invited, so if you see a large group of people with children you know who it is. We are so lucky to have such a lovely, large open space in our village, and it is a perfect place for lots of families to get together with their children and have fun.

September Term Registers

I know it's hard to believe but as we break up for summer next month, I will be starting to look at the registers for the new term which starts in September.

Although we are full at present on most sessions, there are always a lot of places released once the older children move onto Primary School. Already we have lots of new interest and we also have lots of existing children wanting to increase their sessions too, if you would like to become part of our Village Pre-school then contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange for you to come and have a visit and play before we break up.

Thanks for reading

Julie Wiles

GREAT BENTLEY ART CLUB

During the summer months we usually meet outdoors at various locations, between 2pm and 5pm on the following Tuesdays. Although there is now one alteration to this months planned events.

Tuesday 13th June - Unfortunately our outing to Dedham had to be cancelled. Therefore we have changed our meeting location back to the village hall between 2pm and 5pm.

Tuesday 27th June - Between 2pm and 5pm, we will be painting/drawing on the village green, weather permitting. If it rains or becomes too breezy, we may have to seek shelter in the church grounds under the trees.

If you have ever considered joining us, please drop by and we can provide you with further details of our programme.

Great Bentley Parish Council

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council: Jennifer Spear

The Community Resource Centre, The Village Hall Plough Road Great Bentley Colchester CO7 8LG Tel: 01206 256410

Email: clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

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

Parish Council Report June

We have now had our first meeting since the elections and we have welcomed three new councillors, Cllr. Julian Jepson, Cllr. Frances Edwards and Cllr. John Wharton who have all made a welcome addition to the council.

The Parish council has maintained the valued services of Cllr. Bill Herbert, Cllr. Robert Taylor, Cllr. Kevin Plummer, and Cllr. George Wright. Cllr. P. Dennitts has retained her seat as Chair of the Parish Council and is now joined by Vice Chair Cllr. P. Harry.

The new structure of the Parish Council are already beginning to work their way through the many projects that Great Bentley Parish Council take on, and are looking forward to welcoming you all to our meetings.

The Parish Council want to extend their gratitude to the Kings Coronation Committee, who worked so hard to bring the village together for a fantastic weekend of celebration for the Kings Coronation. It would not have been possible without the tireless work behind the scenes of this small group of Great Bentley Village Volunteers, so Thankyou again.

A date for your diary – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 1st June at 7:00pm at the village Hall

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

SPRING WINNERS OF THE CHURCHYARD 100 CLUB

Many congratulations to Janet Strutt (No 2) and Mary Beard (No 103) who were the winners of the Spring Draw.

The money raised by the 100 Club goes towards the upkeep of the Churchyard and we are very grateful to all those who support us.

Renewals for next year will start in the Autumn.

KNIT & NATTER

Thursday 15th June

St Mary's Church Hall

2.00pm - 3.30pm

All Welcome

GARDENING NOTES

Generally, you can be more relaxed about overnight temperatures but still check the weather forecasts to ensure that something unexpected is not likely in terms of frost or very heavy rain.

It is probable that greenhouses and cold frames can be left open at night saving the chore of opening every morning and closing every night.

This will be a busy month in terms of harvesting. As well as saladings and new potatoes possibly broad beans and early peas you may have strawberries and early blackcurrants.

Continue with succession sowing and plant out hardened off plants. Ensure that where possible and practical you mulch around plants to retain moisture. Depending on how much rainwater storage you have you will need to decide what plants should receive priority in the event of low rainfall and a possible hosepipe ban. The usual advice is to water a reasonable amount at any one time as small 'flash overs' of water result in close to the surface roots that are vulnerable in strong sunshine. It is suggested that if you have a slug problem morning watering is to be preferred as damp soil overnight gives the slugs easier access to the plants.

By mid-June you should check on the shallots and garlic and if they are a reasonable size, and if not still growing, you should consider helping them to ripen. If you crack the roots by raising them slightly with a fork it will prepare them to dry out naturally. Next month you can then harvest them, clean them off and dry them out ready for storage.

If you are following the 'no mow May' routine you will need to decide whether to continue this for a further period. Whenever you decide to resume mowing it is best if you gradually reduce the height rather than trying to achieve it in one cut. Whatever you decide you will have to accept the grass looking very yellow before it greens up again.

Monty Don recently wrote that the effects of climate change are making him reconsider whether his style of labour-intensive gardening based on the back-up of greenhouses, cold frames and sheds in which to protect tender plants is both outmoded and inappropriate. His suggestion is that by growing less of the tender plants that need winter protection such as bananas, cannas, some salvias and dahlias, a lot of labour can be saved. Obviously, you can take a chance and leave some of them insitu with protection, but a severe frost, extended cold weather and heavy rainfall could prove very damaging.

Most spring bulbs have now finished flowering and it is beneficial to remove seed heads and allow the foliage to die back naturally combined with applying a general fertiliser. This will enable the bulbs to store energy for next year's flowers. If any clumps appear congested lift them with a fork, divide the clumps and replant them. It is easier to do this now rather than lifting them, drying them off and replanting them in the autumn. Planting them in the green will look untidy for a while but it saves work and storage space.

Consider giving hardier house plants an outside break once all risk of frost has passed ensuring they are protected from wind and very strong sunshine.

Do not forget to sow winter greens that will need to be grown through the summer and autumn for harvesting next winter and spring.

A.O.

DEADLINE FOR JULY 2023 MAGAZINE

MONDAY 12th JUNE

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

WEELEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

All enquiries to Diane 07506 792840.

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

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

Diane Miles
Chairman WRA

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS

Louise H. Smith Mobile Foot Healthcare, see p. 34

Bentley Building and Landscapes Company see p. 34

E. Wright, Chimney Sweep, see p. 34

Spanish Lesson, see p. 34

APOLOGIES to **Playle Couriers Limited** for getting their telephone number wrong.

It should be 07498 253279. See page Q for their advert.

NATURE NOTES

The damp, largely cool spring has produced varied growth with some plants more conspicuous than usual. One has been Alexanders in wayside places. It used only to be seen close to the coast but is now moving inland. Presumably Climate Change is a factor, becoming less dependent on milder maritime conditions. A tall, yellow-green parsnip-like plant, it is in the same umbelliferous family as Cow Parsley and Hogweed. A damp March helped before grass started to really grow. Subsequent rain has kept it looking fresh and vibrant for a longer spring season. It is quite harmless, as a medieval vegetable introduced from the Mediterranean – like incidentally was related pestilential Ground Elder. The Romans used Alexander's resinous seeds as a condiment, a substitute for expensive pepper and the leaves were boiled or steamed – but its flavour is too strong for modern palates. In the earliest times amongst others, Phoenician traders and later European monastic links were credited with all manner of imports.

The Umbellifer plant family deserves greater recognition, so named because of the umbel structure supporting the flowers, resembling the spokes of an umbrella. A remarkable number of our modern vegetables and herbs are members including carrots, parsnips, celery, parsley, fennel, chervil and coriander. Wild Carrot and Parsnip are not uncommon on lighter soils and morphologically virtually the same as the root vegetables. How our early ancestors developed the roots to edible size is an intriguing question?

While there is now a fashion for wild foraging, care is required as with mushrooms, to distinguish the edible from distasteful and even poisonous. Wild umbellifers do not as a whole have leaves suitable for adding to a salad or cooking and one - the not uncommon feathery Wild Hemlock is poisonous – most famously perhaps linked to Socrates's death. But this family of varied almost architectural plants should be admired. The miles of Cow Parsley or "Queen Anne's Lace" along our roadsides, a white show before the verge-cutters come in.

For your diary: Sun 25th June 11-4 Activity Day at Cockaynes Wood Nature Reserve, Alresford, entrance signed off Wivenhoe Rd CO7 9JX. Organised by Cockaynes Trust & EWT Tendring local group.

Coronation Celebrations

A huge thank you to all of those who worked so hard for us all in the village, yet again, to ensure that Great Bentley celebrated the King's Coronation.

The hours of preparation that must have gone into such a well organised set of events was gratefully enjoyed by so many.

I would say to all those in the village at these events, it would be a huge help to come and offer to help clear chairs and tables at the end of an event. Many hands make light work, and for the committee (which I was not), who had spent the whole weekend moving these tables, chairs, stages, lights, electricity points, making sandwiches and cakes, any assistance at the end of a happy but tiring weekend would be so appreciated. Helping others even for half an hour can make a difference to you as well as them.

I helped serve some afternoon tea on Sunday and as a volunteer had a wonderful time serving and chatting with so many people, who I saw conversing with those around them, some who they knew and often meeting people for the first time in a shared celebration. It confirmed to me that I wouldn't want to live anywhere else than this lovely village, made better by those dedicated few, who put on these wonderful events, thank you.

Jo Herbert

**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

ANNUAL ARTS & CRAFT WEEKEND

at
St Anne & St Laurence Church,
Elmstead Market

Saturday 10th June 10.30 am - 5.30pm

Sunday 11th June 12 noon - 5.30pm

Light Lunches - Teas - Home Made Cakes
(served all day)

Paintings by local artists
for sale at reasonable prices

Also see exhibits in the Craft Tent

Free entry to the exhibition, beautiful church
and grounds.

Exhibition co-ordinator:
Julie Bowes: 07784 309993 or
email julie.bowes1234@btinternet

Registered Charity No. 299309

ANNUAL DIARY

1st July	Outdoor Theatre Production
1/2nd July	Flower Festival, Methodist Church
24/25 August	Clacton Air Show
2nd September	Village Show
16/17 September	St Mary's Flower and Art Festival
4th November	Autumn Fayre, Methodist Church
2/3 December	St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

Let's have a beer

Perth, on the Swan River coastal plain of Western Australia is a busy metropolis, happy to show-off its huge dollop of modernity whilst still embracing a deep respect for its past. However, an hour's drive to the east lies high ground known unsurprisingly as the Perth Hills. It is part of the Darling range, a hilly ridge which, although not of Alpine magnitude, is nonetheless a very different physical landscape to that of the coast. Mundaring is a community in those hills, a small town surrounded by various National Parks, a densely forested area where the trees battle for the sunlight up in the canopy - tall and leafy at the crown - branchless in the lower reaches. The forest floor is covered in a layer of dry bark and leaves lying discarded amongst bushes and parched grasses - a perfect habitat for the kangaroo, emu, quenda and bandicoot. Many once majestic trees now lie dead - fallen to the ground - gladiatorial victims of the war for survival, remnants lying like huge pieces of charcoal - black and shrivelled - an arboreal graveyard. This is tinderbox country, placing the whole community on fire-watch during the hot season.

We booked into the Traveller's Rest Hotel, an appropriate name for accommodation on the Great Eastern Highway, the main artery from Perth on the Indian Ocean to Sydney on the Pacific Ocean. But it is not a hotel in the sense of a single building, more a number of chalets nestling in the forest with only dirt tracks as access - wonderful. The said highway is fairly close which may disappoint those people seeking silence, but there is something exhilarating about these multi-axled road-trains as they powerfully ascend or cautiously descend the incline, lumbering along like a wagon train on the Oregon Trail, only instead of the neighing of the horse, this sound is of the growling super-charger. But even those monsters did not discourage the bandicoot's early morning visit to our patio door.

The Shire of Mundaring enjoys a topography quite different from that of the coast, is a hilly countryside dotted with isolated, but picturesque hamlets each nestled deep in a valley or perched up on the scarp face. Artistic expression is everywhere in these communities - imaginative 3-dimensional creations which reflect the area's contribution to the establishment and evolution of the shire. The old railway line is now defunct, but not abandoned, having become a magical network of walks and cycle routes. Again unsurprisingly, every hamlet has a pub, imposing hostels of a design loyal to the 'Federation' architectural style of those earlier years, characterised as having a shaded ground floor veranda and a corresponding first-floor balcony complete with ornate balustrade.

The Mundaring Hotel, opposite the now disused but lovingly maintained railway station is again an impressive structure of 'Federation' design - c1899. It was the venue of a dinner we attended. At the table, much of the conversation was about C.Y.O'Connor, the Irish engineer who designed and built the Perth-Kalgoorlie water pipeline, the large reservoir for the project being one of Mundaring's local attractions, referred to as the 'Mundaring Weir'. Still today delivering water to Kalgoorlie, the Number One pumping station is adjacent to the dam. "Was the railway built originally to supply materials for the construction of the pipeline?" I asked fellow guests. "The railway was built earlier, around 1880," answered the big and bearded Australian sitting across the table from me, "so was part of the local transport network, not specifically for the pipeline." When he said, 'transport', I mentioned the trucks rolling past our hotel - a mistake probably - judging by the groan coming from an engineer, sitting to my left. "Ha! You Brits," he began, "I bet you're going to mention 'electric' trucks." I smiled. "The road train is the cornerstone of the transport network here in WA, if not the whole of Australia," he continued, "and those drivers are an essential part of the economy. These 'electric' vehicles are not electric; they are 'battery' - a power source which is flawed." I asked about the need to reduce emissions. He agreed in principle but reminded me that the gradients around the Perth Hills made the battery option inadvisable. He argued strongly that the global marketing of electric vehicles was clever, emphasising that the term 'electric car' was more favourable to the public ear than the more undisguised, 'battery car'. "In five years' time, when a new technology arrives - and it will - your new \$100,000 battery car will be worthless." Another guest, a quiet, very likeable man, joined in - "I carry some heavy air-conditioning units on my trailer, often to remote homesteads in the hills. An electric vehicle towing that trailer couldn't cope with the terrain around these parts here in Mundaring. I need reliability, power and performance. A battery car can't give me that."

I asked about alternative power sources - "Hydrogen, maybe?" suggested the engineer, "but I bet they won't market that hydrogen car as 'electric'. People now associate 'electric' with all the hassle of charging a battery."

"What about pollution?" I asked. "Surely a battery car is what we need; a cleaner environment." Two of our group began talking to me at the same time. "*Reduce pollution!*" scoffed one. "*Cleaner environment!*" blurted the other. "Those eco-warriors should spend a fortnight glued to a processing plant on a lithium mine," - both were now laughing whilst nodding at each other - "being on a lithium mine for two weeks will make'm think again about battery production, mate."

I gave up, bought a beer and talked about cricket.

JE

St. Mary's Wildlife Pond and Garden

It has been a long time since my last blog about the pond and garden and in that time, I had hoped to have a flourishing area but this has not been the case with the loss of plants and wildlife, the weather being a large factor with the intense heat of last summer and the large amount of rainfall over winter.

Early this year some frog spawn was put in the pond and young tadpoles starting to form, then recently I found a plastic bag in the pond and a greasy film floating on the surface which I thought would be the end of the tadpoles but even after all the disturbing clean up there are still some surviving.

Sadly, the garden wild flowers took a big hit with the dry weather and I lost a few covering plants round the pond now these have been removed but some new plants will be added soon and I hope the reseeded wild flowers will give a good show this year. Already I have seen bees and other insects coming to the surviving flowering plants in the pond and common blue butterflies are around too.

Mandy Miles

Thank You

It was an occasion that I wish I had never had reason to organise but when I heard the sad news that Paul O'Grady had died I felt that, as far as I was concerned, there had to be something positive to come out of the loss of a much loved personality. Paul was a special person and totally unique, he could make us laugh and make us cry and he never held back from showing his emotions when filming 'For the Love of Dogs.'

So it was on Saturday 29th April in The Village Hall with the help of dear friends a Coffee Morning to raise funds for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home took place. My sincere thank you to everyone who came along to support us on the day or contributed in so many different ways to make the morning a success. I wanted to do Paul proud and with the amazing total of £500 raised I think I can safely say we certainly did!!!!

Thank you from me and all the lovely people I spoke to at Battersea. You are stars!

Judy Bishop

BELLRINGERS UPDATE

What a busy, but glorious month it has been for the bell ringers! In addition to our normal service and practice ringing, we had the wonderful coronation and our Church May Fayre to celebrate.

We rang over all three days of the coronation event. We rang 1260 changes of Plain Bob Doubles the day before the coronation, followed by ringing prior to the actual event in Westminster Abbey. All our members took part in the ringing on the day of the coronation, including those who have joined us recently with express purpose of learning to ring. Special congratulations must be extended to those who have joined us in the last 2 months, as they rang really well! Following the actual coronation, we rang the bells prior to the event on the village green on Sunday 7th which, again, celebrated the coronation of their majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

The following weekend saw us borrowing a scaled down version of a set of church bells known as a mini-ring to use during the church May Fayre. Once constructed we were then able to go through the process of learning to use it and do some nice ringing on it. Lots of people came to ring these bells, which took a lot of tuition and patience on their part. We'll done to all those who 'had a go' on the day.

Look out for us at the Village Show, when we will be using the mini-ring again.

If you are interested in church bell ringing, would like to learn to ring or just come to visit us on one of our practice nights, then please contact me on the number below.

Sadly, the bells are likely to be silent for most of June due to building work in the church vestry which starts at the end of May.

Roger Carey-Smith
07422 880921

Great Bentley Show

.Saturday 2nd September on the Green from 1:30pm

Calling all adults, children and dogs!
START Making, Growing and Snapping!

If you received a cup last year, please remember to return it by the first week in July.
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.

Watch out for our new logo this year!

We would love to welcome more helpers!

- To set up before and to clear up after the show.
- To display posters in your window.
- Spread the news of this brilliant village event.

Look out for the Great Bentley Show Table at the village Carnival in June where you can pick up a contact / volunteer form

OR enquiries@greatbentleyshow.co.uk

Enter one of the many competitions or just come along for family fun

Want to know what's going on? Go to www.greatbentleyshow.co.uk

Community Speedwatch Update

Traffic monitoring continued at the various sites around the village during April. A further 54 speeding vehicles were recorded and reported during the month. That brought 2023's running total to 206. Top recorded speed in April was 53mph in a 30mph zone!

As always, thank you to all the people who wave, stop and say hello, or approach us to raise concerns about particular spots in the village which they'd like us to monitor. We do take on board all the suggestions although we can't wear camouflage, hide ourselves behind bushes or put tickets on all the cars and vans which are parked on double yellow lines.

The team will continue to be out and about across these longer summer days so please mind your speed, and if you would like to join in with this voluntary and really worthwhile community effort, please do get in touch at greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com"

Surgery Newsletter

JUNE IS CERVICAL SCREENING AWARENESS MONTH

Cervical screening is one of the best ways to protect yourself from cervical cancer. Cervical screening (a smear test) checks the health of your cervix. It's not a test for cancer, it's a test to help prevent cancer. All women and people with a cervix aged **25 to 64 should be invited by letter.** People aged 25 to 49 receive invitations every 3 years. People aged 50 to 64 receive invitations every 5 years.

How cervical screening helps prevent cancer

During the screening appointment, a small sample of cells will be taken from your cervix. The sample is checked for certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV) that can cause changes to the cells of your cervix. These are called "high risk" types of HPV. If these types of HPV are not found, you do not need any further tests. If these types of HPV are found, the sample is then checked for any changes in the cells of your cervix. These can then be treated before they get a chance to turn into cervical cancer. If abnormal cells are not treated, they may turn into cervical cancer. The nurse will be able to tell you at your appointment when you can expect your results letter.

How to book a Cervical Smear Test

You'll be sent an invitation letter in the post when it's time to book your cervical screening appointment. **Once you have received this letter, all you need to do is contact the Surgery on telephone number 01206 250691 and book an appointment with one of our Practice Nurses.**

Prescription Requests

We have over 6,500 patients on repeat medication which normally require regular monthly prescriptions. Our Prescription Clerks are trained to deal with medication requests and can also help patients who may have an enquiry about their medication.

In order to ensure we are able to turn all requests around within three working days, our Prescription Clerks are not able to speak to patients at reception face-to-face, so please do not come into reception and ask to speak to someone about medication.

Our Prescription Clerks can be contacted between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm Monday to Friday by telephoning the main Surgery number 01206 250691 or 01206 257557 and choosing Option 2 for prescriptions. If you go into the hold queue, to avoid waiting for the Prescription Clerk to answer, you can press 1 and leave your name and number for them to ring you back. If you contact the Prescription Clerk before 3.00 pm then you will get a call back on the same day. If it is after 3.00 pm then you will be called back on the next working day.

All requests for medication need to be made in writing allowing at least three working days, as we do not have the capacity to take medication requests over the telephone.

You can request your medication by emailing the Prescription Clerk on: holliesprescriptions@nhs.net, by dropping in a written request into the prescription box next to the front door, or via your on-line account.

Once you have put in your request and allowed three working days for us to process this, then you can collect this from your nominated pharmacy. Please do not ring the Prescription Clerk to check if your prescription has been issued as you will need to contact the Pharmacy about this.

Your help with managing prescription requests is much appreciated.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 28 June 2023 for staff training. If patients require urgent care on this afternoon, then this is available by contacting 111 for assistance.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

There will not be a Patient Participation Group meeting in June.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

COOKERY CORNER

TASTY TOASTIE SNACKS

Toasted bread is so versatile. It is quick and easy to cook, can be spread with a variety of sweet and savoury toppings, smothered with mushrooms in sauce, kidneys with brandy, scrambled eggs or even leftover curry, and eaten in seconds on the hoof if need be. One of our favourite lunches is a fried egg on toast. Each of the following recipes will serve two people.

MUSHROOMS ON TOAST

2 shallots finely sliced 1 garlic clove chopped finely 150g button mushrooms halved
60 ml white wine 1 sprig thyme 2 thick slices wholemeal bread butter

Heat 1tbsp olive oil in a pan, add the shallots and fry gently for 2 minutes then add the garlic and cook a further minute. Add the mushrooms, toss to coat in the oil, then add the wine, thyme and a pinch of salt. Bring to the boil and bubble gently for about 10 minutes until the mushrooms are tender and the juices have been absorbed. Toast the slices of bread on both sides and spread with butter. Season the mushrooms with a little pepper and pile onto the toast. Top with fresh thyme and serve immediately.

TUNA MELT

200g tin of tuna in water 3 – 3 ½ tbsp mayonnaise 2 cornichons or 1 dill pickle in sweet vinegar
½ tsp capers 1tbsp chopped fresh tarragon 2 large, thick slices of white, crusty bread
4 large, thin slices Swiss cheese, such as Gruyere or Emmenthal ¼ red pepper

Look for tuna in water as the capers are salty enough. Drain the tuna and rinse and finely chop the capers. Dice the cornichons finely and keep extra for serving, and dice the pepper fairly finely. Put the tuna in a bowl and flake. Add the mayonnaise, capers, cornichons, peppers and tarragon and mix well. Season with plenty of black pepper. Toast the bread on one side under a preheated grill, then turn it over and spread the tuna mixture thickly on the uncooked side. Put 2 slices of cheese on top of each piece of toast and grill for about 5 minutes until the cheese is golden and bubbling. Serve with extra pickles.

PANINI WITH TABASCO

1 ciabatta loaf 6 rashers smoked bacon 1 large cooked potato 50g red Leicester cheese
2 tsp Tabasco sauce vegetable oil for frying and brushing a panini press which provides the
lovely stripes

Preheat the panini press and cut the top and bottom off the loaf so that it is about 3cm thick. Slice open lengthways and cut in half. Slice the potato and the cheese thinly. Put a little oil in a frying pan and fry the bacon until crisp. Remove from the pan and drain on kitchen tissue. Keep the pan hot, add the potato slices and season. Fry on both sides until crisp round the edges. Divide the bacon and potatoes between the two sandwiches, add a dash of Tabasco and top with cheese. Brush both sides of the bread with a little oil and toast in the preheated panini press for 3 minutes or according to the instructions. The bread should be golden brown and the filling warmed through. You could of course use the grill but the sandwiches will need to be turned over halfway.

FRENCH TOAST AND TOMATOES

2eggs 2tbsp milk 2 slices thick white bread 25g butter 2 ripe tomatoes halved

This was always known as “eggy bread “in our house and was a firm favourite, although not always with the addition of tomatoes. Frying tomatoes increases their flavour and makes them soft and smooth. Beat together the eggs, milk and some salt and pepper in a large shallow dish. Add the bread and leave to soak for 5 minutes on each side so that all the egg mixture is absorbed. Heat a large, non-stick frying pan over a medium heat for a couple of minutes. Add the soaked bread and cook over a low to medium heat for about 3 to 4 minutes on each side until lightly browned. In a separate frying pan, melt the butter. Add the halved tomatoes and fry on each side for 2 minutes then pile on top of the French toast and drizzle any remaining juice over the top. **M.E.**

Old MacDonald had a Farm

1. What is a Gloucestershire Old Spot? a) pig b) sheep c) cow
2. Friesian & Holstein are breeds of which farm animal?
3. Which farm animal becomes the best friend of Shrek?
4. What colour is the face of a Suffolk Sheep?
5. Where on a horse would you find a 'frog'?
6. Which country is the world's biggest producer of wheat?
7. Which farm animal is a 'Buff Orpington'?
8. Out for a score of zero in cricket is known as what?
9. How many maids were milking in the song 12 Days of Christmas?
10. A male turkey is most commonly called a) stag b) cock c) jock
11. Name the local pub in 'The Archers'.
12.and name the local pub in 'Emmerdale'.
13. What is Jethro Tull famed for inventing?
a) barbed wire b) seed drill c) baler twine
14. Of which crop is the Colorado beetle a pest?
15. What animal has breeds named Charolais, Limousin and Red Poll?
16. What type of animal is Boxer in George Orwell's Animal Farm?
17. Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo are often called the greatest of all time. Which farm animal connects them?
18. Belonging to the Camelidae family, which animal has two breeds - the Huacaya and the Suri?
19. Which breed of sheep is native to the Lake District?
a) Herdwick b) Jacob c) Cheviot
20. ...And which famous author championed this breed?

The winner of this month's quiz will receive tickets for the Tendring Show.

Please send your entries to Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green
or email marymaskell@sys3internet.net

RUNNING CLUB

Given that it was London Marathon this month it is really the only way we can start the article. Considering how hard it is to get a place, there were a surprising number of us amongst the results. Paul Davison was the first of us across the line in an impressive 3:15:31 and was followed by Magdalena Komoworska (03:44:36), Kathy Bishop (03:51:42), Rob Lee (03:51:48), Caroline Dyer (04:34:43), David Balfour (04:39:01), Donna Harris (05:03:17), Helen Coe (05:05:08), Fraser Lewis (05:08:57) and Michael Clark (07:35:39). Amazing running everyone! Fraser is to be particularly congratulated: he was asked at the last minute to step in as a guide for a army veteran of some considerable years. Very sadly the noise proved too much and the runner suffered a serious bout of PTSD. However, he urged Fraser to complete the event and from mile 8 he went gamely on his own.

And yet again it has been a very busy period for many of the club members. An extra day off means an additional opportunity to run and a few of us made the most of it.

It was great to see Parkrun Anna Lyon back taking on Harwich following an injury in January in 26:23 – a time to be proud of. Another reason to be cheerful was Larina Marsh achieving a personal best (PB) at Clacton and 1st in age cat (27.15). Not sure if they were holidaying together but at Gorleston Cliffs (Yarmouth) Parkrun Robin Oakley completed in 20:18 Paul Connell in 21:07. Richard Moore took on York (19:45) and the Cottons tackled Westmill (Martin 29:31 and Sammy 34:40)..

One of our own runners Craig Mitchell, put on his annual event in the form of the Layer Five. This saw a good turnout with 14 club runners making the start. Josh Beaumont led the Bentley's home taking 2nd place overall in a mere 29:56. Then we had the following:

Gerry Gladden (37.33), Malcolm Statham (36.23), Adam Robey (37:55), Dean Pepper (40:51), Anthea Colsell (47:44) – great to see you back out there Anthea – missed you! Emma Wright 50:24, Tim Clifton (52:59), Sarah Blewden (53:11), Debbie Smith (54:18), Sue Wright (55:44), Belinda Palmer-Barnes and Sammy Cotton (01:05) and Helene Tyler (01:11:52).

On the first Bank Holiday of the month or 'Monday Runday' as we call it there were and two races to report. Firstly there was the Big Bear Cider Run (a Company of Runners 10Km trail event). 4 Blues took part with Adam Waller-Toyne leading us home in 56.44, swiftly followed by Paul Carlisle in 56.57 and then both Lex Carlisle and Sue Sorrell ran together completing in 01:21.

The last race in the report is another regular annual fixture; Witham Running Club's May Day 10 – on roads and undulating it is a challenge. Craig Slocombe in a far from slow finish came in at 1:03:18, his namesake Craig Mitchell snapped at his heels and managed 1:04:47 then a lady who goes from strength to strength smashing PBs right, left and centre – Lisa Briggs who completed in 1:12:16 for 4th lady overall and a 7 minute PB!! We also had Alison Clarke take part finishing in an impressive 1:50:38.

MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR JULY MAGAZINE

Magazine collating will be on FRIDAY 23rd JUNE

in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am

BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB

Just imagine Alan Titchmarsh, with a touch of Eric Morecambe, and there you have Brian Carline, a hardy perennial who never fails to inform and entertain. An experienced raconteur, and of course, gardener, he was amazed at the knowledge of our ladies who were able to identify many of his ancient & modern garden implements...laughter and 'prize pansies' were abundant!

Throughout the evening Brian offered so much good advice... never use a strimmer in bare feet, never use a 'weed wand' when wearing rubber flip flops and never power wash a greenhouse if you wish to still retain some glass!

He passed on some brilliant tips for looking after your lawn including the easiest way to mow ...apply a solution of water and scotch whisky in equal quantities... and your grass will always come up 'half-cut'!

An interesting Q & A session followed when members learned how to make hamster jam (you had to be there) and ways of dealing with garden pests...**foxes** (old man's urine), **cats** (Deep Heat), **slugs and snails** (beer, salt and coffee grounds). And finally...the best way to check when to plant beetroot seeds is to test the soil with your bare bottom! Allotment holders beware...we are watching you!

Brian's home grown pelargoniums, petunias and fuchsias sold well and the meeting was rounded off with a royal toast to King Charles, a glass of fizz and a slice of 'Coronation' cake. The committee were thanked for arranging such an enjoyable evening.

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

Tuesday June 6th 'Land of the Maharajas' with Cherry Mullins

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.

New members & guests always welcome.

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 8th June - 7.30pm Village Hall

'History of Spoken English & Why Our Spelling Makes Sense.'

Our speaker this month is the humorous **CHARLIE HAYLOCK**, a dialect specialist and an authority on his native Suffolk. He is an author and regular broadcaster on BBC Radio Suffolk. It is he who taught Ralph Fiennes to speak 'Suffolk' for the film 'The Dig', the story of the discovery of the ship burials at Sutton Hoo. This should be an enjoyable evening.

Members £2 at door. Visitors £4 at door.

Contact: TheGreatBentleyHistorySociety@outlook.com

GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

On 16th May 15 of us thoroughly enjoyed a visit to the garden at Chippins in Bradfield. The sun shone, the garden looked beautiful and the cakes were pretty good too. Chippins will be opening for the National Garden Scheme later in the summer and is certainly well worth a visit. For more information visit ngs.org.uk.

Our next garden visit is on Wednesday 21st June to Horkesley Hall, Little Horkesley. Guests are welcome and anyone wishing to join us and has not yet booked a place please contact Bob on 01206 251433 or bob.newman@mac.com. as soon as possible. The cost is £8.00 which includes refreshments, and this needs to be paid in advance of the visit. We will meet at the Village Hall car park at 1.30pm and will car share as far as possible to the venue for a 2.00pm visit.

Our next meeting in the Village Hall is on Tuesday 18th July at 7.30pm when Ruth Goudy will be speaking about how flowers benefit our wellbeing. 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!**

So many sad endings that were entirely preventable

June 2023

A mature swan cob (male) was brought in by the RSPCA after a report of a dog attack. They found him collapsed, dehydrated and covered in mud beside the corpse of his dead mate, who had catastrophic and fatal injuries from the dog attack. Swans mate for life, so he was deeply traumatised. When he arrived at Wildlives we could only find a minor wound under his wing, After being given a long-acting antibiotic he was placed in a rehab pen with a pond, where he drank copiously and was thought to be recovering. Sadly in the morning he was found dead, which can only be attributed to the stress and trauma he suffered. This death of both the swan pair and undoubtedly their now-orphaned cygnets was entirely avoidable. When walking your dog, keep it on a lead if there is wildlife around. Your dog must always be under your control in a public place, by law.

Baby birds are beginning to flood in. The starling on the right is one of several who were orphaned by a cat. Ducklings of all sizes are arriving, including one group whose mother nested on the roof of Lloyds Bank in Colchester. When they hatched they all threw themselves off the roof in their impulse to find water, but these were safely gathered up by the bank staff and brought to Wildlives.

A hedgehog who arrived at Wildlives was found to have a strimming injury which had cut round the side of his head, slicing off his ear and with the skull visible in the wound. Since the wound was riddled with mature maggots (who take some time to reach that size in current early Spring temperatures) we know that this poor little hog must have suffered in dreadful pain for some time before he was brought here and put to sleep. It is very easy to check the grass for hedgehogs before strimming, or to strim at a height of three or four inches so that any little sleepers can be left in peace. Again, this could have been easily avoided with a little care.

Finally, we have very sad news. Sylvia Tyson, who was a volunteer for many years, trustee, and close personal friend has sadly passed away. The funeral will be on Monday the 5th of June at 11am, at Weeley Crematorium. We are also sad to report the passing of Sam Katatoga who was a long-time and committed supporter along with his whole family. Our most heartfelt sympathies go to all the family and friends of these wonderful people.

Great Bentley Carnival and Fete

Saturday 24th June 2023

Stalls and music from 11.30am

Procession starts at 12.30

Well! Preparations are well on their way for Great Bentley Carnival and Fete. Its going to be a fantastic day of fun and community spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity to **thank** all the Volunteers who have come forward to help in preparation for our event and provide support on the day.

A big thank you to Taylor Wimpey who are sponsoring the Refreshment Marquee and table hire. Dunmow Recycling will be providing a skip for the day free of charge. Local farmers and businesses will also be supporting on the day.

As usual, Robert Sumner and colleagues will be there with the Fun Fair.

There will be the usual Procession, this year's theme "Commonwealth", and we have a good variety of stalls from things to Eat, Games, Crafts to Information. Don't forget our Silent Auction.

Entertainment in the Arena –

The Cabin Band - are a semi acoustic easy listening band from East Suffolk. Their music is a mix of rock, pop and folk with a hint of Americana.

Jason Maverick - A Circus themed version of Jason's International Award-Winning Show, featuring 5 ball juggling, Ball spinning, Comedy Mime, Unique Plate Spinning, Hoopla Clowning, Audience participation and Circus Backing Music.

Happy Tailwaggers – Formerly known as Tailwaggers. Dog Agility Display with audience participation. Some of you may remember the original Tailwaggers, which many people enjoyed. Looking forward to seeing everyone Saturday 24th June.

Julie Wall

A Right Royal Knees Up!

The Coronation Committee would like to express their grateful thanks to everyone who supported them to make a great weekend of celebrations.

Thank you to all the local businesses, local families, local clubs, village groups, Parish Council and Tendring District Council who supported us financially, without their generous sponsorship the event would not have taken place. Special thanks to the band 'The Gifted' 'Women in Harmony' and Tendring Community Brass Band for entertaining us so well.

Thank you to all those who baked, made sandwiches, put up decorations moved tables & chairs, litter pickers, race organisers, face painters, compere etc.

Very special thanks to all those that put in long hours before & after the event in order to make it happen!

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

The Coronation Committee

Chairman Lorraine Mann, Secretary Bev Adams, Treasurer Jackie Plummer, Parish Council rep Kevin Plummer, Amanda Cordell, Carol Kerridge, Katherine Plummer, Mary Maskell.

Sent

Great Bentley Hedgehog Highways

A Facebook page set up by Demi Harvey and Emma Garrod – 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.

June is here! This is when most babies (hoglets) are born. They are born in a special nest made by their mother (sow). The nests are constructed even bigger than the winter hibernation nest.

It is important when gardening not to disturb these nests. If you disturb the nest the mother hedgehog could abandon the nest or kill the babies. Always check for nests or hedgehogs before you start digging or moving objects in the garden.

In their first few weeks the hoglets are totally dependant upon their mother hedgehog. The male (boar) hedgehog plays no part in their up bringing.

*At birth hoglets are blind, deaf and bald. Their body weight is 7 to 25g

*At one hour old they have an even coat of white prickles.

*At 36 hours old a second coat of prickles can be seen emerging, these are darker brown with white tips. Nestlings are unable to curl up, but if disturbed by an intruder will jump and jab spines into the intruder.

*At 1 week old they are still blind and deaf. The white prickles are noticeably longer than the brown and a few whiskers emerges from the snout. At 11 days old they can curl up and this is an important part of the hedgehogs survival defences.

*At 2 weeks old they have more second prickles than first. Eyes start to open and the third coat of prickles starts to emerge, these are more like adult prickles.

*At 3 weeks old, their eyes are fully open and they have a good set of third stage prickles. Ears are now open and upper incisor teeth begin to erupt and there is a good dense covering of soft fur.

*At 4 weeks old they have a rounded puppy like appearance of snout, which will now become pointed like an adults. Good coat of spines and thick brown fur covering the skin. As their milk teeth have erupted they can start eating solid food. They will leave their nest and accompany their mother when she is looking for food at night. She will teach them how to forage for food. Hedgehogs are insectivores, their diet consists largely of beetles, caterpillars and earthworms. They eat a large range of slugs, snails and insects. Their body weight at this age is 85 to 130g.

*At 5 to 6 weeks they start to leave the nest and fend for themselves. By this time they are 10 times their birth weight.

*At eight weeks old the young hedgehogs normally leave their mothers nest permanently. They will weigh around 350g at this stage. The hoglets need to continue to feed themselves, to get to a body weight of at least 600g to hibernate successfully.

If you can provide a feeding station with fresh food and water every evening. This could help a family of hedgehogs grow successfully. And in return you could enjoy seeing the family of hedgehogs in your garden. The family could consist of a mum hedgehog and 4 to 6 hoglets following her.

I mention diet every month, as this is life saving information. If you can provide a diet that is a purpose brought hedgehog food or tinned meaty cat or dog food (not fish based as, they cannot digest), or crushed cat or dog biscuits (again not fish based). Avoid biscuits containing colourant or E numbers. A cheap but good food is Tesco's kitten dry food, as it is a small kibble (so no need to crush) and contains no colourant. Never give cows milk and bread as hedgehogs cannot digest milk and they will develop diarrhoea and dehydration. Always offer a fresh supply of water.

Emma Garrod RVN, C&GCertVNES

JUNE DIARY

- Thurs 1st **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, 7pm, Village Hall
- Fri 2nd **COFFEE MORNING**, Methodist Church, 10am
- Fri 2nd **BAT EVENING**, St Mary's Church
- Sat 3rd **CHURCHES COUNT ON NATURE**, St Mary's Church 2-4pm
- Tues 6th **LADIES CLUB**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Thurs 8th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Sat 10th/Sun 11th **ARTS & CRAFT WEEKEND**, St Laurence Church,
see p. 21
- Mon 12th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Tues 13th **ART CLUB**, Village Hall, 2-5pm
- Thurs 15th **KNIT & NATTER**, St Mary's Church Hall, 2pm
- Fri 16th **LUNCHTIME RECITAL**, 12.30, St Osyth Church
- Sat 17th **ST MARY'S CHURCH GIFT DAY & COFFEE MORNING**
- Sat 17th **COFFEE MORNING** in aid of Gt Bentley station, 10-12
Methodist Church
- Wed 21st **GARDEN CLUB** Visit to Horkesley Hall,.
- Thurs 22nd **GOOD NEIGHBOURS AGM**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Fri 23rd **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, St Mary's Church Hall, 9am
- Sun 25th **ACTIVITY DAY**, Cockaynes Wood Nature Reserve, Alresford
11-4pm
- Tues 27th **ART CLUB**, 2-5pm