

Great Bentley Parish News

Produced by the Community
for the Community



August 2023

Village Information

St Mary's Church

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St Mary's Church, Great Bentley.

ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE

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ST MARY'S SUNDAY CLUB

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

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

GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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01255 476068

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GT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL: - 01206 250331

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CLACTON & DISTRICT HOSPITAL: 01255 201717

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Sue and Faris Shimali 07973 534301

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Wendy King - 01206 250852

EDITORIAL



2023

Well, hard to believe it is summer right now but as they say “Things can only get better”. In my opinion I would rather have the cooler weather than the record breaking temperatures being experienced in many parts of the world right now. We will see what happens through August.

As the schools and colleges are on their summer break right now we wish everyone a lovely summer. For those awaiting exam results we wish you well. We have included a letter from Mrs Caffull to parents at our village school to announce the news that she would be leaving. We wish her well and thank her for leading the school through two Ofsted's both achieving “Outstanding”. Good luck to you and other members of staff who are also moving on to different career paths and to the new staff members who will join in September.

This year seems to be flying by and it will soon be Village Show Day. I make the same plea as always, please just consider entering one or two things. Also, please note entries need to be in **BY 29TH AUGUST**. All details inside, including photographic categories. Repeating the theme of time marching on, we include our first mention of Christmas by calling all crafters to ask if you would be willing to donate one or two homemade items for St Mary's Christmas event in December. Whilst at it, it's a good time to get your chimneys swept and logs delivered!!

As always there are pleas for help in many different directions, for example the Speedwatch Team need volunteers to join them, Youth Football also need help in different ways and the bell ringers have launched a Crowd Funding page. Lots of ways for everyone to get involved.

Its great to see the Football and Cricket training and matches taking place on the green but if your energy levels are not quite up to this how about an allotment? I am sure many of you are unaware that there are allotments in the village so we have included a small article about this and the Parish Clerk is the person you need to contact. The allotmenters are a friendly, helpful bunch so why not consider giving it a go? It is hard work but worth it when you get the lovely fresh vegetables, fruit and bunches of flowers.

I was somewhat shocked when contacted by BBC Essex to inform me that I was a finalist in this years Good Neighbours award. Especially so as I had no idea that I had been nominated! The results are out in September. Thank you everyone for your support and kind comments and please remember it's for **Great Bentley**.

Much is said about the influx of new people to our village but thank you to all of those who come along to help with the magazine collating, various clubs, societies and other voluntary work. There's a voluntary job for everyone here.

Lets hope the weather improves soon.
Happy Holidays,
Mary Maskell

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FRONT COVER

**GREAT
BENTLEY
CARNIVAL**

DISCLAIMER

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LETTER FOR AUGUST

Dear friends

On the 16th July our Gospel reading was from Matthew Chapter 13. Matthew retells the parables of Jesus through many of his chapters. The theme of the church service on the 16th was the parable of the sower. In this story we hear of seeds landing in different sites, not all taking root some dying off as soon as landing.

On the 6th July it was my pleasure to attend a service at Chelmsford Cathedral as three members of our village were presented with a certificate in recognition of completing the course on Pastoral Assistance. The seeds had landed on them and grown! Taking on courses can take up time and energy, but with help and support of those around you can have a positive experience. Pastoral carers are available if you would like someone to visit, or to phone. There are times in our lives when we need just someone to talk to, moan at or simply be with. If you feel at any time that you would like such a service please contact a churchwarden who will pass your information on.

This type of course is open to all. If you feel you could be interested please go on to the Diocesan website: www.chelmsford.anglican.org.

Our prayers continue for the well being of Rev. Sharon and all with any kind of need. If anyone you know of needs prayers or support at this time feel free to add them to the prayer form in St Mary's Church.

Please can we ask for your continual support for the food bank. All donations can be left at the back of the church.

Please join us for Forest Church on the 10th August from 2-4pm and find out what it is all about. All families are welcome.

But the seed falling on good soil who hears the words and understands it this is the one who produces a crop yielding hundred or thirty times what was sown. Matthew 13.23.

Best wishes
Canon Wendy King
Lay Reader

St. Mary's Church Facebook Page

St. Mary's Church has a facebook page!

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



ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE
stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk

BAPTISM
Pearl Fowler
16th July

COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 19th August
St Mary's Church Hall
10.00am - 12 noon



GREAT BENTLEY

METHODIST CHURCH

Forge Lane CO7 8GD

Don't forget our Facebook page.

Search for Gt Bentley Methodist Church

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

Greetings to you all

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

Aug 6th	Ann Scott
Aug 13th	Rev Tom Osborne HC
Aug 20th	Jane Allison
Aug 27th	WL Di Bignell

Events in August:

Next Coffee morning 4th August. Proceeds to go to the local food bank.

Prayer Meeting The one planned for August is on the 9th August.

Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 9th August

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

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

Ring these numbers for more information.

Messy Church once a month after school 250087

Parent & Toddlers Group Thursdays 9-15 a.m. 251537

The Adventurers Club. Fridays 7 p.m. Ring 250087

ST MARY'S SERVICES

Sunday 6th August - Transfiguration of Our Lord

10am Joint Benefice service at St Osyth

Thursday 10th August

2-4pm Forest Church

Sunday 13th August - Trinity 10

9.30am Holy Communion
Laurie Bond

Thursday 17th August

2-3.30pm Knit & Natter, Church Hall

Saturday 19th August

10-12 noon Coffee Morning, Church Hall

Sunday 20th August - Trinity 11

9.30am Holy Communion
Archdeacon Ruth

Sunday 27th August Trinity 12

9.30am Family Service
Wendy King

ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR AUGUST

Sidespersons & Readers

6th	St Osyth
13th	Annabel Stearn
20th	Vicky Rothwell
27th	Mandy Miles

Prayer Rota

6th	St Osyth
13th	Nicky Justice
20th	Lyn Gordon
27th	Wendy King



Coffee Rota

6th	St Osyth
13th	Hannah Justice
20th	Lyn Gordon
27th	Rosemary & David Branch

Cleaning Rota

5th	Wendy Smith
12th	Nicky Justice
19th	Linda Hayes
26th	Jennie Moss

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 24th August

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

St Mary's church, Great Bentley Flower and Art Festival 16th/17th September

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

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

The theme for our Flower Arrangements this year is 'A Book'.

Would you as an individual or your Club like to do a flower arrangement please contact me for further information.

Also if you are an artist then please exhibit some of your work.

We would love to hear from you.

Carole Allington

01206 251086

email: carole@pncallington.co.uk

THANK YOU

One final round of thanks to everyone who has been so kind to me and my family following the loss of my beloved wife Ursula . We have appreciated all the kind words and thoughts offered over the past months !

Donations made in Ursula's name for Cancer research and the Hospice including the Crematorium collection total over £2000.00 to date! Thanks to everyone that donated to these worthy causes, they are both reliant on donations.

Michael Dorling.

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at the 10.30am communion service on Sunday 13th August. The anthem that they will be performing is 'Hear the voice and prayer' by Thomas Tallis.



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

Thomas Tallis (1505 –1585) was an English composer of High [Renaissance music](#). His compositions are primarily vocal, and he occupies a primary place in anthologies of English [choral music](#).

Tallis is considered one of England's greatest composers and is honoured for his original voice in English musicianship.

Tallis served at court as a composer and performer for [Henry VIII](#), [Edward VI](#), [Mary I](#), and [Elizabeth I](#). He was first designated as an organist at the Chapel Royal after 1570, although he would have been employed as an organist throughout his career.

The choir will perform this work unaccompanied.

Graham Bell - Deanery Choir

WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS

Pet Care - Home Veterinary Nurse, See page P

CC Plumbing and Gas - See page P

Comiit Fitness - A new fitness centre opening for the people of Great Bentley based at Unit B6 Plough Road Centre combining classes and group personal training. All levels of fitness welcome. For more information See page H.

Constablecare - Local Care for local people, Full details on page 33.

Ardleigh Annual Flower & Produce Show

Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society are hosting the Ardleigh Annual Flower & Produce Show on **Saturday 19th August at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh (CO7 7RS)**.

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

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

Refreshments are available. Members and under 16s free, non-members £1

THE PLOUGH
The Plough All Day Festival
19th August
Live music all day long!!

COGGESHALL FLOWER FESTIVAL

St Peter ad Vincula
26th to 29th August

Saturday 26th August 10-5pm
Concert 7.30pm

Martin Dobson's Midnight Oil
Tickets £12 - Concessions £10 - Under 18s £2
call text 07974 802304 for reservations

Sunday 27th August 11am - 5pm
Festival Eucharist 9.30am

Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th 10am - 5 pm
Refreshments and stalls
Admission free - Donations welcome
www.coggeshallflowerfestival.org.uk

SCHOOL NEWS

Year 5

Year 5 have been busy designing a motorised vehicle and they will soon be making them. Look at these high quality pieces of design work. It will be a lot of fun.



Year 6

Year 6 have been practicing K~S2 Sports Day and supporting the lower school with theirs - the Year 6s really were fabulous with the younger ones. Secondly, they have been rehearsing the play (on stage this time) and it is really taking shape.

Spelling Bee

We recently saw the return of the traditional Great Bentley annual spelling bee. This event has grown in the past two years and the excitement around it is huge in the school. This year we saw some very impressive performances from our KS1 competitors. The year one children were determined and focused and got further in the competition than has been seen in any previous competitions, only getting knocked out once they had progressed to the harder year 3 words. Our KS1 winner was Catherine in year two - she gave an outstanding performance and is one to watch in the future.

The competition was finally won after a tough 45 minutes of intense spelling by Isaac in year 5 - a truly talented speller and writer. It was a very tense tie breaker situation and Maddie in year 6 battled it out to the very end, spelling some very difficult words. She took away a very well deserved second place trophy.

We are looking forward to another year of interschool competitions next year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE

RECYCLING

RECYCLING AT GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS BEEN SUSPENDED

**Christopher & Virginia Palmer-Tomkinson
invite you to the Little Bentley Hall Son et Lumière**

Friday 8th September

4.30-10.30pm

In aid of Local Churches and Alzheimer's Society

Little Bentley Hall offers a rare chance to have a look round one of East Anglia's finest private gardens just outside Colchester, famous for its Lake and Ancient Waterway. You will be able to enjoy a unique light and music illumination show, all raising funds for local charities including churches and the Alzheimer's Society.

The Gardens will be open for you to enjoy from 4.30pm. A variety of hot food, drink and Bar will be available all evening. Sorry no food or drink to be brought into the Gardens.

At 7.30pm take your places on the lawn for the Son et Lumiere show, with spectacular lighting of the lake, plus a selection of informal music including Rogers & Hammerstein, Mozart, Bernstein, Rossini and Verdi, performed by Orlando Jopling, stunning young singers and a miniature orchestra.

We will provide seating for you all around the Lake and Waterways so don't bring extra seating.

We are also seeking help and support on the afternoon and evening from anyone who would like to help with Car Parking, be on the Entrance Gate or another duty. Can you help with a Raffle Prize.

For more information contact Nigel on 07802 282193.

STRANGERS - Lunchtime concert, Friday 18th August

St Osyth Church, Church Square, St Osyth, CO16 8NU

Strangers came together in 2017 when a group of long-term musicians, all veterans of various professional and semi-professional bands, got together to play a charity gig in St Osyth. This was a great success, and subsequently the band has performed at local music venues and festivals, private functions, fund-raising events, open-mic nights and even Church services.

Within their three-piece format (Guitar, Bass Guitar and Drums), Strangers play a wide variety of musical styles from Rock and Blues to Acoustic Sessions, in each case adapting songs to suit the band and the event. Strangers' Lunchtime concert on Friday 18th August will include songs from the mid 1950's to the mid 2000's. Feel free to come along and listen and join in - we look forward to seeing you.

Strangers are:

Sean O'Dell: Guitars, banjo, harmonica, backing vocals.

Tony Smy: Drums, percussion, backing vocals

Chris Chessum: Bass guitar, mandolin, lead vocals



FOOD BANK

The main needs at the moment are for basic tinned and packeted foods, longlife milk, squash, biscuits, tinned fruit, vegetables and meat, teabags 40s or 80s, lon life juice, coffee, sugar, shampoo, washing up liquid, and washing powder/pods/gel. (At the present time they have a good stock of pasta thanks).

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

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

THE GREAT BENTLEY SHOW

SEPTEMBER 2nd 1:30pm

FUN & GAMES FOR ALL THE FAMILY

ENTERTAINMENT



REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE & TOMBOLA

FOR INFORMATION & ENTRY FORMS

<https://greatbentleyshow.co.uk>

Contact

enquiries@greatbentleyshow.co.uk

KNIT & NATTER

Thursday 17th August

St Mary's Church Hall

2.00pm - 3.30pm

All Welcome



Friends of The Green

Grand Garage Trail

This year will be on
Saturday September 16th

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

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

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



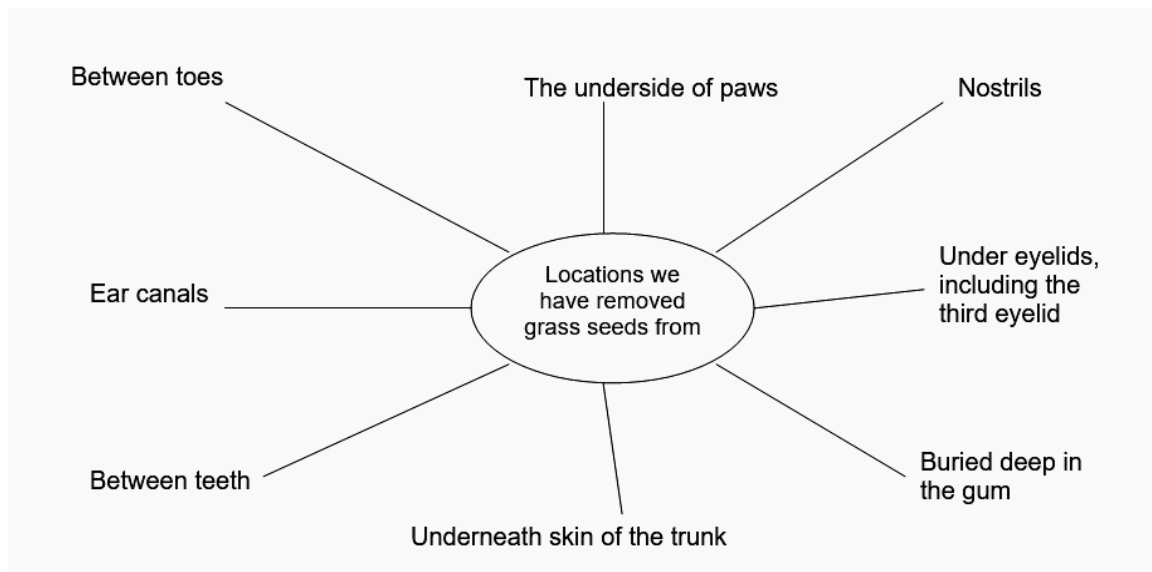
**Weeley
Veterinary
Centre**

Winner of Best Vet UK 2023

PET NOTES



Summer is my favourite time of year but it's also **grass seed season** which can be a stressful time for pet owners, especially dog owners. This July my team and I have been very busy diagnosing and treating pets who've been injured by these bothersome seeds which are shaped like an arrow head. The sharp pointy end can penetrate tissue and the fibres cling preventing the seeds from moving backwards.



They really do penetrate anywhere. It is important they are removed as they will continue to penetrate deeper tissues. There are even reports of them reaching the heart and lungs.

Q. How can pet owners prevent grass seed injuries?

A. I advise the following preventative measures:

- Avoid walking dogs in long grass
- Examine your dog carefully after every walk and remove any grass seeds you find
- Keep fur trimmed short, especially around the ears and feet as this will give seeds less to hold onto and hide in
- Seek early veterinary attention if you have any concerns

Whilst the majority of grass seed victims are dogs, I have also treated plenty of cats. I recommend a once daily check for seeds for any cat with access to outdoors.

Dr April Young MRCVS



SESAW NEWS

Hello, Ollie here to give you a cat's eye view of SESA. I have been under house arrest, recovering from an injury in the Spring. Mother decided to keep me in a while longer until most of the birds around the house had raised their young. Now I'm allowed out again Ken says "about time too!" He's fed up with competing for the best chair in the kitchen!

Just to warn you gardeners, watch out for nesting hedgehogs, please make sure you do not disturb their nests when tidying up the garden. If you see any babies or older hogs in daylight do not leave them to get fly strike. Obviously, it is much better for the hoglets to be cared for by the parent but if this is not possible please bring them in to us. Mother has already taken in several casualties which will be returned to their original sites when healthy again.

Apart from many cats and dogs, we still have an abundance of rabbits looking for homes. Our rabbit expert, Karen, would be pleased to advise and help potential owners to choose the right rabbit for their family or help bond a new partner for their existing rabbit. Karen is usually available on Tuesdays and Saturdays but please phone ahead to confirm.

That's enough from me, I'm off to find a cosy cushion for a cat nap. That pesky chihuahua is fed up with me commandeering the best armchair, silly lad doesn't realise that's the right of every cat, including me Ollie (the Black) Cat.

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

ANSWERS TO THE METHODIST FLOWER FESTIVAL QUIZ

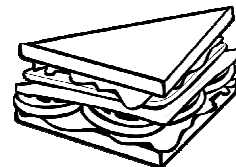
Display created by	Monarch	Number
Mothers and Toddlers	King Cole	1
Methodist Church	The Evil Queen	28
Methodist Church	Three Kings	20
Bellringers	King Canute	2
Methodist Church	Richard the Lionheart	26
Friends of the Green	Monarch of the Glen	17
Methodist Church	Tatiana	21
Methodist Church	King Louis	27
Bentley in Bloom	Henry VIII	12
St Mary's Church	William III	3
Parish Magazine	Monarch of the Glen	14
Methodist Church	Queen Victoria	22
Ladies Club	Anne Boleyn	5
Methodist Church	Queen of Hearts	15
Gardening Club	King Neptune	4
Methodist Church	Queen of Sheba	23
Carnival Committee	Charles II	6
Methodist Church	King Kong	7
Adventurers	Alfred the Great	10
Methodist Church	Queen Daenerys	25
Station Action Group	The Queen Mum	19
Methodist Church	Cleopatra	8
Methodist Church	The King and I	16
Rainbows	Elizabeth II	9
Methodist Church	Boudicca	18
Methodist Church	King Raedwald	24
Wine Tasters	Richard III	13
St Mary's	Elizabeth I	11

Hope Needs Help

The number of men and women seeking the emotional support and practical help that hope@trinity endeavours to provide is increasing dramatically, in recent weeks there was a day when 90 came through their doors each with their own unique needs. The volunteers face a daily challenge to meet those needs and it is no easy task, requiring time, patience and understanding. As regular reader's may be aware I am always happy to receive donations of men and women's clothing and footwear however on this occasion I am appealing for sandwiches! If you are able to make up a loaf it will make such a difference. When someone is at their lowest ebb and down on their luck just being asked 'what sandwiches would you like' may well be the first time they have been offered a choice in any way for days! On every 2nd Wednesday of the month loaves of sandwiches clearly marked as to the filling can be brought to Great Bentley Methodist Church by 9 30am and will then be taken to Trinity Church in Clacton. Details can always be found on the Church information page of The Parish News.

Thank you for caring.

Judy Bishop
5 Morella Close
Great Bentley
01206 251702



Will you support St Helena Hospice so patients and their loved ones can receive compassionate care at the end of their life?

While she has been staying at the Hospice, Victoria Oliver has been missing her gelding fell pony, Dan the Man aka Greenholme Falcon, so Dan paid a visit.



Victoria said:

“It means the world to me to see Dan. I last saw him a couple of months ago, so it’s been a long time since I have been near a horse, the longest time ever, so it means a lot to me.

“The other patients came out to see him too and stroke him, and that melted my heart. We managed to put smiles on so many faces.”

St Helena Hospice helps families to make the most of the time they have together in a compassionate and caring environment. By donating to our spring appeal today, you can give more people the chance to live life how they choose, just like Victoria.

We urgently need your support to continue to provide vital care to people across north east Essex and ensure we are here to support and care for future generations. Please donate today at www.sthelena.org.uk/spring

Tel: 01206 646 184

Methodist Church Flower Festival

Congratulations and thanks to Jackie Kilby and her hard-working and supportive team for organising a most enjoyable Flower Festival. The theme of “Famous Monarchs” led to interesting and thought-provoking discussion between visitors and to a magnificent collection of flower arrangements. The wording of the theme left arrangers with an interesting degree of latitude in their subject-choice, so there were items ranging from real monarchs to fictitious ones, like King Kong and the Evil Queen and of course the very popular “Monarch of the Glen”.

The icing on the cake was produced by the Boxted Methodist Silver Band on the Sunday evening. It was an excellent and varied concert; indeed, a real treat enjoyed by a very appreciative audience. With their conductor, Victoria Steinitz, they produced a wonderfully mellow sound and played a wide variety of melodies which enabled virtuoso performances from several members of the band, including the Principal Cornet, Anne Ruddock. Personally, I loved the mellifluous tone of the euphonium!

There were spare seats, which was a pity, as it was a missed opportunity to hear a lively and highly talented group of musicians. I can thoroughly recommend their next concert, which celebrates their 125th Anniversary, at Littlegarth School, Park Road, Colchester on Saturday 23rd September, 6pm, tickets £10, from stagestubs.com.

Rosemary Branch



GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET CLUB

Playing cricket on The Green since 1771.

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

In another busy month of fixtures for the Colts six matches were played by the U11s and U13s. Unfortunately, the U12s had both their matches cancelled and the U11s had one match abandoned due to rain. Apart from the victories the U11s had the tightest of matches against Frinton with the game ending in the rarest and most dramatic cricket result -- a tie! Well done to all the Colts and thanks again to the coaches and parents.

Date	Great Bentley	Score (Net)	Opposition	Score (Net)	Result	Highlights
June 21st	U13	112/4	Eight Ash Green	100/8	Gt Bentley/Bromley Won by 12 runs	J Whitehead 25*, H Durrel 24*
June 22nd	U12		Chappel		Match Cancelled	
June 25th	U11	252/7 [217]	Mistley	264/4 [244]	Gt Bentley Lost by 27 runs	
June 27th	U13	112/4	Frinton	92/9	Gt Bentley/Bromley Won by 20 runs	H Durrel 32*
June 29th	U13		Mistley		Gt Bentley/Bromley Lost	
July 2nd	U11	280/4 [260]	Frinton	295/7 [260]	Match Tied	L Ager 10, F Pope 11 - L Ager 3/5
July 3rd	U11	285/8 [245]	Brightlingsea	272/8 [232]	Gt Bentley Won by 13 runs	F Hood 14, O Lukey 9 - A Brown 3/6
July 4th	U12		West Bergholt		Match Cancelled	
July 9th	U11		Mistley		Match Abandoned : Rain	

The adults played just one league match since the last parish magazine: away at Galleywood on 2nd July. Regular readers may remember this was the site of a previous hard fought league win. Suffice it to say this match did not go our way. Stand in skipper and club chairman, Henry Fairbanks, won the toss and elected to bowl first under cloudy conditions. The Galleywood openers took the game to the opening bowler James Snowden from the first ball forcing a quick change after just four overs with Fairbanks electing to turn to spin. Thanks to the very short leg side boundary bowling from the far end was fraught with danger and following some punishing hitting the first 10 overs went for almost 80. It wasn't until the 17th over with the score on 122 that the first wicket fell, a sharp catch from Sam Busby at straight mid-on off the bowling of Mark Busby. And, as the old cricketing adage goes, one wicket brings a second, with Mike Wright bowling the Galleywood big hitting opener for 88 with his first ball of the match two overs later. Galleywood's new batters were equally adept particularly on the cut and drive and kept the score rattling along despite Jake Pearce bowling a great spell of five overs for just 28. The bowlers and fielders kept working hard, including Fairbanks who injured his shoulder diving to prevent a certain boundary. Wickets did fall but the runs were also piling up; Dan Barker drew the Galleywood number three into a false shot and he was stumped by keeper Jonny Hesketh. Shortly after Lewis Brandom trapped another leg before wicket but still the runs kept coming. Barker and returning opening bowler Snowdon took one more wicket each in the closing overs as the Galleywood batters took some risks. However, the damage had been done and Galleywood ended on a big total of 276-6 — although the feeling was, we were still in the match and had done well to keep the score below 300 given their frenetic start. Pick of the bowlers were opener Sam Busby 4-1-16-0, Dan Barker 5-1-29-2 and Jake Pearce 5-0-28-0.

After tea had been taken, which saw us witness England losing the 2nd test, the Bentley batting began well with James Snowden hitting a four off the second ball but then disaster struck, Snowden fell to the next ball bowled by a full toss. Not the start we were looking with what was always going to be an uphill struggle but now we had a mountain to climb. Barker (24) and Hesketh tried to steady the ship putting on 38 before Barker, who had scored all his runs in boundaries, was bowled off another full toss! After Hesketh, Brandom and Viv Black fell, Ashton Rees (17) and Sam Busby (11) dropped anchor for a few overs while adding some much-needed runs — both batted sensibly but fell looking for the boundaries we needed to get back into the game. With the score on 81-6 Bentley were looking for a miracle. Mike Wright managed the tail well, top scoring with 26 not out and taking the score past 100. But when the injured Fairbanks was caught in the slips Bentley were all out for 110, 165 runs short. A heavy, and disappointing, loss but no disgrace in losing to a better side. Onwards and upwards, Galleywood come to The Green on Sunday 23rd July and we will be looking to bounce back and show we can do much better.

Unfortunately, the planned intra-club game involving both old and new players as well a number of colts on Sunday 9th July was rained off – this will be rearranged for later in the season.

For those of you who follow the One Hundred on TV the adults will be venturing into this new format against local rivals Great Bromley on 1st August. We can't promise flames for sixes, coloured kit, and a DJ between innings but should be a great evening! Match starts at 6pm – please come along and support if you can.

Date for your diary: The annual, very friendly, Jeff Wright memorial cricket match between a Jeff Wright Family Friends XI and a GBCC XI will take place on August Bank Holiday Monday (28th August). Any monies made on the day will be donated to St Helena Hospice. All support will be very much appreciated. Bar will be open from 11am. Match will start at noon.

Upcoming Adult and Colts Fixtures:

JULY

Tue 11th: U13 Home vs Frinton 6pm
Thu 13th: U12 Away vs Chappel 6pm
Sun 16th: U11 Home vs Great Bromley 10am
Mon 17th: U12 Home v Coggeshall 6pm
Sun 23rd: U13 Home vs Sudbury 10am
Sun 23rd: Adults NECL Home vs Galleywood 1pm

AUGUST

Tue 1st : Adults "Hundred" Away vs Great Bromley 6pm
Sun 13th: Adults NECL Home vs Chelmsford 1pm
Sun 20th: Adults NECL Home vs EAG 1pm
Sun 27th: Adults NECL Away vs Chelmsford 1pm
Mon 28th: Jeff Wright Memorial Match Noon



GBCC is an inclusive, volunteer run, family friendly club welcoming new playing and non-playing members at any time during the season. The bar is open every weekend, all summer, from 5pm Friday and 1pm Saturday and Sunday serving a wide variety of drinks and snacks. Please contact the club via the email address info@greatbentleycc.co.uk if you or your child would like to give cricket a try or with any questions.

Great Bentley Show

We are looking forward to welcoming you to this year's Show on the 2nd September on the Green.

Erratum

Apologies for some errors in the schedule

No 24 The Colin Johnson Memorial Cup has replaced The Floral Art Cup

No 53 The Maureen Johnson Memorial Cup is awarded for the best Lego exhibit.

Also some details were lost between the web version and the print version as follows:

Vegetable classes

4 – should read 3 carrots

41– should read 2 cucumbers

Fruit classes

46 – should read 3 dessert apples.

47 – should read 3 pears

Dahlias

51 – should read 3 blooms

52 - should read 3 blooms

Chrysanthemums

66 – should read 3 blooms

67 – should read 3 blooms

Roses

70 – should read 3 HT roses

71 – should read 3 sprays

72 – usually reads 3 sprays

At the start of this year someone kindly offered to help at this year's show. Sadly, due to technical gremlins your contact details have been lost. Please contact me again at chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk We are now in the process of putting together a spreadsheet of when help is needed and who is available and we would love to add you to the list.

Last call for the return of cups awarded at last year's show. Please drop off at 23 Newman Fields or email chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk or phone 01206 918223 to arrange a pickup.

EARLIER DEADLINE FOR HANDING IN ENTRIES: All forms must be returned to Shirley Scillitoe, The Warren, Sturric Lane **BY TUESDAY 29th AUGUST**



Great Bentley Good Neighbours Annual Meeting

The Great Bentley Good Neighbours held their annual meeting on the 22nd June 2023. The Annual approved report is as follows:-

At the Annual meeting thanks were given to all the volunteers who have served the village year after year. We are grateful some new members have joined us.

Annual information booklet

This year we were able to produce our annual information booklet. We post a copy through every door in the village in a dark red cover. We have continued to use this printed format since there are still many in our community who do not have internet. There is also a copy on the Parish Council web site. Due to our care for those who give us permission to print their telephone numbers in the booklet we do not include these on the internet. All the telephone numbers of people mentioned in the booklet have given approval for their telephone numbers to be printed.

Neighbourhood Watch.

So important for our community. Richard Nowak is keeping up the publicity regarding this. Please contact him if you need to mark your household items to make them easier to trace in the event of a burglary.

Transport scheme for appointments and Hospitals.

During this winter we appointed Yvonne Gibson to be the telephone contact for the service. During May she found, unknown to her, that her Careline connection was intercepting recorded messages and so she did not get them. We apologise to all who tried at that time whose calls were missed. Due to her disability Yvonne cannot always answer her phone and thus does rely on people leaving messages and she gets back as soon as she has been able to find a driver. This can take time so please give her as much notice as possible. She also may have to leave messages. It has always been rare to be able to find a driver for the next day.

Drivers for Transport Scheme.

New volunteers for this essential driving work are always needed. We do have to have each driver DBS checked for your safety so it takes a little time for this to be done. The contribution made by users of this service to the cost of the driver's fuel is very welcome.

Road Stewards

We have always felt that the Road Stewards do a most important task for their neighbours and thank them all for their work. Yvonne Oxford coordinates this work.

Medical Aids

The items we lend are intended to be for emergencies or short-term use, since for long term use the health authorities or social services make the provision. We have many items out on loan at any one time such as Wheelchairs, Commodes, Walking Aids and Bathing Aids. We hope that those who are able to use this service will be able to contribute to the costs involved although we do not make a specific charge.

Parish Grant.

Good Neighbours last year received a Grant from the Parish Council to help with its work. We are grateful for their support.

All the work the Good Neighbours does depend upon its volunteers. We thank them now on behalf of the village. Can you help and join our committee there are only three meetings a year?

Robert Taylor
Chairman

TENDRING TALKING TIMES

The current Chairman of the Charity which produces Tendring's Talking Newspaper, Hollis Drake retired at their 47th Annual General Meeting held this week after 14 years in the chair as well as being a Producer and Reader.

The Charity produces a weekly summary of local news primarily for people who are blind or visually impaired which is recorded onto Memory Sticks which are posted out to the listeners. Each listener is provided with a simple device on which the recordings can be played and once listened to the Memory Stick can be mailed back to the Charity at no cost to the listener using the same envelope as it arrived in.

Hollis Drake was thanked by everyone present for his service and hard work on behalf of the Newspaper and Hollis Drake in return wished his successor Adrian Robinson an enjoyable time in the Chair even if it may at times be challenging.

Recordings are created by the volunteers in their own studio premises by rotating teams comprising of engineers, producer, editors and readers on a Thursday evening and other volunteers. The Charity is now very keen to hear of others who can give some time mainly on a Thursday afternoon to join these teams as some are quite short of people but despite these shortages there is a good spirit within the teams.

Adrian Robinson also stressed that the Charity is keen to learn of visually impaired persons in the Tendring area who do not already receive this weekly digest. There is no charge for this service which is largely funded by legacies. Unfortunately, during the pandemic the number of listeners dropped from 400 to a current 75 so the Charity feels there must be many more people out there who would enjoy using this service.

To request to go on the list then please call 07831 704078 or e-mail: tendringtalkingtimes1976@gmail.com

Friends of Great Bentley Station

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our coffee morning.

Alan Neville (customer engagement manager) and Terri Ryland (community rail Partnership Officer) were able to join us which proved to be very advantageous as they were asked many questions about the condition of the station. Alan was asked about the waiting room on the London bound platform and the fact that previously Greater Anglia had started to knock it down.

Fortunately, with Gill and David Crompton's passion and hard work it was reconstructed but sadly still needs work to bring it back to its former glory.

We feel it would be wonderful to have open at least one room on the station for a community project, a museum or community hub.

Alan has gone away to find out more information regarding the buildings and the general appearance of the station.

Many of us would like to see it painted and repaired as they are such lovely buildings inside a conservation area. Hopefully you will have noticed that with the help of the community rail partnership we have started to plant up at the station. Also, the Train planter that has been away for some time has now been refurbished and reinstated on the London bound side of the station.

We are hoping to have another coffee morning in the autumn, date to be arranged.

Anyone wishing to join our group and assist in any way whether on a watering Rota or making coffee at the next meeting please feel free to contact me.

Dawn Vinn -

01206481746 or dawn@vinn.co.uk

IS THE PATIENT BREATHING

"Is the patient breathing?" is the response you hear when you have called 999 and asked for the Ambulance Service. The next response you may get is a local Community First Responder knocking on your door, followed by an Ambulance. The Great Bentley First Responder Group has now been volunteering and supporting the East of England Ambulance Service for over 10 years.

What do we do? We are volunteers from the local community who are fully trained by the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust, in basic life support including use of oxygen therapy and a defibrillator. We respond to medical emergencies such as Cardiac Arrest, Heart Attacks, Breathing Difficulties, Chest Pains, Strokes, and Choking where reaching the collapsed person within the first eight minutes can be vital to the survival of the patient. We are also trained to respond to medical emergencies for children 2 years and older. Living locally First Responders will usually be first on the scene pending the arrival of an ambulance crew who will arrive either in a rapid response car or an ambulance. We receive our calls from the ambulance control centre following a 999 call from the public.

We do not attend dangerous incidents such as road traffic accidents, large incidents involving several patients or childbirth. Currently we do not attend known COVID patients, but just in case we are provided with the appropriate level of PPE.

To become a First Responder you should be:

- 18 – 70
- Physically fit
- Agree to a Criminal Bureau Check (DBS)
- Have a full driving licence and the use of a car (with Mileage allowance)
- Agree to undertake training
- Attend the groups monthly evening meetings/training

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES FOR GREAT BENTLEY SHOW 2023

Coast to coast

Say cheese

H2O

Flying High

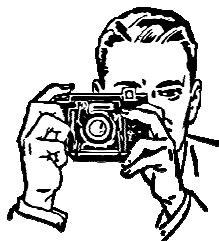
All the fun of the Fair

Gardener's Delight

Open

Children's Class

My Favourite Things



How much time does it take? As a volunteer group we can do as little or as much as we like. The more volunteers we have the more cover we can provide. We also have a monthly training night – to keep up to date. Could you spare a few hours a week - an evening or afternoon??

What do we actually do? Your local First Responders are at the *Heart* of the community. We attend calls in Elmstead Market, Frating, Arlesford, Little Bentley, Great Bromley, Little Clacton and of course Great Bentley. Last month we provided over 100 hours of cover, received 19 alerts and responded to 11 calls, the rest we were stood down as invariably a 'blue light' can get to the scene quicker. Essex Ambulance Service receives on average 2500 to 3000 emergency calls a day.

We always need more volunteers!! If you are interested in volunteering or helping give me a call on 07503153960, or email peter@the-harrys.co.uk.



Well August has arrived, and it is that time again when we are on our summer break, and hopefully enjoying the sun too.

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

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

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

New Children

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

Registers

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

I hope you all continue to enjoy the summer; we will be returning to start the new term on Monday 4th September.

Thanks for reading

Julie Wiles

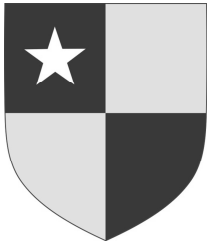
Community Speedwatch Update

Speed monitoring continued around the village during June. Despite relatively limited time at the roadside, I'm afraid we had to report 68 speeding vehicles during the month. The running total of reports for 2023 is now 304, with many of those recorded in June doing over 40mph, some over 50mph and a commercial vehicle even recorded at 60mph heading into the middle of the village!

It always looks to us like the vast majority of our speeding problem is traffic from elsewhere travelling through the village on its way to somewhere else, but it's still our problem. With speeds like 60mph, is it "just a matter of time" before something horrible happens?

The problem has not gone unnoticed by the Police who, as planned, have now begun to join us occasionally on our monitoring sessions. This obviously brings a very different dimension to what drivers might expect if they're speeding while we're out and about. Please keep to the limits! The Police team do conduct formal speed enforcement and I'm sure there will be some drivers getting very unwelcome letters as a result.

The Community Speedwatch team really appreciates the friendly waves, the chats and if nothing else, drivers slowing down at the point they see us! We're also really keen to increase the size of the team so if anyone would like to get involved in this voluntary and really worthwhile community activity, please do get in touch at greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com"



GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council: Jennifer Spear
Tel: 01206 256410 Email: clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk
Website: <https://greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk/>

In July we celebrated the first successful year of the Great
Great Bentley – Order of the Great Bentley Environment

This is a new initiative this year with the Parish Council Primary School, an idea proposed from The Environmental environmental matters and it couldn't have been so school and also Penguin Random House.

In July's Parish Council meeting most of the pupils who their hard work and outstanding accomplishments this and the Executive Head Teacher from Great Bentley

The Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Pippa Dennitts was was also gifted a hand written book from one of the pupils, amazing detail the intricate details of plants and their work the children have been undertaking to be awarded

The Parish Council look forward to working with a new group of students in the next school year and to continue the partnership with the primary school in the village.

Please remember there is no Parish Meeting in August and the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 7th September at 7:00pm in the village Hall

Jennifer Spear
Clerk to the Council

Bentley OBE:

(GBOBE)

working in partnership with Great Bentley Working Group to help raise awareness of successful without the support from the primary

took part this year were awarded prizes for year. They all attended along with their parents Primary School, Mrs Caffull.

proud to award these prizes to the children and Harry, "The Plant Club", which described in functions. A wonderful example of the kinds of their prizes this year.

Good Neighbours Transport

Our transport scheme is now up and running and available.

If you are unable to get a lift for appointments at hospitals, doctors or clinics etc, please phone Yvonne Gibson on 01206 252 387 to see if we are able to help.

We can't promise a lift every time, as all drivers are volunteers and have busy lives themselves, but we will do our very best.

We do not charge for this service but if a donation towards the cost of petrol is given, it goes directly to the Good Neighbours.

We do need more drivers so if you have a little time to spare to take somebody to a local appointment maybe once a week/fortnight/even a month – please get in contact with me Bev Adams on 250724 for more information.

SO MANY THANK YOU'S

Thankfully this year, we had some new volunteers come forward, with their valued support, we were able to organise this year's event. I hope all our volunteers have enjoyed the experience and made some friends along the way.

A 'BIG' thank you to:

- Summers Family Fun Fair for their generous donation
- George Wright for providing lorry and stage
- The Plummers
- Michael Dorling
- Chris (Compère)
- Great Bentley Parish Council and Village Hall
- Donors – Taylor Wimpey, Dunmow Skips, Town & Country
- Local Farmers for helping with road blocks
- John Bacon for hay bales
- Judges – Bev and Jackie, Emma and Monica
- Programme – Gary and Anna
- New and Old Volunteers – Alan & Sharon (Carnival Court tent), Lesley & Colin (Silent Auction tent and Book stall), Joyce & Muriel (Refreshment Tent), Peter (Parking), Jo (Raffle/Information Tent), Rosie (Procession), Craig (Road Blocks and procession)
- Beneficiaries for all helping and supporting stalls
- Husbands of Committee members – Bill, Andrew and Peter



Thank you to all the Procession Entrants. In the current financial climate it has been difficult for groups to get their costumes completed, along with travel costs. Everyone's participation and hard work was much appreciated.

I'd like to mention Great Bentley Preschool here. They are a long standing supporter of our event, advertising in the programme and taking part in the Carnival procession every year. Unfortunately, their advert was incorrectly placed in this year's programme and was also too small. Please check out their ad in this magazine (page O, usually) to see what they can offer preschool age children.

We organise this Annual Event to raise much needed funds for local groups and clubs who support physical and mental well-being of children and young people living within the community of Great Bentley and surrounding area.

We remain a small Committee of three and I personally would like to thank Anna (Treasurer) and Yee (Secretary) for their hard work and support throughout the year. After 7 years Anna has decided to step down as Treasurer. I would like to extend my gratitude for her hard work, advice and support. We also have vacant positions of Vice Chairperson, Programme Co-Ordinator and Carnival Court Co-Ordinator. If you are interested in providing your support and joining the committee or offering a few hours to help out, please contact me on 07585558660.

Our AGM will be 19th October, 8p.m. At Great Bentley Methodist Church

Julie Wall
julestheedom@hotmail.co.uk

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 MAGAZINE

MONDAY 14th AUGUST

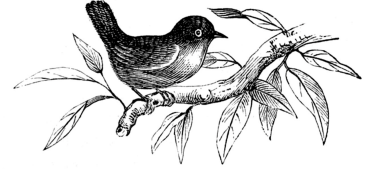
Material to Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green, 250524 **AND**
Carole Allington, Poplar House, Station Road, 251086.

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

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

IMPORTANT - PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO BOTH OF US

NATURE NOTES



Over previous decades there has been interest amongst the bird watching fraternity as Mediterranean Gulls became a regularly seen local species. These gulls are similar but distinctly different from Black-headed Gull's having a very black head carried down the nape of the neck and a bright red bill. A few pairs began nesting on Garnham's Walls in the Walton Backwaters.

However, these degraded seawalls are prone to frequent flooding often washing out the colonies. The 'Med's' arrive early to select the higher ground and are sufficiently aggressive to keep off the BHG's. However, they appear, unlike BHG's, to make only one breeding attempt in a season whereas the BHG's will try-again. The colony has slowly grown in numbers, in part due to a move onto the higher ground of a small island. After a brief return into the 'Backwaters' they have resettled on the island and this year's count indicated 35 pairs. The Essex Bird Report, (EBR), suggests a count of 30 chicks for 2020.

The Tendring Wildflower Group (TWFG) continues its work aiming to survey the wild flora of the district. Using the O.S mapping system the district is divided into a series of one kilometre squares (Monads). Tendring has more than 330 Monads of which over 240 have so far been surveyed since the group's formation in 2016. Of interest for the 2023 season have been surveys in the unusually named Skip Hatch Lane, where the scarce Corn Bunting can still be seen. At Wix Abbey the churchyard held the scarce Bush Vetch and a survivor of the former seven, c900 year old Abbey ponds, was a white and yellow carpet of Water Crowfoot. Captains Wood held an impressive stand of more than 50 Hornbeam trees unusual in the district. The second record for Ploughman's Spikenard, a tall colourful groundsel like plant has been recorded, both near Wrabness. All records are passed on to the Essex Botanical Recorder and thence on to the Botanical Society of the British Isles (B.S.B.I) Readers may have picked up on television a reference to the latest BSBI survey publication with over 32,000 records.

One recent Thursday was a local 'red letter Kite' day with separate sightings on the Weeley Bypass, Tendring Road, Thorpe and late afternoon at Wix. The 2021 (EBR) suggests a possible 12 breeding pairs for 2020. Let us hope that we see the eventual recovery of this wonderful bird of prey. On a recent trip into Cambridgeshire our taxi driver, a self-confessed non-bird person, pointed out with pride a Red Kite soaring over a suburban garden. An indication that the size, colouration and widespread publicity regarding this magnificent bird has caught the imagination of members of the general public. Recently a very popular wildlife programme highlighted the continued efforts of wildlife protection officers in their fight against the persecution of our endangered birds of prey.

In a corner of a local country park a small colony of Pyramidal Orchids has been steadily increasing. Orchids are not common on the clay soils of our district so these are of particular note. Tucked in amongst the plants the eagle eyed may detect the much rarer and unpredictable Bee Orchid. Next month our report on 'TWFG's away-day visit to the Pingo's of Norfolk Breckland.

YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

'After a few weeks off-season, Great Bentley's youth football teams are just getting started for the new campaign. Thanks to our volunteer coaches and assistants we're delighted to announce we'll be running SEVEN teams for the 2023/24 season. Our successful under 13's have now moved up to 11-a-side and are preparing for another season at the top level of the district league, whilst our under 12's are getting set to compete in a league format for the first time ever. The club are stacked with talent as we move down the age groups with a very strong under 10's team, two very competitive under 9's squads, a rapidly improving under 7's team and an under 6's squad that are thoroughly enjoying their introduction to the beautiful game. With regard to vacancies, the under 6's (Year 1 in September) and the Under 9's (Year 4 in September), are particularly keen for new faces, so if you have some young football lovers in your ranks feel free to get in touch with the club (contact secretary Tony on 07867 748148) and we'll point you in the right direction. A real success for the club was the decision for last season's under 16s to become part of the men's set-up and we wish Richard and the squad the best of luck in their new venture. Youth home league matches are always played on a Sunday morning and respectful support for the boys and girls is always welcome. The youth football set-up is only possible by people giving up their spare time to carry out the hugely rewarding role of running a team and we are always after coaches, so if you have an interest in the sport and think it's something you'd like to do please get in touch with our secretary Tony (number above). You'll be fully supported by our existing qualified coaches and there's nothing better than seeing the village's children running around and actively engaged in physical activity each weekend, so please do give it a go if you are tempted. The youth football saying is 'if you have the coach, you'll get the players', so it would be great to get some new faces helping to operate teams. For example, we don't currently have anyone to run a mini-kickers group for reception children and it'd be great to get one started. The teams are also getting decked out in their new kits for the next campaign so if anyone wants to get their firm on the shirts or training tops as they travel around North Essex promoting the village, then please do get in touch, its a great opportunity to give a little back to our thriving local community. GBYFC and Proud!

BELLRINGERS UPDATE

We have been able to return to our regular practice nights now that the work in the ringing room is complete, so you will have heard the bells ringing on Monday and alternate Wednesday evenings.

We have now commenced fundraising activities for a full restoration of the bells and frame. Once we have raised sufficient funds, we will be able to appoint a specialist Bell Hanging contractor to carry out the work. The bells are then likely to be silent for a few months. The contractor is likely to set a date to commence work in 2025. We are very grateful to Cala Homes for their generous donation towards our project.

Any project in a Grade 1 listed church involves planning through the correct channels and, as such, is very costly. We have set up a Crowd Funding page for individuals to donate via, and would be most grateful if as many people as possible could share the address with their contacts:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rogercareysmith>

Happily, we are being joined by another 3 people who want to join our friendly and enthusiastic group and are interested in learning to ring. This is extremely good news, and once the bells are restored, we will be able to attract more people who wish to learn to ring on much improved bells.

Please contact me if you are keen to learn to join us and learn to ring church bells.

Roger
07422 880921

VILLAGE POND

A lot of concern last month over the fish in the pond! N B No fish died through lack of water! Although the water on the edges was low there is always 18 to 24 inches depth in the centre of the pond.

The pond has been neglected for the past two years and due to unforeseen genuine circumstances the arrangements in place last autumn did not take place, however plans are now in place for a major clearance of growth this autumn!

During the hot dry period of last month water was added for three weekends so no danger of fish dying or the pond drying out! All the offers of help were appreciated and noted !!

Michael Dorling

ANNUAL DIARY

2nd September	Village Show
16/17 September	St Mary's Flower and Art Festival
16th September	Grand Garage Sale
4th November	Autumn Fayre, Methodist Church
10th November	Good Neighbours Quiz Night Methodist Church Hall
2/3 December	St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

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

GREAT BENTLEY POST OFFICE

OPENING HOURS

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

Bus Network Consultation 2023

Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing its support of 162 local bus services. To ensure that the future bus network is ready to meet new levels of passenger demand and is providing value for money, ECC is conducting a public consultation regarding these services. The consultation will commence on 13 July 2023 and close on 05 October 2023. To complete the consultation visit <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/2023>. If you are unable to complete the consultation online, we can send a hard copy of the consultation on request via passenger.transport@essex.gov.uk or telephoning 0345 743 0430 or 0345 603 7631 to request a copy.

The consultation is not for Commercially run services, only those services run by companies on behalf of ECC.

The consultation is looking at:

- Continuing most services as they are now.
- Redesigning some services (for example the days of operation; routes; the number of journeys and/or the timetable); or
- withdrawing services, where they are not sufficiently well-used to justify their cost and there is no likelihood of re-design improving that position.

It would appear that the 77/77a Service is not currently under threat, nevertheless your views and opinions would be welcome.

P Harry
Public Transport Rep

JOTTINGS FROM THE ALLOTMENTS WHERE ARE THE ALLOTMENTS?

A gentleman riding through the village on his bike a few days ago, asked where the village allotments were situated. I expect there are many people reading this who will be shocked to know that this oasis of peace and tranquillity even exists. The plots originally came down to the roadside where now the Village Hall Car Park stands. All changed to allow the Village Hall to be built and allotment holders at the time, some thirty plus years ago, agreed to give up their plots at the front of the site and to move further back towards the fields. All ancient history now, but an important landmark for allotmenters and Great Bentley alike.

To find the allotments you need to drive in to Hall View and on the left hand side are double gates which allow you access to the plots. I would guess that currently there are around 70 plots which all vary a little in size, each individually measured out. I think it fair to say that as variable as the size of the plots, are the ways in which they are tended and planted and the characters of those charged with their custody. For some vegetables are the only way forward, for others its flowers or of course a combination of both. Dahlias, grapevines, hops, pumpkins, lavender, tomatoes, potatoes, cherries, the list is endless. So too is the wildlife from mason bees, butterflies and their favourite buddleia bushes, lizards, along with nesting birds from goldfinch to red legged partridge, Harold the Hare and just last week there was also deer.

If you are not prepared for hard work, then an allotment is not for you. If however you are willing to give it a try then please ring the Parish Office and leave a message on 01206 256410 to register your name with the Parish Clerk or email clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk. September is the traditional time for rents to be paid and I am sure there will be some plots becoming available after this deadline. We are a friendly bunch and enjoy having a chat, sharing plants, seeds and advice. If you are around at the weekends why not see if any plot holders are working up on their plot and have a little look around.

Mary Beard – a 105th birthday tribute

Arguably the oldest person in Great Bentley, Mary Beard, who still lives in her bungalow in Birch Avenue, celebrated her 105th birthday on 12th June 2023.

In spite of having had a nasty fall 10 days previously and spending two nights in A&E, she bounced back to enjoy both a family get-together and a subsequent garden party with friends and neighbours from the village.

Her special present was a trip to the nature reserve at Minsmere, where she spent three hours with a private guide listening and looking out for birds. A thunder storm and flash flooding failed to dampen her spirits, and she subsequently featured on the RSPB Facebook page, where she notched up 119 “likes”!

Since you are entitled to royal recognition on your 100th, 105th and all subsequent birthdays, Mary is now the proud recipient of a birthday card from King Charles III to add to the one she received from Queen Elizabeth five years ago.

Mum must be one of the very few people who can actually remember the Queen being born. She was nearly eight at the time, and can clearly recall the news bulletin on the wireless on 21st April 1926 which stated:

“The Duchess of York has given birth to a baby daughter”.

Little did anyone know at that time that this little baby would be our queen for over 70 years!

Regarding the garden party, may I say a special thank you to the lovely ladies from “Food for Thought” in Dovercourt, who were responsible not only for the catering, but also for presenting Mary with a wonderful birthday cake decorated with five candles. We all agreed that the full quota of 105 might melt the icing and besides, what’s a hundred years between friends?!

In addition I would like to mention that, since the previous Meals on Wheels company ceased trading some months ago, the Dovercourt ladies have also supplied Mary with her lunches – making a special trip to Great Bentley each time to do so. Their extreme kindness is very much appreciated, as is the excellent food! Their Meals on Wheels service is to be highly recommended, as is their catering. The ladies are lovely, nothing is too much trouble and the meals are very good indeed.

Mary really loves Great Bentley and, although she isn’t as mobile as she was, still enjoys being wheeled around the green to see the village and meet the people she knows. She would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those wonderful friends and neighbours who pop in regularly to visit and are constantly on hand to help. Their kindness is very much appreciated.

We are all looking forward to her celebrating another birthday in June next year – and to another card from the King! Maybe we should invite him along.....

If you are interested in having a lovely home cooked meal delivered please see the advert for Food for Thought. Catering formal and large events - 07799790343.

Also, catering for

Jenny Curtis-Beard

Calling all craft enthusiasts.

We will be having a craft stall at our Christmas event in December at St Mary's church..

Please would you be willing to donate a few homemade items for our stall?

We would be so grateful. Thanks in advance,

Mary Maskell

The power and the glory

Most people would think it a daft idea, but Jim once had an inkling to walk from central London to his home town of Conwy in North Wales. It wasn't even an inkling really, more like an itch he needed to scratch. It was a few years ago, in the days when he didn't need a reason for doing something - he just did it - unlike today, where he tends to think of reasons for not doing something. However, he had always admired Conwy's two main features; King Edward's castle complete with an imposing fortified town wall of 1280 (ish), and Telford's wonderfully elegant suspension bridge of 1822, spanning the aggressive tides of the River Conwy. If he did need a reason, it was purpose enough simply to gaze upon such paragon. He decided to do the walk. His starting point was Parliament Square because of old Longshanks' historical tax collection schemes, the in-house begging bowl to raise money to fund his 'sorting-out' of those irritating insurgents in that part of Wales, men like Llewelyn and that audacious Owain Glyndwr - hence the castle. And what of Thomas Telford? The answer was 'transportation'. Scottish Tom was an engineering genius. He built the bridge, but along with other engineers, he also built the most extensive of canal networks. It was settled, Jim would walk to Wales following some of those canals, beginning with the Grand Union Canal (GUC) maze out of London.

Having found accommodation for the first night, on the morning of the following day Jim sat on a bench in a park near North Harrow supping hot tea from a plastic cup. It was sunny and the canal was just a short distance away. He felt upbeat, encouraged by well-maintained tow paths, easy conditions under foot and mostly without gradients - canals do go through hills however - but still, walking at 3mph was almost guaranteed. He threw the cup in the bin, adjusted the strapping of his rucksack - a heavy load - he was carrying camping gear as B&B rooms were either difficult to find or, more often, they were too far away from the canal. The tent was his back-up.

Each day, Jim constantly looked for connections between his walk and one or the other of the protagonists. For example, in Stoney Stratford he found himself on Queen Eleanor Street. It was a moment of deep sorrow to recall those crosses, a series of monuments to commemorate Eleanor of Castile, the King's wife. Edward was journeying to London, paying homage to his beloved Eleanor who died near Lincoln in 1290.

Approaching the famous 2-mile long Blisworth tunnel in Northampton, Jim was aware of the absence of a towpath in that tunnel - he was hoping for a lift. It was a sunny day when he arrived at the tunnel entrance, so he found a seat and tucked into some snacks he had in his rucksack. A mannerly gentleman, sitting on his rather splendidly adorned narrowboat, was deeply engaged in renovating an antique flint-lock pistol. They talked for a while as Jim waited for that lift - none was forthcoming. There was no alternative, he had to climb over the hill through which the tunnel burrowed - tough going. His lowest moment of the trek was when he arrived at a tourist office in one town in search of a B&B - there was nothing available. He began to make his way back to the canal to find a sheltered spot where he could pitch his tent. It began to rain. On the edge of town, he came across a pub and decided that he deserved a pie and a pint to stave-off the disappointment, although he had been most fortunate up to that point. The young lady poured him a perfect pint and asked what he was doing. Jim briefly explained, ending with the prospect of a night in a tent - in the rain. She immediately made a phone call, after which she took his pint, put it in the chiller and told him to run to another pub nearby where there was one room left - grab it! He returned triumphant to finish his beer and his pie. Early the following morning, in light drizzle, Jim climbed up the steps onto the raised towpath, bade a nice day to the inquisitive swans and set off. A shy heron took to the sky - bliss.

Birmingham is reputed to have one of the most intricate canal networks in the world. Fearing that he would get lost in the extensive labyrinth of branch canals, Jim decided to skirt Birmingham, using the A5 trunk route - the Roman road and Anglo-Saxon Watling Street. He walked to Atherstone, enjoyed two nights at a B&B, after each, he was driven by his hosts to the previous day's end-point from which he could resume the walk. Near Brownhills, he joined the Shropshire Union Canal at Gnosall. Shropshire was Thomas Telford country; he was once the County Surveyor. The canal took him to the Welsh border at Chester, Edward's base for his intended conquest.

The arrival in Conwy was via Telford's beautiful suspension bridge, it and the castle sharing a footing on a steep rockface. The Scotsman must have been pleased when it was decided to remove part of Longshank's town wall to make way for the town-side entrance onto his bridge. One wonders if Edward would have approved.

So, there we have it, an Englishman and a Scotsman - the power and the glory - each building a masterpiece, albeit several centuries apart, one to tame the wild belligerence of the Welsh, the other to tame the wild currents of the river, but each demanding usage of the the same rocky outcrop, the obvious foundation. It is extraordinary that the final outcome has created a scene of such peaceful accord, a landscape which has evolved to be so emblematic of the history of Conwy. **JE**



Surgery Newsletter

Patient Consent

We often have people contacting us on behalf of family members. Due to patient confidentiality, we are unable to discuss information about a patient with anyone else unless we have written consent from them. This includes even just confirming an appointment time or date. Our staff can sometimes experience disgruntled patients as a result, but they would be breaking the law if they complied and are absolutely right to refuse. If there is frequently a need to discuss someone else's details and they are happy for us to do this, they just need to write to us expressing consent to talk to the named family member and we will note this on their record. There is also a form which can be collected from reception and completed if you do not wish to write a letter.

Change of Contact Details

If you change your address, email address or phone number, please remember to let us know so that we can update your records. It is really important that we have up-to-date details for you in case we need to contact you.

Prostate Awareness

Prostate cancer is cancer that occurs in the prostate. The prostate is a small walnut-shaped gland in males that produces the seminal fluid that nourishes and transports sperm. Prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer. Prostate cancer does not usually cause any symptoms until the cancer has grown large enough to put pressure on the tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the penis (urethra).

Symptoms of prostate cancer can include:

- Needing to pee more frequently, often during the night
- needing to rush to the toilet
- Difficulty in starting to pee (hesitancy)
- Straining or taking a long time while peeing
- Weak flow
- Feeling that your bladder has not emptied fully
- Blood in urine or blood in semen

These symptoms do not always mean you have prostate cancer. Many men's prostates get larger as they get older because of a non-cancerous condition called benign prostate enlargement.

<u>Further information:</u>
Prostate Cancer UK: about prostate cancer
Cancer Research UK: prostate cancer symptoms

If you are experiencing any symptoms of the above or if you have concerns, please call your GP Practice on 01206 250691

SURGERY TRAINING AFTERNOON

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Tuesday, 22 August 2023 for staff training. If patients require urgent care on this afternoon then they can contact 111 for assistance.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

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

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager



COOKERY CORNER

SALMON MAIN MEALS

The other day we had lunch with my sister. She had cooked a side of fresh salmon which she served cold with boiled new potatoes and two salad dishes, one of edamame beans, broad beans and peas, and the other of sliced tomatoes and onion in vinaigrette and parsley. This was followed by strawberry Eton Mess with cream and strawberry sorbet. A delicious and filling meal. Often referred to as a “super food” by nutritionists, salmon is an oily fish rich in beneficial omega-3-fatty acids which the body cannot produce. It is also a good source of protein which is important for maintaining bone health, preventing muscle loss and helping the body to heal and repair. It is relatively cheap, readily available and quick to cook. It can be grilled, baked, fried, smoked and even microwaved. But salmon is also a delicate fish, so beware of overcooking.

SALMON EN CROUTE

This will serve 4 to 6 people.

800g salmon fillet	500g pack all butter puff pastry	4 tbsp black olive tapenade paste
1 large egg	2 large ripe tomatoes	150g ball mozzarella fresh basil olive oil

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees. Dust a large flat baking tray (30cm x 15cm) with flour and roll out the pastry until it is the same size as the tray. Place the pastry on the tray. Drizzle the salmon with a little olive oil and season, then place onto the middle of the pastry, skin side down. Spoon the tapenade paste over the top of the fish, spreading out in a thin layer. Pick some basil leaves and place them all over the salmon. Slice the tomatoes and place on top. Tear the mozzarella into small pieces and scatter over the tomato layer. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and drizzle with a little more olive oil. Gather up the sides of the pastry carefully and pinch the edges with a little water to close. Beat the egg and brush all round the pastry edges. Place the tray on the bottom rack of the oven with an empty tray on the rack above to stop too much heat. Bake until the pastry is golden and cooked.

SMOKED SALMON KEDGEREE

This is a version of the Anglo-Indian dish which was often served for breakfast. It is based on lightly smoked salmon and haddock fillets and will serve 6 people.

3 large eggs	250g smoked salmon fillet	250g smoked haddock fillet
3tbs light sunflower oil	1 onion	2-3 tsp mild curry powder
175g cooked peeled prawns	300g basmati rice	40g soft butter
2-3 tbsp fresh lemon juice	a bunch of coriander	

Buy undyed skinless haddock and skinless salmon if possible. Otherwise remove the skin after taking the fillets out of the cooking water. Chop the coriander into 3 heaped tbsp, setting aside a few leaves, and chop the onion finely. Thaw the prawns if frozen. Boil the eggs for 10 to 12 minutes, drain, pour cold water over them and leave to cool in the cold water. Put the fillets into a large frying pan, just cover with cold water and bring gradually to the boil. Once bubbling, remove from the heat and cover with a lid or foil. Leave for 5 minutes then carefully remove the fish. Reserve 600ml of the cooking water and set aside.

Heat the oil in a heavy based pan and fry the onion over a moderate heat for 6 to 7 minutes until starting to turn brown at the edges. Sprinkle in the curry powder to taste. Add the rice, stir again and pour in the reserved cooking water. Bring to the boil then turn the heat right down and cover the pan. Cook on this low heat for about 15 to 20 minutes until all the liquid has been absorbed.

Meanwhile, shell and quarter the eggs. Set aside 6 quarters and roughly chop the rest. Flake the fillets carefully, removing any bones. When the rice is cooked, fork it through and add the fish, prawns and chopped eggs, cover the pan again and leave for 5 minutes on a very low heat. Turn off the heat, add the soft butter, season to taste with the lemon juice and a little salt and pepper and fold in the chopped coriander. Keep the Kedgerree covered in the pan for about 15 to 20 minutes before serving on a large warm dish and decorating with the quartered eggs and the remaining coriander leaves. **M.E.**

General Knowledge!



1. What brand of beer does Homer Simpson drink?
2. Rojo is the Spanish word for which colour?
3. How many time zones are there in mainland USA?
4. What is the largest freshwater lake in the world by its area size?
5. According to George Orwell, who is watching us?
6. Which sport takes place in a Velodrome?
7. What is the currency of Poland?
8. Trainspotting is a novel by which author?
9. Which is the only planet in our solar system not named after a god?
10. In which sport is the Davis Cup contested?
11. What is the name of the daughter in The Addams Family?
12. Which magazine has a distinctive yellow border on the cover?
13. How many wisdom teeth does the average adult have?
14. What type of rice is risotto usually made from?
15. How many rings is the Olympic symbol made up of?
16. What is a young giraffe called?
17. Which British supermarket has a clothing range named 'George'?
18. Copacabana Beach is located in which city?
19. What is the capital of Argentina?
20. A podiatrist specialises in treating which part of the human body?

1. Duff beer 2. Red 3. 4 Eastern, Central, Mountain & Pacific 4. Lake Superior 5. Big Brother
6. Cycling 7. Zloty 8. Irvine Welsh 9. Earth 10. Tennis 11. Wednesday 12. National
Geographic 13. 4 14. Arborio 15. 5 16. A calf 17. Asda 18. Rio de Janeiro 19. Buenos Aires
20. Feet

RUNNING CLUB

This month saw the final race in the club's Mickey Edwards series take place. As with all of the other 4 in the series it was hot. However, this didn't stop Stewart Baggs continue to improve on his previous times and to become the 2023 winner of the series! The fastest male time for the whole series was a stunning: 16:44 from Doug McGillivray at Handicap 4. This set a new male course record. The fastest female time for the whole series was on Handicap 3 when Lisa Briggs broke the female record with a scorching 20:29 finish. Well done to both Doug and Lisa. To achieve these impressive times in the prevailing conditions was no mean feat.



We also had the fifth race in the Friday 5 series in Stowmarket at the end of June. Eight of the team took part. They were: Rob Dyer (35:31), Jonathan Briggs (37:46), Caroline Dyer (40:08), Donna Harris (45:37), Laura Cook (47:36), Mark Harris (47:41), Bee Harris (49:51) and Frank Gardiner (50:08). Sophia Dyer also did herself proud in the 2k junior race, finishing in 13:43.

Then Great Bentley hosted the 6th and final race in the series on Friday 7th July. It is widely acknowledged to be the best event of the series as it is the flattest and fastest! We are the only club to sell out on the race and it was a full house of 500 entrants. There was also a great turn out for the children's event on the green. Despite the heat the young runners had a great time and they loved the warm up led by friend of the club Shawn Leek. Despite the heat all seemed very pleased with their performances as did the adult competitors. Many thanks to all of those who came out to spectate and cheer and we hope the race didn't cause too much inconvenience in the village.

On Saturday, 45 GBRC members completed a Parkrun. With no sign of tiredness the morning after their Friday 5, Laura Cook and Bee Harris continued their run of Parkrun tourism, visiting Milton Keynes and finishing in 31:48 and 31:51 respectively.

Other tourists included Josh Beaumont, finishing second at Great Yarmouth North Beach parkrun in 23:32 (which I think confirms what we already knew about this being the hardest parkrun in the UK!) No one likes running in sand!!

A bit further afield, Rob Blackman finished second at Land's End parkrun in 20:10. However, prize for furthest away parkrun goes to Debs and Paul Hollidge. They ran fast enough not to get eaten by a bear at Nosehill parkrun in Calgary, Alberta.

On Sunday, Charlie Keitch completed the Bewl 15 mile, a challenging route through trails and country lanes around Bewl Water Reservoir, in 1:52:55.

Scott Young and Claudia Keitch were also busy on Sunday, enjoying the 'Wickham Trails', which is a 9.25 mile self-navigation trail race around Wickham St Paul. They finished in 1 hour 38 minutes.

In Poland, Magdalena Komorowska completed 'Górski Półmaraton Pętli Tatrzańskiej', meaning 'Mountain Half Marathon of the Tatra Loops', which sounds as if it was as challenging as the name suggests. Mags described it as a 'cross country half marathon'. Anyway, the mountains, tree roots, sand and stones were no match for Mags, and she finished as second lady in 2:22:40.

Multi-sport season is now in full swing, and Vicky Presland placed third lady in the Gosfield Lake triathlon (standard distance) on Sunday, completing a 1.5k swim, 40k bike and 10k run in 2:45:58. Vicky has really mastered the swimming and cycling to complement her already strong running, but apparently it's best not to take any transition tips from her for the time being! Well done Vicky!

MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR AUGUST MAGAZINE

Magazine collating will be on **FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST**

in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am

BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB

Our invited speaker for the evening was Helen Bird, an experienced and skilful member of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arranging Societies). She created 5 wonderful flower arrangements as well as giving her audience lots of valuable hints along the way.

We welcomed guests and some new members to the meeting, and the evening finished with a very special raffle when 5 lucky ladies went home with one of Helen's stunning arrangements.

Date for your diary: Next meeting Tuesday 1st August 7.30 pm in
St Mary's Parish Room for our annual 'Garden Party'

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Monday 10th July was planned to be a visit to the Marks Tey Brick Works. 11 of us left the Village Hall using Tendring Community Transport. It was a bad day for traffic, an accident outside Poplar Nurseries closed the A120 in both directions for several hours and we soon found ourselves in stationary traffic. Eventually we got out of the traffic into country lanes and after a scenic drive found ourselves near Perrywoods. Here we stopped for welcome refreshments and a look round. We never made it to the Brick Works. In August there will be no meeting.

GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our second garden visit for this summer was on 21st June to Horkesley Hall and several guests joined Members on this visit. We were very pleased to welcome them and hope they will also come along to our monthly meetings in the Village Hall and decide to join the Club. Once again the sun shone for us, the gardens were magnificent and the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

After a break in August we resume our monthly programme on **Tuesday 19th September** with the **Members Autumn Show, AGM and Social Evening**. This is the opportunity for Members to display their fruit and vegetables, flowers and pot plants, floral art and garden craft. Please enter as many exhibits as you can and if you do not yet have a Schedule please contact Bob on 01206 251433 or bob.newman@mac.com

Members, even if you do not exhibit in the Show please attend the AGM. Decisions have to be made regarding the future of the Club and this depends on you. Can you please also consider whether you could join the Committee as they do need some more help.

After the AGM we will continue with a Social Evening until the show judging is finished.

GREAT BENTLEY ART CLUB

Gt. Bentley Art Club will next meet on Tuesday 8th of August, at 2pm in the village hall. Part of this meeting will be dedicated to planning our art programme for the coming few months and into 2024. We will also be assessing the results of a group project we have been working on.

Our group is in the process of creating an art project which may, if permitted eventually be displayed at Gt. Bentley Rail Station. An image of the Jubilee spinny on our village green has been printed and then divided into small sections. Our members have taken those sections home, in order to recreate them in their own style, using an A4 sheet and acrylic paint. The individually painted sections will be later fitted together to form the full image. Therefore please bring any completed sections to the meeting (plus some acrylic paints). We can then assess our results to date and use our remaining time to continue our work.



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!**

Orphan cuckoo has lucky escape

August 2023 2023

A cuckoo nestling, about 5 days old, was found in the middle of a barren garden with no shrubs or trees nearby. The cuckoo normally lays its egg in host (non-cuckoo) bird nest. When the interloper hatches he pushes all the other nestlings or eggs out. Sometimes the host bird evicts the cuckoo, but without any nearby trees this lucky bird must have been dropped and abandoned, still alive, by a predator such as a cat.

A young great crested grebe was found in the middle of the road, a half mile from any water. Since they cannot walk, being designed solely for swimming, he must also have been dropped by a predator. Fortuitously he had no injuries, so the lady who found him took him to the nearest water to try to reunite him with his family. After five minutes the parents and siblings appeared and they all swam off happily together.

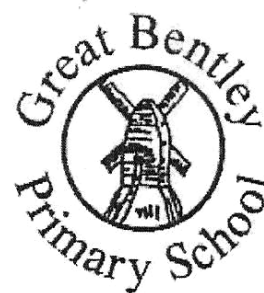
The influx of orphan and abandoned hedgehog babies is well underway, with them arriving at Wildlives daily. If you see a tiny hedgehog out alone put him in a box in a dark quiet place on a hot water bottle covered by a towel and phone Wildlives for advice. Tiny hoglets eat only special milk – do NOT try to give them cow's milk because it will kill them.

Another mystery, this tufted duckling, shown above, was found in the middle of the road with no family in sight. He is now thriving at Wildlives.

**A MESSAGE FROM MRS CAFFULL - EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER
GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

During the summer term it is usual in schools for teachers to gain promotions or plan to move to new schools ready for a September start.

I am writing to you today to share such news. Following the highs of a second 'Outstanding OFSTED judgement it, of course, facilitated promotional opportunities to staff. Whilst any change can be unsettling, I can reassure you that leaders and governors have been working very hard behind the scenes to find solutions and secure a high teaching and leadership profile for our wonderful school for the next academic year.



Firstly, I would like to share with you that following 12 very happy years here, it is now time for me to 'hang up my hat'. I have been offered a position within South Suffolk Learning Trust as 'Director for School Improvement'. This new role will see me leading a group of both primary and secondary schools to ensure that their standards are high and their provision is moving towards outstanding. Great Bentley has been and will always remain a very special place for me. In total, including my deputy head role, I have had the privilege to serve the community here for 17 years. I have many memories and over the years have worked with the 'crème de la crème' of educational professionals. As Great Bentley will also be joining South Suffolk Learning Trust from September I will continue to have the opportunity to stay connected with the school. I am sure that my quality assurance visits will be delightful.

Mr Collins has been appointed as Great Bentley's Executive Head teacher next year. He is currently the head of Claydon Primary School in Suffolk. It is a two-form entry school and a school in the trust. Mr Collins is very excited to be joining our community and is planning to be on site with us on Thursdays and Fridays. There will be a time for you to meet Mr Collins during the summer term. More details to follow.

I am also able to celebrate Mrs Upston and Mrs Chapman with you. Both of these fantastic ladies have secured Deputy Headship posts within our federation schools. Mrs Upston, from September will be Deputy Headteacher at Elmstead Primary School and Mrs Chapman will be the Deputy Head teacher at Frinton on Sea Primary. This is fabulous news for both ladies and our wider school family. Whilst it is always sad to lose these incredible skill sets from our building, we must find the joy in knowing that we have developed these professionals.

The senior team for Great Bentley next year will consist of Mrs Bourne who will remain as Deputy Head teacher, Miss Dean-Turner who will as senior leader be in charge of English and Mr Caffull, a new appointment, who will as a senior leader be in charge of maths. I am very confident that our beautiful school is in good hands and that our children will continue to receive a strong education.

The next question on your minds, I am sure, will be which teacher will be in which classroom/year group. I promise that I will write to you with these details. As the 'transfer window'/final resignation date was not until 31st May it would be foolish for me to publicly speculate until I am able to share the final outcomes.

As always, we have an open-door policy and if you would like to book a meeting with me to discuss the contents of this letter, please do so by contacting the school office.

Mrs Caffull

**St Mary's Church
Great Bentley**

**Flower Festival
&
Art Exhibition**

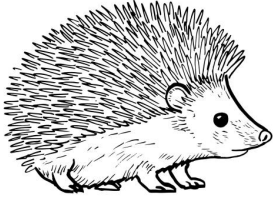
**Saturday 16th September
10.00am - 4.00pm**

**Sunday 17th September
11.00am - 4.00pm**

**TOMBOLA - RAFFLE - LUNCHES
REFRESHMENTS - CAKE STALL
& PRODUCE**

Floral Theme:
'A Book'

Great Bentley Hedgehog Highways



A Facebook page set up by Demi Harvey and Emma Garrood. We are both veterinary nurses from Kinfauns vets based in little Clacton 01255 860555. We want to help people encourage hedgehogs into their garden by writing a monthly diary of a hedgehog's life.

August is here, the babies that were born in June are now ready to leave the nest and make it alone. Hedgehogs are solitary animals, so they may never see their mum or siblings again.

This is an important month to help and support these young hedgehogs. If you haven't already set up a feeding station, this is a good time to do so. You could help the young hedgehogs survive and gain the essential weight ready for their first hibernation. You will also be helping exhausted females, the mothers of the babies that have just left the nest regain their body condition and health. Some females may still be giving birth well into autumn, if they failed to fall pregnant earlier in breeding season. And also of course keep the males fed, fit and healthy through the active breeding season.

Even though hedgehogs are solitary animals and keep to their own territory. It is possible to have several visiting the same feeding station at the same time. They are creatures of habit, they keep to the same route every night and will travel 1 to 2 km in search of food. Once a hedgehog knows there is food available they will visit every night at the same time.

The feeding station could be a purpose bought wooden house, home made brick built, a plastic storage box with a small doorway and a plastic tunnel or brick built doorway. The small doorways is to stop other animals, such as cats stealing the food. What ever form of feeding station you choose make sure it has easy access to be able to replace the food every evening. A shallow water bowl is better left outside of the feeding station to reduce the clumsy hedgehog knocking the bowl over and making a mess. A water bowl outside the feeding station will also help other wildlife.

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 can not 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 can not digest milk and they will develop diarrhoea and dehydration. Always offer a fresh supply of water.

Hopefully providing food and water the young hedgehogs will cope and grow successfully. But if you see a young hoglet out during the middle of the day it may well need our help at Kinfauns vets. You can find previous articles and advice on how to know if a hedgehog needs help on our Facebook page.

Emma Garrood RVN, C&GCertVNES

FOREST CHURCH
Thursday 10th August
ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD
2.00pm - 4pm
All families welcome

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

New Boundary Constituency Changes

There has been a major change made to the local Constituencies. It now means that the Parishes of Great Bentley, Little Bentley, Frating, the Oakley's and Wix have been removed from the Harwich and North Essex constituency, for which the MP is the Right Honorable Bernard Jenkins MP, and have been placed in the Clacton Constituency whom the present MP is the Right Honorable Giles Watling MP.

This came into effect as from the beginning of July, which will naturally mean that Giles Watling MP is now your MP for the foreseeable future.

Beachgoers Warned of Seafront Hazards

Visitors and residents are reminded of how to stay safe following a busy period for seafront teams. Tendring District Council's (TDC) Beach Patrol teams across the area recorded 180 incidents in the weekend of June 24th to 25th; while carrying out 62 patrols along the seafronts in Clacton, Dovercourt, Frinton, Walton-on-the-Naze and Brightlingsea.

A most high profile incident was concern regarding a piece of old metal on a Clacton beach which led the bomb squad being called to investigate – eventually it was deemed as being of no danger.

Patrols that weekend had to tell more than 160 people or groups to stop climbing on rocks, groynes and breakwaters, as they are dangerous and people risk slipping into deep water, injuring themselves, or becoming trapped.

The Beach Patrol also gave advice to 50 swimmers who had either gone out too far or were on an inflatable, there were some swimming in channels meant for watercraft, and some were too near or underneath piers.

The teams carried out 13 water rescues that weekend, and twice had to request a lifeboat on three occasions they called for HM Coastguard mobile units.

The Town Hall Went Blue to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the NHS

Clacton Town Hall was lit up blue on Wednesday 5th July as part of the nationwide celebrations of the NHS. Buildings across the UK were illuminated in the NHS colour to honour the dedicated work of NHS staff across the decades.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight is to Take Place at the Clacton Airshow

Classic Second World War planes will take to the skies as Clacton Airshow marks its 30th event this summer. The iconic RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight has been revealed as part of the line-up for the event, which is taking place on the 24th and 25th August, also it is hoped that an Avro Lancaster, a Supermarine Spitfire, and a Hawker Hurricane will fly.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight is operated by regular RAF aircrew and acts as a 'museum without walls'. It maintains and flies six Spitfires, two Hurricanes, a Lancaster, a C 47 Dakota as well as two Chipmunk aircraft for training

Radio Airshow from BBC Essex will once again broadcast live from Clacton Airshow on 103.5 FM and BBC Sounds especially for flight fans who cannot make it down to enjoy the event in person.

Those who are travelling to the event can make use of the Park and Ride service provided by Hedingham Buses or park at the event car park run by the Clacton-on-Sea Rotary Club at West Road.

The RAF Red Arrows have already been announced as part of the 2023 Clacton Airshow line-up, and further flights will be revealed in the coming weeks.

For updates and more information you can visit www.clactonairshow.com, or follow [@clactonairshow](https://twitter.com/clactonairshow) on Twitter, or [go to the official Facebook event](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns; I am always very pleased to hear from you and to help you if I can, and if I am not able to help you, I normally know of someone who can.

Cllr Lynda McWilliams
Tendring District Councillor for The Bentleys and Frating Ward

Mobile Phone number 07564 613603



GARDENING NOTES

Have you been eating lots of salads lately. Fortunately things such as tomatoes and cucumber are ready now and lettuce, radish and onions. You can cheat a bit as the onions are actually young shallots which taste just as good, and if you put half a dozen in the ground every couple of weeks you get nice fresh green onions with very little trouble.

If there is a hot dry spell lettuce can be a problem. Don't sow them when it is very hot, the seed does not germinate well. You can of course shade the sown row but it is easier to pick a couple of cooler days and sow then. (Evening is also best). Alternatively as lettuce tend to bolt in the summer sow some of the mixed salad leaves, either in a shady corner or in large pots or seed trays. You can keep them watered much easier like this than in rows in the open garden.

If you are feeling a bit off colour how about considering some of the healing powers of plants. We all know that the lavender bush gives off a wonderful aroma, and the lavender seed is used for soothing and calming, especially for sleeping problems on these hot nights.

Lavender is also excellent as lavender oil which is easily bought at our pharmacy or if you wish you can infuse fresh blooms in virgin olive oil, which you can use to sooth irritable skin conditions. It is also an antiseptic and helps in treating insect bites and stings or minor burns. I am told it makes an excellent tea, but I have not tried that, although I have had lavender ice cream and lavender cakes up at the lavender farm in Norfolk. Incidentally don't forget to trim your bush after flowering to keep it in shape. If you let it grow long and lanky it does not like severe cutting back.

Parsley is another health booster. This herb is packed with vitamins A, B and C as well as calcium, magnesium, sodium and essential fatty acids. (Sounds like it's got everything!). Sprinkle fresh cut leaves over your food, especially fish, or if you can't stand the taste try daily supplement tablets. It must be powerful stuff as you must avoid using it during pregnancy or if you suffer from kidney problems.

Basil is well known in the Mediterranean countries and is an essential with any tomato dish. The easiest way to have a supply of Basil is to buy a pot from the Supermarket, keep it watered and give it a bit of a feed, even transfer to a larger pot and it will last a long time. A tea can be made using 2 teaspoons of chopped basil into a mug of hot water and sip slowly - I don't know what it tastes like but apparently it's good for stomach complaints! Known as the herb of longevity, it has strong antiseptic properties.

Rub a fresh leaf onto stings and grazes (I have tried this and it works although you do get a green highly aromatic bit of skin!) I must say I mostly use the traditional dock leaf if I accidentally touch a stinging nettle. It works and is usually more easily available - at least on my allotment it is!

If you have Lemon Balm growing it is very useful if you are stung by a gnat or mosquito. Just rub the leaves on the affected area.

So how are your flowers blooming? The geraniums seem especially good this year. After getting a good soaking after planting, the roots spread out in search of water and then really like the hot sunny weather. In fact if they get too much water you will get lots more green leaves, and a lot less flowers. If you have a geranium plant that you particularly like then why not take a cutting or two. During August start looking for a nice side shoot, a couple of inches long and without a flower bud on it - semi ripe wood is best as very fresh shoots tend to rot more easily. Dip the base into a hormone rooting powder then place 3 or 4 along the side of a 3 inch pot, using multi-purpose compost plus about a quarter by volume of sharp sand to give drainage. Geraniums, and especially cuttings, do not like hot steamy conditions. Do not place inside a polythene bag as this will make them rot off. Put them into a shady corner of the green house and water them sparingly. The warm weather will encourage roots, and the process is much easier than in September when a bit of base heat is necessary.

We wish Andy who normally writes our Gardening Notes, a full and speedy recovery.

FOUND

Has anyone lost a (very pretty) child's pair of glasses, along with a purple and pink fabric shopping bag? They were found in the Methodist church. Please ring me on 250717 if you either are, or know the owner.

Jackie Kilby

Finalist in the BBC: Great Neighbour Award

I am delighted to have the privilege of announcing that our very own Mary Maskell has been named one of 4 finalists across Essex in the BBC: Make a Difference Awards 2023 in the 'Great Neighbour' category.

Great Bentley is incredibly fortunate to have a lot of wonderful people within its mix and Mary would be the first to sing the praises of others but Mary really is the backbone of this community and an incredible 'Neighbour' to anyone who needs her. I would need this whole magazine to list out the things she has done for the community and her neighbours but if you've attended a village event like a coffee morning, allotment sale, coronation event, something at the church or the school, or your paths have crossed and she has seen a way to help or support you or you are simply a regular reader of this magazine (which she has been producing for decades) you will be aware of the impact she has on this community.

Thanks to my wonderful mum making friends with Mary when I was a baby I've been fortunate enough to have had her in my life since day one and she has always been busy helping others. She will tell you that its what everyone does, that she gets great joy from it and that the village has done so much for her over the years, and she would be right, but my feeling is a lot of what others do has been born out of the example that Mary has set for us and the way she is able to pull us all in to support each other.

It was my privilege to nominate her for this award back in February, Mary knew nothing about it, we all know she never would have agreed to being nominated but I had to own up when BBC Essex confirmed in April that she was one of 4 finalists! In true Mary style she has only agreed to be involved because it's 'good for the village' but I personally am thrilled that she will be recognised at an Awards Ceremony in September (and hopefully win!) and that we all have this opportunity to say thank you.

If you would like to hear our interview for BBC Essex you can find it on the BBC Essex website under 'Make a Difference Awards 2023'.

Anna

FRIENDS OF THE GREEN

As you may have noticed in a previous magazine the Friends of the Green are organising a Grand Garage Sale on September 16th - this is the same day as St Mary's church flower festival! Both events are fund raisers! We have started early advertising in the media and will be putting up posters in early August!

We primarily raise money for the protection and enhancement of the Green. We put forward ideas and suggestions to the Parish Council with that aim. Some are taken up and some are not! One or two current projects being considered are the South Side track including the protection of the Green on that side and also the replacement of the parish grass cutting equipment. The tractor is now 50 years old!

Our fundraising on bikers night continues and has now taken place for 26 years on Wednesday evenings! Rubbish is always removed and collected by TDC although there have been a few problems this year it now seems to be picked up as usual on a Friday!

Litter pick continues on a regular basis and the absence of rubbish around the Green is plain to see!

I am glad to say that the Suffolk horses can once again be seen again at the Village Show! Thanks to two sponsors for their support! Hopefully there will also be some vintage tractors again! I do need some help both before and on the day with owners of old machines so if anyone can help please call me on 01206 250799!

Michael Dorling
Chairman F O G

DANI'S DELI & LOUNGE

OPENING
MONDAY 31st JULY

7am to 5pm

Opening later on Wednesdays
for Biker's Night

OPENING OFFER 20% OFF
on all refreshments eaten inside

We will be moving next door so you can
join us for something to eat/drink inside



GREAT BENTLEY PARISH NEWS

I realise that we do have a lot of advertisements in our magazine and I am so grateful for that. We have an index, so that means that hopefully you can find the business that you are looking for quickly. We also need articles to make the magazine readable and inclusive for all ages. **So please put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard and send us an article on any subject that interests you to help keep the text alive.**

What has saddened and shocked me was that people did not realise that the money raised by the magazine goes directly to St Mary's church. It helps to pay the running costs. Carole and I do not receive wages!! Without the revenue from the advertisers we could not afford to produce the magazine. So please try to support our wonderful tradesmen and businesses.

Thanks everyone. **Mary**

WANTED

Gt Bentley Past Vol 1 and Vol 2

Sold out long ago.

I am often asked for these and resell them in aid of St Mary's church.

Thanks **Mary Maskell**

FREE ENTRY **INSPIRE ENRICH UNITE**

28 AUGUST - 10AM TO 4PM
SHRUB END FOOTBALL GROUNDS
BOADICEA WAY CO2 9BG

COLCHESTER COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
FAMILY FUN DAY FEATURING
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT MARKET
MEET AND GREET CHARACTERS INFLATABLES
GAMES
FANCY DRESS COMPETITION
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ALL DAY

If you are a charity or organisation providing support in Colchester, would like to showcase or sell your work, or promote your business get in touch with us today to book a space mascommunity@redcross.org.uk

COLCHESTER UNITED FC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION **EFL + BritishRedCross OFFICIAL CHARITY PARTNER**

The British Red Cross

The British Red Cross and the English Football League are running an initiative over the next 2 years to combat loneliness and isolation in local communities around the country.

Alongside Colchester United Community Foundation and the EFL, we are holding a Colchester Community Celebration/ Fun Day at the Shrub End Football Grounds on Bank Holiday Monday 28th August.

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

If so, your first point of contact is

Wendy King
01206 250852



AUGUST DIARY

- Tues 1st **LADIES CLUB GARDEN PARTY**, Church Hall, 7.30pm
- Fri 4th **COFFEE MORNING**, Methodist Church, 10.00am
- Tues 8th **ART CLUB**, 2pm Village Hall
- Thurs 10th **FOREST CHURCH**, St Mary's Church, 2-4pm
- Sun 13th **DEANERY CHOIR**, 10.30am, St Georges Church,
Great Bromley
- Mon 14th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Thurs 17th **KNIT & NATTER**, St Mary's Church Hall, 2-3.30pm
- Fri 18th **LUNCHTIME CONCERT**, St Osyth Church
- Sat 19th **COFFEE MORNING**, St Mary's Church, 10-12 noon
- Fri 25th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, Church Hall, 9am
- Sun 28th **JEFF WRIGHT MEMORIAL CRICKET MATCH**
- Sun 28th **COLCHESTER COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**,
- 26th-29th **COGGESHALL FLOWER FESTIVAL**