

Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community
for the Community**



October 2023

Village Information

St Mary's Church

CHURCHWARDENS:

Wendy Smith
Burnside, Great Bentley - 01206 250098

Mrs Mandy Miles
7 Finch Drive, Great Bentley - 01206 251382

TREASURER:

Annabel Stearn
01206 251518
email: wylieandsinger@talk21.com

CHURCH VERGER:

Rita Baverstock
01206 251271

READER:

Wendy King
17 Larkfield Road - 01206 250852

PCC SECRETARY:

Mrs Claire Pearson
01206 256433
email: gbpcsecretary@gmail.com

ELECTORAL ROLL SECRETARY:

Rosemary Branch
4 Wents Close - 01206 250137

TOWER CAPTAIN/BELL RINGERS

Roger Carey-Smith - 07422 880921

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL BOOKING SECRETARY:

Lyn Gordon, 79 Birch Avenue
01206 681884 Mobile: 07870 311610
email: linda.bear@sky.com

PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR/ADVERTISING/ DISTRIBUTOR:

Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green
01206 250524
marymaskell@sys3internet.net

Carole Allington
carole@pncallington.co.uk

ST MARY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

St Mary's Church, Great Bentley.

ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE

stmaryschurchgreatbentley.co.uk

ST MARY'S SUNDAY CLUB

For details please contact Mary Maskell 01206 250524
email: marymaskell@sys3internet.net

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR

Wendy King - 01206 250852

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Lyn Gordon 01206 681884 Mobile: 07870 311610
Mandy Miles 01206 251382
Mary Maskell 01206 250524

METHODIST MINISTER

Revd Tom Osborne
Email: tom.osborne@methodist.org.uk
Mobile 07305 805444 01206 396654

DOCTOR'S SURGERY:

The Hollies, The Green - 01206 250691

PODIATRIST:

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

POLICE:

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

GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman - Pippa Dennitts
07848 872018

Clerk to the Parish Council Jennifer Spear
The Community Resource Centre, Village Hall,
Plough Road Great Bentley CO7 8LD

01206 256410
clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Office open Monday and Thursday 9.30-2.00pm

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

Cllr Lynda McWilliams,
Mobile: 07564 613603.
email: cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR - ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL:

Councillor Alan Goggin, Freshfields, Church Road
Brightlingsea, CO7 0QT
Mobile: 07860 519117
email: Cllr.Alan.Goggin@essex.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:

Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

MEDICAL AIDS:

Richard Nowak - 01206 250204

TENDRING FURNITURE SCHEME:

Rocket House, Gorse Lane Industrial Estate, Clacton:
01255 476068

BOOKING CLERK FOR GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL:

Joanna Hesketh
email: bookings@greatbentleyvillagehall.co.uk
07494 234049

METHODIST HALL BOOKINGS:

Robert Taylor, Dominica, Moors Close - 01206 250087

GT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL: - 01206 250331

COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL: - 01206 303511

VILLAGE HISTORY RECORDER

Heather Taylor - 01206 251004

COLCHESTER HOSPITALS: 01206 747474

CLACTON & DISTRICT HOSPITAL: 01255 201717

Road, CO7 8PD
01206 250309

VILLAGE TRANSPORT REP: Peter Harry
07503 153960

VILLAGE CARETAKER:

Robert McWilliams, 07598 640622

WHEELCHAIR LOANS

Alan Bayliss, 01206 250450

TREE WARDEN

Sue and Faris Shimali 07973 534301

FOOTPATH REP.

melanie.sawers@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

EDITORIAL

September was a dreadful month with two major disasters, one in Morocco and a second in Libya, the latter causing catastrophic flooding. I cannot imagine how the people left will be coping with this. Sad to say but by the time you receive this magazine it will no longer be newsworthy. Thank you to those kind people who donated to the Disaster Funds appeal at St Mary's church this has now been sent via the Red Cross.

Really jam packed magazine this month, thanks everyone. News on the proposed development of the village school is included.

How lucky we were with the weather for the Village Show. The whole day was a huge success both inside the marquee and out on the green. The exhibits in the adult section seemed to be up in numbers and gave a colourful display as soon as you walked in. The children, inventive as ever, never fail to surprise with their ingenuity and imagination. Special mention here for one of the long standing supporters of the Show, Dot Richer. At 90 years young she makes so much effort with her cookery and handicraft exhibits and we feature a photo of her and her husband Reg. Well done Dot.

The Flower and Art Festival at St Mary's was well attended and another feast for the senses. Once again ingenuity in the floral arrangements had me spellbound and the selection of art work had something for everyone. Thanks to all involved.

Christmas is featuring more and more now and Nean is once again going to be running her Postal Service within the parish boundary. If you could help her in any way she would love to hear from you. (see page 10). Then of course I expect the weather will be getting colder so don't forget to order your logs. How can we do without our Christmas turkey? No problem give Jim Hubert at Elmstead Market a ring see his advert on page 10.

Back to October now as we must not rush the year to its end too quickly. In memory of Irene Willis, Judy Bishop will be running a Coffee Morning in aid of the Air Ambulance so please go along to support this very worthy cause in memory of a very special lady.

I cannot believe that it is nearly time to start organising the 2024 advertisements! By the end of October all businesses already advertising in this magazine should have received a letter inviting them to choose whatever size ad they would like for next year. From 5th November onwards please contact me if you would like to join this supportive band of people and by then I should have a better idea of availability.

At the time of writing the Bentley in Bloom summer displays are still looking amazing. Thanks to all concerned. I expect the winter displays will soon be planted to cheer us through the colder season.

I have had such pleasure watching the hedgehogs in my garden over recent months. All sizes have been seen but recently the smallest baby I named Titch, was out after lunch, far too early. Not a good sign. Thank you so much to Demi who called to collect her and also to Emma, who writes the Hedgehog Notes and who both help to look after the hogs that need a special helping hand. Soon be time for hibernation so they need to put on that extra weight to see them through, so please keep feeding them.

Hope you are enjoying the transition into Autumn. I love Halloween and the visits from all of the youngsters and their parents and have started buying treats for the lovely visitors.

Enjoy,
Mary Maskell



2023

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GREAT BENTLEY SHOW

DISCLAIMER

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LETTER FOR OCTOBER

Dear Friends,

Thanks go out to all who helped to make our Flower Festival and Art Exhibition such a success and to all those who helped in one way or another with flower arrangements, artists who displayed their work and people manning stalls. Thanks to all the wonderful people who came through the door and supported the event in so many different ways.

We continue to offer Rev. Sharon Miles our prayers and support and on this subject following our meeting with Bishop Roger of Colchester, Ruth, Archdeacon of Colchester and Rev. Canon Laurie Bond and the PCCs of St Osyth church and St Mary's Church, Great Bentley I wish to inform you all that in the next few months the Rev. Sharon Miles will be retiring as Vicar of St Osyth and Great Bentley. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Following the meeting and with the process of further discussions we will continue to be a joint benefice with St Osyth with our future prospect of joining with Weeley and Little Clacton. Please pray for us all as we continue to work together in prayer and fellowship for our Parishes.

I would like to thank you all for your kind donations for our Harvest Festival and to inform you that all food donations were taken to the Food Bank in Brightlingsea.

On Sunday 29th October at 3pm we will be having our All Soul's Service and invite all those who have lost a loved one to come along for a time of reflection and celebration giving thanks for their lives.

Best wishes
Canon Wendy King

There will be no Coffee Morning at St Mary's Church in October. If you were going to join us please support the special Coffee Morning in memory of Irene Willis which will be held at the Village Hall from 10am on Saturday 21st October. All money raised will be donated to the Air Ambulance.

WEDDINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Congratulations to Rachel Brown and Keith Bridgeman who were married at St Mary's and Emily Timbrell and Alexander Trevor who were married at All Saints, Brightlingsea

MOROCCAN EARTHQUAKE AND LIBYAN FLOOD APPEALS

In addition to the Flower Festival and Art Exhibition held at St Mary' Church we raised £250 from our visitors. Thanks to all who contributed.

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'.

facebook

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





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 October. 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: -

Oct 1st	Eirwen Grenfell-Essam
Oct 8th	Rev Tom Osborne HC
	Chapel Anniversary
Oct 15th	WL Di Bignell
Oct 22nd	Rev John Allison
Oct 29th	Maggie Woods

Events in October:

Next Coffee & Chat 6th October in aid of Cancer charity

Chapel Anniversary Special event

Prayer Meeting The one planned for October is on the 11th Oct. at 9.45

Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 11th October
Each second Wednesday of the month at 9.30am we collect sandwiches and take them to our Trinity Church in Clacton for those struggling to buy food for themselves. Collection at our Church before we go to Clacton at 9.30.

Messy Church. Running on the third Tuesday of the month which is the 17th October after school

Church Council Meeting 9th October. All interested can attend.

Adventurers Club This club for Juniors and lower secondary school children meets on Fridays at 6.30. Fun and games with Christian teaching. Except in half term.

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 6.30 p.m. Ring 250087

ST MARY'S SERVICES

Sunday 1st October - Trinity 17

Exodus 17.1-7: Philippians 2.1-13: Matthew 31.23-32:

10am Joint Benefice service at St Osyth

Sunday 8th October - Trinity 18

Pauline Scott

Isaiah 5. 1-7: Philippians 3.4b-14: Matthew 21.33-end:

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 15th October - Trinity 19

Wendy King

Isaiah 25.1-9: Philippians 4.1-9: Matthew 22.1-14:

9.30am Family Service

Sunday 22nd October - Trinity 20

David Branch

Isaiah 45.1-7: 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10: Matthew 22.15-22:

Sunday 29th October - Bible Sunday

Wendy King

Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 8-12: Colossians 3.12-17: Matthew 24.30-35:

9.30am Café Church
3.00pm All Souls Service

ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR OCTOBER

Sidespersons & Readers

1st	St Osyth
8th	The Wright children
15th	Carole Allington
22nd	Lynn & Roger Carey-Smith
29th	Vicky Rothwell

Prayer Rota

1st	St Osyth
8th	George Wright
15th	Wendy King
22nd	David Branch
29th	Lyn Gordon

Coffee Rota

1st	St Osyth
8th	Annabel Stearn
15th	Mandy Miles
22nd	Rosemary & David Branch
29th	Lyn Gordon

Cleaning Rota

7th	Wendy Smith
14th	Vicky Rothwell
21st	Carol Kerridge & Lee Howlett
28th	Linda Hayes





St. Mary's Art and Flower Festival 2023

The event held over the weekend of 16-17 September, was a great success, so many thanks to all who helped with the organisation: from receiving art works and displaying them, to washing up in the kitchen. To those who baked cakes and made jam, and those green fingered people from the allotments who gave produce for us to sell, not to mention the fabulous floral displays; a huge team effort.

We had more than 200 people visit over the 2 days, who enjoyed the displays, stalls and refreshments. We managed to raise an astonishing £2,300 to help with the costs of the upkeep of our beautiful 12C church, which continues to be at the heart of the community.

So a huge thank you to all involved in the weekend, whether as part of the organisation, or as a visitor, without whom we would not have an event. We thank you all.

St. Mary's PCC

THE DEANERY CHOIR

- October 8th** St George's Church, Great Bromley, CO7 7HZ 10.30am Service
- October 22nd** St Edmund Church, Tendring, CO16 0BN 3.00pm Choral Evensong
- October 29th** St George' Church, Great Bromley, CO7 7HZ 10.30am Service



Friends of Great Bentley Churchyard 100 Club

The 100 club is run to financially support the upkeep of the churchyard, which is a benefit to the whole village, not just the church community.

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

Anyone who already has a square or two, will receive a renewal letter in the next few weeks; we thank you for your support this year, and hope this will continue.

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

For more information, please email Annabel Stearn at wylieandsinger@talk21.com

ANSWERS TO FLOWER FESTIVAL QUIZ

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Brighton Rock | Karen Warne |
| 2 | The Green Planet | (Sponsored)
Cricket Club |
| 3 | Alice in Wonderland | Bentley in Bloom |
| 4 | Pygmalion | Knit & Natter |
| 5 | Digger's Diary | Parish Magazine |
| 6 | Harry Potter & the
Goblet of Fire | Bellringers |
| 7 | Why Elephant has a
trunk | Rainbowst |
| 8 | Born Free | Mothers & Toddlers |
| 9 | The Colour Purple | Methodist Church |
| 10 | Frankenstein | Adventurers Club |
| 11 | War and Peace | Linda Hayes |
| 12 | A Tale of Two Cities | Gardening Club |
| 13 | The Little Troll | St Mary's Church |
| 14 | Secret Garden | Lorna Walton |
| 15 | George's Marvellous
Medicine | Ladies Club |
| 16 | War Horse | Edna Black |

Lots of people had the correct answers. The winner drawn was Dylan Broome

PASTORAL CARE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH GREAT BENTLEY

Three of us passed our Pastoral Care Course, Part 1 this year, Lyn Gordon, Mary Maskell and Mandy Miles.

Following on from this we hope we may be able to help you in some way eg. home communion, a visit to you personally or a telephone call. Also lifts to church are offered.

Please ring one of us if you feel we might be able to assist you in some way.

Lyn Gordon 681884: Mary Maskell 250524: Mandy Miles 251382:

JOAN FOOKES - Contd

On the night of 13th December 1949, in the rear of the house next to the garage opposite, something caught fire. Unseen from the road, the fire quickly spread to the Garage itself and before the Fire Brigade could be called, it was well ablaze. The front façade was timber, well soaked in petrol and oil over the years and the top floor was a store for highly flammable furniture. By the time the engine arrived, the front of the garage had collapsed across the road onto the A1 Stores, which, together with the Chemists and the entire stock were burnt to the ground. How Rambler Cottage escaped was a miracle. In the aftermath Joan was busy helping in the clean-up operations and taking tea to the Firemen, when something suddenly prompted her to go upstairs. In the corner of their bedroom nearest the fire, she found some of Jim's clothing and a wooden beam just starting to smoulder from the intense heat. Had she not found it, Rambler Cottage would surely have gone up too. Temporary accommodation for the business was offered across the Green at the vacant premises where Poultons Shop had once been and later Stanley Newmans: a collection was taken in the village and presented to them to cover their immediate expenses. Suppliers were quick to replenish their burnt-up stocks and it was soon business as usual. The new shop had to comply with modern building standards and a two storey building emerged with upstairs storage space.

The Fookes family moved the following year to No. 6 Colchester Road where Jim, in typical style set about improving the property to accommodate his growing family. In 1954, old Horace Oxborrow died to be followed only two years later by Joan's mother, Gertrude. No. 6 had served its purpose so Joan, Jim, Barbara and Rosalind moved back into Rambler Cottage next door to the new shop. As the girls grew up, Joan spent more and more time helping Jim in the shop, which now held Great Bentley's first Off-licence and for the next twenty years, Fookes Stores catered successfully for the grocery, hardware, medicinal and alcoholic requirements of the expanding village population. Schooldays over, Barbara was now to be seen behind the counter too, whilst Rosalind went to work at an opticians in Clacton.

Sadly in 1976 Jim was taken ill and in May 1977 he died. Joan and Barbara soldiered on for a while but the burden became too much and reluctantly she gave up.

And Joan, well Joan has had her fingers in so many village pies that it is difficult to count them. Hardly an event in the village passed when Joan was not present and deeply involved. Her ceaseless work over at the Methodist Chapel was legendary but above all: playing the organ, singing with the choir or the Bentley Singers, carolling around the village at Christmas time ... Joan Fookes became a central pivot of Great Bentley life.

Adam and Suzanne are now living in the cottage together with their daughters Isabelle and Pippa who are the sixth generation to live in Rambler. Isabelle and Pippa both went to Gt Bentley Primary School, as did Mr and Mrs Fookes, and their daughters Barbara and Roz. The cottage, in the centre of the village, continues to be an open house as it always was, and loved by all the family.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

My name is Rebecca McDougall (aged 16) and this summer, I had the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France with Brentwood Catholic Youth Service (BCYS).

BCYS provide a fantastic experience for young people in years 10-13 with those 18+ attending as young leaders. This pilgrimage is one of the most popular annual events that BCYS runs with around 250 young people and volunteer leaders travelling.

Lourdes is a place of pilgrimage because it is the site of a famous vision experienced by a girl called Bernadette Soubirous. It is also known as a place where miracles have been known to occur.

The week is encapsulated within the description BCYS provide for those looking on their website at the pilgrimage.

The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage as we assist the elderly and infirm, particularly those in wheelchairs, to get to Masses and services, visiting the shops and cafes of the beautiful French town, as well as joining them for social time together, as for many pilgrims, it is one of the few times they are able to leave their house.

For those travelling with BCYS, the week also includes a retreat, reconciliation service, the chance to visit the baths, a trip to the stunning mountain town of Gavarnie, social nights and a party as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession.

This extraordinary experience allows young people to build upon their social skills and assist those who need it as well as it helping to further their faith. It always gives an impression of inclusiveness which is fulfilled throughout the trip as everyone has the opportunity to get involved, by helping pilgrims who are extremely grateful to all of the assistance given to them.

SAMARITANS PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.



Afraid Christmas is being mentioned yet again this month! Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child 2023 is underway.

Shoe Boxes are available at the back of the church and you can also find leaflets there to give you an idea of the goodies needed to pack into these special boxes that bring hope to so many disadvantaged children.

If you are not able to fill a box but have odds and ends you can leave these at the back of the church in the marked designated container

Please return boxes by **Sunday 5th November.**

Thanks in advance.
Wendy King

DONATE £5 PER BOX: A donation of £5 per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online, or give by cheque or cash using the pre-paid envelope in the leaflet. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!

Shoebox Gift Ideas

SPECIAL ITEM

- Football with pump
- Doll
- Cuddly toy

TOYS

- Toy cars
- Skipping ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

ACCESSORIES

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewellery and watches
- Torches (wind-up or with extra batteries)

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons and markers
- Notebooks
- Colouring and picture books
- Solar calculators

DO NOT INCLUDE

Toothpaste, sweets, lotions and liquids; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds, gum, chocolate or food items; religious or political literature; medicines, aerosol cans, sharp or fragile items.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES FOR 2024



**ADULTS
FLOWER POWER
CELEBRATION!
CITY LIFE
HAND IN HAND
BLACK AND WHITE
EXPRESSIONS
OPEN**

**CHILDRENS
A WALK ON THE WILDSIDE
OPEN**

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

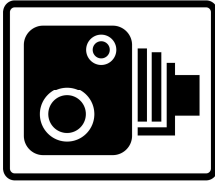
United Church, Chapel Road,
Brightlingsea, Colchester, CO7 0HF

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 26th October

Community Speedwatch Update



Speed monitoring continued at different times of the day around the village in August with a further 74 speeding vehicles reported during the month. The running total of reports for 2023 in Great Bentley is now 439! A large number of those recorded in August were going over 45 mph in a 30mph zone, some into the 50s. Top recorded speed was 59mph near a tricky junction. The Police are very aware of these 'stats' and we're looking to join up with their enforcement team again in September.

We took part in a coordinated 'Vision Zero' event this month along with several other local villages who have their own Community Speedwatch groups. It was organised by the 'Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP)' to raise awareness of speeding across the Tendring/Clacton area. It coincided with 'Bike Night' here and I believe the Police were in the village that evening too.

The team really appreciates the waves and the support we get from people, especially when that becomes an offer to join us in what we're doing, as it has this month. New team members are always extremely welcome so if you want to join in and do your bit to help the village before something horrible happens on our roads, please get in touch at greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com"

PUMPKIN EVENT

14th OCTOBER

COME AND BUY YOUR PUMPKIN



Marsh Farm
CO7 8HD

**While you are visiting please
make a donation to the
Air Ambulance**

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, long 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.

NEW X20 BUS FROM COLCHESTER TO STANSTED AIRPORT



Essex Bus Operator First Bus launched its new X20 airport service in July, which links Colchester and Braintree with the airport.

The newly refurbished buses which will run up to every hour start at Colchester railway station passing through the city centre, Lexden, Stanway and Marks Tey before moving onto Braintree and Great Dunmow ahead of its final stop at Stansted.

The first service of each day leaves Colchester Bus Station in Osborne Street at 3.20am arriving at the airport in under one and a half hours at 4.38am.

With the cost of £2 fare cap in place until the end of October a return trip in the new service, which will run 7 days a week costs just £4!

Great Bentley Good Neighbours
present a

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 10th November

Methodist Hall - 7.30pm start

£5.00pp to include tea and coffee

Bring your own nibbles and drinks

Raffle

To book in teams of any number contact
Robert/Janet on 250 087
or Yvonne on 250 413

All funds raised to go towards the printing
costs of the Great Bentley Good
Neighbours annual red information booklet
which is delivered to everyone in the
village

DOG SHOW RESULTS

We were so lucky to have such lovely weather on our Great Bentley Village Show day. This year we had 71 different breeds of dogs attend with an amazing number of over 200 entries. We were pleased to see so many visitors and friends call by to say hello and take a keen interest in what was happening.

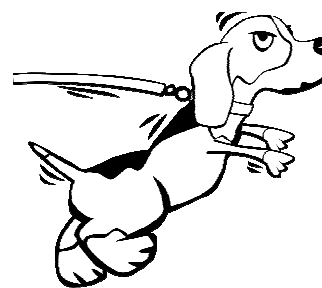
Grateful thanks go to our Judge Sarah Phipps-Baker, who had many dogs to go over in each of the classes, she also commented on how pleased she was to have such clean hands after going over so many dogs and thanked all owners for making it possible. Thanks also go to our ring Steward Sara Cracknel – and to the crew who take the entries Donna Morphew and Helen McWilliams. Thanks to the village show team for setting up our gazebo and to Derek Burdett and Matt Plummer in making sure I had the much needed microphone.

Pedigree Classes

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Best Puppy | T Gunning's Pug - Hugo |
| 2 Any Variety Sporting | Tanya Cheal's – Whippet - Ice |
| 3 Any Variety Non Sporting | Mr & Mrs Lott's - Standard Poodle - Marlie |
| 4 Open | Mrs Anderson's – Wire Fox Terrier –Geordieu |

The Judge then judged the following

Best in show was Mr & Mrs Lott's - Standard Poodle - Marlie
Reserve Best in Show was Mrs Anderson's – Wire Fox Terrier - Geordieu
Best Puppy was T Gunning's Pug - Hugo
Best Opposite Sex – There was no Best Opposite Sex this year



Novelty Classes

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5. Best Veteran | Katherine Lockhart's – Pug - Boycie |
| 6. Best Child Handler. | Abi's – Cockapoo - Yoyo |
| 7. Best X Breed/Mongrel. | Derek Andersons' - Leila |
| 8. Best Rescue | Chris Clemens – GSD - Buddy |
| 9. Dog Most Like it's Owner | Holly Forbes – Cocker Spaniel - Lulu |
| 10. Prettiest Bitch | Ruth Plant's – German Shepherd - Luna |
| 11. Handsome Dog | Steven Miller's Dalmatian - Sage |
| 12. Waggiest Tail | Matthew Hepworth's – Cocker Spaniel - Bailey |
| 13. Dog in the Best Condition | C. Gregory's – Crossbreed - Willow |
| 14. Dog the Judge Would Like to Take Home | Greg Plant's – GSD - Dexter |

The Judge then judged the Best Novelty

Which was won by Greg Plant's – German Shepherd Dog - Dexter

Thank you all for such a wonderful afternoon with your dogs and to so many visitors calling in to say hello and have a chat.

Lynda McWilliams

Village Christmas Lights Switch On
Near the War Memorial

Sunday 26th November at 5pm (approximately)

Refreshments from 4.30pm
including mulled wine

+ a visit from Father Christmas

FRIENDS OF THE GREEN

AGM

Wednesday November 8th

7.30pm

**Michael Wright Room
Village Hall**

All are welcome

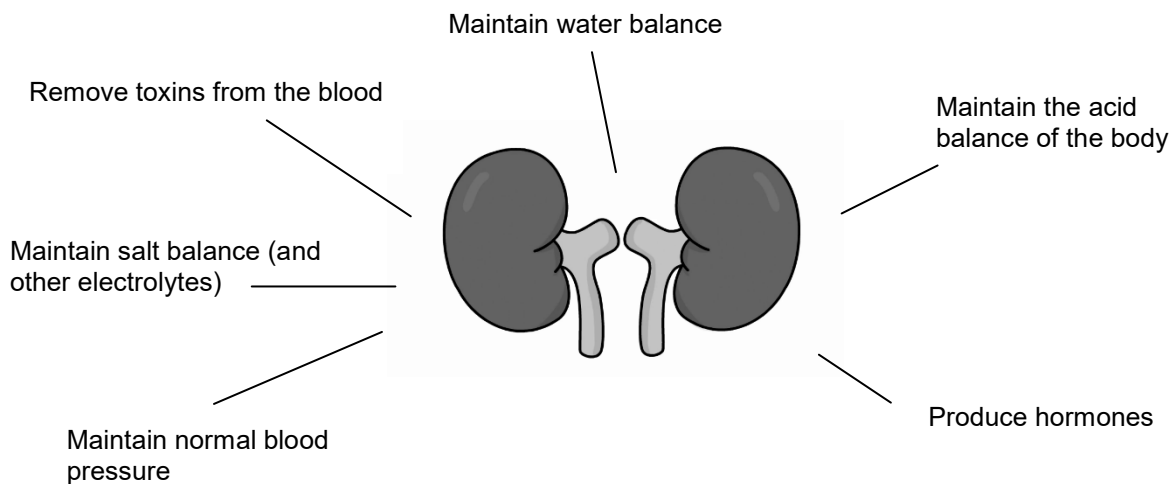


PET NOTES



Over the next two months I am going to cover Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), one of the most common conditions affecting older cats. It has been estimated that 20-50% of cats over 15 years of age will have some degree of CKD. This month I'll focus on the normal role of the kidneys and what causes CKD. Next month I'll discuss the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options.

THE ROLE OF THE KIDNEYS



Blood is filtered through the kidneys to remove toxic waste products of the body's metabolism. This process produces urine. The kidneys also prevent dehydration by concentrating the urine and returning water to the body.

THE CAUSES OF CKD

- Glomerulonephritis (inflammation of the parts within the kidneys which filter the blood)
- Polycystic kidney disease (an inherited disease where the normal kidney tissue is gradually replaced by fluid-filled cysts)
- Pyelonephritis (a bacterial infection of the kidneys)
- Toxins
- Tumours affecting the kidney
- Less commonly: trauma, birth defects, low blood potassium and high blood calcium

Dr April Young MRCVS



Something silly until next time....

What's a kidney's favourite type of music?

Organ music!

SESAW NEWS

Cats Protection created National Black Cats Day on 27th October to "...celebrate the majesty of monochrome moggies..." having ascertained rehoming black/black white cats took longer in 2011. Mother will tell you this is still the case. She will also confirm I am not the easiest pet to live with, rather like another animal we homed recently.

Whereas I am a cat, he is a Jack Russell/Chihuahua cross, his name is also Ollie and he has plenty of 'attitude' too! He arrived due to his owner's illness and didn't settle in the first home we found, but the second was ideal. He now lives with a couple by the sea, he rides on his master's mobility scooter and they know just how to manage his funny ways! It can be difficult to find the right home for animals with varied personalities but we usually succeed.

There are worldwide myths predicting dire or delightful consequences for those who see, touch or live with black cats. I don't claim to bring you good or bad luck but I do offer my annual warning to keep all your pets safe during the firework season. It can be a very scary time for us so please keep your dogs and cats indoors with you at night, close the windows and curtains, provide a 'safe place', play music and investigate calming room diffusers. Insulate outdoor hutches or move them to a shed or garage and check for hedgehogs before you build a bonfire.

I'll close now as it's getting dark outside - and Mother's broomstick stands waiting for 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



Hubert's Happy Healthy Turkeys

Straight from a local farm
for local people!

Order your traditional farm fresh
turkeys and chickens now!
All reared under approved welfare
friendly hygienic conditions

Gary Tel: **01206 825881**
Mobile: **07747 625725**

James Tel: **01206 822998**
Mobile: **07825 575835**

Grove Farm, Elmstead Market, Colchester CO7 7EU
www.hubertshappyhealthyturkeys.co.uk
hubertfarms1@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS POST

This may seem a little premature but I will be doing the annual Village Christmas Post and will be collecting your cards on the following Saturdays throughout December 2nd, 9th and 16th between 9 and 12. I will take up my usual position by the village sign. I am happy to deliver throughout the village and Aingers Green. All monies raised will again be donated to the Foodbank.

If you are housebound and would like me to collect your cards please give me a ring on 07751455132 Likewise if anyone would like to assist with manning the post or delivering cards please give me a ring or text **Nean Powell**

OLLIE DOG

The Great Bentley Show



My heartfelt thanks go to the Presidents, the committee members, the vice presidents and volunteers, exhibitors and of course the many visitors who attended the show on the 2nd September. It was great to meet so many visitors and stall holders and receive positive comments about the day.

We were so lucky with the weather which added to the ambience. The music, as always drew the crowds and people settled in chairs to listen or got up to dance. The marquee was looking fantastic this year and a better 'growing season' helped. It was lovely to see so many dogs taking part in the show. The stalls, demonstrators, tractors and horses all added to the fun.

As always, we do not look to make a big profit on the day, but to cover our costs and hold a fantastic community event. We also need to buffer ourselves in case of bad weather in the future. First indications are that we have achieved this.

Work is already under way for next year's show. Any feedback would be gratefully received and of course any volunteers to help us.

Mary Barber
Chair chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk

WELCOME

Glenys and Mick to Wren Close
and Mark Canham to De Vere Estate

GREAT BENTLEY ART CLUB

Gt Bentley Art Club will meet in the Village Hall, at 2pm, on the following Tuesdays.

Tuesday 10th October

When we hold our AGM, followed by art relating to a film character.



Tuesday 24th October - Will be life drawing using charcoal.

The subjects are suggestions only, as some have their own projects. New members are always welcome.

On Saturday the 2nd of September, the Art Club had a stall at the village flower show. There was a small exhibition of artwork in our tent and several people came in to view pictures and have a chat.

GBAC Railway Station Artwork.

A short while ago, our group completed an art project, which was destined to be installed on the rail station. The project is linked to 'The Friends of Great Bentley Station', a local community and railway network partnership, who are currently working to preserve and improve this historic station. They have worked very hard to enhance the surrounding natural environment, with new planting to encourage insect activity, in particular Bees. Dawn Vinn, the project co-ordinator (and a GBAC member), invited us to submit some artwork for display. We would like to thank her very much for giving us an opportunity to participate in this community event.

There is an individual art project, completed by club member Roy Parker, which has been installed recently, on an external wall of the old waiting room, located on the Colchester platform. The enlarged image of his painting of the B17/6 4-6-0 Sandringham Class No.61666 'Nottingham Forest' steam train, is impressive and a very striking reminder of past times on the railway.

Several members of our group took on different sections from an image of the village green 'Jubilee Spinny'. We then painted those sections, in our own style using acrylics, to ensure a bright colourful result. About mid August, 9 no. A4 size images, were printed in a collage arrangement, onto a large panel. The panel has now been installed on a recessed wall space, located on the Clacton and Walton platform. It looks cheerful, bright, colourful and different. So if you are waiting on the rail station for a another dreary commute to work, you will be able to appreciate some of the new environmental planting and view some recently installed artwork.

JEFF WRIGHT'S MEMORIAL CRICKET MATCH

What an amazing, emotional, fun day we had on the 28th August, remembering Jeff! So many thank you's so here we go.... Thank you to the following businesses for their kind donations, The Barn Café, Made by you Pottery, Great Bentley Garage, Barrett and Coe Photography, The Fusilliers, Dani's Deli, The Uber Salon, The Plough, Great Bentley Cricket Club, Hair by Emma, The Retreat, Pink Parrot and The Jasmin Rooms, (also the person who supplied the Essex signed Cricket Shirt) and everyone else who gave us wine, chocolate and other prizes for the raffle.

Thank you to the Cricket Club who, as always, were so welcoming and hard working and for their kind donation to our charity. Thank you to Alex and Carol for helping us to arrange the day and team at short notice. Having the bouncy castle for the children this year certainly kept the little ones entertained all afternoon, we hope that they enjoyed it, thank you to the parents who donated money for them to use it.

Thank you to Mitch and Kev who spent the afternoon on the BBQ, all food was donated so we made lots of money on burgers and sausages. And thank you to Danny Hunt who worked so hard over the last 2 months getting a team together and getting special T shirts designed and printed for his team to remind everyone what this day was all about. And for leading the team to victory, yes Donna's team won!!!!

Thank you to Daniel Lee (bigbeanphotography) for the amazing pictures that he took on the day. Jeff was an amazing husband, father and friend, he would have been so proud and grateful to everyone, especially Donna and his girls, we spent the day drinking, eating, laughing and playing cricket, just the way Jeff would have wanted. We raised £1124.82 for St Helena Hospice, a worthy cause that supports so many families. They came down to the Cricket Club on the youth presentation evening and brought along Saunders the elephant to meet the children.

Plans are already on the way to make next year bigger and better when we give the Cricket Club the chance to win the trophy back! **Allison Hunt**



GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET CLUB

Playing cricket on The Green since 1771.



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

The colts awards evening on Friday 8th September, which coincided with the last day of the bar being open, went very well with medals being presented to all players. Awards presented to the All Stars as well as the best batter, bowler and all-rounder in the year groups. Congratulations to all the winners who are listed below.

All Stars		
Ella Rose Hesketh	Jack Hooper	Marnie Wright
Eric Luckie	Jack O'Sullivan	
Ethan Bowles	Lucas Self	

U11s		U12s		U13s	
Bowler	Henry Brown	Bowler	Freddie Pope	Bowler	Cordel Stanio
Batter	Oliver Lukey	Batter	Freddie Hood	Batter	Aimee Robinson
All Rounder	Luke Ager	All Rounder	Sam Giles	All Rounder	Jodie Black

Many thanks to the colts coaches (Henry Fairbanks, Russell Brown, Kevin Cooper, Ian Morton, Johnnie Hesketh, Luke Scillitoe, John Black, Darren King and Alex Youngs) for their time and expertise and parents for all you do to help the club. It really is appreciated. Special thanks to Michael Giles for leading the coaching and organising what was a very successful season. Good luck to those children moving from soft to hardball and those who are now eligible to play for the adults next year!

Our last home league game was a real family affair featuring three sets of fathers and sons: Alex and Alfie Youngs, Mark & Jakes Pearce as well as Mark & Sam Busby. Bentley lost the toss so Sam Busby and Ashton Rees were asked by skipper Alex Youngs to open the bowling. The first wicket fell in the third over to a sharp run out when Jakes Pearce and keeper Alex Youngs combined with the score on just 5. Busby was bowling sublimely with the ball passing the bat on many occasions without that vital edge. Jakes Pearce who replaced Rees bowling from the Surgery end was at times unplayable, taking two quick wickets. His first for the club was a fine overhead catch by his Dad Mark, in undoubtedly the champagne moment of the match, to leave Eight Ash Green struggling on 66-3 after 17 overs. The other bowlers all kept up the pressure with Josh Fowler bowling four overs of high pace for nine while Mark Busby and Dan Barker bowled spin with their usual tenacity. Barker took two wickets and frankly should have had at least one more in his impressive eight over spell. Mark Pearce came on to bowl in the closing stages and had the ball moving around taking his first wicket for the club with a great ball that clattered into the middle stump. EAG ended on 147-7 off 40 overs after an excellent bowling and fielding display. The Youngs opened the batting and sensibly took their time to get set hitting the bad ball on a slow outfield where runs were hard to come by. Both added steadily to their scores until Alfie (23) was out bowled by EAGs best bowler trying to work it to the leg side — a great father-son opening stand of 80. After Barker was caught behind to a fabulous reaction catch from the EAG keeper Fowler came in and initially struggled to get going. He then decided to “go big or go home” and hit three fours in a row including an impressive ramp shot over the keeper before falling for 18 trying one big hit too many. Meanwhile Alex Youngs was busy adding runs to his growing total with some excellent attacking shots around the wicket. Mark Pearce, who came to the wicket after Fowler fell, was ably assisting the skipper with some classic shots as Bentley raced towards the required total. The skipper aptly hit the winning runs, one of his dozen fours to go with one big straight six. Bentley scored 149-3 off 32 overs. Pearce ended on 18 not out while Youngs carried his bat for 76 in a fantastic game winning innings that rightly earned him the man of the match award.

Unfortunately, the clubs last league fixture away to league leaders Chelmsford was cancelled when we were unable to raise an eleven. In the final table Bentley were in a very solid third place, just nine points behind second place Galleywood. A great return to league cricket for the club.

Our last match of the season took place on the gloriously sunny late August Bank Holiday Monday when GBCC took on a Jeff Wright Family and Friends XI in a celebration of Jeff's life and to raise funds for the St Helena Hospice. As ever this game was played in a very friendly atmosphere by both sides. The Bentley team was again made up of a number of father and child combinations. Skipper Alex Youngs elected to open the batting with Sam and Mark Busby. Sam went big and then went home with a score of 11 off 5 balls. While, to the surprise of all present in the large crowd as well as himself Busby Snr scored 22 before holing out to a good running catch off the bowling of Georgina Wright. Georgina then promptly took a second wicket next ball to end with figures of 2-0-12-2. Dan Barker took up the mantle scoring from his usual array of attacking shots forming a number of partnerships on his way to retiring on 55. Chris Milburn, Henry Fairbanks and Michael Giles pushed the score along with singles and the odd four taking GBCC to a respectable 127-7 off their 20 overs. The strong Jeff Wright XI were all wearing matching shirts emblazoned with "Jeff" on the back. They started facing debutant Jodie Black from the Surgery end and her dad John from the Pavilion end. Openers "Jeff" Ashworth and "Jeff" Thompson were adding runs with some hefty blows until Ashworth was out bowled by young Jakes Pearce for 18. Jakes Dad Mark bowling in tandem with Jakes bowled with his usual accuracy but was not helped by the fielders who dropped a couple of catches. Thompson fell for 23 to a great caught and bowled by a returning Sam Busby. As "Jeff" Costin built an innings, "Jeff" Darren Hunt and "Jeff" Callum Hunt added valuable runs scoring 15 and 10 respectively. Going into the last 5 overs of the match it was very evenly poised with 30 runs needed. With the fall of Callum Hunt, "Jeff" Perry came to the wicket and took to the GBCC bowling smashing a quick fire 23 to win the match with just six balls to spare leaving Costin not out on 27. A great end to a fabulous occasion. Please see other article for more details and photos of a fantastic event.

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.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 13th November in the Clubhouse on the Green. If you are interested in learning more about the cricket club or would like to join the committee, please feel free to attend.

MUSICAL EVENING WITH PETER AND JUDITH CLAYTON



**Saturday 7th October
7.00pm**



St Mary's Church

Refreshments available during interval

There will be a retiring collection towards re-decoration of the church hall

POLICE REPORT



RECORDED CRIMES

From 26/07/2023- 31/08/2023

CRIME TYPES - 12

ASSAULT ABH X2 - ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY X4 – GBH- HARASSMENT- OTHER- SECT 5 PUBLIC ORDER - THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE- THREATS

INCIDENTS REPORTED – 38

INCIDENT TYPES

ABANDONED VEHICLE X2 - ALARM - ASSAULT X4 - ATTENTION TO - DISTURBANCE - CONCERN CRIMINAL DAMAGE- DRIVING COMPLAINT - FIRE - INFORMATION X2 - HIGHWAY DISRUPTION X11
NUISANCE - NUISANCE VEHICLE - OTHER X2 - PROPERTY - PEDESTRIAN X2 - ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION X2 - SILENT 999 - SECTION 165/59 - SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES - THEFT OF VEHICLE.

INCONSIDERATE PARKING

A numerous amount of considerate parking tickets were given out this month in the village. Blocking footpaths not only causes obstruction to other drivers trying to pull out of a driveway, but can cause pedestrians, disabled, push chairs etc to be forced to walk in the road, which could cause an accident. This can also damage the pavement and kerb stones. Which causes money to replace and dissatisfaction to residents for looking unsightly to the village.

One location in particular is becoming a regular occurrence, where vehicles are parking lengthways directly on the junction near the memorial island opposite the Plough. This causes obstruction for vehicles and visibility and could cause a nasty accident.

Considerate parking tickets have been issued in the first instance, just as a heads up to drivers that this is an offence under the highway code, to park on a junction, to try and prevent drivers receiving a fixed penalty notice.

Parking services have and will be attending the village on a regular basis and fixed penalty notices may be issued.

Scams

Scams are still a problem everywhere, If you receive Emails or phone calls that don't look right, **don't reply and hang up**. Spam emails can be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk If you receive any calls like this, report to action fraud advising them what telephone provider you use, or copy paste email and attach it to the online report. <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> for online reporting and extra information.

Telephone 0300 123 2040 to speak direct. It is also worth ringing your telephone provider and asking for a call block for withheld numbers put on your phone line. This prevents all anonymous calls coming through to you, giving you some peace of mind.

Suspicious circumstances.

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

Plough Road, Aingers Green 30mph limit

30 Captured and a top speed of 53mph. All signage was checked before and after deployment and all signs were visible. I believe a lot of those captured should visit specsavers, as they are clearly not seeing the speed repeater signs.

I also issued a considerate parking ticket in Plough Road. The same dangerous parking lengthways on the grass island opposite The Plough Inn. I am relaying all the parking tickets to Mick Simpson who is going to back me up with this location and issue fines if seen.

Reporting incidents the correct way.

To report an incident please **ring 101 or for Emergency 999**

Or report it online <https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/>

Local PCSO - Julia.brandon@essex.police.uk

hope@trinity

My sincere thank you to everyone who has taken the time to bring items of clothing and footwear to me for hope@trinity, the feed back I receive is heart warming. On a beautiful early September morning heralding another very hot day any thoughts of winter and warm clothing may understandably seem premature. However for the alarming number of men and women who already come through the doors of hope@ trinity and those who find themselves in situations they could never have envisaged such thoughts are constant. Therefore as far as I'm concerned it must surely be prudent to think ahead and do our best to start the ball rolling now! If you have any items of suitable warm clothing for men and women I will be happy to receive them and should by chance you have any blankets, sleeping bags, small tents, waterproof clothing and sturdy footwear (they do a lot of walking) such would be an added bonus! Another welcome item is dog food for faithful companions who make no judgements and for most are the reason and purpose to their life.

Finally for those of you who may not be aware on every second Wednesday in the month it is 'sandwiches for hope@trinity.' If you are able to make up a loaf of sandwiches please bag and label each round individually and take them to our Methodist Church ready for collection at 9.30am. They will then be taken to our Trinity Church in Clacton to meet the needs of men and women who are struggling to keep their heads above water, it is very moving to see how something as simple and basic as a round of sandwiches can bring a smile to a troubled face. Thank you for caring.

Judy Bishop 5, Morella Close, Great Bentley 01206 251702

Great Bentley Station Update

I am pleased to say that after the long delay getting onto the station earlier this year, we have been rather busy. We now have a compound to keep some of our equipment in and a third water butt on the London bound platform.

Hopefully anyone using the station has noticed the new tubs that have been planted up, and the dear old train has been given a face lift and is back also on the London platform. **We have been given a Bee friendly accreditation from the Bee society.**

Many thanks to **Dan and Jane** who actually did all the hard work before we took over and it's a thriving diverse environment for bees and wild life. We have lots of plans and ideas and are having meetings with various members of Greater Anglia and the Community Society to see if we can arrange some new projects for next year. Hopefully you have also noticed the art work one on each side of the station.

A beautiful steam train painted by local artist **Roy Parker** and on the Clacton bound platform there are a collection of paintings done by **Great Bentley Art Group** of the Spinney on the Green. Any local groups that have pictures they think would be suitable for displaying at the station historic photographs etc. please contact me and we will see what we can do.

Other News

The station is on the agenda for next month's Parish Council meeting. So please if you have any views about the station come along and help us plan for the future. Look forward to seeing you at the meeting or please contact me with any ideas Thank You

**Dawn Vinn
(Station Adopter)
01206 481 746**

ADVERTISING IN 2024

If anyone **NEW** would like to advertise in 2024 the prices will be

Small	£60
Medium	£100
Quarter page	£170
Half a page (limited number)	£330

NEW ADVERTISER

Mick Hucker - Plasterer, see page 37

ALL REGULAR ADVERTISER will be automatically sent a reminder by the end of October.

NEWS FROM THE OAKS



Here at The Oaks we have the pleasure and privilege of taking care of our lovely residents.

Firstly, we would like to pass on our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Irene Willis who sadly passed away recently. Irene worked here a few years ago and we are very sad to hear of her passing.

We would also like to wish Mary Maskell all the best of luck for the nomination of 'Make A Difference Award'. We are keeping our fingers crossed as we all know that Mary is the Pinnacle of the village! Mary is completely selfless and helps out with so many great causes and is always first to respond. We have had the pleasure of Mary coming into our home on many occasions, bringing joy and comfort to our residents.

We would also like to thank The Barn Cafe for being so helpful and attentive when we visited with some of our residents for hot drinks and cakes!

Also it is so lovely to see the villagers offering free fruit outside their homes! There must have been a lot of apple pies and crumbles made lately! The weather hasn't been too good this year, but it hasn't stopped us having fun.

We celebrated the Lionesses getting through to the World Cup, there was a lot of flags and cheering going on, despite the disappointment of losing!

We have been playing various games, quizzes, memory sessions, exercise sessions and we are quite accustomed to having mock tails and ice cream on the terrace!

We are now organising some more days out and we are looking forward to our Halloween party next month!

Sending warm thoughts to our neighbours and friends from all at The Oaks.

REMEMBERING IRENE COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday 21st October
Great Bentley Village Hall**



10am - 12 noon

Please come along and share your memories and stories about dear Irene over a mug of tea/coffee, a slice of cake or a scone or two!

Raffle and home made cake stall

All monies raised will be donated to
The Essex & Herts Air Ambulance
in Irene's name.

A fitting tribute to a unique lady known
by so many and loved by all.

We shall miss you Irene

Irene Willis

On Thursday 23rd August Irene passed away at home despite the valiant efforts of the emergency services. Many folk may not recognise her by name however dear Irene was a familiar face in the heart of the village as she stood in her front garden on the corner of Morella Close opposite Tesco. We are in shock and disbelief that she has gone from our lives. You will be greatly missed dear Irene, how you remembered everyone's name I shall never know and that includes all the four legged friends who pulled on their leads with tails wagging knowing you would make a fuss of them.

Irene you touched countless people's lives and it is going to take a long time for us to come to terms with the fact that we shall not see you anymore.

We shall all miss you Irene. xx

**REMEMBER TO PUT
YOUR CLOCKS
BACK ON
SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER**





What a wonderful first few weeks we have all had back, it's been busy welcoming all the new children and getting to know them, they have all settled in well as they explore and become familiar with this new environment while the older children have been great little role models.

Autism Coffee Morning

We have arranged for our first coffee morning of this term to be held on Friday 6th October at 9:30. These sessions are held to support parents with children on the Autistic Spectrum or for parents who are concerned and want to find out more about Autism. If you are worried or concerned about your child, going through the assessment stages, or have a child who has been diagnosed and feel you might like to share your experience please come along and join in the discussion. You do not have to have a child attending the Pre-school so we would love to welcome you.

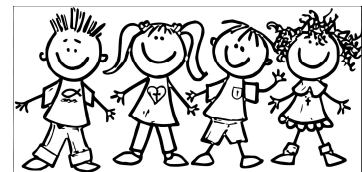
Tax-Free Childcare

Did you know that if you pay for any childcare fees there is a scheme that helps with the costs, this allows you up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children.

If you get Tax-Free Childcare, you'll set up an online childcare account for your child in which you can pay your provider from. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.

Your eligibility depends on:

- if you're working (employed, self-employed, or both)
- your income (and your partner's income if you have one)
- your child's age and circumstances
- your immigration status



You can usually get Tax-Free Childcare if you (and your partner if you have one) are:

- in work
- on sick leave or annual leave
- on shared parental, maternity, paternity, or adoption leave and you're going back to work within 31 days of the date you first applied

For full details go to www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

Enjoy the rest of the month and half term which is Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October.

Thanks for reading
Julie Wiles



BENTLEY GREEN PLAYERS

We shall be holding our Annual General Meeting on Monday 9th October in Great Bentley Village Hall 7.30 pm

We naturally welcome our present and past members to the Group but we are also very pleased to welcome new members, so if you are interested to know a little more about the Group then do please come and join us on the 9th October.

Lynda McWilliams – Chair of Bentley Green Players
email lynda@boblyn.co.uk Tel 07564 613603



Proposal to expand Great Bentley Primary School, Tendring

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Essex County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Great Bentley Primary School, Plough Road, Great Bentley, Colchester, Essex, CO7 8LD, from 01 September 2024.

The proposal is to enlarge the premises of Great Bentley Primary School to increase its capacity from 210 to 420 places on a phased basis, with effect from 1 September 2024.

The current capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 420. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 215. The current admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from the School Organisation Team at the address provided below, or by telephoning 033301 31071 or by visiting: essex.gov.uk/statutoryproposals

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to: Director, Education, c/o School Organisation, Capital Investment & Delivery, Infrastructure and Environment, Essex County Council, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH, or via email to: school.organisation@essex.gov.uk

Signed: Clare Kershaw, Director, Education, Essex County Council

Publication Date: 7 September 2023

Explanatory Note

Building works to facilitate the proposal will be carried out to the school site and buildings.

Proposal to Expand Great Bentley Primary School

This proposal provides relevant information in accordance with the *School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2016*.

School Details

Great Bentley Primary School, Plough Road,
Great Bentley, Colchester, CO7 8LD

Local Authority Details

Director, Education, c/o School Organisation
Economy, Investment and Public Health
Sustainable Growth, Essex County Council,
Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH

Description

The number of children in primary schools in this area of Tendring has increased over the last ten years as a result of births, families moving in and new housing. Latest forecasts indicate that this increase in pupil numbers will continue, and additional provision is required to balance future supply and demand for local school places.

This table shows forecast demand for Reception places in the area for the next five years:

3. Brightlingsea / Elmstead

Current PAN: 197
Current Capacity: 1,436

Reception Place Forecast

Year	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33
+/-	16	5	2	-6	-13	-20	-26	-31	-36	-41
Alresford Primary, Brightlingsea Primary, Elmstead Primary, Great Bentley Primary, St George's CE Primary										

The forecasts also indicate that there may be further growth in the area, potentially increasing demand from 2028 onwards above the 30 additional places proposed at Great Bentley Primary School. The number of children registered with a GP will continue to be monitored, as will the actual numbers of pupils in schools. If pressure on school places continues to rise in line with the forecasts a further expansion may be required at a school in the planning group.

Great Bentley Primary School is a popular and successful school. There are three large new housing developments underway in Great Bentley and these will undoubtedly lead to more children in the village. Expanding permanently to 420 places will allow the school to plan more effectively to meet future demand and will help parents to get a place at their preferred school.

With the full support of the Governing Body of Great Bentley Primary School, it is proposed to expand Great Bentley Primary School from 210 places (one form of entry) to 420 places (two forms of entry) from September 2024. This would enable the school to admit 30 additional Reception children each year from September 2024.

Current Capacity	210	Current Published Admission Number	30
New Capacity	420	New Published Admission Number	60

The school is popular, oversubscribed and rated Outstanding by Ofsted. Expansion of the school will provide more places to meet the growing demand in Great Bentley and will enable more parents to gain a place for their child at a popular, high performing school. Work has been undertaken to explore options for expanding and remodeling the school which would include additional classrooms and ancillary accommodation to deliver the curriculum.

Consultation

A formal consultation on a proposal to expand Great Bentley Primary School from 210 places to 420 places on a phased basis was held between 28 April 2022 and 26 May 2022.

A response form was made available online and the consultation document was distributed to parents of children at the school via the school. Copies of the document were also posted to other interested parties by email. Responses to the consultation could be made through the organised meetings and/or via the electronic response form, by letter or email.

A drop-in session for parents, staff and the local community was held on 18 May 2022.

Objectives

The County Council is under a duty to promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in the county to promote diversity and increase parental choice. This is rolled up in the council's vision to "increase educational achievement and enhance skills".

Effect on other schools and educational institutions

The proposed expansion of the school is to meet a forecast deficit of primary places in the area. Therefore, there is no foreseen effect on other schools in the area, as the expansion is proportionate to meet the forecast demand for places.

Funding

The cost of the building work required to enable the school to expand will be met by Essex County Council.

The cost of the project will be funded through ECC's Capital Programme published March 2023, which identifies £130,000,000 being spent on mainstream education over the next four years to ensure that additional pupil places are being delivered in the areas of need. Details of the Capital Programme can be found at www.essex.gov.uk

Implementation The school will expand from 1 September 2024.

Details on how to respond to proposals

Within four weeks from the date of publication (7 September 2023) you may make objections or comments in respect of this proposal in the following ways:

By post: Director, Education, c/o School Organisation, Economy, Investment and Public Health Sustainable Growth, Essex County Council, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH By email: school.organisation@essex.gov.uk

IS THE PATIENT BREATHING

DID YOU KNOW THAT DEFIBRILLATORS ARE AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN GREAT BENTLEY?

Cardiac arrest can strike at any time anywhere. It is an acknowledged fact that a large majority of arrests happen outside of a medical environment. It is also recognised that in cases of cardiac arrest the prompt use of a Defibrillator is of great assistance.

We are fortunate in having access to several Defibs in the Village. The accessible ones to the public are located at the Cricket Club, Football Club and on the railway station. They are all registered on a system known as the Circuit. They are usually locked in a cabinet requiring an access code which the Ambulance call handler can give you if needed. In extreme circumstances there are at least a further three Defibs located in the School, Tescos and the Village Hall – clearly these would only be available when the premises are open. The Parish Council is actively pursuing grants/funding for a further two Defibrillators for Aingers Green and Flag Hill.

As a Community First Responder we also carry Defibrillators and Oxygen when on call. We are trained in the skills for basic life support. We are always looking for new Community First Responders. Living locally we 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.

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



How much time does it take? As a volunteer group we can do as little or as much as we can. 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??

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.



Great Bentley Community Volunteering Opportunity Board

Community Speed watch

Do you want to be part of a team who are actively reducing speeding in the village and supporting the police and our PCSO through identification of offenders? No specified commitment with training provided.

Email: greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com
for further info.

Train Station Volunteers

Do you know that Great Bentley Train Station has been awarded a 'Wildlife Friendly' accreditation?

If you have an interest in biodiversity and supporting nature, why not join our group and be part of this exciting project.

Contact Dawn on 01206 481746 for more info.

Parish Council Environment Working Group

Passionate about the environment? You should consider being part of Parish Council's EWG. A blend of both councillors and residents, the group meets monthly to address environmental issues and conduct projects within the parish.

Email: john.wharton@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk for further info.

Parish Magazine Collators

With over nine hundred copies of the parish magazine printed monthly, our group of volunteers are essential in the collating of the pages and the distribution of the magazines.

Any new willing volunteers should contact: Mary Maskell - marymaskell@sys3internet.net or Carole Allington - carole@pncallington.co.uk

If your group has any volunteering opportunities and would like to be included on the noticeboard, please email john.wharton@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER 2023 MAGAZINE

SUNDAY 15th OCTOBER

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

Ferrets on Furlough.

Whilst camping in Norfolk we were intrigued to see a lady walking two creamy white ferrets. Both were on long leads attached to beautifully crafted tiny handmade harnesses. In typical ferret motion they 'sinuously' ran about lead by their acute sense of smell. The lady owner explained that she was the secretary of the Cambridge Ferret Welfare and Rescue Society and that she had four ferrets and a polecat in her van. Camped next door were fellow members with two polecats. One (Tommy) was quite tubby but 'Snip' a Jill named after a nick in her ear) was a 'miniature'. Tommy the larger hog had been abandoned at only five weeks old and brought to the CFWRS by the RSPCA. It is disappointing but a sign of the times that many ferrets and polecats are simply abandoned to their fate.

Ferrets are intensely inquisitive exploring holes and tunnels but have a very short attention span. Historically they were bred for hunting rabbits and other 'varmits' and are still used by professional pest control officers to deal with rabbit infestations. Polecats have a life span of around eight years but are prone to a variety of life shortening ailments. All rescued ferret/polecats are 'done' in order to reduce accidental unwanted breeding, but also this helps reduce the musty odour. These creatures are members of the Mustalids and can exude a strong musty odour.

Covid, and the passing of our late Queen saw the cancellation of the Sandringham Fair but CFWRS decided to have short away-day-breaks with their charges.

The secretary informed that her animals were named after royalty, Prince-Beatrice-Eugene-Sophie and Eddy. However this did not necessarily reflect the owners political views but was hugely popular with the crowds at ferret races held at various events.

Some readers may recall that a former warden at Fingringhoe Wick reserve who was also the curator of the Colchester natural history museum was a keen ferret man, to the extent that his vehicle was adorned with ferret logo's. His researches into ferret history and association with humans took him on an expedition into the Atlas Mountains of Morrocco to trace ferret origins.

We handled these creatures who tremble, Jack Russel like, when ready to be off and lightly nipped. It certainly was possible to read the initial concern in their faces when confronted with strangers. You would have to have a heart of stone not to be enthralled by theses attractive, charming, active and endearing creatures.

My thanks to Adrienne, Geoff and Yvonne for sharing a few moments with mustalids.

For more information visit the CFWRS website www.cfwrs.com



It's good to be home!

For those not aware the Great Bentley Scout and Guide Headquarters had a major flood causing extensive damage over the Christmas period, resulting in it being out of bounds for two terms. We are pleased to say that this week we had our first meetings back and it was good to be in our own hall once again, looking like new!

We could not have got to this point without the help and generosity of others, starting with the Methodist Church in the village. They gave us a temporary home at very short notice for the two terms we were without our own, allowing us access to both of their halls so we could meet as a Group. They also ran some fundraising for us which was also very much appreciated and well received.

Also a big thank you to Gary Smith who project managed the whole affair, from liaising with our insurance company Unity Insurance, to arranging temporary storage of our equipment at R Gosling & Sons, to coordinating with contractors including Shipp Builders.

A separate thank you to Bathroom Studios who donated all new toilets and sinks which were damaged and needed replacing.

This is not forgetting the contribution from Matthew Bovingdon and of all our Leaders, Parents and Volunteers. Without everyone involved we would not have been able to return this term.

We are eternally grateful for everyone that helped us during this period, it shows what a great place Great Bentley can be when you are in need.

Jan Bovingdon
Group Scout Leader
1st Great Bentley Scout Group

YOUTH FOOTBALL TEAM

It's been a busy time for all the volunteers at Great Bentley Youth Football Club but all of our teams have put their dedicated pre-season training into reality now as the season kicked-off in early September and we now have a solid run of games right the way through to (dare I mention the C word yet?) Christmas!

The brand new under 6's (year 1) have hit the ground running and potentially have enough support to run two teams so more boys and girls (inspired by the Lionesses of course), are welcome to get in touch with the club via our social media channels so we can get football in this year group thriving.

The under 7's are continuing their progression into competitive football and learning to play better both individually and as a team in a 5-a-side format, whilst the under 9's now have two teams. This is a real achievement as last year only one team was possible, but new boys and girls have caught the football bug and we can boast two teams in the 7-a-side format. The teams have been involved in several pre-season tournaments, with the under 9's blues reaching the semi-finals in two of them.

The under 10's received a real boost before the campaign started by winning a pre-season tournament with sides from all over the county in Clacton F.C. This was achieved on Carnival Day of all days so it was a real celebration among the group on their return. They are hoping to kick on and take that great team spirit and effort into the new league season. The team also looked very smart in their brand new home kits, sponsored by Orton & Wenlock, who are Electrical Contractors and P.V. Solar Panel Installers. Thank you for your support of the team!

The Under 12's made the local media when playing a friendly against T1DYFC, a team made up largely of boys with Type 1 diabetes, who have been formed to raise awareness and funds for charities associated with the condition. BBC Essex and the Colchester Gazette covered the match as it was the opposition's first ever game.

The Under 13's are putting in extra sessions on the green each week to remain competitive in the top flight of the Colchester and District Youth League. They continue to be one of the best in the area and have now stepped up to 11-a-side.

Lastly a huge thanks to the The Carl Pentney Keeper Academy (CPKA), who put on a specialist session for the goalkeepers of each age group. They said "we had two groups of keepers who worked their socks off and we enjoyed helping their body shape, movement and handling. Thank You."

Don't forget match day's are Sunday mornings so feel free to come and offer your respectful support of the boys and girls in all groups, who wear the Great Bentley shirt each and every week with pride.

POSTAL COLLECTIONS

The post boxes **WERE** always emptied around 4pm each day by a special van, but they are now emptied by the postmen as they do their deliveries. It is advisable to get your letters posted before 10am on weekdays.

You can always go into the Post Office 4 mornings a week and give them to Sam or put them in his collection sack. (See below for Post Office opening times).

ANNUAL DIARY

4th November	Autumn Fayre, Methodist Church
8th November	Friends of the Green AGM
10th November	Good Neighbours Quiz Night Methodist Church Hall
13th November	Cricket Club AGM
26th November	Christmas Lights Switch On
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

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 1

KO 3 00pm unless stated

Sat Aug 19 th	FC Clacton Res	(H)	L 2 – 1
Sat Sept 2 nd	Dovercourt Rovers	(H)	W 6 – 2
Sat Sept 9 th	Tavern	(H)	D 2 – 2
Sat Sept 16 th	CO4 Ultras	(A)	
Sat Sept 23 rd	Stanway Rovers Res	(H)	League KO Cup
Sat Sept 30 th	Cressing Utd	(A)	
Sat Oct 14 th	White Notely Res	(A)	Essex Junior Cup 2 00 pm



ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 3

Sat Sept 2 nd	Prettygate	(A)	W 2 – 1
Sat Sept 9 th	Lawford Lads Res	(A)	W 6 – 2
Sat Sept 23 rd	Colne Ath Res	(A)	Reserve KO Cup
Sat Sept 30 th	Tollesbury	(H)	
Sat Oct 14 th	Wormingford W/drs	(A)	Essex Junior Cup 2 00 pm

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 5

Sat Sept 2 nd	Bradfield Rovers Res	(A)	W 5 – 2
Sat Sept 9 th	Mersea Island Res	(A)	L 3 – 2
Sat Sept 16 th	Ramsey & Mistley Res	(A)	
Sat Sept 30 th	Boxted Lodgers	(H)	

The opening game of the season. The pitch looking perfect. Sadly GB could not rise to the occasion. Good early possession saw Gaz Evans score from a free kick. Substitutions then weakened GB & FC Clacton slowly began to dominate the game. Goalkeeper Jake Allwood being our man of the match. FC Clacton snatched the winner half way through the second half to claim the 3 points.

A great start saw GB 3 goals up and cruising to victory in the first 20 mins. Roding then scored 2 goals in 5 mins and for a minute it looked like the balance of the game was changing. Roding then had a player sent off on a straight red for a horrendous tackle. GB then managed to regain control for the remainder of the game with strikers Gaz Evans and Rory Warin scoring a hat trick each.

Short of players due to commitments outside of football (don't get me started) a very depleted squad ran out onto the green to face Dovercourt Rovers. GB were 2 – 0 down at half time. A strong team talk at half time roused the team. New signing Luke Whybrow scoring his first goal for GB and returnee Connor Jones coming off the bench to look for the equaliser but unfortunately had 2 attempts ruled out as offside.

GB v Tavern was very entertaining to watch for a neutral but a nail biter for me. A draw was a fair result for both teams. Both GB goals scored by Connor Jones. GB reserves have got off to a flying start. Winning at Prettygate 2 – 1 with goals from Sam Winney and Alfie Morley. Then 6 – 2 away at Lawford Lads Res. Sam Winney scoring 2, Gareth Evans, Lewis Evans and Elliot Mcmillan 1 each plus an own goal.

The GB 'A' team must be the youngest squad in the border league. 8 lads playing in their first season of adult football. It can be physically tough in the lower divisions. However they got off to a fantastic start beating Bradfield Rovers Res 5 – 2. Assistant manager Jim Smith had to play in goal after our young goalkeeper was enticed away to another club. Jim put in a good performance but was outshone by his young son Archie who scored 4 goals. The other scorer was young Oscar Herbert, son of manager Ritchie Herbert.

Away at Mersea Island Res, a physical game saw GB have 2 players shown red cards after a melee. Final score 3 – 2 to Mersea Island. GB scorers Anthony Chatters and Jai j Vaughan.

With the nights now drawing in we have invested in more portable floodlights to accommodate the additional players we now have attending training on a Tuesday evening.

Follow Great Bentley FC on Facebook and X for all the up to date information

Come on the Bulldogs

GREAT BENTLEY CUPS AND TROPHIES WINNERS

Section I

1	The Ruth Sharp Memorial Trophy	Most points in Section 1	Shirley Weekes
2	The Sturdy Trophy	Best Exhibit Section 1	Linda Jervis
3	Jack Wood Prize (£10)	Best Vegetable Exhibit Section 1	Linda Jervis
4	Jack Wood Prize (£10)	Best Flower Exhibit Section 1	Not Awarded
5	The W.G. & E. Sharp Trophy	Best Fuchsia Exhibit Section 1	G. Driver
6	The Mick Baxter Memorial Rosette	Best Selection Allotment Produce Section 1	Shirley Weekes

Section II

7	The Presidents Cup	Most Points Section II	Roger Cook
8	The RHS Banksian Medal	Most Prize Money Section II	Roger Cook
9	The John F. Clark Memorial Trophy	Most Points Vegetable Classes	Barry Layzell
10	The RHS Bronze Medal	Best Exhibit Vegetable classes (excl class 44)	Roger Cook
11	The Jubilee Trophy	Most Points Flower Classes (excl. Dahlias)	Pauline Garnham & Linda Jervis
12	The Friends of the Green Cup	Most Points Flower Classes (incl. Dahlias)	Roger Cook
13	The Peter Duffield Trophy	Most Points Dahlia Classes	Roger Cook
14	The National Dahlia Soc. Silver Medal	Best Dahlia Exhibit	Roger Cook
15	The National Dahlia Soc. Bronze Medal	Runner up Best Dahlia Exhibit	Roger Cook
16	The RHS Bronze Medal	Best Exhibit Chrysanthemum Classes	Mary Maskell
17	The Ray Purdy Cup	Most Points in Chrysanthemum Classes	Mary Maskell
18	The Frank Atthill Memorial Trophy	Most Points Rose Classes	Pauline Garnham
19	The Great Bentley Rose Medal	Best Exhibit Rose Classes	Pauline Garnham
20	The Alfred Harvey Memorial Trophy	Best Fuschia Exhibit	Not Awarded
21	The Bay Laurel Cup	Most Points Pot Plant Classes	Jo Debono
22	The Evergreens Cup	Best Pot Plant Exhibit	Jo Debono
23	The Arthur Abrey Memorial Cup	Best Fruit Exhibit	Jo Debono

Section III

24	The Colin Johnson Memorial Cup	Most Points Floral Art Classes	Rosemary Newman & Pam Last
25	The Chairman's Trophy	Best Floral Art Exhibit	Pam Last
26	The Gt Bentley Flower Show Trophy	Most Points Cookery Classes (gained by a Gt Bentley resident)	Dot Richer
27	The McWilliams Cup	Best Exhibit Cookery Classes	Jan Ferguson
28	The Friends of the Green Cup	Most Points Handicraft Classes	Helen Ross
29	The Ross Cup	Best Exhibit Handicraft Classes	Helen Ross
30	Mrs Kemp Memorial Trophy	Best Exhibit Art Classes	Nina Mortens
31	The Harold Lambert Cup	Most Points in Art Classes	Jenny Lunt
32	The JW Fothergill Trophy	Most Points Gained in Wine Classes	Jo Debono
33	The Percy & Emma Abrey Trophy	Best Exhibit in Wine Classes	Jo Debono

Special Awards

34	The Alresford Camera Club Award	Best Exhibit in Adult Photography Classes	Mary Maskell
35	The Alresford Camera Club Award	Runner Up in Adult Photography Classes	Jane Fisher
36	The Alresford Camera Club Award	Best Exhibit in Children's Photography Classes	Seren Solomons
37	The Donald Walker Trophy	Most Points in Photography Classes	Linda Wright

Special Trophies

A	Memorial Challenge Trophy ME Gibson	Most Points in Sections 2 & 3	Roger Cook
B	Kathleen and Arthur Abrey Trophy	GB Resident most points in sections 1,2,3 (adult)	Shirley Weekes
C	The Golden Jubilee Cup	Person gaining most points in show (all sections)	Shirley Weekes

Children's Classes

38	The Kathleen Abrey Cup	GB Resident Most Points Under 5 Years	Not awarded
39	The Friends of the Green Youth Cup	GB Resident Most Points 5-7 Years	Seren Solomons
40	The Aplin Cup	GB Resident Most Points 8-11 years	Jack Fairbanks
41	The Fenwick Cup	GB Resident Most Points 12-16 years	Not Awarded
42	The George Mitchell Cup	Best Art Exhibit	Otto Solomons
43	The Alison Lingard Memorial Trophy	Best Cookery Exhibit	Martha Lord
44	The Marjorie Mitchell Cup	Best Craft Exhibit	Millie Fairbanks
45	The Friends of the Green Trophy	President's Choice Art/Craft	Otto Solomons
46	The Longcroft Cup	Best Photo Exhibit Class 195/196	Seren Solomons
47	The James Fookes Memorial Cup	Best Exhibit in Children's Painting	Millie Fairbanks
48	Colin Johnson Memorial Trophy	Best Creative Lego Exhibit	Otto Solomons
49	The Friends of the Green Trophy	Most Points Non-Resident 2-4 years	Willow Brewer
50	The Friends of the Green Trophy	Most Points Non-Resident 5-7 years	Sophie Lochore
51	The Friends of the Green Trophy	Most Points Non-Resident 8-11 years	Thomas Boughton
52	The Friends of the Green Trophy	Most Points Non-Resident 12-16 years	Charlie Hogger
53	The Great Bentley Show Cup	Most Points Gained in Children's Classes	Jack Fairbanks

Surgery Newsletter

Appointments are now on the system for those who are eligible to book their flu jabs. These can be booked by following the link sent out to you by text, or by contacting reception on the main Surgery telephone number 01206 250691.

Covid Boosters

As the Surgery will not be administering the Covid boosters this autumn, patients who are eligible for this can book this on-line using NHS.uk, via the NHS App or by calling 119.

Surgery News

We are very sorry to let you know that Dr Corinne Mangan one of our Salaried GPs is leaving the Practice, as she is taking up a new job in Suffolk. She has been a wonderful colleague to work with and will be sadly missed, but we want to wish her every success in her new job.

NHS App

We are trying to encourage as many patients as possible to download and use the NHS App, as this is the easiest way to order repeat medication and view medical information such as test results and immunisation records. If patients need help with using the NHS app then they can visit [nhs.uk/helpmeapp](https://nhs.uk/help/meapp) for further information.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Who has breast screening?

Each year more than 2 million women have breast cancer screening in the UK. The NHS Breast Screening Programme invites all women from the age of 50 to 70 for screening every 3 years. This means that some people may not have their first screening mammogram until they are 52 or 53 years. If you are older than 70, you can still have screening every 3 years, but you won't automatically be invited. To make an appointment, talk to your GP or your local breast screening unit.

If you are younger than 50, your risk of breast cancer is generally very low. Mammograms are more difficult to read in younger women because their breast tissue is denser. So, the patterns on the mammogram don't show up as well. There is little evidence to show that regular mammograms for women below the screening age would reduce deaths from breast cancer.

Breast screening is also for some trans or non-binary people. Talk to your GP or Gender Identity Clinic about this.

What is breast screening?

Cancer screening involves testing apparently healthy people for signs that could show that a cancer is developing.

Breast screening uses a test called mammography which involves taking x-rays of the breasts. Screening can help to find breast cancers early when they are too small to see or feel. These tiny breast cancers are usually easier to treat than larger ones.

It is important to remember that screening will not prevent you from getting breast cancer but aims to find early breast cancers.

Overall, the breast screening programme finds cancer in around 9 out of every 1,000 women having screening.

Information in other formats
GOV.UK: Breast screening: helping women decide in English and other languages
www.gov.uk
GOV.UK: Breast screening easy guide – information for people with learning disabilities, people with low levels of literacy and non-English speakers

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Thursday 19th October for staff training. If patients require urgent care on this afternoon, then they can contact 111 for assistance.

Patient Participation Group

The Patient Participation Group will not be meeting in October.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager



COOKERY CORNER

GAME DISHES FOR COOLER NIGHTS

The name given by the Anglo Saxons for October was Winterfylleth, the month of “winter” and “full moon” because winter was said to begin from the first full moon following the Harvest Moon. When the harvest was complete and the next full moon appeared, communities would turn to hunting for the last time until the spring to provide food for the winter months to fill their larders and find comfort during the dark and cold ahead. This full moon was called the Hunter’s Moon, a special lunar event which falls between October and November, and is one of the only two full moons, along with the Harvest Moon, that is not connected to a specific month. This year’s Hunter’s Moon will appear on October 28th and should be worth looking out for especially since there will be a partial eclipse of the moon visible in parts of Europe as well as many other parts of the world. People of those early times would have hunted many creatures which would have necessitated great skill and patience and much time and danger, and possibly lengthy journeys. Happily for most of us the nearest source for stocking the larder is much nearer and hopefully less dangerous. Pigeon, rabbit, deer and pheasant would have been plentiful during autumn time, as they still are now. As children living in the countryside during the 1940s and 50s the first two featured highly in our diets and could regularly be seen hanging in the butcher’s window along with a brace of pheasants. The following recipes will serve four.

PHEASANT WITH MUSHROOMS

Pheasant is normally sold as a brace in the butcher’s, namely a cock and a hen. This may not always be possible but will not affect the recipe. Ginger wine gives a gentle bite and a warmth to this casserole.

2 pheasants plucked and cleaned	110g smoked streaky bacon	30g butter
350g small mixed mushrooms	1 onion	4tbsp ginger wine
1 dessertspoon fresh or $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp dried tarragon		250ml chicken stock
2 garlic cloves	olive oil	some strips of lemon rind

Preheat the oven to 150 degrees fan. Dice the bacon and peel and slice the onion and garlic finely before frying gently with a little olive oil in a large ovenproof dish until the onion is very soft but not coloured. Roll the whole pheasants in seasoned flour, then add them to the onions and cook on high for five minutes on either side to brown all over. Pour in the ginger wine and allow to bubble for a couple of minutes. Cut the mushrooms in half and surround the pheasants. Add the tarragon, two strips of lemon, some seasoning and the stock. Stir slightly, cover and transfer to the preheated oven and cook for one and a half to two hours depending on the size of the birds. They are ready when the leg falls away easily from the breast. Be sure to check carefully as pheasants can be tough. Carve and serve with mashed potato, gravy made from the juices and a green veg.

AUTUMN RABBIT

Rabbit is popular in Malta and at one time customers would choose their dinner from a visiting van which fascinated our children when they were small enough not to understand the significance of the large chopping board. This is an underestimated meat. It is lean, cheap and tasty, although it must be admitted that the taste may not suit everyone. Buy rabbit which has been jointed into pieces on the bone. Fresh is best but defrosted meat is just as acceptable.

1kg rabbit pieces	170g shallots	250 ml real ale such as Bishop’s Finger	4 juniper berries
30g butter	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp English mustard	1tsp brown sugar	tbsp olive oil
175ml double cream			

Heat 20g of the butter and half the oil in a lidded pan large enough to take all the rabbit pieces and fry for a few minutes on either side to seal the meat. Remove the pieces and set to one side. Peel the shallots and slice them finely before frying them over a gentle heat in the remaining butter and olive oil for 5 minutes until soft but not browned. Return the rabbit pieces to the pan, adding some seasoning, the mustard, juniper berries and sugar and then pour in the beer. Turn the heat up and bring to the boil, stirring well. Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover and leave to cook for 30 minutes, turning the meat a few times during the process. Remove the lid, stir in the cream, turn up the heat to bring it back to the boil and keep boiling for about 5 minutes or until the sauce is reduced to your liking. Top with apple slices fried in butter and serve with boiled new potatoes. **M.E.**



TOP GEAR



1. A sombrero is a wide brimmed hat from which country?
2. Name the well-known character created by cartoonist Reg Smythe.
3. What style of hat was worn by the comedian Tommy Cooper?
4. What do the Americans call a bowler hat?
5. Name the traditional lace headdress worn by Spanish women?
6. The French word for bell gave its name to this 1920's hat.
7. Which football team are known as 'The Hatters'?
8. Lady Gaga famously wore a hat shaped like which marine creature?
9. Which screen archaeologist/adventurer wears a 'Fedora'?
10. Who would wear a 'toque'?
11. Name the Irish couture milliner favoured by the rich & famous?
12. Which British Prime Minister favoured the 'Homburg' hat?
13. Who was famous for her fancy hat creations often seen at Ascot.
14. Who would wear a 'mitre'?
15. Napoleon Bonaparte is often depicted wearing this type of hat?
16. The word millinery is derived from which European city?
17. In which series of books would you find 'The Sorting Hat'?
18. What colour hat do The Smurfs wear?
19. Who wrote about 'The Cat in a Hat'?
20. What style of hat did Sherlock Holmes favour?

1.Mexico 2. Andy Capp 3.Fez (or tarboosh) 4.Derby 5.mantilla 6.cloche 7.Luton
8.lobster 9.Indiana Jones 10.a chef 11.Philip Treacy 12.Winston Churchill 13.Gertrude Shilling
14.bishop 15.bicorne 16.Milan 17.Harry Potter 18.white 19.Dr Seuss 20.deerstalker

RUNNING CLUB



August can sometimes be a bit quiet with lots of people making the most of the school holidays to get away and take a break, but that doesn't mean it's been all quiet on the racing front for some at GBRC. Some of the highlights are as follows:

We had great turnout at the SVP50 (Stour Valley 50 kilometre) . Doug McGillivray claimed first place and we also won the men's team prize with Craig Mitchell and Simon Leggett joining Doug on the podium. This was a great result given the temperatures on the day.

We completed Parkruns up and down the country in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Yorkshire. We also had runners cross the border to run at Strathclyde in Scotland and Gwynned in Wales, and our men's captain made it all the way to Denmark for Damhusengen Parkrun.

Adam Robey and Joshua Beaumont also took part in Hare & Tortoise Running's 'Outrun' event at Layer Marney Tower, where Josh completed 30 miles in 5:05:34 in the individual 12 hour event, and Adam completed 13 laps (32.5 miles) in the 12 hour pairs event.

We also saw some great results at the Essex County 5k Championships. A special mention to Chris Warren who ran a great time of 18:47 and is currently sitting in first place overall in the Men's Essex Grand Prix tables in his age category. There is still a long way to go in the series and Chris' age category is a particularly tough one with many strong runners but after the first four races he's put himself into a fantastic position. Well done, Chris.

The Essex 5k Championships took place at the Northern Gateway and Inga Hayden-Cooper picked up a county bronze medal for her time of 24:16. Emma Wright, Laura Cook and Katie Siggery represented us at the Clacton 10k.

Others have focused more on longer distances, with Helene Tyler walking the Bakewell 30 mile circular on 12 August, and Mags Komorowska running the Shotley 50, both organised by the Long Distance Walking Association (LDWA).

The local trail events have also proved popular this month, with Vicky Presland and Debs Hollidge completing the 14 mile 'Admiral McHilly', and Debs Hollidge, Helen Carey and Claudia Keitch enjoying 'For Horses Four Courses'.

The Essex Way Relay took place on Sunday 3rd September. This event starts in Epping by the station and finishes at the old lighthouse in Harwich. The distance is split into 10 legs. Some brave team members took on extra duties when circumstances prevented a runner from turning up for their leg. Given the heat this was dedication indeed. GBRC managed to put in 3 teams: given the logistics of this event, with runners dotted about all over the Essex countryside it was a very credible turnout and all went off smoothly with no mishaps or misadventures.

BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB

A minute's silence was held as we all remembered our friend Irene who so sadly passed away in August.

We were delighted to welcome back Jenny Gibbs who delivered an insight into the trials and tribulations that she and her partner Mustapha experienced when restoring their 200-year-old farmhouse in rural Turkey. Bedecked in traditional costume, she reminded us of how whilst on her first ever foreign holiday, she had fallen in love with the country (and Mustapha!). They now live in Turkey during the winter months and spend their summers in Suffolk. Their Turkish home is a traditional Ottoman House with beautifully carved doors, panels and trellises... the Ottoman Empire only ended in 1923. When they moved in, the house had been uninhabited for 10 years, well apart from the giant woodworms who had been feasting on the pine floorboards. Jenny said that as she lay on her mattress she could actually hear the uninvited visitors munching away! Following tradition they occupy the first floor whilst the animals live on the ground floor in the stables, she said that you soon get used to the smell!

Jenny described her beautiful walled garden where many citrus trees grow alongside peaches, plums and pomegranates. They do have to be on their guard against wild tortoises who enjoy eating the lettuces and other salad crops which they plant out.

We learnt about the structure of the farmhouse and the traditional building materials used to build and maintain their own little 'museum'. Jenny now has the luxury of running water, a kitchen, flush toilet and a shower, not so when they first moved in. Her vivid description of the original 'amenities' were a revelation!

After a rousing round of applause, members had the opportunity to buy some traditional Turkish silk scarves and pashminas.

Dates for your diary....

Our next meeting is Tuesday October 3rd 'Medical Detection Dogs' with Norma Howell

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

Early December Christmas Lunch TBA

NEW MEMBERS & VISITORS WELCOME

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 12th October 2023 7.30pm Village Hall
"Unusual People in Clacton" A talk given by George Hardwick

George is a member of the Clacton and District Local History Society.
Members £2 at door. Visitors £4 at door.



GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting in the Village Hall is on **Tuesday 17th October at 7.30pm** when Peter Miller of Kings Seeds will be speaking to us about the history of the business and the changes he has seen in the industry, sweet peas, and generally about seeds. Do come along and join us for this interesting talk. Guests are always welcome. Then on **Tuesday 21st November** Ken Crowther, former radio gardening programme presenter and author will be visiting us to speak about the changes through his years of gardening

We held our Autumn Show on 19th September and once again our Members excelled themselves with a wonderful array of vegetables, flowers and crafts. Thank you everyone who worked hard to make this a very enjoyable and successful Show. While judging of the exhibits was taking place the AGM was held. It was agreed that subscriptions for the coming year will remain at £16.00 and one more Member was recruited to join the Committee, which will enable the various tasks of running the Club to be spread around more. If anyone else would like to come on to the Committee they will be very welcome.

MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Magazine collating will be on **FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER**

in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am



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!**

Hedgehog carnage on roads

October 2023

This month we have sadly had numerous hedgehogs and hoglets who were victims of cars. There have been several with extensive and horrendous injuries to the head and face, with jaws displaced, teeth smashed, and gums dislodged. One arrived with the side of its head and ear missing, while another had extensive injuries to the chest and abdomen. The most common and depressing feature is that all these had been left by the side of the road or kerb for hours or even days. One was found in a busy shopping centre on a Saturday, with hundreds of people walking straight past it despite it being obvious it was still alive. While in many cases the injuries are too severe to be treated, we have had many hedgehogs who recovered from interactions with cars after painstaking care and therapy. Even those who are not going to make it do not deserve to die slowly in agony on the roadside. If you see an injured hedgehog please take time to pick it up and bring it to us. At best you will be saving a life of a species that is now red-listed as endangered in the UK, and at worst you will have alleviated terrible suffering.

If you are a driver please watch out for hedgehogs. They are not the fastest creatures and are not going to suddenly sprint out without warning. If you see a hedgehog crossing the road, give him a minute to cross safely. There are more disturbing photos on Facebook of hedgehog injuries that could have been avoided. If you do hit one, stop to see if it is still alive rather than leaving it to suffer.

The female mallard featured in last month's newsletter with the broken leg healed perfectly and has been released successfully.

A long-eared bat was caught by a cat and sustained such severe injuries he had to be euthanised.

This long-tailed tit fledgling was also caught by a cat, sustaining a smashed tibiotarsus, the bone in a bird's leg that corresponds to the mammalian tibia. He sadly died of shock.



Great Bentley Hedgehog Highways

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

October is here! As the nights grow longer, hedgehogs feed frantically to build up their fat reserves for the winter. They are now looking for a suitable site to spend the winter and build their hibernation nest. This site needs to be a well concealed spot. They construct a warm nest in which they will shelter during the bitter cold months to come. The nest is known as a 'hibernaculum'. It is made of grass and leaves, which are weatherproof and long-lasting. The hedgehog brings leaves to the nesting site in its mouth, a few at a time. The construction is held in place by surrounding support twigs, bramble and brushwood. The nest walls can be up to 10cm thick. Next winter the hedgehog will make a new nest even if the old one is perfectly usable.

Like all animals, hedgehogs need energy to carry out their normal functions. Energy in their case comes from beetles, slugs, worms and other small creatures they consume in the course of a night's foraging. In the summer, these invertebrates are plentiful and the hedgehog has no difficulty fuelling its system. But as the weather gets colder food becomes scarcer. This means hedgehogs are in danger of using up more energy in finding nourishment than it gains from eating it. Birds that also feed on insects face a similar problem and many solve it by migrating to warmer countries where insect life remains abundant. The hedgehogs can't do this, instead the hedgehog cuts down energy consumption as much as possible by hibernating until the warmer weather renews its food supply.

Hedgehogs need to be at least 600g by early December in order to have enough body fat to survive hibernation. The current evidence has shown that if otherwise healthy, young hedgehogs weighing over 450g can survive hibernation. But are more likely to survive if weighing 600g - 650g. Hedgehogs, unlike most mammals, lack insulation of a warm fur coat. Keeping the body warm requires a lot of energy, so it goes into hibernation. The hedgehog's temperature can drop from a normal 35°C to that of its surroundings 10°C or less. However if the temperature drops dangerously close to freezing point, the hedgehog's system switches on a low level of warmth to prevent it suffering from frostbite or possibly freezing to death. Other bodily functions such as digestion, growth and breathing

October's top tips to help hedgehogs

*Keep a section of the garden overgrown, like a wilderness to encourage hedgehogs to build their 'hibernaculum' nest. Don't clear fallen leaves, the leaves are valuable bedding material.

- Provide hedgehog houses to encourage well protected winter nests.
- Supplement their natural foods by offering hedgehog food, or meat-based cat or dog food, or cat biscuits. Not fish flavour, as hedgehogs can not digest fish. The food can be protected from other animals, such as cats and foxes by using a feeding station.
- Offer a shallow bowl of water – never give milk as hedgehogs can not digest milk
- Monitor the growth of the hedgehogs in your garden, if you are worried contact us at Kinfauns vets or via the Great Bentley Hedgehog Highways Facebook page.
- Now the nights are becoming darker help Demi in her campaign to make people aware of the amount of hedgehog deaths on the road. This can be done by displaying a hedgehog slow down sign in your front garden or on your wheelie bin. Help us create a map of live and also dead hedgehogs in Great Bentley. This can be done by joining our Facebook page and recording your resident hedgehogs on there.

Emma Garrod RVN, C&GCertVNES

KNIT & NATTER

Thursday 19th October

St Mary's Church Hall

2.00pm - 3.30pm

All Welcome



TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Pride of Tendring Awards

The Chairman of TDC, Cllr Gary Scott, has announced that the nomination period for the Pride of Tendring 2024 Awards has now opened. This prestigious event, is now in its 12th year, which continues to be one that inspires and celebrates the achievements of groups and individuals throughout our District. The nomination period is open until 5 pm on Monday 30th October 2023 and your nomination can be submitted via the following link:- [Pride of Tendring Awards 2024 - Nomination Form](#)

Jaywick Sands Sunspot Opening of a Commercial Workspace Development

The Sunspot is a £5.3 million project made up of 24 Commercial units with a mixture of retail and office space along with a covered market and opened by the Minister on Friday 1st September. It is said that this is an historic moment to be seeing the creation of these new units and a shared market place, which has come about through shared partnerships for Jaywick. An opening event was held on the 25th September.

The Clacton Diagnostic Hospital

If as a patient you need to attend the new look at Clacton Hospital through the Diagnostic Centre, let me assure you that you will be nicely surprised, especially at present with Blood tests and x rays. Everything is new and there are not the long queues now when attending, and those who have attended are greatly surprised as to how quickly they are seen. There is much more work being carried out at the hospital which will only improve the amazing new service that is already being provided to patients.

Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Public Meeting – 25th October 1900 – 2000

The meeting will be held in the Committee Room at the Town Hall, Clacton. The Crime Commissioner meetings are popular, so if you do have any concerns that you would wish to relate to the Commissioner then do please attend the meeting.

There is a Consultation now taking Place to Tackle Irresponsible Dog Owners in Tendring

An area-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is being proposed by Tendring District Council, targeting dog fouling and nuisance dogs off leads. If it goes ahead the PSPO would allow council officers to request a dog is put on a lead and issue fines to owners who do not comply. The PSPO would cover all public land, including TDC and Town and Parish Council land in the District. A 12 week consultation is now live and residents are being encouraged to take part, through this link to the web site www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultation Paper copies of the consultation are also available in the Clacton Town Hall for people to complete.

Drive to Increase Food Recycling Comes to Tendring

Tendring households will soon be getting extra support in a bid to boost food recycling in the district. Suitable homes will receive a sticker on their black bin reminding them to recycle food waste, along with a roll of food caddy liner bags and an information leaflet. The initiative, is being led by Essex County Council in partnership with local authorities including Tendring District Council (TDC), and is being rolled out in three phases across the county in a bid to reduce the 25% of food waste which currently is not recycled.

Councillor Malcolm Buckley, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling, said: "Food doesn't harmlessly breakdown when it goes to landfill. It actually releases methane, which is a harmful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change, costing Essex taxpayers £9 million a year. Last year Tendring recycled more than 4,300 tonnes of food – equivalent to 360 double-decker buses. For more information about the project and how to recycle your food waste, visit www.loveessex.org/food-recycling

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.

Many thanks

Cllr Lynda McWilliams

Tendring District Councillor for The Bentleys and Frating Ward

e-mail cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk

Mobile Phone number 07564 613603

The sun will come out tomorrow

It's another drab, dull day but I must call in on my mate this morning. We've been friends since I can remember but as he gets older, he worries a lot - not about one thing in particular - just an invasive angst. He was once a very pragmatic person, held in high regard by many of his contemporaries - still is by some - but now, on awakening, he remembers those silly, inconsequential mistakes he made in the past - they now haunt him. Sadly, and increasingly, his early mornings are spent lying in his unkempt bed, staring at the ceiling of his grubby bedsit, searching for faces in the patterns of the aging textured artex. I need to be there when he stirs, to reason with him as he looks around his untidy room and realises that he has again failed to complete yesterday's jobs. Like every day, he had a drink instead. Not that having a drink is a crime I tell him, in fact, it is often a positive thing because, with drink, the mind becomes more creative, our thoughts producing so many interesting ideas that we cannot decide where to begin. I need to remind him each morning about his past - not in a nasty way - sometimes even talking positively about the old days when everyone valued his conversation and how he enjoyed the laughter of those boozy parties. However, it would be wrong not to mention those missed job opportunities and the times when he chose the comfort of the pub rather than attend a tiresome interview.

Matters get even worse when he sleeps, his shallow sleeping patterns resulting in dreams and nightmares which summon up disturbing images. Some dreams even scare me, particularly that horrible shiny metal crab-like creature moving slowly - grating and scratching - paying him intimidating attention. I told him not to be frightened, that not only is it slow, it does not have claws either so can never hurt him. But he tells me that it never stops following him, that it must represent a past transgression, something for which he must be punished, something historical the details of which he cannot remember. Being unable to conquer those fears he lies in his bed, his fingertips involuntarily drumming double-time with his pounding, rhythmic pulse.

Clocks he regards with deep suspicion - bordering on the conspiratorial - particularly digital clocks with large numerals. Digital clocks tease him he feels, especially when those numerals are repetitive or in sequential order - when the hour numbers match the minute numbers. That, for him, signifies a coming misfortune, a pending prescience. I told him to buy a clock with hands, the old-fashioned ticking clock with green paint on the hands and numbers so you can see the time in the dark because we often have our chat when he's lying in bed in the dark. He never did. He is convinced that the digits correspond deliberately, that some unknown force compels him to look at the clock at precisely the moment when the minute and the hour numerals coincide. We hate it. His mind now *expects* them to coincide, so he sometimes hesitates before looking, only to find that they coincide the moment he does look. I shout at him when he hesitates.

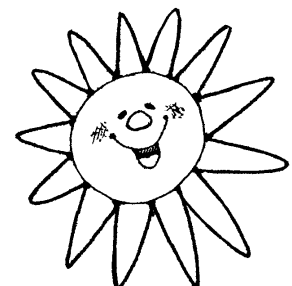
Planning ahead is like having a list of 'things to do'. Such lists annoy him as he feels that the listed items insist that he does them. Why should he obey a list? It's much more comfortable these days to avoid objectives, after all, when he was working, he was good at meeting objectives and deadlines. I tell him he was good - other people used to tell him he was good - he knows he was good. But today he worries, so it's better not to try. It's like climbing a cliff face, to be one step from the summit - one more step - then something goes wrong and he will slip and fall.

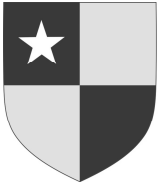
We have a laugh during the day. It's the morning he hates, those morning conversations we have after he wakes up drunk and despondent - every morning the same - dirty laundry scattered about the room, those familiar faces in the artex, and the pounding of his heart with his fingertips keeping time. Cognisance brings about a realisation that, yet again, he has failed to do those jobs he promised to do. And, as always, there is that damned digital clock, those bright amber numbers matching and mocking him, causing his stomach to twist and contract. It is at that point of despair that I tell him he has to change, quite forcibly insisting that he has to become more determined to accept responsibility for this corrosive dereliction. He usually sheds a tear at this point, as he dolefully repeats his pledge to do so. I shout at him in his own words because he knows that I am helping him to see reality, that he must not continue in his world of hopeless discontentment. We then become more resolute, we say to each other that we can change, he even says it out loud to the empty room that he must change - that he *will* change.

We stop talking for a while, to give him time to think - it makes him feel better. I usually leave him at this point, when his mouth becomes dry. He moistens his lips and lays back in his bed, rubbing his face with the palms of his two sweaty hands. He glances around the room - the floor - scans the pots in the sink. Then focuses on the fridge.

Come on! A couple of dirty shirts lying on the sofa isn't the end of the world, is it? I'll get round to doing something about it later. Look outside - look! it's another drab, dull day out there. To hell with those stupid jobs, I'll do them tomorrow when the sun comes out.

JE.





GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the
Council: Jennifer Spear

Tel: 01206 256410:

Email: clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

This month has continued to be busy for the Parish Council but we have enjoyed being able to go out into the community and meet some of the volunteers whose tireless efforts provide so much value to the people in Great Bentley. Volunteers are the bedrock of our community, many of which do this not for recognition but to help and support those in the wider community. The council have launched a Volunteering Board in the Parish Magazine to raise awareness of some of the groups and signpost willing volunteers to the correct point of contact. Any groups wishing to be included should email the Parish Council.

Having met with some of the train station volunteers, it is clear to see why they have been awarded a Greater Anglia Wildlife Friendly accreditation. When next passing or travelling on the train, please take some time to visit and see how beautiful and diverse our train station platforms are including the recent addition of a montage of 'Spinney' paintings created by our own Great Bentley Art Club. There are some exciting proposals for the future of the station and we look forward to collaborating with the volunteers.

It is great to see our PCSO Julia Brandon back in the village. Speeding and parking remains a growing problem which is reflected in her update. If you park in the village, please be considerate and think of others. We are engaging with the Parking Partnership and Essex Police in order to increase their presence in the village and where needed, promptly intervene with those whose parking or speeding present a safety issue. We all have a social responsibility and therefore please be safe and report any incidences you may find.

We have published our Environment 20 Step (E20) Strategy to meet our Biodiversity duty and provide a roadmap in how we wish to address environmental issues in the parish. Supported by a community of volunteers we truly believe that we can be an example to other villages to follow whilst making a difference to the lives of all the residents. You can find more information about the biodiversity duty and E20 Strategy in our article this month.

We appreciate that there is a lot going on in the village and sometimes residents may not feel that they are aware of what is going on. We are lucky to have an excellent Parish Magazine but also the council appreciates that we can communicate more. For those on social media, you are encouraged to follow us on Twitter / 'X' or email the clerk directly. If you have any concerns or wish to clarify an ongoing matter, please email the clerk.

Lastly, we would like to thank all those people who have provided feedback on both the outside fitness equipment proposal and the 20's plenty scheme. Your views and opinions are much appreciated and essential in enabling the council to make informed decision making.

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Thursday 5th October at 7:00pm and Thursday 2nd November in the Village Hall. Cllr. John Wharton

Introduction of the Environment 20 Point (E20) Strategy

By 1 January 2024, public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in their local areas. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' that the Environment Act 2021 introduces. This means that, as a public authority, your Parish Council must:

1. Consider what we can to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
2. Agree policies and objectives based on our considerations.
3. Act to deliver our policies and achieve our objectives.

We are privileged to have a substantial Green and a lot of work has already been conducted to preserve and enhance other green and blue spaces including allotments, cemetery, areas used for sports and Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

Your Parish Council is committed to addressing current and emerging environmental issues and continuing to improve and maintain accessible areas for all. This is why we have published our 'Environment 20 Point (E20) Strategy' which is available on the Parish Council website.

Our priorities include:

- Enhancing the quality of green spaces to promote nature, benefit wellbeing and provide connecting corridors for wildlife;
- Increase climate education through community and school projects and wider engagement across the parish;
- Increase good quality cycling and walking infrastructure to improve health and reduce carbon emissions and air pollution;
- Putting climate and nature at the heart of decision making.

In addition, we continue to consider options as to how we can best manage our green spaces and create habitats for wildlife and 'nature corridors' that connect existing habitats. An example of this is the excellent work by our Train Station volunteers resulting in the station receiving a 'Wildlife Friendly' accreditation.

Residents are encouraged and invited to make suggestions to the Parish Council in how we can continue to protect the environment, increase biodiversity and safeguard wildlife. Please send any suggestions to the clerk for consideration.

clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

SEPTEMBER DIARY

OCTOBER DIARY

- Tues 3rd **BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Thurs 5th **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, Village Hall
- Fri 6th **COFFEE & CHAT**, Methodist Church, 10am
- Sat 7th **MUSICAL EVENING**, St Mary's Church, 7pm
- Sun 8th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St George's Church, Gt Bromley,
10.30am
- Mon 9th **BENTLEY GREEN PLAYERS AGM**, Village Hall 7.30pm
- Tues 10th **ART CLUB**, 2pm, Village Hall
- Thurs 12th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 14th **PUMPKIN EVENT**, CO7 8HD, page 7
- Sun 15th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Thurs 19th **KNIT & NATTER**, 2pm, St Mary's Church Hall
- Tues 17th **GARDENING CLUB**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 21st **REMEMBERING IRENE COFFEE MORNING**,
Village Hall 10am-12 noon
- Sun 22nd **DEANERY CHOIR**, St Edmunds, Tendring, Evensong
- Tues 24th **ART CLUB**, Village Hall, 2pm
- Fri 27th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, 9am, St Mary's Church Hall
- Sat 29th **CLOCKS CHANGE**
- Sun 29th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St George's Church, Gt Bromley,
Communion Service