

Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community
for the Community**



January 2024

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Sue and Faris Shimali 07973 534301

FOOTPATH REP.

melanie.sawers@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

EDITORIAL

If I am honest, I sometimes wonder if anyone actually reads this magazine, but then something happens that makes me realise at least one person might! What prompts this thought? Well actually I was so impressed when I found some donations for the recent Christmas Tree Festival, which had been left in my porch by an anonymous donor. Attached was part of my August Editorial... "We include our first reference to Christmas" and a plea for donations to the aforementioned December event.

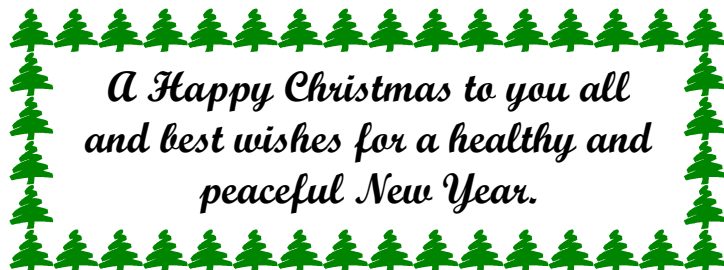
Thank you to the Plummer family and helpers for the wonderful Christmas lights display which this year has spread to the Northern side of the green to the doctor's surgery. I don't know how you feel but I was a little saddened that there were no fireworks this year at the switch on. I do look forward to that. Memo to self, must grow up!

I love the School Notes and I am always impressed by the wonderfully diverse subjects that are studied in our village primary school. What lucky pupils. It was wonderful to see the school choir performing at the Christmas Tree Festival and they all thoroughly enjoyed their refreshments afterwards. As always their manners were impeccable and their enthusiasm infectious.

The Parish Council Notes this month are a little different and it is interesting to learn a little more about those who represent us on this statutory body. An unenviable job which few volunteer for. A huge thank you to those who give their time to fulfil these roles. Thanks must go, I believe to the clerk, who has managed at last to get the village clock at the front of the school, working once again. If any of you have a new year's resolution to exercise and eat more healthily, why not consider applying for an allotment plot?

As we start another year in the life of our village magazine, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helps in any way. Those who contribute articles (a lovely first hand account of the 1953 floods included), who proof read, distribute door to door, advertise each month, type, print, staple and collate. So many people who give so much of their time to make this all possible.

Please, as winter deepens, keep an eye on neighbours who may need a little extra help.
God bless you all,
Mary Maskell



2024

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FRONT COVER

**Great Bentley
School Choir
at
Christmas Tree
Festival**

DISCLAIMER

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LETTER FOR JANUARY

Dear Friends,

First may I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

As we step into a new year we step into new beginnings and look forward to the time when we will be joined with our fellow churches, St Osyth, Weeley and Little Clacton. We take time out of our busy lives as we pray for all four parishes as we are brought together in faith to celebrate the unity with one another. But I cannot start the new year without saying wow!! Thank you all those who contributed in one way or another to the success of our Christmas Tree Festival and all your support through 2023.

A special thank you to all those involved with the running of St Mary's Church from churchwardens, treasurer, visiting clergy, lay support for taking services, pastoral care team, magazine team, sidespersons, flower arrangers and cleaners. To one and all a great big thank you. To name everyone would take up the whole of this page as there are so many nameless workers who give their time and energy in supporting the church in many ways. If you think you would like to volunteer in any way towards the running of the church please contact Wendy Smith 01206 250098.

As we move into the new year we will be joining our Methodist friends for services in their church and they will be joining us in our church in January.

We look forward to a period of working together through Lent and I am sure we can have a very successful new year.

Canon Wendy King

Friends of Great Bentley Churchyard 100 Club

Very many thanks to all those who renewed their squares for this year, whether by cash, cheque or BACS, and to those who have joined for the first time. We are now the 134 club! The first draw of this year took place at the Tree Festival 3/12/23, and the winners are:

1st prize, square 63: Pam White

2nd prize, square 133: Pam Hills

Very many congratulations to them, and good luck to everyone else for the next draw which will be in May.

If you are not a member yet and would be interested in joining the 100 Club please email Annabel Stearn at wylieandsinger@talk21.com

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

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:

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

We wish you a
peaceful
Christmas and
New Year.



We welcome you to worship at Church or on Zoom
with us during January.
All our activities are held at our Church in the centre
of the Green.
Morning worship will be held at **10.30am** unless
otherwise stated.

The leaders of worship are set out below:-

January 7th Jane Allison

January 14th Rev Tom Osborne

**Annual Covenant service. We are pleased to
invite our friends from St Mary's to this service**

**January 21st 9.30 Week of Prayer for Christian
Unity** We shall join our friends at St Mary's for this
service, **Note the 9.30 am start.**

January 28th Ann Scott

Events in January:

Coffee & Chat January 5th 10am in a warm place.
Twelfth night the end of the Christmas celebrations.

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

Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 10th January
Each second Wednesday of the month at 9.30am we
collect sandwiches and take them to our Trinity
Church in Clacton for those struggling to buy food for
themselves. Collection at our Church before we go to
Clacton at 9.30.

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

Ring these numbers for more information

Messy Church once a month after school 250465
Parent & Toddlers Group Thursdays 9-15 a.m.
251537
The Adventurers Club. Fridays 7 p.m. Ring 250465

ST MARY'S SERVICES

Sunday 7th January - Epiphany

10am Joint Benefice service at St Mary's
Laurie Bond

Sunday 14th January - 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am Methodist Church - Annual Covenant

Thurs 18th Knit & Natter, 2-3.30pm, Church Hall

Sunday 21st January - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Service for Christian Unity Week

Sunday 28th January - 4th Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Morning Prayer
Phyll Wood

BAPTISM

19th November - Joey Goody

FUNERALS

29th November - Myrtle Clayton

6th December - David Darlington

11th December - Marjorie Michell

ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR JANUARY

Sidespersons & Readers

7th Carole Allington
14th Methodist Church
21st Chris Aplin
28th Mandy Miles

Prayer Rota

7th Nicky Justice
14th Methodist Church
21st Carol Kerridge
28th TBC

Coffee Rota

7th Hannah Justice
14th Methodist Church
21st Lyn Gordon
28th Wendy Smith

Cleaning Rota

6th David & Rosemary Branch
13th Bev Adams
20th Edna Black
27th Nicky Justice



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

A most sincere thank you to everyone who helped in any way at the Christmas Tree Festival on 2/3 December, and those who came and supported us.

We were so grateful to all who baked, made jam, marmalade or chutney, and for the wonderful Christmas cake for Guess the Weight of the Cake. Also for donations to the bottle tombola, gift stall, win a toy stall, raffle and tombola and those who made food to sell in the kitchen for the refreshments and to all who manned stalls.

The themed Christmas Trees looked amazing, although some people found it quite tricky to guess the correct answers and one person was heard to remark "I think they were all Jingle Bells!"

Special mention for the hard work that went in to the putting up and decoration of the huge church tree (see page 5) and thanks to George Wright who donated both it and the Memory Tree outside, with all donations going to St Helena Hospice this year. Lots of stars already fixed on the tree bearing messages to loved ones who are no longer with us.

A very special thank you to **THE STARS** of the show, the Great Bentley School Choir. Their joy in performing was infectious and it was so lovely to see every pew full of proud Mums, Dads and grandparents. We loved the way they all tucked in to their cup cakes and drinks as a small thank you from us after their performance.

Last but not least to Andrew who gritted the path to keep us all safe on our way up and down to the church door in the frosty conditions, and Richard who played the organ on Sunday morning. The total raised was just over £4,000.

THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

ANSWERS TO THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL QUIZ

1	Frosty the Snowman	Ladybirds Pre-School
2	I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing By	Gt Bentley Station Adopters
3	Rockin' Robin	Methodist Parent & Toddler Group
4	In the Bleak Midwinter	Football Club
5	White Christmas	Bentley in Bloom
6	Driving Home for Christmas	Bentley Green Ladies Club
7	12 Days of Christmas	Great Bentley School
8	Let it Snow	Squirrels
9	The Holly and the Ivy	Beavers
10	Jingle Bell Rock	Parish News
11	Mistletoe & Wine	Wendy King
12	Sleigh Ride	St Mary's Bellringers
13	Jingle Bells	Rainbows
14	Away in a Manger	Great Bentley Pre-School
15	Little Drummer Boy	Knit & Natter
16	Ding Dong Merrily on High	Friends of the Green
17	Silent Night	Methodist Church
18	My Grandma was run over by a Reindeer	Adventurers Club
19	Jingle Bells	Cubs
20	Blue Christmas	Gardening Club
21	All I Want for Christmas is You (Ewe)	Kay Sadler
22	Fairytale of New York	Village Show
23	Hark the Herald Angels Sing	Linda Hayes



Many people enjoyed taking part in the quiz and a lot got most of the answers correctly but the winner was the Great Bentley Cubs who got every question correct. Well done.

The winner of the Guess the Weight of the Cake competition was Claire White who was the closest to the actual weight which was 3.135 Kg or 6lb 14.5 oz. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Mandy and I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has helped to keep our church running smoothly over the last 15 months.

Whether you help inside or outside in the grounds, we could not have done it without you! It shows what an abundance of fellowship and love there is in our community.

God bless you all,
Wendy and Mandy

Christmas Tree Festival 2023

On behalf of St Mary's Church, I would like to thank everyone who supported the Raffle and Turkey Squares fund-raisers. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over £900 from these two events.

The winner of the turkey voucher towards a fresh turkey to the value of £70 was Jan Turner of Great Bentley and the surprise second prize of £25 was won by Astrid Maytum from Brightlingsea.

We are very grateful, too, to Hubert's Happy Turkeys, who have supported us once again with their kind donation.

It is thanks to everyone's generosity that St Mary's can be maintained in good condition and function for the benefit of the whole community.

People are often surprised to discover that a parish church such as ours is largely funded by voluntary donation and giving. That is why our three main fund-raising events each year are so important. They are the Christmas Tree Festival, the May Fair and the Art and Flower Festival every September.

We are always very appreciative of any support from church members and the local community at these events. Everyone is very welcome.

Once again, many thanks.

Rosemary Branch

GREAT BENTLEY TUESDAY CARPET BOWLS CLUB

The Great Bentley Carpet Bowls Club has been very successful during 2023 with a number of new members joining. During the past year we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with a lunch in the Fusilier Pub Great Bentley. Christmas was celebrated with a Seasonal lunch in the Barn Café and Restaurant Aingers Green.

The final afternoon of play was on the 19th December where mince pies and Christmas cake were enjoyed by the members. The club will restart play on the 9th January 2024.

For all the new over 55s in Great Bentley and its surrounding area we meet every Tuesday afternoon in the Great Bentley Village Hall from 2pm till 4pm with a tea break mid afternoon. If you would like to join a jovial, friendly village club who enjoy general exercise in a friendly and stress-free atmosphere please come along. The first two weeks are free then its £3 a week towards Village Hall rental and Insurance with a £10 annual membership. No experience required and all equipment is supplied.

For further details please contact the Club Secretary Hilary on 01206 250969 or 07535 107335 or just turn up at the Village Hall where you will be made welcome.

We look forward to meeting you.

Malcolm

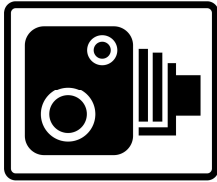
MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Magazine collating will be on **Friday 26th January**

in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am

ALL WELCOME TO COME AND HELP COLLATE

Community Speedwatch Update



The team were able to do several speed monitoring sessions around the village during November, and despite the worsening weather and more difficult road conditions, a further 72 motorists were reported to the Police for driving at excess speed during the month. That brings the total number of reports for Great Bentley so far this year to 573!

Top speed recorded in November - a staggering 74mph in a 30mph zone! What do you say? (especially in the Parish newsletter). 'Accident waiting to happen' hardly covers it.

The Police have continued with their own enforcement activity in and around Great Bentley and I believe they have continued to detect large numbers of drivers travelling at excess speeds. Again, what do you say when people continue to speed into areas where enforcement is likely? Words like 'fines', 'points', 'court' and 'disqualification' come to mind. Please remember to watch your speed before something tragic happens, especially as we get further into winter and the festive season begins!

To close, Great Bentley's (recently expanded) Community Speedwatch team would like to say again that we're very grateful for all the support we've had from local people throughout 2023 and wish everyone keeping to the speed limits in our village a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to everyone in Great Bentley. Another year has passed and so many events have happened. Too many to mention but it shows the village cares. The village Green is the place where so many of us congregate and it is a brilliant space. Thank you to everyone who plays their part to make things happen.

We are lucky.

All our best wishes for the festive season
Ulli & Dave Flinn

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

Methodist Church

Christmas Eve

10.30am Robert Taylor - Carols for Christmas
with our musical family

Christmas Day

Invitation to join with our Tamil friends in our Church
at 10.30am or at St Mary's at 10am.

St Mary's Church

Christmas Eve

9.30am Messy Church & Making of
Christingles - Church Hall

6.00pm Christingle Service

11.30pm Midnight Service

Christmas Day

10.00am Family Service

CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING

This will take place on Saturday 6th January
from 10am to 12 noon near the Cricket Club.

Donations please which will be divided
between Brain Tumour UK and the
Air Ambulance.
Please give generously



ANNUAL DIARY

4th February	Bentley Half Marathon
18th May	May Fair, St Mary's Church
25th May	Gardening Club Plant Sale
31st August	Village Show
14th & 15th September	Flower Festival & Art Exhibition at St Mary's
7th & 8th December	Christmas Tree Festival St Mary's Church
13th December	A Christmas Carol with Antony Roberts

The St. Osyth Witch Trials Part 3



Brian Darcy seemed to be proud of how he held the investigation and employed a scribe about whom only the initials are known 'W.W.' to record the events. This he published in a pamphlet only a month after the trials took place. For several of the accused he questioned their young children. It must have been incredibly frightening to stand in the hall at St. Clere's surrounded by well-to-do adults as a poor, unschooled, 8 year old child. He promised the women that they would be treated leniently if they confessed. He declared it was right to lie to the women as they were witches and it got the confession he was after. He paid a local woman to search the accused for signs of witch marks or areas on the body which could be the site the devil had sucked the blood of the women. Their search would often concentrate on the genitals. Polyps and skins tags which are often associated with post-menopausal women were seen as evidence of a pact with the devil. He questioned them for hours and hours at a time and kept them imprisoned between interrogations (possibly at 'The Cage' on Colchester Road). Brian had the homes of the accused searched and produced every day items as evidence of witchcraft. In several of the cases containers of wool were found and claimed to be purposefully placed to create bedding for imps and familiars. In reality the wool trade was the main industry of the community and preparing, dyeing and weaving the wool took place in the home. The women were accused of keeping pets which did their bidding and caused suffering or death to their victims. Talking to their pets was enough to convince Brian that the women were witches. It seems very odd to us today when our pets are very much part of the family. The actions of these animals however reflected that worst characteristics of the owners; wandering the village, scavenging, begging, and loitering in doorways. Enough to make the community suspicious.

The religious changes over the 50 years prior to the trials had a huge role to play. The older generation had learnt prayers in Latin and used them as part of their healing practices. Now to those brought up in the new Church of England tradition, the strange words the older ladies muttered sounded like spells or incantations. With the Catholic church the community had access to parts of the Priory grounds, visiting Osyth's Well to drink the healing water and pray to the saint for her intervention in their lives. Now the Well was part of the Darcy lands and shut off to the public. The new religion did not condone praying to individual saints and did away with the reciprocal relationship the saints had always had with the living. With the benefit of hindsight it is possible to see how the changes would have created a tension between the different traditions and generations over the years.

Helen Brown
Education Manager
Priory Education Centre

The legend of Osyth

Following on from a school trip to St Osyth

Long ago in the county of Essex, lived a girl called Osyth. Osyth did not want to be married. One day she fell in the river and drowned. St Modwenna prayed for Osyth to come out of the river alive. She did! It was a miracle! While her husband was away hunting, Osyth made her mind up to become a nun. She knew she would rather be an abbess than a queen. She decided she wanted to dedicate her life to prayer and become a nun. One day, a gang of Vikings had landed in Essex on the river near Nun's Wood. They were raiding monasteries and nunneries. The Vikings cut Osyth's head off. She picked it up and carried it to the church.

By Will Wright

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. Some luxury items for Christmas/New Year would be very welcome.

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



**Weeley
Veterinary
Centre**

Winner of Best Vet UK 2023

PET NOTES



Happy 2024 everyone. It's January and it's cold so to start off this year's articles I thought I'd focus on antifreeze.....

Q. What is antifreeze and why should we be careful?

A. Antifreeze is ethylene glycol, found in products including car screen wash, brake and radiator fluid. It smells really sweet so a puddle will be very attractive to pets (usually cats as they are free to roam) and if they drink even a small amount it is extremely toxic, causing damage to the kidneys and nervous system.

Q. What are the symptoms of antifreeze poisoning?

A. Symptoms include vomiting, lethargy, rapid breathing, twitching muscles and eyes, drinking more, unsteadiness, seizures and collapse.

If you suspect your pet has been exposed to antifreeze, ring your vet for an emergency appointment. Do not wait for symptoms to develop as the faster your pet is treated the better their chance of survival.

Q. What is the treatment?

A. Your pet is likely to require hospitalisation with treatment involving emptying the stomach, medications to stop the effects of the antifreeze and a drip. Even with intensive care, antifreeze poisoning is sadly often fatal so time really is of the essence.

Q. How can we prevent antifreeze poisoning?

A. Look out for antifreeze that contains a bittering agent to discourage pets from drinking it. Take great care to avoid spillages and clear up any that occur right away.

Dr April Young MRCVS

Happy New Year from myself and everyone at Weeley Veterinary Centre.

NEW ADVERTISERS

We welcome the following new advertisers

Four Nations Mortgages - page A

Essex Select Cars - page K

Happy Hounds Dog Walking - page L

**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

SESAW NEWS

Have you made any resolutions as you hang the new calendar, flip through the seed catalogues and holiday brochures or search for evening classes? Maybe you want to turn over a new leaf, eat less, exercise more – or how about volunteering once a week?

A few hours of your time can make a huge difference to charitable organisations struggling to provide much needed support in the community. Charity shops, food banks, befriending services, hospitals need help, or if you happen to love animals, the rescued dogs, cats and rabbits at SESA W need you too. Volunteering is a two-way street, your gift is more than compensated by the feelgood factor. Our human carers go home tired, sometimes dirty but happy to have spent time with the animals. They are happiest of all when they see people or families going home with their new pets.

If you would like to volunteer at SESA W, please contact me at: sesawken@gmail.com I'll ask one of my humans to call you to discuss how we could help each other.

If you plan to share your life with a new pet, do visit need of new homes. We are open by appointment email or leave a message on the answerphone and

SESA W. At the time of writing, we still have kittens in only due to our annual Winter shutdown so please someone will get back to you.

Mum's new diary is open on the desk, ready to nice, crunchy biro is too tempting to a little dog like

take your calls but she'll find her pen is missing. A me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua!

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

SUBS

Subs are now due and are £6 and £5 concessions. With your December Magazine you will have received a note which tells you WHO delivers your magazine.

Please write YOUR name and address on an envelope and put your subs in and then put it through your DELIVERER'S door.

They will be so grateful if you help them in this way. Thank you so much, Mary 250524

PS If you are buying your magazine from the shops, why not have it delivered to your door? (So much cheaper than buying the loose copies £8.40!!).

AGEWELL EAST

Living happier and healthier

We welcome you to come to our

COFFEE MORNING
Dementia Friendly

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

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

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

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

Thursday 25th January

THANK YOU

To all my neighbours in De Vere Estate who subscribe to the magazine.

A very big thank you to you all for subscribing to our Magazine and paying your subscriptions so quickly, very much appreciated, also welcome to Jack who moved here and subscribed to the magazine too, a get well message to Mark Canham, also relatively new to the area.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Carol McDougall



COOKERY CORNER

LAMB SHOULDER WITH SPROUTS

During the whole of last November our local supermarket had a special offer on lamb, which really attracted me, as it is a family favourite but is also usually the most expensive meat. We bought a whole shoulder and put it in the freezer for a celebration in one of the leaner months of the New Year. This recipe involves very slow cooking and will typically feed six people. I have included sprouts even though according to a recent survey they are the most disliked Christmas vegetable, a finding I am very

sceptical about!

a lamb shoulder approx. 1.5 to 2Kg	2 sprigs of rosemary	2 large onions	1 garlic clove
1tsp paprika	370 ml Guinness	250ml beef stock	500g fresh sprouts
40g butter	tbsp brown sugar	250g vine ripened cherry tomatoes	
a bunch of baby broccoli	¼ cup chopped hazelnuts		

Preheat the oven to 150 degrees fan. Peel the onions and cut into wedges. Peel the garlic clove and slice into about 8. Pierce 8 slits in the lamb and place a slice of garlic in each. Drape the rosemary sprigs over the meat, and sprinkle with the paprika and some seasoning. Arrange the onion wedges in the base of a roasting pan and place the lamb on top. Pour the Guinness and beef stock around the meat and cover the pan tightly with foil. Roast for about 6 hours until the lamb is falling off the bone, basting occasionally. Remove from the heat and set aside loosely covered to rest for 20 minutes.

Increase the temperature to 220 degrees and line a large baking tray with baking parchment. Melt the butter. Prepare and halve the sprouts and place them on the tray in one layer. Sprinkle with the brown sugar and drizzle with the melted butter. Season lightly with salt and black pepper. Toss until coated and spread out again on the tray. Roast, turning occasionally for 20 minutes until golden and tender. For the last five minutes of cooking add the tomatoes, the baby broccoli halved lengthways and the chopped hazelnuts, and stir slightly to mix with the sprouts. Transfer the mixture to a serving platter and top with thick slices of lamb. Drizzle with the pan juices and serve with a large bowl of already prepared Rumblethumps or plain mashed potato.

RUMBLETHUMPS

This dish is popular in Scotland and is thought to have originated in the Scottish borders. The name is a mystery but one suggestion is that the sound of the ingredients being thumped in a bowl with a wooden spoon could sound like a rumblethump! It is a variation on mashed potatoes and cabbage or other vegetables, similar to Bubble and Squeak in England and Colcannon in Ireland. Maris Piper potatoes are excellent for mashing, swede (called neeps in Scotland) is used, cooked and mashed with the potato, and a green cabbage such as savoy or kale provides strong colour and taste. Any remains can be cooked and set aside overnight to be reheated the next day with the addition of grilled bacon pieces, cooked sausages or a selection of leftover vegetables to create a main meal.

1kg potatoes such as Maris Piper	1kg swede	a Savoy cabbage	75g butter
2 small onions	100g mature cheddar		

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees fan. Peel the potatoes and swede and cut into smallish equal sized pieces. Boil both vegetables for about 15 to 20 minutes until softening (together or separately). Meanwhile prepare and slice the cabbage and onions roughly and fry in 50g of butter on a medium heat until soft. Mash the potatoes and swede with the rest of the butter and season to taste. Combine the sliced cabbage and onions in butter with the mashed vegetables and put into an ovenproof dish. Grate the cheese over the top, cover and cook for 30 minutes, then remove the cover and cook until browned. Excellent when eaten with a hearty stew on a cold day. **M.E.**

AGE UK HELP LINES

Age UK Advice Line 0800 169 65 65 www.ageuk.org.uk

www.ageuk.org.uk/health healthy living, diet, moving more, balance

www.ageuk.org.uk/careandsupport help at home, care needs, help for carers

www.ageuk.org.uk/inyourarea handy person, exercise classes, computer courses

www.ageuk.org.uk/benefitscheck entitlement, how to claim

www.ageuk.org.uk/housing adaptations, assisted living, sheltered accommodation

www.ageuk.org.uk/hotweather keeping cool at home, clothing, sun protection

www.ageuk.org.uk/scamsandfraud emails, phone calls, personal safety, unexpected visitors

www.ageuk.org.uk/legal power of attorney, wills, estate, when someone dies, 'Lifebook'

www.ageuk.org.uk/energy save energy, pay less, cold weather payments

www.ageuk.org.uk/keepwellthiswinter clothing, eating well, staying active, jabs, infection control

www.ageuk.org.uk/mentalhealth loneliness, mood,

Age UK friendship services 0800 434 6105 or www.ageuk.org.uk

Age UK's Telephone Friendship service could match you up with a volunteer for a friendly chat each week

The Silver Line Helpline – a friendly chat at any time day or night 0800 4 70 80 90

PLATINUM WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Dot and Reg Richer are having a belated Platinum wedding anniversary celebration in the church hall on Saturday the 13th January from 2.30 until 5.00pm for friends and neighbours. You are invited to join us for a celebratory drink.



CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Thank you to everyone who donated greenery for the wreath making session and to Jackie and Lynn who mopped up the rings (a very messy, damp, cold job), on Thursday ready for instant action on the Friday.

Special thank you to the ladies who assembled the wreaths on the Friday; Jackie, Lynn, Shelley, Rosemary, Carol, Mandy, Linda, Dawn and her friend Jackie. Thanks also to Carol for making our delicious lunch and lots of tea and coffee.

Last, but of course not least, thank you to everyone who bought the wreaths, we hope you enjoy them. All money raised from the sale of the wreaths will go towards the upkeep of St Mary's Church.

Thank you everyone and especially Jackie Kilby our leader.

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**

POLICE REPORT

RECORDED CRIMES-

From 01/11/2023- 28/11/2023

CRIME TYPES- 11

ASSAULT (Actual Bodily Harm) - DANGEROUS DOG - DOMESTIC - HARASSMENT X 2- MALICIOUS COMMENTS - OTHER X2 - PUBLIC ORDER - THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE - THEFT OF NUMBER PLATE.

INCIDENTS REPORTED –

ABANDONED VEHICLE - ALARM - CONCERN - DANGEROUS DOG - DISTURBANCE - DOMESTIC X3 - DRINK/DRIVE - HARASSMENT - HIGHWAY DISRUPTION X6 - INFORMATION X2- ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION - SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES X2- THEFT OF VEHICLE - THREATS

TRUCAM (SPEEDING)

3 Sessions of 1 hour each were deployed over the course of November.

Plough Road Aingers Green - 23 top speed 45 mph

Plough Road Aingers Green - 27 top speed 46mph

Thorrington Road- - 22 top speed 46mph

A total of 72 vehicles were reported for the offence, with a top speed of 46 mph in the 30mph limits for the month. The 30mph signs were checked before and after deployment and clearly visible.

Please Drive with due care and attention. There is no excuse for poor driving.

CONSIDERATE PARKING TICKETS (CPI,s)

1 considerate parking ticket was given out this month in the village. Vehicles are parking on **junctions** and **footpaths**, which causes obstruction and danger to the safety of others. These are both offences under the Highway Code. Considerate Parking Incentive tickets are aimed to educate drivers of the Highway Code.

Parking services have and will be attending the village on a regular basis and **fixed penalty notices** may be issued. No excuse for inconsiderate parking.

NITROUS OXIDE

Possession of nitrous oxide became illegal from 8th November 2023. Arrests have already been made in Tendring for this offence.

CCTV

There have been numerous burglaries reported across Tendring. It is worth installing CCTV at home which is a good way of keeping safe and monitoring your property to know who has been about when you have been away and give peace of mind. CCTV can help bring criminals to justice. If you are away from home during dark hours, set a lamp or two on a timer.

Vehicle lights

Remember to check car lights often now darkness is falling early and use them during bad weather to be visible to other drivers. If a bulb suddenly goes, Halfords are great to drive in to and they fit it for you there and then. But of course your local garage is better.

Police National Mobile Property Register (NMPR)

Register all your valuables on the police national register online www.immobilise.com If stolen items are later retrieved by police, we will know who they belong to. It is a good idea to take pictures of all valuables and write down serial numbers too. If items get stolen or go missing, it helps identify them.

Suspicious circumstances.

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

Reporting incidents the correct way.

To report an incident please ring 101 or for Emergency 999

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

Village Christmas Lights

It takes many people to create our Christmas lights, Kevin, Jackie, Matt and Katherine would like to extend their thanks to the following people;

David Black for helping to erect the tree.

Gordon and Edna Black for storing the access platform.

Derek Burdett for his electronic expertise in automatically controlling the lights.

Thank you to Julie and Comer for keeping the set-up team supplied with refreshments.

Thank you to Henry and Polly for providing the power for the switch on.

Thank you to Peter Harry, Matt, Steve and Owen for erecting the lights.

Thank you to Dave at the Old Rectory for providing Matt, Steve and Kevin with refreshments.

Thank you to Mick (Gt. Bentley Garage), Reg and Dot, Bev and Roger, Gordon and Edna and the Cricket Club committee for providing the power for the lights. We are indebted to these people, without their help there would be no lights.

Thank you to our doctors surgery for allowing us to erect lights across the front of their building and for providing the power for these.

Thank you to Lorraine and Paul for donating the mulled wine.

Thank you to Craig and Abbey, Paul and Lorraine and Louise for your help with the set up and refreshments £401.00 has been sent to EACH from the sale of the refreshments.

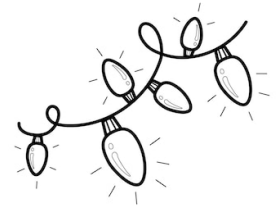
Thank you to Brightlingsea Rotary Club for bringing Father Christmas and his sleigh.

And finally, to all of the homeowners and businesses who gave us access to their properties in order to fix the lights etc.

Thank you to everyone who attended the switch-on, we apologise to those who were expecting there to be fireworks, we decided due to the backlash on Facebook last year not to have any this year. A great shame given that there has been a short display of fireworks since the very first switch-on.

We hope you all enjoy the lights.

With our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year



A potted history of Great Bentley Village Christmas Lights

As a family we have been involved with the lights/Christmas tree since 2002 when Mick Dorling asked us to help, however there has been a village Christmas tree since 1998. From the time we have been involved the tree was positioned on the green in line with the war memorial but nearer to the houses and I understand that prior to this it had been positioned outside the Cricket Club and The Plough. Unfortunately, the tree was a constant target of vandalism and after a particularly bad year it was decided to abandon the idea of the tree and introduce lights through the village. The lights were purchased in 2004 using grant money and money donated by the Friends of the Green/Parish Council. These were coloured lights that went from the Gt Bentley Primary School to The Post Office and from Hollytrees to the Cricket Club. However, villagers were disappointed that there was no tree and this was reinstated in its current position.

As the years passed the festoon became old and brittle and the lamps popped meaning that you would often see us replacing lamps.

Mary Maskell set about fundraising £10,000 which we anticipated would take a couple of years to raise, the first event being held in March 2018, much to our surprise the money was raised within 6 months and the new white LED lights installed for Christmas 2018 and in addition the motifs were purchased. In 2019 the lights were extended to the Red Lion and down to the church and an additional motif added.

Initially the light switch on followed Great Bentley school Christmas Fair on a Friday evening. However, this was difficult to manage and the event was moved to a Saturday evening and then to a Sunday evening. Over the years we have tried several different forms of entertainment at the switch on, but Father Christmas and the fireworks have always been part of the evening. In fact, in 2020 when we were unable to hold a switch on due to Covid, we advised people to listen out for the fireworks as a way of notifying the switching on of the lights.

J.P

NEWS FROM THE OAKS

Hello Everyone!

First I would just like to say that if anyone wants some respite over the Christmas period, we do have a spare room available! We realise how hard it can be to care for a loved one and are always happy to help where we can. For information please telephone 01206 250415.



Here at The Oaks we are preparing for our Christmas celebrations! The Home looks very Christmassy at the moment with all our trees and decorations!

We have had an eventful month, with lots of singing from our resident D.J. Jazzy Jay who is a big hit with all the residents!

We had Libby from 'Musical Moments' visit which was a big hit with the residents! Everyone enjoyed the music and the stimulation and fun Libby provided!

This month we have a very busy month, we have a lot of Christmas celebrations! We are starting with Elf day where we all dress up and have lots of fun. This is followed by Christmas Jumper day, Christmas Hat day and a Victorian afternoon tea. We also have a lot of Christmas Carols and card making going on! We also have our Christmas party with the Honey Ukes who come and play for us all!

We wish all our neighbours and friends a very happy Christmas and happy new year!
Sending peace and love to you all.

JANUARY 14TH

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at the 10.30am communion service. The anthem that they have chosen to sing is Balulalow by James Burton. Born in London, Burton studied at [Westminster Abbey Choir School](#) and he became head chorister of the Choir of [Westminster Abbey](#) in 1987. This experience has given him the tools to become a formidable composer.



**THE
DEANERY
CHOIR**



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

JANUARY 28th

The Deanery choir will be supporting the 10.30am service at **All Saints Walton-on-Naze CO14 8BU**. This is a return visit from September 2023 when after the Evensong the choir and congregation went down to the local pub. Perfect outreach!

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir Organiser

BENTLEY GREEN PLAYERS

It is with regret, due to a change in circumstances, the advertised Drama Group evening on January 20th will be postponed until Autumn.

The planned May Drama production, however will still go ahead on 16th, 17th and 18th May, full details to follow later."

WELCOME

Welcome to Leanne, Adam, Oliver, Callie and Barney (their lovely dog) to Cherrywoods and new residents to Cinderpath Way



Great Bentley Pre-school

www.greatbentleypreschool.co.uk

information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk



Firstly, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank all the parents/carers and children for their generous gifts and kind words at the end of term.

We hope you all have a lovely festive period and make some lovely memories with your families and friends.

This month I would like to welcome Barney, Alex, Grace, Christian and their families to our Pre-school. We all hope you enjoy your time within our Pre-school, and we look forward to working with you all throughout your journey within Early Years Education.

Our Christmas Nativity

What a wonderful performance the children put on both times, each year they amaze us. Sometimes we need to remember that these little children are only 2, 3 or 4 years of age, they all cope so well in what is a totally different environment, they all looked fantastic in their costumes, and not only did they make me and the staff so proud, but all their families too. When I look out and see all the audience beaming at these amazing children, it really does put a lump in my throat.

Thank you to all the parents for the lovely costumes the children wore, and for those that were lucky enough to come and watch, we really do appreciate your support.

A big thank you to all the church members for your help and support too in letting us perform in such a perfect setting, you are always so accommodating and helpful.

Job Vacancy

We still have roles available that we are looking to recruit for.

One is for a relief member of staff, and the other is potentially for a Wednesday and Friday morning with the possibility of increasing this up to the end of the academic year in July, this would be discussed with the successful candidate.

A qualification in Early Years is not essential for this position, however this would be preferred.

If you are interested, then please speak to me or Allison, or if you know of anybody that would be interested please ask them to send their CV in with a covering letter via email and we will be in touch.

Autism Coffee Morning

Our first coffee morning of the new year is being held on Thursday 25th January at 1:00.

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.

We always look forward to welcoming new faces so if you are or know anyone that is worried or concerned about their child, going through the assessment stages, or have a child who has been diagnosed and feel you might like to share your experience, then please come along and join in the discussion, we would love to see you.

You do not have to have a child attending the Pre-school to come along, so if you know of anyone that might benefit from this then please let them know.

Not much else to report this month, we will look forward to welcoming all the children back after the Christmas break on Monday 8th January and getting stuck into the new term.

Thanks for reading

Julie Wiles

SCHOOL NEWS

George in Year 1 has worked so hard at gymnastics, achieving 6 grades in just over a year, with each grade becoming harder. He has really tried and has never given up even when he finds a skill particularly tricky. He was awarded his grade 3 and has already started practicing for his level 2. We are super proud of him and all he does.

Year 3

Year 3 have been learning about fossils. During their maths lesson we solved multiplication and division questions, which allowed them to find the evil archaeologist that had stolen a fossil from the Natural History Museum. In science they learned about the famous fossil hunter Mary Anning and made their very own fossils.

Year 4

In art Year 4 have been learning about George Seurat who was responsible for devising the painting technique 'Pointillism'. Children used cotton buds and paint, to sketch and paint fir trees using this technique. They all showed super concentration skills as they created their masterpieces, ensuring that they varied the tones of green to depict depth and shadow, and took care to show the 'dots' of the techniques.

The children have also been enjoying find out about electrical circuits this term—they investigated what made a circuit and what a circuit needed to make a bulb light up.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a very exciting science lesson investigating the changes that occur to different materials when they are burnt by igniting different materials and observing what happened. The class were exceptionally well behaved and they followed all of the safety measures with great care. They made some very interesting discoveries and the class were then able to use their knowledge of combustion and the chemical reactions which occur to make sense of what they observed. Well done year 5 for being such careful, enthusiastic and curious scientists.

Year 6

Year 6 visited Duxford Imperial War Museum. They had a fun filled day which really helped them in their learning about World War I and World War II. They spotted spitfires and hurricanes as well as the more peculiar gyrocopter. As well as their studies about the war they were also able to climb aboard Concorde.

Children from year 5 and 6 attended a music competition workshop with children from Frinton on Sea and Elmstead schools. They used resources from the English National Opera composition pack to look at the structure of music and create sounds to represent graphics. The children worked together in teams to create a piece of music.

MYRTLE CLAYTON - EULOGY

Myrtle Vaughan was born in 1930, the youngest child by a number of years in a close, very loving family.

She was born at home, literally above the shop that played such an important part in the life of the village of South Ockendon at that time. The Vaughans owned the dairy and village shop.

As a very young girl she would go with her dad to the farm to collect the milk – she loved this and would sit proudly in the van while her dad chatted at length with the farmer – The farmer's horses would wander over to the van and mum would sit and tell them stories. She soon graduated to helping out with the book-keeping and was entrusted at a very early age with delivering the business takings to the bank.

She adored her older sister Margaret and brothers Ron and Den - and they in turn doted on little. Being the youngest sibling also meant that she became an aunt very early – she was just 8 when her first nephew Alvan was born and switching from being the baby of the family into helping her big sister with everything she could in raising her family came naturally. This bond was strengthened even further as Alvan was closely followed by Janet, Valerie and then Paul.

Mum was 9 when WW2 started and she soon said goodbye to her brothers who left to fight in North Africa and then Italy. This period of experience reinforced, or forged the characters of many of that generation – on the Home Front, rationing, air raids, make do and mend, self-sufficiency and minimising waste were issues that encouraged people to get on with life regardless of what it threw at them – there was no real alternative.

Margaret's husband, Ted had a career in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy and one weekend in 1950 he brought one of his colleagues home on leave with no idea of how this would impact the future of our family.

Bill Clayton and Myrtle met and fell in love. They spent many happy hours and days getting to know each other while riding their bicycles around the lanes of rural Essex – a time remembered fondly in one of dad's poems which he dedicated to mum:

“Cycle Song - For Myrtle

*Riding along the quiet lane
To the whirr of tyres on tarmac
And the song of a lark in the sky.*

*The lilt of your voice
Is as sweet as the May blossom;
Two hearts beating in unison,
At one with the joyous lark
High in the sunlit heavens.”*

They were married the following year when she was still 20 and once dad left the Navy, they moved to his home city of York.

Although far away from the close support of her family in Essex, Mum loved her time in York. She returned to Essex for the birth of Peter in 1952 but stayed in York to have Sally two years later. The family remained in York until later in the 1950's before dad's work took them to Wales for a few years. The family then returned to Essex and settled at Waltham Abbey in the early 60's. I was born in 1968 and we stayed in Waltham Abbey until the next significant phase of our lives when we moved to this part of the County in the mid 70's.

Her faith was incredibly important to her and much of her life revolved around the church, particularly with the Mothers Union at a Diocesan, Deanery and Parish level.

The seeds of self-reliance had been sown early in mum's life and now, inspired by the publication of a significant book of the time “Self Sufficiency”, we moved to Ravens Green in Little Bentley.

Very much in the countryside and with a garden big enough to grow most of our own food. The fact we were not on mains water or sewerage was a bonus to mum as we had our own well and as she would often tell people in later years, not even the drought of 1976 had any effect on our water supply!

It was around this time that arthritis of the spine started to affect mum significantly– restricting her ability to put in the hard physical graft needed to fully lead the Good Life. However, this resulted in one of mum's typical responses – she researched the subject, adjusted her diet, fully committed herself to finding a way, believed she could do it and simply got on with it.

At Ravens Green, and then Great Bentley when we moved here in the early 1980s, mum continued to play a significant role in the community. She loved poetry. She and dad were active participants in the village poetry group.

Her community work with the Mothers Union led to her setting up and running a caravan at St Osyth for mothers and their children who would otherwise never have been able to take a holiday or any kind of break from often very difficult circumstances – she did this selflessly for years and it benefitted many. Flower arranging in this church was very important and pleasurable for her.

Having kept the worst of her arthritis at bay, mum revelled in a smaller garden where she created beautiful flower beds before acquiring an allotment. Followed by another allotment!

I have referred to mum's dementia a few times and even though this cruel disease can change people and be incredibly hard on all those close to it, it remains as an important part of her story. Being discharged from hospital following a fall during the first weeks of Covid, she had no choice and was sent to a care home. Because of the first lockdown, no face to face family contact was possible for months. She didn't like it, but her resilience, determination and acceptance saw her through. St Marks became her home and she loved those who cared for her there.

One of the consolations of these past few weeks has been sorting through mum's effects and being re-introduced to who she was before dementia – getting to know the old her again. For example, being reminded of her incredible skill as a potter and seeing the wonderful work she created, being reminded of how important mum's faith was to her and how it helped guide her.

The last couple of weeks have also allowed me to hear other people's memories of her - most commonly, being kind, beautiful, stylish, a prolific jam-maker, creative, prudent, clever, accepting, caring, devoted and just... Myrtle.

Hwær Cwom? A Wander in Memories of Myrtle Clayton (1930-2023)

How, when word-hoard wells to overflow
With wealth of feeling and memory,
Am I, without abridgement, to ably show
Eloquently the essence of what you were to me?

Rightly, now that you've returned to God,
Called home to Him, I call to mind,
Wanderers over who's words we jointly trod,
Of that old world where you I now find.

Myrtle, ever mirthful matriarch of the Clayton Clan,
Memorably spoken, marvellously dressed,
You, who so loved your Thursday shopping plan,
Regaling into reality memories that impressed,

Tipping your tea while chitting your chat,
Lovebound riding the country lanes,
Ever keen to talk on York, and this, and that,
Speaking always with love that in me remains

Where now is the rider of the country lane?
Where now is the shopper who strode York's streets?
Where now is the hostess I long to sit with again?
Where is she now her time in this world's complete?

Enmeshed in memory, so long as I live,
Recalled in writing while words still rhyme,
Thereafter ethereal, having given all she had to give,
An unreachable flash of moments in time.

*Finley Clayton
November 2023*

BELLRINGING NOTES

Listen out for the bells ringing to announce and celebrate all the Christmas church services.

We will also be ringing the old year out on 31st December at 23.30 and the new year in at midnight.

As a group, St Mary's Bell Ringers would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and successful New Year!

If you would like to learn this ancient art and join our happy, friendly and welcoming group, then please contact me on the number below

Roger Carey-Smith
07422 880921

RUNNING CLUB

As ever November was a busy month for both our men and women. Starting with the men there are belated congratulations to Chris Warren who was Runner of the Month for October. Chris had a fantastic year overall, but capped it off with two great runs in October – the Southend 10km and the Tiptree 10 mile which sealed the County Gold Medal in the Essex Championships. We don't get many of those so like to make sure we publicise it when it does happen.

And onto the Runner of the Month for November: There have been some great performances in the cross country so far with Josh Beaumont and Doug McGillivray both posting top 10 finishes in consecutive races at the start of the season. Unfortunately for them they are matching each other and making it hard to pick one over the other! So this month the award goes to someone who has posted PBs at the Wix 5 (31:51) and the Hadleigh 10 (1:07:39), it's great to see someone making gains like this, so Steve Bullen, congratulations, November's Runner of the Month.

Looking back over the month we have obviously seen the start of the winter cross country season and members have been dragging themselves up and out to enjoy the cold/wind/rain/mud and cakes. We will host our very own cross country race at Hilly Fields in Colchester is happening on Sunday 10th December.

On Wednesday 20th there will be our annual fish and chips/Christmas lights run in Great Bentley. This basically involves a little bit of running and a lot of chips, so it's actually the dream activity.

November was a relatively quiet month for racing for Bentley ladies, however they still managed to find 5 milers, 10 milers, cross country, parkruns all over and trail runs.

The ladies Runner of the Month has been a scorer at cross country, has come 3rd in her age category at the Stowmarket Scenic 7 and was fourth in her category at the Hadleigh 10 miler. Quite a good month we reckon! It went to Kathy Bishop in recognition of all her efforts.

So as soon as the festive season ends we get on with planning our biggest event of the year the Great Bentley Half Marathon. As usual there will be some brief road closures but we hope to keep any disruption to a minimum.

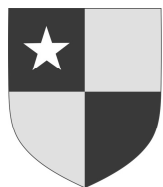
And as this is the last article of the year best wishes from all at GBRC to all in Great Bentley!! Wishing all a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2024!

GREAT BENTLEY MILITARY VETERANS CLUB

The next get together of the Veterans Club will be 10am at The Plough for breakfast **SATURDAY 6th JANUARY**. If you are ex-forces (any service/age), or still serving, SSAFA or RBL etc, why not join us for a bit of breakfast with banter. Our youngest member is still serving in the RAF and oldest a sprightly 99 (*yes ninety-nine*).

We also meet ad-hoc for social events and in the past year have met for breakfasts in The Plough, a happy hour (or two) at the Cricket Club, a stand at the Village Show and a social get together following Remembrance Day service. Interested?

Contact David Flinn BEM
Mob: 0742 114 1131



GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Tel: 01206 256410:

Email: clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

As I go into my second month (at the time of writing this article) as the new Assistant to the Clerk, I have been very surprised by just how many responsibilities the Parish Council has, allotments, planning application consultations, flytipping, maintenance of playgrounds, a possible new outdoor 'Green Gym' project, footpaths, grants for local projects, green protection signage, speed reduction schemes, liaison with Tendring District Council and Essex County Council, memorial benches, road closure notices and school clock repairs, which are just a few of the many duties!

Great Bentley Parish Council is made up of the following nine councillors who all volunteer their time and are committed to maintaining and improving the life of the residents in the Parish. The councillors have the vision to try to ensure the provision of facilities and services for our expanding community and to protect the parish, so it continues to be a great place to live, and it is the duty of the Clerking Team to support this vision.

Cllr. Pippa Dennitts has been Chair of your parish council since 2021 after serving as a parish councillor for six years. She believes in an active and proactive Parish Council and is passionate about hearing the views of all members of the community. Some of her key interests are in biodiversity, the village environment and the wider environment, plus she runs her own business and is an active member of the Bentley Green Players. Additionally, she is a charity trustee, has a pilot's licence and along with her husband Michael, she enjoys campervanning, mountain biking and walking their dog Cocoa. Do say hello if you see them out and about!

Vice Chair and Personnel Committee Chair is **Cllr. Peter Harry**, who has been a resident of Great Bentley since 2004. He and his wife Liz moved here after he retired from a career in the Royal Navy in which he served 38 years, retiring as a Commander in 2005. A Parish Councillor since 2019 he has a particular interest in Planning, Highways and Transport matters. Peter is the co-ordinator for the local Community Responder Group working with the East of England Ambulance Trust attending 999 emergency calls and recently he has joined the Village Veterans Group, which supports the veterans of all military services. You may also see him around the Green walking their black Romanian rescue dog Izzy.

The Finance Committee is chaired by **Cllr. Kevin Plummer** who has lived in Great Bentley all his life and is now in his third term as a parish councillor. Over 40 years ago he established his own electrical engineering business based at the village's Plough Road Centre, which he still runs today. He has been a governor at the local school for 26 years and chair of the governors for the last 10 years. In addition, Kevin is trustee of the Village Hall and a member of the management committee, plus amongst many other village activities he is closely involved with the Christmas lights.

One of our longest standing councillors is **Cllr. Robert Taylor** who specialises in street lighting and finance. He moved to this part of the country from Peterborough to work as a Professional Engineer with Eastern Electricity and together with Janet brought up their family in the village. Now retired, there are few parts of village life where he has not taken part including Chair of School Governors and then District Councillor for 18 years. During this time, he was Chairman of the Parish Council and later the Chairman of Tendring District Council. He also supports the work of the Methodist Church and serves as a lay preacher in the Tendring area. Robert is a representative on the Tendring Older People's Forum, has been Chairman of Great Bentley Good Neighbours since it began 40 years ago and currently serves on the Tendring District Association of local Councils on behalf of the parish council.

Cllr. William (Bill) Herbert is another long-standing councillor who along with his family before him has lived in the village his whole life. He is part of the Southside Track Working Group and PCSO Working Group, acting as a key liaison between the local communities and policing. Bill is also a member of the Finance Committee and the Chair of the Green Working Group and is instrumental in inspecting the green to try to protect it for the benefit of existing and future residents. His knowledge of the history of the Green is invaluable for the Parish Council who has the responsibility to protect it.

Cllr. George Wright and his family have lived in the parish for several generations, he is a local farm owner whose core business is growing potatoes. He has been a councillor for many years and is a member of the Green Working Group and PCSO Working Group. He supports many village activities outside of the parish council along with Parish Council projects, often lending machinery and offering his guidance to projects that the Parish Council are pursuing.

Our newest councillors only elected this year include **Cllr. Frances Edwards** who has lived in Great Bentley since 1984 and is now retired. Previously working for BT and raising her four children here, over the years as a family they have taken an active part in village life such as volunteering to help at the Village Show. She has been involved with several village organisations and currently belongs to the Wine Club and has recently rejoined the Ladies Club.

Cllr. Julian Jepson who has lived in Great Bentley for 5 years and is an active member of both the Cricket and Football Club, although he says his time for playing has long since past! He also works full-time mainly from home in Great Bentley. He has a keen interest in protecting our green spaces and is a member of the Parish Council's Green Working Group and the Football Club Liaison.

Cllr. John Wharton has lived in Great Bentley for 15 years although spending a lot of time away working in the British Army advising on the humanitarian treatment and protection of people during conflicts. As a result, he was invested as an MBE in 2019 for outstanding service to international engagement. Retiring in 2022 after a 27-year career, he is now a Change Management consultant who is passionate about community engagement and is Chair of the Environmental Working Group, a member of the Finance Committee and the project lead for the 'Green Gym' initiative.

There is still lots more for me to learn, but I have had a very caring and sharing welcome and I am looking forward to meeting many more of the residents of Great Bentley parish.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 4th January 2024 at 7 pm in the Village Hall, we hope to see you there!

Clare Hamlet – Assistant Clerk to the Council
clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

KNIT & NATTER

Thursday 18th January

St Mary's Church Hall

2.00pm - 3.30pm

All Welcome



DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2024 MAGAZINE

MONDAY 15th JANUARY

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

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 1

KO 2 00pm unless stated

Sat Nov 25 th	CO4 Ultras	(H)	W	9 – 1
Sat Dec 2 nd	Cressing Utd	(H)		Frozen pitch
Sat Dec 9 th	Waltham Abbey 'A'	(H)		Waterlogged pitch
Sat Dec 16 th	Waltham Abbey 'A'	(H)		Essex Junior Cup 3 rd round
Sat Dec 23 rd	Mersea Island	(A)		
Sat Dec 30 th	Thorpe Ath	(A)		
Sat Jan 6 th	The Rodings	(A)		

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 3

Sat Nov 25 th	Brooklands Sat	(A)	W	6 – 0 Tommy Thompson Cup
Sat Dec 2 nd	Dedham Old Boys	(H)		Frozen Pitch
Sat Dec 9 th	Flitch Utd	(A)		Waterlogged pitch
Sat Dec 16 th	Gas Rec Res	(A)		
Sat Dec 23 rd	Silver End Res	(H)		
Sat Jan 6 th	Lawford Lads Res	(H)		

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 5

Sat Nov 25 th	Bradfield Rovers Res	(H)	W	6 – 2
Sat Dec 2 nd	Boxted Lodgers Res	(A)		Frozen Pitch
Sat Dec 9 th	Elmstead Market	(A)		Waterlogged pitch
Sat Dec 16 th	Roman Rovers Dev	(H)		
Sat Dec 23 rd	Kelvedon Social	(H)		
Sat Jan 6 th	Brooklands Sat	(A)		



NEW YEARS DAY Richard Morton memorial trophy 12 00 KO On the green.

As we move into winter the weather starts having a negative impact on fixtures. Waterlogged & frozen pitches have meant that teams have only played 1 game since the last issue. So to ensure that training can continue we have hired the new 4g pitch at the Colne school on a Tuesday evening through until the end of January.

Nov 25th the 1st team faced Colchester based CO4 Ultras on the green in what was a bruising encounter. GB were easily controlling the game & were leading 4 – 0 when Lee Barratt, who had been outstanding in midfield was taken out by a Bruce Lee style kung foo kick to the left knee/thigh. Lee had to be carried from the field of play, whilst the opposition player pleaded his innocence at the straight red card being shown by the referee. With only 10 men. The final score was 9 – 1. Barney Morton x 4, Jake Vaughan x 2, Archie Herbert, Rory Warin & Connor Jones x 1.

The reserves won comfortably 6 – 0 at Brooklands Sat team in the Tommy Thompson Cup. Sam Winney continuing his fine form with a hat trick, Alfie Morley & Tom Jack x 1.

The 'A' team finished the 21 goal scoring spree for GB, surely a club record by winning 6 – 2 at home to Bradfield Rovers Development team. Archie Smith x 2, Charlie Dobson, Henry Cross & Jakob Atril x 1 scoring. New Years Day at 12 00 we will be holding the annual Richard Morton Memorial trophy match. Teams made up from GB players old & new. It is always an enjoyable way to start the new year. The clubhouse will be open to all.

Seasons greetings from all at Great Bentley Football Club. Come and watch some "grass roots" football. It's better than you think !!

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

Come on the Bulldogs

GARDENING NOTES

As we move on into the start of the new year a mention about how allotments evolved.

Allotments first started in the Middle Ages when there were attempts to enclose common land for the poor to grow food, but the 'Enclosure' system came into its own in the late 1700s. In the mid 1800s allotments were thought to keep men busy - and out of the local pubs.

Today's allotments go back to the Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908, so in 2008 they were celebrating 100 years of allotment legislation. During both world wars the government encouraged people to grow their own food as with the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. So why the latest increase in demand for allotments?

It's a combination of things. Gardening improves your mental and physical welfare. There is nothing more relaxing or stress relieving than a good bout of gardening. Allotments are good for the environment too, reducing your carbon footprint (local food means no air miles) and promoting sustainability and biodiversity.

These days with more people thinking about their health, many are turning to organic gardening. And of course in today's economic climate growing your own food is a very wise idea. However the major reason is that if you grow it yourself it always tastes much better. (It's just like home made cakes always taste better)!

One of the first questions asked is "what can I plant now"? Well in September/October when the rental starts the selection of plants or seeds is limited. It's getting a bit late for spring cabbage etc. but broad beans are always a good one to set. If you use a variety called "Aquadulce" these can be sown from October through to January/February. They are winter hardy and although they take longer to germinate they will usually make a late appearance. I think one of the reasons they tolerate setting in cold weather is the size of the seed. If you are a broad bean fan you can follow up with some of the second or main crop varieties starting in March/April. Another early sower is garlic that likes a long growing season, so you can sow the individual cloves directly outside - 6 inches apart 2 inches deep, or again sow in individual pots in the greenhouse. A traditional time to sow shallots is on Boxing Day. So there you have a few suggestions to at least feel as though your gardening season has started.

At this time of year why not take time to browse through a number of seed and plant catalogues. It is amazing how the produce photographed in the books always looks better than you are likely to grow in your garden. Today with the advent of digital photography they can drastically change the shape and physical characteristics of famous people that appear on the front cover of magazines and I am sure this is the same for photographs in the seed catalogues. At a gardening meeting it was said that the photograph of a particular truss of tomatoes for one firm took a whole day to photograph. They obviously wanted to show red tomatoes not the natural progression of colour where there are usually some green tomatoes getting ready to ripen rather than a truss of luscious mouth watering red tomatoes. So they just used superglue to transfer the red tomatoes from several trusses on to one stalk. Looks however are not the main thing we grow produce for (unless maybe it is flowers) it's the taste. Go for the variety where the description is related to the taste. Often the old fashioned varieties are more reliable to grow and generally give a good result and they are often cheaper and the cropping time a lot longer, so you can pick little and often.

So enjoy your armchair gardening and dream about the growing season and have a happy new year in the garden.

If your New Year's Resolution is to get more exercise and eat more healthily why not have an allotment. Contact the Clerk on 01206 256410 to see if any plots are available.

Great Bentley Patient Participation Group

Our first PPG Meeting of 2024 will be on Thursday 25th January at 6.30pm at The Village Hall in The Mitchell Room. You can be assured of a warm welcome and we are keen to encourage more members to join us, it offers a unique opportunity to ask questions to one of The Hollies Surgery GP's who are always generous with their time. We are exceedingly fortunate to have such an excellent practice and as a PPG we endeavour to support them and show our appreciation.

Judy Bishop Chairperson

Surgery Newsletter

We would like to wish all our patients a very Happy New Year

BANK HOLIDAY

The Practice will be closed on Monday, 1 January 2024 as this is a Bank Holiday. For patients needing urgent medical advice on this day, please contact NHS 111.

FLU VACCINATIONS

For anyone who is entitled to a flu vaccination, either because they are over 65 or younger than this but with a pre-existing condition, these can still be booked by contacting a member of the reception team on tel. 01206 250691.

INFORMATION ABOUT MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT SERVICES

If you or someone you care about has been diagnosed with cancer, help is available from MacMillan Cancer Support.

Specialist support by chat:

As well as emotional support Macmillan will provide specialist services to help you.

- Macmillan chat service is open 8am to 8pm seven days a week. Please note the opening times may vary by service. Normally you will receive a response in under ten minutes.
- Welfare rights advice - welfare rights advisers can tell you about benefits and other financial support.
- Financial guidance - financial guides can help you with budgeting and options on finances such as pensions, insurance, mortgages and debts.
- Cancer information nurse specialist - experienced cancer nurses can talk you through information about your diagnosis and treatment.
- Work support service – the Macmillan dedicated work support specialists help you to understand your rights at work.
- Macmillan Grants – information can be given about Macmillan Grants.

Macmillan trained cancer information advisors provide a listening ear and point you in the right direction, so you can seek further support.

<u>How Macmillan can help</u>
Call on 0808 808 00 00
8am to 8pm. It's free to call from landlines and mobiles within the UK.
McMillian https://www.macmillan.org.uk/

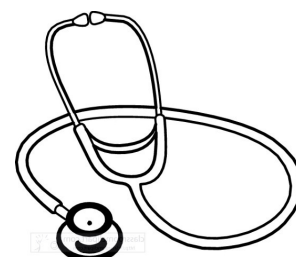
SURGERY TRAINING AFTERNOON

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 30 January 2024 for staff training. If you need urgent medical attention on this afternoon, then please contact NHS 111.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group will be held on Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Mitchell Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manage



NATURE NOTES



Sea anglers on Walton Pier are often attended by Turnstones: perky little plover-like birds scavenging scraps. They also sometimes loiter along the esplanade on the lookout for morsels. Bateman's tower on the Colne at Brightlingsea is another place where I have seen them. They are regarded with more affection than the larger Herring and Lesser-black backed gulls that can sometimes interrupt seaside outdoor meals with their persistent demands for a share. Unlike these gulls that have colonised local coastal towns, breeding on suitable roofs, the Turnstone is a long-distance traveller, mainly breeding in the High Arctic. Our local birds remarkably come mostly from North-eastern Canada. Summering birds are mainly youngsters, taking several years to reach breeding maturity, joined in early autumn by returning families of the year. Although not unlike the Ringed Plover in build and short beak, that does breed locally, the Turnstone is classed as a sandpiper. Its mottled black and white head and tortoiseshell, chestnut-chequered back offer good camouflage both in tundra breeding ground and on muddy, seaweed and stone-strewn Essex shorelines. Beyond human offerings they are quite broad in their feeding habits picking over both what the tide reveals and as its name hints at, hunting hidden prey lurking under small stones and lumps of mud – upending them with a strong beak. Cooperation between two or three birds has been reported, not shirking to combine to overturn heavier obstacles, these true navvies of shoreline birds. When seen at close quarters their orange legs sometimes reveal parts of or even a whole toe missing, suggesting quite a tough life. Their tameness, an apparent habituation to humans in fact is probably due to their breeding in very remote places and have not acquired any sense of threat or fear of humans. Such companionable little birds deserve our admiration.

Postscript: Last month the success of Little Tern breeding in Walton Backwaters was reported, with some 42 young fledged. I have since learned that this may be attributed to Bird Flu reducing the number of local gulls that normally harass and predate the terns. The vagaries of nature and ecological balance between species brings unexpected results and surprises.

DRB

YOUTH FOOTBALL

A slightly different update from Great Bentley Youth Football this month as everyone associated with the club would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Tracey, Charlie, Mollie and all of Danny Hayes' family and friends for the generous donation of £1600.00, made to the club in Danny's memory. Danny loved his football and he loved Great Bentley which is why his family chose GBYFC as the beneficiary. He also knew several of the boys in the youth teams. We will ensure the money is put to good use to benefit the youth teams for years to come. Once a decision has been made a further announcement will be made in the Parish Magazine. Thank you so much and everyone at the club sends love at this time.

On the pitch December's rain has thwarted many of our fixtures at all age groups but that hasn't stopped the training and the teams are now taking a well earned break before getting back up and running again in January, when hopefully things are a bit drier! Of the football that has taken place, the under 10s have stepped up to play in the highest level of the Colchester Youth District League and are working extremely hard to challenge the new teams they are playing. The under 13s would like to wish Kyle Messenger all the best for the future. He's successfully completed his trial and signed for Ipswich Town's academy. Kyle will be greatly missed but everyone at the club is hugely proud and wish him the best of luck for the next steps of his football journey.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all from Great Bentley YFC, here's to plenty more smiles and football in 2024!

ADVERTISING IN GREAT BENTLEY PARISH NEWS 2024

We still have some spaces

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

Please contact Mary Maskell 250524

email: marymaskell@sys3internet.net

NEW YEAR'S QUIZ

The first quiz of the year.... each question or answer includes
NEW!

1. Which English football club was originally named **NEW**ton Heath?
2. In which National Park are the towns of Lymington & Lyndhurst?
3. The young of which creatures are sometimes called 'efts'?
4. Which U.S. city is known as the 'Big Easy'?
5. Which present day building stands on the site of **NEW**gate Prison?
6. In which BBC comedy does the character of Owen **NEW**itt appear?
7. Which animals suffer from **NEW**castle disease?
8. Geographically which is the smallest borough of **NEW** York?
9. First aired in 1962, which BBC drama series was set in '**NEW**town'?
10. Which British architect co-designed the city of **NEW** Delhi?
11. What do the Chuckle Brothers, Michael Barrymore and Victoria Wood have in common?
12. Of which independent state is Port Moresby the capital?
13. In which book of the **NEW** Testament is the parable of 'The Good Samaritan'?
14. Which fashion designer created the '**NEW** Look'?
15. Which author created '**NEW**speak'?
16. Which publication (1952-2018) was known as NME?
17. What connects a card game with famous sausages & the Rowley Mile!
18. In which Dickens' novel does the character of **NEW**man Noggs appear?
19. Who reputedly invented the cat-flap?
20. Who starred in the film version of 'Grease' as Sandy?

1. Man Utd 2. New Forest 3. newts 4. New Orleans 5. Old Bailey 6. Vicar of Dibley
7. poultry 8. Manhattan 9. ZCars 10. Edw in Lutylens 11. winners of New Faces 12. Papua
New Guinea 13. Luke 14. Christian Dior 15. George Orwell 16. New Musical Express
17. Newmarket 18. Nicholas Nickleby 19. Sir Isaac Newton 20. Olivia Newton-John

Wood Watch with Rip Sawyer

Good morning viewers, welcome to my show. My name is Rip Sawyer, your D.I.Y man (cough), excuse me. Welcome to my cosy little shed; my little workshop where I make all manner of things, and it's a cheap hobby as well. I bet you can smell my lovely shed from the comfort of your armchair (cough), sorry - I've got a bit of a tickle today. Well, here we go then. You all know that I am a believer that most things can be mended, fixed or reborn. I have so much enjoyment when the chance to create something different presents itself to me. For example, only the other day I had a visit from a local builder who had acquired a piece of dark wood. He had no idea what wood it was so he gave it to me. Ho ho ho, I bet you're just dying to know what I'm going to make with this wood. But that's just it, you see. First of all, it's important to identify what type of wood it is. So, (cough), I secured this wood tightly in my trusty workmate, applied a little candle wax to the sole of my sharpened jackplane and took a few shavings off one side of the wood. Agba! I think I'm pretty sure it's Agba. Agba is a West African variety of Mahogany - lovely grain - but brittle, which can give nasty splinters. If ever you use this type of wood, always wear gloves and have plasters at the ready. My gloves are in the drawer somewhere, I think, I'll find them in a minute. Anyway, Mahogany is a reddish wood, so I've decided to make a clock. Ha! Yes, a clock! I bet you weren't expecting that! How do you make a clock? I hear you ask. All sorts of things you can make with free wood. Thank you, Mr builder! Anyway, join me tomorrow to see how I'm doing. Bye for now. Oof, don't forget to wear gloves, these splinters really sting. And always keep your safety goggles clean, I can't see a thing through mine.

Good morning again (cough), sorry, welcome to the show. You can see that I have sawn three slices of the mahogany and glued them together, side on. This will be the clockface, fifteen inches long by thirty centimetres wide and fifteen millimetres thick. Try not to get confused with these big inches and little inches. Have your glue at the ready, not like silly me, I ran out of glue so had to buy some more. It cost me £8.00, but never mind, the wood was free. When you learn how to make clocks, you will realise that you can buy the quartz mechanism, on line, at £11.00 each. You simply drill a hole in the centre of your clockface and poke the threaded bit through the hole and secure the mechanism with the nut provided. Oh, the thickness of my clockface is too great - the threaded bit isn't long enough so I must somehow reduce the thickness of the wood. Tune in tomorrow to find out how to deal with these little problems. Goodbye. Ouch! Another splinter.

Good morning to you again (cough) sorry, that tickle is a nuisance. It's all done, look, the quartz mechanism is in place. The easiest way to reduce the thickness was to buy a plunge router. They're only £65.00 each, and they're useful if ever you want to make another clock. However, they don't supply cutters - that's the technical term for the bit that does the cutting - but they are available at £21.00 each. That sounds expensive but remember, the wood was free and you will have such fun making your free clock. Your grandchildren will be so proud of you, especially if the clock works. Now, the router cutter is very sharp so avoid touching it, especially when it's spinning. Don't forget to wear gloves, goggles, a full-face shield and ear defenders. I'm not wearing a face shield because you must be able to see me on camera, and no gloves because my fingers are swollen due to those splinters. There you go, easy-peasy. Thanks for looking in, see you tomorrow. Oh, hurry, the D.I.Y. shop closes in half an hour and there's still one router left. Don't forget to mention my name, you'll get 10% off.

Good morning (cough), it's pretty dusty in my little shed. I bet you are getting excited, watching me nearing the end of our journey of creation; my very own working clock. I've put the hands in place, they are supplied with the quartz mechanism. It should now work. Can you hear it ticking? Oh, flippin' 'eck, of course it won't work yet, silly me, I need a 9v battery to operate the mechanism. Ha, I caught you out with that one, didn't I? No wonder people find my programme so interesting. Not to worry, they're only £5.00 each. Now, who has noticed a very important omission? Yes, well done viewers, there aren't any numbers yet. Ok, a bit of geometry for you to watch tomorrow - ha, pardon the pun - clock, watch, ha! Got to dash, I have an appointment at the Tropical Diseases hospital, the splinters have gone septic. Back in a jiffy. I must brush my floor sometime, I've just lost another pencil.

Good morning viewers. I'm sorry that last week's programmes were cancelled, it was the bandaging on my fingers, but they are much better now. Good job I'm a stickler for health and safety - please remember to follow my example at all times. Now, how do we polish the clockface? I hear you ask. Polyurethane lacquer spray will do the trick, at £11.00 per can. It's the easiest method, but remember to leave your shed door open, and wear a mask. If you prefer, you can spray your clockface outside in the open air, as long as it's not windy. And be careful, I once sprayed outside in the open air and my neighbour accused me of pebble dashing his car.

And there you have it, your clock is keeping perfect time, and made from a free piece of wood. Yes, Mr Higginbottom from Bolton, I realise that you have spent £121.00 but, lucky man, you now have everything at your disposal to make a clock. Mind you, you still need a free piece of wood. **JE**



Bentley Green Ladies Club
would like to wish you all
a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday January 11th 2024 - 7.30pm Village Hall

A talk on ' Colchester's Cannibals'

The story of the loss of yacht Mignonette and its impact on the 19th century world of sailing and the law
(You ate the cabin boy first.)

Members £2 at door.

Visitors £4 at door.



GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

Very best wishes to you all for 2024 and we hope for a happy and successful gardening year.

The Club programme for the forthcoming year includes some very interesting speakers, garden visits in the summer months, the Members Spring and Autumn Shows and our always popular Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in May. As the year progresses we will keep you informed of what is happening and hope you will be able to come along to some of our meetings and events.

The first meeting of the year is on **Tuesday 16th January** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Our speaker is Dr. Chris Gibson, an experienced and enthusiastic all-round naturalist, and his talk will be on "Gardening with Wildlife in Mind". This will be a very good evening so do come and join us.

Further dates to note:

Tuesday 20th February with Sarah Curtis – "Dangers of the Asian Hornet"

Tuesday 19th March with Andrew Babicz – "Composting: All you ever wanted to know"

Everyone is welcome – New members £16.00 subscription – Visitors £3.00

Season's Greetings and
Good Wishes for 2024
From The
Great Bentley Show team





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!**

Cygnets makes good recovery

January 2024

A cygnet was found unable to stand and balance, and repeatedly falling on his back. A thorough examination revealed no injuries except one knee being hot. He was treated with NSAIDs and started to improve gradually, finally making a full recovery. Dave from the BTO ringed him and he was also fitted with an orange tag. The numbers on these tags can be seen with binoculars, so people can report sightings. This gives a much better picture of the bird's movements than the ordinary ring which is only read when the bird is caught or dead.

Two pigeons were brought in from the same location, both tangled in string. One had been hung up by the string during the heavy frosts, and had unsurprisingly become hypothermic as could neither seek shelter nor keep warm. He was sadly too far gone to save. The other had string cutting into his ankle and toes cutting off the blood supply so had to be euthanised. Don't leave string lying about and if you see any, pick it up. It looks innocuous but is responsible for many horrible deaths. Sadly the buzzard with canker from last month's newsletter had to be euthanised. Although the canker dried up with treatment, it was found to have rotted through his lower beak, which then came off.

Hoglets continue to arrive just over 100g; we would expect them to be 400g+ at this time of year. This one has mange to add to his troubles as well, but is doing well.

If you see a tiny hoglet at this time of year, ***immediately*** pick it up and put it in a box with a towel-wrapped hot water bottle. Don't rely on being able to find it later. Once you have it secure, phone Wildlives for advice. If we can't answer the phone we are busy looking after the other animals, but if you leave a message we will get back to you as soon as we can.

A pigeon arrived after being shot. Although there is no exit wound we were unable to locate the pellet. In spite of all efforts he deteriorated and died, probably of lead poisoning.

1953 TENDRING FLOODS The Great Surge Tide
Eye Witness Accounts from St Osyth Beach, Colne Point

With the Issues of Climate Change and the global extremes of weather readers may be interested in the following: Historically it is thought that the first evidence for flood defence were from the Roman period where embankments were built in order to protect Londinium. Later history records that Henry VIII was so concerned about the incursions of the sea and attendant land loss that it was considered as 'a treason' to allow the Kings Realm to be lost to the sea. The process of 'Inning' that is building a sea/river wall to enclose marshes and low-lying land in order to gain more agricultural land, had been practised for centuries. The defence material being timbers and withes from woodland and clay from adjoining land, creating 'Borrow Dykes'. It is interesting to note that there are now many schemes that are reversing this process in order to revert land to nature and increase the flood zones lost by the embanking that causes 'coastal squeeze'. During research for two books written in collaboration with David Thorpe and my ongoing research into Wrabness Nature Reserves history for a series of talks I was privy to several first-hand accounts illustrating the brave efforts to survive the dreadful night of 31st January 1953.

In Part One from the, flood damaged diaries, of Reginald Arthur and the subsequent newspaper articles by Reg, his mother Kathleen, of St Osyth Beach, and one of the rescuers, Syd Bruce, we get a real flavour of the events of that terrible night in 1953. Due to unusual atmospheric conditions the high tide of that night did not fully recede and another tide built on top. The officer in charge of the sluice at Holland Haven reporting in stated "the tide has not gone out and another is building up". The North Sea surge swept down the East Coast causing destruction and loss of life both in the UK and in the Low Countries.

On Saturday, 31st January 1953, I had a severe cold or 'flu' and went to bed early in our bungalow at Seawick Road on St. Osyth Marshes on a stormy night. About midnight, I was woken by Mother, who had heard a strange roaring sound. I slipped on my clothes and looked out. Water was rushing through the garden and I realised that the sea had managed to flood into the marshes again. We had had minor experiences in 1938 at Marsh Cottage and in 1949 at Seawick when these marshes were slightly flooded by tidal surges caused by storms. The water levelled off and fell and, not expecting it to become much worse, I waded out into the garden and gathered chickens in sacks from a coop and brought them indoors into the bungalow to be higher and safer. (Unfortunately, these were drowned later when the water deepened). The water level then began to rise rapidly and despite the high floor levels began to enter the rooms. There was obviously no hope of leaving and making the long way to higher ground and the only hope was to go up into the loft. The loft hatch, which was in the kitchen, was only just wide enough to go through and we moved a table under it and Mother with help managed to clamber through onto the joists above the ceilings. By that time I had got wet almost to the waist through wading in the water. We had several cats that luckily always spent the night safely indoors. I gathered them, put them up into the loft and followed them through the hatch. Soon after going up, Mother slipped off the joists and put a foot through the ceiling. As this had been newly decorated, she said "Oh! My poor ceiling!" - although, already, glass was beginning to shatter in the glazed doors and furniture was starting to move around below in the swirling water. The loft was windowless with no means of escape but I was able to find a large piece of timber that we had stored in there. With this, I managed to batter a hole through one of the metal lath and plaster gable ends as an escape route and to see what was happening. Almost as soon as this was done, we were shocked to see a small haystack floating by, getting briefly halted as it went between the bungalow next door and us in the brilliant moonlight. More worrying still was when a complete bungalow built similarly to ours slowly drifted away after being lifted off its foundations. At the highest point, the flood level almost reached the top of the doors. The furniture, especially a piano, bumped and crashed against the walls and window frames, smashing glass and shaking the joists. We were relieved when the water levels stopped rising and even began to drop a little.

It was a long night. When daylight came, it was obvious the water was far too deep for escape and we began to worry about the next high tide due soon after midday. Not realising the scale of the event, we reassured ourselves that help would soon be officially organised and on its way to us. Occasionally I would call out several times in the hope of being heard. It was strange seeing Tufted Ducks swimming over the next door garden and we felt sorry for a doomed Adder which floated by on a piece of wood after being flooded out of its hibernation place. It was almost time for the next tide when we thought that we heard voices and called out in response. We heard an answer and oars. Soon a sturdy boat and even the familiar faces of Foster Jacobs, Herbie Lewis and Syd Bruce among the crew came into view. Our legs were cold and numb but we were carefully helped down from our escape hole. The heavily laden boat was hard for the crew to row to high ground against the wind and hampered by the barbed wire fencing of the grazing marsh. Eventually and very grateful to the local team who had organised our rescue, we made landfall on the road beyond Marsh Cottage below Whyers Hall. We were taken speedily to Whyers Hall where welcome food and dry clothing were arranged for us and we were allowed to stay in warmth and comfort for several days while we recovered and planned for the future. Learning of the horrific loss of life nearby and elsewhere in England and in the Netherlands, we became even more conscious how lucky we were to be alive. Even our cats survived, although it was a few days before it was possible to return on foot to several that we had had to leave in the loft. After that, we were able to move into a caravan stored nearby for the winter.

We received help from local and national sources but it was many weeks before basic repairs could be carried out to the bungalow so that we could return. Very few of our belongings had been salvageable due to saltwater and other damage - mud, marshland vegetation and other debris had coated and penetrated almost everything. Many irreplaceable items of family history were ruined, including photographs and notebooks.

I had been working for Arthur Ling at Seawick Garage which was closed as a result of the flood damage but went to work for many weeks on seawall repairs as a mats-man, etc for drag-line excavators.

Reg Arthur

Flooding Rescue February 1953 Mr S Bruce

Syd recalls: a lorry brought a boat, a whaler belonging to the Clacton Girls Sea Cadets. Five men manned the boat and managed to rescue people from the top of a stranded *bus that was top heavy. The rescued people said that they had heard someone calling out in the early hours but nothing had been heard in the past two hours. There was still a little room in the boat so we set off to look for Reg and his mother Kathleen. We called out all the time and at last heard faint calls and found the bungalow. Reg, Kathleen and a cat had managed to get up into the roof space and spent the night sitting on (2") 5cm joists with the water only (18") c45cm below them. Reg had knocked a hole in the gable end, for ventilation. They crawled through this hole into the boat. The rescue operation took about 1 1/2 hours in freezing conditions. Landing the rescued was a difficult and dangerous task taking all the men's seamanship.

*If this had been a single decker the occupants probably would not have survived the night.

Next issue Part Two: Escape at Colne Point and a rescue attempt on Bramble Island. Kevin Marsden

Reflections

Having sat down specifically to put my thoughts into words I find myself struggling to actually begin, the radio is on in the back ground and tuned into a music station as opposed to LBC which I usually listen to. Of course there is a generous selection of seasonal favourites and I've just sung along with Andy Williams version of 'It's The Most Wonderful Time of Year' (the best one in my humble opinion) and now I can begin. The sentiments expressed in that song are far removed from the men and women who rely on hope@trinity for support, warmth, clean clothing, a shower, hot food, then a sandwich, crisps, chocolate bar to take away with them to wherever they go. As many of you may know I find their plight very hard to cope with and leads me into what I wish to express as another year comes towards an end, thank you for helping me help them.

I love living in this wonderful village and never wish to live anywhere else. There is so much goodness in it, I collect more and more lovely friends and if by chance I feel a little bit down what was just supposed to be 'popping into Tesco' soon dispels this feeling and for want of a better way of putting it has been an 'outing!'

I have much to be thankful for, Great Bentley allows me the opportunity to do the things I want to do, things I need to do! Our Parish News Magazine allows me to say some special thank you's to:

Our Post Master Sam, All the staff in our Tesco who are like visiting friends, Dani's Deli always banter and laughter to be shared, our Doctor's Surgery and The Pharmacy both under terrific pressure.

There are so many in our community who do so much quietly with commitment and dedication.

I extend my sincere & heart felt thank you to Great Bentley and the people who make it what it is.

Judy Bishop

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL AT IT'S FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER GAVE APPROVAL TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL TAX PREMIUM ON SECOND HOMES

Second homes in Tendring face a premium on their council tax bill after councillors approved proposals to introduce the charge.

New legislation allows councils to put a premium on the council tax bill of homes which are occupied "periodically" and shall relate to second homes from 1 April 2025.

Tendring District Council (TDC) agreed at its full council meeting to introduce the maximum premium of 100% from the 2025/26 financial year – meaning owners of second homes will pay double the council tax on the property.

Councillors also agreed to adopt from the next financial year (2024/25) the maximum 100% premium on homes empty for one year – another change introduced by new legislation, which previously meant homes had to be empty for two years before a premium could be applied.

Meanwhile the council has agreed to keep the existing council tax discount schemes, including relief for those in hardship, on low income, or care leavers.

The Government are looking to introduce some exemptions alongside the above new changes introduced by legislation, a likely example being for properties going through probate.

Empty homes face a 100% premium for the first five years they are vacant, after which the premium doubles for 10 years, and then it becomes 300% for longer periods.

A NEW CORPORATE PLAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

The new corporate plan has been adopted by setting out the authority's strategic direction for the next four years.

Full council unanimously approved the document, called Our Vision.

A key document lays out the high-level priorities for the authority over the next four years, the current Corporate Plan ends in 2024. The plan period matches the electoral cycle.

Our Vision was amended following a public consultation held during the summer – which saw hundreds of residents give their views which sets out six key themes surrounded by a Community Leadership approach. Each theme is supported by its own inter-linked priorities for action.

The six themes are:

- ***Pride in our area and services to residents***
- ***Raising aspirations and creating opportunities***
- ***Championing our local environment***
- ***Working with partners to improve quality of life***
- ***Promoting our heritage offer, attracting visitors and encouraging them to stay longer***
- ***Financial sustainability and openness***

Changes made from the original version include the addition of a sixth theme to promote our heritage offer, attract visitors and encourage them to stay longer with some changes to the supporting priorities.

THE NEXT WASTE CONTRACT PLANS ARE TO KEEP THE FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTIONS AND LOOKING TO RECYCLING MORE

Households will be able to recycle more, and keep fortnightly black bin collections, under plans for the next waste service.

Tendring District Council's waste contract, currently held by Veolia, runs until 2026 but due to the size of the service, work is already underway looking at the next contract.

In an update to full council it was said that the authority was intending to continue with fortnightly collections of residual black bin waste.

The council will also be looking to collect a wider range of recyclable material, in line with the government's Simpler Recycling proposals published earlier this month.

It was said that it is a long process to design, procure and agree the next waste collection contract, but it was necessary to set out TDC's intentions now, which are to continue with fortnightly collections of black bag waste, and to look to collect more recycling than is done currently.

Feedback given to us in the recent Corporate Plan consultation was clear that residents did not want a reduction in waste collections, and wanted the council to explore collecting more materials for recycling, which it was said would be taken into consideration..

It was said that Budgets are the key consideration when developing the new service and it is too early to suggest how much the new services will cost

Many thanks

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

Mobile Phone number 07564 613603

Farming Diaries

In autumn as the air temperatures start to tail off the soil temperatures also decrease (albeit at a slower rate to the air temperatures) resulting in the slowing down of crop growth at this stage in the cropping year. Crop growth will almost slow to a standstill through the cold winter months before kick starting its development when temperatures begin to rise again in the spring. This is similar to your garden lawn; when we move from summer to autumn the requirement to cut the grass reduces and then stops completely during the winter months as little or no growth occurs when the soil temperature is below 2 °C.

During the winter the arable side of a farming business may slow down bar pre-winter ploughing. This is so that the frost can weather the soil to help with spring cultivations prior to drilling spring crop. Due to increased pressure from grass weeds you may well see an increased area of spring cropping such as spring wheat and barley but also pulses such as peas and beans. This alteration in crop rotation can help reduce pressure from grass weeds.

The livestock side of a farming business will still carry on its long, hard hours rearing calves and fattening cows for market. Cattle which for many months of the year are outside on grassland are brought into sheds in farmyards so as to not cause poaching (poaching is the heavy use of land around a feeder which can result in compaction and waterlogging during the winter months) and soil erosion around feeders and water troughs when the land is wet. Farmers follow very strict guidelines to prevent soil erosion on their land. The new lambing season will also soon be upon us. If you happen to pass a field containing ewes (female sheep) you may notice that a large number of them have blue or red marks on their backs. The rams (male sheep), will have a 'crayon' (a pad/sponge of ink) strapped to their chest so when they mate with the ewes (a process called tupping) they leave a distinctive coloured mark on the ewe. The rams can have different colour crayons strapped to them in sequence, this allows the farmer to group the ewes in accordance to when lambs will be due and plan any extra labour which may be required during the busy period of lambing.

Vicki Brooks

Chiropodist Terry St George will be winding down in February and would like to take this moment to thank this magazine and all patients for support over the last 20 years.

Appreciated Terry

Fundraising Barn Dance **in aid of THRC surface improvement fund**

Dancing to the Jasper Ceilidh Band

Saturday 10th February

Great Bentley Village Hall 7 - 10pm

Bar and refreshments available

Tickets £10 Adult £5 Child (16 and under)
Family ticket £25 (2 x adults and up to 3 children)

To buy tickets please pay to Lloyds Bank Account
no 01198064 Sort code 30-92-09

Please put your surname as the reference

For further information please contact Mandy
07850922103 A great family night out!

Memories of Christmas Past

I listened to a discussion regarding Christmas and the amount of money shoppers may be prepared to spend in these days of austerity and constant increases in the cost of living. Will they simply use credit cards and face the worry of how much they spent and where they are going to find the money from once Christmas is over and the bills come in? The question was asked " why do we think people put such pressure on themselves to buy things they cannot really afford just because it is Christmas?" As I gave the matter some thought I found my mind going on a trip down memory lane to my childhood. It is a fact that ask me what I did last week I would have trouble telling you but going back sixty years or more..... no trouble!!

Christmas Eve was my Mum getting a glass of milk, mince pie and my note for Father Christmas plus carrots for his Reindeers ready to put under the tree which was yet to be seen! The familiar well loved Christmas Decorations were already up, each in the same places they were always in year after year, I can see them quite clearly in my minds eye as I write. Before I fell asleep I strained my ears to hear the rustling of the wrapping paper the best that Woolworths sold which along with the tree (a real one) I would see for the first time on Christmas Morning!

Christmas Morning arrives and I peep out from under the flannelette sheets, blankets and eiderdown topped with my dad's heavy army coat for good measure to catch a glimpse of a pillow case leaning against my bed containing presents which had silently been placed there whilst I slept!

I wait awhile until I hear dad going downstairs to light the paraffin oil stoves in the kitchen and hall, footsteps on the stairs and he comes into my bedroom to see if I'm awake (as if!) Happy Christmas love, a kiss on the cheek and I slip out of bed onto the cold lino as I hear dad switch on the electric fire on the wall in their bedroom. It is freezing cold and I can see my breath as I pull on whatever clothes over my pyjamas, slide my cold feet into my old slippers and smile when I imagine the new pair that would, as sure as eggs are eggs, be awaiting me in the pillow case that dad had carried into their bedroom. Christmas was always a new pair doubtless red with a furry white pom-pom! Hugging my assorted layer of clothes around me I go into mum and dad who are sat up in bed shivering, the aforesaid fire was only switched on Christmas Day as I recall and only ever one bar!!!

I took my time opening my bounty of presents wrapped in the paper I had heard rustling, sure enough here were new slippers red as expected, reading books Enid Blyton, Malcolm Saville and stories about animals....with assured happy endings! I could expect one or two 'ornaments' to go on the 'gay boxes' that hung on my bedroom walls, animal ones naturally some of which I still have but most are now to be seen lovingly placed in my daughter's display cabinets, I say a silent hello to them when I visit! There were also gifts from aunts and uncles, do manicure sets, bath cubes and a box of hankies with your initials embroidered in the corner ring any bells?

Presents opened, dad chastised by mum for gathering up the wrapping paper and screwing it up too quickly " I chose that paper for Judith specifically as it has animals on it" says mum on cue as dad looks at me and winks! Dad goes downstairs to get a fire going in the 'front room' which like the electric fire only gets lit on Christmas Day and then put out that evening when the room had just started to warm up somewhat!!! I get dressed, which if Christmas follows Christmas will include a new warm jumper....yes you have guessed it red but minus a white pom-pom! Mum braces herself to enter the kitchen that faces north and she moans at dad that it was his fault that he never gave any thought to which way the back of the house faced, Dad raises his eyebrows and goes to tend to the fire which is taking ages to get going! I get to open the box of festive crackers to put on the table which after doing justice to Mums delicious Christmas dinner we pull, the magic fish, a plastic ring that fits no one's fingers, the inevitable corny jokes and the classic moment Dad puts his paper hat on deliberately pulling it down so that it splits and falls off!

Probably a circus and a pantomime to watch on the black and white television, a game of snakes and ladders or ludo me telling Dad he cheated Mum joining in too, much silliness and laughter before Mum braces the cold of the kitchen to make some sandwiches, a bag of Smiths Crisps with the blue bag of salt followed by Mum's homemade trifle. Dad starts on cracking open walnuts and Mum moans because the shells go everywhere, Dad catches my eye, winks and we both smile, Mum gives up and we all fall into silly banter til Dad tries to eat one walnut too many and Mum tutts as she braces herself again to go in the kitchen to get him a glass of water!

Finally it is time for me to go to bed, perhaps it will not surprise you when I say Christmas would not have been the same if a new pair of flannelette pyjamas (red of course) were not to be found in my pillow case! I slide gratefully into bed and place my feet on the hot water bottle Mum had placed there earlier. Mum tucks me in and gives me a goodnight kiss followed by Dad, night night love he says as he tucks me in even more, Mum tutts because she already did it, Dad winks then turns the light off. I turn over hug my beloved teddy bear to me and as I drift off to sleep I hear Mum and Dad laughing together before Mum braces herself once more to go in the kitchen doubtless to make them both a good old fashion mug of cocoa. The best presents I ever had at Christmas are the fond memories they left me with.

Happy Christmas everybody from me and my beloved teddy bear.

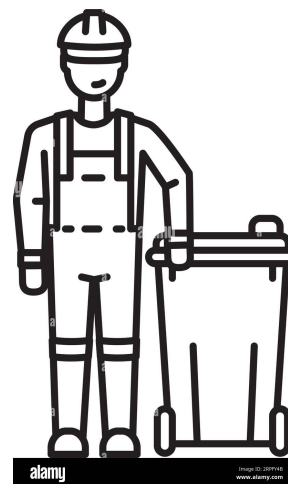
Judy Bishop

REMINDER OF CHANGES TO WASTE SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

Tending residents are reminded of upcoming changes to their rubbish and recycling collection days over the festive period.

Waste and recycling collections will not take place on the Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day bank holidays.

Scheduled date	Revised date
Monday, 25 December	Wednesday, 27 December
Tuesday, 26 December	Thursday, 28 December
Wednesday, 27 December	Friday, 29 December
Thursday, 28 December	Saturday, 30 December
Friday, 29 December	Tuesday, 2 January 2024
Monday, 1 January 2024	Wednesday, 3 January 2024
Tuesday, 2 January 2024	Thursday, 4 January 2024
Wednesday, 3 January 2024	Friday, 5 January 2024
Thursday, 4 January 2024	Saturday, 6 January 2024
Friday, 5 January 2024	Monday, 8 January 2024
Monday, 8 January 2024	Tuesday, 9 January 2024
Tuesday, 9 January 2024	Wednesday, 10 January 2024
Wednesday, 10 January 2024	Thursday, 11 January 2024
Thursday, 11 January 2024	Friday, 12 January 2024
Friday, 12 January 2024	Saturday, 13 January 2024



Collections week commencing 1 January will be two days later, with Friday's households collected on the following Monday (8 January).

For week beginning Monday, 8 January collections will be a day later than usual, with Friday collections taking place on Saturday (13 January). Collections resume as normal from Monday, 15 January 2024.

For households' first black bin collection after Christmas each home can put out an extra two black bags of side waste, in recognition of the additional waste and recycling generated over the festive period.

Households subscribed to the garden waste brown bin service are reminded there are no collections over the Christmas and New Year period, but they can leave a Christmas tree out with their bin for their first collection afterwards. The collection day of the week for garden waste is unchanged – so if residents usually have their garden waste bin collected on a Monday, that remains the same.

MULLED WINE

Depending on how many you are serving but let's assume 12 people you will need 2 bottles of wine and 1/4 bottle of orange juice, an apple cut into small pieces and 2 packets of mulled wine mix from Holland & Barrett or similar.

Add apple to the glasses

Add wine, juice and mix in a saucepan and heat very gently (do not boil)

If the base wine is good the end result will be better.

Recommended is Mavrodaphne Kortakis Greece from Tesco or similar sweet wine.

The wine really does need to be sweet.



HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE ON FESTIVE SONGS

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
in a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way

A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions. Please note, permission must be gained from landowners before entering their fields. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a nuisance.



While Shepherds Watch

While Shepherds watched
Their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around

The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches their health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided therefore benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available. Shepherds have also requested that due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of year that they should watch their flocks via CCTV cameras from centrally heated shepherd observation huts.

Please note, the angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining his/her glory all around she/he must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory.,



Little Donkey

Little Donkey on the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
with your precious load.

The RSPCA have issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load that a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry. Also included in the guidelines is how many rest breaks are required over a four hour plodding period. Please note that due to the increased risk of pollution from the dusty road, Mary and Joseph are required to wear FFP2 dust masks to prevent the inhalation of any airborne particles. The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled 'little' and would prefer just to be simply referred to as Mr Donkey. To comment upon his height or lack thereof may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.

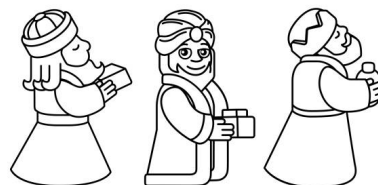


We Three Kings of Orient are

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Whilst the gift of gold is still considered acceptable as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations as 'cash for gold' etc. gifts of frankincense and myrrh are not appropriate due to the potential risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions. A suggested gift alternative would be to make a donation to a worthy cause in the recipient's name or perhaps give a gift voucher.

We would not advise that the traversing kings rely on navigation by stars in order to reach their destinations and suggest the use of RAC route-finder or satellite navigation, which will provide the quickest route and advice regarding fuel consumption. Please note as per the guidelines from the RSPCA for Mr Donkey, the camels carrying the three kings of Orient will require regular food and rest breaks. Dust masks for the three kings are also advisable due to the likelihood of dust from the camel's hooves.



JANUARY DIARY

- Fri 5th **COFFEE MORNING**, Methodist Church, 10am
- Sat 6th **CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING**, 10am -12 noon
- Tues 9th **CARPET BOWLS RESUMES**
- Thurs 11th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sun 14th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St George's Church, Gt Bromley
10.30am
- Mon 15th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Tues 16th **GARDENING CLUB**
- Fri 26th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, 9am, Church Hall
- Thurs 25th **PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**, 6.30pm.
Village Hall
- Sun 28th **DEANERY CHOIR**, All Saints, Walton, 10.30am