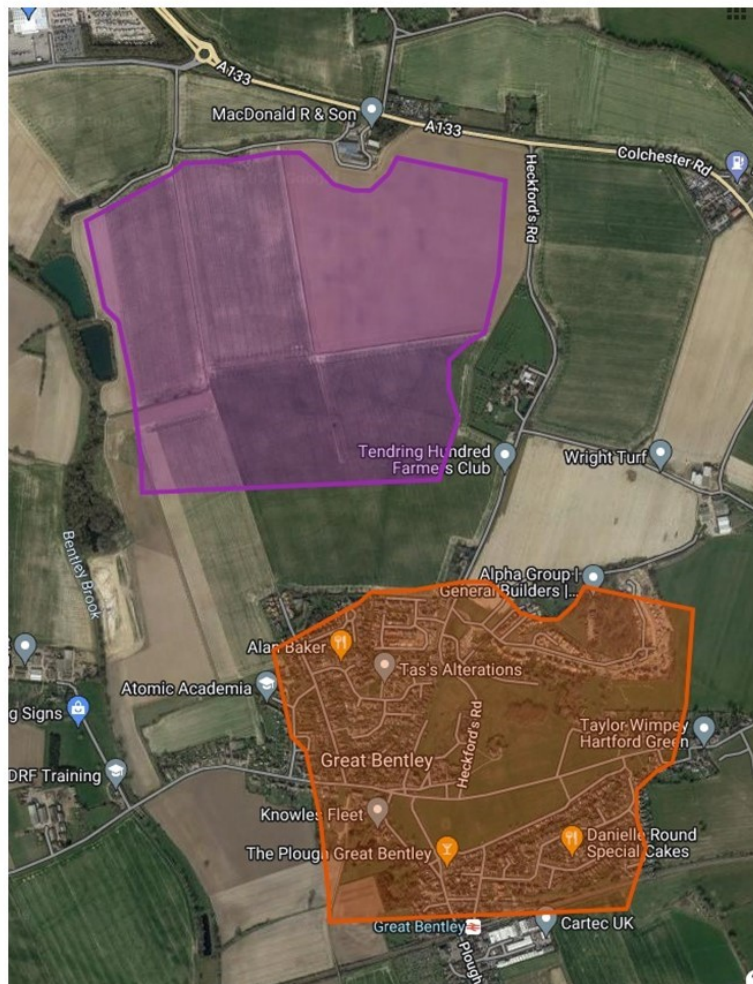


Great Bentley Parish News

Produced by the Community
for the Community



April 2024

St Mary's Church

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Sue and Faris Shimali 07973 534301

FOOTPATH REP.

melanie.sawers@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

STOP PRESS



2024

*Due to the extension
in the deadline for comments
on the Essex Mineral
Consultation, (9th April)
Great Bentley Parish Council
have been able to work with
Cllr. Alan Goggin
who is going to hold a
presentation about the
proposed sites in
Great Bentley and the
surrounding villages
on Tuesday 02nd April
at 07:00pm
at the Methodist Church.
We look forward to seeing
as many of you there as
possible and being able to
answer any other questions
that you may have.*

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FRONT COVER

**Map showing the
largest local mineral
extraction site in
comparison to the size
of
Great Bentley
Village.**

DISCLAIMER

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LETTER FOR APRIL FROM THE BISHOP OF CHELMSFORD

Once again, the message of Easter hope and resurrection life breaks into a world that is full of sorrow, conflict and pain. How can we possibly make sense of this central event - the one that everything else in the Christian faith hangs on - when all the evidence seems to point away from it? When much of the time it feels like death and hatred and evil have the final say, rather than life and love and hope? Both on a global scale, but perhaps personally too, for there is so much suffering and loss.

Well, if you rely on your emotions, on how you feel at any particular moment and in response to any specific event that might make you happy or sad - if you rely on your feelings, then faith is indeed a fickle thing. For sometimes God can feel close and other times far away. But the truth at the heart of the Gospel is that God, through Christ, is ever present, whatever is going on and whether or not we experience that closeness or not. I have these words of Karl Jung hanging in the hallway of our home, and I look at them every time I come in or go out: "Bidden or not bidden, God is present." God was present on Good Friday, just as much as on Easter Day. The important thing is not to confuse our experiences and emotions - whether we feel the nearness of God or not - with the reality of Easter resurrection.

There's no denying that embracing this requires a leap of faith. No logic or experiment will prove the existence of God or convince you of the Easter story. But faith knows more. In the words of the French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal, The heart has reasons, of which reason knows nothing. On Easter morning, Christ rose from the dead and broke the power of death and hatred through the strength of his love and sacrifice. As Christians we try to embody that in the way we live our lives, in the service of others, speaking out against injustice, seeking to respond in love wherever there is hate.

This is the Easter story, and it is ours to tell. It is challenging, mysterious and life changing. It offers light and hope in the midst of darkness, and I commend it to you wholeheartedly. For, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

I wish you a joyful and blessed Easter.

**Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani,
Bishop of Chelmsford**

PASTORAL CARE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH GREAT BENTLEY

The members of our pastoral team are Lyn Gordon, Mary Maskell and Mandy Miles.

If they can help 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:

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'.



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 20th April

10.00am - 12 noon

St Mary's Church Hall

ALL WELCOME

In aid of Redecoration of the Church Hall



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

If so, your first point of contact is

Wendy King
01206 250852





**GREAT BENTLEY
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Forge Lane CO7 8GD

Don't forget our
Facebook page.
Search for Gt Bentley
Methodist Church

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

Greetings to you all

We welcome you to worship at Church or on Zoom with us during April. If you would like to join our service by Computer on Zoom, please ring 250087 for the connection link.

Morning worship will be held at **10.30am** unless otherwise stated.

The leaders of worship are set out below: -

- April 7th Diane Bignell**
- April 14th Rev Tom Osborne Holy Communion**
- April 21st Mr Bingham from Colchester Circuit**
- April 28th Robert Taylor Remembering.**
A special time to remember important events in our lives and light a candle to help with this during worship.

Events in April:

Coffee & Chat April 5th Warm fellowship with drinks, cakes, books and good conversation. Charity this month Air Ambulance.

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

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

Messy Church this month 16th April after school
Adventurers this month 19th & 26th April

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

Ring these numbers for more information.

Messy Church once a month after school 250087 For children with their parent/carer after school, Crafts and activities on a Christian theme with a meal.

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

The Adventurers Club. Fridays term time 6.30 to 8 p.m. games, crafts, Christian themed for children in year 3 upwards Ring 250087

ST MARY'S SERVICES

Sunday 7th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

10.00am Joint Benefice Service at St Osyth with Rev. Laurie Bond

Sunday 14th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.30am with Judith curate from Brightlingsea
Thursday 18th - Knit & Natter, Church Hall, 2-3.30pm
Saturday 20th Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon

Sunday 21st April - 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30am with Wendy King
11.00am APCM

Sunday 28th April - 5th Sunday of Easter

9.30am with Rev'd Sarah Batts-Neil

**ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH
FOR APRIL**

Sidespersons & Readers

- 7th St Osyth
- 14th Lynn & Roger Carey-Smith
- 21st Annabel Stearn
- 28th The Wright children

Prayer Rota

- 7th St Osyth
- 14th Lyn Gordon
- 21st David Branch
- 28th George Wright

Coffee Rota

- 7th St Osyth
- 14th Nicky Duff
- 21st Lyn Gordon
- 28th Vicky Rothwell

Cleaning Rota

- 6th Carol Kerridge & Lea Howlett
- 13th Jennie Moss
- 20th Rosemary & David Branch
- 27th Vicky Rothwell



GREAT BENTLEY PAST

Please does anyone have any spare copies of Gt Bentley Past Volume 1 or 2? The History of St Mary's church by Ian Doolittle or any other village history books? I would love to hear from you as I am often asked for these by people researching the village. Many thanks Mary Maskell. 01206 250524

hope@trinity

It is a sad fact that despite announcements and pledges by Government Ministers that they will bring about an end to homelessness and rough sleeping, over recent years they have failed miserably. Indeed their latest proposal is to give police new powers including criminalising rough sleepers for amongst other things 'smelling' whereby they could be sent to prison for a month! This has slipped under the radar somewhat but there are newspaper articles to be found on-line should you wish to read more about it. There is a school of thought that says that with an Election this year it is likely that it will not come to fruition. However that it could even have been thought of is totally unacceptable and heartless.

Thank goodness that your kindness and support allows me to be able to play my part in bringing 'hope' to the men and woman who come through the doors of hope@trinity a place dear to my heart.

Continuous rain, wind and cold creates an increase in the need for dry clothing and footwear not forgetting blankets. May I ask you take a minute or two to put yourself in their situation and think about what it must be like? Hopefully you will have realised that the need is for clothing from the inside out which is what I called it when doing the best thing I have ever done in my life volunteering at Beacon House in Colchester. There is a more urgent need for gentlemen's clothing please from head to toe. Blankets, sleeping bags and tents, toiletries, chocolate bars, crisps and dog food for faithful companions.

Last but not least each second Wednesday of the month at 9 30 am at The Methodist Church in the village donations of sandwiches are collected. They are then taken to hope@trinity in Clacton for those struggling to feed themselves. Please bring any donations of clothing to me where I shall sort, bag and label it before it goes to hope. Thank you for caring.

**Judy Bishop. 5 Morella Close Bentley.
01206 251702**

Date for your diaries:

Baked Potato Lunch

Saturday 27th April,

at St Mary's Church Hall,

12.30 – 3 pm.

Menu:

Jacket potato with choice of fillings

Choice of Desserts

Tea/Coffee

Water provided...Bring your own drinks if preferred

Raffle

Limited numbers so please book early. Tickets at £10 each available now from

Rosemary Branch, 01206 250137/07802 268897
4 Wents Close

And Mary Maskell, 01206 250524
Caldew Cottage

Deadline: Saturday 20th April

Proceeds to St Mary's Church

Please arrive at 12.30 to be seated by 1pm



KNIT & NATTER

April 18th

St Mary's Church Hall

2.00pm - 3.30pm

All Welcome



ANNUAL DIARY

18th May	May Fair, St Mary's Church
25th May	Gardening Club Plant Sale
29th June	Carnival
31st August	Village Show
31st August	Dance in the Marquee to The Gifted
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

REG RICHER

Reg Richer's family would like to thank their neighbours and many friends who have been a great help over the last few months.

Reg really appreciated all those who waved to him and helped to keep him smiling and the people who helped when he needed it.

During the sad days since he passed away, the offers of help, and the words of comfort have been greatly appreciated.

We will always remember the kindness shown by you all.

Many Thanks
Regards
Dot Richer & Family

Raymond (Ray) Brown

Rays funeral will take place on Thursday 4th April at 12.30 at St Mary's church.
All welcome.

This will be followed by a private cremation for family only.



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

April 14th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at the 11.00am communion service. The choir will sing **I know that my Redeemer lives by J Michael Bach**. Johann Michael Bach was a German composer of the Baroque period. He was a first cousin, once removed of the great Johann Sebastian Bach, being the son of Heinrich Bach, who was J S Bach's great uncle, and he became the more famous Bach's father-in-law.

April 28th

The Deanery choir will be supporting a Choral Evensong at 6.30pm at **St Mary's Church, Wix. CO11 2SE**. The choir will sing the anthem **Beati Quorum Via by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford**. Stanford (1852—1924) was an Anglo-Irish composer, music teacher, and conductor of the late Romantic era. While still an undergraduate Stanford was appointed organist of Trinity College Cambridge. Stanford composed a substantial number of concert works, including seven symphonies, but is best remembered for his choral works for the Anglican church. We will also sing a beautiful setting of the Lord's Prayer by Robert Stone (1516-1613). He was an English composer and member of the Chapel Royal, born in Devon.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir Organiser

Date for the Diary 16th, 17th, 18th May. Methodist Hall

Bentley Green Players May production for 2024 will be **Murdered to Death**, a Comedy by Peter Gordon courtesy of Josef Weinberger Plays. Tickets (£10) will be available from the end of April.

Any further details contact Peter Harry
07503 153960

MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR MAY MAGAZINE

Magazine collating will be on **Friday 26th April**
in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am

ALL WELCOME TO COME AND HELP COLLATE

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I spent the Christmas break in the Clacton area and visited Great Bentley on Christmas Day. While there I picked up a copy of your excellent 'Great Bentley Past' and wanted to thank you for your work.

A long time ago (more than 20 years now), I was a journalist on the Clacton Gazette, along with Nigel Brown and Mike Sams. I remember your name back then as someone closely involved with Great Bentley history, so I was delighted to see you are still publishing articles.

We visited St Mary's Church on Christmas Day and were made to feel welcome by everyone. Although we didn't have long in the village, it was a lovely nostalgic moment to be back in a place I knew well when I lived in England. Since leaving Clacton, I've worked as a teacher in international schools in Thailand, Vietnam and currently in Japan, where I'm school principal.

Despite the long distance, I keep up to date with news in your area as I still feel an affinity with Tendring as a whole. My father, Ted Beales, was born in Great Bentley in 1926 (he had two sisters, one of whom Stella Manning, lived in St Osyth until recently when she passed away). At the moment, I'm writing a novel about the witch trials of 1582 in St Osyth, and so it was great to read an article about this time in Great Bentley Past too!

All the best, and good luck with your future articles.

NEWS FROM THE OAKS



Here at The Oaks we have been decorating our residents rooms with the theme of their choice. They have been choosing their own wallpaper and matching accessories. So far we have a horse themed room, a butterfly room, a pink rose room etc.

Our residents normally start the day doing fun gentle exercises and fun games with quizzes and memories to keep both mind and body to the best as it can be.

We are looking forward to the summer so we can start our garden parties and our planting.

We are looking forward to Mothers Day where we will all be celebrating with a lovely afternoon tea and chocolates! This is one of many things we have planned for the summer.

We wish you well and send our warmest wishes to each and everyone of you.

THANK YOU

I would like to say a very big thank you to all my new friends and neighbours in Gt Bentley who have expressed such kind wishes following my sudden and unexpected heart attack on 23rd February.

Having only recently shared our lovely Irene's final moments with her, it seemed for a time that same thing was happening to me. Fortunately, I was transferred from Colchester Intensive Care to Basildon Cardiac Unit and received excellent treatment during the 2 weeks I spent there.

The support I received from everyone in Great Bentley made a huge difference to my recovery and I look forward to joining in village life once again as soon as possible. This is a wonderful village to live in. Thank you again to everyone

Julia Cottee

SAVE THE DATE!!

The Committee that organised the Queen's Jubilee Event and the King's Coronation Event] have reformed to bring you ...



**"The Gifted on the Green" on Saturday 31st August
from 7.45pm to 11.15pm**

Live band 'The Gifted' are back by popular demand and will perform after Great Bentley Village Show in the marquee

Further details on how to purchase tickets for this event will be provided in the June Parish Magazine

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

We need

**Homemade cakes and savouries
Good quality Bric a Brac
Books
Raffle prizes
Tombola prizes
Plants**

For our May Fair

**These can be left at the back
of the church or Mary Maskell's porch
at Caldew Cottage, The Green
(Porch door open just walk in)**

**For information and collection
please ring
Nicky Justice
07941 35122**

Thank you from St Mary's church

**SAVE THE DATE
18th MAY
St Mary's May Fair**

**Apart from our
BBQ and usual stalls
YOU CAN
Try your hand at mini
BELL RINGING
Have a go at ARCHERY
and TOMAHAWK THROWING
Meet a VIKING
Learn all about the local
Viking invasion
dress up as a Viking....a great
photo opportunity.**



Archery is coming to the May Fair

Clacton Archers will be at the Great Bentley St Mary's Church Fair on the 18th of May so you can try your hand at the ancient sport of archery.

Archery has been around for a long time with the earliest arrowheads dating back over 20,000 years. There is also the legendary figure of Robin Hood, who is still remembered in archery circles with a Robin Hood shot. This is where the first arrow hits the gold, followed by another arrow going into the first arrow. Not easy to achieve but it can be done.

Archery is a sport for everyone no matter your age or ability. It first appeared in the Olympic Games in 1900 and in 1904 archery was among the first sports to include a women's event.

At the May Fair, there will be 'have a go' sessions with Clacton Archers. You'll be given a safety briefing, then pick up a bow and shoot arrows at the target and hopefully get a gold.

Clacton Archers was formed in 1970 and caters for all types of archery, including recurve, compound and longbow. We are a target shooting club and are affiliated to the Archery GB governing body.

The club meets up twice a week throughout the year on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. The field is also available for members to use at any other time of the day/week/year.

We are proud of the fact that we have 3 fully qualified coaches amongst our members. This means that anyone 10+ years old can benefit from first class coaching to progress their archery skills.

Come and meet us at the May Fair and then if you like archery, join one of our beginners courses.



**Weeley
Veterinary
Centre**

Winner of Best Vet UK 2023

PET NOTES



The Easter Bunny is back home following a busy Easter weekend. As with other rabbits, his owners have lots to consider keeping him healthy and happy....

- His teeth grow continuously putting him at risk of dental problems. He is best fed a diet mainly consisting of hay and straw to wear his teeth down.
- He receives an annual vaccination from a vet to protect him against Myxomatosis and two strains of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease, both of which can be fatal.
- He produces special droppings called “caecotrophs” which he eats in order to re-ingest the nutrients. If ever he has diarrhoea his owners take him straight to the vet as this is a very abnormal finding in a rabbit.
- During warmer weather his owners check his bottom twice a day to ensure it is clean. Faeces or urine staining can attract flies who lay eggs, resulting in very serious and often fatal flystrike.
- He enjoys the company of other rabbits but is never housed with a guinea pig as he would likely become a terrible bully.
- His owners brush him regularly to keep him clean and to bond with him. It also gives them time to know him well and spot any health issues quickly. When his claws are long they clip them, taking care not to disturb the quick which contains a nerve and blood vessel.
- His owners check that his eyes are clean and bright as rabbits can suffer from eye infections. If ever they see discharge, they take him to the vet.
- His owners also check his paws regularly as rabbits can develop Bumble Foot, a painful bacterial infection of the skin of the feet. It usually affects the hind paws.

Rabbits make wonderful pets and are often seen as a good option for families with children. They don't require daily walks like dogs but still require a lot of care. Let's hope the Easter Bunny gets a good rest ahead of next Easter.

Dr April Young MRCVS



Mum's Sayings

“Old women are like hens: some are thin, scrawny hens, others are plump, clucky and comfortable.”

SESAW NEWS

I almost missed the deadline for your Parish News after reading about those scary Asian Hornets which are a huge threat to our native honey bees. Apparently people can use an 'app' on their mobile phones to report any sightings. I'm going to tell all our volunteers to watch out for them in the garden at SESAW and download the 'app' from the gov.uk website. You can read about it at: New app to report Asian hornet sightings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The birdsong, flowering bulbs and lighter evenings herald the arrival of Spring but we have young animals from last summer awaiting homes. Kittens that were born after their abandoned pregnant mums were brought to us are growing up fast.

Our bonded pair of Saluki dogs is still waiting for a loving home with a comfy sofa to share together. Having seen their five puppies off, six year old Lily and three year old Grey think it's now time for them. If you, or someone you know, could be that special person to give them the home they deserve, please call or email. Several new volunteers have joined us recently, following our appeals for help. Like most charities, we've struggled to get back to pre-Covid levels but we are gradually getting there.

Warmest wishes for a blessed Easter and don't forget to keep any chocolate eggs away from animals, particularly dogs like me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.
Tel: 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk

**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

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

Bentley in Bloom

Once again we are offering you the chance of enjoying one (or more) of our beautiful summer hanging baskets.

At £40 each, your basket will be delivered to your door around the middle/end of May and then collected in November once the display is over

If you would like to support Bentley in Bloom by ordering a hanging basket, please contact Dorothy on 250204 or email nowakdr@live.co.uk

AGEWELL EAST

Living happier and healthier

We welcome you to come to our

COFFEE MORNING
Dementia Friendly

Every 2nd and 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

COOKERY CORNER



A WHOLE CHICKEN

According to various recent articles in weekend magazines relating to popular places to enjoy a meal, a current trend is to order a whole roast chicken, garnished to a specific culinary theme, and to share it among your party of friends with an array of accompanying side dishes. It sounds a lovely convivial idea as long as your friends can be accommodating enough to forgo their favourite cut for a drumstick. However, a whole chicken is an easy and tasty meal, be it for just two or a family.

A BASIC RECIPE FOR A ROAST CHICKEN

This is for a 1.5kg chicken which will typically feed four people. Take the meat out of the fridge for an hour before cooking. This will improve the flavour. Preheat the oven to 190 degrees fan. Make sure the cavity is clear. Pat the skin with kitchen roll to remove excess moisture. Fill the cavity with chunks of onion and unpeeled orange or apple and tie up the legs. Rub the skin with a little oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper, and some fresh or dried herbs. Place in a tray and roast in the preheated oven for 1 hour 20 minutes. Remove and use an oven thermometer to check that the meat is ready. Leave the chicken to rest for at least 15 minutes before carving covered loosely with foil.

SPANISH POT ROAST

3kg chicken	1tbsp sweet paprika	1tbsp olive oil	salt and black pepper
a bed of vegetables:	3 onions	3 carrots	3 large tomatoes
3 red chillies	3 red peppers	2 heads of garlic	2 bay leaves
2 thyme sprigs	2 tbsp balsamic vinegar	400ml white wine	300g stoned black olives

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees. Cut the onions, carrots and tomatoes into quarters, deseed the chillies and peppers and cut into chunks. Chop the heads of garlic horizontally. Put all the ingredients for the bed of vegetables into a large casserole dish and mix well together. Rub the olive oil all over the chicken and sprinkle with paprika and seasoning. Tie the legs and place the chicken on top of the vegetable mixture. Cover with a tight lid or two tight layers of foil and cook for 1 ½ hours. Remove the lid and test the chicken. Raise the heat slightly and crisp the skin.

BASQUE STYLE WITH CIDER AND APPLES

2kg free range chicken	4 apples	2 onions	2 bay leaves	6 sage leaves
1 cinnamon stick	500ml cider	400ml chicken stock		25g unsalted butter
1tsp caster sugar	75g sultanas	olive oil	sea salt and freshly ground black pepper	

Preheat the oven to 160 degrees fan and pour a thin layer of olive oil into a deep hob proof casserole dish big enough to hold the chicken when covered. Peel and core the apples and cut one in half. Cut the remaining three apples into about eight slices each. Peel and finely slice the onions. Season the chicken inside and out with sea salt and black pepper. Heat the oil in the casserole dish on the hob and brown the chicken, turning to ensure it is browned all over. Remove from the dish and set aside. Add the sliced onions and fry for 10 minutes on a medium heat. Place the halved apple in the cavity of the chicken and tie up the legs. Return the chicken to the casserole dish and add the herbs and cinnamon stick. Pour the cider into the casserole dish and bubble a few minutes before adding the chicken stock. Stir and bring to the boil, then cover tightly and transfer to the oven and cook for 1 hour. Heat a little oil and the butter in a pan and fry the rest of the apple slices with the sugar until golden and caramelised. Add the sultanas and toss in the buttery juices. Add this mixture to the casserole about halfway through the hour's cooking time. Remove the lid and turn the oven up to 220 degrees to crisp the top of the chicken. **M.E.**


University of Essex Choir

J.S. BACH
ST. JOHN PASSION

CONDUCTOR **BEN VONBERG-CLARK**

EVANGELIST **GUY CUTTING**
 SOPRANO **HILLARY CRONIN**
 ALTO **REBECCA LEGGETT**
 TENOR **DAVID DE WINTER**
 BASS **JAMES NEWBY**
 JESUS **THOMAS NIEBER**
 PILATE **ALEX JAMES**

SATURDAY **4th MAY** 7PM
SNAPE MALTINGS
 Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Snape, Suffolk, IP17 1SP



Price: £28, £22, £16, students and under 18s £8
<https://brittenpearsarts.org/events/university-of-essex-choir-presents-bach>
 BOX OFFICE: 01728 687110

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
 BRITTENPEARS ARTS
 University of Essex Choir charity reg. 285079
 University of Essex

**SUMMER RECITALS
 AT
 ST OSYTH CHURCH**

12.30 - 1.15pm

- April 19th**
 Willian Saunders, Organ Recital
- May 17th**
 Tendring Male Voice Choir
- June 21st**
 St Osyth Primary School
- July 19th**
 Emma Nash, Pianist
- August 16th**
 Strangers Band
- Donations will be used for the organ fund.

VILLAGE SHOW

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**

**FRIENDS OF
 GREAT BENTLEY STATION**

Coffee Morning



Saturday 13th April 10 - 12

Methodist Church Hall

**WE WELCOME
 NEW ADVERTISERS**

J.H. Building and Landscaping, see page H.
 R.H. Garden Services, see page 38

POLICE REPORT

RECORDED CRIMES - 7

From 31/01/2024-27/02/2024

CRIME TYPES - DANGEROUS DOG - NON CRIME INVESTIGATION - OTHER X2 - THEFT X3

INCIDENTS REPORTED – 24

INCIDENT TYPES - ABANDONED 999 - ALARM - ANIMAL - ASSAULT - ATTENTION TO - CONCERN - DANGEROUS DOG - DISTURBANCE - DOMESTIC X2 - HIGHWAY DISRUPTION X7 - INFORMATION X1 - NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR - OTHER X2 - ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION - TRAIN GATE FAULT

TRUCAM (SPEEDGUN)

4 one hour sessions.

27 reported - Top speed 46mph

34 reported - Top speed 45mph

12 reported - Top speed 42mph

19 reported for speeding, 1 for dangerous driving - Top speed 49mph

Monthly Total - 91

The **30mph** signs were checked before and after deployment and **clearly visible**.

One vehicle took the junction from Plough Road in to Weeley Road at 49mph, had a pedestrian been crossing, there would have been a fatality. This driver has also been reported for **dangerous driving**.

Pedestrians - If you need to cross the road in Weeley Road, please, please, please cross further down rather than near the junction, and please tell others you know that cross that road. Another plea for calming measures has been reported to Highways.

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

Thank you to those abiding by the legal safe limit.

CONSIDERATE PARKING TICKETS (CPI,s)

9 considerate parking tickets were 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. A junction is a junction and must not be blocked for the safety of vehicles pulling in and out. This is a major obstruction. So please keep junctions clear, specifically the junction of the island near the hair dressers, opposite the Plough. The staggered lines are for caution pulling out, due to traffic coming both ways, obstructing that junction is dangerous and can cause an accident. 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.

Vehicle lights/ Visible Registration Plates

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 into and they fit it for you there and then. It is an offence to have dirty number plates that can't be read. Please keep them clean and visible.

FRAUD

If anyone rings you asking for cash for any fraud purpose, it would not be a genuine person. If you have any doubt of any scam and just need advice, please contact me Julia.brandon@essex.police.uk
I am more than happy to chat with you, no matter how silly or small you believe it is.

Nuisance Vehicles

If you get caught driving a vehicle in a dangerous, inconsiderate manner. You may find yourself receiving a SECTION 59. If caught again, your vehicle could be confiscated and disposed of.
Please drive safely around the village.

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/>

For anything else email local PCSO Julia.brandon@essex.police.uk



The Great Bentley Show

Life moves on and we are making a couple of changes to the Village Show.

Due to the fact we have been unable to find a new President we have decided that the show will have to continue without someone in this post. We will be changing our constitution to reflect this and measures will be put in place to cover the jobs that previous Presidents have carried out so well.

It was also decided that the position of Vice President did not reflect the role played by these great people. We will be renaming VPs as a Friend of the Village Show. We hope our present VPs will continue to support the show and that we will attract some new supporters. For people new to the village Friends of the Village Show pay a small amount towards funding the show. Information will be available soon. This allows them free entrance to the marquee on show day. All Friends will be named in the programme this year.

New faces are always welcome to help both on the committee and on show day.

Mary Barber

chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk

FARMING NOTES

Cereal crops such as wheat and barley, at the time of drilling, have 100% yield potential. From the moment they are planted in the ground different factors such as the weather, soil type, the availability of nutrients, pests, weeds and diseases will begin to rapidly decrease the crop's potential yield. In order for farmers to produce the highest yielding crops they can they need to protect the crop from the impact of the factors just mentioned. In the autumn (for a winter grown cereal) farmers will apply a pre-emergence weed control spray – this is the first port of call after drilling to prevent the growth of weeds which would otherwise compete with the crop for light, nutrients and moisture. More weeds may appear later in the autumn but due to the weather they may not be able to travel with their sprayer on the land due to it being too wet, so a further spray application in the spring when the weather improves would follow.

Fertiliser as mentioned in last month's column would be applied to the crop to give it a kick start to get it growing away as soon as the temperatures warm up. As the temperatures do warm up disease pressure increases due to the warmer and damper conditions as a result of spring showers. This would exacerbate any disease which may have appeared in the crop over the winter months and/or may encourage the spread of disease in the crop. Photosynthesis is the way in which a plant uses energy from the sun light which is absorbed by chlorophyll in the plant to convert carbon dioxide and water to make energy. The presence of chlorophyll in a plant gives its green colour. When a plant, be it in the field or in your garden at home has a disease on it you will notice that the leaves lose their green colour meaning that they are not producing energy used for growth and development to their maximum capacity. If farmers can prevent and control any disease coming into their crop they will help maintain the potential yield of a crop. You may wonder how farmers optimising yield affects our day to day lives. If yields are dramatically reduced due to diseases, pests, lack of the correct nutrition and the weather there would be a shortage of wheat and barley to make into bread or beer which would result in the cost of these items increasing due to the shortage in supply of the product used to make them. In the arable farming year the next two months are the most important with regards to diseases to ensure the crop stays greener for longer, thus helping farmers achieve as near to their 100% yield potential.

Due to the wet weather there has been a delay in cultivations and other field work so where in previous years you may have seen many farmers drilling spring crops such as peas, beans, barley and sugar beet this year they will be drilled much later. These crops have been bred to have a much shorter growing period but still to be harvested at as similar time to many winter drilled crops (with the exception of sugar beet). These crops will be treated in a similar way to winter crops with every application/management being tailored to help maintain the potential yield of the crop.

Vicki Brooks

ALONG THE (Dripping nib) WATERFRONT

In my early days, I was not too behind in learning to read. In fact I took to it very well and one of my favourite heroes was "Rupert the Bear" featured in the Daily Express and the remnants of the "Mickey Mouse" comics left over from the War. Writing however, was a very different matter. Being left-handed in an age where school desks still had ink-wells and your lined exercise books needed to be "neat" within the closely spaced lines, writing anything was an agony. I constantly smudged my pages no matter how I tried to position my hand to laboriously produce those wretched letters. A conventional "R", I simply could not manage at all – which rather left my grindingly produced and splodgy testaments, a veritable battlefield for any one – even the most diligent of teachers – to make sense of. Shakings of head and vocal rebukes of a tear-generating manner, were the only results of my literary work. The inevitable result was that I hated writing and kept clear of it when ever I could. My heart skipped a beat in sheer relief whenever a lesson was heralded by being: "oral" - our exercise books not required this time. I should just mention that the simple pencil, which was of course, drip-drop free, was, for some reason, considered a rather second rate writing instrument – inerasible ink was what was required and ink was what we had to use...

It was Mr Bourne, a grim-faced, heavy, 'no-nonsense' character – who believed and somewhat relished the administration of corporal punishment and whose only teachings I can remember today was his absolute conviction for the very early England team's failure at the 1950 World Cup, was the fact that none of them could kick a football properly – who then suggested that:- "I think your handwriting might benefit from one of these new Biro pens..."

I duly reported his suggestion to my mother – who recoiled in horror. " But they cost a guinea each – we can't afford that – what twaddle..."

In case in this "Bic" age of throw-away pens, anyone is getting confused, I must say "Biro" was the name of the man who first invented the ball-point pen. It was a clever feat of precision engineering and as a result, "Biro`s" themselves were at first very expensive compared to the more widely used, "fountain," self-fill-up ink pens. Cheap ball-points came much later. Yet as a result, I received a Conway-Stewart fountain pen for Christmas – a surprise gift from my parents which nearly reduced me to tears – I wanted none of it - or to do any writing.

Can you believe the tension in our household as the need to try and pass the dreaded "eleven-plus" examination came on the scholastic horizon. My work – smeared and marked like a map of a battlefield and devoid of any "R`s" , was never going to cross that line. I suspect it was in parental panic that I was finally issued a "Biro." It did the trick. Moreover, a kind lady friend of my mother, demonstrated an optional version of my disasterous "R" - it was like an "N" with a twiddle on its upper right-hand side. Things began to look up. Sheer modesty prevents me from reporting if I passed my "Eleven Plus" or not. Yet for years I hated any form of writing until over a decade later, I was made secretary of the Clacton and District Motorcycle Club – and was handed a portable typewriter. Wow! - No smudging and the "R" already on the keys! Like Mercury pulling on his winged boots, I was on my way..... **Sidge**

From the St Osyth Parish News

MAKE A WISH

Marian Amariei (on the Left) came over to the UK from Romania and arrived in the UK on the 12th of September 2015. He had just turned 16. He has lived and worked in Great Bentley at Brook Farm ever since.

He started working for George Wright Farms, potato grading and working with cattle. Speaking no English at all was a problem, but after getting up at 5:30 six mornings a week and spending an hour everyday learning to read and write, very quickly this improved.

Some of you may see Marian strimming the grass on the green, helping Mick Dorling with the maintenance, having won one of the contracts to strim and mow the edges.

Over the years he has saved and purchased his own cattle. Developed his own landscaping Business, Turf in Essex, and supported two charities. Water Aid and now Make a Wish.

Having run the relay Marathon in Edinburgh, he has decided to join some friends and run the London Marathon on the 21st of April 2024 for the Charity Make a Wish.

Make-A-Wish® UK grant life-changing wishes for the thousands of critically ill children across the UK. Sadly, the number of wish enquiries from seriously ill children with less than a year to live is rising fast. They need help to meet this urgent demand now - before it's too late. For families with critically ill children, every day counts. Your support has the power to make a wish come true for a critically ill child, allowing families to create lasting memories that they will treasure forever – no matter what the future holds.

You can support Marian's efforts for Make a Wish on his just giving page shown below.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marian-amariei-london-marathon-2024-charity-place

Or just search Marian Amariei or George Robert Wright on the Just giving Web page if you want to support Make a Wish through their fund raising pages.



Great Bentley Pre-school
www.greatbentleypreschool.co.uk
information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk

April is a quiet month for us as we are on our Easter break until Monday 15th April. When we do return, we will be welcoming Hunter, Rosie, Louis, Dolly, Freya and Edison along with all their families. We hope you all have a wonderful and fun time within our Pre-School, we are looking forward to being part of it and watching you grow and develop.

Although April might be a quiet month for us, it is also a month which holds a significant date each year for many of our parents.

I would like to let our families know we will be thinking of them all on Primary School Allocation Day, which is Tuesday 16th April, we have our fingers firmly crossed for you all and hope you get the Primary School you want.

Sand Shed

Many of you may have seen on our FB page that we were busy over the half term creating an even more enriching and exciting space in our outdoor environment.

This was created by providing a sand shed for the children which can be used rain or shine, it will also allow us to close the doors each day to the sand and equipment knowing it will remain safe and hazard free for the children to use daily.

We also needed to replace our old shed that stores our outside equipment, this shed was 20+ years old and was quite rotten.

To be able to replace our old shed we applied for a grant from the Parish Council so would like to thank them for making this possible.

I would also like to thank 'Salvage Stitch Restore', who can be found on Instagram, for making/building both sheds, and 'House N Gardens' for taking away our old sand pit and old shed. House N Gardens kindly offered to do this free of charge, so we are very appreciative. They are a new local company and can be found on FB if anyone needed any garden work done.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter and hope you all enjoy the long bank holiday weekend, hopefully the sun will shine and you will get to enjoy the time off with your family and friends.

Thanks for reading.

Julie Wiles

Fares increase on Essex County Council supported services from Monday 1st April 2024

From Monday 1st April 2024, the fares of those bus services operated under Essex County Council's Gross Cost contracts which includes the 77/77a service are increasing in line with our Fees and Charges policy which will be a 4.1% increase rounded to the nearest 10p. The reason for the rounding is so the fares are not sums like £3.14 which would cause more difficulty for passengers and bus drivers.

Please note that concessionary bus pass holders and Park and Ride users will not be affected by this change.

Peter Harry
07503 153960

All fixtures for both Colts and Adults have now been finalised but are all subject to weather. April and May fixtures are shown below. Later fixtures will be published nearer the time but are available on our website at the following location: <https://greatbentleycc.co.uk/fixtures/>

Adults Fixtures		
APRIL	Sun 14	Ben Fryer: T20 Charity Match (H) 1pm
	Fri 19	Frinton Bar Flies (T20) (A) 6pm
	Sun 21	Adults v West Bergholt (H) 1pm
	Sun 28	Adults v Kelvedon (A) 1pm
MAY	Sun 5	Adults v Boxted (H) 1pm
	Sun 12	Adults v Kirby (A) 1pm
	Sun 26	Adults v Tendring (H) 1pm

Colts Fixtures		
APRIL	Tue 30	U11A v B'sea (H) 6pm
MAY	Sun 5	U11B v Gt Bromley (H) 10am
	Wed 8	U13 v Frinton (A) 6pm
	Sun 12	U11A v Wivenhoe (H) 10am
	Mon 13	U14 v Coggeshall (H) 6pm @ Bromley
	Wed 15	U13 v Mistley (A) 6pm
	Sun 19	U11A v W Bergholt (H) 6pm
	Sun 19	U13 v C&EE (A) 10am
	Tue 21	U11A v Elmstead (A) 6pm
	Mon 20	U14 v Abberton (A) 6pm
	Wed 22	U11B v Tendring (A) 6pm
	Thu 23	U11B v Frinton (H) 6pm

Colts Training starts Friday 19th April at 530pm (softball) and 630pm (hardball). Adults Training is on Thursday evenings at 6pm starting 2nd May.

GBCC is proud to introduce a new way to support the club, *the Vice Presidents Fund*. Whether you are a former player, family of a junior or senior player or simply an enthusiastic follower we encourage you to become a Vice President. GBCC is a great organisation with deep history dating back over 250 years. Becoming a Vice President will help maintain the history of the club and secure the club's success for future generations. As we grow our running costs rise year on year, and whilst every penny of profit goes back into the running of the club, greater financial resources are required to maintain and develop both the playing sides and facilities.

Becoming a Vice President costs just £75 per year and includes your annual club membership. Being a VP has many benefits including pre-release option for tickets to future GBCC events, a VP badge and drinks voucher for the club bar. Perhaps more importantly you will know that you are helping the club financially and having a vital role in a village institution. If you have any questions, please contact the club via info@greatbentleycc.co.uk. If you'd like to become a Vice President now membership can be paid via the club's website: <https://greatbentleycc.co.uk/memberships>

Season Opening Charity T20 Match in aid of NSPCC.

Sunday 14th April. Bar open from noon. Match starts at 2pm.

Honorary Club Vice President Ben Fryer, who is running the London Marathon raising funds for the NSPCC will umpire, Club Chairman Henry Fairbanks will captain the GBCC XI and Club Captain Alex Youngs will lead the Ben Fryer Select XI.

GBCC are pleased to donate 20p per drink sold to the NSPCC.

***** Raffle, Cake Sale, Face Painting *****



GREAT BENTLEY MILITARY VETERANS CLUB
SATURDAY 6th APRIL SOCIAL BREAKFAST

The next get together of the Veterans Club will be 10am at The Plough for breakfast
SATURDAY 6th APRIL

If you are ex-forces, still serving, National Service or an RBL member, why not join us for a breakfast butty, brew and banter. At our March get together we had a successful raffle.

6 enjoyed breakfast, a laugh with lots of prizes.

All ages welcome. Our youngest member is still serving and most senior, a sprightly 99 (ninety-nine).
Namely Mr Tony Rampling

Contact David Flinn BEM
Mob: 0742 114 1131

FOOD BANK

The main needs at the moment are for Long Life juices, tinned fruit, tinned custard/rice pudding, Jam, peanut butter, chocolate spread, Multi pack biscuits - Kit Kat, Club etc, Coffee, Hot chocolate, tinned meat - chopped ham, corned beef, Stewed steak/mince, meatballs, Fish, Tinned vegetables - eg. peas, carrots, Sauces - pasta, curry, cheese etc., Tomato ketchup, cooking oil, salt, pepper, Toiletries - shampoo, conditioner, Shower Gel, men's & women's deodorants, Washing liquid, Washing up liquid, Nappies, sizes - 4,5,6,7. Or 'Pull Ups'

**ALL FOODS MUST BE IN DATE AND HAVE AT LEAST
A 2 MONTH 'BEST BEFORE' DATE.**

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

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

DEADLINE FOR MAY MAGAZINE

MONDAY 15th APRIL

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

The Time When Our Coast Came Alive with the Sound of Radio

This Easter marks sixty years since a ship equipped with studios and radio transmitting equipment started broadcasting pop and popular music. Radio Caroline on board the MV Caroline began its transmissions just off Felixstowe on Easter Saturday 28th March 1964. It needed to be anchored more than three miles from the coast in order to be, at the time, outside British jurisdiction. Radio broadcasts were strictly controlled, the BBC being the only provider of radio entertainment. Now there was an alternative and it was an instant success due to the fact it provided all day music radio for the first time in this country. Listeners were just getting used to the novelty of this new service when another radio ship arrived.

Radio Atlanta aboard the MV Mi Amigo anchored off Frinton and began regular broadcasts on the 12th May. If everything had gone to plan this station would have been the first British offshore radio station as it had a two year preparation head start on Radio Caroline. Due to some investors suddenly withdrawing from the project and to the fact that the Mi Amigo had to sail back from the USA it had to settle for second place. Radio Atlanta had a particular relevance to this area because not only was it located off the Frinton coast but was also tendered from Brightlingsea. During its first few weeks on air work was still being carried out on board in which local firms were involved. At this time I had just started my electrical apprenticeship with E.H. Ruddock and I know that one of their marine electricians went out to the ship on a few occasions. James and Stone, the ship builders would have also done work in connection with Radio Atlanta.

These radio stations were soon labelled as 'pirates' and caused a great upset with the government of the day. For the time being their music programmes were giving great pleasure to the many listeners, especially the youngsters. Car stickers soon began to appear stating 'I Love Caroline on 199' or 'I Prefer Atlanta on 201'. Although the two stations were identifiable in having slightly different programming they were in competition with each other.

I was very surprised one afternoon when I had come home from school and turned the radio on to find out that there were two 'Radio Caroline's broadcasting, it was announced that a merger of the two stations had taken place. I was sad to learn that we were going to lose the MV Caroline from our coast as she was already on her way to take up her new position off the Isle of Man to become Radio Caroline North. The MV Mi Amigo stayed off Frinton but had now become Radio Caroline South. This had proved to be a very suitable anchorage for the Mi Amigo being away from the main shipping lanes, sheltered by the Gunfleet sands and relatively close to London where large audiences were to be had.

It was probably for these reasons that other radio ships took up anchorages near to Caroline. Radio London arrived in December 1964 and then in the Spring of 1966 Radio England and Britain Radio, both stations broadcasting from the same ship anchored off Walton-on-Naze.

During this 'heyday' of pirate radio activity our local coastal resorts benefitted from the publicity and interest that these stations attracted. Blackpool may have had the tall tower and Southend the long pier but we had the offshore radio stations. There is no doubt that they increased tourism to the area with a chance for visitors to look out at sea and see these ships or take a trip out on one of the pleasure boats that made regular summer visits out to them from Clacton and Walton. On occasions there was even the opportunity to communicate with Radio Caroline when they had one of their 'Frinton flashing' sessions. Listeners would park up on the cliff at night and using their head lights, answering two flashes for 'yes' and one flash for 'no' in response to questions asked by the deejay. The deejays that worked on these stations became household names in a very short while. Do you remember the likes of Simon Dee, Tony Blackburn, Kenny Everett, Ed Stewart, John Peel, Keith Skues and Johnnie Walker? They all spent time on the pirate stations before moving onto jobs with the BBC and commercial radio as well appearances on TV.

Listeners loved these stations but the government loathed them and it was inevitable that they would be closed down and an act of parliament to do just that became law on August 15th 1967. Although the BBC did start Radio 1 and 2 to fill the gap left by the pirate stations they proved to be a hard act to follow. The key ingredients to the success of these stations included spontaneity, informality and creativity, qualities of which were taken up by many subsequent legal radio stations. The informal style allowed by the 'self op' programming pioneered by the deejays out on the ships are retained in music radio today. Something I don't think that could ever be replicated was just the sheer excitement of turning on and listening to the radio during those 'swinging years' in the 60's.

Radio Caroline did go on to 'live another day' through various phases of offshore broadcasting until 1990. These days it is a completely legal land based station and can be heard on 648 khz and on the normal digital and electronic devices.

If you are interested in finding out more details about this fascinating era of radio the Felixstowe and Offshore Radio group will be giving a presentation at the Great Bentley History Society meeting on Thursday 11th April at 7.30.

Roy Parker

RUNNING CLUB

As ever there have been Great Bentley runners popping up at Parkrun Events all over the UK this month. The first Parkrun of March saw Helene Tyler return to running with a trot around Maldon Promenade. There was also a Northern Irish Parkrun for Alison at Ecos Parkrun in Ballymena 31:53. Paul and Deborah Hollidge were thankful that Keswick Parkrun was on as it had been so wet many of the Lake District events had been cancelled of late. They achieved 26:15 and 26:16 respectively. Martin and Sammy Cotton, along with Laura Cook and Bee Harris were in Ashford to score 29:25; 32:25; 32:26 and 38:20. Martin Steinwand ran Hockgraben parkrun, Germany in 28:16. At Norwich Simon Leggett and Emily O'Neill hit 22:50 and 22:52 respectively (it's great to see Simon back out running as he has had a nasty ankle injury since early in the New Year).



Adam Waller-Toyne ran the St Peters Way Ultra, starting in Chipping Ongar. The course is 42 miles of footpath making its through the historic countryside of Essex heading towards the coast, and the ancient chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall at Bradwell on Sea. Adam reported hideous conditions and was unhappy with his time, but well done for completing another ultra distance in wet and marshy conditions.

Sunday early March saw the Tarpley 10 and 20 mile races. It's named after a Bury St Edmunds Pacer club president and it takes place around the undulating countryside of Suffolk near Thurston. In the 20 mile race, Paul Davison ran a PB in 2:15:41 whilst in the 10 mile race Caroline Dyer ran a PB of over two minutes with a time of 1:25:05.

Bee Harris went off to Prestwold Hall and airfield in Leicestershire to complete the Leicestershire Half Marathon and she was pleased to knock 7 minutes off her PB with a time of 2:22:38.

There have been other PBs through the month. Firstly, Paul Arnold ran Chelmsford Half Marathon with a PB of 1:47:38, another Bentley runner part way through their training for a marathon, well done Paul for removing nearly 4 minutes. Lisa Briggs went to Paddock Wood Half Marathon in Kent and also knocked 4 minutes off her PB with a new time of 1:33:32. Gavin Bryne is also busy marathon training and ran the Queen Elizabeth II Park Half Marathon in a PB time of 1:22:10.

Larina Marsh is looking for an Ultra distance a month and for March she went to Amersham to complete the Amersham Ultra which takes in the beauty (and weather) of the Chiltern Hills in a respectable time of 8:17:00 coming home in the top half of the women finishers. Rob Elliott and Simon Leggett ran the Cambridge Half Marathon in 1:49:15 and 1:37:57.

Sunday 3rd March saw the rearranged inter-club 10 mile race between us and Harwich, held in Great Bromley. Even with the improvement in weather we had to move to a two lap course this year. We still got the 10 miles distance covered and this course seemed to bring the best out of lots of the competitors and there were many PBs being reported on Strava, with both first male, Joshua Beaumont and first female, Andrea James, wearing Bentley blue. One in particular runner deserves a mention: Gary Cooper has trained so hard and managed to knock 7 minutes off his Tiptree 10 time, the training truly is paying dividends! Well done to everyone who took part and Great Bentley retained the cup by a very narrow margin of 27 points.

THORRINGTONHALL WOODS BLUEBELL WEEKEND

4th/5th/6th MAY

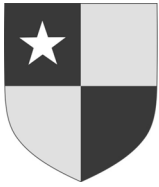
**Enjoy a walk and see the bluebells
with a
fun trail for children at
Hall Farm, Clacton Road, CO7 8AH**

**Open between 10am - 4pm
(Last entrance 3pm).**

Dogs on leads please.

Entry £2.

Refreshments available in church.



GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Community Safety Working Group

The Parish Council are actively seeking volunteers to be part of a new Community Safety Working Group. The group will be formed of selected councillors, members of the public and representatives from Essex Police Force.

The aim of the group will be to identify issues impacting on the community and suggest ideas to the council in how to address and resolve these matters. The group will also seek out new initiatives and opportunities by engaging with existing voluntary groups within the parish.

Areas of focus will include:

**Parking, Crime Reduction, Speeding and Traffic Controls,
Active Citizenship/Community Projects.**

If you feel that you would like to be part of this group and are able to support some of the projects (and commit to attending one meeting per month) please email the clerk of the Parish Council.

clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Please note that the proposal to create a Community Safety Group will be considered and decided at the April Parish Council Meeting.

If agreed, volunteers will be notified by 12th April 2024.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

February saw an ongoing reduction in the volume of 'speeding' recorded by the Community Speedwatch Team, but we continue to see some people travelling well over 40mph, sometimes over 50mph in our 30mph zones.

As the daylight hours extend, we're already able to be more flexible as to when we're out around the village and have noticed some motorists looking very surprised (not always in a good way!) to see us at times of the day which we don't tend to cover during the winter months. So please do be aware that we'll be out more regularly and also that the Police enforcement camera has been seeing a lot of action around the village lately as well! Driving too fast here is not only antisocial and dangerous, it could get very expensive!

Thank you again to everyone who continues to drive within the speed limits around Great Bentley!

As always, we're keen to welcome new volunteers to our team so if you can spare some time and you'd like to play a part in this community effort to make our village just a little bit safer, please do get in touch at greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com

SCHOOL NEWS

YEAR 1

Year 1 had a fantastic day making lighthouses on the last day before half term. They used different tools, materials and ways of cutting things and fixing them together.

YEAR 2

Year 2 had a great first week back after half term. They now use imperative verbs in their instructions, therefore in order to make sure the reader understands what to do, they have to be quite directive. They have been exploring what might make us feel worried and what can make us feel relaxed in their PSHE lessons. This made them more considerate of other people and how they could support others who are under stress. They are investigating the types of food we eat and how our bodies may be impacted by their diet.

YEAR 3

Year 3 have been researching, designing and making their own photo frames for a special occasion. The children worked excellently showing incredible teamwork and communication when handling the saws and supporting one another with this.

YEAR 4

Year four have had a busy start to Spring. They were very excited to receive their first letters from their American penpals. The children were so excited to find out all about their new friends and they also received friendship bracelets from them. They have already sent letters to Ohio and are looking forward to writing again.

In the new Science topic for this term Year 4 are finding out about the digestive system and their first lesson was all about teeth. They chewed disclosing tablets to find out where the plaque was on their teeth and evaluated why it is important to ensure that we brush our teeth carefully. Purple and pink stains on our teeth after chewing the disclosing tablet indicate plaque is present.

They have also visited the Essex Police Museum to find out about Crime and Punishment which is what they have been learning about in History. They had a super day and found out about different forms of punishment over the years as well as having their fingerprints taken.

They have been learning all about angles in Maths and loved the chance to write on the tables to investigate different angles.

World Book Day

What a fantastic World Book Day it was. It was evident from observing every class that the pupils had a great time. We were able to raise £265 for our school.

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE		Division 1	KO 3 00pm unless stated
Feb 17 th	Dovercourt Rovers	(A)	Postponed waterlogged pitch
Feb 24 th	FC Clacton Res	(A)	Postponed waterlogged pitch
Mar 2 nd	The Rodings	(A)	Postponed waterlogged pitch
Mar 9 th	Dovercourt Rovers	(A)	W 2 – 1
Mar 16 th	FC Clacton Res	(A)	
Mar 23 rd	Cressing Utd	(H)	

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE		Division 3		
Feb 17 th	Gosfield Utd	(H)	D	0 – 0
Feb 24 th	Barnston Res	(H)	W	8 – 1
Mar 2 nd	Lawford Lads Res (H)	W	3 – 1	
Mar 9 th	Silver End Res	(H)	W	4 – 0 Covid Cup 3 rd rd
Mar 16 th	Wormingford Wdrs Res	(H)		Tommy Thompson Cup 2 nd rd 2 30 KO
Mar 23 rd	Alresford Colne Rgs Res	(H)		

ESSEX & SUFFOLD BORDER LEAGUE		Division 5		
Feb 17 th	Brooklands Sat	(A)	L	3 – 0
Feb 24 th	Assington Stanley	(H)	L	3 – 1
Mar 2 nd	Roman Rovers	(A)		Postponed waterlogged pitch
Mar 16 th	West Bergholt Res	(H)		
Mar 23 rd	Roman Rovers	(A)		

Due to the continuing bad weather the 1st team have only played one game since last month. We travelled to play Dovercourt who sat second in the table. With our injury problems and availability of players we had to take 3 players from the reserve team squad, who in turn used 3 players from the young A team.

Once again veteran Lee Barratt answered the call to arms. Controlling the midfield for 70 mins before coming off after receiving a number of heavy challenges. The three subs from the 2nd team. Elliot Mcmillan, Jimmie Whiting & Jammo Wright all played an integral part in the 2 – 1 win. Gaz Evans and Monty Beaird had put us up 2 – 0 at half time & we continued to push forward in the second half for a well deserved win. Jake Vaughan was selected to play for the league representative team in the National Inter League Cup. The Border league lost 2 – 0 to the Herts Senior League side, played at Harpenden FC ground. An honour for Jake and for the club. Jake was our first representative since we were forced to drop out of the Premier league during Covid times.

With no 1st team games on the home fixtures of the reserves and the A team have seen the number of spectators increased dramatically. Giving some much appreciated vocal support.

Benefiting from the fact that our pitches drain very well the reserves have played all their scheduled fixtures. A 0 - 0 draw was fought out against a good Gosfield Utd side, followed by a resounding 8 – 1 win against Barnston Res. Subs on the day included Jake Vaughan who scored 4 goals and Gaz Evans x 1 from the 1st team. Other scorers were Adam Morton, Adam Duce & Elliot Mcmillan. The winning run continued with a 3 – 1 win against Lawford Lads Res. Scorers Elliot Mcmillan, Sam Winney and Jake Vaughan. In the 3rd round of the league Covid Cup a 4 – 0 win against Silver End Res. I can't remember a team being awarded 3 penalties in a game. Our scorers were Lewis Evans x 3 and top goal scorer from the A team Archie Smith. We will play Little Oakley Res in the quarter final. Fixture tba. We now also sit top of Division 3.

The 'A' team won 1 – 0 away at Elmstead Market with a goal from Flynn Hutchings then faced two difficult fixtures. Home to Brooklands Saturday losing 3 – 0. Then the following week home to Assington Stanley. Losing 3 – 1 to a much more experienced and physical side, Archie Smith scoring our consolation goal. Young Henry Cross was unfortunate to get sent off after receiving two yellow cards. The away game at Roman Rovers was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. With 2 league games to play we are still top of Division 5 with a good chance of being champions.

Our longest serving helper Mary Amy, who has managed the bar and catering in the clubhouse for over 35 years has been greatly missed by all for the last few weeks. Visiting referees and teams asking "where's Mary?" With no games on Mary decided to do some DIY "cleaning" at home. Unfortunately she hurt her back doing this but is now slowly working her way back to "match fitness!"

Follow Great Bentley Football Club on Facebook and X for all the latest information. Come and watch some "grass roots" football. It's free. The clubhouse is open and it's better than you think.

Come on you Bulldogs

So you think you're tough

Owing to my interest in geomorphology, I once accepted an invitation to join a caving exercise in Derbyshire - not that crawling around in total darkness has anything to do with identifying rock formations - anyway, I thought it was a good idea. It was in 1963, and I was a student at Loughborough Colleges, a sporting establishment of appalling male elitism. I say 'male' because that was what Loughborough was in those days; an all-male sporting institution - no women allowed. Whether it was 'exclusive' or 'exclusionary' - whichever adjective ticks your box - it nonetheless listed, among its alumni, several world class athletes, some of whom were destined to bring gold back to Britain from the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games. It was normal to see a colossus - testosterone steaming from his ears - strolling around the common room wearing skimpy shorts. I think I admired the chutzpah, maybe, but those guys frightened me - unapproachable. One actually spoke to me once - it was a mistake, he thought I was someone else.

So, although my physique was not of such power - theirs bordering on the mechanical - I did however, at the age of twenty, enjoy an extraordinary level of fitness. But such confidence can also harbour insufferable arrogance. When the caving invitation arrived, my fitness for the task was brought into question by the cave leader - referring, I supposed, to my mental fortitude to deal with difficulties rather than my athleticism. By comparison, he was a tallish, lean and wiry man, an experienced spelunker from Yorkshire, a quiet person with a mop of blond hair and a cute little curly beard. He looked focussed and unflappable, a genuine responder in an emergency. Trying to appear tough, I scoffingly insisted that going into a hole in a mountain was something I could do whilst standing on my head; a stupid remark, the blabbing of which I immediately regretted. I winced. Luckily it was quite dark on the top floor of Gimson Hall, my hall of residence, the poor lighting obscuring my awkward squirming. He gave me the arrangements and left.

It was a sunny Sunday morning as the group unloaded the equipment from the coach, placing on the ground near the cave entrance all manner of equipment - rope ladders, helmets and other unrecognisable stuff the function of which escaped me, plus food, water and medical supplies. They double checked everything as if we were moving underground for good - such a relaxed demeanour - them, not me. *Something I could do whilst standing on my head.* Did I say that? Oh God, I thought, these guys are serious.

After what seemed to be an eternity climbing down a rope ladder, I reached the floor of a huge cavern deep in the bowels of a hilly tor. I wasn't scared - chuffed in fact - I had managed to get each foot onto the next lower rung of the ladder as it dangled in the blackness. Then, in the luxury of ample space, the group of seven re-assembled, the leaders deciding who will lead and who would bring up the rear; where medical supplies were and how to mark or identify passages. The process was calm and orderly. Preparations complete, everyone checked their head torches - plus extra charged batteries - and off we went. Then I was scared, although unaware of the reasons for being so.

Being in such a confined space deep in the cave was, for me, an alien environment - hostile territory, uninviting and unforgiving. I felt like a rat in a laboratory, with someone in a white coat watching how I reacted to being in surroundings which represented the complete antithesis of the human domain. It was coldish and damp, with hard uneven surfaces in narrow passageways, craggy outcrops waiting to collide with my elbows and knees - both bleeding within minutes. Chirpy intermittent calls from leaders explaining where we were and what to expect were reassuring, I suppose, but the jolliness angered me - how could they be enjoying this? It was like crawling in muddy, crocodile infested waters. I was waiting to be crushed or eaten. Geomorphology? Who bloody cares? How can hours in a flooded subnivean corridor deep underground be a happy place for any creature remotely anthropoidal? This is the world of mice, voles and lemmings. Worst of all, I was in complete and total blackness, the silly little lamp perched loosely on my tin hat was shining everywhere except where I needed it to shine. *Something I could do whilst standing on my head* - the harsh reality of my situation unceremoniously plonked me firmly back on my feet, or rather on my elbows and knees. How wrong I was. Then we met a water course! I had never encountered such fear as that felt when I was expected, by the party leader, to immerse myself in water - how do I breathe? My morale collapsed - my mind kept yelling that everything we encountered during our crawling away from the entrance to the cave system was to be repeated during the return crawl, assuming, that is, we find a chamber in which the return crawl can be initiated.

I don't remember the journey back to Gimson, I just quietly rolled up in a ball, lying on a double seat of the coach, shivering with exhaustion and self-pity. But I do remember nibbling an over-ripe banana butty - for me, something akin to a baby's dummy; yucky but comforting. I had done it, yes, but an experience never to be repeated.

However, what did come out of the adventure was my heightened respect for cavers; their calm, courageous and pragmatic approach to finding a solution to a subterranean crisis seemingly unsolvable. These are the guys who offer a safe and fully-reasoned rationale in order to rescue those persons inescapably caught underground as a result of their inquisitive fun, only then to find themselves in a life-threatening situation. Confinement, together with water, conspire and become a formidable nemesis. To all you cave rescuers out there, I salute you.

JE

Surgery Newsletter

Verbal Abuse of Surgery Staff

I am very sorry to report that there is a significant increase in the number of patients being verbally abusive and rude to both our clinical and administrative staff. All our staff work extremely hard to provide a safe and efficient service for our patients. I would ask that in future, patients treat all members of our Surgery team with respect and do not take out their frustrations on us.

Blood Tests

From May 2024 we will not be offering routine blood test appointments for the majority of our patients. We will be providing patients with the blood test request forms and asking them to book an appointment at either Clacton Hospital, Colchester Hospital or the Primary Care Centre in Colchester. Please remember these are not 'drop-in' clinics and you will need to book an appointment for your blood test. Appointments can be made for these clinics by going on-line to <https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk> and clicking on book an appointment, search Clacton Hospital Bloods and selecting adult blood tests. If you are not able to go on-line to do this, then you can phone 0300 303 5299 between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm to book an appointment.

For patients having their annual diabetic review with the healthcare assistant, blood tests will be done at the Surgery as part of this check.

Urgent Triage Service

In order to manage our heavy workload, our urgent triage service will now operate between 8.00 am and 5.30 pm Monday to Friday. Please ensure that if you have an urgent medical problem, you contact us before 5.30 pm to ensure you are able to get the help you need. For housebound patients needing a home visit, these requests should be made on the day before 12.30 pm.

NHS App

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

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Tuesday, 23 April for staff training.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

There will not be a PPG meeting in April. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 23 May at 6.30 pm in The Mitchell Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager



EASTER AT ST OSYTH PRIORY

FAMILY EASTER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 3rd April

10am, 11am, 12 noon, 1pm - Tickets £6.50 Under 1yr free



Join us for our Easter Eggs-travanganza! Get up close to deer being fed. Hunt for eggs in the Victorian Rose Garden. Race around our Bunny Hop garden. Easter crafts in the Medieval Chapel. Collect stickers at each activity to earn your chocolate egg!

Thursday 4th April - Tractor Trailer Tours - 10am, 11am, 12 noon, 1pm - Tickets £6.50, under 1 yr free

Tour the Parkland on our Tractor Trailer to see the rare breed cattle and sheep as well as the herds of deer. Children can use binoculars to complete an Easter I-SPY

To book see our website: prioryeducationcentre.co.uk

Enter at the little gate on The Bury. Postcode: CO16 8NX



JUST WILLIAMS



All answers relate to famous Williams...

1. Poet who wrote 'Daffodils' and lived at Dove Cottage in the Lakes?
2. Tennis playing sisters?
3. Presenter & producer of C4 quiz 'Fifteen to One' 1988-2003 ?
4. 42nd President of the USA?
5. Scottish hero who inspired the film 'Braveheart'?
6. Actor who portrayed Captain Kirk on the Starship Enterprise?
7. Playwright married to Anne Hathaway?
8. Author of 'Lord of the Flies'?
9. British politician who fought to end slavery?
10. English king born at Falaise Castle in Normandy?
11. UK Prime Minister with middle name Ewart?
12. English poet who wrote the words to 'Jerusalem'?
13. Actor who played Billy Mack in 'Love Actually'?
14. Frontman of the 'Black Eyed Peas'?
15. Mischievous and unruly boy in books by Richmal Compton?
16. The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air?
17. Actor who played Julius Caesar in 'Carry on Cleo'? 'Infamy, infamy'!
18. Composer of 'The Lark Ascending'?
19. British textile designer born 1834 in Walthamstow, Essex.
20. Composer of many film scores including 'Jaws', 'Star Wars' & E.T.?



1. William Wordsworth
2. Venus & Serena
3. William G Stewart
4. William Jefferson Clinton
5. William Wallace
6. William Shatner
7. William Shakespeare
8. William Golding
9. William Wilberforce
10. William I (Conqueror)
11. William Gladstone
12. William Blake
13. Bill Nighy
14. William
15. Just William Brown
16. Will Smith
17. Kenneth Williams
18. Ralph Vaughan Williams
19. William Morris
20. John Williams

Bell Ringer's Update

Another incredibly busy month has passed for St Mary's Church Bell Ringers, where we have rung to announce all the services as usual. We have also rung to celebrate the long life of Mary Beard prior to the celebration of her life in St Mary's church. Mary was a centenarian, and I remember well organising ringing for her 100th birthday.

We are once again very busy with an influx of new ringers wishing to learn this ancient art. It's such a pleasure to us to know that we are helping to perpetuate the tradition of change ringing which has been practiced for several centuries.

Like any ancient artefacts, church bells require maintenance, which we mostly complete ourselves on a monthly basis. However, every hundred or so years, more extensive maintenance and restoration is required. Any work like this, particularly in a listed building is costly and has to be carried out by specialist contractors. In order to assist with our fund raising for this we will be running fund raising events this year. These include the following:

13th April: A sponsored cycling event to the churches in our new parish of Great Bentley, St Osyth, Little Clacton and Weeley.

18th May: Ringing demonstration and opportunity to 'have a go' on a working model of a set of church bells during the May Fayre

15th June: Sponsored 'static cycling event' where you can have the opportunity to sponsor us to cycle to certain specified locations

If you have an interest in learning to ring church bells or would perhaps like to help us with any of our events, then please contact me on the number below.

Roger Carey-Smith
07422 880921

Say NO to the Quarry

If you were wondering what the significance of this month's front cover is, it shows the approximate size of the quarry compared to the village! Not a happy thought!

We appreciate that the consultation has now been extended but we may need to fight on if we are not removed from consideration as a possible site for gravel extraction.

Thank you to everyone who filled in a response to the consultation.

We will be working closely with the Parish Council to raise the profile of A68 Crabtree Farm and other sites close to Great Bentley.

Great Bentley Parish Council have a designated page on their website with up-to-date information.

www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk.

The Mineral Extraction Action Group
notositeA68@gmail.com



Extension of public consultation

Due to significant public interest we have extended the public consultation for the Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan review 2025 to 2040. The new consultation deadline is 5pm on Tuesday 9 April.

BENTLEY LADIES CLUB

Jenny, our new Chair, welcomed us and read out a thank you card from Edna her predecessor, who had held the post for many years.

We were disappointed to hear that our scheduled speaker had to cancel due to illness, however our undaunted members arrived bearing all manner of board games, and so ensued an evening of fun & laughter where we enjoyed playing games, some familiar and some less so. The evening ended with our monthly raffle. 'All's well that ends well'

If you fancy joining us, new members and guests are always welcome. We meet at the Village Hall in the Mitchell Room at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

Date for your diary:

Tuesday 2nd April... 'Tales of Treasure and Trash', a presentation by Kate Osborne, a naturalist who loves beachcombing on Suffolk's shingle beaches.

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 11th April 2024 - 7.30pm Village Hall

Felixstowe & Offshore Radio

1964 heralded the start of a revolution in UK radio when Caroline dropped anchor off Felixstowe.
A talk by Brian Nichols

Members and visitors are very welcome.
Members £2 Visitors £4

GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

At our March meeting we had a very enjoyable evening with Andrew Babicz learning about composting and now for the spring we have some different events.

On **Tuesday 16th April** in the Village Hall it is our **Spring Show** when Members can exhibit their spring blooms and display their floral art and garden craft skills. Members please enter as many categories as you can. There is something for everyone. If anyone still needs a Schedule please contact Bob on 01206 251433 or bob.newman@mac.com . Please note that staging of entries is from 7.00pm and is to be completed by 7.45pm. Judging will commence promptly at 8.00pm. Only Gardening Club Members are eligible to exhibit at the Show but visitors are welcome to come and view (£3.00 per person).

We plan to have two garden visits during the summer, the first of which will be in May. Details will be available shortly and we are always happy for guests to join us on our visits.

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY 25TH MAY
Plant Sale and Coffee Morning – 10.00am to 12.00pm at the Village Hall
(Please note that no plants will be sold before 10.00am)

ART CLUB

Great Bentley Art Club meet up on Tuesday afternoons from 2pm, in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome.

Tuesday 9th April - Paint or draw a subject from eye level view, or close to, ground level.
Tuesday 23rd April - Paint or draw an exotic flower or fruit.

By the close of February, our art club had organised a one day workshop. Geoff Thorpe, a popular artist and tutor from our area, demonstrated his watercolour painting techniques and tips and provided us with individual guidance throughout the day. It was a very enjoyable morning and afternoon for all. We were able to take our paintings home, having gleaned some watercolour painting tips for future use. So we would like to thank Geoff very much indeed for making it such a successful event.



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!**

Short-eared owl caught in the rain

April 2024

Short-eared owls migrate here from Scandinavia, Russia and Iceland for the winter. They hunt during the day (diurnal), and can be seen over marshland hunting for voles and similar small animals. Owl feathers are very soft and fluffy, with a unique soft downy coating that improves air flow and dampens smaller currents, as does a super-soft fringe on each wing's trailing edge. These adaptations make them able to fly and hunt silently. However this fluffiness means the waterproofing oil that birds apply to their feathers (from a gland) is not so effective in owls, and fluffy feathers can absorb water like little sponges. When there is prolonged rain they are unable to hunt and become weaker and weaker. This one was found after heavy rains having fallen onto a river bank – she was covered in mud, saturated, and hypothermic. She was taken to a vet in Ipswich who phoned the RSPCA in Martlesham, and she was quickly transported to Wildlives. After intensive care she responded well and is now in a flight pen building up her weight and flight muscles.

An Egyptian gosling was found on his back, newly hatched and hypothermic. He has done very well in intensive care and is now flourishing. Egyptian geese are not native to the UK, and by law cannot be released into the wild. When he is grown he will be finding a home with a colleague who has an enclosed lake with other geese,

A feral pigeon squab was found below the nest (in a satellite dish) and had been attacked. The head skin was all necrotic, but is now starting to renew (although it is yet to be seen whether his feathers will grow back there). He is now feeling a lot better, and you can see him recovering with his new friend in the extra pictures on our web site.

GARDENING NOTES

This is a really busy month although on fine days you may have already made a start during March. When the sun is out the air temperature can quickly rise but however if you check the temperature of the soil you may find it still very cold. The nights are usually cooler with an occasional frost and this keeps the temperature of the ground down.

Normally onion sets are planted during April as an early sowing can lead to a lot of sets running to seed. Hopefully you have bought your seed potatoes and have set them in boxes in a light, airy and frost free place. Some people use empty egg boxes to contain the potatoes but a standard seed tray with crumpled newspaper in the bottom is sufficient. Don't forget to look at the potatoes and make sure you place the end with the most shoots uppermost. The ideal time to plant them out is when the shoots are about 1 inch long so they don't get damaged when planting. There is a lot of debate about whether this process (chitting) improves the yield, but if you cannot influence their growing conditions, you can at least give them a head start by chitting first.

How lovely it is to see lots of daffodils providing blocks of colour during March. After flowering don't forget to take off the dead heads and not to let them form seed pods as these take lots of goodness out of the bulbs and will give you a poor display next year. Whilst the leaves are still green they are still making goodness for the bulbs. Don't cut the leaves off before they turn brown and wither. Also don't tie them into knots as this stops the goodness flowing down into the bulb. Give them a little bit of feed with something like bone meal. This is a natural organic fertiliser, but it is a very slow release fertiliser. This means the bulbs can die down naturally using some of the goodness, and then when they start their root growth towards the end of the year the goodness is still available for them to use.

Whilst on the subject of flowers, if you are tempted to buy any early plants from the nursery or DIY store don't forget most of them are susceptible to frost and they will need to be given some protection, either in a greenhouse or cold frame. Remember the plants you buy now have been kept in a nice warm (or even hot) greenhouse so they are really forced to make them grow quickly ready for sale. It is okay however to sow the seeds of the plants that you wish to put in your summer display in the garden.

You will need to protect them in a greenhouse or on a window sill until they are ready to prick out in late April/ May so they then grow big enough to plant out when the risk of all frosts has gone at the end of May, beginning of June. Please read the instructions on the seed packet carefully as some seeds need to be kept in the dark and others need light to help them germinate. In most cases a sprinkle of vermiculite on top of the seeds instead of compost can help to stop the emerging seedlings from damping off and rotting before they get big enough to plant out into individual pots or seed trays.

Vegetables are becoming more popular for containers - tomatoes have been grown in grow bags for years. We have all seen or heard of strawberries grown in containers but mostly these are grown in the greenhouse. There are now a number of varieties which are dwarf and ideal for container growing and these include miniature bush tomatoes, dwarf French beans and dwarf runner beans. (Hesta is a variety that springs to mind) or perhaps normal runner beans grown in a circle and growing up canes set round the edge of the container tied at the top like a wigwam. Also small peppers, chillies and cucumbers can be grown outside if you position them in nice warm places like a patio. You can also grow lots and lots of herbs very easily. Happy gardening.

One of the most unusual presents I received for my birthday two years ago was a lemon tree with three fully formed large fruit hanging from it and plenty of beautifully scented blossom. If honest my first thought was "I hope I don't kill it", but it is still going strong, has lots of fruit in varying sizes and has grown massively despite light pruning to stop it becoming too tall. Kept in a cold greenhouse over the winter months with a layer of fleece on the really cold nights it's fairly low maintenance. It came from the Romantic Garden in Norfolk. Why not give one a try. **MM**

WOULD YOU LIKE AN ALLOTMENT?

Gentle exercise required?

Wanting to eat more healthily with food grown not using chemical sprays? Wanting to have bunches of flowers you can pick for yourself? Have you thought of applying for an allotment?

Email the Parish Council clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk
or ring 01206 256410

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

GREEN FLAG BIDS ENTERED FOR TENDRING

Prestigious awards are being entered once again for Tendring's gardens and open spaces to be recognised for their quality.

Green Flag awards are being submitted again by Tendring District Council (TDC) as the authority looks to keep its awards for four of its managed gardens.

The four sites hoping to retain their Green Flag are Clacton Seafront Gardens; Crescent Gardens, Frinton; Cliff Park, Dovercourt; and Weeley Crematorium Gardens.

The Green Flag Award Scheme is a nationally recognised benchmark for parks and open spaces. Any spaces which are freely open to the public and which have a specific management plan can apply.

They are judged on several criteria including how welcoming they are, tidiness and good maintenance, security, sustainability, and community involvement.

TDC's open spaces are managed by a team of staff, supported by volunteer groups who give their time in all seasons to keeping the areas looking excellent.

PRUDENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORTS CAUTIOUS BUT BALANCED BUDGET

Prudent financial management has supported a balanced budget for Tendring District Council (TDC) this year. Councillors approved the 2024/25 budget proposals at a full council meeting evening (Tuesday, 13 February) – including a small rise in the district's council tax charge.

TDC's share of the council tax bill from April will rise by 2.99% - £5.62 for a Band D home, or a total of £193.73. This is just £3.72 per week, with less than 10% of households' total council tax going to TDC; the rest goes to the county council, police and fire services, and parish councils if applicable.

Council heard that the forecast deficit had fallen dramatically thanks to an increase in business rate income of £1.4 million, and an increased grant from government – but that the authority could not rely on that in the future, and tough decisions would still be required in future years.

The budget report set out that TDC needs to save £3 million over the next three years to address the forecast deficit. Business rate levels are set by the government.

POOL COVERS BEING INSTALLED AT TENDRING LEISURE CENTRES

Pool covers have been installed at Tendring District Council-run leisure centres to improve their energy efficiency.

The project, being funded by the council's climate change action plan fund, will help to reduce the energy needed to heat the pool.

Works to upgrade the lighting at Clacton and Dovercourt Bay to LED lights are also taking place this Spring to further improve energy efficiency.

Lynda

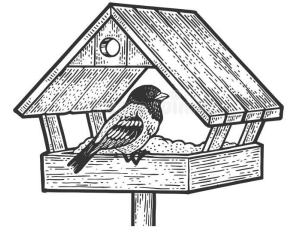
Cllr Lynda McWilliams - Tendring District Councillor for The Bentleys and Frating Ward

Phone number 07564 613603

email lynda@boblyn.co.uk or cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk

NATURE NOTES

The state of the weather has always been a topic to open polite conversation alongside discreet enquiries about personal health. As well as these are “beefs” including our medical services, potholes and general litter. Travelling along avoiding craters one’s eyes may be diverted from the roadside defilement - a topic mentioned before here, but worthy of repeating as a blight on our landscape. The apparent ignoring of litter by many folk in almost resigned acceptance or despair is discouraging.



The Essex Wildlife Trust’s Spring Pick is the latest of several initiatives to spur on individuals and groups to collect discarded rubbish - to aid stretched publicly funded services. However while laudable, the basic impulsive, ingrained habit among some to chuck litter is not being fully addressed and conquered - the tide of this growing tsunami of discarded rubbish needs to be turned. Just before kerbside wheelie bin collections I often walk up and down the roadside outside my home filling my recycling box. Recently a second green box has been needed for the resulting litter pick. The increase in local takeaway outlets including McDonalds and KFC vying for market share can be measured by the proportion of their cardboard containers defiantly lying in grass verges. Similarly, perhaps fancifully, Red Bull’s current much publicised Formula One debacle could be seen reflected in the number of slim blue and silver cans, bankrolling their motor-racing, running neck-and-neck with red coke and lesser brand ones heaping up on blameless local roadsides and laybys. Embattled cigarette smokers similarly seem to be fighting a rearguard action before being overtaken by vapers in terms of their respective thrown-out packets. Surprisingly some coffee drinkers, once on a higher plane to those tinny swiggers, now unceremoniously discard their takeaway lidded beakers for others to pick up. Issues of more anti-litter campaigns, new policies of recycling and trade waste centres, with even more egregious fly-tipping, and greater provision of litterbins are beyond my scope here.

To end on a lighter note: about natural recycling I have observed considerable interest in cardboard packaging by snails and slugs. Red McDonald’s cartons are especially favoured, beyond food smears, the red parts seem favoured. The question of colour vision arises but a knowledgeable friend thinks molluscan smelling and taste more involved. Constituents of the cardboard including cellulose and glues seem to attract them. Even unappreciated aspects such as vibrations at a level undetectable to humans can be involved. I recall some years ago a post-box in a wall at Little Bentley suffered from snails eating letters with the gum of the envelope flaps seeming the main attraction! Returning to the main theme, biodegradable material is undoubtedly the way ahead but not for it to be left lying in plain sight in the meantime for those slow processes to work.

The KEEP BRITAIN TIDY campaign needs a major relaunch!

For Your Diary: Sun 7th April 10.30-2 - Plant Sale, Bric-a-brac & Books at Barnes Spinney NR, Hall Lane, Walton [behind Brenalwood care home], organised by EWT Tendring Group

D.B

FIRST RESPONDERS

Community First Responders give their time for free in support of the East of England Ambulance Service. Last year there were 959 individual Responders in 469 Groups spread across East Anglia and Essex. They provided over 230,500 hours of voluntary service and attended 26,609 emergency calls - 70 calls every day of the year!! On 18,072 occasions local responders reached the patient first. The top categories were breathing problems and chest pains. Please support your local First Responder Group, who contributed to these impressive statistics. Interested in helping or joining contact Peter Harry 07503 153960.

FUNERAL IN FEBRUARY

Reg Richer

21st February

BAPTISM IN MARCH

Erin Baxter

17th March

REG RICHER

Reg was born on the 27th January 1933 at 37 Trafalgar Road, Colchester. He was the fifth son to Percy and Rose Richer. His father died when he was 2 and his sister, Olive, his only surviving sibling, was born 3 months later. He went to Lexden Primary School and at the age of 11 went to St. Helena School.

Without his father times were very hard so he kept chinchilla rabbits which he sold for their fur. He also worked for a local wireless store filling and delivering accumulators around the Lexden area. Unbeknown to him at the time one of these deliveries was to his future Grandmother in-law.

He met his wife Dot at a birthday party when he was 16 and they started going out together. Reg immediately had a big impact on Dot's life, often going round the fields for rabbit food together. On Sundays Reg would make faces through the Sunday school window to try and make Dot laugh while she was teaching the young children!

Another time he got their names in the local paper, unfortunately, quite scandalously for the time, for being caught riding through a stop sign with two on a push bike. Reg was fined 5 shillings Dot fined 2 and 6. He helped Dot with her paper round, however his relaxed attitude to delivering the correct papers to the correct houses was less than helpful. Losing customers Dot soon gave the round up.

He served an apprenticeship for electrical armature winding and was deferred from call up to the RAF until he was 21

Reg and Dot decided to marry for money! If they married before he went into the RAF Dot would get a marriage allowance. This she saved as a deposit on a house for when he was demobbed. Boxing Day was chosen for the wedding day so that Reg would not forget the date. This almost worked over the years. The marriage took place at St James's Church on East Hill in Colchester on Boxing Day 1953 and they went to the Isle of Wight for their honeymoon.

The first 6 months in the RAF he was at training school for maintaining aircraft electrics. After that he was based at Debden near Saffron Walden. He bought a second hand car and with little money to pay for petrol at weekends, he filled the car with his RAF mates who paid for the petrol and a lift as far as his mother in laws house where Dot was living. Two of these RAF mates are still friends today.

Whilst in the RAF Reg was confirmed in Salisbury Cathedral.

Two years later he was demobbed, bought a house in Lexden and returned to work. In 1958 he became Dad to Chris and 2 years later his daughter Beverley was born but sadly she died at 5 days old.

He moved to a derelict disused bakery in Great Bentley to renovate. During this time, the day Pip was born he got the sack. Getting a new job the next day he started going out on electrical breakdowns. He did work for a Laundry and the owner Mr Les Berry offered to put him in business. Bentley Electrics was born with the workshop and Dots office located in the empty pig sties at the bottom of the garden.

After living there for 4 years a developer offered a good price for the house which was demolished, along with the pig sties, to make way for the entrance road into what is now Birch Avenue estate.

After moving to and living in Aingers Green for another 4 years a house with a shop located in front of the workshop where Bentley Electrics was now based came up for sale. This was Greenacres where Reg would live happily for the next 55 years and where Dot continues to live now.

Rather than shutting the shop as originally planned, they decided to keep the shop open, which Dot successfully ran for the next 25 years and after much hard work Bentley Electrics prospered, at its peak employing 22 people.

He was a keen caravaner and had lovely family holidays when the children were small. When the children became independent he joined a caravan holiday group and had some great holidays and met some wonderful people.

Chris married Anne and had two children, Laura and Dan. Reg adored his two grandchildren and spent many happy hours with them over the years.

When the Caravan club was 100 years old he was one of the lucky ones who got an invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. The highlight of this wonderful day was when Prince Philip stepped out of line and spoke to Dot.

He also joined Tendring Ramblers and for many years walked 10 miles every Sunday. He became Social Secretary and with Dot organised many events including coach trips to London, Thursford for many performances and also to Brick Lane Music Hall and elsewhere. He also helped to arrange for 96 people to climb up the 334 steps inside Big Ben to hear the bell strike at midday.

He enjoyed many activities including Hot Air Balloon Flights, a light aircraft flight where he was allowed to pilot the plane over Great Bentley, and he went up for a glider lesson. The pinnacle of these being when at 65 he retired and with all the family he went for a trip on Concorde. At 60,000 feet, close to the edge of space, he saw the curvature of the earth, daylight below and the black night sky and stars above. He went through the sound barrier, travelling at twice the speed of sound. This was similar to Reg's style of driving up until he was finally persuaded to call it a day!

He was accident prone and used up more lives than a cat; to name but a few: Without the NHS he would have been minus a finger or two. He fell in his 8 foot deep swimming pool whilst drained for winter, unable to get out, stuck in the 18 inches of freezing water at the bottom. Not for the first or last time his good neighbours came to the rescue saving him this time from Hypothermia.

On another occasion he dropped Dot off at Tesco's to shop while he went to work on a sewer pumping station. He slipped and fell into the sewer pit, literally up to his neck in it! Luckily unharmed he managed to climb out. But even Dot was surprised when he picked her up in Tesco car park wearing only a black plastic bin bag and not smelling of roses!

On his 80th birthday for charity he abseiled down the Colchester Town Hall. A good sized crowd was gathered to watch but unfortunately, he got stuck half way down and was left for 20 minutes hanging upside down until rescued. He fell out of the cherry plum tree he was pruning. A & E said he was the first person over 80 that they had treated for injuries caused falling out of a tree!

He loved skiing but he never really mastered it! On family skiing holidays many times Chris & Pip would stop to let him catch up only to be horrified to see that Dad had somehow ended up pointing straight downhill and would go flying past totally out of control at break neck speed with arms, legs, and ski sticks frantically waving around, desperately trying to stay upright on his skis! Amazingly, when he eventually managed to stop either when the slope ran out or he fell in a cloud of snow, miraculously he never hurt himself. He always wanted to do a parachute jump on his 90th birthday but was not fit enough. Perhaps this was for the best!

Sadly in the last few years his age began to catch up with him and his health started to desert him. Sometimes getting confused, with numerous falls, now due to losing his balance and with many visits to hospital due to low blood pressure, his luck largely kept with him and he kept bouncing back.

With wonderful Carers who came night and morning to tend to him, he could still be seen smiling and waving to people passing by whilst he sat looking out of the front window.

It was his 70th wedding anniversary on Boxing Day which he celebrated with a party on Saturday 13th January. His health continued to decline in the months leading up to the party but he was determined to be there and was so looking forward to it. Come the day he was on top form as many of you were there to see how much he absolutely loved that afternoon.

He was taken ill two days later on the Monday and quietly left this life on the Saturday a week after his celebration. He would have been 91 on the following Saturday.

A recent e-mail from a Caravaner friend Bess summed it up perfectly:

"He was such good fun when we were on holiday, and these days I will always remember and treasure. We had such lovely times and I remember when we had an ice cream Reg could always get an extra dollop by chatting up the waitress! He had quite a way with him and everybody just loved him.

When I think of Reg I smile!"

Cleaner with Keys at Great Bentley Primary School

Monday to Friday – 2 hours 15 minutes per evening
For example, 16:30-18:15 this can be flexible
11.25 hrs per week

Term time only
£10.59 per hour.

Start date: ASAP

Do you want to join our fantastic school and be part of our friendly, supportive team?

We are a vibrant and happy school in a beautiful village and are looking to recruit an experienced and friendly cleaner to help look after our school, alongside our existing site team.

The post holder will be required to work as part of a committed school team.

Great Bentley Primary school is part of the Penrose Learning Trust and is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Appointment will be subject to satisfactory references, and enhanced DBS clearance and medical checks.

If you are interested and want to find out more or request an application form, please contact the Office via admin@greatbentley.essex.sch.uk

YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

The community spirit was on show once again at Great Bentley YFC in March as we held our second charity match of the season. Parents and coaches from all age groups put their hands in their pockets and dusted off their football boots to raise money for a 'Match for Angus'.

Brave six-year-old Angus was born with cerebral palsy following oxygen starvation but has astounded medical professionals with his progress so far in both physio and speech therapy. However, with the therapy not currently provided by the NHS, this development all comes at a huge cost at weekly private therapies.

The next stage of therapy for Angus involves getting a specialist bike to help him get active, and this is where Great Bentley YFC stepped in to help raise funds by organising the match on the village green, where great fun was had, with the children watching on to see if the coaches who taught them football could actually play themselves!

Great Bentley YFC sends their best wishes to Angus and his family. He's an incredibly resilient youngster and we were delighted to raise some valuable funds for a worthy cause.

Elsewhere, the wet weather has continued to disrupt the fixtures but with Spring finally on the way (hopefully!) all of our teams would welcome your respectful support on Sunday mornings. Don't forget for player queries or prospective coaches (We can support you with everything you need) call Tony on 07867 748184.

Ben Fryer

GREAT BENTLEY HEDGEHOG HIGHWAYS

April is here, by mid April hedgehogs should be fully awake from hibernation and active. The hedgehog will be busy foraging each night. They will be searching for food such as insects, slugs, snails, earthworms and other small creatures. The hedgehog is nocturnal and has very poor eyesight and relies on their acute hearing and sense of smell to locate and catch food. The hedgehog will put its head to the ground to hear and catch an earth worm.

If you are lucky enough to have hedgehogs visiting your garden and already have a feeding station providing fresh food and water this is a good time of year to introduce a hedgehog house to encourage hedgehogs to set up homes in your garden. There are many different designs.

- The house can be purpose bought or a home made wooden house. The house needs a small doorway with a tunnel on the entrance, to try and prevent cats and other animals getting in. It also needs to have a removable roof for easy cleaning.
- Brick built, is a very easy way to create a small structure with a small doorway. Bricks can even be used to create a tunnel doorway. The roof needs to be waterproof, corrugated plastic is very useful.
- A log pile or compost heap is a natural option to provide a hedgehog home. With the added benefit of encouraging insects for prey.
- A messy overgrown patch or corner of the garden. The area needs to be undisturbed so a hedgehog feels safe to make a nest for their young or for hibernation.

Whatever design of home you choose for your garden it is actually better to keep the food separate in a feeding station. By doing this it reduces the risk of other animals entering the hedgehog's home/safe place.

Emma Garrood RVN, C&GCertVNES



GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

*Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer:
Jennifer Spear
Tel: 01206 256410
Email:
clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk*

Playground Refurbishment Works Completed!

We are pleased to announce that the playground refurbishment works are nearing completion. Costing just under £20,000 they were funded from Section 106 money. These funds come from the contribution to the community that the housing developers in the village have to make as part of their planning approvals and is earmarked for play provision in the village. The works included repair and replacement of play kit, resurfacing and repainting of the play and safety equipment.

Recycling Facilities Reminder

We have many recycling facilities in the parish including glass and tetra pak (e.g. milk/juice cartons and metal ended paper cartons e.g. pringles) banks near the Cricket Pavilion on Plough Road, textile banks on Station Road and a glass bank at Bentley Country Park on Flag Hill.

Please remember to flatten the tetra pak (cartons) before putting them into the bin. If the textile banks are full please don't leave bags of recyclables next to them as they degrade and are unable to be recycled. Please be patient and either return when you can deposit them straight into the recycling bank or take them to another nearby recycling bank.

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings on Thursday 4 April and 2 May, both starting at 7 pm in the Village Hall, we hope to see you there!

Annual Meeting of the Parish - Thursday 18 April 2024

INVITATION TO ALL RESIDENTS

Annual Meeting of the Parish -

Thursday 18 April 7 pm at the Village Hall,

Key Speaker - John Hall, PACE

Practical Actions for Climate and Environment (PACE) chairman of our local community action group will give us all ideas on what we can do to help!

Pride of Great Bentley Awards

Recognising the villagers who have done something special to help others that goes above and beyond in our community.

Annual Report

Presented by the Chair of the Council, Pippa Dennitts.

South Side Project Consultation

Presentation setting out the proposed works to the track surface and area as part of the maintenance of the green. Feedback from residents and any questions are welcomed.

Grant Funding

An update from those that received grant support for projects within the parish:
Great Bentley Pre-School, Great Bentley in Bloom and Great Bentley Good Neighbours.

Residents Ideas for Great Bentley's Future

An opportunity for you to raise ideas for the year ahead of what you think are the key needs to further improve Great Bentley.

South Side Project Consultation – Presentation as part of the meeting setting out the proposed works to the track surface and area as part of the maintenance of the green. Feedback from residents and any questions are encouraged.

Southside Project



Track Surface	Vehicle Turning Head	Vehicle Barrier	Timber Bollards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing unbound track to be shaped and re-graded to 3.5m wide and reduced to approximately 50mm below existing levels as preparation for Tarmac surface Apply tarmac surface to 3.5 metres wide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cambered surface to shed water - minimum of 50mm thick - surface will not deteriorate short term - easily repairable (patched) if required Join with Station Road, Concrete Strips and Southside Track East made good to reduce surface water/flooding Compacted Asphalt Scalping's to connect tarmac surface and residential boundaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assists with drainage - evens out the variance of heights and distances between dwellings and track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turning Head is required to allow larger vehicle to turn around instead of reversing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, the Refuse Truck Parking in the Turning Head will be strictly prohibited Position will be the east of the Barrier location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrier is required to prevent vehicles using the track as a cut through to Station Rd/Plough Rd Design of Barrier to be agreed The Barrier will be closed and lockable using ground anchor drop bolt If ever locked, the Parish Clerk and selected residents will have access to open the barrier by arrangement or in the event of an emergency Proposed position of the Barrier is outside "Chase End" and will swing open/closed like a gate not up/down The Barrier will not be the full width of the track, allowing pedestrian and mobility access along the track surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be spaced at 1.8m intervals to prevent vehicles from driving onto the green and deteriorating the grass surface Along with the vehicle barrier, deters vehicles from using the track as a cut through to Station Rd/Plough Rd Selected bollards will be removable to allow access vehicle when required Bollards will run around the existing access to the Village Green at top of Station Road for approximately 90m Additional bollards at concrete track junction with new tarmac surface It is felt unnecessary to run the Bollards for the full length of the track as they are only intended to deter through-traffic

APRIL DIARY

- Tues 2nd **BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Wed 3rd/Thurs 4th **EASTER ACTIVITIES AT ST OSYTH**,
See page 25.
- Thurs 4th **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, 7pm, Village Hall
- Fri 5th **COFFEE MORNING**, Methodist Church, 10-12 noon
- Sun 7th **EWT TENDRING GROUP PLANT SALE**, Barnes Spinney
Nr Hall Lane, Walton
- Tues 9th **ART CLUB**, 2pm, Village Hall
- Tues 9th **DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC CONSULATION RE MINERAL
EXTRACTION**
- Thurs 11th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 13th **FRIENDS OF GT BENTLEY STATION**, Coffee Morning,
Methodist Church Hall, 10am - 12 noon
- Sun 14th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St George's Church, Gt Bromley,
11.00am communion service
- Mon 15th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Tues 16th **GARDENING CLUB SPRING SHOW.**
- Thurs 18th **KNIT & NATTER**, St Mary's Church Hall, 2-3.30pm
- Thurs 18th **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**
- Fri 19th **SUMMER RECITAL**, St Osyth Church, 12.30-1.15pm
- Sat 20th **COFFEE MORNING**, St Mary's Church, 10-12 noon
- Tues 23rd **ART CLUB**, 2pm, Village Hall
- Fri 26th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, St Mary's Church Hall, 9am
- Sat 27th **BAKED POTATO LUNCH**, St Mary's Church Hall,
12.30pm
- Sun 28th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St Mary's Church, Wix, 6.30pm
Choral Evensong