

Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community
for the Community**



June 2024

Village Information

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St Mary's Church, Great Bentley.

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GT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL: - 01206 250331

COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL: - 01206 303511

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01206 250309

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TREE WARDEN

Sue and Faris Shimali 07973 534301

FOOTPATH REP.

melanie.sawers@nuffield.ox.ac.uk

EDITORIAL



2024

Well, I like so many village residents, was gutted to miss the Northern Lights last week. Fortunately many people were out with their phones and cameras and it was wonderful to see the results of their late night shots. Special thanks to Will for our wonderful front cover which is certainly the first ever capture of this natural phenomena that I have seen in over 40 years of living in Great Bentley.

Lovely article from Ben Fryer just telling us how well the “Bentley Five” did in the London Marathon and over £23,000 raised by them. Well done to all concerned. The Bellringers are on a fund raising mission and will be holding a Coffee Morning on 15th June at St Mary’s church, and a Plant and Produce Stall on the other Saturdays of the month on the green outside Caldew Cottage. I am sure they would welcome some cakes or jam to sell too if you could help them with that.

You will read that The Green Pharmacy will no longer be opening on Saturday mornings. Financial restrictions and the viability of the business make this a cutback of necessity. We just have to be grateful that they are based here on our doorstep and are open until 6.30pm on Mondays to Fridays. On another medical note I cannot believe that **in March at Great Bentley Surgery there were 170 missed appointments and in April 161**. How can this be happening? We have another warning with the Post Office that attends our village four mornings a week and that is **“Use it or lose it”**. Please try and support your local businesses which we are so fortunate to have. One local business which is doing well is Weeley Veterinary Centre who have been nominated and invited as finalists at the BestUKVetsAwards 2024. Congratulations to them.

It will soon be Carnival Day and we hope for good weather. There will, of course, be temporary road closures which we include, so please be aware of this and respectful of those enforcing them. Looking forward to a fun filled day with plenty to enjoy. See page 31.

Thanks to everyone involved in the latest production of Murdered to Death by Bentley Green Players. Everyone performed brilliantly and it was such a great evening and had us laughing from start to finish. An absolute joy.

FREE TICKETS TO THE TENDRING SHOW.

All you need to do is send your answers to the Quiz on page 26. Either by email or by posting them through my door, **BY 10th June**.

First out of the hat wins the tickets. Good luck everyone.

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FRONT COVER

The Northern Lights
over Great Bentley
courtesy of
Will Penny

DISCLAIMER

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LETTERS FOR JUNE

Dear Friends,

As I sit writing my letter the sun is shining and memories of last Summer spring to mind. I would like to thank everyone who supported the May Fair, all those who came, made cakes and made donations, kitchen staff and stallholders. We also thank you for the support of the Church throughout the year. We are still in what is termed 'an interregnum' and our advert for our new Vicar is on the web page. We are planning to hold a time of prayer one day a week for an hour to pray for our Churches, Weeley, Little Clacton. St Osyth and Great Bentley.

We will be praying for a new Vicar and if you would like to join in this time of prayer please see the Church notice board for dates and times, and if you would like to pray at home below is the prayer we will be using.

On 23rd June at 6.30pm we have Evensong with the Deanery Choir. We will look forward to seeing you all.

God of Mission.
Who alone brings growth to your Church.
Send your Holy Spirit to give;
Vision to our planning.
Wisdom to our actions.
Joy to our worship.
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers.
In spiritual commitment to you.
And in service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Canon Wendy King
Lay Reader

COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 15th June
10.00am - 12 noon

St Mary's Church Hall

ALL WELCOME

In aid of St Mary's Church Bells Restoration Fund

We have a static bike ride with the Coffee Morning in aid of our bells restoration project. The idea behind the static bike ride is that people can ask us to cover the necessary number of miles from location to destination. Hopefully you will come along and sponsor us.



PASTORAL CARE AT ST MARY'S CHURCH GREAT BENTLEY

The members of our pastoral team are Lyn Gordon, Mary Maskell and Mandy Miles. They can help in many ways 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'.

facebook

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

If so, your first point of contact is

Wendy King
01206 250852





GREAT BENTLEY

METHODIST CHURCH

Forge Lane CO7 8GD

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

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

Greetings to you all

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

- June 2nd Eirwen Grenfell-Essam**
- June 9th Rev Tom Osborne Holy Communion**
- June 16th Robert Taylor**
- June 23rd Lin Dickenson**
- June 30th Methodist Conference Sunday**

Reminder notice. Our **Annual Flower festival** this year is to be open for visitors Sat & Sun 6th & 7th July.

Events in June:

Coffee & Chat June 7th Warm fellowship with drinks, cakes & books, funds for Hedgehog Haven.

Prayer Meeting. We meet for prayer on the second Wednesday of each month 9.45 for 10am at our Church. This month 12th June.

Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 12th June

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

Messy Church this month 18th June after school. Next month it is earlier in the month on the 2nd July.

Adventurers this month 7th 14th 21st & 28th June.

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. 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 and activities on a Christian theme for children in year 3 and older. Ring 250087

ST MARY'S SERVICES

Sunday 2nd June - 1st Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 9th June - 2nd Sunday after Trinity

9.30am David Branch

Saturday 15th June - Coffee Morning for Bellringers 10-12 noon

Sunday 16th June - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Rev. Sarah Batts-Neil

Thursday 20th - Knit & Natter, Church Hall, 2-3.30pm

Sunday 23rd June - 4th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Judith Gibbons - Curate from Brightlingsea

6.30pm **Evensong with Deanery Choir**

Sunday 30th June - 5th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am **Café Church** - Wendy King

ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR JUNE

Sidespersons & Readers

2nd	St Osyth
9th	Richard Wainer
16th	The Wright Children
23rd	Linda Hayes
30th	Annabel Stearn

Prayer Rota

2nd	St Osyth
9th	Wendy King
16th	Carol Kerridge
23rd	Lyn Gordon
30th	Nicky Justice

Coffee Rota

2nd	St Osyth
9th	Lyn Gordon
16th	Nicky Duff
23rd	Hannah Justice
30th	Lyn Gordon

Cleaning Rota

1st	Mandy Miles
8th	Vicky Rothwell
15th	Carol Kerridge & Lee Howlett
22nd	Rosemary & David Branch
29th	Jennie Moss

GREAT BENTLEY MILITARY VETERANS CLUB A TRIBUTE TO TONY RAMPLING

This month we bring you sad news of the death of our veteran colleague Tony Rampling. Tony passed away at the end of April at the mature age of 99. Tony did his WW2 pre-deployment training at Barnard Castle in County Durham. He landed in Normandy with 61st Reconnaissance Regiment in June 1944. The unit's armoured cars were in the vanguard as German forces were pursued across northern France and into Belgium after the breakout from the invasion beaches. Tony later participated in the ill-fated Arnhem campaign in September 1944, where stiff opposition prevented an armoured column linking up with airborne troops dropped in to capture bridges across the Rhine and into Germany. This Second World War veteran was presented with the Légion d'Honneur, France's highest distinction by the French Army Attache, in appreciation of his role in the liberation of France. It was a pleasure and great honour to chat to Tony and see the remarkable pictures of his military service. Tony can now 'stand-down' and meet up with his Regimental pals again.

.....

Tony would wish us to continue our Veterans Club and so 16 of us met again in May for our monthly breakfast. Much of the conversation was of course football and the 'potential' promotion of Ipswich to the Premier League. Mick Dorling later that day denied being the driver of the gleaming blue Ford TW-2 tractor which was driven down Sir Alf Ramsey Way at the promotion winning game that afternoon. And just for our Royal Navy and Submariner colleagues we must quickly get over the Army rugby win (by a whisker) over the Navy at Twickenham!

Why not make contact with me if you are Royal British Legion, still serving in HM Forces, a Veteran, any age or length of Service. Our club is 35 strong and meet monthly for breakfast and other ad hoc social events.

David Flinn BEM
Tel: 0742 114 1131

KNIT & NATTER

Thursday June 20th

St Mary's Church Hall

2.00pm - 3.30pm

All Welcome



HAPPY
40TH
BIRTHDAY

Ben Adams

17th June

With our love and best wishes always.
So very proud of the man you are.
Dani, Ellis, Jo, William, Thomas, Grandad,
Uncle Michael, Charlie, Louise, Archie,
Harvey and last but not least Mum and Dad
xxxxxxxxx

Thank You

To all my neighbours in De Vere Estate, thank you so very much for nominating me for the Pride of Great Bentley Award, I knew nothing about it whatsoever. Jennifer from the Parish Council arrived at my gate with an invitation to attend the Parish Meeting on the 18th April, I thought I'd parked in the wrong place in the village. To say I was humbled is an understatement, I'm still amazed about it all, I will never forget this, I cannot thank you all enough.

Carol McDougall.

ANNUAL DIARY

6th & 7th July	Methodist Church Flower Festival
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

What a Treat!

Saturday 27th April was dreary and cold as Julia and I walked over to St Mary's Church for 'The Jacket Potato Lunch' which we had been so looking forward to. The welcome inside was warm and bright with tables all laid out attractively, it was clear much thought had been put into this unique occasion. Just saying "thank you" does not seem enough in response to all the hard work that had been expended into serving up a delicious lunch which indeed did taste as good as it looked. The Lemon Cheesecake would have surpassed any offerings on Master Chef!

Congratulations to everyone involved, in whatever capacity, for providing your guests with a happy and memorable few hours from beginning to end. I enjoyed every minute.....you should all be very proud of yourselves.

Judy Bishop

BARBARA FOOKES

Barbara's funeral service will take place at the Methodist Church on 6th June at 2.15pm.

This will be followed by a short service at Weeley Crematorium at 3.30pm after which refreshments will be available at the Methodist Church

Everyone welcome.



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

June 9th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at the 11.00am communion service. They will be singing the anthem 'Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake' by Farrant. **Richard Farrant (1525-1580)** was an English composer, musical dramatist, theatre founder and Master of the Children of the Chapel Royal. The first acknowledgment of him is in a list of the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal in 1552. During his life he was able to establish himself as an accomplished and successful composer.

June 15th

The Deanery choir will be supporting the '**Bee Friendly**' themed Flower Festival '24' at **St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at 12.00 noon, singing a variety of anthems. A full programme of events can be viewed on their website: www.greatbromley.org.uk/events-list The finale of the Flower Festival '24 is a 'Flower Festival Songs of Praise' service at 6.30pm on 16th June led by Revd. Laura Garnham.

June 23rd

The Deanery choir will be supporting the 'Choral Evensong' service at 6.30pm at **St Mary's Church, Great Bentley, CO7 8QG**. The choir will sing an anthem suitable for the season of Trinity.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir Organiser

WELCOME

Welcome to new residents
at 76 Birch Avenue



MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR JULY MAGAZINE

Magazine collating will be on **Friday 28th June**
in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am

ALL WELCOME TO COME AND HELP COLLATE

Colchester Sugarcraft Association

Chairperson - Sue Albins. Secretary – Brenda Lambert. Treasurer – Christine Clark

Colchester Sugarcraft Association meet at Stanway Community Hall Villa Rd Stanway on the last Thursday of the month. We have demonstrations from qualified demonstrators as well as our own members who have had years of experience in sugarcraft. The yearly membership is £40 for 10 meetings. We also do demonstrations and mini workshops for local groups and also have small group workshops for our members and anyone who would like to learn various aspects of sugarcraft e.g. animal modelling, themed cupcake decorating, flowers, how to cover your cake with fondant icing. We keep the costs low and all profit goes to the club. If you are interested in any of the above please contact Sue Albins 01206 251955 email Sue28albins@btinternet.com. We will be having our cake stall and hands on table at Great Bentley Show again this year, so make sure to come for a good selection of slices of home made cakes, preserves and dog treats at a very good price.



hope@trinity

Thank you to everyone who has brought me donations of items for hope@trinity in recent weeks. The plight of the homeless and vulnerable who for a raft of reasons fall upon hard times is endemic in society and sadly I see no light at the end of the tunnel. I never hide the fact that seeing someone who is in the depths of despair, confused and bewildered as to the situation they find themselves in touches my heart. However with your kindness I can brighten the lives of the men and women who find their way to hope@trinity in Clacton where a warm welcome and a smile awaits. With all the wet weather the need for fresh dry clothes and footwear is difficult to keep up with as you can imagine, so being able to play a part in lifting spirits and raising morale is very rewarding. If you can help with any items I will be grateful.

Gents: Coats, waterproofs, trousers/jeans/joggers, jumpers, sweatshirts, hoodies, shirts, t- shirts, socks, BOXER pants, footwear, hats, toiletries.

Items of ladies clothing are not so much in demand however it is welcomed, underwear, footwear, feminine requisites, socks.

Items that are guaranteed to make someone happy are: rucksacks, holdalls, sleeping bags, blankets, tents and dog food for faithful non judgemental companions is a bonus!

I am happy to receive donations which I will sort, bag and label and arrange to be taken to hope@trinity.

Thank you for caring.

Judy Bishop 5 Morella Close Great Bentley. 01206 251702

Great Bentley Good Neighbours

AGM

Thursday 20th June 7.30pm

Village Hall

All welcome

JANETTE WELLER

Sadly our lovely Mum passed away on 7th May after a short illness.

The funeral will take place on Friday 7th June at 11am at Weeley Crematorium.

Everyone is welcome to attend. (Black attire is not essential.)

The wake will be held at The Plough.

Family flowers only and donations may be made via John J Smith Funeral Directors via their Memorial and Tribute Page. There will also be a donation box at the Crematorium if you wish to make a donation in memory of Mum.

This will be in aid of RHS Hyde Hall.

Kim and Claire



**Weeley
Veterinary
Centre**

Winner of Best Vet UK 2023

PET NOTES

Vaccinations are important for keeping your pet healthy and are given alongside a health check by a veterinary surgeon. In my experience, most pet owners don't know what their pet is being vaccinated against, they just understand it's important and trust their vet to give the correct vaccine at the correct time. It's wonderful pet owners have this level of faith in vets, but for the curious I have written a brief overview of vaccinations in this article.

DOGS

The core vaccinations protect against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and leptospirosis. The primary vaccination protocol sometimes varies between practices based on the disease threat in the area but as a guide a puppy will receive two vaccinations followed by a full booster one year later. The dog is then on a three year cycle with the full vaccine given once every three years and a booster against leptospirosis annually in between.

Many dog owners choose to vaccinate against kennel cough too. This does not require a primary protocol and is simply given annually. I think of the kennel cough as being much like the flu vaccine; it is not as effective as the core vaccines (which are incredibly effective) but it reduces the risk of the dog catching kennel cough and those who are unlucky enough to experience milder symptoms.

During pregnancy it is advised to vaccinate against herpes too.

For dogs travelling abroad, a rabies vaccination is required. This is not necessary for those who will not leave the UK.

CATS

The vaccination protocol is similar to dogs in that kittens receive two vaccinations in the primary course, followed by annual boosters on a three year cycle. Cats are vaccinated against flu, enteritis and leukaemia. (Some owners of indoor cats may opt not to vaccinate against leukaemia.)

For cats travelling abroad, a rabies vaccination is required. This is not necessary for those who will not leave the UK.

RABBITS

Rabbit vaccinations have progressed enormously since I graduated. I used to be required to give a booster against myxomatosis every six months and it was injected directly into – not under – the skin. It caused significant vasoconstriction (narrowing of the blood vessels) so if I accidentally injected my finger I would need to rush to A&E. Thankfully that didn't happen and these days the boosters are much safer for the vet as well as protecting the rabbit against more viruses and for longer. In the present day, rabbits receive an annual vaccination against myxomatosis and rabbit haemorrhagic disease.

After reading this article, if you are concerned your pet may not be up to date with their vaccinations, please contact your vet for advice. Last year there was a terrible parvovirus outbreak in Tendring so it's very important to keep your pet(s) protected.

In exciting news, Weeley Veterinary Centre has been invited as a finalist at the BestUKVets Awards 2024. Last year we won the ultimate prize and were crowned "Best Vet UK 2023". I would like to thank everyone who left a review for us this year. If you'd like to see how we get on, please follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/weeleyvetcentre

Dr April Young MRCVS

Mum's Sayings

"Refusal to improve, or at any rate alter things, results in stagnancy and rot."

SESAW NEWS

Ollie has definitely mellowed. Our resident black cat has watched a brood of baby robins fly the nest without the slightest twitch of his tail! He hasn't even tried abseiling off the garage roof to reach the blue tits nesting box. Apparently he is more interested in finding a home for Lizzie, a pretty, but shy, tabby cat that has been with us since last summer.

She is slow to come to you, hardly surprising after being cast aside, yet another casualty of the pandemic. She arrived pregnant and with her first litter of kittens, all of which have been homed. Now she waits for that special someone with the patience and love she deserves. We can loan a large crate to house Lizzie as she is introduced into her new home.

We still have Lily and Grey, a bonded pair of Saluki dogs. They are looking for a loving home with a comfy sofa. If you could be the perfect person for them or our pandemic puss, please visit them between 10am and 1pm, Thursday to Sunday.

That pesky puss has just smashed Mum's favourite mug in the kitchen. Now, instead of admiring a cute Yorkie dog as she sips her tea, Mum has a photo of Ollie staring back at her but he's not so clever. He hasn't noticed there is a different picture on the back. Yes, you guessed it's a photo of me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua!

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare,
Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.
Tel: 01787 210888, email:
info@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

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

Thank you to everyone who supports the upkeep of this village asset by supporting our 100 CLUB.

The first draw of the year took place at the May Fair.

Winner of our 1st prize was Maria Howe

2nd prize was Carole Allington

Thank you everyone.

ADVERTISING IN GREAT BENTLEY PARISH NEWS 2024

We only have small spaces left

Please contact Mary Maskell 250524

email: marymaskell@sys3internet.net

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

ANZAC BISCUITS and others



The 25th of April is an annual National Day of Remembrance in Australia and New Zealand, originally to honour members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who took part in the Allied Expedition to distract the Turkish army from other Allied troops landing further down the peninsula. On April 25th 1915, 16,000 Australian and New Zealanders landed, and immediately met fierce Turkish resistance which continued for eight months with heavy casualties and eventually resulted in a forced evacuation of all remaining Allied troops. Recently we visited the ANZAC Museum in Albany, Western Australia and stood overlooking King George Sound, the sheltered bay where one of the many convoys of ships assembled prior to their ill-fated campaign. Among the rations sent out by sea from Australia and New Zealand to the fighting troops were biscuits baked by the ladies at home. These were of necessity very hard, able to survive a long sea voyage and last a long time, replacing bread, and became known as hardtack rations, and eventually, because of their origin, as ANZAC biscuits. Fortunately the recipe has been added to and altered over the years and we no longer have to endure a “jawbreaker” with our elevenses.

ANZAC BISCUITS

75g butter	2tsp golden syrup	½ rounded tsp ground cinnamon	½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
50g caster sugar	50g rolled oats	50g plain flour	50g desiccated coconut

Preheat the oven to 150 degrees and line two baking sheets with non-stick baking paper. Melt the butter in a large pan with the syrup and cinnamon. When hot, add the bicarbonate of soda and two teaspoons of water, stirring well. Quickly add the sugar, oats, flour and coconut and mix thoroughly. Put ten to twelve heaped teaspoons of the mixture onto each baking sheet, spaced well apart. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until lightly golden and cooked. Leave the biscuits to cool on the sheets for about 5 minutes, then remove to a wire rack using a palette knife, to cool and firm.

LEMON SWIRL BISCUITS

110 softened butter	50g sifted icing sugar	125g plain flour
grated zest and 1tsp juice of a lemon		a piping bag with a fancy nozzle eg. a star

Preheat the oven to 160 degrees and line two baking sheets with non-stick baking paper. Cream the butter and sugar together in a large bowl. Sift in the flour and mix in the lemon zest. Gradually add the lemon juice and mix everything together well to make a stiff biscuit mixture. Spoon this into a piping bag fitted with your chosen nozzle and pipe small swirls onto the baking sheets. Space them out well apart as they will spread. As you lift the nozzle from each swirl, trim the mixture with a knife so it is neat. Bake in the preheated oven for 12 to 15 minutes until lightly golden and cooked. Leave the biscuits to cool for about a minute then transfer to a wire rack using a slice or spatula. They will keep in an airtight container for a few days.

QUICK COOKIES

125g softened butter	5g vanilla extract	225g caster sugar	1 well beaten egg
225g self-raising flour	5g bicarbonate of soda		

You could use the finely grated zest of an orange or 100g raisins instead of vanilla essence. Preheat the oven to 190 degrees and line two baking trays with non-stick baking paper, or use non-stick trays. In a large bowl beat the butter, vanilla extract, sugar and a pinch of salt. Add the egg and beat again until combined, then gradually add the flour and bicarbonate of soda and mix to a soft dough, and lastly mixing in the vanilla extract or your chosen flavour. With wet hands roll the dough into twelve balls. Flatten each one to 5mm thick and place well apart on the trays. Bake in the preheated oven for 8 minutes for soft cookies, or 10 minutes for crisp cookies. Remove and leave to cool for a minute then transfer to a wire rack using a metal spatula or palette knife. **M.E.**

Great Bentley Methodist Church
in the centre of Great Bentley Green CO7 8GD

Flower Festival

Theme “Myths, legends
and Fairytales.....”



Light Lunches, Stalls & Strawberry Teas

Join in the fun Quiz and guess what the Flower arrangements represent.

Saturday 6th July 10am to 5pm

& Sunday 7th July 11.30am to 5pm

Followed by Boxted Silver Band Concert 7pm

Concert Tickets £12 from Robert Taylor
01206 250087 taylorrj07@gmail.com

Great Bentley Methodist Church
in the centre of Great Bentley Green CO7 8GD



Concert by award winning Boxted Silver Band

Sunday 7th July at 7pm

Concert Tickets £12

from Robert Taylor

01206 250087 taylorrj07@gmail.com

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

GREAT BENTLEY BELL RINGERS

PLANT & PRODUCE SALES

EVERY SATURDAY FROM 1ST JUNE

(Saturday 15th June from
St Mary's Church Coffee morning)

10.00 – 12.00

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN OUTSIDE
CALDEW COTTAGE

PLANTS, PRODUCE & CAKES

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE BELLS RESTORATION
PROJECT

POLICE REPORT

RECORDED CRIMES - 14

From 25/03/2024-28/04/2024

CRIME TYPES - ASSAULT ACTUAL BODILY HARM X3 - ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY - BURGLARY X2 - CRIMINAL DAMAGE - HARASSMENT - INTERFERENCE WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE - MALICIOUS COMMENTS - NON CRIME INVESTIGATION - OTHER X2 - THEFT OF MAIL

INCIDENTS REPORTED - 22

INCIDENT TYPES - ANIMAL- ANPR HIT- ASSAULT GREIVIOUS BODILY HARM X2 - ATTENTION TO - BURGLARY BUSINESS - CIVIL DISPUTE - DISTURBANCE - DRINK DRIVE - HIGHWAY DISRUPTION X3 - INFORMATION - MV INTERFERENCE - OTHER X3 - ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION WITHOUT INJURY- ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION WITH INJURIES - SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES X3

TRUCAM (SPEEDGUN)

(Recently returned from annual calibration tests)

2 one hour sessions in a 30mph zone

20 excessively over the speed limit- Top speed 49mph

27 excessively over the speed limit- Top speed 45mph

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

Please Drive with due care and attention which includes taking note of zone speed signs. There is no excuse for poor driving. Thank you to those abiding by the legal safe limit.

CONSIDERATE PARKING TICKETS (CPI,s)

3 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 safety of vehicles pulling in and out. 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.

WHO TO REPORT TO FOR PARKING ISSUES-

DVLA- [Report an untaxed vehicle - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Deal with Vehicles with **No MOT OR TAX** on the public highway. DVLA can remove them. **Police** can intervene when the vehicle is seen being driven.

PARKING EAST- parking.east@colchester.gov.uk

PARKING SERVICES- parking@tendringdc.gov.uk- 01255 686969

Bad parking under the highway code. Police can intervene if the vehicle is a danger to the highway i.e a complete block likely to cause an accident, where other vehicles etc cannot pass.

Dangerous driving caught on dash cam

[Essex Police - Extra Eyes \(egressforms.com\)](https://www.essexpolice.com/extra-eyes)

BURGLARY

There have been burglaries in surrounding villages. Please be vigilant when leaving the house. Check all doors and windows are closed and locked and if you were ever thinking of getting **ring doorbell** or **CCTV**, now is a good time to invest. Both will give peace of mind, to whether anyone has been on or around your property and great evidence if the inevitable were to happen. Most these days have **phone apps**, on motion detection, you are alerted which gives you the chance to ring 999 if anything untoward is taking place. Most have **2 way conversation** too, so a few choice words could also assist. Also great for when the local cat is about to leave a little **present** on your lawn.

Motion sensor **floodlights** are a good deterrent too. Anyone up to no good is less likely to continue when they are lit up and this helps with visibility for the cameras in **poor light**. Keep front garden gates **closed** if you have them and if you have plans for an annual **vacation**, ask the neighbours to put a car on your driveway, giving the impression **someone is there**. Lights on **timers** are also a great deterrent and radios, all giving the same illusion.

FRAUD

We have seen an increase in reports of people being scammed when buying **vehicles online**. Typically, these scams involve criminals posting non-existent vehicles or vehicle parts on social media. Scammers will use stolen images of genuine vehicles and sometimes even feature a fake address. The victim then sends the criminals money in anticipation that the vehicle will be delivered. However, it never is and when the victim attempts to contact the seller, they discover the ad and the seller have disappeared. To avoid falling for these scams, use our top tips when browsing online for a new car:

- Be wary of a bargain, as this is common tactic scammers use to lure you in. Be especially careful when using an online marketplace.
- Check documents – ask to see the seller's vehicle logbook (V5C). This is needed when a vehicle is sold so legitimate sellers should have it.
- Ask for the registration number and check that the details match up on the DVLA's vehicle enquiry service.
- Look out for pressure-selling tactics, such as telling you that a lot of other people are interested in the vehicle, or you only have a limited time to buy it. Don't pay for anything until you've inspected the vehicle. During your inspection, check that the documents and vehicle details all match up. Don't pay via bank transfer, as it offers little protection. Instead use a platform such as PayPal or a credit card for additional protection if things go wrong.

If you have any doubt of a possible 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.

PCSO Activities (A few)

Extensive Investigations have been carried out in both my villages, ready for (OIC) Officers In Charge of the cases with some proactive results. For progress updates of a crime you reported, please contact the OIC.

It was a pleasure to welcome Cllr Lynda McWilliams along on my patrols for Operation Stronghold, where we engaged with the community. Cllr McWilliams got to see some of the work conducted in the daily life of a PCSO. As usual there were a few parking problems to address with the help of a CPI (considerate parking initiative) and patrols around a few of the hot spot areas. Welfare visits were conducted to victims of crime, with security advice given. Extra patrols were carried out in these areas.

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

Use It or Lose It!!

A timely and topical reminder in support of our Post Office situated at the front of the Garage which is a vital and integral service in the heart of Great Bentley which we must cherish. Sub Post Master Sam is loved by everyone, in this day and age when so much that is familiar to us is disappearing, his welcome smile, gentle manner and quiet sense of humour remain constant. As our village changes around us with the ever increasing volume of traffic regularly resulting in gridlock and frayed tempers all made worse due to inconsiderate parking, entering The Post Office is like stepping back in time. However the transactions and services Sam provides cover all aspects of modern day to day living but most importantly for those of us who still prefer to do things the 'old fashion way,' he is understanding, helpful and patient.

We must continue to use our Post Office not just those of us who already do but people new to the community who may not be aware of it's existence.

Quite simply it truly is a case of: **'Use it or lose it'** we cannot afford to let that become a reality.

Judy Bishop

TENDRING SHOW 2024

Brought to you by Tendring Hundred Farmer's Club

Saturday 13th July

This year's theme: **Grow it Cook it Eat it**

www.tendringshow.co.uk

Disabled facilities available | Well behaved dogs on leads welcome

Essex County's Premier Agricultural Event
Lawford House Park, Nr Manningtree CO11 2NE
Charity No. 803015

Baked Potato Lunch at St Mary's Church

On Saturday 27th April a Baked Potato Lunch was enjoyed by 42 members of the community and visitors.

Judging from the volume of chatter and laughter, it was obvious that the opportunity to eat together and listen to delightful music provided by Judith and Peter Clayton was much appreciated. It was the first time we had organised such a fund-raising social event in the church hall, and hopefully not the last.

The idea sprang from a visit to another church, coincidentally also named St Mary the Virgin, in Marston Moretaine, where we saw the lunch in action.

After consultation with the PCC and our two dear fund-raising friends, Mary Maskell and Nicky Justice, we decided on a plan, and it worked beautifully. We had a great team: Edna Black, Jackie Roy, Mary and Nicky, Hannah Justice and Carol McDougall and on the Raffle, Lynn Gordon and Jennie Moss. Many thanks to them all for their superb contribution to the overall success of the day.

We were pleased to donate £560 towards the redecoration of the Church Hall, to make it fresh and welcoming not only for the congregation but for all those who hire it for various celebrations.

We'd also like to thank all those who came to the lunch. You made it a very special occasion!

Rosemary and David Branch



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

Carnival

I hope you all have the date in your diary - Saturday 29th June, we'll see you there.

Summer Trip

Our summer trip this year will be to Wyvernwood in Alresford. We are very excited for this adventure, we will be entering a magical kingdom of fairies, princesses, wizards, goblins, and many more enchanted characters, along with lots of outdoor play and exploring, puzzle solving, storytelling, treasure hunts and many more activities to keep us busy and having fun.

To have this beautiful outdoor setting locally is amazing and we can't wait to have a totally brilliant day, let's hope the weather will be kind.

Picnic and Sports Day

Our annual sports day and picnic will be taking place on The Green on Tuesday 9th July.

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

September Term Registers

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

Although we are full at present on most sessions, there are always a lot of places released once the older children move onto Primary School. With the new funding that came into place in April we have had a big increase in interest so please don't leave it too late, if you would like to become part of our Village Pre-school then contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange for you to come and have a visit and play before we break up.

To find out what government support is available to you for childcare please go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

This website will provide you with all the options and schemes available and when you would be eligible.

Any questions though please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for reading

Julie Wiles

Aurora Borealis

There was no need to travel to the Arctic Circle last weekend (see the front cover).

All over the country we were treated to the Northern Lights. Social media was covered with pictures.

So, what is this phenomenon and why does it look better through the lens of a camera or Smart Phone.

The night lights we see come from charged particles discharged from the Sun's surface. Some particles eventually intersect with the earth and are saved by the Earth's magnetic field, moving towards the poles. These collide with atmospheric atoms and molecules so what we are seeing are atoms and molecules in our atmosphere colliding with particles from the sun.

The reason that it looks better through a lens is due to eye sensitivity which of course changes as we age. The exposure on a camera allows in more light which allows you to see the intense colours.



GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET CLUB

Playing cricket on The Green since 1771.

Website: greatbentleycc.co.uk Email: info@greatbentleycc.co.uk
Instagram: [great_bentleycc](https://www.instagram.com/great_bentleycc) Facebook: [Great Bentley CC](https://www.facebook.com/GreatBentleyCC)

On a very chilly 21st April having lost the toss Great Bentley took to the field against West Bergholt in their first league match of the season. Michael Wright took the first over from the pavilion end while Sam Busby opened from the Surgery end knocking over the middle stump with his first ball of the season. Both bowlers kept it tight with the opening eight overs going for just 18 runs for that one wicket. In search of those elusive wickets Captain Alex Youngs chose to change the bowler from the pavilion end with Lily Wainer coming on. But it was Busby, kept on at the surgery end, who got the ball to swing and took a further four wickets in quick succession to leave the visitors in disarray on 45-6 after 13 overs. The other wicket fell to some sharp fielding from both debutant George Spector and bowler Lily Wainer. Busby ended a fantastic spell on 7-1-15-5. Youngs then rotated the bowling of young Jakes Pearce, Dan Barker, and Spector. All bowled well picking up a wicket each. Wright returned for a two over cameo taking the final wicket. Spector deserves a special mention with his metronomic accuracy costing just 8 runs in 8 overs. West Bergholt were all out for 118 off 39 overs. A low total, but given the conditions favoured the bowlers, one the small crowd thought may prove tricky to chase. Bentleys innings didn't start well with three wickets falling for just 20 runs. Barker, who opened the innings, was hitting the ball nicely but the conditions meant boundaries were hard to come by. Barker and Alfie Youngs steadied the ship taking the score to 54 before a mix up led to Youngs being run out. This was the start of a mini-collapse with three wickets falling for 10 runs, including Barker for a hard earned 30. Bentley were in trouble on 65-6 off 19 overs. Bergholt saw light at the end of the tunnel expecting victory was approaching, but that light was, in fact, the express train that was player of the match Sam Busby. Building an innings with well worked singles initially with Jakes Pearce then George Spector he exploded into action in the twenty-seventh over hitting 21 in 5 balls to bring victory within reach. Spector took singles in the next two overs leaving Busby to hit back-to-back fours to bring up his 28 ball 50 and win the match for Bentley by 3 wickets.

Unfortunately, our next game vs. Kelvedon away was cancelled due to the weather. However, we used the rest well and were ready for Boxted at home on 5th May when the Green finally basked in the long overdue sunshine. Boxted won the toss and elected to field. Barney Morton and Alfie Youngs opened the batting and put on 67 for the first wicket running hard as boundaries were hard to come by due to the slow outfield. Morton made a dashing 50 off 40 balls before retiring and Youngs was out caught for 17. Once the wicket fell the run rate slowed with Mark Pearce anchoring the innings with many well-timed shots that, on a faster outfield, would have produced runs. The middle order of Johnny Hesketh (21), Dan Barker (28) and Alex Youngs (17) all contributed to valuable partnerships with Pearce who remained not out on 35 in a total of 189/4 off our 40 overs. After tea was taken Mike Wright opened the bowling from the pavilion end while George Spector started from the surgery end. But it was a brilliant piece of fielding from Barney who ran out the Boxted opener after running for a second -- a flat fast accurate throw hit the stumps with the batsman well out of his ground. Wright bowled an uninterrupted eight over spell returning incredible figures of 8-1-11-2. Spector again bowled very accurately only going for 20 runs but no wickets. At the half-way drinks break, thanks to not only the excellent bowling but also the faultless fielding, Boxted were limited to just 47/3 from 20 overs. After drinks Lily Wainer bowled brilliantly and was very unlucky not to take a wicket returning figures of 7-2-16-0. With Boxted struggling to get any runs Captain Alex Youngs turned to last year's player of the year, Dan Barker, who used his flight and spin to take three quick wickets in an inspired spell 6-0-14-3. Jakes Pearce and Alfie Youngs came on to finish the overs and bowled fast hostile spells not conceding many runs. Both were unfortunate not to clean up the Boxted tail but Youngs did pick up a late wicket with a wicked ball that smashed into the stumps. Boxted finished on 89/7 well short of the required target. Another great win for GBCC that puts us second in the league. Player of the Match was hard to pick given the all-round great team performance but for his opening eight over spell that really put Boxted on the back foot it was awarded to Mike Wright.

It's not just the adults who have been in action, the Colts are also playing in their leagues. The U11s opened their account with a great win against a strong Brightlingsea side by 228 to 225. Esme Giles playing a leading role with both bat (6 runs) and ball, taking two wickets for two runs. The U13s played their first fixture against an impressive Frinton XI. The combined Gt. Bentley/Gt. Bromley XI batted first and scored a respectable 109/8 with Rueben Esposito opening and top scoring on 20. Daniel Blacker held together the middle order ending just behind on 17 not out including back-to-back fours. Frinton, despite some excellent bowling by Freddie Pope (2/29) and a luckless Jodie Black, who bowled her usual accurate line and length going for just one run in her two overs, made the total with five overs to spare. Frinton winning by 7 wickets.

Are you new to the village? Have you lived here for years? Are you wanting to get involved in a friendly welcoming club? GBCC have a senior team playing league and friendly matches on Sundays with practice on the Green Thursdays at 6pm. Our thriving youth and junior section (from school year one) practice on Friday evenings. Hardball league matches are played throughout the summer. All practices and matches are weather dependant so please check our socials. The well stocked bar is open on Friday evenings and on Sundays during the season. Please contact the club via the email address info@greatbentleycc.co.uk if you or your child would like to give cricket a try or with any questions.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

New chairman's 'privilege' to be elected as Tendring District Council celebrates 50th anniversary

The new chairman of Tendring District Council (TDC) says it is a "privilege" to be elected to the role as the authority marks its 50th anniversary. Councillor Dan Casey was voted in as chairman of TDC at a meeting of the full council on Tuesday, April 30th.

Councillor Casey, who had been vice chairman for the past year, replaces outgoing chairman Gary Scott. Councillor Casey said his chosen causes for the year could include a local animal charity, local veterans' groups, and support for people in need in Jaywick.

Speaking to fellow councillors, Councillor Casey said: "I would like to see us all work together for the good of all. I feel privileged to have been chosen as Chairman of the council – especially to do so as we mark 50 years since Tendring District Council was formed – and I hope I can serve you all well."

Tendring District Council was formed in April 1974 following a merger of the Borough of Harwich with Brightlingsea, Clacton and Frinton and Walton Urban Districts along with Tendring Rural District Council. Councillor Bill Davidson was elected to serve as vice chairman for the coming year. As well as presiding over TDC full council meetings, the chairman of the council has a ceremonial role and represents the council and district at civic events.

Residents are being asked to say what they would like in the future for sport and leisure in Tendring

A consultation has been launched regarding Tendring District Council's (TDC) draft Sports and Activity Strategy. The draft strategy has already been set out with a five-year approach to developing and providing sport and leisure activity in the district.

It is hoped the new strategy will give increased opportunities for people to become active where they live, with a wider focus on community activity by supporting and facilitating local clubs, organisations and partners across the district.

Subject to the consultation and funding being identified, key actions include facilitating more sports events and community facilities such as play zones and multi-use games areas, opening up cycling and walking routes and to explore providing virtual exercise classes. But it should be appreciated that not all actions would necessarily be funded as funds may be limited, but an initial funding of £122,530 has been allocated towards a strategy.

A feasibility study for the potential of an "Active Wellbeing Centre" in the district is also being commissioned. The study would also support a review of leisure facilities to ensure they remain on a sustainable financial footing. It is hoped the new strategy may be adopted this summer.

To have your say as part of the consultation and to view the draft strategy, visit the TDC consultations webpage at www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations. The consultation runs until Sunday, 9 June.

Commemorative events to mark 80th anniversary of D-Day

COMMEMORATIVE events are set to take place across Tendring to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. The commemorations will include a service at Clacton War Memorial as well as two nostalgic shows at Clacton's Princes Theatre later this summer.

The events will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, which saw the start of Allied operations to liberate Western Europe from Nazi German control during the Second World War.

The service, organised by the Clacton Royal British Legion and supported by Tendring District Council (TDC), will take place at the war memorial in Clacton's seafront gardens on Thursday, 6 June, at 11 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On 11th June at 2 pm, it will be staging 'Thanks for the Memories' featuring heartwarming nostalgic songs and a flag waving finale paying tribute to the veterans of the armed forces.

On September 22nd at 2 pm, the theatre will host The D-Day Darlings' 80th Anniversary Tour, which will see the wartime-inspired group perform the best loved songs of the era.

This year's Clacton Airshow on 22-23 August will also have an overarching D-Day theme, with the iconic RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight headlining the event. Aircraft had a crucial role to play in Operation Overlord with Lancaster bombers flying sorties ahead of and during D-Day to soften up the German defences, while Hurricanes supported communications between the invasion forces and headquarters in Britain.

Councillor Dan Casey, Chairman of Tendring District Council and the President of the Clacton Royal British Legion and TDC Vice-Chairman, said: "At the time, D-Day was a beacon of hope for the millions of people living under Nazi oppression. It saw the Allied invasion of France and ultimately led to the end of the war in Europe within a year. It was a turning point in the war, but also a sad occasion for the many families who lost loved ones during the operation. This year marks a major anniversary of that operation, and we will be paying tribute to those who gave their lives so that we may have the freedom we enjoy today."

Clacton's Princes Theatre, which is run by TDC, will be hosting two epic shows with a D-Day twist.

Many thanks Lynda

Cllr Lynda McWilliams - Tendring District Councillor for The Bentleys and Frating Ward
Phone number 07564 613603 – Land line is not working again!
email lynda@boblyn.co.uk or cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who supported our May Fair. We were blessed with perfect weather which allowed our outdoor activities to go ahead so thanks to Clacton Archery Club and to St Osyth Scouts for the Tomahawk throwing and Helen for our Viking "experience".

A huge thank you to all of the cake bakers, jam makers, those who donated tombola and raffle prizes, books, white elephant and new goods to sell, plants, the BBQ chefs and also to all of the stall holders, refreshment providers etc. Special mention to those who put up the Gazebos and took them down at the end of the day and of course to the mini bell ringers/tutors.



We managed to raise an amazing £1,860.

Thanks everyone from all of us at St Mary's Church.

NEWS FROM THE OAKS



Hello everyone from all of us here at The Oaks

How are you all doing? We hope you are okay and we hope we can take a couple of minutes of your time to try and make you smile so get yourself a cuppa and get comfortable

Before we start we want to thank our beautiful and kind Gill who has recently retired and has given so much to all of us. So here's to you Gill, you are amazing and we thank you.

Before we let you know what we have been up to we want to say thank you to you all and all the beautiful dogs we often see walk past our house. So, if you remember a while ago we baked delicious dog treats for you all and they went down so well that we are going to start it again with our first baking to commence on 17th June.

'THE BARKARY at The Oaks'

Will be open Friday, 21st June between 10-11:30 for the delicious Dog treats at £1 a bag for carrot and chicken flavour treats. Please could you call [01206 250415](tel:01206250415) to put your order in on Wednesday, 19th June and ask for Jodie. We can't wait to see you all and it would be so lovely to see all the dogs too

Right, back to it. It's been all fun here with so many activities especially with our ball skills, this is keeping us active and super busy. All of us have a good throw on us so we're looking in to contacting the England Cricket Team in case they need us... so watch out you may see us on the tele!

We've been baking too and of course eating the goods, well it wouldn't be right to not try out all our hard work. We celebrated St George's Day and had the local church come to see us which was so lovely.

We've also been having fun with some pen pals who we write to and they write back, it's so lovely and really does make us smile.

We are also starting a book club and would love if anyone has any old books that they no longer need please could we have them as we are looking at starting it soon so we can sit in the garden and enjoy the weather while relaxing with a nice book to read. If you do could you put it for the attention of Jodie.

We are also looking at making our garden look super spectacular this year so we can really enjoy the garden and seeing the beautiful flowers as well as encouraging the wildlife and insects so if anyone has any plants 'pottering' about (ha ha, sorry we couldn't resist) we would absolutely love to have them.

Oh dear, our coffee has gone cold with all this nattering we'd best go and put the kettle on!

It's been lovely to speak with you all and thank you so much for taking the time in reading this and we really really hope to see/hear from you all soon

With Love and kindness

The Oaks xx

RUNNING CLUB



Well, it's safe to say that there have been countless achievements for the Bentley runner throughout the month of March. There has been plenty of Parkrun tourism up and down the country from as far North as Fell Foot on the banks of Lake Windermere where Paul Arnold achieved his 100th Parkrun (if you're going to do it, do it with style), to the South coast at Seaton where a few foolhardy members thought it was a good idea to get a Parkrun in the day before taking on the Grizzly. This is only one of the toughest mainstream events in the racing calendar. The Grizzly is a 20 mile race up and down the cliffs of the Seaton/Beer area. There are stretches of shingle beach, river beds, swamps and various other such delights thrown in to help tire out runners' legs!

The same weekend as the Grizzly was the Colchester half marathon where plenty of us showed up in blue and tackled the tricky 13.1 miles in what can only be described as constant precipitation of varying strengths. (It rained very hard!). Not only were several PBs achieved but a few took on the responsibility of pacing at the event. This is actually a fairly difficult task as the pacer has to ensure they maintain exactly the right speed in order to get their flock of followers in at the stated time. So our pacers helped plenty of other runners achieve their goals which is incredibly rewarding.

The Dave Wright 15 and 7.5 mile race was on the third weekend in March, and this is put on by one of our own members, Craig Mitchel. The course winds through the rolling countryside of Langham and Boxted, and it is hilly in places. Bentley shone well at this event, getting the men's first team place, and a particularly impressive result was that Charlie Keitch and Craig Slocombe ran the 15 miles quickly enough to gain places in the Top Ten of all time club records! And even more impressive Craig managed this whilst recovering from a nasty bout of shin splints!

And of course, we are now moving into Marathon season and some of our entrants to Brighton, London etc have been getting in long runs every weekend. Others have already completed ultra-marathons this month. Going beyond 26 miles requires a pretty strong pair of legs and an even stronger mind. Well done to those who have undertaken these challenges particularly given how wet it has been. This has made some of the going underfoot extremely difficult adding to the stress on tired legs!

Friends of Great Bentley Station

This months news from Great Bentley Station

We have had a lot going on this month. Plants were donated by Joseph Debono (thank you so much Joseph). So we have been busy planting them around the station slope and in troughs made by volunteers.

Thank you to those who donated money raised at our coffee morning, we were able to purchase a battery operated strimmer. We have two new poster boards on the London Platform to help cover the unsightly windows. These are pictures and articles about people locally who worked on the station years ago.

The talking bench should have been installed by the time this is printed, but we would still love to have some more poems from young and old alike. We have fifteen minutes of recording time to fill.

If you or someone you know likes writing poetry please be encouraged to get involved and send your poems or words to a song you have written to the email address below.

Hope you enjoy seeing the improvements to the station. We are doing our best to make it a more cheerful environment and to help the wildlife.

Thank you to the new volunteers who have been eager to get involved, Peter and I are very grateful for the extra help. Thank you for all the help and encouragement that we have had this year.

From Dawn and Peter

dawn@vinn.co.uk

VILLAGE MARATHON FIVE RAISE 23k FOR CHARITIES

Five Great Bentley residents put their running skills to the test by completing the recent London Marathon and raising over £23,000 pounds for charity in the process. Sarah-Jane Bennett, Emma Blowers, Ben Fryer, Ian Picken and Lawrence Robinson had differing levels of running experience when they started training at the beginning of the year, but all completed the 26.2 mile course for the first time ever.

Sarah-Jane raised £4,000 for Just4Children, who were raising money for local boy Angus Grocott, who needs ongoing treatment for his Cerebral Palsy that is not currently provided by the NHS. Emma raised exactly the same amount for Chron's and Colitis UK, who have supported her and her family since she was diagnosed with Chron's when she was 12. Ben raised £4,200 for the NSPCC, who give children who have suffered torment and abuse in the past, a second chance at life. Ian, and his brother Paul, ran for the Sick Children's Trust, with Ian raising £5,630 pounds in memory of his daughter Seren. Lawrence raised £5,607 for Children With Cancer UK, who fund life-saving research into childhood cancer and support children and their families.

The five spent around 16 weeks running the local roads in training and have organised countless fundraising events in and around the village over the past year. Ben said "It was nice to have others close by who knew exactly what I was going through whilst training. The WhatsApp group was fun and helped us get through the days when we really didn't fancy a 16-mile training run. There were numerous doubts in the training, when we realised just how far we had to run, but we were able to support each other and we all got there in the end." As for the actual day itself, plenty of their families and friends turned up to support, which Ben said was a huge lift, "To see some familiar Great Bentley faces on the way round was the boost we all needed, particularly once you were past the 20 mile mark. The village really turned out in force, with banners and all sorts. Then when we got back home, we realised just how many people had been tracking us and willing us on from afar. Throw in the support that so many in the village put in for all the charity days and the messages in the build-up and you have to say that it all helped us get to the finish line. It was a day that will live long in the memory and thanks to everyone in the village for all the support and donations."

Ben Fryer

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

The team have been out and about as usual over the last month, taking advantage where possible of the longer daylight hours and using different monitoring locations around the village - all with the aim of causing drivers just to wonder for a second or two whether we might be round the next corner and then hopefully slow down just a bit in response.

On a recent session, we spent an hour on site and witnessed nearly seventy motorists breaking the 30mph speed limit. Top speed 'only' 45mph although that's apparently plenty to earn yourself a hefty fine and five points on your licence.

As long as people can't manage to keep their speed down, we'll continue to report speeding vehicles, and I would imagine the Police will continue taking their own actions...

Thank you again to everyone who continues to drive within our speed limits!

Finally, we're always keen to welcome new volunteers to our team. Would you like to get involved? There's no 'minimum commitment' or obligation to attend every time we're out there, but if you think 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

YOUTH FOOTBALL

It's been a very busy spell for all of our teams as a wet March and April meant a number of the sides were playing catch-up and fitting in extra training sessions now the nights are longer. The big success for Great Bentley YFC was the first ever match for our mini-kickers! They've been training in all-weather being introduced to the beautiful game for the past few months and were able to put all that practice into a real match for the first time on a sunny May morning. You never forget your first game so it was a memorable morning for the coaches, parents and players to begin their football journey on the village green. The team played their hearts out and scored three goals, much to the delight of everyone who was watching. Elsewhere, the under 13s competed gamely at the top level of the Colchester and District Youth League and ended the campaign with a big win over FC Clacton. The under 12s won six of their last ten matches to finish the campaign strongly and are now ready to venture into the 11 aside game for the first time.

The strong under 10's team are moving from 7 aside to the 9 aside game and have picked up some big wins in the process. Both the under 9's teams have continued their progress with the Reds picking up a memorable victory at the beginning of April and the Blues flying the flag proudly and picking up some great results in a competitive league. The under 7s have also worn the blue and white stripes with pride taking on some of the best teams in the local area and displaying some solid football. The teams will shortly take a break before gearing up for another season, more on that next month alongside news of plenty of sponsorship opportunities and an update on availability in our squads. We are always on the lookout for new coaches, so if you are someone looking to give something back to village and want to try your hand at running a team get in touch with our club secretary Tony Nash on 07867 748184. The club will support you all the way and can assist with getting all the credentials and qualifications you need to do it. Everyone at Great Bentley YFC would like to thank everyone who has come to support the boys and girls on the green on Sunday mornings in the 2023/24 campaign. It's been a memorable one!

Ben Fryer

FOOD BANK AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

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, 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 but demand has gone up.

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

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Division 1

April 17th	FC Clacton Res	(A) W	1 - 1	6 15 pm
April 20th	Tavern	(A) W	4 - 0	
April 27th	Cressing Utd	(H) W	1 - 0	
May 11th	Cavendish	Coggeshall FC	W	3 - 0 PA C/Final
May 14th	Thorpe Ath	(H)	6 30 pm	

ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Division 3

April 20th	Little Oakley Res	(A) L	3 - 2	
April 24th	Dedham Old Boys Res	(A) D	2 - 2	
April 27th	Heddinghams Utd	(A) L	2 - 0	TT Cup Q/F
May 15th	Prettygate	(H)	6 30pm	



When the Parish magazine has been delivered and you are reading this we will have finished the season and be organising the presentation dinner at Frinton Golf Club and the annual 5 a side tournament BBQ held on Carnival Day Saturday June 29th.

The 1st team completed our league fixture with the game against FC Clacton finally taking place on Wednesday 17th April. Ironically moving the kick off to 6 15pm so that the floodlights did not have to be used to save money backfired on Clacton because it was a miserable rainy evening and the referee insisted that the floodlights were turned on in the second half. GB deserved to take all three points but had to settle for a draw. Kurt Kirkins our goal scorer.

A comfortable win over Tavern the following Saturday, Archie Smith and Oscar Herbert started on the bench, stepping up from the 'A' team. Archie scoring his first goal for the first team. Other scorers were Gaz Evans, Bernie Morton and Jake Vaughan. We were all looking forward to our return fixture with Cressing Utd. Unlucky to lose at Cressing earlier in the season, the game went end to end but neither goalkeeper under pressure. Unfortunately Cressing scored the only goal with a breakaway with minutes to play.

A good crowd of approximately 250 spectators gathered at Coggeshall Town FC stadium on Sat 11th May in glorious sunshine to watch the Peter Andrews Charity Cup Final with GB playing Suffolk based Cavendish FC. Great Bentley controlled the game from kick off. Rory Warin back from a nasty ankle injury showing us all what we had been missing by scoring a hat trick in the first 30 mins. Again Archie Smith and Oscar Herbert came off the bench and gave good performances. Manager Jack Murray made a cameo appearance for the last 20 mins and unselfishly gave his winners medal to Conkers son Harry who had been the excited team mascot for the day, even being presented with the cup.

The last two league games for the reserves ended with a 3 - 2 loss at Little Oakley Reserves. Sam Winney scoring both our goals and a disappointing 2 - 2 draw at Dedham Old Boys Res after leading 2 - 0 at half time. Scorers were Jake Vaughan and Liam Whitbread.

The Tommy Thompson Cup Quarter Final v Heddinghams Division 2 team saw a depleted side lose 2 - 0. The Covid Cup Semi final v Prettygate was due to be played on Wednesday 15th May.

The clubhouse will be open for all the England games in the Euros.

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

Come on the Bulldogs

TRAILER TOUR OF THE ANCIENT DEER PARK OR GUIDED WALK OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS

St Osyth Priory

Every Wednesday until end of September

Trailer tours start 11.00am: Guided Walks start 10.30am:

Book online at www.prioryeducationcentre.co.uk

£6.50

Farming Diaries

With the farming year in full swing now and nearly all cropping in the ground the work load varies greatly depending on what the farmers are growing.

Cereal growers will have, or will be, in the next few days applying their final fungicides to ensure they prevent any disease creeping into the crop which could dramatically affect the quality of the final yield. The quality of the harvested yield is very important as the millers and the bread makers have very stringent specifications which farmers work to all season to ensure their produce meets the standards required. Protein levels in the wheat grain can affect the quality of bread or too much nitrogen in barley can make it impractical in the brewing industry so it is important that farmers get these levels correct. After their final fungicide cereal growers will begin to look ahead to harvest ensuring that their grain stores are cleaned out ready to store the harvested crop and looking at trial results and varieties for the coming season ahead.



Farmers who have root crops such as potatoes, carrots, onions or sugar beet are much busier at this time of the year. They will be concentrating on weed control to avoid competition between weeds and the crop. Competition between weeds and the crop can mean that the crop is unable to access nutrients, fertiliser and water all which are vital in their growth and development.

You will often see irrigators applying water to potato, onion and turf crops. Applications of water are precisely planned with the use of neutron probes measuring the soil moisture deficit so that not too much water is applied which would result in lazy root development. Equally, potato crops must not dry out when the tubers are forming as this would lead to the development of scab making the potato unsellable.

Farmers are also trying to prevent disease coming into the crop which can dramatically impact yield in the same way as the wheat example given in last month's article. Blight is the biggest concern to all potato growers with total crop destruction occurring if it is not controlled. This comes at a cost of around £3bn per year to the potato industry. Farmers use various tools including national forecasting services which are e-mailed to them directly as the weather conditions that cause blight occur, using local knowledge and assessing crops regularly as and when spores start to move around in the air.

Potato farmers have a narrow window from planting the potatoes to harvesting them to ensure that weeds and disease are controlled and making sure they have enough water and the right nutrition. Salad varieties such as Charlotte or Maris Peer will only be growing for around 90 days at which point they will be desiccated (the crop is 'topped') to prevent further growth to ensure they meet the stringent supermarket requirements (similar to the cereal standards mentioned earlier) which stipulate a specific size, skin finish and skin blemishes. Other varieties such as Maris Piper or Estima are left to reach maximum size as their markets require large potatoes for chipping or baking. You will notice in the local area that there has been an increase in the number of fields in which maize is being grown. Some of this maize will be grown to feed cattle on farms, but a large proportion of it will be going into a local A.D. Plant (Anaerobic digestion plant). A.D. plants are becoming more widespread across the country. They carry out a natural process where plant and animal materials (biomass) are broken down by micro-organisms in the absence of air – hence the term anaerobic digestion. The A.D. process is when the biomass, of which there are many suitable forms including food waste, slurry and manure are put inside a sealed tank or digester. Naturally occurring micro-organisms digest the biomass, which in turn releases a methane rich gas (biogas) that can be used to generate renewable heat and power; this helps to cut fossil fuel use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The remaining material also known as digestate is rich in nutrients so it can be used as fertiliser. The AD process is not a new technology, it has been used in the UK since the late 1800s, but now an increasing number of AD plants are being built in the UK to generate clean renewable energy.

Vicki Brooks

DEADLINE FOR JULY MAGAZINE

SATURDAY 15th JUNE

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

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

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

Surgery Newsletter



Contact Details

Please remember if you change your address, contact number or email address that you contact the Surgery and let us know. It is extremely important that we hold up-to-date details for you to ensure we are able to contact you. It is very easy to update these details by going onto the Great Bentley Surgery website and searching for 'Change Personal Details'. By clicking on this it will allow you to complete a form with your new details which can then be submitted via the website. Once the form is received at the Surgery we will ensure your records are updated.

Patient Consent

We often have friends or family members contacting us about a patient. Due to patient confidentiality, we are not able to discuss their details with anyone else unless we have express written consent from the patient to do this. This includes even just confirming an appointment time or date. Our staff often experience dissatisfied patients as a result, but they would be breaking the law if they complied and have no option but to refuse their request.

If there is frequently a need to discuss someone else's details and they are happy for us to do this, they just need to write to us expressing consent to talk to the named person. In order to try and make this as easy as possible, we have a form that can be collected from reception for the patient to complete, giving consent for someone to speak to us on their behalf. Once this has been completed and returned to the Surgery it will be noted on the patient's record.

Missed Appointments

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of patients who are not attending their appointments and who have not contacted the Surgery to let us know they will be unable to attend. In March we had 170 missed appointments and in April 161 missed appointments.

We are aware that the demand for patient appointments is increasing and by cancelling an appointment you are not able to attend, it will ensure it is used by another patient and not wasted.

Please help us by ensuring that if you are not able to attend your booked appointment that you contact the Surgery on telephone number 01206 250691 to cancel this.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Thursday 27th June for staff training. If patients require urgent medical care on this afternoon, then this is available by contacting 111 for assistance.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

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

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

Important notice

THE GREEN PHARMACY

We regret to inform you that as of 1st June 2024, we will no longer be open on Saturdays. This decision comes as a result of significant funding cuts from the NHS towards the community pharmacy sector, which have forced pharmacies to consider operational changes to ensure sustainability.

In an effort to maintain and enhance our services on weekdays, while also reducing overhead costs associated with Saturday operations, it has become necessary for us to cease Saturday operations. This adjustment is crucial for the continued viability of our business. Without this change, there is a risk of closure, which would greatly impact the community we serve.

We understand that this adjustment may inconvenience some of our patients, but we trust that you appreciate the importance of ensuring our continued ability to serve the community effectively.

As a pharmacy deeply committed to providing high-quality care, we value our role within the community immensely. We sincerely thank you for your understanding and support during this challenging period. We remain hopeful that the funding situation for community pharmacies will improve in the near future.

Many thanks The Green Pharmacy

Know your onions!

1. To which family do onions, leeks & garlic belong?
2. What are Jersey Royals?
3. What is the main ingredient of the Ukrainian soup 'borscht'?
4. What are 'zucchini' more commonly known as in this country?
5. What is the main ingredient of 'baba ganoush'?
6. Which salad veg has a variety called 'French Breakfast'?
7. Which veg is in any dish described as 'Lyonnaise'?
8. What is measured on the 'Scoville' scale?
9. Which 2 veg make up the main ingredients of 'saag aloo'?
10. What fruit or veg is a 'Pink Fir Apple'?
11. Traditionally which 2 veg are served with haggis on Burns' Night?
12. What type of foodstuffs are 'lima' & 'flageolet'?
13. If a dish is served 'à la Florentine' which veg is included?
14. What is a 'romanesco'?
15. Which 'nut' is an ingredient in traditional pesto?
16. Which veg has a variety called 'chantenay'?
17. What is the alternative name for a 'cos' lettuce?
18. What is 'ramson'?
19. Which vegetable can be 'globe' or 'Jerusalem'?
20. Which crop fears the 'Colorado' beetle?

**PLEASE SEND ANSWERS TO MARY MASKELL BY THE 10th JUNE.
FIRST OUT OF THE HAT WINS FREE TENDRING SHOW TICKETS.**

Bell Ringer's Update

Having completed a very successful sponsored bike ride around the new benefice of Great Bentley, St Osyth, Little Clacton and Weeley, we would like to give huge thanks to all the generous people who sponsored us to complete it!

We are now concentrating on events for the next 2 months:

- 15th June: Coffee Morning in the Church Hall with static bicycle riding. Challenge us to cycle to locations of your choice
- Plant and produce sales on Saturday mornings from 1st June onwards on the village green outside Caldew Cottage, (15th June will be in the Church)

We continue to teach people to learn the ancient art of Church Bell Ringing. Included in the group are people from Thorpe le Soken who are the core of a new 'band' for the church and village. It's such a pleasure for us to know that we are helping to perpetuate the tradition of change ringing which has been practiced in England for several centuries.

If you have an interest in learning to ring church bells, would like more info about what we do 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
rogercareysmith@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES

The crossover between horticulture and the main focus of this column is reflected in the rapid demise of Box. A valuable evergreen that as well as being familiar in gardens is a rare native shrub reaching tree proportions in chalky places like Boxhill in Surrey.

Now moribund small almost leafless box hedges are a familiar sight and in my garden I've cut down several, some well over a hundred years old. The main cause of this is the very recent arrival of the Box moth from New Zealand. I first noticed its depredations in South London but in the past two-three years it has fully reached our part of Essex.

Sprays and pheromone traps can be tried but their success is unclear and demands a great deal of effort. Finding a similar alternative small-leaved evergreen shrub now seems the main option. The familiar "Poor Man's Box" *Lonicera nitida* has always been an alternative for low hedging. But more recently small members of the *Euonymus* [Spindle] and *Ilex* [Holly allies] are becoming better known. I recently noticed a row of very box-like car park planting in Colchester that proved the former and when visiting Notcutts in Woodbridge was shown some small *Ilex* and was advised that it takes a better trim quite akin to box.

Box blight is a soil borne condition fatal to this blameless shrub that has endured the centuries as garden topiary, but this disease seems quite secondary to the recent damage inflicted by the moth. Unlike many insect pests it is quite large and attractive, with silvery forewings and pale brown beneath. After the caterpillars strip the leaves any regrowth is soon trimmed off by further generations, leaving just skeletal branches.

This is a telling example of the unintended consequences, in this age of pandemics across national borders, of the need for greater international bio-security with accidental introductions of problem species accompanying intended legitimate imports.

For your diary: Sun 2nd June 11-3 Pond-dipping & Open Day at Great Holland Pits Nature Reserve, Little Clacton Rd, Gt Holland CO13 0EU – organised by EWT Tendring local group.

BENTLEY LADIES CLUB

A minute's silence was held as we all remembered our fellow member and friend Janette Weller who so sadly passed away in May.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Cherry Mullins who gave an illustrated talk on 'the Palace that was the envy of Europe'...**Versailles**.

Since 1979, the Palace of Versailles has been listed as a World Heritage and is one of the greatest achievements in French 17th century art and architecture. Louis XIII's old hunting lodge was extended and transformed by his son, Louis XIV, better known as 'The Sun King'. The Palace remained a favourite royal residence up until the French Revolution in 1789 when Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette, were both guillotined.

Cherry highlighted some interesting facts....

- The French Kings had many mistresses who mostly ended up in convents
- Trees were dug up from all over France to create the gardens and avenues
- Gondolas & gondoliers were brought from Venice to sail on the Grand Canal
- There were 2,400 fountains for which a giant aqueduct was built to bring water from the River Seine in Paris
- For a banquet, 20,000 candles lit the chandeliers in the famous 'Hall of Mirrors', only 3,000 on a normal day
- BUT...very few toilets, so Versailles actually became known as 'the filthiest palace in Europe'

Date for your diary - Tuesday 4th June... Flower Arranging with Brenda Eyers, a well-known speaker and demonstrator

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.

GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Next meeting Thursday 13th June 2024 Gt. Bentley Village Hall 7.30pm
All welcome Members £2 and Visitors £4

Charlie and "The Dig" A talk by Charlie Haylock

This is an intriguing and sometimes hilarious look behind-the-scenes in the making of the Netflix film "The Dig" . . . a film based on a novel with the same title about the famous **Sutton Hoo** burial ship and the people involved. Charlie will explain how a potential "scam" email from "The Dig" producer, turned out to be real, and was followed by a phone call from **Ralph Fiennes**. He will show how Ralph Fiennes, who played **Basil Brown**, and the other "Suffolk" actors learnt their Suffolk accent . . . and not sound like West Country pirates ! Charlie also includes a dialect tour of the British Isles showing how a deaf person can lip read and tell what dialect it is . . . and one of the reasons why he was selected to be Ralph's dialect coach. He will also explain the extreme lengths Ralph Fiennes took, not only to play Basil Brown . . . but to become Basil Brown. The talk is both informative and very entertaining

GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 18th June at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. Our speaker is Roger Hance, retired nature and landscape photographer, and his subject will be "Attracting Birds and Wildlife to your Garden". As natural habitats in the countryside are diminishing Roger will show us how to make our gardens more "wildlife friendly" and also tell us about some of the pitfalls that can be avoided if it is done in the correct manner. All welcome at this meeting. Guests £3.00. Tea/coffee and biscuits available and a raffle.

On **Tuesday 23rd July (afternoon)** we have a garden visit to Moynes Farm, Wick Road, Great Bentley. This is a traditional large country garden opening for the first time for the NGS. Mature trees, shrubs, perennials, formal courtyard area with box parterre maze, rose garden, wildlife pond and parkland. Also pottery workshop and kiln. Routemaster London bus and four military tanks on display. Plants usually for sale. Dogs on short leads welcome. The cost is £6.00 including hot/cold drinks and homemade cakes and we will meet at the Village Hall car park at 1.30pm and car share to the venue. Guests are welcome to join Members on this visit and anyone wishing to come please contact Rosemary on 01206 251433 or Dawn on 07752015142. In August we do not have a meeting.

GREAT BENTLEY ART CLUB

In the summer Great Bentley Art Club members meet at outdoor locations, from 2pm (weather permitting). The meeting dates are as follows.

Tuesday 11th - Painting/sketching on Great Bentley Rail Station.

Tuesday 25th - Painting/drawing a Skyscape. Location to be confirmed.

New members are always welcome.

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!**

Quick action saves lives and reduces suffering – DON'T leave it

June 2024

A tawny owl and a kestrel were both brought to us with dreadful injuries from traffic collisions. The owl had his ulna and radius exposed, and the kestrel's wing was barely hanging on. These were not new injuries, so after being hit by cars they were left to suffer long lingering deaths, and by the time they arrived at Wildlives it was not possible to save them. Accidents happen to even the most careful of drivers, but if you hit something PLEASE stop and check to see whether it is dead. In the best scenario you might save a life, and in the worst case you can minimise the suffering of an animal or bird, rather than leaving them to a long lingering death.

A fox cub, now named Flint, got his head stuck in a watering can and was left, thrashing around, unable to see and struggling to breathe for several days. A neighbour reported him to us and Emily went to rescue him. He had severe heat stroke, dehydration and was starving. After 5 days in intensive care he remains on the critical list as fluid has built up under the skin of his head which has become infected. We continue to give him intensive care, and hope for his recovery. If he had been rescued sooner the situation would not be nearly as dire.

A heron became caught in netting over a koi pond, and was left, tangled there, over several days before a neighbour intervened and rescued him. Sadly the damage was so extensive he was beyond help, including a huge untreatable calcified lump on his leg. If wild-life friendly netting had been used he would not have been caught. Possibly also with good stiff wildlife-friendly netting he would not have managed to catch the huge pond fish caught in his gullet. If he had been rescued sooner he might have been saved.

Sooty and Sweep, jackdaw chicks, were brought to Wildlives after their nest was disturbed when the chimney was swept. Jackdaws are not the quietest of birds, so the occupants must have known they were there. Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, it is ILLEGAL to take, damage or destroy a wild bird's nest while it's being used or built and this can incur an unlimited fine, six months in prison, or both. Always check for nests before doing work. Chimneys should be cleaned in Autumn.

Evie, from Home Farm School, did a 5 mile walk, a bake sale on the door step and organised a collection of dog food with her class along with a talk on why wildlife is so important (and there is more dog food being collected at another school so hopefully more to follow). A **big** thanks to Evie who has raised over £700 plus food for Wildlives.

With the recent rain, grass is growing long and already we have had two admissions of strimmed hedgehogs with horrendous injuries. One had his leg sliced off and the other had been cut so that all the internal organs were visible – we could see his liver and lungs in the injury. Before you strim, or do any garden work, PLEASE check the area you are going to be working in. A few minutes can save a life.

Bentley Green Players Murdered to Death (Behind the Scenes) 2024



In January this year, the Drama Group were into discussions regarding possible plays for the annual May production. In choosing a play we have to consider several criteria; can it be staged within the confines of the Methodist Hall, staging, scenery lighting etc has to be brought in and constructed within a 24 hour period due to other bookings for the hall; do we have a suitable cast, with the limited number of group members we have? Is the play one that the Village audience would appreciate?. Do we have enough in the budget – (a 3 night production costs around £1200-£1500 for scripts, hall hire and performance licences) which does rather limit the options available. This year it was eventually decided to revisit a previous production, Murdered to Death by Peter Gordon was considered. It was last produced in 2004 starring Ken Drew, Lynda McWilliams, and Tom Edwards to mention a few. It was also noted that other cast and crew members were sadly no longer with us, Stephanie and Terry Sadler, Alan Coles, Billy Soar, Dave Ross and the Director at the time, John Moss. On reading the script, a spoof murder mystery in the style of Agatha Christie, it was clear that the humour and intrigue had not changed. So it was decided to re-run Murdered to Death 2024. It met the criteria and was a worthy tribute to past members of Bentley Green Players.

Chris Whiteman agreed to be the Director, with Peter Harry as Producer. At the auditions several members elected to reprise their roles from 2004, Chris Whiteman as “Dodgy Pierre”, Rachael Allen (nee Keeble) as Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington, Liz Fossey (nee Moss) as Dorothy and Jennie Moss took on the role of Mildred having played Margaret in 2004. The rest of the cast were Colonel Craddock – Peter Harry, Margaret Craddock – Bev Adams, the interfering busybody, Miss Maple - Donna Morphew, and Bunting (the ever present Butler) - Ross Olding. We welcomed back Ian Medway as the put - upon Constable Thompkins and finally Leigh Copsey as Inspector Pratt, the bumbling, incompetent but “finely tuned crime detection machine”.

In February rehearsals got underway in earnest with lots of fun and laughter. It soon became clear why this play had been selected in 2004 and understood to be much appreciated by the audience at the time. Set in the 1930s, thoughts turned to costumes, always tricky to find and to achieve some authenticity. This year we were delighted to find the services of Annette Page who provided much knowledgeable advice and trawled through the internet, second hand shops and costume sales as well as a stitch here and there. We were also delighted when Olivia Medway agreed to help out as makeup and hair stylist. As production dates neared, advertising, ticket sales, set design, lighting and sound all had to be considered, along with the necessary period furniture, culminating in the set build. Without the small army of willing helpers, set crew and technicians, none of this would have been possible. Light and Sound - Matt Plummer and Liam Olding. Set Crew included most of the cast plus Len Clayden, David Cordell, Richard Upston, Michael Dennitts and Bob Starsmeare – the Stage Manager.

On performance nights, there was another small army of volunteers in Front of House, Ken Drew, Pippa Dennitts, Liz Harry, Lynda McWilliams, Jo Herbert, Carol Kerridge and Sharon Olding who coped ‘exceedingly’ well with the refreshments. If you have been counting it takes around 30 Group members and willing volunteers to put on a production for 3 performances – no small undertaking especially as we have to transport from storage and build our own stage to create a theatrical setting and atmosphere from scratch!

This years production, judging from the audience reaction and post-performance comments went very well much to everyone’s relief. The audience was 170 over the 3 nights which was heartwarming and greatly appreciated, plus it meant we covered our costs!!

Thoughts now turn to our next production in October – a one night performance of two one act plays – watch this space! In the meantime if you have itchy feet to tread the boards or help out in the small army behind the scenes, you would be made very welcome, please get in touch with Peter Harry, Chairman on 07503 153960 or Bev Adams, Secretary on 01206 250724.

Tutoring in Great Bentley

Catch up and keep up/homework

help, KS1-KS3

GCSE French, Maths & Chemistry

A-level AQA Geography & History

£20/h, first free

Contact: Lily Wainer

07931 264330/

lilywainer@outlook.com

DO YOU REMEMBER.....

The Queens Jubilee Dance in the marquee
(With the band The Gifted)

This was organised by a small group of villagers who subsequently reformed as the Kings Coronation Committee with the band The Gifted once again playing for us. We have now morphed for a third time in to the GREAT BENTLEY EVENTS COMMITTEE

As you all enjoyed the previous two dances we thought it would be a good idea to use the marquee after the Village Show and have a Gig on the Green.

Yes, we have booked The Gifted once again.

Full details are on page 36

Tickets on sale from 1st July.



FUN for ALL the Family

Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Saturday 29th June 2024

**The Procession starts from the Plough Road Business Centre
at 12.30pm**

Once again this year The Committee has been working hard to bring Great Bentley Residents and visitors another great day for all the family. This year we have some new volunteers, who have come forward from the local community to support and help out leading up to the event and on the day. The theme for 2024 is "Story Books".

Just a reminder why people from your local community go to such lengths to ensure Great Bentley Carnival and Fete is a success. It is not just a fun-filled day for all the family, but a day to raise much needed funds for local youth clubs and organisations. Find out more about the organisations inside the programme. We will be welcoming visiting Carnival Courts from around Essex. They all work hard getting their floats and Courts ready, so make sure you give them a big cheer as the procession goes by. Don't forget to bring your spare change for the collection buckets.

Requests for stalls have again been very popular this year. We are welcoming back some of our regular stall holders and some new. There should be something for everyone. Cala Homes have made a generous donation for a second year. The popular Silent Auction is back, so look out for the tent on the day, so you can bid on your favourite lots. We have some great entertainment for all the family:

Colchester City Pipe Band – The band represent Colchester on their travels around the UK and Europe. Over the years members of the band have participated in many Tattoos and Commemorative events, such as Operation Market Garden in Arnhem and at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London.

Team Kinetix – experienced parkour practitioners, physical performers, freerunners and acrobats in the world. Supplying performances on an international level since 2005

Alliance Dance Performance Ensemble – Alliance is a dance and equipment based performing group based in Clacton.

Clacton Classic Car Club – Some of the Club Cars will be taking part in the procession and then displayed on the Green for people to have a closer look.

Our Carnival and Fete would not be possible without the generosity of local businesses and individuals. I would like to personally thank the Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Committee and Volunteers who have worked tirelessly to get everything ready for event day. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helps on the day and to those who come along to support this popular village event.

IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT DAY, SO COME ALONG AND ENJOY YOURSELVES!

Roads to be closed between 12.00 – 13.30 hrs:

Plough Road - Procession commencing from Great Bentley Village Hall and Plough Road Business Centre opposite.

New Cut and Station Road – both these roads junction with Plough Road

Left onto Thorrington Road, then right onto De Vere Estate, Right onto Sturrick Lane, Left back onto Thorrington Road.

Continue along Weeley Road passing Heckford's Road, then procession proceeds back onto Village Green into Arena.

Rolling Road Block - As procession moves along route, Road Marshalls will allow traffic through advising of alternative route where necessary to avoid procession.

The procession will be halted to allow emergency services access through.

Tom is 75 today. He calls in on Bob, an old friend

Bob answers the door: Morning Tom, happy 75th birthday. Come in. Fancy a cuppa?

Tom: Morning Bob, a nice cup of tea would be lovely. How are you, old chap?

Bob: I'm fine, really fine, but bored. I'm seriously thinking of going back to work. I can't amuse myself around the house all day. Help yourself to a biscuit.

Tom: Thank you. Going back to work? Don't be such a dafty, you're already 75 years old. Who is going to employ you? Make the tea and cheer up. And look lively, we're playing golf this morning remember.

Bob: Who would employ me? Come on! There must be firms out there who need an experienced, intelligent, middle-aged gentleman who is prepared to work an honest shift - for a few shillings of course, to support the old pension.

Tom: Ha! Middle aged? You? Three quarters of a century, no less. What sort of work anyway? Your old job, I fear.

Bob: Good Lord no! My old job has changed beyond recognition. No, my friend, I see myself helping people in B&Q, a polite, approachable employee acting in a recommendatory capacity; offerings of my life's experiences.

Tom: B&Q? Do you believe people would welcome such counsel?

Bob: Of course they would, I decorated my lounge last year, saved myself a fortune.

Tom: You silly old fool. What do you know about modern materials technology? Anyway, you may be a polite chap, but you must never 'advise' others these days. Why? Because today, an innocent word of guidance, intended to be helpful - especially coming from an oldie - can also sound derisive; disrespectful. It's the era of the complainer. Ha, imagine, every time you advise someone in B&Q, you would either get the store manager sacked for having you on the staff or, at least, cost the store five litres of pink emulsion, as a token apology. A faultless comment can light a fuse, Bob - it's not what you say, it is how and in what circumstances it is phrased.

Bob: Rubbish. I would choose my words very wisely. Us oldies are alert; we have reinvented youth. We'll still be swinging in our 80's, Tom. I'm miffed, I feel that I have been written off. You, my esteemed friend, can bang on the door of the knacker's yard if you wish, but I refuse to do so. I refuse to be a dependant. And another thing, working would be good for my mental well-being, er, so I've been told.

Tom: You're not a dependant, you have simply retired. Come on, get your clubs in the car, we'll be late.

Bob: Ok, I've retired, but I still could earn a little extra - not taking someone's place - just filling a gap somewhere, doing my bit for the economy. When we go to the pub after playing golf, all the blokes at the bar are talking about their work. They live and breathe their work. What do we talk about? Bloody golf.

Tom: You love golf, or used to. Now you think B&Q is in desperate need of an advisor. I can hear you talking to a customer - "Back in my day" - God help you. That phrase, I've read somewhere, is now unlawful in the workplace. You'd be better off collecting trolleys from the carpark - oops - not that I am in any way suggesting that a trolley operative is a position of lower rank than that of the Managing Director. They are of equal status. Stay away from people, Bob, don't even think about working in, say, a garden centre.

Bob: Oooh, garden centre, good idea. I love flowers. I'm jolly knowledgeable about dahlias.

Tom: Good heavens, you now want to stand at the bar and talk about compost.

Bob: Look, the King has gone back to work. He is 75 years of age, and an example to us all, a wonderful man. I want to follow his lead. By the way, is the King a Civil Servant?

Tom: No. A civil servant is a person employed in the public sector by the government for public sector undertakings.

Bob: I read in the papers that civil servants can work from home. I could do that. How much is a laptop?

Tom: Whoa cowboy, it's not entirely their fault that they are working from home. You read too many of those comics Robert, you know; the daily garbage.

Bob: Ok, ok. But, with that job, I could work from home and play golf as well, couldn't I?

Tom: Ha! I can just see you walking into a pub after eighteen holes wearing your spanking-new 'Ping' golfing gear and mouthing off loudly, as most golfers do, that you are a civil servant working from home. Those lads, dressed in their high-viz and enjoying a well-earned pint after a long day's graft, would love to hear you say that.

Bob: Yea, ok. But, when I was working, I used to like having a laugh during coffee breaks, telling jokes and having a go at.....er, what's-his-name. I miss all that fun.

Tom: Having a laugh in the workplace? Taunting staff in the office? Not knowing the names of colleagues? You may have been valued in that past working environment of yours, but such a laddish bearing today is improper. I'm sorry, old timer, in this present world of dubious and vociferous objection, you would be unemployable.

Bob: Mmm, you're probably right - too old to change now, I suppose. Hey! On the bright side Tom, I've got such a lot to do around the house. Come along, my aging adversary! Let's get on that first tee.

JE.

SCHOOL NEWS

YEAR 1

Year 1 have been creating wonderful patterns using found objects. They thought about colour and shape and how they could create patterns using those elements.

YEAR 2

In the past few weeks Year 2 have been enjoying their lessons on measurement. They have been measuring a variety of items, including their own height and the amount of liquid in various containers as well as their shoe size.

Additionally, the children have been relishing their music lesson, where they have experimented with music chrome lab and creating various sounds.

Emily Bovingdon in Year 4 has competed in her last game of the season playing rugby for Colchester Rugby under 9s. Now she is with this team and plays full tackle rugby so has learnt how to tackle and be tackled safely along with many other new skills. She has travelled to away games and met lots of friends. We are super proud of her.

YEAR 5

These are fantastic pieces of science work from year 5.

It has been a busy time for year 5. Most children have taken part in Bikeability which they have thoroughly enjoyed. The instructors have had nothing but superb feedback on the children's behaviour and ability to follow instructions. Several children went to Birch Hall for a climbing wall event and took part in the inter school spelling bee.

Year 5 had a great day at Layer Marney Tower taking part in an Ancient Greek day. The photos are of them grinding wheat to make flour and taking part in some impossible tasks like Hercules.

YEAR 6

Since the Easter holidays the children have been working really hard preparing for SATs.

They have made preparations for their end of year production - Pirates of the Curry Bean. Casting is nearly complete, props are being readied and they are starting to learn songs and lines.



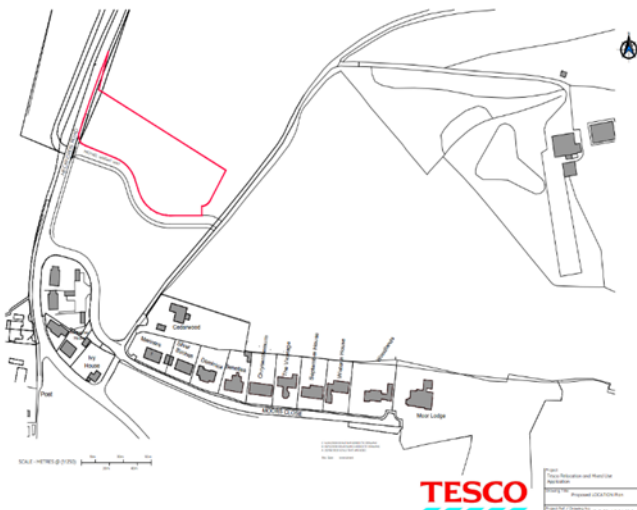
GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The physical and mental wellbeing of all residents remains a priority for the council. We are delighted to announce that, after ten months of campaigning, we have secured funding for a modern, state of the art fitness area to be installed in Great Bentley.

There are hundreds of local council-funded outdoor fitness areas in the UK that are free-to-use all year round to encourage a healthier community.

We are hoping that the equipment will be installed in August and will be part of the parish council's, 'Fitness 43' community initiative encouraging 'Active Living and Better Wellbeing'.

Cllr. J. Wharton



Planning Application: [24/00486/FUL](#) - Land at Admirals Farm Heckfords Road Great Bentley Essex

The construction of a new mixed use building (Tesco) consisting of medical wellness and polyfunctional facilities (Use Class E (e), retail (Use Class E (a)) and professional services (Use Class E (c)(i)) alongside associated vehicle access, parking and landscaping.

Please note that representatives for this application will be attending virtually the next Parish Council meeting on Thursday 06th June at the earlier start time of 06:30pm. To answer as many questions on the proposal as possible.

If you can submit these questions ahead of the meeting that will save a lot of time and we can hopefully get through more of them.

Please submit your questions to clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

In July the Parish Council will begin their long-awaited work on the area of The Village Green Known as the South Side track. This work is going to be extensive with a new bound surface to replace the old track, bollards to prevent further encroachment onto the Village Green and the installation of a barrier to prevent the surface being used as a cut through. As it stands at the moment the cars driving along here have meant that we have lost in some areas over 3metres of village green and this project will safeguard this for future generations.

All of the details can be found on the website:

<https://greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk/southside-track-working-party/>

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings on Thursday 6th June at the earlier time of 06:30pm, and Thursday 4th July back to normal at 07:00pm.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Report

We were honoured to hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish on April 18th, we discussed what a year it has been for Great Bentley – the Chairs report is published in full on our website, we had an informative presentation from John Hall at PACE, we heard from the organisations within the village that had been in receipt of a grant from the Parish Council in the last year and finally we were able to give our some recognition for some really deserving members of the village.

- Alison Hunt who was nominated for her work at Great Bentley Preschool for all of the amazing work that she does for our Neurodiverse (ASD) children and their families both in and around the village.
- Andrew Whitefield who was nominated in recognition of his unwavering support and dedication to Great Bentley, and for consistently demonstrating a genuine belief in addressing environmental issues.
- Daniel Shedd nominated for working tirelessly for the benefit of the village in his campaign to amass objections to the proposed mineral extraction site, drawing wider attention to the problems that the site would bring.
- Mary and John Barber nominated for their support of numerous village community groups and have not just stepped forward to help as volunteers but also make a positive difference for the good of our community.

Awards were also presented for people who have shown a lifetime of commitment to the village:

- Beverly Adams who always immersed herself in the life of the village and its organisations. Serving in the committees for the Carnival, Millennium Celebration, King Charles' Coronation, Bentley Players Drama Group and many others that have all benefitted from her commitment and enthusiasm.
- The Bovington Family nominated for their tireless work with the Scouting group has that has been going for many years, they have devoted years of their time to help and support the children who attend the variety of clubs they offer.
- Rita Baverstock who has been Great Bentley Verger for the Church since Charles Barton under the Vicar Christopher Elliot. She has contributed a tremendous amount to the village, from organising plots for burials, weddings, funerals and regular church services.

We also had the first ever special recognition award for the sheer volume of nominations that she received, Carol McDougal, described as “the heart of Devere”.

And unfortunately, the Parish Council also said goodbye to our long serving Caretaker, who is retiring after serving the village for 13 years, Robert McWilliams.

CHORAL EVENSONG

St Mary's Church
Great Bentley
CO7 8QG

Sunday 23rd June
at 6.30pm
Singing will be

led by
the Deanery Choir
Everyone welcome

A CONCERT AT
ST MARY'S CHURCH
GREAT BENTLEY
CO7 8QG

26th July at 7pm
German Youth
Orchestra

Nigel Hildreth OBE
arranges the visit to the UK
and we are delighted
to welcome them
back to our church.
Do come along and enjoy the
experience

FREE PARKING



SATURDAY 31ST AUGUST
1:30PM

HERITAGE VILLAGE MARQUEE & EVENTS*
DOG SHOW • LIVE MUSIC • HEAVY HORSES
VINTAGE TRACTORS • RAFFLE • TOMBOLA
GIN TENT • GAMES • LOCAL CRAFTS
FOOD & REFRESHMENTS • ICE CREAM

*ENTRY INTO VILLAGE MARQUEE ONLY £1.00 PER ADULT

We are in urgent need of more volunteers to help on the day.
If you can, please email: chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk

For more information please visit:
www.greatbentleyshow.co.uk



“Gig on the Green”
on Saturday 31st August 2024
From 7:45pm to 11:15pm

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

HOT FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE AND ALSO A BAR
provided by The GB Cricket Club

Tickets will be on sale from Monday 1st July
contact Mary Maskell 01206-250524

Tickets will not be available on the door

Adults £12.00 Teenager 13-16 £6.00 Child 3-12 £3.00

JUNE DIARY

- Sat 1st **PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE FOR GT BENTLEY BELLRINGERS**, 10-12 outside Caldew Cottage, The Green.
- Sun 2nd **POND DIPPING & OPEN DAY AT GT HOLLAND PITS NATURE RESERVE.**
- Tues 4th **BENTLEY LADIES CLUB**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Thurs 6th **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, Village Hall, 6.30pm
- Fri 7th **COFFEE & CHAT**, Methodist Church, 10-12 noon
- Sat 8th **PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE** 10-12 outside Caldew Cottage, The Green.
- Sun 9th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St George's Church, Gt Bromley, 11am
- Tues 11th **ART CLUB**, Painting on Gt Bentley Station, 2pm
- Thurs 13th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, Village Hall 7.30pm
- Sat 15th **COFFEE MORNING, St Mary's Church Hall**, 10-12 noon
In aid of Church Bells Restoration Fund
- Sat 15th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St George's Church, Gt Bromley
12 noon.
- Sat 15th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Tues 18th **GARDENING CLUB**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Thurs 20th **KNIT & NATTER**, St Mary's Church Hall, 2-3.30pm
- Thurs 20th **GOOD NEIGHBOURS AGM**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Thurs 20th **GREAT BENTLEY GOOD NEIGHBOURS AGM**
Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Sat 22nd **PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE** 10-12 outside Caldew Cottage, The Green.
- Sun 23rd **CHORAL EVENSONG**, 6.30pm St Mary's Church, Gt Bentley with the Deanery Choir
- Tues 25th **ART CLUB**, Location to be confirmed, 2pm
- Fri 28th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, St Mary's Church Hall, 9am
- Sat 29th **GREAT BENTLEY CARNIVAL**
- Sat 29th **PLANT AND PRODUCE SALE** 10-12 outside Caldew Cottage, The Green.