

# **Great Bentley Parish News**

**Produced by the Community  
for the Community**



# **May 2024**

# Village Information

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**ST MARY'S CHURCH WEBSITE**

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**In an emergency ring 999**

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**FOOTPATH REP.**

[melanie.sawers@nuffield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.sawers@nuffield.ox.ac.uk)



## EDITORIAL

# 2024

I am writing this on the night of the London Marathon and I do so hope that all of the village participants achieved their goal to complete the course. Whatever the outcome the money you have raised is incredible and will help so many people in so many ways. I truly admire your dedication.

It was our Gardening Club Spring Show this week and we tried hard to participate but for virtually all of us our daffodils had long finished flowering. The bluebells in the local woodlands are in full flower right now, earlier than expected and yet today there is a cold, keen wind with temperatures set to drop again tonight. All a bit topsy turvy. On a horticultural note there may be a chance to acquire an allotment plot so why not put your name down on the waiting list? More details on page 17.

Congratulations to all of the award winners at the Annual Parish Meeting held at the village hall on 18th April. It was lovely to see a cross section of village groups and organisations represented and to hear of all the good work going on in our community. Talking of which the Carnival will be going ahead this year but your help is required in several ways. Just one example, can you recommend a band to play and march in the procession? If so Bev would love to hear from you urgently. See page 30.

Thank you to the Action Group who have raised awareness and galvanised us in to action to fight the proposed sand and gravel extractions in our village and especially that which is in close proximity to housing and the village green. Great Bentley has always been very good at rallying to fight a cause and this was no exception.

We list the location of defibrillators in the parish and will continue to print this every month. Heaven forbid that they are needed but we all should know in an emergency where they are located. Thank you to Peter Harry for this information.

Drama Group have their latest production at the Methodist church hall this month, full details inside. This is always well worth a visit and the plays they perform are so well acted. Do book early.

May heralds the annual Gardening Club Plant Sale and of course St Mary's May Fair which hosts a BBQ, various stalls, tea and cakes not to mention the arrival of the Vikings, archery and Tomahawk throwing. We look forward to seeing you at all of the village May events which really do offer something for everyone.

I can never get over the massive diversity of colour in the leaves on the trees, bushes and shrubs this month. Always at their best right now so do enjoy this wonderful month of the year as nature unfolds its magic.

**Mary Maskell**

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### FRONT COVER

Mick Dorling  
on his new  
Tractor.

See article  
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### DISCLAIMER

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## LETTERS FOR MAY

Dear Friends,

This month has been a month of joyful celebrations of the church life; church anniversaries, flower festivals, fundraising and many other activities that have brought us together. How wonderful it has been to meet together; to sit and chat and laugh together, rejoicing in what others do in the life of the church. For that I give thanks to God.

Through these celebrations and fellowships, God's love was made tangible in the world; many people were brought together - to participate and rejoice in the life of the church, bridging the gaps between church communities. Through celebrations people were brought into fellowship and unity with God; fellowship and unity with one another, making God's love tangible to those around us.

The celebrations brought a sense of togetherness, that when one church community rejoices, we all rejoice. We are part of one another, and we do need each other. We are part of a vast web of relationships interwoven in Christ. And we know that those who live the new life of the risen Christ are to live in fellowship, united in the love of God.

In Christ, we are given a new life that orients us into a new relationship, rooted and grounded in Christ, and new hope; a hope not based on our own strength, but hope based on the unfailing love of God. For that I give thanks to God; thanks for all he has given us in these past months, and for all for that is to come.

Grace and peace be with you always,

**Deacon Angela Shereni**

Dear friends,

Here is a picture of sun flower seeds planted by one of the children that attended the Good Friday workshop. They were a busy group and it would be great to see some other photos to see how their seeds are growing.

Growing is very much a part of our church life and we are pleased that we are continuing to grow not only in St Marys but in the wider Deanery. We are as a church a member of St Osyth deanery and so it is the pleasure of St Marys to hold the Deanery Celebration on the 9th May at:7pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy a time of fellowship.

But if you are one of the early risers why not join us as we celebrate Ascension Day on 9th May at 7am singing from the top of the church tower, followed by breakfast.

Our May Fair is on the 18th May 12noon - 4.00pm come along and join the fun.

**Canon Wendy King**  
**Lay Reader**

### 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 May. 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: -

- May 5<sup>th</sup> Jane Allison**
- May 12<sup>th</sup> Rev Tom Osborne - Holy Communion**
- May 19<sup>th</sup> Rev Derek Lang**
- May 26<sup>th</sup> Eirwen Grenfell-Essam**

**Advance notice.** Our **Annual Flower Festival** this year is to be open for visitors Sat & Sun 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. July.

**Events in May:**

**Coffee & Chat** May 3<sup>rd</sup> Warm fellowship with drinks, cakes, books and good conversation.

**Prayer Meeting.** We meet for prayer on the second Wednesday of each month 9.45 for 10am at our Church. This month 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Sandwiches for Hope @ Trinity, 8<sup>th</sup> May**  
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 14<sup>th</sup> May after school.

**Adventurers** this month 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May

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

**Ring these numbers for more information.**

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

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

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

**ST MARY'S SERVICES**

**Thursday 2nd May - 2.30pm, Service at The Oaks**

**Sunday 5th May - 6th Sunday of Easter**

10.00am Joint Benefice Service at St Mary's Martin or Phyll Wood

**Thursday 9th May - Ascension Day**

7am Up the Church Tower  
7pm Deanery Synod Celebration

**Friday 10th May**

9.15am Standing Committee

**Sunday 12th May - 7th Sunday of Easter**

9.30am with Judith Gibbons, curate from Brightlingsea

**Thursday 16th - Knit & Natter, Church Hall, 2-3.30pm**

7.30pm PCC Meeting

**Saturday 18th May - May Fair**

**Sunday 19th May - Pentecost**

9.30am Wendy King

**Sunday 26th May - Trinity Sunday**

9.30am Martin or Phyll Wood

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

**Sidespersons & Readers**

- 5th Carole Allington
- 12th Mandy Miles
- 19th Chris Aplin
- 26th Jennie Moss

**Prayer Rota**

- 5th Wendy King
- 12th Nicky Justice
- 19th Carol Kerridge
- 26th David Branch

**Coffee Rota**

- 5th Rosemary & David Branch
- 12th Hannah Justice
- 19th Mary Maskell
- 26th Vicky Rothwell

**Cleaning Rota**

- 4th Wendy Smith
- 11th Linda Hayes
- 18th Bev Adams
- 25th Edna Black



## MARK'S ADVENTURES FROM JAPAN

We heard St Mary's Church before we actually saw it.

Walking along the entrance path on Christmas Day, its bells rang out on a crisp December morning. Once inside, we were warmly welcomed and our two young children helped light candles.

This is all quite different from our normal home in Japan. Although my father Ted Beales was born in Great Bentley and grew up in St Osyth (while my aunt Stella Manning and cousin Brian lived in Toosey), my path has been a little different.

After working for the Clacton Gazette as a journalist, I moved to Thailand in 2004, then Vietnam in 2019 and to Japan in 2022, where I'm currently principal of an international school.

Living in Japan is fascinating and often bewildering as it's a culture relatively untouched by outside influences (the country didn't openly admit foreigners until 1868).

To give you an insight into what life is like in Japan, here are some things I've noticed:

1. **Politeness:** People respect personal space and are incredibly polite. If a shop doesn't have what you need, the assistant will bow and apologise profusely. When the ticket inspector enters or leaves a carriage, they will also bow deeply. Although English levels are not super-high, the level of respect and order is unmatched.
2. **Quietness:** I live in Osaka, Japan's third-largest city, but you wouldn't know it from the noise. Walking to work, I join thousands of people who quietly stroll along the pavements. Or on the trains, which during rush hour are packed, everyone is silent. It's like being in a public library everywhere.
3. **Traffic:** You may think driving abroad can be a nightmare but in Japan it's a dream. They drive on the left and have similar road rules. However, nobody cuts you up, nobody speeds and there's zero tolerance for alcohol. If you want to change lanes, you indicate and the car behind slows down. Once in front, you flash your hazard lights as a thank you. If you want to cross the road, pedestrians queue in single file and wait for their turn.
4. **Technology:** You may imagine Japan as the home of technology. And it's true, in some restaurants robots (with a smiley face) will serve you food. But it's also a conservative culture where change can happen at glacial speed. When I opened a bank account here, I noticed they still used Windows 7 (which started in 2009). CDs and fax machines are also still very popular.
5. **Cleanliness:** There are very few trash cans in Japan, which you may think would lead to litter everywhere. But no. There's no need for trash cans as everyone takes their rubbish with them. Vending machines (which are omnipresent) have a bin next to them, but that's about it. On the trains or buses, passengers always take their rubbish with them. And when it comes to recycling, we have a strict schedule about what bags to take out on each day.

Overall, it's a polite, conservative culture that takes some adjusting to - especially after the raucous, noisy streets of Ho Chi Minh City, where we lived before. But once you get used to it, you realise that it's also an incredibly orderly, safe and clean place to live, where everyone has a part to play, and plays it well.

To follow more of Mark's adventures, visit [www.markbeales.com](http://www.markbeales.com)

### KNIT & NATTER

Thursday May 16th

St Mary's Church Hall

2.00pm - 3.30pm

All Welcome

## ANNUAL DIARY

29th June	Carnival
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



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

### May 9th

The Deanery choir will be supporting the Deanery service at **St Mary's Church, Great Bentley CO7 8QG** at 7.00pm. This has been at the request of Laurie Bond and will bring together all the churches in the diocese.

### May 12th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at the 11.00am communion service. The choir will sing 'Give almes of thy goods by **Christopher Tye**'. Christopher Tye is believed to have been born in Cambridge, England. Little is known about his origins. The first references to him are when he attended and received his Bachelor of Music degree in Cambridge in the year 1536. It is because of this that his birth date is believed to be around 1505. The next year, in 1537, he took up a position as a lay clerk at King's College. Based on recorded financial records we know that by 1543 he took up a more prestigious position as the Magister Chorarum at Ely Cathedral with an annual salary of ten English pounds. Shortly, thereafter, in 1545 the University of Cambridge saw fit to bestow upon Tye the degree of Doctor of Music.

### May 26th

The Deanery choir will be supporting the Frinton church choir at the **Frinton Festival Choral Evensong**; 6.00pm at **St Mary's Church, Frinton. CO13 9BX**. The choir will sing the anthem Beati Quorum Via and the Te Deum by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford. Also in the programme is the wonderful Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Brewer. All are welcome to this event which is part of the Frinton music and arts festival.

Graham Bell  
Deanery Choir Organiser

### **St Mary's Parish Church Frinton**

#### **Frinton Festival Choral Evensong**

Come and Sing  
Join St Mary's Choir

Brewer - Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D

Stanford - Beati quorum in Bb

Owens - Holy Trinity Blessing

Directed by Duncan Archard

Rehearsals: Friday 3 May, 10 May, 17 May  
6.30pm - 7.30pm

Friday 24 May 5.30-7.00;

Sunday 26 May 4.30-5.40

**For Choral Evensong on  
Sunday 26th May  
6.00pm**

Contact 07714 702510 (Duncan) or email  
duncan@amusicltd.co.uk



## **MAGAZINE COLLATING DAY FOR JUNE MAGAZINE**

Magazine collating will be on **Friday 24th May**  
in St Mary's Church Hall starting at 9.00am

**ALL WELCOME TO COME AND HELP COLLATE**

## FRIENDS OF GREAT BENTLEY STATION

We are hoping to have a talking Bench installed at the station. For this project to go ahead we really need the help of as many local adults and children as possible.

We require a fifteen minute recording, of poems, ditties, favourite thoughts and memories about the village or some of the old characters and tales from days past and present .

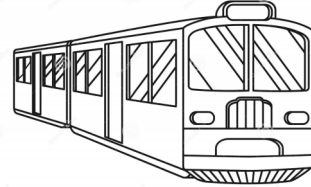
Things that you would like to share such as an original poem to cheer someone as they wait for their train. A short memory about your time at Great Bentley school to encourage a present pupil for the day. A rhyme about your favourite time of year, walking your dog, chatting with a neighbour, a kind gesture by someone in the village.

Anything inspiring, uplifting or informative will be considered.

Please email to:-  
[dawn@vinn.co.uk](mailto:dawn@vinn.co.uk) or call 01206 481746

Thank you

Dawn Vinn  
(Station Adopter)



## Station News

Thank you to everyone who supported us on Saturday 13th April at our coffee morning. It was lovely to see some new faces and also a huge thank you to those that have volunteered to help.

We raised £110 for equipment for the station and have had seeds donated and plants offered .

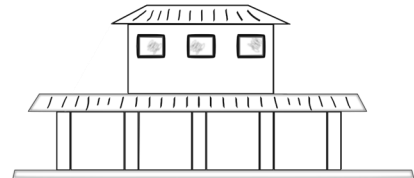
We have exciting news. When we have 15 minutes of audio recording (poems) (original) we will be able to have our talking bench installed as this will be available shortly.

We also have agreement for two to three new adopters and ongoing support from Alan Neville and John Wharton (Parish Councillor).

A massive thank you to everyone who helped on the day we could not have done it without you .

From Dawn and Peter

(station adopters)



## PARLIAMENT PETITION - QUARRY SITES

We need 10,000 to sign up so that a question would need to be raised in Parliament and would hopefully stop any other village anywhere having to challenge a site in the future. It says that no site should be put within 1500 metres of housing.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/659069>

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

If anyone has a couple of spare hours and wishes to listen to readers at the school please can they call the school office on 01206 250331 or email [admin@greatbentley.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatbentley.essex.sch.uk) to register their interest.



## Meckering - once a town in Western Australia

Whilst visiting family in Mundaring, we were invited to join a bikers' 'stayover' in Muntadgin, an isolated farming community in the vast wheatlands of Western Australia. A 'stayover' is a 'Boys-with-Bikes' thing, a fun day during which they tour the countryside - sensibly - stay the night in a hotel and make the return the following day. They noticed my raised eyebrows and doubting countenance as I considered how I was to remain on the tail of a Harley Davidson, a task, I thought, far too great for both me and my aging Nissan Navara. 'Aim for Merredin - east, along the Great Eastern Highway, you'll be fine from there,' advised Stuart, a fifty something tough-looking Ozzy biker. 'Muntadgin, 4.00pm,' he added with a saucy grin. Be it forest or prairie, the Great Eastern has two constant companions, the Kalgoorlie Water Pipeline and the Kalgoorlie Railway - the three seemingly never out of sight of each other, entwined, like some engineering umbilical cord. The larger towns along the highway grew in importance as they were Pumping Stations for the pipeline to Kalgoorlie; Mundaring being Station number 1, adjacent to the reservoir (not Perth as popularly assumed), Cunderdin number 3 and Merredin number 4.

That aside, our first target was Meckering, a small town with a tragic history, for it was there that, at 10.59 on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1968, an earthquake of 6.9 magnitude on the Richter Scale reduced the town to rubble. The Fault Line is well documented, striking in a north/south direction, forming a scarp of up to 1.5 metres high which catastrophically destroyed, not only the town, but also the three conduits, a reminder of the fragility of civil engineering when pitched against such an indisputable force.

At Merredin, the popular military museum focuses on Australia's contribution during the two World Wars, part of which offered more detail about the ANZAC Memorial in Albany, which we had visited a few weeks earlier. The hill above Albany provides an exceptional viewing point over King George's Sound, a small bay which harboured the 48 strong Australian and New Zealand naval convoy before leaving for Gallipoli on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1914.

After a long chat with the curator at Merredin, a charming lady - one of ten enthusiastic volunteers - we asked about directions to Muntadgin. She smiled. 'As you leave town, you'll see the signpost south. About 50Ks.' We indeed did find the signpost leading to a sealed road from which, when comfortable and up to cruising speed, one could see the Lazer straight line ahead, disappearing over the horizon, traversing an endless hazy golden flatland. Eventually, a 'reduce speed' signpost appeared, suggesting we had arrived at a village, but there was no village, it was a crossroad with a sign: 'Welcome to Muntadgin'. The 'town' of Muntadgin is a pub, that's it! I pulled up outside the main door, on a road wide enough to park facing the verandah. The area was totally deserted. It was 4.00pm.

The bar was deserted, which allowed time to gaze at the beautiful ornate ceiling high above us, complete with equally ornate coving, some of it sadly showing severe cracking, assumed to be earthquake damage. Such buildings usually have a wide, imposing staircase with a central stair carpet, revealing highly polished deep red Jarrah-wood staircase furniture. A young Estonian lady served us a cold beer, chatting that she worked full time on a 'local' farm near Merredin - had done so for the last nine years - but also helps out in the pub. There was a roar outside as the bikers arrived, parking their Harleys in tight formation alongside our Ute. Our private conversation with the young lady was at an end, the beers began to flow - a fun evening ensued, except for the menu which had been reduced to just pizza or chicken parmigiana; a saucy mass rapidly becoming Australia's national dish.

Most museums today include an interactive approach, an opportunity for visitors to experience a more hands-on, mental or physical participation supporting items of interest. At the Cunderdin museum there was a small building with the notice; 'earthquake' written above the door. Through the open doorway, we entered a small cosy room - linoleum floor with a central carpet, papered walls, net curtains, two armchairs - 1968 style with curved wooden armrests. In front of the two chairs was a coffee table, behind which stood a wooden television cabinet. A note invited us to sit facing the television and press the button on the coffee table. There was a pause.....then BANG! What happened was a violent pushing and shoving of the room, an attempt to replicate the panic created by shifting ground. It continued for forty seconds - the duration of the earthquake - then it stopped. Immediately the television began showing footage of the aftermath; people describing their terror, their need to escape into the fields. Victims talked of their intense fear of the unknown, their bewilderment, and the subsequent joy of finding neighbours alive. Others spoke of the camaraderie, the community spirit as people gathered together to support each other, of a community which had collectively suffered a life-threatening experience which would bind them together forever. The room became quiet....until suddenly, there was another violent shaking; the aftershock - such frightening unpredictability. That earthquake, felt 400 miles away from the epicentre, remains as W.A's most destructive seismic event to date - 20 people were injured, over \$2million in damages but, mercifully, there were no fatalities. Meckering today, is no longer on that original site. **JE**



**Weeley  
Veterinary  
Centre**

**Winner of Best Vet UK 2023**

## **PET NOTES**



Every single person within a veterinary practice is essential for providing the very best service possible and each role carries a wide variety of responsibilities. May is Veterinary Nursing Awareness Month (VNAM).

I am blessed to work with a fantastic nursing team at Weeley Veterinary Centre, consisting of five Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs), one Student Veterinary Nurse (SVN) and one Veterinary Care Assistant (VCA). We often hear from people eager to become a veterinary nurse and they often do not realise there are two routes available. Some of our RVNs studied Veterinary Nursing at university and others trained in-practice whilst attending college one day a week. Regardless of the route, they all worked hard for several years to achieve their RVN status and proudly work within the best profession there is (admittedly I am a little biased).

In my opinion, there are two big reasons to become an RVN..... The most obvious is that you are trusted to care for people's pets. The other is the enormous variety the role offers with no two days ever being the same.

RVNs are responsible for all of this and more...

- Assisting the Veterinary Surgeon during operations either by monitoring the patient undergoing a general anaesthetic or by scrubbing in as a surgical assistant
- Preparing patients for surgery
- Monitoring patients recovering from procedures
- Caring for inpatients requiring treatment in the clinic
- Taking and processing blood samples
- Placing intravenous catheters
- Gently restraining patients when required, e.g. for a colleague to obtain a blood sample
- Completing dental charts. Stock control of medications
- Cleaning and disinfecting the practice
- Cleaning and sterilisation of surgical equipment
- Offering appointments for vaccinations, post-operative checks, administering medicines, giving advice and much more
- Providing tender loving care to each and every patient as well as being compassionate towards their owners

To maintain the high standard required of these professionals, RVNs are required to complete Continued Professional Development (CPD) every year. This ensures they stay up to date with advances in the veterinary profession and allows them to further develop their skills in areas of special interest to them.

Happy VNAM to my brilliant award-winning colleagues!

Dr April Young MRCVS



### **Mum's Sayings**

"Accept people as they are. If their ideas and ways are not yours, it does not mean that they are wrong"

"Alcohol only enhances the mood you were in to start with: If you were happy, you will feel happier; if you were sad, you will feel worse!"

## SESAW NEWS

Kenny the Chihuahua is on watch for "those scary Asian Hornets" leaving me to write this month's news from a feline point of view. He doesn't realise there is too much activity for them to settle in the garden. Our friends from the Colchester office of Informa have returned to paint the kennels and clear debris from the winter storms. We very much appreciate them sprucing up the Centre.

Unfortunately our maintenance programme has stalled at time of writing due to continuing emergency admissions. Although we are closed to visitors, re-homing continues unabated by appointment only. We have many dogs, including nine year old Mecho, a neutered male Caucasian Shepherd cross, known as the 'Gentle Giant'. He is with us due to family circumstances, no fault of his own. Mecho is very strong but shows no aggression, loves cuddles as much as a game of ball and will be ideal for the older family.

Turning to cats, we have Jill and her family, pretty as a picture although that should NOT be a deciding factor when choosing a pet. (Mother wouldn't be without me despite my plain black coat and grumpy disposition!) Jill arrived heavily pregnant last Autumn, yet another 'covid castaway'. Now she and her **five** kittens are neutered, chipped, vaccinated and ready to be homed in pairs. They have been let down twice so please make this third time lucky.

I really must check on Kenny in case he's poked his nose in somewhere and been stung for his trouble. That daft dog is a constant worry to me, Ollie (the Black) Cat.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare,  
Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP.  
Tel: 01787 210888, email: [info@sesaw.co.uk](mailto:info@sesaw.co.uk)

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

### **GREAT BENTLEY POST OFFICE**

#### **OPENING HOURS**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9am - 1pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9am - 12 noon</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9am - 12 noon</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9am - 12 noon</b>

### **WE WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS**

**POSH FROCKS** - Sell new and preloved occasion wear specialising in Mother of the Bride and Groom outfits but also outfits for wedding guests, graduations, a day at the races etc. See page 38.

**SOUL CREATIONS** - Therapies - Reflexology, Zone Face Lift, Facials, Pedicures and Reiki. See page 38

**ISHINE CLEANING SERVICES.** A family run business. See page 38.

### **ADVERTISING IN GREAT BENTLEY PARISH NEWS 2024**

**We only have small spaces left**

Please contact Mary Maskell 250524

email: [marymaskell@sys3internet.net](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@agewelleast.org.uk)  
or phone 0300 37 33 333

# COOKERY CORNER



## AFTERNOON TEA CAKES

The sedate and unhurried partaking of "Afternoon Tea" in a quiet, cosy cafeteria no longer seems to be the preserve of the middle aged and elderly. Cafes, hotels and restaurants are reportedly enjoying an increase in the sales of afternoon teas especially amongst the young, and increasingly since Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee and King Charles' coronation where the nation sat down to celebratory "teas". A few years ago our daughter in law treated us to what was called a High Tea which included not only small sandwiches and cakes but also champagne, served at a revolving restaurant on the roof of a six storey building. Now apparently the new devotees of the afternoon tea are wondering whether the traditional ingredients should be updated. Hopefully the plate of dainty cakes will be retained and the elderly will not be faced with mashed avocado sandwiches.

### FRUIT SLICES

150g softened butter	150g caster sugar	175g self-raising flour	2 eggs	1 orange
1 lemon	175g mixed fruit	2tbsp milk	2 tbsp demerara sugar	

Preheat the oven to 170 degrees and grease and line the base of a small tin (18x28x4cms) with non-stick baking paper. Zest the orange and lemon. Put the butter, caster sugar, flour, eggs, orange and lemon zest in to a large bowl and beat or mix until smooth. Stir in the fruit. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin, level the surface and sprinkle with the demerara sugar. Cook for 30 minutes until well risen and golden. The top of the cake should spring back when pressed. Leave to cool completely in the tin. Take it out, remove the paper and cut into narrow slices.

### RASPBERRY SWISS ROLL

3 large eggs	110g caster sugar and a little extra	75g plain flour	6tbsp raspberry jam
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raspberries to serve

Preheat the oven to 200 degrees and line a shallow baking tin (33x22cms) with non-stick baking paper. Whisk the eggs and sugar in a large bowl until thick and creamy enough to leave a good trail from the whisk. Gradually fold in the flour and 1 tablespoon of warm water. Pour the mixture into the tin, allowing it to find its own level, and bake for about 12 to 14 minutes. While it is cooking, place a sheet of non-stick baking paper on a clean, damp tea towel. Sprinkle the paper fairly liberally with caster sugar. Warm the jam in a saucepan. When the cake is firm to the touch, remove from the oven and turn out immediately onto the paper. Trim the edges all round. Spread the warm jam all over the cake almost to the edges. Using a sharp knife make a short cut, about 2cms up from the short edge nearest to you and quickly roll up the cake from there, discarding the paper as you go. Hold the rolled cake in position for a minute, then transfer it, join side down, onto a wire rack to cool. Dredge with more caster sugar, slice and serve with fresh raspberries.

### CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

75g cocoa powder	3 eggs	250g light muscovado sugar	125ml olive oil
150g self-raising flour	1tsp bicarbonate of soda	150g dark chocolate	
25g butter	4tbsp milk	1tbsp golden syrup	

50g milk chocolate broken and melted over a pan of hot water

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees and line a shallow cake tin (33x22cms) with non-stick baking paper. Whisk 50g cocoa powder with 100ml boiling water in a small bowl until smooth and leave to cool for a few minutes. In a large bowl whisk the eggs, sugar and oil for 3 minutes until smooth, using an electric whisk. Gradually mix the flour, bicarbonate of soda and cocoa paste into the bowl. Pour into the tin and allow to settle. Bake for 35-40 minutes until the cake has risen and a skewer comes out clean. Leave for 10 minutes then turn out onto a wire rack to cool. Break the dark chocolate into chunks and melt it with the butter in a pan of simmering water and stir until smooth. Mix the remaining cocoa powder, milk and syrup in a pan and heat until almost boiling, and whisk it into the chocolate mixture to make a glossy icing. Smooth this over the cake and drizzle with the melted milk chocolate. Cool and cut into small squares. **M.E.**

University of Essex Choir

J.S. BACH  
**ST. JOHN PASSION**

CONDUCTOR **BEN VONBERG-CLARK**

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

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



Price: £28, £22, £16, students and under 18s £8

<https://brittenpearsarts.org/events/university-of-essex-choir-presents-bach>

BOX OFFICE: 01728 687110

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

BRITTENPEARS ARTS

University of Essex Choir charity reg. 285079

University of Essex

**SUMMER RECITAL  
AT  
ST OSYTH CHURCH**

**12.30 - 1.15pm**

**May 17th**

**Tendring Male Voice Choir**

Donations will be used for the organ fund.

**VILLAGE SHOW**

**PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES FOR 2024**

**ADULTS**

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

**CHILDRENS**

**A WALK ON THE WILDSIDE**  
**OPEN**

**FRINTON FESTIVAL**  
 Tenth anniversary  
**24TH - 27TH MAY 2024**  
 Four days filled with beautiful music by the Essex coast

- ★ String Quartets in All Saints', Great Holland
- ★ The Barbican Piano Trio in Voysey's iconic Homestead
- ★ Frinton Festival Choral Evensong in St. Mary's Parish Church
- ★ The Massive Violins in McGrigor Hall
- ★ Beethoven's 9th Symphony in St. Mary's Parish Church



Tickets now on sale  
[www.frintonfestival.com](http://www.frintonfestival.com)  
 Email: [frintonfestival@gmail.com](mailto:frintonfestival@gmail.com)  
 Call: 07443 732474

# POLICE REPORT

## RECORDED CRIMES - 8

From 28/02/2024 25/03/2024

**CRIME TYPES-** BLACKMAIL - CRIMINAL DAMAGE - HARASSMENT X2 - OTHER X2 – THEFT THREATS X1

## INCIDENTS REPORTED - 20

**INCIDENT TYPES** - ABANDONED VEHICLE - ATTENTION TO - CONCERN X3 - DISTURBANCE - DOMESTIC - HIGHWAY DISRUPTION X3 - INFORMATION - OTHER X4 – REQ AGENCY- SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES - THEFT - THREATS - TREE DOWN.

## TRUCAM (SPEEDGUN)

2 one hour sessions in a 30mph zone

30 excessively over the speed limit- Top speed 49mph

20 excessively over the speed limit- Top speed 42mph

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

Vehicles are still taking the Weeley Road junction way too fast, exceeding the speed limit.

**Pedestrians-** If you need to cross the road in Weeley Road, please, please, please cross further down rather than near the junction and please tell others you know that cross that road.

**Please Drive with due care and attention. Taking note of zone speed signs, there will then be no concern to worry about laser guns and speeding fines. There is no excuse for poor driving.**

Thank you to those abiding by the legal safe limit.

## CONSIDERATE PARKING TICKETS (CPI,s)

12 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. This is a major obstruction so please keep junctions clear, particularly the junction of the island near the hair dressers, opposite the Plough. The staggered lines are for caution pulling out, due to traffic both ways, obstructing that junction is dangerous and can cause an accident. Parking services have and will be attending the village on a regular basis and **fixed penalty notices** may be issued. No excuse for inconsiderate parking.

## PARKING

There have been numerous complaints of drivers parking **opposite driveways** and too **close to junctions** which has caused **difficulty in visibility** to pull out/in. Please refrain from doing either. This month there have been an exceptional number of vehicles parked in the village near the shops. Vehicles have been parked on junctions causing obstruction to those pulling in/out. Vehicles are pulling up on the double yellow lines oblivious to the lines being there, or what they mean. You should **not** be stopping on double yellow lines unless you have a disabled badge or are dropping off/collecting someone or unloading. The double yellow lines have been put there for safety. All have been reported to Parking Services, who will be attending the location and may issue fixed penalty notices to those breaking the Highway Code.

## 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](mailto:parking.east@colchester.gov.uk) 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.

## FRAUD

If you have any doubt of a possible scam and just need advice, please contact me

[julia.brandon@essex.police.uk](mailto:julia.brandon@essex.police.uk) I am more than happy to chat with you, no matter how silly or small you believe it is.

## 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](mailto:julia.brandon@essex.police.uk)

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 6<sup>th</sup> July 10am to 5pm

& Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 11.30am to 5pm

Followed by Boxted Silver Band Concert 7pm

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

## Easter Flowers

On behalf of St Mary's Church, I would like to thank everyone who donated to the purchase of Easter Lilies and flowers in memory of loved ones. Your gifts were greatly appreciated by the congregation and visitors, and enhanced the displays in the church wonderfully.

The church looked beautiful and welcoming, thanks to the small team of dedicated flower-arrangers.

If you enjoy arranging flowers and would like to join our small group (we are all amateurs!) please get in touch for further details. My number is 07802 268897.

With grateful thanks,  
**Rosemary Branch**



## AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Automated external defibrillators, more commonly known as AEDs are portable, life-saving devices designed to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. The AEDs automatically analyses the heart rhythm in people who are experiencing cardiac arrest when the heart stops suddenly and unexpectedly. The AED system includes accessories, such as a battery and pad electrodes, that are attached to the chest for the AED to detect and interpret a person's heart rhythm and when appropriate deliver an electrical shock if one is needed to restore the heart to its normal rhythm.

In the village there are currently three publicly accessible AEDs, outside the Football Club, the Cricket Club and the Colchester bound platform at the Railway Station. A further two, funded by the Parish Council, will be located outside the Fusiliers and The Barn Café in Aingers Green. All five AEDs are registered on the “Circuit”, which is a national database known to The East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST) who, once they know your location, can direct you to the nearest AED should you need one. They will also provide you with a code to open the Cabinet. Where is the nearest one to you??

There are a further three AEDs in the Village Hall, the School and Tescos that are accessible but only when open.

The combination of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and early defibrillation is effective in saving lives when used in the first few minutes following a collapse from sudden cardiac arrest. Do you know how to use one??? Your local First Responder Group, located in the heart of the Parish can provide you with more information, demonstration, training and hands on experience. Contact Peter 07503 153960

## Great Bentley Good Neighbours

As we welcome new residents to Great Bentley, might I let you know about Great Bentley Good Neighbours. The group, which has been going strong for 40 years, is there to be of help and support to villagers in various ways.

Every road has a Road Steward who in the first instance can offer information or practical help. The name of your Road Steward can be found on the front cover of the Red Book which is printed, updated and delivered annually to your homes. This Red Book contains a host of useful village information along with contact details for local groups and organisations.

Volunteer drivers can help with transport to hospitals, surgeries and clinics. We are members of the Neighbourhood Watch Initiative and provide house warning and cold calling stickers to deter unsolicited visitors.

We can provide special ultra violet pens to mark your property in case of theft.

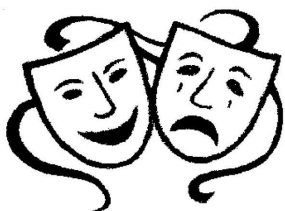
We have a stock of medical aids which can be borrowed on a temporary basis e.g. wheelchairs, Zimmer frames, wheeled walkers, commodes, toilet supports, walking sticks and crutches.

We also run the "message in a bottle", a scheme whereby a small container has details of medical conditions and any medication taken which can inform medics in an emergency.

This is just a summary of how Good Neighbours may be of use to you. For more details please consult your Red Book or call Richard on 250204.

Bentley Green Players  
production of  
"Murdered to Death"  
by Peter Gordon  
will be on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and  
18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.45pm  
in the Methodist Hall.  
All tickets £10.  
For further details/tickets  
contact Peter on  
07503153960.

If you would like to help building/  
painting the set on 12th/13th May  
or helping out Front of House on  
production nights please contact  
Peter for further details.



## Great Bentley Show Save the Date

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

Calling all adults, children and dogs!

It's TIME TO START Making, Growing and Snapping!

Our show relies on the generosity of local people who make a donation to show funds and take on the role of Friends of the Village Show (previously known as Vice Presidents). As a Friend you will continue to be entitled to free entry to the marquee on Show Day and to attend our Friends reception. Please contact me if you would be interested in becoming a Friend.

If you received a cup last year please remember to return it in July.



They can be returned to 23 Newman Fields or if you are unable to deliver it please email [chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk](mailto:chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk) to arrange a pick up.

Thank you for the offers of help we have received so far. More new faces will be very welcome.

**Mary Barber**

[chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk](mailto:chair@greatbentleyshow.co.uk)

[www.greatbentleyshow.co.uk](http://www.greatbentleyshow.co.uk)

Find us on Facebook: Great Bentley Village Show





**Great Bentley Pre-school**  
[www.greatbentleypreschool.co.uk](http://www.greatbentleypreschool.co.uk)  
[information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk](mailto:information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk)

We are now entering the last term of the academic year which is always the busiest with lots to look forward to, and hopefully lots of lovely warm weather.

This is also sadly the last term for many of our children and their families before they head off to Primary School, we will be busy making sure they are all school ready and feeling super excited about the next stage of their educational journey.

### **Autism Coffee Morning**

Our next coffee morning is being held on Thursday 23rd May at 9:30.

These sessions are held to support parents with children on the Autistic Spectrum or for parents who are concerned and want to find out more about Autism.

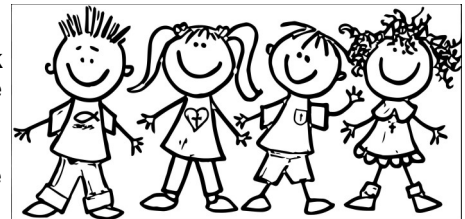
We always look forward to welcoming new faces so if you are or know anyone that is worried or concerned about their child, going through the assessment stages, or have a child who has been diagnosed and feel you might like to share your experience, then please come along and join in the discussion, we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

You do not have to have a child attending the Pre-school to come along, this is open to anyone within or out of the community.

### **Carnival**

Next month its Carnival time – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, we always look forward to supporting this village event. Put the date in your diary and we hope to see lots of you there.

Finally, I hope everyone enjoys the two long bank holiday weekends we have this month, and the sun shines for us all.



Thanks for reading  
**Julie Wiles**

## **ACQUIRING A NEW PASSPORT**

It's around 3am and I am wide awake when I suddenly start worrying about renewing my passport! It is now the middle of March and it does not run out until the end of August so why am I worrying? Where is the best place for photos, who should I ask to countersign these? The list seems endless.

The next morning, 16th March and I am regaling the dilemma and am advised to go to Snappy Snaps in Clacton which turns out to be excellent advise. Helpful, knowledgeable staff and was I going to do the application online, and of course the serial number on the photo will link in? Maybe I should try.

So that night I went online and completed my application and the very next day I was reminded, by email, to return my old passport, not possible of course until Monday 18th. No need to get photographs signed or a witness to my true identity etc All electronically completed.

I could hardly believe it when the postman knocked at the door on Thursday 21st with my brand new passport. Amazing service and all so very easy.

M.M.



# GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET CLUB

*Playing cricket on The Green since 1771.*



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

The artificial strip has been installed and was used in the opening game of the season (see later). This was a mammoth effort by the club but we could not have completed it without the help of many businesses and organisations. So in true Oscars style we would like to take this opportunity to offer our thanks (in no particular order) to; Wright Turf for cutting and removing old turf, Brad Robinson of BR Groundworks for excavation and backfill of base, Hills Residential for loan of dump truck, Silvertons for providing aggregate, John Black for storing and transporting aggregate and matting, Orton Wenlock for loan of scaffolding boards, pickup truck and tools, Great Bentley Parish Council for seeing the huge benefit to the cricket club, the village and therefore allowing the project to go ahead. The following individuals gave hours of their time labouring on the green; Russ Brown, John Black (again), Henry Fairbanks, and Alex Youngs. However there are two people who deserve more than a mention. Firstly, our head groundsman, Peter Giles, who has been out on the green for many long hours sometimes on his hands and knees working hard not only on the artificial wicket but also the main square. Finally, last but by very much no means least, Michael Giles who masterminded the project from conception to completion -- without him none of this would have happened. Below are some photos of the process and the completed strip.

After a long winter the cricket season has now officially started!! The opening game of the season, a charity match to help Honorary Club VP Ben Fryer raise funds for the NSPCC was played the day before this article went to press so we are unsure how much was raised but suffice it to say the day was a huge success with current monies raised over £700. A great turnout brought twenty-four club players together to make up a GBCC XI captained by GBCC Chairperson Henry Fairbanks and the Ben Fryer Select XI led by Club Captain Alex Youngs. This hard fought "grudge" match between two of the true heavyweights of the club was umpired by the man of the moment, Ben Fryer. Alex won the toss and decided to field. Lily Wainer opened the bowling on the new artificial strip with John Black batting. Then the star of the day, twelve-year-old Freddie Pope was called to bowl taking three wickets -- all senior players. The run rate was kept very economical but with notable contributions of twenty each by Adam Cuthbert and Matthew Clarke took the score to a respectable, if somewhat low, 78 from 20 overs. Jodie Black opened the bowling and kept it very tight against Lily Wainer and Maisie Agar. After a few wickets had fallen, the introduction of twelve year old Sam Giles saw him dismiss senior batter Mark Pearce who was plumb LBW. After a good innings by Johnny Hesketh and Alfie Youngs both retiring on 20, it was left to none other than Freddie Pope to show off his batting with unbeaten nine combining with new recruit George Spector to score the winning runs. A comfortable chase with 3 overs to spare. A great way to start the season.

Upcoming Adult Fixtures (1pm start)		
Date	Venue	Opposition
21st April	Home	West Bergholt
28th April	Away	Kelvedon
5th May	Home	Boxted
12th May	Away	Kirby
26th May	Home	Tendring
2nd June	Away	West Bergholt
9th June	Home	East Bergholt
23rd June	Home	IpsCol
7th July	Home	Kelvedon

Upcoming Colts Fixtures		
APRIL	Tue 30	U11A v B'sea (H) 6pm
	Sun 5	U11B v Gt Bromley (H) 10am
MAY	Wed 8	U13 v Frinton (A) 6pm
	Sun: 12	U11A v Wivenhoe (H) 10am
	Mon 13	U14 v Coggeshall (H) 6pm @ Bromley
	Wed 15	U13 v Mistley (A) 6pm
	Sun 19	U11A v W Bergholt (H) 6pm
	Sun 19	U13 v C&EE (A) 10am
	Tue 21	U11A v Elmstead (A) 6pm
	Mon 20	U14 v Abberton (A) 6pm
	Wed 22	U11B v Tendring (A) 6pm
	Thu 23	U11B v Frinton (H) 6pm
	JUNE	Sun 2
Mon 3		U14 v Wivenhoe (A) 6pm

Upcoming Colts Fixtures		
JUNE	Sun 9	U11A v B'sea (A) 10am
	Mon 10	U14 v Abberton (H) 6pm
	Thu 13	U11A v Elmstead (H) 6pm
	Thu 13	U14 v B'sea (A) 6pm
	Sun 16	U11A v Wivenhoe (A) 10am
	Sun 16	U13 v Tendring (H) 10am
	Thu 20	U11B v Harwich (H) 6pm
	Thu 20	U14 v Boxted (A) 6pm
	Sun 23	U11B v Mistley (A) 10am
	Mon 24	U14 v Wivenhoe (H) 6pm @Bromley
	Thu 27	U11B v Harwich (A) 6pm
	Sun 30	U13 v Colchester & EE (H) 10am
	Sun 30	U11B v Frinton (A) 10am

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 (start 14<sup>th</sup> April) 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. 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](mailto:info@greatbentleycc.co.uk) if you or your child would like to give cricket a try or with any questions.

## **GREAT BENTLEY CARNIVAL & FETE** **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Following the fantastic news that Great Bentley Carnival and Fete will be taking place this year, we now need your help.

We are collecting for the Silent Auction, so if you can assist with any of the following, or anything else which will help us raise money for our beneficiaries, please get in touch.

- Unique experiences, trips, tours, event catering
- Tickets - are you a season ticket holder who can spare a seat
- Car valeting, house cleaning, dog walking, gardening services
- Beach hut or holiday home rentals
- Lessons - do you teach cooking, music, sports, yoga
- Memorabilia - celebrity autographs, sporting items, vintage clothing
- Artwork, pottery, photographs, drawings
- Gift certificates, vouchers
- Gift baskets

In return for your generosity, we will advertise your company on our official Great Bentley Facebook Page in the run up to the event as well as on our stall posters on the day.

The profits made on Carnival Day will be divided between our beneficiaries which includes Rainbows, Squirrels, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Methodist Adventurers, and various youth clubs. These local charities and groups provide activities and support services for children and young people in the community.

If you can help, please contact [gb.carnival.secretary@outlook.com](mailto:gb.carnival.secretary@outlook.com)  
See you on Carnival Day!

**Paula & Yee**  
**Silent Auction Co-ordinators**

## **GREAT BENTLEY CARNIVAL PROCESSION**

At the last minute this was saved as a gentleman from Frating stepped in to learn the ropes (thank you Chris) and I'm helping. It was so heartening that other people joined the committee as well to take over some big roles.

So, this year is the 49th Carnival Procession and we are trying to build it up again as it was a few years ago (ready for the 50th next year) so I am asking/pleading for entrants.

The theme is Story Books so there is a lot of scope and ideally each walking group would have a car pulling a little trailer suitably decorated; this helps separate the groups so that all the walkers don't merge into one. If you are interested or can persuade your group to take part, please contact me and I can send you the entry form and information. I will be sending out forms to groups too - a two pronged attack!

Also, we are desperate for a marching band, we have tried several but they are booked. If you know of one - who is free that day - please let me know. A procession isn't a procession unless there is music.  
Thank you

**Bev Adams**  
[bev.k.adams@btinternet.com](mailto:bev.k.adams@btinternet.com)  
01206 250724

# **St Mary's Church**

## **May Fair**

**THE VIKINGS ARE COMING!**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**12pm – 4pm**

**Dress like a Viking, then maybe  
try Tomahawk throwing or archery!**

**Lots of refreshments to  
include a large BBQ,  
Chocolate fountain & cakes**

**Many stalls to enjoy  
plus the chance to ring  
the mini church bells.**

## **PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?**

We need Homemade Cakes  
Good quality Bric a Brac,  
Books, Raffle Prizes, Tombola  
Prizes and Plants.

These can be left at the back of  
the church or Mary Maskell's  
porch at Caldew Cottage, The  
Green.

(Porch door open just walk in)

For information and collection  
please ring

Nicky Justice

07941 35122

Thank you from St Mary's  
church

## **Archery is coming to the May Fair**

Clacton Archers will be at the Great Bentley St Mary's Church Fair on the 18th of May so you can try your hand at the ancient sport of archery. Archery has been around for a long time with the earliest arrowheads dating back over 20,000 years. There is also the legendary figure of Robin Hood, who is still remembered in archery circles with a Robin Hood shot. This is where the first arrow hits the gold, followed by another arrow going into the first arrow. Not easy to achieve but it can be done.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# RUNNING CLUB

Well, it's safe to say that there have been countless achievements for the Bentley runners 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 runners 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. 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!

## **THORRINGTONHALL WOODS BLUEBELL WEEKEND**

**4th/5th/6th MAY**

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

**Open between 10am - 4pm  
(Last entrance 3pm).  
Dogs on leads please.**

**Entry £2.  
Refreshments available in church.**

## **GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB**

### **PLANT SALE AND COFFEE MORNING**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY**

**10.00am to 12.00pm  
at the Village Hall**

Refreshments Raffle Cakes

50% of proceeds to St Helena Hospice

(Please note that no plants will be sold  
before 10.00am)

Do come along and buy some plants and enjoy  
a cup of tea/coffee, and of course cake

# ST HELENA HOSPICE

St Helena Hospice has once again teamed up with local organisation Birkett Long Solicitors for the Birkett Long £50 Challenge and is looking to recruit teams from local businesses and community groups to take part in the entrepreneurial challenge.

To kick off the challenge at the launch breakfast on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, teams are issued a £50 note, which has been generously donated by Birkett Long Solicitors. Each team then has 50 days to invest and grow their £50 into as much money as possible for the local charity, for example the stake money could be used to purchase ingredients for a bake sale or to cover the cost of printing posters for a live music night. Once the fundraising event is over teams can choose to stop there or re-invest in another initiative to grow the £50 into hundreds or maybe even thousands for St Helena Hospice!

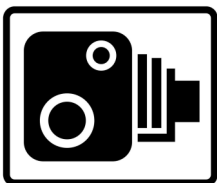
St Helena Hospice corporate fundraiser Ruth Jennings said: "We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for our £50 Challenge 2024! We would love for community groups to get involved in this fun-filled challenge alongside our local businesses. All clubs and societies are welcome and we look forward to hearing from you whether you are a book club, a WI group, a gardening club or any other group – anyone can put together a team and take on the Birkett Long £50 Challenge. All you need is enthusiasm, an idea (or two) and a desire to support St Helena Hospice!"

"Over the years we've seen our £50 Challenge teams use an array of skills to bring all sorts of great ideas to life - holding quiz nights and bake sales, making and selling or raffling items, arranging sponsored walks, football tournaments and golf days, we're always impressed by our participants' fundraising ideas and we can't wait to see what our teams come up with this year! Come and join the fun!"

The challenge begins on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May and teams have until 13<sup>th</sup> July to grow their £50 into as much money as possible. All of the money raised from the Birkett Long £50 Challenge will be donated to St Helena Hospice to help local people face incurable illness and bereavement, supporting them, their families, friends and carers.

Terry Knight from Atlas Signs has taken part in the £50 Challenge along with colleagues for the last 8 years and has said: "We have been involved with St Helena for many years and this will be our 8th year of participating in the £50 Challenge. The £50 Challenge really brings the team together to do something that isn't work, it's a fun way to do something worthwhile and contribute to a local good cause with the added benefit of boosting team spirit."

To take on the Birkett Long £50 Challenge, sign up before 22<sup>nd</sup> May at [www.sthelena.org.uk/50challenge](http://www.sthelena.org.uk/50challenge) or contact the St Helena Hospice fundraising team on 01206 931 468 or by email to [fundraising@sthelena.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@sthelena.org.uk)



## COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

The arrival of 'British Summer Time' and the longer daylight hours has given the team the opportunity to be out and about in the village over a much wider timeframe than during the winter months, and we've been taking advantage of that to be in ever changing places at different times of the day. We've seen a lot of drivers who don't seem used to seeing us...and have been recording a great deal of 'speeding vehicles' as a result!

In response to feedback from all the (very much appreciated!) people who stop and chat to the team, we're also looking to establish new monitoring locations around Great Bentley. In just the same way as we change the timings of our activities, the aim is to raise drivers' awareness of speed, no matter where they might be in the village.

As always, 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](mailto:greatbentleyspeedwatch@gmail.com)

# BRIGHTLINGSEA FOOD BANK

Hi Everyone. The results are in! The figures for the first three months of this year show we have handed out a third more parcels this year than we did in the same period last year. This is not a statistic we are proud of. Our ultimate goal is that food poverty in this country should be eliminated and our parent organisation, the Trussell Trust, are working hard to pressurise the government to ensure that “everyone can afford the essentials and no one needs to use a food bank”. Despite the increasing numbers of clients and the pressures on our donated food stocks we are determined to keep helping for as long as the need exists. So if you are struggling financially we are here to help. Your Foodbank will be open on Wednesday mornings at the Parish Hall in Victoria Place at between 10.00am—12.30pm. Please get in touch on 07881 703673 or 01206 303902 or just come along on the day. A special thank you to everyone who has been donating food or money.

If you need help deciding which items to donate please try out the App called BankTheFood and select Colchester as your nearest foodbank for a list of the items most needed.

I have spoken to Wyn who runs the Brightlingsea Food Bank and she is saying that the main warehouse is looking pretty bare right now. The items most wanted are; toiletries, washing up liquid, household cleaning items, washing powder/pods etc.

I am so pleased for the team who have recently received an award from the Lord Lieutenant of Essex for their voluntary work which is vitally needed right now.

**M.M.**

## 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, Hot chocolate, tinned meat - chopped ham, corned beef, Stewed steak/mince, meatballs, Fish, Tinned vegetables - eg. peas, carrots, Sauces - pasta, curry, cheese etc., Tomato ketchup, cooking oil, salt, pepper, Toiletries - shampoo, conditioner, Shower Gel, men’s & women’s deodorants, Washing liquid, Washing up liquid, Nappies, sizes - 4,5,6,7. Or ‘Pull Ups’

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

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

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

## NEWS FROM THE OAKS

Here at The Oaks we have had a very busy month.

Our residents enjoyed a Mad Hatters tea party with costumes, scrumptious food, music and dancing with the staff, in their chairs and out!

Big thanks to Mary Maskell and the ladies from St Mary’s Church for giving up their time and doing a service for our residents. It is greatly appreciated!

We would also like to thank Fans Network who arranged an outing to the incredible Sailship project in Clacton. The Sailship is managed by people with learning difficulties. They learn to plant vegetables and flowers, they also learn to cook. Everything they cook is grown at the premises. Absolutely life changing for them!

We also had a visit from ‘Musical Moments’ who entertained the residents with lots of different props.

At the end of the day it is our residents home and we go through all their ups and downs alongside them. We aim to keep them smiling, but always a hand or a hug when needed. Best wishes to you all.

## FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

### ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 1

Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	FC Clacton Res
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tiptree Jobserve
Apr 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wormingford Wanderers
Apr 13 <sup>th</sup>	Thorpe Athletic
Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	FC Clacton Res
Apr 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tavern
Apr 27 <sup>th</sup>	Cressing Utd
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Cavendish

### KO 3 00pm unless stated

(A)	Waterlogged pitch
(A)	W 3 – 2
(H)	W 4 – 0
(A)	Abandoned after injury
(A)	6 15pm KO
(A)	
(A)	Peter Andrews Charity Cup Final. Coggeshall

### ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 3

Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wormingford Wanderers Res
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Gosfield Utd
Mar 30 <sup>th</sup>	Little Oakley Res
Apr 6 <sup>th</sup>	Arlesford Colne Rangers Res
Apr 13 <sup>th</sup>	Gas Rec Res
Apr 20 <sup>th</sup>	Little Oakley Res
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	Dedham Old Boys Res

(H)	W 7 – 1 TT Cup 3 <sup>rd</sup> R
(A)	L 1 – 0
(H)	W 3 – 0 C/C Qtr/F
(A)	L 2 – 1
(H)	L 4 – 2
(A)	
(H)	6 30 pm KO

### ESSEX & SUFFOLK BORDER LEAGUE Div 5

Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	West Bergholt Res
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Roman Rovers

(H)	W 2 – 0
(A)	L 1 – 0

As we move into spring and the clocks “go forward” we enter the last month of Border league football. Tuesday evening training has moved from the 3 G pitch at the Colne school back onto the green and we no longer need to use the portable floodlights. Our away fixture to FC Clacton Res was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch for about the 6<sup>th</sup> time and is now due to be played at the Austin Arena midweek Wed April 17th. Just after FC Clacton 1<sup>st</sup> team finish their league programme !!

The win at Tiptree Jobserve at the Colchester United training ground was well deserved. 1<sup>st</sup> team short of players due to long term injuries and a family bereavement. Manager Jack Murray was forced to start the game in central midfield & held the team together well. We were unfortunate to go 2 – 0 down against the run of play and then Tom Jack who had moved up from the reserves came on as sub. His first involvement was to curl a corner straight into the Tiptree goal. He then hit a volley into the top corner and then got the winner. Again with his fabled left foot. A fourth was ruled out when another player was given offside. Tim Tricker has told me for years “ TJ has the best left foot I have seen on the green.” I’m now a believer.

In the home fixture against Wormingfield Wanderers. Archie Herbert suffered a fracture to a bone in his ankle in the first 5 mins and was replaced by Jack Murray for his second game in 2 weeks. Tom Jack was in the starting eleven and again the “famous left foot” was spraying the ball all over the field setting up opportunities for Raffa Jordan with 2 goals. Jake Vaughan scored and then Ryan McMahon who ran half the length of the pitch before sliding the ball past the keeper. A great result.

The game at top of the table Thorpe Athletic had to be abandoned after 35 minutes when Tom Jack suffered a nasty break to his upper arm (humerus) and could not be moved without medical assistance. Tom was treated at Colchester Hospital that evening and is now waiting to see if surgery is needed. We were leading 1 – 0 at the time. A shot from Jake Vaughan deflected by a Thorpe defender.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> saw the joint 30<sup>th</sup> birthday bash of Jake Vaughan and Monty Baird at Colchester Rugby Club. Over 100 guests enjoyed a great evening, although what has happened to modern music ??

The long awaited cup final held over from last season for the 1<sup>st</sup> team v Cavendish will be played on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at Coggeshall FC. It will now be called the Peter Andrews Charity Cup after the Amos Cup “went missing” what a joke.

The reserves have had 2 disappointing results this month losing 2 – 1 at Alresford Colne and 4 – 2 to Gas Recreation Reserves. Our scorers were. Lewis Sillet, Sam Winney and Lewis Evans. Injuries in the 1<sup>st</sup> team squad have impacted onto the reserve squad. We are still waiting to see who our opponents will be in the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the Tommy Thompson Cup and the semi final of the Covid Cup.

The new “A” team have had an outstanding season. The majority of the players stepping up from the youth team and playing against more mature and stronger opponents for the first time. Ultimately they came second in Division 5 behind Assington Stanley. A new team in Border League football but full of experienced players. Credit to the management team of Ritchie Herbert and Gordon “Gumby” Lawrence ably assisted by Jim Smith on and off the pitch all season. We hope to move up to Division 4 for next season.

Also many thanks to Great Bentley Cricket Club for allowing the “A” team to use the Cricket Club changing rooms this season. Much appreciated. Special mention also to Matt Maunton who is threatening to “hang up his boots” now the season has finished. Matt has been an inspiration to the young players in the “A” team showing leadership and commitment every time he walks onto the pitch.

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

**Come on the Bulldogs**



# **MICHAEL (MICK) DORLING**

## **The man who cuts the green!!**

Mick has been a very active member of our village community for ever. Where do I start.

For 34 years Mick has been mowing our village green, reputed to be the largest in the country at 43 acres and includes football pitches and a cricket pitch, plus an environmentally sensitive area of heathy acid grassland with its own vegetation including heather, matt grass, heath bedstraw etc. and which has its own management regime. Mick is now using his fourth tractor which just arrived in the village and new mowers may be on their way. Although paid to do this job I am sure many extra hours are given free of charge. Mick knows the green like the back of his hand, which parts are difficult to cut, more bumpy terrain etc. The village pond has also been under his care and although he and Bill Herbert were always willing to wade in to keep things clear, now mechanical diggers help with the heavy work. The many resident goldfish are undoubtedly the result of "winnings" at the fair being returned to a larger source of water, there are also some quite large carp.

Over the years Mick has planted swathes of daffodils to brighten Great Bentley in the spring time, by the wall leading to the church, near the football club, around the pond. (The Weeley Road ones should be replanted by the developer in the autumn). No one could love trees more and for years he has managed to source free trees which have been planted all over the parish by the roadsides, in the village hall car park, on the green etc. To celebrate the 40th year of the reign of the Queen Mick excelled by collaborating with the Forestry Commission to plant the spinney on the Northern section of the green. This cost the village absolutely nothing. It is thriving now and the Conservation Group added wild daffodils and native bluebells to broaden the wildlife and interest attracted to this particular area.

Mick has voluntarily been on the Green Committee (part of the Parish Council) since 1991/2 and for many of these years he was a Parish Councillor. He has also been an active member of **F**riends **O**f the **G**reen for over 20 years and is currently Chairman. This committee is dedicated solely to preserve this heart of our village and every month they undertake a litter pick, as well as various fund raising events too. Biker's Night comes under this umbrella and Mick is out on sunny summer Wednesday evenings putting out the litter bins and removing them later at night and collecting funding from the approved stalls. N.B. This event is not organised by Friends of the Green or Mick, it just "Happens", and has done since the mid 90's. In days gone by Gymkhanas were arranged each summer, open gardens, and many other varied events to raise money for the upkeep of this unique feature of our village.

Mick has also, in the past, been involved with the Carnival for over 20 years and has been Chairman and Vice Chairman alongside Kevin King. He instigated the fairs' arrival at this annual event a tradition which continues to this day. There was also a Cricket Match of villagers versus the Fair and also darts matches in the Plough which added to the fund raising for this charity event.

## **THE NEW TRACTOR**

This is a New Holland Boomer 45.  
Blue and white like the old tractor.

Mick says it is really excellent and the manoeuvrability is far superior with power steering.  
There is a radio, heater, air conditioning and better fuel economy..  
It has wide grass cutting tyres which is a definite advantage especially whilst cutting the football  
and cricket pitches.

Meanwhile the old tractor will be going to an agricultural machinery sale this month

## **DEADLINE FOR JUNE MAGAZINE**

### **SUNDAY 12th MAY**

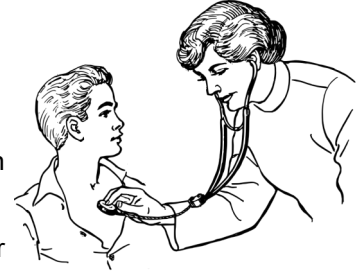
Material to Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green, 250524 **AND**  
Carole Allington, Poplar House, Station Road, 251086.

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

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

**IMPORTANT - PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO BOTH OF US**

# Surgery Newsletter



## **May Opening Hours**

We are closed on the following two Mondays due to the two Bank Holidays in May:

Monday, 6 May 2024 and Monday, 27 May 2024. NHS 111 will be covering for urgent medical problems on these days.

## **GP Appointments**

All our GP appointments are 10 minutes. Due to this, doctors are not always able to deal with more than one issue at an appointment and you may be asked to book a follow up appointment to deal with any additional problems you have. Please ensure that when you see the doctor, you speak to them about your most concerning problem, so that this is dealt with on the day of your appointment.

## **Medication Reviews**

In order to assist our GPs with the 6,500 patients on repeat medication, Letty Toto, a Clinical Pharmacist has been employed via our Primary Care Network to carry out medication reviews for Great Bentley Surgery patients. All appointments will be by telephone. Appointments for medication reviews can be booked by contacting a member of our reception team on our main telephone number – 01206 250691.

## **Holiday Travel Vaccinations**

If you need to check if your vaccinations are up-to date for travel, a Travel Risk Assessment form can be completed and submitted via the Great Bentley Surgery website. For patients who do not have access to the internet, a paper copy can be collected from reception for completion. Please remember to do this at least one month in advance of your holiday, to ensure you are able to receive any vaccinations that are needed in time for your holiday.

## **Patient Participation Group Meetings**

The next meeting of the PPG will be held on Thursday, 23 May 2024 at 6.30 pm in The Mitchell Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

## **Sue Mitson – Operations Manager**

Dear Editor,

I attended the Patients Participation Group (PPG) on the 26th March and was dismayed at the number of people who make Doctors Appointments and then don't keep them.

THIS RUDENESS SHOULD STOP - SHOW RESPECT! Our Doctors are there to look after us. This ignorance that is being displayed is totally out of order.

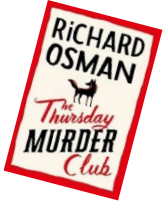
If you do need to cancel your appointment then it's no big deal to pick up the phone and notify the surgery (Telephone 01206 250691). There is always the possibility the appointment could be given to another patient.

The surgery is already under pressure due to the new developments that are going up with what appears to be a total disregard for existing patients and the surgery.

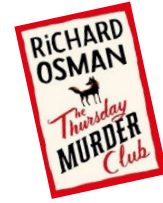
I understand that in extreme cases a letter is sent out to persistent offending patients although this should not be necessary.

If you have a friend who doesn't take the Parish Magazine please pass these sentiments onto them.

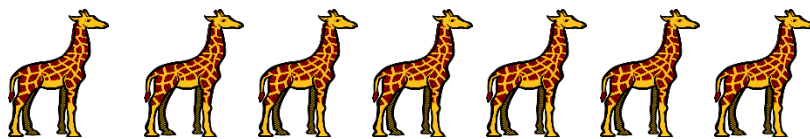
**Mr E.J. Roper,  
Little Clacton**



# Totally Trivial!



1. Can you name Olive Oyl's brother?
2. Which animal had the archaic name 'camelopard'?
3. Who directed the 1982 film 'ET'?
4. From which country does 'Wagyu' beef originate?
5. What is the state capital of Hawaii?
6. Who has just been elected the First Minister of Wales?
7. The Fonz was a character in which US TV show?
8. What is the alternative name for the rowan tree?
9. Which is further south, Liverpool or Manchester?
10. Who is quizmaster on the BBC show 'House of Games'?
11. Who played Margo Leadbetter in 'The Good Life'?
12. Who is married to David Furnish?
13. Whose dolls' house is on display at Windsor Castle?
14. Which film won Best Picture Oscar in 2024?
15. Who directed said film winning the Best Director Oscar?
16. What are Sage Derby and Red Windsor?
17. Which actor is the voice of Paddington Bear?
18. What is the main ingredient of hummus?
19. On which popular TV programme is Colin Murray the host?
20. In which sport does Luke Littler excel?



1. Castor Oyl 2. giraffe 3. Steven Spielberg 4. Japan 5. Honolulu 6. Vaughan Gething  
 7. Happy Days 8. mountain ash 9. Liverpool 10. Richard Osman 11. Penelope Keith  
 12. Elton John 13. Queen Mary 14. Oppenheimer 15. Christopher Nolan 16. cheeses  
 17. Ben Whishaw 18. chickpeas 19. Countdown 20. darts

## Bell Ringer's Update

Whilst we have been busy ringing for services and events and practicing on Mondays, we've also been busy planning and carrying out fundraising for our bells restoration project.

Our church will be joining 3 others to form a new benefice, so a group of us completed a 20 mile bike ride leaving Great Bentley at 10am on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April and stopping at the churches of St Osyth, Little Clacton & Weeley, finally cycling back to Great Bentley.

A massive thank you is due to our sponsors and supporters who have so far, donated approximately £850 towards our bells restoration project as a result of our bike ride!

Look out for some other fund raising events in aid of the bells restoration project over the next few months:

- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May: Church May Fayre. We're there with the 'mini ring' in the chancel. Visit us to 'have a ding on the mini ring'.
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June: Visit out plant sales on the village green outside Mary Maskell's house, (Caldew Cottage), continuing on Saturday mornings throughout June. Produce will also be available .
- Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June: Please support us by attending the Coffee Morning and static cycling event in St Mary's church. Challenge us to cycle from one location to another and reward us with sponsorship if you wish. Plant sales will also be available.

Please contact me if you would like more information about bell ringing or are interested if finding out more about our restoration project.

**Roger Carey-Smith**

**07422 880921**

## THE MONTH OF MAY

'Ne're cast a clout till May be out' is an English proverb. The earliest citation is this version of the rhyme from Dr. Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 1732, although it probably existed in word-of-mouth form well before that:

'Leave not off a Clout Till May be out.

### Meaning:

'Cast a clout', although archaic, is straightforward. Clout is a noun, variously spelled as clowt, clowte, cloot, clute, but all meaning cloth or clothing. Here's an early example, circa 1485.

"He had not left an holle clowt, Wherwith to hyde hys body abowfe."

So, 'ne'er cast a clout .. 'just means 'never discard your (warm winter) clothing...'

The 'till May be out' part is where the doubt lies. On the face of it this would mean 'until the month of May is ended'.

The Hawthorn is a common tree of the English countryside, and it flowers in late April/early May. It is known as the May Tree and the blossom itself is called May. Using that allusion, 'till May is out' could mean, 'until the hawthorn is out (in bloom)'.

## BENTLEY LADIES CLUB

At April's meeting Kate Osborne spoke passionately about her love of shingle beaches and the treasure and trash to be found there. She urged us all to enjoy the wonders of our beaches but also to consider our use of plastic and harmful cleaning products causing damage and injuring wildlife.

If you fancy joining us, new members and guests are always welcome. We meet at the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Throughout the year we have a varied programme of speakers/demonstrations and social events.

### Date for your diary:

#### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May... 'The Palace of Versailles' with Cherry Mullins.

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June... Flower Arranging with Brenda Eyers, a national speaker and demonstrator with N.A.F.A.S.
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July...Andy Moore from Colchester Zoo 'The Role of Zoos in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August...'Garden Party'
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September...'The History of Pantomime' a talk by Anita Howard
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October...'The Language of Flowers' with Ruth Goody
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November...'The Bayeux Tapestry' with Kindra Jones
- Christmas Lunch...TBA

## GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 9th May

7.30pm Village Hall

Vintage Bicycles

A talk by Andrew Watson

Andrew will talk about some of the bicycles in his collection.

Members and visitors are very welcome.

Members £2 Visitors £4

## GREAT BENTLEY GARDENING CLUB

On **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May (afternoon)** we have the first of our two garden visits arranged for this year. We are going to Kelvedon Hall, Kelvedon CO5 9BN. This is a 6 acre garden surrounding a beautiful 18th century farmhouse with views over open countryside. Formal and informal gardens interspersed with modern sculpture. Pleached hornbeam, yew and box topiary. Walled gardens, herbaceous borders, lily ponds and wet garden, wildlife garden and vegetable area. Also alpacas in the paddock. Plants usually for sale. The cost is £8.00 including tea/coffee and homemade cakes (any allergies need to be notified). Note: Wheelchair access not ideal as there is a lot of gravel.

We will meet at the Village Hall car park at 1.00pm and car share to the venue. Guests are welcome to join Members on this visit and anyone wishing to come please let us know asap as numbers need to be confirmed to the garden owner. Contact Rosemary on 01206 251433 or Dawn on 07752015142.

**Also in May - Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, see page 19 for details.**

## ART CLUB

The Great Bentley Art Club, meet from 2pm, on Tuesday afternoons, in the Village Hall. New members are always welcome. Events in May are as follows.

Tuesday 14th May - 'Dawn, or dusk'. Create a view in your medium of choice.

Tuesday 28th May - Buildings, in pen and ink medium.

The above subjects are informal suggestions only, as you might prefer to work on a project of your own.

Next month, we will continue our meeting programme outdoors, weather permitting.

# Wildlives

## Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre

'Catkins', Frating Road, Thorrington, Colchester CO7 8HT

[www.wildlives.org.uk](http://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!](#)

**Spring has Sprung (and orphans are flooding in)**

**May 2024**

A farmer doing building work accidentally dug up a litter of 10 fox cubs! The normal litter size is 3-5 cubs. The nine girls and a boy were brought to Wildlives, where one female was found to have a nasty abscess on her abdomen, so was treated with antibiotics. All ten are thriving and causing chaos!

The short-eared owl featured last month has made a brilliant recovery. The first year female was ringed and successfully released in time for her migration.

With the onset of Spring we now have numerous ducklings who have managed to wander off from their mothers, and this will just be the start of the Spring admissions. Ryan Gosling, the Egyptian goose featured previously, is now starting to lose his down and gain his adult feathers.

## GARDENING NOTES

Hanging baskets and containers are extremely popular in our gardens, brightening up our houses, walls and fences. They offer versatility and endless possibilities allowing you to create a classic or contemporary look for both a small or large garden. You can plant them with annuals, perennials, bulbs, small shrubs or grasses. Choosing a theme is a great way to make more impact as each container or basket links to the next one. The easiest way to achieve this is through a common colour, but using different plants.

It is not difficult to grow in containers or baskets. The DIY stores and nurseries have many specially made containers. They may include self watering systems, usually a reservoir incorporated into a bottom half of the container with a wick system to take the water up into the compost. If you are using standard pots there are a few things to consider. Traditional terracotta pots always look nice. They do however allow the water to evaporate from the compost through the walls of the pot, so they need more watering. You can reduce this problem by lining the inside of the pot with say a polythene bag and perhaps including water retaining granules in the compost before planting. Don't forget to cover the drainage holes with a layer of broken pot and perhaps a layer of coarse gravel or stones. This allows any excess water to run out of the bottom of the pot and not waterlog the soil by blocking up the holes. There are special container compost mixes, but try to use a mixture of general purpose compost, horticultural grit and some John Innes soil compost. This will give the pot contents some body and weight to help stabilise the container. Whilst you are mixing the compost together add some controlled release fertiliser granules which feeds for several months, so that you do not need to water with fertiliser every week.

Use and occasionally feed with liquid fertiliser during the season as this gives the displays a boost. Water your plants well before transplanting from their individual pot into the container. Take care not to damage the roots when planting and make sure you have compost firmed all the way around the root ball. Water lightly once the planting is finished as the water will help small particles of compost to coat the roots of the various plants, speeding up their growth. Keep them in a sheltered place for a few days to let them settle, and give some protection if the plants are of a tender nature. If it gets cold immediately after planting and before it gets established, its growth is checked and it can take several weeks to recover.

The traditional contents for containers are usually flowers, but how about a shrub? Perhaps you could try a bit of topiary, trimming your plant to various shapes as it grows. You can cheat by using a wire frame or use fast growing ivy to cover the wire mesh. How about some ornamental grasses, they make fantastic perennial potted plants. Plant each pot with a single variety for the best effect and watch them as their colours and form change throughout the year. They also help to give a little green oasis of calm when stood amongst the pots of brightly coloured annuals. Mulch the tops of the containers with some chipped bark, gravel or coconut shells to conserve moisture and keep the weed growth down.

On the vegetable front why not try a tomato plant such as "Tumbler" or even a dwarf runner bean such as Hesta which has pretty white/red blossoms, as well as very tasty beans. On the more fruity side what about a strawberry pot. Stand one pot on an upside down pot to allow the strawberries to hang down. Grown like this it is easier to cover a plant with netting to keep the birds off and they look great on a patio when both in flower or in fruit, so they give pleasure twice over, once to look at, then to eat.

May is the time of year when lots of vegetables need to be sown. You may, of course, have already started some of the first sowings like the early potatoes, and you can plant the main crops now whenever you like. Now it is also time to plant crops like the second crop of broad beans. Peas can also be sown several times during the year so it's a good time to get started (if you have not already done so). Early carrots can be sown as well as parsnips.

## WOULD YOU LIKE AN ALLOTMENT?

Have you thought you might like to be the next Monty Don or maybe just an enthusiastic allotment holder?

Why not take a look at what is achievable by visiting the plots, situated behind the Village Hall and accessed by Hall View. There is usually someone working hard there who will be glad to stop and answer your questions! Everyone gardens for different reasons and with different crops, some purely veg, some flowers, sometimes a mixture. It is hard work but its good to be out in the fresh air mixing with like minded people who are always ready to help and usually to share plants, seeds and information.

Please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Jennifer Spear 01206 256410  
Or email [clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk)

# TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

## **Police Fire and Crime Commissioners Election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Just a little reminder due to the Police Fire Crime Commissioners voting coming up on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and if you are going to vote at the polling station to make sure you have your Photographic ID with you.

The main forms of Photo ID will be a UK passport or Driving Licence, Blue Badge, older or disabled person's bus pass, PASS card or Defence Identity Card.

There is a full list on [www.tendingdc.gov.uk/services/elections-and-voting](http://www.tendingdc.gov.uk/services/elections-and-voting).

## **Councillors Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

You are being asked to have your say regarding issues Tendring District Council's (TDC's) scrutiny committees should be looking into over this coming year.

A consultation is already underway to gather the views of residents, town and parish councils and partner organisations in relation to the work programme for both of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2024/25.

There are two teams of councillors who act as critical friends in relation to its services and to other bodies locally such as Essex County Council, schools, the NHS, energy providers, rail and bus companies. There may be areas that are working well and others that need to improve and the committees would like to hear from residents what they are.

You could help to make a difference in your community by telling councillors what you think the committees should be looking at over the coming year.

To have your say and for ideas of what the committees have considered in the past, visit the TDC consultations webpage at [www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations)

The consultation runs until Friday, 10 May.

## **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](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations).

The consultation runs until Sunday, 9 June.

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](mailto:lynda@boblyn.co.uk) or [cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk)**



## NATURE NOTES

Early on 21st March a deep reverberant croaking over the house drew my eye up to three flying black birds. Two were normal crows but the third, larger, an undoubted raven. Virtually unheard of in modern Essex until very recently yet important in ancestral folk memory as an avian archetype of mixed reputation. Viking graves have been excavated with raven skulls found showing their esteemed status. The epic poem of Essex's Battle of Maldon [991] describes ravens wheeling over the fighting along with White-tailed Eagles, awaiting the opportunity to prey on those killed. This vulture-like reputation is just one aspect of the raven's broad more mundane omnivorous diet. Ravens Green, Little Bentley is a local place name and reminder of its once widespread distribution though. Extinct in Essex since the late 19th C up until a handful of recent breeding records. This return follows the eastward movement of other raptorial birds such as buzzard, peregrine and kite moving from rugged refuges in the west including Wales. In an era when much wildlife is under intense pressure this is a gratifying reversal. Historic persecution has been greatly reduced with legal protection and some adaption through being less fearful perhaps counterbalance the environmental degradation that restricts other wildlife. It is good that we may soon not have to travel far, not even to the Tower of London to see *Corvus corax*!

For your diary: Sun, 5th May 11-3 - Bluebell Day at Weeleyhall Wood, Weeley - organised by EWT Tending Group.



**TENDRING SHOW 2024**  
Brought to you by Tendring Hundred Farmer's Club

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July**

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

[www.tendringshow.co.uk](http://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

# FARMING DIARIES

It has come to the time of year when the cereals and oilseed rape crops start to rapidly grow away from the winter. The bright yellow of the oilseed rape flowers contrasts nicely against the deep green of adjacent cereal crops. The crop of oilseed rape provides a very important food source for a number of different bee species. If you find a footpath through these yellow fields or even a footpath which runs parallel to a field of oilseed rape and you listen carefully, you will hear the buzz of the bees. These bees play an important role in pollinating the flowers resulting in the formation of pods. These pods will develop and expand and the seeds inside which turn black are harvested for a number of uses. You may have noticed in the local farm shops you can buy oil which has come from oilseed rape. Many famous chefs like using rapeseed oil when cooking for a number of reasons including its taste but also the oil has one of the lowest levels of saturated fats compared to other oils. In comparison to olive oil, rapeseed oil has approximately 50% less saturated fat showing that it is a healthier option. The majority of rapeseed oil you see on the shelves in the farm shops and supermarkets is made using British rape seed. The oil can also be used for biofuels as well.

Cereal crops such as wheat and barley, at the time of drilling, have 100% yield potential. From the moment they are planted in the ground different factors such as the weather, soil type, the availability of nutrients, pests, weeds and diseases will begin to rapidly decrease the crop's potential yield. In order for farmers to produce the highest yielding crops they can they need to protect the crop from the impact of the factors just mentioned. In the autumn (for a winter grown cereal) farmers will apply a pre-emergence weed control spray – this is the first port of call after drilling to prevent the growth of weeds which would otherwise compete with the crop for light, nutrients and moisture. More weeds may appear later in the autumn but, due to the weather they may not be able to travel with their sprayer on the land due to it being too wet, so a further spray application in the spring when the weather improves would follow. Fertiliser as mentioned in last month's column would be applied to the crop to give it a kick start to get it growing away as soon as the temperatures warm up. As the temperatures do rise disease pressure increases due to the warmer and damper conditions as a result of spring showers. This would exacerbate any disease which may have appeared in the crop over the winter months and/or may encourage the spread of disease in the crop. Photosynthesis is the way in which a plant uses energy from the sun light which is absorbed by chlorophyll in the plant to convert carbon dioxide and water to make energy. The presence of chlorophyll in a plant gives its green colour. When a plant, be it in the field or in your garden at home has a disease on it you will notice that the leaves lose their green colour meaning that they are not producing energy used for growth and development to their maximum capacity. If farmers can prevent and control any disease coming into their crop they will help maintain the potential yield of a crop. You may wonder how farmers optimising yield affects our day to day lives. If yields are dramatically reduced due to diseases, pests, lack of the correct nutrition and the weather there would be a shortage of wheat and barley to make into bread or beer which would result in the cost of these items increasing due to the shortage in supply of the product used to make them. In the arable farming year the next two months are the most important with regards to diseases to ensure the crop stays greener for longer, thus helping farmers achieve as near to their 100% yield potential.

You will also have noticed many 'ridges' appearing in fields ready for planting potatoes. Potatoes are a very important crop to the local area and you will see many a tractor and planter in the field over the coming weeks soon to be followed by irrigation pipes and irrigators despite all the wet weather we have had recently!

**Vicki Brooks**

## THANK YOU

To my neighbours in Plough Road, Keeble Court, Hall View, Morella Close and Cinderpath Way that donated to my door to door Marie Curie collection. I am pleased to say the collection totalled £111.17. Thanks again for your generosity and see you next year!  
Frances

## FREE TO A GOOD HOME

"Viscount Fair Lady DeLuxe" Electric Organ  
With matching music stool (includes sheet music storage)  
37 inches tall x 43 inches wide x 22 inches deep  
For more information and enquiries

Phone Wendy 07840739733  
Located in Great Bentley

# WHAT IS MAY DAY?

## Origins of May Day

May Day has its roots in astronomy. We're (about) halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice! It's one of the Celtic cross-quarter days, which celebrated the midway points between all solstices and equinoxes of the year.

As with May early holidays, May Day was rooted in agriculture. Springtime celebrations filled with dance and song hailed the sown fields starting to sprout. Cattle were driven to pasture, special bonfires were lit, and both doors of houses and livestock were decorated with yellow May flowers.

It evolved to speak more to the "bringing in the May" with the gathering of wildflowers and green branches, the weaving of floral garlands, the crowning of a May king and queen, and the setting up of a decorated May tree, or Maypole around which people danced. Such rites originally may have been intended to ensure fertility for crops and, by extension, for livestock and humans, but in most cases this significance was gradually lost, so that the practices survived largely as popular festivities.

## The Maypole Dance

Wrapping a Maypole with colourful ribbons might be the most known tradition that still exists in some schools and towns.

Originally, the Maypole was a living tree brought in from the woods with much merrymaking. Ancient Celts danced around the tree, praying for good crops and fertility. For younger people, there was the possibility of courtship. If paired by sundown, the courtship continued so that the couple could get to know each other and married weeks later on June's Midsummer's Day. This is how the "June Wedding" became a tradition.

In the Middle Ages, all villages had Maypoles. Towns would compete to see who had the tallest or best Maypole. Over time, this Old English festival incorporated dance performances, plays, and literature. People would crown a "May Queen" for the day's festivities.

The strict Puritans of New England considered the celebrations of May Day to be licentious and pagan, so they forbade its observance.

However, the Maypole dance became a common rite of spring at colleges from the late 19th century through the 1950s. Seen as a wholesome tradition, this celebration often included class plays, Scottish dancing, Morris dancing acapella concerts, and various cultural dancing and music displays.

In the 1960s and 1970s, interest waned; the May Queen and her court became more of a popularity contest. Today the Maypole dance is mainly celebrated in schools as a fun spring tradition and sometimes medieval festival.

## So What Does "Mayday" Mean?

The term "Mayday" is not related to the "May Day" spring festival, but instead comes from the French phrase M'aidez, which means "Help me". If you hear "Mayday" repeated three times, it is an urgent distress call of the highest order. To signal that you need help but are not in a life-threatening situation, repeat the phrase "Pan-pan" three times when calling for assistance.

So now you know all about May Day. As colts and calves kick up their heels, seedlings seek the sun, and birds call for mates, we humans may join their revels for one day: during spring's "May Day" festival. Even serious-minded folk can put work aside to enjoy Nature's exuberance.

## WELCOME

### Dani's Deli

Dani's Deli is now under new ownership.  
We welcome Nikki and Harry who already have a business  
in St Osyth.

# SCHOOL NEWS

Samuel in EYFS was awarded “Player of the Week” at football training by the Great Bentley Under 5s coaches. He was chosen because he’d been trying hard to master new ball skills and because he had shown great sportsmanship by encouraging his team mates.

Harley in Year 1 achieved his 50 metres front crawl in his distance assessment at swimming!

## YEAR 3

The children have settled back into school very well after the Easter break. They have continued with their Author Study of Anthony Browne with the children creating excellent book reviews, fact files and timelines of the author’s life. They have shown amazing understanding and enthusiasm throughout this topic and shared their opinions on a range of Anthony Browne’s books.

## YEAR 4

A parcel had arrived over the holidays from their Penpals in Ohio, America, which included individual letters for each child, complete with a hand decorated envelope, photos of their school and a necklace to celebrate St Patrick’s Day. The children are very much looking forward to a video call with their Penpals in the coming weeks.

In Science they have started their new topic of “States of Matter” and very much enjoyed creating a lava lamp effect when exploring what happens when oil, water and a dissolving effervescent tablet are mixed together.

## YEAR 5

In year 5 they have been carefully measuring to make cardboard marble run tracks. They had to be very accurate and really think about their joins and where the holes went. They were very resilient and solved lots of engineering issues.

## YEAR 6

Most of the time lately has been taken up by mock SATs as they plan the final build up to these soon. The children have performed admirably.

Away from SATs, they have been looking at the local area in geography (trying to decide if there was space or need in Great Bentley for a hospital) and grouping animals in science.



# GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

What a month April has been, as I write this article the deadline for comments on the Essex Minerals Consultation has now closed and the Parish Council want to thank the members of the Community Action Group for their help, support and lead in the objection fight that the village has come together to take on!

With their collaboration (and the parish magazine organisers holding off their printing last month) we were able to hold a second public meeting with a presentation on the minerals run by Cty. Cllr. Alan Goggin, an entire village wide leaflet drop with information on how to object, erect huge banners (with the help of Matt Plummer) more information being published in the parish magazine and a web page dedicated to it on our website.

As it stands at the time of writing the 1st most objected site - A68 Crabtree Farm, with 298 objections 2nd most objected site - A74 Thorrington Hall Farm with 279 objections 9th most objected site - A69 Frating Hall, with 78 objections and the 27th most objected site - A88 Gurnhams Farm with 16 objections. But the Community Action Group ran a further drop in session to help support anyone that needed guidance and they helped to log another:

- Over 320 objections for site A68 Crabtree Farm
- Over 150 objections for site A69 Frating Hall
- Over 120 objections for site A74 Thorrington Hall Farm
- Just under 100 objections for site A88 Gurnhams Farm

Meaning there should be over 600 objections logged by the deadline, which is an amazing achievement and hopefully means that Essex County Council will just see the site as too much hassle to try and work!

Along the same lines the parish council are going to apply to try and gain Community Asset Status for the Bridleway that runs through the proposed A68 site, it is the bridleway that runs from Sturrick's Lane to the A133 as such we need your help again. We need to prove that this is such a well used bridleway that it cannot possibly be closed and therefore it is a community asset. So we are running a poll on our website – under the Replacement Essex Minerals Review page, the link is there for you to follow and fill this out, [Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan review 2025 to 2040 \(greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk\)](http://greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk).

The Parish Council are setting up an Essex Minerals Action Working Group, to work alongside the community action group and we need your support to help make sure if we need more in depth objections in case any of the local sites do make it to a preferred site status. That way we have already started the ground work to keep going with the fight.

*Written in collaboration with Daniel Shedd from the Community Action Group.*

***Upcoming Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 2nd May starting at 7 pm in the Village Hall, we hope to see you there!***

## MAY DIARY

- Thurs 2nd **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, Village Hall, 7pm
- Fri 3rd **COFFEE MORNING**, Methodist Church, 10-12 noon
- 4th/5th/6th **THORRINGTONHALL BLUEBELL WOODS**, 10-4pm
- Tues 7th **BENTLEY GREEN LADIES CLUB**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Thurs 9th **SINGING UP THE CHURCH TOWER**, St Mary's 7.00am
- Thurs 9th **DEANERY SERVICE**, St Mary's Church, 7pm
- Thurs 9th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Sun 12th MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Sun 12th **DEANERY CHOIR**, St George's Church, Gt Bromley, 11am
- Tues 14th **ART CLUB**, Village Hall 2pm
- Thurs 16th **KNIT & NATTER**, St Mary's Church Hall, 2-3.30pm
- 16th/17th/18th **BENTLEY GREEN PLAYERS**, Murdered to Death Methodist Church, 7.45pm
- Fri 17th **TENDRING MALE VOICE CHOIR**, 12.30, St Osyth Church
- Sat 18th **ST MARY'S CHURCH MAY FAIR**, 12 noon
- Tues 21st **GARDENING CLUB OUTING TO KELVEDON HALL**
- Thurs 23rd **AUTISM COFFEE MORNING**, Village Hall, 9am
- Thurs 23rd **PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**, 6.30pm, Village Hall
- Fri 24th **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, St Mary's Hall, 9.00am
- Sat 25th **PLANT SALE & COFFEE MORNING**, Village Hall, 10-12
- Sun 26th **DEANERY CHOIR**, Frinton Festival Choral Evensong, St Mary's Church, Frinton, 6pm
- Tues 28th **ART CLUB**, Village Hall 2pm