**June 2024**

**Annual Meeting of the Parish Report**

A group of people sitting in a room

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

* A group of people standing in a room with a white board

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

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

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

A group of people standing in a room

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