

**THE BENTLEY
BUGLE**



COMMUNITY & CHURCH NEWS



ISSUE 91 FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023

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Parish Diary

FEBRUARY 2023

- 1st - Comrades - Village Hall Committee Room at 7.30 pm
- 1st & 15th - Craft at the Case - Case is Altered from 7.00-9.00 pm
- 1st & 15th - Whist Drive - Village Hall from 7.00-9.00 pm
- 2nd - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
- 4th - Games Night - Case is Altered 8.00 pm
- 8th - Bentley Bluebells WI - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
- 9th & 23rd - Scrabble Club - Village Hall Committee Room at 2.30 pm
- 9th - Open Mic Night - Case is Altered at 7.00 pm
- 11th - Band and BBQ - Case is Altered at 8.00 pm
- 14th & 28th - Tuesday Club - Village Hall at 2.30 pm
- 16th - Link Lunch - Village Hall at 12.00 or 12.30 pm
- 17th - Horticultural Society - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
- 23rd - Book Group - Case is Altered at 7.30 pm
- 25th - Monthly Quiz - Case is Altered - at 8.00 pm

MARCH 2023

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- 16th - Link Lunch - Village Hall at 12.00 or 12.30 pm
- 17th - Horticultural Society - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
- 23rd - Book Group - Case is Altered at 7.30 pm
- 25th - Monthly Quiz - Case is Altered at 8.00 pm

Other Activities in the Village

- Carpet Bowls - Every Tues 7.30 pm & Weds 2.30 pm - Village Hall
- Aerobics Class - Tuesday 9.45 am (Term Time only) - Village Hall
- Pilates Class - Tuesday 11.00 am to noon (Term Time only) - Village Hall (contact Jill Sharp for information - 01473 311546)
- Toddler Group - Mon & Weds 9.30 am to 12 noon (Term Time only) - Village Hall

Bentley Directory

PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Parish Council - Chair	Marianne Munday	07808 259331
Parish Council - Clerk	Joy Scott	01206 298174
Babergh District Councillor	David Busby	07855 777147
County Councillor	Georgia Hall	07955 434445
Police Community Support Officers	Stephen Cooper, Melisa Cohen	101

BENTLEY ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS

Bentley Primary School (Headteacher) (Chair Governors) (Chair PTA)	Jo Austin Simon Hurst simon.hurst@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk Sarah Hawley	01473 310253 07894 294319
Bentley Community Pub	Kate Spicer	01473 314187
Bentley Comrades	Ray Savage	01473 311122
Bentley Community Stores	Bob Feltwell	01473 310182
Bowls Club	Lillian Calvert	01473 808652
Carpet Bowls	Jill Mills	01473 311103
Case Book Group	Jane Lockwood	01473 311797
Coffee and Company	Sandra Mehen	01473 310383
Computer Clinic	John Blackmore	01473 310655
Footpath Society	John Wheals	01473 310569
Footpath Warden	Tim Hamstead	07748 821594
Friends of St Mary's	Bob Feltwell	01473 310735
Horticultural Society	Stewart Rowe	01473 311994
Link Lunch Group	Veronica Howe	01473 310344
Maritime Football Club	Jon Haines	08442 023130
Parent and Toddler Group	Pam Rayment	07970 741581
Recorders	Moira Usher	01473 310322
Scrabble Club	Robin Owen	01473 311844
Tree Warden	Colin Hawes	01473 310678
Tuesday Club	Veronica Howe Catherine Sweeney	01473 310344 01473 310095
Village Hall - Bookings	John Blackmore	01473 310655
Village History Recorder	Nicky Moxey	01473 313125
Whist Club	Veronica Howe	01473 310344
Womens Institute	Sandra Ford	01473 310072

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BENTLEY

Rector	IN VACANCY	
Benefice Administrator	Hayley Purnell	07904 972116
Churchwarden	Peter Day	01473 310518
Assistant Priest	Revd Don Mehen	01473 310383

BENTLEY BAPTIST CHURCH ADMIN 07814 465222

Bentley Parish Council website - <http://bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Bentley (in Suffolk) Community page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292599697915731/>

Other village websites are listed in the publication.

THE BENTLEY BUGLE - COMMUNITY AND CHURCH NEWS COORDINATORS

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19 The Link, Bentley

Tel: 01473 310383

The Bentley Bugle is published and distributed bi-monthly on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the local Village and Church community. Information is published in good faith and we reserve the right to edit copy submitted. Errors and exceptions are regretted.

Advertising in these pages does not constitute a recommendation.

Front cover - sheep grazing in Grove Road - photo by Kate Addy

If you have any suitable photos for future issues, please forward to Christine at christine.bugle@gmail.com

COPY FOR THE APRIL-MAY 2023 ISSUE SHOULD REACH CHRISTINE BY NOON ON FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2023. Copy can be submitted either on paper or electronically (preferred). Please try to ensure that any copy submitted electronically is in a standard format e.g. .doc, .docx, txt, .jpg, .png, or .pdf and the preferred font is Arial 14pt. Many thanks

BENTLEY VILLAGE AT CHURCH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported us over the Christmas season. It has been lovely to get back to celebrating normally again. Please keep coming when you can.

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

5 th February	Holy Communion	10am
12 th February	Morning Worship	10am
19 th February	Holy Communion	10am
26 th February	Family Worship	10am

There is an Ash Wednesday Service on 22nd February at Burstall Church at 7.30pm led by Archdeacon Jeanette Gosney.

We are delighted to welcome Rev Will Abbott on 19th February to lead our Communion service. Please come and support him.

ZOOM SERVICE

There will be a Zoom Evening Prayer Service on 26th February at 6pm. If you would like to join us and do not receive log on details already please contact sandramehen@gmail.com or 01473 310383

SERVICES IN MARCH

5 th March	Holy Communion	10am
12 th March	Morning Worship	10am
19 th March	Holy Communion	10am
26 th March	Family Worship	10am



MOTHERING SUNDAY

There is a Communion Service at 10am on 19th March led by Archdeacon Jeanette Gosney. There will be posies for all ladies and refreshments will be served after the service as usual.

EASTER EGGS

We will be collecting Easter Eggs to take to West Villa Homeless Families Unit for the children there. If you would like to help please can we have the eggs by Palm Sunday 2nd April. They can be left at church at Sunday services or at 19 The Link or phone 310383. Thank you.

WEST VILLA

Thank you very much indeed to everyone who supported our appeal for Christmas gifts for the homeless families supported by West Villa. We had a van full of gifts of all kind of shapes and sizes and suitable for all ages. The people sorting the gifts were touched by the care you had taken in selecting suitable gifts for all ages. Thank you also for the bedding and towels that are still delivered to our home they are always needed and always greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you have unwanted bedding or towels on sandramehen@gmail.com or 01473 310383 or leave them in the porch of 19 The Link.

LONELY? NEED A LISTENING EAR?

Do you know of anyone in the village who would like a visit at home or in hospital? Would you like someone to visit you? Would you like someone to talk to, pray with you or for you? Please call Doreen or 311122; Carolyn on 311090; Jane 310518; Sandra 310383.

EASTER LILIES

Many people like to contribute towards the cost of lilies to decorate Bentley Church for Easter, often in memory of a loved one. If you would like a dedication in memory for your loved one please let us know the name or names and let us have them with the donation of £2 towards the cost of the lilies by Palm Sunday 2th April. Sign the list in church or contact Doreen – 311122, Carolyn - 311090 or Sandra - 310383



SUPPORTING BENTLEY CHURCH

St Mary's Church Bentley has been at the centre of Bentley life for over 700 years. Generations have worshipped and found in it a place of refuge, reflection and joy. Please help us ensure that St Mary's Church stands for another 700 years. It costs £300 a week to keep this beautiful and historic church open. One way to support us is by giving via this QR code using your smartphone. There is also one in the church building.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the life and upkeep of St Mary's over the years. It does not matter if you cannot help out regularly, as one of our supermarkets says 'every little helps'. There are many ways to help – flower arranging, church cleaning, church yard tidying or mowing to name but a few. Just contact one of us if you would like to help. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 26th March – 10am Family service followed by an update of Church activities and a light lunch.

Sunday 2nd April - Palm Sunday + Palm Procession

Easter Day Communion 9th April - 10am + children's Easter Egg hunt

Sunday 9th July 11am - Hymns and Pimms

JUST A THOUGHT

It is interesting to talk to people and discover that some of us dread the thought of snowfall while others love it and the brightness and beauty it brings. The ice makes it more difficult to get around and de-icing the car can be a nightmare. The cold is challenging in an energy crisis for many. So let us remember to make sure that our elderly and frail friends and neighbours are keeping warm and well fed.

Church Contact Details

for weddings, baptisms and funerals or other queries
Church Warden – Peter Day - 310518
Assistant Priest – Rev Don Mehen – 310383
Administrator – Hayley Purnell
northsamfordbenefice@gmail.com or 07713 863 023
Treasurer – Ken Felgate - k.felgate108@btinternet.com
PCC Secretary – Sandra Mehen – 01473 31038

TUESDAY CLUB

Happy New Year, hopefully 2023 is going to be a good year for us all. The Tuesday Club had a great year with many speakers and entertainers.

We had two outings, Dunwich with a Fish and Chip lunch and another to Clacton for lunch. Our Christmas meal was enjoyed at the George at Hintlesham. To finish the year we had a buffet, with food provided by the Members. Mr. Smooth entertained us with an assortment of songs and Christmas Carols. Everyone left with a gift.

We are now in 2023 and a new program. Our AGM took place on 17th January. Our first speaker will be Mr. Colin Hawes who will give a talk on Stag Beetles. On 14th February we will be entertained by David Webb from the TV program Hi Di Hi and Chair Aerobics on 28th February.

I hope the above activities will tempt old and new members to come along and join us you will be most welcome. **Catherine Sweeney**

BENTLEY CARPET BOWLS

For our last match before the Christmas break we travelled to Martlesham. Our first two matches saw us well beaten on one mat and let a good lead slip on the second. The second half saw us lose a close affair on one mat but our pair on the other mat performed well to win handsomely but the outcome was still a 2-8 loss.

Our first match of the new year saw us play a home match against Chelmondiston. Once again we lost 2-8 in which two games were close but once again we won the pairs game well. Next two matches are against Martlesham and Claydon at home. **David Howe**

BENTLEY BLUEBELLS WI

We have just released our programme for 2023 which includes some fascinating speakers. The History of Silk, Unusual Gravestones, Drought Gardening (quite apt for our changing climate), a trip to an auction house to see what happens behind the scenes, a professional lady golfer, flower demonstration plus music, garden party and games night. Not just Jam and Jerusalem! Though, we love both of these too.

Our Christmas speaker was David Webb from Hi De Hi, how much fun was that? We all found ourselves singing along as he told us stories of his life in musicals, television and theatre. We were pleased to see plenty of visitors from the village and beyond who also enjoyed some festive goodies with us. Our January speaker, Eric Punaks, was a cross between Pam Ayres and Tom Lehrer, funny poems and songs to cheer up even the dullest January evening.

Please come and join us anytime and share our evenings, call Sandra on 01473 310072 for more information. **Theresa Bloomfield**

BENTLEY BOWLS CLUB

We shall soon be starting the new season, and hopefully after all the work the members have put in on the green over the winter it will run better. We shall be having new shirts - courtesy of our sponsor - Energy People - these will be more colourful than the plain white we usually play in.

Our quiz this year is on **Saturday 13th May** in the Bentley Village hall. We shall have our usual buffet, raffle and bar. Charles will once again set the questions so we hope you will support us as this is usually a very good night.

Our Friday night club roll up will start at the end of April so if you are thinking of trying bowls do come along. We start at about 6.30pm and the green entrance is in Grove Road, just beyond the Old Postmasters House and building plot. We are a small village team which has been going for over 100 years and hopefully will continue for another 100 or so years! **Lillian Calvert, Secretary, 01473 808652.**



The Scrabble Club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

If you would like a gentle game of Scrabble, a cup of tea or coffee and a chat please come along and join us.

Dates of the meetings are shown on the Bugle diary page. **Robin Owen**

Message from James Potter, Nelson Potter Ltd

As you may know we have operated from our premises in the parish for many years and with our commitment and welfare to all staff, visitors, and general public we have installed a defibrillator on site.

I thought it might be beneficial to advise that this has been installed beside our sales yard gate (On the external side). This is stored within an industry standard de-fib cabinet - this is a key coded box.

We have registered this with the national database (Circuit), so can be accessed by anyone calling the emergency services – all that is needed is the caller's location.

We hope that the need for use will never arise, however in the unfortunate event that it should then we hope this vital piece of lifesaving equipment will give the best possible chance to save a life.



NOTES FROM THE CASE



Suffolk's first Co-operative Pub!

Tel: 01473 805575

<http://www.thecasepubbentley.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCaseBentley/>

email: chair@thecasepubbentley.co.uk



Our log burner is certainly earning its keep at the moment and we are really grateful it was installed all those years ago when the Case became a community pub. Perhaps last summer has made us all feel the cold a little more this winter! If you are feeling the cold then why not come and join us, you will always find a warm and cosy welcome.

Events and Clubs

Gradually, post Covid, life at the Case has found its new 'normal'. It seems hard to believe that almost 3 years ago we voluntarily closed our doors on Friday March 20 2020, just a few days before the first compulsory national lock down. We have been very fortunate that many of our volunteers have continued to support us and have enabled us to maintain some of our regular events during that time, especially when regulations were frequently changing. Now, more groups and clubs are returning to 'business as usual' and are keen to meet at the Case. Here is a run down of all the monthly and weekly events we support and provide to the community.

Open Mic Nights

These are held on the **second Thursday of each month**. All are welcome whether you are a performer or simply there to listen and watch. For more information contact Dave on 07885 963882. (The next two nights are **Thursday 9 February** and **Thursday 9 March**)

Quiz Nights

Our monthly Quiz Nights are held on the **last Saturday of the month** and are extremely popular. Test your knowledge against our quiz master. £2 entry per person, maximum team size 6. The winning team receives tokens to spend at the pub; the lowest scoring team get a wooden spoon! If you would like to set a quiz, contact Chris at cottage.garden@btinternet.com and we'll add you to the list. (**February 25 and March 25** are our next 2 dates for quiz nights.)

Craft Group

A knitting and handicrafts group meet at The Case on the **first and third Wednesdays** of each month, to knit, sew and chat together. Any craft activity, and all levels of skill and experience are welcome. 7pm to 9pm.

Book Group

Our local reading group meets at The Case on the **fourth Thursday** of each month, 7:30 pm start. They discuss the books they are reading and extend their range of genres and authors. The book group can usually arrange loan books through the county library, so you don't have to buy every book! For more information just come along to any meeting.

Games Nights

These run during the winter months, normally on the **second Saturday** from late autumn until spring. However, the next Games Night is being brought forward to **Saturday 4 February**. If you enjoy playing games such as Articulate, Balderdash, Bananagrams, Logo, Mexican Train, Nostalgia or Yahtzee (to name just a few of the games we have played), please come along and join in. If you've got a game that you think others might enjoy, please bring it along. Games start around 8pm.

If you have a group that would like to meet at the pub please talk to one of the bar volunteers or contact the chair.

More events for your diary:

Band and BBQ

February sees the return of more live music to the Case! On **Saturday 11 February**, to brighten your winter, we have the well known local band **Saving Grace** performing for us. The band starts around 8pm and the BBQ will be available at 9pm. We will be staying open a little longer than usual and last orders will be at 10:45pm. For more information see posters around the pub.

Food

On **Saturday 11 March** between 4.30pm and 7:30pm we welcome back **Dolly's Pizza Van**. As always pre-order your pizza by contacting Dolly on 07856 070123. For more information and menu, see their Facebook page or email fiona@dollyspizzavan.co.uk.

We will be hosting another local mobile food vendor on **Saturday 1 April**, the Real Thai Food in Hadleigh. To pre-order; call or WhatsApp 07951 613382. See their Facebook page or our website/Facebook page closer to the date for a menu. **Food can be eaten in the pub.**

Families welcome.

MUM

Sadly our weekly Meet Up Monday group has now finished. It was felt; coming out of Covid, there was insufficient need in our very supportive community for it to continue. We would like to give a special thanks to all those who, each week, brought along fresh home made cakes, biscuits and delicious savouries. It was fun while it lasted, although we are sure that if it was ever needed again it would return.

On going maintenance

Over the next few weeks we will be redecorating the pub through out. This will usually take place on Monday and Tuesday mornings. If you would like to help with this or any of our other volunteer work please complete a volunteer form and hand in or contact cottage.garden@btinternet.com with your details.

Santa's Grotto

Finally we would like to add a huge 'Well done' to the members of Bentley PTA who, just before Christmas, organised such a successful 'Christmas Grotto' in the pub's garden. The children certainly enjoyed themselves, as did all the visiting parents and grandparents who kept warm inside the pub with a drink or two!

We hope to see you soon!



BENTLEY WILDLIFE NOTES

The English Oak Tree

Bentley has sadly lost two of its large mature Oak trees recently, at the hands of developers and landowners. One of the trees was at least 350 years old (as estimated by counting growth rings), the most recent 200 years by ring count. Unfortunately, neither was protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) although one was being fast-tracked to protect it.

Oak trees are important landscape and heritage features in the countryside and in the Village. There is an adage that an English Oak (*Quercus robur*) takes 300 years to grow, 300 years as a mature tree and 300 years to die. In the meantime, they are host to or provide sustenance for thousands of wildlife species – more than 400 insect species that live on their bark or foliage, those birds and others preying on them, and mosses, lichens and insects and fungi dependent on their fallen leaves and wood. The biodiversity they support increases with the age of the tree. In cutting down a mature tree you are betraying our ancestors who planted it, our current generation who enjoy such majestic features in the landscape, and the future generations who will have lost their heritage. A replacement oak will take many years to become a comparable specimen. At present the treescape of the East Anglian countryside is fast losing all its mature Ash trees, through Ash die-back, and in the last 50 years has lost nearly all its English elms, so beloved of John Constable, through Dutch Elm disease. Firs and Silver birches are temporarily pretty but do not offer a significant enduring statement.

Regrettably, with increased density of infill housing and with very small gardens there is seen to be less room for larger trees, and increasingly, it seems that further trees will be seen to be ‘in the way’ of development. **Michael Bamford**



Bentley Village Playing Field Boundary - Habitat Protection

Grateful thanks to those who respect and look after the habitat around the edge of our village playing field. In recent years, trees and shrubs have been planted, bird and bat boxes have been erected, and the boundary improved by introducing wildflower seed, all helping to increase biodiversity.

Regrettably, however, in the last couple of years, branches have been broken off the large Buddleia (Butterfly bush) which grows alongside the storage container thus reducing the number of flowers and the nectar they produce that butterflies feed on. In summer, butterflies that have been seen feeding at these Buddleia flowers include Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Comma, Peacock, Meadow Brown, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White and Gate Keeper.

We respectfully ask that the playing field boundary habitat is protected for wildlife.

Colin Hawes

Photos of Comma butterflies on Buddleia bush and Peacock butterfly by Bob Munday



NEWS FROM BENTLEY & COPDOCK PRIMARY SCHOOLS



<http://www.bentleycopdock.co.uk/>

[Bentley Primary 01473 310253
admin@bentley.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bentley.suffolk.sch.uk)

[Copdock Primary 01473 730337
admin@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk)



January has seen a welcome return to school following the festive break. We have continued with swimming at both schools and after school clubs in the shape of dance at Bentley and Lego at Copdock. The month has concluded with a Basketball tournament for our older children.

Adders class along with Foxes class at Copdock, have spent January polishing their singing skills ready for their trip to the OVO Arena at the beginning of February to join in with 'Young Voices'. Our year 5s will be visiting St Joseph's College at the end of February to take part in some Arts Workshops.

Children and staff at Bentley reflected on the importance of life's journey as part of our Epiphany Prayer Space Day. We reflected on the past year and explored the many questions they had about their future life. A range of activities promoted deeper thinking about our own lives as well as what it is like to 'be in someone else's shoes'. The children really enjoyed trying on a range of shoes, considering who they might belong to and if we could really tell what that person was like just by their shoes. We all agreed it was important not to judge a book by it's cover! Having made crowns during this special day, it was lovely to wear them as part of our celebration in a service at St Mary's Church with our families. Thank you to the children who enacted the visit from The Kings and our Open the Book Team for sharing the story from the Bible.



Have you ever considered becoming a School Governor? We are particularly looking for someone with experience in business and finance. If you are interested why not contact either school office or our chair of governors, Mr Simon Hurst, for more information simon.hurst@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk

BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

The 100 Club for Bentley Primary school winners are as follows -

September -

1st - Craig Wardley

2nd - Ken Felgate

3rd - Diann Goodwin

October -

1st - Michael Balaam

2nd - Alf Burton

3rd - G & L Daynes

November -

1st - Verity McAvoy

2nd - Katie Coke

3rd - Jill Mills

December -

1st - Jane Day

2nd - Lee Kayne

3rd - Kris Finlayson

Congratulations to all the winners!

Best wishes

PTA

Thank you to all of the villagers who supported the Bentley School Christmas Fayre and Santa's grotto at the Case in December. The event was a great a success and we hope you all enjoyed it.

We raised an incredible £830.48! We really appreciate all of your support for our fantastic village school.

The Bentley School PTA

BENTLEY (SUFFOLK) HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On 17 February 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Luci Skinner will speak on Hemorocallis (Day lilies) and on 17 March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Matt Oliver from Hyde Hall and Katrina Miller RHS will talk on "Growing unusual vegetables in unusual places".

OUTING

The Society has arranged an outing to CHARTWELL in Kent – the former home of Winston Churchill. There is, at the time we are going, thousands of daffodils in the gardens and open areas. Also there is an exhibition in the house and studio. The property is National Trust. More information is available on the website.

Details -

The coach will leave the Village Hall at 9am, return anticipated to be 5.30pm

The coach will cost £18

Entry to the gardens, house and studio will be £18 for nonmembers of the National Trust for whom entry will be free on production of proof of membership i.e Valid membership card to swipe on entry.

Non members will be required to pay the entry fee to the Treasurer as this has to be paid as a lump sum by the Society on arrival.

There is a cafe on the site and we are required to advise likely numbers in advance for catering purposes.

This outing is open to anyone so please support this and notify your details to me, Pam Lovell on 01473 311335

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Bentley Parish Council Meeting took place at Bentley Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 5 January 2023 – preceded by a Playing Field Society meeting.

Planning – One planning decision was received.

Councillors gave no comment on two Planning applications and recommended refusal for the third. The Brockley Wood Gravel site was also discussed – The Arboricultural & Review of Air Quality Environmental Impact Assessment Reports received after closing date are to be commented upon.

Reports were received from County Councillor Georgia Hall, District Councillor Dave Busby, Footpath Warden, and Speedwatch Co-Ordinator.

Matters discussed:

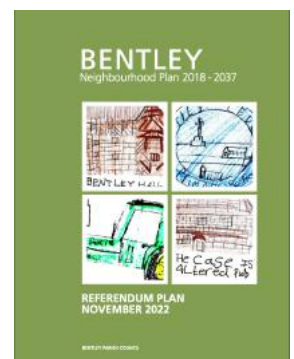
- Grants for insertion into the Budget were agreed
- Budget 2023/24 was agreed
- Precept remains the same £14,500 giving a Council Tax increase for 2023/24 of -2.11%.
- Six Month Accounts were approved
- Removal of Oak tree at Hazel Shrub was discussed
- Purchase of projector was agreed..
- WIFI at Village Hall
- Improvements to War Memorial –Bench & litter bin have been ordered
- Traffic calming – Both SIDs are working – No data has yet been received re ANPR
- Playing Field Society –Fireworks accounts finalised. Concerns re children jumping on Buddleia tree and breaking branches.

The meeting closed at 9.45p.m. Full draft minutes are available on the PC website - bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk (note updated website address)

Adoption of the Bentley Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2037

Many thanks to all who turned out in the cold to vote on 8th December.

Following a resounding 90% 'YES' vote for the Neighbourhood Plan, Babergh District Council have 'adopted' Bentley Neighbourhood Plan on 12 December 2022, as part of its statutory development plan. This means that our Neighbourhood Plan will be used to help determine planning applications in the parish unless material considerations indicate otherwise.



Read the adopted version of the Neighbourhood Plan here - <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Neighbourhood-Planning/Bentley-NP-Ref-Version.pdf>

Bentley Parish Council

BENTLEY STORES

Have you been to your Village Community Shop lately?

If not, everyone who visits is amazed at the quality and variety of well known brands for sale, fresh, tinned, frozen and chilled! We have welcomed so many new residents to our village but not everyone is aware of how well stocked we are. Any surplus benefits the village, as we are 100% owned by the village with no shareholders or paid staff. We are run by around 40 local volunteer residents.

“Buy Local” makes sense with the rising cost of fuel and in doing so supports your village and saves having to drive elsewhere. Reduce your carbon foot print!

Bentley “birds” and dogs

Bentley birds love our peanuts, suet balls and sunflower hearts (if you return the bags we can re-use them).

Pedigree Gravy bones are enjoyed by many dogs around the village with poo bags available for after!

Some other things we sell...

We recently had a few power cuts in the village, and yes, we do sell matches, AA batteries, firelighters and packs of “Four candles not Fork handles” and night lights which last 8 hours!

If you feel under the weather we stock Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, Anadin and a small range of other medication and Fisherman’s Friends for those dry throats!

Our Fruit and Veg buyers source a good range for healthy eating found in the outside Veg Box and inside in the Fruit and Veg Chiller.

2022 in numbers

For those who like numbers we have around 4000 stock items including 15 varieties of winter warming soups and we sold...

19,000 Eggs, 4903 milk, cheese and Yoghurts, 1334 Capel pies

2491 Loaves of bread and rolls from Capel Bakery,

705 Wholefoods from Manningtree. 1580 Broadland Ham and East End Butchers

392 Frozen foods. Local Bentley Honey, 107 items of dry cleaning

4009 Sweets and Biscuits, 744 Jams, Pickles and Sauces, 1116 tinned products.

3898 Fruit and Veg and 805 Household items even Toilet rolls!

7307 Newspapers are a service so we hope customers will also buy other things as we make no margin on papers.

2023 opening hours

Weekdays 9 to 1.30,

Saturdays 9 to 12noon, Sundays 9 to 11am

Info@bentleystores.co.uk, 01473 310735

CAPEL ST MARY LIBRARY

Suffolk Libraries Day - Save the dates

Between **4th March and Saturday 11th March** we will be holding events to help celebrate and raise funds for Suffolk Libraries Day, with the big day being on 11th March. On the 4th March we're delighted to welcome A Light Left On as our main act. They are a talented, upbeat and light-hearted trio (guitar, bass and piano) from sunny Clacton on Sea, playing original songs with a few cleverly chosen covers thrown in.

Support comes from The Lightning Club, a recently formed Suffolk based band for whom these will be their first public gigs - although don't worry, they've all played before and rehearsed a lot! Expect upbeat, original songs full of catchy melodies and harmonies. Also supporting is Rich Fuell, a talented singer and guitarist from Haughley, who will be playing a Beatles-infused set of covers. Tickets are £7 each and are available from the library. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start, the bar will be open and it promises to be an uplifting evening out.

Then on Suffolk Libraries Day itself, we are proud to welcome local author Nicky Moxey. Not only is Nicky amateur historian/archaeologist and talented jewellery maker, but she has also written two historical novels based locally in the 12th Century. Come along to hear all about those tails and learn about the history of our local lands. Tickets are available from the library at £5 each, the bar will be open. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30 start.

Pop into the library to find out what else we are getting up to for Suffolk Libraries Day.

Warm Spaces

We continue to offer a warm space to everyone. We have free tea and coffee, a kindness rack where you can take any item for free. IF you are stuck for anything to do which is free, join us on a Wednesday where we also have soup. Did you know that you can also use your library card to get online in the library? We have access to the BFI archive, local history and family history too. Come in, keep warm and find out about your past.

The Friends of Capel Library

One of the many things the Friends of Capel Library are famous for, are their fantastic Community Film Nights. Anyone can attend and all are welcome. Tickets are available from the library, and if you are a member of the Friends Group, then you even get discounted tickets, the bar is open for you to purchase drinks too. At each film night, all attendees get to vote on which film they think should be shown the following night, so everyone has a say in what films get shown in Capel. If you have any suggestions on films you wish to see, speak to a member of the Friends Group on the night. Tickets are £4.50 in advance for Friends members and films are shown on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Tot Rock & Stay & Play During Term Time we hold Wordplay Sessions and Stay & Play. Our Wordplay session, Tot Rock is full of songs, rhymes and laughter. It is for all pre-schoolers and their parents and carers. Straight after we hold our Stay & Play session. We have toys for toddlers and a separate area for the babies, so they have their own toys and activity mats to play with. It is an opportunity for the children to play and the grown-ups to chat. There will even be free Tea & Coffee for the grown-ups. You are welcome to stop after Tot Rock or join us from 10am for Stay & Play.

Minecraft Children of all ages welcome and those under eight must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring with you your tablet or phone equipped with Minecraft Pocket Edition or Minecraft Windows 10 Edition. Try to remember to charge your device beforehand! Contact the library for more details.

Lego Every 4th Saturday we hold our Monthly Lego Club. It is £1.50 per child which includes a drink and a biscuit. Each month has a theme, but you can also build what you like. At the end of the session a prize is given to the most creative build, as voted for by fellow creators. So, join us 10.30-12.00 for some building fun.

Sunday Crafts is every week from 10.30 to 12.30. All children & families welcome, no booking is required and there is no charge. Come and get crafty at Capel Library.

OPENING TIMES

Monday:	Closed	Friday:	2.00pm-5.30pm
Tuesday:	9am-12.30 & 2.00pm-5.30pm	Saturday:	9.00am-3.00pm
Wednesday:	9am-12.30	Sunday:	10.00am-3.00pm
Thursday:	9am-12.30		

THE FRIENDS OF CAPEL LIBRARY

The Friends of Capel Library 100 Club

December draw

£25 Mary Woods

£10 Simon Low

£5 Anne Ratford

Special draw £20 each

Sandra Bumphrey

Mark Harman

Marion Fisher

Prizes can be collected from The Library. Application forms for 2023 membership - new and renewal - are available from The Library. Thank you for your support. **Bob Perkin**

Citizens Advice Column

As the weather has turned colder, I've noticed mould and damp in our flat. It's mainly in our bedroom, including some black mould on the carpet. I've been chasing our letting agency, who say they'll speak to our landlord. I'm really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn't up for eight months, what can I do?



It's good that you've already raised the issue with your letting agency. Unfortunately, it isn't always easy to work out the cause of mould or damp. This can make it difficult to work out if your landlord is responsible, unless there's an obvious cause, like a leaking roof.

There are many causes of damp that properties can get. The most common are rising, penetrating, construction and condensation damp. On our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk there is information that may help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do. Check your tenancy agreement too for mentions of repairs and damp and reach out to Citizens Advice on anything you're unsure about.

A landlord will have to act in relation to damp if it makes the property unsafe for someone to live in. This could be for example, if it is making the tenant or a member of their family ill. The landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, like if heaters are broken. If the damp has damaged items that the landlord is responsible for, such as carpets and window frames, they'll likely have to cover the cost of repairs.

One of the most common causes of damp is condensation. To prevent this, it's important to keep homes well-heated and well-ventilated, but for a lot of people this will be trickier to do given the colder weather and higher heating costs. You may be eligible for help to insulate and heat your home and should visit our website to find out more.

On our website we also have advice on things that can make damp worse and may impact the landlord taking responsibility for repairs. These include drying clothes on heaters or blocking air vents.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your property but doesn't act, there are steps you can take, such as reporting them to the local authority. If you're in social housing, you might also be able to use the landlord's formal complaints procedure. There is more information about this on our website. If it reaches the point where you want to get out of a fixed term tenancy agreement early, do speak to an adviser first, as there might be better ways to approach the issue.

For information and advice on this or anything else, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call Sudbury and District Citizens Advice on 01787 321400 and leave a message and someone will call you back when available. We will attempt three times to call you back, so please expect a call from a withheld number. Alternatively, contact us via email at advice@sudburycab.org.uk or by using the contact facility on our website, <https://www.sudburycab.org.uk/contact>

We are providing advice by telephone and email Monday – Thursday, 10am – 3pm.

BENTLEY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6)

Weekly Services

Prayer and Bible Study – Tuesdays 7pm
Sunday at 10.45 am and 3.00 pm – Worship Services

For further information:
Telephone Admin: 07814 465222
www.bentleyreformedbaptistchurch.com
e-mail: info@bentleyreformedbaptistchurch.com
Or find us on Facebook

In lists of the world's most powerful people, the top names are mostly political leaders and super-rich business people. However, all of these have only limited power - there are many, many things they cannot do, and, like the rest of us, they will all eventually face death. God, on the other hand, is of unlimited power. He created the whole universe from nothing, simply by speaking. "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made" (Psalm 33v6). He also sustains and governs all things. But the greatest demonstration of God's power is the Gospel, by which sinners (as all of us are) are brought to salvation and new life in Jesus Christ by believing and trusting in Him. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" (Romans 1v16)

We would be delighted to see you at one of our services, where you will hear more about this great Gospel.

If you would like a FREE Bible (King James version), please do get in touch.

Be assured of our continued prayers for the people of Bentley.

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To Timber

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TRADERS



'Mad as a March hare' is the saying but where did it come from? It refers to the seemingly erratic boxing displays of hares in March, as they begin to exhibit mating behaviour. Most people would assume that boxing is the courtship display of male hares, eager to prove themselves a worthy mate to females. In fact it is the females who instigate boxing as a way to fend off the mating urges of the males

Hares are usually solitary creatures but come March/April time, you can see females standing on their hind legs and boxing like champions, giving male hares the unmistakable message, 'no, thank you.'

The brown hare, as shown in the photo, is the most common and you're most likely to see these on arable farmland and large, flat expanses of grassland.
<https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/mammals/guide-to-march-hares/>

Photo taken by Michael Bamford.

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