

By the time your magazine is delivered there will be less than one week to the general election. I am sure that many people will breath a sigh of relief that all the hype is over and we await the final outcome.

We have more information regarding the mast, this month. Following on from the recent poll conducted in the village many residents attended the last Parish Council meeting. All members of the council stand by their original decision, that the best place for the mast is at the Waterboard site, and that to suggest it be moved to another area in the village could mean that it becomes even closer to homes. It would appear that the only hope now of a satisfactory solution to this issue will be if our M.P. can persuade Orange to respect the view of the majority of residents to move the mast to more than 500 metres from any homes. I feel that this subject has now been fully aired unless new evidence or further applications are made to erect a mast.

Also at the Parish Council meeting one gentleman expressed grave concerns regarding a recent spate of burglaries. Several had taken place at the Plough Road Centre. Surely someone must hear something going on. Please, if you see or hear anything suspicious, ring the police. As our new Beat Officer states, it's better to have a false alarm than let these incidents go undetected. It is up to all of us to be vigilant.

Please note that the next Parish Council meeting, on 12th May, is preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting when, as ever, you are invited to attend, and express your views.

We try to keep up with all of the text that you submit and we are always grateful for early contributions which allow the editor to try her hand at typing up some of the articles!

Over the next month or two the judges for the Best Kept Village Competition will be touring the County. They will not just be looking for "beauty" but for community involvement as well. We were runners up last year in our category. Please try and keep the village litter free and looking at its best.

The weather should improve before too long, we hope. I have heard a nightingale singing already, so hopefully summer is on its way. On second thoughts, it's the start of the village cricket season so watch out for snow, hail, etc! Good luck to the two teams and if you would like to join them they would be delighted to hear from you.

Mary Maskell

## DISCLAIMER

Neither the Vicar, Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council, nor the Editor take responsibility for the information given or views expressed in the Great Bentley Parish News. Nor is any culpability accepted in work undertaken by advertisers.

## CONTENTS

Editorial .....	1
Vicars Letter .....	2
Deadline .....	2
Church services .....	3
St Mary's Rotas .....	4
Thank you .....	5
Police Report .....	6
Post Office News .....	7
What's On .....	8
Birthdays/Congratulations ..	10
Surgery News .....	12
Pet's Corner .....	13
Wildlives .....	14
Cookery Corner .....	17
Peter's Potterings .....	18
Quiz .....	21
Clubs & Organisations ..	23
Children's Page .....	24
Letters .....	25/26
Parish Council .....	29/30
Allotments .....	31
Cricket Fixtures .....	18
Pages from the Past .....	32
Football .....	34

## FRONT COVER

Great Bentley  
Allotments  
See page 31

## **The Monthly Letter May 2005**

Dear Friends,

Spring is here again! People in Church Ministry don't have to rely on the blossom as a sign of this, although it was lovely to see so many of you celebrating new beginnings at Easter with a church full of people and Spring flowers. Despite the clocks moving forward, people flocked to our churches to celebrate the loving commitment Jesus shows to us and to respond to his love with love.

Vicars and Pastors know it's Spring because the 'phone keeps on ringing with enquiries about weddings. Maybe it's the nesting season for human beings too! There seems to be something about Spring which make people want to celebrate new beginnings by making or renewing their loving commitments to each other. Many of them have been an item for some time but they still want to give full value to the love that has grown between them, to thank God for it, and to celebrate it. We really look forward to those 'phone calls!

Another opportunity to celebrate and respond to God's love is at our Confirmation Services. The main Church of England one for this area in 2005 will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July (provisionally in St. James's, Brightlingsea, with the Bishop of Colchester that afternoon). It has been lovely to see people of all ages coming forward for Confirmation in recent years. Some have been very new to the church. Others have been around for years. What they have in common is their sense that the time is now ripe for them to make a new beginning and celebrate their loving relationship with God in Jesus. Some informal groups will be getting together to prepare for the C. of E. Confirmation soon. David Bavister tells me that the Methodist equivalent, Membership Classes, will begin this month too. Please let us know if you are interested. We would love to hear from you.

With all good wishes,  
Bernard Metcalfe (Church of England Vicar)

### **DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE**

**MONDAY 16th MAY 2005**

**ALL material to Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green, 250524**

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

Subject - Parish Magazine

e-mail: carolann@pncallington.f9.co.uk - Subject: Parish Magazine

**Text only please - no pictures or graphics**

**EARLY COPY WOULD BE APPRECIATED**

# SERVICES AND EVENTS IN GREAT BENTLEY DURING MAY 2005

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

Seekers every Monday during term time -  
Church Vestry Room 3.30-4.30pm

Bell Ringing Practice every Monday - 7.30pm

Choir Practice every Thursday - 7.30pm

### SUN 1ST SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - ST PHILIP & ST JAMES

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist and Sunday School

Mon 2nd 3.30pm No Seekers on Bank Holiday

Tue 3rd 7.30pm Deanery Synod at St Paul's, Clacton

Wed 4th 10.00am Holy Communion

### THUR 5<sup>TH</sup> ASCENSION DAY

7.00am Hymn Singing from the top of the Church Tower,  
followed by breakfast in the Vestry Room

7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Commissioning of the new PCC

8.00pm PCC in the Vestry Room

### SUN. 8TH SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist for all the Church Family

Wed 11th 10.00am Holy Communion

2.15pm Bentley Bears

### SUN. 15TH PENTECOST - CHRISTIAN AID WEEK BEGINS (15TH - 21ST MAY)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Eucharist and Sunday School

Mon. 16<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Archdeacon's Visitation at Mistley

Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Holy Communion

### SUN. 22ND TRINITY SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Word and Worship Service for all the Church Family

Wed. 25th 10.00am Holy Communion.

Sat 28th 11.30am Wedding

3.30pm Service of Thanksgiving

### SUN 29TH FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am Holy Communion

11.00am United Benefice Sung Eucharist at Thorrington

Mon 30th 3.30pm No Seekers on Bank Holiday

## GREAT BENTLEY METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

We welcome you to worship with us during May.  
Morning worship will normally be held at 10.30am.  
The leaders of worship are set out below:

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** Members of our Church family  
will conduct worship

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** Barbara Fookes

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** Pastor David Bavister

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Rev Paul Stallard, Walk through  
the Bible - Family Service

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** United service at Weeley to  
celebrate their Church Anniversary

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

**Ring these numbers for more information**

Luncheon Club Alternate Tuesdays 12 Noon 251330

Parent & Toddlers Group Thursdays 9-15 a.m. 250431

Bowls Club Alternate Thursdays 2 p.m. 250431

Junior Adventurers Fridays 7 p.m. 250087

### **Luncheon Club welcomes new members.**

The Club meets every other Tuesday for a fully  
cooked meal. There is a very friendly atmosphere  
and if you cannot manage to walk to the Methodist  
Church, transport can be arranged. Couples or single  
people are all welcome. The meal costs £2.

Please ring Joan Fookes 250431 or

Brenda Gourley 251330 for more details.

### **Lunches on 12th and 26th May**

**Church Membership Group** for those  
interested in finding more about the Methodist Church  
and for those interested in becoming Church members.  
7.30pm Wednesdays May 13<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ST MARY'S CHURCH  
ROTAS FOR  
MAY 2005**

**SIDESPERSION'S ROTA**

**Sunday 1st May - 6th Sunday of Easter**

Sidespersons - Pat & Luke Berriman  
Intercessions - Mike Brown

**Thursday 5th May - Ascension Day**

**Sunday 8th May - 7th Sunday of Easter  
(Sunday after Ascension)**

Sidesperson - Janet Strutt

**Sunday 15th May - Pentecost**

Sidespersons - Donald Walker  
Intercessions - Wendy King

**Sunday 22nd May - Trinity Sunday**

Sidespersons - Peter & Carole Allington

**Sunday 29th May - Sung Eucharist at Thorrington**

**COFFEE ROTA**

1st Pat & Luke Berriman

8th Nicky Justice

15th Graham & Auriol Thornton

22nd Wendy Smith/Karen Williams

29th Service at Thorrington

**CLEANING ROTA**

7th Penny Metcalfe

14th Auriol Thornton

21st Nicky Justice

28th Olive Wright/Chris Aplin

**BAPTISMS**

17th April Emily-Jane King

17th April Andrew Aaron Coppin,  
Shantel Marie Coppin,  
Shelby Louise Coppin,  
Victoria Elizabeth Ann Coppin,  
Billy-Jo Coppin

**WEDDING**

**28th May** Neil Andrew Watts & Amy Victoria  
Thorpe

**THANKSGIVING**

**28th May** Brian & Mary Davis

**FUNERALS**

6th April Chris Simpson

14th April Bill Clayton

e  
l  
t  
e

y  
s  
o

## THANK YOU

### Animal Bedding

The inmates at the Colne Valley Animal Rescue Centre have continued to benefit from the kindness of folk in and around the village. People's generosity has been so great however that Judy and I have been able in the last few months to help other animal charities with bedding for rescued pets. These include: Clacton Animal Aid in Little Clacton, the RSPCA Danaher Centre at Wethersfield, The Blue Cross Re-homing Centre in Felixstowe, Street Cats Welfare in Tottenham and Mistle Place Park for their dog rescue. We have also been able to provide donated duvets to The North Essex Horse Rescue Unit and newspapers to Wildlives both in Thorington and pillow slips to Beryl at Cats Cradle in Great Bentley for her rescued kittens. The woollen blankets that are knitted so beautifully by Betty, Pam and Judy go to Brenda at Alesford Cat Rescue and our own Cats Hospice in the village where they are much appreciated and well used. Donations of pet food are distributed amongst most of the above charities and items donated for sale benefit the PDSA and the Horse Rescue Unit and the small but welcome amounts of cash received help with the huge vets bill at the Colne Valley Rescue. We are most grateful to all who have helped us in any way and on behalf of the rescued animals and those who care for them thank you very much.

**Alan Bishop, 23 Cedar Way, tel: 251702**

\* \* \*

Nellie and family wish to send their friends in Great Bentley, heartfelt appreciation for the cards, floral tributes and most generous charity donations received in memory of "our Beloved Chris".

The theme running through all the messages reads, "What a kind gentle and loving man he was", and "he had a smile for whoever he met".

By way of his profession as a fireman for 30 years, he was a brave man who saw many tragedies. He was well loved by his family and his fellow man. The love which was shown by all his friends in Great Bentley, at the Service of "Celebration of his Life" was greatly appreciated by everyone there.

Great Bentley is a wonderful friendly village, in which to live. Our blessings to you all.

**Nellie Simpson**

\* \* \*

### Peter Tanton

Lois and family would like to thank all friends for their kind messages of support and sympathy and generous donations. We would also like to thank everyone who attended Peter's funeral. Thank you all once again.

**Lois Tanton**

## DAVID MATTHAMS

What a marvellous village we all live in. As most people will have known, David had been ill for a long time and the help and support that I received from so many people in the village during this time was a great comfort. To say "Thank You" seems so totally inadequate for all the cards, messages of sympathy and flowers that I received after David's death, but I would like to especially name and thank the following.

Roger and Bev Adams, Michael Dorling and Tony and Clare White; to Michael for the superb article in the Parish Magazine. I was laughing and crying at the same time. (So many people have spoken to me since the article was printed and said that that was David peering over his glasses).

Also thank you to Doctors Hunt, Cavanagh and Steiner for always being there for David and myself and all the District Nurses, and of course Richard Welby (Hospice Home) and his team, and the McMillan Nurses. (For the last two weeks David was in St Helena Hospice and their care and support for David, my family and myself was outstanding).

Over 100 people attended David's funeral, which totally overwhelmed my daughters and myself and the address given by Reverend Bernard Metcalfe was beautiful.

Last but not least I would like to express my gratitude to my work colleagues at Bentley Fire Shop, especially June, Kate, Jean, Sue and Gordon for being there for me over the last year.

The money that was donated to St Helena Hospice totalled £470 and £75 to Cancer Research.

Once again thank you so very, very much to everyone.

**Lillian Matthams**

### BILL CLAYTON

My sincere thanks to everyone who has supported our family during Bill's illness. He received such wonderful help from the whole medical team and from Bernard and many friends. We were truly upheld by so many prayers. The whole family appreciated the presence of so many people in church at the service of thanksgiving for his life and at the burial in our lovely churchyard.

Our thanks also to the undertakers for their sensitivity and to Hector for his work, to Rita for all her help and for the flower arrangements, which were beautiful.

I would also like to pay tribute to everyone who took part in the service; those who led the worship; the musicians, those who read and those who shared their memories. It was wonderful to hear the bells ring out in thankfulness for Bill's life - he would have been amazed!

Last but certainly not least my thanks for all that my family have done and are doing.

**God bless you all.**

**Myrtle Clayton**

\*The donations in Bill's memory are being sent to the MacMillan Nurses and the Marie Curie Nursing Service. Thank you.

# POLICE REPORT

# NATURAL HEALTH QUESTIONS

Hello to all you good people of Bentley Parish. I am Pc 777 Danny Harris and I have been appointed as your new local beat officer. I have recently returned to Brightlingsea Police Section after spending a short time in Clacton on the problem solving team. I have worked on the Brightlingsea section for 8 years so I have good local knowledge of the area.

I have listed the following incidents that have occurred in the Gt Bentley and Lt Bentley area since 1st January 2005.

- 29 X calls on Youths causing a general nuisance.
- 29 X incidents for police information only. (These incidents are of general interest to police officers for example a person who may be a drink driver or a disqualified driver or somebody who wishes to inform us they are going away on holiday).
- 3 X violent crimes. (This includes domestic assaults)
- 6 X Thefts from motor vehicles

- 1 X Theft of motor vehicle.
- 6 X Road Traffic Accidents
- 2 X Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicles.
- 3 X violent crimes. (This includes domestic assaults)
- 1 X General Theft
- 6 X Thefts from motor vehicles
- 2 X Burglaries from houses
- 1 X Theft of motor vehicle.
- 2 X Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicles.
- 46 X Miscellaneous. (This is incidents of a general nature like
- 1 X General Theft

- 2 X Burglaries from houses place to live.
- 3 X commercial burglaries
- 46 X Miscellaneous. (This is incidents of a general nature like neighbours disputes, concern for somebody's welfare or house alarms).

Also with the summer months looming do not go out of your properties leaving windows open, most thieves are opportunists so DON'T give them a chance. Bentley is still a nice safe place to live. (This is incidents of a general nature or against property, so rather than a burglary).

I would like to remind people NOT to leave valuable items on display in their cars. In one such incident where a car was broken into in Brightlingsea on 20th March I was present on the scene. Also with the summer months looming do not go out of your properties leaving windows open, most thieves are opportunists so DON'T give them a chance. Finally if you see anybody hanging around you are not happy with, please report it at the time, not two or three days later. We would rather turn up to a false alarm rather than a burglary.

I am contactable at Brightlingsea on 01206 302515. I will prepare the next report in July covering the months April, May and June. Please take care.

**Pc Danny Harris**

Answered by Caz West, Registered Homeopath at Natural Remedies, Brightlingsea. Danny Harris and I have been appointed as your new local beat officer. This month it's all about oils one way or another! I have good local knowledge of the area.

*Q. My daughter is several months into her pregnancy and would like to use essential oils to relax etc. Which ones are safe and which should she avoid? A person who is of general interest to police officers for example A person who ones are safe and which should she avoid?\*)*

A. Whatever oils you choose, if you are pregnant or breastfeeding it's a good idea to dilute them more than is usually recommended. A reasonable guide is 2 drops of essential oils to 10ml of carrier oil for use in massage, and 4 or 5 drops in a full bath of water. Some companies put warnings on all their oils as a matter of policy, but CHAMOMILE, GERANIUM, LAVENDER, NEROLI, and ROSE are often recommended during pregnancy for their positive effects on the mind. It's best to steer clear of the more unusual oils, but some quite common names are also on the list to be avoided. These may be irritants or have hormonal properties and include BASIL, FENNEL, PEPPERMINT, CLARY SAGE, SAGE, CINNAMON, JUNIPER, ROSEMARY, CEDARWOOD, MARJORAM, THYME and CLOVE. Other ways to use essential oils: Put one drop on a handkerchief to inhale or shake up a few drops with water in a plant sprayer and use as a room freshener. Electric diffusers and candle burners can work well, or you could simply put a few drops in a bowl of hot water in a closed room for a few minutes to scent the atmosphere.

*Q. I'm confused when it comes to good fats and bad fats in the diet. What is the difference between omega oils and essential fatty acids?\*)*

A. Essential fatty acids (EFAs) are a group of unsaturated fatty acids essential for growth and body function. These include Omega 6 oils which help to prevent blood clots, keep the blood thin, reduce inflammation and joint pains, and Omega 3 oils which help to lower blood pressure, reduce heart disease, alleviate skin problems, increase immune function, improve energy and ease rheumatoid arthritis. Saturated fats from animal products and 'trans fats' from hydrogenated vegetable oil in margarine, crisps etc. tend to have the opposite effect in all these areas. It's a question of balance, so make sure you get your Omega 6 from fresh nuts and seeds, grains, evening primrose or starflower (borage) oil. Omega 3 is in oily fish such as mackerel, sardines and salmon. If you don't want to eat fish you can take flax oil or an omega oil mix in capsules, or use the oil as a dressing on your food. Heating these oils destroys their properties, so use olive oil for cooking. It contains Omega 9, which is not generally classed as an EFA but can still have health benefits for the heart as seen in the Mediterranean diet.

# FRIENDS OF THE GREEN

## GREAT BENTLEY OPEN GARDENS DAY SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005.

For just one day forget about car parking for the surgery, the rights and wrongs of that mobile telephone mast and the increasing problem of protecting life and limb while crossing the road in our grid locked (or soon to be) village and visit the beautiful gardens on **Great Bentley Open Gardens Day**.

All the proceeds will be used to improve the Green and open spaces around your village, so come along and help make it a really super day. Gardens are open from 11.00am 'til 6.00pm and programmes can be obtained from the Caravan on the Green.

**Ben Harris.**  
**Hon. Secretary.**

## CARNIVAL & FETE SATURDAY JUNE 25TH

Just a little reminder that if you have any crockery or books, or can bake any cakes for our refreshment tent/ cake stall, we would be very grateful as it is hard to just rely on committee members when putting on such a large event. We can collect. We need more entrants for the procession so if you can think of anything on a theme of '60 years of peace', which could be from any decade, get an entry form from me or give me a ring with details. Does anybody know of any bands or musical items that would be able to take part in the procession? Again, let me know if you do. Final details and times etc. next month.

**Bev Adams - 250724**

**Our Carnival Court for 2005 are:**

**Queen Chloe Springall**  
**Princesses Fay White and Sammy-Jo Harris**

**They will attend a number of Carnivals during the summer. We are always looking for willing people to tow our Queen and Court. If you have a tow bar and are free on Saturdays and would be willing to tow the court please contact Jackie Plummer on 01206 251629**

## BEWARE .....

It is generally accepted that elderly person's homes are much more likely to be targeted by bogus callers and 'dodgy' salesmen. So, the idea is to alter the front of their home to create the impression that younger people live there. This can easily be achieved by placing a toy or two in the front window. You never know, if it prevents one person from suffering the misery of a burglary or con, then its worked.

**Barclays Bank**  
**Beware if you receive an email stating the following...**

Dear Barclays Member,

This email was sent by the Barclays server to verify your email address. You must complete this process by clicking on the link below and entering in the small window your Barclays Membership number, passcode and memorable word. This is done for your protection - because some of our members no longer have access to their email address and we must verify it. To verify your email address and access your bank account, click on the link below." There is then a link to a web site purporting to be Barclays Bank.

**I have now contacted Barclays Bank who confirm that this is a scam.**

**Calvin Heal**  
**Essex Police Crime Prevention**

## POST OFFICE NEWS

Firstly, we would like to thank the people who telephoned the police a couple of weeks ago when an incident occurred outside the Post Office. Fortunately it was a false alarm but after all the problems in Post Offices and small shops throughout Essex and Suffolk recently, you can never be too sure.

From 31st March we stopped selling MVL car tax stamps. Any stamps you have already saved can still be used up to the end of next March. In place of these stamps you can now purchase £5 Post Office Savings Stamps. These stamps can also be saved and used towards other bills, ie your telephone bills, gas or electric bills. The £2 TV savings stamps can still be purchased to enable you to save for your TV licence.

In the Press and on TV recently there have been reports of people having to pay to withdraw cash from Post Offices. **This would only happen if the Post Office has a privately owned cash machine and we do not have one here. Any withdrawals made over the counter with our partner banks, ie Lloyds TSB, Alliance & Leicester, Barclays, Co-op, Cahoot, Smile and Bank of Ireland, are all free of charge.**

**Ray and Julie**

**SCOUT/GUIDE H.Q. NEWS**

**STRAWBERRY FAYRE**

**on**

**SUNDAY MAY 22nd**

**2.30pm - 4.30pm**

**on the H.Q. Grounds**

Various Games and Stalls

Bouncy Castle

Why not come along for an afternoon  
of family fun and Games

Strawberry Cream Teas

Money raised will be for the H.Q. fund

A chance for you to see how the H.Q.  
is progressing

**DON'T FORGET THE BEETLE DRIVE  
ON SATURDAY APRIL 30th at 6.30pm.  
Scout/Guide H.Q.**

**See next month's magazine for the Smartie  
tube and walk results**

Great Bentley Pre-School Proudly presents ...

An Evening of Music & Comedy

*Featuring top comedian Billy Hunter  
and Live Music from Sunflower Valley*

*Date 14th May 2005*

*Doors open 8.00pm - Late*

*Venue: Gt Bentley Village Hall*

*Plus:-*

*Stand-Up Bingo*

*Auction Proceeds to the African Appeal  
Licensed Bar*

*Ticket price £10 per head (inc. Ploughmans)*

*For tickets call Carla 01206 255029 or*

*Kerry -1206 252139*

*Call today to book your tickets for an absolutely  
jam packed evening of laughter and music*

**COFFEE MORNING**

**Great Bentley Methodist Church**

**Friday 6th May**

**10.00am - 12 noon**

**There will be various stalls  
and competitions**

**Proceeds for Church Funds**

**Bentley Green Players**

*Present a Comedy Thriller*

**Tiptoe through  
the tombstones**

by

Norman Robbins

To be held at  
Great Bentley Methodist Church Hall

Thursday 12th, Friday 13th  
and Saturday 14th May 2005

Starting at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets available from The Post Office

Price £5.00 each

**COLCHESTER UNITED  
COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST  
New Beginning for Tendring**

**The Tendring area now has an extra special bus service courtesy of the Colchester United Community Sports Trust who pulled up to the Great Bentley Village Green on Wednesday and launched their latest innovative project, the “New Beginnings” bus.**

The £100,000 project which is funded by the East of England Development Agency, the Learning and Skills Council and supported by Dream100 was formally launched by local MP, Ivan Henderson. He was presented with his free “Adult Return” to learning ticket as he jumped aboard to take a closer look at the fantastic superb opportunity now open to adult’s right across the Tendring area.

This fantastic new bus has a re-fitted interior with state-of-the-art technology designed to help encourage adults back into a learning environment and providing them with a stepping stone back into the education system.

The Sport’s Trust’s Education and Study Support Officer, Paul Miles has been working tirelessly on the project for the last two years and was delighted to finally see the bus on the road. He explained;

***“This project has been developed specifically to engage hard-to-reach and perhaps disillusioned learners and with a single-decker bus that has been converted to include full disabled access, as well as 10 ICT stations with internet connectivity and a presentation facility, we are hoping to get plenty of people on board.”***

This unusual resource, which is the first of its kind in Essex, will allow the Trust to offer a friendly and easily accessible route back into learning and Paul explained what people could expect to find when they get on the bus;

***“Well, we have taster sessions to help you brush up on your literacy & numeracy skills, computer games that help you get to grips with ICT, and also fun learning games and activities that will help demystify the idea of education and encourage a second visit, thus continuing your journey.”***

The bus will visit four locations for two hours every week until the end of May initially, with Harwich, Manningtree, Little Clacton as well as Great Bentley on the timetable allowing hundreds of adults to take a different route.

This fresh approach enables isolated or hesitant learners to improve their skills in a non-threatening environment until they are ready to follow their lifelong learning journey, wherever it takes them.

For further information on when the bus is coming to your area, visit the Community Sports Trust website, [www.cucst.org.uk](http://www.cucst.org.uk) or telephone Paul Miles on 01206 217195 or see posters in the village

**FOR SALE**

**Queen Anne Style  
Dining Table, 4 chairs  
and 2 carvers**

**£80.00 o.n.o.**

**Phone**

**01206 251242**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Happy 3rd Birthday  
**Bethany Houghton**

for 30th April

Lots of Love Daddy, Mummy and Nathan  
Grandma, Grandad, Auntie Lisa and Claire

## **DANIEL HOOPER**

Happy Birthday Daniel

May 17th

Love from Mum, Dad, Darren & Margie  
XXX

## **ROBIN HERBERT**

Congratulations to a dear son-in-law  
on your 40th Birthday on 5th May

All our love  
Mareyke & Clive  
XX

## **CLIVE HOLSON**

Happy Birthday to a dear husband Clive  
on May 12th

All my love  
Mareyke  
XXXX

## **A Very Happy 40th Birthday**

to my wonderful husband,

**Robin Herbert**

on the 5th May

Life Begins here and it can only get better.  
and I'm still 10 years younger than you!!!!!!!

All My love  
Lou XXXXXX

## **Happy 40th Birthday Daddy**

With lots of love and kisses

Leigh & Joe XXXX

## **Happy Birthday Pop, & Grandad Pop**

for the 12th May

Hope you have a good day

With Lots of Love  
from

Lou, Rob, Leigh & Joe XXXX

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

To Barbara Tricker for completing her sponsored  
walk and raising £900 for the hospice. See page 15.

Also to Goldie who completed her first London  
Marathon, raising over £1,000 for visually impaired  
children. See letter on page 32.

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION The Veteran's Badge**

This badge was produced for The Ministry of  
Defence for free issue to all veterans of the World  
Wars 1914-18, 1939-45. The M.O.D., was  
overwhelmed by the response to the offer and  
passed the problem of deliveries to the Royal British  
Legion.

In Essex the task was taken up by David Kliber the  
County Field Administrator. The badges were late in  
production but David has made short work of the  
deliveries. By now all the veterans who completed  
the application form should have received their  
badges.

Many of the veterans have been in contact with us  
and are pleased with the badge. In all 1,000 badges  
have been issued in Essex, some 80 of these  
through the Great Bentley RBL. We are writing to  
David to thank him for a job well done.

**Terry Newell**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

### **Georgie & Dale**

on your  
forthcoming  
Wedding  
on May 21st

Lots of love & best wishes  
from Lianda & Martin,  
Maxine & Michael

## GREAT BENTLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday 14th April the Society welcomed fellow member Mr Donald Walker who gave an illustrated talk entitled "As the Actress said to the Bishop". The basis of the talk was to confirm or deny the theory that actresses were no better than "the oldest profession" in years gone by.

Until the Restoration period the parts of women in the theatre were played by men or boys. When Charles II came to the throne he gave licence to open theatres with a stipulation that women should play the female parts. The new actresses needed a strong personality, quick wit, sexual attraction and a sponsor to protect them. The original theatres were rowdy places, lit with tallow candles, with an audience that talked and walked around during the performance. This information set the scene for the story of six famous actresses of this period.

**1. Nell Gwyn.** Originally Nell was an orange seller. She would be in the theatre facing the audience selling oranges for 6d each to the aristocracy who attended. She was invited to appear on stage and had a play written for her. This was a breeches part which allowed her to play a man and show part of her leg. Nell became mistress to the main actor, Charles Hart, but when she was 18 left the theatre to become mistress to Lord Epsom. This did not work out and she returned and was given small parts by Charles Hart. Buckingham and others wanted Charles II's current mistress out of the way and presented Nell to the Court. She stayed and within a year they had a son, called Charles. Another son, James, died aged 12 or 13. Nell was the only mistress of the King not to have a title but she was faithful to him. She suggested he open a home for retired soldiers (Chelsea Hospital) and a meeting place for inventors (Royal Society). When Charles II died his brother gave her a house in Pall Mall and Windsor but 3 years later she died aged 39 of a stroke.

**2. Kitty Clive.** Originally Katherine Rafter her father left her mother with many children and Kitty was sent into service where she was heard singing by the manager of the Drury Lane Theatre. She had a coy wit and played country maid and chambermaid parts. She married George Clive who was a lawyer and her protector, although they never lived together. Kitty was always complaining and as she became more famous she upset more people. When she got older she became stouter and the parts she had reflected this. She decided to show how important she was by announcing her retirement with the hope they would ask her to stay but they did not. Kitty retired to her house in Richmond where she died 18 years later. All her life she remained faithful to George Clive.

**3. Peg Wolfington.** Peg was born in the Dublin slums and her father died when she was young. Her mother ran a shop and Peg was noticed by a French woman who ran a Children's Theatre. Peg was given main parts and she taught herself to read and write. At a local theatre an actress had fallen ill and Peg leant the part in an afternoon and performed that night. The manager asked her to elope to London with him but when they got there he left her. Peg went to Covent Garden Theatre and became a success. From there she went to Drury Lane and fell in love with the manager, David Garrick. They had a house near the Theatre where she had lavish parties. She was not faithful and David married a dancer. Peg went to France and then to Ireland. She returned to Drury Lane three years later but collapsed on stage. Two years later she died, she was in her thirties.

**4. Sarah Siddons.** Sarah came from a theatrical background. Her parents were strolling players. When she was 15 the local squire proposed and her parents were pleased but Sarah was in love with a local actor, William Siddons. Her parents sacked him and sent Sarah into service but two years later they married and started up their own company. Sarah was a serious actress and David Garrick invited her to Drury Lane. This was 3 weeks after her second child was born and she forgot her lines. She was sent back to the provinces but 7 years later the new manager called her back and she was a success. Lady Macbeth was her most famous role. Her brother John Philip Kendall joined her 2 years later and they took over Covent Garden Theatre but in 1809 it caught fire and they lost everything, scripts, costumes, etc. The theatre was rebuilt but larger and Sarah decided to retire and her family continued to run the theatre. William died and a few years later Sarah.

**5. Dora Jordan.** Dora was one of 9 children. Her father left her mother and she farmed the 8 children out and took Dora to England. They went to York where Dora played Chambermaid parts and had a child. They both stayed with her mother. The manager of Drury Lane asked Dora to join the company where she met William Ford. He asked her to marry him but his father forbid it so they lived together and had 3 children. During the summer the theatres closed and Dora went to Cheltenham where George III was recovering with his family. Dora met the Duke of Clarence (William) and he asked her to be his mistress if he paid her £1,000 a year. She told William Ford with the hope he would marry her but he didn't so she lived with the Duke. They had 10 children in the 12/13 years they were together. The press made cartoons of them. Her stage name was Jordan and this was the English name for the chamberpot so you can guess the jokes. They moved to a house in Richmond and their children were called Fitz-Clarence. After 13 years Dora moved out and bought a house in Spring Gardens. She later went to France where she was cut off by all her family and friends and died there. Rumour has it that as the Duke had no legitimate heir they did not want Dora around to cause trouble.

**6. Ellen Terry.** Ellen came from a theatrical family and her sister Kate joined the Charles King Company. Ellen joined as a little girl and had charm and grace. Kate went to have her portrait done by W.G. Watts and he found Ellen charming and married her. He was 47 and she was 16. It was a mistake and she flirted with his guests so he sent her home. Two years later she met Mr Godwin, whom she had met at W.G. Watts' home, and they lived together and had two children, Edith and Edward. Their new surname was Gordon-Craig. They were not good together and they split up. Ellen married her leading man, Charles Kelly, after Watts divorced her. In the 1870's Mr Irving needed a leading lady and she played there every season. Charles became jealous and divorced her. As she became older she forgot her lines and she left and managed her own theatre where she launched her son, Edward. When in her 50s she fell for James Carrow, in his 20s, and went with him to America where he left her for a younger woman. Ellen returned to England. In 1925 she was made a Dame of the British Empire and died 3 years later.

**The Next Meeting will be on 12th May at 8pm in the Village Hall. Mr Bill Smith from the East Essex Aviation Museum will give a talk about its history and artefacts. Non members welcome.**

# SURGERY NOTES

It's great to see the sun and some warmer weather again. Long may they last. Being able to take the dogs for their evening walk in daylight gives me a real boost. Any day now, the swallows and house martins will be buzzing The Hollies again and I promise that this year we won't be doing any outside decorating to put the martins off nesting.

Holiday time is approaching and I guess that a lot of people will be thinking of heading off somewhere really exotic in the next few weeks. Just a word of warning though. At present, Yellow Fever vaccine is all but unobtainable, so before you book it's worth checking that this isn't one of the essential jabs. You might possibly find another Yellow Fever centre that still has stock, but we don't know when we will get it in again.

If you are going abroad and think that you might need jabs or anti-malarial drugs, please get a written report showing what you need from one of the recognised sources of up to date travel information before ringing us to book an appointment. Our nurses must have it before they give jabs or prescribe anti-malarials.

The three expert sources of travel information which we believe to offer proper advice are:-

**Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit: tel 0207 008 0232/0233**

**MASTA: tel 0906 5501 402**

**Travax: tel 0906 5500 059**

You can also access their websites to print off a report. Either way, there may be a small charge involved, but compared with the cost of your holiday it will be tiny and the advice you get might be a life-saver.

Whilst on the subject of vaccinations, anyone who will be 65 or over by 31st March next year is now eligible for a free pneumonia jab. (It was 75 or over until a few days ago.) If your age is right and you haven't had the jab yet, do book in for one. It only takes a minute, won't hurt even if you're a total wimp and could spare you a very nasty illness. For most people, the jab lasts a lifetime, so won't need repeating.

I've been specially asked to remind everyone that both the surgery and the pharmacy are closed on Saturdays these days. Our gardening guru, Betty Harvey, tells me that people still turn up at both doors hoping to be looked after. You can always get emergency medical treatment outside normal surgery hours by ringing the surgery telephone number which will automatically transfer you to the Primecare out of hours service. The pharmacy, however, is closed from 6.30pm on Friday until 9.00am on Monday.

I don't often blow the surgery's trumpet - you lot are usually kind enough to do that - but this month I am going to. The NHS year has just finished and it's the first time that we have been awarded points for achieving targets. These include clinical issues such as helping patients get their blood pressures or cholesterol levels under control, ensuring that we offer the right levels of service and various administrative matters.

I am delighted to say that we scored 97% of our available points which I reckon is pretty good. Congratulations to everyone here who worked so hard to achieve that result. We aren't going to be complacent though. Next year we want 100%. We are also still open to suggestions from patients about how we can improve things, so please do let me know if you spot something that we need to work on.

**Hugh Cronin**  
**Practice Manager**

# Pet's corner

We all know that cats when allowed outside, have a natural curiosity that leads them into trouble. Road accidents are the worst of these and as Vets we all see these on a regular basis. They are the fourth most common cause of death of cats in the UK. Cats killed are usually younger than those dying from other causes.

A recent survey was designed to try and identify risk factors - some of which are not too surprising but a few were maybe less expected. Nearly half of all accidents happened to cats aged between 7 months and 2 years. For every extra year a cat grows older, the chances of being involved in an accident decrease by 16%. Male (both entire and neutered) outnumbered females nearly 2:1. But entire tom cats were more at risk than neutered males. This was thought to be because an entire tom has a much larger territory, and a bigger range to wander in search of the fairer sex. Younger toms, however, do not have such a large range until they are over 2 years old, but by then they are getting less at risk of injury. So things don't entirely stack up here.

Pedigree cats are about a third less likely to be involved in road accidents compared to moggies. Perhaps owners keep them in more, especially at nights, but perhaps they are just not interested in the same behaviours as other cats. Maybe they just don't like roads! Black cats are often thought of as at increased risk as they are not seen so well, but coat colour did not make a great difference.

The time spent outdoors did not make a difference either, nor did the time that they had lived at that address (hence in familiar surroundings). But surprisingly enough a greater proportion of accident cats wore a reflective collar. The survey was only done on cats that survived road accidents, perhaps the non-collar wearers were less fortunate.

There was a greater trend towards accidents in the dark, but seasons of the year did not make a great deal of difference. In Australia a survey suggested that cats nocturnal ranges were greater than their diurnal ranges, and this larger distance travelled could increase the risk.

So a lot of questions as well as a few answers, and as always with surveys - more study is needed (how else do researchers stay in a job), but from experience the greatest risk factor of all for your cat is all in it's name.....just never call your cat "Lucky"!!

**MARK ALLINGTON**

## GARDENING CLUB COFFEE MORNING & PLANT SALE

Saturday 30th April  
Village Hall  
10.00am - 12 noon

## MOBILE POLICE UNIT

**MAY**

**Wednesday 11th  
Wednesday 25th**

**2.15pm - 3.45pm**

**Outside the Plough Inn**

## BLOOD DONORS

**Monday 16th May**

**Brightlingsea  
Community Centre  
13.30-16.00: 17.00-19.00**

## RECYCLING FOR MAY

Aingers Green

TUESDAY 10th

TUESDAY 24th

Great Bentley

FRIDAY 13th

FRIDAY 27th

# Wildlives

## Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre

'Catkins', Frating Road, Thorrington, Colchester C07 8HT

### Tiny Ollie on the road to recovery

Ollie fox was found just after his birth by a member of the public. Unfortunately she did not realise that vixens often transfer their cubs between earths if they are disturbed, and may sometimes drop one, but only temporarily. Ollie's mother would have come back for him, but, with good intentions, the lady who found him took him home, intending to rear him and keep him as a pet. Foxes do not make good pets, and this lady did not have the necessary knowledge to rear Ollie - 48 hours later he was near death. By the time she agreed to let him come to Wildlives, terrible damage had been done. He was severely dehydrated, and his whole body covered in burns from an unshielded hot water bottle. He was also drenched in milk, which made all his fur fall out. Happily for Ollie, he is now making brilliant progress, and will soon be joining our other fox orphans - Molly, whose mother did not return for her, and who was emaciated and covered in ticks, Echo, named for his loud cries that reverberated around the centre on his arrival from the seal and wildlife centre in Norfolk with a serious parasite infestation, and Patches, who was caught in a fence and sustained massive blood loss. Patches is currently unable to use his rear legs, which is hopefully tissue damage, but he also has a fractured growth plate and nerve damage on a foreleg. As he is very young, Wildlives hope that his youthful resilience will effect a recovery with time. He was named for his two yellow eye patches.

-- -

Primrose, a tiny Muntjac fawn only a day or so old, was found by some children in Colchester. The children picked her up as she was convulsing constantly. A lady saw the problem, and brought the deer to Wildlives. With a temperature of 106F, she was rushed straight to the vet for an IV drip. Despite both sedation and anaesthesia the convulsions continued, and a battery of tests failed to find the cause. As it was difficult to tell whether her temperature was causing the fits, or the fits causing her temperature, she was treated with a wide spectrum of possible causes. Eventually her temperature fell to a normal level and the fits stopped. When Wildlives are absolutely certain she is recovered, she will be transferred to the RSPCA hospital at East Wynch to be reared with another deer of her age.

A water rail was brought to Wildlives after having been found collapsed and taken to a local vet, and made a rapid recovery. As these are a very rare and elusive bird, she was rung by Simon Cox of the British Trust for Ornithology before being released into an ideal habitat for rails. A long eared bat arrived emaciated and with a heavy mite infestation. It was fostered by Rachel Kilby and later successfully released. The orphan room is now bulging with orphans of all shapes and sizes, especially now that the fledgeling birds have started to arrive.

## UP THE LINE TO LOWESTOFT - CONCLUDED

Well I finished it - and I do count myself incredibly lucky to be able to do this and to have such good friends to help me. There was never a day without at least one fellow walker and one day there were five.

The whole walk took twelve days and we pretty well followed the instructions in Roger Wolfe's booklet. I do recommend it. There were days when I ached all over and was very glad to be in the car or the train and on the way home. But although I often thought "This is ridiculous. What am I doing?" Having said I would do it I had to go on. It sounds like an enormous undertaking comparable to running the marathon, but of course it wasn't. I like walking, I enjoyed the company and the scenery and the sense of achievement.

We carried food and drink and the lunch stops were very welcome. One day the picnic was in Tesco's car park in the rain. Another car park in Saxmundham saw us sitting on the kerb in blazing sunshine. Often it was the shelter on the platform of an unmanned railway station which acted as a refreshment room.

Wayside pubs didn't help us much. At the start we hoped to use them for coffee and "the facilities" - but - the Fountain at Tuddenham didn't open till lunch-time, The Admiral at Bealings was closed because it was Monday, whereas the Dog and Duck at Campsea Ashe always closed on Wednesdays.

The Suffolk countryside was beautiful with the trees just about to open, the water meadows green and the farmland ploughed and ready for sowing. The path often ran between fields of winter corn and beans. The country seems more rolling and wooded than Essex and there were lovely views of villages and churches nestling in the valleys. Birds were plentiful - we heard skylarks and song thrushes and on the path along the Deben to Woodbridge counted no less than thirty-three species including little grebe and gadwall - but no swans. Ipswich dock was full of them. Once we saw deer which quickly disappeared among the trees and their footprints covered the ground. Wild flowers were coming out and lots of primroses starred the verges.

Most paths were well signposted. Six of us walked along the Waveney, one overcast Saturday, from Beccles to Oulton Broad. You couldn't go wrong here, the path followed the river for miles, between dripping bare willows and reedbeds. Very few birds were in evidence though we did see a heron sitting in a tree. This was the longest walk and ended in a spot of drama. After many miles, the last part against a strong cold wind, we struggled towards an isolated Wildlife Visitor Centre for the amenities. Alas it didn't open till Easter. We had only ten minutes to catch a train and half a mile to go. That half mile was beset with obstacles - many stiles and finally when we did get to the station, the steps to the other side were obstructed by workmen repairing a burst water main on the road above. Only a minute and a long detour, against the water and the traffic but we made it falling thankfully into a carriage full of shoppers returning home from Lowestoft!

I found the last walk of all the most interesting. It is short but so varied going through historic Lowestoft, by way of parks alongside the Broads, across a Dutch style lifting bridge, by the Carlton swing bridge and across the slipways of busy boatyards beside Lake Lothing. You even walk under a gantry. We visited St Margaret's church yard with its ancient stones marked with anchors or the skull and crossbones. We came out near the lighthouse beside the cliff road and then down one of the old scores to the Denes where fishing nets used to be repaired. The Maritime Museum is close by. The path leads to the sea wall overlooking the bleak North Sea and then on to the even bleaker Lowestoft Ness - overlooked by a vast wind turbine. It is the most easterly point in the British Isles. Here we stopped to take photos, then through the town to the refurbished station and home.

I couldn't have done this walk without the support of a lot of people and I do thank them so much. The hardy souls who walked with me on various stages were Helen, Jenny, Mary and Rez, Joyce, Joan, Linda, Janet, Penny, Shirley, Paul, Diane, Len and my granddaughter Kate. They helped tremendously especially with keeping me on the right path.

My other half Stan carried us about and was on hand if needed. Reg and John gave up time to ferry us from place to place. The Parish Magazine and the local papers gave me welcome publicity.

Above all - so many generous friends sponsored me. I am so touched and grateful to all those who gave so freely and unasked. It really was marvellous and the total for the Hospice now stands at £900. Thank you all very much.

**Barbara Tricker**

## **NORTH ESSEX CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION**

By the time you read this the General Election will be little more than a week away. Amongst the Election literature you should have received through your letter box was the notice of the Public Meeting on 29th April at the Village Hall. This will be an excellent opportunity for villagers of ALL persuasions to meet with Bernard Jenkin who has represented us in Parliament so conscientiously for many years now. Whether you intend to vote Conservative or not (or if you haven't quite made up your mind yet), the Great Bentley Branch Committee hope that as many as possible will come along to question or challenge Bernard and to discuss the issues which will affect every one of us for the next five years.

Also amongst the Election leaflets you would find one from Derek Robinson, the Conservative Candidate for the County Council elections which are held on the same day, May 5th, as the General Election. Don't get confused. Bernard Jenkin is still our Candidate for Westminster. We hope for a really good turn out on Election day but if anyone has difficulty in getting to the polling station will they please let me, Donald Walker know (tel. 250172) or any member of the Committee and we will arrange transport for you at a time convenient to you.

Talking of delivering leaflets, we could still do with one or two more volunteers to help with this occasional task. It doesn't need to take long once we have enough people to cover all areas. We need someone for the De Vere Estate; Plough Road, Aingers Green; Plough Road outside the gates; and Plough Road inside the gates together with Station Road and The Cut. Anyone willing to help, please get in touch with Donald Walker as above.

Whatever the outcome of the Election we have a great treat in store for the Summer: we are planning a SPARKLING STRAWBERRY TEA for Sunday 12th June to be held at White Oak, Thorrington Road, the home of Zena and Stewart Went from 3.30-6.00pm. Tickets (price £6 to include a glass of bubbly) will be available by the middle of May so please apply either to Zena Went or Donald Walker.

**Donald Walker**  
**Secretary. Great Bentley Branch**

**CLASSIC CAR  
& CRAFT SHOW**  
**COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
**SUNDAY MAY 15th**  
**1-4pm**  
**Classic cars, bikes**  
**Youth bands**  
**Bouncy castles**

## **TRIBUTE TO A GENTLE MAN**

### **CHRISTOPHER FRANK SIMPSON**

**MARCH 4th 1915 - MARCH 19th 2005**

Chris was associated with the village of Great Bentley from the 1970s onwards when his mother-in-law bought one of the newly built bungalows on Birch Avenue. On her demise, he and his wife Nellie moved into the bungalow and became full-time residents of the village.

We first knew Chris when he and Roy joined the Bowls Club at Thorpe-le-Soken. It was the start of that rare situation - true friendship. Chris and Nellie became surrogate grandparents to our four children; indeed he and our daughter Becca formed a special intangible bond which lasted until her untimely death in 2000. He was there for us through good times and bad: we shared family celebrations and happy occasions and he and Nellie supported us when Becca died. Indeed the Simpson family rallied round and organised the celebration 'do' to commemorate our daughter's life.

Words cannot encompass our feelings and regard for this extraordinary man. Knowing him has enhanced our lives beyond measure.

Thank you Chris for being our friend and Great Bentley be grateful that Chris was part of your community for 30 years.

Remembered with love and joy by the Varnarva family.

## **GREAT BENTLEY PRE-SCHOOL**

We are currently collecting Tesco Computers for Schools vouchers. If anyone has any vouchers they would like to donate, we have a collection tin in the entrance lobby of the Village Hall, also a collection box in Tesco Express. Thank you.

We have re-scheduled our Annual Open Day for Wednesday 18th May at 1pm, in the Village Hall. This gives a chance for people to come along and see how our Pre-School is run. We look forward to seeing you there.

Quick reminder, Saturday 14th May at 8pm in Great Bentley Village Hall, Pre-School are presenting an evening of comedy from top comedian Billy Hunter and live music from Sunflower Valley, along with Stand up Bingo, an Auction and Bar. Tickets are £10 including ploughmans.

See main advert for details on page 8.

# COOKERY CORNER

## French Leave

I do realise that this page has a very heavy French bias when it comes to recipes, and in the future I will try to address this imbalance, but I'm writing this amidst preparations for a trip to Brittany to visit my stepdaughter and family - (in fact it is on The List Of Things To Do Before Going\*) – so it is perhaps not unreasonable that my mind has turned to things French. Mind you, there is not going to be much time for gourmandising as I'm going out to help clear the overgrown garden of a neglected property my stepdaughter has recently bought. However, there will, I hope, be time to visit the local markets where, with any luck, the first of the early spring vegetables may be on offer. Then of course, there is the charcutier and traiteur for pâté, saucisson and ready cooked dishes, the boulangerie for a whole variety of bread baked on the premises, the fromagerie for cheese and the pâtisserie for wickedly expensive cakes and pastries. Voilà, you have done nothing except shop, but you have a meal – don't forget the wine. By the way, when food shopping in France always use the shop or market stall with the longest queue, for that is usually an indication of quality.

Why is it that in this country, it is so difficult to find good quality ready-made food? Take pâté, for example, most of the stuff available over here (and to be fair in France as well), is factory made, rather than made on the premises, it is usually vacuum packed and full of all sorts of e numbers and preservatives to enhance the shelf life. When in England I tend to make my own, but just for a change I decide to give rillettes a go. If you've never come across them before, rillettes are shreds of seasoned fatty meat - pork, duck or goose, or a combination of pork with goose, duck or rabbit - cooked extremely slowly then shredded, nothing could be easier. I tried this recipe for pork rillettes as given by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall in **The River Cottage Meat Book**, and very good it was too.

You will need: -

500g pork shoulder, 500g pork belly (rindless), 300g home-rendered pork fat or bought lard, 100ml water, 3 sprigs of thyme, 2 bay leaves, 3 cloves, a pinch of mixed spice, a grating of nutmeg, freshly ground pepper.

To render the fat, place the fat in an oven proof dish in a moderate oven pouring off the fat every so often until all the fat is rendered.

Cut the shoulder meat into thumb sized stripes along the grain. Cut the belly into slices 1 cm thick. Place the rendered fat, water and meat in a wide heavy saucepan over a low heat. Tie up the thyme, bay and cloves in a square of muslin and add. Cook very slowly, this can either be done on the top of the stove, I used a heat-dispersing mat, or in a low oven 120°C/Gas mark ½ for at least 4 hours. The meat must not brown, or only very slightly, and make sure nothing sticks to the bottom of the pan. When it can be dragged into shreds with 2 forks, it is done. Let the mixture cool to just above room temperature, remove the muslin bag and shred the meat with the 2 forks. Season as you go along with the mixed spice, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Transfer the mixture to a bowl, cover with a piece of greased paper (use pork fat) and place in the fridge for a few days to mature. Rillettes can be served straight from the fridge or slightly warmed so the fat runs, in either case serve with crusty bread and cornichons.

Rillettes can be kept in a cool place for up to 6 months if packed in an airtight container and sealed with a thick layer, at least 5mm, of clean rendered fat.

**G.R.**

# Peter's Potterings

Hanging baskets and containers are extremely popular in our gardens and so 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 the 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 I think 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 sealing the inside of the pot with say a polythene bag lining and perhaps including water retaining granules with the compost before planting. Don't forget to leave drainage holes in the bottom. The plastic copies of old fashioned terracotta pots are now much better and you can make them more realistic if you paint the outside first with a bonding agent such as Unibond then roll them in fine peat or sand or dirt to roughen up the outside which allows green algae and mosses to form to give the impression of old age.

When filling your container with compost do not forget to cover the drainage holes with a layer of broken pot and perhaps a 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 I tend to use a mixture of general purpose compost, horticultural grit, some garden soil or better still 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. I do use an occasional feed with liquid fertilizer during the season as I think it gives the displays a boost. Water your plants well before transplanting them 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, eg. Busy Lizzie 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. (I always remember various shapes cut into Mr Pecks' hedge on Shair Lane). You can cheat by using a wire frame or use fast growing ivies 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 forms change throughout the year. They also help to give a little green oasis of calm when stood amongst 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.

**PETER ALLINGTON**

## **CRICKET FIXTURES DURING MAY**

Sun 1st 1st XI v. Gt Bromley A  
Sun 1st 2nd XI v. Gt Brax & Tiptree H  
Sat 7th 2nd XI v. Cavaliers H  
Sun 8th 1st XI v. Earls Colne & Bures H  
Sun 15th 1st XI v. Galleywood H  
Sun 15th 2nd XI v. North Springfield A  
Sun 22nd 1st XI v. Shalford A  
Sun 22nd 2nd XI v. Maldon H  
Sun 29th 1st XI v. Gt Totham H  
Sun 29th 2nd XI v. Wormingford A  
Mon 30th 1st XI v. Colchester A

## **BOAT AUCTION and Chandlery**

**Saturday 30th April**

**The Waterside**

**Entry of lots from 08.00 to 11.00**

**Auction starts at 12 noon**

### **Brightlingsea - Point Clear Foot Ferry**

The foot ferry between Brightlingsea and Point Clear is due to start its second season in April, providing access between the two communities for both locals and visitors to the area.

During the first year of operation it proved a popular feature in the harbour, providing not only a means of crossing the creek, but also offering pleasure trips at high tide when it was not possible to land at Point Clear. This allowed people the opportunity to discover the heritage of the area.

In 2005 the service is to be expanded to include East Mersea as part of the schedule, opening up greater access to the area, allowing residents of all three communities and visitors the chance to take advantage of local facilities. These include Cudmore Grove Country Park at East Mersea, the Aviation Museum and wide beach at Point Clear and a chance to discover the historic town and waterfront of Brightlingsea.

The extended service will help make access within the region much easier, reducing road miles and it is hoped it will encourage cyclists, walkers, locals and visitors to take advantage of the service as a real alternative to road travel.

The custom built ferry boat has a hydraulic ramp which can be lowered to allow easy access for wheelchair users and cycles, as well as foot passengers using the service.

The success of the ferry has been partly attributed to the close working relationship between the partnership members working together to provide a professional service, but also largely due to the support given by local residents and visitors taking advantage of this important asset.

This season we look forward to welcoming passengers old and new, using the ferry to access our three communities or enjoying a pleasure trip to explore the diverse natural beauty of the area.

Ferry and trip timetables will be available shortly from local shops. Tourist Information Centres and various other outlets in the region.

This service commences on 30th April.

**Further details are available from:**

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

Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners

on 01206 302200

Bob Shotton, Brightlingsea Tourism Manager on

## **LOW TIDE DAY IN BRIGHTLINGSEA IT'S FREE, IT'S FUN!!**

**7TH MAY**

LowTide Day is a free annual festival offering people the opportunity to explore and celebrate inter-tidal sites and other aspects of the coastal environment. LowTide celebrations will be held on the same day at sites all along the coast of England, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Northern France to coincide with the lowest astronomical tide. This year it will take place on May 7th.

Why not come along to Bateman's Tower, Brightlingsea, and join in the fun? Our LowTide Day celebrations will start at 11am with activities running throughout the day until 4pm.

There will be much to see and do, and not just for children! Attractions include:

- A crabbing competition
- Children's activities organised by the Essex Marine Conservation Society
- Puppet shows
- The chance to visit the *Pioneer Sailing Trust* exhibition
- Story walks by an Essex storyteller
- Birdwatching with a local bird expert
- Face-painting
- Boat trips around the harbour.

For more information please call Rebecca Whitfield, Colne Estuary Partnership on 01206 282480.

**BRIGHTLINGSEA  
FARMERS MARKET**

**BRIGHTLINGSEA  
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**LOWER PARK ROAD**

**THURSDAY**

**May 26th**

**9.00am - 1.00pm**

## Cell Phones: Invisible Hazards in the Wireless Age

*PLEASE READ THE WHOLE INTRODUCTION before tuning out? When reading the following article, please bear in mind that the findings relate to the use of mobile phones. The point of including it here, is that we are at risk of having a mobile BASE STATION erected within a couple of hundred yards of Great Bentley. We are not having a mast erected. It is a Base Station. There is a difference.*

Apart from that. People have their mobiles switched on and on their person during the day when they need them.

The radiation from a base station is CONSTANT. If you live in Great Bentley, you and your children will be within range of the radiation from this base station at all times. For your children, that means when they are sleeping at night, when they are at school or preschool during the day, when you take them to the green, or the park, when you go to church, or to the local shops, when you are at home watching TV, in the bath, at breakfast, lunch and dinner ...

So while the idea of what is said in the article about phone useage may not be what you want to hear, apply what is said to the likelihood of a base station being erected on your front door step.

The following is an extract of the translation from pages 243-248 from the book written by Dr G. Carlos and Dr M. Schram, published by Carrol and Graf Publishers Inc., NY, USA.

Each of the alarming results of the studies on radiation from mobile phones are essential pieces of information that fall into the puzzle relating to cancer. Some of the earlier studies, that were in themselves non-conclusive or appeared difficult to interpret, now fit equally well into the puzzle. The studies clarify the previously diffuse picture of cancer and health risk. Here are the elements of scientific information that fit into the overall cancer framework.

### STUDIES ON HUMAN BLOOD

These studies show a genetic effect in the form of micronuclei in blood cells exposed to RF radiation. They demonstrate the biological plausibility of the development of tumours following an exposure to RF radiation. These studies consistently show chromosomic alterations in blood cells.

### CHANGES IN THE BLOOD BRAIN BARRIER

These studies integrate well in the whole picture of cancer providing a two step explanation of the mechanism by which radiation from mobile phones can cause cancer:

Step 1: A degradation of the blood brain barrier would allow chemical carcinogens present in the blood (eg. from foods containing traces of carcinogenic elements including pesticides; tobacco; or atmospheric pollution) to reach the brain and to effec

affect sensitive tissues that were previously protected.

Step 2: while different studies have shown that RF on its own could not affect DNA, recent studies suggest that the repair mechanisms of brain cells could be affected. Consequently, carcinogenesis induced by toxic chemicals could propagate. This is an ADDITIONAL argument in favour of the biological plausibility of the implication of RF in the development of brain cancer.

### STUDIES OF CANCER IN USERS OF MOBILE PHONES:

Four studies were carried out among users of mobile phones; the study of mortality by K. Rothman and two studies by J. Muscat on brain cancer and acoustic neuroma, the study of Hardell on brain tumours. These four studies carried out by different investigators using different methodologies, all give arguments in favour of an increased risk of tumours from the use of mobile phones. This is the principle of consistency of results.

These four studies have shown an increase in the risk of developing a brain tumour. The study of J. Muscat has shown a doubling of the risk of neuroepithelial tumours (and this result was statistically significant). The study of Hardell has shown a doubling of the risk of having cancer on the side of the head where the mobile phone is normally used (this result was also statistically significant). The study of Rothman has shown that the use of handheld mobile phones have a risk that is twice as high as that as users of car phones (this was not statistically significant) ... in three epidemiological studies, the risk of tumour was increased in the region of the brain close to where the mobile is held; this is an argument in favour of a dose-response relationship.

The results of all the studies are consistent.

The pieces of the puzzle fit well together and draw a picture that researchers, the administrators and users can see for themselves... Enough of the puzzle is in place to realise that there is sufficient reason to be concerned for the health of mobile phone users. The radiation emitted by the antenna can cause cancer and a host of other health problems ... One should use this information to derive means of protection, and in particular the protection of small children whose skulls are still developing and who may be more vulnerable to the risk from radiation.

*Note from me: It is also worth noting that in June 2004, after a 2 year campaign by the Echo and Express newspapers, and due to a cancer cluster scare, including child leukaemia (a little 8 year old called Emma), Orange Engineers switched off the beam from its mobile mast....*

**Laura MacKenzie-Callow**

## QUIZ TIME

'Body **Count**' All the answers to the questions are or contain a part of the body. E.g. -  
From which tree do we get conkers. Answer - The horse chestnut.

### Questions

- 1 What is the American equivalent of our noughts and crosses?
- 2 What part of the hand can sometimes be known as the pinkie?
- 3 What name is given to the emergency strip of road beside a motorway?
- 4 What name is given to the distance between the front and rear axles of a car?
- 5 Historically, what is a name for an unmounted highwayman?
- 6 What name is given to a small mat laid before a fire place?
- 7 What name is given to the young of a whale?
- 8 What type of wool is taken from the angora goat?
- 9 What name is given to the start of a game of ice hockey?
- 10 What is the motto of the Salvation Army?
- 11 From what type of tree can we get dates and coconuts?
- 12 Which English city was known as Deva by the Romans?
- 13 What part of the body is affected by erysipelas?
- 14 Which American marshalled one side at the battle of the OK Coral?
- 15 Which German born composer was famous for his Water Music?
- 16 Which child star was famous for her part in *The Good Ship Lollipop*?
- 17 What is the world's most populous country?
- 18 Of which country is Manilla the capital city?
- 19 What is the state capital of Wyoming USA?
- 20 A bath chap is what before it is processed?
- 21 What is the technical term for the musical direction lively?
- 22 What is the largest town and ferry port on the isle of Anglesey?
- 23 What is the collective noun for an assembly of finches?
- 24 In which Dickens novel do we find the Artful Dodger?
- 25 Olympia is the capital of which US state?

### Answers to last months quiz

- 1 £500. 10 24. 20. 12
- 2 110. 11 14. 21. 45
- 3 2. 12 88. 22. 12
- 4 11. 13 13. 23. 10
- 5 £1,500. 14 40. 24. 22
- 6 33. 15 30 25. 30 Small response to last months effort,
- 7 12. 16 22. but unfortunately there was no all correct answers.
- 8 640. 17 212. So no prize money this month.
- 9 225. 18 22.  
19 150.
- 20 12. Small response to last month's effort, but

**FRIENDS OF  
GREAT BENTLEY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We hope you have had a good 'Easter' break! We are coming back to school, hopefully, with renewed enthusiasm for the weeks ahead. We would like to start our fundraising 'Season' with a 'Thank you day' on Friday 20th May.

This will be where the children will be given the chance to buy a small gift to give to a family member, friend etc and say thanks for all you have done, or just for being there etc. The gifts will be reasonably priced from 50p to £2.00 and will be wrapped if the child wishes. Please would you send in any items that you feel would be appropriate for a small gift, ie: smellies, candles, etc.

Our next main event will be the School Summer Fayre on Saturday 11th June at 12noon til 4.00pm at the school, there will be numerous stalls, from the popular tombolas, face painting, tea tent, bar, bbq, games for the children to our Grand Raffle, plus many more. There will also be arena events where our brilliant Bentley Stars will be performing along with our own school Cheerleaders, and we have been honoured to have the Essex Flames Cheerleaders from the University of Essex come along and perform too.

Please make a note in your diaries and come and support our school on SATURDAY JUNE 11TH AT 12NOON. See you all there.

Sharon Olding  
Friends Secretary

**TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES  
NOT JUST FOR TOURISTS!**

Clacton and Walton Tourist Information Centres cater for thousands of visitors to the area every year, but they are also here for the area's residents as well.

**Services include:**

**Princes Theatre tickets  
West Cliff Theatre tickets  
Hedingham Coach day excursions  
Local Bus and Rail timetables  
Waverley and Balmoral boat trip tokens  
London Theatre Tokens  
Local and area maps  
Local events calendars  
Local history books  
Videos of the local area  
Ideas for great days out  
Where to go and what to do**

The Centre also provides free listings for local event organisers. If you are holding an event in the Tendring district and would like to promote it via the Centres and on the internet free of charge, contact Lynsey Dawson on 01255 686654.

**Clacton Tourist Information Centre**

Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton on Sea  
Telephone: 01255 423400

**Walton Tourist Information Centre**

Princes Esplanade, Walton on the Naze  
Telephone: 01255 675542

Further information about the area can be found at [www.essex-sunshine-coast.org.uk](http://www.essex-sunshine-coast.org.uk)

*There's a whole lot more beside the seaside!*

**COME AND HEAR THE NIGHTINGALES  
AT GREAT HOLLAND PITS NATURE RESERVE**

Bob Seago has been a voluntary warden for the Essex Wildlife Trust, at Great Holland Pits reserve for eighteen years and was a member of the work party for many years before that. He has kindly agreed to show us around on

**FRIDAY 6th MAY**

**Meet at the Village Hall car park 7pm**

(We will share transport)

We hope to hear Nightingales and possibly to see Barn Owls.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## HISTORY SOCIETY

**Thursday 12th May**

**Village Hall**

**8.00pm**

Mr Bill Smith

from the East Essex Aviation Museum

## ART CLUB

**Saturday 7th May,  
Coach Outing to Audley End House,  
Leave Gt Bentley Village Hall at 9am.**

**Tuesday 10th, Village Hall**

Self portrait using a mirror

**Tuesday 24th May, Village Hall**

Painting in the style of an Old Master

**Tuesday 31st May, Village Hall**

Appraisal night

## GREAT BENTLEY EVERGREEN CLUB

Our monthly meeting was held in the Village Hall on 23rd March when our speaker was Liz Mullen from BBC Essex radio. She gave a most interesting and entertaining talk about her work with Radio Essex, TV and as a newspaper reporter.

Joye announced the sad loss of Chris Simpson, husband of our Treasurer Nellie.

### Diary of Events for May

**Saturday 7th May - Coffee Morning,  
White Lodge, 10.30am - 12 noon**

**Wednesday 25th May, Village Hall, 2pm.  
Anniversary Party. Entertainment by Jenny &  
Keith, 'Touch and Go'**

**Competition - Something I could not do without!**

## LADIES CLUB

**Thursday 26th May**

**7.45pm**

**Village hall**

"Back by Popular Demand"

David Padwick is coming along to entertain us with a musical journey through the 1950's.

Hope to see you there!!

## GARDENING CLUB

**Tuesday 17th May**

**8.00pm**

**Village Hall**

Chrysanthemums

P. Smith

## W.I.

**Tuesday 3rd May**

**Village Hall**

**8.00pm**

Resolutions and Social Evening

New members and visitors very welcome

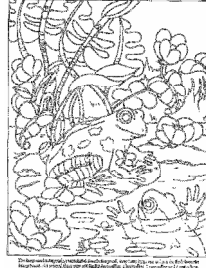
## FLAG RAISING MAY

**Sunday 8th May**

**The Union Flag**

**VE Day 60th Anniversary**

# Children's Page



The frogs are having such a wonderful time in the pond, they have forgotten to look for their favourite things to eat. All around them you will find **2 dragonflies, 8 butterflies, 1 caterpillar and 1 water bug**. When you have found them colour the picture

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am now in a position to inform you as to how our Aquabox appeal for the Tsunami disaster is progressing.

With your help, Clacton Rotary has sent 161 aquaboxes at £250 each and 46 standard boxes at £50 each. An Aquabox 30 contains the necessary filtration to purify 33,000 litres of water, and the Standard box contains 30 sets of filtration tablets plus shelter, clothing, hygiene and other essential day to day items for adults and children.

The monies collected by your very generous giving, totalling over £4,500, have helped Rotary ease the suffering of people whose lives have been devastated by this disaster.

This is still an ongoing project. Thank you again for this wonderful effort.

**Cyril Pettican on behalf of the Rotary Club of Clacton on Sea**

## PLAY AREA AT AINGERS GREEN

I have read with great interest many of the comments that have been raised regarding this area, and feel I should explain the facts of how this area originated.

When my father was alive, he was very concerned for the safety of the children in Aingers Green, as he saw many of them playing in the roads, and wanted to do something for them before one of them got hurt. He felt he was in a fortunate position to help, having land adjacent to the village, even though perhaps not in the perfect location.

Father asked Michael Dorling to visit him and offered the area at the end of The Lodge drive to the council for one pound a year rent (which has never been collected, and have no intention of doing so) by doing this the council would be responsible for insuring the area against a young person being injured whilst using the equipment.

I read in the press that the council do not know if they can afford to renew the lease in two years time, which amazed me a little, as if they had taken advice from Mick Dorling they would have known there was no rent to pay!

It is disappointing to read the comments from the local people, which I feel sadly reflects the attitude of many, who want something within the village, but are not prepared to maintain it in any way and leave it to the few. When you move into a village you should take some of the responsibility to help maintain that community, or even improve it, and not just have the enjoyment of living in such a beautiful, and much sort after area. It is sad that there are not more people like Mick Dorling within the community.

The area in and around the play area is littered with alcohol bottles, litter, and other things I would not like to mention. Vandals have damaged the swings and slides, and one piece of equipment has even been set on fire.

In my opinion this has not been done by the young people for whom this area was planned. Also how do

these youths manage to obtain these strong alcoholic drinks in the first place, and as this normally happens late in the evening should the parents not know where these young people are at this time, and if not why not?

After much thought by my family, and after taking advice, we have come to the regrettable decision to close the play area, unless there is more help forthcoming from the people of Aingers Green, who seem to want to look a "gift horse in the mouth".

I am sorry the location is not perfect, but life is not always perfect!!

**David Gibbon**

I would like to ask, through the pages of the Parish Magazine, as to the ownership/rental of the old paper shop near to the Doctor's surgery. Does anyone else agree with me that it looks a real eyesore with the pieces of brown paper falling off the door and windows to reveal a multitude of cardboard boxes.

If it is rented surely the landlord has a right to ask for it to be tidied up and if it is unoccupied then why doesn't he go in and tidy it up himself?

The old paper shop is in such a prominent position on the Green it is a shame it has been allowed to get into such a state.

**Marion Clementson**

## PARKING AT THE HOLLIES

Some years ago there was a piece in this magazine suggesting that the area between the War Memorial and the Pond should be tarmaced over as a car park. It was a joke - like the one about the Helicopter Pad. Everyone knew that the Green was sacrosanct and that NO-ONE could ever put a hard surface on the Green. A blind eye was (and still is) turned to parking on the grass for certain occasions like the Show or a very large funeral but otherwise no wheeled vehicles on the Green is the rule.

The ever increasing clutter of cars in front and behind the Surgery is of great concern to us all: but there is no point in railing at the Parish Council to do something about it. They are duty bound to defend the Green from any encroachment; permanent hard surfaces are not allowed on Common land and it would take an Act of Parliament to alter that. No, it is the Health Authority that should be called to task for developing our village surgery into a medical centre to serve all the surrounding area without first considering the infrastructure. A previous correspondent has described it as a valuable resource for the whole community: for us in Great Bentley perhaps, but not so handy for those in outlying villages who have lost their surgeries and now have to travel here, unwillingly helping to create the parking chaos. For some it is easier to go to Colchester Hospital on public transport.

This misguided policy of centralisation not only causes physical and environmental problems, it also wipes out the most essential thing in medical care and that is the personal touch, once present in every

## LETTERS CONTD/...

doctor's surgery throughout the country. You could walk in and be greeted by the receptionist with a "Good morning, Mrs So-and-so, what can we do for you today?": Now, you stand in a queue for five minutes and then it's "NAME?" Not nice when you're feeling poorly. One feels sympathy for the 20,000 patients in Great Clacton and Holland who are to be forced to travel to the proposed Kennedy Way Medical Centre, packed solid with all the very latest equipment and capable of giving the most up to date treatments. But at what cost? Better surely to spend the money on sustaining the local surgeries where sick people could be treated near their own home, and on better transport to hospitals when more specialised care was needed.

**Donald Walker**

### SURGERY PARKING

Following up on the subject of parking on the Green in front of the Doctor's surgery, if the following points were observed the problem would not exist.

When the original small surgery was given planning permission it was on condition that cars parked on the back road opposite the chapel, this is still the feasible answer to the problem where there is space for thirty or more vehicles. (If my memory serves me correctly there was a note on the surgery door to this effect).

If vehicles were parked in a responsible way not leaving such large gaps more spaces would be available.

Why there should be patients coming from St Osyth to this surgery I cannot imagine as there is a practice and a dispensing chemist in St Osyth.

If contract workers did not park outside the front of the surgery from as early as 6.30am and remain until 5pm on some days during the week this would free up as many as three or four spaces.

Some shoppers also park and go across the Green to shop.

The Green is subject to Manorial Rites, these rites were paid for by residents many years ago to preserve the largest village green in the country for future generations to enjoy, thus making it common land, and any change of use therefore would need an Act of Parliament, this could take some ten years to even get a hearing.

Resolution; have a handout to every patient attending the surgery making them aware that there is parking and an entrance to the rear of the surgery.

**Jane Marston**

**As a point of interest, when the old crossroads was closed, is it correct to say that the village gained "surplus road area"? Would it be possible that some of this could be translated into parking space?**

**Dear Editor,**

I am slowly recovering from the experience of observing, in the company of some thirty others, a council meeting where nine Parish Councillors opposed the expressed view of some nine hundred villagers on the matter of the Orange Mast. At least, they gave a good impression of having done so. Evidently we are very naughty villagers indeed for not having paid proper attention to a letter which the Parish Council put in the Parish News. At the time, I was among those who noticed this letter. I seem to remember that it may have been concerned with the view from the Green and not what has subsequently turned out to be a potential child's brain cooker. How crass of us, at that time, not to be aware that there may well be serious dangers in prolonged transmissions from telephone masts.

After the wrist smacking and an undertaking to inform Orange of the proletariat's opposition to the Mast site we were informed by the Parish council that the potential cancer stick has to go up where planned. Our Parish Council seemed to make a point here. Their only association with the opposition view would be to act as postman.

Oh, but it gets worse. We were told that if naughty villagers continue to make a fuss about the mast then Orange may well erect a smaller one within the village. This, we were warned, will not require planning permission. Oh really!! I would have thought that the way to deter an evil was to oppose it. Indeed, not to oppose this would be likely to encourage the erection of telephone masts within the village by other firms in the same suspect and competitive trade.

A General Election is due in the near future and I am sure that villagers will be aware that only one local candidate has shown himself in keeping the MAST AT A SAFE DISTANCE - pending suitable investigations into the safety aspects of these masts. I expect that most of the readers of this Parish News, especially those who are parents, would welcome the opinion of all candidates.

**Michael Turner**

\* \* \*

The graffiti which appeared on the Heather Patch Information Board on the Green implied after a little interpretation "I love alcohol". I suggest that the author concentrates more at, or returns to school.

**David Gollifer**

## SUMMER VISITORS

One Swallow doesn't make a summer but it's always exciting when you spot your first one of the year. For me this was on 2nd April near the horse paddocks off Flag Hill. (Simon and Pat Cox had seen their first the preceding day).

The cuckoo was seen and heard around the same area on 16th April and a House Martin spotted on 8th April. Now looking out for the first Swift!

Can you beat these dates within the Parish boundary, if so I would love to record them. Please let me know.

**Mary Maskell**

***All too rarely, airline attendants make an effort to make the in-flight safety lecture and announcements a bit more entertaining. Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:***

On a Southwest flight (SW has no assigned seating, you just sit where you want) passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"

On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Ronald Reagan airport, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"

After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Memphis, a flight attendant on a Northwest flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

"In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."

Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive.

Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest Airlines."

"Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."

"As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."

And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City: The flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."

Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the flight attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

After a real crusher of a landing in Phoenix, the attendant came on with, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tyre smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."

Part of a flight attendant's arrival announcement: "We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of US Airways."

Heard on a Southwest Airline flight. "Ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to smoke, the smoking section on this airplane is on the wing and if you can light 'em, you can smoke 'em."

A plane was taking off from Kennedy Airport. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight Number 293, non-stop from New York to Los Angeles. The weather ahead is good and, therefore, we should have a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax... OH, MY GOD!" ----- Silence followed, and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!" A passenger yelled, "That's nothing. You should see the back of mine!"

# THE MAST

Why should the mast be at least 500 metres from the nearest residential property in our Village?

The proposed Orange mast at the waterworks site is a G3 microwave macrocell type. These are the 3rd generation of phone masts to enable mobile phones to receive live colour transmissions, etc. This technology is as yet untested and unproven to be safe. Essex University have initiated a study which started during January 2004 to run for at least 2 years, to investigate the health effects of mobile phones and their associated base stations. The study is in two parts, part one is based on a questionnaire aimed at people who claim that they have experienced severe health effects from base stations and mobile phones. Part 2 of the study will assess the exposure (in terms of symptoms) of volunteers to power levels of 0.01 w/m<sup>2</sup> from a base station. It is important to note that the proposed base station to be installed at the waterworks, has an estimated power level of at least 0.022 w/m<sup>2</sup> at a distance of 200 metres from the mast, i.e. double that of the values used in part 2 of the Essex University study.

There are two 14 metre Orange masts (of unknown power) sited at distances of 1.0 and 1.4 miles from the village centre and a 16 metre 'T' mobile mast sited 0.8 miles from our village.

The proposed mast to be sited at less than 0.5 miles from the village centre is a 20 metre mast of greater power than the three masts mentioned above.

**We recently received from the public health department in Austria comments on the power densities to be expected at 200 metres from the proposed Orange mast as follows: "Power levels of 0.02 w/m<sup>2</sup> at a distance of 200 metres are extremely high exposure values."**

In view of the above, we consider that every effort should be made for the mast to be sited as far as possible, and not less than 500 metres, from residential property in our village, and that the Parish Council should be helping us to achieve that goal.

**WE DO NOT WANT TO BE GUINEA PIGS FOR AN UNTRIED AND UNTESTED TECHNOLOGY. DO YOU? IT WOULD BE COMMON SENSE TO AT LEAST WAIT FOR THE RESULTS FROM ESSEX UNIVERSITY.**

***From a concerned 'Move the Mast group'***

The results of the recent questionnaire asking if people are happy with the proposed site for the Orange G3 mast, or whether they would prefer it moved further from the village on land offered by a local farmer, made it quite clear that the majority of the community would prefer it sited further from the village (a mere 43 did not support the proposal)

As a result of the overwhelming majority who want it moved further away the Action Group asked the Parish Council to put the Mast on the Agenda for discussion at the April Parish Council Meeting and also for them to support the majority of the community whom they are supposed to represent.

The people of Great Bentley should be made aware of how the Parish Council reacted to this request.

The Parish Council decided not to put the Mast as an agenda item but did approach the subject under correspondence. However, it was very clear that they had already staged a carefully laid plan of action prior to the meeting.

One Councillor suggested the Parish Council write to Orange to say that some parishioners were not happy with the proposed site. However, this was cleverly followed by a statement of the reasons the Council would not be coming on the side of the majority of the village. It was then proposed the minutes of the meeting, including this statement should also be sent to Orange so that they (Orange) are well aware that even if the majority of the villagers want the mast erected on a site further from the village the Parish Council won't be supporting them. It was noted that there was no comments or discussion by Councillors at the meeting on the issue, they all sat very quietly and didn't act as individuals – it is as if they have been cloned!

One of the arguments the Parish Council put forward in their statement was that a mast might go up nearer the village ie: near the railway. Do they honestly believe the people of Great Bentley would allow this to happen? I don't think so. Until it can be proved 100% that these masts are not harmful I think we would all agree they should be further away from our community.

The 'Move the Mast' campaign will go on, Bernard Jenkin our local MP is supporting us even if our Parish Council won't. The erection of a mobile phone mast is an important issue and it is a pity our Parish Councillors are not gracious enough to admit they handled it wrongly from the beginning but are now prepared to come on the side of the residents to get the mast moved further away. They would earn a great deal more respect than if they continue to go against the wishes of the majority of the villagers.

We have sent this letter to the Parish magazine because we believe the residents of Great Bentley should be aware that they have a Parish Council that does not represent their interests but like a 'nanny state' does what one or two of its members think is best.

**Rita Coles**

**On behalf of the Move the Mast Action Group.**

## **Would you like a mast in the centre of Great Bentley?**

**Definitely not** but if Orange decides to abandon the Tendring Hundred Water Services site, for which they already have planning permission, the fear is that they will go back to their original search area in the centre of the village.

Orange was looking for a site to give maximum signal coverage to Great Bentley and Aingers Green.

The only direction the mast can move is south and not farther north as it is not technically possible; this would mean the mast would be sited nearer to residential properties in the centre of the village.

**To move the mast does not mean there will be NO mast**

### **How will Orange preserve the water services site?**

- **Trees will not be cut back or removed at the site**  
The mast will go on the concrete base which is already there
- **Any work must not disturb any protected wildlife in the area**
- **No extra aerials can be added to the mast**  
A planning application is required
- **The mast must be coloured grey**  
To help it blend into the background

### **What are the advantages of the water services site?**

- **The mast will be screened by trees on all sides facing the village**
- **The mast will be sited 250 metres away from the edge of the village green**

### **What to consider if Orange go back to their original search area.**

- Would there be natural screening?
- The mast may not be higher than 15 metres; this means that no formal planning permission would be required.
- The Mast would be closer to people's homes.

The Parish Council believes that the water services site is still the more suitable site for a mast. The alternative could be a mast in the centre of the village and much closer to properties.

**This is exactly what the Parish Council has been striving to avoid.**

**Great Bentley Parish Council**

## Notes from the Parish Council

### Orange Mast

At the last Parish Council meeting the Council responded to a letter received from a representative of the "Move the Mast" group.

After the Parish Council stated its position regarding the mast, it was agreed that the Parish Council write to Orange regarding the concerns that have been brought to Council's attention, from the questionnaire the group had circulated throughout the village. The Parish Council will also provide Orange with an approved copy of the minutes of the meeting with the comments made, and Council's decision.

### Traffic Wardens

Be warned, if you have not already noticed, traffic wardens are frequently visiting the village. It is very noticeable when they are about as the inconsiderate parking on the double yellow lines is visibly none existent, and what a difference it makes to the movement of traffic, especially through The Cut. We have been informed that sixteen tickets were issued in one month.

### Tesco deliveries etc.,

The Parish Council has agreed, after an approach from Manningtree, to meet with other Town and Parish Councils, who like us, are also experiencing problems with deliveries in the areas of their town or village where a Tesco store is situated.

### Best Kept Village Competition

The Parish Council has again entered the village into the Best Kept Village Competition. If you could please help to keep the village litter free and tidy it would be appreciated. It isn't just the village green that is judged it is all areas of the village including Businesses, Shops, The School, Village Hall, Notice Boards, Benches, Play Area, Church Yard and Phone Box, in fact all aspects of the village. Please help your village to become successful again. Judging normally takes place during May and June.

### Aingers Green Play Area

The Parish Council has appreciated the generosity of the Gibbons family for allowing the area to be used for the youngsters in Aingers Green. Council has been looking at the viability of this play area, due again to the vandalism that has taken place. The Play Area is at the moment closed, and the see-saw removed for safety reasons. The cost of repairs and the replacement of the see-saw in the area need to be considered.

The Parish Council has now received 26 of the questionnaires sent out by Mr David Gibbon, to all residents in Aingers Green.

Before Council makes a decision regarding the play area, I would like to draw your attention to the letter in this month's magazine from Mr David Gibbon.

### Level Crossing Gates Closure

Notification has been received from Essex County Highways Department that the road will be closed at the level crossing for general maintenance on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2005, from 23.00 to 07.00 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

**Please note** preceding the next Parish Council meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2005. The Parish Council meeting will follow the Annual meeting. You are all welcome to attend.

Lynda McWilliams  
Parish Council Chairman  
Tel. No. 01206 250732  
e-mail address [lynda@boblyn.co.uk](mailto:lynda@boblyn.co.uk)

# ALLOTMENTS

Many of you will not realise, that tucked away behind the Village Hall, are the allotment gardens. A haven of peace, where individuals can express their horticultural talent, and with not a hint of the modern "instant garden" to be found. The site used to run to the border with the main road but those people with plots in the front half, were persuaded to move further back vacating land so that the Village Hall could be built. This was only made possible by the fact that the late Mr George Mitchell, of St Mary's Farm, donated an acre of land adjacent to the Plough Road Centre, which could be used should the present area become fully utilised.

What has prompted this article? Well last night on TV Rick Stein featured some jovial allotment holders on his programme, and I am also re-reading an excellent book, called "Diggers Diary", on the very same theme. So what makes this such a special place and subject? Perhaps the first thing is, those who spend a good deal of their time there. (It has to be said that the reason for some people's presence is subject to a certain amount of suspicion and scrutiny, like avoiding a shopping trip with their wives, doing the ironing, avoiding visiting relatives etc.)

Allotmenters are a very special breed of people! They are kind, generous, innovative, hard-working, talented, weatherproof and have a sense of humour which comes as compulsory. The latter is necessary to overcome the many problems associated with the elements, pests, diseases and the "Ace Growers" who make it all appear so effortless and who succeed with every single thing that they sow or propagate. (Like our Gardening Correspondent, for example). No two plots are alike and individualism abounds with even a tiny pond here and there. I am awestruck by the diverse talent and ingenuity expressed in eg; frames for the runner beans constructed at such a width that allows the harvester to gather from inside the structure as well as on the exterior, cages to deter the pigeons from eating the brassicas, which could easily withstand a force 9 gale or even one suspects, an earthquake almost immeasurable on the Richter Scale. Sheds of all shapes and sizes, one of which had a certain likeness to sentry box. This was on wheels and could rotate to allow the occupant to be in full sun all day long. The children at the village school can look across the railway track to view the work in progress and one particular person, not known for the speed of their movement, was mistaken by the children for a scarecrow. Another gentleman I call "Jim'll fix it" because he can always mend or fix any problem which arises, even the well to pump water and he is truly the king of the allotments producing wonderful crops, which I envy.

There are 46 plots some of which are subdivided with approximately 53 allotment holders. Once the domain of the menfolk, there are now a lot of ladies tilling the soil. Even more encouraging is the number of young families taking up the challenge of feeding their families with freshly grown organic produce.

produce. Nothing beats the taste of home grown crops. I have always had a theory though, that you don't actually need to have your own plot to gain fruit and veg. Allotment holders are only too willing to donate their surplus produce. Last year one gent was threatened with unmentionable damage if he grew too many beans again, because much as his family loved them, there is a limit!

So what do we grow? The sky's the limit. Obviously vegetables are a favourite with everything from peas to pak choi and artichokes to asparagus. (With a good row of the latter your allotment rent is recouped almost immediately). Fruit varies from apples, strawberries and currants to take in new innovations such as blueberries. Flowers brighten the plots with sunflowers, dahlias, roses and many varieties of annuals which are great for picking but also for attracting the pollinating insects. This area is also a haven for wildlife and we have masses of butterflies and insects, frogs, birds and perhaps more unusually, a large number of lizards. On a summers evening the peace and tranquillity is indescribable with the odd owl calling in the distance and two years ago a nightingale could be clearly heard from the direction of the church. With a good full moon it is possible to work late into the night, although gnats can make this a somewhat more uncomfortable option.

The very best thing of all though, is the camaraderie between the "workers". People help each other, they do work hard, but there's always time for a chat, a bit of banter and plenty of free advice. So why not join us?

**All enquiries should be directed to:  
Councillor Bill Herbert 250115 or  
Councillor Christine Black 251180**

## CRICKET CLUB

We are looking for new members, whether they wish to play on a weekly basis or for just the occasional match.

The clubhouse has recently been upgraded. Why not call in and join us as a playing member, a scorer, umpire or just for the social side.

You will be made very welcome.

Membership fees  
Playing membership £25  
Juniors £2  
Social Membership £5

Any enquiries please ring

Pete Bodily  
01206 251058.

# PAGES FROM THE PAST

Being a bit of a hoarder, I have recently found some rather interesting newspaper cuttings. The first is from The Times, dated 12th October 1991 and headed "*Carbuncles disfigure the faces of saintly friends*".

" Churches and churchyards are being ruined by unsympathetic extensions, the Society for the protection of Ancient Buildings says. In the past a parish wanting extra space for activities usually built a church hall elsewhere in the village. Today, says Phillip Venning, the society's secretary, it demands facilities attached to the church."....."monstrosities" and "excrescences" singled out by the society include St. Mary's Gt. Bentley, Essex, " a council house style extension to a fine stone church"

They certainly didn't mince words or look inside the building. Now that it has weathered and blended in maybe they should come back for a second look.

## PAVILION UPSETS GT. BENTLEY MAN

A Great Bentley man is angered by the erection of a brick cricket pavilion on Gt. Bentley's picturesque village green - one of the last of its size in the country. The man was last year refused permission to build a shop there, on the Bell Yard. He told the reporter he considered the matter a grave injustice against the individual.

He had applied for permission to build a shop on Bell Yard but his plans were turned down by Tendring R.D.C. and Essex County Council's planning officers. He appealed against the decision, backed up by a petition signed by local residents, but the council's decision was upheld by the Minister of Housing and Local Government after a local inquiry.

But the Great Bentley Cricket Club have recently received permission from Tendring R.D.C. to erect a permanent pavilion on the site, which the aggrieved resident claims occupies 75% of the site he would have required for his shop and projects beyond the old building line the council held against his application.

Mr. B. A. Brown, clerk to Tendring R.D.C. Mr. B. E. Bishop told a reporter that it was considered that plans for a shop on land that jutted out in front of other buildings and on to the village green itself would be too prominent a feature of the green.

"But the Cricket Club have come along with a proposal to put a pavilion on the land which overlooks their ground," he went on. "It is difficult to get permission to build on the common land, but this happens to be just off the common, on land belonging to the brewery and Tendring R.D.C. have in their wisdom, granted consent.

"It is in advance of other buildings there, but it has to be on the green if it is to be a pavilion."

*The Standard, Friday, October 10th 1958.*

Next to this report is a photograph of the Football Club!

## THANK YOU

A big thank you for sponsoring me for the London Marathon last Sunday. It was one of the most amazing days of my life.

The atmosphere in London was something I had not imagined. Everyone was so friendly and helpful. All along the course bands were playing, people shouting encouragement and offering sweets and drinks.

The weather was brilliant for spectators, but a little too hot for running. I did finish the course and have a medal and a finishers T-shirt to prove it. My time was longer than I expected, but then I did not expect to have to queue for the loo for fifteen minutes on route and I made more than one stop!

I am going to continue running as a hobby and may even consider another London Marathon.

Again many thanks for your support, which helped to raise £1,102.00 for visually impaired children.

Kindest regards

**Goldie Strachan**

## MAGPIES

One for sorrow  
Two for joy,  
Three for a girl  
Four for a boy.  
Five for silver,  
Six for gold.  
Seven for a secret never to be told.

Many people who are superstitious, dread seeing a single Magpie and will always address these birds with, "Good morning/afternoon Mrs Magpie," to ward off bad luck.

This bird was quite rare in the County in the past and it was recorded that in "The late 1950s and early 1960s we saw a decline throughout East Anglia, for which pesticide usage and hedgerow destruction were mainly held responsible, and around Writtle, Roxwell and Highwood, only one nest was found in 1965 compared with 18 in 1956. *"A new guide to the birds of Essex," by Simon Cox.*

How different the situation today. These birds have now become common in suburban as well as rural areas, and at what cost to our songbirds?

There is some debate as to whether their numbers should be culled, but I know that at Aingers Green, someone is interfering with traps that have been set. Watch any hedgerow at nesting time and you will see these opportunist birds seizing eggs or fledgling birds from the nest.

The largest gathering, (called I believe a Parliament of Magpies) I have seen recently was 18, near Cottage Farm, just off Flag Hill. So please does anyone know if the rhyme goes on to higher numbers?

## RHUBARB TIRAMISU

16oz Rhubarb cut into ½ inch cubes  
6 oz granulated sugar  
12 sponge fingers  
2 large eggs  
5 heaped tablespoons caster sugar  
9fl oz double cream

Put rhubarb into pan with granulated sugar and 8 fl oz water, then gently bring to boil. Remove from heat and put a piece of greaseproof paper directly on top of rhubarb and syrup. Leave to cool for 5-6 hours.

Strain rhubarb into colander, reserving all the syrup. Lay the sponge fingers into a dish and spoon over about half of the syrup to soak in. Chill for 30 minutes.

Put the eggs and 2 tablespoons of caster sugar in a bowl and whisk over a pan of simmering water for 3-4 minutes, until thick and creamy. In a separate bowl, whisk the double cream until just peaking. In another bowl whisk the mascarpone and the rest of the caster sugar until loose and creamy. Fold together the mascarpone and cream, then fold into the egg mixture.

Lay the cooked rhubarb over the sponge fingers. Spoon the cream mixture over the rhubarb and sponge fingers, flatten with a palette knife. Chill for 1 hour. Dust with cocoa powder.

## A COUNTRY WALK - MOVERONS LANE AND FORD BRIGHTLINGSEA

**START: Strangers Corner; Church Road**  
**((Map ref. 080180))**

Path (**FOOTPATH SIGN**) leads through gate down metalled road. Playing fields on the left. After a slight bend path enters from the right. Continue along metalled road to within 12 yards (11m) of gate and take track to the right through a belt of trees, turn right and after 40 yards (37m) turn left, take path ahead, leaving sandpit to left. Fine view to the left across the River Colne to Mersea. On reaching belt of trees# \* take track ahead to wire fence, turn right, the footpath has been diverted alongside the fence and below the trees. The path is narrow until it reaches a metalled road (no sign). \*\* turn left along Moverons Lane, then bear left, with a fishing lake on the left and gravel company on the right, bear right past the entrance to Moverons Farm (two houses on right). Path descends (moderately steep in places), bending first right then left. Good views and blackberries. Path ends at ford, which is muddy, but it is alleged that one can still wade across at very low tide. Return along the lane to point marked\*\*. After this, continue on metalled road past Ford Farm until a sharp left-hand bend with bungalow on right. Leave metalled road (**FOOTPATH SIGN**). Footpath continues straight ahead, then turns right. Rejoin metalled road at\*.

# This belt of trees is one of several planted by John Bateman, the local Victorian benefactor, as a windbreak. He hoped to improve the local climate and so promote Brightlingsea as a health resort. It still contains eucalyptus which he popularised in England.

**NB. Those wishing to buy meat from Primrose Park can drive to Moverons Lodge. It's worth going just for the view, not to mention the meat!!**

## GREAT BENTLEY FOOTBALL CLUB 2004-05

### FIRST TEAM, KENT BLAXILL BORDER LEAGUE DIVISION 2

Sat 26 Mar H Weeley Athletic Res 4-1 D.Gray, S.Oldhamstead 3  
Tue 5 Apr A Woodbridge Tn Res 1-0 P. Turner  
Sat 9 Apr A Boxted Lodgers 0-2  
Sat 16 Apr A Rowhedge Res 1-1 P.Turner  
Sat 23 Apr A Kelvedon Social Res 5-0 K.Russe11 2, P,Tumer 2, A.Neilson  
Sat 30 Apr A West Bergholt Res  
Sat 7 May H West Bergholt Res  
Sat 14 May H Witham Town Res  
Sat 21 May A Alresford C R Res

TBA A Lawford Lads Harwich Intermediate Charity Cup, Round 1

### RESERVES, H & E INSTALLATIONS LEAGUE CUP

Sat 26 Mar A Cinque Port 5-1 S.Young 2, T.Layzell, I.Morton 2  
Sat 9 Apr H Forty-Fives 2-0 J .Rule 2  
Sat 23 Apr N Posties 0-3 Semi-Final

### LEAGUE, DIVISION 1

Thu 31 Mar H Clacton United 4-1 S.Young 3, L.Barrett  
Sat 2 Apr H Stoke-by-Nayland 5-0 I.Morton, T.Ayundokum, J.Murray, M.Kerridge, D.Gray  
Sat 16 Apr H Colchester Hotspurs 0-0  
Wed 20 Apr A Clacton United 1-1 A.Neilson  
Tue 26 Apr H Ardleigh United 0-6  
Sat 30 Apr H Lawford Lads A

### HARWICH JUNIOR CHARITY CUP

Thu 5 May H Frinton Round 1

Once the clocks change, we enter that phase of the season when we have to make up for all those blank Saturdays between September and March.

The reserves have played eight games in the last month, while the firsts employ the slightly different tactic of playing up to and including, F.A,Cup Final day.

Of the five first team results, the most satisfying has to be the 1-0 win at Woodbridge, our last game against a Ridgeons League reserve side before they all form their own league.

When they came to the Green in January, their manager thanked God they hadn't got to visit places like this any more.

Equally obnoxious in the return game, I have to say that he was not typical of Woodbridge folk, or the other Ridgeons clubs, and we will miss their hospitality and facilities next season.

The reserves have been seriously busy, and their games included an excellent League Cup run, which took them all the way to the semi-final.

The 5-1 win at Premier Division, Cinque Port, had to be seen to be believed, as we tore into our opponents with three goals in the first twelve minutes, and remained in command right through the game.

We followed this with a masterly performance against Forty-Fives, also from the top flight, and these lads thoroughly enjoyed their drinks and sandwiches in the clubhouse after the game.

The draw for the semis paired us with our old chums, Posties, for a tie, which wouldn't have been out of place in a veterans league.

The teams utilised just the right blend of experience and senility, and it was a pleasure to see members of the opposition sporting the latest football fashion accessories, the slipped toupee, and the double-D support shirt. On the day, the winners were just too strong in the shooting and intimidation departments, and it is Posties who go on to meet University in the final.

EVENTS: Our annual FIVE-A-SIDE takes place on Sat. 25th June, and DINNER/DANCE on Sat 2nd July.

March 200 Club winners were C.Buckle, £50, B.Luckins, £25, and M.Gourlay, £20.

The April Draw is on 30th, while the May Draw will be early, on 14th, our last home game.

**TENDRING COMMUNITY TRANSPORT  
HOPPER BUS  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
COST £5 RETURN**

Village Hall 9.37 11.57 15.17  
Colchester General 9.58 12.18 15.38

Colchester General 10.15 13.35 15.55  
Village Hall 10.38 13.58 16.18

**If you need to get to The Oaks, Essex County  
or the Hospice, this can be arranged but  
please state this when you book your place.**

**Please ring 01255 436 962**

PLANT SALE

GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL

WITH COFFEE & BRING & BUY  
BOOKS & CAKES

SATURDAY 14TH MAY  
10AM TO 12

IN AID OF ST HELENA HOSPICE

CONTRIBUTIONS OF PLANTS ETC.  
VERY WELCOME

Ring 250145 for more information

**WE WELCOME NEW  
ADVERISERS  
THIS MONTH**

Carina Gibson of **Petals** florists. Carina is offering floral arrangements for weddings, functions, or for a special occasion at your home. Bouquets etc. can also be ordered and delivered locally. If you wish to visit Carina at Frowick Farm please ring to arrange an appointment.

See ad on page L

Laura is starting up a new Pre-School at Thorrington and is advertising for staff and also for children who wish to attend. See ad on page L.

We also have a new Electrician Moore Electrical (above)

**Please note that we now have only 3/4  
page of advertising space left for 2005.**

**PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?**

3 sets of coloured slides on wildlife, were mistakenly left in the village hall on February 17th after the E.W.T. AGM. Please have you found them?

If so ring Reg Arthur 01255 820277 who will be delighted to hear from you.

## DIARY FOR MAY 2005

- Tues 3rd **W.I.** Village Hall, 8pm, Resolutions and Social Evening
- Thurs 5th **GENERAL ELECTION**
- Thurs 5th **HYMN SINGING FROM CHURCH TOWER & BREAKFAST**, 7.00am
- Thurs 5th **MOTHERS' UNION**, 10.15am, Vestry Room
- Fri 6th **COFFEE MORNING**, Methodist Church, 10am-12 noon
- Fri 6th **OUTING TO GT HOLLAND PITS**, page 22
- Sat 7th **LOW TIDE DAY, BRIGHTLINGSEA**, See p. 19
- Sat 7th **EVERGREENS COFFEE MORNING**, White Lodge, 10.30am
- Tues 10th **RECYCLING**, Aingers Green
- Tues 10th **ART CLUB**, Village Hall
- Wed 11th **BENTLEY BEARS**, St Mary's Church, 2.15pm
- Wed 11th **MOBILE POLICE UNIT**, 2.15pm - 3.45pm
- Thurs 12th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, Village Hall, 8pm, see p. 23
- Thurs 12th **LUNCHEON CLUB**, Methodist Church
- Thurs 12/Fri 13/Sat 14 **TIPTOE THROUGH THE TOMBSTONES**, See p.8
- Thurs 12th **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Fri 13th **RECYCLING**, Gt Bentley
- Sat 14th **HOSPICE PLANT SALE**, See p. 31
- Sat 14th **AN EVENING OF MUSIC & COMEDY**, V.Hall, see p. 8
- Sun 15th **CLASSIC CAR CRAFT SHOW**, Colne Community Schoo, p.16
- Mon 16th **BLOOD DONORS, Brightlingsea**, 1.30-4pm, 5-7pm
- Mon 16th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Tues 17th **GARDENING CLUB**, 8pm, Village Hall
- Fri 20th **GT BENTLEY SCHOOL**, Thank you day, see p. 22
- Sun 22nd **SCOUT/GUIDE HQ STRAWBERRY FAYRE**, See p. 8
- Tues 24th **RECYCLING**, Aingers Green
- Tues 24th **ART CLUB**, See p. 23
- Wed 25th **MOBILE POLICE UNIT**, 2.15pm - 3.45pm
- Wed 25th **EVERGREENS CLUB**, Village Hall, 2pm, see p. 23
- Thurs 26th **LUNCHEON CLUB**, Methodist Church
- Thurs 26th **FARMERS MARKET, Brightlingsea**, 9am - 1pm
- Thurs 26th **LADIES CLUB**, 7.45pm, Village Hall, see p. 23
- Fri 27th **RECYCLING**, Gt Bentley
- Thurs 31st **ART CLUB**, See p. 23

# Village Information

## St Mary's Church

### VICAR:

The Rev'd Bernard Metcalfe  
The Vicarage, Moors Close - 250476

### CHURCHWARDEN:

Peter Allington  
Poplar House, Station Road - 251086

### CHURCHWARDEN

Nicky Justice  
16 Cherrywoods - 251474

### TREASURER:

Graham Thornton  
St James, Thorrington Road - 250777  
252221 (Office)

### CHURCH VERGER:

Rita Baverstock  
Stonybroke, Station Road - 251271

### CHOIR TRAINER & ORGANIST

Penny Metcalfe  
The Vicarage, Great Bentley - 250476

### LAY READER:

Wendy King  
17 Larkfield Road - 250852

### PCC SECRETARY:

Rita Coles  
3 Wents Close - 251506

### STEWARDSHIP SECRETARY:

Jean Acutt  
60 Birch Avenue - 250880

### TOWER CAPTAIN:

Roger Carey-Smith - 250521

### SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Linda Hayes  
Ivy Lodge, Frating - 250207

### BENTLEY BEARS:

Carole Allington  
Poplar House, Station Road - 251086

### SEEKERS:

Wendy King  
17 Larkfield Road - 250852

### MOTHERS' UNION:

Myrtle Clayton  
30 Larkfield Road - 250725

### VESTRY ROOM BOOKING SECRETARY:

Carole Allington  
Poplar House, Station Road - 251086  
or ring Church Verger

### PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR & DISTRIBUTOR:

Mary Maskell  
Caldew Cottage, The Green - 250524

### METHODIST LAY WORKER:

David Bavister  
2 Richmond Drive, Clacton-on-Sea - 01255 427874

### DOCTOR'S SURGERY:

Drs Steiner, Cavenagh, Hunt, Letton & Bhatti  
The Hollies, The Green - 250691

### CHIROPODIST:

Mrs D. McMillan  
"Pendee", Weeley Road, Aingers Green  
Home visits - 251773

### POLICE:

Clacton 01255 221312

### PARISH COUNCIL:

Clerk to the Council - Geoffrey Catchpole  
The White House, Manningtree Rd, Stutton  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 2SR - 01473 328490

### Chairman:

Lynda McWilliams - 250732

### TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

Robert Taylor  
"Dominica" Moors Close - 250087

### TENDRING RURAL WEST

Mrs S. Candy, Wisteria, Cottage Shop Road,  
Lt Bromley, Manningtree, Essex, CO11 2P7  
01206 390386

### GOOD NEIGHBOURS TRANSPORT:

Dreena Williamson - 250679 or if unavailable  
**Deputy:** Anne Griffiths - 251605 (evenings & weekends only) or  
Dennis Curry - 251717

### MEDICAL AIDS:

Sylvia Adams 250160 or Norman Fuller 251137

### TENDRING FURNITURE SCHEME,

Rocket House, Gorse Lane Industrial Estate, Clacton:  
01255 476068

### VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS:

Heather Taylor, Granville, Plough Rd - 251004

### VILLAGE HALL NUMBER - 251603

### METHODIST HALL BOOKINGS:

Robert & Janet Taylor  
Dominica, Moors Close - 250087

### GT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL - 250331

### COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL - 303511

### VILLAGE HISTORY RECORDER:

Heather Taylor,  
Granville, Plough Road - 251004

### COLCHESTER HOSPITALS: 01206 747474

### CLACTON & DISTRICT HOSPITAL: 01255 201717

### FOOTPATH REP:

Dave Kirby 250585

### VILLAGE CARETAKER

David Tyler - 251095

### DONATIONS FOR ANIMAL RESCUE CENTRE

Judy & Alan Bishop - 23 Cedar Way, 251702

### TENDRING PETS REUNITED

01255 814172