

EDITORIAL

Part of my daily walk runs beside Bentley Brook, a tiny but fascinating stream which through the summer months aimlessly meandered through its gently sloping banks towards Saltwater Creek. At the present moment it is flowing very swiftly and purposefully filling the bed from side to side and at times is quite deep. The ground is sodden and local reservoirs full to the point of overflowing.

Daffodils are in flower in some gardens and it is only the third week in January. The scent from our Daphne Odora bush is wonderful but a little premature. (March or April would be more appropriate.) We have just experienced horrendously strong gales which has left a few village residents without power for 3 days. Fortunately the majority of residents are counting their blessings whilst tree surgeons and those supplying fence panels must be counting their money! On the whole we all got off lightly.

We include a wide range of information and articles this month. Please note the new times for the Mobile Police Unit, see page 9, and information from Essex Police who aim to reduce the number of irrelevant 999 calls. Recycling couldn't be easier and now it's EVERY WEEK so please make an effort to sort through your "rubbish" and recycle as much as possible. Together we can make such a huge difference. We also include a list of medication which doctors have now been informed that they are no longer allowed to prescribe. (How fortunate we are to have the Pharmacy in our village, as you will be able to buy many of the "banned" items over the counter.) On a lighter note we will all be able to start preparing for the Great Bentley Show. Do have a look through the craft schedule on page 33 and endeavour as part of your New Year's Resolutions to prepare at least one entry. The Parish Council have enlisted our help by producing a questionnaire regarding "Bikers Night" so please help by completing this.

All this having been said we were extremely short of copy this month. If at all possible we would love to hear your news and views. Please send us an article, poem, information, criticism, ANYTHING to help us keep the magazine from stagnating. We really do value your input and would love 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.

2007

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FRONT COVER

**Winter sunrise over
Birch Avenue**

The Monthly Letter

February 2007

Amazing Grace

The year 2007 marks the two hundredth anniversary of William Wilberforce's success in banning the slave trade throughout the British Empire.

There is to be a film released in 2007 called 'Amazing Grace' which is about the life of William Wilberforce and his campaign to outlaw slavery.

This outstanding Christian man with the support of friends like William Pitt the younger, whom he met when they were students at Cambridge, succeeded in bringing about a world wide social transformation. Both Pitt and Wilberforce were elected to Parliament by the age of 21 and within a short time Pitt became Prime Minister and was a faithful supporter of Wilberforce in his anti-slavery campaign.

Although Wilberforce is renowned and honoured for his work to abolish 'the pernicious trade in slaves', he also had a further spiritual goal – nothing less than the transformation of the nation, or, as he called it, 'the reformation of the nation, or 'the reformation of the manners'. Through the power of the gospel, Wilberforce opened the way for other godly evangelical men and women to follow.

In the nineteenth century, society was radically changed through the work of Christian activists such as Lord Shaftesbury, Thomas Barnado, Elizabeth Fry and Florence Nightingale, who poured out their lives on behalf of disadvantaged and disabled men, women and children.

As Christians we are called to make a difference, to proclaim God's truth and demonstrate His love in tangible ways that can transform lives.

This year's Churches together Lent course entitled 'Can we build a better world?' will give us an opportunity to learn more. We will be listening to top class speakers, Archbishop John Sentanu, Wendy Craig, Lord Leslie Griffiths and Five Poor Clares from BBC TV's *The Convent*. Why not come and join us. (See details of time and dates and place in forthcoming events)

Pastor David

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2007 MAGAZINE

MONDAY 12th February 2006

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

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

EARLY COPY WOULD BE APPRECIATED

Please No e-mails this month

SERVICES AND EVENTS IN GREAT BENTLEY DURING FEBRUARY 2007

ST MARY'S CHURCH

GREAT BENTLEY METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

1st and 3rd Sunday during term time
9.30am - 10.30am

SUN. 4TH THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist and Sunday School

Mon. 5th 2.30pm Contemplative Prayer Group -
Windsor, Clacton Rd., Thorrington (note new time)

Wed 7th 10.00am Holy Communion
2.15pm Bentley Bears
7.30pm Deanery Synod at Holland-on-Sea

Sat 10th 9.30pm-3.30pm Episcopal Area
Conference at St John's, Colchester

SUN. 11TH SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8.00am Holy Communion by extension
9.30am All Age Sung Eucharist

Mon. 12th 3.30pm *No Seekers during Half Term*

Wed. 14th 10.00am Holy Communion

Sat 17th 12.00 noon Wedding

SUN 18TH SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Eucharist & Sunday School

WED 21ST ASH WEDNESDAY

10.00am Morning Prayer and Litany
7.30pm Solemn Eucharist

SUN 25TH LENT 1

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am All Age Word and Worship Service

Mon. 26th 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group
Meets in the Methodist Church

Wed 28th 10.00am Holy Communion

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

February 4th Pastor David Bavister

February 11th Maddie Whittle

February 18th Les Stevens

February 25th Rev Robin Searles Sacrament

Events in February

Church Council meeting To consider the progress of our Church 7.30pm 27th February

Prayer Breakfast. Saturday 10th February 8.15am. Join us for a simple breakfast and time of prayer, finishing at approximately 9.15am

Luncheon Club 6th & 20th February

If you would like to come along to the Luncheon Club please ring 251330 and talk to Brenda. Come and see if you enjoy the meal and company before you commit yourself to coming each time. Transport can be arranged to help those unable to get to the Methodist Church.

Friday Charity Coffee Morning

Dates for 2007 2nd Feb, 2nd Mar, 4th May, 1st Jun, 3rd Aug, 7th Sep, 5th Oct, 7th Dec.

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

Adventurers Fridays 7 p.m. 250087.

For children in school year 3 and older.

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
ROTAS FOR
FEBRUARY 2007**

SIDESPERSION'S ROTA

Sunday 4th February - 3rd Sunday before Lent

Sidespersons - Graham & Auriol Thornton
Intercessions - Wendy King

Sunday 11th February - 2nd Sunday before Lent

Sidespersons - Pat & Peter Nunn

Sunday 18th February - Sunday Next Before Lent

Sidespersons - Ben & Hilary Harris
Intercessions - Graham Thornton

Wednesday 21st February - Ash Wednesday

Sidesperson - Myrtle Clayton

Sunday 25th February - Lent 1

Sidesperson - Karen Williams

COFFEE ROTA

4th Jean Twyman/Mandy Miles
11th Hilary & Ben Harris
18th Pat & Luke Berriman
25th Nicky Justice

CLEANING ROTA

3rd Olive Wright/Chris Aplin
10th John & Jennie Moss
17th Penny Buchan
24th Sylvia Adams/Dreena Williamson

WEDDING

17th February

Mark Richard Pigram and
Karen Bovingdon

MOTHERS' UNION

Our branch AGM will be held at my home next time, 33 Larkfield Road at 7.45pm on Thursday 1st February. A time to review the past and look forward to the year ahead.

We do have several events planned which we would like to share with friends. All will be very welcome.

We look forward to an enjoyable year.

Myrtle Clayton - 250724

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THURSDAY 3RD MAY

Visit to Audley End House and Gardens (all day)

**SATURDAY OR SUNDAY
2nd & 3rd JUNE**

Little Bentley Hall Gardens and Waterways Event
(reduced rates for parties of 20 or more)

THURSDAY 4th OCTOBER

Mary Sumner House and Thames Riverboat Trip with lunch.

All welcome.

If you are interested please contact:

Myrtle Clayton - 250724
Nicky Justice - 01255 820724
or Rita Sharpe - 250805

THANK YOU

Elizabeth Bodmer presenting the cheque for £1,820.00 to Addenbrooke's paediatric oncology unit.

A big thank you to everyone who raised this money at the Magic of Christmas concert in St Mary's Church.

* * *

Robert and his Mum would like to say thank you to Father Christmas for the lovely present he received from the Mother & Toddler Group at the Great Bentley Methodist Church.

* * *

I would like to thank Alan and Judy Bishop for all their good work on behalf of the animals in rescue centres in and around our region.

As a small rescue I really appreciate the regular donations of bedding, food, litter, toys and other bits and bobs that they collect and then pass on. A lot of the items, even in excellent condition, might otherwise just be thrown out. Instead the person donating the items is relieved of the problem of what to do with them, feels good about helping a little animal in distress and all the rescue centres and their charges benefit.

An excellent scheme, efficiently run and Judy's delicious cakes for those doing the caring are a lovely bonus ... even if they don't help my waistline!

All good wishes to you both.

Beryl Gilbert - Cats Cradle.

* * *

A remembrance to Sally (Nanny) Boswell who would have been 100 years old on 29th January 2007. Forever in our thoughts.

With love, Jim and Gloria, the grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

CATS CRADLE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A big thank you once again to the kind people of our village who contributed to make this Christmas appeal another success. The grand total as at the 10th January of items of food for the animals was 195.

I also received donations totalling £52 which was a very nice surprise. The money will be used at Colne Valley Veterinary Practice for special diet food or for medication.

Special thanks to those who had donation boxes on their premises - Bentley Garage, Great Bentley Primary School, Evergreen Friendship Club, Crumbles. Thanks also to our Post Office for displaying posters.

57 cats and kittens have been rehomed this year via Cats Cradle.

Happy New Year to everyone from Beryl and her moggies.

Thank you.

Further donations of items suitable as bedding for animals at the rescue and re-homing centres has continued to be gathered in from kind folk in and around Great Bentley. Old blankets, covers, duvets, sleeping bags, sheets and towels are all very useful and are always very welcome at the various centres which we are now able to help. Your thoughtful generosity allows Judy and I to ensure that those pets currently in care at the centres have a clean, dry bed. We are also most grateful for the kind donations of pet food and to those ladies who have taken the trouble to knit the most beautiful blankets and envelopes which are used to cover rescued cat's heated pads. Thank you very much.

Alan Bishop, 23 Cedar Way, tel: 251702

HELP REQUIRED

Thank you to Beryl Gilbert who has been delivering the magazine to the residents of Finch Drive for the past two years. Sadly Beryl is unable to continue and we therefore URGENTLY require a new "Deliverer" for this small round.

The job is not too time consuming and consists of delivering 20 magazines **each month** and collecting the subs **once a year**.

If you live in Finch Drive or nearby and feel you could help us out please ring;

Mary Maskell 250524

BADGERS

During the past year or so I have received several phone calls about badgers. Sadly most of the messages concerned animals which had been killed in road accidents. There are certain times of year when the young males set off in search of adventure and new territories and road safety is not their prime objective!

The N. E. Essex Badger Group will usually send out one of their members to remove the injured animal and seek veterinary care, or remove the body. They keep careful records of all badger sightings and have extensive knowledge of "all things Badger".

If you see a dead or injured badger please ring the Badger hotline number, which is either manned or has an answerphone system.

The number is 07751 572175.

Mary Maskell

DOCTOR STEINER

Dr. Steiner started work in Great Bentley on 1st October 1976 when he joined Dr. Craig and Dr. George at the "Old Surgery" now known as Bentley House. After 30 years loyal service he has now decided to hang up his stethoscope and enjoy a well deserved rest. He will finish work on 1st March. I am sure we would all like to wish Dr. Steiner all the very best for a long and healthy retirement. A Gt. Bentley resident is organising a collection for a retirement gift and if you would like to make a donation there is a collection box at Evans (the new shop situated between the Doctors and the Pharmacy). The money will be collected from each village on 21st February. Please note that there will not be a formal presentation made as in the case of Dr. George and of course this is being undertaken as a surprise. Thank you.

THE GREAT BENTLEY SHOW

September 1st is the date for the next Great Bentley Show. It may seem a long way ahead to you but I can tell you that the first subcommittee met on 10th January to consider and amend, if necessary, the entry schedule. Any changes have to be made and notified early to give entrants ample time to modify or change their prospective entries.

The Horticultural entries take pride of place in the show marquee and that right is beyond dispute. The Arts and Crafts entries continue to expand and demonstrate a wide range of interest and occupations. The "Jewel in the Crown" is the Children's section! Bigger than ever in 2006, will 2007 beat it? I hope so, because they are the future of the show.

This is **your** village show so think about an entry, an exhibit or perhaps participating in some way this year. You know it makes sense.

Ben Harris

**PLOUGH ROAD
FITNESS CENTRE**

Every Tuesday

Yoga 7pm - 8pm

**Aerobics
8pm - 8.45pm**

at

**Great Bentley
Methodist Church**

01206 250059

Bentley Green Players

**Read Through and Auditions for their
Next Production**

Ghost Writer

(an adult comedy)
by
David Tristram

To be held in the Methodist Church Hall on Thursday
17th Friday 18th and Saturday 19th May 2007

If you are interested in taking part please come
along to the read through and auditions on Monday
5th February 2007 in The Vestry at St Mary's Church
starting at 7.30 pm.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to
the group whether you are interested in acting, set
building or other back stage work.

If you require any further information please contact
Lynda.

Telephone number 01206 250732

**COFFEE
MORNING**

Methodist Church
10.00am
Friday 2nd February

Various Stalls

In support of Sight Savers
and Clacton Stroke Unit and carers

**CARNIVAL
QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday 24th February

7.30pm

The Vestry Room

St Mary's Church

Teams of 6 - £3.00 per head

Bring your own drink and nibbles

Raffle & prizes for winners

POLICE REPORT

Although the Christmas and New Year celebrations are over the drink drive campaign continues. People are constantly reminded that the consequences of being convicted of drink driving are severe.

This could involve the loss of driving licence which could result in the loss of your job and higher insurance premium on return to driving. A severe effect on family life.

It is too easy to say "I only had a couple", not so easy to explain to the family when a person has been severely injured or killed.

- 1 Don't take any risks
- 2 Get a taxi, train or bus
- 3 Arrange for someone to remain sober and drive.

THINK BEFORE YOU DRINK

Please take a note of the new opening times of the Tendring Mobile Police Office

Great Bentley

The Plough Inn

9.00am - 10am

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month

Richard Clements
Mobile Police Office

USEFUL NUMBERS

How can you **STOP** unwanted telephone sales calls - Register free with Telephone Preference Service on 0845 0700707.

Contact your local Fire Safety Officer on 01206 574255 to find out about fitting free smoke alarms.

Problems with noise at night - if this is excessive noise Careline can be called on 01255 222022.

BEWARE

Now it's not often that you get a job offer via an unsolicited email, but that's what our Coordinator received; and not just any old job, she was offered the job of Financial Manager! The alarm bells were ringing loud and clear by now and the next sentence made them deafening, as the email stated that she did not need any qualifications, but only to receive payments and pay them into her own Bank. She then had to withdraw funds from her own Bank and forward them on. She was offered 8% to 10% of the transaction.

Anyone who falls for this scam will either lose a lot of cash (1) or be prosecuted for money laundering (2), 1.The drafts (usually Western Union money order - untraceable) paid into her account are unlikely to be honoured (although Banks at first may believe them to be good), Norden then ask for a quick money transfer. So the victim's money will be paid out before the money order has been finally cleared by their own Bank.

2. By simply accepting cheques into an account and then paying out a similar sum to another third party is money laundering.

Please don't get caught.

Calvin Heal
Crime Prevention Officer

Memorial Seat

A seat is to be purchased in memory of the late Vernon Walsh and placed in the area of the Green near his cottage. The cost will be from donations with no cost to the Village. The Parish Council approved this at their last meeting.

They have also agreed that the triangular board near the telephone box can be updated with sponsored information. The first side now contains the Village Green map sponsored by the Friends of Great Bentley Green. This again is at no cost to the village.

MOBILE POLICE UNIT

Wednesday 14th February
Wednesday 28th February

9.00am to 10.00am
Outside the Plough Inn

TENDRING COMMUNITY TRANSPORT HOPPER BUS MONDAY - FRIDAY COST £5.50 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

BRIGHTLINGSEA FARMERS MARKET

BRIGHTLINGSEA
COMMUNITY CENTRE

LOWER PARK ROAD

THURSDAY 22nd FEBRUARY
9.00am - 1.00pm

RECYCLING

EVERY WEEK

YES PLEASE:

- PAPER** (including junk mail, paper bags, shredded paper, wrapping paper, envelopes, old catalogues and telephone directories)
- CARD** (including cardboard packaging and greetings cards)
- CANS/TINS** (including aerosol cans, lager cans, soft drinks cans, pet food tins and sardine tins) Please rinse tins.
We do have our own can bank near the Station in Station Road.

PLASTIC CONTAINERS

(Plastic milk bottles, cleaning products, shampoo bottles, plastic food packaging, plastic bags, plastic flower pots, margarine tubs and yoghurt pots - please remove lids) Please rinse out.

NO THANKS:

- GLASS** Please deposit these in the bottle bank near Cricket Pavilion
- TEXTILES** Please deposit these in the textile bank in Station Road
- ALUMINIUM FOIL**
- POLYSTYRENE** - Put in domestic refuse or reuse it to aid drainage in the bottom of pot plants
- TETRA-PAKS**
Please place in domestic refuse

(Please leave recycling on your

GREAT BENTLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Wednesday

14th February

Village Hall

2.00pm - 4.00pm

DOG FOULING

The amount of dog fouling in the village has increased since before Christmas and is getting worse. I'm speaking mainly about The Path and surrounding area. During the Christmas period the mess carried across the front area of three houses and was disgusting, especially with the heavy rain. It is obviously a big dog and my instinct tells me it is not someone who visits the village just to exercise their dogs. Most clean up and always run the dogs on the Green not the road. I don't think it's a parent either, because they would care about other people's children walking through it and having to clean shoes and pram wheels. Yesterday morning about 11am I found another huge mess near to my gate. That's the third lot in three weeks and enough is enough! The Path is in constant use day and night mostly by the elderly and children including our paper delivery boys and girls working mornings and evenings, mostly in the dark now. I know many lovely dogs and their owners and they all clean up often more than once a day. I hope whoever is responsible for this mess is thoroughly ashamed of him or her self and remember, dog fouling carries a fine now!

Betty Harvey.

This problem applies to the whole of the Green and the public footpath behind the Church. See also page 31 Football notes.

NORTH ESSEX CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

The first event of the new Season will be another Games Evening to be held in the Vestry Room (St Mary's Church) on Friday 9th March at 7.30pm.

Not a reconstituted TV Game this time but a time-honoured form of Charades, much played at Theatrical Parties and played without words. We play in teams and a member of each team must mime a subject chosen by the opposing team and his/her own team must guess it; and there is a time limit.

So there is no pressure on anyone to perform the miming if they don't want to and anyway, it's just as much fun to do the guessing!

There is limited room in the vestry room so it will be advisable to book tickets early. Tickets are £6 each. Members' priority booking opens on 19th February and General Booking on 26th February.

Please come along and join in the fun.

There will of course be refreshments of the usual variety.

Donald Walker - 250172

VILLAGE RIVALS

Before eleven men in cricket whites and caps
Poised the rival opening bat.
A quick four; spectators clap
The bowler sighed, he better not repeat that.
The onlookers were tense, it was rivalry
Two villages honour bound
Weeley against Great Bentley.
The annual match had come round.
Runs mounted on the board
The first team in, now all out.
"That score we'll beat", the rival captain assured,
The opening bats now went out
Time went by, the runs did mount
Two to go, then the winning shout!
Yes, I'm a Bentley lad.

Eleven men in blue and white hoop shirts
Lined up on the green one November Saturday
Against eleven men in coloured shirts and shorts.
The rival team from Weeley.
The referee blew a short blast
The game was on, honour bent.
Encouraging shouts from the crowd at last.
Energy from each side on the leather ball was spent
Come half time, teams equal were.
Their coaches, tactics spoken "let's go"
Village honour "who's the winner?"
Shouts, sighs, "oh no!"
"Not a hand ball!"
Up to the mark stepped our striker
One stride, two, "It's a goal!"
"Who won?" Guess, I'm a Bentley lad.

D. Gibbs

LIONS CLUB OF CLACTON ON SEA

Friends of the Green

January is the "month after" month. After the Christmas celebrations, and the New Year parties, the shop 'til you drop, the shows and pantomimes.... the bills start to arrive! More often than not the weather is foul and unfriendly as are some people! It is that time of the year... I ventured out on the 4th January, the weather was quite acceptable and I was pleased to be with a small group of village friends who gathered to support Bob Wright, Chairman of Friends of the Green, as he unveiled the new Village Map. It will be of great use to the many visitors to the village and quite a few residents! A big vote of thanks is due to Michael Dorling who has been the driving force behind this project. He is a real "Great Bentley Man"

Ben Harris

**PIG RACE
NIGHT**

Saturday 10th February

Village Hall

Doors open 7.30pm

Tote opens 8.00pm

£5 including supper
Bring your own booze

Tickets available from

**Tel: 251345 or
Post Office**

Proceeds to Campaign Sightfirst to raise money to control and eliminate major causes of blindness across the world

**FLAG RAISING
FEBRUARY 2007**

Tuesday 6th February

The Union Flag

Accession Day of H.M. the Queen 55 years

Surgery News

So, all the decorations, trees and cards have been taken down, Santa has put his reindeer out to graze and hung his suit up for another few months. All we have to look forward to now are the pantomime, longer days, spring flowers and summer holidays – oh, and a new GP Registrar. All of a sudden, life looks a lot rosier.

Spring 2007 is actually going to be quite a dramatic time of change here at the surgery, with several comings and goings.

First of all, our new GP Registrar, Dr Jatoi, will be starting with us on about 8th February. She will be with us for a year, working under Dr Hunt's supervision, effectively learning how to be a GP. She is already a very experienced doctor, having qualified in 1980 and holding a variety of hospital posts since then. She returned to medicine in 2003 following a career break to have children. We have been without a Registrar for some time, so we are really pleased that she has chosen to spend her training year with us. We are looking forward to welcoming her to "The Hollies".

The next major happening will be Dr Steiner's retirement on 1st March. That really will mark the end of an era as he has been here, "man and boy" as they say, since 1976. It's incredible to think that when he joined the practice it increased the complement of doctors to three. Most of the time these days, we work with seven, plus nurses and healthcare assistants. This just demonstrates how medicine has changed over the last thirty years and what extra demands the NHS now makes of surgeries on your behalf. It's a very different world.

Anyway, I promise you a more detailed account of Dr Steiner's time here when the big day arrives, so for the moment I'll say no more about him.

The very day after Dr Steiner takes up his rocking-chair Dr O'Reilly will be moving in to replace him. Many of you will remember him because he did his registrar year here, qualifying in August 2000. For the last few years he has been a partner in the West Mersea practice and we were absolutely delighted when he applied to come back as Dr Steiner's replacement. West Mersea's loss is definitely our gain. Dr O'Reilly is intending gradually to take over Dr Hunt's training role, so the next Registrar we get, probably starting in December, will work under his wing.

Finally, and sadly, at the end of March we shall be saying "goodbye" to Dr Hickling. He will have been with us for just over a year and has really fitted in well and made a positive contribution. We wish him all the best with whatever new projects he takes on. I'm sure that many patients will miss him as much as we shall.

To any experienced NHS watchers, it will come as no surprise that the powers that be never leave us for long to get on with the job without interfering. The latest example is that the Department of Health has just decided to poke its nose into what should and shouldn't be prescribed. As usual, decisions have been made in the interests of saving money which, I suppose we have to concede, could be better spent in other ways.

We have been told that we should no longer be prescribing a range of so called "over the counter" drugs which are available without prescription at a pharmacy or supermarket. This includes things like hay fever preparations, Calpol (paracetamol suspension), head-lice treatments and creams for problems such as nappy-rash.

We have also been told not to prescribe a number of medications which are judged to have limited clinical value. Probably the most significant of these are tonics and health supplements (including Glucosamine) and the gels that you can rub on to ease joint or muscle pain. So, if in future the doctors won't write a prescription for one of these or anything else that is on the list, please don't shoot the messenger. We are just doing as we are told.

There are notices up in the surgery which gives a fuller list of items we are not now supposed to prescribe. Luckily, all of them can be purchased without prescription, very often for less than the standard prescription charge. See page 25.

Hugh Cronin
Practice Manager

Pet's corner

DEAR LORD

EXOTIC TRAVEL – EXOTIC DISEASES

The number of pets entering the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme (“Pet Passport”) each year has increased significantly since its launch in February 2000. Figures from DEFRA show a total of 15,000 dogs and cats entered in 2000, 27,000 in 2001, 41,000 in 2002, 55,000 in 2003 and 70,000 in 2004. This now seems to be levelling off. By June 2006 314,000 pets had entered via this method including 278,837 dogs, 35,007 cats and 56 ferrets (yes ferrets – someone must love them, although I did once export two guinea pigs to the USA....each to their own).

The Pet Passport is probably getting more popular due to the expanding number of countries in the scheme (always check DEFRA’s website for up to date lists), increased awareness by the general public and an increase in the number of carriers taking pets. Personally I think it is also due to many more people spending large periods of time at their newly acquired second homes in Spain and France, or maybe that’s just working around Wilmslow!

However, from a disease point of view many owners are not fully aware of the disease precautions that they need to carry out to prevent their pet acquiring some nasty foreign bug whilst out there, particularly as we UK vets are not so familiar with these diseases. There is a scheme started in March 2003 by DEFRA and the British Veterinary Association to report voluntarily the occurrence of exotic disease in imported or native dogs. There is a focus mainly on four diseases – babesiosis, ehrlichiosis (or “Licky Licky” as one of my receptionists used to call it when blood testing for it), dirofilariosis and leishmaniasis. In March 2006 a total of 49 diseases had been reported all in dogs. 10 cases of babesiosis, 10 of ehrlichiosis, 19 of leishmaniasis and 1 of dirofilariosis, and 3 animals had more than one disease. There is likely a lot more out there as this is a voluntary scheme. Most of these are tick or insect-borne diseases acquired from biting. There are a lot of preventative measures that can be utilised. If you are lucky enough to own a villa in France – just ask your vet or the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation has produced a leaflet that can be downloaded from www.bva-awf.org.uk

MARK ALLINGTON
B.Sc (Hons),
BVM & S, MRCVS

Every single evening
As I’m lying here in bed,
This tiny little Prayer
Keeps running through my head.

God bless all my family
Wherever they may be,
Keep them warm and safe from harm
For they’re so close to me.

And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do;
Hope you don’t mind me asking,
Please bless my computer too.

Now I know that it’s unusual
To Bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second
While I explain it to you, Lord.

You see, that little metal box
Holds more than odds and ends;
Inside those small compartments
Rest so many of my friends.

I know so much about them
By the kindness that they give,
And this little scrap of metal
Takes me in to where they live.

By faith is how I know them
Much the same as you
We share in what life brings us
And from that our friendships grew.

Please take an extra minute
From your duties up above,
To bless those in my address book
That’s filled with so much love.

Wherever else this prayer may reach
To each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail inbox
And each person who hits “send”.

When you update your Heavenly list
On your own Great CD-ROM,
Bless everyone who says this prayer
Sent up to GOD. com

Amen

Wildlives

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre
'Catkins', Frating Road, Thorrington, Colchester CO2 8HT

<http://www.wildlives.org.uk>

Update

February 2007

Wildlives is continuing to take in admissions from the RSPCA only and there have been a number of animals coming to the centre over the past few weeks. Wildlives is working towards opening fully again in the near future. If you have any wildlife emergencies, contact the RSPCA on 0870 5555999

Red Squirrel Project

Wildlives was delighted to receive a cheque last month for £500 from the East of England Cooperative Society. This is part of a Community Grant Scheme run by the Society and was awarded to Wildlives to support the Red Squirrel Project. The rescue centre is to be given a breeding pair of red squirrels and will be working in conjunction with the National Red Squirrel Captive Breeding Programme to support the dwindling population of these animals. The intention will be to allow the pair to breed and then to release squirrels into a specially designated safe area, away from grey squirrels. The grey squirrel population is a threat to the red squirrel population because the greys carry a virus that they themselves are immune to. If the virus is passed onto the red squirrels it kills them. The money from the Cooperative Society will go towards providing an enclosure for them at Wildlives.

Wildlife Presentations to the Community

Lisa Ray, Wildlives volunteer, has given two talks recently to the local community, to Capel St Mary Countryside Group and Great Bentley Women's Institute. Both talks, which were not just about the rescue centre, but also about wildlife in general, were well attended and both received very positive feedback. The groups were very impressed with the dedication of all those working at the centre. Lisa is available to do talks to groups in the evenings and if you would be interested in having a presentation on the theme of 'Wildlives and Wildlife', please contact Rosie.

And some more thank yous.....

Two youngsters, Eleanor Firth and Emma Bainbridge from Dovercourt, have raised £100 for the centre. The two pupils from Chase Lane Primary School completed a two mile non-stop run around their playing field. The girls were inspired to raise the money after visiting the centre and came back to hand the cheque over to Rosie personally.

A big thank you also needs to go to Brightlingsea Primary School for all the food that has been collected.

It is fantastic to have youngsters involved in the fundraising efforts of the centre.

If you have a wild animal casualty or need advice, please phone the RSPCA on 08705555999

For more photos see our website

laratownsend@hotmail.co.uk

GOING GREEN

Hi, I'm Oli and I am one half of www.jonoandolisavetheworld.org.uk Mary has been asking me to write something for the Parish Magazine for ages and I thought it was about time I did.

Mary wanted to know about recycling, what could we put in our green bins and more importantly what should we leave out? You see if we put the wrong things in our green bins then we can contaminate the batch and they may have to landfill it anyway. **Is anyone else interested in finding out more about recycling?**

So who am I and why can I help?

Jonoandolisavetheworld is a simple project with two goals. Jono and I have committed to reducing our carbon dioxide emissions by 20% and also to reducing our ecological footprint (environmental impact).

To do this we are using two tools, see our site for more information or to download the spreadsheet:

1) Carbon Dioxide Audit Spreadsheet

This tool allows us to calculate our carbon dioxide emissions for the previous year and also to work out a monthly allowance for us to hit our 20% reduction target.

2) EcoTeam run in conjunction with en-form (Colchester's Environment Centre)

EcoTeams is a Global Action Plan scheme that encourages 6-8 households to measure their energy, water, waste and recycling and then meet monthly for 4-5 months to discuss ways of reducing it.

You see neither Jono nor I are totally 'Green' people and we both have a way to go. We are not actually expecting to save the world, instead my friend Jono and I decided that we would stop complaining about the lack of action on environmental issues and start taking action. Hence this article.

Do you recycle? Would you like to see if you can reduce your electricity, gas or oil bills? Do you just want to live your life with a little less impact on the environment? There is one more aspect to www.jonoandolisavetheworld.org.uk we need to encourage others to do the same. You see we are only two but we know that there are more out there.

If you are interested in any of the things I have mentioned or you have a question about village life and the environment (I specialise in domestic energy stuff) then look at the site and drop us a line.

Have a great 2007.

Oli

oli@jonoandolisavetheworld.org.uk

Thanks Oli.

PS. We'd like to hear more please.

See also article on recycling on page 9.

“YOUR ESSEX”

*Taken from The Essex County Standard 1936
by Cyril R. Jefferies*

From my boyhood days Great Bentley has been associated with the pleasant places I have visited. When anyone speaks of a village green the delightful green at Great Bentley instantly comes to my mind, and I expect it always will do. Maybe this is because its size and beauty impressed me as a child, but I think I should be equally impressed if I saw it for the first time today. Large and small houses all but encompass it; some are modern, and others bear the indelible mark of age. When I visited the parish recently there were geese on the Green adding a pleasing touch to the scene. I was attracted, too, by the way the Church of St Mary glimpsed at me from its somewhat screened position as I made my way across the Green.

It certainly must be enjoyable to watch a cricket match on Great Bentley green - football and cricket are both played there. Mrs Lunniss showed me a photograph of the local team which in 1913 won the Tendring Hundred League. It showed P.Z. Clark, H. Cowell, B. Cordy, E. Lines, F. Cross, S. Humm, S. Newman, F. Lord, B. Lines, W. Dines, - French, F. Clarke and A.A. Lunniss. I saw too a much earlier photograph, dating back over fifty years, of the Brothers Almond, two cricketers. This photograph is in the possession of Mr P.Z. Clark, one of the keenest cricketers, I have ever met. It was from Mr Clark that I learned a great deal about Great Bentley cricket, and the present club, which was formed in 1897. At the outset Mr J.W. Potter was the president; Mr F. Barker, treasurer; Mr H. Girling, honorary secretary; Mr C.H. Chisnall, captain; Mr P.Z. Clark, vice captain; and the committee consisted of Messrs. A. Cowell, A. Creasey, E. Girling, J. Hardingham, C.H. Morton, - Sutherland, - Solly and C. Taylor. Mr Clark showed me, too, a cricket fixture dated 1897, when the opponents included Clacton on Sea, Horkesley, Ascham College, Chappel, and Wivenhoe. They tell me “the Derby” of the season is with the Brightlingsea team. Here let me mention that no one seems to know how

PAGES FROM THE PAST

far back cricket on Great Bentley green dates to. I chatted with Mr P.Z. Clark about many things - the Well Yard in which lived Rose Allen, who was burned at the stake in the 16th century - to this day the spot where she lived attracts visitors; Peggs, the van dweller who once dwelt on the Green, and being attacked by robbers cut off the fingers of one of them with an axe; and the last horse race which took place between a black and a grey horse from Harwich. Mr Clark, spoke of these as we talked of the past.

Sleet was falling when I made my way to the residence of Mr J.H. Sizer, J.P., but despite this fact the pleasant character of the district lost none of its charm for me. I spent some time with Mr and Mrs Sizer. In 1794 Mr Sizer's great grand-father came to Great Bentley and took over the windmill which stood on the Green. The sails swung so low that they would have hit a dog. In 1850 Mr Sizer's father built a steam mill and this was pulled down in 1925. Some of the employees that were called to mind as we talked were Charles Root, Robert Payne and John Watsham. Mrs Sizer is the daughter of the late Rev Featherstone Kellett, a Methodist Minister, who came to Great Bentley in 1858, and conversation turned to Methodism. The first minister Mr Sizer, remembered was the Rev. Henry Cattle. Local preachers he called to mind were Mr Joseph Hawthorn of Great Bromley, Messrs. Payne and George Sansom, Colchester, and Messrs. Folkard and H. Polley, of Brightlingsea. Mr Sizer's father was a local preacher. Names of residents in the parish that were recalled included Mr Joseph Ward, of The Parsonage Farm, Mr George Ward, who lived at The Lodge, Mr John Borrodell, of Eden's Farm, and Mr Frederick Thompson, a West Indian planter, who had a freed slave as his servant. Mr Sizer remembered Dr. Meadowcraft, who lived at Great Bentley prior to Dr Robert Atthill. He remembered, too, the Rev. Joseph Crofts, a vicar who died in 1866, who was never seen without a high hat and an umbrella. It was said he died sitting in the kitchen wearing his high hat. Another memory was of the time when railway passengers to Great Bentley had to alight from the train at Wivenhoe, and the opening of this line to Great Bentley. Mr Sizer travelled in the

first train from the village to Colchester. What a wonderful store of interesting memories he has.

A chat with Miss Cordy, then I made my way to Mr and Mrs William J. Nevard's house. Mrs Nevard is the postmistress, and the Post Office was at one time the old Golf House. Near to it stood the village cage years ago, and Mr Nevard showed me a receipt for the purchase of this and the ground on which it stood. This receipt, dated May 24 1878, was on a strip of paper a few inches wide and read, "Received on behalf of Great Bentley Parish from Mrs Poulton six pounds for the parish cage and ground on which it stood." It is signed, "Isaac Mills, Churchwarden." Overleaf are the words, "Easter Monday Parish Meeting previous to date of receipt a minute made empowering Churchwardens to sell cage and ground situated in Great Bentley Parish." That is all. I wonder what form such a receipt would take today, and to what length it would run? Mr Nevard's father used to keep The Victory, and Mr Nevard went to the Church school when Miss Hunt was the schoolmistress. Talking of Great Bentley yesterdays, he told me about the fire at The Hall. Mrs Poulton, who used to have a grocer's shop, William Wright, grocer and upholsterer, William Bronson, the baker, and George Cowell, newsagent, were business people referred to in the course of our conversation. Mrs Nevard's grandfather was Edwards Clark, builder, undertaker, and owner of a smith's shop as well. He died in 1904, and in the course of an address given at a memorial service conducted by the Rev. F. Willcox, mention was made of Mr Edwards Clark having draped the pulpit and reading desk of the church in black at the time of the death of King George IV. A particularly interesting relic with the old mill is in the possession of Mrs Nevard. It is a stick, bearing he initials T.A. and dated December 4, 1769.

From Mr Leonard George Newman, whose great grandfather came to Great Bentley 150 years ago, I heard an amusing story of the press gang which had been told to him. The press gang sought to impress a man, but he was too quick for them, and as they entered the house where he was he climbed on the roof and hid behind a chimney. Moreover, when they could not find him, and were leaving, he made a noise so like an owl that one of the men remarked, "Listen to that old owl up on the chimney." Mr Newman told me, too, of a tale he had heard of smugglers, and how they hid spirit in a hollow willow tree. Cock fighting in the barns years ago, and also badger baiting in an old drain, not far from where the Post Office now stands were things of which he had heard tell. The name of Mr Sythies, who lived at Tye Farm years ago and interested himself in the construction of "flying machines," before the age of flying, was mentioned. Mr Smythies endeavoured to make a machine having a light steam engine and wings that flapped. It was said that he did succeed in rising from the ground although he never mastered the air.

Sitting near to a horse which eyed me from its stable I met Mr Harry Frost Ruffles aged 85 years. Mr Ruffles rode a number of horses when they raced on Great Bentley Green. Horse, cob, and pony races were held, and owners' names which Mr Ruffles remembered were Messrs. Clark, Thomas Girling, Joseph Taylor, and - King. The latter brought his horses from Great Bardfield. Races took place at the time of the Fair held the Monday after St Swithin, and attracted people from miles around. "There was plenty of sport on fair days," said Mr Ruffles, who spoke too of the lamb sales and a horse sale for which, as a boy, he had gone to Harwich for a drove of Norwegian ponies. I can imagine those ponies arriving, the dealers, and the crowd of onlookers. To have witnessed a sight such as that must have been some compensation for age.

WHISPERS EVENING AND MEAL

**At the
Methodist Church**

Saturday 17th February

7.00pm

An evening with slides and talks from David and Gill Bavister on work they and friends, Liz and Les Marshall did in creating fresh water for a school and orphanage in the poorest area of Kenya.

A hot meal will be provided

Tickets before hand to help with catering numbers

£2.00 from Colin 250979.

Come along and find out why this experience was called "Whispers"

Peter's Potterings

Did you get an orchid for Christmas? If you did I hope it is still flowering. Chances are it is a Phalaenopsis type orchid, denoted by having large oval shaped leaves. Whilst people tend to associate orchids with hot steamy places, a vast number come from cooler climates, and they grow on trees at various levels in the rainforests. This means they often get only short bursts of sunlight, and get watered when it rains then dry out and have to wait for the next rain storm. Traditionally the roots will wrap around branches and so their roots never stand in water. This gives you a clue as to how you should water your plants. Use rainwater, as tap water contains chemicals that coat the roots and the bark pieces in the compost and this tends to rot the roots. A small amount of fertilizer, either special orchid fertilizer, or less than half strength normal houseplant fertiliser, but every 3/4 weeks just use plain water to wash away any residues. Pour the water in the top, then let it all drain so the roots don't get waterlogged.

The other common orchid Cymbidium has narrow leaves similar to an iris. This grows in slightly different conditions and is okay with its roots in a bark/compost mixture, but it still needs to be a good draining mixture, and is watered the same way as above.

Often orchids tend to die after a couple of years. This may be due to the bark pieces that give good draining, gradually falling to bits and making a compost like mixture in the pot that stops free drainage. Either repot using more bark or perhaps just throw them away and buy a new one of a different colour.

After flowering do not cut off the spike of the Phalaenopsis orchids but leave the old stem and watch for new flower buds to emerge, then cut off the old stem left above this shoot. Cymbidium orchids have flower buds which come from the base and can therefore be cut away after flowering. Once the weather improves the longer leaves of the Cymbidium like a bit of outside air and can be put out into a shady place for a few weeks in the summer. Please be careful to expose it slowly to the sunshine, as like us humans the sudden shock of going from sitting in low light to lazing in full sun can cause a type of plant sunburn and the leaves scorch. Outside plants will need more water than when they are indoors.

From the exotic to the more mundane and perhaps more interesting to some - "The vegetables". Whilst some vegetables such as broad beans can be sown in the autumn and over wintered, most will be sown in the spring for use in the summer or autumn. I always have a row of autumn sown broad beans, and then plant a row of spring sown to give beans a few weeks later. February is a good time to sow parsnip seeds, but as these are slow to germinate, if the weather is cold or wet they may rot and you may need to re-sow in April. So why sow in February you may ask? The reason is that early sowing gives a larger parsnip. If you prefer smaller roots then just sow later in the year.

Early carrots are similar to parsnips but you should sow once a month for the first half of the year to give a succession of nice young tender carrots. Last year I grew three sorts of carrots, two were called carrot fly resistant, Flyaway for early summer/autumn use and Resistafly for autumn/winter, together with a non resistant variety Early Nantes. Now Early Nantes, if sown in February/March will usually be eaten before the main problems with carrot fly. I sowed in alternate rows and the idea is that any carrot flies leave the resistant varieties alone and go for the non resistant variety. Good theory, go for the easiest target. Did it work? Well yes it did. The resistant types were hardly touched at all, but then neither was the non resistant type, so perhaps the carrot flies were influenced by the nasty resistant types and went and attacked someone else's carrots. I will be repeating this system again this year and will let you know the results. The traditional methods like keeping the carrots under fleece from germination also help to keep the dreaded fly at bay.

If the weather remains mild and you can work your ground try a row of early potatoes. Lightly dig the ground, lay fleece over the area for a couple of weeks to warm up the soil, then sow the seed potatoes that you have previously allowed short shoots to form on (chitting). Cover over with the fleece to keep them warm and protect from frost, and earth up gradually as the green shoots grow above the ground. You should have some nice early potatoes by the end of May, perhaps to go with some nice broad beans.

PETER ALLINGTON

Village Hall

New Year's Eve Dance

The New Year's Eve family disco was as usual sold out and a profit of approximately £1900 was raised for the village hall. Extra income was generated this year by the use of the Michael Wright room which was hired to a group of people who paid £5 per head on top of the normal ticket price to enjoy a meal with friends before the serious business of dancing the night away.

Just to mention the group of people who now organise the evening on behalf of the village hall committee. They are Lara and John, Sharon and Chris, Mark and Michelle, Sharon and Ross, Donna and Jeff and Richard and not forgetting Lillian Matthams for selling the tickets and purchasing the 'New Year's Eve's bits'. To Justin thanks for his usual quality disco and I have promised not to mention the technical hitch at around 11.30pm!!!! Raffle prizes were donated by Lillian, Paul, Lara, Vic, Roger & Bev, Lynda, Peter and Alison and from the user groups RBL, Women's Institute and Wednesday Badminton. These are the people that we know and judging by the amount of prizes there must have been many more but we are grateful to everyone.

One problem that we must try to eliminate next year is the dye that remains on the floor from the 'cannons' that are fired off at midnight. This year there were several and consequently the colouring left on the floor was particularly bad. It may necessitate a professional floor cleaner to be called in at the cost of a few hundred pounds which of course will seriously reduce the amount of money raised. This will be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting which will be the AGM on the 27th February at the Village Hall. Do come along.

Michael Dorling

DUSTING

"A house becomes a home when you can write, "I love you" on the furniture."

I can't tell you how many countless hours that I have spent CLEANING!

I used to spend at least 8 hours every weekend making sure things were just perfect - "in case someone came over". Then I realised one day that no-one came over; they were all out living life and having fun!

Now, when people visit, I find no need to explain the "condition" of my home ... They are more interested in hearing about the things I've been doing while I was away living life and having fun. If you haven't figured this out yet, please heed this advice.

Life is short. Enjoy it! Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better to paint a picture or write a letter, bake a cake or plant a seed, ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time, with rivers to swim and mountains to climb, music to hear and books to read, friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the worlds out there with the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair, a flutter of snow, a shower of rain. This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind, old age will come and it's not kind. And when you go - and go you must - you, yourself will make more dust!

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.

ANON

Robert Taylor District Councillor for Great Bentley

We are well into the New Year now and I hope that it is going well for each of you.

Over Christmas the Chairman of the Council is very busy visiting the Clacton Hospital, many of the Council Staff and on Christmas morning the lonely folk of the area. The Clacton Rotary Club entertain them for Christmas Dinner and I joined them for that occasion. Many were transported in by volunteers in mini buses and then given the full works Turkey and all the trimmings, Christmas pudding and other choices if these did not suit. Well done the Rotary Club of Clacton and all their helpers. In the picture above you see the fun we had with Peter DeVaux Balbirnie my Vice Chairman and our wives at that 2006 Christmas lunch.

Over Christmas I attended two traditional pantomimes to support the youngsters of our area in their performances. One was Cinderella at the Princes Theatre and the other Aladdin at the West Cliff. It was good to see the performers so obviously enjoying themselves.

Just before Christmas I welcomed the leaders of community groups to the Princes Theatre for a pre Christmas thank you party on behalf of the whole of Tendring District. I was able to welcome each one individually. It was also good to welcome visitors to our area from other parts of Essex. I was pleased to be able to welcome as my personal guests many of those who work for our Community here in Great Bentley and I was particularly pleased that the Bentley Green Players were able to provide the seasonal entertainment. This was extremely well received. Well done to Lynda McWilliams and the team who entertained us.

As a very big contrast I was asked by the Rotary Club to be Father Christmas the very next morning and then went on to open the newly refurbished MacDonalds in Pier Avenue. The previous week I attended the late night shopping in Clacton and the lighting of the Christmas tree for the St Helena Hospice. It was bitterly cold. The organisers provided pretend snow which we did not really want because it was so cold. However it was good to support all the work that the Hospice does for us.

I was very sorry to miss the unveiling of the new map of the village in the notice board adjacent to the Plough, due to work commitments. Well done to those who have pressed for and achieved this map which now refreshes a corner of our village.

Robert Taylor

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE FROM THE CARNIVAL

Small tents £75

Big Tent/marquee £140

Barbecues

Tables and Chairs

Phone 250877 for details

GREAT BENTLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

Grateful thanks to John Glover who once again organised the shredding of Christmas trees on 6th January. We are not actually sure how many were shredded but we do know that the amount raised was just a few pence under £100. About the same as last year. The weather was atrocious and we therefore thank everyone involved and especially John and his helper who gave up a mornings work to raise money for this very welcome cause.

QUIZ TIME

Anagram Answers. All words of nine letters. Six answers, each beginning with A, B, C, D, and E in that order.

Questions

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Canonises. | 11. Night-robe. | 21. Enamoured. |
| 2. Lamenting. | 12. Sideboard. | 22. Creditors. |
| 3. Tangerine. | 13. Landraces. | 23. Hedonists. |
| 4. Sectarian. | 14. Scenarist. | 24. Maidstone. |
| 5. Satanists. | 15. Arcadings. | 25. Lathering. |
| 6. Education. | 16. Coagulate. | 26. Cautioned. |
| 7. Drawbacks. | 17. Erectable. | 27. Inelegant. |
| 8. Gabardine. | 18. Rectified. | 28. Selection. |
| 9. Englobing. | 19. Medicated. | 29. Cambering. |
| 10. Broadmoor. | 20. Maddening. | 30. Grenadine. |

Last months answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 From the sublime to the ridiculous. | 21 A flash in the pan. |
| 2 Attack is the best form of attack. | 22 As mad as a hatter. |
| 3 In for a penny in for a pound. | 23 The best thing since sliced bread. 24 A shaggy dog's story. |
| 4 Strut ones stuff | 25 Two wrongs don't make a right. |
| 5 Vanish into thin air. | |
| 6 Out of sight, out of mind. | |
| 7 Back to square one. | |
| 8 Kill two birds with one stone. | |
| 9 Ship shape and Bristol fashion. | Fair response to last months quiz with most all correct. |
| 10 When in doubt, do now!. | |
| 11 No peace for the wicked. | |
| 12 Marry in haste, repent at leisure. | This month's winner of the fiver is Nobby Clark of Brightlingsea, who donates it to the Great Bentley Church fund. Many thanks. |
| 13 As cool as a cucumber. | |
| 14 Make hay while the sun shines. | |
| 15 One swallow does not make a summer. | |
| 16 The world is your oyster. | |
| 17 As stubborn as a mule. | |
| 18 Knee high to a grasshopper. | |
| 19 Revenge is sweet. | |
| 20 A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse. | |

Cookery Corner

Eggs

Fiona Morton, from Carpenter's Farm, suggested I wrote about eggs or lamb this month, as she pointed out that fowl, game, beef, pork, ham etc. are all popular over Christmas, but lamb rather gets left out of all the jollities and eggs maybe get taken for granted as just one ingredient in a recipe - or as breakfast dish (does anyone eat a proper breakfast nowadays? Or is it just all that nasty-horse-food cereal stuff?).

I'll save lamb for next month, so, this month, eggs. Now, it is true that they are an essential ingredient for many recipes, but they are also a star in their own right. In fact, I cannot imagine how we would manage in the kitchen without them and moreover, they are one of my very favourite foods. But before I proceed any further, please make sure you buy free range eggs; there is really no excuse to buy battery laid eggs around here, as we have many sources for the free range variety. And note 'farm fresh' does not mean free range. I've said it before, and I'm going to say it again, the 'farm' of 'farm fresh' = factory farm, which involves all the nasty abuses of the battery system. Unless the eggs are labelled free range, they're not, and even then that can be a bit dodgy, so buy them from a source you know. Think of it this way, if God was a chicken, we would be in trouble (as someone or other once remarked). It therefore behoves us to be kind to chickens, just in case.

I've a feeling I've written about eggs before, but as the number of egg recipes is enormous, I'm moderately confident I will not be repeating myself – so here are a few of my favourite egg dishes. Well, apart from boiled eggs and hot buttery toast, but that hardly rates a recipe.

These dishes all involve cooking eggs in those small round cocottes or ramekins, just big enough to hold one egg plus a little sauce. This can be done in the oven or on top of the stove, the latter I think is easier, as you can keep an eagle eye on the eggs to make sure they do not overcook.

So, put the well buttered cocottes in water in a heavy bottomed frying pan and when the water is boiling and the butter melted, gently break an egg into each cocotte, cover the pan and cook for 3-4 minutes, the whites should be set, but the yolks still runny. That is the basic method. Now for a few elaborations, and please forgive me if I use the French names for these recipes, *les oeufs en cocotte à la crème* sounds so much more delicious than eggs in a ramekin with cream.

Les oeufs en cocotte à la crème

Whilst the eggs are cooking as above, heat up some well seasoned double cream in a small saucepan and when the whites are set, gently pour the cream into the cocotte dish. As a variation on the main theme, you could try adding a few scrapings of nutmeg and a few shavings of parmesan cheese (never, but never, use that pre-grated cardboard stuff out of those drums, it is the Spawn of the Devil). Or, you could spoon in some cooked chopped spinach into the bottom of the cocotte before adding the eggs - in fact the combination of spinach, egg, cream, nutmeg and parmesan is quite wonderful. Again, you could try a little pre-cooked smoked haddock in the bottom of the cocotte, in which case leave out the parmesan cheese. If you are going to use smoked haddock or parmesan cheese be cautious with the salt, as both the cheese and the fish can be salty.

Come the summer when fresh herbs are around, try adding some finely chopped parsley, chives and tarragon to the cream – tarragon goes very well with eggs (as it does with chicken). If French mustard is added to the herbs, the dish becomes **oeufs en cocotte Pascal**, apparently. In fact, experiment; but always make sure you do not overcook the eggs, or swamp them, all other additions should be a compliment to the main ingredient – the taste of the eggs should come through - and nothing is nicer (Oh alright, I exaggerate) - than to break the runny egg yolk and let it gently mingle with the sauce.

And now, for my very favourite egg dish, **Les Oeufs en Cocotte au Jus**, and I don't think I can do any better than to quote from, Elizabeth David's *French Provincial* cooking,-

"When you have a little natural gravy left over from a roast, a bird, or a rich stew, cook your eggs as above and pour a little of this gravy on top of the eggs taking care not to cover the yolks."

I always preheat the gravy and pour into the cocotte when the egg whites are set as it is easier to ensure the correct cooking of the eggs. And the very best left over gravy to use for this dish, is from an oxtail stew. It is quite divine.

G.R.

CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

W.I.

We had an excellent turn out this month for a very interesting talk by Wildlives Rescue Centre. We learnt about the enormous numbers of animals that they rescue with a policy to never turn a wild animal away if in need of help. We enjoyed the photos of some of the 'characters' they have looked after and the humorous stories. The staff, both full and part time are certainly dedicated and volunteers are always welcome.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6th February at 8pm in the Village Hall, when we will be celebrating our 5th Birthday with a party and entertainment. All are very welcome.

Contact: Chris on 250385

ART CLUB

Tuesday 13th February

Alison Bond of the Watershed Studio in St Osyth will be giving a pastel painting demonstration in Great Bentley Village Hall on Tuesday 13th February 7.30-9.30pm. Visitors Welcome

Entry fee of £1 to include coffee and biscuits.

HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 8th February
Village Hall
7.30pm

David Porter
Old Pharmacy

GT BENTLEY EVERGREEN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Wednesday 28th February
Village Hall
2.00pm

The Frinton Singers

Competition: A Button

GARDENING CLUB

Mr Claydon gave an informative talk entitled 'An Amateur's Garden', showing over 100 slides of his garden from when he first moved in until the present time. He showed how he had developed it over the years and explained how he and his wife have designed it to have colour in the garden all the year round. This gave us plenty of ideas for our own gardens and was a most enjoyable evening.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 20th February and is entitled 'Stour Valley Organic Lavender' by Mark Deroy.

New members welcome

Contact: Liz on 250511

ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Thursday 15th February
7.30pm
Village Hall

AGM & Digital presentation
on
"Nature Reserves"
by
Bob Seago

ALL WELCOME

PATIENT NOTICE

North East Essex Primary Care Trust has asked surgeries not to prescribe the following items:

- **Pain killers for minor aches and pains**
- **Hay fever preparations**
- **Tonic and health supplements (including Glucosamine)**
- **Treatments for non-serious constipation and diarrhoea**
- **Creams, gels and Tubigrip for sprains and sports injuries**
- **Creams for bruising, tattoos and varicose veins**
- **Athlete's foot preparations**
- **Lozenges, throat sprays, mouthwashes and gargles**
- **Moisturizers & bath additives for minor dry skin conditions**
- **Barrier creams for nappy rash**
- **Treatments for minor acne**
- **Head lice lotions and shampoos**
- **Threadworm tablets**
- **Antiperspirants**
- **Cough and cold remedies**
- **Ear wax removers**

These items are readily available for purchase from pharmacies, shops and supermarkets (which are often open until late) and are not recommended for supply at NHS expense.

See Surgery News page 12

BEING BRITISH!

Being British is about driving a German car to an Irish Pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV.

And the most British thing of all? Suspicion of anything foreign!!

Tendring Community Development Project

Imperial House, Rosemary Road, Clacton-On-Sea, Essex CO15 1NZ

Phone/Fax 01255 425770

Email: communitydevelopment@tendringcvs.org.uk

Website: www.tendringcvs.org.uk/communitydevelopment

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Tendring Community Development Project – List of FREE Coffee Drop Ins **(For all ages)**

FREE Monday Coffee Drop In – Free *Internet Access*, practice your computer skills, local area information, advice about training and learning opportunities, and lots of chat!!! FREE REFRESHMENTS provided.

Venue: Sams Hall, Rosemary Road, Clacton-On-Sea (Just past Sandles)

Time: 10am – Midday

Dates: Each week on a Monday (Not during school holidays)

FREE Tuesday Breakfast Coffee Drop In – advice about training and learning opportunities, local area information, information about computer classes, meet other local residents – FREE REFRESHMENTS provided.

Let us know what activities you would like to see in your area.

Venue: Coppins Community Centre, Maldon Way, Clacton

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Dates: Each week on a Tuesday (Not during school holidays)

FREE Thursday Coffee Drop In – come and meet other residents.

Some weeks there are talks given by local interest groups, local area information, and advice about training and learning.

FREE REFRESHMENTS provided. This venue has recently been refurbished, so come and have a look as it is available to hire out.

Venue: St. George's Hall, Hall Lane, Walton On The Naze (just before Flettons Greengrocers)

Time: 10am - midday

Dates: Each week on a Thursday (Not during school holidays)

Occasional Drop Ins at Park Pavilion, Barrack Lane, Harwich – where we get together, have refreshments and a chat – very informal! FREE REFRESHMENTS provided.

For further information contact Lisa on 01255 425770

SCOUTS & GIRL GUIDES

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 7th February - Committee Meeting

Saturday 17th March - Sponsored Walk. Please join us in supporting our sponsored walk. This is normally a big fund raiser for us and your support is very much appreciated so we thank you in advance.

Car Wash Weekend - 7th - 9th April - Over the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the Easter Weekend we will be holding a hand car wash at Halfords in Colchester. We need lots of help but if you are unable to help please just bring your car along for a wash. Thank you.

The committee would like to say a big thank you to Gary Fairclough for giving up a couple of days over Christmas to lay floor tiles in the corridor for us. Many thanks.

WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT?

Many of the calls that come into Essex Police, often on the 999 line, are not an emergency. An emergency is a situation where there is serious risk of injury, risk of serious damage to property, or a crime or suspicious incident is in progress.

These calls clog up an already over-stretched telephone system with over 40,000 emergency 999 calls being taken in an average month. We want to help you get to the person who can deal with your problem - first time. Listed below you can find out whose responsibility it is and how you can contact them.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

It is the responsibility of your local council to remove abandoned cars. They are obliged by the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 to remove the vehicle from any land in the open air or forming part of the highway. They must follow prescribed procedure in respect of the notice prior to removal. This would normally take the form of a sticker attached to the vehicle which has to stay on the vehicle for seven days. Council refuse departments have limited resources so it may take longer than this for the vehicle to be removed.

You can report an abandoned vehicle to the police but we do need the following information:

- *Your name, address and telephone number*
- *Vehicle registration, make/model and colour*
- *Condition of vehicle*
- *Was anyone seen leaving the vehicle?*
- *Is the vehicle taxed?*
- *Location of vehicle - with directions if necessary - and how long it has been there.*

Some councils have special policies to deal with abandoned cars, ask your local council for details.

ANIMALS

If you are concerned about the general safety and well-being of animals please call the RSPCA (24 hours). Tel: 08705 555999.

If there is an immediate danger, for example dog locked in a car and in distress on a hot day, call 999 for an immediate response.

Dogs

- *An accident involving a dog needs to be reported to the police.*
- *Dogs causing a nuisance (for example noise, fouling) need to be reported to your local dog warden.*
- *Cruelty to dogs, aggressive or dangerous dogs - call the police.*
- *Stray, lost or found dogs - contact your local dog warden. If the dog is in someone's possession it can be taken to a local police station.*

Local dog warden (Tel: 01255 256196)

Injured Animals

For animals injured in a road traffic accident call 999.

For other injured animals, contact the RSPCA (number above) or a local veterinary surgeon.

Straying Animals

If you see animals, (for example horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs) found straying on or near a highway, please call 999. There is an offence under Sec. 155 Highways Act 1980 of letting animals near or on a highway and the keeper of the animals can be prosecuted. However the police would normally attempt to move the animals away from the road and trace the owner.

BUILDERS' SKIPS

If you have a complaint about a skip that is causing an obstruction or parked in a dangerous position, you need to contact the local authority Highways Agency.

COLLECTIONS - House to House or Street

If you wish to undertake either a street collection and/or house collection you need to contact your local council. **Local Council - Main switchboard number 01255 425501.**

FLYTIPPING

This involves leaving unwanted material or items in public places. For complaints about flytipping, please contact your local authority. Many councils now have systems in place to deal with flytipping.

LEGAL AID

For information or advice regarding Legal Aid please contact a solicitor, numbers can be found in the Phone Book, Yellow Pages, Thomson Directory or on the internet at sites such as yell.com.

NOISE

Complaints of excess noise are dealt with by the Environmental Health Service of the local council, not by the police, (Tel: 01255 425501) unless there is the possibility of public disorder or a criminal offence taking place. However, if you hear noises that suggest that someone is in danger, you should still contact the police.

OBSCENE OR NUISANCE COMMUNICATIONS

If you are reporting this for the first time, ring BT Customer Service on 150 for advice or 0800 666 100 for recorded advice, or the appropriate network if you are not a BT customer.

PARKING

The enforcement of parking restrictions has been taken over by local councils and Essex Police traffic wardens have been replaced by parking attendants. Parking attendants will issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) to drivers who fail to comply with the parking restrictions. The charge of a PCN is £60, reduced to £30 if paid within 14 days. If this is not paid, the debt will be pursued through a civil court. If you want information on parking, you should contact your local council.

PASSPORTS

If your passport is lost or has been stolen, it is important that you report this to the UK Passport Service as soon as possible in order to help prevent future misuse of your documents. To do this you must submit a lost/stolen (LS01) report form. Call the UK Passport Service adviceline on 0870 521 0410. Further information is available on <http://www.ukpa.gov.uk/>

SYRINGES AND NEEDLES

The police will not attend to remove any drugs paraphernalia (for example syringes, spoons, pipes, razor blades), under any circumstances. You will need to contact your local council who will safely clean up the offending articles.

TOURIST INFORMATION - Colchester 01206 282 920 or Clacton 01255 423400.

TREES

Trees are covered by common law, not criminal law, and are therefore not part of the remit of the police. A tree normally belongs to the land on which it is growing and the position of the trunk, where it emerges from the ground, determines ownership. If trees in your neighbour's garden overhang your property, you are entitled to cut off the overhanging branches. Any fruit or timber from the branches belong to your neighbour and should be returned to them. You are also entitled to trim back roots to the boundary, although you should always get professional advice before doing this as you could make the tree unstable. Before cutting any part of a tree, you should check with the arboreal staff at your local council whether it is covered by a Tree Preservation Order, which might prevent you doing this. If there is a chance of the tree encroaching on or causing damage to your property, you should speak to the owner of the tree, your insurance company or a solicitor.

UTILITIES (GAS, WATER, ELECTRICITY)

Emergencies - If you are reporting damage to the gas, water or electricity systems which is likely to cause danger to people, please call the Fire and Rescue Service or the police on 999. If you smell gas, call Transco on 0800 111 999. For water emergencies call Anglian Water on 08457 145145.

HAZARDOUS AND/OR DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

If you have to report an accident or spillage involving dangerous substances, IMMEDIATELY dial 999 and call the Fire and Rescue Service, who have specialist equipment to deal with the problem. DO NOT ATTEMPT A RESCUE. Wait for the fire service to arrive, and remain UPWIND of the incident. If you need advice regarding the storage, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances, please contact your local council or the Health and Safety Executive (Tel: 01245 706200).

The above has been taken from a booklet entitled 'Who has Responsibility for That?' available from front offices at police stations, mobile police stations, council offices and the CAB offices across the county. You can also obtain one by sending an A5 stamped addressed envelope to Tina Starling, PR Manager, Essex Police HQ, PO Box 2, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6DA. The information is also available on the Essex Police website on www.essex.police.uk

WAKE UP TO MILK

The East of England Co-operative Society's Dairy Department has been delivering milk to our customers' doorsteps for well over 100 years. In that time we have seen many changes.

Back in the thirties we used horse-drawn carts to deliver our products. The horse knew the route to be taken almost as well as the milkman and nearly every household had milk. Today things are different.

We use a fleet of electric and diesel floats to deliver to customers from our depots located across Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Six days a week our roundsmen go out in all weathers to deliver our doorstep service to our customers. Many start at 2am to try and get your milk 'on the doorstep' before you have breakfast.

Did you know we sell milk in Skimmed, Semi-skimmed and Full Fat, all produced and packed in our Ipswich dairy, and the majority of our milk is supplied by farmers in East Anglia.

Our doorstep service now offers much more than milk. We also stock a variety of fresh local products.

Our doorstep service has evolved over the years to meet the varied needs of our customers. It has changed to offer more products that are, wherever possible, fresh and locally sourced and good value.

We also make it easier to pay, accepting cash, cheques, Direct Debits or credit card payments - and remember, if you are a member of our Society all purchases are eligible for the Society dividend payment. Just let us know your dividend card number.

If you would like to join our doorstep home delivery service, please contact your local depot. They will be pleased to take your orders or answer any questions you may have.

The Depot for Great Bentley is Clacton 01255 424480.

East of England Co-operative Society

GREAT BENTLEY CALENDAR

Thank you to everyone who bought the calendar for 2007. Very special thanks to Carpenters Farm Shop, Evans and the Post Office for selling them. We have raised approximately £500 for St Mary's

ELSIE MERRY

Elsie Merry lived for many years at 1, Wren Close. She moved to live with her son and daughter in law at Great Yarmouth 5 years ago. She passed away on the 1st January.

The funeral took place on the 10th January.

MARGARET ELSIE BLACK

The Thanksgiving Service for

Margaret Elsie Black

will take place

at 11.00am on

Monday 29th January

in St Mary's Church, Great Bentley

STOP PRESS

As we go to print we are warned of the following;

1) A suspicious character, male, trying to sell door to door in the village. He tries to show his "customers" a picture of his family. Phone Sarah the PSCO or the police, (numbers on inside front cover).

2) Phone call regarding delivery of a radio with a message left and number to call back. This number is charged at a premium rate, **DO NOT CALL IT BACK.**

BARN OWLS

I love barn owls. I believe they should become the emblem of the English countryside. One of the highlights of the summer for me is to accompany David Wilkin, "The Barn Owl Man", to some of the local boxes to check if they are being used by the correct type of occupant.

With the help of farmers and landowners David now monitors well over 200 barn owl nestboxes, initially in the Tendring area and then moving further afield into the Essex countryside and over the border to Suffolk. Two boxes were erected onto sturdy oak trees that I pass regularly on my dog walks. I was delighted to see that one of these was being used by a barn owl but less than amused when it became obvious that it had been evicted by a kestrel. Never mind, perhaps it would use the alternative option. I was asked to walk by at a suitable time and of course at a safe distance, to see if I could hear the hissing noise of any young that might have hatched, then we would know if the time was right to visit and inspect the box.

One beautiful summers evening the dog and I set off on our walk keeping well away from the boxes and out of sight of the parent birds. After a while both adults flew off to hunt along the meadows and whilst the coast was clear we walked past the box listening carefully for the relevant sounds. Nothing. Maybe these owls were just roosting here. The sun had almost set by now and the local song birds were tuning up for their final chorus before settling down for the night. Might as well rest on the old stile and savour the moment before darkness fell. The dog sat tight by my knee and looked up at me as if he just knew that something magical was about to happen. We were facing the box just hoping to get a sighting or hear the tell tale sounds of an owlet. The dog's head gently turned to look behind us but I tried to keep absolutely still. On silent wing just 3 feet at the most above my head, an adult barn owl flew past and landed just yards away on a fence post. It looked in our direction, sat tight for a little while then repeated the overhead flight and back to it's chosen post. I couldn't believe how silently it flew or how close it came. I will never forget that beautiful evening. A week or so later David and I took the ladder and there, tucked safely inside the specially constructed owl nest box were our barn owl chicks which David ringed and recorded.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if barn owls nested once more in our village? A dream come true. A friend on his way to celebrate the arrival of the New Year (2006) at the Village Hall had told me that a "white owl" or "ghost owl" had flown past him and over on to the allotment land. I believed him as this was around 7.30pm and not at the end of a long night of celebrations! At the end of May/beginning of June I was walking back with the dog on my new route not too far from the village green when I thought I saw an owl on the ledge of a nesting box. I discounted this as a direct result of watching too much Bill Oddie and Springwatch. Imagine my joy a few nights later when on a clear summers evening I witnessed the equivalent of a giant moth twisting and turning over the meadow, "quatering", i.e. hunting for food. Once again David arrived with his trusty ladder a day or two later and we checked the box out. I was bitterly disappointed as it had had been filled up with twigs by the local jackdaws. No room for an owl to nest, but at least he had been roosting there.

David saw the neighbouring farmer a few days later and asked him to check out his box for "hissing" sounds. Situated just ½ mile away there was every chance "Mum" could be in this box alone. (Once the young have hatched and while they are tiny, "Dad" is banned from the box as he has a nasty tendency, if peckish, to tuck into the runt of the nestlings!) The farmer and his wife listened out during the evening and were successful in easily identifying the relevant noises being rendered by 2 healthy offspring. On the Sunday David arrived and ringed the offspring, just in the nick of time, as they were on the verge of fledging. So, another dream come true.

I am grateful to everyone who informs me when they see these magnificent birds. Several sightings from Aingers Green; the area behind The Lodge, Dead Lane, Wick Road etc. An injured bird was found near St. Mary's Hall which, it is believed, had got caught in bad squalls of rain the previous evening. (David to the rescue once again and after 24 hours of rest and food the bird was successfully released back at the same spot.) Just recently one pale bird, probably male, was spotted in broad daylight along Thorrington Road.

If anyone has ever wondered if just one person can make a real difference, I would shout a resounding "YES" and nominate David Wilkin. Last year alone 110 young barn owl chicks were ringed from 43 nest sites, with the help of Dr Simon Cox and Leon Woodrow, most hatched in boxes which had been put up during the last few years. The Gt. Bentley Conservation Group are hoping to fund some new boxes this year which will hopefully be erected locally. It will soon be time for the owls to start nesting so please keep me updated with any information.

N.B. It is illegal to disturb or inspect barn owl nest sites as they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. There is a possible fine of up to £5,000 and/or 6 months in prison.

David is licensed to undertake this work and did 3 years training with the BTO to become a qualified ringer. If you find an injured owl ring David on 01255 862374.

Should you find a dead owl with a ring on its leg please note the no. and report it to David.

GREAT BENTLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL

Well the New Year is here and we're back training on Wednesdays and Saturdays, usual time and place. If you are interested in getting your child involved with us then just turn up at our training sessions (Wednesday £1.50 for an hour at the Colne School at 6pm for 9's and Under, 7pm for 9's to 14's and 10am on Saturday's £2.50 for 2 hours on the Green), and we'll sort things from there.

Our end of season awards night is on April 28th in the Village Hall. This is the first awards night for the club and I think that it's at the right time after we have had a season with 3 teams in the league and some friendlies going on at other age groups. When I was a kid these nights were what the whole team looked forward to, who's the players player of the year and the managers etc. etc. We're currently working out the details but we are thinking that we will start late afternoon with the awards going through the age groups, then later in the evening we will open the bar and have some music, hopefully, we'll have a singer rather than a disco.

We've also started to plan our football festival for 2007, and thinking about the format, what schools we'll invite and how it'll be structured. We want to involve schools at all age groups so this will take in senior as well as primary schools but obviously that'll be bigger than last year. Timing is also important to us as we think that not having it the day after the carnival will help but we need the 5 a-side pitches. Anyway, we'll keep on planning and let you know when we have a date and how it will all be structured.

Fixtures are few are far between at the moment as the league has stopped pretty much during January, although the Under 14's season continues. The only firm fixture for them though is on the 21st January on the Green versus Woodbridge Town in the Open Cup. This will be a big test for the boys so a large turnout on the Green would be great.

Whilst we're talking about the Green, thanks to all those dog walkers who pick up after their dogs. If you don't then please do, the bins are there. There's nothing worse than having to clear the Green before we start coaching the kids.

Finally, just a quick note to wish Paul and his wife good luck as they are expecting their first child anytime now (hopefully, by the time you read this the waiting will be over!).

Thanks for reading,
Scott

GREAT BENTLEY FOOTBALL CLUB 2006-07

Sat 23 Dec	H West Bergholt	2-0 D.Gray, G.Knight
Sat 30 Dec	A Little Oakley	2-2 D.Gray, M.Hardwick
Sat 13 Jan	A Mistley United	2-2 T.O'Hara, I.Morton
Sat 20 Jan	H St Osyth	3-1 J.Smith, J.Scott 2
Sat 27 Jan	A Tiptree Heath	2 p.m. at Langham Rec.
Sat 3 Feb	H Lawford Lads	2-30 p.m.
Sat 10 Feb	A Alresford Colne Rang	2-30 p.m.
Sat 17 Feb	H University Of Essex	KO. Cup, Quarter-Final 2 p.m.

FIRST REAM KENT BLAXILL BORDER LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Sat 23 Dec	A Hatfield Peverel Res	2-1 W. Harvey, T. Doyle
Sat 30 Dec	H Lawford Lads Res	1-5 T. Doyle
Sat 6 Jan	A Sudbury Ahtletic	1-6 G. Knight
Sat 13 Jan	H Little Oakley Res	0-5
Sat 20 Jan	A Boxted Lodgers Res	1-1 T. Ayundokum
Sat 27 Jan	H Foxash Social	2pm
Sat 10 Feb	A Mersea Island Res	2.30pm
Sat 17 Feb	A Bures United Res	2.30pm
Sat 24 Feb	H Great Bradfords	2.30pm

A TEAM COLCHESTER & EAST ESSEX LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Sat 30 Dec	A New Field	1-1 N. Morton
Sat 13 Jan	H Real Ravensdale	2-1 M. Gridley 2
Sat 20 Jan	A University 5th XI	3-1 A. Neilson, M. Hesketh, M. Gridley
Sat 27 Jan	A Castle	K.O. Cup, Rd 2. 1-15pm
Sat 3 Feb	H. Wimpole 2000 Res	2pm
Sat 10 Feb	A. Bradfield Rovers Res	2pm
Sat 17 Feb		K.O. Cup, Rd 3

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CHANGING-ROOMS

Great Bentley Football Club is at an advanced stage in it's bid to secure Football Foundation funding to rebuild our changing-rooms. Quaint, novel, and unique in local football circles, our converted Nissan hut has done sterling service in it's original war-time role, and as the village scout hut and football changing rooms, but our modern club with 200 adult and youth members needs an up-to-date facility.

FUND-RAISING

We have, therefore, begun the year-long process of raising our percentage of the necessary funds, and I will keep everyone posted with what we are doing and how much we need.

BOWLATHON

First up is a sponsored marathon 12 hour ten-pin bowling session at Walton Pier on Wednesday 14th February starting at 10 a.m. This is during half-term, so we will have all age groups from the club bowling continually through the day. Please help by sponsoring your family or work

-place club member to help towards our total. Contact Tim Tricker on 01206 250145 for further details of this event.]

GENTLEMAN'S EVENING

To be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 10th March. Tickets for this evening of girls and comedy can be obtained from David Gray on 07747 486152. Best hurry, though, as they soon sold out at the last one.

OUTSIDE BAR

The Football Club is able to offer a fully licensed bar to help your event go with a swing. We are available at competitive prices for weddings, birthdays or any other gatherings.

Please contact Kevin King on 01206 251942 for terms and conditions.

200 CLUB DRAW

December winners were no. 174, S.Morton £50, and no. 186, J.Walters £50. That was the Christmas Special with two £50 prizes. I would like to thank you all for your continued support of our draw. If anyone else would like to join, please ring Tim Tricker on 01206 250145.

THE 2007 CRAFT SECTION OF THE SCHEDULE FOR GREAT BENTLEY SHOW

SECTION III :- ART & CRAFTS HANDICRAFTS

- 125 An item of craft not mentioned below
- 126 A canvas work
- 127 A hand knitted item
- 128 A baby's garment (not quick-knit)
- 129 A handmade toy
- 130 Four gift tags
- 131 A patchwork article
- 132 A piece of embroidery (traditional, free machine or blackwork)
- 133 A cross stitch article under 25cm (10") excluding the frame
- 134 A cross stitch article over 25cm (10") excluding the frame
- 135 A scrapbook layout (one page(12"x12"))
- 136 An example of woodcraft
- 137 A greetings card
- 138 Boxes - A single room - doll's house, shop, market stall, etc.
- 139 An item of pottery
- 140 A drawing (in any medium)
- 141 An oil painting
- 142 A water-colour
- 143 A work in pastels
- 144 A painting - any medium
- 145 Digital photography - "CHILDREN IN ACTION"
- 146 Digital photography - "ANYTHING AGRICULTURAL"
- 147 Digital photography - "WATER"
- 148 Film photography - "CAUGHT KNAPPING"
- 149 Film photography - "BLACK AND WHITE"
- *150 Film photography - "COUNTRY LIFE"

SECTION IV :- CHILDREN'S CLASSES

- 151 A plate of home made sweets
- 152 5 sweet biscuits
- 153 5 small cakes
- 154 5 chocolate crispies
- 155 Gingerbread people
- 156 A tie-dyed article
- 157 A piece of hand embroidery
- 158 A piece of pottery
- 159 A collage (maximum A3)
- 160 A papier mache item - must be dry
- 161 A salt dough model - recipe below
- 162 A Lego model
- 163 A photograph – "MY VILLAGE" - taken by the entrant
- 164 A plain T shirt decorated
- 165 A decorated shoe box
- 166 A handwritten verse with illustration
- 167 A painting - any medium A3 in size
- 168 A pencil drawing up to A3 in size
- 169 A coloured pencil or crayon drawing A3 in size
- 170 A front cover for the DVD "Happy Feet" A4 in size
- 171 A book mark
- 172 A greetings card made using a computer
- 173 A junk model of a vehicle or building
- 174 An animal mask (any medium) - must have eye holes and be wearable
- 175 An animal made from fruit/vegetables - pins/cocktail sticks are allowed
- 176 An item of art or craft **not already mentioned**
- 177 A pressed flower/leaf picture
- 178 An item made from a pompom or pompoms - (homemade throughout)
- 179 A garden on a dinner plate (No more than 30cm (12" dia))
- 180 A piece of jewellery made from pasta - fixings allowed
- 181 A vegetable grown by the entrant.
- 182 A puppet – any medium – any type – e.g. glove, string, etc.
- 183 A jug of fresh flowers

Great Bentley Parish Council

Resource Centre

Every 2nd Saturday in the month for one hour 9.30 to 10.30am during February, March and April the Parish Council will be holding a Surgery. Cllr R Taylor, Cllr W Herbert, Cllr G Wright will be in the office. Appointments will not be necessary, and you will be welcome to come in and ask questions.

Flagpole

We have received a letter from The Royal British Legion regarding the Flag Pole not working correctly on the Village Green. It will be back in use for February 2007. The flag schedule is on the notice board.

Allotments

The allotments are now fully allocated, but there is a waiting list if you would like to apply. Please contact me at the Community Resource Centre.

Wednesday night motorcycles

A questionnaire has been inserted into the Parish Magazine regarding the 'Biker' issues. Please could you take a few minutes to complete the forms and return it to me at the Community Resource Centre (there is a letterbox if closed).

Street lighting

Please could all failed streetlights be reported to the Parish Council Office; please make sure you know the number that is stamped on the lamp post as this make it easier for us when reporting to the contractor.

Transport Representative

There is still a vacancy for a Transport Representative. If you are Interested in the vacancy please contact me on 01206256410/01255860724 or call in to the office.

Community Resource Centre

I still have some green recycle bins in the office for you to collect if you would like another one. These are free of charge.

Community Resource Centre Opening Times

Tuesdays 9:30 – 12:30 am

Thursdays 2:00 – 7:00 pm

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Meetings are held in the village hall on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm. The dates are on the notice board each month.

Miss Janet Bloomfield

Clerk to Great Bentley Parish Council

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2007

- Thurs 1st **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Thurs 1st **MOTHERS' UNION AGM**, 33 Larkfield Rd, 7.45pm, page 4
- Fri 2nd **COFFEE MORNING**, Methodist Church, p. 7
- Mon 5th **BENTLEY GREEN PLAYERS**, Read Through & Auditions, p.7
- Tues 6th **W.I.** 5th Birthday Party, p. 23
- Wed 7th **BENTLEY BEARS**, St Mary's Church, 2.15pm
- Wed 7th **SCOUTS & GUIDES** Committee Meeting, p. 23
- Thurs 8th **HISTORY SOCIETY**, Village Hall, 7.30pm, p. 23
- Sat 10th **PIG RACE NIGHT**, Village Hall, p. 11
- Mon 12th **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**
- Tues 13th **ART CLUB**, Painting Demonstration, p. 23
- Wed 14th **MOBILE POLICE OFFICE**, The Plough, 9-10am
- Wed 14th **FARMERS MARKET**, Village Hall, 2-4pm
- Thurs 15th **EWT AGM & talk on Local Nature Reserves**, p. 23
- Sat 17th **WHISPERS EVENING & MEAL**, Methodist Church, 7pm, p.17
- Tues 20th **GARDENING CLUB**, 8pm, Village Hall, p. 23
- Thurs 22nd **BRIGHTLINGSEA FARMERS MARKET**, p. 9
- Fri 23rd **MAGAZINE COLLATING**, Vestry Room, 9am
- Sat 24th **CARNIVAL QUIZ NIGHT**, Vestry Room, p. 7
- Wed 28th **MOBILE POLICE OFFICE**, The Plough, 9-10am
- Wed 28th **EVERGREEN FRIENDSHIP CLUB**, Village Hall, 2pm, p. 23

Village Information

St Mary's Church

VICAR:

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

CHURCHWARDEN:

Peter Allington
Poplar House, Station Road - 251086

CHURCHWARDEN

Nicky Justice
Kellands Farm, South Heath Road - 01255 820724

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
33 Larkfield Road - 250725

VESTRY ROOM BOOKING SECRETARY:

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

PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR/ADVERTISING/ 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

FOOT HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

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

POLICE:

Clacton 01255 221312
CSO Sarah Filer 07798 602268
PC. Hughes 07967 466876

PARISH COUNCIL:

Chairman - Jonathan Hills
Grange Farm, Heckfords Rd, CO78RR - 798666
Clerk to the Council - Janet Bloomfield
Correspondence to: The Clerk, Community Resource Centre,
Village Hall, Plough Road, Great Bentley, CO7 8LD
Telephone - 256410

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

Robert Taylor
"Dominica" Moors Close - 250087

TENDRING RURAL WEST

Derek Robinson
Brentor, Brightlingsea Road, Thorrington, CO7 8JH
01206 250557

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:

Shelley Pizzey, 5 Keeble Court - 252385

VILLAGE HALL DAYTIME KEYHOLDER

Sharon Smith 250471

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

CATS CRADLE Beryl Gilbert - 250995