

**THE BENTLEY
BUGLE**



COMMUNITY & CHURCH NEWS



ISSUE 109 - FEBRUARY MARCH 2026



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Case is Altered

OPENING HOURS

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Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 6pm - 10pm

Thursday 6pm - 10pm

Friday 6pm - 10:30pm

Saturday 6pm - 10pm

Sunday 12pm - 3pm

For more information go to:

www.thecasepubbentley.co.uk

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19 The Link, Bentley

Tel: 01473 310383

GROVE FARM SOLAR APPEAL

A public inquiry is being held into the appeal by Green Switch Capital Ltd against Babergh District Council's decision to refuse the application.

(APP/D3505/W/25/3370515)

It started on 20 January 2026 and is continuing to 11 & 12 February 2026.

A report with the Planning Inspector's decision would normally be expected 6-8 weeks after the end of the inquiry.

Front cover

St Mary's Church with snowdrops - Mike Whiteman

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

COPY FOR THE APRIL 2026 - MAY 2026 ISSUE SHOULD REACH CHRISTINE BY NOON ON WEDS 18TH MARCH 2026. Copy can be submitted either on paper or electronically (preferred). Please try to ensure that any copy submitted electronically is in a standard format e.g. .doc, .docx, txt, .jpg, .png, or .pdf and the preferred font is Arial 14pt. Thanks.

Bentley Directory

PARISH, DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Parish Council - Chair	Michael Bamford	07707 905889
Parish Council - Clerk	Joy Scott	01206 298174
Babergh District Councillor	Marc Rowland	
County Councillor	Georgia Hall	07955 434445

BENTLEY ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS

Bentley Primary School (Headteacher)	Jo Austin	01473 310253
(Chair Governors)	Laurie Page laurie.page@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk	
(Chair PTA)	Sarah Hawley	07894 294319
Bentley Community Pub	Kate Spicer	01473 314187
Bentley Comrades	Ray Savage	01473 311122
Bentley Community Stores	Bob Feltwell	01473 310182
Bowls Club	Simon Faiers	07836 559480
Carpet Bowls	Jill Mills	01473 311103
Case Book Group	Sandie Utton	01473 328241
Footpath Society	John Wheals	01473 310569
Footpath Warden	Tim Hamstead	07748 821594
Friends of St Mary's	Bob Feltwell	01473 310735
Horticultural Society	Mark Usher	01473 310322
Recorders	Moira Usher	01473 310322
Scrabble Club	Robin Owen	01473 311844
Tree Warden	Colin Hawes	01473 310678
Tuesday Club	Veronica Howe	01473 310344
	Catherine Sweeney	01473 310095
Village Hall - Bookings	Veronica Howe	01473 310344
	Mark Usher	01473 310322
Village History Recorder	Nicky Moxey	01473 313125
Womens Institute	Sandra Ford	01473 310072

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BENTLEY

Rector	Rev'd Chris Willis	
Benefice Administrator	Michelle Jowers	07955 329341
Benefice email address	michelle@constablebenefice.org	
Churchwardens	Tom Hill	01473 311119
	Jane Day	07767 697351
Assistant Priest	Revd Don Mehen	01473 310383

BENTLEY BAPTIST CHURCH ADMIN 07814 465222

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

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

Other village websites are listed in the publication.

Parish Diary

FEBRUARY 26

- 4th - Comrades - Village Hall, Blackmore Room at 7.30 pm
- 5th - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall from 7.30pm
- 7th - Food Vendor - Dolly's Pizzas - Case is Altered from 5-8 pm
- 10th & 24th - Tuesday Club - Village Hall at 2.30pm
- 11th - Case Community Lunch - Case is Altered from 12 pm
- 11th - Bentley Bluebells WI - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 12th & 26th- Scrabble Club - Village Hall, Blackmore Room at 2.30pm
- 12th - Open Mic Night - Case is Altered from 8.00 pm
- 20th - Horticultural Society - Village Hall from 7.30 pm
- 21st - Footpath Society - Village Walk from Village Hall - 10.30 am
- 21st - Live Music at the Case - Case is Altered from 8.00 pm
- 28th - Monthly Quiz - Case is Altered at 8pm

MARCH 26

- 4th - Comrades - Village Hall, Blackmore Room at 7.30 pm
- 5th - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall from 7.30pm
- 10th & 24th - Tuesday Club - Village Hall at 2.30pm
- 11th - Case Community Lunch - Case is Altered from 12 pm
- 11th - Bentley Bluebells WI - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 12th & 26th- Scrabble Club - Village Hall, Blackmore Room at 2.30pm
- 12th - Open Mic Night - Case is Altered - from 8.00 pm
- 14th - Food Vendor - Wagyu Burgers - Case is Altered from 5-8 pm
- 20th - Horticultural Society - Village Hall - from 7.30 pm
- 21st - Footpath Society - Village Walk from Village Hall - 10.30 am
- 21st - Live Music at the Case - Case is Altered from 8.00 pm
- 28th - Monthly Quiz Night - Case is Altered at 8pm
- 28th - Easter Bingo - Village Hall from 7.00 pm

Other Activities in the Village

- NEW! Bentley Baby and Toddler Group - Every Mon 9.30-11.30 am
- Holistic Yoga - Every Mon 7.30 - 10.00pm - Village Hall
- Aerobics Class - Tuesday 9.45am (Term Time only) - Village Hall (contact Jill Sharp for information - 01473 311546
- Carpet Bowls - Every Tuesday 7.30pm & Weds 2.30pm - Village Hall
- Coffee at the Case - every Friday between 10.30 and 12.00 noon.
- Book Group at the Case - every 4th Thursday at 7.30 pm.

NOTES FROM THE CASE



Suffolk's first Co-operative Pub!

Tel: 01473 805575

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

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

email: chair@thecasepubbentley.co.uk



Even though we know the days are now supposedly getting longer, the freezing temperatures, rain, snow and frost makes it feel as if they are getting shorter again. The dark over cast skies when it's not freezing make it feel so gloomy. At the Case though we are keeping warm and light hearted about the weather and are enjoying our wood burner even more. If you are feeling the cold then why not come and join us? You will always find a warm and friendly welcome and lots to keep you entertained during the dark winter months and through out the year.

Your Community owned Co-operative Pub

After almost 12 years of trading as Suffolk's first co-operative pub we have been very fortunate that many of our volunteers, some from day one, have continued to support us, even through the dark days of Covid. This means that we are able to offer our community regular events, clubs and a warm comfortable space for people to meet. Here is a run down of all the weekly, monthly and annual events we provide and support for the community.

Open Mic Nights

These are held on the **second Thursday** of each month. All are welcome whether you are a performer or simply there to listen and watch. For more information contact Dave on 07885 963882. The next two nights are **Thursday 12 February** and **Thursday 12 March**. **The music starts around 8pm.**

Quiz Nights

Our monthly Quiz Nights are held on the **last Saturday** of the month and are extremely popular. They are also the main avenue for our charity of the year, with all profits from the raffle and entrance fee going to that particular cause. The winning team receives tokens to spend at the pub; the lowest scoring team get a wooden spoon! If you would like to set a quiz, contact Chris at cottage.garden@btinternet.com and we'll add you to the list. **Saturday February 28** and **Saturday March 28** are our next two dates. **Quiz starts at 8pm.**

Book Group

Our local reading group meets at The Case on the **fourth Thursday** of each month, 7:30 pm start. They read and discuss a wide range of genres and authors, from easy page turners to complex dystopian fantasies. Books are sourced through local libraries, so you don't have to buy each one! For more information just come along to a meeting.

Games Nights

Games nights run during the winter months from late autumn until spring on **Saturday evenings** but only when there are no other events being held. If you enjoy playing games such as Articulate, Balderdash, Bananagrams, Mexican Train, or Nostalgia, to

name just a few, please come along and join in. Families welcome.

We also open **every Friday morning from 10.30 to 12 mid-day** for a **Friends Coffee Morning** and hold **monthly Community Lunches on the second Wednesday** of each month.

Through out the year we run **many other events** to suit a wide range of audiences. **Live bands** and **solo artists** are very popular as are our **BBQ's** and **outdoor summer music events**. Our charity **Afternoon Teas** and annual **Summer Garden Parties** are always busy with a great turnout. The annual fundraising coffee and cake morning each September for the **Macmillan** charity has raised many thousands of pounds over the years. Last year we even held a couple of **discos** and a **children's party!**

If you have a group that would like to meet at the pub OR if you have any ideas for events please talk to one of the bar volunteers or contact the chair.

'WHAT'S ON' FOR YOUR DIARY:

More Live Music

February and March and into spring sees even more live music at the Case. On **Saturday 21 February**, to brighten your winter, we have a local group, **The Smart! Band** performing for us. Then on **Saturday 21 March** we have a welcome return of **Max Wildwood** with his unique mix of upbeat rock and pop songs and thoughtful ballads. Both events start around **8pm**. For more information about these events please see the posters around the pub closer to the dates.

Street Food

On **Saturday 7 February** between 5pm and 8pm we welcome back **Dolly's Pizza Van**. Walk ups welcome but you can always pre-order your pizza by contacting Dolly on **07856 070123**. For more information and menu, see their Facebook page or email fiona@dollyspizzavan.co.uk. Then on **Saturday 14 March** again between 5pm and 8pm, we have the return of **Wagyu Burgers**. As well as beef steak burgers, they serve milk chicken strips, halloumi with cajun slaw, plus chicken wings and many more mouth watering items. It can be advisable to pre-order as they sell out quite quickly. Please call **07580 076408** to place your order.

As always on food nights the pub will be open from 5pm and food can be ordered as takeaway or eaten in the pub. Families welcome.

And Finally

And finally we would like to say a huge **Thank You!** to **DJ Milly** for such an entertaining New Years Eve. His disco really had the pub rocking to a real mix of pop, soul and rock classics throughout the evening and into the small hours. It was a great way to see in 2026! This event was also raising money for **The Brain Tumour Charity** and successfully raised a wonderful £400. Thank you to all who contributed and helped to make it such a great night! We hope to see you soon!

POST PRESS!

Robbie Gladwell and band will be playing at the Case for our 12th anniversary on Saturday 18 April.

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES AT THE CASE

The next lunches will be:

February: Wednesday 11th - Steak pie and apple crumble.
March: Wednesday 11th - Coq au vin and chocolate sponge.

In future to help you plan, the Community lunches will be on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, unless that date conflicts with another event. For this reason the April lunch will be on the 15th.

As always, a booking list will be in the shop.

Whist Drives

It is with a heavy heart I have decided to discontinue the Whist Drives which were running twice a month in the Village Hall. Since Covid the numbers have dwindled considerably and it has become no longer viable to continue.

I started in January 1992 and have been able to donate over £10,000.00 to various charities. I would like to thank all the people who have supported me over the last thirty three years and wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Best Regards

Veronica Howe

BENTLEY CARPET BOWLS

In November and December we played Hintlesham three times. Our interest in the Joe Rice Cup was ended when beaten 8-12 over the two legs mainly due to the disastrous first leg.

We only faired slightly better in the league fixture when we lost 2 - 8 away. Having won all our home league games so far this season we were hopeful this would continue but as with all sport you are only good as your last match when a very good Kesgrave team came and defeated us 6-4 and by three shots.

After the Christmas and new Year break and as we were knocked out of the Joe Rice Cup, we were entered in the Chairmans Plate and were drawn against Clapgate Lane. In the away leg we were beaten 7 - 3 which means only a 8 - 2 or more will see us progress. However we put this disappointment behind us when we overcame Burstall on our recently refurbished floor by 8 - 2 in a very close match.

Our next three games are Whatfield away, Hintlesham at home and Clapgate Lane at home.

David Howe

BENTLEY BOWLS CLUB

We should like to thank all those who joined us at our Race Night on Friday 22 November, both for attending and contributing generously to the Club's funds during the evening. Our friends at East Bergholt Bowls Club provided the racing 'technology' and we are grateful to those who volunteered to help with the preparation for the event and on the night. Thank you.

Fund raising is important to securing the future of the Club. Our objective is to ensure that lawn bowls is accessible to all who live in or near the village at the lowest possible cost, and we seek to achieve this through raising funds at events like the Race Night.

So, the next date for your diary is **Saturday 9 May**. Come and join in the **BBC Annual Quiz** to be held in the Village Hall. More details and tickets will be available nearer the time.

For the 2026 season which begins in the Spring, we will be wearing smart new shirts. In our familiar blue/grey/white colours, they will carry the logo of our current sponsor Energypeople Limited and our new sponsor Tattingstone Garden Centre (TGC). TGC will be helping with the equipment we need to keep the green in good condition.

Our concluding message is the same as always! We welcome new members and if you are thinking about giving lawn bowls a try, you are warmly welcome, come round to the green in Grove Road on a Friday evening from the last week in April onwards; speak to one of our members who will be pleased to tell you more; or email: bentleysuffolkbowlsclub@gmail.com **Simon Faiers**

BENTLEY (SUFFOLK) HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone.

The weather at present is not conducive to gardening thoughts – it's either raining or snowing and consequently too wet. I hope for some respite as this is the time to prune the acers.

Monthly Meetings

20 February. Michael Bamford will show film and talk about his visit to Tibet. This should be an informative and interesting evening for who have never visited the country.

20 March. Fay Jones who is a "Woodland Haberdasher" will talk to us about nettles. Allegedly they are beneficial to some of the wildlife but not particularly popular with gardeners.

The meetings are held in the Village Hall and commence at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come to the meetings to see what it's like – non members are charged £3 Give us a try!!

Finally, watch out for information soon about seeing the snowdrops and crocuses in flower. **Pam Lovell.**

BENTLEY VILLAGE AT CHURCH NEWS

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday 1 st	10.30am Connect at Brantham with Rev Chris Willis
Sunday 8 th	10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 15 th	10am Morning Family Worship
Sunday 22 nd	10am Morning Worship with Communion with Rev Chris

SERVICES IN MARCH 2026

Sunday 1 st	10.30am Connect at East Bergholt with Rev Chris Willis
Sunday 8 th	10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 15 th	10am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday
Sunday 22 nd	10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 29 th	10am Palm Sunday Worship with Communion Benefice Service

SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to help at one of the services by reading the bible or leading prayers, please let us know. New voices are always welcome. Please speak to Jane Day or Ken Felgate.

EASTER SERVICE – SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2026

The Easter Communion Service will take place on Sunday 5th April in place of Benefice Connect service. Followed by the Easter Egg Hunt. Please speak or email Ken Felgate for donations to purchase Lilies for the church for Easter Sunday in memory of a loved one. If you're attending a service prior to Easter a list will be available in the church where you can add the name of a loved one. We ask for a donation of £2.50 per person remembered.

EAST VILLA

Thank you for all the donations of items throughout the year that we regularly take to East Villa for those made homeless. Thank you for the Christmas gifts that were received at the Christingle service. You can continue to leave donations of new towels and bedding on the doorstep at 19 The Link or bring to church on a Sunday.

Christmas and December was a busy month for the church and we hope you were able to join us for one of the services and see the decorations over this time as they were so pretty.

We hope you enjoyed meeting our special visitor at Christingle and we hope to see him again this year! A fun time was had by the adults, as well as the children who came and made their own Christingle orange.

BENTLEY CHURCHYARD

Please remove Christmas wreaths and decorations or any dead or unsightly flowers on family graves by mid-February. The PCC will remove any remaining items by end of March.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EASTER BINGO **Saturday 28th March 2026**

Doors open at 7pm to start at 7.30pm - £5 per person.

Bring your own drinks and snacks.

We will hold a raffle so a prize would be greatly appreciated.

We will need an indication of numbers so please contact Alison Partridge nearer the time – look out for posters for further details.

NEED A LISTENING EAR?

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

Church Contact Details **for Weddings, baptisms, funerals or other enquiries**

Church Warden - Tom Hill – 01473 311119

Church Warden – Jane Day – 01473 310518

Constable Country Benefice – Rev Chris Willis – revchris@constablebenefice.org

Administrator Michelle Jowers – michelle@constablebenefice.org

Assistant Priest – Rev Don Mehen – 01473 310383

Treasurer – Ken Felgate – k.felgate108@btinternet.com

PCC Correspondent – Sandra Mehen – 01473 310383

PCC Secretary – Jane Day – 01473 310518

Events & Tickets – Alison Partridge - bentleychurchevents@gmail.com



AN INVITATION TO ALL VILLAGERS **At a loose end on a Friday?**



A reminder that the Case pub is open every **Friday from**

10.30am to 12.00

for coffee and biscuits. We ask only a small donation.

All are assured of a warm welcome.

Christingle celebrations at St Mary's Church



Photos from the Footpath Society's New Year's Day Walk



Footpath Society - Village Walks

February

Saturday 21st @ 10 30 from the Village Hall

March

Saturday 21st @ 10 30 from the Village Hal

Contacts - John Wheals 01473 310569 and Colin Hawes - 01473 310678

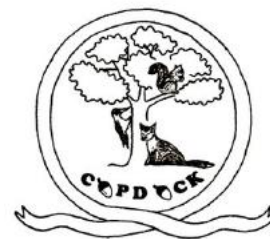
NEWS FROM BENTLEY & COPDOCK PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Bentley Primary 01473 310253
admin@bentley.suffolk.sch.uk

Copdock Primary 01473 730337
admin@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk

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



It was lovely to welcome children back to school in January to start the new term.

We had a fantastic response to our Advent Calendar in December, with all proceeds going to support the Ipswich Minster Top Up Shop. Following a successful visit to the Minster last term, we have arranged for a small group of children to offer their time as volunteers each month, allowing them to make a real difference to the people in our community.

A visit from Suffolk Music Service was thoroughly enjoyed by both schools, with children singing along to the songs they recognised as they were played on violin, trombone, percussion and clarinet.

This year our curriculum focus is developing knowledge of our community in the world. In March our KS2 classes look forward to visiting London to explore the physical landscape and further develop their geography skills. They will be taking a tour down the Thames as well as exploring a birds eye view from above in the London Eye. We are so grateful to our PTAs for supporting us financially with this visit alongside £1000 grant from the Blue Spark Foundation.

As part of the Learn about Livestock project, we can't wait to welcome a ewe and her lambs to Copdock Primary. The children will find out all about local agriculture, consider where their food comes from and how to care for these animals. Alongside this we will be visited by a local farmer and their tractor.

We can't wait to share our Easter Bonnet Parade too!

If you want to know more about our school adventures, why not follow us on instagram [@bentleyandcopdockfederation](https://www.instagram.com/bentleyandcopdockfederation)



WILDLIFE NOTES

Mad March Hares

Early spring is a good time to spot Brown hares running, chasing and fighting in Bentley's arable fields. These long-eared lagomorphs are easily distinguished from rabbits by their much larger size, proportionally longer legs and black-tipped ears. Unlike rabbits, hares do not dig burrows but shelter in 'forms', which are shallow depressions in the ground or grass. When disturbed they can be seen bounding across the fields, often in a zigzag pattern. The iconic image of two "boxing" hares upright on their hind legs is generally a female fending off a male, her punches and kicks leaving him in no doubt that she is not ready for his amorous advances.

The saying "Mad as a March Hare" is a reference to the boisterous courtship antics of the hares during their mating season. This is a bit of a misnomer as their breeding activity runs from March to July with a female having up to four litters a year, each comprising between one and four young known as leverets. Female hares are never going to win any Mother of the Year awards; after giving birth to their young they leave them hidden in a form returning just once or twice a day to nurse them. This lack of attention from the mother may seem uncaring to us but is an important survival strategy as the leverets' best chance of avoiding predators at this age is to remain still and hidden, the mother's presence could attract unwanted attention to her offspring.



Bentley's fields are generally a good location for observing these charismatic mammals although a pair of binoculars are useful as the animals tend to rest out in the open away from the field margins. With an unobstructed vista their acute senses and incredible pace provide a good defence against most predators. For a closer encounter with hares a short boat trip on an RSPB excursion to Havergate Island usually produces memorable sightings. The hares on Suffolk's only island have become habituated to people and when approached will often remain hunkered down amongst the gorse bushes instead of taking flight like their mainland relatives. I



have even seen an individual sheltering against the warden's hut seemingly oblivious to the visitors passing within five metres.

Hares are the fastest land mammal in Britain capable of reaching speeds of 45 mph, unfortunately this asset attracts the illegal activity of hare coursing with dogs which still presents an ongoing challenge for Suffolk's Police. Sergeant Christopher Green who heads up the county's Rural, Wildlife and Heritage Crime unit gave me an update on the problem, "Hare coursing is an issue in Suffolk and the East of England in general. The perpetrators will target large arable fields with a healthy population of hare from late September through to March when crop growth brings their season to an end. Offenders will usually use a minimum of two dogs when training and significantly more at an organised illegal gathering. People need to realise that this is organised crime which focuses on illegal betting, it's not a case of a



poacher 'wanting one for the pot'. Today hare coursing utilises modern technology to live stream videos for betting to various locations around the world. Not only is this a cruel bloodsport it also funds criminality. Frequently there is also criminal damage caused from entering land, driving over drilled crops and instances of farmers being intimidated and threatened if they try to challenge the offenders. Hare coursing has been illegal since 2004 and new stronger laws have recently been brought in which include 'Trespass with dogs in pursuit of Hare' and 'Going equipped for Hare Coursing'. Zero tolerance should be shown to this cruel activity, members of the public should unashamedly call 999 if they witness it happening." **Article and photos by John Boyle.**



WI BENTLEY BLUEBELLS

Bentley Bluebells are looking forward to a new year with a lot of variety in their diaries. In January we started with a celebratory meal. We wore our glad rags and started with an aperitif, before enjoying a delicious meal to kick off the New Year.

Sadly, Tattingstone's WI, known as the Alton Belles has had to fold. It had been going for 80 years and had formed just after the second world war. Our little group is still going strong with new members each year. Below is this year's schedule for our meetings. If you are interested in coming along, please do, meeting at 7:30 pm or get in touch with me. My mobile number is in the front of this magazine.

Emma (Bentley Bluebell WI Secretary and Press Officer)

11 th February	The storyteller	Dorothy O'Grady
11 th March	Sculptor	Sean Hedges-Quinn
8 th April	Anniversary	Colneis Singer
13 th May	Whole Food cookery	Frances Harper
21 st May	Fundraising Lunch	
10 th June	Outing to Sutton Hoo	
8 th July	My Journey with Flowers	Diane Heasley
12 th August	Garden party	
9 th September	My life behind the mic	Steph Mackintyre
14 th October	A man and his landscape	Pat Hodgkins
11 th November	AGM	
9 th December	Christmas crafts	Angela Ashford



BENTLEY COMMUNITY STORES

Monday to Friday 9 to 1.30, Saturday 9 to 12 noon, Sunday 9 to 11

Did you know?

Your Community Shop is 10 Years old on July 14th this year.

Here is a little bit of history that may be of interest.

The village had been without a pub or a shop for some time. (The old village shop had closed in 2004). The village purchased the pub and it was thought that a shop was also needed.



Thanks to the determined efforts of one man, steps were taken in 2015 to raise money to open a shop. Using his many contacts, he started writing letters trying to obtain grants to build and equip a shop.

Some money was raised by the village, but grants of £110,000 enabled him to get started, including a grant of £20,000 from The Prince's Countryside Trust, which spurred him on to complete the task and the shop opened in July 2016 by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk. (con'td..)

A meeting had been held in the village hall to gauge interest and recruit volunteers to run the business. 17 of the original volunteers are still working in the shop today.

Others have come and gone over the years but a strong team of dedicated volunteers still keep things running smoothly. (We are always keen to welcome new volunteers, so if it is something you would like to do, pop in and have a chat).

It is a non-profit making business, with all monies used to run the shop and cover overheads. Everybody who works in the shop does so in their own time and nobody gets paid.

We try our best to keep our prices competitive and we compare well with other local stores. We have a twice weekly delivery from Sainsbury's, upon which, we only add a small mark up. Our buyers are always diligently trying to source goods at the best prices, and we like to buy local produce where ever possible.

Hopefully you have found this interesting. Why not pop in and see us. We are all very friendly.

Contact details info@bentleystores.co.uk

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

SPEEDWATCH IN BENTLEY

Vacancy SPEEDWATCH CO-ORDINATOR

Bentley Parish Council are looking for a new Speedwatch Co-ordinator. Speedwatch has been in operation for a number of years and has helped slow down traffic through the village considerably. Training and help will be given by the previous Co-ordinator to the successful applicant.

Volunteers are also needed to join the Speedwatch Team – could you spare an hour of your time to join this dedicated team to help improve road safety in our village?

If you are interested please contact the Clerk.

Joy Scott – Clerk

Whites Cottage, Heath Road, East Bergholt CO7 6RJ

E-mail: clerk@bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 01206 298174

BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Bentley Parish Council Meeting took place at Bentley Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 8 January 2026

Nine Councillors, Speedwatch and 7 members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from Footpath Warden, Tree Warden, County Councillor Georgia Hall & District Councillor Marc Rowland

Planning – There was one planning decision – and one Appeal – no applications.

Reports were received from County Councillor Georgia Hall, Footpath Warden & Speedwatch.

Matters discussed

- Brockley Wood – Community Liaison Group had held their first meeting. It was disappointing that SCC/BWV had missed the best part of the year re planting by failing to agree on species.
- Public Inquiry re Grove Farm Solar – from 20 January to run over eight days.
- Revision of Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan – A couple of amendments have been made to the final adopted CAAMP by Babergh District Council. Veteran trees are being documented in the Conservation Area.
- Siting of Information Board & signage for the Conservation Area - Work is still progressing
- Budget was agreed.
- It was agreed that the Precept be uplifted by £1,500 (£17,000)
- Horse and rider accident outside the Village Hall.
- Development in South West Babergh
- Telegraph Posts - Open Reach say they are “appropriately sited”.
- SID Battery Management – Battery now installed – SID data downloaded from both SIDs
- Review of the Neighbourhood Plan – Nothing to report
- Affordable Housing – Meeting has taken place with Hastoe, Babergh and CAS
- The Copse – Grass is growing.
- Playing Field Society – Sign to go up by Play Area.
- Payments were authorised.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Full draft minutes are available on the P C website -. <https://www.bentleysuffolkparishcouncil.gov.uk>

BENTLEY VETERANS CLUB

The Bentley Veterans Club meet the first Wednesday of each month in the Bentley Village Hall at 7.30pm. The members are all ex Servicemen but unfortunately the numbers are dwindling. We are now inviting Men and Women who belong or who have served or worked in any of the front line Agencies, Armed Forces, Nurses, Doctors, Police and Fireman to come along to one of the meetings and see if it is something that would interest you. You would be made very welcome.

Please contact Catherine Sweeney - 01473 310095 or Griff Johns - 01473 310634.

TUESDAY CLUB

Welcome to 2026, I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year.

We finished 2025 with a talk by Gary from the Coffee Caravan we had our last Chair Aerobics with Mandy.

We all had Christmas Lunch at the George, Hintlesham. Lastly our Christmas Party was held on 16th December. Members brought food for the buffet and Brian Mann entertained us. All members went home with a gift from the Secret Santa.

We held our AGM on 13th January, treasurer and Secretary read out their reports for the year ending.

During the month of January Mandy will be back to help us lose some of the weight we have gained over Christmas with a session of Chair Aerobics. During February we welcome Eric and his comical poetry. Kimya will bring along information on Cancer Support. 10th March we have Alan Mann who sings and lastly in March Mandy and Chair Aerobics. So much to look forward too new members are very welcome.

Lastly I have some sad news, Veronica our Treasurer who has been with the club for many years will retire at the end of 2026. This has come as a shock to all our Members but hopefully she will continue to come to some of the meetings. As Veronica is leaving the position of Treasurer needs to be filled or Secretary if preferred. If there is anyone interested in filling one of these positions please contact us for more details.

Catherine Sweeney, Secretary.

DID YOU KNOW...

Bentley has more Veteran Hedgerow Trees than any other Parish in Suffolk?

These are recorded in the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey published in 2012 by Guy Akers - <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Environment/Green-Issues/SuffolkHedgerowSurvey1998-2012web.pdf>



A team of volunteers in Bentley have been updating this survey and recording **all** of the Veteran Trees not only in our hedgerows, but in private gardens, parkland and our ancient woodlands. Trees in the north of the village have now been measured, photographed and recorded both in our Parish online mapping system but also on the Woodland Trust on-line map. The Woodland Trust are the UK's largest woodland conservation charity - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

If you would like to join this team of volunteers to continue this valuable work in the south of the village, please contact me. All you need is a tape measure and a phone.

Colin Hawes, Tree Warden - hawescolin@gmail.com 01473 310678

A decorative border of various flowers and leaves surrounds the central text. The flowers include tulips, daisies, and other spring blooms, with detailed line art showing leaves and stems.

BENTLEY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;” (Titus 1v2)

All are welcome to hear about the way of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ

Every Sunday at 10.45 am

I wonder how many of us made New Year’s resolutions for 2026 and have already broken them? Or perhaps we had plans for 2025 that, for whatever reason, we didn’t manage to complete?

In eternity past (before anything was created), the three Persons of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost) made a plan for the salvation of sinners.

Under this plan, when the appointed time came, the eternal Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, came into this world as a man, living a perfect life of obedience.

He then died a sacrificial death upon the cross – where He bore the punishment for sin for all His people - those who will come to repent of their sins and believe and trust in Him.

Thus, Jesus fully completed the work of salvation which had been planned, so that just before He finally laid down His life on the cross, He said: “..It is finished:” (John 19v30)

Are you trusting in Jesus’ finished work of salvation?

Regular Weekly Services:

Prayer and Bible Study – Tuesdays 7 pm

Worship Services – Sundays 10.45 am and 3 pm

Admin: 07814 465222 www.bentley-reformed-baptist.uk

admin@bentley-reformed-baptist.uk

Something really exciting is happening at St. Mary's

and the four parishes making up the **Constable Country Benefice** as we are launching a new group for anyone already in school years 6 to 8 – called the '**Moving up Club**'.

This new club was formed after some church members had been going into local primary schools, including Bentley Primary, to lead 'Moving Up' sessions, helping year six children prepare for secondary school, so they could make the move well, in what can be a very daunting experience for many youngsters, moving from the relatively small environment of Primary School, where they are the eldest, to a much larger school, where they are suddenly the youngest!

We already have our '**Connect Youth**' Group (for teens) which take place on Thursday evenings, and we wanted to provide a group for pre-teens as well. **Len and Issy Smith**, from our Branham congregation, who are very experienced and passionate about providing quality youth provision, are leading up this new venture.

There are a number of 'taster events', allowing young people between years 10 & 12 to come along and give it a try.

In both our youth groups. which are for all the Constable Country Benefice group of churches – (which includes Tattingstone, East Bergholt and Branham, as well as Bentley of course) we are all about **Fun, Faith and Friends**.

We want to provide a positive opportunity for our younger community to make new friendships, as well as give them a place to maintain existing ones, especially when so many children go off to different schools at age 11 - so to give them a chance to stay connected.

We are really keen that everything we do is 'Fun' – with games, discussions, activities, and occasional outings. We are open about faith too – as we want to give everyone a chance to have a say and think freely about what life is about. But whilst we have young people who believe in a God and those who don't – all are welcome – and no-one has to believe anything to fully belong to either of these groups.

So, if you know of someone who is in years 6-8, why not get in contact and find out more.

Contact: youth@constablebenfice.org

God bless,

Rev Chris

Rector (Designate) – St. Mary's



New Year Newsletter

We've officially said goodbye to 2025 and are full speed ahead into 2026!

In this issue, I want to highlight the **Police and Parish Forum**, held four times a year at different locations. Years ago, local bobbies regularly attended parish council meetings. Over time, as numbers declined, these quarterly forums were introduced so that the local inspector could provide updates on what's happening in the area and share force priorities.



These meetings are a great opportunity for residents to raise concerns and help shape how we police the community. Unfortunately, attendance has been dropping, so we'd love to see more of you there. Come along, meet your local policing team, and find out what we're working on.

Next meeting:

*Hadleigh Town Hall
11th March
7:30 PM*

Katie is also dropping in at the Case Coffee Morning on Friday 13th February if you want to talk to her about any concerns.


If you need to report a crime, please use the online service on the Suffolk Police website or call 101. PC Katie Jarrett.

CAPEL ST MARY LIBRARY

Capel Library welcomes everyone! We are a small and friendly library based in the heart of the Capel community. We offer books, internet access, children's activities, tea and coffee, all with a friendly smile.

Warm Welcome

Here at Capel Library, we're offering free hot drinks! We still have a few items like soap and toothpaste that you can take if you need them.

**The Friends of Capel Library
Community Cinema** 

OLIVIA COLMAN BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH
SEARCHLIGHT
THE ROSES



Tuesday 17th March 2026 at Capel Library
Doors Open: 7pm, Film Starts: 7.30pm
Tickets in advance: £4.50 members, £5 non-members
On the door: £5.50
Fully Licensed Bar & Air Conditioning

Regular Events in the Library

Tot Rock and Stay & Play: Every Thursday from 9.30 onwards; songs, and stories followed by a more social play session with free refreshments.

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

Lego: Every 4th Saturday we hold our Monthly Lego Club. This is now completely free and you can drop in anytime between 10:30-12:30. We can also get out some Duplo or mega blocks for younger ones. Come and join us for some building fun!

Saturday and Sunday Crafts: We are now doing our craft sessions on Saturdays as well as Sundays! Drop in between 10.30-12.30 and get crafty at Capel Library. All children and families are welcome. All materials are supplied and there is no charge.

We welcome book and puzzle donations!

OPENING TIMES

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

Telephone: 01473 851370

e-mail: capel.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk Web: www.suffolklibraries.co.uk

THE FRIENDS OF CAPEL LIBRARY

100 Club Draw Results

December 2025

£20 John Wheals

£10 Mike Garrad

£5 Alison Rogers

Application forms for 2026 can be obtained from The Library. Thank you for your support. Bob Perkin

S C R A B B L E
L
U
B

SEASON 2026

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

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

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

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