

**THE BENTLEY  
BUGLE**



# **COMMUNITY & CHURCH NEWS**



**ISSUE 110 - APRIL MAY 2026**



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## Suffolk's First Co-operative Pub



## Case is Altered

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Monday Closed

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Wednesday 6pm - 10pm

Thursday 6pm - 10pm

Friday 6pm - 10:30pm

Saturday 6pm - 10pm

Sunday 12pm - 3pm

For more information go to:

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## THE BENTLEY BUGLE - COMMUNITY AND CHURCH NEWS COORDINATORS

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Tel: 01473 310383

### In Memoriam

**We in Bentley Village send our sincere condolences to the Constable Country Medical Practice and to Dr Tettah's family at this time. Dr Tetteh served our community over many years and we will miss her.**

### Front cover

**Small Tortoiseshell on prunus blossom - Michael Bamford**

**If you have any suitable photos for future issues, please forward to Christine at [christine.bugle@gmail.com](mailto:christine.bugle@gmail.com)**

**COPY FOR THE JUNE - JULY 2026 ISSUE SHOULD REACH CHRISTINE BY NOON ON WEDS 20TH MAY 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	07710 290859
County Councillor	Georgia Hall	07955 434445

## BENTLEY ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS

Bentley Primary School (Headteacher) (Chair Governors) (Chair PTA)	Jo Austin Laurie Page <a href="mailto:laurie.page@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk">laurie.page@copdock.suffolk.sch.uk</a> Sarah Hawley	01473 310253  07894 294319
Bentley Community Pub	Kate Spicer	01473 314187
Bentley Comrades	Ray Savage	01473 311122
Bentley Community Stores	Bob Feltwell	01473 310182
Bowls Club	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 Catherine Sweeney	01473 310344 01473 310095
Village Hall - Bookings	Veronica Howe Mark Usher	01473 310344 01473 310322
Village History Recorder	Nicky Moxey	01473 313125
Womens Institute	Emma Finney-Hewitson	07485 017293

## ST MARY'S CHURCH, BENTLEY

Rector	Rev'd Chris Willis	
Benefice Administrator	Michelle Jowers	07955 329341
Benefice email address	<a href="mailto:michelle@constablebenefice.org">michelle@constablebenefice.org</a>	
Churchwardens	Tom Hill Jane Day	01473 311119 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

## **APRIL 26**

- 1st - Comrades - Village Hall, Blackmore Room at 7.30 pm
- 2nd - Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall from 7.30pm
- 4th - Food Vendor - Smokey Deez - Case is Altered from 5-8 pm
- 7th & 21st - Tuesday Club - Village Hall at 2.30pm
- 8th - Bentley Bluebells WI - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 9th & 23rd - Scrabble Club - Village Hall, Blackmore Room at 2.30pm
- 9th - Open Mic Night - Case is Altered from 8.00 pm
- 15th - Case Community Lunch - Case is Altered from 12 pm
- 16th - Annual Parish Meeting - Village Hall from 7.30pm
- 17th - Horticultural Society - Village Hall from 7.30 pm
- 18th - Live Music at the Case - Case is Altered from 8.30 pm
- 25th - Monthly Quiz - Case is Altered at 8pm

## **MAY 26**

- 2nd - Food Vendor - Dolly's Pizzas - Case is Altered from 5-8 pm
- 4th - Charity Darts - Case is Altered - 12-3.00 pm
- 5th & 19th - Tuesday Club - Village Hall at 2.30pm
- 6th - Comrades - Village Hall, Blackmore Room at 7.30 pm
- 7th - Local Elections - Village Hall - Polling Station
- 9th - Bowls Club Annual Quiz - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
- 13th - Case Community Lunch - Case is Altered from 12 pm
- 13th - Bentley Bluebells WI - Village Hall 7.30pm
- 14th & 28th - Scrabble Club - Village Hall, Blackmore Room at 2.30pm
- 14th - Annual Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall from 7.30pm
- 14th - Open Mic Night - Case is Altered - from 8.00 pm
- 15th - Horticultural Society - Village Hall - from 7.30 pm
- 16th - Horticultural Society - Village Hall - Plant Sale and Coffee Morning
- 21st - Bentley Bluebells WI - Fund raising lunch - Village Hall
- 23rd - Live Music at the Case - Case is Altered from 8.30 pm
- 24th - Charity Tea - Case is Altered - 3.30 pm
- 30th - Monthly Quiz Night - Case is Altered at 8pm

## **Other Activities in the Village**

- 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.

# BENTLEY VILLAGE AT CHURCH NEWS

## SERVICES IN APRIL 2026

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10am Easter Service with Communion followed by egg hunt
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10am Morning Worship
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10am Morning Worship with Communion / APCM meeting

## SERVICES IN MAY 2026

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am Connect at Tattingstone with Rev Chris Willis
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10am Pet Service
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10am Morning Worship with Communion
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	10am Morning Worship with Communion Benefice service at Tattingstone

## SUNDAY SERVICES

If you would like to help at one of the services by doing a reading or leading the prayers, please let us know. New voices are always welcome. Please speak to any one of the people listed below.



### **EASTER SERVICE – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

The Easter Communion service will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April in place of Benefice Connect service, followed by an 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. We ask for a suggested donation of £2.50 per person

## EAST VILLAS

We continue to collect items for East Villas throughout the year. Don and Sandra Mehen are happy to receive them at their home or any church service, please contact them.

**We will be holding the Annual Parochial Church Meeting after the service on the 26<sup>th</sup> April, including Wine and Canapes.**

Please contact Rev Chris Willis for further information

## EASTER BINGO - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you to everyone who came to play Bingo and had a good time. We appreciated the donation of raffle prizes and hope to have a total raised soon



## **PET SERVICE – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10am**

Bring your family pet along for a blessing. If you don't have a pet, then you are welcome to bring a cuddly toy. Any donations of pet food / treats will be taken to

The Blue Cross at Wherstead.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** – After the Connect service at Brantham there will be a Rectory picnic.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June** – Annual Community Service at 3pm followed by afternoon tea

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Talk by Tom Hill**

**“Bentley and the Founding of America”**

**St Mary's church, 2:15pm for a 2:30pm start**

**followed by refreshments and informal tour of the historical features of St Mary's.**

**£10 per person. All Proceeds to Church funds.**

### **BENTLEY CHURCHYARD**

Thank you for keeping the church yard looking neat and tidy. We appreciate the removal of unwanted and dead flowers on the graves.

### **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](mailto:revchris@constablebenefice.org)

Administrator Michelle Jowers – [michelle@constablebenefice.org](mailto:michelle@constablebenefice.org)

Assistant Priest – Rev Don Mehen – 01473 310383

Treasurer – Ken Felgate – [k.felgate108@btinternet.com](mailto:k.felgate108@btinternet.com)

PCC Correspondent – Sandra Mehen – 01473 310383

PCC Secretary – Jane Day – 01473 310518

Events & Tickets – Alison Partridge - [bentleychurchevents@gmail.com](mailto:bentleychurchevents@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:chair@thecasepubbentley.co.uk)



At last this long, wet and grey winter seems to be coming to an end, even if it's still a bit on the chilly side at least the sun is shining! Hopefully the sun will shine for as many hours as it has rained and we can all start to enjoy the spring. We have lots going on over the next few months, including our 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, so come and join us to celebrate this and the coming of better weather.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Music

This year, on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**, we are celebrating our 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Suffolk's first Co-operative Pub and are delighted to announce that we will be celebrating with a night of music and fun with one of our favourite entertainers, **Robbie Gladwell and his band**. The music will start around 8:30pm and will go on a little longer than our normal Saturday opening hours. It's always a great evening with Robbie so we'll look forward to seeing you there to celebrate with us.

### Charity of the Year

As always April sees our new charity of the year. For this coming year we will be fund raising for the **Ipswich Diabetes and Endocrine Centre ESNEFT NHS**. They specialise in treating those with Type 1 Diabetes but also provide clinics for Type 2 Diabetes patients too. For Type 1 patients they offer clinics for many related issues such as insulin pump training, renal disease advice and foot care programmes. They also give support to those with Type 1 who are, pregnant or trying to conceive and they also run paediatric and young people's clinics.

### Charity Darts

Charlie Partridge, one of our newest and youngest bar volunteers is organising a **9 Dart Tournament** to raise money for the **Future Sense Foundation**. Later this year Charlie is volunteering in Panama City with the foundation and needs to raise £100 towards the costs. The tournament will be held in the pub between **12 noon and 3pm on Monday 4 May** (Bank Holiday Monday). Each entry costs **£3 for 9 darts**. The person with the highest score wins a trophy! Any money raised above £100 will be donated to our new charity of the year the – **Ipswich Diabetes and Endocrine Centre**. **Everyone is welcome to take part.**

### More Live Music

In **May**, on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>**, we have another great evening of live music with the very popular local duo, Hipidi. Poppy and David – who make up the band, play guitar and percussion and play much loved covers of well known songs from the 60's to the present day. They also write their own material and play with delightful harmonies and a love of music!

### **Charity Afternoon Tea**

On **Sunday 24 May from 3:30pm**, we will be holding an **Afternoon Tea** in support our new charity of the year, the **Ipswich Diabetes and Endocrine Centre**. This year, as it is in support of a diabetes charity, there will be a choice of sweet or savoury bites to suit all palates. This will be a strictly ticketed event. Tickets will be available to buy from **Bentley Stores** closer to the date and will be £10 per person.

### **Bentley Beer Bonanza**

This spring we are holding our own 5 day **Beer Bonanza** or Beer Festival. This will give our real ale customers the opportunity to try a selection of different beers from all 6 hand pumps and additional pins. As before, the beers will come with informative tasting notes. The event will run from **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May** (Bank Holiday Monday).

### **Open Mic Nights**

These evenings continue to be extremely popular and are enthusiastically supported by our regulars and those from further a field. We are always interested in new talent so if you would like to take part please contact **Dave on 07885 963882** or look on our website or Facebook page. The next two evenings are **Thursday 9 April** and **Thursday 14 May**. Music starts at around 8pm. As always PA is provided.

### **Quiz Nights**

Our monthly quizzes are always very busy so it is often advisable to arrive a little early if you want to guarantee a table. Quiz starts at **8pm**. Teams can be a maximum size of 6 and entry is £2 per person. The winning team receives tokens to spend at the pub; the lowest scoring team get a wooden spoon! All profits from the quiz and raffle go to our new charity of the year. Our next quizzes are on **Saturday 25 April** and **Saturday 30 May**.

### **Street food**

On **Saturday 4th April**, we welcome **Smokey Deez**, a new food vendor on their first visit to the Case. They are offering stone-baked Neapolitan style pizzas using fresh dough. For **pre-orders call 07961 211440** (pre-orders close at 3pm). On **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** we have a very welcome return of **Dolly's Pizzas**. Both vendors will be serving in the pub car park between **5.00pm and 8.00pm**. Menus are available in the pub and will also be on our website and Facebook page closer to the dates. **The pub will be open from 5pm. Families welcome.**

### **Late News - Save the Date!**

On **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July** a new event for the village will be taking place on the Parish Field '**Cars at the Case**' The Case is supporting this veteran/classic/restored/unusual but loved car (or any vehicle really) rally. More details to follow. See separate announcement for those wishing to enter their vehicle.

### **Our Bank Holiday opening times this spring are:**

Friday 3 April (Good Friday) 12–3pm, Monday 6 April (Easter BH Monday) 12–3pm, Monday 4 May 12–3pm, Monday 25 May 12–3pm. **All other opening times remain the same.** We hope to see you soon.

## COMMUNITY LUNCHES AT THE CASE

The next lunches will be:

**April: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Lasagne, lemon cheesecake**

**May: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Fish pie, Pasque cheesecake**

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

\*Menus subject to change – always check the list.

## BENTLEY CARPET BOWLS

With the season rapidly coming to an end it is still very close at the top end of the league. Our first match saw us travel to Whatfield where after a bad start we recovered well to win narrowly 6-4. Against Hintlesham at home all sets played extremely well and we recorded an excellent 9-1 win.

After losing the first leg of the Chairman's Plate 3-7 at Clapgate Lane we remarkably won the home second leg by 8-2 to win 11-9 overall and therefore qualify for the semi-finals to be played at Needham Market later.

However we came down to earth with a bump when we played Clapgate Lane again at home in the league. They had obviously worked out how to play our carpets and ran out winners 2-8. We did not turn up on the day.

We held our club singles competition recently and after excellent meal supplied by our committee some competitive games were played. The eventual winner was Colin Rose with Sandra Mehen runner up. Congratulations to them both.

After an excellent win in the Chairmans Plate we travelled to Needham Market where we were drawn against Belstead in the semi-final and were defeated 2-8 with only the all ladies triples set being winners.

Our last two matches are both away at Kesgrave and Stutton. **David Howe**



### 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.

## BENTLEY BOWLS CLUB

There are two important Spring dates for your diary. **Saturday 9 May** is our **Annual Quiz**, to be held in the village hall, beginning at 7.30 pm. This year tickets will be only £5 and please bring your own snacks and nibbles. There will be a bar and raffle. We hope to repeat the success of last year when the event was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Do remember that even if you're not part of a table/team, we can always find a team for you to join.

Tickets can be obtained by emailing: [bentleysuffolkbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:bentleysuffolkbowlsclub@gmail.com) or speaking to Colin Rose (07872 015207) or David Howe (01473310344)

On the evening of **Friday 24 April** from 6.30 pm the green will open for the 2026 season (weather permitting). If you are thinking about giving lawn bowls a try, this would be an ideal occasion to begin - you are warmly welcome to come to the green in Grove Road to have a go. If you cannot make the 24<sup>th</sup>, each Friday evening during the spring and summer there is a general 'roll up', so come and see us on any Friday.

**Simon Faiers**

## BENTLEY (SUFFOLK) HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

For the February meeting, Michael Bamford showed us film of his visit to TIBET and LADKH which was most interesting, especially for those us never likely to visit there. This was enjoyed by all present.

At our meeting on the 20th March, Fay Jones talked about Nettles. She is known as a Woodland Haberdasher. I invited her to bring along things that she makes from the wood she gathers.

The April meeting on 17th April is "All about Dahlias" by Jo Hull from the Benton End Flower Farm. She is very knowledgeable and will be able to answer any queries.

The meetings are held in the Village Hall and commence at 7.00pm

### GARDENS TO VISIT

Green Island Gardens at Ardleigh CO7 7SP Large area with many winter trees and bushes in flower. Refreshments available. Entry £12 "A plantsman's paradise"

The seafront gardens at Felixstowe, which have been restored.

Blakenham Woodland Garden, open daily 9.30am to 4.30pm. Feb to 1st August.

**Pam Lovell**



## **BENTLEY REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH**

“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree..”  
(1 Peter 2v24)

**All welcome to hear about the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the salvation found only in Him on:**

**Friday 3rd April 10am & Sunday 5th April 10.45am**

In the Garden of Gethsemane, a few hours before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed: “..O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.” (Matthew 26v42)

The contents of this cup represented God’s eternal punishment for the sins of His people. Jesus went on to drink of it to the very last drop, as He bore the full penalty for their sins upon the cross of Calvary, in unimaginable sufferings of body and soul.

And here in Gethsemane, Jesus had taken and had begun to drink of this bitter cup.

Jesus is both God and Man, and, in His human nature, He naturally shrank back from the horrors ahead. Such were His agonies of soul that: “..His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” (Luke 22v44)

And yet, He fully submitted to His Father’s will, voluntarily and willingly going to the cross to save His people from their sins.

Have you repented of your sins and trusted in Jesus for salvation, so that, for you, the cup of God’s punishment is empty?

### **Regular Weekly Services:**

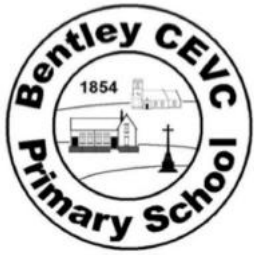
**Prayer and Bible Study – Tuesdays 7 pm**

**Worship Services – Sundays 10.45 am and 3 pm**

Admin: 07814 465222 [www.bentley-reformed-baptist.uk](http://www.bentley-reformed-baptist.uk)

[admin@bentley-reformed-baptist.uk](mailto:admin@bentley-reformed-baptist.uk)

# NEWS FROM BENTLEY & COPDOCK PRIMARY SCHOOLS



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

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

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



Children have been using the skills learned in PE to take part in some sporting fixtures. The annual cross country at the Royal Hospital School took place at the end of term. It's such a lovely event to be involved with and the children always do their best in tricky conditions. We look forward to our cricket and padel tennis coaching during the summer term, using our community facilities.

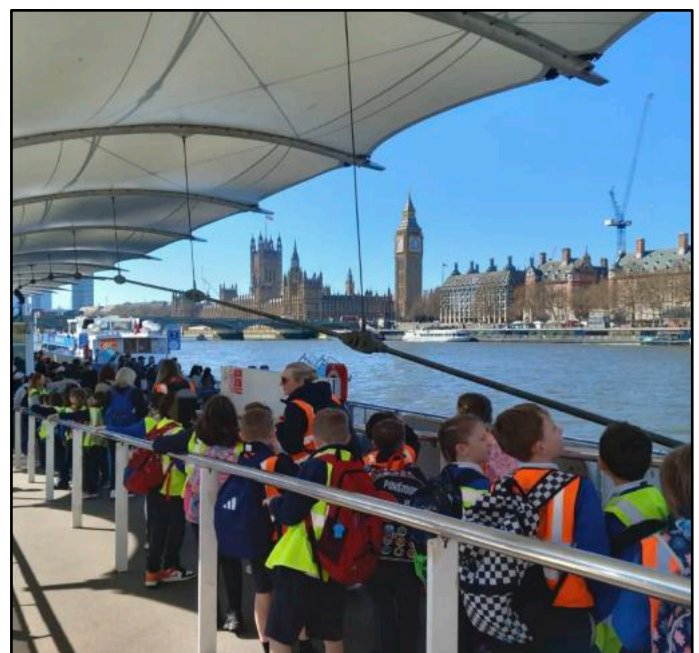
All KS2 children had a very exciting trip to London, leaving early on the coach and going on a boat trip along the Thames which was very much enjoyed, then a ride on the London Eye to experience a spectacular view over London. They enjoyed a picnic in a park and then a coach journey back to Ipswich.

We had an Athlete in to work with children on some circuit training, then they delivered an assembly on staying healthy and active and explained what it takes to be successful in sport alongside their personal experiences. We ended the Spring term with our traditional Easter Bonnet Parade to open our special Easter Services.

KS1 children had a lovely day visiting Colchester Castle in the new term, learning all about Boudicca and Castles as part of their KS1 study.

As we get into the summer term, we are looking forward to more sporting fixtures and we are excited to meet our new families in school as part of their induction into our schools.

For photos and updates about our recent activities in school. You can follow us on [www.instagram.com/bentleyandcopdockfederation/](https://www.instagram.com/bentleyandcopdockfederation/) or [www.bentleycopdock.co.uk](http://www.bentleycopdock.co.uk)



# WILDLIFE NOTES

## Trees in Bentley

There are some 48 native trees in the UK and many species that have been introduced from elsewhere, including Sycamore, Sweet Chestnut, Horse Chestnut, Turkey Oak, Norway Maple, London Plane, Walnut, Monkey puzzle, and many species of conifer.

**Native trees in Bentley** (excluding trees in gardens)

**Oak (2 species)**, Beech, Ash, Lime, Birch (two species), Elm, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Holly, Rowan, Cherry, **Wild Service**, Willow (several species), White Poplar, Black Poplar, Aspen, Alder, Blackthorn, Elder, Spindle, Hazel, Dogwood and Yew.



The most important trees in the parish are the two species of English Oak and the Wild Service, of which there are some 25 trees, two in Holly Wood, one in Great Martins Wood, and 22 that can be found along Bergholt Road and Hazel Shrub.

English Oaks are extremely important for their biodiversity because they support at least 2,300 species, many of which depend on these two trees to complete their life cycle, and would become extinct without them. The Wild Service is important for two

reasons, (a) because it **rare**, and (b) because it is an indicator of **former ancient woodland**.

Unfortunately, **tree disease** has **seriously affected three of Bentley's Native trees**. **Elm** has been continuously attacked for many years by "**Dutch Elm disease**", (a disease carried from tree to tree by a beetle) so that it never grows into large trees. Elms die when they reach a diameter of about 8 to 10 cm.



**Wild Service Tree: leaves and flowers**

Gone are the huge Elms I was familiar with as a boy.



**Dutch Elm Disease: Distinctive Elm beetle tunnels beneath the bark**

**Ash** is now being attacked by a fungus, which causes "**Ash dieback disease**". We are fast losing **Ash trees** throughout the UK.

**English Oak trees** are suffering from **Acute Oak Decline**, caused by a species of bacteria.

**Colin Hawes**



**Acute Oak Decline: It's bark leaks a black, sticky tar-like substance**



**Ash Dieback Disease: Dark: Stem lesions appear and leaves die**



**Charlie Partridge is off to Panama City with the Future Sense Foundation and needs to raise £100 for the foundation.**

**He is running a 9 DARTS CHALLENGE in The Case is Altered on Bank Holiday Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 from midday.**

**£3 for 9 darts – Highest score wins a trophy.**

**Anything raised above £100 will be donated to The Charity of the Year – The Diabetes and Endocrine Centre at Ipswich Hospital.**

**Everybody welcome to come and have a go.**



## **WI BENTLEY BLUEBELLS**

Our two latest talks at the WI in February and March have been excellent. The Storyteller, Dorothy O'Grady in February drew on tales from around the world. Dorothy used musical instruments to captivate our attention, as travelling storytellers would have done for hundred of years.

Sean Hedges-Quinn came along in March to talked to us about his journey through his career, starting in film props and now sculpting. This was an open meeting and we had several visitors. Sean explained the process he took in creating his art work with love and attention to detail, for example finding out about the person he was going to sculpt. And the joy when people close recognised the sculpture eg Jim and Rosie Heriot, their father James, and Bobby Robson laughing at his 1980's self with masses of hair and his own teeth, 'handsome devil' he said, Sean quoted.

Looking ahead to next month and May, we will be celebrating our anniversary on the 8th April with a musical evening and on 13th May we will have talk on whole food cookery.

Our fund raising lunch is going ahead on the 21st May so keep the date in the diary. Tickets will be £10 head, and available from the 8th April so look out for notices around the village. If you'd like to grab a ticket call Diane 311292 or Sandra 310072.

**Emma Finney-Hewitson**

# BENTLEY COMMUNITY STORES

## Opening Times

Monday to Friday 9 to 1.30

Saturday 9 to 12noon

Sunday 9 to 11



Spring is here and we look forward to warmer weather. Easter is almost upon us and, to delight you, we can offer chocolates, mini eggs, hot cross buns and everything you need to make that special Simnel cake. We also have Easter cards and handmade gifts (sold for charity).

If you are entertaining over the Easter holidays, you can place special orders for meat, pies, quiches, bread, cakes and rolls. Please call or text Sandra with your order, giving a few day's notice, on 07951880345. This service is available at other times of the year as well.

As always, **we are looking for new volunteers.** If you fancy becoming a volunteer and don't feel confident to work alone in the shop, you could be a "Volunteer Buddy" and work alongside another helper until you gain confidence to be on your own. Or you could help in other ways, eg. you could become a buyer.

The shop is a vital facility in the village, and is a lifeline to some elderly and lonely residents, who, not only rely on it for shopping, but also for social interaction. For those people a visit to the shop for a coffee and a chat, or just a chat, is something to look forward to.

***So PLEASE come and support us. Even if you just buy a bottle of milk or a loaf of bread, it all helps. You may be surprised at our wide range of stock and how reasonably priced it is. Contact details info@bentleystores.co.uk***

## Constable Medical Practice

Members of the PPG along with friends of the surgery, were delighted to welcome the Suffolk Air Ambulance team to the practice on 10th February for an evening of hands-on CPR training. It was a rare opportunity to learn vital lifesaving skills directly from volunteers who support one of the county's most essential emergency services.

The session began with an engaging overview of how the Suffolk Air Ambulance service was established and how it has grown over the years. The volunteers explained the significant costs involved in keeping the service operational and reminded us that it is funded entirely through public donations. Their commitment and passion for the work shone through every part of the presentation.

We then moved on to practical CPR training using the well-known 'Annie' manikins. With guidance from the team, everyone had the chance to practise chest compressions and learn the correct rhythm and technique. For many of us, it was the first time trying CPR in a realistic way, and the session left us feeling far more confident about what to do in an emergency. There was a real sense of achievement in the room, and many commented that they now believe they could step forward and help someone if the need ever arose. It was a thoroughly worthwhile evening, both informative and empowering, our thanks to the Suffolk Air Ambulance team.

## **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](mailto: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 5 March 2026

Seven Councillors, District Councillor, Marc Rowland, Tree Warden, Footpath Warden and 6 members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor B Feltwell, County Councillor Georgia Hall and Speedwatch.

Planning – There was no planning decision – and one planning application.

Reports were received from County Councillor Georgia Hall & Speedwatch.

Matters discussed

- Brockley Wood – Community Liaison Group – two ongoing items – planting along the southern boundary and issue of traffic – restriction signs.
- Conservation Area – Recording Veteran Trees – Conservation Area Trail – SCC Public Rights of Way Team are to produce leaflets re walking trails.
- Siting of Information Board & signage for the Conservation Area - Work is still progressing
- Councillor Resignation – To be filled by Co-option.
- Monitoring HGV Traffic through the Village – Volunteers needed to commit to hour long monitoring sessions during peak traffic times.
- Siting of Weight Restriction Signs – Church Road.
- 20mph restriction - - Parish Council agreed not to take it further.
- Changes agreed to six month accounts/Nine month accounts approved.
- Adoption of Co-option Policy.
- Horse and rider accident outside the Village Hall – Cost of equestrian warning signage has been offered by our County Councillor.
- Development in South West Babergh – another meeting is planned.
- SID Battery Management – Everything is working fine. SID stats will be uploaded onto the Parish Council website.
- Review of the Neighbourhood Plan – Nothing to report.
- Affordable Housing – Nothing to report.
- The Copse – Meeting to be arranged for children from the Primary School to bring forward their ideas.
- Playing Field Society – Resident was given permission to hold a free to enter, free to visit Car Show on the Playing Field on 5 July 2026.
- Payments were authorised.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

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

## TUESDAY CLUB

It is really nice to see some Sun at last it brings a smile to everyone's face.

The Tuesday Club has been busy, we have had good Speakers and Entertainers. A lovely Gentleman called Eric entertained the Members with his funny poetry and stories. Kimya from Cancer Support Suffolk, talked about her earlier life in Iran and the work she does with Cancer Support Suffolk. Alan Mann gave us an afternoon of Song. In the coming weeks Mandy will be back trying to keep us fit with Chair Aerobics. Jannette Robinson will give a talk on The Life of Flora Sandes and the Serbian Army. Gwyn will be back with more songs. We will then be heading into May and Shanty Songs with Craig. Finally Steve will give a talk and show slides of Minsmere Nature Reserve. If any of the above interests you then please come along.

**Catherine Sweeney, Secretary.**

### **Village Vehicles - Cars at the Case**

**This summer, we are organising Bentley's first vehicle show.**

If you have an interesting (classic, rare, restored, unusual or just plain loved) vehicle (car, tractor, motorbike, scooter, commercial, military) it would be great if you could park it on the village playing field on **Sunday, 5 July**.



We hope this will be an occasion which the village families and their friends can turn out for and enjoy. Sponsored by our community pub, the Case, and agreed by the Playing Field Trustees, the pub and garden will be open for refreshments and a seat, there will be a BBQ to enjoy, the community shop will be open - and of course we hope there

will be many interesting vehicles to be amazed by on the field.

**It will be free to park your car, tractor, motorbike, scooter, commercial or military vehicle and free for all to visit, though donations to the Case charity of the year will be encouraged. More details on this later.**

**So, save the date: Sunday 5 July 2026!**

We will welcome vehicles for display by 10.30 am, and earlier if possible; visitors from 11.00 am; with the event closing at 15.00 (3 pm). These times are flexible but it is important that we minimise vehicle movements while visitors are around. More information will be available soon but if you have a vehicle you might be prepared to bring along to the show, please get in touch – [carsatthecase@gmail.com](mailto:carsatthecase@gmail.com).

We would love to hear from you.

## **COMING IN THE SPRING!**

**Sunday 24 May at 3.30pm**

**Cream tea with a choice of sweet or  
savoury**

**£10.00 per person**

**Ticket only**

**Proceeds to the pub charity**



Tickets will be on sale in the shop from early  
May.

Places are limited so book early!

## **Wanted**

**We are looking for a Man/Lady to do the Newspaper  
Delivery at the weekend in Bentley.**

For more details, please contact:

Capel Convenience

41 The Street

Capel St Mary

Ipswich, IP9 2EE

Telephone: 01473 311112

## **Footpath Society - Village Walks**

**25th April Saturday @ 10 30 from the Village Hall**

**23rd May Saturday @ 10 30 from the Village Hall**

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

**John and Colin**

## Mother's Day

I am not sure how well this will translate to a later date, but as I think about this article mid-March, my mind is very much preparing for Mother's Day. So, I hope that this will, like a good wine, keep well until this article is published and delivered, even though, Mother's Day may well be long since passed when you are reading it.

Mother's Day, as we all know, has become very much part of our social calendar, with children young and old giving flowers and chocolates to their mother, and maybe younger children surprising Mum with a breakfast in bed of coco pops, liberally coated with whatever could be found in the kitchen cupboard, from an array of choices the children have discovered, leaving the maternal taste buds trying to identify whether cinnamon, curry powder or perhaps garlic granules have been used?!

Of course, Mother's Day is not for everyone. For some it is a time of pain, sadness and painful memories, following loss, or broken relationships, or the pain of not being able to have a child, so longed for. So, in the church great sensitivity is needed in seeking to rightly celebrate what is so wonderful about motherhood, yet mindful always of those from whom the day is less than easy.

But did you know that Mother's Day has its roots in the tradition and practice of those in 'service', who worked in large homes for wealthy families, being given the day off, to travel, often miles, to return to their own mother once a year. Going back even further, in the Middle Ages, 'Mothering Sunday' was about returning to a person's 'mother church', again potentially requiring a lengthy journey.

So, with this thought in mind, it occurred to me that this older tradition still has considerable merit. The sense of a 'returning' to something past, perhaps something that seems distant, yet when we are honest, something which represents and reflects a deeper need for being rooted and understanding who we are and where we fit into this world?

When I was young, I was convinced that Christianity and church was irrelevant. Now I am more convinced than ever, that it is essential to each of us. So why not embrace that older tradition, one which is in fact for both men and women, mothers and not, the tradition to return, to find your place of belonging too.

God bless you all

Rev. Chris

Rector, St. Mary's

# St. Mary's Church Services & Events Diary

## 2026

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month** – Connect Service at 10.30 at Churches within the Benefice.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10am** – Morning Worship with Communion.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10am** – Family Morning Worship.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 10am** – Morning Worship with Communion Benefice Service.

**Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am** – Easter Service with Communion, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

**Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am** – Morning Worship with Communion followed by the A.P.C.M. for St. Mary's Bentley (2025/26). Wine & Canapes will be served after the meeting.

**Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am** - Pet Service - Bring your family pet along for a blessing.

**Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>** – Brantham Connect Service followed by Rectory Picnic

**Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> at 3pm** - Community Service. Afternoon tea will be served after the service

**Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am** - Harvest Festival Service followed by a Harvest Lunch.

**Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm** - All Souls Service in Bentley churchyard.

**Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10.50am** - Remembrance Service at the Bentley War Memorial.

**Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am** - Christingle Service.

**Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am** - Carol Service.

**Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3pm** – Nativity Crib Service.

**Friday December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am** - Christmas Morning Worship with Communion.

## Church Events

**Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Bentley Village Hall** – Easter Bingo Night. (Bring your own food & drink). £5 per person \*

**Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm** in Bentley Church – Tom's talk – Bentley and the Founding of America. £10 per person followed by refreshments \*

**Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm In Bentley Village Hall** – The Annual Church Quiz. (Bring your own food & Drink). £4 per person teams of six \*

**Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** in Bentley Village Hall – Carols, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies £4 Per person children under 12 free.

**\* Please contact Alison Partridge at [bentleychurchevents@gmail.com](mailto:bentleychurchevents@gmail.com) to book your attendance at these events**

**More fundraising events are added through the year – look out for posters and on social media.**

# 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.

## **Friends of Capel Library - April's Film:**

The film for April is on the 21st and will be **Roofman**, which "is a 2025 crime film based on the true story of Jeffrey Manchester, a former Army Ranger who turns to robbing McDonald's by cutting holes in their roofs, ultimately hiding in a Toys "R" Us for months". The doors open at 7pm, film starts at 7:30pm. Tickets in advance are £4.50 for members, £5.00 for non-members. Tickets on the door are £5.50.

## **National Year of Reading campaign**

What is the National Year of Reading?

The Year of Reading campaign from the National Literacy Trust aims to get everyone reading and enjoying a good book, and what better place to start than at your local library!

Reading can help with your wellbeing. It can make people feel more connected to the wider community, increase their understanding of their own identity, improve empathy, and gives readers an insight into the world view of others.

## **Play Book Bingo**

Pick up a free bingo sheet from your local library or download and print a copy at home (choose either the children's sheet or the adult's sheet)

Take part in the 12 challenges and fill in each block as you complete them. Once you have a full bingo sheet, return it to the library and you'll be entered into a monthly draw to win book tokens!

## **Reading Quest**

Volunteer for this year's Reading Quest! We're looking for volunteers to help run our summer literacy campaign in libraries.

This volunteer role involves encouraging children to engage in conversation and share experiences through a journey of discovery throughout the summer.

Interested? Find out more and apply to volunteer on our website: <https://suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk/volunteer/volunteering-roles/>

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

**Telephone:** 01473 851370

**e-mail:** [capel.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk](mailto:capel.library@suffolklibraries.co.uk) **Web:** [www.suffolklibraries.co.uk](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk)

## **THE FRIENDS OF CAPEL LIBRARY**

### **100 Club Draw Results**

#### **January**

£20 Bob Perkin  
£10 Jacqueline Bywater  
£ 5 David Phillippo

#### **February**

£20 John Mellish  
£10 Gillian Wood  
£ 5 Richard Davis

#### **March**

£20 Lilian Calvet  
£10 Wendy Perkin  
£ 5 Alan Butters

Congratulations and thank you for your support. Prizes can be collected from the Library from 7<sup>th</sup> March. **Bob Perkin**



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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