



Organisation & Club Reports

BENTLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Joy Scott

14th April 2022



Table of Contents

<i>St Mary's Church Bentley</i>	2
<i>Bentley Carpet Bowls</i>	3
<i>Village Hall Trustees</i>	4
<i>Bentley Tuesday Club</i>	5
<i>Whist Drive</i>	6
<i>Link Lunch Group</i>	7
<i>Bentley Bowls Club</i>	8
<i>Bentley Toddler Group</i>	9
<i>Maritime Football Club</i>	10
<i>Bentley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School</i>	13
<i>Bentley Bugle</i>	14
<i>Case is Altered – Bentley Community Pub Ltd</i>	15
<i>Bentley Horticultural Society</i>	16
<i>Tree Warden Report</i>	17
<i>Friends of Capel Library (FOCL)</i>	20
<i>Bentley Community Stores</i>	21

**PCC Report to the Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 14th 2022**

Once the church refurbishment was completed and we had a kitchen area and indoor toilet we began to hold services in church although we still held Zoom services for those who could not get to church or who were vulnerable. We celebrated the improvements with a special service led the Bishop of Dunwich. Doors were kept open to ensure fresh air in the building and masks were worn. Gradually as infection rates improved, we began to serve refreshments while people maintained social distancing. Conditions have continued to improve. We now hold regular services and details of these can be found in The Bugle, as can contact details if you need to book a baptism, wedding or funeral.

We are grateful for the work, carried out on behalf of the Parish Council, by Peter Baldwin, in the closed churchyard. We have a team of hard-working, keen and very capable volunteers keeping the churchyard extensions neat and welcoming. The carpark is a valuable asset.

Our links with the Primary School have sadly been attenuated but we have made short videos of bible stories as we could not go to school with Open the Book. We look forward to the time when we can get back into school.

We continue to support West Villa Homeless Families Unit especially at, Christmas, Harvest and Easter. They are always very appreciative and we are grateful for the support we receive from our wonderful village community. Bedding and towels are still very much needed and many thanks to the many, often anonymous, donations.

We have now started some of our social and fund raising events and they are proving popular. Many thanks for all the local support.

Sandra Mehen
PCC Secretary

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting – 14th April 2022

After a stuttering start when only six players were allowed to play and then do we wear masks or do we not we were at long last able to have our normal Roll Ups following guidelines set by the English Carpet Bowls Association.

Everybody was really pleased to get back to some normality, we have 24 members but we are always on the lookout for new members.

After much discussion the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association decided to run a Suffolk Triples League splitting the Clubs into four leagues taking into account their locality.

We have been enjoying playing in the South League against Belstead, Chelmondiston, Harkstead and Hintlesham and Chattisham. The odd games have had to be rearranged due to Covid but most of all things have run very smoothly.

We look forward to a Summer League when we hope things will be much more normal.

Jill Mills
Secretary
Bentley Carpet Bowls

Village Hall Trustees

The village hall is now back to pre-lockdown levels of use and it has remained available for hire at all times except when this was not permitted by regulations.

Supplementary Conditions of Hire were introduced to reflect various guidelines and we thank all hirers and also our cleaner for accommodating these.

We qualified for certain government Covid-related grants and the Trustees have decided that the best use for these is to waive hiring charges for village groups which have used the hall regularly.

We expect this to continue at least into next year.

Mark Usher

Bentley Tuesday Club

It seemed strange to re-start the Tuesday Club again without my colleague Margaret Blackmore who sadly collapsed and died on her way home from the last Tuesday Club meeting before lock down.

After some inquiries from former members a meeting was held at the end of September 2021 when we were fortunate to have a volunteer Cathy Sweeney to help run the club which meets fortnightly in the village hall in the afternoon. After a slow start the membership stands at 52 members of mainly over 70s.

A varied programme is organised throughout the year including speakers on various subjects, entertainers, choirs, chair aerobics, and we also have two summer outings as well as our Annual Christmas Lunch.

A programme is available on request or you can come initially as a visitor to the Club.

Veronica Howe
Treasurer

Whist Drive

Nine whist drives have been held since the restart in November 2021. We are only averaging 4.5 tables (18 people), well down on attendance before shutdown when it was 10 tables (40 people).

The whist drives are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month and everybody is made very welcome.

Veronica Howe

Link Lunch Group

We started lunches again in October 2021 and have continued once a month on the third Thursday of the month. The April lunch will be last one for the season.

We serve up a two course meal with tea and coffee for £6.00 and any surplus money is donated to charity.

This season we have donated £950.00

- £150.00 to St Elizabeth Hospice
- £150.00 to Suffolk Wildlife
- £150.00 to Suffolk Sight in memory of Marie Piper
- £500.00 to Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

Veronica Howe

Bentley Bowls Club

We were able to start our season in the middle of May. This did mean that 3 games had to be cancelled. The games were played with less players, 9 instead of 12 and on a friendly basis so no regations or promotions.

We played in the Samford League Division 1 and finished bottom. Also the Triples League Division 1 and did quite well finishing 4th. For a small club we do quite well against some of the bigger Ipswich teams.

We were unable to hold our quiz due to Covid but did hold a Race Night which was a great success, bringing in much needed funds for the Green upkeep and also send a donation to Marie Curie Charity.

We were able to top dress and seed the green this season which were unable to do last year.

The grant from the Parish Council helped towards the cost of sharpening the mower blades and paint for the hut.

We had a presence at the Church Open Day with a display poster with information.

Our Friday night Club Nights still proved a success and it was good to see we have a small band of spectators who came to our home games and some away games too.

Lillian Calvert
April 2022



Bentley Toddler Group

Registered Charity No:1026973

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 14th April 2022

We had to stop our group at the end of March 2020, for the first time ever.

We were able to restart in September 2020, meeting on just Monday mornings, to protect everyone from using the equipment too regularly. In June 2021 we recommenced our normal Monday and Wednesday mornings. We found that, when we started after lockdown, there were very few Toddler Groups operating. This made our group very popular because many toddlers and babies had missed out on socialising, as had their parents or carers.

We have been very fortunate, because long standing village groups have been allowed to operate, free of charge, by the Village Hall Committee, who decided to pass on the benefit received from grants. This has been really appreciated by our group. During this period we were unable to fund raise, and this is necessary for our group to survive, and keep fees at a reasonable level.

A little info/advertising!

We meet as said on a Monday and Wednesday mornings 9.30 to 12 noon, during school term times.

We charge toddlers over 1 year £3, babies £1, plus £1 for an extra child.

Both children, parents/carers have drinks and biscuits mid-morning.

We are still very mindful of Covid, and use the ceiling fans, open windows, plus hand sanitisers and wipes are made available and use is promoted.

Pam Rayment



April 2022

Maritime Football Club

The **aeration work** on the field has worked well. Whilst it hasn't provided a total solution to the drainage (which would only be done by way of under-surface drains) it has made a vast improvement. Providing there's no 'torrential' rain the field holds up well; everyone I have spoken to is very impressed.

The field has remained accessible to residents all winter and that certainly hasn't been the case in previous years.

We got 'lucky' with our fixtures and haven't had to call any matches off; that is brilliant (I suspect we may have had to postpone one or two had we had home matches but overall it's very impressive).

The **entrance on school field** has been on hold over the winter due to the condition of the ground. I have kept in regular contact with the school and have touched base with Marianne.

To provide the long-term parking area requires some of the top layer of soil to be removed as it's far more 'boggy' than was initially expected; the reinforced mesh presses too far into the grass to be completely effective (this becomes more noticeable the closer you get to the road).

The equipment required to remove the top layer is very heavy, completing the work over the winter would've caused a lot of damage to the playing field.

To this end, we have installed an access road through the gate to prevent cars getting stuck. Thank you to Marianne who put us in touch with Collins Skip Hire; they donated some of the hardcore (it wasn't a particularly high grade of material so we have spent time making this more aesthetically pleasing, hopefully people will agree we have dressed it well and it now looks in-keeping with the area).

The club's football season finishes mid-June and does not start again until the first week of August so the parking area will be completed during this period. A long-term, reliable

parking area for circa thirty cars will be in place for the 2022 winter – it will be an excellent enhancement for the club, school and local residents.

Over the last 7-8 months this area has also had some terrain aeration installed (same as the main field) and it has been slit. All to improve the drainage.

Below is an image to refresh everyone on where it will be completed:



The club's progress

- The club continues to run with two teams (U12 and U10). There are no immediate plans to add any further at Bentley.
- We're part of Football England and continue to receive praise and compliments from all visiting teams, parents and local residents.
- I believe the small amount of initial 'resistance' to our existence in Bentley has subsided and we are now accepted as the village's little football club.
- Priority on new players is still given to local children before recruiting further afield and we have also had a local resident volunteer with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award (they've remained involved after the conclusion of the award). We only use the field on Thursday evenings April-September (with a break in July) due to the light so our usage remains minimal and we continue to attend the field weekly to maintain it.
- We empty the litter bin on the field regularly using our commercial bin (including the dog waste! which is a lovely undertaking
- The Parish's goalposts have been repositioned to allow 24/7 access to them. It's now clear why we protected the goalmouths and provided additional, moveable

goalposts for residents to use as the grass around the repositioned posts has become 'thick mud'. (we will spend some time this summer trying to improve those).

- We continue to work closely with the primary school (both Bentley and Copdock) and more equipment has been donated this year.
- More work is planned for the playing field this summer (scarifying, top dressing etc) to enhance the field further and we will of course, continue to help with local events wherever we can (Nicky has kindly provided details of the next one in early September).

As always, please feel free to contact me on 07464 559239 or jon@fdeonline.co.uk if there are any questions or if we can help with anything locally.

Jon Haines

Maritime F.C.

Bentley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Dear Joy and Parish Council

Unfortunately we will be unable to attend the meeting this year as it falls in our Easter holidays. We will however, as always, send in a report from our Head Pupils which we hope you will be able to share as part of the meeting. If you would like an audio / video version of the pupils sharing their report I am more than happy to send this to you along with a written copy. Please just let me know.

Please pass on our apologies for not being able to attend in person.

Kind regards

Joanne Austin

Executive Headteacher
Bentley CEVC & Copdock Primary School Partnership

We have videoed the report for you and it can be accessed here
[Bentley School Annual Parish Report 2022 - YouTube \(youtube-nocookie.com\)](https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/watch?v=...)

Community and Church News - 2022 Report

Production of the Bentley Bugle Community and Church News has continued on a bi-monthly basis over the past year.

Advertising manager and Treasurer Peter Day would welcome any leads to companies offering services.

The aim of the Bugle is to keep parishioners informed of Church activities and the activities of the many Clubs and Societies in the village.

Robin Owen retired as editor of the Bugle at the end of 2021 and as the Bugle Team had been unable to find a volunteer to take over, the Parish Council were concerned that this asset to the Community could be lost permanently.

In view of this Marianne Munday has kindly offered to continue with the production for up to a year until a more permanent solution can be found.

Marianne will be happy to receive articles and photos for publication in the Bugle.

We would like to thank all our contributors, who provide all the information for each issue of the Bugle; please keep up the good work! Our thanks also to the volunteers who deliver the Bugle to all the properties in the village.

The Bugle can be accessed online via the Parish Council web site

www.bentleypc.onesuffolk.net

Peter Day

Case is Altered – Bentley Community Pub Ltd

(2021/2022)

The last 12 months has been yet another roller coaster ride for the hospitality industry and the Case has been no exception. In May, once we were again able to open our doors and serve our customers inside the pub and not just in the garden, we, just like the government, introduced our 'Road Map to Recovery'. It was decided to keep in place some of the safety measures we had introduced in 2020 for the wellbeing of our volunteers and customers but gradually these are being relaxed.

All our volunteers have continued to do a sterling job coping with all the changes to the regulations for pubs and restaurants and have ensured we remained open. Last summer we reintroduced our Open Mic nights, Quiz nights, Meet up Monday group and as always had a very successful MacMillan Coffee Morning in September. More recently we started to open longer hours and another day of the week. Our charity of the year continues to be St Elizabeth Hospice.

We all know that our lives have changed considerably over the last 2 years and for some especially our socialising habits. Now though most are able to enjoy more freedom and can venture out more often, so hopefully we will see you all soon at the Case.

Kate Spicer

Report to Bentley Parish Council Annual Meeting 14th April 2022

The Bentley Horticultural Society continues to be well supported with a current membership of just under 80 members.

As the restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic eased our first event of 2021 was the Annual Show on Saturday 14th August, some 18 months since our previous meeting. The show was well supported by the members with 175 entries entered into the 48 different classes. The hall looked resplendent with the fine display of flowers, vegetables, floral arrangements, handicrafts, preserves, cakes and pastries which, following judging during the morning, was opened in the afternoon for the enjoyment of both members and general public alike.

Our monthly meetings resumed in September with our visiting speakers presenting an illustrated talk on *Gardening for Wildlife* followed in October with a talk on *Hyacinths*.

Following our AGM in November we unfortunately lost our next three meetings when Covid and other unforeseen circumstances intervened. However, for our February meeting we had the pleasure of an extremely informative and entertaining talk on *Henstead Exotic Gardens* by Andrew Brogan, the creator and curator.

We are pleased to acknowledge the continued support of both *Bypass Nurseries* and *The Place for Plants* who offer generous discounts to our members.

And finally we would like to remind everyone that we welcome non-members as guests to both our monthly meetings and coach outings.

Stewart Rowe

Chairman/Secretary

Tree Warden Report

Annual Parish meeting Thursday 14th April, 2022

Tree Warden Report (covering April 7th 2021-April 14th 2022)

As most of you know, the parish Tree Warden (TW) is appointed annually by Bentley Parish Council. Your Tree Warden is an experienced tree and wood specialist who studied the subject as part of a botany degree.

Recently, the TW has been given permission by woodland owners to re-survey several ancient woodlands our parish: Long Wood, Pedlars Grove, Tare Grove, Holly Wood, Gt Martins Wood, Newcombe Wood and Old Hall Wood.

2021

BPC June 3RD 2021: TW attended the Tree wardens' i-Tree Eco Plot training on June 2nd 2021. at Stowmarket.

BPC July 1st 2021: TW has emailed a copy of the Suffolk Tree Warden Network (STWN) Briefing. This document outlines tree planting in Suffolk in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022

August 29th 2021: TW Examined 26 conifer trees at Holly Oak, Hazel Shrub to determine their ecological value. These trees are overgrown and of no conservation value.

BPC 2nd September 2021: TW cleared undergrowth around buddleias on north side of the parish container and removed buddleia dead wood.

September 2021: TW contacted BaberghMidSuffolk Tree Officer regarding the severe trimming of the TPO Oak trees along Bergholt Road. Response: farmers are allowed to take of branches on the field side if these impede farm machinery.

October 4th 2021: TW gave a webinar presentation via SWT that included the ecological benefit of conserving dead trees, stumps and wood.

BPC October 7th 2021: Strong winds brought down branches off surrounding parish field. Confirmed the STWN order of 150 tree saplings and 100m of hedging; the Ipswich Rotary Club offered to help with allocating these.

October 26th 2021: TW gave a presentation to Colchester Natural History Society on the same subject as above.

BPC November 4th 2021: Strong wind has brought down a tree onto Church Rd, this tree has now been removed and the overhead wires repaired. Suffolk Tree Wardens and the

Tree Council met at Redgrave Park on 20th October for a 'Trees for a Changing Landscape' event and seed gathering (filmed by BBC and shown on 'Countryfile').

November 17th 2021: TW took part in a SWT webinar entitled 'Time for Trees'.

November 20th 2021: Regional Tree Warden Forum (TW unable to attend)

November 24th 2021: took delivery of the order for 150 tree saplings and 100 metres of hedging from the Woodland Trust (WT,) via the Suffolk Tree Warden Network, to plant in Bentley and its surrounds. Several parishioners helped unload the delivery and with storing this in the container on the parish playing field (tree stakes, guards and mats were also provided as part of the delivery). During the following two months the trees and hedging were transferred to a poly-tunnel in the garden of a friend, where they were potted up.

BPC December 2nd 2021: A £500'000 Farming Hedge Fund has been made available to farmers and landowners in England for creating and planting hedgerow trees under 'Close the Gap'. More strong winds have brought down branches especially of Ash trees. Highways examined the tall birch trees along Highfields and have reported "no action to be taken". 150 tree saplings and 100m of hedging were delivered to the parish field on 25th November. Two hedgerows in the village are overgrown and require cutting back.

BPC 6th January 2022: The 150 tree saplings and 100m hedging will be delivered through out January, February and March.

January 24th 2022: 40 of the WT trees were delivered to a Bentley resident.

BPC 3rd February 2022: More fallen tree branches due to strong winds. Bentley Community Orchard fruit trees have been delivered.

February 13th 2022: TW and other Bentley residents helped plant the half-standard fruit trees in the Community Orchard.

February 15th 2022: Dr Michael Bamford planted two Alder Buckthorn on the outer edge of the parish field.

February 28th 2022: The Tree Warden supported the purchase of White Elm Woodland in Ipswich.

BPC March 3rd 2022: Due to Storm Eunice, a further fall of dead branches has occurred on the edge of the parish field. The TW has placed these on the two existing stacks.

April 9th 2022: The tree warden has visited the Community Orchard several times since the trees were planted. On his last visit (9th April, 2022), the WI pear tree planted over a year

ago was in flower. All of the trees planted this year looked healthy and were coming into leaf.

April 11th 2022: Carried out an inventory of the WT trees and hedging with the help of a Rotary Club Ipswich member.

Most of the trees and hedging have been allocated (see separate document).

Colin Hawes, Tree Warden

13/14.04.22

Friends of Capel Library (FOCL)

For those of you who are not aware, Suffolk Libraries is now Suffolk Libraries IPS Limited (SLIL) a registered mutual society and a member of Co-operative UK. Each of Suffolk libraries friends/ community groups is a member of Suffolk Libraries. SLIL finances the purchase of books and computers but no longer provides funds for replacement shelving, trolleys etc. Volunteers have set up friends groups to raise money for purchase of equipment that SLIL will not finance.

Capel Library Friends Group committee (FOCL) of volunteers was formed in 2013. The Committee members are also trustees of FOCL). Trustees operate under a Small Charity Constitution the purposes of which are set out and published by Suffolk Libraries. We are jointly insured with other "Friends of" other Suffolk Libraries. At present we have five committee/trustee members but are seeking two more volunteers to join us.

Committee/trustee meetings were held once a month before the virus struck but are now held less frequently. To be a member of the Friends Group costs just £2 per year. This entitles a member to a discount at film night and other events. The £2 raises money for FOCL to purchase equipment that is required. FOCL also organises and holds events to raise funds which include an annual quiz night (this year 12 November). This year, too, we will have a stall at the Tudor event on Saturday 3rd September in Bentley. Film nights held in Capel Library on the third Tuesday of every month also raises funds.

During the period 2020-2021 we were like everyone else restricted in what we could do. However, we are now operating normally and welcome you to our events.

Colin Hawes

FOCL trustee/committee member

14.04.22

Bentley Community Stores

Shopping Locally really helps!

We are 100% community owned for the benefit of our Village. Bentley is very fortunate to have a team of enthusiastic and willing volunteers who run all aspects of the shop.

With rising fuel costs the option of shopping locally can be a real boon as our community shop has so many products on offer and at very good prices on your doorstep.

A new village resident said they did not realize we had such a wide range of products available and at reasonable prices until they actually visited the shop! Seeing is believing as they say!

Now we are all getting over the strict Covid restrictions we allow more people in the shop which gives time to browse and see what is available on your doorstep.

If you cannot find what you want we can always get it for you!

We always try hard to support local suppliers and this covers a wide range.....

Country Pies from Capel St Mary are very popular.

East End Butchers supply us weekly.

Havensfield Happy Eggs are Suffolk based

Bakers Delight from Capel deliver fresh bread and rolls daily

EV Cakes from Hadleigh with cakes and biscuits to delight.

Broadland Hams deliver weekly from Norfolk

Bentley Honey cannot get more local!

Press Gang Laundry from Hadleigh weekly service.

Whole foods from **Wholefoods Store in Manningtree**

Coffeelink all Ipswich roasted, cafetière, decaf, espresso and beans.

Suffolk Sea Salt, **Hill Farm RapeSeed** oil

Stoke Farm Orchards Apple Juices

Books by Local Author, Nicky Moxey.

Bentley Church Cards, 100% goes to St Mary's.

Buster Bathroom unblocker is made in Hadleigh

Flower Stand sells local plants for Myeloma and McMillan Charities

In addition, Newspapers save our customers considerable weekly delivery charges!

Toilet Rolls, Paracetamol and a range medical and personal hygiene supplies.

Our Freezer has a good range of frozen Fruit, Veg, Ice Cream as well as local Meat, Pies, Bread and Rolls.

Our Chillers have milk, cheese, butter, fruit juices, soft drinks

Our shelves are lined with a full range of tins, beverages, flour, sugar tea, coffee, biscuits and sweets.....in fact the list is endless !!!! Come and have a look.