

BENTLEY BLUEBELLS WI

2024 was another busy year for the Bentley Bluebells WI. We have gained two new members and continue to try to recruit more.

We have had a wonderful variety of interesting and informative speakers and have learnt to love Swifts, cook microwave meals, make amazing Christmas decorations, understand recycling, wildlife photography, Cardinal Wolsey, wasps and bees of Suffolk and also learnt to play croquet with the Ipswich Croquet club.

Our members have enjoyed many delicious lunches at a variety of restaurants and cafes and our intention is to work our way through all the local eateries. This gives members a chance to share mealtimes with friends especially when they live alone.

Bentley Bluebells are part of the Constable Group of WI,s consisting of Capel, Tattingstone, East Bergholt, Hadleigh and Brantham. We get together twice a year for entertainment and refreshments. It is Bentleys' turn this year to provide the Christmas event and being only a small WI we have to pull out all the stops to entertain about 60 people. The event is paid for by the group but we do the organising.

It was Bentley's turn to represent the Constable Group at the National AGM at the Albert Hall last June and report back on the event, the speakers and resolutions.

Within the village we have opened as many of our meetings to all village residents so that they too can enjoy the chance to get together and hear the diverse speakers we have. We hold an annual Fund Raising lunch and have participated at the School Fete providing refreshments for the visitors.

Theresa Bloomfield President Bentley Bluebells

Whist Report for Annual parish meeting 17th April 2025

We had twenty one whist drives in the village hall in the last year only averaging four tables.

We struggle to break even and some drives run at a loss but the last two drives we have had six tables so I am hoping it is picking up.

If anybody would like a evening of playing cards we hold the drives on the first and third Wednesdays in the month.

Veronica Howe

Report from Bentley Village Hall

The hall continues to be a hub for many village activities – clubs, societies, celebrations, businesses, etc. In most weeks the hall is booked for more than 10 events. It remains a great village asset after 18 years of use and is valued and well-treated by its regular hirers.

Report from Bentley Horticultural Society

Bentley Horticultural Society continues with its programme of monthly meetings in the village hall (the 3rd Friday at 7.30) from September to May, with most months involving invited speakers on topics which are mainly horticultural-related. We also have an annual Summer Show and a Spring coffee morning/plant sale and we organise occasional visits to gardens of interest. We currently have over 50 members and are one of the longest-running village organisations. Everyone is welcome – you don't have to be green-fingered or even have a garden to join!

Speedwatch Annual Report

Twenty five sessions, of an hour long, were held during the year and 114 vehicles were reported to the Police. The highest recorded speed was 48 mph.

After four and a half years I am stepping down as Coordinator. If anyone is interested in taking over the role please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council. Speedwatch is conducted on behalf of the Police not the Parish Council but I have always thought we should work in tandem. I should be happy to train anyone interested in the role.

Generally a lack of volunteers continues to be a problem.

In my opinion speed cameras at either end of the village is the best way of stopping speeding in Bentley.

I should like to thank all those volunteers in the 'team' who have helped me over my time as Coordinator.

Regards, Cliff.

Bentley Scrabble Club – 2025 report

The Scrabble Club continues to meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in the Village Hall Blackmore room.

Anyone interested in passing an afternoon with a few games of scrabble, a chat and a cup of tea is welcome.

Thank You

Robin Owen (secretary)

Bentley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Governance

The governors share their collective role in both Bentley and Copdock Primary Schools through a federation arrangement. They are drawn from the community, the local authority and the parents. In addition Bentley has two church Foundation Governors appointed by the Diocese. The governors ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. They also hold the leaders of the school to account for efficiency and effectiveness of the school and oversee its financial performance to make sure its money is well spent.

Governors' meetings continue face to face with the option to attend on line if necessary. During the past year as well as meeting in committee, e.g. finance, and as a whole body, the governors have visited both schools to monitor what is going on, sometimes as individuals but also as a group all on one day. These governors' visiting days have enabled us to compare notes and gain a wider balanced view. At Bentley the Foundation Governors, together with Rachael Cutts, the new Diocesan religious education advisor, have particularly monitored the ethos of the school, to ensure that it reflects Christian belief and practice, not only in assemblies and religious education lessons but also in the way the members of the school conduct themselves and relate to each other. This has proved rewarding; the children and staff support each other well and can relate how they act to aspects of Jesus' life and work as well as to comparable beliefs in other religions. The children have their own worship leadership team who, with guidance from their teachers, plan and conduct worship events, some in the parish church, and prayer days at school, designed to provide opportunities to reflect on what God is doing, e.g. in the wonder and beauty of nature, so evident on the school site and the surroundings.

The school has developed its links to the village community through the parents' involvement, the activities of the PTA, and several charity activities. The pupils and staff also joined with members of the British Legion and local residents for a Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on Monday, 11th November. The church has responded through governance, hosting school services in church, e.g. Easter and Christmas and the Rector, Rev. Christopher Willis taking some assemblies at school.

The Past Year

The adjustments made last year for leading and staffing the school together with Copdock Primary School, are working well and changes are ongoing as the number of pupils on roll alter because of family moves, and alternative provision being made for some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. [SEND] Many of the children come from other places as the parents choose Bentley school instead of their own local primary school but since Christmas a combination of circumstances, e.g. family moves and parental career changes, have caused some children to be enrolled elsewhere. A considerable number of children come from other villages, attracted by the character of the school and the provision of the breakfast club etc. to meet the needs of families bringing children from greater distances. For more details of school activities I would refer you to the regular reports and notifications provided in the

'Bentley Bugle,' the 'In Touch' magazine, Bentley's facebook page, the school website and the presentation by the pupils at this meeting.

Both Ofsted and the statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools [SIAMS], rate Bentley School as 'Good' although this simplistic description does not always do justice to some of the outstanding work being done at the school. Staff and Governors have kept working to ensure good outcomes to support and encourage progress. Through the various changes our vision remains unchanged: for all the children to be....

Confident individuals, successful learners and responsible citizens

Who are well equipped for future life,
whatever that may hold, knowing God is with us always.

[cf.Matthew 28:20]

Don Mehen [Foundation Governor]

Case is Altered – Bentley Community Pub Ltd (2024/2025)

The last year has been a very significant time for The Case is Altered as we have been celebrating our 10th anniversary as Suffolk's first Cooperative Pub. We have featured on TV and radio; and in national and local news papers and magazines. Plus we held quite a few additional events throughout the year to celebrate this achievement. We were even voted the 3rd friendliest pub in England.

Our extra music dates for the year started with Robbie Gladwell entertaining our customers for our anniversary weekend and then in June we held an out door music day featuring many of our Open Mic Night artists. Earlier this year we have had a number of music events that have been well attended too. Other events included a 4 day beer festival and we, along with the rest of the country, marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day. We commemorated this with the lighting of the Lamp of Peace and the reading of the Tribute.

As with previous years our Quiz nights and Open Mic Nights have continued to be extremely popular and on occasion it's been standing room only! The visiting monthly Street Food vendors are continuing to be very popular with many selling out before the end of the evening. Our Friday Friends coffee morning goes from strength to strength each week and is now being used as a venue for PC Kate Jarrett's Community Surgery. January this year saw the welcome return of our monthly Community lunches which have so far all been sold out. We are now catering for up to 40 covers and the meals have been extremely well received. In conjunction with this the Babergh Food and Safety Team inspected our kitchen and gave it a 5 Star rating. We have also been audited twice by Cask Marque in the last 12 months who have given our cellar and beers top marks for hygiene and quality. Local amateur artists and photographers have also enjoyed displaying and selling heir work within the pub. We continue to be a popular venue for birthdays, weddings and wakes.

Over the last year our support and fund raising for our charity of the year the, Alzheimer Society, has been very successful. This has been mainly due to the hard work put in by 2 volunteers, Sandie Utton and Pat Keenan, who with support from Brian Cribbs,

have worked throughout the year to boost donations through raffles, book sales, a silent auction for a skip hire and an incredible Christmas Raffle! To date they have so far raised £5,148.60. In addition to this, the late Peter Day, a Case volunteer, personally raised £1,627 from his half marathon sponsored walk last August. His wish had been that this amount should be included in the Case's final total.

Sadly we have lost a number of members over the last year, including Peter Day and Ted Poole. Both had been dedicated volunteers behind the bar for many years. Volunteer numbers have dwindled lately and we realise that this will be a reoccurring problem, especially given the villages' aging demographic but we are always hopeful that new, younger volunteers will emerge.

Maintenance/repairs continued to be carried out including the replacement of the kitchen windows for new UPVC ones. This of course means the maintenance crew will no longer need to keep filling and repainting them. We have also replaced the locking mechanism on the external kitchen door with a push bar, to create a fire exit door for the extra safety of our volunteers and customers.

And finally; in March this year, Ipswich Buses ran their first Real Ale Runabout of 2025 and visited us. A double decker bus with around 50 passengers visited 3 pubs in East Bergholt at lunchtime, then onto the Bull at Brantham and then finally finished up at the Case in the early evening. The local CAMRA Facebook review said – ***'then onto the superb, community run, Case is Altered at Bentley, this really is a 'must visit' pub if ever you are in the area. An excellent selection of ales, well worth going***

Footpath Society

The next village walk is on wed 23 April from the village hall at 9,30 to Flatford mill (N.T) By cars.

For future walks please refer to the BUGLE or The Village Shop notice board.

We hope for kinder weather this year.

Thanks. John wheals.

Carpet bowls report for Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2025

On being promoted to the winter league 1st division and having our most successful results ever this ultimately was not quite enough to sustain our position in the league.

Although we have had five new members this year we have also lost four due to retirement so we would always welcome any new players. We practice on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons and our summer league matches which are starting in May are all against local teams.

David Howe - Chairperson

NOTES FOR PARISH MEETING 2025 FOR THE 2024 SEASON.

WE HAVE NOT HAD SUCH A GOOD SEASON FINISHING BOTTOM OF THE FIRST DIVISION OF THE SAMFORD LEAGUE AND ALSO BOTTOM OF THE 1ST DIVISION OF THE IPSWICH AND TRIPLES LEAGUE. I THINK AS WE ARE ALL GETTING OLDER THINGS ARE MORE DIFFICULT FOR MEMBERS.

DURING THE SEASON THE GREEN HAS BEEN CUT REGULARLY AND MAINTAINED TO A HIGH STANDARD BY OUR GREENKEEPER AND HELPERS.

WE HAD A GRANT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR WHICH WE THANK THEM. AND WITH THE HELP OF OUR SPONSOR – ENERGY PEOPLE- WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SPEND MONEY ON THE GREEN.

WE HAD OUR QUIZ WHICH AGAIN WAS A SUCCESS WITH A NEW QUESTION MASTER, THIS BRINGS IN MUCH NEEDED FUNDS TO KEEP THE GREEN IN GOOD ORDER.

WE ENTERED A TEAM IN THE EAST BERGHOLT TOURNAMENT. THE DAY WAS HOT AND SUNNY AND ENJOYED BY ALL.

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS ENTERED THE SAMFORD COMPETITIONS AND DID VERY WELL GETTING THROUGH TO THE SEMI FINAL - LOSING TO A MEMBER FROM MARLBOROUGH BOWLS CLUB. THIS SAME MEMBER ENTERED A COUPLE OF OTHER CLUBS COMPETITIONS WITH HIS DAUGHTER AND ANOTHER MEMBER AND DID QUITE WELL

OUR RACE NIGHT ON 5 OCTOBER 2024

THE GREEN WILL BE WORKED ON THROUGHOUT THE WINTER TO KEEP IT IN GOOD SHAPE.

Be

MARCH 2025

L CALVERT - SECRETARY

Your Bentley Village Community Shop 2025

We are coming up to being 9 years old on July 14th! Everyone wanted a Village Shop!

Last year we lost money! We really do need more customers!

We want to help those in the village who really need local access to good quality produce at reasonable prices without having to drive everywhere!

Please use our shop! 100% Volunteer run Open 7 days a week

Weekdays 9 to 1.30 Saturdays 9 to 12 noon Sundays 9 to 11 am

We only close on Easter Sunday, 25 & 26 December and 1st January

Our best advert is for you to come and see what we sell ! You will be amazed !!

Easy to find behind The Case is Altered Easy parking

Bentley Community Shop CIC, reg number 09542114)

Bentley Annual Parish meeting, 17th of April, 2025
Tree Warden (TW) Report: April 2024 to April 2025

During this period the TW has undertaken the following:

1. Visits to survey trees which have Tree Preservation Orders (TPO'S) to give advice and /or recommend trimming or cutting back.
2. A visit to try and prevent the felling of a large Oak tree at Hazel Shrub. The tree was felled very early on a Saturday morning.
3. A Bentley resident asked the TW "who owns Bentley's 'Martin's Glen' Wood". This small piece of woodland is owned by Gary and Linda Daynes and is known for its wild Lily of the Valley.
4. The TW received and dealt with various reports of fallen trees.
5. The TW invited Richard Parmee (Babergh District Council Ecologist) to visit Bentley to survey areas that might be suitable for (a) sowing wildflower seed and (b) planting trees. Richard and the TW visited the following sites: the wide green verges, the Horse Chestnut tree at the entrance to Grove Road, Silver Leys Green Space, the Community Orchard and the Copse. He offered to fund the purchase of fruit trees to replace those in the Community Orchard that had failed and was interested in funding the clearance of the Copse. Funding for the Copse clearance (Phase 1) was agreed by Babergh District Council and clearance using Dedham Tree Services took place on the 24th of March 2025. The Copse Phase 2: removal of the top surface layer and deep harrowing was discussed with Dedham Tree Services at the Copse on the morning of 17th April, 2025.
6. The TW examined the Horse Chestnut tree at entrance to Grove Road for evidence of the Leaf Miner (*Cameraria ohridella*), a moth grub that eats away the middle of the leaf and causes ugly brown patches to appear. This disease appeared to be present. There is no cure for this disease which eventually causes the damaged leaves to fall, leaving the tree vulnerable. The TW recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with a smaller columnar tree to be chosen by the TW. Since then Suffolk Highways have claimed ownership of the Horse Chestnut tree and prevented its removal.

Colin Hawes (Tree Warden)



Registered Charity No:1026973

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2025

The number of families using the group has gone down a little.

I think this is because of the government's funding for two year olds.

All of those who come enjoy the range of toys and equipment that we have, and we have kept the price at £3 for over 1 year olds and £1 for babies.

For any enquiries re the group please call Pam on 07970 741581 or 07802 452219

Pam Rayment