

Tendring District Local History Recorders - 2019 Report

Parish: Little Bentley **Recorder:** Laura Robinson

Hare Green Roundabout – A new roundabout at the Hare Green junction of the A120 was opened in May. Additionally, the central reservation at Pellens Corner was closed. The new roundabout was required to replace two accident black spots at the Hare Green and Pellens Corner junctions which required motorists to make right turns across oncoming traffic to access side roads. Between 2011 and 2016 there were 23 recorded collisions with 52 casualties including three deaths at the Hare Green junction and a further 19 casualties at Pellens Corner. The initial cost estimate of £3 million trebled to £9 million, which reflected the increased costs and delays arising from design and drainage problems. Preliminary work started in October 2017 and the first stage of construction began in February 2018 with drainage and links to side roads. Work was initially expected to finish by the end of 2018, but took until May 2019.

New homes – A total of 8 homes were completed in the village over the course of the year. Two are on Tendring Road (further to planning permission 17/00955) and 6 are on Manningtree Road (further to planning permission 17/00527).

Little Bentley Garden and Waterways Show – The gardens and waterways of Little Bentley Hall have periodically been opened to the public to raise money for charities, including Little Bentley Church. The last show was held in 2013. The 2019 show ran from Friday 31 May – Sunday 2 June, beginning with a reception for 500 guests on the Friday night featuring the Parachute Regiment Band. The two public days on Saturday and Sunday saw around 6,000 visitors to the show which in addition to the beautiful gardens and waterways included an art show, over 50 trade stalls, a tea tent, music, and 4 show gardens. The event raised over £70,000 for charity and was organised by a team of village residents, with support from local churches, the Rotary Club, Wix Young Farmers, and the Lions Club of Clacton.

Fireworks – The annual fireworks display was held in the car park adjacent to the Bricklayers Arms on the 5th November.

Proposed business development – A decision is pending from the Inspector on an appeal to build two office buildings at the site of a former barn adjacent to Clip Hedge Farm. The application was refused by members in October 2018 (although the officer recommendation was to approve on economic grounds) on the basis that it was for an unallocated unsustainable site outside the settlement boundary. An examination hearing was held on 6 December.