

## Little Bentley 2024 Report – Local History Recorders

January storms brought down trees and blocked ditches in the village. A number of villagers volunteered to assist in clearing debris and unblocking ditches, and the clerk contacted relevant landowners to remind them of their responsibilities in maintaining ditches and trimming back trees and hedges.

Proposals for pylons and related infrastructure to support the Norwich to Tilbury grid upgrade were noted by the Council, who considered that the main impacts would largely be felt by adjacent villages. A construction site would be situated for a 4-year period next to the Horsley Cross roundabout and a new access road created to a Lawford sub-station.

A large logistics centre adjoining the Horsley Cross roundabout to the north of Little Bentley was constructed over the course of the year. Concerns about the landscape impact of the large structures were noted at a Parish Council meeting and councillors noted the importance of following through on landscaping conditions attached to the approval.

Throughout the year, flytipping, speeding through the village, damaged/faded signage, and limitations on access to Ravens Green were raised at the Parish Council as ongoing concerns, particularly in the light of the ongoing lack of action from the ECC Local Highways Panel to submissions on village signage and speeding issues.

The Little Bentley Bluebells Gardening Club led by Brenda Hirani won a 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Award of Level 5, Outstanding, for their work in maintaining floral displays around the village. Regular litter picking along village roadside continued on a bi-monthly basis.

In July, Tendring District Council approved a Discharge of Conditions for landscaping, archaeological investigation and construction management for the building 3,451 m2 of business use floorspace (application 21/01523/FUL) granted on appeal in 2023. the business development granted on appeal in 2023 for Cliphedge Farm

The village Whatsapp group continued to provide a central point of communication for local news updates, recommended services, concerns about local issues, and events publicity.

Community events during the year included:

- Coffee and cake on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday morning of each month in the Church Hall.
- Easter egg hunt on the village green on 30 March
- A church service in the Bluebell Woods on 5<sup>th</sup> May, followed by cream teas in the Church Hall.

Little Bentley Events Committee events:

the second Little Bentley Beer Festival on the 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> April in the Church, a well-attended event supported by a number of local sponsors and raised money for local charities including the church.

the Little Bentley Music Festival on 17<sup>th</sup> August which included music, stalls, attractions and food. It was held in the grounds of Little Bentley Hall and raised money for the Longmead Riding for the Disabled and the Farmers Charity.

- Annual Fireworks party next to the Bricklayers Arms pub, organised by the Parish Council.

Please see <https://littlebentleypc.org.uk> for Parish Council minutes. The website will include previous minutes for the Council from two minute books covering the period 1894 to 1994 have now been transcribed and the volumes deposited in the Essex Records Office.