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*Stats according to Rightmove taken from 6 Dec 2023 to 5 Dec 2024
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Benefield News

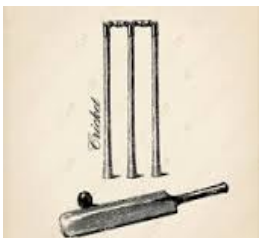
Parish Council

St Mary's Church

VILLAGE HALL

CRICKET CLUB





BENEFIELD CRICKET & SOCIAL CLUB

Located in Upper Benefield with views of Lower Benefield, St Mary's Church spire and rolling countryside as far as the eye can see.

The Clubhouse is open to members every Friday night 7pm to 11pm. Family Membership £20 Individual Membership £10 p.a. Non-member residents and friends are welcome as guests.

Cricket Club

We are now well into the season and Benefield have played 8 and won 6 – and currently lie top of the table. Highlights include a 50 from Harry Chudley at Upwood, a 93 not out from Johnny Ironmonger against Oundle supported by young Sam Levick scoring 51 who also bowled taking 4-15, and the even younger Elliot Ironmonger taking 3-6. Sam took another 4 wickets against Sawtry with Johnny hitting 50 and Harry an express 45. Against Uffington Sam hit another 50 with Dan Blatch picking up 3 wickets. Next Upwood scored 312-4 with their South African overseas star hitting 166 not out. Not to be outdone Benefield hit 237-2 with JI hitting an unbeaten 118. A moral victory.

More recently Benefield have had wins over LGR X1, Kettering and Laxton.

Against LGR BCC scored 195-9 with all batters contributing. Then bowled them out for 104. Three wickets apiece for Dan Blatch and Johnny, and 2 for young Euan Crowhurst.

The Kettering match was notable for 76 from Robbie Head and 68 from Johnny in Benefield's 248-4. Then bowled Kettering out for 90. Well done to youngster Millie Tadman for taking 4 wickets for 5 runs. Quite a debut from Millie.

A good game with a cricket tea was had vs Laxton who scored a good 183-8 – 3 wickets each for Matt Shardlow and Mike Draper. Benefield achieved the target with a few overs to spare – built on an excellent partnership between Aman Singh 84 not out and Sam Levick 40.

Saturdays have seen Weekley & Warkton 3rdX1 play 3 times and and Geddington 3rdX1 have played 4 and we have had 3 midweek games that entertained the small crowd. We have games most weekends and a few more evening matches this year.

Benefield Cricket Club welcome anyone with interest in playing irrespective of age, sex or competence. More details can be found on www.benefield.play-cricket.com/Aboutus or email our secretary at Davidhomer959@btinternet.com or make yourselves known to the club.

We might restart a few Friday evening Quick cricket evenings for Children this year in July/August. Details to follow. On match days the clubhouse is open and spectators are always welcome.

Benefield Calendar of Events

Regular Events

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Sunday 1st & 3rd month	9.15am	Sunday Service	Church
Last Friday of the month	7pm – 9.30pm	Food night. Fish n chips or other	Cricket Club
July & August Fri-days depending upon weather	7.30pm – 8.30pm	BBQ	Cricket Club
First Sunday of month	8am – 11am	Pop up cafe	Village hall
Sunday (alternate)- Quiz Night	7pm	Quiz night	Cricket Club
3 rd Thursday of Month	7pm	Book Club	Cricket Club

Other Events

Date	Day	Time	Event	Venue
30 th August	Satur-day	11am	Made in Benefield	Church
6 th September	Satur-day	7pm – 11pm	Live band night. Fascination	Cricket Club
7 th September	Sunday	6pm	Hymns and Pimm's	Church
5 th October	Sunday	9.15am – 2pm	Harvest Festival service Harvest lunch	Church Church
11 th October	Satur-day	TBA	Pie and Mash night	Village Hall
November	Satur-day	TBA	Interactive Race Night	Cricket Club
29 th & 30 th November	Satur-day Sunday	TBA	Christmas wreath making	Village Hall



The Church of St Mary the Virgin

Sunday Services are currently held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 9.15 am.

The **Church Warden** is Jane Berridge

Tel: 01832 205283/07808632448 janeberridge2@hotmail.co.uk

The Church and the Community

In the Middle Ages, parish churches played a central role in their communities. Beyond religious ceremonies, churches became important public meeting places. They hosted fairs and markets where goods and produce were traded, and served as venues for community plays, festivals, and gatherings. During times of conflict or disaster, the church also provided refuge and storage. In many ways, the church was truly the heart of the community.

The use of church bells grew widespread during this period. Bells were not only used to call the faithful to worship, but also to mark the time of day and signal important events or emergencies.

Today, we continue this tradition of the church being a part of the community. In addition to regular church services, this year we have hosted a children's pancake fiesta, a concert, a talk, a flower festival, and a fete.

EVENTS IN CHURCH

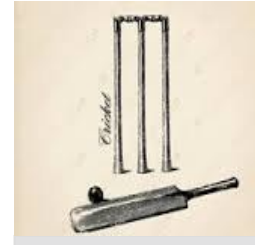
"Made in Benefield" – A Community Celebration! Saturday, 30th August at 11am Join us for a special event to celebrate the creativity and talent of Benefield residents! Whether you run a business, have a hobby, or are part of a local club or activity, this is your chance to showcase your work and connect with the community. We invite you to promote your business, sell your handmade products, share your artwork, or offer a service. In the spirit of our church's historic role in the community, this event will open our doors to local creativity, as we continue to keep the church at the heart of Benefield.

If you would like to showcase your business or talent, please contact janeberridge2@hotmail.co.uk to register your interest.

Hymns and Pimm's at 6 pm on Sunday 7th September

Harvest Festival at 9.15 am and Harvest Lunch at 2 pm on Sunday 5th October

We are excited to launch our **first Benefield Calendar** to raise funds for the maintenance of our Church. The 14-month 2026 copy features rarely seen photographs of Old Benefield. Price £10 order via email info@benefieldchurch.co.uk. The 2027 copy is already in the planning where residents will be invited to submit their own photographs of contemporary village life.



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Social Club

Since the last newsletter we have held our usual food nights on the last Friday of the month. Traditionally this is fish 'n chips, but in April we added a Chinese themed event and in May we held a Beer and Curry night – all popular and well attended. These events are accompanied by the game of Play Your Cards Right. The jackpot has not been won and as I write, this is now at a massive £120. Worth coming along to the next Friday food night to try your luck.

In April Amps of Oundle hosted a wine tasting evening, also a very popular event.

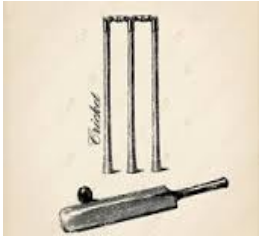
On mid-summer's night, the hottest day of the year so far, we held a ceilidh/barn-dance featuring The Shaughrauns, a talented four-piece band who played traditional and contemporary Celtic music. Thanks to the volunteers and the Events Team who not only helped on the night, but also for the many hours of preparation that went into making this a successful and enjoyable night.

We also have a **live band playing on 6th September**. The band Fascination have been booked; you may remember them from last year. Tickets will be on sale from August at a cost of £10.00 with BBQ payable on the night.

We will continue having some **BBQs on Fridays** during June, July and August depending upon weather and we will need some volunteers on these nights to help out.

We are also looking to hold an interactive **race night**, still a work in progress and plan for this to be towards the end of October, beginning of November.





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Clubhouse

In the last newsletter we said that the club would undergo a spring clean, some maintenance and a lick of paint. Thanks must go to Keith Grace and Alan Riches for the repair works carried out to the outside seating and the purchase of new seats. The plan is to finally replace all old with new.

Thanks again goes to Keith, this time teamed up with Jay Wood for sorting out the flower bed at the front of the Club.

We are always looking for new volunteers, either to join the Events Team, man the bar or to help with the ongoing maintenance of the club. If you can help and have some spare time, we would be pleased to hear from you. We will be posting the jobs that we need help with, so look out for this and sign up.

If you are interested in joining the Events Team to help with anything from fish n chip night to the live band events then please contact Paul Faulkner, Events Chair at faulkner.paul31@gmail.com

Thank you for all the Membership fees paid in March & April. For anyone who has forgotten or anyone new to the village these are £20 per family and £10 for an individual. This can be paid at the clubhouse by card or cash or online to Benefield Cricket & Social Club Bank account at Lloyds, Sort code 30-96-09 Account 71456868. If paying online, please put your name as the reference.



The hire of the clubhouse is available to both members and non-members for booking of private events, parties, weddings (not the service), and wakes. Please contact a member of the committee for hire cost and availability.



The Village Hall is a key asset to Benefield and relies on the support of the community. It is available to hire for £10/hour for residents and £15/hour for non-residents.

Bookings can be made by email
benefieldvillagehall@gmail.com

Planning a Party or Event?

Our beautiful village hall is available to hire for birthdays, weddings, clubs, classes, and more!

- Fully equipped kitchen
- Accessible facilities
- Charming courtyard for sunny days and photo opportunities





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Summer at Benefield Village Hall – Something for Everyone!

As summer rolls in, Benefield Village Hall is buzzing with life! Whether you're joining in on regular activities, popping by for a bacon bap, or looking to host something of your own, there's a space (and a smile) waiting for you at the hall.

Weekly Classes & Activities – Come Join the Fun!

Irish Dancing – Mondays, 6:30–8:00 PM

Lively, rhythmic, and full of energy! Whether you've danced before or are just curious, step into the beat and have a go.

Yoga – Thursdays, 6:15–7:30 PM

Stretch, breathe, and unwind. All levels welcome. Just bring a mat and a sense of calm.

Little Crickets – Saturdays, 8:30am

A joyful start to the weekend for little ones, full of games, movement, and giggles. Great for early learning through play.

Pop-Up Café – A Sunday Treat

First Sunday of the Month (April to October) | 8:30–11:00 AM

Grab a bacon bap, sip a hot drink, and enjoy good company. Vegetarian options available too! £3 for one bap + one hot drink

Dog-friendly, cyclist-approved, and always welcoming

Every bite supports the village hall directly!

Coming Soon

11 October – Pie & Mash Night

A cosy evening of hearty food and good cheer.

29 & 30 November – Christmas Wreath Making

Get festive and creative! Last year's wreaths were incredible – come and craft your own.



Benefield Parish Council

Benefield Parish Council provides your local services. We strive to make this a better place to live, work and visit.

Visit us on <https://benefieldparish.com/parish-council> or contact benefieldparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com

The election of officers took place in May and the Parish Council is now made up of the following. We have also appointed a new Clerk, Emma Lingley-Clark. Our thanks go to the exiting Clerk, Peter Bullock for his work over the last couple of years.

Paul Faulkner – Chair

Jason Cutmore – Deputy Chair

Alf Pridmore – Councillor

Graham Shatford – Councillor

Robert Bullimore – Councillor

Nick Waters – Councillor

Laura Wood – Councillor

Emma Lingley-Clark – Clerk

Progress is being made regarding the traffic speed sign, but this has been a slow process, which has included obtaining the correct planning permissions to erect the sign. We anticipate that during early August we will have the sign in its first location and up and running. The sign is designed to be moveable and easily redeployed to fixed posts. We plan to have four such locations in Upper and four in Lower, using some existing and some new posts. In this way we will be able to record and gather data over a period of time and if this shows there is a speeding problem, will enable us to apply for permanent speed calming devices.

As Chair, I recently received some feedback from a resident of the village, a dog walker, saying how wonderfully kept the grass footpaths are. This leads me to thank Alf Pridmore who voluntarily cuts the grass and maintains the many paths around the village. On this subject, we can all help to do our bit to keep the main roadside paths clear. If you have a bush, tree or plants that borders the main path, can you check from time to time and trim back any overhanging foliage. I always say that a good rule of thumb is, can a pushchair or mobility scooter safely pass without the need to move on to the busy road.

The Parish Clerk has issued the minutes for the last meeting, these can be found on the website as above. Please read if you are interested in Parish Councils matters and our future plans. This also gives the date, time, venue and agenda of the forthcoming meeting which members of the public are welcome to attend.



Benefield Village Hall – The Old School

Originally serving as the village school, Benefield School educated children from both Upper and Lower Benefield. Pupils from Upper Benefield would walk across the fields to reach the school, regardless of the weather.

The school was nestled behind a hedge and wall, with a set of steps (opposite the porchway) leading into the playground—now the car park. In winter, the playground would freeze over, and the children would create icy slides to play on. During the warmer months, lessons were often held outdoors. The school bell hung proudly on the front of the school house.

Inside, the school was divided into two classrooms—one for infants and the other for juniors—separated by a partition. One room featured a fireplace, while the larger classroom was heated by a large boiler-style stove that fed into the radiators, there was a lovely clock on the wall. In those days, indoor toilets didn't exist at the school—only the cold, outdoor ones stood at the back.

Each school day began with a spoonful of rosehip syrup and one of castor oil (to the children's dismay). Hot meals were delivered daily, and fresh milk was collected from Rectory Farm—straight from the cows.

The "nit nurse" visited regularly, and once a year, a dentist would set up in the front room of the old schoolhouse to check the children's teeth. The pupils also watched the Queen's coronation on a television set in the schoolhouse—an exciting event for all.

May Day was a highlight of the year, with garlands carried through both villages, followed by maypole dancing and the crowning of the May King and Queen in the schoolhouse garden. In later years, the celebration moved to the Old Rectory. It was a cherished village tradition.

Summers were long, hot, and memorable. Beyond its role as a school, the building hosted many community events, including dances, concerts, and parties. Each Christmas, the older ladies and mothers of the village would organize a festive party for the children—a beloved annual event.

Memories shared by Dorothy & Jenny Pridmore



Taken before Dorothy and Jenny's time. Looks to be early 1900s.

If you have a local story to tell, or want to make a comment or give feedback then please contact benefieldnewsletter@gmail.com