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properties sale agreed from £400,000 to £2M in PE8 4, PE8 5, PE28 5 postcodes

Benefield News

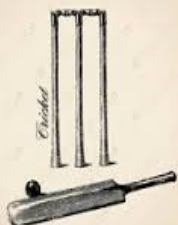
Parish Council

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

Hopefully by the time you read this the weather will be drier and warmer and we have had a chance to prepare the cricket field.

The first match at Benefield CC is on Saturday 3 May with Geddington 3rd X1 hosting Barton Seagrave 1st X1. There are matches most Saturdays, except for the 24 May, with either Geddington or Weekley & Warkton playing their home games in the Northants County League at Benefield.

Benefield 1st X1 start the season in the Rutland League away at Upwood on 4 May. The first home match is on Sunday 11 May 2025 vs Oundle – so a local derby.

We expect there will be some midweek evening T20 matches with Stokers and Short Legs hiring the ground. The Saturday and midweek matches are all good income for the cricket & Social club. The last match is scheduled for Sunday 14 Sept 2025.

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 1 st & 3 rd month	9.15am	Sunday Service	Church
Last Friday of Month	7pm	Food Night – Fish'n'Chips or other	Cricket Club
First Sunday of Month	8 to 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
April 5 th	Sat	10.30am	Church/churchyard tidy	Church
April 11th	Fri	7 to 9pm	Wine tasting	Social Club
April 20th	Sun	9.15am	Family service and Easter Egg Hunt	Church
April 29th	Tues	6.30pm	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
May 9 th	Fri	7.30 pm	"Sweet Spring" - St Peters Singers	Church
May 16th	Fri	7 to 11pm	Beer and Curry night	Social Club
May 16 th	Fri	7 to 8.30 pm	Trump, Ukraine and Us – talk Keir Giles	Church
May 18th	Sun	2 to 4.30pm	Hanging Basket Workshop	Village Hall
May 21 st	Wed	7.30pm	From Ballet to Blooms talk Tessa W-Russell	Village Hall
June 15 th	Sun	2 pm	Village Fete	Church
June 21st	Sat	7 to 11pm	Barn Dance with The Shaughrauns	Social Club
July 5th	Sat	TBC	Charlie's Treasure Hunt	Village Hall
July 5th	Sat	TBC	Summer BBQ	Village Hall
July	TBC	TBC	Children's Mini Olympics	Social Club
Sept 6th	Sat	7 to 11pm	Live Band. Fascination	Social Club



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

Church services on the first and third Sunday of the month at 9.15 am and on Easter Sunday there is a family service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for children and Coffee and cake for all.

The church and churchyard are maintained by volunteers and on **Saturday 5th April at 10.30 am we are having working party** to help Brian and Alan in the church yard. We aim to trim the ha-ha at the far side of the churchyard and remove ivy from trees and gravestones. We are looking for volunteers to help. We will dust and sweep the church too, any other help in the church would be appreciated too. Please turn up from 10.30am, look forward to seeing you! Coffee and biscuits provided.

This Spring we are having temporary patching of the main problem areas of the roof and we are fundraising for major repairs which need to be undertaken.

Our fundraising events this summer are :-

Wednesday 21st May 7.30 pm Talk "From Ballet to Blooms - a Choreologist in Stitches" by Tessa Watts-Russell, in the village hall

Tickets £7.50 (includes a glass of wine)

Friday 9th May 7.30 pm -St Peters Singers – "Sweet Spring" Concert in church

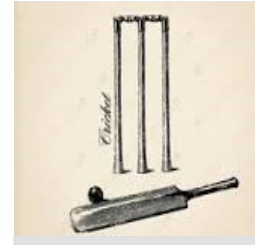
St Peter's Singers is a mixed chamber choir of about 25 voices based in Peterborough.-

Tickets £12.50 (includes a glass of wine and nibbles)

Friday May 16th 7pm Talk "Trump, Ukraine and Us" by Kier Giles author, current affairs analyst and Benefield resident. Join Keir in church for an evening of explanation and discussion on just what is going on in the world and how it will affect our lives here in Northamptonshire. Keir is a regular speaker at events for NATO and for governments and armed forces in the US, UK and across Europe.

Tickets £8 , refreshments available and book sales

Sunday 15th June Fete and Flower Festival in the church and church yard. Helpers required for stalls. Please let us know if you would like to take part in the flower festival.



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Social Club

The start of 2025 has been busy for the Social Club.

The Fish'n'Chips Fridays are always popular as was the Chinese evening. Food evenings are held on the last Friday of the month. We have added a bit of fun during these food events and Jason and Nick have introduced a game of "Play Your Cards Right" based on the popular TV series. They looked the part in their red sequined Jackets. So far two games have been played with the £50 jackpot being won on the first night. There was no lucky winner on the second night so this is rolled over. As we plan to play this at all or most of the food evenings, it's worth coming along.

The club was also open for the all-important Six Nations rugby matches. This is something we plan to do for other major sporting events. If you have a particular sporting event you would like to watch at the Club, on the big screen, then let one of the committee member know.

We have a number of events organised for this year and these are included on the All Village Events Calendar shown in this newsletter. We will also advertise individual events on the WhatsApp groups but please make a special note in your diary of the following.

Wine Tasting, 11th April, hosted by Amps who will provide 10 different wines to taste. Cost is £15 per person and includes a grazing table of mixed salamis, olives, cheeses, and bread.

Beer and Curry night, 16th May. Details to follow.

Barn Dance, 21st June with live band The Shaughrauns. Tickets are £10 per person. BBQ paid on the night.

Live Band Night with Fascination, **4th September.** Details to follow.





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Clubhouse

We try and keep the clubhouse and grounds looking the best they can. There is always plenty to do, particularly in spring time such as cutting grass, strimming, tidying up, painting and repairs.



We are also looking to redecorate the inside of the clubhouse this spring.

Longer term, we would like to upgrade the outside seating arrangements with better furniture, replace the windows with double glazing and finally sorting out the drainage which will be a large expensive project to connect the clubhouse to the mains sewers in the road. We aim to apply for grants to assist with this, so we will keep you posted with our progress.

Anyone willing to offer their time and skills with any help in maintaining the clubhouse and grounds, helping behind the bar or on food nights is always welcome. Please let us know on the WhatsApp group if you can help.

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.

Membership fees of £20 per family and £10 individual were due in March 2025. If you have not already done so or wish to become a member then 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 you pay online, please put your name as the reference.

We are a members club (part of our license conditions) so if you intend to use this club you do need to join as a member.



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

Upcoming Special Events

May: **Hanging Basket Workshop** – Get creative with flowers! (Details coming soon.)

July 5th: **The Big Benefield Walk** – A fun-filled treasure hunt walk!

Find the clues, answer as many as possible, and enjoy Tea & Cake in the afternoon and BBQ Feast in the evening – tasty sausages, burgers, veggie options, fresh salads, puddings, and a licensed bar!

Village Hall AGM – April 29th at 6:30 PM

Our Village Hall is more than just a building – it's the heart of our community! It's where we come together to enjoy events, meet friends, and keep village life thriving. But to keep it going, we need your support – whether that's by attending events, volunteering your time, or helping with fundraising.

Every cup of tea at our pop-up café, every ticket sold for an event, and every bit of help behind the scenes makes a difference. Could you lend a hand or bring new ideas to the table? We'd love to hear from you!

If you want to know what's been happening behind the scenes at the Village Hall, who are our committee members are and how you can help, then please join us for our Annual General Meeting!

Learn about our fundraising efforts, upcoming plans, and how you can get involved. We're a small, friendly committee and always welcome a pair of extra hands!

Get in touch at benefieldvillagehall@gmail.com or chat with us at one of our events!

See you soon at Benefield Village Hall – your community hub for fun, friendship, and fantastic events.





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A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Lasagne Night – what a fantastic evening! Delicious food, great company, and much-needed funds raised for our Village Hall. It was wonderful to see so many friendly faces. Keep an eye out for more social events coming soon!

Relax and Recharge with a Gong Sound Bath

Our Gong Sound Baths are becoming a real hit, drawing people from all over! If you haven't experienced this deeply relaxing and energising session yet, you're missing out! Held every two months, it's the perfect way to unwind and reset.

New! Pop-Up Café – Starting April 6th

We're thrilled to introduce our monthly pop-up café, opening on the first Sunday of every month from 8 – 11 AM.

Fancy a treat? Grab a bacon buttie, sausage sandwich, or refreshment while enjoying a chat with friends and neighbours.

Walkers & Cyclists – stop by and refuel!

All proceeds go towards maintaining the Hall.

Upcoming dates: May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd, September 7th.

Menu:

Bacon Buttie – £2

Sausage Buttie – £2

Veggie Sausage Buttie – £2

Buttie and drink – £2.50

Tea/Coffee – £1

Soft Drinks – £1



Join Our Weekly Activities

Looking for something fun or relaxing to do? Our regular groups are open to all:

Monday: Irish Dancing

Wednesday: Gong Sound Bath (bi-monthly)

Thursday: Yoga

Saturday: Little Crickets

Interested in joining? Drop us an email at benefieldvillagehall@gmail.com, and we'll connect you with the right group leader.



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

In the last newsletter we reported that progress was being made regarding the traffic safety signs. We have now had confirmation that our bid for grant funding is successful which means we can go ahead and purchase the necessary hardware and software needed. The device will display the speed of passing cars and monitor and record speed data and is in operation twenty-four hours a day. 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.

The Parish Clerk has issued the minutes for the last meeting, these can be found on the following link. <https://benefieldparish.com/parish-council>

Please read if you are interested in Parish Councils matters and our future plans. You will also see that there will be an election of councillors in May. If you are interested in standing as a councillor, then please contact the Clerk on benefieldparishcouncilclerk@outlook.com

We are always looking at ways to improve our village community and its environment.

Steve Lingley has been our Police Liaison Officer for the last few years and has been instrumental in us getting the much-needed new style speed sign. Dan Groom asked to stand down as Councillor so that he could join Steve in setting up a sub committee to tackle environmental issues such as speeding, litter, overgrown hedges, and footpaths etc. Although this will be linked to the Parish Council it will not be bound by the regulations we have to work to but will be free to act independently. There will be a need from time to time for working parties to tackle certain issues so if you would like to volunteer, keep an eye on the Benefield WhatsApp group for details.

As previously mentioned, the minutes of meetings can be found on our website <https://benefieldparish.com/parish-council> this also gives the date, time, venue and agenda of the forthcoming meeting which members of the public are welcome to attend.



It's early March and I am walking in the garden considering what I could do for the next newsletter. There are signs of Spring everywhere with the snowdrops giving way to crocus, primrose, and daffodils. In the neighbouring field, new born lambs are skipping and bleating. An idea comes to me.

I contacted **Jason and Wendy Cutmore at Hill Farm** to ask if they would let me do a small piece on a typical day as a farmer during lambing season. Jason agreed and I had the privilege of spending a few hours shadowing their work and chatting about their way of life.

During my short time at Hill Farm I saw lambs being born, mothers bonding with babies and visa versa. I also learnt that their children lend a hand with all sorts of tasks, including bottle feeding any orphaned lambs.

Jason and Wendy encourage the ewes to birth naturally but on occasions they have to lend a hand. This is where the full arm's length green glove comes in. I am sure that most of you have seen Country File and All Creatures Great and Small, so you know what I mean !!!

What struck me, when I arrived at Hill Farm, was the organised and slick operation Jason and Wendy had. There were basically three main sections—

The first being what I called the birthing shed. These are large sheds divided in to a series of pens, each holding 20 ewes and is where the lambs are born.

When they are a day old they are moved to the second section, I called this the maternity pens. Again, a shed but divided to provide a pen for each ewe and where the lambs 'get to know their mother' and their progress can be monitored.

They are then moved to the third shed, the nursery, where they are weaned before being turned out to the meadows.

With the three separate sections, each serving a specific purpose, it is far easier to keep tabs on what is happening and where help or extra resource is needed.

Each ewe is given a number sprayed on their fleece and also a colour marker to show if they are expecting a single, twins or triplets. Then when the lamb is born, the same number is sprayed on the new born. In this way if the mother and baby becomes separated they can always be reunited. Wendy explained that this hasn't always been necessary as a ewe will call for their lamb and the lamb will recognise



the mother's bleat, and a mother will also recognise their lambs call. However, when in the fields, lambs can either stray or become separated particularly when worried by dogs or other wild animals. It is therefore important that a lamb is reunited with its mother. A lamb separated from its mother for just a short time could easily perish.

Unfortunately, not all births are successful, and they do lose some lambs and even ewes. It's sad, I know, but that's parr for the course in farming. Sometimes they have to look for a surrogate if they have an orphaned lamb, or the mother rejects it, or if a ewe has triplets as a ewe can only successfully feed two lambs. If a surrogate cannot be found, then it is a matter of bottle rearing until weaned. This is where their three children come into their own, Henry, Phillippa and Oscar, as most years they adopt and rear a number of lambs.

I also saw first hand the care and husbandry Jason and Wendy give. I will not go into too much detail except to say that during an inspection of section three, the nursery, Wendy spotted a ewe with a prolapsed uterus. "That will need looking at, and may need a small stitch to help mend and prevent infection."

Part way through my short visit, Jason said he would leave me with Wendy to do another sweep of the three sections as he had to get back to the ploughing. He and Henry had spent their time over the last few days between lambing and other farming tasks and were keen to get the fields ready for the seeding of the summer cereal crop. But before he leaves, Jason wants to introduces me to his pet sheep. A three year old, the size of a small camel, over fed and spoilt. Jason says he hasn't the heart to send it to market and so she remains on the farm.

Mother Nature doesn't wait for one job to finish before another one starts. Hats off to the Cutmore's and the other farmers in our area for their hard work that often goes unnoticed. I hope that all goes well at Hill farm over the next few weeks and that the 600 ewes do produce the 1000 or so healthy lambs they expect.

Paul Faulkner

