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Who sells the most
Period & Individual Property
in Oundle, the villages and rural areas?



Woodford & Co.

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS & AUCTIONEERS

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



photo by Matt Howell



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 Benefield Parish Council is here to serve our community and to help to maintain the appearance, safety, and wellbeing of the village. To this end, in 2024 we ensured that the grass verges received a regular cut. Hedges and footpaths were kept clear. Road signs are visible and kept clear of undergrowth. We also held our annual litter pick. These are all ongoing events which we commit to for this year.

Speeding traffic and the need for speed cameras has been high on the agenda for some time. We are pleased to say that progress has been made regarding installing speed cameras. This has been a long process, but we are nearly there and will keep you updated as events progress.

A request was made that a further bus shelter is installed in Upper and a new one in Lower. This is a work in progress and again we will keep you informed.

The Parish Council are also responsible for a number of other things such as lighting, general maintenance, audits, insurance, the Clerk's salary, the Remembrance Sunday wreaths, and the funding of new projects. We therefore work to a strict budget. We received a small percentage of the Council Tax you pay and this is termed as the Precept. This on average has been about £43 per household per year and has been held at that amount for the last few years. However, with rising costs, such as our electricity bills for the village street lighting it was agreed at the last Council meeting to increase the precept to £55 per household. This may seem a big increase, but it only works out at 23p per week and the whole Precept at a little over £1.00 per week per household.

We will endeavour to spend and invest this wisely.

Please take pride in the village. We can all do our bit to maintain the good appearance and the wellbeing and safety of the village.

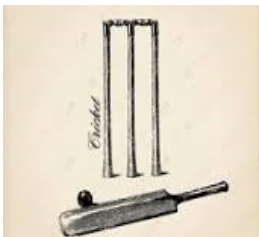


This section of the newsletter is for contributions. If you have a story to tell and would like to share it, we would be pleased to hear from you. It could be anything: a childhood memory of village life, a story handed down from an elder or just something about the village you would like to share. Or you may have an old photo of the villages with a caption.

Please send anything you have to benefieldnewsletter@gmail.com

This email can also be used to give your feedback or comments on the Benefield News.

watch
this
space



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.



BENEFIELD BOOK CLUB on the **third Thursday of the month.**



AMPS WINE TASTING on **Friday 11th April**



BARN DANCE with live band **Saturday 21st June**



LIVE BAND night **Saturday 27th September**

Several **CHILDREN's EVENTS** are also being planned.

Kids film night 21st February

Mini Olympics - July

Halloween party 31st October

Tea with Santa - December

New members are always welcome. If anyone is interested in joining just come along to the Clubhouse on a Friday evening.

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 are due March 2025. Family £20, Individual £10 p.a payable at the clubhouse by card or cash. Online payments to Benefield Cricket & Social Club Bank account, sort code 30-96-09, a/c 71456868.



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Here are a few tips and some do's and don'ts.

Footpaths and hedges Hard surface paths that run through the village should be always kept clear.

Please avoid parking on the footpaths.

Bins must be removed once the Council have emptied these. Please do not leave them on the footpath.

If something has spilt from the bin, then please pick it up. Remember that if we all keep a clean step, we have a tidy street.

If you have a hedge or plants that borders the path, please ensure that these do not encroach or overgrow the path. A good rule of thumb is to consider whether a pushchair or mobility scooter could safely pass without having to use the busy road.

Grass cutting The Parish Council arrange for regular cuts. We would like to thank those residents who nevertheless cut the grass outside of their own property and we would encourage this to continue.

Dog fouling The majority of dog walkers pick up and safely dispose of the waste. However, there are some who do not. Dog fouling spoils the environment, upsets residents and can cause serious health risks particularly to children and the elderly. It is a criminal offence not to pick up and dispose of the waste. This includes all public footpaths whether they are hard surface or grassed. A particular concern is the mess left on the cricket field.



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



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

St Mary's Church, Benefield is an important church in the context of the history of church building, with its restoration in 1846-47 being in an Anglo-Catholic style it was described as "an important specimen of a sumptuous Tractarian church".

There has been a church on the site since at least the fourteenth century, the chancel dates from this time but was altered when JM Derrick restored and rebuilt parts of the church for the Watts Russell family in 1847.

The church was further enhanced by Sir Ninian Comper in 1897, when the altar and rood screen were installed, the chancel was decorated, the organ moved, and mediaeval misericords were brought from Tansor church.

There are 6 bells in the spire which were refurbished and rehung 20 years ago, visiting bell ringers ring them from time to time and they are often rung after weddings.

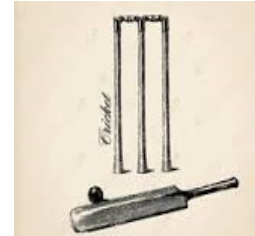
We have services on the first and third Sunday of the month at 9.15 am and throughout the year also celebrate various festivals- Easter, Harvest, Christmas, please join us, you will be given a warm welcome.

It is your village church for christenings, weddings, funerals and burials of Benefield residents.

The church is run by the PCC- Parochial Church Council, village volunteers who are responsible for all the fundraising and upkeep of the church and churchyard. Brian Bullimore and Alan Rayden have looked after the churchyard for the last 10 years cutting and strimming all the grass, thank you both for all your hard work. In the spring we will have working party to tidy parts of the church yard, volunteers will be very welcome.

The church roof is Collyweston, the chancel roof was repaired 25 years ago and 8 years ago the south isle roof was stripped and repaired with the help of grant funding. We are now about to embark on fundraising and grant applications to repair the roof on the north aisle and main part of the church, if anyone has any ideas for this please let me know, any help would be much appreciated.

Your village church needs you – to help please contact Jane Berridge, Churchwarden on 07808632448, email janeberridge2@hotmail.co.uk



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.

Social Club

Last year was another busy time with many social events being run including a number of Friday food events, Weddings, parties, a live band in June and finishing 2024 with an excellent Port & Cheese evening then Christmas parties. We thank all volunteers who help organise and run these events and thanks to everyone for attending.

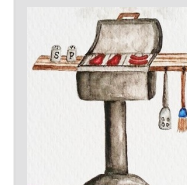
The Club is run by a team of volunteers, including a social committee who are always looking for ways to raise funds and reduce running costs. The events that help raise funds are listed below so please save the date and come and join us.

With the help of a grant, we were able to install solar panels that has reduced our electricity costs that had been running at over £2,500 per year.

There are a number of events planned for 2025

Friday Food Nights (Fish & Chips or other food) on the **last Friday of the month**, except February as there are **Pancakes on 7th March**.

A game of Play Your Cards Right with a cash prize is planned.

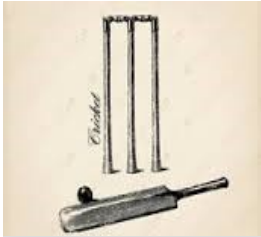


SUMMER BBQs. Fridays weather permitting. We plan to have at least one per month during **June, July and August**. Volunteers will be needed to help with this.

YOGA Mondays 6.30pm to 8pm and Fridays 7am to 7.45am. Why not come along and join in, just bring your yoga mat.



QUIZ NIGHT night held **every alternate Sunday**.



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Cricket Club

The 2024 season was reasonably successful – we played 13 matches winning 6 and losing 7 with 1 match cancelled due to rain and 2 matches conceded due to not being able to field a side which is always disappointing. However, we have had a welcome influx of a few new players who hopefully will continue with us next year. Many thanks go to the ground staff (Alf & Keith) who produced another year of excellent pitches. Above all, the team and spectators enjoyed the matches played.

A couple memorable matches were very close, with Benefield winning by 8 runs against Nassington (Benefield 182 all out, and Nassington bowled out for 174), and an even closer 1 run win over Upwood (Benefield 127 and bowled Upwood out for 126). Young Sam Levick scored 51 not out and then bowled 5 overs taking 5 wickets for 18 runs. The players and crowd were well entertained.

Overall the top run scorers and wicket takers were Dan Blatch, Johnny Ironmonger and Sam Levick with useful contributions from Simon Pollack and Matt Howell during the season.

Last year we had the sad passing of Colin Nicholls. Colin played and was groundsman at Benefield for many years and his ashes are scattered over his beloved cricket pitch. Our clubhouse bears his name.

The 2025 season starts at the end of April -fixtures are due out soon. We 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. A good chance to practice can be done at Pre-season indoor nets at Oundle School in April.

On Saturdays we hire the ground to Weekley & Warkton, and in 2025 to Geddington CC and there is usually a few midweek evening matches too – all helping to bring in needed funds.

On match days the clubhouse is open and spectators are always welcome.



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Future events to be held in church

BENEFIELD PANCAKE FIESTA

Tuesday 4th March 3.45 pm to 5.30 pm

Open to all Benefield Children



MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE

Sunday 30th March 9.15 am

EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday 17th April 3.45pm to 5.00 pm

Open to all Benefield Children



FAMILY SERVICE followed by EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday 20th April 9.15 am

In late Summer, we are holding a "Made in Benefield" Fair in Church to showcase and promote what the members of our village community produce/make – Are you an artist, a photographer, an author, a designer, a musician, a caterer etc?

Please get in touch if you would like to participate in this exhibition by emailing Jane.



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

It's been a while since our last update, and we're excited to share all the wonderful changes at Benefield Village Hall! For those who haven't visited recently, we were fortunate to secure grants during the Covid period, enabling us to fully renovate the kitchen, redecorate the main hall, tackle much-needed maintenance, and give the entire space a fresh, inviting look. The hall is now a fantastic venue for residents and visitors alike, perfect for events, meetings, and parties, with excellent catering facilities.

Supporting Our Hall

It costs approximately £1,500 a year to keep the hall running, and thanks to a dedicated team of volunteer committee members, we've planned an exciting calendar of events to help raise funds. Every penny raised goes directly into maintaining and improving the hall. We'd love your support—whether attending events, sharing your ideas, or even volunteering.

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!

LASAGNE NIGHT 8th February 7pm

Enjoy a delicious evening with friends and neighbours!
£10/adult, £5/child

Book in advance, payable at the door by cash or card



POP-UP CAFÉ 6th April 8 am to 11 am (and every first Sunday of the month through September)
Start your morning with bacon/sausage butties, tea, and coffee.

No booking needed—just pop in!

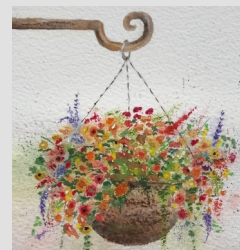
VILLAGE HALL AGM 29th April 6.30 pm

Join us to share your ideas, get updates, and consider becoming a committee member.



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HANGING BASKET WORKSHOP

18th May 2 pm to 4.30 pm (TBC)

Learn to create stunning hanging baskets. Details to follow soon.

SUMMER BBQ 6 July Our much-loved BBQ is back!
A perfect way to welcome summer.



CHARLIE'S TREASURE HUNT WALK

6th July time TBC

Gather your team and follow Charlie's clues around Upper and Lower Benefield—fastest team wins!

CRICKET CLASSES for 1.5 - 6 year olds. **Saturday term time**

Up to 3 year olds, 8.30 - 9.10 am.

3 years and over, 9.10 to 10.00 am.



To book into any events or for more information about the hall, please contact our Secretary, Kate Billings, at benefieldvillagehall@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the hall and at our events!

Warm regards
Jackie Doyle
Village Hall Chairman