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Who sells the most
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SOLD



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





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

As we start the new year, I would like to thank **my fellow councillors for their commitment** and thoughtful service throughout last year and into this year. Parish councillors are volunteers who give their time freely, and our community benefits greatly from that dedication. An example of this happened just the other week. You have no doubt noticed that we have a **new bus shelter** in Upper Benefield, on the old site of Nev's bench, opposite the Old Wheatsheaf pub. A small working party of volunteers have dug out the ground and laid the base and installed the shelter. Whilst working on this we were asked how much it had cost. I am pleased to say that 90% of the total cost was grant funded, so the cost to us has been very little. Nev's bench has undergone a thorough clean and revarnish and a new site at the cricket club has been found for it. We will arrange for a brass plaque be put up in the bus shelter in memory of Nev Shiells.

Other news of interest is that we have received notification from Highways that they plan to **repair the potholes on the A427** between the new school roundabout and the entrance to Upper Benefield. Their plan at this moment is to close **the road from 9.30am to 3.30pm Friday to Sunday 24th to 26th April**. We will ensure that you are kept updated on this and will also establish what plans Stagecoach have for the X4 bus service during this period. We know this will be an inconvenience, but it is short lived and will in the long term be of benefit. We hope that once completed their attention will move to improving the Deenethorpe road surface and to this end we have made our views clear.

Harley Way will also be closed from the Benefield Road junction to Lyveden for carriageway core testing. This will be for three days from **Monday 20th April to Wednesday the 22nd April**.

Concerns have been expressed about the **condition of the footpath** that runs between Upper and Lower Benefield. We are in communication with the relevant parties who are responsible for the upkeep of the path, and we anticipate that work will soon start on improving and maintaining this well used and important pathway.

Traffic camera. The data received from the camera shows that the majority of vehicles are travelling within the speed limit and that the presence of the camera is

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 – 11pm	Food night. Fish n chips or other plus quiz	Cricket Club
First Sunday of month	9am – 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
May to September	1pm to 6pm	Saturday and Sunday cricket matches. Club open on certain match days	Cricket Club
June to September	7.30pm	Friday BBQ at least one per month.	Cricket Club

Other Events

Date	Day	Time	Event	Venue
2 nd April	Thursday	3.30pm to 5pm	Family Easter Activity	Church
4 th April	Sunday	9.15am	Family Service followed by children's Easter Egg hunt and coffee and cake	Church
24 th April	Friday	7pm to 11pm	Race night with food served	Cricket Club
3 rd May	Sunday	11am	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
31 st May	Sunday	TBC	Hanging Basket Workshop	Village Hall
7 th June	Sunday	2pm	Annual Fete and Flower festival	Church
20 th June	Saturday	TBC	BBQ	Village Hall
26 th June	Friday	7pm to 11pm	Oundle Fringe Live band. Triple Seven.	Cricket Club
4 th July	Saturday	7pm to 11pm	Oundle Fringe Disco	Cricket Club
18 th July	Saturday	7pm to 11pm	The Shaughrauns Irish band	Cricket Club



happy end as he was hanged on the gallows at the crossroads, close to where the George pub and the Weldon Lock-up is now.

With no one left to help, Will served his time chained to the chair and died shortly after of starvation.

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 village life.

Please send anything you have to benefieldnewsletter@gmail.com We would be pleased to include it in this section of the newsletter.



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acting as a deterrent against speeding. We are therefore looking at purchasing a second camera so that we can have one in both Upper and Lower.

The **spring flowers** on the green by Townsend Court and on the verges of Lower look stunning. We plan to plant bulbs at the entrances to the village which will be an autumn project so if you would like to get involved, please let us know.

The year ahead will no doubt bring new challenges, but it will also bring new opportunities. We will meet any challenge head on and if we continue to work together, constructively, and with pride in our community, there is much we can achieve.

The **Parish Council remain committed and open to your views.** Your views do matter, and I would encourage you to attend the Council meetings when you can and to share ideas and get involved where you can.

Thank you.
Paul Faulkner, Chair.



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

Maundy Thursday 2nd April 3.30pm to 5pm

Family Easter Activity in Church for children (accompanied by an adult).

Children's tea provided. Book with Michelle Groom mlgroom76@gmail.com

Easter Sunday 5th April 9.15am

Family Service followed by Children's Easter Egg hunt and Coffee & Cake.

Sunday 7th June 2pm

Join us in the Church and Church yard for our annual **Fete and Flower festival**.

FETE

We are **seeking Volunteers** to -

- Help set up on Saturday morning ready for Sunday.
- Run stalls and games on Sunday.

To volunteer please email Michelle Groom.

Can you donate any of the following items?

- Raffle and Tombola Prizes (including vouchers)
- Homemade cakes, jams, biscuits etc for the cake and produce stall.
- Plants or cuttings for the plant stall.

Drop off locations:

Upper Benefield:

Michelle Groom at Deene End, (box under the canopy of the new garage).

Tina Dawson at Kimberley (leave in the front porch)

Lower Benefield – Church porch (outer door is unlocked). Emma Todd at Benefield House. Kate Billings, Manor Farm.

Cakes and produce: Please bring to the church on Saturday morning or by 1.30 pm on the day.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Please let Jane know if you would like to create a flower arrangement for a church window.

St Mary's Church is here for Benefield residents for Christenings, Weddings, Funerals and Burials. **Any questions** about services or to volunteer to help with the upkeep of your village Church please contact **Jane Berridge, Churchwarden** 07808632448 / janeberridge2@hotmail.co.uk



I have come across this story on a couple of occasions but can find no written evidence of the legal proceedings so it may be just folklore. Although it is centred around Weldon, Benefield is mentioned so it is worth telling here. It is about the Weldon Chair. In medieval times, there was a large stone positioned on the bridge path leading from Weldon to Causin Way, where Bears Lane is today. The stone was known locally as the Punishment Chair and was used to punish law breakers who were chained to the chair and left to die.

The exact date is unknown as it only refers to medieval times. A Weldon villager, known as Wild Will because of his wild temper, was courting a local girl called Agnes. Will's bad temper had got him into trouble on several occasions and he had spent time in the village stocks. However, he had seemed kind and gentle towards Agnes but when he heard she was seeing another man, he was filled with rage and wild with jealousy.

Not being able to contain his rage he set about his revenge for Agnes's betrayal and persuaded the young girl to take a walk with him in the nearby woods. Once alone, he carried out his revenge by gagging and suffocating her and leaving her dead body tied to a stake in a pond.

Will was soon arrested and consequently charged with murder. He was taken from the assizes and dragged off to the Punishment Chair, where he was chained to the stone seat and left to die. Death would normally come within three or so days.

Meanwhile, on his rounds, the baker from nearby Benefield took pity on Will, it's possible that he knew him, and gave him bread and water. Over the next few days, the baker returned and fed Will with bread, and water which kept him in relatively good health. However, the local constable whose job it was to report on Will's health and ultimate death became suspicious as Will, rather than wasting away remained alert and well.

The constable set about hatching a plan to see if Will was receiving help in any way and decided to keep a watch by hiding in some nearby bushes. His efforts were soon rewarded. During his daily rounds, the baker approached Will but was too late to hear his warnings that they were being watched. The baker was arrested, tried, and found guilty of interfering with village justice. The baker met with a very un-



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

Bosworth's will kindly supply compost free of charge, and a selection of plants will be available to purchase on the day from £3 each (card payments preferred). The workshop costs £7.50 per person, with proceeds going towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

Booking is essential to avoid disappointment.

Please email benefieldvillagehall@gmail.com to secure your place.

Who knew gardening could be this sociable?

Save the Date – 20th June BBQ Gathering!

More details to follow, but expect good food, great company, and hopefully some sunshine. It's the perfect chance to bring the whole village together – so keep the date free!

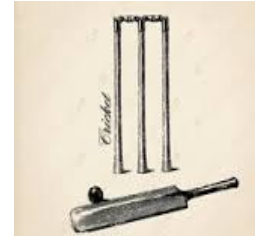
And Don't Forget – The Hall is Yours

Did you know you can hire the Village Hall?

- Residents: £10 per hour
- Non-residents: £15 per hour

If you're starting a hobby club, planning a celebration, organising a social gathering, or even looking for a space for a work event, please consider supporting your local hall. It's at the heart of our community – and it only thrives because of you.

So, whether it's a bap, a basket, or just a bit of banter you're after, come and get involved. Village life is what we make it – and it's always better when we make it together.



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

After the victorious 2025 season, Benefield Cricket Club look forward to a new season in **Division 3 of the Rutland Sunday League**.

First few matches of the 2026 season are at Benefield;

- Sunday 3 May vs Werrington
- Sunday 10 May vs Laxton Park
- Sunday 17 May vs Bourne
- Sunday 7 June vs Stamford Town

On **Saturdays**, the ground is used by **Weekley & Warkton** and by **Geddington**, a total of 20 Saturdays. Saturday 9 May right through to 19 September are scheduled this season. This brings in very useful funds to cover the cost of mowers, rollers, top dressing and general maintenance of the field and grounds.

At the moment, there are **2 mid-week evening matches** on **Wednesday 20 May** and **Friday 29 May**.

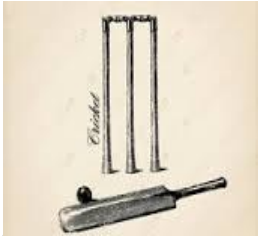
Hopefully the rain will stop soon and the ground dry out in time for us to start to cut and roll the ground in time for the first matches. Anyone wanting to **help with ground maintenance and pitch preparation** please contact anyone at the club.

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.

SOCIAL CLUB

On the village calendar in this newsletter are some of the events we plan to hold at the cricket club this year. We have been working closely with the organisers of the Oundle Fringe and are pleased to say that we will be **hosting two Fringe events**. One on **Friday 26th June - Triple Seven, a six-piece band** who play a range of classic upbeat rock and pop covers and then a **disco on Saturday 4th July**. These are free events, and the Fringe will pass around a collection bucket for the performers.



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Please come and support not only the Fringe players but also the cricket and social club. Food will also be served on both nights.

For those who attended last year's Irish band night and enjoyed the **alfresco dining and ceilidh dancing**, we have invited The Shaughrauns back for another night of fun, music, and dance. Make a note in your diary, **Saturday 18th July**.

We are really excited that the Social Club committee have **secured a grant** that will enable certain improvement work to be carried out. This year will see some changes as we plan to **replace all the old wooden windows** with modern double-glazing units. We are **upgrading the heating** and will install an internal **bifold doors to separate the bar and lounge areas**. We are also **upgrading the sewer system**. All of this will take place during the year, and we will keep you informed of the progress. In the meantime, the **spring clean has started**. A big **thank you** must go to our new young volunteer, **Harry Tarbox**, who has cleaned and sprayed the decking and will undertake other work as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We reported in the last newsletter that a **defibrillator** has been purchased and with your generous donations we now have an **outside cabinet** for this. We are currently waiting for the contractor to give a date for installing the cabinet. As a mains electric supply is needed to maintain a charge and to control the temperature, the cabinet will be sited in the porch entrance to the main club house.

Don't forget that **Benefield Cricket Club is the perfect place for your venue hire**, available to club and non-members alike. Whether you are planning a party, wedding reception, funeral reception, hosting a meeting, or wanting to run a regular class, we can cater for your requirements. The club can be decorated by you to suit the occasion. We offer ample car parking, a fully functioning kitchen, large projector screen, Wi-Fi, toilets with baby changing facilities and a fully licenced bar. As a private member club, we are able to keep our bar prices very competitive. The main Clubhouse has been designed with wide doors and no steps to give easy access for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. The Clubhouse and outside decking will accommodate up to 100 people. However, if your event is seated only, this is reduced to 50. **Hire charges are from as little as £15 per hour**.

For bookings and enquiries please contact Stephen Morgan 07956834035. Or email the Social Club secretary Paul Faulkner at faulkner.p@hotmail.com



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Village Life is Blooming – Come and Be Part of It!

If you've been meaning to "pop in one day" to something at the Village Hall... consider this your friendly nudge! Whether you've lived here for 30 years or 30 days, you are warmly invited to join us. No need to know anyone or to feel shy. In fact, the best way to meet people is simply to turn up – and we promise there will be a friendly face. Here's a few opportunities coming up:

Pop-Up Café – First Sunday of Every Month from 9am–11am.

Start with our ever-popular Pop-Up Café. For the very reasonable sum of £3, you'll get a bacon or sausage bap plus tea or coffee. It's relaxed, welcoming, and the perfect excuse to avoid cooking breakfast. Pull up a chair, have a chat, and ease yourself into village life.

AGM 3rd May (with added bacon!)

This year we're shaking things up a little and holding our AGM straight after the Pop-Up Café. What's the plan? Enjoy your breakfast, top up your coffee, then stay for a short (we promise!) update from your Village Hall Committee. It's a chance to hear what's been happening over the past year and what's coming next.

We're always happy to welcome new committee members. It's completely relaxed, not onerous, and involves more cups of tea than spreadsheets. If you care about keeping our lovely hall thriving, we'd love to have you involved. If you want to know more, please just pop an email through to benefieldvillagehall@gmail.com and we'll be in touch!

Baskets & Bubbles –31st May

Now for something a little more sparkling! Join us for Baskets & Bubbles – an afternoon of creativity, colour, and a cheeky glass (or two) of prosecco.. The wonderful **Rosie, Kitchen Garden Manager from Bosworth's at Elton**, will be on hand to share her expertise and help you create your own hanging basket masterpiece..All you need to bring:

- Your own hanging basket
- A bucket (to stand it on while you build it)
- Your hidden green-fingered talent (we know it's in there somewhere) We'll provide the bubbles to keep the creativity flowing!