

# BENHALL & STERNFIELD NEWS

July 2026

**Become a Parish Councillor** Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to make a positive difference to your area, have a say in how the precept (budget) is spent, or help your neighbours with pressing community matters? Perhaps being a Parish Councillor is for you! The Parish Council needs people from all backgrounds, ages and experiences to reflect and represent all parts of our community. *(What do Parish Councillors do? Our Parish Council is made up of volunteer Councillors. A Parish Council is the first tier of local government and Councillors collectively provide a democratic voice on localised issues and matters that affect the community and a structure for community action. Collective duties are many and varied, and Councillors will usually be asked to undertake specific roles on appointment).* For full details, see website [benhallandsternfield-pc.gov.uk](http://benhallandsternfield-pc.gov.uk)

**South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood** Thank you to the 18 residents who attended the joint meeting with Saxmundham Town Council to discuss this. You have until 13 July to send your personal response to East Suffolk Council ref DC/26/1490/OUT. **Numbers really do matter!** So, even if there is just one point you'd like to raise, send it to ESC. To Planners, lack of numbers equals lack of interest... If you would like to ask a question or check something email [clerk.benhall@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.benhall@gmail.com) At the meeting, Dr Havard also showed a film about his plans for the future of Saxmundham Health One Stop Shop. And our MP, Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, has a campaign to push for this. You can join this, just look it up on [getcampaing.co.uk](http://getcampaing.co.uk)

**East Suffolk Local Plan Consultation: a message from ESC: 'We are preparing a [new local plan](#) to guide how the area grows and develops up to 2045.** The local plan will set out where new homes, jobs, infrastructure, and community facilities should be located. It will be the Council's main planning document and used to help make decisions on planning applications. **We'd like to hear from you: Help us to understand what's important for the new local plan** At this early stage, we'd like to hear your thoughts on what matters most for the local plan to address. Your feedback will help identify the key priorities, opportunities, and challenges, and help shape policies developed at later stages'. Just search online for 'New Local Plan for East Suffolk' and complete the questionnaire. **By 29 July.**

**Plant theft...** Sadly, the plants in the pots at the top of the Green, by the bench have twice been stolen recently. A resident paid for and planted some very beautiful flowers. Initially we wondered if it was muntjacs at work. But only the most expensive items were taken – and dug out very carefully. We'll now rethink and probably put in some very common wildflowers to deter thieves. Which will, of course, look very attractive. NB: A plea to the person who did this. Rather than steal, perhaps ask a neighbour if they can help you with spares from their garden, or cuttings.

**The Telephone Box in Benhall Green** has recently been transformed with work by six children from our own Benhall Primary School. In a competition in which all the pupils took part, they created images reflecting the natural world and the 100th birthday of wildlife broadcaster David Attenborough. Six of their images, selected by local artist Derek Chambers, have been installed on the telephone box. The children whose work was chosen were Luca (4), Primrose (6), Kobe (7), Ralfie(8), Nola Rose(9) and Leland (11). Each had their original picture framed to take home and they each received a £15 book token to spend at Aldeburgh Book Shop. The cost of this award was covered by money raised at coffee mornings run by Manette Baillie and Pauline Graham, a fund which also provided a donation of £80 for new art materials at the school. Derek Chambers is responsible for the installation of the waterproof images on the telephone box, which are funded by our own Parish Council.

**The Gin Station will return to the Green at 5 pm on 30 July** to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **England winning the World Cup** for the first\* time. Free G&T – lovely - bring a chair and picnic or if you want fish and chips call Pauline on 07870423963 (by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> pls) to put your order in! *\*At the time of writing it's the only time but let's hope \*\* we're also celebrating the 11-day anniversary of the second time! Ed. \*\*and for the sensibilities of the numerous village followers of the tartan army can I also say what a splendid job Scotland fans are doing for international relations at the moment – Ed, .*

# Benhall & Sternfield What's On and Club News

## ***Saturday 11 July – MUSIC DAY***

Benhall's big event starring local covers bands *Midlife Mayhem*, *The Smoking Sons of Stratford*, *Cat's Squirrel*, *Bohemian Boyz* and headliners *The Funky Stuff Band feat. Mark Anthony & Isaac*. What a line up! Gates and bars open 12 noon. First band 2 pm. Barry and Lesley's BBQ, Kids' entertainment, Hayley Bird Face Painting, Ice Cream Van, Hedgehogs – what more could you want? A token payment system will be in operation – cash and credit cards accepted. *Please note only alcohol purchased at the event may be consumed on site.*

## ***Saturday 25 July Bingo - Eyes Down 7.30 pm***

After a short hiatus, the much-loved **Benhall Bingo Tombola** returns in the Main Hall of Benhall Club with a magical twist for this month's special event, "*A Midsummer Night's Bingo*." Bringing a vibrant summer atmosphere to the community, the evening promises fun-filled rounds of bingo alongside seasonal delights, including the ever-popular **Denison's BBQ** serving up delicious food and a classic ice cream van to keep guests cool. With a touch of midsummer charm and plenty of 'Tomballa' prizes to be won, it's set to be a warm, welcoming night for all to enjoy! Please do come along and support the event.

## ***Club Survey***

Last month's newsletter included a survey form looking at suggestions as to what we might do at the Club. I'm delighted to report that we have had a fantastic response so far to our request for feedback. At the time of writing, we have had more than eighty (80!) responses with a wide range of comments and suggestions. Also, the open meeting held on 17 June was very well-attended with a lot of really constructive discussion and great ideas. A report of the findings will appear in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, the survey will remain open formally until **Friday 17 July**, so if you still have your form do fill it in. (If you can't find it there's a stack at the Club and an online version is available at <https://www.benhallclub.uk/> *The completed paper form can be posted to the Club (School Lane, Benhall, IP17 1HE) OR put in the collection box (at the Club).*

## ***Date for your diary: Saturday 8 August – Flower Show 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary special!***

This year's Benhall & Sternfield Memorial flower show will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first event held to celebrate military personnel returning from the war. We would like to ask anyone in the area who would have attended the Show in those early years if they would like to be involved in an opening ceremony. No pressure to speak on the day- it would just be wonderful to mark the occasion with as many people as possible. Also, the History Group will be displaying photographs. If anyone has any prints they would be prepared to let us copy we would be most grateful. Pls reply to [mark.puddefoot@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mark.puddefoot@hotmail.co.uk)

A plea for donating **bottles for the bottle stall** – any bottle will do. Please leave (before the day) with Mark & Helga at 1 Brookfields or Hilary & Pauline at No.29 Benhall Green.

Finally, we will be organising a **fancy dress parade for children**. The theme will, of course, be dress from the 1940's! This will be judged on the day by Andy the Clown.

***How to contact the Club: call 01728 768140 at any time and leave a message***

***For Club updates through the month: Club website: [www.benhallclub.uk/](http://www.benhallclub.uk/); OR Facebook [www.facebook.com/benhallclub/](https://www.facebook.com/benhallclub/)***

***Nextdoor: <https://nextdoor.co.uk/pages/benhall-and-sternfield-ex-servicemens-village-social-club-saxmundham-gb-eng/>***

**How to contact Benhall and Sternfield News:** do tell us your news, thoughts and ideas. We can list your local event (Benhall & Sternfield) and report on it. Email [ben-sternnews@gmail.com](mailto:ben-sternnews@gmail.com)

For Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council: Noticeboards, [www.benhallandsternfield-pc.gov.uk](http://www.benhallandsternfield-pc.gov.uk)

Facebook: Benhall And Sternfield Community Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/900786860888023/>