BENHALL & STERNFIELD NEWS

November 2026

The Wadd - We Would Like to Hear Your Views

Many who walk through The Wadd have noticed the boardwalk in much need of repair. We invite and need your thoughts on The Wadd and will be guided by your ideas and suggestions.

You can send your comments and suggestions via email to Katherine, the Parish Council, Clerk at clerk.benhall@gmail.com or share them in the notebooks located in the Benhall Phone Box or in The Club foyer or bring your suggestions to the Open Forum at the next Parish Council meeting on 23 November. Some ideas to consider: Is a replacement boardwalk considered important to you/the community? Should the deteriorating boardwalk be removed and not replaced? Thoughts on the current bench.? Should a working party be created as a voluntary custodian of the Wadd? How could the Wadd be better utilised and enjoyed by the community? Does the Community want the PC to continue leasing The Wadd? Should the Parish Council consider ending the lease with its owner, Benhall Estate, so relinquishing the responsibility of upkeep and maintenance, and allowing those funds to be directed at other items for the community?

Predicted weather this Autumn and Winter – Emergency Preparation

The Met Office predicts that the UK weather is likely to be affected by El Niño and that Autumn and early Winter may well be wet and stormy. The Parish Council has its fingers firmly crossed that there is not a problem but just in case. On our website you will find info on:

Flooding: how to report high or overflowing rivers; flooding from sewers; and what to do if your property has been flood affected by flood water; and if your home is uninhabitable due to flooding

Roads: Information about road closures. How to report a fallen or overhanging tree or hedge quickly and easily. And what to do if it poses an immediate risk to public safety.

School closures: Decisions about whether schools close are made by the schools themselves. Please check with your school directly, they should be able to give you more information.

Power cuts: How to report a power cut.

Be Prepared: The Community Emergency Plan and more information on how you can plan ahead to deal with emergency situations from the Suffolk Resilience Forum.

Nature notes

Autumn is here but the drought continues! None of the reservoirs in East Anglia are much more than 50% full and severe drought conditions have been declared in several counties. The impact of this on wildlife and winter crops is very worrying and our rivers and lakes also remain low. This affects not only fish, with the resulting low oxygen levels in the water but also wading birds, Kingfishers, geese and fish-eating divers like Great Crested Grebes. Our winter migrants such as Waxwings, Redwings and Fieldfares may find less fruit to eat as they arrive here from Scandinavia but happily there are several Rowan trees laden with fruit ready for them in the village, so keep a lookout!

Other bird news is that there are increasingly common sightings of Red Kites locally and there has been a pair seen regularly over the village recently. These spectacular raptors are now becoming nearly as common as the Buzzards that we have seen for many years now. There seem to have been a large number of deer killed on the roads recently but happily, fewer Badgers. Unusually, the deer have included Fallow, as well as the usual Muntjac. This may well reflect the increase in the numbers of both species and the much larger Fallow deer have been seen on the Green early in the morning. The large numbers of deer in the area mean that extra caution is needed when driving, especially at night. Particularly with Fallow and Red Deer, if you see one crossing the road, expect others to follow! *[Just seen a Great Egret at Marsh Farm – not the absolute rarity it once was but what a magnificent bird! Ed]*

Benhall & Sternfield What's On and Club News

Club Rules have been updated. They are available on the large noticeboard in the area behind the main bar. All members of the Club and their guest are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the rules.

Food at the Club by popular demand there's now food available and some great reviews are coming in. "The scampi was generous and delicious and great chips – stunning value", for example. Opening hours Monday 10-12 (for morning coffee), Fri 5-9, Sat 12-3 and 5-9, Sunday 4-7. Let's use it! Menu on FB.

Poetry Night on Saturday 17 October the Club held its first poetry evening where about a dozen people came and had a wonderful time sharing their favourite poems. One or two people confessed they hadn't read a poem since school but nevertheless enjoyed themselves immensely! We'll be doing it again in early 2027 – watch this space for what will, hopefully, be a series of fun events.

November events

Friday 13 November 7 pm Festive Drinks Tasting
Fantastic opportunity to try some different bubbles, port and wine. Hosted by Adnams. Still a few places left. Tickets £20 per person. Please speak to the steward at the Club or email **helga_mark@btinternet.com**, or call **07880 854415**.

Saturday 14 November Christmas Bazaar at Club 11am-1pm Bric-A-Brac Wanted!
Katie Carr-Tansley will be running the usual stall at the B&S churches' Christmas Bazaar. Soup, lunches, cakes available. To donate (good quality) bric-a-brac, contact Katie before the event on 07494894091.

Monday 16 November History Group meeting 7pm All welcome!

Friday 20 November 2026 History Group's General Knowledge Quiz Benhall Club 7pm Still places available

Monday 23 November Parish Council Meeting 7 pm

Wednesday 25 November Tune up tune up – listen to our local musos playing a wide range of folk, country and pop. Better still, join in! If you have never been you have missed something.

Wednesday 25 November Thai Night -full sadly, but if you are an optimist join the long wait list (see contacts above 13 November entry) and don't forget to keep an eye out for 2027 dates!

Saturday 28 November Bingo. Tomballer – eyes down, look in and have fun!

December dates for your diary

Saturday 5 December Christmas Party Another wonderful Christmas party –including live band Bohemian Boyz more details to follow next month but don't miss out!

Sunday 6 December Made in Benhall at the Club 10am-2 pm Are you looking for a unique and locally-made Christmas gift? If so, come along to Made in Benhall to meet a wide range of local artists, crafters and makers. There is always a hugely diverse range of high-quality products on sale at very affordable prices. Entry is free. Bar opens 12, coffees etc available throughout.

Saturday 19 December Christmas Bingo the big end of year Christmas tomballer with local business donations and a snowball that absolutely has to be won!

How to contact the Club: call 01728 768140 at any time and leave a messageFor Club updates through the month: Club website: www.benhallclub.uk; OR Facebook 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 **bensternnews@gmail.com**
For Benhall & Sternfield Parish Council: Noticeboards, **www.benhallandsternfield-pc.gov.uk**
Facebook: Benhall And Sternfield Community Group **https://www.facebook.com/groups/900786860888023/**