

Beyton Village News

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026



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Dates for your Diaries 2026

Beyton Parish Council Meetings 2026

6th January 2026

3rd February 2026

3rd March 2026

7th April 2026

Parish Council meetings

Will usually take place on the first Tuesday of the month, starting at **7.30pm** unless stated otherwise.

If you would like to make written representation rather than attending in person, please send an email or write to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 7 days from the date of the meeting.

Meetings are open to the press and public and there is a section of the meeting where residents are invited to raise questions or make comments; although there is no requirement of the Council to answer any questions at the meeting, Councillors will take account of the balance of views expressed when they are deliberating matters during the remainder of the meeting.

Knit & Natter – 10am – 12 Church Vestry

Monday 2nd February	Monday 2nd March
Thursday 19th February	Thursday 19th March

BVA AGM

Weds 11th February	7:30pm	The White Horse
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Beyton Quiz

Friday 13th March	7pm	Beyton Sixth Main Hall
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Clean up Beyton

Saturday 28th March	10am	Old Bus Shelter
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Deadline for next edition:

Friday

14th March 2026

Please let us have any contributions by the above date at the latest for consideration for the next edition. Please send to: editor@beytonvillage.news
Letters welcome.

Chairman:	Graham Jones	chairman@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Vice Chair:	Ann Alderton	ann.alderton@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	Helen Preston	helen.preston@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	John Clark	john.clark@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	Helena Harris	helena.harris@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Councillor:	Jonathan Wilson	Jonathan.wilson@beyton-pc.gov.uk
Parish Clerk:	Claire Usher	parishclerk@beyton-pc.gov.uk

Editor's Welcome

Happy New Year and here we are with the first magazine of the year!

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the magazine, we have some new articles in this edition and they all help to make it a valuable read. If you have anything that you'd like to share just email editor@beytonvillage.news

Editor

Beyton Parish Council

Chairman's report

May I first of all wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Over Christmas both my computer and mobile phone went on the blink resulting in me having to replace both devices, you may think that I am looking for sympathy and you would be right! Choosing new equipment was quite good fun but finding my way around new software to eventually use the kit is proving to be a right pain. I think I will just have to ask my grandchildren for help.

I am very saddened to hear that Barry Waterman, landlord of The White Horse has died. He and his wife Jane have run The White Horse for over 40 years and they have played a pivotal role in the village for which we are very grateful. I would like to send our love and condolences to Jane and family and thank you for all of the time and hard work that Barry gave to the village community. He will be greatly missed.

Now to Parish Council matters.

There looks to be plenty of subjects for the members to get their teeth into for the next twelve months and beyond. Two of the items have potential long-term consequences for our village and therefore, are of high importance. I recommend that all parishioners pay close attention to the Parish Council reports which are posted regularly on the Beyton website. You will find agendas ahead of every meeting and the subsequent minutes. The village website is a source of up to date and relevant information beyton.suffolk.cloud. Better still, come along to our meetings where you can hear all of the current issues that are being discussed and have your say.

Dates of all meetings and contact details for the parish council can be found on page 2 of the magazine.

The key items are:

The future of the current 6th Form building and site in Beyton

Mid Suffolk's stated housing need for an additional 15,000 homes in the area by 2044 – what would this mean for Beyton?

I look forward to seeing you over the coming months

Yours

Graham Jones

Chairman, Beyton Parish Council



A Happy New Year to all!

Looking after the health of you and your family is one of the most important investments you can make in your life.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle through regular exercise, balanced nutrition, and stress management not only helps prevent illness but also improves your overall quality of life.

Equally vital is taking advantage of the free NHS vaccination and screening opportunities outlined below.

Vaccinations

Unfortunately, in 2025 there was an outbreak of measles in the UK and the severity of flu this winter has hit the news headlines.

For some, these diseases can be a serious and life-threatening illness.

To reduce the risk, we therefore urge those who are eligible to make sure they are vaccinated.

Whilst it is normally given as a childhood vaccine, the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine can be given at any age. Please speak to your GP practice about getting vaccinated if you did not have it as a child, you only had one dose or you're not sure if you've been fully vaccinated.

Adults are eligible for a free flu vaccine if aged 65 years or over; pregnant; living with certain long-term health conditions; a carer; living with someone with a weak immune system.

Additionally, children aged 2-16 years are offered a flu vaccine in the form of a quick and painless nasal spray. Importantly, this protects both the child and the risk of spreading to others.

The annual flu vaccination season runs until 31st March 2026. If you are eligible and have yet to be vaccinated, please contact your GP practice.

NHS Health Checks

These are available every 5 years for patients aged 40 to 74 who do not have a pre-existing health condition.

It involves completion of a lifestyle questionnaire, together with measurements including height, weight, blood pressure, cholesterol.

It can tell if you are at higher risk of getting health problems such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, stroke and dementia.

Cancer Screening Programmes

Bowel – A home testing kit is sent through the post every 2 years to everyone aged 50 – 74 years.

Breast Cancer – uses x-rays, called mammograms, to look for cancers that are too small to see or feel. You automatically get your first invitation between the ages of 50 and 53. You'll then be invited every 3 years until your 71st birthday.

Cervical Screening – a test to check the health of the cervix and help prevent cervical cancer. It is offered to women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 64.

These programmes are designed to detect potential health issues at an early stage, often before symptoms appear. Early detection greatly increases the chances of successful treatment and can even save lives.

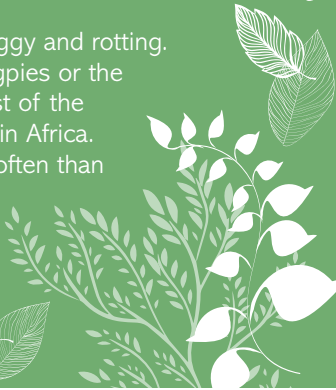
At this time of resolutions, we urge you to take proactive steps to prioritise your health, protect your wellbeing and ensure a healthier future.

Thank you and best wishes from Woolpit Health Centre

Nature Notes

The leaves that were gold and crisp when they fell are now soggy and rotting. Apart from the chirp of a robin, the squawk of squabbling magpies or the occasional rat-a-tat-tat of a woodpecker at Oak Tree Pond most of the other birds are quiet, many having flown off to warmer climes in Africa. Although the countryside is sometimes crisp and white, more often than not it's grey, damp and cheerless. Dead it seems. There are a few signs of life but right now it's time for rest. Take heart, Spring is just around the corner.

Roger Brand



BVA News

BVA AGM

The AGM of the Beyton Village Association will be held on Wednesday 11th February in The White Horse, starting at 7.30pm.

All Beyton residents are welcome to attend and anyone who attends will receive a free drink.

The agenda and previous minutes will be displayed on the Beyton Village website for a month before the meeting so everyone has a chance to read it beforehand.

We hope to see you there on the night.

Beyton Quiz

The 2026 Beyton Quiz will be held at Beyton Sixth on Friday 13th March.

Doors open at 7pm for a prompt 7:30 start for the quiz.

Teams of up to 6 people, the ticket price remains unchanged from last year at £13 per person with a Fish & Chip supper.

There is space for a maximum of 25 teams so advance booking is essential. There will be no entries on the door. Email beytonvillageassociation@gmail.com to secure your space by the booking deadline Friday 6th March.

Village Walk

The last village walk was held on 11th January and was very successful. Despite it being a chilly morning 16 people and 4 dogs took part, enjoying a route starting from Blackthorpe Barn and going to Rougham Church and then through Rougham and back via the church again. Afterwards some walkers enjoyed lunch or a hot drink in Roots Cafe!



The next walk is on Sunday 29th March starting at 10.00am from the old bus shelter on The Green. The route will be about 5 miles long and will last about 2 hours.

This is a healthy and social activity, as people tend to chat as they walk, so it is a great opportunity to get to know other villagers. Everyone welcome, including accompanied children and dogs (on leads). Look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Carols

We had a fantastic turnout for the Christmas carols on the Green on 22nd December, with almost 100 people taking part. This was more than double the number last year and it was great to see so many families with children there. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously - we raised £156.97 in donations for the charity Still Good Food which was our nominated charity again this year.

Thanks also to The White Horse who provided complimentary mulled wine and mince pies at the pub afterwards which were very welcome, whilst everyone warmed up around the open fire.



Visit to Belfast 2025 with A Level Politics Students

Strolling past the bars, cafes and trendy restaurants that line the streets of Belfast, you might be blissfully unaware of the city's explosive past. The metal gates of the army checkpoints and the bomb blasted shop fronts have been replaced by the kind of stores you would find in any city centre. There is nothing along the main street of Donegall Place that marks it out as unique – this could be any provincial capital in any part of the British Isles. Ironically, that's its beauty and its source of happiness: you can sip a coffee in Starbucks, you can pick out a party outfit from Zara and you can treat yourself to a fish pie in M&S. And the people of Belfast love this. It feels good to be normal, to be ordinary, to be free of the troubles that plagued the city from the 1960s to the early 2000s.

Belfast city centre wears its past lightly. There are no blue plaques to the key figures of the conflict, no memorials at the sights of the atrocities, no information boards that remind residents how it used to be. This is a place with its eyes firmly fixed on the future. You cannot see the recent past, but if you take the time and are patient, you can hear it in the voices of the people and in the phrase, they often repeat, "It's good to see you here now".

Our twelve intrepid Year 13 students, aged from 17 and 18 years, spent an action packed 48 hours in the capital and made the most of it. Our first stop was the new Titanic museum, a magnificent building that emerges from the dockland area, just as the actual ship did in 1912. It is an impressive place and serves to anchor the history of Belfast in a wider context that stretches back beyond 'The Troubles'. It is obvious that Belfast wants to show visitors that it was once an industrial powerhouse and that the bombings and para-militaries were an interval in the longer story.

Next was a walking tour of the city centre with a survivor of that difficult period. Jim was able to peel back the layers of the city for the students and show them what it was like to be a teenager like them in the late 1960s and early 1970s while constantly having to worry about where they were and who they



were with. Particularly moving was the story of a man who still returns everyday to sit across from the bar where his young brother was brutally murdered. Every street in the city centre has a similar story to tell and it was a sobering reminder of what the city had to live through.

Day Two started with a ride out to Stormont. Here students were able to question a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly before witnessing a live committee meeting. Both gave valuable insight into how this region of the UK is having to deal with its past while trying to move forward. There is a carefulness in their approach that ensures justice is seen to be done for all communities; while the old divisions are always there in the language, it somehow feels inclusive, there is a determination not to leave anyone behind.

The visit ended with a walk along the Peace Wall. Here, people from around the world have left messages of hope. You cannot help but be moved by the scene. As we stood on the Falls Road waiting for the bus to take us back to the city centre, we reflected on the changes around us. Gone are the burning tyres, soldiers, individuals with faces hidden by black balaclavas. The rubble and broken windows have been replaced by pavement cafes and shoppers of all faiths. This is an incredible testament to the desire of a city to reinvent itself. Belfast's ambitions are not lofty – it doesn't aim to be a metropolis of modernity, it just wants to be normal and here, normality is more beautiful than a Parisian boulevard or a Venetian canal. Having held its breadth for decades, it now collectively exhales. You can hear it quietly echoing around Belfast's streets, and it is such a wonderful sound.

Neal Watkin *Teacher of Politics*

Knit and Natter

Do you fancy spending a sociable morning with coffee, tea and a chat?

Our friendly Knit & Natter mornings take place in **Beyton Church Vestry** from **10am to 12** midday normally on the first Monday of each month.

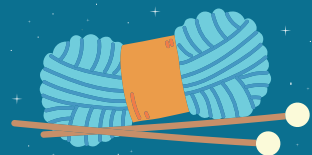
No need to book, just come along. Bring any yarn or craft project along with you or just come for a chat!

Knit & Natter mornings coming up on:

Monday 2nd February Monday 2nd March
Thursday 19th February Thursday 19th March

For more information, please contact:

Debbie on 01359 271314



**SAT
28
MAR**

CLEAN UP BEYTON

**COME AND JOIN US
TO CLEAN UP BEYTON**

Please meet 10am at the old Bus Shelter

GLOVES, LITTER PICKERS ETC PROVIDED

All help appreciated

**REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS
FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AT
THE WHITE HORSE**



Holiday Jobs

I thought that a description of the jobs I had in the 1960's might paint a picture of life in Beyton at the time, so here goes:

The very first job I had was working for Matthew's tree nursery, this was largely based around Thurston and at the top of the hill, opposite Thurston Road towards Tostock.

Matthews grew commercial quantities of young trees, both fruit and ornamental, including propagating by budding and grafting and another of their specialities was "family trees" where 3 or 4 varieties would be grafted onto one stock. It was said that Jack Matthews was the first to introduce the Discovery apple tree.

Our neighbour who, worked there at the time, planted one close to our boundary and we benefitted from a bountiful supply of apples for many years.

The job I did was hoeing between the young trees, a demanding task as the hoes supplied only had short handles, to avoid damage to the row of trees behind.

The reward for this work was, if I remember correctly, 1s 8d an hour – roughly 8 pence!

Next was working on Jack Stennet's farm - now known as Place Farm on the Bury Road, I did a few summers here. The main job was roguing Fat Hen in the sugar beet, this was in the days before all the selective weedkillers were introduced. In places these weeds could be head high (or shoulder high for some people) and the result could be a wall of weeds left on the next row as we went through the field.

Another job was bale stacking. The baler left single bales on the field and we had to stack them into 12s or 13s I think, later we would then have to load them onto a trailer with pitchforks which was very physical, especially when the top layer was lifted up, the pitchfork only just being long enough to reach. Needless to say, we lads could never match the pace of the regular farm hands but we were pretty fit by time we went back to school.

Wet day jobs were either mucking out the pigs or sorting coomb* sacks for mouse holes, these would be used for transporting corn, holed sacks would be sent off for repair.

Lastly, I did one or two holidays working at Beyton Nurseries, just off the green, jobs here were varied, weeding, watering etc. The job I most remember happened on Tuesdays and Thursdays, it involved taking a fork out to the field and lifting a load of beetroot. These were taken back to the nursery, tops wrung off (never cut) then placed in a freestanding copper which was then heated by burning old wooden seed trays. When cooked, the beet were allowed to cool, then trayed up ready for the Market stall on the following day.

*It took me a while to find out how to spell coomb sacks. Although we were charged with sorting them, I don't actually recall them still being used at that time. Maybe someone in the village can enlighten me?

Roy Crosby

Farming Around Beyton

Living in Beyton, we are surrounded by beautiful countryside. Between the network of roads, lanes and footpaths, the collage of fields changes throughout the seasons and year-to-year, growing a wide variety of crops and carefully tended by our local farmers.

This is the first of a series of short articles aiming to explain what is growing in the arable fields of Beyton, and the practises involved in managing the crops and the land. Nothing political, just what is happening and why.

To start, let's look at what is growing this year, field by field. Where crop types include the terms 'winter' or 'spring', this simply refers to when they are drilled (planted). Basically, autumn-drilled cereal crops are referred to as winter crops. Spring crops are usually drilled from early February onwards, when the spring weather arrives.

Bury Road

Heading out of Beyton on Bury Road, the large field on the left (south side) between Bury Road and Quaker Lane (known as 'Quaker Lane Field'), and the smaller field next to it – at the back of the houses, (known as 'Pitt Field'), are usually farmed together. Both grew sugar beet last year, harvested just before Christmas, and spring barley will be drilled as soon as conditions are suitable. The barley variety selected for this year is 'Laureate', for malting. This means that, if weather conditions are favourable between drilling and harvest, then the barley has the potential to achieve malting quality, for use by the brewing or distilling industries, and attract a premium price.

To the north of Bury Road, opposite 'Quaker Lane Field', is 'Beyton Field'. This was planted in the autumn with Triticale. Triticale is a cross between wheat and rye, and particularly well suited to growing on lighter land. Once harvested, this crop is destined for animal feed.

Just after 'Beyton Field', immediately after the farm access track, is a smaller field known as 'Little Park'. This is also farmed as part of the block including 'Quaker Lane Field' and 'Pitt Field' and shares the same cropping.

Further along Bury Road (also to the north) is 'Big Park' field. After last harvest it was planted with a winter cover crop (mainly oats and radish) to condition and improve the soil. Sheep grazed the cover crop until just after Christmas. The land will be ploughed to incorporate crop residues and natural livestock manure, cultivated to achieve a fine tilth, and planted with sugar beet after late February. In late autumn, the beet will be harvested then turned into sugar at the Silver Spoon factory in Bury St Edmunds.

Thurston Road

To the west, between the houses and the A14 flyover, is the other end of 'Beyton Field' – (see above).

To the east is 'Manor Field'. This was planted with winter wheat just before Christmas. The variety selected, called 'Champion', is high yielding and intended for livestock feed. In most years a patch is noticeable in the centre of this field that dates to the late 1970's when the current A14 was constructed. The work badly affected the soil structure and drainage, so that this area now holds water and remains too wet for field operations after rain, long after the rest of the field recovers.

Drinkstone Road, Tostock Road and Cangles Lane

The fields after the school on both sides of Drinkstone Road are farmed as a block with those along Cangles Lane and the field opposite the A14 junction near the Tostock Road flyover.

This year, the fields beside the roads are planted with oilseed rape. Notable recent activities have included a new field gate on Drinkstone Road, designed in conjunction with the local highways authority to increase safety when farm vehicles are entering and leaving. A heap of mushroom compost near the gate was sourced locally from the mushroom 'factory' at Stanton for applications to the fields each autumn, increasing soil organic matter and providing natural crop nutrients.

Quaker Lane

Winter wheat is growing in the fields south of Quaker Lane, and east of Chevins Wood (behind the stables).

Heading further along Quaker Lane towards High Rougham, the field the other side of the stables and west of Chevins Wood, with the footpath running along two sides, is 'Great Field'. This is growing oilseed rape this year.

David Williams

Trivia – assuming the malting barley being grown in 'Quaker Lane Field' along Bury Road achieves high enough quality; how many pints of beer could be made from it? (find the answer on page 14)

FREE



Connect Cafe



You are warmly invited to join us for a morning of coffee, cakes and company. Our Connect Cafe usually runs one Monday a month and is open to anyone who would like a warm, friendly welcome and chat. There are toys available for those with little ones and coffee, tea and cakes for all.

Just come along to Bradfield and Rougham Baptist Church between 10am and 12pm on the following dates.

Monday 9th February
Every Monday in March (just for this month)!

FREE-CYCLE

Calling all home-brewers

3 dozen x 1-pint brown beer bottles that are suitable for crown-caps

FREE-CYCLE

Calling all gardeners

White Butler sink (W37" x D18" x H6"), perfect as a planter for succulents, pansies etc.

Ring: 01359 270785

Bob's Oil (Beyton Oil Buying Syndicate)

The next oil order will be placed in the 1st week of February, providing purchasers with an average saving of 3p per litre. Anyone interested in joining please e mail bobsoil@hotmail.co.uk The more people who join the better the price so everyone is better off! And we are also reducing lorry miles which helps the environment.



Trivia Answer – malt produced from barley from this one field should make just over 2.5 million pints of beer.

Contact Information

Beyton Village News Comments & Contributions

Email: editor@beytonvillage.news



Websites

<https://beyton.suffolk.cloud>



Facebook

Beyton Village Community
Beyton Village Association
The White Horse Beyton



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Market, IP6 8FH

Beyton All Saints Church

The Rev'd Canon Julia Lall
Email: rector.roughambenefice@gmail.com
Mobile: 07543 824837:

The Rev'd Sarah Lock
Email: revsarah23@gmail.com
Mobile 07510 114359

Shops

Thurston – Co-Op
Tel 01359 230803
Opening hrs: Every Day 7am-10pm

Thurston – PO Londis
Tel 01359 230450
Opening hrs: Mon-Sat 6:30am-8:30pm, Sunday 8.00am-6pm

Station Garage Thurston
Tel 01284 834145
Opening every day 7am-10pm

Rougham – PO
Tel 01359 270201
Opening hrs: Mon-Fri 7.30am-6pm,
Sat 9am-12.30, Sun 9am-12

Garages

Beyton Garage Tel 01359 271166
Thurston Cracknells Tel 01359 270256

Pubs Restaurants

The Bear Chinese Takeaway Tel 01359 256788
The White Horse Tel 01359 270324



BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

The BVA presents the annual ...

Beyton Quiz Night & Fish and Chip Supper!



Friday 13th March

In

Main Hall, Beyton 6th Form Campus

Arrive at 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start

TICKETS: £13 A HEAD

(Booking essential by Friday 6th March)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

To book a table e-mail

beytonvillageassociation@gmail.com

Advance payment required by bank to bank
transfer or by another agreed method

**NO entries
on the door**

**Max team
of 6**



Bring your own booze
and nibbles/desserts

Raffle

Please bring cash with you (ideally change)

Discover Precision: Your Local Partner in Marketing!

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