



Welcome to  
**Berden**

# Welcome to Berden

*Our peaceful village on the Herts/Essex border*

Updated  
26.02.25

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The Parish Council hopes that you will be happy in your new home and community. We have developed this Welcome booklet for all new residents to help you find your way around the village and feel part of Berden.

A great deal of this information and more details are also included on our website [www.berden.org.uk](http://www.berden.org.uk) which is updated on a regular basis.

The Welcome booklet also includes a lot of information about local village groups that always welcome new members and volunteers.

We hope that you find this booklet useful and that it will help you settle in to our peaceful yet active community. We want to make sure that this booklet is as useful as it can be to new residents so please let us know if you think it could be improved in any way.

Berden Parish Council

## An Introduction to Berden

Listed in the Domesday Book as *Berdane*, Berden is a sociable village in the North West corner of Essex, on the border with Hertfordshire and only 5 miles from the border with Cambridgeshire. It is one of the higher parts of the county rising to almost 120m and is part of the chalk uplands that stretch across to Royston.

There are two possible derivations of the name, either "swine pasture valley" or "corn valley", both have been used in the village sign.

We are proud to have been voted "Essex Village of the Year Class 4\*", in the 2017 Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) competition.

Some very interesting historical notes about the village of Berden, from our village archivist Mark Trapmore, can be found on our webpage [www.berden.org.uk](http://www.berden.org.uk).

\* Class 4: Population 400 – 700

## Your Parish Councillors and their responsibilities

Duncan Murdoch	Chairman & Planning and Property	778 098
Diane Holt	Responsible Financial Officer	777 779
Harry Wadsworth	Footpaths & Grounds	777 420
Kathleen Merino	Fundraising & Emergency Plan	777 470
Debbie Thomson	Parish Clerk	07759 226 579
Weston Steimel	Playground	07460 179 170

The Parish Council also provides a conduit for comments or complaints regarding such matters as overgrown trees, silted up drains, street lighting, sewage problems, planning, grass verges and street cleansing.

The members of the Parish Council lobby for improvements to highways, footpaths, road safety and broadband provision affecting Berden.

The Parish Council employs a part-time Parish Clerk, to implement policy decisions.

## Berden Sports and Social Club Mailing List

**Berden Sports & Social Club Mailing List** was set up a few years ago & has proved very useful during lockdown and the weeks and months that have followed. It is a straightforward email news system, no gossip, just news that might affect all of our day to day lives.

**We would encourage you to join the Mailing List by using the link below or scan the QR code.**

<https://bit.ly/47fl3Fw>



For more information, please contact:

John Walker	Chairman	777 470
berdensportsandsocialclub@outlook.com		

## St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas Church is believed to date back to the 1270's; our website contains a full history. Mark Trapmore is the Churchwarden and Janine Jackson-Barr is the contact for the Parochial Church Council. We are at present awaiting the appointment of a new Vicar to the Benefice.

We have a small but active congregation and hold services each week. We have introduced a popular All Age service on the 4th Sunday of every month at 9.30 am which blends a traditional service with songs and activities for children, making it a family friendly event. The Church also hosts occasional concerts.

For more details about these services and other events in the church please see the notice boards, parish magazine or the Events link on our website.

Janine Jackson-Barr	Secretary	778 033
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## The Parish News for Berden and Manuden

The magazine allows you to keep up with church news, provides useful contacts for clubs, current activities, local news and advertising by local suppliers and tradesmen. A yearly subscription costs £3 and is payable in the summer. If you wish to subscribe, please contact:

Katherine Armstrong	Editor in-chief
berdeneditor@outlook.com	

## Village Hall

Berden Village Hall is an attractive converted chapel and the focus of many local activities. It has a good sized kitchen with all the necessary crockery and cutlery to cater for up to 120 people. It is popular with parents holding children's parties because of its size and the large fenced off outside area to play in. Many local groups use it as their chosen venue. It is currently also the base for a home schooling group two days a week.

Bookings can be made on the Berden website or for more information, please contact:

Catherine Felstead	Lettings Secretary	777 849
c.felstead@nightingalecleaning.com		

## Clubs and Activities

*There is something for everyone in Berden!*

### Berden Book Club

A number of keen readers meet in each other's houses about once a month to discuss, informally, their chosen books.

For more information, please contact:

John Walker	777 470
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### Boules

Berden has its own boulodrome - pitch to play boules, behind the Village Hall. It was built by hard-working Berdenites and is free to anyone who wishes to use it and all are welcome to do so. It's great fun and quite good exercise.

We have a few boules located in a box near to the boulodrome but anyone is welcome to borrow my own sets of boules.

An annual competition goes on between June and October so it would be best to check with me before you decide to have a go to avoid clashing with any competition games. There are no set times

to play. Bonne chance!

For full set of rules or any guidance, feel free to contact:

Cass Clay	777 582 / 07866 789 904
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### Choir

Berden Choir is an enthusiastic group of singers, under the direction of Bronwen Burton. Activity is mainly in the autumn and winter, to rehearse for the village carol service. They have also sung at other events and joined forces with the Drama Group for more light-hearted entertainments. New singers are always welcome, and there are no formal auditions. For more information, please contact:

Bronwen Burton	777 674
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### Croquet Tournament

Croquet is a game that is fun to learn and a good way to meet different people in the village. Newcomers to the annual tournament would be made most welcome. For more information, please contact:

Mary and Andrew Nelson	777 784
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### Berden Film Club

Membership of the Berden Film Club is open automatically to all members of the Berden Sports & Social Club. The film club puts on a variety of films on the big screen in the Village Hall once a month on a Saturday night. The doors open at 19:30 and the film starts at 20:00. The Social Club bar is open for the sale of drinks and snacks.

All enquiries to the Chair of the Berden Sports and Social Club, details below:

John Walker	777 470
berdensportsandsocialclub@outlook.com	

## Open Gardens

This biennial event, at which several village gardens are displayed at their best, has proved a great success for both enjoyment and fund raising towards village maintenance.

The day has included a quiz, woodland walk, cream teas, wood turning demonstration, plant shop and live music.

The set up and execution of the day relies on village volunteers and is a lovely social summer day.

View [https://opengardens.co.uk/open\\_gardens.php?id=2245](https://opengardens.co.uk/open_gardens.php?id=2245) for more information.

## Berden Sports & Social Club

runs many great events such as:

- Fireworks Display
- Quiz nights
- Pool Tournament
- Barn Dance
- Children's Christmas Party



The Sports & Social Club is open every Friday evening at 8pm for members and guests to enjoy the bar and good company in the Village Hall. Recently the bar has also started opening on a Sunday from 12pm to 3pm for lunchtime drinks and snacks. Every first Friday of the month is "Family Night". Parents and children of any age are welcome to come along from 6:30pm for family friendly activities and to meet friends and neighbours.

BSSC sends out news about forthcoming events on a regular basis, using the Mailing List. For more information, please contact:

John Walker	Chairman	777 470
berdensportsandsocialclub@outlook.com		

## Berden Street Fete

Berden Street Fete is a summer highlight in July. There is enjoyment for all the family and it attracts many visitors.

We have a large range of traditional stalls such as a tombola, bottle

and produce. There is a variety of entertainment from live music, children's entertainers and a vintage vehicle display.

Villagers work together to put on this special day and volunteers are always needed for either the Fete Committee or to help on a stall on the day. The revenue from the day contributes greatly to the upkeep of our Church, Village Hall and Playground.

View [www.facebook.com/berdengardenfete](http://www.facebook.com/berdengardenfete) for more information.

## Berden Village Tennis Tournament

Our annual tournament usually takes place on a Sunday towards the end of September and is played in the village.

It is a social tennis event with a trophy, which is presented to the winning doubles pair. Players bring along a picnic lunch and we have tea and cake at the end of the day when the trophy is presented.

For more information please see the notice placed in the August / September Parish Magazine, or contact:

Richard Little	777 123
Keith Dunn	777 466

## Women in Berden

Meetings and events are held throughout the year.

For more information, please contact:

Ulla Magnusson-Murray	777 994
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## Ye Oldie Busstopshoppe

Watch out for the dates in the magazine for when the occasional Busstopshoppe is open. All proceeds are used for essential church repairs and improvements to the Village Hall. It provides a fun morning, a chat with your neighbours and sale of homemade produce. The Christmas Shoppe usually includes the erection of the village Christmas tree as well as hot refreshments and entertainments.

## Defibrillators

There are two defibrillators for use in Berden, one in the Village Hall and the other located inside the telephone box on the Village Green. The full emergency procedure for their use is posted inside the telephone box, in the Village Hall and on our website.

## Doctors

Both surgeries offer a wide variety of clinics and services.

### Newport Surgery

Appointments are offered between 08:00 and 18:15 Monday to Friday. Tuesday has extended hours from 07:30 to 20:00. For an emergency appointment you will need to telephone at 08:00.

Frambury Lane, Newport, Saffron Walden Essex, CB11 3PY
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<b>Telephone:</b> 01799 540 570
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<b>Out of hours:</b> 111
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### Stansted Surgery

Appointments are offered between 08:00 and 18:30 Monday to Friday. Tuesday has extended hours from 07:00 to 18:30 as well as opening every second Saturday of the month from 08:00 to 12:00. You can register for online booking of appointments.

Castle Maltings, Stansted, CM24 8XG
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<b>Telephone:</b> 01279 813 200
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<b>Out of hours:</b> 111
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## Berden Footpaths

If you like getting out for a bit of exercise, come rain or shine, you have chosen the right place to live as we are blessed with a myriad of footpaths (both statutory & permissive) and bridleways. There are clear and well established paths to Clavering, Manuden, Rickling, Stocking Pelham and Little London. One of the alternatives for the latter is the ancient 'coffin' path that leads away up the

hill from a track entrance opposite the church path. Our hamlets of Brick House End, Park Green, Dewes Green, Potash as well as Little London are all accessible by beautiful and generally well maintained circular routes.

We now have only a very few awkward stiles, most have been replaced with kissing gates, and our water courses are mostly served with substantial and recently installed foot bridges.

To say that our Rights of Way network is extensive would almost be an understatement and it is relatively easy to follow your nose and see where your inquisitive nature leads you but please remember to follow the Country Code and stick to the clearly maintained paths. If you pass through a gate please make sure that it is closed once you leave it behind and, please, clear up after your dog; waste bags are generally to be found in a small white box attached to the railings close to the bus shelter on The Green, but you might also like to provide your own. The used bags may be disposed of at home or in any of the village waste bins.

A top tip, popular with many of your new neighbours, is the ancient path, known as Blakings Lane, that leads from The Crump towards Little London and Manuden. This is thought to be a remnant of a medieval pilgrimage route.

If you want to know more about our Rights of Way please ask a member of our council if you could see the definitive route map. However, a word of warning, this map is not currently very accurate as the route of some paths has recently been changed to some well trodden alternatives rather than previously recognised routes that for various reasons were not used regularly. This is also true of the current O.S. maps. It will take a bit of time for the cartographers to catch up! All the 'new' official, as yet un-mapped, routes are mostly clearly marked with new finger posts.

Don't worry, you will not get lost as you can see our church tower for miles and you can follow the clear footsteps of your new neighbours.

**Enjoy Berden, Enjoy Walking.**

## Fish

### Fresh Fish

**Clainy's Ltd.** calls into Berden on Monday afternoon & evenings, with a varied selection of fresh Grimsby fish.

Kevin Mclean	07852 672 375
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**Crystal Waters Fish.** sells fresh fish in Clavering Supermarket's car park every Thursday from 08.00 - 14.00.

Joe	07376 876 113
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### Fish & Chips

**Churchill's** on 17 Cambridge Road, Stansted, provides award-winning fish and chips and a range of other fast foods.

<a href="http://www.churchillsfishandchips.co.uk">www.churchillsfishandchips.co.uk</a>	01279 813 466
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## Household waste and recycling

Uttlesford District Council provide three bins.

<b>Green</b> lidded is used for clean recycling to consist of: Magazines, newspapers & paper, plastic bottles, tubs & trays, tins, cans, foil & foil trays, cardboard, glass bottles and jars.
<b>Black</b> lidded is used for general household waste but not food waste, electrical items, garden waste, textiles and shoes.
<b>Brown</b> caddy is used for food waste.

Anything in black bin bags goes straight to landfill, regardless of the contents, so please do not use them for recycling.

Visit <http://bins.uttlesford.gov.uk> for bin collection dates (green/black).

For an annual fee you can register for garden waste collection.

Visit [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/gardenwaste) for details & collection dates.

## Recycling centres for larger items & hazardous waste:

**Saffron Walden  
Recycling Centre**  
Thaxted Road,  
Saffron Walden, CB10 2JP

<https://www.loveessex.org/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre/saffron-walden-recycling-centre/>

Open 16 Oct to end of Feb  
09:00 - 16:00  
1 March to 15 October  
09:00 - 17:00

**Please note** - you now need to book an appointment to the Saffron Walden centre via the website link above. You can book your slot up to 2 weeks in advance.

**Bishop's Stortford  
Recycling Centre**  
Off Dunmow Road,  
Bishop's Stortford, CM23 5RG

Open Monday, Thursday, Friday,  
Saturday, and Sunday  
08:00 - 16:00

**Please note** - Essex residents will now need a digital permit to visit Hertfordshire recycling centres. This will only allow them to use the Bishops Stortford, Hoddesdon, Turnford and Ware sites. Register for an instant, free annual permit. Hertfordshire or Essex residents visiting sites in Essex must book a slot in advance.

## Local shop

The shop stocks a large range of products and is also a Post Office.

**M&M Supermarket  
Spar market**

Spar, Stortford Road, Clavering,  
Saffron Walden, CB11 4PE

**Telephone Number:**  
01799 550 216

**Opening Hours:**  
Mon - Sat  
07.00 - 20.00  
Sun  
10.00 - 16.00

**Post Office**

Spar, Stortford Road, Clavering,  
Saffron Walden, CB11 4PE

**Telephone Number:**  
01799 551 276

**Opening Hours:**  
Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri  
09:00 - 13.00 + 14.00 - 17.30  
Wed, Sat  
09:00 - 13.00  
Sun  
Closed

## Library

Essex County Council provide a mobile library service which stops every three weeks on Saturday at the Village Green for 30 minutes. The visit dates are shown on Essex County Council Libraries website.

## Milkman

There are two reliable delivery services in Berden.

**Milk and More** delivers daily, you can set up your account and manage your orders from their website:

**Mr Milk** delivers on Tuesdays and Fridays, the website is:

[www.mymrmilk.co.uk](http://www.mymrmilk.co.uk)

[www.milkandmore.co.uk](http://www.milkandmore.co.uk)

## Pubs & Takeaways

Although there is no longer a pub in Berden we are lucky that there are several fine pubs in our local villages offering delicious meals.

Albury	The Catherine Wheel	01279 771 191
Arkesden	Axe and Compasses	01799 550 272
Braughing	Brown Bear	01920 822 157
Braughing	The Golden Fleece	01920 823 555
Braughing	Axe and Compasses	01920 759 101
Brent Pelham	The Black Horse	01279 778 925
Clavering	The Cricketers	01799 550 442
Furneux Pelham	The Brewery Tap*	01279 777 604
Hazel End	The Three Horseshoes	01279 813 429
Manuden	The Yew Tree	01279 814 279
Rickling Green	The Cricketers Arms	01799 619 260

\*Furneux Stores is located on the patio at the back of the pub.  
Open Tue-Fri 10.00 - 15.00 and Sat 11.00 - 15.00.

More information available at <https://www.brewerytapfp.com/>

A variety of takeaway restaurants are available in Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and Newport.

## Transport

Public transport in Berden consists of school buses:

### 446 To Saffron Walden County High

Note: this service does not go into Saffron Walden town centre.  
Leaves Berden about 07:15, return from SWCH 15:30.

### 306 To Bishop's Stortford

Leaves Berden about 07:15, goes via Stortford secondary schools finishing at St Marys, Windhill. Return from St Marys 15:15/15:30.

Both routes are school days only and are usually very full.  
Routes go through the villages so journey times are over an hour.

## DaRT transport

Although this is "on demand" you need to register (which is free of charge) and then book your trip at least 2 hours in advance. Priority is given to those with hospital/doctor's appointments and those with a group booking rather than lone users. Pensioner bus passes can be used after 09:30. For more information:

<a href="mailto:info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk">info@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk</a>	01621 874 411
<a href="mailto:bookings@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk">bookings@essexandsuffolkdart.co.uk</a>	

## Veterinary surgeries

Medivet	Little Hadham	01279 771 144
Mercer & Hughes	Stansted	01279 813 780
Vets4Pets	Bishop's Stortford	01279 710 750
Reed	Reed, nr. Royston	01763 848 793
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden	01799 522 755

