

Great Bentley Parish News

**Produced by the Community
for the Community**



April 2021

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Alan Bayliss, 01206 250450.

EDITORIAL

I do hope that we are soon able to have a more normal routine and are able to meet up with family and friends. Everyone seems to be complaining that they are finding it so difficult to get motivated but hopefully we will have better weather ahead and a little more freedom to roam. The gardens are looking lovely but I suppose that is partly down to us having more time to tend them.

Sadly it is bad news on the village organised events front with both Carnival and Village Show cancelled for this year. Both the Suffolk and Tendring Shows have also been postponed until 2022. So we still have no diary on the inside back cover and I think we are all concerned that many Clubs and Organisations may not reopen in the future. HOWEVER we do have something to look forward to at the end of the month as Fiona Bodmer will be performing an organ recital at St Mary's church on 24th April. See full details on page 7.

Lockdown has certainly enabled many people to have spare time to write articles for the magazine which I am extremely grateful for. It ensures that hopefully we have something of interest for all of you and I would be so pleased if this could continue. We are, in my opinion, a close knit community that looks after its friends and neighbours and supports those who are having a tough time. Long may this continue.

I always look forward to seeing the primroses growing in abundance along Frating Abbey Farm Road, it is one of the joys of springtime. However, it is heartbreaking to see the horrendous amount of fly tipping that was here but thankfully much has recently been cleared. The erosion of the verges as more and more vehicles use this lane as a rat run, does not help the situation. Lynda our Tendring District Councillor updates us on a similar problem on the A120 and A133 which has an appalling litter problem. See page 14. The tip is open, our bins are emptied regularly, why does this happen? Thank you to everyone who does take a pride in our village and who pick up litter.

We are delighted to be given permission to print an article on Rose Allin, one of the Bentley martyrs who was burnt as the stake for her religious beliefs. This was written by Sarah Perry the renowned international author of several best selling novels including the number one best seller *The Essex Serpent*. The extract on Rose Allin is from Sarah's latest book *Essex Girls*. The memorial stone to our village martyrs, including Rose, is just inside the Cricket Club wall mounted on a red brick plinth.

I do hope this finds you well and hopefully enjoying warm sunshine. Optimism abounds.

Mary Maskell



2021

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Front Cover

St Mary's Church at Sunset
by
Lawrence Robinson

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THE MONTHLY LETTERS - APRIL

It is great to know that things are improving and it is also great to see the children back at school. These are signs that we are slowly but surely getting back to a new kind of normal.

Another sign of normality that I am pleased to share with you is that on 4th April at 9.15am we will be restarting our Church Services and being Easter Day there is all the more reason to celebrate.

We will of course all need to wear a face mask, sanitise our hands and follow social distancing rules but on such an important day in the Church Year I am thrilled that we have the opportunity to worship together.

Do take care of yourselves and please do keep to the rules so that nothing stops the plans for easing restrictions.

Every Blessing
Sharon

Baggage

I have mentioned before my dad has undertaken long walks – walks that have taken him to Shropshire to Iona, and from Paris to Bobbio in Northern Italy. He's also undertaken long bike rides, including from Basel to Hamburg via Worms and Wittenberg.

One of the things I know he learned in his earliest days of preparing for long expeditions was the vital importance of packing. When you go walking for a day or two you can afford to pack a few items that you may end up not needing but which are nice to have with you just in case. The same is, of course, true when you aren't actually walking but taking a car or plane – I think I have frequently returned from holiday with items I never actually wore, and I've a feeling that may possibly have been the case when I returned from living in the USA for a year! However, when you are walking for weeks on end with a rucksack on your back or cycling long journeys with paniers front and rear, then every item matters, every ounce counts – and when cycling you have the additional matter of balance, with the need to spread the weight relatively evenly both between front and back and between left and right.

The process of preparing for a long walk forces you to assess carefully what you actually need to take with you, and to make decisions based on that analysis. For example – a bag of rice or pasta will provide you with plenty of sustenance for relatively little cost, but it weighs 500g, while buying small portions along the way may be more expensive, but a debit card and some banknotes weigh a lot less. Likewise, big solid walking boots may be ideal for rough ground but they can weigh quite a bit, while trainers are much lighter and more comfortable but won't keep you dry, so which do you take, or do you go for something in between and lose a little comfort and gain a little support while hoping you don't find yourself having to traverse deep peat bogs after a major storm?

We are currently in Lent. Frequently we think of Lent as a journey – indeed, our Circuit Lent Course this year is using the book "A Way Through the Wilderness" which plays into this concept of this season as one in which we travel from Ash Wednesday to the Easter weekend. However, another way of thinking about Lent is to consider it an annual review period in which we ask ourselves what we truly need to take with us, and what it is we can let go of and leave behind as we enter the new life that is offered beyond Easter. That's why we can both give and take up things in Lent – for not only may there be items we can leave behind, but there may also be things we now need to take with us.

The journey we are on is not just a few weeks long. Rather, the journey we are on lasts a lifetime. Let us therefore use Lent as an opportunity to re-organise the luggage we are carrying, to identify those items we need to leave behind and those which are vital for life, and so re-pack our bags or our paniers for the joyous new path that God offers us beyond the mystery of the cross and the tomb.

Reflection:

Are there practices or habits you'd like to lay aside? Try doing without for just one day, then for another, and then another. Are there practices or habits you think would help you? Try them for just one day, then another, and then another. Reflect on whether this has helped. What will you continue doing, what will you stop doing?

Prayer:

God of life, help us by your Spirit to use this Lent as a time of pausing and resting, of examination and re-organisation, that in the glory of Easter we may travel onwards with you. Amen.

Thomas J Osborne, February 2021



**GREAT BENTLEY
METHODIST
CHURCH NEWS**

Greetings to you all

We welcome you to worship at Church or on Zoom with us during April. We continue to pray for relief from the Virus. When we start meeting again in Church those wishing to can still share with us on Zoom to see and hear the service in Church and socialise afterwards. If you would like to join by Zoom, please ring 01206 250087 for the connection link.

We are carefully watching to see how the easing of the lockdown works and may be able to worship in Church in April so look out for announcements about when this happens.

Morning worship will be held at **10.30am** unless otherwise stated.

The leaders of worship are set out below: -

- April 4th Rev Tom Osborne
 Holy Communion
 Easter Day**
- April 11th Maggie Woods**
- April 18th Deacon Janet Jenkins**
- April 25th Church Leadership**

All other activities suspended until further notice.

Thank you to those people who are continuing to give to the food bank and Hope @ Trinity (our work in Clacton for the homeless). All your gifts are really appreciated.

FOOD BANK

The container for the food bank is at the back of the Church.

Food required

please:

Tinned vegetables

Tinned potatoes

Tinned tomatoes

Rice (not pasta)

Tinned fruit

Tinned custard and rice.

Biscuits, cereals

Coffee, sugar

All toiletries

Washing liquid/ powder/ washing up liquid etc



Toilet rolls

Kitchen rolls

Dog and cat food

EASTER LILIES



If you would like to donate a lily in memory of a loved one in St Mary's Church at Easter please contact

Rita Baverstock
Stonybroke, Station Road
Tel: 01206 251271

Price £2 each or a donation

Friends of The Green - Litter Picking Group

Since lockdown we haven't been meeting as a group for obvious reasons but this doesn't mean we haven't been active and litter picking has continued every month and also at other times with individual residents carrying out their own tidy-ups. As well as within Great Bentley and Aingers Green the group also picks up litter on Heckford Road, Plough Road, Weeley Road and Thorington Road, the worst of these being Heckford Road. The three people who look after the Heckford stretch (Len, Colin and Max) regularly collect several sacks of rubbish every month and the last time they were out they amassed seven, yes seven full black sacks of litter! Crikey, those fellas work hard.

It's great that other people from the village are also regularly going out to pick up rubbish when out for their walks around the village and the surrounding roads. It all makes such a difference to how Great Bentley and Aingers Green look. Well done y'all and I'm sure everyone who cherishes litter-free countryside would like to say "thank you".

It is appreciated as anyone who does litter pick will know from the "thanks" or "good job" comments offered from others along the way.



Ken Drew

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday Bev!

Wishing you a wonderful 60th birthday
on 4th April.

We love you very much.
Enjoy your special day.

Lots of love Mum, Dad, Roger, Ben, Dani,
Jo, Jon, William and Thomas xxx



Free to good home.

Large dog kennel. Roof needs re -felting.

Also large dog cage.

Please phone 01206 255256



FREE

Two Filing Cabinets
Available separately

Grey. 52" tall by 18" wide by 24" deep

Phone 01206 250836

SNOW CLEARING APOLOGIES

Apologies for the omission from the March magazine of two very important helpers who kept our roads and tracks clear of snow. David and Ali Black were regularly clearing with their snow ploughs as the snow drifted, to keep access to the village as clear as possible. Thank you.

MICHAEL PARKER

Michael Parker passed away at Colchester Hospital on 18th February, aged 88. Michael will be sadly missed by his daughter Julie and his friends.

Funeral service will take place at Weeley Crematorium on Wednesday 14th April at 1.15pm. Due to current restrictions numbers are limited.

Anyone wishing to attend please contact Julie on 07963 064815.

NEW ADVERTISER

C.J. ELLINGHAM
LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ARTIST &
ILLUSTRATOR

Being a pensioner 'local' and having re-discovered an artistic gift, I'm starting up a small business of creating watercolour paintings for houses, landscapes and heritage buildings etc. See ad on page 36.

Have you ever wondered??

Have you ever wondered what thought processes were behind someone's picture, or how it actually came about? I mean a totally out of the blue, un-planned "oh look at that" type image.

My image "Do you give in yet" came about while on holiday. I was walking along the footpath behind the shore between Boulmer and Alnmouth in Northumberland looking for birds and wild flowers etc. when I noticed a small beetle in the grass beside the path, and while on hands and knees trying to get a shot of it I looked up and saw against the sky what looked like a plant about to attack another! (No I hadn't been drinking!). A couple of shots later I continued on my way. I could not find that beetle again anywhere!

Anyway, when reviewing my shots at home, I thought "that's a bit different" so after the usual "tidying up" I entered it into a couple of club competitions and it scored fairly well (8.5 and 9 out of 10) Titled "**I'm coming to get you!**"

But I thought it still needed something else, but what?.....

Stage two.

How about making two of them about to have a fight?.

O/K, try that, So, copy a section, flip horizontally then reposition and paste?

Getting there, but still not quite right....

Really needs something else.

But what?.....

Stage three.

(Getting a bit more complicated now). Original image, extend canvas to make more space on the left and clone background to cover, select, copy and flip horizontal, as stage two and re-position. Now what? Just been in a fight! So knock off its ears (?) And re-position one (with blood), break its neck, add a bleeding nose and lip, and...., run out of ideas now....

And that's how "**Do you give in yet**" came about!

(And the 3 judges liked it!) (20-10-9).

No accounting for people's imagination is there??

J. Merison.

THE PLOUGH INN

Thursday 5-8pm
Friday 5-8.30pm
Saturday 5-8.30pm
Sunday 12-6pm

Takeaways available

Easter menu available for Takeaways

Garden open for food and drink from
12th April from 12 noon - 10pm
Reduced menu available

Call 01206 250563 to book a table
in our Covered/Heated patio

THE FUSILIER

TAKEAWAYS AVAILABLE

LOST

Locking wheel bolt socket, lost in region of
Sturrick Lane and Weeley Road.

If found, please contact 07704 310943

WELCOME

Welcome to new residents at
Plot 4 and the new houses in
St Mary's Road
and Lloyd and Louise and
Mrs Gregory and Beverley and Arthur
Gull to Gable Farm Close
Aingers Green.



The Lesson

'Oh bother!' cried the vicar
And the vergers gave a frown.
'What in heaven's name has happened?'
'Why, - the Holy Water's brown!
With a christening in the offing
This very afternoon,
We have to fix this problem -
And we have to fix it soon!'

They gazed into the water
their hearts filled full of doom;
The reflection - in defiance,
Threw back its' murky gloom.

But what had caused the problem
Became as clear as day,
As the midday sun threw down its heat
Upon the font at bay.
The warmth drew forth an essence
Familiar to us all -
The smell of warming chocolate
Rose up - a deep, rich pall.

Neither vicar nor the vergers
Threw down a gauntlet-bare,
To challenge one another
As to how the choc got there.
Each thought the other kindly
As they washed away the sin
Of hiding bars of chocolate
And of hiding it from Him!

J.M.

BENTLEY IN BLOOM

**Last chance to place your order
is 5th April**

We are offering our village hanging baskets planted
up by Deans and delivered to your door for the all in
price of £35.00. They are self watering baskets all
you need to do is keep the reservoir topped up. The
baskets remain the property of Bentley in Bloom and
will be collected at the end of the year!

It would be nice if the baskets can be seen by the
public, and if you have access to the brackets
already on some telegraph poles that's fine!

To take advantage of this generous offer call me on
250799.

Michael Dorling





NATURE NOTES

March already half through has been a mixed, stop-go month with wind and rain, sunny spells and still the odd threat of night frost. As an increasingly reluctant gardener these conditions make excuses for inertia not hard to find. Soon before long it will have turned too dry and warm for the heavier work. Covid regulations have changed how we conduct ourselves yet self-discipline is required to really make best use of the time freed of set commitments. While writing from a human perspective the above vagaries of weather and disinclination might just apply to some of our common birds hoping for a settled period with the arrival of the breeding season. The biological imperative or clock with earlier daylight must be what gets them up in the morning with a sense of clear purpose. Feeling lazy or disinclined does not have a place in the natural world where the early bird finds the worm!

Recently walking near St Mary's Farm, Great Bentley a pair of mallard sat on the roadside verge unmoved by my passing, I could almost touch them. Normally wary, this seasonal disinhibition seems to arise when focussed on their nuptial bond - like lovesick teenagers. A nearby cock pheasant struggled to walk in the teeth of the wind with long tail normally held with such male pride, blown unceremoniously over its head. Peacocks more sensibly would not venture out in such wind. Shortly after, driving over to Ardleigh roadside, rookeries were alive with activity in two or three places. As well as being draughty for trying to incubate eggs as yet, there are leafless trees and sharp showers – even some hail. The compulsion to stay calm and carry on must be very strong in the rook world. But there are concerns rooks are in decline and the Essex Birdwatching Society is currently requesting a count of rook nests.

House sparrows and starlings, similarly taken for granted by many, have a patchy distribution that puzzles me. Both now mainly live on the fringes of human settlement but need areas of cover. Visiting Bentley Green early in the morning particularly, it is instructive to hear where the sparrows are chirping together, presumably from their overnight roosts. Even small, dense patches of native shrubs including bramble of a reasonable height stand out as the go-to places we should retain for these perky characters. Starlings used to nest in tree holes but now chiefly prefer roof eaves. However the conditions they like seem to be less frequent. There is paradox that as our countryside is ever more trimmed and over-tidy as we become more suburban, yet we have high levels of roadside litter – that has not reduced during lockdown times.

DRB

National pipe organ day 2021

The 24th April is National pipe organ day, a day to celebrate the pipe organ in all its different forms. We are fortunate to have a working organ in our church and I hope you will join me in the celebration. Have you ever wondered how they work, do you enjoy listening to organ music in church, would you like to have a go?

I will be playing a recital at 11am in Great Bentley church and another in St Osyth church at 2pm. I will be grateful for donations towards the upkeep of the organs and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions. Do join me! Fiona

DEADLINE FOR MAY MAGAZINE

WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL

Material to Mary Maskell, Caldew Cottage, The Green, 250524 **AND**
Carole Allington, Poplar House, Station Road, 251086.

Please mark all material - "Parish Magazine"

email: carole@pncallington.co.uk **AND** marymaskell@sys3internet.net

IMPORTANT - PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION TO BOTH OF US

Great Bentley Website: www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Wildlives

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre

'Catkins', Frating Road, Thorington, Colchester CO7 8HT

www.wildlives.org.uk

Opening hours: n/a 07802 767016

Outside of Wildlives' hours, please call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 or log on to our website for advice on what to do with a sick animal until we are open again in the morning. **See the web site for extra pictures too!**

April 2021

This sparrowhawk was brought in by the RSPCA after being found collapsed near Dunmow. She had a broken wing, so was taken to see Ben at Colne Valley Vets, who put a pin in the broken wing (see right). However despite weeks of care and our best efforts, she sadly died.

This little bunny was found by two gentleman by the side of a busy road. He had sustained extensive injuries to his throat and neck. With intensive care and anti-inflammatory pain medication he is showing gradual improvement.

Hedgehogs are now waking up hungry from their hibernation and would appreciate a dish of cat or dog food. Be particularly careful when gardening as sleeping hogs can be hard to spot. If you disturb one curled into a tight ball with erect spines put him in a cat carrier or box with some water and cat/dog food, then release him in an overgrown area after dark. If the spines are flat or he is not curled tightly call for advice. Please sign the petition to protect hedgehog nests by law at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/550379>, as they are now seriously endangered and need help desperately.

The blackheaded gull featured in last month's newsletter proved to have more serious eye damage than was originally thought; it was feared he had lost the sight in that eye. However when he went into the rehabilitation flight pen he was behaving and flying normally, so he was released onto the lake island at Wildlives, where he immediately joined the gull flock who come for their lunch..

My time working in Saville Row in the 60's

How lucky we are to live in a village with such community spirit and I love how my walks round the green end up being longer than expected, always bumping into at least one or two people for a lovely chat. But there must be so much we don't know about each other that might be interesting to others so I thought I'd take the plunge and tell you something about my life before I came to live in Great Bentley.

I grew up in London during the 1960s. Mini skirts, mods, Motown, The Marquee, Mary Quant, Carnaby Street, Hardy Amies ... Where does that fit in? Well, Hardy Amies in Saville Row is where I worked from when I left school until I moved to Great Bentley when Ken and I were married.

I lived in Tottenham just a few minutes walk from the Spurs football ground and, like a lot of us back then, decided to leave school when I was fifteen.

We had a very happy family life (Mum, Dad, brother and twin sister) and we actually didn't have a television until I was sixteen! We never once felt we were missing out on anything and I think it was really beneficial as we played board games as a family, enjoyed hobbies such as woodwork, model making, knitting, needlework etc. and we all listened to radio plays and programmes.

I was probably about nine years old when I first got interested in needlework and started to make my own dresses and suchlike. Kitty, a friend of my Mum said that I seemed to have an ability and enthusiasm for neat needlework and, as I got nearer to school-leaving age, she suggested that I might enjoy working in the fashion world and what about one of the big names in London? I was pretty keen on the idea and Kitty very kindly contacted Hardy Amies and told them about me, which resulted in an interview with Rosemary, Mr Amies' sister and personnel manager.

So at fourteen years of age I went with Mum (some of you will remember Marjorie Sheldrake) for my interview at the world famous fashion house at 14 Savile Row, London. I can't remember how I felt but was probably full of nerves, and fashion houses all seemed to be crammed full of people over six feet tall. I'm only 4'10". And a half! (that "half" is very important to me!)

The interview went well and I was given a position as Trainee Gown Hand at the enormous wage of £4. 5s per week, the first step toward becoming a couture dressmaker. So, a few months later after leaving school (yippee!) I found myself travelling on the tube from Turnpike Lane to Piccadilly Circus every day to work in the very demanding world of Hardy Amies, dressmaker to well-heeled, well connected society people and even royalty.

They were great times, learning a fascinating trade in the workroom alongside some of the best dressmakers in the world. The lady who taught me during my traineeship was Ruby, a lovely person who was both profoundly deaf and such good fun to be with! There was such a contrast between us girls in the work rooms and Mr Amies and the designers etc. "above stairs" as it was and, although Mr Amies occasionally said a brief "hello", we very much knew our place. As trainee, one of my jobs was to help dress the models for fashion shows and "invitation only" events which was a bit of a challenge for me as they were all so tall. When any particular dress was allocated to us we made it from start to finish and as well as the many dresses and gowns I was responsible for making during my years there. The ones I feel most affection for are the three I made for HM the Queen. I'm glad my Mum kept a few press cuttings of these as it's nice to sometimes look back.

It was not unusual (but always a bit exciting of course) to see famous people of the time walking down Savile Row and just a few I can remember are Danny La Rue, George Harrison, Kenneth Williams, Elton John and Bruce Welch.

I shall also never forget a world famous event which I witnessed as I exited the building one lunchtime. From inside the building we could hear loud music and as I came onto the street there was a commotion going on, some police milling around and a lot of *really* loud music. It was the Beatles playing Get Back during their famous final concert on the roof of the Apple building just down the road at number 3. What a lucky thing to have been there at that particular time and I will always treasure the years spent working at Hardy Amies in the heart of the bustling and exciting world that is London.



Jill Drew

Open your garden for St Helena Hospice

If you've been making use of your green-fingers over the last year, why not show off your garden in support of your local hospice?

St Helena Hospice is looking for people to share the fruits of their labour and open their gardens this year to raise funds to help local people facing dying, death and bereavement in north Essex.

It's free and easy to get involved:

- Pick your own day and time
- Open your garden for a donation on the gate
- Invite just your family, friends or neighbours, or open up to your whole community
- Add special fundraising extras - cakes, plants, crafts...

Joanne Clarke, fundraiser at St Helena Hospice, said: "Whether you have grand grounds or pocket gardens; beautiful borders or stunning tubs, we'd love you to open your garden for St Helena Hospice.

"All the money raised from Open Gardens will go towards providing vital care and support to patients and families, and giving them hope that they can be cared for with compassion and dignity, where they want to be, whether that's at home, or at The Hospice.

"If you're worried about Covid-19, we are here to help and support you with your event. With open gardens being outdoor events, these should be able to go ahead from May, as long as you adhere to the guidelines; or you could wait until later in the summer, and hopefully hold your event restriction free!"

To find out more about opening your garden for St Helena Hospice, please visit sthelena.org.uk/opengardens or contact the hospice's fundraising team on 01206 931 468 or email fundraising@sthelena.org.uk

St Helena Hospice's Open Gardens is kindly sponsored by Stowe Family Law.

Hello All,

Unfortunately, it was necessary to cancel the previous Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Association AGM via Zoom, dated 25th February. This meeting was cancelled due to lack of interest, however a rescheduled AGM 11th March was more successful. I would like to thank everyone who attended. Committee members were elected, and remain the same as last year.



The committee, along with Trustees and beneficiaries present, then discussed the current pandemic restrictions and the impact moving forward for the Carnival and Fete.

Unfortunately we had to make the difficult, but sensible, decision to cancel Great Bentley Carnival and Fete 2021.

For any youth organisations, based in Great Bentley area who would like to become a beneficiary for 2022 please drop me an email expressing your interest with a brief outline of your organisation, including locality you cover. We are hoping to be able to hold this year's AGM as normal in the village hall during October. Date to be confirmed and will be advertised in Parish Newsletter and Great Bentley Spotted Facebook page.

Please contact Julie 07585558660 or julestheedom@hotmail.co.uk, if you would like further information. Keep well and safe.

Julie Wall
Great Bentley Carnival and Fete Association Chairperson



NEWS FROM THE OAKS

Hello everyone from all of us here at The Oaks

We can't wait to tell you what we've been up to but we must tell you something that we would like you to be a part of. Someone local was giving away a free little rowing boat. Don't get too excited we're not going to be starting a rowing group haha.

We are wanting to make it into a lovely flower bed but not only a flower bed but something more personal to everyone. This is where we would like you to be a part of and that is for a plant to be given for the boat and for each plant to have an inspirational quote next to it. We hope you like this idea as much as we do and hope it will bring smiles to you all.

Should you wish to provide a plant for our beautiful idea either leave this in the front porch with a little note or please contact us we would love to hear from you and we would be so very happy to see how many of you will be a part of it.

On to other news we're on the 'wishing washingline' ... (that's a tongue twister isn't it!) it's in Highwoods Tesco. This is for anyone who wishes to donate an Easter egg to the residents here or other care homes within the area. What a lovely idea!

Oh yes, do you remember we entered a cake competition, well we came 2nd! This is amazing news and we're all ever so proud.

We've celebrated St David's day with homemade leek and potato soup, made beautiful Daffodil flower arrangements and enjoyed a fun quiz.

We've relaxed with lovely scented wax melts with a hand massage and manicures and enjoyed a lovely treat basket full of treats, they went down very well especially the biscuits. We were also gifted a beautiful set of clay hearts with 'we'll meet again...' on them. This was kindly gifted by a lady who made it especially for us and it truly means so much to us all.

We had strawberry day and what better way of enjoy this than eating delicious cakes, cookies and of course strawberries. This was also provided as a very thoughtful gift. We truly feel very loved and very grateful for everyone's kindness it really means so much and let's us know that there can still be smiles during these times.

We can't forget about the staff, they received a gift too! A gift box from the NHS to say thank you. What a lovely thing for them to do, it had everything to make a lovely cuppa even a little cup!

We can't forget that we've enjoyed the singing and dancing that we always do... we will try and keep the noise down for the neighbours but if you can hear us join in! It's lots of fun.

We want to finish off by letting you know that our activities lady passed her 'move it or lose it' course. This is a fitness course she says it's specially for us and that we will all have summer legs in no time! Well done! This is going to bring so much to all of us here. Well the sun is currently shining and we're all just about to have a cuppa and biscuit and listen to the good old music.

We can't wait to tell you more exciting things next month but until then we're sending lots of love and smiles to you all

Love from all at The Oaks x

COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT IN ENGLAND

Since 8th December about 21 million people have received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine in England. This covers about 38% of the population over the age of 16 according to NHS England figures.

However the best available population date is estimated by the Office of National Statistics and the NHS, so the true number is less clear.

Of England's 314 local authorities, NHS data suggests **Tendring** in Essex vaccinated the highest percentage of its estimated population, as of 28th February, at 51%.

Tower Hamlets in London vaccinated the lowest at 14%

PET NOTES

Easter is upon us which means there will be lots and lots of chocolate in our homes. As the owner of the world's most idiotic cat (see Figure 1), I should point out that chocolate is toxic to both dogs and cats. (Most articles only focus on dogs as very few cats are silly enough to eat it.)

Q. Chocolate is delicious, why shouldn't I let my cat or dog enjoy it?

A. Chocolate contains a substance called theobromine, which is toxic to pets. Theobromine can damage the nervous system, guts, kidneys and heart.

Q. Is all chocolate equally dangerous?

A. No, the darker the chocolate the bigger the risk. Therefore, a dog who has eaten dark chocolate is at greater risk of toxicity than one who has eaten white or milk.

Q. How can I tell if my cat or dog has eaten chocolate?

A. Normally owners bring their pet to me when they've either caught them in the act or found the empty chocolate wrappers/box. If it isn't this obvious, your pet may have the following symptoms: diarrhoea, vomiting, drinking and urinating more than usual, restlessness, abdominal pain. Their breath may also smell of chocolate. If it goes unnoticed for too long they may also develop panting, a rapid heart rate, fever, shaking, seizures and, sadly, death.

Q. What should I do if I suspect my cat or dog has eaten chocolate?

A. Seek veterinary assistance immediately as the faster they act, the better the prognosis. If ingestion took place recently, there is a good chance they will give an injection to make your pet vomit. If ingestion was too long ago or your pet is showing symptoms, they may require additional treatment including a hospital stay for intravenous fluids, aka "a drip".

Wishing you all a happy Easter.

Dr April Young MRCVS



Great Bentley Wine Tasting Group

For further details please contact Colin on 01206 252157 or e mail zindhum@hotmail.com

The wine tasting group established in August 2012 continues to hold enjoyable and informative evenings. For details please contact the above. Free advice available too, so please do contact me.

Fancy being part of an on-line wine tasting from the safety of your home then please do get in touch? Two clicks and you are in. It's free and great fun!

The rewards of patience

Have you ever tried to cook a casserole quickly on a high heat? Ever cooked a casserole for a longer time on a very low heat? The results are obvious, patience is needed.

So when it comes to wine, the same is true if you want to drink wine at its peak of perfection.

You can go out and buy wine for immediate gratification and you might enjoy it too. However, those in the know are aware that if you are a little more patient from the point of purchase to gratification, the rewards can be outstanding. What I am talking about here is spending a little more on wine, buying more than you need and so tucking a few bottles away for future enjoyment. To do this you need to buy more wine than you can reasonably drink and keep topping up with new wines.

To benefit from the full pleasure of a wine it's like cooking, being down to the quality of the raw ingredients used. You really can't expect a £5 bottle of wine (most of which is tax duty and shipment by the way) to provide a longer term tucking away prospect. So here is the secret, be bold! Research a little and track down your local wine merchant rather than a supermarket. With a wine merchant you will build a relationship and they will take all the nervousness about choosing wine for future drinking away from you. They will ask your budget, what you normally like and recommend alternatives that you may prefer that you have not tried before (you don't eat the same dinner every night, so why drink the same wine every time). They are also there to advise you which are the best wines to buy for drinking now, next year and in the future. They will also explain the benefits of buying and storing wines for future drinking. Basically if you always buy wines for immediate drinking you are missing out and BIG TIME! A quality wine purchased, stored and drunk on a future date will provide you with an amazing taste sensation and believe me, you will be staggered when the wine tastes so much more complex and interesting. You don't need to keep wines for years and years before drinking, your wine merchant will advise you which wines are for now, for later or for much later.

'Go on spend a little more', tuck a few bottles away and enjoy more about what wine has to offer. If you only ever buy wines for drinking now, you are only tasting a fraction of what wine really has to offer.

NATIONAL PIPE ORGAN DAY 2021

Saturday 24th April

Recital

Donations requested for the upkeep
of the organ.

11am in St Mary's Church, Gt Bentley

2pm in St Osyth Church

My recommended wines this month:

**Ventoux, Paul Jaboulet Aine 2019,
Rhône, France. The Wine Society £8.99**

Wonderful wine bursting with fruit and terrific personality. All red wine drinkers will love this.

**Penfolds Max Shiraz 2019, Australia,
Waitrose £17-£19**

Rich, ripe and intense. Brilliant now, but with potential to improve over many years when it will expand its flavours and become more velvety and perfumed.



A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

AN AMBITIOUS FREEPORT BID (FREEPORT EAST) FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL

The bid's success was announced during the Chancellors recent Budget Speech.

Freeport East is a partnership made up of business and local government, which was also backed by both the New Anglia and South East Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Freeport status being granted to the area estimates 13,500 new jobs could be created in the area, while over the next five years Freeport East would attract more than £500million of investment – while providing a £650m boost to the UK economy.

Freeport East can deliver on the nation's strategic aims with growing global trade, being a hub for Innovation etc., and driving economic growth and opportunity.

NEW BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICE TO LAUNCH ACROSS TENDRING

A specialist business support service is to be launched to help firms in Tendring succeed.

Colbea has been appointed by Tendring District Council (TDC) to run the fully-funded service over the next three years.

Services will be available to new and established businesses, which will include information, advice and guidance, sector-specific support in growth industries. Help on topics such as cash flow, marketing and networking will also be available. More details on how to access the support, will be made public soon.

A120 – A 133 ROADSIDE RUBBISH

I have been receiving several reports and concerns regarding the amount of litter rubbish etc., that has been deposited along the A120 and the A133.

The Chief Executive of TDC took on the responsibility to ensure a team would go out to clear the rubbish and fly tipping.

It would appear from reports there has been a problem with the Waste Transfer Station due to the covers on their vehicles not fitting correctly, this matter has been taken up with the company. Rubbish is also thrown from vehicles and then there is the fly tipping!!!

The A120 and A133 are cleared on a quarterly basis. But due to the excessive amount of rubbish an extra clearance has been taking place. This does of course add extra costs on to the District Council.



VOTING 6TH MAY 2021

Residents are being asked to consider voting options ahead of the May elections. Polling stations will be open and operating on a Covid-secure way, with voters asked to wear a mask and bring their own pen or pencil to mark their X on the ballot papers. Pencils will still be provided and thoroughly cleaned between each use.

Alternatively, voters can apply for a postal vote – where their ballot papers are delivered using Royal Mail – or a proxy vote, where you choose somebody to vote on your behalf. Registering to vote, or for a postal or proxy vote, can be done at <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/council/elections-voting/2021Polls>. The deadline to register to vote is 19 April, postal vote applications must be made by 20 April, proxy votes by 27 April.

Many thanks
Lynda

Cllr. Lynda McWilliams
Tendring District Council
Ward Councillor to the Parishes of Great Bentley, Little Bentley and Frating
and the Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Partnerships.
Tel. No. 01206 250732 Mobile 07564 613603
email: lynda@boblyn.co.uk or lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk

SOME MEMORIES OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IN GREAT BENTLEY



We moved from Rambler Cottage to Colchester Road in 1951. It was a three bedroomed semi detached council house with a long garden. So spacious after Rambler but oh so dark. Everywhere was painted in dark green or brown. In the through lounge/diner hanging from the ceiling was a big hook. This was where the paraffin lamp was hung before electricity arrived in the village. On one wall was a blackened range which needed a fire to be lit underneath. It was the only way to heat the room and cook on.

Between the lounge and the kitchen was a walk in pantry one side and opposite the glory hole with a curtain across (the cupboard under the stairs). The kitchen was fitted out with a full length bath with a lid on top. This was a work surface with three white pails on it. To the right of this was a deep Butler sink but NO TAPS. Over this was a large window which looked out on to our neighbours. Next to the sink was a built in copper which required a fire underneath to heat water for washing and baths. The back door was just to the foot of the bath. This led through to a short passage to the coal shed one side and the toilet the other. The access to both was outside. The toilet was a bucket and chuck it affair.

As you went in the front door there were the stairs and to the right of this was a small room. Upstairs was a lovely big bedroom that went front to back with a fireplace in it. There was a small room to the back and a larger room to the front. This also had a fireplace in it.

Mum and Dad got permission to decorate the house. This they did from top to bottom. There wasn't much choice of paint colours but the lounge/diner had cream paint and mum papered the walls. Mum and Dad's room was cream, Roz blue and mine pink. Permission was also given for the range to come out and be replaced by a tiled open fireplace.

Back to the three white pails in the kitchen. These were used to fetch the water from the pump that was between No. 4 and No. 5. Each morning Dad pumped the water from the well before he went to work at the shop. On Mondays (wash day) he filled the copper first and lit a fire underneath so Mum had hot water. This was also done on a Saturday night, bath night.

The washing was all done by hand in the big sink with a wash board. Eventually to ease Mum's load Dad bought her a one tub washing machine with a mangle. Dad wore white coats in the shop and Mum found it very hard work to get them clean. Drying the washing wasn't a problem as we had a lovely long linen line.

When the range came out we had an electric cooker installed in the kitchen. Roz and I were very happy in 6 Colchester Road and had lots of friends. Many of those lived nearby in the houses opposite and some in our row. Those opposite were living in luxury compared to us. They had a bathroom, hot and cold running water and an indoor toilet. However this didn't alter the fun and friendship we had during the years in that house.

Just under a year after we moved into 6 Colchester Road on the 6th February 1952 King George 6th died. I have some memories of the preparation and celebrations that took place in 1953 for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. These I hope to write about next month.

Barbara Fookes

Wedding in Conwy, World Cup Day.

I remember where I was on World Cup day. I was in the pub waiting for the arrival of my now wife Mirain. My best man had arrived from Derbyshire wearing his Loughborough College blazer, a garment which plunged my mother into tears of despair, that her son's best man would not be wearing a suit for the wedding. He changed into my second suit which sounds fine except he was over six feet tall and I several inches shorter than that. My parents' house was a small council property and being somewhat in the way, my three sisters threw us out so six of us went to the pub. When my bossy siblings planned our wedding, the World Cup was never mentioned, they just moaned about my football teammates travelling up from London hogging all the guest placings. Of course, when the World Cup finalists were known and the clash was revealed, only one teammate made the journey, the rest went to Wembley. My sisters and Mirain's parents frantically invited long lost aunts to fill all the vacant seats at the reception, all gleefully turning up wearing fox fur stoles smelling of moth balls and hats only worn annually at the eisteddfod in Llangollen. I didn't know any of them but their presence vastly improved the singing.

The moment came when we had to leave the pub and go across the road to the Tabernacle Chapel for the ceremony. The boys smuggled radios into the chapel.... "Will you take this woman to be.....?" asked the minister, ignoring the whispered interruption coming from the front pew behind us. "Pssst, Hursty's just scored!" I managed to say "I do" rather than "Yes, nice one!"

Mirain and I enjoyed the day, stayed sober because we were leaving that night for Scotland, driving to Chester for our wedding night. While we readied ourselves for the journey, my best man had promised to load our luggage into the boot of the car. On arrival at the hotel in Chester, I opened the lid to find the boot was empty. To retrieve the luggage, the return journey to Conwy took four hours.



John Evans

TIMES DURING THE WAR

When I hear of today's young people complaining about how hard done by they are with the Covid19 restrictions it takes me back to my youth – way back to the start of World War II. I was aged 4 at the outbreak of war, living in North London with my parents and older sister (aged 10). Dad installed the Anderson shelter in our tiny back garden, heaping it with earth and cementing the inside, putting in bunks made of the back seats of cars, boxes packed with spare clothing, tinned food, tools, a few toys, cutlery, bedding – anything that we might need if our house was bombed. The heating was provided by a paraffin stove, hurricane lamps for lighting, spare containers for water etc.

Evacuation arrived and, clutching a small suitcase each and our boxed gas masks we were walked from house to house by a man with a clipboard who designated which of us would be billeted in each residence. Mum and I were allotted to a lovely ivy-covered house owned by a Dr. Henshaw, but there was not room for my sister. She and our cousin Gwen who was luckily in our group were put in another house in Northampton belonging to a devout Catholic Irish lady. Mum and I had to share a room with another lady and her young son. Dr. Henshaw, his maid Cissy and a nurse called Maggie were kind to us, however, my sister and cousin Gwen were not so lucky. The Irish lady cut off their beautiful hair into ugly short bobs and they had to spend each Sunday reading the bible. Dad stayed in London having been taken from his job as an Ambulance driver/attendant and put to work on the railways as a Boilermaker.

We all missed home and Dad dreadfully. Eventually Dad found a place in Maidenhead where me, Mum and my sister could all be together. This was not good and the people we were billeted with treated us with disdain. Mum had to do all the housework, she was allowed one hour each day to use the kitchen (only two saucepans allowed) to cook food for us. During the winter we were graciously allowed to sit in the sitting room which had an open fire, on a row of chairs against the far wall and not speak. These people received money from the Government to have us there. How unhappy we were. Dad came to see us and we all decided we would rather return to London and take our chances. This we did – sleeping in the Anderson shelter each night. Then came the Blitz.

All had been quiet for a few days and nights, no air-raid sirens. Dad felt we could take a chance and sleep in our beds (fully clothed). We were bombed that night; I remember seeing the sky lit up bright orange and red as London burned. My mother stood by the window, rooted to the spot with fear. Dad carried me to the shelter, my sister and the dog ran with us, Dad returned to the house, picked Mum up in a fireman's lift and carried her to the shelter – she was rigid with fear.

Although our road was bombed badly, about twenty houses reduced to rubble, we survived. Many didn't.

We suffered real terror and hardship. Today's youngsters have no conception of the fear and suffering we and the rest of London endured. Covid19 restrictions are *nothing* compared to the deprivations, shortages of food, clothing – everything, and yet we and everyone else made the best of things and obeyed the rules and restrictions with little complaint.

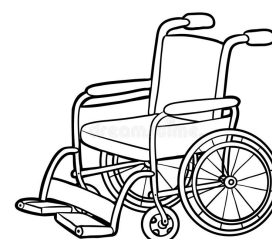


E.H.

A Request from Great Bentley Good Neighbours

One of the well-used services provided by the Good Neighbours group in our village is the lending out of a range of mobility/medical aids. For many years we have relied on the use of empty garages offered by generous residents, in which to store the equipment.

We are now desperate to find a new storage facility and would be grateful for your help. If anyone has an empty garage or suitable outbuilding for this purpose, please contact Richard Nowak on 01206 250204. Thank you.



FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

Glued to the television on the afternoon of the 22nd February, we were all waiting for the news on the relaxation of the Covid lockdown rules.

Great news was that outdoor sports including grass-roots football could commence from Mon 29th March.

The Essex & Suffolk Border league have put forward 3 possible options to all the clubs in the league regarding football activity for the remainder of this season and asked all the clubs to vote for their preferred option.

Option 1

To run the 3 annual cup competitions. The Border League KO Cup, The Reserve KO Cup and the Tommy Thompson Cup.

Matches would start on Sat 10th April, to allow for a small amount of training to take place. With all 3 cup finals being played on the same day at the end of May.

A non-qualifiers tournament would be arranged for teams losing in the early rounds to give all teams more than 2 games.



Option 2

Suspend the current season. Then start a new season in August as usual.

Option 3

To extend the current season to the 30th June and complete all outstanding league fixtures. No cup competitions would be played.

We voted for Option 1. The reasons being that with us having 3 teams and with each still having at least 22 games to play, it would have been nearly impossible to arrange and field teams at this level of intensity before June 30th. Also it would have had a serious detrimental effect on the pitch itself.

Final voting was Option 1 147 votes 66%, Option 2 12 votes 16% & Option 3 13 votes 18%.

We are currently waiting for the league to publish the cup draws bearing in mind that at this stage we don't know if the 13 clubs that voted to suspend football will field teams in the proposed cup competitions.

With the clocks going forward on the 27th we will be able to train on the green Tuesday 30th March & 6th April. We are also hoping to arrange friendly games for all 3 teams on Sat 3rd April.

It will be great to have some football on the green again, if only for a few weeks.

Follow Great Bentley Football Club and Border League Football on Facebook and Twitter for all the up to date information.

Stay Safe. Follow the Bulldogs
Mel



ROBINSON'S SHOP

Please does anyone remember Robinson's shop on The Path? I have had an enquiry from a lady who does not live in Great Bentley.

Many thanks, Mary

GREAT BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Community Resource Centre, Village Hall Plough Road CO7 8LG

Contact the Clerk on clerk@greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

www.greatbentleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Due to Government advice regarding Covid-19 the Community Resource Centre is still closed. Parish Council meetings are successfully being held virtually using Zoom. Agendas will be placed on the Parish Council website no later than 3 working days before the meeting. If you wish to join the meeting please email the clerk.

Meeting held 4th March:

Planning Applications Considered

The planning applications shown in the table below were considered by the Planning Committee. If you wish to make a comment on these or other planning applications, you should log on to the Tendring District Council website. Follow the link: <https://idox.tendringdc.gov.uk/online-applications/>

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 20/01648/FUL Mr D Gross | Erection of proposed two storey rear extension. | Newholme Plough Road Great Bentley, CO7 8LZ |
| 20/01821/FUL Mr and Mrs Burdett | Proposed greenhouse. | The Hawthorns, Station Road Great Bentley, CO7 8LH |
| 21/00022/FUL Mrs V Palmer | Proposed extension to Garage Workshop to include 2 new bays. | The Pit Stop, Colchester Road Great Bentley, CO7 8RY |
| 21/00104/FUL Hills Building Group | Proposal to re-design the Eastern Parcel of a previously approved development, ref: 20/00748/FUL. 18 new build 2, 3 and 4 bed homes will be provided within 1.23 hectares. The homes will comprise a mix of sizes, as well as provide 3 affordable homes integrated successfully within the Proposed Site plan. | Land at Admirals Farm Heckfords Road Great Bentley Essex CO7 8RS |
| 21/00178/TPO Mr Murry Sinclair | 1 No. Acer (Sycamore) - reduce back to previous pruning points. | Oak House, Sturrick Lane Great Bentley, CO7 8PT |
| 21/00239/FUL Mr J Durrell | Erection of single storey side and rear extension | 31 Larkfield Road Great Bentley, CO7 8PX |
| 21/00266/TCA Mr Trevor Gilby | 1 No. Oak - reduce by 30% and lower branches cut back. | Moor Lodge, Moors Close Great Bentley, CO7 8QL |
| 21/00262/TCA Mr Frank Strutt | 1 No. Silver Birch - reduce and reshape by 30%. | The Moors, The Green Great Bentley, CO7 8PG |
| 21/00277/TCA Mr David Baldwin | 1 No. Silver Birch - reduce by 30%. | Rydal, The Green Great Bentley, CO7 8LX |
| 21/00281/TCA Mrs Helen Capon | 1 No. Sycamore - Fell. | Bell Cottage, The Path, Great Bentley, CO7 8PN |

Village of the Year signs

This type of sign is not permitted to be placed on highway verges. The Parish Council will look to place signs in recognition of this achievement elsewhere in Great Bentley including Aingers Green and the Village Hall.

Climate Change

The Parish Council will look to amend Standing Orders to include environmental issues in its procedures and tenders

Next Virtual Meeting – 1st April. Planning Committee at 7pm followed by the Parish Council Meeting.

E-Scooter Hire Trial – Clacton

Clacton is one of the areas taking part in the current pilot trials for e-scooter hire. This is a Department for Transport initiative whereby e-scooter hire is launched in a controlled environment. Essex County Council and Tendring District Council are working with Spin, the e-scooter operator, on this pilot and are committed with working with access groups both locally and nationally on this project to ensure that all voices are heard. Essex already has in place guidance set out by charities like the Thomas Pocklington Trust and the RNIB, and Guide Dogs UK have already made guidance available to local authorities and operators regarding their recommendations for the safe and accessible management of trials. Spin have also signed up to Essex Cares Sensory Action Alliance. In addition, following consultation with a leading sight loss organisation, all Spin e-scooters are equipped with Braille labels to enable easy communication with their support staff. Spin's website can also be used with a screen reader. More information about the scheme can be found at: <https://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/e-scooters>

If anyone would like a briefing on the Clacton e-scooters please email escootertrials@essex.gov.uk

SESAW NEWS

Hopefully it's dry and sunny as you read this, at the time of writing the rain is lashing and the wind is howling but Easter approaches. As our thoughts turn to chocolate, spring flowers, cute lambs and baby rabbits, SESA W volunteer, Karen, who specialises in looking after our rabbits offers some seasonal advice.

"Watching rabbits running, jumping, playing and grooming each other is a lovely sight but Easter is not the time to get them as pets for your children. Sadly rabbits are the most neglected pet because people assume they are easy to look after and don't live very long. They need a spacious exercise area attached to a roomy hutch which should be seen as a place to rest in, NOT A PRISON. Rabbits should be neutered and live in pairs or groups; a single outdoor rabbit living alone would have an extremely miserable life.

Unlike Bugs Bunny, rabbits do not just eat carrots! The diet should consist of 80% good quality hay, small amounts of commercial feed and leafy greens. They DO NOT like being picked up and carried around so children should play with them at ground level. Rabbits can live up to 10 years and require yearly vaccinations, regular worming and health checks. If you understand that having a rabbit is NOT an easy or short term commitment, then please offer a home to a rescue rabbit after Easter."

That just leaves me enough space for our contact details for Karen when you have finished your chocolate eggs - but make sure to keep them away from all the dogs including me, Kenny (the Boss) Chihuahua.

Suffolk & Essex Small Animal Welfare, Registered Charity No.1124029, Stoke Road, Leavenheath, CO6 4PP. Tel: 01787 210888 www.sesaw.co.uk

LOVE

This month I would like to talk about LOVE. So many attitudes and different kinds of love - for a husband and wife, grandparents, children, friends and even animals. This last word may seem strange but I will explain this later on and you can then decide how you feel about it.

I think I have written before about Gordon's life threatening accident. The horror will live with me forever. My first story is about a man and his dog. This nice man had a small dog (I can't remember if it was a he or a she so will just say dog) that he took for a walk each day, sometimes twice. I had noticed how reluctant the little dog was so I decided maybe I could help in some way. Our conversation went something like this. I asked him where his little dog slept. He said on the rug in front of the fire all night. I only keep the heat on for my dog. Then I asked him did he get dressed each morning or not. He wasn't sure what I meant and I then said did he wear his coat to take his dog out. Of course I do and hat, scarf and gloves. Then I asked about his little dog. His face was a picture of horror. So I suggested he put a cover over his little dog. He bought a thick padded coat for his little dog, so happy dog, happy man. He really loved his dog.

I'm sure I have written about my blackbird called 'Tatty' before, but a new thought occurred to me quite recently. I heard a tapping on my bathroom window that brought back memories I had forgotten. Tatty was at least 14 years old according to my diary. When Tatty was a young bird he used to sit on my head or shoulder and become part of me. I always wore an old hat to save me from prickly plants and roses. He used to hang on and we went all over together. I could pick him up, he'd come when called, but I had one strict rule. I never fed him by hand always on the ground for his safety to get away quickly if trouble was around like a lurking cat. He found a mate and they usually had about 4 hatchings most years. Poor old Tatty was worn out and used to come into the kitchen and rest in my wooden armchair. I covered the chair seat with paper, but even when in the garden with me he never made a mess. Remarkable really. Which brings me to my forgotten memory when I realised our bathroom hadn't yet been built and there was just an ordinary opening window. I sent my mind back to the tapping sound and suddenly I saw my dear Tatty. He had a little shuffle and sat in my hand, looked at me, wiped his beak over my thumb and died. I still feel choked after all these years. Was that LOVE? I think so.

In recent years I have a blackbird that hovers over my head and pulls my hair. I wonder if this is a descendant of my dear old boy. Today so many old people are living in care homes and not allowed pets, but now I believe animals are actually taken into care homes which is wonderful!

While on the subject of love and animals I must mention something true and local. Our dearly loved nurse at the Surgery Niki. When her family went on holiday I used to take over the very special pot plants, greenhouses etc. and the grey Siamese cat called Pepe. Also the budgie that I used to hang on the banister high Sup. When Pepe had been fed he used to sit on my lap and start to paddle softly with his paws (no claws). He used to go cross eyed and dribble. By the time I went home I was soaked! Was that LOVE. I think so.

I also had a friendly spider called Fred. He was very large and was about 5 years old. He never showed himself to anyone but me and would come to greet me when I called his name. I used to catch crane flies, (daddy long legs) and feed these to him. I don't know what happened to him. He died of old age I guess. Last year I had three dear little Bumbles living in heaped soil near my side gate. They would pop out and settle on me for a minute or so and fly back into their home. This wet weather has really upset bees and insects. There is one particular bee to be very wary of. It is very large like a hornet and could be lethal if you were stung. If you see a bee like this one especially if its entering a flower pot leave it alone. Gordon's dad had one in his greenhouse which he destroyed and I thought that was dreadful. I was wrong to be cross and told him so. But actually the nest is a work of art. Each egg is laid in rows and rows of tiny cigar cases. The bees must chew paper to make these things, just like wasps. The one that attacked me meant business. Each time I opened the door it was waiting for me. In the end I did something awful. I sprayed it with hair spray and when on the ground I trod on it so it wouldn't suffer. Quite mad I am!

Thank you all. Stay safe and be happy.

Betty Harvey



RUNNING CLUB

So for very obvious reasons there is little current to write about this month. Although there is a light at the end of what feels like a very long tunnel we will only start running together in very small groups: we don't want to waste the sacrifice which has got us all this far. So, on our Zoom chats and calls we have been talking about some of the fun we have had through running.

Some years back Rodger (my Co-Chairperson and fellow foolhardy runner) and I egged each other into tackling a 50 mile event in Sussex. As we examined the instructions we were baffled as to why they started as plain narrative but later started to include compass headings. We found out the hard way: it was September and a very dull and misty day. As the sun disappeared the mist thickened in the space of a few minutes we could see no further than the length of our arms in front of us! Without the compass headings we would have been totally lost! It didn't help that we were on the South Downs. The mist turned the chalk paths into some of the most slippery surfaces we have ever run along.

We have another interesting memory from that run. The event was organised by the Long Distance Walkers Association, who despite the name, make runners very welcome. They always lay on great check points with plenty of refreshments. The light was fading as we came charging out of a hall in a very charming Sussex village in what felt like the middle of nowhere. We then had to cross a field and get over a stone wall. As we hit the ground on the other side there was a woman standing chatting. It was the actress Gina McKee. There was that moment where we quite obviously recognised her (but had no idea of her name) and she could see this. We ended up smiling and trotting on up the lane. That was what's her face wasn't it we asked each other. I next saw her as the money laundering financier in Line of Duty.

On another occasion a group of us went off to run the famous Grizzly race. We got caught in the 'Blast from the West', a spell of severe weather which followed the 'Beast from the East' in March of 2018. We ended up running through 10 inches of snow with a horizontal blizzard. Even the water the marshals were handing out was freezing up. Luckily we had stayed over at a country park with a Jacuzzi, sauna steam room and a pool. We spent a considerable time in there defrosting.

And here comes another bad weather story. Rodger and I took a couple of mini buses full of club members off to do the Three Peaks Challenge. The mountains of Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent in Yorkshire are collectively known as the Three Peaks and the challenge involves a 25 mile route to get to the top of all 3 and back to the starting point as quickly as possible. It was several years ago and was a summer notable for record temperatures. Not for us in Yorkshire though. As we left Essex the weather got less and less clement. By the time we got to Yorkshire it was raining persistently. Often when we do the challenge we camp. Fortunately on this occasion I had decided to book a camping barn. (Don't be misled by the name: this place was very nicely appointed with oak flooring, state of the art kitchen and great showers.)

The barn was at the bottom of Whernside and as we went off the following morning the rain increased. As did the wind. Within a short spell we were like drowned rats. It continued to get worse and as we headed up Whernside on the opposite side of the hill to our accommodation hikers coming down were warning us how bad things were. By this time we had little choice in the matter and we headed on in what was almost horizontal rain. Needless to say we all made it and I think we take even more pride in the achievement in the face of such conditions. But next time we would definitely prefer some sun.

It will be some time before we can get back to the challenges we used to do. However, as noted at the start of this piece we are looking forward to getting to run in small groups once again. At this time our regular Wednesday club evening at Great Bentley cannot happen, but for the first time in a year there is at least the possibility of some normality resuming.

Paul Carlisle

We welcome all of the new residents to Admirals Green



Surgery News

Easter Opening Hours

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday. Over the Easter holiday the Surgery will be closed on Friday, 2nd April and Monday, 5th April 2021.

Covid Vaccination Programme

The Surgery Team are working hard to ensure that patients get their Covid vaccinations as quickly as possible. If you are 50 years of age or older and have not had your first vaccination yet then please contact the Surgery on tel. 01206 250691 so that we can get you booked in for this.

For those patients who have already had their first Covid vaccination at either the Surgery or one of the local vaccination hubs, we can confirm that you will be contacted with an appointment for your second vaccination within 12 weeks of the first one. We would ask that patients help us by not contacting either the Surgery or the hub to chase up their second vaccination appointment.

Hay Fever

Spring is in the air which means that it won't be long until the start of the hayfever season. For patients allergic to tree pollen they will normally be affected between March to mid-May and for those with grass pollen allergy, between May and July. Please do not contact the Surgery for your hayfever medication as these are products that patients should purchase over the counter from the Pharmacy.

Appointment Times

The time allowed for all telephone and face to face appointments is just 10 minutes. The clinician will be able to deal with one problem during a consultation, so you may be asked to make a follow up appointment if you have more than one issue to discuss.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

At the time of writing the Newsletter there isn't a Patient Participation Group meeting planned in April.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

Bell Ringers News

It's has been such a long time since we have been able to ring the bells in St Osyth church due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to keep ourselves and everyone else safe. We did briefly return to ringing to announce services in the summer of 2020, only for there to be a need to stop again due to the rise in infections again.

Church bells are rung primarily to announce that the gospel is being taught in the church, in other words, a service is about to start. In addition, the bells are usually rung to announce other church events and in some circumstances to celebrate, or perhaps to commemorate.

One such occasion was the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore, a hero and inspiration to so many during the terrible dark times of the pandemic. Accordingly, the Central Council for Church Bell Ringers suggested that a single bell should be rung in as many churches as possible on Saturday the 27th of February, the day of his funeral. With the permission of the vicar, a single bell was rung 100 times in both Great Bentley and St Osyth Churches at around 12.00 midday. Due to the risks involved of both this occupation and the pandemic, suitable risk assessment has to take place and the ringer had to be accompanied by a member of their household.

At last we can now see the seeds of recovery and a promise that life will start to return to normal and, like others, we will be able to return to our much loved hobby. Eventually, we will be able to teach new ringers. If you are interested in learning to ring, please make contact either using the phone number or one of the e-mail addresses below.

Roger Carey-Smith
07422 880921

Ne-district-master@eacr.co.uk
St-Osyth@eacr.org.uk

Two neighbours talking, Alf and Bob.

A – ‘Morning Bob. The weather is diabolical, isn’t it? Raining every day.’

B – ‘You’re right there Alf. Although the forecast was for blue skies. They never get it right, do they?’

A – ‘Nah. They’re like racing forecasters. I had a 25p-ten-horse-accumulator last week. If it had gone in, I would have pocketed £1.3 million. I was scuppered by a 50-1 outsider. They didn’t forecast that one.’

B – ‘Bad luck Alf. Clever blokes though, these proper forecasters, you know, the blokes what do those algorithms. They really know their sums, don’t they?’

A – ‘Yeah but what is this algorithm thing? All these new words, the newspapers are full of, like, new words.’

B – ‘They’ve been to university mate, that’s where you can get an algorithm, from a university.’

A – ‘But these blokes are members of ‘Sage’, aren’t they? I thought a sage was a great philosopher, revered for wise teachings or sound judgement. These blokes make models, like, replicate a disaster what might happen in the future.’

B – ‘Replicate? What’s that? You mean they make a copy of a disaster that might happen, what, like a prediction?’

A – ‘Yeah, replicate, like, make a prediction, I think. But these blokes don’t do forecasts, that’s for your 2.30 at Newmarket. Nah, these blokes do prognostications mate, it said so in the paper.

B – ‘What’s the difference between a forecast and a prognostication Alf? It’s the same isn’t it?’

A – ‘It must be I suppose except one’s got more letters Bob. Ha! I said it before you did. But these blokes don’t just ‘forecast’, they nowcast and even hindcast. There you go, another new word.’

B – ‘What’s that then, that hindcasting? Never heard of that. They don’t do that in weather forecasting, do they?’

A – ‘I reckon they do Bob. Hindcasting must be like when the weather lady shows us a picture of the sunshine we had yesterday. They reckon a model of yesterday might give an idea of what might happen tomorrow.’

B – ‘That simple? So what do they do with the model when they’ve finished prognosticating?’

A – ‘They sell it to the newspapers for shed loads of money, then the papers scare the pants off the public with daft headlines, making sure that it is written in the ‘conditional’, you know, when you say that something ‘might’ happen, or ‘may’ take place, or that it’s possible ‘if’, putting emphasis on the ‘if’ or ‘could’. Then the newspaper can sell loads of twaddle without being sued. That’s when local radio stations interview important blokes who want to sound as if they know what’s going on, who say the figures show that the disaster is increasing exponentially.’

B – ‘Exponentially? Sorry Alf, is that serious then, this, err, increasing exponentially palaver?’

A – ‘Diabolical mate. I asked a bloke in the pub. Let’s say we’re driving our cars at 40mph. If we increase our speed exponentially, we will pass through the sound barrier in just under two minutes, a short while later we will have achieved ‘escape velocity’, like, escape the Earth’s gravity. The moon will soon loom but we are unable to land on it because we are nearing the speed of light. Our speed is increasing out of control mate, that’s what he said.’

B – ‘Ooer, we’re all going to die, right? Zoom off into deep space in a Ford Fiesta.’

A – ‘Nah, in order to save our lives, Sage would suggest to the government that they spend every penny of tax payer’s money to build, overnight, a force field which might, just might halt us. But there again Bob, relax mate, we were not increasing our speed exponentially, we were able to stop by using the footbrake. Panic over.’

B – ‘Blimey, don’t do anything exponentially then. But what would we do with the force field that we didn’t need?’

A – ‘Easy. The government would convince the people that they are saving the planet by using the force field to collect all the floating junk and debris up there which could, by 2027, possibly reflect all sunlight back into space. Damn good vote-catching stuff, saves a load of red faces and would appease the activist warriors. Pukka, mate.’

B – ‘But what about the intelligent advisors, the think tanks, the wise teachings and sound judgement blokes who replicated a model of the daft thing we didn’t need, like, in the first place?’

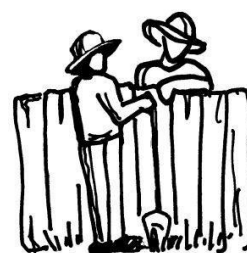
A – ‘They’ve forgotten that problem mate, because their new model suggests that the force field, having collected all the debris, might become unstable, it might compromise its orbital trajectory. Our Sages will prognosticate all night scribbling on the back of a fag packet to replicate a model of the possible chance that if 0.013% of an unknown risk can be multiplied by the estimated speed of the debris which may or may not materialise minus the angle of deflection if there is one, it might tell us where the resultant debris meteor storm may strike the earth which could be disastrous if it hits Yellowstone Park. Then they flog the model to the newspapers who run the headline;

“World Wi-Fi ‘could’ end on Wednesday”. We could have a massive problem mate, no Facebook.’

B – ‘Such wise men Alf, and all done with a pencil and a rubber. Have they got crystal balls, these Sage blokes?’

A – ‘Nah, no chance, crystal balls are banned because otherwise Sage would win the lottery every week.’

B – ‘But from what you say Alf, it sounds as if they win the lottery every time they conditionally prognosticate.’



THE COLNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Essex County Council, Colchester Borough Council and Tendring District Council are working together to create a new Garden Community on the Tendring Colchester border. The Garden Community is being developed over the next 30 years, and will provide new homes, jobs and infrastructure. It is one of 49 projects currently in the government's Garden Community programme.

The project team has commissioned the organisation I work for –[Community Regen](#)– to support them in setting up a Community Liaison Group (CLG) and Youth Liaison Group (YLG) for local people to input views into the project, as part of a broader engagement strategy. [You can see the engagement strategy here.](#)

We are looking for keen individuals to provide their own insight, views and ideas as an individual member of the local community.

Recruitment efforts to find local people to join these two groups have started today (Wednesday 17th March).

In order to share the word to local people, we are contacting local organisations to ask whether you would be able to share the opportunity with your networks.

If you have an email newsletter due to be sent out or social media/website, it would be much appreciated if you could share this opportunity. Attached is a sample blurb (one for each group) that could be used for social media/newsletters. The more the word is out, the more applications we can get. The deadline for applications is **5pm on Wednesday 7th April 2021.**

The application materials and more details on how people can apply are here:

Community Liaison Group: <https://talk.tcbgardencommunity.co.uk/community-liaison-group>

Youth Liaison Group: <https://talk.tcbgardencommunity.co.uk/apply-for-the-youth-liaison-group>

Your help in promoting would be much appreciated. If you have any questions or queries, please let me know.

Sam Kenward

Community Engagement and Project Coordinator

Community and Economic Regeneration Consultants Ltd

Email: sam@communityregen.net

Mobile Number: 07946304332

Website: www.communityregen.net

For Twitter updates about Community Regen's work:

[www.twitter.com/PaulBragman](https://twitter.com/PaulBragman)

To join our mailing list click here: <http://eepurl.com/ddFv-1>

Feel free to [read about the work we have been doing](#)

over the last year - please share with your networks

DAVID KIRBY

Sadly David Kirby, aged 87, passed away peacefully at home with his family around him.

He moved to the village with his wife June and 3 children in 1968 when the family home cost just £6200.

He loved village life and after retirement he enjoyed joining in all the luncheon clubs, the U3A and other activities. These were very much missed when Covid put a stop to them all.

The funeral will be on 26th March leaving St Mary's Road at 1.15pm.

At his request, his ashes will be scattered at the bench he dedicated to his late wife June which is located at Martin's Farm Country Park.

His family would like to thank neighbours and friends for their support and kind words

We are sorry to hear of the death of Dave Kirby who was for several years the Footpath Representative for the Parish Council, and a long time, supportive and loyal member of the Great Bentley WEA and of the History Society. He was always active in discussions at both organisations

Children's Page

Easter Nests Chocolate Treat

For this treat, you will need the following:

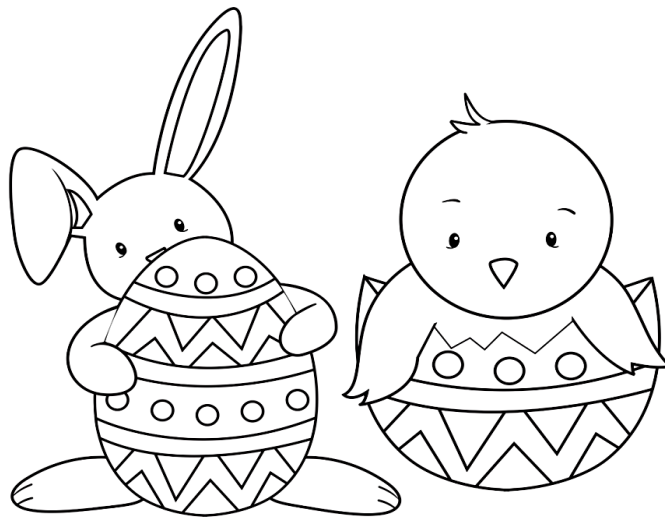
- ♦ A mixing bowl
- ♦ Saucepan
- ♦ Cupcake cases
- ♦ Spoon

Ingredients:

- ♦ Chocolate
- ♦ Cereal (Cornflakes, Rice Krispies, or Shredded Wheat)
- ♦ Mini Easter Eggs / Cake Sprinkles

How to make yummy Easter Nests:

- ♦ Melt the chocolate in a bowl over a saucepan of simmering water or in the microwave (make sure an adult does this for you)
- ♦ Once the chocolate has melted, mix the cereal in and stir
- ♦ Pour the mixture into the cupcake cases
- ♦ Make a nest shape by pressing the mixture in the middle with a spoon
- ♦ Put the chocolate nests in the fridge to set



Happy Easter



COOKERY CORNER

I CAN NEVER FACE BREAKFAST!

How many people have said that and meant it too? However, I am the opposite. Breakfast for me is a very satisfying meal, and sets me up for the day, be it a bacon buttie or a banana. My journey to secondary school involved an early start downhill through the woods for half an hour to catch the forty minute bus ride to Llandudno, and then of course the return journey was often in the dark, especially in the winter, or after an impromptu French detention. Anxious parents in cars at the school gates were not even remotely thought of then. My mother was convinced that I would starve before she saw me again each day so that my breakfast invariably consisted of a big bowl of porridge with top of the milk and sugar, and then egg and bacon. I must have walked it off as I was always ready for my tea! We have often enjoyed a breakfast out in the open air as a first "stop" while on a long walk. One such successful stop was rounding a corner and suddenly finding a very convenient bench where we enjoyed egg mayonnaise sandwiches and a beautiful view over the Irish Sea towards the hump of Bardsey Island off the Llyn Peninsula.

I don't want to encourage anyone to eat a traditional "fry up" each day but some of the following ideas seem to be tasty and quite healthy as well as a nice treat to look forward to once or twice a week. Each will serve four.

Baked eggs in ramekins

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 4 medium eggs | 150g button mushrooms finely chopped | 4g butter | 4 sprigs of tarragon |
| 4tsp double cream | a small onion peeled and chopped finely | a handful of grated Gruyere cheese | |

Preheat the oven to 190 degrees and lightly butter each ramekin. Gently fry the onion and mushrooms in the remaining butter, adding a little tarragon, fresh is better than dried. Divide the mixture between the ramekins. Crack an egg into each one and season lightly. Top each with a teaspoon of double cream and a quarter of a handful of the grated Gruyere cheese. Stand all the ramekins in a roasting tin and carefully fill the tin halfway with boiling water before placing in the oven. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes.

Grilled mushrooms and goats' cheese

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 large field mushrooms | 2 chopped garlic cloves | 150g mild goats' cheese |
| 4 slices of ham halved | 50g pine nuts lightly toasted | 2 tbsp olive oil |
| | | chopped parsley |

Toasted pine nuts are available in most supermarkets, but toasting plain nuts brings out the flavour. Place them in a dry frying pan (no oil) in a single layer and heat over medium to low, stirring continuously until they are golden and fragrant. Transfer them immediately to a plate to stop cooking. Preheat the oven to 190 degrees. Gently wipe the mushrooms to remove any black specks, or use a mushroom brush. Do not peel them. Place each mushroom, gills upwards, on a baking tray. Sprinkle with seasoning, scatter with the chopped garlic, dot with cheese and top with a ham slice. Drizzle olive oil over the top and cover each mushroom loosely with foil before placing in the hot oven and cooking for 5 minutes. Remove the foil and cook a further 5 minutes until the mushrooms are tender and the cheese is bubbling. Remove from the heat and serve with a topping of pine nuts and chopped parsley.

Devilled kidneys (a little luxury)

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 4 lambs' kidneys | a small glass of dry sherry | Worcester sauce | 4 tbsp white wine |
| vinegar | 2tsp redcurrant jelly | pinch of Cayenne pepper | 2tbsp double cream |
| 2 tsp English mustard | butter or olive oil | 4 slices of toast or ciabatta | chopped parsley |

Cider vinegar could be used instead of white wine vinegar. Cut each kidney into quarters and remove the white membrane in the middle. Sizzle the kidney pieces in a pan with hot butter or oil. Add the sherry and allow to bubble for 1 minute before adding the vinegar and redcurrant jelly. Stir until the jelly has dissolved. Add a few shakes of Worcester sauce, a pinch of Cayenne pepper and enough mustard to your taste. Season and stir. Add the cream and bubble until the sauce is thick and glossy, stirring occasionally. Taste and season if necessary. Serve on hot toast or Ciabatta and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Once in a small Spanish bar we were served very hot toast and a saucer of olive oil to dip it in. Delicious! M.E.



My Family.....and other animals!

Match the pet to the owner! Bonus point for knowing the type of animal!

| | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------|
| 1. Lupo | | Punch & Judy |
| 2. Hedwig | | Salvador Dali |
| 3. Eddy | | Harold Steptoe |
| 4. Larry | | Michael Jackson |
| 5. Toby | | Kate & William |
| 6. Emu | | Roy Rogers |
| 7. Babou | | Harry Corbett |
| 8. Vixen | | 10 Downing St |
| 9. Nellie & Patti | | Rod Hull |
| 10. Hercules | | Martin Crane |
| 11. Trigger | | The Lone Ranger |
| 12. Rosinante | | Long John Silver |
| 13. Sooty | | Bill Sykes |
| 14. Bubbles | | Monty Don |
| 15. Bullseye | | Dorothy Gale |
| 16. Eccles | | Don Quixote |
| 17. Dash | | Harry Potter |
| 18. Silver | | Queen Victoria |
| 19. Toto | | Ken Barlow |
| 20. Captain Flint | | Santa Claus |

1. William & Kate dog 2. Harry Potter owl 3. Martin Crane dog 4. 10 Downing St cat 5. Mr Punch dog 6. Rod Hull emu 7. Salvador Dali ocelot 8. Santa Claus reindeer 9. Monty Don dogs 10. Hercules horse 11. Roy Rogers horse 12. Don Quixote horse 13. Harry Corbett bear 14. Michael Jackson chimp 15. Bill Sykes dog 16. Ken Barlow dog 17. Queen Victoria dog 18. Lone Ranger horse 19. Dorothy Gale dog 20. Long John Silver parrot

Thomas Arnold Fairweather - Part 2 - A Prisoner of War.

Tom was captured by the Germans at the Second World War battle (known as the first battle of El Alamein) on 1 July 1942. Rommel's men handed Tom and his compatriots over to the Italians, who were then able to do with the prisoners what they chose. They were transported in lorries and in another two days they reached Benghazi. It was pleasant enough if one could while away the time, that being something that they would have to get used to. There were no washing facilities available, and for hygienic reasons most of the men had all their hair cut off. They had a shave when it got too bad. They were provided with nothing whilst at Benghazi, no Red Cross parcels, no books, no clothes, but on the other hand no one bothered them.

It became clear that they were awaiting a trip across the Mediterranean. It was just a matter of waiting their turn, which came on 14 October 1942. The crossing was made on the German cargo ship the 'Ruhr', which was not identified as carrying prisoners. Shut down in the holds for three days of the crossing was not pleasant, Tom saw no daylight for those three days, but fortunately they were not attacked and arrived at Brindisi, Italy, on 17 October 1942. The next day a transfer by train to Bari, where they spent a month before travelling on 21 November 1942 up the Adriatic coast reaching Port-St-George, Fermo, on the next day.

At last they had arrived at a permanent camp, P.G. 70, where eventually 8,000 British prisoners of war would be housed, in only four blocks, each having a separate toilet block. The P.O.W.s were administered in groups of 50, sleeping in 25 two-tier single bunks, with 40 such rows, making accommodation for 2,000 in each of the four buildings. The camp had high barbed wire surrounds with a single barbed wire strand trip-wire, running all around the inside of the main surround a foot up from the ground, and 8 to 10 feet inside the perimeter. This area being out of bounds meant that anything straying into it, such as a football, could not be recovered until sanctioned by one of the guards stationed in their observation boxes placed on stilts at regular spacing just outside the perimeter.

The days were spent whiling away time as best one could. First thing in the morning there was coffee, in name only - no milk, no sugar. This was collected on behalf of the group in something like a 40 gallon drum cut in half with two handles at the top edge through which a pole was threaded to facilitate carrying. It was wet and hot and they got used to the flavour. Sometime later would be roll-call after which, time would be their own until the midday meal which, never varied and collected in the same container as the early morning coffee. And if one were lucky a little square of melted cheese. Towards teatime the group leader would collect the bread sack, in Tom's case he was the sergeant bomber pilot. He would cut each loaf into six for the men in turn to take their pick, and each day a different man had all the crumbs. That was the day's ration, so everyone was pleased when the British Red Cross and St John's Ambulance parcels started arriving. These contained not only food but cigarettes and clothes. So gradually they began to look like someone loved them, and more like soldiers. Battle dress blouses and trousers were arriving, plus shirts and a few pairs of boots. The clothes were badly needed, but the food parcels were the most interesting. Sometimes there would be parcels from the Canadian Red Cross,

The camp was getting organised, and with a fixed address it was possible to write home. Tom was posted missing for 6 months, a worrying time for the family at home. Tom has in his possession a card sent by his mother Elsie dated 12 December 1942,

So there they were, 8,000 men with nothing to do except roll-calls twice a day. The days came and went with seldom any up to date news, but by September 1943 it was realised that British forces were in Italy, so their hopes were raised. Something was 'in the air', things seemed to be happening, the Italians tried to be friendly, then the guard boxes were empty.

No one realised that they were free, they couldn't believe it, but it slowly sank in. There was no official announcement to the effect that they were free, what would happen was up to the individuals, but the consensus was that it would be better to stay as an organised camp to ease the subsequent handling. Everyone thought that the Navy would arrive to pick them up, so for a week things stayed as they were. Then to their dismay Germans were seen marching outside the camp and one by one the guard boxes were manned and they became prisoners once more.



Within a week of their German guards arriving, the prisoners found themselves on the move, leaving P.G. 70 on 26 September 1943, having been there for 10 months. They were loaded, 40 at a time, into cattle trucks with 'square wheels', or that is what it felt like. Two days later, the 28th, they were going through the Brenner Pass (Italian-Austrian border). Here the Germans slid back the door and tried to count them, while the prisoners tried to take in the scenery. A further two days of uncomfortable travelling brought them to a camp at Jacobstahl where they spent 13 days housed in barrack huts. Here they were deloused, documented, any means of identification was recorded, photographed, given a metal identification disc, on which was stamped Stalag IV and Tom received his P.O.W. number 249694. All this being typical German thoroughness.

To be continued



GARDENING NOTES

This is a really busy month although on fine days you may have already made a start during March. When the sun is out the air temperature can quickly rise but however if you check the temperature of the soil you may find it still very cold. The nights are usually cooler with an occasional frost and this keeps the temperature of the ground down.

Normally onion sets are planted during April as an early sowing can lead to a lot of sets running to seed. Hopefully you have bought your seed potatoes and have set them in

boxes in a light, airy and frost free place. Some people use empty egg boxes to contain the potatoes but a standard seed tray with crumpled newspaper in the bottom is sufficient. Don't forget to look at the potatoes and make sure you place the end with the most shoots uppermost. The ideal time to plant them out is when the shoots are about 1 inch long so they don't get damaged when planting. There is a lot of debate about whether this process (chitting) improves the yield, but if you cannot influence their growing conditions, you can at least give them a head start by chitting first.

How lovely it is to see lots of daffodils providing blocks of colour during March. After flowering don't forget to take off the dead heads and not to let them form seed pods as these take lots of goodness out of the bulbs and will give you a poor display next year. It is also helpful to give the bulbs a feed at this time. Whilst the leaves are still green they are still making goodness for the bulbs. Don't cut the leaves off before they turn brown and wither. Also don't tie them into knots as this stops the goodness flowing down into the bulb. One final thing is to give them a little bit of feed, something like bone meal. This is a natural organic fertiliser, but it is a very slow release fertiliser. This means the bulbs can die down naturally using some of the goodness, and then when they start their root growth towards the end of the year the goodness is still available for them to use.

Whilst on the subject of flowers. If you are tempted to buy any early plants from the nursery or DIY store don't forget most of them are susceptible to frost and they will need to be given some protection, either in a greenhouse or cold frame. Remember the plants you buy now have been kept in a nice warm (or even hot) greenhouse so they are really forced to make them grow quickly ready for sale. It is okay however to sow the seeds of the plants that you wish to put in your summer display in the garden.

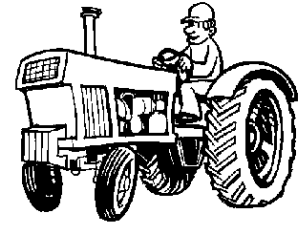
You will need to protect them in a greenhouse or on a window sill until they are ready to prick out in late April/May so they then grow big enough to plant out when the risk of all frosts has gone at the end of May, beginning of June. Please read the instructions on the seed packet carefully as some seeds need to be kept in the dark and others need light to help them germinate. In most cases a sprinkle of vermiculite on top of the seeds instead of compost can help to stop the emerging seedlings from damping off and rotting before they get big enough to plant out into individual pots or seed trays.

Vegetables are becoming more popular for containers - tomatoes have been grown in grow bags for years. We have all seen or heard of strawberries grown in containers but mostly these are grown in the greenhouse. There are now a number of varieties which are dwarf and ideal for container growing and these include miniature bush tomatoes, dwarf French beans and dwarf runner beans. (Hesta is a variety that springs to mind) or perhaps normal runner beans grown in a circle and growing up canes set round the edge of the container tied at the top like a wigwam. Also small peppers, chillies and cucumbers can be grown outside if you position them in nice warm places like a patio. You can also grow lots and lots of herbs very easily. Happy gardening.

One of the most unusual presents I received for my birthday two years ago was a lemon tree with three fully formed large fruit hanging from it and plenty of beautifully scented blossom. If honest my first thought was "I hope I don't kill it", but it is still going strong, has lots of fruit in varying sizes and has grown massively despite light pruning to stop it becoming too tall. Kept in a cold greenhouse over the winter months with a layer of fleece on the really cold nights it's fairly low maintenance. It came from the Romantic Garden in Norfolk. Why not give one a try?

M.M.

Farming Diaries



Cereal crops such as wheat and barley, at the time of drilling, have 100% yield potential. From the moment they are planted in the ground different factors such as the weather, soil type, the availability of nutrients, pests, weeds and diseases will begin to rapidly decrease the crop's potential yield. In order for farmers to produce the highest yielding crops they can they need to protect the crop from the impact of the factors just mentioned. In the autumn (for a winter grown cereal) farmers will apply a pre-emergence weed control spray – this is the first port of call after drilling to prevent the growth of weeds which would otherwise compete with the crop for light, nutrients and moisture. More weeds may appear later in the autumn but due to the weather they may not be able to travel with their sprayer on the land due to it being too wet, so a further spray application in the spring when the weather improves would follow.

Fertiliser as mentioned in last month's column would be applied to the crop to give it a kick start to get it growing away as soon as the temperatures warm up. As the temperatures do warm up disease pressure increases due to the warmer and damper conditions as a result of spring showers. This would exacerbate any disease which may have appeared in the crop over the winter months and/or may encourage the spread of disease in the crop. Photosynthesis is the way in which a plant uses energy from the sunlight which is absorbed by chlorophyll in the plant to convert carbon dioxide and water to make energy. The presence of chlorophyll in a plant gives it its green colour. When a plant, be it in the field or in your garden at home, has a disease on it you will notice that the leaves lose their green colour meaning that they are not producing energy used for growth and development to their maximum capacity. If farmers can prevent and control any disease coming into their crop they will help maintain the potential yield of a crop. You may wonder how farmers optimising yield affects our day to day lives. If yields are dramatically reduced due to diseases, pests, lack of the correct nutrition and the weather there would be a shortage of wheat and barley to make into bread or beer which would result in the cost of these items increasing due to the shortage in supply of the product used to make them. In the arable farming year the next two months are the most important with regards to diseases to ensure the crop stays greener for longer, thus helping farmers achieve as near to their 100% yield potential. Due to the wet weather there has been a delay in cultivations and other field work so where in previous years you may have seen many farmers drilling spring crops such as peas, beans, barley and sugar beet this year they will be drilled much later. These crops have been bred to have a much shorter growing period but still to be harvested at as similar time to many winter drilled crops (with the exception of sugar beet). These crops will be treated in a similar way to winter crops with every application/management being tailored to help maintain the potential yield of the crop.

Vicki Brooks



Great Bentley Pre-school

www.greatbentleypreschool.co.uk

information@greatbentleypreschool.co.uk



April is a quiet month for us as we are on our Easter break until Monday 12th April. When we do return, we will be welcoming Alicia, Samuel, Otis and Erica to our setting. We met them all on our 'Meet n Greet' day last month and are looking forward to working with them and their families. We hope you all have a wonderful experience within our Pre-school and enjoy your time within your Early Years Education.

Although April might be a quiet month for us it is also a month which holds a significant date each year for many of our parents.

I would like to let our families know we will be thinking of them all on Primary School Allocation Day, which is Friday 16th April, we have our fingers firmly crossed for you all and hope you get the Primary School you want.

Last but not least, Happy Easter to everyone and hope you all enjoy the long bank holiday weekend, hopefully the sun will shine and we will get to enjoy the time off with some family and friends now we can meet up with more people outside.

Thanks for reading and stay safe everyone.

Julie Wiles



Essex & Herts Air Ambulance appeals for help keeping 'Blood on Board'

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is looking for sixty people to help it raise £30,000, so that the charity's critical care teams can continue carrying blood to patients who need it most.

Each year EHAAT treats approximately 60 people in need of a potentially life-saving blood transfusion at the scene of an incident.

On average it costs EHAAT around £500 to help each of these patients in need of blood, so it is appealing for 60 people to donate £500 each to get to the £30,000 needed to keep flying blood to those who need it most.

EHAAT's Blood Project Lead Laurie Phillipson said: "Being able to give a transfusion at the scene of an incident can be a life-saving intervention for patients suffering significant bleeding. Our pre-hospital critical care teams can provide this rapidly and safely before the patient reaches hospital."

EHAAT's helicopters and rapid response vehicles carry packed red blood cells of blood group O Negative, meaning they can be used on any patient. When required, these are given with plasma, the other major component of human blood.

The packed red blood cells are supplied daily from The Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow and delivered to EHAAT's airbases at Earls Colne and North Weald by riders from Essex Voluntary Blood Service (EVBS). The blood is replaced daily and replenished as required.

The blood is delivered and stored in special insulated boxes that keep the blood at a cool temperature for at least 24 hours. These are fitted with a data logger that indicates if the temperature is trending outside of the correct range. If unused after 24 hours the blood is returned for use elsewhere, preventing any wastage of this precious commodity.

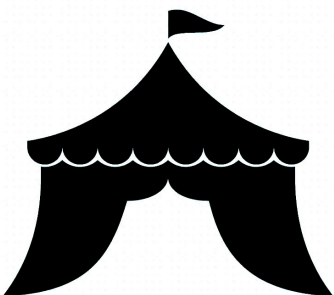
When the blood is required, it is warmed to body temperature to make it safe to administer to the patient and prevent unnecessary cooling of the patient.

To find out more about EHAAT's Blood on Board Appeal visit ehaat.org/bloodappeal

Thank you. Your £500 will make a difference.

Great Bentley Village Show

After much deliberation and discussion, the majority of the committee has decided that unfortunately we should cancel the village show this year.



Although the vaccine programme is progressing well, and a good percentage of people have received their first dose, there remains a high percentage of people who are still to be vaccinated. The committee feel that it would be irresponsible to ask or expect people, a large number of whom may not have been vaccinated by then, to attend a Show that by its nature requires people to be close to each other, especially in a marquee. The committee feels that it would be better, and safer, to abandon this year and to start again next year under what it is hoped will be much improved circumstances.

We understand it will be a great disappointment to many, but the health of members, competitors, trade stand holders, sponsors, officials, volunteers and visiting public is our top priority. We would like to thank everyone associated with the event for their continued support, and we look forward to a bumper show in 2022 to compensate for a second year's disappointment.

Stay safe, and see you next year.

Derek Burdett - Chairman

Looking Back

In the weeks prior to The World Cup which I spoke of in my last article important events in the world of retail were being prepared, I speak of the Summer Sales! Unlike nowadays when sales can be at any time of year and go on for an undetermined number of weeks, there were only two, first week of January and first week of July and strictly only for one week. They were a tradition which was familiar to the public and many planned their expenditure and purchases accordingly. Footfall of customers dropped noticeably prior to Sale Week and those which did venture into the store were keeping a keen eye out to see if they may catch a glimpse of items that were earmarked to be reduced, however it did not work like that. Each department would just have the minimum of assistants on the shop floor and the others like me were down in the bowels of the building where all the stock rooms were, unpacking 'bought in merchandise' or stock that was due to be reduced. None of the modern day gadgets used for price marking these days, it was painstakingly slow and it must be said rather painful. Small fold over stiff tickets with staple pins which had to be pushed through individual items and the sharp ends pushed back securely hence the painful fingers! White Damask Linen Tablecloths and Napkins were very much 'the thing' and vast quantities of 'seconds' were always high on Mr Foster's special purchases! I omitted to mention said price tickets didn't come ready printed we had to write them by hand and I can tell you it was not easy to fit size, price, Dept and Stock number onto those fiddly things and spoiling and wasting any was not an option! Would that tablecloths only came in white linen, there were dozens of different kinds plus, tea towels, dressing table sets, chair backs, arm caps and even dusters, dishcloths the list goes on! Sale stock was trundled up in the goods lift onto the shop floor in large metal containers which were pushed by the porters (we had them in those days) to the appropriate departments and then having been unloaded they were promptly refilled with stock not included in the sale and returned to the stockrooms! The physical work involved looking back was immense but I truly do not recall a lot of moaning or complaining in fact I think there was much banter and light-heartedness, we knew when and what was expected of us. Pearson's was an independent family owned store, Mr Jack Pearson was not a faceless person, he walked the shop floor regularly, knew the names of everyone and engaged in conversation. He was a true gentleman and commanded respect I was rather in awe of him, he was a fair man praise were praise was due and a discreet word in your Department Managers ear if there should be anything amiss.

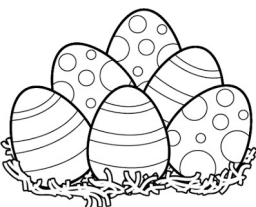
The first day of the sale was always on a Monday and ended the following Saturday, orderly queues had formed at the three front entrances, the shop floor bore little resemblance to a usual Monday. Behind our respective counters we awaited the huge surge of customers that poured through the doors timed to perfection by the porters. They roared down the isles either side of haberdashery did a sharp right heading for the escalator to China and Glass on the first floor! In their wake came those casual customers who were looking for specific items or to simply seek out something which they perceived as a bargain not to be missed regardless of whether it was something they needed or even liked. It was a bargain and that was all that mattered! That initial first day was manic and when the doors closed at five thirty all the departments looked like a tornado had ripped through. It was a very different working week, my first one was an eye opener, much of it was great fun however I did not like all the untidiness on and around my counter and was pleased when the unsold sale stock, or what was left of it, was trundled back to the gloom of the stockrooms and normal stock brought back up! I was to learn that the financial success of the twice yearly sales played a vital part in determining the outcome of Department Manager's Annual Review with the Board of Directors. The look on their face when they came back down afterwards was enough for us to judge whether we should keep a low profile for the rest of the day or on occasion indefinitely!! Happy Days!



Judy Bishop

EASTER EGGS

Exchanging and eating Easter eggs is a popular custom in many countries. In the UK before they were replaced by Easter eggs, real eggs were used, in most cases chicken eggs. The eggs were hard boiled and dyed in various colours and patterns. The traditionally bright colours represented Spring and light. Sadly nowadays children would not be impressed with a hard boiled egg.



An older more traditional game is one in which real eggs are rolled against one another or down a hill. The owner of the egg that stayed uncracked the longest was the winner. Even today in the north of England they still carry out this egg rolling custom and the winner can be the egg which goes the furthest.

Nowadays people give each other Easter eggs made of chocolate, usually hollow and filled with sweets, and often children hunt for chocolate Easter eggs hidden around the home or garden by the Easter bunny.

THE CANDLE FLAME AND ROSE ALLIN

A young woman's refusal to act against her conscience inspires Sarah Perry

The ghost of Rose Allin - water jug in hand - first attached herself to me when I was a child. The Chelmsford chapel I attended arranged a summer camp each year in Suffolk, and one afternoon, having crossed the boundary back into Essex, we visited the village of Great Bentley.

Together with a handful of other children and adults taking charge, I crossed the village green - which, as its residents will tell you, is the largest in the country - and sat cross-legged on the grass.

After we'd sung grace, I suppose to the amusement of anyone passing by, we ate our sandwiches, and then one of the men handed each child a small pink leaflet. On the cover, in firm black lines was a drawing of a woman's hand held over a candle, and in large letters the name ROSE ALLIN.

I knew her story and her name, and had seen this image before, but never so enlarged; I almost thought by some transmission of suffering through the paper I could feel the flame on my skin.

Then I was asked to read the leaflet aloud. And though it is not in the least in keeping with the teachings of the chapel who brought her to me, I sometimes think that afternoon I summoned up Rose Allin, and that her spirit has never left my side.

She was born in 1537, in what was then known as Much Bentley. She lived with her mother Alice Mount, and her stepfather William, and hers was a Protestant family. But in 1553 the King suffered a disease of the lung, and a dreadful swelling in his legs, and having whispered to his tutor "I am glad to die," departed the throne.

It was occupied then by Mary Tudor, whose avid determination to overturn the Reformation and return England to the fold of the Catholic Church caused Rose Allin and her family to become, more or less overnight, traitors to the Crown by virtue of their religion.

On 7 March 1557, which was the first Sunday in Lent, and at two o'clock in the morning, Rose and her family were woken by one Master Edmund Tyrrell. He brought with him a Bailiff of the Hundred, and two local constables.

Alice Mount at that time was ill, and Rose asked if she might be given permission to fetch her a drink of water. As she returned - carrying in one hand a jug and in the other a candlestick - she was stopped by Master Tyrrell.

The penalty for a girl who insisted on treasonous practices such as the use of the Bible in English was, he reminded her, that she should be tied to a stake and burned alive. Then, as if it would hardly be possible for her to properly fear such an ending without material evidence of the forthcoming pain, he took from her the candlestick she was holding, gripped her by the wrist, and passed the flame over the back of her hand in the shape of a cross, until - so it was later said - "the very sinews cracked asunder".

Rose was taken with her family to Colchester, and imprisoned in the castle built on the ground which Boudicca had laid waste. To a visiting friend, she said, "While my one hand was a burning, I, having a pot in my other hand, might have laid him on the face with it, if I had would; for no man held my hand to let me therein. But, I thank God, with all my heart, I did not."

BUT I would not like you to think that Rose was compliant, or that she lacked courage. She had the capacity for impertinence and anger, and on being asked her opinion of the seven Catholic sacraments retorted with marvellous Essex girl vulgarity that they "stank in the face of God".

Having been despatched soon after back to her cell, she was heard to be singing. Then on 7 August 1557, at some time between six and seven in the morning, Rose Allin - an Essex girl just out of her teens, whom nobody could persuade that any man or any authority had the power to make her act against her conscience and her will - was taken to a piece of hard ground by Colchester's city wall, tied to a stake with her mother and her stepfather and burned alive.

As a child on Great Bentley village green, I handed back the leaflet from which I'd read aloud and was conscious of some alteration in my mind. I'd been brought up in a chapel which was led by men, and directed by men, and I was taught to cover my hair when I worshipped, because this was a sign of deference both to men and to God.

From that chapel pulpit and in those chapel pews only men were ever heard to pray, or to speak, or to read aloud from the Bible; I was, I'd been led to understand, not precisely an inferior being by virtue of my gender, but certainly a different one, and that difference required me to be obedient to men, and to hold my tongue in church.

That I'd been born a girl seemed to me a profound misfortune. I was taller and stronger than the few boys I knew, and if not cleverer I certainly thought I was: was I really to be pliant, and acquiescent, when this ran so counter to my nature?

I looked at the drawing of Rose Allin's hand held above the candle, and thought that perhaps after all I needn't always do as I was told.

It is difficult to comprehend the magnitude of Rose Allin's defiance without first grasping the significance not only of her desire to worship as her conscience directed, but to read the Bible in English, an act which was itself an offence. The King James Bible - battered copies of which may be bought by the dozen in any high street charity shop, at the cost of a pound or two - is a radical political text.

It represents an act of dissent against an oppressive state, furnishing ordinary men and women with the means to equip themselves with a degree of knowledge which had been until then the preserve of the ruling classes - and it has always been in the interests of an oppressive government to keep the people in a state of ignorance.

The depth and profundity of Rose Allin's faith, and the idea that a mere abstraction held value higher than her own life, is beyond comprehension to the contemporary secular imagination, but hers is not only a quaint take of antique self-abnegation.

She remains an animating force, and a reminder that one need not be particularly equipped with education or status to set one's face against injustice. Solitary acts may seem to count for nothing against whatever engines of state or structure grind down the collective and the individual, but radical political acts need not be of the scale or type that results in a memorial on a village green.

If Rose Allin these days would pass unnoticed and unoppressed - a white girl and a Christian, irritated perhaps by the mockery of her birthplace, but no more - for oppressed communities the mere act of existence is radical.

The black poet and philosopher Audre Lorde - who identified herself as "a dyke", defusing and empowering the pejorative by adopting it, and whose *Cancer Journals* share a sensibility with Marineau's *Life in the Sick-Room* - wrote: "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence. It is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare."

This is an edited extract from Essex Girls: For profane and opinionated women everywhere by Sarah Perry, published by Serpent's Tail at £7.99.

In Foxes Book of Martyrs and on the village memorial stone the surname for Alice is Munt.
ED

CORK CHURCHES

A man called Raymond lived in Station Road circa 1890, and made a living from his activities as a photographer. Another of his interests was the construction of models of churches from cork, and also cork chairs and furniture. Each year he would stage an exhibition of his handicraft in a tent on the Green. He charged a few pence for admission and the one model I remember was of Great Bentley Church. A penny in a slot even made the church bells ring. Asked how he managed to make all the models he exhibited, Raymond was heard to reply: "Patience, perseverance, cork and glue, 1882".

Taken from the History of Great Bentley by L.G. Newman - August 1960.

TENDRING PRIMARY RECYCLE SCHEME

Hello again, last month I focused on the use of the Clothing Bring Banks as a way of making sure that our clothes are recycled rather than ending up in landfill.

This month I am delighted to be able to tell you about another superb use for your no longer needed clothes and textiles, which has come about through the launch of a wonderful new group, called **AlterEco Gift Wrap**.

The group is a community sewing project in the Tendring area which aims to reduce the waste (such as wrapping paper and cello tape etc) associated with celebrations, by way of the creation of beautiful reusable gift bags and wrap from reclaimed fabric.

The items are all made by fantastic volunteers, and the aim of the group is to encourage less waste, and also to fundraise for charity. Our chosen charity at the moment is **Parkinson's UK**, and we hope to be able to support other charities in the future. A specified minimum donation is requested for each bag, which vary in size, and range from just 75p to around £3, according to size. The items can be collected from one of our coordinators, or can be posted if you are happy to cover postage costs.

If you would like to donate fabric or trimmings for this wonderful project, this can be for example, worn out bedding, or suitable clothing and other fabric items which are no longer useable for their original purpose. Ribbons, cords, trimmings, embellishments for cards/Christmas crackers, Velcro, pretty buttons and press studs etc. will also be gratefully received and subsequently repurposed, giving them a new lease of life. Donated items can be dropped off to us or collected from you (when lockdown restrictions allow) and will be distributed to makers in the most eco friendly way possible, via our network of volunteers throughout the district.

The group can be found on Facebook in two ways. If you would like to join our ever-growing group of makers, or to donate any fabric, please go to **AlterEco Gift Wrap TPRS makers group**. Or, if you would like to see the beautiful selection of bags and wrap available to buy, these can be found on **AlterEco Gift Wrap – TPRS community project, reduce/reuse/recycle**. Alternatively, if you are not on Facebook, please contact 07808239141 for further information.

With regards to the current situation with our main Tendring Primary Recycle Scheme, at the time of writing, (15th March), we are still closed as we are unable to access the school site and to have the sorting team together as yet. Transporting the recycling is also not counted as essential travel.

We are however able to offer limited drop offs temporarily (just 5 drop off points at present) for specific schemes only. These are where the volunteers are willing and able to sort, pack, weigh and send off the recycling from their own homes. We are currently selecting one scheme at a time for people to drop off each week, but hope it will not be long now before we can open as normal, which might even be by the time you read this. Please refer to our Facebook page (**Tendring Primary School Recycle Scheme**) for the most up to date details; or our website on www.tendringprimaryrecyclescheme.weebly.com or contact the number shown above.

Whilst thinking of the individual schemes we operate you may be aware that we are able to take non-working pens and other stationery items through the TerraCycle Writing Instruments Recycling Scheme.

Did you know though that we also take working pens and felt tips, which we make available to schools and other organisations who are able to make use of them? When we reopen however, we would really like to enable people to drop these to local organisations direct. Could your organisation use working pens? Do get in touch if so and let us know where these could be dropped off, or if you are able to collect, please let us know from which area. With your help we can all support each other.

We look forward to being able to receive your recycling again in the very near future, so if you are able to start sorting it in readiness, it will help us to get off to a really smooth (if not somewhat hectic!) restart. Two schemes which we sometimes find can be a little mixed up on arrival are the Confectionery Scheme, and the Biscuits, Cakes and Crackers Scheme (both of which can also be taken by the Gt. Bentley Recycle Scheme when they are also able to reopen). If you are able to keep these separate before sending in, again it would be a tremendous help to all of us. Full details of each scheme can be found on our website.

Until next month, thank you as ever for your continued support.

GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET CLUB

The 2021 season is nearly here and we will soon be back on the Green. Please bear with us as we again grapple with all the restrictions we need to adhere to, both government and England Cricket Board. Some of this information may change as we get closer to the dates!!

2021 we are back to league cricket, a first for a few years for our club. Mens T30 Sunday League games, U15 Colts, U13 Colts, U11 Colts and Kwik Cricket (from school Y1 up to 6)

Full fixtures will be posted at the Clubhouse.

CRICKET CLUB MEMBERSHIP

£15 per family or couple and £10 single per year, so pop along and enjoy the family friendly atmosphere and wonderful views of the Green. New Members are always most welcome. Forms available from: gbccbook@gmail.com

COLTS SIGN-ON: due to our ever-increasing numbers we are going to open sign-on before the first session 23.4.21. If your child was signed up with us last year, you should have received a whats app and email with all the information. If not contact Carol by email on: gbccbook@gmail.com and it will be sent to you. Get the paperwork out of the way and enjoy a glass of chilled wine sooner!

We open again on **Friday 23rd April**. We look forward to welcoming you again, for what we hope will be a wonderful Summer! As last year you have to pre-book due to numbers.

Friday 23 April – Friday night training to start (clubhouse not open) * please bring your own chairs and refreshment and observe current social distancing rules

Friday 21 May – *Provisional date* for Clubhouse to open (one-way and toilets only)

Friday 25 June – *Provisional date* for Clubhouse fully open

You can follow us on Facebook @ GBCC BAR for updates and information.

Are you interested in playing cricket in beautiful surroundings? Whatever your age, whether you are a competitive player, a bit rusty or would just like to just meet new people and have some fun, why not come and join Great Bentley Cricket Club.

We have great facilities on the biggest village green in the UK run by a committee of local residents, dedicated to keep the game of Cricket a part of the village life.

For more information, come along to the Club House on The Green, or email Peter Giles peter.giles@uwclub.net or Carol Kerridge: 07748 802690 kerridgecarol@gmail.com

