

Great Bentley Parish News

Produced by the Community
for the Community



June 2021

Village Information

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Julia.brandon@essex.pnn.police.uk

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Great Bentley, CO7 8QN. Telephone 07848 872018

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01255 476068

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CLACTON & DISTRICT HOSPITAL: 01255 201717

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01206 250732

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Alan Bayliss, 01206 250450.

EDITORIAL



2021

Well, the fundraising for our new printer is off to a flying start as you will see on page 7. You will probably receive this magazine before our next stall on May 29th so we hope to see you then and two more are planned for June. It was so lovely to have a bit of normal with everyone chatting and laughing. I love to see everyone out on the green for football and cricket and especially the youngsters, so it's a big thank you to the adults who give their time to coach the next generation of sports men and women. We include Running Club Notes again this month which again is an encouraging sign that things are getting back on track.

We have been asked by the surgery to publish the latest Covid updates and reminders about prevention of the spread of the disease and a message from Dr Mike Gogarty Director of Public Health for Essex County Council. Many of you may well have seen this before but I guess the important thing is that despite the easing of some restrictions we must remain cautious and vigilant.

Lovely to receive some extra school notes this month from Year 2 at our village Primary School who held an Earth Day and featured on Look East. These youngsters give us great hope for the future. Lets see if we can also support them with their recycling too, see page 25. **STOP PRESS. Year 2 raised an amazing £1,000, see page 36.**

Having had such a small amount of rain in April, May is more than making up the status quo. Little watering required at present except in our greenhouses. Hopefully frosts are now a thing of the past and as I have broken my normal rule of not planting out tender annuals until the end of May, if this reverts back I am going to be in serious trouble.

A family on the way out of the village towards Frating, have lost their red footed tortoise. I do so hope this pet can be found. I was reminded about an elderly lady who lived not far from the Cricket pavilion, who we called Mrs Mac (can't remember her full name). She would place her tortoise on the green and walk behind it with a broom gently "encouraging" it to walk. She placed a piece in the magazine after her pet went missing. I remember the phone call when she delightedly informed me that it had been found. Where was it I enquired? I could not believe it when she said Dedham!! Apparently someone driving through the village saw the tortoise on the green, picked it up and took it to their home in Dedham, to keep it safe, then set about tracing its owner.

I am glad to have some helpful hints on supporting hedgehogs in our gardens for our Pet Notes this month. I regularly watch the ones in my garden after dark and I was amazed one evening as two of them, nose to nose spun round in a circle at a speed exceeding anything witnessed on Strictly. I had to Google this and it is of course part of their mating ritual. I hope for the patter of tiny paws from some little hoglets at some point in the future.

The winner of the family ticket to the Weald Park Country Show was the Edwards family. Congratulations. You have a chance to win another Family Ticket, this time to the Essex Country Fair at Cressing, just email me by 5th June.

Hoping for a flaming June, well just a few days would be good.

Mary Maskell

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Front Cover

Aerial view of
Great Bentley
taken in 2018
by Terry Joyce

DISCLAIMER

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THE MONTHLY LETTERS - JUNE

Our long journey through the pandemic certainly feels like it will be coming to an end in the coming months. I know that I am looking forward to the forthcoming weddings and baptisms that will allow families to celebrate and the Church to be actively back in the centre of our community.

It has of course been a strange and difficult time for everyone and there will be many things that we are all looking forward to giving up - like social distancing, zoom meetings, missing out on spending time with family and close friends and eventually face masks.

There are also lots of things I am certainly looking forward to putting back in my diary, like lunch with friends indoors and visits and hugs with my nieces and nephews. I am also really looking forward to being able to sing in church – I know that might be a while yet, but I have really missed singing hymns!
We are so close now, just a little more patience is all it needs.

Do take care.
Every Blessing
Sharon

**Rev'd Sharon will be in church on Friday mornings from
10am to 12 noon for enquiries, including baptisms.**

Dear friends,

I almost forgot to write this! Having got into the habit of writing them weekly over the summer, the change we made to a rota at the beginning of this month meant that when my time to write came around again, I almost forgot – but not quite.

Such slips can happen to all of us when we get out of routine. To be honest, I've never been the best at routines, certainly not those which are self-imposed. I do make my bed every day, after I read the speech a US Admiral gave at a graduation who said that making your bed every day was the first step to success because you could tick at least one thing off your "to do" list, and the buzz from the first success of the day will lead you to attempt others. I can't honestly say I've ever found it works, but at least at the end of yet another day where my "to do" list has grown even longer, or been forgotten about entirely, I go to get into a bed that looks neat and tidy!

However, the current situation with Covid-19 has thrown many of our routines out of kilter. I suspect it is one of the biggest frustrations of the frequently changing guidelines – not that they stop us getting back to normal (whatever that means) but that the constant changes mean we cannot develop new routines, because every time we think we've managed it, the regulations change again.

It is a reality of life that as routines are interrupted so things get forgotten - though I have every confidence the people called Methodist will not have forgotten how to sing when we are finally freed to do so again in one another's company! One thing we can be sure of though, is that we are never forgotten by God. Our failings are, but not us. Time and time again, the scriptures reassure us that God's loving presence is constant, and that each of us is known better than we know ourselves, and that this knowledge and presence does not fail when we do so. Scripture also reassures us that when we turn to God and mourn our failings we will find that God has already forgotten what we got wrong and instead rejoices in all that we have got right – those moments when we have shared God's love, wondered at the beauty of creation, placed our trust in Christ rather than our abilities.

As we face more uncertainty in the coming days and weeks, as we find ourselves still unable to return to old routines or even maintain new ones, we may end up forgetting to do things on occasion that previously would always get done. Do not worry. For God has not forgotten us, and will never forget us, but instead continues always to accompany us in times of stillness and times of turbulence. And what is particularly important is that this remains true not just when we (almost) forget to write Pastoral Letters, or to make our bed, but even when we forget to notice God's presence with us! No matter what we forget, we are not forgotten – thank God!

Shalom, **Rev Tom Osborne**



**GREAT BENTLEY
METHODIST
CHURCH NEWS**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
SERVICES**

Sun 6th June 9.30am Holy Communion
2 Corinthians 4. 13-5.1

Sun 13th June 9.30am Holy Communion
2 Corinthians 5. 6-10, 14-17

Sun 20th June 9.30am Holy Communion
2 Corinthians 6. 1-13

Sun 27th June 8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion
2 Corinthians 8. 7-end

Greetings to you all

We welcome you to worship at Church or on Zoom with us during June. Those wishing to, can still share with us on Zoom to see and hear the service in Church. If you would like to come along or join by Zoom, please ring 01206 250087 so that we can make arrangements for numbers. Morning worship will be held at **10.30am** unless otherwise stated.

The leaders of worship are set out below: -

- June 6th Local Leadership,**
- June 13th Rev Logan if he is back at work**
- June 20th Maggie Woods**
- June 27th Local Leadership**

Messy Church, Luncheon Club and Adventurers are unlikely to re-open before September because of social distancing and other Covid related regulations. Better be safe!

We hope that by the time you read this, Parent & Toddlers will have started again, although in a very modified form.

Each week the following events are normally held at our Church.

Ring these numbers for more information.

Messy Church once a month after school 250087
Luncheon Club Alternate Tuesdays 12 Noon
234241
Parent & Toddlers Group Thursdays 9-15 a.m.
251537
The Adventurers Club. Fridays 7 p.m. Ring
250087

**ROTAS FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH
FOR JUNE**

Reading Rotas

- 6th Dick Wainer
- 13th Stephanie Sadler
- 20th David Branch
- 27th Mandy Miles

Prayer Rota

- 6th Wendy King
- 13th Nicky Justice
- 20th Carol Kerridge
- 27th Vicar



Cleaning Rota

- 5th Linda Hayes
- 12th Mandy Miles and friend
- 19th Nicky Justice
- 26th Carol Kerridge & Lea Howlett

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:



FUNERAL

26th March
Deborah Payne

WEDDING

1st May
Jo Costello to Ben Wilby

For Sale

Pair of Fold up Canvas Beach/
Camping Chairs, hardly used now
surplus to requirements. Good
condition one pink and one green, still
in their plastic covers.

£10 the pair.

Tel: 010206 251606

+++++

Selection of original Krooklocks
available with keys.

£3.00 each.

Tel Peter 0772 1925 083

3 matching Ikea floor lamps
with shades.

Brown metal wavy stem,
similar to bamboo.

Single bulb with cream shade.
145 cm tall

£8.00 each ono.

Tel Julia 01206 250981

THANK YOU

The Wilby and Costello families would like to say a special thank you to the Rev Sharon Miles for all her help and compassion and pulling out all the stops to ensure that Ben and Jo were able to be married in time. It meant all the world to us all. Thank you Sharon.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Ann and Ron Haslam
on their 60th wedding anniversary last month.

MISSING

Our tortoise of 20 years has gone missing. It is a female red footed 20 year old and has been with the family since 3 months old.

If you have any information please
telephone 0208 114 7052
Mobile: 07581 491698

HAPPY RETIREMENT

We wish three of our regular advertisers a Happy Retirement.

Dermot from Mobile Carpet Showroom, Mick from Village Taxis and Alan from Home & Garden Maintenance and we thank them for their support in the past for our village magazine.

WELCOME

We welcome Suzanne to Nostra Casa,
The Path.

Welcome to Aingers Green Mr & Mrs
Dunn at Gable Farm Close and new
residents at Thornfield and Chris and
family to Wilwyn, The Green.

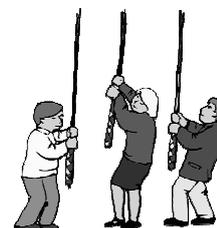


BELLRINGING

Great News! The bellringers are delighted to announce that we will be ringing the bells again for Sunday services from Sunday 23rd May.

If you would like to join us to learn ringing, please contact me.

Roger Carey-Smith
07422 880921



Essex & Herts Air Ambulance asks bikers for support

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is again calling on motorcycling supporters to get on their bikes and say "I Did It My Way" to help keep your local life-saving charity flying.

Building on the success of last year's inaugural event the charity is asking bikers to tackle a route of at least sixty miles in May and September, the months when it would normally be welcoming them in person to its much-loved motorcycle events.

EHAAT normally holds two motorcycle runs – in May to North Weald and in September to Harwich – but these have both again been cancelled.

Kerry Russell, EHAAT's Head of Events said: "A big thanks to everyone who has supported us previously. Our bike runs are enormously popular with riders, and we love hosting them, so we know many people will share our disappointment that we can't hold them this year. However, we know that our biking friends loved the first "I Did It My Way" last year and we have made some enhancements to help ensure the event raises as much as possible to support our life-saving work".

In return for a £10 registration fee, riders will receive an exclusive sticker to display on their bike with pride and show other riders they are supporting EHAAT.

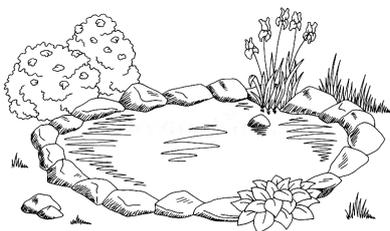
New for 2021 a biking supporter has created four beautiful routes for participants to enjoy and these are available in return for a small fee. Similar to last year there is also a specially-designed t-shirt available to purchase from the website. Bikers will also be able to upload their photos to the Wall of Fame.

EHAAT would like to thank their amazing sponsors [Woodland Group](#), [SorryMate.com](#) and [Colchester Kawasaki](#) for once again supporting this event.

To register for EHAAT's "I Did It My Way 21" motorcycling fundraiser visit www.ehaat.org/myway21.



St. Mary's Church Wildlife Garden and Pond



The garden area inside the Church gates had a tidy up during our annual Churchyard clear up, it took a lot of time and several of us to clear it but the remaining bushes are starting to bloom nicely. The hedgehog house amongst the bushes has definitely been used, I hope by a hedgehog but I won't disturb it just in case.

Moles have had a great time heaving the soil by the little path up to the water butt making it quite uneven. I will sort it out as soon as the weather gets better, in the meantime please be careful round that area. I was hoping the area to the right of the bughouse would spring forth with the shoots of wild flowers but this has yet to happen, probably weather related, however I was pleased to see the daffodils and snowdrops making a good show.

The pond is busy looking after itself, I was advised to remove a couple of plants for the winter as they were only small but they should be going back in again soon. Already bees and insects have been around the pond, you may notice a dish nearby this is called a Butterfly Puddle made up of gravel and a salt/sand/horse dung (only a little bit) mix made very damp with water and a flat stone on top. Butterflies need minerals and water as well as nectar but hate their feet getting wet so they can safely sit on the stone and sip the water and minerals they need.

Thought I would empty my compost bin at home and was amazed to see a very fat slow worm so I hastily put it back. As there are slow worms in the Church yard, I am looking into whether I can put mine there too, I believe they are a protected species so we are very lucky to have them.

Lastly there are three new bird boxes around the churchyard one on a tree, one on the shed and one slightly hidden somewhere but it is unusual and made out of a 4" drainpipe offcut, I won't say where it is as I think it has a visitor/resident.

I do hope we get some kinder weather soon, including some rain!

Mandy

**LITTLE BENTLEY HALL
WATERWAYS & GARDENS**

Church Road, Little Bentley, CO7 8SD

**Saturday 17th July
11am - 5pm**

We invite you to join us for this Open Day and Family BBQ.

The Gardens considered one of the finest private gardens in East Anglia will be open in aid of the local Conservative Associations to members, family and friends for this Ticket only Event. This will be the only opportunity of visiting these wonderful Gardens this year as the famous Garden Shows are no longer taking place. We will have a number of plant and garden furniture stalls to visit.

Tickets only obtainable in advance.
Adults £25, Children U12 - £5, including BBQ lunch.

BBQ will include local meat, salads and sweet.
Vegan option available to pre order.

For tickets please contact.

Nigel Dyson, Bentley Manor, Little Bentley,
CO7 8SE

Tel: 07802 282193 nigel@garden-shows.com

**GREAT BENTLEY
TUESDAY CARPET BOWLS CLUB**

It's time to return to some form of normality and the Great Bentley Tuesday Carpet Bowls Club NEED YOU. We begin playing again on Tuesday 6th July in the Village Hall at 2pm.

All are welcome, no experience necessary, the first two weeks are free after that it's £2 a week which includes tea and biscuits.

Just turn up or for more information contact the Club Secretary Hilary on 07535107335.



PRODUCE AND PLANT STALL

We will be outside Mary's house, Caldew Cottage, The Green on Saturday 12th and Saturday 26th June 10am to 12 noon

We would be grateful for cakes, jams etc and also veg and flower plants that you may have spare.

All proceeds to the new magazine printer.

Look forward to seeing you.

(If wet, in Mary's garage.)
Covid restrictions will apply.

FRIENDS OF THE GREEN

GRAND GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 10th JULY

9am - 3pm

Book in with Beverley 01206 250724
or Michael 01206 250799

Entry fee £7.00 or £10 on the day

Subject to Government rules on the day



NEWS FROM THE OAKS

-Hello everyone!

We hope you are all okay?



We thought we would update you on our boat flowerbed, it's starting to come along and we are very impressed with it as well as people's kind donations.

There has been an idea that we would love for you to be a part of and it's something we hold close to us and that is for the local community to take part within our garden to make it beautiful and teach us, show us how amazing our garden is. So if you would like to be a part of this with us and wish to volunteer please give us a call. We would love to hear from you.

So, as usual have you got your cuppa ready and are you sitting comfortably? Good, let's begin to tell you about the adventures at The Oaks.

We had our very own cinema experience where the showing was High Society which we thoroughly enjoyed and it wouldn't be a true cinema experience without some sweet treats! they were yummy!

We've had our regular pamper sessions with facials, manicures, massages and also having our hair styled. We were so relaxed with the facials that even some of us fell asleep.

We've kept busy with fun games including the parachute balloon game. That was an exercise in itself so when we did our regular Thai Chi this was relaxing and it was a gentle exercise and this again was very enjoyable. As well as our regular Montessori activities. These keep our minds active and also provides independence within the activity.

We have been for walks, of course when the weather has been nice. It has been lovely to get out and meet some very kind people on our walks and seeing your beautiful gardens. We love to meet new people so if you see us give us a wave or a hello.

One last thing, did you see our St George's Day cakes that were so very kindly donated by Danielle Round Special cakes. They were absolutely beautiful and we are ever so grateful for the kindness that she gave to us. Thank you Danielle, you made our day. If you haven't seen her work go and have a look. You will be amazed.

Well that's all for now. We are very excited to tell you what we have planned soon with the world hopefully becoming back to normal. This is very exciting for us as we get to see the world again.

If you have any recommendations of what you think we should do on our adventures it would be amazing to hear from you. You can find us on Facebook under 'The Oaks Residents'

We hope you enjoy reading our stories as much as we enjoy letting you know what we are up to and also for you all to be a part of our little world.

With love from all at The Oaks
XxX

THANK YOU PRODUCE AND PLANT STALL

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to the stall on Saturday 15th; for donating plants, cakes, marmalade etc and for generously donating to "The Printer Fund". We raised an amazing **£400.50**.

We were truly delighted to learn just a few days earlier that we are to receive £1,000 from the **Grassroots Charity** which works in the name of Colchester and Tendring Community Trust. This is a tremendous boost to our fundraising. We were encouraged to apply for this grant by Community Voluntary Services Tendring or **CVST** who have supported us before in our quest for grants. Grateful thanks to them.

With a few personal donations from readers we have just reached £2,000 of the £4,500 we require. Thank you everyone,

Mary Maskell

Wildlives

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre

'Catkins', Frating Road, Thorrington, 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!**

June 2021

Wildlives is now very busy with orphans of all shapes and sizes flooding in, and both phones ringing constantly with people from all over the country seeking advice. We would ask callers to remember that Rosie is working 24 hours a day with the animals, and will still always do her best to help. A depressing number of people are rude or abusive when they do not get the answer they want. We are unable to come out to collect animals, but will always try to help.

Two new fox cubs have arrived. Elmo, pictured left, was found collapsed and dehydrated in a garden, close to death, but is now thriving after much hard work and attention. Several people contacted Wildlives about a sick fox cub at Thorrington. Sunny was eventually located and brought to the centre. He was close to death, suffering from severe dehydration and starvation, and on arrival was completely blind and with a bloodshot eye due to head trauma. With lots of care he is completely recovered, regaining his sight after five days. Elmo and Sunny are now in a rehabilitation pen with last month's cub Mizzle, and the three are firm friends.

A tawny owl was found on Clacton golf course after dreadful weather, where he was being ignored by the golfers. Fortunately one of our supporters, Bob, found him and he was brought to Wildlives where he got the help he needed. He is now doing well.

A hedgehog was brought in after a road accident. He had a horrendous wound to the side of his face with the eye completely detached. The vet sutured the wound, but feared that the damage was so severe that the wound would break down. Sadly this has started to be the case, but he is receiving regular wound irrigation and cleaning and will hopefully recover.

Lapwings were incubated from eggs by a lady who found a disturbed nest. When they hatched they came to Wildlives for rearing, and are doing well.

HOLISTIC SALON OF THE YEAR THE GREAT BENTLEY RETREAT



The Great Bentley Retreat offers a holistic approach to beauty and pride themselves on their ethical endeavours, using only organic and eco-friendly products. While these products are an integral part of the treatments offered at The Great Bentley Retreat, they are also provided alongside a wide range of local products for customers to purchase and enjoy at home. The holistic salon has now been open for almost 10 years and through word of mouth has built a loyal client base from the surrounding villages. Whether you are a first time visitor or a regular, the team always takes the time to develop relationships in order to discover each client's personal preferences and provide them with the treatments they love.

This past year has, of course, been a particularly difficult time for The Great Bentley Retreat. However, the team has risen to the occasion and their dedication is evident through a commitment to new training practices that managed to safeguard staff and customers without compromising their high standards. They even began using a recycling box for masks and gloves to safely reduce their waste and brought in the latest technology to clean all the equipment. The future looks bright for the Essex-based salon as they continue to extend their range of retail products, add to the team, and introduce new features into their five treatment rooms.

www.greatbentleyretreat.co.uk
01206 255108
info@greatbentleyretreat.co.uk

ADVERTISING IN GREAT BENTLEY PARISH NEWS

We have just a few spaces left for 2021.

Please contact Mary Maskell
01205 250524
email: marymaskell@sys3internet.net

WE WELCOME NEW ADVERTISERS

Logo ID, Personalised clothing, See Page L.

Experienced Private Carer, See Page L.

CH Tiling, See page I.

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Its been a while since I have had some notes for you as lockdown has again meant that local football stopped. Fortunately we are coming out the other side and the kids can get back to playing football with their friends again. It's great to see them back out on the Green and enjoying the fresh air and having fun - its been a long time coming. All our teams are back and playing in their respective leagues and doing really well considering its been a good few months since they have had the chance to play football.

Lee Barratt and the under 7's blues have gone from strength to strength since the restart in April, winning every game thus far, scoring lots of goals and putting in some very mature performances, which have even attracted an Ipswich scout. Wonderful news that a few players have been offered the chance of a trial. Lee has some really good players and a great little team, they are definitely worth checking out if you want to see some goals!

Since lockdown finished the Under 14 Reds have played three games, losing the first to Earls Colne 2-1 and also against Colchester Villa 5-3, with both games being very close and competitive. The following Sunday they were much better and went on to a convincing win, 6-2 over at Clacton, with 2 goals for Alfie Brown, 2 for Evan Brady and 1 each for Charlie Dobson and Jamie Lambert. The good news for Matt and the boys is that they have managed to attract and sign a new player for the remaining games and also next season.

The under 12 Reds are having a great season too and currently sit top of their league with only a few games to go, hopefully they can continue this good form until the end of the season and secure the league. We are on the look-out for helpers / coaches to take on under 6s next year, having done this a few times myself, coaching the youngest kids is really great fun and is particularly rewarding as they pick things up really quickly and you get a great sense of satisfaction seeing them doing in games what you have taught them during the week. If you are interested then initially email our secretary Tony Nash on tony196480@icloud.com.

Thanks for reading,
Scott



**TAKEN FROM “100 YEARS, A CELEBRATION OF
GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL”
COMPILED BY JOYE WATSON ... Contd.**

Mr David Darlington - January 1977 - August 1995

Other hard work was recognised too by people outside the school. In 1987 - “The school was ... mentioned on BBC Radio Club when three children’s poems were read out.” and in 1988 the School was presented with an award by the Anglia Water Authority in the form of a bat box.

The School was represented in Football, Netball and Rounders matches, at Gymnastic displays, the Area Sports and following the commencement of swimming lessons at Bentley Country Park a team took part in Swimming Galas.

Although most children were now vaccinated against measles, there was concern about the possibility of an epidemic taking place during the winter of 1995/6. Parents were advised to have their children protected and on 8 December 1995 - “All but 23 children had a measles injection. A medical team consisting of one doctor, three school nurses and an admin. assistant carried out the whole procedure Mrs (-) - parent helper - gave out sweets and encouragement.”

One entry which I thought was rather disturbing - 17th October 1984 - “It was reported to me by the dentist that the teeth of the younger pupils were not as good as in the past.”

Other entries are reminders of world history or interesting facts about the surrounding area.

14 September 1978 - “2 classes visited site of New Rectory”.

13 May 1980 - “Visited New Library in Colchester.”

2 June 1980 - “Free School milk for infants ceased from today.”

18 January 1982 - “New 2 priced lunch started today. The children now have a greater selection of food.”

23 July 1981 - “Whole School celebrated the Royal Wedding (Prince and Princess of Wales) by holding a Royal Wedding Picnic.”

April - June 1982 - The Falklands War.

21 June 1982 - “... the birth of Prince William of Wales.”

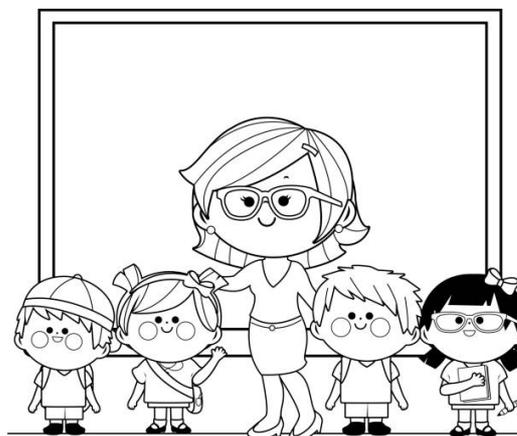
7 July 1992 - “Y.6 visited Channel Tunnel Exhibition at Folkestone, then crossed Channel from Dover to Calais (by ferry). Due to the French lorry driver’s industrial action we were unable to see the French end of the Tunnel.”

8 September 1995 - “Two time capsules buried into the brick pier on the roof of the new building ...”

Sadly Mr Darlington was taken ill in November 1994 and had to take early retirement in August 1995. In the interim the School was ably led by five Acting Heads.

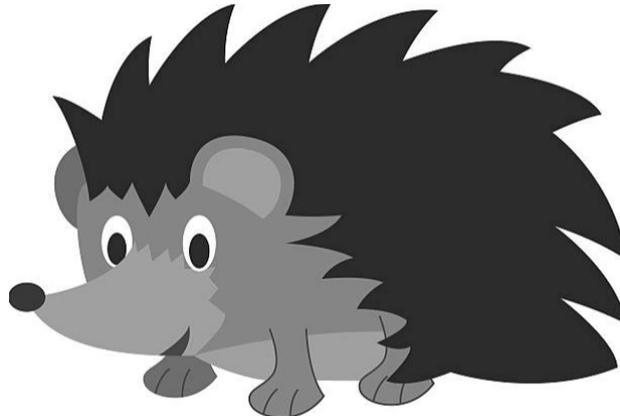
At the beginning of June 1995, work was begun on another extension, comprising of two new classrooms and kitchen, and the enlarging of two existing rooms. The Official Opening of this building took place on 19 January 1996 with a service of blessing conducted by the Rev. Bernard Metcalfe and the Rev. Frazer Hawkes.

We are now approaching our second century and for the first time welcome a Headmistress.



PET NOTES

I received a special request this month for an article on caring for hedgehogs in our gardens. More requests are welcome. Here are my top tips...



DO...

- Leave some areas of wilderness where the hedgehogs can snuffle for insects
- Put out a bowl of drinking water
- Put out a bowl of meaty cat or dog food around dusk
- Install a hedgehog house in a quiet part of the garden
- Keep an eye on the hedgehogs in your garden. Contact a local rescue centre if you have any concerns about them, in particular, limping, visible injury or poor weight
- Check for hedgehogs before lighting bonfires

DON'T...

- Put out bread or milk
- Attempt to handle healthy hedgehogs
- Leave bin bags and other waste lying around
- Use slug pellets and other chemicals which can be poisonous to hedgehogs and other wildlife
- Fork over compost heaps in case a hedgehog is living inside
- Attempt to treat a hedgehog yourself, including using cat or dog flea treatment
- Move a hibernating hedgehog

If you find an injured hedgehog, you should wear thick gardening gloves to pick it up. Hold it in both hands round the middle and scoop it up. Put it into a cardboard box lined with newspaper and provide a small towel or tea towel for it to hide under.

If your hedgehog is very poorly or is cold, you can also give it a hot water bottle or a drinks bottle filled with warm water to snuggle up to. These must be wrapped in a tea towel to prevent burns.

If it cannot be taken to a rescue centre straight away, offer dog or cat food in a shallow bowl, plus a non-tip dish of fresh water.

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.

Wine Time

I am often asked for recommendations for which wines to buy and where from? I am also asked what is my favourite wine to drink, which is a bit like saying what is your favourite thing to eat? The right answer to the wine question is. 'I don't know what my favourite wine is because I haven't had it yet!

I always have favourites of course, certain wines that time and again give me enormous pleasure as I continue on my wine journey of discovery, which will never end. So whatever point you are on your wine journey join me and I promise to help you discover some joyous wines. However, you need to be bold. You will find enormous pleasure in the discovery of something new and enjoyable, but like life there will always be something you are not so keen on, because that is what life, wine tasting and discovery is all about. So put any bad experience down to experience and move on, gaining from the wisdom.



Remember if you want to discover the best wine you have to commit to drinking more often than the one £5.99 bottle of Malbec on a Sunday lunch. Certainly if you want to learn about wine and find the ones that you enjoy you have to buy and try more wines each week. The simple way to learn about wine is the principle of writing down in a notebook the name of the wine (take a photograph of the label if you are able), then where you bought the wine, how much you paid and a simple note about how the wine tasted. This will be a huge step in your learning about wine and pretty soon you will have a library of the wines you have tasted and enjoyed.

Back to the theme of buying wines and the message 'drink better, drink less'. As I said last month, a £12 bottle of wine is only £2 a glass and £18 a bottle £3 a glass! So what are you waiting for? A wine priced between £12 and £18 will deliver so much more than your Sunday luncheon wine costing £5.99 at £1 a glass!

Recommended wines this month:

LES CIMES DOMAINE DE L'AGLY LATOUR DE FRANCE, COTES DU ROUSSILLON

2017 Co Op £17.99

My wine of the year to date from the ever reliable Co Op. This is rich, intense, smooth and fruity with great quality and fantastic length of flavour. Forget Chateauneuf du Pape and tuck into this absolute beauty. Will work brilliantly with a rib-eye or fillet of beef, or try a mushroom Risotto! Wonderful red wine!

£3 A GLASS!

KLEINE ZALZE VINEYARD SELECTION CHENIN BLANC, SOUTH AFRICA 2018

Fenwick Colchester £15.99

Rich, ripe and intense. Brilliant now, but the supporting acidity has the potential to support and improve the wine over many years. At which point it will expand its flavours and become more complex. Drink now up until 2026. Gorgeous fruity white wine!

£2.66 A GLASS!

As always I would love to receive some feedback, so do get in touch.

CHURCHYARD 100 CLUB SPRING DRAW

As there is no Spring Fair at the church this year where we normally do the draw, we drew the tickets at Mary Maskell's stall on Saturday 15th May.

Congratulations to Lyn Giles and Fiona Bodmer whose winning numbers 48 and 31 were drawn.

Many thanks to all who continue to support this, which helps with the upkeep of the churchyard, a wonderful facility for the whole community.



A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

A NEW CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN ELECTED AT TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

At the Full Council meeting held on the 27th April, Cllr Jeff Bray was voted in to be the Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming year. Cllr Bray had been Vice-Chairman for the past two years and replaces the outgoing Chairman Cllr Dan Land.

As well as presiding over TDC's full council meetings, the Chairman is a ceremonial role and represents the council and district at civic events. Cllr Peter Harris was elected to serve as Vice-Chairman.

LARGER BINS INSTALLED ALONG SEAFRONTS

Each summer Veolia, Tendring District Council (TDC) contractors put out an additional 150 bins along seafronts.

With bins being regularly emptied and asking people to take their rubbish home with them, littering remains a problem. Larger bins have now been put in place across the busy seafronts. They hold 340 litres of litter instead of 240 litres.

Although there are the larger bins, which are emptied regularly throughout the day, and to support the increase of capacity Veolia has hired two additional dedicated collection vehicles with a greater capacity for the seafronts. Of course, it is not safe to carry out collections if the beaches and promenade areas are very busy; therefore, TDC is still asking visitors to please take their rubbish home especially if the bins are full.

EXTRA £1.5 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR VITAL CLIFF REPAIRS

Councillors at its Full Council meeting held on the 27th April, agreed to spend an additional £1.5million to repair unstable cliffs in Holland-on-Sea.

£631,000 had already been set aside to assess the damage to the cliff face and explore options for the ongoing stabilisation of the 200 metre section of cliffs.

Following due process seeking prices for the repairs the total budget estimate for the repairs is £2.1m – lower than the original estimation of £4m.

Council officers are instructed to seek external funding to support the works, and to make representations to Government about concerns with the need to help, in the long term, local coastal authorities with similar problems.

Around 200 metres of cliff face have slipped since February 2020, 13 beach huts have been moved for their protection. It is a different section of cliffs to the stretch that was stabilised under a £5m scheme in 2018-9. If left unchecked the cliffs risk further collapse. As well as stabilising the cliffs and protecting the amenities in the area for the next 50 to 100 years, provision could be made to provide 30 new beach huts.

The full Cabinet report on Cliff Stabilisation can be read here: <https://tdcdemocracy.tendringdc.gov.uk/documents/s39443/A2%20Report%20Cliff%20Stabilisation%20Funding%20-%20Final.pdf>

MILESTONE REACHED IN TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

A tree planting initiative has been reached in Tendring with the last of 30,000 saplings now having been planted.

The Tendring Woodland Initiative Group (TWIG) planted the trees to mark the 30th anniversary of the Tree Council – which Tendring District Council (TDC) has been part of since it was founded.

Volunteer tree warden Mike Wadham came up with the idea and agreed with local farmers across the district to plant on their land. Funding for the trees came from the Tree Council and Network Rail, with support from Essex County Council and local contractors Environmental Design Ltd and Silverton Aggregates.

Farmer Alan Gosling planted the 30,000th tree.

Overall, with the support from Essex County Council's Essex Forest Initiative, TDC has now planted more than 40,000 trees.

Mike Wadham is now actively seeking sponsorship and funding for the next phase of tree planting to take place later in the year. If landowners or sponsors wish to be involved please email Clive Dawson, TDC's Tree and Landscape officer, at cdawson@tendringdc.gov.uk.

BEACHES KEEP THREE BLUE FLAGS

Keep Britain Tidy has given seven beaches in Tendring prestigious awards: including three with the top awards of Blue Flags.

Beaches at Brightlingsea, Dovercourt Bay, Harwich, Frinton, Walton-on-the-Naze, Clacton town's Albion beach, and Martello Bay have all been given Seaside Awards in recognition of their quality.

The beaches at Dovercourt Bay, Brightlingsea and Walton's Albion beach have kept their Blue Flag status, which Walton was awarded for the first time last year.

It means all Tendring seafronts have kept their accreditation from 2020.

The awards are a great advert for the Essex Sunshine Coast, it is great to have received these awards as it is not easy to keep Blue Flag and Seaside Award status.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns; I am always very pleased to help and hear from you.

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 cldr.lmcwilliams@tendringdc.gov.uk



NATURE NOTES

I have recently heard a nightingale several times late at night and among other birdsong in the daytime. On one occasion there has been more than one and even indoors when having a bath with a window ajar the unmistakable song has floated in. A general decline of them has been subject of concern making this experience all the more special. On another occasion one sang with a muntjac deer

barking at the same time. Holland Brook seems to hold some attraction perhaps as a migratory corridor even though the scrubby patches two males have adopted are unremarkable and close to human disturbance. In the stillness of the night their sounds reverberate in the valley, sometimes seeming very near when several hundred yards away. This is when they have deserted better known local sites that should have more obvious appeal.

Only in the past decade with the use of tiny geo-locaters have their wintering grounds been confirmed. Birds have been tracked to Senegal and Guinea Bissau in West Africa with staged migratory routes through SW Europe, Morocco and fringing the westerly Sahara.

The males return from Africa in late April and draw down females flying over mostly at night. An early nightingale only singing for a short period may mean no pair bond has been achieved. They do not necessarily sing on consecutive nights that may be due to weather conditions. Once a pair has settled and eggs been laid singing declines and usually stops when the young have hatched. The male is then reduced to making odd croaking sounds.

In contrast to their conspicuous voice nightingales are rarely seen, keeping largely to thick cover. They are in a family of their own, alongside other small thrush-like birds including robins, chats and redstarts. They share with the last a mobile rufous tail - its most distinguishing feature in an otherwise plain brown plumage.

It is recommended in this year of the 200th anniversary of John Keats' death to re-read his most famous "Ode to a Nightingale" of a bird "that sings of summer in full throatful ease".

DRB

SCHOOL NEWS

Year 1.

For Red Nose Day we dressed up as heroes - superheroes or personal heroes!
Mr Godfrey thinks his awesome class are all heroes, so he dressed as one of them.

In English we have been learning how to write instructions. Every good board game needs instructions, so we designed our own Space-themed board games, wrote clear instructions on how to play the game and then played the games

Welcome to our final term in Year 2! We will be learning about the Seaside, how beaches have changed throughout history (including links to the Victorians), Plastic pollution, and much more!

Keep your eyes peeled for our upcoming 'Plastic Pollution campaign!'

Year 4

On Tuesday 20th April we had an art day! We started off by drawing our design in pencil onto our piece of fabric, we then used the melt wax to create our design this is called Batiking. After we had completed our batik design, we let the wax dry before tie dying them outside. Throughout the day we also wrote our names in Norse, completed still life drawings and listened to music and associated colours with each mood we thought it showed.

Year 5.

We have been studying the art of Henri Rousseau. We have been learning how to colour mix and have re created this famous piece using some of the same techniques. Look at our brilliant paintings!

"Today a reader... tomorrow a leader!"

"Exercise is to the body what reading is to the mind.."

Here in Year 6, we believe that reading opens the doors for all manner of possibilities! We encourage the children to use our reading corner regularly, and we hope that you find a comfy space to read with your child at home.

FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES

Border League KO Cup. 1st Team

Sat April 17th 2nd rd Thorpe Athletic (A) L 0 – 4

Border League Reserve KO Cup. Reserves

Sat April 17th Qtr final FC Clacton 'A' (H) W 2 – 1

Border League Tommy Thompson Cup. Reserves

Sat May 1st 2nd rd Kelvedon Social (H) W 1 – 0

Border League Covid Cup. 1st Team

Wed April 28th 2nd rd Dedham Old Boys (A) W 2 – 0

Sat May 1st Qtr final Little Oakley Res (A) W 4 – 1

Sat May 15th Semi final Dunmow FC (A) L 1 - 9

Border League Covid Plate. 'A' team

Sat April 24th 1st rd Wethersfield (H) Walkover

Wed May 12th 2nd rd Abbey Fields (A) W 7 – 2

Sat May 15th Qtr final Ramsey & Mistley (H) L 2 - 3



Saturday 17th April saw the 1st and 2nd teams both play in the league KO cups. An under strength 1st team were soundly beaten 4 – 0 by Thorpe Athletic at Thorpe, whilst the reserves beat FC Clacton 2 – 1 on the green. GB scorers were Tom Gray and Ollie Lawrence. Due to the number of ties still to be played, we are still waiting to see who they will face in the semi-final.

In the Tommy Thompson cup 2nd round, a mix of reserves/ 'A' team players beat Kelvedon Social on the green. The only goal scored by Joel De Souza. We were due to play the winners of the Lawford Lade Res v Thorpe Athletic game in the next round but the match was abandoned due to fighting on the pitch. The case has been referred to the Essex FA. Rumours suggest that the competition could now be held over to next season.

The additional Border League competitions provided to compensate for the leagues being cancelled were imaginatively called the "Covid Cup" and the "Covid Plate"

In the 1st round of the Covid Cup, Gordon was forced to field a team made up with a real mix of players from all three teams. Goalkeeper Jake Ellwood really helped us by agreeing to play in the cup games.

This quickly assembled side kicked off at Harwich, "under the lights" on a cold Wednesday evening and outplayed Dedham for the whole 90 mins with goals from Dale Brown and Kieron Baker, who played for 60mins, even though he was not fully fit. Kieron was forced to play as the main striker and showed all his considerable experience.

Drawn against Little Oakley Res in the quarter final. Almost the same squad of players once again rose to the occasion winning 4 – 1. Scorers were Archie Herbert and a superb hat-trick from Kieron Baker. Scoring goals for fun like he did in his youth.

The semi-final was played at the stadium of National Conference League South club Braintree FC, who ground share with our opponents Dunmow FC. The Dunmow side was made up of either current or recent Braintree players and came out convincing winners. Our chairman was quoted as saying "it was the best Border league team I've seen in 40 years". Our consolation goal was scored by Tim Flack,

The "A" team are playing in the Covid Plate competition. Drawn at home in the 1st round we were awarded the game when Wethersfield could not raise a team.

We went on to soundly beat Abbey Fields midweek 7 – 2, with goals from Harvey Evens (2), Alfie Morley (2), Gareth Evans and player/manager Mark Gridley.

The qtr final was played on the green Sat 15th. GB were unlucky to lose a very close game 2 – 3 and not to take it to extra time.

This leaves GB without the chance to win a "Covid Cup". Hopefully the only year that this trophy will have been played for ?

Follow Great Bentley Football Club and Border League Football on Facebook and Twitter.

Stay Safe.

Follow the Bulldogs

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

Meeting held 6th May 2021

At a shortened Annual Parish Council Meeting, Cllr Pippa Dennitts was re-elected unopposed as Chairman for the second year.

Planning Applications Considered

The planning applications shown in the table below had already been decided by TDC before the meeting:

21/00355/FUL Mr Matthew Hardwick	Erection of single storey detached home office	8 Michael Wright Way Great Bentley, CO7 8GH
21/00319/FUL Mr and Mrs Morton	Erection of summerhouse and swimming pool.	Rowan House, St Marys Road Great Bentley, CO7 8NJ
21/00435/FUL Mr P Kemp	Erection of single storey rear extension	10 Cedar Way Great Bentley, CO7 8LT
21/00533/TPO Miss Natalie Pells	1 No. Purple Leaved Plum - remove.	Hamilton House, The Green Great Bentley, CO7 8LY

The planning applications shown below was 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/>

21/00574/TCA Mrs Pearl Parker	6 No. Horse Chestnut Trees - Cut back lower branches to give clearance.	Great Bentley Primary School Plough Road, Great Bentley CO7 8LD
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Liaison with Developers:

The Parish Council will be writing to developers where planning applications have been agreed by TDC or by appeal, saying that the Parish Council would like to help the process in a positive way for the village.

South of Weeley Road:

An on-line meeting has been arranged with the developer to discuss the development and to highlight issues raised by residents.

Southside Track:

A lengthy discussion was held about how in a legal way, the track could be upgraded and the Green protected. It was decided to obtain legal advice to discover what action could be taken.

Future Meetings:

There will be no Parish Council meeting in June. The next meeting will be held in the Michael Wright Room at the Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 1st July 2021

GREAT BENTLEY CRICKET CLUB

We are back to training and our fixtures have started. So good to see so many enjoying Cricket. Friday nights are growing in popularity with some 65 colts in training. By the end of June we hope to be back to full clubhouse use, but we are taking each step as it comes.

Friday nights: Colts Training 5.30-8.00pm

Fri	21 May	Clubhouse to open (restricted bar service, one-way & toilets only)
Tues	1 June:	U13 Away v Wivenhoe 6pm
Sun	6	T30 Mens Home v Coggeshall CC. 1pm start
Tue	8	U13 Home v B'sea 6pm at Bentley Pitch
Wed	9	U15 Away v Coggeshall 6pm (friendly)
Mon	14	U11 Away v Mistley CC
Tues	15	U15 Home v Frinton CC at Bentley
Wed	16	U13 Away v Mistley 6pm
Sun	20	U11 Away v Frinton CC
Tues	22	U11 Away v Tendring 6pm
Fri	25 June	– <i>Provisional date</i> for Clubhouse fully open
Sun	27	T30 Mens Home v Copford. 1pm start
Sun	27	U11 Away v Brightlingsea 10am
Tues	29	U13 Home v Wivenhoe 6pm at Bromley Pitch



****DATE FOR NEXT MONTH****

Friday 9 July Kwik Cricket Tournament, 6pm.

We will be welcoming some 20 youth teams to play cricket on the Green. Come along and support the visiting teams and watch some future stars in the making. BBQ, Pimms, cold drinks, sweets stalls, cake stall and raffle.

You can follow us on Facebook @ GBCC BAR for updates and information. Membership is now due: £15 per family or couple and £10 single per year, Forms available from: gbccbook@gmail.com

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

DEADLINE FOR JULY MAGAZINE

TUESDAY 15th JUNE

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

SESAW NEWS

My old tummy trouble flared up last month so Ollie stepped in to write our news. He also provided the best laugh I've had in ages when Mum caught him trying to converse with a toy parrot! Seeing the superior 'cat who walks by himself' failing to get a response from a stuffed toy cheered me up no end! Next time he mocks my canine intelligence I'll call him Pretty Ollie!

Over the last year the demand for pets has increased dramatically and theft is rife. Dogs have been taken, not only from owners and walkers whilst outdoors but from kennels and gardens in broad daylight. Please stay vigilant at all times to keep your beloved companions safe and avoid the heartbreak of a missing pet. We have a few dogs for rehoming including, Tasmin and Tarla, lively five and six year old staffies, homeless through no fault of their own. They are spayed, microchipped, vaccinated and ready for lots of walks and cuddles in a loving home.

Although we are not holding any fundraising events, our trusty volunteers will attend sales and markets arranged by various organisations or sell things locally, online and at their garden gates. Karen and Jayne enjoy meeting shoppers at Langham's Community Markets, thank you for inviting SESAW. That's all from me, time to accompany Mum on her evening rounds then it's a cosy bed by the fire for 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

THANK YOU

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who once again put their trust in me, for a third term as the Essex County Councillor for Brightlingsea, Thorrington, Great Bentley, Alresford, Point Clear and St. Osyth.

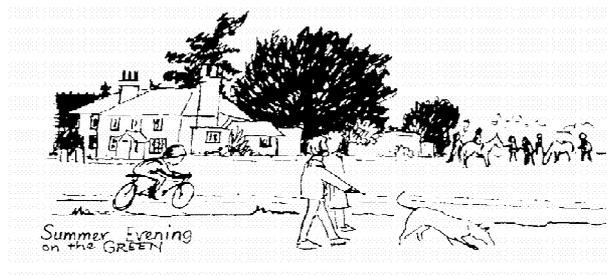
It will be a busy 4 years whilst the County deals with major issues, including the effect of the post COVID recovery, climate change and the welfare of our most vulnerable residents – both young and old.

I will always represent the views of the 15,000 voters and their families in my division. I am conscious that this includes not only those who voted for me, but also those who preferred others, and those who did not vote at all.

During the coming weeks there will be announcements from ECC regarding improvements and new initiatives. I plan to be at the heart of these programmes.

RENEWAL EQUALITY AMBITION"

Alan Goggin
Tel: 07860 519117: 01206 308023



A FEW MORE MEMORIES OF MY EARLY CHILDHOOD IN GREAT BENTLEY

In the 1950s Great Bentley was a lovely safe place to grow up in. There was so much to do. As children we were allowed on the farms to help. Mr Clark, the Cowman at Hall Farm let us help with getting the cows in for milking. Not that they needed a lot of help. All the cows knew where to go and each was known by name.

We also went to Sturrick Farm to help Mr Sams the farmer feed the pigs. He also let us play on a straw bale stack which he kept just for us.

In the summer holidays we played in a dry ditch that ran on the land between the back of the Methodist Church and the Green on Heckfords Road. (The wild flower patch is there now). Other parts of the Green were ideal for ball games.

The stream at the bottom of the hill on Colchester Road was a great attraction. We played Pooh sticks, happily running back and forth across the road due to lack of traffic. In a field not far from the stream we had a hideout up a tree on top of the Humps that went across the field.

We also found plenty to do nearer home. We played Hopscotch on the pavement outside our house. This we chalked quite happily not realising we were breaking the law. However the policeman lived a few doors down and he never said anything. We also danced in the back garden of our friends. The music was played on His Master's Voice gramophone that had a big horn on it. To keep it playing we had to wind it up with a handle.

We loved going for walks. I remember walking to Brightlingsea with our friends older sister. When we arrived at the water we were rowed across to the 'Stone'. We stayed a while and then got the boat back before walking home. Five miles each way but we thought nothing of it.

A shorter walk was with Auntie Rob and her dog "Jennie". Auntie Rob lived in a bungalow near the grass square on De Vere. If we were playing nearby when she came out to take Jennie for a walk we used to join her.

We used to walk to Aingers Green on a Sunday to visit our friend's relatives. This changed a bit when to our great excitement buses came to the village. The number 77. (Yes it is still the same number). It stopped at De Vere Estate on Sunday afternoon and went to Fir Tree Corner, Aingers Green where it turned round and went back to the village. It was a green double decker Eastern National bus and we paid one penny to go to Aingers Green. Sometimes we walked to Aingers Green, visited our friend's relatives and then caught the bus back. Rarely did we ride down and back as tuppence was a lot out of our pocket money.

A different type of walk both Roz and I remember was "Nature Walks" we went on when at school. This was usually down Waterworks Lane and we went as far as Admirals Farm and back. We looked out for wild flowers and were told their names. Sometimes we were told to be very quiet and listen for bird song. Back in class we wrote about what we had seen and heard in our nature books.

In the winter the village ponds were a great attraction, especially when they froze over. Wades pond near The Path was lovely for us younger children to slide on, as it was not too deep if we fell in. The older children used to play ice hockey on it. The doctor's pond (as we called it) on the Green was much deeper. However a quick slide across it on the way to school was lots of fun.

Grandad died in 1954 and two years later Nan died. Dad spent nearly a year in his spare time and with some help getting Rambler Cottage ready for us to move into. Neither Roz or I wanted to move as we were very happy in 6 Colchester Road. The only way Mum and Dad could talk us round was by telling us about the new bathroom with a flushing toilet. I was also persuaded by the fact that Rambler was near the railway station and I would not have to leave so early to catch the train to school.

Barbara Fookes

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FATHER'S DAY

Sunday 20th June



Surgery News



GP Referral Community Pharmacist Consultation Service

We would like to make our patients aware of a new service that has recently been introduced. If you contact the Surgery with certain minor ailments you may be referred across to your local pharmacy to contact you about this. The Surgery will send details across to the pharmacy and you will then be contacted within 4 hours with advice. Details of your telephone consultation will be sent to the Surgery and if after speaking to the Pharmacist there are any concerns, they may refer you back to the GP.

Consent for someone to speak on your behalf

We often have people phone us on behalf of family members. We cannot discuss any patient's confidential information with anyone else unless we have express written consent from them. This includes even just confirming an appointment time or date. Our staff often experience disgruntled patients as a result, but they would be breaking the law if they complied and are absolutely right to refuse. If there is frequently a need to discuss someone else's details and they are happy for us to do this, the patient just needs to write to us expressing consent to talk to the named family member and we will note this on their record.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 23 June 2021 for staff training. If patients require urgent care on this afternoon then they can contact 111 for assistance.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

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

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

Dear Essex resident,

Thank you for all you have done in observing the difficult lockdown since Christmas. Your action resulted in Essex going from one of the areas with the highest rate nationally to the lowest in the East of England at about half the national average.

We have now begun to mix with others which is very welcome. We are all looking forward to more gradual relaxations of restrictions, but we still want to protect each other. Unfortunately it is likely the virus will return, but there is much we can do to prevent this turning into hospital admissions and deaths. So, I have three key asks of you.

Firstly, please get vaccinated when you are invited. I would especially urge that if you have been offered a vaccine but not had it, please discuss this with your GP or with the Essex Wellbeing Service on 0300 303 9988. They can help you get vaccinated if that has been difficult for any reason, whether you are worrying about allergies, side effects or just being able to get to an appointment. I am sure their advice will help you.

Secondly, please consider self-testing regularly. I recognise that you may not want to get tested in case you have to miss work and might lose income. To help avoid this, we have developed schemes to try and support you.

Thirdly, I'd encourage you to think about what personal space means for all of us now. While we are enjoying more hard-earned freedoms, it is important we keep two metres (six feet) from each other. We need to make this a habit. Obviously, we won't be able to do this all the time but where we can, we should. The virus cannot easily transmit further than two metres so this will keep both you and those around you safe.

Thank you again for your help and support in what has been a truly terrible time for us all.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Mike Gogarty
Director of Public Health, Essex County Council

GREAT BENTLEY – VILLAGE LIFE

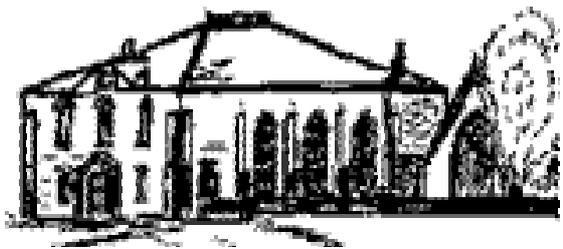
The Parish of Great Bentley comprises Great Bentley, Aingers Green and Flag Hill. The parish boundary is approximately 13 miles long and can be seen on the map which is situated next to The Plough. Traditionally the ancient custom of “Beating the Bounds” is made every seven years by residents.



There is some evidence of an ancient settlement (circa 3000BC), with the discovery of part of a megalithic mace found at Carpenters Farm. Elsewhere in the parish a Roman coin and a tessellated pavement is further evidence of an early settlement. The village is mentioned in the Domesday book and at that time was known as Benetlea being situated in a large, wooded area. St Mary's church was erected C1130 and clearing of the woods was also started; by the early 1500's, the name changed to Much Bentley and eventually Great Bentley. The name is thought to come from “Bent”, a type of grass and “Lea/Ley” meaning grassland or meadow. Great, speaks for itself, at 43 acres it is reputed to be the largest village green in England.

Great Bentley also had a port at Flag Creek to import and export goods and a brickworks on the Southern parish boundary. London Brick Company built houses for the workers at Flag Hill. In 1557, one hundred years before Matthew Hopkins, (the self-proclaimed Witchfinder General), four Protestant “heretics” from the village were arrested and taken to Colchester Castle. Three were burnt at the stake, the fourth died in prison. There is a memorial to them outside the Cricket Club.

The Methodist Church was first built in 1820, initially considered to be too large, but in 1843 was found to be too small and was pulled down and rebuilt. Incidentally, although no connection, the same year Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol!! The arrival of the railway in 1866 was instrumental in the growth and expansion of the village. The station was initially called Bentley Green, but changed to Great Bentley some 10 years later. In the 1960s the “Bird” and “Tree” estates were completed, at that time the village boasted 5 public houses, a school, surgery several small retail shops and a post office.



Great Bentley village is the second largest in Tendring District; St Osyth being the largest. The District Councillor, responsible for the village, and the Wards of Little Bentley and Frating, resides in the Parish. The Parish Council, comprising nine Councillors are all residents and meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Village Hall. You are very welcome to attend as a member of the public. The Council has a Website for local information and with free subscription you can receive regular updates. It also manages allotments which are available to residents. The village has a range of facilities including a Surgery, Pharmacy, Restaurant, Pubs and a Garage which also offers Post Office services. There is a small industrial trading estate and a selection of shops (Hairdressers, Delicatessen and a convenience store).

The Green, which includes the Queens Jubilee spinney and a Conservation area, has always been the heart of the village. In the past activities have included horse racing, boxing matches, cock fighting, a nine-hole golf course and annual sheep fairs. Football and Cricket teams have competed since the late 1800s. In the 1960s the Parish Council purchased the manorial rights to the “common land” on behalf of the village and is now registered under the Common Land and Village Green Act. It is managed and maintained by Friends of The Green (a group of volunteer residents) on behalf of the Parish Council. The Acts allow for residents to indulge in organised sports, ad-hoc games, exercise, and fetes etc. The biggest benefit is that the Green cannot be built on. The Act brings with it a variety of restrictions which includes driving on the Green (unless accessing a private property under specified conditions) and commercial enterprises are not allowed to advertise or trade on the Green. The Act also stipulates that the Green must be maintained at its current size.

This Village Parish Magazine, produced by and for the Community, is also a great source of information where you will find details of local businesses together with reports and articles on village life here in Great Bentley. The Good Neighbours information booklet also gives contact details of around fifty clubs, groups and societies covering many hobbies, interests and pastimes – something for everyone of all ages. Welcome to Village Life.

P.H.

TENDRING PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME



Since the time of last writing and as we continue the long limp back to whatever will be the new normal, I am pleased to report that 22 (in mid-May) of our drop-off points have now reopened.

For the time being it is necessary for us to continue to operate in a slightly different way to that previously, so for now, we are taking one or two recycling streams per week only, details of which can be found on our group Facebook page each week. For those not on Facebook please ring either 07808239141 or 07956411166 and we can help you from there. Ring pulls and beer bottle caps can also come in to the drop-off points, which we pass on to the wonderful animal rescue charity Nina's Haven.

With regards to the full range of streams we operate, just a few short months ago, in January of this year, TerraCycle were delighted to announce the launch of The Medicine Blister Packet Recycling programme. Not surprisingly, the programme (stream) proved to be incredibly popular - after all, most of us will have tablet packs in our homes, even if it is only for the odd Paracetamol. Day Lewis Pharmacy in Frinton were accepted on to the programme and we sent the packs off on their behalf along with any contributions from the public. We were so pleased to be able to play our part in saving many thousands of these items from landfill.

However, to everyone's astonishment, on Weds 12th May it was announced that inexplicably, TerraCycle and the sponsoring manufacturer for the programme (Sanofi Consumer Healthcare), was going to terminate same with short notice. The programme closed therefore on 21st May. It is difficult to fathom! They have advised that they are looking for an alternative, but it is unknown of course how long this might take, or indeed, whether an alternative will actually be found.

So, what do we, the consumer, do now? Just throw it all in landfill again?

In this instance it is difficult to vote with our feet, as tablets are not a product that many of us can abandon, but we need the pharmaceutical companies to take responsibility.

In June of last year, the action group 38 Degrees launched a campaign entitled Provide Recycling for Medication Blister Packaging to lobby the pharmaceutical product manufacturers. Please take a look online, add your signature and share. The group were the people behind the very successful campaign to provide nationwide recycling of crisp packets, which led to the subsequent launch of the TerraCycle Walkers Crisp Packet Scheme, as discussed in the July 2020 Parish Newsletter.

In addition to signing the above, we can write to the various manufacturers, email them or contact them via social media. In the aforementioned crisp packet protest, people posted their empty crisp packets back to the manufacturers to highlight the problem. That may be a little drastic if the programme is to be remodelled in times to come, but it might be a consideration if the situation remains unresolved in the long term.

Whilst we wait however, for those of us who have friends and relatives in Colchester, it may be worth asking if they would be happy to take our blister packs to place in their own kerbside recycling. It states on the Colchester Borough Council recycling page that blister packs are an item they take. This does not however, apply to Tendring District Council guidelines.

As consumers we can do our bit and bring about change – especially when we pull together. I will leave the thoughts with you and we will 'watch this space'.

June Barker

GREAT BENTLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLE SCHEME

We currently take:

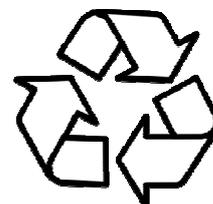
Crisps and multi pack packaging
Cakes, biscuits and crackers wrappers
Sweets and chocolate wrappers
Pringles tubes, lids and foil seal (no other brand)

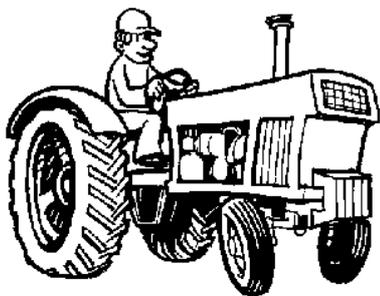
We don't take

stretchy plastic such as bread bags etc
cheese wrappers
toiletries
pet food pouches

If you could help by sorting the wrappers first this would be amazing especially with COVID current restrictions this would go some way to safeguarding the spread.

BINS CAN BE FOUND AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL





FARMING DIARIES

With the farming year in full swing now and nearly all cropping in the ground the work load varies greatly depending on what the farmers are growing.

Cereal growers will have, or will in the next few days be applying their final fungicides to ensure they prevent any disease creeping into the crop which could dramatically affect the quality of the final yield. The quality of the harvested yield is very important as the millers and the bread makers have

very stringent specifications which farmers work to all season to ensure their produce meets the standards required. Protein levels in the wheat grain can affect the quality of bread or too much nitrogen in barley can make it impractical in the brewing industry so it is important that farmers get these levels correct. After their final fungicide cereal growers will begin to look ahead to harvest ensuring that their grain stores are cleaned out ready to store the harvested crop and looking at trial results and varieties for the coming season ahead.

Farmers who have root crops such as potatoes, carrots, onions or sugar beet are much busier at this time of the year. They will be concentrating on weed control to avoid competition between weeds and the crop. Competition between weeds and the crop can mean that the crop is unable to access nutrients, fertiliser and water all of which are vital in their growth and development.

You will often see irrigators applying water to potato and onion and turf crops. Applications of water are precisely planned with the use of neutron probes measuring the soil moisture deficit so that not too much water is applied which would result in lazy root development. Equally, potato crops must not dry out when the tubers are forming as this would lead to the development of scab making the potato unsellable.

Farmers are also trying to prevent disease coming into the crop which can dramatically impact yield in the same way as the wheat example given in last month's article. Blight is the biggest concern to all potato growers with total crop destruction occurring if it is not controlled. This comes at a cost of around £3bn per year to the potato industry. Farmers use various tools including national forecasting services which are e-mailed to them directly as the weather conditions that cause blight occur, using local knowledge and assessing crops regularly as and when spores start to move around in the air.

Potato farmers have a narrow window from planting the potatoes to harvesting them to ensure that weeds and disease are controlled and making sure they have enough water and the right nutrition. Salad varieties such as Charlotte or Maris Peer will only be growing for around 90 days at which point they will be desiccated (the crop is 'topped') to prevent further growth to ensure they meet the stringent supermarket requirements (similar to the cereal standards mentioned earlier) which stipulate a specific size, skin finish and skin blemishes. Other varieties such as Maris Piper or Estima are left to reach maximum size as their markets require large potatoes for chipping or baking.

You will notice in the local area that there has been an increase in the number of fields in which maize is being grown. Some of this maize will be grown to feed cattle on farms, but a large proportion of it will be going into a local A.D. Plant (Anaerobic digestion plant). A.D. plants are becoming more widespread across the country. They carry out a natural process where plant and animal materials (biomass) are broken down by micro-organisms in the absence of air – hence the term anaerobic digestion. The A.D. process is when the biomass, of which there are many suitable forms including food waste, slurry and manure are put inside a sealed tank or digester. Naturally occurring micro-organisms digest the biomass, which in turn releases a methane rich gas (biogas) that can be used to generate renewable heat and power; this helps to cut fossil fuel use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The remaining material also known as digestate is rich in nutrients so it can be used as fertiliser. The AD process is not a new technology, it has been used in the UK since the late 1800s, but now an increasing number of AD plants are being built in the UK to generate clean renewable energy.

Vicki Brooks

AVAILABLE TO ORDER

Gluten free cakes and biscuits: Victoria Sandwich: Malt Loaf: Iced Baked Doughnuts:
Chocolate Chip Cookies & Barsand more.

Will make for a donation to the printer fund. Kathy
Please ring 0798 6947 634 or email kathychilvers@yahoo.co.uk

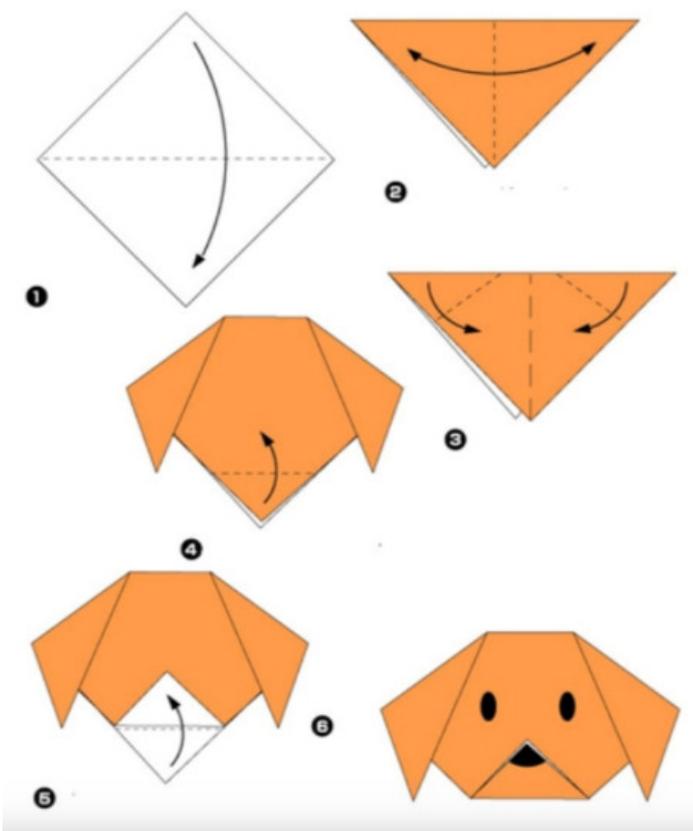
Children's Page

What is Origami?

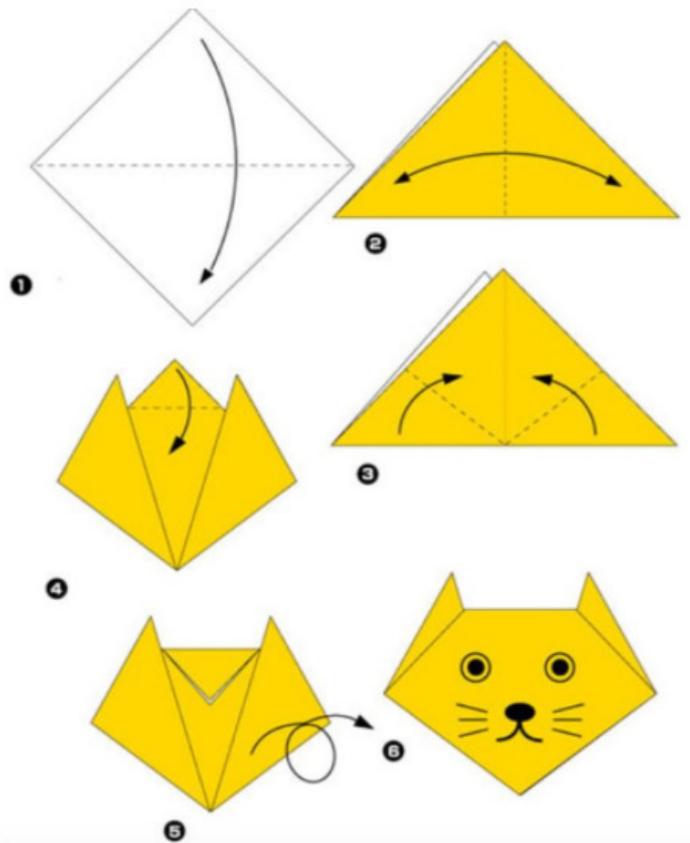
Origami is the art of paper-folding. Its name derives from Japanese words *Ori* (folding) and *Kami* (paper).

Traditional origami consists of folding a single sheet of square paper (often with a colored side) into a sculpture without cutting, gluing, or taping.

Origami dog



Origami cat





COOKERY CORNER

SALAD IDEAS FOR EARLY SUMMER

Pan roasted beetroot

This serves four as a side dish or two as a light dinner. You can always add a salmon fillet or breast of chicken to make a more substantial meal. If you decide to cook the beetroot from raw, then of course the time will be lengthened.

8 small ready cooked beetroot	2tbsp balsamic vinegar	100g broad beans or soya beans
a bunch of mint leaves	a few thyme leaves	a handful of basil leaves
75g toasted hazelnuts	200g soft goat's cheese	sugar and olive oil
1tsp Dijon mustard	1tbsp runny honey	1 lemon

Cut the beets into quarters and shred the mint leaves finely. Roughly chop the nuts and zest and juice the lemon. If using frozen beans pour boiling water over them in a heatproof bowl to defrost and then drain. Preheat 1tbsp olive oil in a frying pan and put the beets in the pan and season with salt before cooking for 6 minutes on high until they are starting to char at the edges. Add the balsamic vinegar, thyme leaves and a pinch of sugar turning the heat down and letting the beets colour more for 3 to 5 minutes. Remove them from the pan and set aside. Reduce the heat to its lowest and add the mustard, lemon zest and juice and 2tbsp olive oil, seasoning and mixing well. Remove from the heat. Place the beans in a large bowl and crush some with a fork. Add the mint and hazelnuts and pour over half of the dressing from the frying pan. Scatter the beetroots over a big platter, crumble over the cheese and scatter the bean and mint mixture over the top. Pour over the rest of the warm dressing from the pan and decorate with basil leaves.

Crunchy mixed beans

This is packed with lots of healthyand tasty.... good things to make you feel full of beans! It serves six.

2 spring onions	2 sticks of celery	2 cloves of garlic	10cm piece cucumber
1 red pepper	400g can flageolet beans		400g can of cannellini beans
400g can of butter beans	400g can of red kidney beans		5tbsp olive oil
2tbsp red wine vinegar	1tsp Dijon mustard		

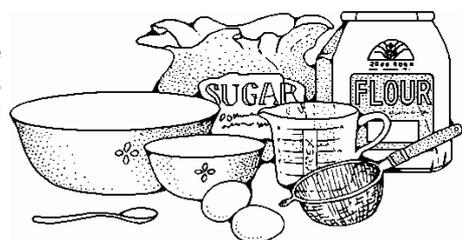
Trim and chop the spring onions and celery, and finely peel and chop the garlic and cucumber. Deseed and chop the pepper. In a large bowl mix together the spring onions, celery, garlic and pepper. Tip all the canned beans into a large sieve, rinse really well under cold running water and drain before mixing well together and adding to the bowl of vegetables. Whisk together the olive oil, vinegar and mustard with some seasoning. Drizzle over the bean mixture and toss gently. Serve with a crisp green salad.

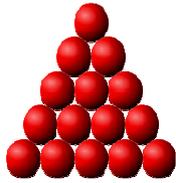
Georgie's potato salad

I'm sure many people in the village remember Georgie Roberts who lived in the Old School House and wrote for this section of the Parish Magazine for a great number of years. They might also recall her animated and very personal style of writing about food and her intense dislike of any form of fast food production. She referred to supermarket chicken as an "abomination!" An imaginative and intuitive cook, this is her take on the humble potato salad.

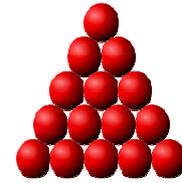
Choose enough new potatoes preferably of the same size. Scrub them and boil until tender. Drain well and rinse under cold water, then pat dry. Mix together a little mustard, some olive oil, balsamic vinegar (not malt vinegar!) or white wine vinegar, or lemon juice and season with freshly ground black pepper and sea salt. Toss the potatoes in the dressing until well coated and add chopped chives, crushed garlic and some chopped mint and parsley. You could add several items to make a more substantial meal, such as lettuce hearts, boiled hens' or quails' eggs, black olives, young broad beans cooked for a very few minutes, smoked fish (use lemon juice instead of vinegar) slivers of cooked meatbutnot all at the same time!

M.E.





POTLUCK!



1. What is held annually (before Covid) at Worthy Farm, Pilton?
2. Who has been named as the new 'Mastermind' quizmaster?
3. Why was September 9th 2015 an important date for the Queen?
4. Name the state capital of Tasmania.
5. Who is married to 'Strictly' host, Tess Daly?
6. What are Princess Charlotte's middle names?
7. Who wrote 'Dead Cert' and 'Under Orders'?
8. Which European country has a red and white chequered flag?
9. Why did Margaret Keenan hit the headlines in December 2020?
10. Where would you regularly see Charlie and Naga?
11. What is a Worcester Pearmain?
12. Name the 3 green properties on a standard Monopoly board?
13. Which horse won the 2021 grand National? Who was the jockey?
14. What is a 'Routemaster'?
15. What colour is the Jubilee line on the London Underground?
16. What nationality is tennis star Roger Federer?
17. What is nacre?
18. Which common foodstuff is made using the Chorleywood process?
19. What is an animal's pug?
20. Which travels faster, heat or cold?



1. Glastonbury music festival 2. Clive Myrie 3. She became our longest reigning monarch 4. Hobart
5. Vernon Kay 6. Elizabeth Diana 7. Dick Francis 8. Croatia 9. 1st person in world to receive covid 19
vaccine 10. BBC Breakfast sofa 11. an apple 12. Regents Street, Bond Street and Oxford Street
13. Minella Times ridden by Rachael Blackmore 14. London bus 15. silver 16. Swiss 17. mother of pearl
18. bread 19. footprint 20. heat because anyone can catch a cold!!!!

GREAT BENTLEY RUNNING CLUB

Hello everyone, we are safely through another month and things are starting to return to “some sort” of normal. We are looking forward to next month when we should be free from restrictions which is a welcome but strange concept! This last month has seen the opportunity to take part in races return, on the whole these have some restrictions on them such as turning up just before the start time and running in small groups of up to six people. However, it is very nice to get back to going to events where there are other people and be able to socialise once again. We are keeping everything crossed that the vaccination programme continues and we are all at a “normal” place.

As we return to normal the weekly, free, timed 5k running event otherwise known as Parkrun is looking to return to a park near us all on the 5th June. Parkrun is currently in contact with local councils and landowners to get their agreement for the runs to start again which will be great. The club have also made a decision on this year’s Mickey Edwards series which would have normally started by now, however, after a straw poll at some training runs it was unanimous that a ‘proper’ and not virtual series was called for. So we have planned for this to start just after the ending of restrictions at the end of June, with the baseline run taking place on June the 30th and then the races every two weeks after that. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone again and pounding our way around the lanes of Bentley.

Our series of 6 virtual races otherwise known as The ‘sixathon’ is on-going with many of the club members taking part and getting some great runs in across the various distances. The runs are 5 miles around Bentley, a 10k at Brightlingsea, 5k in Colchester, a trail in East Bergholt, a lap of Abbey Fields and a 10 mile run between Clacton and Walton. Once you have completed, those participating just email in their times for the respective runs.

The further easing of restrictions means we can begin to look forward to the prospect of more races taking place over the coming months and an increase in numbers at most of our training sessions. Some of May’s race highlights include;

May 2nd Two castles trail marathon Belchamp St Paul, Sudbury

May 16th Colchester Stampede 10k

May 24th TriFarm Spring 10k trail run

May 30th Haughley Park 10k



One of our members, Rob Dyer, has done a fantastic job in organising his ‘Run:ONE’ event. This is a 1mile time trial on a route of the entrant’s your own choosing, with a medal for all participants. It is £7 to enter and is raising money for the Alzheimer’s Society. It can be run any time during May and already we have seen some fast mile times coming in. If anyone is interested contact Rob at run.one.2021@gmail.com to register and he’ll sign you up.

As a club we have more sessions than ever before available each week on the Doodle poll sent out on a Thursday evening. There are new coaches and new venues and a variety session styles to ensure that there is something for everyone regardless of experience or pace. The sessions are designed to cater for all levels of running ability to ensure that no one gets left behind.

There have been some outstanding runs as we have emerged from lockdown and the fruits of all the training that people have put in can be seen. Tim Ballard did a 5 and a half hour trail endurance race and ‘only’ managed 36.5 miles – this was on a 5k loop in Hockley Woods. Then we have Rob Dyer running the Snetterton 10k which he smashed in a PB time of 43:59 although Rob has said that the race was a bit long and his PB would be 43:27 if it had finished on 10k! Then there was the Dave Wright 15 mile race which saw the club trio of Charlie Keitch, David Wright and Paul Davidson spur each other on. Charlie finished 7th in 1:38:58 a 4* performance, David in 1:41:31 also a 4* performance and Paul in 1:41:59 a massive PB and also a 4* performance! Not only that but all 3 runs were good enough to get onto the clubs top ten performances of all time at that distance.

Jon Mann took himself over to Hebden Airfield to run the Essex Marathon, this was run on a 7k loop on the airfield which loosely resembled an aeroplane. Jon says that the combination of the flat course and conditions helped him to a massive 10 minute PB to finish the marathon in 3 hours and 12. Not content with that the following Sunday Jon did the Layer 5 mile race and ran a PB of 32:12.

Paul Carlisle

LETTER WRITTEN TO SIR BERNARD JENKIN MP RE HOUSING IN GREAT BENTLEY

Dear Sir Bernard

I am emailing you following the announcement in the Queen's Speech this week about proposals to planning law that will make it easier for developers to gain approval for developments. As you will know, there have been an increasing number of housing developments in Great Bentley village over the last few years. The most recent include two on Heckfords Road, one on Plough Road as well as one on Weeley Road which will be opposite my house. The latter was opposed locally but those decisions were overridden by the government inspector at a national level.

I accept that, in the past, local home owners have been reluctant to agree to increased housing in their locality for a myriad of reasons. Some of these have been seen as purely selfish while others have focused on the impact on the environment. Personally I accept the need for increased housing but it seems to me that the pendulum is swinging (has already swung?) much too far in favour of the developers to the point whereby our local democratic systems are overridden and ignored. This makes people feel both angry and powerless.

It also means that some developments are going ahead when they are going to cause serious problems for the local environment. For instance, in Great Bentley there is already huge pressure on the local school and GP surgery, as I'm sure you know, to the point whereby they are bursting at the seams. There is also a massive problem with increased traffic in the village. In addition to this pressure on the local infrastructure, there are genuine concerns about the impact of all this building on the environment. Every time we build on a greenfield site, we lose the space itself as well as the trees and other vegetation that grew there, in addition to the wildlife. Concreting huge areas also creates the risk of flooding which, in turn, threatens our sewage system. That is already starting to happen as a result of a development in the village that is not yet even finished. Quite how the system is going to function once all these developments are complete is a very real worry.

As our MP, I am sure you have sympathy with what I'm saying but I wonder if there is anything else you can do to help us safeguard our local environment more successfully and resist the total immersion of the village under concrete. It is surely not too much to ask for some local input into decision-making that is not then ignored higher up the food chain. Otherwise what is the point of having a local, district and county council system?

I look forward to your thoughts/ideas as to what we can do to work together more effectively to ensure that house building goes ahead (ideally on brownfield sites) whilst also allowing local people to have some say over what happens to their local environment. There is enough apathy as things stand in relation to local democratic procedures. It would be a shame to make those even worse.

I am copying this letter to Lynda McWilliams as well as the Great Bentley village magazine as I'm sure many others in the village share my concerns.

Many thanks. **Alison Clarke**

Dear Ms Clarke,

Thank you for copying me into your email to Sir Bernard. You raise all the concerns that have been relevant to many residents in the village with the terrific impact the present developments are, and will have on what was once a rural village, especially as there has been no aspirations to evolve Great Bentley into being a town, especially as its centre has no space to justify a town status.

I'm not sure if you are aware but in case you are not the Local Plan section 1 went through a very long drawn out process over the last few years, and was eventually adopted by Tendring District Council at the beginning of this year. The Plan relates in main to the proposal of approximately 7,500 houses to start with, to be built on the borders of Tendring and Colchester, which could be increased to more. The government Inspector who worked on this proposal with our officers and councillors, also agreed we already have more than the five year housing land supply that is required for 550 houses being the correct number for Tendring, compared to the government figure of 835.

Basically it means that Tendring has sufficient housing, and when local plan section 2 is completed, which is being progressed now and expected to be completed before the end of this year, will mean there should be no further need for the large developments like we have seen over recent years. The proposal that has already been agreed on Tendring's border with Colchester will still go ahead. This should take Tendring's housing requirements up to the year 2033, which means we are meeting the present requirement and more, hopefully there will be no pressure for more housing in Tendring.

I have copied in the link to our website regarding all the information leading up to the adoption of the Local Plan section 1, and the progress now going forward for section 2
<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/localplan>

I hope this information is useful to you at present, and please be assured that I will support residents' concerns against any further housing developments in this Parish.

Many thanks. Cllr. Lynda McWilliams



Primary School Transition Sessions

Our Primary School transition sessions for our children that are leaving in July will start this month at Great Bentley Primary, providing the next date of the road map out of lockdown is approved on 21st June. This will mean we will only get 4 weeks of these important weekly sessions, after the last 15 months though we are so pleased to be able to offer any.

These sessions are so beneficial for many reasons and will give the children an experience that will help them become more confident, independent and familiar in what will be their new learning environment in September.

As always, we thank the Primary School for allowing us to provide these sessions and working with us to give the children the best start in their next journey.

Autism Coffee Meeting

Now that things are starting to become safer, we have arranged for our coffee mornings to begin again. Our next one is arranged for Thursday 24th June at 9:30 at the Village Hall.

As always, these sessions are held to support parents with children on the Autistic Spectrum or if they are worried about their child's interaction skills or generally have concerns and want to find out more. We welcome anyone, you don't have to have a child attending the Pre-School, just come along and join us.

September Term Registers

I know it's hard to believe but as we break up for summer next month, I will be starting to look at the registers for the next term which starts in September.

Although we are full at present on most sessions, there are a lot of places released once the older children move onto Primary School. Already we have lots of new interest and we also have lots of existing children wanting to increase their sessions too, if you would like to become part of our Village Pre-school then contact me as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

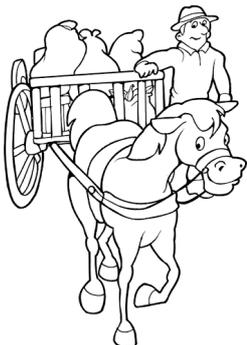
Thanks for reading.

Julie Wiles

TAKEN FROM THE HISTORY OF GREAT BENTLEY BY L.G. NEWMAN

MEANS OF TRANSPORT

Great Bentley was registered as a Port before the Railway came. It was the coming of this railway which stopped all sea-born traffic. In the old days all goods and merchandise came to and from the Port of Great Bentley, the ships were berthed some two and a half miles from the main part of the village. In those days the roads were very narrow and rough, even the High Road which is the Roman Road from Colchester which was the best road, was none too good.



Some of the goods needed for the village (I beg your pardon, it was called a Town in those days) could be obtained from Colchester nine miles away by road as well as by water. Ardleigh was the nearest station before 1865. It was seven miles from Great Bentley and was quite a journey for horse and cart on such roads and was also expensive for obtaining small parcels. The time it took did not worry people much. There was no forty hour week in those days.

Maldwyn: Secretary - Sheepdog Trials, Penmaenmawr & District Association, Snowdon, North Wales.

Sir: Canine Mental Wellbeing Regulatory Board Coordinator. (Ofdog).

Ofdog – ‘Morning Maldwyn. Ready for this year’s sheepdog trials? Interesting sloping field for penning, well done.’

M – ‘Morning sir, everything has been double checked and we are ready to go. It’ll be close again this year.’

Ofdog – ‘Good. However, we have received a number of objections from equality groups who are anxious to make sheepdog trials in this area more inclusive, less institutional. Your association is a member of ‘Babe’, I hope?’

M – ‘Babe? Not to my knowledge sir. What’s Babe?’

Ofdog – ‘Look at my badge. Our Regulatory Board celebrates the sheep-pig story, ‘Babe’, a symbol of enlightenment which heralds the advent of a more diverse view of the traditional trialling establishment. We are the future Maldwyn.’

M – ‘Sheep-pig? I don’t understand. We run Border Collies sir, always have. All the farmers have Collies, they’re the best working dogs especially on these mountains. I couldn’t do the job without my best friend Roy, sir.’

Ofdog – ‘Too blinkered Maldwyn, flat-earthism in concept, we need greater representation. It’s not about winning Maldwyn, it’s no longer a case of which breed is the best, you are using exclusionary language and as the secretary of this association you must be careful not to indulge yourself in discriminatory or elitist talk, everyone is included. In fact I have a participant for you from Scotland.’

M – ‘Lovely sir. The Scots are excellent shepherds and most of the farmers here in Wales have their dogs trained in Scotland. Is it a young Collie dog? I bet its name is Nessy or Braveheart.’

Ofdog – ‘Not quite Maldwyn, she’s a tiny Pomeranian called Poppy.’

M – ‘A Pomeranian sheepdog sir? I’d better get Tom Ty-Gwyn to cut the arena grass. What’s the Scottish lad’s name?’

Ofdog – ‘That’s another point. He’s not a lad, she’s a lady.’

M – ‘Brilliant sir, some of the best shepherds are women, they are more patient and don’t swear in the ring. We have Gwen running her dog here today, a young Collie called Toss but don’t try to pat him, only Gwen can do that. Everyone loves Gwen. During lambing, when one of my young ewes is in serious trouble, sometimes I can’t help her, my hand is too big, I can’t get inside to pull the front legs forward. Gwen is the girl to call, she has small hands you see, but strong.’

Ofdog – ‘Yes, that’s all very interesting but it’s about diversity. All dogs have feelings and are worthy of greater integration and less stereotyping. For example, my Dachshund is leading a team of Huskies in the famous Finnmark Endurance Race in Norway. I’m very proud of my Tabitha out there in deep snow, running ahead of the team.’

M – ‘A little Dachshund, leading a team of 14 Alaskan Malamutes? Have those dogs been fed sir?’

Ofdog – ‘Not that I know of, no. Anyway, Tabitha is a vegetarian, she won’t eat whale meat.’

M – ‘Err, I wasn’t thinking of Tabitha sir, I was more concerned whether or not the Huskies had been fed.’

Ofdog – ‘I have no knowledge of that Maldwyn but Tabitha is tough, she’ll be fine. Back to the matter of the day. What prizes are you offering this year?’

M – ‘The top trophy has always been the Llewelyn Memorial Cup sir.’

Ofdog – ‘Ahh, Llewelyn. Lovely name. A top local shepherd of yesteryear I imagine.’

M – ‘Llewelyn? No sir, Llewelyn was the King of all Wales, his statue is in the town square.’

Ofdog – ‘No, no Maldwyn, a nomenclature brutally prejudicial which totally disregards the magnitude of emotional negativity suffered by the marginalised members of the canine community. We must avoid unfair privilegeism, shun prerogatorialism and seek reconciliation for bygone acts of bigotry and oppression. Atone for the past and embrace the hereafter, that’s the key. The board prefers that you consider calling the trophy ‘The Pickles Pot’ in honour of the humble hound who found the stolen Jules Rimet Cup.

M – ‘Yes, I remember Pickles finding the World Cup. Isn’t he buried in the chap’s front garden?’

Ofdog – ‘Yes he is, and a fitting memorial for such a hero, an appropriate resting place.’

M – ‘There are many canine heroes sir, like Meg, our local hero here in Penmaenmawr, brilliant mountain rescue dog, strong and powerful. Meg could find any casualty on the treacherous slopes of Snowdon, day or night, whatever the weather conditions. Davey, her dad, took her to the site of the earthquake in Mexico. Meg was fearless. If there was a survivor under that debris, she would find him. Perhaps we should call it the Meg Memorial Cup.’

Ofdog – ‘Yes, quite Maldwyn, we all remember Meg, she made world news. Don’t upset yourself lad.’

M – ‘Sorry sir, Meg was such a beautiful dog.’

Ofdog – ‘Yes, I’m sure but also we should consider calling it the Tabitha Trophy. I’ve just heard from Norway. Tabitha did extremely well for a short period keeping well ahead of the pack, running her little legs off. The Huskies loved her, she went down a treat. She’s a cuddly softy really, the Alaskans didn’t find her tough at all.’

M – ‘I didn’t think they would sir. When she arrives home she can have a long rest in your front garden.’



Historic first mission from new airbase for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance's (EHAAT) new airbase at North Weald became operational today, 28th April 2021 when a critical care team based at North Weald, was tasked with its first mission by the East of England Ambulance Service Trust, to an incident in Bishop's Stortford.

Cliff Gale, EHAAT's Operations Director, said: "The first mission from our new airbase is an historic landmark for the charity and we would like to thank all of our amazing supporters who have made this first-class facility possible".

"This first mission is the culmination of a great deal of commitment, planning and hard work. We are delighted to see our crews operational from the new base by helicopter and rapid response vehicle. This building will give the charity a home for decades to come with facilities that will allow us to continue providing a world-class clinical service."

Stuart Elms, EHAAT's Clinical Director, said: "After years of planning and preparation it is great to see this state-of-the-art building being used as a base from which our highly skilled pre-hospital care teams can attend critically ill and injured patients across Essex, Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas".

"I'm delighted for the charity, our supporters, our clinicians and our patients as it will be central to how we deliver care and how we continue to improve outstanding patient care."

The new purpose-built airbase was completed in February 2021 and replaces a leased facility nearby. A time-lapse video showing the complete build can be viewed at <https://www.ehaat.org/north-weald-airbase/>.

It includes dedicated areas for training which will benefit not only EHAAT's crews and the local pre-hospital care community along with an interactive visitor centre for supporters, who we look forward to welcoming to this incredible new building when such visits become possible again once government restrictions are fully lifted.

The new airbase includes a hangar which is capable of housing two helicopters when necessary, for aircraft maintenance and has underground heating beneath the helipad to keep it free of snow and ice during the winter months.

It has been designed with "green" issues very much to the fore. Photovoltaic panels on the roof means that the building generates more electricity than it uses with the excess sold to the national grid. Electric vehicle charging points enable users of electric vehicles to charge them.

There is bicycle parking for staff who wish to cycle to work and as much waste as possible will be recycled. The building has been well insulated in order to retain heat and reduce noise pollution and it makes as much use as possible of natural light in order to save on electricity.

This exciting day really does mark an important milestone in the charity's history and the whole team would like to thank everyone involved in this project.

For more information about EHAAT and its work, visit [ehaat.org](https://www.ehaat.org).



THE ESSEX COUNTRY FAIR

www.essexcountryfair.co.uk

Cressing Temple, Witham Road,
Cressing, Essex, CM77 8PD



12th and 13th June

10.00am - 5.00pm

The Essex Country Fair is delighted to be hosting this wonderful event at the amazing venue Cressing Temple Barns with so many amazing attractions.

We are delighted with our Motorbike display and attraction area at the show on both days with our fantastic motorbike and BMX bike team. Fancy a go on a BMX with a UK Champion, well the Weald Park Country Show is the show for you.

Our main area will have some fantastic demonstrations this year to include Barrel Racing thanks to the UK Barrel Racing Team, the inspiring Dog and Duck Shows with the amazing Chris Jupp and his beautiful Collie dog and fabulous runner ducks, Falconry with the World of Wings birds of prey displays thanks to the wonderful Ange and Rick and their excellent routines. African Dancers and Living History displays.

Our Festival of Cars area has had amazing array of entries on both days with many different and exciting cars for all those car fans out there.

Our Foodmarkets area will have some wonderful producers, Cookery demonstrations with some amazing Chefs including Italian Chef Claudio Bincoletto and many others.

The Festival of Dogs area at the show is hugely popular with Charity Fun Dog Shows (raising £3,800 for Charities in 2019). Owner and Celebrity Lookalike Competition, Dog Agility, Dogs Have Got Talent, Flyball and so much more.

Circus Aerial Displays 3 times a day to the Greatest Showman as well as Magic Shows with was that one rabbit or seven? We are so excited to also announce our outdoor Theatre performances of The Buccaneers.

Fancy a bit of Abba in our music area, well come along to the show and enjoy the Abba Tribute Band playing daily along with five other bands. We will also be joined again by the wonderful Wrestleforce Team with some wrestling fun, fun, fun.

The Cressing Festival of Kids - come along and meet Classisaurus our T-Rex Dinosaur who will be joined by his storm trooper friends who will be at the show this year. Lots for the children to do including Punch and Judy, Gemma's Petting Farm, rides and loads more fun.

Rural Crafters - come along visit and support our avenue of Rural Crafters this year who will be demonstrating their crafts as well as selling them. Visit our Living History Village and try your luck with our Living History Archery and do not forget last but not least the opportunity to do some amazing shopping with our array of stands at the show.

For ticket information visit www.classicfestivalstickets.co.uk. The show will follow Covid guidelines and we would like to encourage people to book online in advance.

Free parking: Dogs Welcome:

Ticket prices - £9.50, Children £4.50. Under 5 free (online discounts)

**To win a family ticket email Mary Maskell marymaskell@sys3internet.net
by 5th June**

EARTH DAY ... Stop Press

Litter is bad

The BBC came to film me and my friends. It was fun. The camera was big.

Lily G

Extreme Earth Day

On Thursday it was earth day. We did a recycling race and we raised more than £700 and that's a lot
Alfie

Litter Pick Please

Help the environment. Reduce, reuse, recycle. Save the world, help the sea, help oxygen. We save people.

Ethan

Earth Day Extraordinary

My name is Dakota Palmer. I am in a year 2 class at Great Bentley Primary School. Recently our class had been learning all about recycling and plastic pollution. We learnt that animals are getting killed. Fact! Did you know in 2030 there will be more rubbish in the sea than fish.

Target

Buy a litter picker and a hoop to litter pick. My friend dressed up as a shark. I dressed up as a turtle. Reduce, reuse, recycle. Did you see me on the news.

Paige

Earth Day Extreme

One Thursday afternoon the children are telling me about when the BBC came. George was telling the BBC this. 'We need to stop plastic because it is destroying the world'. After a recycling relay the children had lots of fun. They raised over £720. Now that's a lot to adopt an endangered animal. They can get 20 animals. Thank you.

Amelia

Earth Day

Pick up lots of plastic and rubbish especially on Earth Day because there will be more and more plastic in the sea in 2050. Most sea animals are dead because people throw plastic in the bin not the recycling bin.



We need to stop throwing rubbish in the ocean and be sure we need to throw it in the black bin and the recycling bin. We raised money to help animals.

Jack

Earth Day for the Year 2.

Dear Parish Magazine, I am writing to you because we want to teach you something on Earth Day. We need to do something about plastic pollution. We need to stop putting rubbish in the sea but if we don't stop now we won't have sea or fish.

Charlie

Earth Day

The year 2 class has done a recycling race. Charlie Carless has sold ice cream. The most raised by one person was £160. The person who made this amount is called Lily May. This event happened on Thursday 22nd April. As you might know the BBC news came.

Lucy

Epic Earth Day

We are trying to save the animals by raising money. On Earth Day we had some ice cream just before we did our race. I did 12 laps around the big field. We might have raised £700. We think we have. Some people in the class have spoken on the TV. We really want to adopt 20 endangered animals.

William

Earth

Lights, camera, action. On Earth Day we did a race to sort out rubbish in the right coloured hoops. Then we did a practice race. Then some of us were talking about what we were learning about plastic pollution. Did you know that it is extremely helpful to pick up litter and reduce, and recycle your belongings. You need to save our precious animals on land or in the sea. Help us all save the environment and do more reducing, reusing and recycling.

Logan

Epic Earth Day by Cat Dunne

In year 2 Great Bentley Primary School are trying their best to make the world a better place. Here is their motto reduce, reuse, recycle so there are already people who are making a change to our world. MacDonalds is using paper straws instead of plastic. Even you can make a change. We've gone off topic a bit so the year 2s had BBC News over and did a rubbish relay race, so that sounds pretty cool and somebody did 14 and a half laps and sold ice cream. I wish I was there. With all the money they will adopt an endangered animal.

Don't watch the change be the change.

WELL DONE, Year 2 who aimed to adopt one endangered animal but raised over £1,000. This meant we were able to sponsor 32 animals in total, one for each child in the class.