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Bengeio Parish Magazine and Community News



Come on in – the water's lovely!

In this issue Carrie Bone writes about the intrepid wild swimmers who gather in all weathers in our lakes and rivers, especially down at Hartham. Now that summer is here they can cast off their wetsuits. Are you encouraged to join them?

Following on the lockdown dogs in the last issue, we can give thanks for the pets who help us through tough times at the Annual Pet Service at St Leonard's on the 4th July – don't forget to book to reserve your place. See page 10 for more information.

Congratulations to The White Lion on their Love Hertford awards which they won from stiff competition from other traders and services in the town. We valued their community support during lockdown.

At a loss as to what to read on holiday? Visit the Bengeio Little Library in Holy Trinity churchyard to donate or take a book. Read more about this venture on page 9.

We hope you have an enjoyable break this summer.

The Editorial Team

Front cover photographs:
Wild swimmers enjoying the river at Hartham.

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Editorial Team

Items for the magazine should be sent to magazine@parishofbengeio.com

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Tonwell: Pat Lavis

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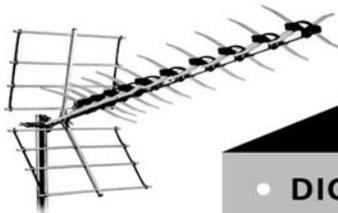


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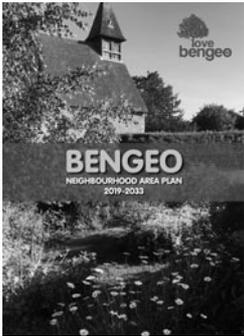


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Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan: Referendum Result



More than 3,000 residents voted in the May referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan and an amazing 94.8% of us voted to support the adoption of the Plan. This fantastic news means that the policies in this community-driven Neighbourhood Plan will help determine the outcome of planning applications in Hertford Bengeo Ward over the next 12 years,

and the policies will carry equal weight to those in the East Herts District Plan.

During the draft stages of the Neighbourhood Plan, responses to around twenty local planning applications were submitted to East Herts District Council, including those for Hartham Leisure Centre, Hertford Theatre, the development of 52 homes off Sacombe Road (former Bengeo Nursery), and the Hartham Play Area. Since the referendum, Neighbourhood Plan responses have been submitted to a planning application on Green Belt land (Ware Park), and to the Travel Plan for the development on the former Bengeo Nursery site (now called 'The Stiles'). The Ware Park planning application has since been

refused by East Herts District Council, and all the requested amendments to the Travel Plan for 'The Stiles' were made by the developer.

The Neighbourhood Plan will continue supporting local projects and initiatives, including those to improve, extend and upgrade foot and cycle paths, and increase naturalistic planting. Residents are currently liaising with East Herts District Council and Mudlarks, with the aim of taking forward the project to create a small wildlife-friendly community garden on the empty plot on the corner of Tower Street and Duncombe Road.

If you're on Facebook, you'll find regular updates on Neighbourhood Plan activity on the 'Love Bengeo' group **Love Bengeo | Facebook**, and comprehensive information on the Neighbourhood Plan can also be found on **Bengeo Neighbourhood Area Plan – News & Information (lovebengeo.org.uk)**.

Thank you to everyone for voting in the Neighbourhood Plan referendum, and for being part of this important community initiative.

Brenda Heninghem





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Taking the plunge



Wild swimmers at Hartham.

With swimming pools closing during the 2020 lockdown, wild and open water swimming has seen people from all walks of life taking the plunge to get their swimming fix. Lakes and rivers across Hertfordshire provide ample opportunity for those looking to enjoy the great outdoors. In Hertford, the river at Hartham is a popular choice for many.

Diana Davies is one Bengeo resident who has begun outdoor and wild swimming and is now eyeing up bigger opportunities further afield.

"I started in May last year, when the lakes could open up. I had a goal, I had turned 50 and wanted a challenge, which was to swim the Solent. It didn't happen as it was cancelled. I'm still intending to do it, but I persuaded a friend to join with me in the lake. I wasn't very confident with swimming. I wanted to build confidence with sticking my head into murky water, but I was hooked," she says.

Once lockdown restrictions had eased, Diana took a winter swimming induction at the lakes on how to swim in open water safely, which dealt with cold water shock, and adjusting to cold water. Wild swimming is not just a summer hobby, it can be enjoyed all year round too, with some opting for wetsuits while braving the cold water in the winter. On the cold days, the post-swim ritual was a key part of the routine for Diana.

"The recovery after was as big to me after the swim, we would sit in our cars with flasks and hot water bottles to warm up," she says, citing not just to the



Photograph: DIANA DAVIES

Come on in!

fitness aspects of the hobby but also the social interaction with others.

She says Hartham tended to be colder in the winter due to it being a flowing chalk stream river rather than the lakes which she didn't swim in from December onward, but stuck to Hartham on a weekly basis.

"It's just really grounding, more so in the winter, when it's so cold the only thing you think about is the cold, you're not thinking about work, the kids, problems, it pulls you into the current moment, you enjoy that, the freshness and chatting with friends afterwards, the numbness, the cold, the shivering, the right now. Mentally it's just brilliant, it resets you for the week," she says.

A Facebook group called HOWLS, Herts Open Water and Lido Swimmers, is a popular place for people to make new friends in the community, arrange swims

with others, get advice or help choose equipment. It currently boasts more than 1500 members. While swimming in a lake can cost £7 a time, having a river nearby is a free option, although lakes can be preferred due to no boating activity and no currents.

"I enjoy swimming in the river because it's nature, it's wilder. I went back to Ware Lido when it opened but I just didn't enjoy it, because it's a pool, you're not looking at your surroundings. I don't think I could do two hours in the pool now I've done the river I would much rather swim in the river or the lake," she says.

"It's the one community you're not judged on how rich or poor you are, everyone looks the same in a wetsuit. You are one through the cold in some respect, it's a very relaxed community, walking down to the river everyone says hello and chats," she says.

Visits to the river aren't just restricted to the daytime either, late night moon swims are also a fun part of the community, which Diana says are a treat for things such as birthdays, and it is important to do this with company rather than alone.

"There was a dark moon swim in November for Halloween. You go in a group as it's important to do it with company, and there are boats along there. It's lovely. I have a toe float, which is a dry bag with some torches" she said.

For her 50th birthday last year she did a sunrise swim, which was 5.30am meet up. Other enjoyable treats include Prosecco or sausages rolls after some swims.

"I was desperate to swim when it was snowing. It was minus 3C at the end of February. The water was about 3C and there was a windchill made it about minus 10C. We swim with wetsuits on, but take them off before we get out," she says.

She takes care to not swim in swollen rivers if it has been raining heavily. She is currently swimming two to three times a week due to an upcoming event, the 3k Great North Swim. Having increased length from half a mile, now up to two miles, swimming in Windermere Lake is Diana's next big milestone to reach. There is still further progress to be made, she says, with swimming in the sea her next challenge, which will require learning to breath on both sides.

"In the summer we'll do front crawl and breaststroke, trying to improve speed, but the first

winter we swam it was too cold to stick your head in! It's more about our wellbeing in the winter and the summer it's about the exercise," she said.

Gill Pick is another keen wild swimmer who is also a qualified open water coach and swimming teacher. Her love of swimming has taken her to Copenhagen for her 40th birthday swim. As a swim club coach she likes to encourage those who have always swam in a pool to get a taste of wild swimming as it can complement pool swimming. She started going to the river with friends, which she says is more rough and ready than open water swimming which is more of a safer organised venue.

She speaks of learning how to get over fears such as putting your face in the water, getting safely in and out, as well as wearing the right clothes or bright hats so people can see you, and to never go swimming alone, but with a friend or a buddy.

"It's about knowing the river", she says, "which comes with experience". "For full moon swims, we go late at night or at four in the morning but I wouldn't take a newbie with me. Wild swimming has increased hugely in popularity because the pools were shut and the friendships are amazing," she adds.

Gill swims three to four times a week to build up endurance but pops down after work with friends for half an hour to cool off in the summer. She speaks of the euphoria you get from being in the water, adding that a lot of people took it up for mental wellbeing, in addition to the nature aspect of the different wildlife that live along the Hartham riverbank that sometimes swim up to her in the water.

"I used to wear a wetsuit, now in winter I am in my swimming costume, it's very psychological. We swim regularly in the mornings in the winter with cake and coffee, the perfect combination," she tells me.

"I like to enter events to train towards, I'm currently going for two marathon events, but even with virtual events online you still get a medal" she adds.

Her family are a key part of why she enjoys it, they come to her events and cheer her on. She says she wants to be a role model to them, encouraging her daughter to join her when it's warm for a splash around. Please contact Gill on **07813 685347** for swimming coaching.

Carrie Bone

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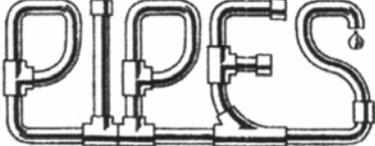
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Calling all Benggeo bookworms!

This month saw the launch of Benggeo's first Little Library. The pretty, free-to-use Library nestles within the heart of our community and in the leafy churchyard of the Holy Trinity Church opposite The White Lion.

The Little Library is packed with good books looking for good homes and operates as a 'donate one' and/or 'take one' library for adult fiction.

Readers from near and far have been busy dropping off and borrowing books and coming together on the Library's vibrant Facebook group.

The Library holds almost 100 books at any one time and turnaround has been high. This week alone, bookworms have found *I am an Island* by Tamsin

Calidas, *The Crooked Branch* by Jeanine Cummins, *Playing Nice* by JP Delaney and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho.

The team of Little Librarians and local residents behind the Library encourage people to add a small handwritten note inside the front cover of each book they donate. And, if they would like to, to join the Little Library Facebook group. The group (@bengeolittlelibrary) has more than 250 members and is growing fast.

The Library was the brainchild of local resident, writer and avid reader Avril Tye who was inspired by a similar project in nearby Bramfield. Avril said, "I loved the idea of stories bringing people together in the pandemic. Wonderful words and terrific tales travelling around our community and bringing joy into people's day."

The Library can be found within the grounds of the Holy Trinity Church. Reverend Robert Thompson said, "I'm thrilled by this community project and delighted its home is under the peaceful, shaded trees of our church.

It's wonderful to witness so many people walking past to donate or borrow books and I hope the Library brings happiness to all of our community."

The Library is a community project and was funded by a grant from the local council, built by local carpenter Rob Sleet and his partner Brenda Walsh and decorated by Samia Masood. The Library is managed by a friendly and enthusiastic group of Little Librarians who are all keen readers and local residents.

Although the Library is, for reasons of space, only for adult fiction at the moment, there are plans afoot to add a children's book box below the Library later this month. The group behind the Library is also very keen to create a stand-alone Library for children elsewhere in our community in the future.

So, if you have a work of adult fiction you'd like to share with your neighbours, please do pop by and donate. Or, if you're looking for your next good read, have a wander past and enjoy the collection. And if you're interested in meeting like-minded people, please join @bengeolittlelibrary on Facebook. We'd love to see you there.





Pet Service at St Leonard's Church

We now have high hopes that we will be able to hold our Pet Service this summer on Sunday 4th July at 4pm.

The Service will be taken by our Lay Reader Bob Kelly who will be accompanied by Barney his Labrador. We do hope that you and your pets (any teddies, etc as well) will join us especially as our pets have meant so much to us throughout the lockdowns.

Come and tell us how your pet has helped you.

Reg Newman and Duke, his pony, will be coming along. There will be refreshments after the Service and we will be raising money for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.



For any further details please contact me on 01992 583979 or go to the Parish website www.parishofbengeo.com to reserve your place.

Libby Shillito

St Leonard's Church, Bengeo

We will be open for Visitors from Sunday 18th July through to Sunday 26th September from 2.30pm to 5pm and as an added incentive to visit this beautiful Church, the oldest building in Hertford, we will be serving a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake for £3 between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

We will also be hosting Quiet Time every Tuesday Evening at 8pm for one hour from 6th July to 21st September and a 'Celtic Service' followed by refreshments at 8pm on Tuesday 27th July.

Covid restrictions will apply as required.

Collectors' and Hobbies Fayre

Holy Trinity Church Bengeo

☛ Saturday 4th September 10.30am-4.30pm

☛ Sunday 5th September 11.30pm-4.00pm

Have you a collection of objects or a hobby that you would like to display as a contributor to this event? If so, we would be pleased to hear from you by 31st July so that we can book you a table and answer any queries you may have. The church will be open and offering teas, coffees and light lunches during the hours specified.

Just contact Mary Crane 01992 314003 and em.crane@virginmedia.com or Penny Andrew 01992 586028 and pennyandrew22@hotmail.com.



The Children's Society

Children's Society Afternoon Tea

We are very much hoping to have an Afternoon Tea at 1 The Orchard, Bengeo, on Saturday 10 July from 3 to 5 pm to raise money for the Children's Society. Tickets will be available at £5 from Libby and Peter Shillito. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall and a Raffle. Peter will also have his model railway on display for any enthusiasts!

We really need your support as we were unable to fund raise last year so we very much hope to be able to do well this summer for this deserving Charity.

Please make a note of this date. Lifts can be arranged if required.

Any further details please contact us on 01992 583979.

Libby and Peter Shillito

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White Lion wins two Love Hertford awards



Karen and Adam receive the awards from Ron Deering, Mayor of Hertford.

Karen says: "We are so proud and grateful of the awards that we have won and couldn't have done it without the support of the White Lion team and the amazing Bengo community. These mean so much to us."

During the pandemic the team here decided to put on a regular FREE fruit and veg stall for locals who needed a little help. Such a lovely gesture and very much appreciated by the community. Thanks to all who donated to the stall, we had people literally stopping in their cars to donate money and people sent us fruit and veg every week to help out. It was just overwhelming. I also want to thank the people who helped us set up the stall and stood out there helping and greeting people no matter the weather and trust me there was rain sleet and snow!

This past year or so has been difficult for so many people including ourselves, but the support and help of this community was unreal... Bengo really is a truly amazing place that we should all be proud of."

The Love Hertford Awards are an opportunity to celebrate the wealth of shops and services on offer in Hertford. Hertford residents and visitors vote for their favourite retailers, businesses and traders to honour those running businesses in our town. The White Lion won a Community award and the Pub and Restaurant award.

The White Lion is open seven days a week: Monday and Tuesday from 3pm to 9pm; Wednesday 3pm to 10pm; Thursday and Friday and Saturday 12pm to 11pm; Sunday 12pm to 10.30pm.

With food service from Thursday to Sunday: Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12pm to 9pm; Sunday 12pm to 5pm.



Awards certificates take pride of place behind the bar.

St Leonard's Church, Bengoe Calendar of Events for 2021

Opening times for visitors - Sundays only 18th July to Sunday 26th September
From 2.30pm to 5pm
Teas from 2.30pm to 4.30pm

QUIET TIME - every Tuesday Evening at 8pm for one hour from 6th July to 21st September

July

- Sunday 4th Annual Bengoe Pet Service – 4pm – followed by refreshments
Sunday 18th **Start of Visitor Season and Teas (last orders 4.30pm)**
Saturday 24th Concert - Halcyon Quartet – 7.30pm
Tuesday 27th 'Celtic Service' followed by refreshments - 8pm

August

- Saturday 21st Concert - Simon Mayor (mandolin) & Hilary James (singer, musician) 7.30pm

September

- Saturday 11th Herts and Beds Historic Church Trust 'Bike and Hike' 9am-5pm
TBC and Heritage Open Day
Sunday 12th Heritage Open Day – 2.30pm to 5pm
Sunday 26th Harvest Festival Songs of Praise, 6.30pm
Followed by the Friends of St. Leonard's AGM

December

- Friday 17th 'A Christmas Wassail' with Folk Band Magpie Lane- 7.30pm

Further information

Concert bookings : £15 (£10 FOSL members) contact Mary Crane on 01992/314003 or email boxoffice@parishofbengeo.com



**For the latest information e.g. cancellations due to Covid,
visit our website www.parishofbengeo.com**

Hosting an international student



Do you have a spare room at home? Do you enjoy meeting people from different cultures? Are you a 'people' person? If so, you might like to consider hosting an international student from a local boarding school.

Marina and Stewart Fung have been a host family for three years "We initially saw a flyer for Pippa's Guardians on a noticeboard, I decided to get in touch since we have a spare room and have both always been keen travellers and love experiencing other cultures. We relish any opportunity to meet people from other countries as we feel that this exchange enhances everyone's life, the chance to earn some money in doing so was also appealing. We have young children who have also benefited from the experience, they also really enjoyed playing football with an older child and taught each other some English/Chinese too!"

Pippa's Guardians provides Guardianship services to international students studying at boarding schools across the country. They find supportive and caring families who can offer a welcoming home for students during their school holidays.

Ben Hughes, Managing Director for Pippa's Guardians explained "The families we look for are welcoming and are interested in other cultures. Having children of similar ages helps but isn't the most important thing as we have many successful host families who have no children, younger children or indeed older children who have left home. Internet access is very important, and each student will need their own bedroom with a desk or somewhere quiet for homework. Being part of a family and experiencing day-to-day family life

enhances students' study and plays a part in improving their English language."

Becoming a host family can be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for the family too; providing the opportunity to really make a difference to a student whilst they are studying here in the UK, in many cases a very long way from home.

If you are interested in hosting a student, please contact hostfamilies@pippasguardians.co.uk.

News from the River Beane Restoration Association

Good news, the river is flowing again between Walkern and the junction with Stevenage Brook, something that hasn't happened for some years. With the reduction in abstraction we hope it will continue. As we come out of lockdown many activities are resuming, the new committee is working well, and a group of a dozen people has been established to control invasive species. The future has never 'Beane' brighter (sorry about the pun!).

A healthy river Riverfly surveys at Stapleford site have been stable over the last three and a half years with relatively high scores and regular seasonal fluctuations: never below 10 and peaking at 18. There have been no pollution scares.

River Beane Catchment Partnership

Members of the RBRA, HMWT, Affinity Water, Environment Agency, Herts County Council and many local farms, residents and volunteers, come together to catch up on the state of our chalk river and all the activities happening along its length to improve its condition for wildlife and people. The catchment is one of eight in Hertfordshire.

Locally there are plans at Waterford Marsh to respond to the breach in the horseshoe weir, making the area more passable to fish and other wildlife, as well as working with the local community to maintain its heritage value; plans to adapt the weir for fish at Cedar Close and work to restore Beane Marshes Nature Reserve.

www.riverbeane.org.uk



Bengeo Church Hall, Duncombe Road, is open again for bookings for parties, group functions and committee meetings. The hall is suited to many activities.

It has a fully fitted kitchen with crockery, cutlery, oven, dishwasher and fridge. The hall area possesses a projector, screen and WiFi.

Speak to the bookings Secretary, Wendy Celia on **01992 589538** or download the Booking Form from the Bengeo Parish website www.parishofbengeo.com.

Please note that any current Covid rules on social distancing and sanitation apply.



Coffee Pot is back!

Coffee Pot will start again every Thursday morning from 24 June 10.30pm–12.00 noon in the Church Hall, Duncombe Road.

Come and enjoy the buzz of conversation with real coffee and homemade cakes. We will again be raising money for local charities and look forward to welcoming back our existing customers and meeting new ones.



Bengeo Lives – DR THOMAS WORMALD

MARRIAGE OF MISS MARYANNE WORMALD.

On Thursday the village of Bengeo presented a very animated scene on the occasion of the marriage of Edmund Thomas Leighton, Esq., to Maryanne, the youngest daughter of Thomas Wormald, Esq., the villagers flocking to the pretty parish church to witness the interesting ceremony. Numbers of persons from Hertford were also present, so that the church was crowded.

The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. Bonner Hookins, vicar of Wisbech, assisted by the Rev. Charles Deedes, vicar of Bengeo. The musical part of the service was conducted by Mr. Poole.

The bridesmaids were—Miss Fanny Wormald and Miss Lizzie Wormald, sisters of the bride; Miss Adams and Miss Wormald; Miss Constance Wormald and Miss Bailey; Miss P. Wormald and Miss Weguelin.

The groomsmen were—Dr. Cheadle, Mr. S. Dickenson, Mr. John Wormald, jun., Mr. William Robert Wilkinson, Mr. Gerald Gambier, Mr. Wharton, Mr. William Wormald, and Mr. Percival Wormald.

The bride wore a dress of white satin, with a wreath of myrtle and orange blossom, and a plain tulle veil. The bridesmaids wore dresses of white Brussels net with bouillonné skirts, scarlet cloaks, white terry velvet bonnets, trimmed with scarlet Bignonas, and white swan's down muffs, with knots of scarlet velvet.

The bride was presented on the morning of her marriage with a copy of verses, by Mr. Ganville, master of Bengeo Boys' School, as "a tribute from the Bengeo children," whose attachment she had won by her kindness.

Hertford Mercury and Reformer 5 November 1864 from www.findmypast.co.uk



Dr Thomas Wormald and his family lived at Bengeo

Cottage from 1852 to 1868. He was Senior Surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, and rented the house and grounds on a yearly lease from the Byde estate. Bengeo Cottage burnt down in 1907, replaced by Bengeo House in exactly the same position. The only remaining bit of the cottage is the 'window in the wall' at the end of the car park alongside Wadesmill Road, it was part of the house's stables and dairy. The cedar tree in the picture of Bengeo Cottage is still there in the grounds of Bengeo House and Bengeo Mews.

Dr Wormald held free Sunday surgeries at the house for the poor of the parish. He obviously thought this was being abused as on 7th March 1857 placed an advert in the Hertfordshire Mercury and Reformer setting out ways to ensure that only deserving patients visited him.

In 1856 there was a case against a former employee who was alleged to have stolen some of Mr Wormald's property.

The Wormald family were very well thought of in Bengeo as can be seen from the article about his daughter's wedding. The villagers flocked to the church to see his daughter Maryanne married to Edward Leighton and the church was crowded. She must have had some dealings with the children at

MR. WORMALD begs publicly to state that finding the **ADVICE** which he gives **GRATUITOUSLY** at **BENGEO COTTAGE**, on **SUNDAY MORNINGS**—and which he intended for the **POOR**—is claimed by unworthy objects, he must, in future, *decline seeing any Patient* who is not the bearer of a recommendation from some **Medical Practitioner**, or personal friend of Mr. Wormald.
Bengeo Cottage, March 2nd.

BENGEO.—A stack of chimneys was blown down at Mr. Wormald's house during the gale on Saturday morning. Luckily, the mass fell away from the dwelling, and thus prevented perhaps fatal injuries.
Herts Guardian 17 January 1865 from www.findmypast.co.uk

Bengeo Boys School as they presented her with a copy of verses on the morning of her wedding.

In January 1865 there was a huge gale in Hertford and Bengeo Cottage lost a chimney stack!

In 1865 Mr Wormald was elected as president of the Royal College of Surgeons and in the same year Queen Victoria appointed him to be one of the commissioners to investigate the Cattle Plague.

In December 1866 the Vicar of Bengeo travelled to London to conduct the marriage of another of Dr Wormald's daughters, Elizabeth Anne.

When the family left Bengeo Cottage they moved to Epping House, Epping Green near Little Berkhamstead.

The family is not to be forgotten in Bengeo as one of the roads on the new development, The Stiles, on the site of Bengeo Nursery is hopefully going to be named after Dr Wormald.

Marilyn Taylor

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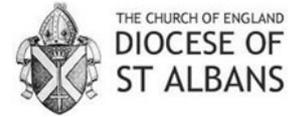


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Tonwell School News



Despite the changeable weather, it was wonderful to enjoy an uninterrupted half term of learning in school. It was great to see the children engaged in their lessons across the school and getting back to a normal timetable. One of our local residents kindly sent this picture of a double rainbow above the school – a symbol of hope and many good things to come!

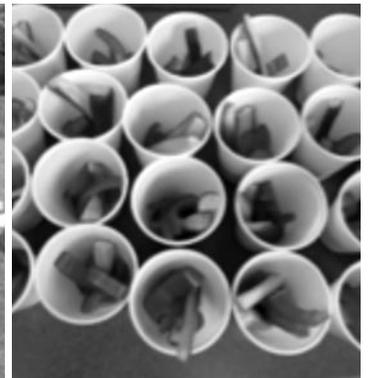
On 30th April our children ran the Daily Mile as part of their curriculum every day. We joined 1000s of other schools for 'England does the daily mile'. Children visited the local playing fields and all ran at



least 4 laps! They used their experience of cross country to remember to set a steady pace.

We are excited to have purchased £2000 worth of new books to support our children's reading. I would like to thank the Bengeio Charities for their kind donation which has helped us to invest. The new books will help our youngest children to have a range of stories, non-fiction and poems to develop their early reading skills. Books with a focus on science, geography and diversity have also been purchased for our older readers and for the EYFS classroom.

The whole school took part in our "Feeling Good Week" to promote children's personal development and our school vision and values of 'choosing a lifestyle with healthy bodies and minds'. The school council made healthy snacks every day such as watermelon, peppers and more. We invited Forest School experts into school to deliver outdoor activities. We loved the blindfold trail, hammock, mud kitchen and campfire!



Tonwell St Mary's C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman

We are offering 30 hour places in our Nursery class.

We also have a Breakfast Club from 8am and After School Club until 5pm daily.

Visits are warmly welcomed.

Please speak to Mrs Moorehead on 01920 462894 between 8.30am and 12 noon to arrange a visit or email admin@tonwell.herts.sch.uk



Now that we are reasonably back to normal we thought it would be a great and fun idea to get the village out and about. We have decided to run a village quiz and a scavenger hunt where the children will have to find a variety of flavours of ice cream, each one is different (see below) to win a prize!



Bengeo Primary School

A few of the things that have been happening at Bengeo Primary School...

Year 2 Great Fire of London

Year 2 had a fantastic day taking part in a virtual Great Fire of London Workshop. The children came dressed in their outfits which added extra excitement and meaning to the day.

They took part in a range of activities including weaving, quill writing and clay work. I believe that



the highlight of the day was eating grapes, parmesan cheese, freshly made bread and drinking red wine (well, blackcurrant juice!).

Nursery – School Wild Challenge

Over the past six months, Nursery have been taking part in the School Wild Challenge, which is organised by the RSPB.

We have completed six challenges, which included – bug hunts, building bug hotels, habitats for bugs and birds, feeders, rain gauges so we could measure how much rainfall we had in the week, weather charts, and we took part in the Big Bird Watch. All these activities have helped us to build knowledge and skills to look after the environment and wildlife.

Nursery have achieved the BRONZE AWARD.

Refurbishment of the Chestnut class garden



As you will remember from the last magazine, we received a very generous



donation from Bengeo Charities Fund, which we have used to completely refurbish our Chestnut class garden. The new bright and cheerful garden lends itself to comfortable, stimulating learning sessions, in different areas, in the fresh air surrounded by herbs and flowers.



Year 1 Balanceability

Year 1 had a wonderful morning learning to balance on balance bikes, getting them ready to ride a bike.



Year 4 Hertford Town Tour

Our Year 4 children took part in a historic tour of Hertford Town as part of their current topic, which they enjoyed and found very interesting. They finished the morning off nicely with a picnic and ice-lollies.





Mill Mead Primary School

Here is a selection of the activities our children have been engaged with in June.

Nursery

Nursery have been learning about the life cycle of a frog. We read *"Tadpole's Promise"* which also made us think about how we have changed since birth and how we might keep growing in the future. We also used the book *"Over and Under the Pond"* to get us thinking about what we might see on our visit to the school pond.

We have also really enjoyed being outside more, exploring the mud kitchen is a favourite and working as a team to make obstacle courses, this week some children built a dam like the beaver in the book!

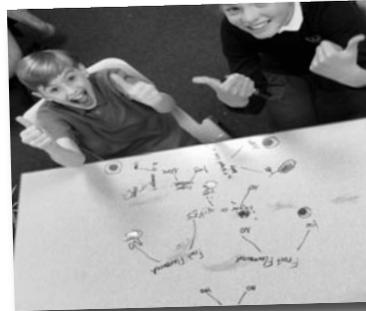


Year 2

2M have been working so hard in Maths since our return to school, looking at alternative ways to quickly solve multiplication

challenges by regrouping numbers using a part, whole model. We have all shown lots of resilience and are now beginning to see how we can use our multiplication knowledge when tackling division problems. 2M have also recently enjoyed using our wonderful new Ukuleles and drum sticks for an uplifting music session.

Year 6



Year 6 have had a great start to their Summer Term. On the first day back, disaster struck! We had to investigate a very serious crime: our book corner had been trashed and our lava lamp was stolen. Through careful detective work, unveiling clues and using our maths problem solving skills, we now know that Mr Madden, our very sneaky site manager, desired the elixir of life stored in the lava lamp! What a wonderful way to introduce our topic Crime and Punishment, delving into crime through the ages. Our class text, *Holes*, has provided a great foundation for questioning certain policies and punishments in place.



In science, our topic Living Things & Their Habitats started off by classifying different 'species' of sweets! Who knew science could be so tasty?! The children are now moving on to the classification of living things.

Finally, as this is our last term with the lovely Year 6, the children have begun creating their memory books! They are so excited to document their very own Mill Mead journey. What a wonderful send off.

Friends of Mill Mead School

Over the past year there have been several FOMMS-organised activities to raise money for the new school library, including the summer walking challenge last year, the Tesco Bags of Help fund, and the CAF online direct



donation portal. The grand total came to £4,681 (after £960 was donated to Nabalongo school as per our charity agreement with them). Thank you to everyone who helped organise, took part and donated, it was all very welcome.



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Duncombe School

An Independent Preparatory School and Nursery

Duncombe School

Hello from Team Duncombe!

There is nothing better than the sound of a school filled with the chatter and laughter of children. Some lessons such as art, French and music have even been able to take place outside due to the wonderful weather. Laughter and fresh air, what a great combination. Our Summer Term has been filled with non-stop, exciting learning, competition success and success stories of pupils both past and present.

We started the term announcing the winners of our Team Duncombe Spring Photography Competition, judged by local, well-known photographer and friend of Team Duncombe, Jon Cartwright. Both Jon and Team Duncombe were blown away by the quality of the entries. Every photo deserved to be acknowledged, so we created a virtual Duncombe School's Spring Photography Exhibition. Pop along and take a look at some of the wonderful photos when you have time: <https://bit.ly/3u2C6GU>.

The whole school participated in Team Duncombe annual Science week, a cross curricular celebration of Science. Exciting topics and projects happen across the school including Kindergarten who created exploding volcanos and Upper School who researched Victorian engineers, scientists, and inventors. Alongside this, our Year 5 and 6 children represented Duncombe in the Cognita Global Science Expo, hosted by St Andrews International School in Thailand. We are thrilled to share that across the four categories Team Duncombe secured a 1st, two 2nd and two highly commended awards.

We've celebrated lots of pupil success this term, which is always great to share. A Year 2 pupil took part in a charity run at Haileybury College. Inspired by the older boys, he ran a total of 18.85 miles across 16 hours, that is more than a half marathon, what an achievement! Could he be Team Duncombe's potential Team GB Olympian in training?

A member of Team Duncombe recently attended his first National Youth Choirs of Great Britain camp, after being selected to join the choir in December 2020. Although the camp was virtual this year, the experience was fantastic and even included workshops with West End stars. Read all about his week here:

<https://bit.ly/33FSDVO>.

A Year 5 pupil took part in a local leading Independent Secondary School's baking competition and was awarded first place. Another member in Year 5 won Queenswood School's competition entitled "Girls Who Changed the World" and to her amazement received a handwritten letter back from Sir David Attenborough addressing her concerns. Read all about why this young lady choose Dian Fossey as her subject and why the link to Sir David Attenborough here: <https://bit.ly/3guZ3x7>.

We also had the opportunity to congratulate a past pupil, Team Duncombe's Oliver Skipp. Currently on loan from Tottenham Hotspur, Oliver was instrumental in helping Norwich City FC return to the Premier League and winning the Championship title this season. Oliver virtually popped in to give the children a motivational pre Sports Day talk and encourage them to follow their dreams.

Keep safe and well,
Team Duncombe

“
I was eggstatic to receive an email from Queenswood School congratulating me on winning the competition.”



Team Duncombe Year 5
Future Star Baker

Duncombe School Pupil News

“
I was thrilled my entry about Dian Fossey won the competition. However, to then receive a letter from Sir David Attenborough on top of this is just...AMAZING!”



Team Duncombe, Year 5
Future Influencer, planning to change the world.

Duncombe School Pupil Success News

“
We learned how to beatbox with SK Shlomo and we sang songs from Les Miserable with Phillipa Healey, who was Cosette in the West End.”



Team Duncombe Year 5
Member of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain

Duncombe School Pupil News

“
I ran over a half marathon with the older boys. It was lots of fun, but my legs are tired today and still feel a little bit like jelly.”



Team Duncombe Year 2
Potential Team GB Olympian in training

Duncombe School Pupil Success News



A Word from The Rectory

From The Vicar, The Revd Robert Thompson

Jack Russell's tale



These days, anyone talking to their local vicar about 'working only on Sundays' will watch the upper lip of even the most peaceful priest curl in irritation. But, truth to tell, there was a time when Sunday duty was the only obligation for which clergy earned a crust – and this left plenty of time to do other interesting things.

Hence the tale of Jack Russell. Vicar of the Devon village of Swimbridge for nearly fifty years, Revd Jack Russell devoted his mission to all things bright and beautiful. Considered by contemporaries to be the finest huntsman ever to have walked upon English soil, Reverend Jack spent his time breeding vast numbers of horses and, most famously, dogs, in order to find the best specimens for his sporting needs.

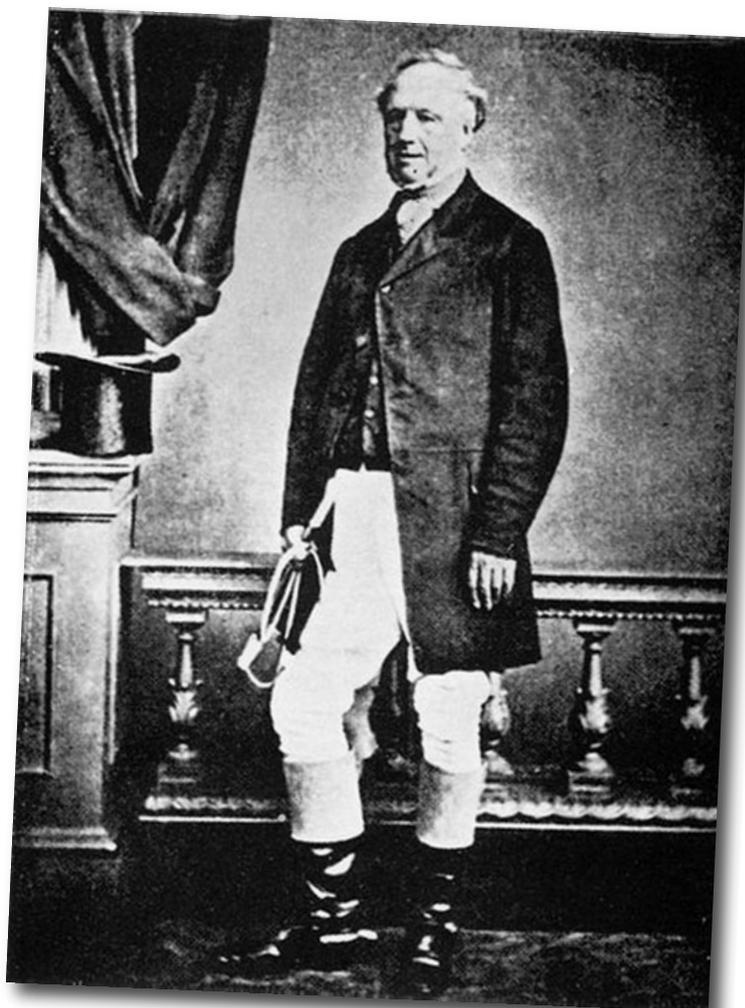
Russell grew up in the Devon countryside and, from an early age, his stated ambition was to be the finest horseman in all England. His passion for field sports was evident during his time at school, where he kept a secret pack of dogs in some outbuildings, the discovery of which nearly resulted in his expulsion. Russell, however, survived the ire of his headmaster and, in 1814, he went to Exeter College, Oxford.

Student life ill-suited Jack, who considered academic studies an unnecessary hindrance from a full day in the saddle. One morning, as he arrived in the small village of Marston, a mile or so from Oxford where the hounds were kept, he happened to bump into the village milkman doing his rounds, followed by his little terrier who went by the name of Trump. The animal had distinctive tan markings on her face and tail, as well as an athletic physique. Russell was convinced that she was the best specimen he had ever seen and asked the milkman to name his price. Blessed with Trump, time and

know-how, he developed his own signature breed and called it the Jack Russell Terrier.

Russell was ordained in 1819 and he and Trump moved back to the West Country where he soon became a well-known figure galloping across the Devon moorland. His riding skills were legendary, and particularly admired by local gypsies and travellers, who respected him so much that they often left him trinkets in their wills, which, given their dislike of the clergy of the Established Church, was quite a turn up.

He continued his dog breeding, helping to found the Kennel Club in 1873, reintroduced a stag hunt to control the deer population on Exmoor and toured the county trying to encourage young men to take part in an annual wrestling competition against the men of Cornwall. He ended up spending his wife's sizeable fortune (his exploits and gallantry had won the heart of an heiress in 1826), sponsoring sporting



events of all kinds, travelling far and wide to judge contests, or else staying at home, from where he dispensed Devon cream and cider and his trademark brand of Devonian charm to all who visited the rectory.

What a modern bishop would make of Russell's pastoral antics I'm not sure. These days, a vicar with his public profile would have an Instagram following of thousands and a regular spot on Countryfile, the kind of 'mission outreach' that compares favourably with our latter-day offerings of online dreariness with which we vainly hope to capture the popular imagination. Russell was a Victorian celebrity, and whilst no angel, the clerical eccentric has long been a stock figure in the English cultural lexicon, and understandably so. Christ's witnesses are not quite of this world: so expect the unexpected.

Not to be outdone, church services in Bengeio this summer begin with something completely barking: a Pet Service at St Leonard's Church (Sunday 4th July, 4pm). It won't be streamed; pets have no patience with that kind of thing. Instead, we will bring our pets to church, eat some scones, and tell real-life stories about the animals who share our lives and helped preserve our sanity during lockdown.

Thereby hangs many a tail.

With my prayers,

Robert Thompson

**Sunday 4th July, 4pm at St Leonard's Church:
3rd Annual Pet Service, 2021. Book to attend
via our website www.parishofbengeio.com or
call 01992 413691 to reserve your seat.**



Parish Prayers

Daily Prayers for July

1. HMP Dovegate Uttoxeter
2. Local Doctors
3. Thomas the Apostle
4. The NHS
5. Grove Walk
6. NHS Chaplaincy Service
7. The Christian Church in Rwanda
8. HMP Downview Surrey
9. Christians against Debt
10. Refugee Action
11. Mission to Seafarers
12. Hartham Villas
13. Quiet Time in St Leonard's
14. Women in Politics
15. HMP Drake Hall, Staffs
16. The UK Olympics Team GB
17. MIND Mental Health Support
18. Our Holy Trinity 9am Service
19. Hornbeam Close
20. The Samaritans
21. The Bible Society in Africa
22. HMP Durham
23. Derby Cathedral
24. Christian Churches in Japan
25. Our Holy Trinity 10am Service
26. Ives Road
27. Those seeking work
28. Mission Aviation Fellowship
29. HMP East Sutton, Kent
30. Christians Against Slavery
31. Bengeo Cottage Garden Society

Daily Prayers for August

1. Friends of St Leonard's
2. Lodge Close
3. Beach and City Missions
4. The Bible Society
5. HMP Eastwood Park, Gloucestershire
6. Local Shops
7. Local Residents' Associations
8. The Prison Fellowship
9. The Mothers' Union
10. Amnesty International
11. The Barnabas Fund for persecuted Christians
12. HMP Erlestoke, Wiltshire
13. The Florence Nightingale Foundation
14. All held in prison for their faith
15. St Marys Church, Hertingfordbury
16. Leys Hill Gardens
17. The Hertford Team Ministry
18. Christian Churches in Russia
19. HMP Exeter, Devon
20. The Salvation Army
21. Local Sports Teams
22. Local Care Homes
23. Manor Close
24. Our PCC and Church Hall
25. The Church in South America
26. HMP Featherstone, Staffs
27. Ely Cathedral, first used in 1375
28. The Isabel Hospice
29. Hertford and District Churches Together
30. Mansfield Gardens
31. All returning to school

Holy Trinity church is open for services

Sunday services

9am Holy Communion (30 minutes) and 10am Holy Communion (30 minutes)

Numbers are limited because of Government guidelines. Any changes to these services in July will be announced on the parish website. To book a place at any service visit www.parishofbengeo.com, email info@parishofbengeo.com or call us on 01992 413691.

Weekdays

The church is open for private prayer during the week from 10am until 3pm and for a Quiet Time prayer service on Tuesday evenings at 8pm. St Leonard's services are on page 12.

Church Contacts

Team Vicar

The Reverend Robert Thompson
The Rectory, Byde Street, Bengeo, SG14 3BS
E: info@parishofbengeo.com
T: 01992 413691

Associate Priest

Fr. David Pepper
T: 01992 314012

Reader

Bob Kelly
T: 01763 274653

Churchwardens

Diana Howarth
T: 01992 587292
Graham Squires
T: 01992 553465

Parochial Church Council

Chairman: Rev Robert Thompson
Honorary Secretary: David Greely
T: 01920 412485

Director of Music and Organist

Dr Andrew Sentance

Assistant Organist

William Sarjeant

St Leonard's Church

Friends of St Leonard's
New Member Secretary: Sue Patterson

Addresses

Holy Trinity Church
New Road, Hertford SG14 3JJ
St Leonard's Church
St Leonard's Road, Bengeo, SG14 3JW

Local Contacts for Help and Advice

Bengeo Residents Support Network Against Coronavirus

Many volunteers from Bengeo and the vicinity are offering help and support to vulnerable neighbours. Ring **01992 230155**. Call if you need food or other items, information or just for a chat.

There is a Facebook group to get help or to volunteer: www.facebook.com/groups/bengeo.residents.against.coronavirus

Below are links to local services that Herts CC have sent out about the coronavirus assistance.

Medical and Health Advice

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Information about local council services

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Domestic Abuse

www.sunflower.org

Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 808 8088

[Freephone Monday to Friday, 9am–9pm
Saturday/Sunday 9am–4pm]

Financial Advice

Money Advice Unit

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits

Hertfordshire Citizens Advice Service

03444 111 444

National Debtline

www.nationaldebtline.org

0808 808 4000

Advice on avoiding scams

Sign up for scam alerts from trading standards
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/updateme

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

If you are interested in volunteering
www.thvolunteering.org.uk

HertsHelp 0300 123 4044

Mental Health Advice and Support

Herts Mind Network

www.hertsmindnetwork.org

020 3727 3600

0300 777 0707 [8am–7pm]

Nightline: 01923 256391

Emotional Support and Practical Help

www.hertshelp.net

info@hertshelp.net

HertsHelp: 0300 123 4044

Inner back page photograph: St Leonard's by moonlight.

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www.mrsmithworldphotography.com

Back cover photograph: Bengeo panorama at sunset.

Barry Goodey, BG Drone Shots. See Barry's advert on page 8.

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