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East Braintree FOCUS

Highlighting the activities, achievements, issues and heritage of East Braintree

Wendy Morgan

The tragic and unexpected Loss of a champion of the Community

The much loved and respected Citizenship Teacher and Co-ordinator, Wendy Morgan, of Alec Hunter Humanities College, passed away in June.

Wendy was a real champion of the College and the community who made a massive difference to the lives of many around her. She will never be forgotten.

Below is one of many tributes made in dedication to her memory:



Rest in Peace Angel

Mrs Morgan
 What a star
 No matter where you are
 Loving, generous
 Gentle and Kind
 Such a hard type to find
 You helped us all
 To stand up tall
 You never let us down
 Our chats about food
 Changed the mood
 On the way to Cressing barns
 We invented
 The Go Green Crew!
 We'll carry it on just for you
 Forever in my thoughts
 Remembering all the fun
 The good things that you done
 At such a young age
 We're all in a daze
 It happened oh so quick
 Sleep tight
 Love you forever
 Until never becomes never
 Rest in peace now angel
 Way up far
 In the life above the stars

Sian Carroll

Do you want to achieve more in your job? Would you like the chance to earn more money?

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that you need. Whether it's improving your GCSE's, an IT course, NVQ's or an Apprenticeship, then Train for Your Future is the answer. It's all FREE for you and your employer, and is flexible to meet your needs. We will also support you through your course and help you to make it a success.

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The Story of Lake & Elliot

As a result of Bernie Godfrey's research into this topic on the Local History course and his continuing research there have been some exciting developments. In collaboration with Bernie I am writing a booklet and we are hoping to launch this at the College Autumn of 2007, together with an exhibition.

David Possee

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INTERVIEW WITH TOM CHURCH

the Face of the Community

In June 2007, Tom Church visited Alec Hunter Humanities College. Mr Church has been working as a Community Warden for Braintree District Council for a while, but has actually been working with the Community altogether for over 20 years. His job, at the moment, involves dealing with anti-social behaviour, litter, and graffiti and, if he catches someone with alcohol or cigarettes under the legal age, he has the power to confiscate it!

Tom's job also allows him to be in contact with Essex Police! Although this is his job at the moment, Mr Church hasn't always worked with Braintree District Council. Before, he was an Ambulance Paramedic, where he came across a lot of scary incidents and also a Police Officer!

All of the jobs are involved with the community. It was an interesting experience talking to Mr Church and learning about his job.

Culzean Tate and Natalie Gypps



Local Hairdresser Wins Award

Perry Orrin, a former student of Alec Hunter Humanities College has been awarded the "Hairdresser of the Year" award at Feathers Hairdressers in Braintree.

It wasn't easy for her to become the Hairdresser of the Year. "I had to go to a 'Hair Camp', where we worked with the Paul Mitchell Artistic team to style a unique and interesting hairstyle. Then the judges went round and chose the right one. We had to also copy the style that hairdressers on stage made, and the closest one got the highest points". When she was awarded Hairdresser of the Year, she was given a bottle of Champagne, £200 and an official Trophy Certificate.

Perry's ambitions are having her own Salon in the future, and also being on stage in Vegas. "One of my friends in London has one, I'd like to have that too. And also, we've been to see many shows, and being on stage in Vegas, styling someone's hair, would be my ultimate dream".



She also gave us some advice too, if either of us wanted to become hairdressers. "You can easily get a Saturday job; that's the first step and you can learn many things on the way. Also, Feathers holds a club night every weekend where many young people can come to learn and experiment making hairstyles by themselves. That's a good start for future hairdressers".

Perry Orrin is a prime example of what people can achieve when they really try and keep determined. Anyone can succeed in his or her dream career; you just have to try and believe you can do it.

Rosemary Lemon

Help Wanted With History of Braintree

I would like to ask for readers help with compiling the history of the Braintree District during World War II. I have recently completed a project giving an outline of the first council housing provided in Braintree, which is available to view on the community website.

Having been given some details about the area during the Second World War, I would now like to record the information regarding the effect it had on the residents and the area at the time. Particular areas of interest would be the effect the war had on local families - with many individuals joining the armed services - the influences it had on children, parents, work, schooling, industry, businesses and shops, and how the area was affected by air raids, bombs that were dropped.

Any information would be gratefully received. Anyone with memories of the area at the time, newspaper cuttings, photographs or other memorabilia are welcome to contact me either by email: ka_bro@yahoo.co.uk or by telephoning me on 07906 362719.

Any items loaned will be carefully looked after and returned as soon as possible. Thank you.

Karen Brown



Beckers Green develops links with Braintree, Massachusetts

Braintree, Essex has a shared history with Braintree, Massachusetts, which extends back to the 17th century.

In 1632 on 2nd June, a ship called the 'Lyon' sailed from London to New England carrying 123 passengers. Most of the passengers were from Essex. They arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, on 16th September, 1632. Essex people made a tremendous impact in New England – evidence can be seen in the naming of settlements: Braintree, Colchester, Dedham, Coggeshall, Maldon, Wickford and others.



Beckers Green Primary School has recently developed a link with the Mary E. Flaherty School in Braintree, Massachusetts. Year 6 pupils at Beckers Green now have pen pals at the Flaherty School and are exchanging information about themselves and their respective localities. Year 1 pupils at Beckers Green have just started corresponding with a Grade 1 class in the same school. We are hoping to extend this link to other classes in the future. The children really enjoy reading their letters and it gives a real purpose to writing. There was huge excitement recently when they received photographs of their penpals.

Alec Hunter's Facelift

Over the past three years, Alec Hunter Humanities College has changed greatly. From a plain old school with bleak appearances, to a modern College with outstanding changes. Alec Hunter has changed a lot, and we're here to show you that all the changes are for the better.

First off, when we were only in year 7 and everything was new, the Sports hall and G block, were being renovated. The final result was exceedingly better, with new changing rooms, Music rooms and equipment, and disabled access to the building. The new Drama rooms are good too. Next to change was A block, or the Citizenship rooms. These two rooms were old Science classrooms, far apart from the others in use. So they were renovated into new Citizenship rooms, with computers and new RM Interactive whiteboards.

The next renovation was A5, which was used for Drama, and the Expressive Arts office. It is now Alec Hunter's Media Suite, packed with new computers, video cameras, journalistic equipment, and much more. It is one of the best rooms in the College, and one of the most presentable. The recent renovation meant new accessories to help our learning and exceed our revision and coursework and projects. Matthew Green, from Year Nine, mentioned that he enjoyed using the new technology.

He said, "it's much better than the old computers we had". The subject of College trips have also been changed, with trips to more exciting and interesting locations such as Krakow, Poland. The City was heavily affected by the Holocaust, with thousands of Jews being sent to the nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau Death-Camp, the worst of its kind. We also explored the rest of the city, including its many churches and its famous market square. Year Nine students also visited Arras in France, and one student said, "It was an interesting College trip, looking around the memorials and walking across No Mans Land. I enjoyed going underground and seeing all the old war-time graffiti, as if they were all new. People graffitied them as well!"

We visited three sites, Vimy Ridge, a Canadian site where the Canadians broke through the German lines. Next we visited Newfoundland Park, where hundreds of people from the small island of Newfoundland died trying to dislodge the Germans there. Other trips include to Alklowa, an Africa-styled village, Hampton Court, Berlin for a few days and many more.

The standard isn't the only thing rising in Alec Hunter. So is the performance of the sports teams. The netball teams, of most years, have successfully reached the semi-finals. They all played extremely

well, and Hayley Childs, the Year Nine captain had this to say. "I feel like I have a purpose, something important to be called. Being captain means a lot to me, I feel really proud that we've done so well." Many people are joining sport teams now in Alec Hunter. Students are also attending a lot more after College clubs. The new media clubs, history clubs, sports clubs and library clubs means a lot of pupils have more to do, and they feel secure going and working with other students. Stephen Lemon, Year 7, is proud that he's a member of Media Club. More and more people are attending Alec Hunter Humanities College as well, with the amount of students attending each year growing steadily.

Rosemary Lemon and Alex Stanford-Eyre



Alec Hunter's media suite, packed with new computers

Witchcraft Storytellers come to Alec Hunter Humanities College



Three storytellers came to Alec Hunter to tell Year 8 stories about Essex witches! It lasted for one hour and then afterwards we were allowed to ask questions, for example, were all witches women? A lot of people were surprised at the answer, because we believed that there were only women witches, but as you may or may not know, Matthew Hopkins, Witch Finder General, was once accused of witchcraft himself!

The storytellers told separate stories and some were more intriguing than others, and a lot of that was to do with the way that they told them! One of the men, Andy, expressed himself by using hand gestures and all of them shouted some of the words, which shocked a lot of people and made them jump. Some of the stories were gorier than others, like in the Elizabeth Clarke story, she had one leg and she was hung until strangled and DEAD!

Everyone enjoyed it and it is something we won't forget soon! Thank you to Miss Depper for organising it and other teachers for letting us hear all the exciting stories that the storytellers had to tell, even the gory parts!!!

*Culzean Tate,
Natalie Gypps,
Hayley Adams
and Hannah Prior*

Marathon Funding Raising Effort

Beckers Green Primary School lived up to its reputation as a Healthy School when teaching assistant, Nikki Ruggles took part in the recent London Marathon! She finished the course in a very credible 4 hours and was encouraged in her efforts by children and staff at the school.

Children raised over £700 in sponsorship by running round the school 'cross-country course' for at least a mile per child. Friends and staff increased the amount of money raised to over £900. All sponsorship monies went to Moorfields Eye Hospital.

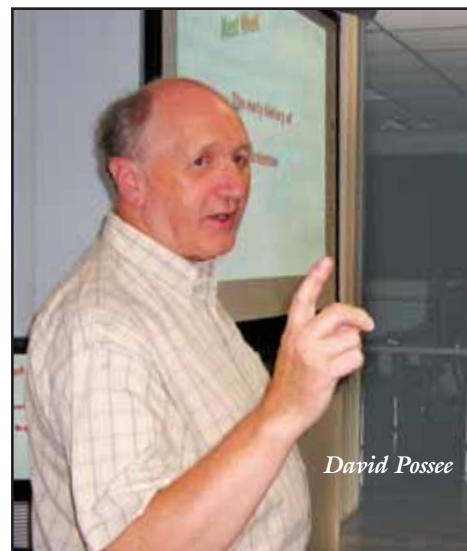


The Story of East Braintree (4)

With the establishment of Norman rule after 1066, Bocking came under the control of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Braintree, the Bishop of London. According to the Domesday Book, the present town centre (Branchetreu) covered 30 acres and that of Raines Magna (East Braintree) 500 acres. Landowners had to pay high taxes to the King and therefore they looked for opportunities to get more income from their holdings. From the middle of the 12th century market and fair charters were granted by the King and in 1199 the Bishop of London gained one for Braintree.

This brought about the development of a new town in Branchetreu around the crossroads. As a result Raines Magna gradually diminished in importance and for the next 600 years became a very important agricultural community. This is borne out by the number of farms that were still in existence in the 19th century – Clockhouse – Stubbs – Parsonage – Chapel – Nicholls – Slough House – and a windmill was sited near the SGT DIY store. The Bishop of London had a country house (known rather grandly as a palace) not far from the Post Office sorting office in Lakes Road. The original parish church became a chapel and was where in the 20th century Lake & Elliot built their first foundry.

David Possee



David Possee



Summer Fun at Cressing

Every Tues in August School Holidays: Children's Archaeological Dig
(31st July, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th Aug) 9am, 11am or 1.30pm

Come and learn about archaeology from archaeologist Barry Hillman Crouch.

He will share with you the secrets of the past and how to uncover them. Booking essential as place are limited.

£8.50 per child.

01376 584903/584453/585046

Every Weds in August School Holidays Tudor and Medieval Children's Activity Days
(1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Aug) 10am-5pm at Cressing Temple Barns

Costumed historical characters in the kitchen, walled garden, schoolroom and games arena will be running fun craft activities and sharing with you what their lives were like. Self-led trails and games all day. Each week there will be different activities, so you can come every week! There will be three Tudor & two Medieval themed days. Suitable for ages 2-12 yrs, dressing up optional! Falconry demonstration at 2pm (weather permitting). Pre-booking strongly advised

£7.50 per child on the day (£6.50 pre-booked)

One adult free per party (other adults normal entry fee)

01376 584903/585046

Don't Throw Your Old Shoes Away!

Shoe Friends is a charity. Bring in your old shoes to the Alec Hunter Humanities College and put them in the bucket that says Shoe Friends.

All the shoes will be sent to poor people in Africa and other places, helping the poor all over the world.

By Culzean Tate and Natalie Gypps

LOCAL HISTORY CLASSES

WEEKLY CLASSES
10 WEEK COURSES

Alec Hunter Humanities College

WEDNESDAYS 7.15 – 8.15pm

STARTING September 2007

ALL WELCOME

*Email: H Birley at:
hamish-birley@alechunter.essex.sch.uk
for more details or to register*

ICT Classes for BEGINNERS

WEEKLY CLASSES
10 WEEK COURSE

Alec Hunter Humanities College

WEDNESDAYS 7.15 – 8.15pm

STARTING September 2007

ALL WELCOME

*Email: Mark Hammond at
humanities@alechunter.essex.sch.uk
for more details or to register*

Did you go to Alec Hunter School?

Alec Hunter is currently putting together information about the history of the School (now College). If you have any information or memories you wish to add, please can you send them in or e-mail them via the website:

www.alechunter.essex.sch.uk

Stories for the Next Edition & Community Website

www.alechunter.essex.sch.uk/framecommunity.htm

If you have details of local activities and events please contact Mark Hammond at:
humanities@alechunter.essex.sch.uk

FACE TO FACE: THE MAN BEHIND THE SCHOOL

A report of my interview with headmaster and friend to many ...
Mr. Couves, Great Bradfords Primary School

As I enter the school, there is a strong smell of paint as plans of refurbishment in the reception are being carried out. As Mr., Couves greets Mrs Barnes and I, we are led into his plush office, covered in his students art projects and certificates. I see a small teddy bear on his desk, facing us – perhaps this is a reminder of his soft side? We are seated; Mr. Couves opposite me, and Mrs. Barnes to my left. He smiles at me as I begin my interview.

Most children today have no idea what they want to be when they grow-up... but did Mr. Couves? It turns out he has been a teacher for many years, but first had the initial thought as a young adult. He taught adults, so he worked extra hard to be “one step ahead” as he quoted, as many of his adult students challenged his knowledge. He worked in many schools before Great Bradfords, when at last the post of headmaster was offered. He finds the best part of his job is helping

the children and preparing them for the challenges that await them later on in life. He also seems to thrive for their achievements and supports them all the way. *And he cares for the school itself.*

If everything goes to plan, he shall have the detachable classroom huts removed (which have been there around 30 YEARS!) And all ex-Great Bradford’s students should remember how cold it was in the winter, but they were always like a sauna in the summer. He’s also extending the Library Resource centre, buying more computers, books and teaching tools in a bid to make the most of the children’s learning.

But when I dig a little deeper, and ask about bullying ; which is a important issue and has been raised a lot in the media, Mr. Couves’ expression changes. He looks me in the eye, and answers my questions truthfully.

When asked about how he deals with bullying, Mr. Couves says that there is no way to get rid of all bullying, and he isn’t denying that it goes on in his

school. But however, he does have ways to help prevent it. He has installed listening corners and a Chill Zone, where the children can talk to a teacher about any problems they may have. But if he does find to have bullying in this school, he gathers the individuals and talks to all of them, getting to the root of the problem. For victims of bullying, he offers advice and support. But...when I ask how he deals with bullies, he shakes his head at me. He says that sometimes, definitions of a “bully” can be wrong, but if a genuine bully is found, and continues to do wrong even after a meeting, and continues to victimize the other children, he asks them to leave the school community. Luckily, he has not had to do that for many years now.

So there it is. I dug deep and realize what really makes Great Bradfords tick. A mixture of friendship, achievement, and of course, knowing that the school is in safe hands of a very able headmaster—Mr. J. Couves.

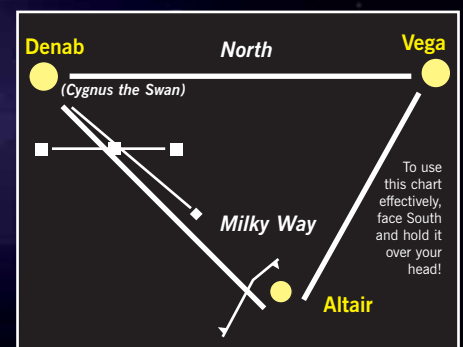
Catherine Millross

The Summer Night Sky

The bright planet Venus is now sinking low in the West by nightfall, but look to the South West and you should see Jupiter fairly low in the sky. It is quite bright so you should not miss it. A moderate telescope or even good binoculars will show three or even four of its largest moons. Did you know that Jupiter is so large that all the other planets could fit inside it with space to spare? The bright star close to Jupiter is Antares, the main star in the

constellation of Scorpio the Scorpio. Also look out for three stars which form an almost isosceles triangle. Directly above you in mid August is a bright blue star called Vega. Moving over to the east is Deneb, whilst in the south is Altair. Deneb is the main star in Cygnus the Swan (see the sketch). Part of one of the spiral areas of our own galaxy called the Milky Way flows through Cygnus. Scanning this area with binoculars will show thousands of stars.

To see it in its true glory you need to be well away from artificial lighting and a moon that is anywhere near full!





'Have-a-Go' at Archery

Braintree Bowmen
shoot at 'Cressing Temple Barns'

Every Thursday Night from 7.00pm

Pop along and ask about our Beginner's Courses

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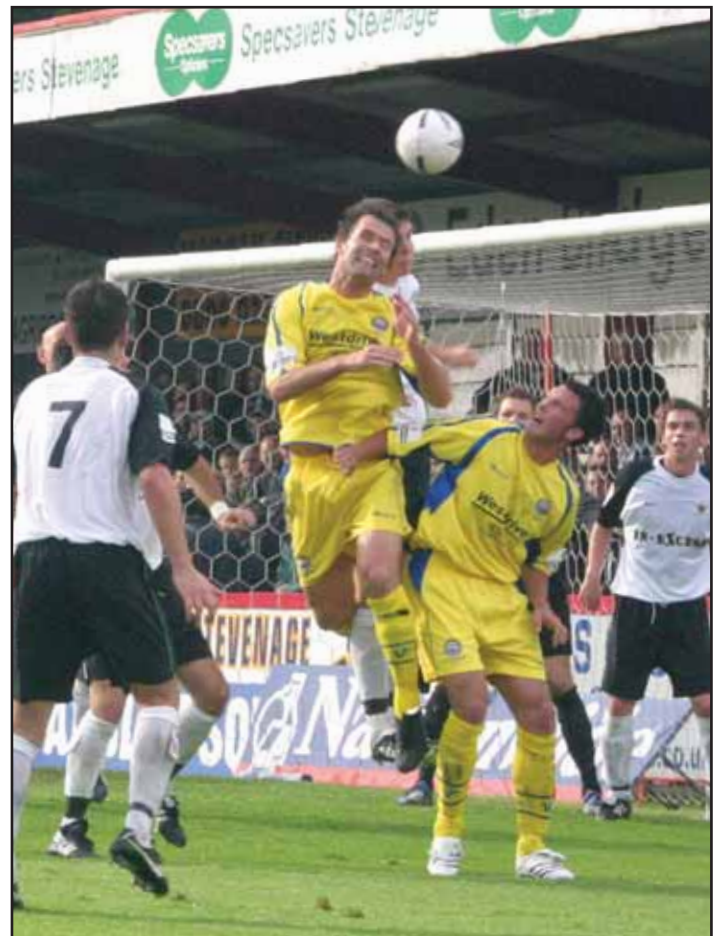
Braintree Town Shape-Up for New Season

Braintree Town FC are shaping up for the start of the new season in the Blue Square South (formerly Nationwide Conference South) with some attractive pre-season friendly fixtures at the revamped Cressing Road Stadium. Top class football returns to the town on Wednesday 18th July when Coca Cola League One outfit Brighton & Hove Albion will be making their first visit to Braintree. The match has been arranged as part of the deal that took Braintree's ever popular top scorer and club captain Alex Revell to Brighton last year.

Manager George Borg has been busy during the close season as he attempts to build a side that can exceed last season's sterling efforts and win a place in the Blue Square Premier – just one promotion away from the Football League. Most of last season's squad have again signed on, although Dean Bradshaw has left for Histon and Russell Edwards has retired. Chris Sullivan, an exciting young goalscorer, has signed permanently from Stevenage after playing eight games on loan last season.

Back in May over 1,500 fans witnessed the triumphant home play-off second leg match with Havant & Waterlooville and a week later nearly 2,000 supporters made the short journey to Stevenage for the ultimately unsuccessful play-off final with Salisbury City. The support at both those games was fantastic and the club are looking to start the season with packed terraces to help spur them on to a successful season.

Admission to the terraces for league games for the forthcoming season has been pegged at £10 for adults and £5 for concessions, with an additional £2 for transfer to the main stand. Season tickets are available as follows: Vice Presidents £400, Main Stand £215, Terrace Adult £180, Terrace Concession £90, Terrace Under 13 £21 (that's all 21 home league games at £1 per game!). The award winning full colour 48 page match day programme will again cost only £2.



The Blue Square South season kicks off on Saturday 11th August, with the fixture list yet to be announced at the time of going to press. Braintree Town's full pre-season schedule is as follows:

WED 18TH JULY v BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION (HOME – 7.45pm),
Sat 21st July v Maldon Town (Away – 3.00pm),
Tues 24th July v Chesham United (Away – 7.45pm),
Sat 28th July v Dereham Town (Away – 3.00 pm),
TUES 31ST JULY v BOSTON UNITED (HOME – 7.45pm),
WED 1ST AUGUST v CRAWLEY TOWN (HOME – 7.45pm),
SAT 4TH AUGUST v BURY TOWN (HOME).

Jon Weaver