

*To the Landkreis Roth Partnerschaft with warmest greetings from
Brentwood Town Twinning Association to commemorate the loss of
your August 2020 visit to Brentwood due to Covid.*

*“Dear Friends from Roth, this cruel disease
Has stolen your visit. Who foresees
What time may bring? But please be sure
You’ll find a welcome at our door
Next year for five days -or for four,
And reunited, we will show
Aspects of Essex you don’t know.
We’ll guarantee you’ll not be bored
Touring the county town, Chelmsford,
Visiting a Priory
Then to Southend where Thames meets sea.
You’ll walk along our longest pier.
Eat fish and chips. Drink English Beer.
We’ll chat and catch up with the news,
We will discuss each other’s views
On climate, Covid, Brexit, twinning
And hope for a new world worth the winning.”*

At first in March 2020 our main preoccupation was finding food which had suddenly vanished from the supermarkets. It was difficult to find things online, too. All I could buy was chocolate (always good in an emergency) and I picked nettles to make soup. Things did improve, but for months there were sudden shortages of eggs, flour, yeast, and toilet paper. People became more friendly and considerate.

Schools closed, children had to study at home, with help from their parents, who often had to work from home.



Lucky people with gardens suddenly took up food production, and shared produce with their neighbours.

*“Plums for breakfast dinner and tea,
I’ve more plums than I ever did see.
Why someone’s brought a present for me!
Oh crumbs! More plums.”*

Many people have bought a pet to combat loneliness.



The rules about social distancing are gradually easing, but it has been very confusing as they change so often. Quarantine rules for travellers also change frequently and at short notice.



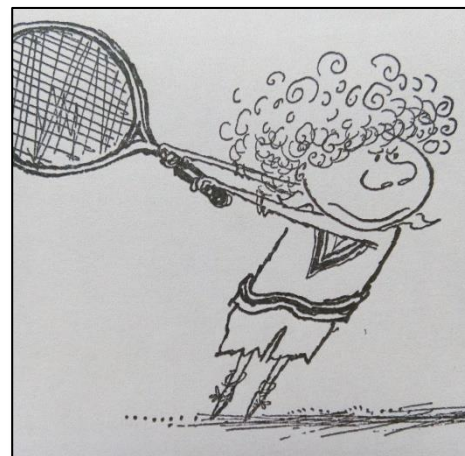
Online sales of garden furniture rocketed as families stayed at home in glorious weather.

"I've bought myself a new deck chair and I am going to sit in it.

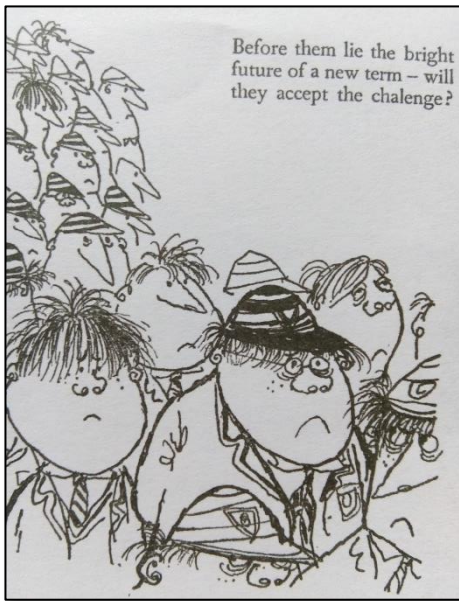
*The sun is warm, the weather fair
I've bought myself a new deck chair.*

*My wife has just informed me where
She wants it put, to knit in it,
But I have bought the new deck chair, and I
am going to sit in it."*

Good news is that (with precautions) we are now allowed to see our family and friends again, get our hair cut, visit pubs and restaurants, and play tennis and most other sports. Jon and Noelle are even busy organising a Covid-adapted Oktoberfest



Schools will reopen for all pupils in September



Now in late August, the return of stricter lockdown measures is being considered. However, we remain hopeful and we all look forward to happy meetings next year. Everyone sends you warmest greetings. Lack of space prevents us showing more than a few of our members, but all of us wish you all a successful and healthy year and we can't wait until summer 2021.



Some Concluding Messages



"Very best wishes from Jean and Tony Sleep in our usual pose!"



"Happy memories!" Pam Richards



"Viel Glück und bis zum nächsten Jahr. Grüße!" Judy Withyman.



"Here's to next year!" Rita Anderson.



"Shoene Gruesse von Derek und Sue Kortlandt."



"Ich freue mich darauf Sie alle naechstes Jahr zu begruessen. Bis dahin bleiben Sie alle gesund und munter." Patricia King.



"Greetings to our friends in Georgensmund. We are looking forward to your visit next year." Malcolm and Anne Long.



"Waiting for Irene and Gunter – only a year to go." Roger and Jane Winter.



"All the very best to everyone and we look forward to welcoming the Legatski family next year". Elizabeth and John Scannell.