



Great Bardfield Annual Parish Report

April 30th 2020





Annual Parish Report 2020

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Report design, layout and sub-editing: Jenny Rooney.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed written reports and to all those who have sent in so many lovely photographs to illustrate this document.

Cover: Music in the Garden – Summer fund-raising event hosted by Andrew and Julia Collins at Whinbush Farm, Walthams Cross. (Photo Andrew Collins).



Great Bardfield Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 2020

To be held on Thursday, 30th April at 8.00pm in the Town Hall

Agenda

1. Chair's introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the meeting held 30th May 2019
4. Matters arising
5. Parish Council Review 2019-2020
6. Parish Council Financial review 2019-2020
7. Braintree District Council report
8. Essex County Council report
9. Town Hall report and accounts
10. Charities report and accounts
11. The *Bardfield Times* report and accounts
12. Great Bardfield Primary School report
13. Questions from the floor
14. Closing remarks

The Annual Parish Report containing the above reports, and those of other village organisations, is available on the evening to all those attending and additional copies will be available, free of charge, from the Community Information Point and Between the Lines bookshop.



Chairman's introduction

I am writing this report at the end of March 2020, amid an unprecedented crisis in our country, and considering the impact of the necessary restrictions that have been put on our communities in the last few weeks. In some ways the danger still seems somewhat remote, and is, of course, invisible. I am relieved that at this point, I have heard few reports of illness due to Covid-19 in our community, and that those I do know of, are recovering. Of course, this virus is indiscriminate and has affected our Prime Minister and Prince Charles. At the time of writing we can expect the spread of the disease to continue for some time. I do believe, however, that with the government requiring us to 'Stay At Home', that we may be able to protect ourselves and the most vulnerable in our communities, and the NHS medical services which are so vital for the health of us all.

I am extremely appreciative of all those who have volunteered to help people in this community who are house-bound. Volunteers have dropped leaflets through doors across the whole village, offering help with shopping, collection of prescriptions and also a voice at the end of a telephone for those on their own and feeling isolated. This much needed support is a lifeline to those who may otherwise feel forgotten and anxious. I know that Kate, our Clerk has had calls from people who hope not to need the volunteer service but are so grateful that there are people in our community willing to support them through this. I must particularly thank Lynsi Hayward-Smith and Kate Fox for co-ordinating



*Cllr
Carolynne
Ruffle,
Chair
of Great
Bardfield
Parish
Council*

the volunteer effort to ensure that volunteer resources are used sensibly, and for establishing a prescription collection and delivery with Freshwell and Thaxted Surgeries for Bardfield residents. Iain Graham has volunteered to staff the CIP which is acting as the distribution point for volunteers to collect the medication for delivery. Thanks to all of you.

This Annual Report of Great Bardfield Parish Council traditionally includes items from many clubs, societies and groups in the village. This one is no exception. However, this year it is unlikely that we will be able to present our reports in person, to a room full of friendly faces in our Town Hall. Regardless, this report has been produced with as much care as usual, and many thanks go to Kate Fox and Jenny Rooney for pulling it all together and producing our usual high-quality document, which continues to provide an important record of our village and



its activities. Thank you also, to all of those who have contributed to this report. I hope that many people in the community will read it, appreciate all the marvellous articles and enjoy the photos of happier times in our village during the last 12 months.

Well, back to the Parish Council, who would usually be sitting with me while I present this report. We are most fortunate to have a new Councillor who joined us last May, Lynsi Hayward-Smith, who is already making a great contribution to the work of the Council. Welcome, Lynsi. My other fellow Councillors are Simon Walsh, Vice Chair; Janet Dyson; Iain Graham; Darren Hockley and Paul Kennedy. Our colleague, Steve Slemmings stood down from the Parish Council in May 2019, after 18 years. He was keen, however, to continue to support our pavilion project. We were so sad and shocked when Steve died, unexpectedly, in November. The pavilion project will continue in tribute to Steve and his memory. His family were so generous in asking for donations in his memory to be made to the project, as they felt his heart was in local issues rather than national charities.

In past reports we take this opportunity to comment on how lucky this community is to have so many people willing to run clubs, societies and events. At this point, all our usual social activities and events for the next few months have had to be cancelled and it was sad to see this highlighted in the latest *Bardfield Times* (April 2020 edition). No Horticultural Show or Spring Supper; no Cinema Club; no Garage Sale; no Arts & Crafts Show on the May bank holiday; no Bardfield Players' production in June. Carpet Bowls cancelled, no Tuesday Club or Historical Society meetings for some time to come. Doesn't it prove how much we rely on these activities to entertain us and keep our social lives going and our mental health strong? I hope that people are managing to remain connected to their friends during this time. I know all such activities will bounce back and we will be even more determined to support them.

We are also mindful of Bardfield businesses and services, many of whom have had to close for an unknown period of time. These provide our village with essential services which keep our village vibrant and active. We are sad to think of the cafes, shops and other businesses struggling through this enforced closure. A

few weeks ago, they were determined to continue to provide for our community, but this has not been possible. We very much hope they can survive through the next weeks, or months, and we will be relieved and pleased when we can visit our two pubs, cafes, bookshop, garden centre and use the playground and Nurture Barn again, to name only a few. I know that essential services continue, and many thanks go to Danny Smith, the staff of the Co-op and local farmers for working so hard in keeping us fed, and safe. We know how hard this has been. The applause for the NHS which echoed round this village on March 27th also applies to all those delivering and selling the essentials to our community. Thank you.

To all in our community, looking forward to safer and happier times. Stay safe and well.

**Carolynne Ruffle, Chairman
Great Bardfield Parish Council**



Great Bardfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Thursday 30th May 2019

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman, Cllr Carolynne Ruffle, welcomed residents to the meeting and began by thanking her fellow Councillors and Clerk for their support during the past year, and also thanked Jenny Rooney who produced the Annual Report

Great Bardfield is an active and caring community, with many volunteers willing to run clubs, fundraising events and undertake charitable work as evidenced in the reports in the 2019 Annual Report from many village groups and societies. The Parish Council benefits from the support of volunteers such as Doug Joyce who has guided the oxlip project for many years and oversees the Long Green ancient pathway and surrounds owned by the Parish, and Mick and Sue Gell who maintain the Memorial Green. She also thanked those residents who willingly attend tree-planting and litter-picks arranged by the Council. She highlighted how local businesses support the community, referencing the Co-op's fundraising activities which have benefited several village-based groups, and showed how in times of difficulty the community reciprocates, as when a group of residents helped keep the Bell Pub open when Ciaran suffered serious injuries in a car collision.

Great Bardfield is a vibrant village, benefiting from a good range of shops and businesses. It does not seem that our High Street is in decline – rather the opposite – with several independ-

ent shops, cafes, and two pubs. We are lucky to have these services as they keep our community alive and are vital for the elderly and those on their own, providing places to meet others and local services for those without private transport.

Cllr Ruffle made reference to the new development on the Braintree Road which offers mixed housing with some affordable properties. The development of Great Bardfield and its surrounds is a contentious issue and, earlier this year, the Parish Council organised a public meeting to determine if there was interest in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are created and adopted by the community (supported, but not produced, by a Parish or Town Council) and give residents the opportunity to agree what they want for their village or town and have a meaningful say in its future development. Sufficient interest was shown at this meeting and a Steering Group was established to take this project further.

A significant event coming up in the summer is the closure of Bardfield Bridge for essential works from 29th July for five weeks. Several meetings had been held including one with farmers' representatives and ECC engineers to discuss how best to mitigate any problems during harvest time.

Cllr Ruffle concluded by inviting residents to look through the documents on display regarding the Bardfield Bridge, the Sports Pavilion building and the Conservation Appraisal document, after the meeting when members of the Parish Council would be pleased to discuss any points.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Butland, Cllr Vanessa Santomauro, Darren Hockley, Ben Rooney and Ian Ruffle.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 2nd May 2018

These were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting; proposed Mick Gell, seconded Patricia Walsh.



4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Parish Council Review and Financial Report

An overview of the work of the Parish Council in 2018–19 was presented by Cllr Walsh, Vice Chairman. His detailed report is contained in the 2019 Annual Report.

- Precept:

With regard to finances, funding from the District Council had been cut further in the last year and the Parish Council is taking on more tasks and responsibilities as services from other agencies, district and county councils are reducing. The decision was made this year to maintain the budget to enable the Parish Council to continue to provide the same level of service to Great Bardfield, which meant an uplift in the Parish element of the Council Tax. The rate for Band D tax has been raised by 15.5% for 2019/20. This gives a rate of £71.27 at this Band, an increase of £9.56 per annum or 0.79p per month.

- Annual Audited Accounts 2017/18:

These were approved without reservation by PFK Littlejohn, the appointed auditor.

- Grants, donations and fund-raising:

Income from these sources continues to be difficult to find but the following income was received:

- £1,495 from BDC towards street cleaning/village handyman and related works.
- £2,031 profit from the Firework Display event
- £893 from sale of Christmas Cards.
- £175 EALC Training Bursary

- General Expenditure:

The Parish Council is responsible for key services and costs increase year on year. The most significant items for 2018/19 were:

- £3,751 – Street lighting maintenance and supply
- £4,820 – Pipers Meadow project
- £3,972 – Grass cutting and care of the greens and other open spaces

- Overview:

The external auditor was satisfied with the transparency and management of the Council's finances and the reserves held for special projects. The call for the 2018/19 accounts had already been received

and when prepared for submission would be available for public scrutiny. Notices would be posted at that time and completed audit published on the Parish Council's website.

6. District Council Report

This was presented by Cllr Peter Tattersley on behalf of both himself and his fellow District Councillor, Peter Schwier; the full text is reproduced in the 2019 Annual Report. Cllr Tattersley said that following the elections on 2nd May Cllr Schwier had been elected to represent the area in which he lived. Cllr Tattersley was pleased that he had been re-elected to represent the Three Fields and would be joined by Cllr Vanessa Santomauro.

He reminded those present that it was a challenging time for the County and the District and that Parish Councils feel the impact of increasing expectations and demands at a time when there has been a continued reduction in central government funding. However BDC's proactive financial approach has enabled them to invest in the services where they see the most increased demand; housing and planning. Despite the pressures customer satisfaction remains high and they have received the externally assessed Excellence Standard for the fourth year running.

External funding of £10M has been secured for the Millennium Way slip roads to ease congestion at Galleys Corner; BDC have acquired an employment site at Great Notley and is seeking planning consent to regenerate Braintree town centre.

He said it has always been their aim to be accessible to parish representatives and individual residents and try

to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible. At these meetings they would normally present a verbal report of what was happening throughout the District and they also email relevant information to the Parish Clerk. He emphasised that the role of the District Councillor was to represent the residents and deal with their concerns.

7. County Council Report

Cllr Butland was not present but Cllr Walsh, who is a County Councillor for Uttlesford, presented a verbal report on his behalf. Cllr Butland's written report was contained within the Annual Report.

8. Town Hall Report and Accounts

These were presented by Cllr Ruffle who is also Chair of the Town Hall Committee. She mentioned the popularity of the main hall and the Bawden Room – with regular users from the Toddlers group, various fitness and yoga classes, art classes, the Community Choir, the Bardfield Players, Carpet Bowls, the Cinema Club, the Horticultural Society, the Tuesday Club and the Parish Council. Thanks go to the hall caretaker, Sarah Hymas, who manages all the enquiries and bookings. The Town Hall Management Committee is made up of volunteers and thanks go to the Committee for their continued attention to the hall's maintenance. During the last year the ladies' toilets have been totally refurbished, new chairs and storage racking provided, a hearing loop installed and more accessible storage for the Carpet Bowls Club, who are one of the longest running hall users. Also a new floor polisher has been purchased as has an additional fridge for the kitchen. The focus

for the summer of 2019 is the redecoration of the main hall. The maintenance of the hall is funded by events organised by the Committee and others and includes the annual Arts & Crafts show organised by Peter Keynton, Katrina Ralston and Cherry Twydell; quiz nights, the boules competition and the popular annual carol concert.

The Treasurer, Patricia Walsh has been particularly active and successful with grant applications and in the last year grants have been awarded by the Bardfield Charities, *Bardfield Times*, District Councillors' Community Fund, Stansted Airport Community Trust and a generous donation of £500 from a village resident.

The Historical Society is currently researching the history of the Town Hall with the intention of releasing a publication in the next year.

9. Bardfield Charities Report and Accounts

This was presented by Pat Coles, Chair of the Charities of which there are six Trustees, four of whom were in attendance and she thanked them for their hard work. The trustees continue to meet quarterly to consider applications and grants but were concerned at the lack of applications, despite widespread publicity in various forms. She said the Trustees hoped that villagers would be mindful of family, neighbours and friends who may benefit, but not be aware, of the provision that is available. This includes educational activities, support for village groups and help with disability equipment

All applications to the Charity are considered carefully and without prejudice by the Trustees. Organisations or individual villagers can approach any of the Trustees with a request for assistance in making an application.

The Charity Accounts are audited yearly by Bill Mules and Pat wished to record the Trustees appreciation. The report, together with the audited accounts, is deposited with the Clerk to the Parish Council.

10. Bardfield Times and Cinema Club

There was no representative to present the report which is reproduced in the Annual Report, however Pat Coles was happy to take any questions at the end of the meeting.





11. Great Bardfield Primary School

Jane Tillotson, Chair of Governors, opened by thanking Cllr Dyson for her many years of service as a Governor, and the hard work and dedication of Alison Kerrell as a teaching Head. She emphasised the positivity of the school and how they were working hard on their goals following the 2017 Ofsted report which described the school as “good and improving.” Last summer Year 6 enjoyed the residential visit to the Isle of Wight. There was a whole-school trip to Frinton and whole-school trips have become a regular part of the curriculum with the children going out at least once per term. Sport is very important with the children thoroughly enjoy learning new skills and joining with other schools in the Dunmow area.

The school year 2018-19 began with the challenges of coping with a diminishing Government School Fund. There are 80 children in Key Stage Two meaning 40 children in each of the two classes. The local authority were not prepared to fund another teacher so Mrs Kerrell agreed to teach full time and create a fifth class, which has been challenging and demanding. During the year the children raised money for Macmillan Cancer, the Royal British Legion, Save the Children, the Braintree Foodbank, the NSPCC and Comic Relief. This year they prepared 131 smile boxes for George Mills to take to Ukraine. Great Bardfield Primary School continues to be at the heart of the community and the staff are very proud of all the children. The Headteacher said in her report that the community was lucky to have a school where people work tenaciously, whether staff, governors or parents to secure the best opportunities for the children.

12. Questions from the floor

(i) Transport: Jenny Rooney asked about the possibility of a bus to Dunmow which could usefully provide links to the wider area, including Stansted Airport. Cllr Walsh agreed that this would be an asset and that the Parish Council had been lobbying for many years for such a service. He would take

this question back to his colleagues at Essex County Council.

(ii) Long Green: Pat Coles spoke of the poor state of this area and the problems caused to walkers by off-road bike and 4x4 users who ride this route for sport making it particularly treacherous in bad weather. The Parish Council has previously asked for a winter closure on this lane, beyond that there is limited intervention they can take.

(iii) Jane Tillotson said she was pleased to learn that Essex County Council were trying to address the problem of single-use plastics.

13. Closing remarks

The Chairman closed by thanking the residents and the District Councillor for attending and emphasised the importance of the Annual Report as a reflection of the life of the community.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Kate Fox
Parish Clerk

*The Parish Council celebrate Kate Fox's
30 year's service as Parish Clerk*



Parish Council review 2019-2020

I write this in the midst of a national emergency, as Coronavirus or Covid-19 takes a hold across the country.

Your Parish Council has responded admirably to this unprecedented situation and has quickly set up a volunteer hub to minister to the needs of those who require assistance.

As ever the past year has been a busy one for your Parish Council, starting with an uncontested Parish Council election which left two vacancies. These were duly filled after advertising in the parish, receiving CVs and interviewing prospective councillors. In fact, very few councils were contested across the county, except for the larger Town Councils, which tend to be fought on partisan grounds. This can be looked at in a number of ways, one that our communities are generally satisfied with what we are doing, or life is generally too busy for people to give of their time. It might just be apathy. I hope not.

Sadly, as many of you will be aware, one retiring Parish Councillor Steve Slemmings passed away suddenly as the year closed. This was a great shock to all who knew him, and we remember his many contributions to our village.

The Council meets 11 times a year, taking a break in August as it is generally a quiet month. Between our scheduled meetings, a number of other sub-committees meet, notably planning, the other finance.

Planning takes up a big chunk of our meetings, and in the past 12 months we discussed 33 applications, some returning with amendments and

responses to previous comments. As Tree Warden, I have had to assess 23 applications, mostly to do with tree maintenance with very few complete fellings. It should be noted that the Parish Council does not make any decisions on planning or tree matters, but only expresses an opinion. The decision-making body is Braintree District Council.

A new group has been formed who will help develop the Neighbourhood Plan. This is no easy task and will move through a number of stages before its completion. When done, it will help inform the planning process based on evidence contained in the plan.

Highways is another area of activity. The Clerk keeps busy reporting various defects to the County Council, and also arranges for our street lights to be repaired and regularly maintained. Our big highways event was the closure of the Bardfield Bridge last summer for essential repairs, as it was quietly collapsing at its northern end, and without these repairs would have got significantly worse. The team were very helpful in accommodating the needs of the farmers who needed to get the harvest in during this period. Bus services were rearranged to allow continuity of service. Many enjoyed the relative peace the road closure brought, as commuting traffic had to find alternative routes to use.

Parking continues to be a problem and is particularly evident at the moment as everyone is staying at home. The ECC Cabinet Member for Highways and his Deputy visited along with Graham Butland, our County Councillor to understand at first hand the problems we face with parking on a daily basis and were able to witness the afternoon congestion around the school. Speeding through the village is another perennial issue, and we were pleased that the police set up a speed check at our request.

Pipers Meadow has had all of the riverside trees cut to ground level as they had become dangerous. Many are now showing signs of regrowth; these will require regular care so we don't have to repeat the exercise





30 years down the line! With Kevin Wade's guidance we have planted 10 trees away from the river, to help enhance the environment and increase biodiversity. The oxlips continue to thrive, and the cutting regime is guided by Dr Doug Joyce's expertise in this matter. A community picnic attracted 40 people and we have installed two picnic benches to improve the amenity value of the meadow.

The recreation ground continues to be well used, with regular football matches and the play area always busy. The Pavillion has had a design refresh and the new plans have been approved. Fund-raising received many donations in memory of Steve Slemmings, and the annual Christmas Card sales continue to bolster the funds. Sadly, bad weather meant that the fire-works event was less successful than in previous years.

The Quiet Space behind the Town Hall also had some management work, with a dead tree requiring removal.

Another Parish Council asset is the red telephone box outside Cole's. This now houses a defibrillator and was given a complete makeover during the year to repair leaks and repaint it in official GPO colours.

A defibrillator is also located on the school wall, close to the school's main entrance.

We are such a vibrant community with many events and activities going on, and this was recognised by the village winning first in class at the annual Village of the Year competition. We came second overall, which is a great achievement for all concerned.

Finally, a big thank you to all of the Parish Councillors who give up their time freely, to those who look after the CIP on a regular basis, and finally congratulations to our Clerk Kate Fox, who this year completed 30 years' service to our Parish Council. Well done Kate.

**Simon Walsh, Vice Chair
Great Bardfield Parish Council**

Cllr Ruffle 'unofficially' reopening Bardfield Bridge after it was closed for repairs



Parish Council financial review

For the year ended 31st March 2020

This brief report is to highlight key items of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2020.

Parish Income

The annual Precept is still the most significant part of our income with further grants totalling £2,360 from BDC and ECC for verge cutting and street cleaning works that we undertake on their behalf. Although fund-raising becomes more difficult the following was received:

- **The Pavilion Project.** Due to bad weather, the annual Firework Event, didn't do as well as in previous years and there was a slight loss. However as the event is underwritten by the Parish Council we were able to add £1,670 to the project funds. Following the sad death of retired councillor Steve Slemmings, his family requested that any donations following his funeral should go to this project. Together with proceeds from the sale of Christmas cards and public donations, a further £1,455 was added to the funds.

- **District Councillors Grant:** We received £230 towards the purchase of benches on Piper's Meadow.

- **Village of the Year Competition:** In recognition of the success of Great Bardfield in being placed 2nd overall and 1st in its class, the Parish Council were presented with a cheque for £350 to be used for community projects.

Parish Expenditure

The Parish Council is responsible for key services and costs increase year-on-year. Of a total of £19,709 expenditure

on village amenities the most significant items of expense for 2019/20 were:

- £3,885 on street lighting and maintenance.
- £6,665 in total on grass cutting, Pipers Meadow, care of the greens, verges etc. and street cleaning.
- **Pavilion Project:** Our plans have been somewhat delayed by the circumstances of Covid-19. Obviously fund-raising is not possible to do in the ways planned but the Parish Council have pushed ahead with getting architects drawings approved and building regs submitted and expenditure so far is £4,068. We will be looking to the community, as always, to help with our fund-raising, once life gets back to normal.

Precept: For the 2020/21 financial year the Parish Council have increased its Precept request in order to keep pace with costs. However, this was done with the benefit of knowing the parish tax base was increased to £548.75 and therefore the increase in Council Tax would not impact negatively on residents, with aim of holding this to 3%. The reason for the increase in the tax base is the inclusion of 14 of the properties at Deer Park View being included in the District Council's figures. The remainder will be included in the 2021/22 figures.

Overview

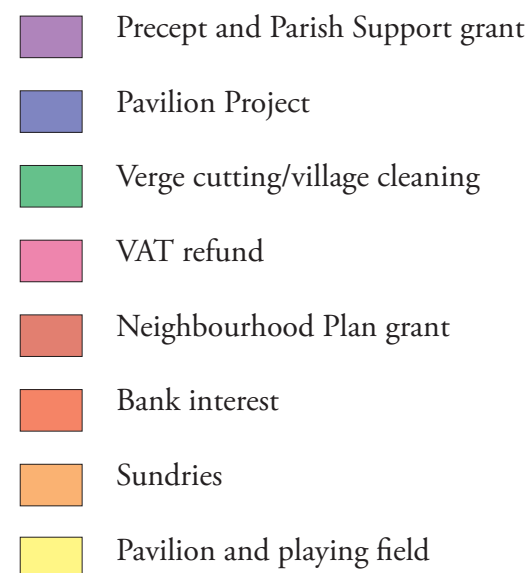
The external auditor was satisfied with the transparency and management of the Council's finances and the reserves held for special projects. The Annual Audited Accounts for 2018/19 were approved without reservation by PFK Littlejohn, the appointed auditor. The call for the 2019/20 account, although prepared for submission will be delayed due to Covid-19 and we are still waiting to hear of the agreed date.

**Kate Fox
Parish Clerk and
Responsible Financial Officer**



Parish income

For the financial year ended 31st March 2020

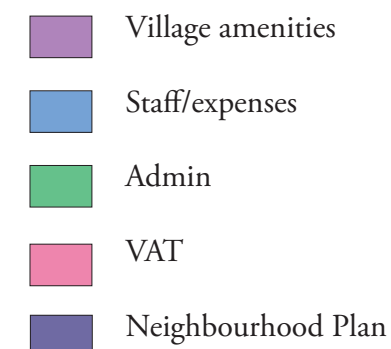


Parish Precept	£37,831
Pavilion project	£3,705
Verge cutting/village cleaning	£2,362
VAT refund	£2,136
Neighbourhood Plan grant	£1,248
Bank interest	£835
Sundries/training bursary/grants/substation rental	£571
Pavilion and playing field	£475
Total	£49,163
Business reserves account:	£81,380
Pavilion project fund:	£33,215
Special Projects Account:	£3,210



Parish expenditure

For the financial year ended 31st March 2020



Village amenities	
Grass cutting/Memorial/open spaces	£4,088
Pavilion project	£4,068
Public lighting – supply and maintenance	£3,885
Town Hall: grant and substation rental	£2,126
CIP: Town Hall rent/IT and BT rental	£1,938
Pipers Meadow management projects	£1,309
Verge cutting/street cleaning (agency arrangements)	£1,268
Pavilion maintenance/playing field	£992
Subscriptions/donations	£649
Staff/expenses	
Salary/postage/stationery/website/sundries/training/audit fees	£8,289
Admin	
General admin/telephone/audit/stationery/tax/insurance	£5,807
Maintenance work/replacement laptop and software	
Neighbourhood Plan	£1,248
VAT	£2,552
Total	£38,219



Braintree District Council report

The Three Fields Ward consists of the parishes of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Shalford, Panfield, Cornish Hall End, Blackmore End, Beazley End and several other small rural settlements and hamlets.

Councillors Vanessa Santomauro and Peter Tattersley were delighted to be elected to represent this most attractive group of Essex villages on the Braintree District Council at the district council elections held on 2nd May 2019. These elections also attracted candidates from across the political spectrum with an emphasis on green and sustainable manifestos which the new council will embrace.

Whilst Council tax will increase in part to compensate the reduction in central government funding, the Council has avoided a significant increase through careful financial management and prudent investments that also allow an increase in major projects. These currently include a refurbished High Street and new town centre redevelopment scheme in Braintree and a new business park at Great Notley. This new park will incorporate the first solar powered high speed electric vehicle charging point and will generate around 2,000 jobs. In partnership with the County Council, we will fund new slip-roads to ease congestion at Braintree Village and Galleys Roundabout and

seek a solution to the severe congestion for those employed on the Springwood Industrial Estate.

We will also be investing in our sporting facilities, children's play areas, cemeteries and protecting our open spaces from illegal encampments. Other initiatives for this year include maintaining the Councillor Community Grant. This has supported a number of small community projects in our Ward including picnic benches in Pipers Meadow (see below). We have also refurbished the Grade I listed windmill at Bocking; provided new doctors' surgeries; a technology centre at Springwood Drive, Braintree and maintained our excellent refuse collection service which continues to attract a 95% satisfaction score together with our street cleaning and recycling services of which we are justifiably proud.

A key issue which has divided communities across the District is how the Council can deliver the new homes that we are required to provide

up to the year 2033, which currently stands between 12,000 and 15,200. The Council's preferred solution to identify sites for these homes was to invite landowners, developers and parish councils to submit proposals for new developments. However whilst this attracted sites for a large number of homes they fell short of the 700 plus we are obliged to provide each year to meet Government targets. Reasons for this include providing a buffer (currently 20%) for those proposals that may not be built, and to cover for the numbers of planning permissions that have already been granted, but which are not being built by developers presumably waiting for demand to rise and prices to increase.

The Council recognises that small developments cannot provide the financial resources to fund the necessary infrastructure for this greatly increased number of new houses across the District. The Council therefore is looking to develop the Garden Communities model with the Great Notley development as a guide. This has been shown to enable new and significant infrastructure to be provided, including new roads, supermarket, Country Park, children's nursery, pub, community hall, doctors' surgery, dentist, and takeaways. Of course, having shovel-ready sites for the likely new homes we will be obliged to provide in any subsequent Local Plan after 2033 will mean the whole process of searching for new sites will be much simplified, and understood more readily by residents, builders and developers across the district.

At the time of writing the Garden Communities initiative is the subject



Cllr Vanessa Santomauro



Cllr Peter Tattersley

of a Planning Inspectorate public enquiry. The result of this enquiry is not yet known. However if the initiative is rejected by the Inspector, and in order to provide the number of houses required, it is likely to result in a large number of small, inappropriate developments across the district potentially attached to the outskirts of our villages and lacking the necessary infrastructure which can only be funded by large developments.

The current Covid-19 pandemic is proving to be challenging to our front line services. We may have to move staffing from some services to maintain the kerbside collection of household waste. We have already suspended garden waste collections, and are looking at other services such as grass cutting and other operational activities to see if they can be scaled back if the reduced availability of staff becomes problematic.

We will continue to attend as many of your parish meetings as possible, support small-scale funding for your charitable and voluntary organisations and represent your interests at the Council.

Our contact details are: cllr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk and cllr.vsantomauro@braintree.gov.uk.

**Cllrs Santomauro and Tattersley
Three Fields Ward
Braintree District Council**





Essex County Council report

This year's report is being written in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, a situation that has put the County Council under enormous strain as the implications and impacts of the disease take hold. I will reflect on our budget decisions, achievements of the past year and our aspiration for this coming year, the latter is subject to change for obvious reasons as we move through this crisis to one of recovery.

As with previous years, the budget is planned well in advance and is developed in the context of an overarching medium-term financial strategy that seeks to attain stability over a number of years. This allows us to take into account the year-on-year reductions in government revenue support grant, and our extensive programme of work to reduce costs overall.

Over the past decade the administration has achieved savings approaching £1billion. This is no mean feat, but has been done by modernising systems such as electronic transactions, reorganising staff and generally improving efficiencies across the whole council. As an organisation we encourage our staff to look for opportunities and have developed a number of innovative income streams to help support the services we provide. Key services have been protected, many enhanced, and we take particular pride in ensuring that our Social Services are fully supported. We are seen as leading exemplars in this field, with many other councils seeking our advice and expertise in both adult and children's social care.

The 2020-2021 ECC element of council tax for Band D properties has been set at £1,321.11, an increase of 1.99% plus a 2% social care precept. This is set in the context of budgeted expenditure over the ensuing 12 months and in the knowledge that funding gaps in future years have been predicted.

Four strategic aims underpin our work:

- Securing inclusive economic growth: a strong economy to help secure our future.
- Helping people get the best start and age well: supporting the vulnerable to ensure all have the best opportunities to live the best life they can.



This report was provided by Simon Walsh, Essex County Councillor for Uttlesford District, which includes Little Bardfield. He is the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Action

- Helping create great places: ensuring Essex remains the great place that it is, through carefully planned housing growth and infrastructure development whilst protecting the great qualities of the Essex countryside and coast.
- Transforming the council: striving for efficiency and productivity with a workforce culture of innovation and resourcefulness.

Securing inclusive economic growth

Over the past 12 months your council has secured £318m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund to support economic growth. We have created 1,000 jobs in small and medium-sized businesses by delivering the European Regional Development Fund. Both the A120 and A12 have been identified as key routes for improvement because of ECC lobbying of the Government.

For the coming year we are developing a Local Industrial Strategy for the South East. With local councils, we seek

to increase and enhance the availability of commercial and industrial sites to further encourage economic growth. With the £318m HIF bid funding, we will be investing in a new rapid transport system for Colchester and a new railway station in Chelmsford. Work will start on the new M11 junction 7A at Harlow, this will relieve strain on the existing junction which causes tail backs onto the motorway.

Helping people get the best start and age well

During the past year our Children's Services have been rated outstanding by Ofsted for safeguarding the most vulnerable children. New ways of delivering the Youth Services have meant that we have engaged with 32,000 young people, up a third on the previous year. Youth work sessions have increased fourfold.

This year we will redesign our support for disabled children and young people to help improve their independence and life chances. We wish to grow the already successful foster care provision across the county. A new Early Years strategy will ensure all children will get a good start in life, leading to them being better prepared for school and all that follows.

We will continue to work with multi-agency partners to drive out gangs, knife crime and 'county lines' from Essex.

Vulnerable adults, those with Learning Disabilities and Autism will be given extra support to help them live independently and lead productive lives. For those with dementia, we will improve awareness and support for them and their carers. Life expectancy, although higher than the national

average, differs widely across the county. During the past year we pledged £1m to help those with mental health issues. We developed a community weight loss service, with 7,000 participants. This year we will establish four mental health hubs with our health and crime prevention partners. We will be delivering the first phase of £10m Sport England funding to improve physical activity for inactive people. One hundred parish councils will be involved in developing Wellbeing Plans for their communities and 250 businesses will also be involved in improving the physical and mental health of their employees.

Helping create great places

During the past year £700,000 has been used to improve our footpaths and pavements across the county. The Police Fire and Crime Commissioner was assigned £500,000 to help reduce gang activity and the exploitation of vulnerable people. A new library strategy was agreed and this year will see £3m invested into community libraries.

The environment is my focus, and we have already achieved a lot so far. Waste is showing modest year-on-year reductions, with black bag waste decreasing by 3.1% last year and recycling up by 1.5%. Our country parks were awarded seven Green Flags. We are a key partner in the development of a rapid charging station for electric vehicles in Braintree, and have secured £750,000 to help promote the Essex coast.

This year we will be launching the Essex Climate Commission, which will advise us how to quickly achieve the Government's net zero carbon target, whilst making Essex a centre for green technologies and enterprise. We will be planting 375,000 trees over the next five years, ultimately capturing 60,000 tonnes of carbon.

During the year we consulted on the Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy, and this will be published in 2020. We wish to encourage more people to make more sustainable travel choices, thereby reducing car traffic and attendant pollution problems. Our waste reduction programmes will continue to encourage our citizens to waste less and leading by example, we have already eliminated many single-use plastics from County Hall and other facilities across our estate.



Transforming the council

For the second year running, we ranked in the top 10 of the most productive councils in the country. We have achieved £60m in new savings and efficiencies, and generated £8m in fees and charges income, with more efficient ways for people to pay for our services. The sale of surplus assets has generated £10m, with this money reinvested across the county. During the coming year we will look to save a further £58m and develop improved business planning to make the organisation more focussed on our key priorities.

I continue to be Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Action (note the job title change, recognising the importance given to us helping to reverse global warming). Aside from looking after Waste Disposal, Flood Prevention, New Nuclear Power Station Builds, Rural and Coastal Matters, Carbon Reduction Initiatives, Country Parks and Essex Outdoors (Education Centres), I sit on several external committees. These include the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority, Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, two Environment Agency Regional Flood and Coastal Committees, Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Dedham Vale AONB Joint Advisory Board, and

the Stansted Airport Community Consultative Committee which is important to reflect local concerns.

Finally, as the implications of Covid-19 are fully realised, there may be a need to reshape our aspirations for the coming year. Our intention is to have a robust recovery plan and to get our services back to normal as soon as is possible. We have already had to use reserves to provide extra funding across several services, particularly in social care which our prudent financial management over the past decade has allowed us to do. In order to do this your county council cabinet meets daily, over video link, to ensure it is delivering the best service for the citizens of Essex through this crisis and to ensure we continue to in the future.

Cllr Simon Walsh
Essex County Council

Local flooding in the parish raising concerns about climate change



Neighbourhood Plan report

During the last year, a steering committee has been formed with the purpose of producing a parish plan for Great Bardfield. A parish plan is a legal planning document that, once approved by the community and adopted by the District Council, forms part of the legal planning policy used when determining planning applications within the parish.

A neighbourhood plan cannot stop development but can influence how planning applications are decided. The steering committee have established a vision statement which is:

“To conserve and protect Great Bardfield’s characteristics as a village within its rural environment whilst ensuring that it is a vibrant, safe, welcoming and greener community, providing an attractive location for people of all ages to live, learn and work.”

We have already been able to obtain the views of residents during several informal pop-up events. Certain subjects that have been raised cannot be included in the neighbourhood plan as they are not deemed to be planning issues. We have however been able to pass concerns raised by residents to the appropriate bodies for attention. Concerns about traffic and highways have been passed to the Parish Council. Some aspects of parking may be included in the neighbourhood plan as planning decisions can incorporate requirements for parking and access.

We have commenced various formal matters including a housing-needs assessment which is now in draft form.



We are also commissioning a landscape assessment of the entire parish which once completed will confirm the character and types of land use within the Parish. It will also identify specific factors such as historic views which should be protected for the future.

As we progress with the plan, further consultation with residents will be undertaken and incorporated into a draft policy document which will once approved by Braintree District Council will be subject to a referendum of all parishioners and then if approved be adopted as a formal planning document.

We have made a great deal of progress in the last year and once we are able, we intend to hold events to show everyone what has been achieved.

John Maidman
Great Bardfield Neighbourhood
Plan Steering Committee



Town Hall report



This time last year I was reporting how busy the Town Hall is, with many regular local clubs and societies, keep fit and other classes. This year it is an entirely different matter with all meetings and gatherings cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The Town Hall has no bookings and no income at this time. It must be feeling abandoned and lonely. We look forward to the usual activities enlivening the Hall once again after the restrictions have been lifted, though that could be some time yet.

Sadly, we have had to postpone two forthcoming fund-raising events for the Town Hall: The Arts & Crafts Exhibition (due to take place at the end of May) and the Boules Competition, which typically takes place from May to September. Both were very successful in 2019. The Arts Show was able to take card payments for the first time and sales were good. The boules competition had over 40 teams contending. The finals day was postponed due to bad weather at the beginning of October. However, it finally took place in the chill of December, with BBQ and mulled wine available for intrepid spectators. The competition was won by Tom and Louise Grinstead

for the second year running. Perhaps we will be able to hold a more limited competition later in the summer. It is difficult to plan anything currently.

Recent meetings of the Town Hall Management Committee, including the AGM in April 2020, have taken place online. I am sure this is a first in the history of the committee. Video meetings have enabled us to continue to manage the Town Hall. Our last fundraising event, the Town Hall Annual Quiz was very well attended and raised over £800 which will be vital in paying the expenses which continue to be incurred while we have no regular rental income, particularly in maintaining the hall, reduced heating and lighting, staff costs and the occasional unexpected problem.

Over the last year we have continued to make improvements. The interior of the Hall and kitchen areas were painted

last summer. We obtained a £2,000 grant from the Stansted Community Trust and this, together with the final funds released by the 200 Club, helped in paying for the redecoration. The 200 Club, a lottery-style fund-raiser operated for many years but was closed down due to the increasing difficulty in finding contributors and collectors.

This year the Town Hall was the subject of a new publication, published by Great Bardfield Historical Society, *From Vice to Virtue: The Story of Great Bardfield Town Hall*. Janet Dyson, Chair of the Historical Society, gave a very interesting talk, based on this publication which described the original establishment of the building and its purpose, how it was originally privately owned but eventually 'given' to the parish, and amusing memories of several events held in the Hall. Her research into old Minutes proved that

some things don't change and similarities to recent committee meeting minutes on storage, lighting and general maintenance were very interesting.

Future work planned by the Committee, though likely to be delayed, include maintenance of the building housing the CIP, a review of storage facilities at the Hall and a refresh of the Committee Room at the rear of the Hall.

A year ago, we welcomed two new members on to the Management Committee, Sheila Keynton and John Maidman, both of whom have got involved in several of our activities. All other officers and members remained unchanged. The committee will have held its AGM by now (via Zoom video meetings software). My thanks go to all for their continued support of this valuable village amenity, and to Bill Mules for auditing our accounts. We look forward to the community being able to use the facilities again in the not so distant future.

Carolynne Ruffle
Chairman

Great Bardfield allotments

Gardening is about patience, and we certainly needed it this year with our allotments!

Although we have a fence enclosing the plots, we still seem to be battling against squirrels, pigeons, and rabbits coming in and eating the produce – even netting is not always a deterrent. A few plot holders had leeks that looked amazing but when harvested they had a disease. Potatoes were eaten in the ground, as well as parsnips and carrots, so we have to learn to adapt and accept.

That said, the usual crops were harvested but there were no huge gluts. We all try to be organic, and one plot holder had wasps eating the white fly on the Brussels sprouts, so the food chain continued!

We were entered into the Village Garden Open Day in the summer, and received many lovely comments

about the location and produce, which is heartening. Everyone likes the idea of an allotment, but they take time and hard work. Not everyone who has a plot is retired, so they are not all weed-free, but, that said, there is nothing more charming on a Wednesday evening hearing the church bell-ringers practice whilst weeding your plot.



Tansey Bolsom



Great Bardfield Charities

I am pleased to present the report of the Great Bardfield Charities covering the last 12 months from May 2019 to April 2020.

During this period, we held quarterly meetings, where we considered all applications for grants, which we received from our community.

To ensure that there is an awareness of the Great Bardfield Charities throughout the community, posters are displayed on the village notice boards and in the Community Information Point. Details of the Charity are also included on the Parish Council website, and the Great Bardfield Charities Facebook page. Our meeting dates appear in the *Bardfield Times* and on the Bardfield Online Community Facebook page the month before the quarterly meeting takes place.

The Trustees kindly ask that villagers are mindful of family, neighbours and friends who may benefit, but not be aware of the Charity provision, or who are unable to make an independent application. In extraordinary situations, urgent applications will be considered

between meetings. The trustees will reply to all applicants.

The Great Bardfield Charity operates under a Scheme, which clearly defines the purpose and terms under which our funds can be allocated. The Scheme is overseen by the Charities Commission which invests our capital fund, and it is the interest accrued quarterly from this capital fund which the Charity receives and thus allocates.

At the last two quarterly meetings, we have received high volumes of requests for financial support from both local residents and organisations and in the coming quarters we foresee increased hardship in our community. The plummeting interest returns in the financial markets due to the economic effects of Covid-19 may indicate a reduced Charity income in the coming months, and subsequently less available funds with which we are able to meet community needs.

As Trustees we are continually mindful of the generosity of our benefactors and it is only through them, that we are able today to financially assist the residents and organisations of the parish of Great Bardfield. However, the last bequest was gifted by Christiana Sams in 1994. Ms Sams' wonderful legacy reflected the type of person she was, and our village Charity benefitted substantially, making it possible to support over 40 vulnerable residents, twice yearly with a contribution to fuel costs, amongst the other social benefits listed below.

How can we know that our Charity will be able to continue to support the

needs of our community? Only through ongoing philanthropic expression by donors in their wills or living trusts – maybe this could be your legacy too?

The Charity Expenditures over the Year April 2019 – March 2020 are outlined as follows:

Income £20,857
(including bank interest:)

Total Expenditure £21,945
(NB these figures are unaudited at the time of writing this report)

Examples of grants made in the last year include:

- Contributions for fuel payments for pensioners and others in need
- Provision of disability equipment and hospital travel expenses
- Educational – supporting school curricular and extra-curricular

activities, student projects and travel, school uniform and local school transport, equipment and books for school students, university students and apprentices

- Nursery / child-minding fees
- Town Hall refurbishment
- GP practice equipment
- Village groups, club and societies

The Charities Committee is accountable to the Great Bardfield Parish Council, and the administering Officers are listed below.

Pat Coles

Chair of the Bardfield Charities

The Charities Committee is accountable to the Great Bardfield Parish Council, and the administering officers are as follows:

Pat Coles – Chair

Linseys, Bridge Street, Great Bardfield 01371 810995

Brenda Poston – Secretary

Bucks House, Vine Street, Great Bardfield 01371 810519

Tony Hayward – Treasurer

Littles Farm, Beslyns Road, Great Bardfield 01371 810320

Debbie Rogers – Minutes Secretary

01371 811083

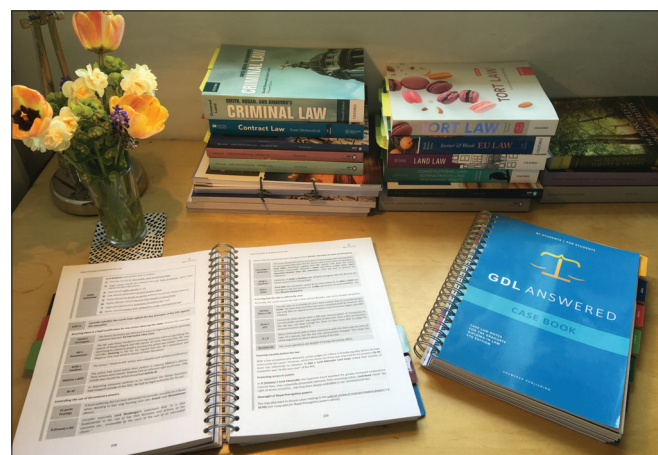
Mick Gell – Co-opted Trustee

3 Mill Close, Great Bardfield 01371 810113

Annika Woodcock – Co-opted Trustee

Yew Tree Cottage, Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield 07900 491636

Financial assistance towards the cost of expensive text books for students is greatly valued





The Bardfield Times

At the time of going to press, the magazine is in excellent financial health thanks to Jackie (finances), Kate (advertising, with help from Joe), plus hefty contributions from the cinema club (Ray, Paddy and Jackie). This means that we can continue our policy of supporting local individuals and organisations, a policy of which we are particularly proud.

We continue with the same printer who has done us well for several years. With the new housing in the village, we now distribute 800 magazines ten times a year. Eight thousand thumps on residents' doormats. That's a huge amount of effort from our trusty team of distributors who trudge the mean streets of the Bardfields in all weathers - people like Claudie Pinney who cycles several miles round distant settlements, her basket stuffed with *BT*s. (Plans were afoot to reward these fine people with a party this spring, but all that must of course be postponed for some months.) All this, as ever, organised by Ray and his team.

Creatively, the *BT* continues to diversify. In addition to our regular team of specialist commentators on such things as technology, wild life, farming and gardening, several new writers have surfaced this year, often thanks to the pleadings of the desperate editor. Substantial articles from Simon Walsh, Julia Collins and Tony Forrest, to mention just three, were superbly written and enthusiastically received by readers.

Anna Bass has become a fine interviewer and writer. Her Village

People pieces have again demonstrated the breadth of experience of our villagers. Her important recent long interview with Michael Hitchcock will provide copy for the *BT* and interesting material for village archives.

One of our functions is to give publicity to local organisations. Several editions have held features on such clubs as carpet bowls, WEA and cricket, as well as the usual notices about societies' coming events.

The Bardfield Times Statement of Account for Year Ending 31 st March 2020		
	2019-2020	2018-2019
Opening balance	-509.74	-£1,409.26
Income		
Advertising	9,075.50	8,104.00
Subs/Sales	106.25	66.50
Fundraising/Cinema	2,686.13	1,942.47
Donation	50.00	
	£11,917.88	£10,111.97
Expenditure		
Printing	7,772.00	7,690.00
Stationery/Other	128.38	40.83
Postage	176.62	186.92
Siteground Sub	348.65	
Cinema	1,444.94	1,757.96
Donations	940.00	946.00
	£10,810.59	£10,621.71
Closing Balance	£1,107.29	- £509.74

Current A/c:	£5,854.86
Savings A/c:	£3,042.24
Cash in hand:	£ 165.00

Jackie Newton
Honorary Treasurer



One trend we have noticed recently is a paucity of copy in certain months. Correspondence has dried to a trickle, for example. This has made us include letters and features on international and national topics such as Brexit and Global Warming, often triggered by comments in the Countryfile column. Our brief is to concentrate exclusively on the Bardfields ... but on consideration, these issues are relevant to all communities, so we forgive ourselves.

Layout and design is handled by Joe, and she has been a great asset with her skills and good humour.

Regrettably, Covid-19 has forced us to make the difficult decision to suspend publication of the *BT*. This is the first time in the history of the *BT* that this has happened, but these are unprecedented times. As soon as the restrictions have been lifted we will be back in production. Until then, keep well.

David Yates
Editor

Bardfield Cinema Club

The Cinema Club is currently in its eleventh year of showing a range of recently-released films in the Town Hall, with our season running from October through to July and showing one film each month. It has proved to be a very popular and sociable activity in the village, attracting not only our own community but an increasing number of visitors from surrounding villages too.

We currently have a membership of 56 people with audiences averaging from 50 to 60 each month.

Thanks to the generosity of Bardfield Charities, we were able to purchase the essential state-of-the-art projection equipment to allow us to show quality DVDs as soon as they become available, with occasional classic movies included at member's request. Examples of recent films include – *Fishermen's Friends*, *Stan and Ollie*, *Yesterday*, *Hidden Figures*, and *Downton Abbey the Movie*.

Details of showings can be found in the *Bardfield Times* and on the Great Bardfield Community website.

We have a small team of volunteers who help set up the Town Hall each month and we serve hot and cold drinks prior to each screening.

All profits from the Cinema Club go directly to the *Bardfield Times* – the largest expense we incur is the licence to show films to a public paying audience. Costs of refreshments and room hire account for a smaller expense and the net profit received contributes to the general running costs of the village magazine, and helps to fund, where possible, various requests for donations from the village societies.

We do regret the untimely closing of the Cinema Club due to Covid-19 and we look forward to resuming as soon as the country is well again.

Ray Coles



Top row l to r: Consecration of the churchyard extension, Bradley winning the Morris cup, Boules champions Tom and Louise Grinstead, Arts & Craft Show at the Town Hall. Next row: Open Gardens day – singing in North Place garden. Basque Morris Men, Carols at The Bell. Next row: Village Garage Sale, Town Hall Carols with Community Choir and Bardfield Brass, Tuesday Club host Macmillan Coffee Morning, village picnic, Christingle, Autumn Craft Fair at St Mary's, Town Hall Quiz, Players in Checkout Girls.





Great Bardfield Historical Society

Summer
visit to the
Epping
and Ongar
railway



The Historical Society has had another very successful year, with a varied programme of talks and visits culminating in the annual Ariel Crittall Lecture given by Claire Willetts, Collections and Exhibitions Curator at Braintree Museum, on the Courtauld family.

We are grateful to all the volunteers who have kept the Museum, Cage and Bawden Room open for visitors. We have hosted a number of visiting groups to the Bawden Room and Museum, and for village history walks, and have bookings for the coming summer, a good source of income for the Society.

The Bardfield Community Facebook page shows that there is a surge of interest in local history. Local people are interested in tracing aspects of their family history and people moving into

the village are keen to learn about our heritage. The Society's publications continue to sell well. Two new publications were produced this year: *The Bardfield Oxlip* by Doug Joyce and *Vice to Virtue: the Story of Great Bardfield Town Hall* by Janet Dyson. The books were launched at a well-attended special event in the Town Hall in November 2019.

Additions have been made to the Bawden Room collection: a woodcut by Tirzah Garwood, an original watercolour by Denise Hoyle, and a Chlöe Cheese print, ensuring representation of the often-overlooked women amongst the Bardfield artists. The Michael Rothenstein print purchased last year is now hanging on the stairs in the Bawden Room. We are very pleased that a picture by Walter Hoyle from our collection is on loan

to the Fry Gallery, Saffron Walden for an excellent exhibition of his work, curated by Julia and Andrew Collins.

It is sad to report the death of the Society's oldest member, Mrs Kathy Slow who died in February, aged 102. She was born in Great Bardfield and lived there all her life, spending 25 years as the housekeeper to artist John Aldridge at Place House. She has been a great source of information about the history of the village and it is a privilege to have known her.

The aims of the Society are to preserve, conserve, record and inform about the history and heritage of Great Bardfield. We have a responsibility to respond to any plans that may endanger that heritage. Our role has been strengthened recently by the publication of Essex County Council's excellent appraisal of the historic significance of our village and its setting: Great Bardfield Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan, the most thorough evaluation of our precious heritage for many years.



We planned a full programme of talks and visits for 2020, however, in the light of the restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak these are suspended for the time being. Once the lockdown is lifted we will notify members and advertise talks via posters and the *Bardfield Times*. Sadly, the Museum and the Bawden Room are closed under the present circumstances and village walks and talks suspended.

Arthur
Piper,
Town
Crier,
outside
Cottage
Museum
during
Veteran
Car Rally
c. 1970

Janet Dyson
Chairman

Programme of Talks and Visits for 2020–21

(Subject to Covid-19 restrictions being lifted)

Thurs, May 21 st	The Woman who Saved the Children – a talk by author Clare Mulley
Thurs, June 18 th	John Ray: Ejection, Persecution and Toleration – a talk by Roger Cooke
Weds, July 1 st	Visit: to Essex Police Museum, Chelmsford
Thurs, Oct 15 th	Dick Turpin – a talk by Martyn Lockwood
Thurs, Nov 28 th	The David Parr House in Cambridge – a talk by Tamsin Wimhurst
Sat, Mar 13 th 2021	AGM and Ariel Crittall lecture on Denise Hoyle by Emma Mason

Unless stated otherwise, all meetings are in the Quaker Meeting House at 8pm.
Look out for posters giving further details. To book a visit or for any other information,
please telephone Marilyn Edwards, Hon Secretary, on 810555.



Bardfield Horticultural Society

Welcome to our yearly report. Last year followed a similar pattern to previous years. Our two shows were exceptionally well supported. We had several entries from our local Baby and Toddlers group – mugs containing spring flowers done by the children – which added lots of colour to our benches. Great support also from Bardfield School. Thank you. The men's domestic cup stayed in Bardfield this year. Well done to Chris for producing some super sausage rolls!

Our floral art classes are obviously giving people the confidence to try out their skills as we had the most exhibits we have ever had, running out of niches to display them in and with the judge commenting on the number and quality of our entries. (Pat on the back for us all!) Our Spring Supper was in April. Well attended and being well fed with super food and enjoying some social time together.

Our garden visit was to Parsonage House in Helions Bumpstead. Nineteen of us enjoyed a tour around

this 3-acre garden with the enthusiastic and informative owner. We finished with tea and cake in the garden. A great afternoon!

Our Summer Show had a fabulous turnout and some new additions and classes including a Tom Thumb Collection – three kinds of miniature vegetables suitable for growing in containers. Almost everyone has room to try this at home. Why not give it a go? Its very rewarding and they taste good too.

We had to postpone our talk in September but it is re-scheduled for September 15th 2020. "A Year in the Cut Flower Garden" flowers grown for fragrance and charm. Watch out for posters.

We had another full house for the Harvest Supper, with a very talented singer to entertain us after our meal. Amazing value at £10 per ticket.

Our AGM went well with an excellent speaker, Lou Nichols, from an NGS garden at Ulting Wick. Her slides, particularly of the tulips, made



us long for the spring and resolve to visit these gardens soon.

Our December floral art morning produced an array of seasonal flowers displayed in baskets for Christmas.

None of these events could take place if we did not have the enthusiasm and hard work of our committee. Heartfelt thanks to you all!

Everyone is welcome at our events; however, we do appreciate all who become members and there are benefits. The cost is £2.50 per person or £4 for a couple living at the same

address. If you would like to become involved or help in any, we would love to hear from you.

Below is a list of some upcoming events we had planned for the coming year. Sadly, this programme is suspended due to Covid-19. Once restrictions have been lifted we will notify you of events taking place via posters in the *Bardfield Times*.

Linda Prior
Chairman

*Judging of
the Summer
Show floral
entries
2019*

*Below left,
winner of
An Edible
Easter
Nest and
right,
Baby and
Toddler
Group's
flowers in
a mug*



Programme of Horticultural Society events 2020

(All events currently suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions)

Saturday, 11 th July	Garden visit – 2.30pm, "Dragons" Boyton Cross
Saturday, 1 st August	Summer Show – 2.30pm, Town Hall
Tuesday, 15 th September	"A Year in the Cut Flower Garden" – 7.30pm, Quaker Meeting House
Saturday, 3 rd October	Harvest Supper – 7.00pm, Town Hall
Tuesday, 20 th October	AGM cheese and wine, plus speaker Matthew Long from Riverside Bulbs – Town Hall

Dates for floral art/craft mornings to be advised



Plantings at Long Green

The trees and shrubs which were planted almost ten years ago are now very well established, the field maples reaching up to 5 metres or more in height and the single specimen alder planted close to the sunken ditch even taller. During the course of the season, however, it was necessary to carry out some routine maintenance work to retain the appearance of a wild yet managed site.

In the spring the wire fencing was renovated courtesy of local contractor, Alan Kemp, ensuring that the site would be secure for a few more years after which time it would no longer be needed. Also, a small area of encroaching brambles (covering approximately 20 square metres) had to be cut down and removed, and likewise a patch of invasive common stinging nettles similarly dispatched. This had the additional benefits of opening-up small spaces for extra plantings to take place, mainly in the form of native bluebell seed under the trees, and young seed-grown saplings of native trees and shrubs in the more open ground. These will have to be cared for over the next few years to ensure that regrowth of 'invasive weeds' is suppressed, after which time the tree canopy will be sufficiently advanced for the site to be returned back to nature, and any protective fencing removed.

In the accompanying grassland adjacent to the track wild flowers continue to flourish with cowslips being a particular feature in the spring. Little maintenance is required here other than the control of aggressive and



coarse weeds but these can be largely controlled on an individual basis.

At the southern end of the lane the annual sequence of seed sowing of our native bluebell is slowly reaping a reward although progress is quite slow. But as little effort is needed to reach the goal of established bluebell populations further sowings will be made in the foreseeable future: this is more a 'war of attrition than a quick victory'.

D W Joyce

*Above:
wild
cherry
flowering
on Long
Green*



The Oxlip Recovery Project

As the Bardfield Oxlip Programme has matured the emphasis has moved away from the primary goal of introducing and re-establishing oxlips into Piper's Meadow to one of site maintenance and generally making this village asset more welcoming and user-friendly to everyone. During the period from winter 2018 to early spring 2019, the dangerous willows along the river bank were felled and the timber largely removed (aside from some small habitat retreats) in preparation for allowing replacement trees to be planted. This was quickly achieved by village volunteers who planted a number of alders and river birches at the lower end of the meadow near the river. To date these plantings have been largely successful and trees should soon begin to fill the gaps left by the removal of the old willows.

However, the felling of the willows has not been without consequences, and these will have to be addressed. Firstly, as expected coppice shoots have arisen from the cut stools and have grown rapidly over the course of a year. At some stage a decision will have to be made as to whether these shoots should be removed (annually) or allowed to grow on to more mature timber. And secondly, the removal of the willow canopy has allowed the common stinging nettle to thrive and proliferate close to the river, and to threaten the nearby oxlip colonies. The latter problem has already started to be addressed by the suppression of nettle growth followed by the introduction of a regular mowing regime along the riverbank to discourage uncontrolled weed/nettle growth and to promote meadow grasses instead. Not only will this benefit the oxlips and other meadow flowers but allow for better access and easier walking for visitors.

The mowing regime in the meadow as a whole has been reviewed and will address the issues of access and usability. More regular mowing over a greater area of the meadow, and away from the oxlips colonies, is planned. At the southern end of the site, near to the entranceway, a well-mown amenity area with seating

has been planned for early 2020 which will help make the meadow more attractive for general use by locals and the public alike. And the present figure-of-eight pathway traversing the whole site will continue to be maintained for the more adventurous and those simply enjoying the wildlife of the meadow.

Also as part of a scheme to promote our valuable village asset and to celebrate our unique Oxlip heritage, the Great Bardfield Historical Society recently published a booklet entitled: *The Bardfield Oxlip: The intriguing story of over 400 years of scientific inquiry and debate*.



The booklet was written to renew or awaken the layman's interest in our village emblem and to trace its history through local family connections to the prominent scientists at the time.

D W Joyce



Freshwell Health Centre

Your surgery cares for 7,388 people living in Great Bardfield and surrounding villages. We have 43 staff including 6 GPs, a registrar GP and an Advanced Nurse Practitioner. Our clinical team contains Practice Nurses, Health Care Assistants, a musculoskeletal specialist, a cardiologist, a radiologist and a social prescriber. With a full reception and administration team supporting the clinicians we were all extremely pleased to be named the 10th best practice in England. This was from the National Patient Survey and we would like to thank those patients who completed the questionnaires for their feedback and support.

Staff News

There have not been many changes in personnel in the last year which has allowed us to give good continuity of care. We are a training practice and are committed to offering development opportunities for the next generation of GPs. You will notice students and registrars sitting in on appointments sometimes and your cooperation with this is a real help to them in their learning. Last year we enjoyed working with Dr Chelvy Manoharan who has now left to begin the next stage of her training programme in Ear, Nose and Throat. We hope she will return after that placement. We now have Dr Shanil Shivji with us for 18 months so many of you will get to meet him. He will soon be seeing patients on his own but reviews each consultation with his training GPs on a daily basis.

Primary Care Networks

Many of you will have seen publicity in the media about Primary Care Networks or PCNs. This is part of an NHS initiative to improve health care at a community level. We have joined the Colne Valley PCN along with surgeries in the Hedinghams, Halstead, Earls Colne, Coggeshall and Kelvedon. Together we have employed a social prescriber, Chelsea Warden, who works in the surgery on Fridays. She is here to help patients who are feeling lonely or isolated, have an unhealthy lifestyle, who are dealing with bereavement or maybe need support

with living independently or filling in forms for benefits. The PCN will soon be sharing pharmacists, physiotherapists and other clinical staff with us.

CREAMER Fund Support

Our patients benefit immensely from the support given to the practice by the CREAMER Fund. Thanks to your support it has been able to fund a whole range of services such as X-ray, Ultrasound, Cardiology, DEXA scans and our musculoskeletal service. We are indebted to them for their generosity and energy. They always need more help so look out for their posters and information around the surgery.

Saturday Mornings

One of the impacts of the PCN changes was to make us reassess our Saturday morning clinics. In order to help people unable to attend during our regular hours, we are now opening at 7am on Mondays and Thursdays for pre-booked appointments. These have gone down extremely well with patients who can see a GP or Nurse without having their day or weekend disrupted.

Low Carb

Thanks to our surgery and patients embracing a low carbohydrate diet, a group of you have lost over a tonne in weight this year and seen huge health benefits. More information can be found in the waiting room or the website www.lowcarbfreshwell.co.uk.

David Shedden
Practice Manager



CREAMER Fund

I would like, as always, to thank the Trustees for all their hard work. This year we have to say goodbye to two long-standing members of our team. Penny Edmundson has decided to hand over the duties of Secretary after 11 years and Kay Painter has also made the decision, after 10 years as Treasurer, to take a well-earned rest. We very much appreciate all their work and are sad to lose them. At our AGM on 3rd March 2020 Debbie Rogers was elected as our new Treasurer. Sarah McCarthy was elected as our Secretary. I would like to thank Debbie and Sarah for taking up these important roles in supporting the CREAMER Fund into the future.

I would like to express special thanks to Sylvia Gould for her hard work as Fund raising Co-ordinator. Sylvia and her team are 'front of house' and are vital in keeping the CREAMER Fund in people's minds.

With regard to exposure, we have worked hard on our notice board and a leaflet, which many will have seen. We are continuing to explore better ways to communicate with the community, including the use of social media. The leaflet we produced has a donate section with details for Gift Aid. This has

prompted very welcome income from some patients who feel that they would like to make a contribution towards their prescription costs. There is no system to allow for this and they feel the CREAMER Fund is a good way to do it.

This year the CREAMER Fund has spent £17,000 to fund X-ray services and £13,000 has been spent on ultra-sound services, both provided at the surgery, saving patients a trip to Braintree or Chelmsford. A musculoskeletal therapist has been funded with £14,000 to support our patients in making a quick recovery from a range of conditions, and the Fund now has 19 defibrillators installed in our surrounding parishes to support all the community. The cost so far for this is £36,500.

The purpose of the CREAMER Fund is to provide and assist in the provision of facilities, support services and equipment not normally provided by the statutory authorities. We work for all the community, not just patients of Freshwell. Our future input may include some healthy living advice as it is better to avoid medical intervention than to require it.

We understand our responsibilities in maintaining equipment purchased by the CREAMER Fund, and reserve money for this. In the last few years we have spent more money than we have received so we are always very grateful for any contribution to keep the CREAMER Fund running.

Christopher Blewett
Chairman



Tuesday Club

I am pleased to report that 2019 has been another very good year for our Club. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30 pm in Great Bardfield Town Hall. Our membership is still increasing which is very rewarding. We have enjoyed a good variety of talks; *Dopplegangers* by Braintree residents Neil Richardson and John Jamieson who really do look like twins; *The Origins of the English Tea Ceremony* by Tim Turner; *Royal British Legion* by Colin L'Anson and Chris Butcher; *My Trip to the Arctic* by Mac Beanland which was hugely popular as he is a well-known local resident; and an inspiring talk; *Guide Dogs for the Blind* by Barbara Roberts with her guide dog Poppy, to mention just a few.

We serve refreshments following our speaker's presentations so that there is time for club notices, a chat and a catch-up with friends. We hold a raffle and the proceeds are donated to our chosen charity which was the CREAMER Fund. In January 2020, before our AGM, A donation of £140 was presented to representatives Chris Blewitt and Sylvia Gould who gave us an interesting update on the aims and the supportive work of the fund. The facts about the financial support and equipment supplied by the fund's resources were astounding.

One of the highlights of the year is our Summer Outing. In August 2019 we visited Cressing Temple Barns. We also had a naughty-but-nice afternoon Cream Tea at the Tiptree Tea Rooms, a place of historical interest, attractive gardens and a must to visit. As the venue is quite close we shared cars so everyone was able to get there.

The National Macmillan Coffee Morning was held on September 27th and we hosted a coffee morning in the Quaker Meeting Hall. A good number came to have coffee and cake and try their luck at the raffle, tombola and other games. We raised £675 which is an excellent result. A very big thank you to Iris Couldridge who coordinated it along with her team of helpers. A fun but long morning, which makes all the hard work very worthwhile.

The final highlight of the year was our Christmas Lunch. For several years we have enjoyed a festive and delicious lunch at The Vine. Circumstances have changed so we went to Square 1 in Great Dunmow where we all enjoyed a tasty lunch. A good start to the festive season and, all being well, we shall repeat this next December.

In our February meeting Will Edwards gave us an informed talk entitled *Chocolate, the Food of the Gods* about the making of chocolate, followed by a tasting of many samples of plain chocolate. We had to rate them in order of preference; an amazing variety of flavours in one kind of chocolate. For those of us who tried everything, it was a very rich experience!

At our last meeting in March we enjoyed an amusing tale of *Life on the Road* by film and television actor Peter Regelous who shared many amusing anecdotes of his life.

Sadly, world-wide events have overtaken us and like other groups in Great Bardfield we have, for everyone's safety and well-being, cancelled all meetings until further notice. Be assured that when the time comes to recommence, we shall have an interesting programme for you to enjoy.

I shall be in contact with all our members but for any further information, please contact Adrienne Poulson on 01371 811401 or email: adriennepoulson@btinternet.com.

Adrienne Poulson



Bardfield Community Choir and Orchestra

This has been a great year for the Choir and Orchestra. The Choir, which now regularly attracts 40-50 members, has had some very successful concerts. Summer was a busy time with a concert in aid of Dunmow Parkinson's Support Group which included solos, piano duets and songs from the shows and ended with our rendering of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*. We also gave a summer concert in Finchingfield Church and joined with Bardfield Brass, Bardfield Orchestra and other local musicians for another afternoon of Music in the Garden organised by Andrew and Julia Collins in the beautiful setting of their garden at Whinbush Farm.

As usual we took part in the evening of Christmas Carols in the Town Hall where, together with Bardfield Brass,

we sang many favourite carols and added some new ones to our repertoire. We were also pleased to be invited to sing at a new event organised by the Roman Catholic Church, the beautiful service of Seven Lessons and Carols, something I hope will continue in the future. As ever we have been excellently supported by our accompanist, Avril Fearnhead.

Both the choir and the orchestra are happy to welcome new members. Orchestral players need to be around Grade 4 ability, all instruments are welcome, and we aim to meet on a monthly basis. The Choir meets every Tuesday from 8-9.15 pm in the Town Hall. No previous experience is necessary and our main aim is to sing a variety of music for pleasure. Contact me for details: 07957 483207.

Janet Dyson
Musical Director

Music in the Garden – at Whinbush Farm





Great Bardfield Carpet Bowls

Even before the outbreak of Covid-19 I have never known a season like this. We are members of North West Area of the Essex County Carpet Bowls Association Winter League. We started the year with some fantastic 8-0 wins and then suffered an equally disappointing loss. We lost or dropped points against opposition we would normally have beaten. But it was not just us, all over the league there were unexpected wins and losses. Then with the outbreak of Covid-19, what was already a chaotic season, fell into disarray. All games have been cancelled since early March 2020 and the Essex Committee decided to leave the season open with the hope that the remaining games can be played before the new season starts. But again, there is a huge question as to whether we can start on time. As at the time of cessation of play Helions Bumpstead were the team with the best points per game average but Swards End were leading due to playing more games. Bardfield were a bit further down the table!

We were again third in the Summer Singles League 2019, that team Swards End won. Unfortunately, the 2020 League has been cancelled due to the virus.

We arranged some friendly fixtures with other clubs and villages in the area and again attended various Charity events and all of the Essex County competitions which are held at Braintree. All the individuals who represented our club did us proud, but no trophies to bring home. But now the sport is in a state of limbo, no carpet bowls is being played throughout the country so all those finals we have been working towards competing in are cancelled.

Each year I tell you a little bit about the club for the benefit of those new to the village. Our club has just celebrated its 30th anniversary and I am glad to report it is still going strong. For those new to the parish it is an ideal way to meet new friends locally and find out about other villages in the area. We would really welcome some new faces into the club so if you think it might be worth a look please do not be shy in coming forward. We meet all year round on a Wednesday at the Town Hall from about 7:45 pm.

Essex County also run competitions at Potters Leisure Centre near Great Yarmouth and we have a great social weekend there with all the food you can eat and great entertainment, all at reduced prices. Next February we have five couples going from our club.

This is a sport for all. Despite the name 'carpet' it is not the toy game that you play in your lounge. The bowls are 10cm in diameter and the carpet is 10 x 2 metres. Carpet Bowls is a proper skilful sport open to all, the young and not so young, the able and less able bodied, we even let male and female compete together. It is cheap as the club provides the bowls, it prides itself on its friendly nature and is as competitive as you wish to make it. For more information about carpet bowls call me, Cliff, on 07582 540524, or Lynda on 07977 403122.

Bardfield no longer has an outdoor lawn bowls green but there are many clubs around that would welcome any interest you may have in the full-size game, once the virus allows us back on the grass. There are clubs at Dunmow, Thaxted, and Stebbing to mention just a few. Lynda and I play at Castle Hedingham and are currently Essex Pairs Champions in one of the categories. The outdoor season will soon be upon us so if you would like contact details, we should be able to help you out here too.

Clifford Richardson



The Bardfield Players



It's been a funny old year. We started 2019, still mourning the loss of Ian Fox, and Jean Warwick. Two important, and much-loved friends who continue to be missed.

Currently we are blessed with having a large group of people interested and involved in The Players. This year Franky Slater and Stewart Penny have joined us. But having a large group brings its own complications as we always try to accommodate everyone; the play we chose last spring had a cast of 16 and was called *Some People*, a comedy set in a run-down hotel.

All started off well. We had a director who, although inexperienced in directing, was very keen, and enough people for a full cast. Then one of the cast suddenly backed out. Replacing her was not difficult, until her replacement sadly had to withdraw as she had not been informed of the play dates and had a prior engagement. We looked around for a third actress but were unable to find one, so I decided that the best option was to write the character out of the play. On returning from holiday it became increasingly apparent to me that our director had bitten off more than they could chew. It was a complex play with a lot of

movement, interaction, conversations going on over each other, etc, and 15 people are a lot to keep under control. The director, to their credit, did not try to 'carry on regardless', and asked to step down. All was not lost, we still had five weeks to pull everything together, and that is exactly what we did!

In the end, it turned into one of the slickest, most professional productions that we have ever put on, which was enjoyed enormously! Even the hotel 'lift', became a character of its own, and won an award!

After a couple of months off, we set about finding a play for our November production, and once again we were able to accommodate everyone who wanted a part, with a play called *Checkout Girls*. This was once again a complicated play, about the lives and loves of the employees of Freshways supermarket. What made this different was the inclusion of music, songs (mimed) and dance routines, which highlighted various important parts of the story. I am not being unfair, if I say that we are not a naturally gifted group of singers and dancers, and the segments of recorded music were difficult to master, but once again (as always), everyone worked very hard, resulting in a very entertaining show (particularly the Friday night show which was terrific).

We had began rehearsals for our 2020 June production, however (as with the rest of the country), we have sadly had to cancel everything, and can only wonder when we will be able to continue to provide top-class shows for our community.

**Ian Ruffle, Chairman
The Bardfield Players**



Great Bardfield Primary School report

AIM HIGH – TRY YOUR BEST – GO FAR

What an uncertain time we find ourselves in as I write this report. I have enjoyed looking back over the last year at the photographs which hold so much happiness and joy and it has made me realise how precious the moments are. So many things that are part and parcel of our school routine and our end of year events have been snatched from us and it has left many of our children bewildered. Our poor Year 6 children now won't have their trip to the Isle of Wight or their end of year production and they are even sad about not doing their SATs. We will miss out on Sports Day, Proms in the Playground and swimming. I very much hope that we can come back to school for a few weeks before the end of the school year so that we can at least have our Leavers Assembly.

Since the last annual report...

Together as a whole school community; senior leaders, governors, staff, pupils and parents we continuously work hard to move our wonderful school forwards. Progress is a top priority

for every child at Great Bardfield and we were again delighted with our results, across the board, last July. This is our fourth continuous year of good results.

Our progress results in particular from the end of Key Stage One to Key Stage two are very strong and we are proud that disadvantaged children make at least the same progress as their peers. Children who attend our school who have Special Educational Needs have tailored learning plans and provision that supports them in many different ways. At Great Bardfield the progress of all children is a top priority. **Reflecting on last year's Summer Term 2019**

Experiences are very important at Great Bardfield Primary school and we try to ensure that the children have plenty of opportunities for learning in the classroom, outdoors and beyond the school gates. Last summer our Year 6 children enjoyed a very successful residential visit to the Isle of Wight. The children had a brilliant time on this trip and it was wonderful to see their independence and maturity blossom as they learnt to be independent and more responsible for themselves and their belongings. Particular highlights of this trip included a trip to the Bowling Alley. The chairlifts at The Needles and the Toboggan Ride. We all laughed so much and we didn't let the torrential rain, on the last day, dampen our spirits!



Year 6 enjoying a visit to Swiss Cottage on The Isle of Wight



Last summer we also enjoyed another whole school trip to the seaside at Frinton. The children really built on their social and creative skills paddling and building sandcastles together. Whole school trips are a regular part of our curriculum with the children going out at least once per term. A less welcome feature of the summer term, for our Year 6 children, are the dreaded SATS tests! We were very proud of how the children approached the tests last summer and with our results.

Taking part in the things that are important to us...

Sport is very important to the children at Great Bardfield Primary School. They thoroughly enjoy learning new sporting skills and taking part in a wide range of sporting activities. We have especially enjoyed joining with other schools in our Dunmow cluster group of schools; taking part in a wide range of sports events and competitions. On Sports Day in the summer, the children rose to the challenge of completing their races and had a fun day. We have seen so many examples this year of good sportsmanship; whilst the children are very competitive they are also respectful and encouraging of their friends.

A sad farewell to our Year 6 pupils

The end of the school year can be a sad experience as we send our Year 6 children on their way to the next step of their education. Last year's cohort were, a bundle of energy, big in personality, fun and enthusiastic! Watching them present their end of year play and perform some very poignant songs, was moving, as they remembered happy times passed at the school. The whole school sang their hearts out in



our final assembly, which was a joyful and uplifting end to a very busy and successful year, 2019-2020.

A brand new school year, 2019-2020

This year we have continued to feel the effects of diminishing government school funding. Although not teaching a full class this year I am continuing to teach one day per week and other days to release teaching staff to fulfil their other duties. Ofsted released a new Framework in September 2019 which had a greater focus on the children's learning in the Foundation Subjects. The new Framework means that the school will be judged on its provision of the whole curriculum rather than just a main focus on English and Maths. This means that Subject Leaders will

Yrs 4, 5 and 6 on school trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum

The Class of 2019 always a bundle of energy and enthusiasm





Year 5 and 6 girls take part in an Inter-Schools Football tournament.

Smile Boxes given to George Mills



Great Bardfield Primary and of the many opportunities that children have to learn in different ways.

Every year we start the new year ready to work together as a solid team determined to secure the best outcomes, academic, social and emotional, for our children. At the start of each school year as a staff, we reflect together on what we could make even better. School to school collaboration and improvement continues to be of high importance and is very much the way forwards. Being part of the DEEP Partnership (Dunmow Excellence in Education Partnership) brings many opportunities to take part in joint projects and training eg: sports events, Careers Day and Subject Leadership meetings for teachers.

Fundraising at Great Bardfield continues to be a very important aspect of developing our sense of citizenship and respect for others outside in the wider community. We frequently take part in fundraising activities and this year have already have raised money for Macmillan Cancer, a local child – Mila, Save the Children, the Australian koalas, The Braintree Foodbank, The NSPCC and Sports Relief.

As always in October, we invited George Mills to school. The children were very proud to present him with 114 shoe boxes to take to the orphanages that he supports in Ukraine. We have worked very hard with the children to raise their awareness of the importance of British values. These complement our five Key Skills of Respect, Resilience, Resourcefulness, Responsibility and Reflectiveness which run through the heart of everything that we do at school.

Providing a rich and varied Curriculum

The curriculum at Great Bardfield Primary is rich and exciting! We enjoy teaching all subjects in a way that encourages active learning and consolidation of key skills. We want to build children's experiences beyond the classroom and believe in taking the children on trips. Every year the children visit the pantomime and the seaside and our older children go to London in the Spring term. Last spring 2019 our Year 4,5,6 children visited The National Gallery in London and this spring 2020 the current Year 4,5,6 visited The Victoria and Albert Museum.

Developing the children's Speaking and Listening skills are a big part of our curriculum. We like to give children as many opportunities to express themselves through performances as possible as this builds their confidence and self-esteem. The children enjoyed performing at the Harvest Festival and The Nativity in the Autumn Term and then in their individual class assemblies in the Spring Term.

We always enjoy getting out and about and exploring the village whenever we can. Also, we are keen to give the children opportunities to explore life beyond Great Bardfield. In the spring term Year Three visited Colchester Castle to enhance their learning about The Romans. We also had a whole school trip planned to Colchester Zoo this spring term but we have had to postpone that. Sadly, our little school is closed, for now so our usual fun in the summer term, activities which include swimming, a trip to the beach and Sports Day have all had to be cancelled. Our poor Year



6 children will also miss out on their trip to The Isle of Wight. We feel very sad about all of these missed opportunities.

Music is such an important part of school life at Great Bardfield. Mrs Metson our music teacher, delivers weekly music lessons, which encourage the children to perform, compose and appreciate music. Additionally, the children have a weekly singing practice assembly. It is notable now that when the children perform in concerts or assemblies that their musical performance skills are improving and their enjoyment and appreciation of music

Key Stage One children present a Midwife Crisis

Children love learning to play instruments thanks to Mrs Metson





Year 4 taking part in practical science

Phoenix Class bring some Christmas Cheer to older residents



Our School Community

We are incredibly lucky at Great Bardfield Primary school to have amazing staff who are dedicated and determined in their desire to secure the best outcomes for the children. Together we are a strong team of people who care about each other and who have deep respect for one another. We set good examples to the children in the way that we get along together and how we speak and communicate with each other. We model our 5 Key Skills of Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Resourcefulness and Reflectiveness; leading by example encourages the children to also show these 5 Key Skills.

We are lucky to have a very committed team of Governors who work hard to support the school with being the best that it can be through offering their experience and insight. They work closely with the Senior Leadership Team of the school to monitor standards and to ensure that the children are being offered the highest quality education and care. Our parents believe and trust in our school. We all work together in partnership to make our school the best place of learning for our children.

Moving the school forwards

Great Bardfield Primary School continues to be at the heart of the community and we are very proud of our children and our school. However, we want our school to consistently be the best that it can be and are therefore constantly seeking to improve and make our provision even better.

We are incredibly lucky to have a school where people work tenaciously in many different ways be it staff, governors or parents to secure the best

opportunities for our children to reach their full potential. Great Bardfield Primary School is a very happy place where everyone has a sense of belonging and a deep sense of pride in our children. At our Ofsted Inspection it was noted that, 'Pupils learn in a friendly, caring and supportive environment that enables them to develop positive attitudes towards learning and achieving their best. All of the pupils I spoke to enjoy coming to school and are proud of their school.' Ofsted 2017

The children were delighted to welcome Rosie and Ernie Morris to the school, past pupils from 1937. They

Staff have a great sense of fun!



Children enjoying a local village study



kindly donated the Morris cup for Determination and Resilience. Bradley Francis was the first, very proud, winner of this cup.

The children who attend Great Bardfield Primary School are incredibly special. They make us all smile, laugh and remember the wonderful gift (and responsibility) that we have been given- to help to shape the minds of the adults of tomorrow.

Mrs Alison Kerrell
Headteacher

'Great Bardfield Bake Off' in aid of Macmillan Cancer



The Rainbow Wall of Hope to cheer the village up





Great Bardfield After School and Breakfast Club

When our Primary School reopens after the Covid-19 lockdown has been lifted, we will reopen. We offer a wrap-around service with the Pre-school and provide high-quality, out-of-school facilities for children aged 3–12 years. Please note your child doesn't have to attend Great Bardfield Primary school. We are a registered charity (no. 1062159), and are run by a committee of parents who have children at the club. All staff have First Aid and Safeguarding qualifications and our Managers are qualified in Early Years Foundation Stage.

We are based in a purpose-built facility within the grounds of Great Bardfield School but are an independent voluntary organisation. We have been running for 18 years and looked after hundreds of children in a safe, fun and caring environment. We provide a range of age-appropriate activities including arts and crafts, projects, imaginative play, Lego and board games, and we have a relaxing television area with monitored internet gaming consoles.

Here is an example of a recent timetable which children could choose to participate in or not:

Monday – Keep Fit/ Yoga

Tuesday – Crafts

Wednesday – Early Years Story Times

Thursday – Art Club

Friday – Film & Chill

Mary is the manager of our Breakfast Club which is open 7.30–8.45am after which we will drop your child off at

the top playground with their teacher. We offer a delicious cooked breakfast or cereals between 7.30–8am. Pat is the manager of our After School Club and children can be picked up from their classrooms or from the school's clubs.

Children from other schools can be dropped off directly at ours.

A hot tea is provided every day between 4.15–4.30 and alternatives are available, such as hot soup, salads, sandwiches or fruit. There is always a pudding after the meal and a snack when they arrive. We cater for gluten free, vegetarian and pescatarian diets.

Children can be booked in on a regular basis or, space permitting, you can use the Club as and when it suits you. After school you can book a 1, 2 or 3-hour session up to 6pm. We offer a discount for siblings using the same session. Children of non-working parents are very welcome but please note that children must be registered with us before any bookings can be taken. This is a quick process and will confidentially cover preferences, allergies and any medical information we need to know. Ad hoc bookings are available but can only be made one week in advance, space permitting. All bookings are payable and non-refundable.

Please feel free to drop in anytime between 3pm and 6pm Monday to Thursday or between 3pm and 5.30pm on Friday or ring for more information on 01371 811580.

Mel Sims
Chair, Great Bardfield After
School and Breakfast Club



Great Bardfield Folk Club



Our Special Guest Night on Saturday 1st June 2019: Becky Mills and Ruth Angell

The Folk Club has enjoyed a good year with consistent audiences, and musicians of all styles, genres and profiles to entertain them.

Folk clubs have always been a supportive space for performers at all levels, giving them the opportunity to hone their performance skills, try out new songs, tunes or instruments, collaborate with other musicians, and to be heard by new audiences. At Great Bardfield Folk Club we are always delighted to provide a platform for these occasions and 2019 had its fair share. One man who's been learning to play melodeon has started bringing it, and – as everyone does – he's discovered that playing in front of people is much harder than playing the tunes in your living room. But he's persevering, and it's paying off. On another occasion a family of three – Mum, Dad and school-age son Alfie – stood up and rather hesitantly performed a traditional sea song together: their first ever public performance. They did a grand job, and we hope they'll be back for another go when Alfie's next on holiday from school.

Sometimes the whole audience gets a first-time experience. Regular performer Kevin arrived at the September Folk Night having recently met a trio of New Zealanders at a conference. They had taught everyone a haka. You know – that traditional warlike dance that's used to intimidate one's enemies (Kiwi rugby players perform one before a match – google "New Zealand Haka Dance" if you haven't seen it.) Kevin, in turn, for his floor spot, decided to teach it to us – words, actions and percussion (slapping and stamping). I'm not sure we can say we mastered it – but we had enormous fun trying.

But you don't have to be completely new to performing to take advantage of the opportunity to build skills and confidence at the club, and it's a great



J P Lodge playing the Swedish nyckelharpa

privilege to watch people's stories unfold. We started the year with a Local Artist Showcase which featured a duo from Royston who last played at the club a couple of years ago, when they were just starting out. The second time around, it was almost like watching a different band. They connected with the audience and got everyone singing and clapping along – it was a rousing set, delivered with style. Two or three times, a performer has told us that it's the first time out not for a new song, but for a new instrument, and at least three times, people have brought hand-made instruments – sometimes even instruments that they have made themselves. I'm always amazed at the level of craftsmanship and dedication that's required and the high quality of the resultant instruments.

Our Local Artist Showcase nights, such as the one mentioned above, occur twice a year and feature, as well

Kevin Johnson teaching us all the Haka



as the usual impromptu contributions from "the floor," three local performers each playing a short set. The rest of our Second Thursday Folk Club nights have a slightly different format: a single invited guest plays a longer (usually 45 minutes) spot, bookended by the informal "round the room" in which anyone who wants to can participate. One of our 2019 invited guests was a songwriter named Jeremy Harmer, based in Cambridge. On the night, he was accompanied by young cellist Josh Lynch, and they asked if they could set up some recording equipment. We agreed, of course, and were delighted when, some months later, Jeremy released a CD containing three tracks recorded in Great Bardfield!

One cello is fairly unusual even in folk club circles, but the following month we had another guest performance which included a cello. *Columbines*, a trio from Suffolk, also brought guitars, a bouzouki, a cajon (a percussion box played while you are sitting on it), various whistles, and Tibetan Singing Bowls. Between *Columbines* and the audience performers we counted eleven different instruments that night! Indeed, one particular participant, who's a bit of a collector, makes a point of bringing a different unusual instrument every month. That's him in the picture, playing the Swedish Nyckelharpa.

In our nearly seven years being hosted by the Bardfield Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, we've never had a booked guest fail to arrive ... until last November. Poor John Clarke, driving up from London, had reached the A120 when his car suffered a catastrophic failure. He phoned to explain and apologise – but there was

clearly nothing to be done. Fortunately, there were quite a few people in the audience that night who'd come prepared to play a couple of songs, and most of them managed a couple of extra ones. In the end, although we were sorry to miss John, a lovely and varied night was had and enjoyed by all – and John, after a rather long drawn-out rescue, got home safely.

Every now and then we're lucky enough to book a guest performer at a stage of their career where, if we'd been any later, they would have been too much in demand to fit us in. In 2018, it was Katie Spencer. In 2019 it was *Roswell*, a duo consisting of Zoe Wren (our support slot at 2018's *Hunter Muskett* gig) and Jasmine Watkiss. Each is an accomplished songwriter and musician in her own right, but the whole – as is so often the case – is more than the sum of the parts, and I think it was clear to everyone in the room that these two are going places.

As with *Hunter Muskett* in 2018, we also occasionally manage to entice a higher-profile act for a "headline night," in addition to the second-Thursday-of-the-month calendar. A couple of years ago we hosted world-class guitarist Ken Nicol and singer-songwriter Becky Mills to perform at one of our headline nights and they brought the house down. So when we learned that Becky had teamed up with accomplished vocalist and fiddle player Ruth Angell, who was part of the *Glass Chronicles* event several years ago at High Barn, we were keen to book them for another headline slot. They gave a packed audience a magical evening of harmony and musicianship and we were delighted to have the opportunity to catch up with these Bardfield favourites – as well as with other headliners blues legend Brooks Williams, and acclaimed duo Catriona Gilmore and Jamie Roberts.

After another successful Folk Club year, a huge thank you goes out to the Bardfield Quaker Meeting for being such lovely hosts and to all the singers, players and listeners who turn up to support us and are helping to keep music live!

Anna Bass and Ray Taylor

Please note: The club is currently suspended due to Covid-19

Check the website below for information on which dates will be going ahead

'Second Thursday' special guests booked for 2020

May 14 th	Odette Michell
June 11 th	Rhys Wilson
July 9 th	<i>The Medlars</i>
Aug 13 th	Local Artists' Night
Sept 10 th	Simon Loake
Oct 8 th	<i>BOF!</i>
Nov 12 th	<i>Crayon Angels</i>
Dec 10 th	<i>The New Essex Bluegrass Boys</i>

www.greatbardfieldfolk.wixsite.com/club



Great Bardfield WEA

Great Bardfield WEA has been offering courses in the village for many decades. We usually run two courses a year, one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term, meeting at the Friends' Meeting house on a Monday evening. Each course consists of a series of up to ten lectures and the audience is usually encouraged to participate with their own views and experiences, as well as ask additional questions, if they wish. We are a friendly group, always welcoming life-long as well as new members. Over the years the subjects have ranged from art history to world discovery, poetry to philosophy and music to literature. Depending upon the chosen subject or tutor, our audience can vary in number from thirteen to thirty.

Our first course this academic year was an enlightening one covering the history of piracy from Greek times through to the 21st Century.

The era of King George III including the American War of Independence and the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution was the topic for our spring course, professionally presented as always by Roger Cooke. Unfortunately, this course was curtailed due to the threat of Covid-19 and as yet we have not been informed of the



new courses for the next academic year which should start in September 2020. As and when we know, details will be placed in the *Bardfield Times* and on social media.

This year we were pleased to welcome new members from Great Bardfield and our neighbouring villages. The WEA and the Great Bardfield branch offer courses for adults of all ages. For more information please contact Annette Joyce (01371 811233) or visit the WEA website on www.wea.org.uk

Edward Teach, the infamous pirate known as Blackbeard

Annette Joyce

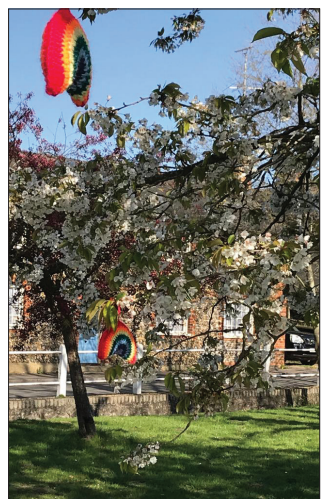


Workers' Educational Association

A better world –
equal, democratic and just;
through adult education.



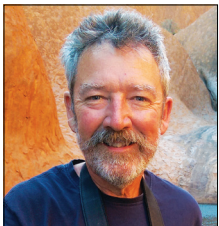
Great Bardfield in lockdown April 2020



Great Bardfield Parish Council



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Cllr Simon Walsh
Vice Chairman
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Cllr Darren Hockley
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Cllr Paul Kennedy
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Community Information Point

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01371 810327
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Open Wednesday and Saturday 10 – 12 noon for information and advice. Dog-poo bags and clear recycling bags are available to residents of the parish free of charge.

