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2024

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News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield

# Bardfield Times



Ten editions of Bardfield Times are published each year by volunteers from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield parishes. Articles, letters, etc. for inclusion need to be received by the editors by the **14<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication**. The management team reserve the right to refuse, postpone or to edit any material received for publication. Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the management team.

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**Front cover:** Hatty Carder and her team break the World Record  
**Above:** Flooded Bardfield by Paul Boon

## Editorial

It's not often that we have the opportunity to feature a local world record breaker in the *BT* but Bardfield Girl Hatty Carder with her amazing team Wavebreakers has broken a world record becoming the fastest female trio to row 3000 miles across the Atlantic from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua, described as 'the world's toughest row'. The team of three, Hatty, Bobbie Mellor and Katherine Antrobus spent 40 days and nights at sea surviving tumultuous storms, seasickness, sleep deprivation and a capsized. Despite the setbacks they persevered, winning the race and setting a world record of 40 days, 10 hours and 51 minutes. We congratulate them on their fantastic achievement. Wavebreakers are fundraising for two charities: WWF's Climate Crisis Fund which runs programmes to defend wild places, restore forests and keep oceans healthy, and UNHCR's Climate Crisis work providing humanitarian relief to refugees displaced by the climate crisis today. Donations can be made through the link on their Instagram page @wavebreakers2023

Congratulations also go to another 'Bardfield Girl' featured in this issue. You can read about Belle Kirby, née Rickwood, who will be celebrating her 100th Birthday this month, on page 6.

If you have time to spare there are more calls for volunteers from several village groups. The Finchingfield Scout Group, which also caters for young people from other villages, is looking for adult helpers to support their many exciting activities (page 26). Great Bardfield Historical Society is looking for volunteers to help with the Cottage Museum and the Bawden Room both of which open on Sundays and Bank Holiday afternoons from Easter to the end of September. Could this be you? See page 21 for contact details.

Finally, don't forget to get your entries ready for the Horticultural Society's Spring Show on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Janet Dyson**



*Wet February - the River Pant by Marjorie Clough*

## Great Bardfield Primary School

As half term is nearly upon us, it is hard to believe we are already approaching the middle of the school year. Our children have been working so very hard and we are looking forward to sharing their progress with parents in our mid-year reports and learning reviews in March. We are also looking forward to warmer, drier weather which will hopefully bring an end to the winter bugs both staff and children have been fighting off for what seems like forever! The Spring will also bring the reopening of our wonderful field which will mean that the children have much more space in which to work and play throughout the day.



*Mrs Dodkins giving a demonstration.*

Here at Great Bardfield Primary School we continue to embed our five key skills of Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Resilience. Responsibility is a key skill which we revisit daily at school. This ranges from talking about children taking responsibility for their own learning and their choices through to them holding specific roles which give them responsibility for particular areas of school life.

Responsibility is exemplified in many ways throughout the school. Our two Year 6 Ambassadors, Phoebe and Jasper, ensure our school is represented positively to all who visit. We also have fourteen Year 6 prefects who enable the smooth running of the lunch hall and assemblies with their superb support. They are excellent role models to the rest of the school. We have a pro-active School Council who are responsible for finding out what our children would like to change or improve at school and our busy Eco-Council who are at present are leading a campaign to encourage us all to save resources such as water and electricity within school.

A success of this year has also been the reintroduction of the responsibility of play leaders. These are a responsible group of Year 5 children who ensure the playground is a nice place to be. They check



everybody has someone to play with, make sure toys and games are tidied up and monitor the endless lunchboxes, jumpers and coats which are left on the playground. They do such a wonderful job and we are very proud of them.

In February, we celebrated NSPCC Number Day which gave us all an opportunity to reflect on the important work that the charity does

in helping children. This year, our focus was on 'Fluency in Number'. The children spent the day taking part in fun activities which revolved around brushing up on basic number skills such as number bonds and times tables. These are core skills which are essential for being proficient in number throughout school and beyond.

Next month, we are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day during which the children will be taking part in activities around the theme of 'Reading for Pleasure'. We will be taking all of the children up to visit 'Between the Lines' where they can choose a book and listen to some stories. Thank you to Janet Dyson and her team for joining with us to ensure the day is memorable for our children. I would also like to publicly thank the Co-op in Great Bardfield for the donation they made towards our new Reading Trolley. This is something we have set up to provide for those children who prefer a more sedate lunchtime and to encourage reading for pleasure within our school. The trolley will be brought out to the playground daily and contains books, magazines and picnic blankets which children can share.

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, the children are hosting a Spring Concert which will be an opportunity for members of our community to come and enjoy listening to them perform songs and music along with enjoying tea and a slice of cake. If you would like to attend, please have a look at the flyer contained within this edition for more information. You are all most very welcome to join us.

**Liz Crow, Headteacher**



*Theo and Isabella working hard.*

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

qu?z

SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

7pm for 7.30 start

LICENSED BAR

£12 PER PERSON – MAX 8 PER TEAM

INCLUDING SUPPER

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE BY

BACS, CHEQUE OR CASH

To book and for bank account details please contact:

Patricia on [mrspwalsh@aol.com](mailto:mrspwalsh@aol.com) or 07971 627407

Please let us know of any dietary requirements



Great Bardfield Primary School  
Presents:

## 'A Spring Concert'

We would like to invite senior members of the community to a celebration of singing and musical talent followed by tea and cake in the school hall on

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**1.30pm**

Please ring or email the school office to confirm your seat.



Tel: 01371 810252

Email: [admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk)



## Belle Kirby celebrates her 100th Birthday

**B**elle Kirby (née Rickwood) was born in Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield on March 26<sup>th</sup> 1924. A few years ago Anna Bass interviewed Belle for the *BT* at her then home in Rayne. Belle has since moved to Kilkee

Lodge Care Home, Braintree, where on our recent visit she showed us a photo of a group of Bardfield School students taken in 1938. They were all about to leave school, as they did then, at 14. Belle identified all the girls and was happy to tell us where they all lived. She is quite amazing! Many of the family names recorded are familiar of course – Piper, Bucknell, Coxall ... there will be a few *BT* readers who will recognise them. She remembered too Miss Duffield, Headteacher, and Mrs Dunell and Miss Mary Adams as teachers. She also remembers that the photo was taken outside Kathy Mumford's house next to the school, which, today, is called 'Mumfords'.



After leaving school Belle went to work as a Nanny for a family in Great Saling and later as a parlour maid at Little Bardfield Hall. It was a delight to meet Belle and hear her memories. We send congratulations to this 'Bardfield Girl' as she celebrates her 100th Birthday.

**Jackie Newton**

*'Great Bardfield School, 1938 – just before the War. We left school at 14 years of age.'*  
Back row left to right: Kathy Mumford, Jean Holmes, Belle Kirby, Rosemary Mizen, Jean Buttle, Mary Coxall

Front row left to right:

Betty Stock, Margaret Piper, Shirley Buckland, Catherine Brazier, Nora George



## Great Bardfield Parish Council report

### Three Fields Pan-Parish Meeting

In February, members of Great Bardfield Parish Council attended a meeting hosted by our District Councillors, Michael Staines and Mark Ault, for all parishes in the Three Fields ward. Representatives from Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Shalford and Panfield also attended. We discussed issues that affect us all and how we may, as a group, have more influence on some issues.

Subjects covered included traffic and highways maintenance, the Wethersfield Airbase and its potential long term use, tourism, and relationships with Braintree District Council and Essex County Council. Further information from this and our latest Parish Council meeting are provided in this report. It is planned that this forum will continue as it a useful means of connecting and communicating with our neighbouring parishes.

### Wethersfield Airbase Update

The Home Office have recently provided local councils with the latest information about the use of the airbase as an asylum centre. Though the base has accommodation for, and permission to, house up to 1500 residents, a current cap of 600 has been set by the Home Office. We understand that as of the end of February 550 asylum seekers are living at the base. Increased security and welfare officers are being appointed. Local church groups and other volunteers are also providing some support. The Home Office have applied to extend the use of the base for accommodation of asylum seekers for 3 years.

At the Pan-Parish meeting some concern was raised that the base was still under consideration for the development of two prisons, however since that meeting, we have heard from Cllr Staines that this is no longer the case and that Wethersfield is no longer listed as a possible prison site by the Ministry of Justice as they have been granted permissions at other locations. There is potential for the site to be reconsidered for this or other uses in the future.

### Planning Applications

- 10 Durham Close, conversion of garage plus single storey rear and side extensions: The Parish Council did not object to this application but did ask for sufficient sound proofing materials to be required, neighbours' comments and concerns to be considered and also stressed the importance of ensuring appropriate development in the Conservation Area.
- 25 Northampton Meadow: tree works. No objections

### UKPower Works at the Playing Field

These works were to replace overhead cables with cables laid underground

and also to continue beyond the playing fields. They have taken some time to be completed though we understand this is nearly done and that the car park will be tidied up and recycling bins reinstated in their previous position. These works had nothing to do with our Pavilion build but were planned works by UKPower. Even so, we apologise for the muddy nature of the entrance to the playing field during the last few months. Hopefully as Spring arrives, we will be able to enjoy the playing fields and playground without so much mud.

### Highways/Pavements

Having complained multiple times we have been advised by Essex Highways that work will soon (!) take place at the exit of the village on the Finchingfield Road. This will involve the replacement of broken drainage pipes that have been causing much of the flooding in this area, and then the repair of the road. We do not yet know if this will involve a complete road closure.

The repair of a broken manhole cover in the High Street has been outstanding since December 5<sup>th</sup> despite continuous chasing. Openreach, who are responsible for its replacement, have assured us that this will be undertaken shortly.

### Bus 16

Following a complaint raised by the Parish Council that some drivers were missing the stop in Brook Street, the bus company has confirmed that all drivers on this route have been reminded to follow the correct route and not to turn up Vine Street.

### Refuse Collection and Recycling

Here are the collection dates for the coming month. If you have access to the internet the full calendar is available at [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk) Please leave bins etc out by 7am on the collection date.

- Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> Grey bin & food bin
- Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> Clear sacks, food bin and green bin\*
- Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup> Grey bin & food bin
- Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> Clear sacks, food bin and green bin\*

\*Green bin (garden waste) collection for those that have registered for this service.

### Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. Members of the Public are welcome to attend and to raise any issues at the Public Forum which is held at the beginning of the meeting.

**Carolynne Ruffle, Chairperson**

## Calling poetry lovers

We're thinking of organising a series of **poetry evenings** in our **Between the Lines bookshop**. This would be a chance for poetry lovers to get together to sip wine and read our latest finds, old favourites, or works from any budding poets among us, or just come along and listen. I'm hoping that sometimes published local poets will join us to read and promote their latest collection. Before starting I would like to gauge interest. If this sounds like something that you would like to come along to, please drop me a line on **WhatsApp/txt (07817 063125)**, **email (tim\_rega82@hotmail.com)**, or **Facebook Messenger**.

## Braintree Male Voice Choir

**Are you male? Do you enjoy singing?  
Why not join the Braintree Male Voice Choir?**

Singing is good for you (doctors have proved that) and singing together even better (psychologists have shown that).

The choir sing a variety of songs from classics such as *Nessun Dorma* and *Morte Christe* through *Bring Him Home*, *Sweet Caroline*, *Ed Sheeran's Perfect* and *The Wellerman*.

**Rehearsals are for two hours in Braintree on  
Wednesday evenings,  
at St Peter's Church Hall, St Peter's in the Fields,  
Braintree CM7 9AR at 7.30 pm.**

Do I have to be able to read music? No  
Do I have to have an audition? No  
Will I have to sing alone? No.  
So what's stopping you?

**For further details, contact choir secretary  
Ron Fosker on 01376 512582 or rfosker@btinternet.com**

## GREAT BARDFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm  
Great Bardfield Town Hall**

AGM followed by

**Heroes and Villains of the  
Suffolk-Essex border**



Mr Pickwick visits Eatanswill (Sudbury) © Ashley Cooper

**An entertaining, illustrated talk  
by Ashley Cooper**

Wine and nibbles and the opportunity to begin/renew membership of the Historical Society @ £6 per person

***Everyone welcome***

## Town Hall Happenings

On 16<sup>th</sup> March we have the annual "Town Hall Quiz". This is already a sell-out. May the best team win.

Looking forward into May we have The Bardfield Players production on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the month, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> our Art Show which is always an opportunity to view and purchase varied and interesting items.

Finally, it's nearly time to polish up your "Boules" and get in some practice for the summer competition.

**John Maidman**

**Chair Great Bardfield Town Hall**



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

## Monday night boules

As the evenings become lighter, and in advance of Madam Boules, annual competition, I wondered if anyone would like to get together on Monday evenings for a game or two of Pétanque, to get some practice or learn how to play?

It only needs two people and a set of two or three boules to have a game, but the more the merrier!

I suggest that we start on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and meet at the Town Hall at 7pm for an hour or so (and the pub is open!).

I hope to see you there.

**Ian R**



### Hello Everyone,

We've had an urgent message from the Admin team at WEA. Basically, there are currently only 7 people enrolled on our new course starting on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February and it's not looking like a viable course for the tutor to run.

We are asking that if you plan to join us for this course, to please enrol as soon as possible - I've added the details below. If you are having trouble enrolling online or getting in contact with WEA, then please call Margaret on 01371-810498.

It's important that we can let WEA know of the number of students we will hopefully expect.

Many thanks,

**Annette**

Here's a reminder of the how to enrol directly with WEA:

Log onto [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk), search for Great Bardfield or use the Course Code of Q00013354. If you prefer to book by telephone, please call the WEA Central Support Team on 0300 303 3464.

### THE GREAT BARDFIELD ART SHOW

We're pleased to announce that The Great Bardfield Art Show in aid of the Town Hall will be back again in 2024.

The show will be held over the Late May Bank Holiday on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

Great Bardfield has a rich art heritage and we wish to continue celebrating this by providing the current artists of Great Bardfield and beyond with a setting for displaying their work. There will be refreshments available in the Town Hall.

If you are interested in showing any of your work please contact us for an entry form or collect a paper copy from *Between the Lines* bookshop in Great Bardfield.

*Peter Keynton and Katrina Ralston*  
Art Show Organisers  
[bardfield.art.show@gmail.com](mailto:bardfield.art.show@gmail.com)

## The Tuesday Club

**A**t our February meeting we enjoyed a talk given by Amanda Sutherland, following her journey from sorting her granny's button box, through her time at design school, her first job designing costumes for the Royal Opera House, making wedding dresses for famous fashion houses, through to fulfilling her dream of setting up a business selling her unique fashion accessories. Amongst many other things, her jewellery is all made from disused aluminium drinks cans, though you would never know it, quite a conversation starter if you run out of things to talk about with a friend. I bought one of her lovely necklaces, and I challenge anyone to recognise it as an old tin can! We hope to see Amanda again, for another of her talks next year.

On **12<sup>th</sup> March** Eve Regelous returns for another of her enjoyable talks, this one on "Everything Strictly", following the path of Come Dancing (which ran from 1950 until 1998) until the show we now know as Strictly Come Dancing (or more familiarly as Strictly), which aired in 2004. There have been quite a few changes along the way and Eve will be taking us on a delightful journey of some of the highlights, in her usual interesting and witty way.

We were delighted to welcome nine visitors to our February meeting and hope that they enjoyed their afternoon with us. If you haven't been to a meeting yet why not give it a try? We meet in the Town Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 2.00 and talk starts at 2.30. Everyone is welcome, visitors pay £5 including refreshments, and if you decide to become a member you will only pay £25 for the whole year.

**Cherry Whitby**

**For more details please contact the Club Secretary,  
Marilyn Edwards on 01371 810555**

## GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB

# EVERYTHING STRICTLY!



### A talk by Eve Regelous

*Eve will take us on a delightful journey from the early "Come Dancing" programme, to the present day "Strictly Come Dancing" Saturday night show.*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 at 2.30**

**GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL**

Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome

Visitors: £5 per talk

## Horticultural Society

Our Spring Show will be held on **Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** in the Town Hall. One of the highlights of our annual programme is the Spring Show – always a mass of colour from spring flowers and bulbs.

Our schedules for 2024 are now available.

All members and previous exhibitors should have received a copy. They are also available from a number of outlets in the village. Please contact us if you would like one and haven't been able to get or see a copy.

Entries for the show should be registered before 10.15am and be staged by 10.30am as judging starts at 10.45am.

We have many classes for all different skills – flowers, pot plants vegetables, cookery, handicrafts, flower arranging and photography.

If you tried and enjoyed the cake recipe in the February issue of *BT* please enter and enjoy results. We welcome everyone - you do not have to be a member to enter. Please encourage your children to get involved. We cater from ages under 5 to 16 so there is something for everybody. Bardfield School is always very supportive and we receive many entries from them which we really appreciate. Trophies and shields are up for grabs and if you win one it is engraved with your name and you may keep it for a year. Looks great displayed on a shelf or mantelpiece.

Please come along and visit in the afternoon too and take a look at the different skills we have in our local area...

The show will be open at 2.30pm until 4.30pm. There will be a raffle, tombola, and plant stall. We will have tea and homemade cakes available at the Bell - thanks to Ciaran and Sharon - cakes made by our members.

**Any help or questions please contact Linda Prior  
07969 184845 or 811641**

On **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** 2.30pm we will have our first garden visit of the year. By kind invitation of Andrew and Julia Collins – Whinbush Farm, Walthams Cross, Great Bardfield CM7 4QJ.

Many of you will have enjoyed visiting the garden in July when Julia and Andrew host "Music in the Garden".

This will be a wonderful opportunity to see and enjoy their wonderful garden and arboretum at a different time of year. Andrew will be happy to answer any questions about the garden.

If it is a damp day then "proper" shoes are recommended!!!

Admission by ticket only - £5 for members. Proceeds will be donated to

St Mary's Church. Tea and refreshments will be available.

Please come and enjoy this wonderful garden.

**Tickets available from Linda Prior 811641 or Lynne Joyce 810524  
Car parking will be available.**

### Plea for new Chairman for Society

Linda Prior has been our Chairman since 2014. At our last AGM, she gave notice that she would be standing down from this role in October 2024. She is very happy to remain on the Committee.

If you would be interested in volunteering for this role please contact Linda who would be more than happy to tell you what is entailed.

**Linda Prior 07969 184845 or 811641**

New to Great Bardfield or an established villager? You will find a warm welcome at the Horticultural Society. Why not be a member and enjoy events, talks and visits arranged throughout the year? Amazing Spring and Summer Shows are held where you can exhibit your gardening and baking skills!

**For any information about the Society please contact  
Linda Prior 811641**

### Great Bardfield Historical Society

The AGM will be held on **13<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

The Historical Society invites nominations for the posts of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

Anyone wishing to apply should contact me at the email address below by the end of March.

Jonathan Davies, Acting Chair  
**jonathan6davies@gmail.com**

### Stebbing Rainbows are looking for a New Leader

Rainbow Guides are the youngest section of the Girl Guides Association. Girls can join Rainbows after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and normally stay until they are old enough to join Brownies at seven. Stebbing has had a Rainbow Unit for the last 33 years. Sadly, in the last few years we have lost both our Brownie and Guide units.

We are looking for an enthusiastic new leader to run our Rainbow unit so that it can continue.

This is a voluntary position to head up an experienced team of unit helpers. We have a unit administrator, a treasurer and can offer lots of support for the right person.

We meet for an hour and a half each week on a Wednesday, early evening, during school term times. We would love your help to lead our friendly team of volunteer helpers and Rainbows with craft activities, cooking and games.

If you would like to know more about this role please contact Liz Hooper by email [Stebbingrainbows2@outlook.com](mailto:Stebbingrainbows2@outlook.com)

**For lovers of lots of different plants you may be interested in the following event:**

**Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> Plant Fair 9.30-3.30pm**  
**Plant Show 11 – 3.30pm**  
**Chelmsford City Racecourse CM3 1QP**  
**Admission £5.00**

- 15 specialist plant nurseries (selling alpines, perennials, bulbs, shrubs and more)
- Craft stalls
- Food stalls
- Specialist plant societies
- Photographic display
- Questions and Answers run by a panel of gardening experts
- Talk by Tom Freeth from Kew gardens
- Create your own living jewellery with Writtle horticultural college



## **BARDFIELD** **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** **SPRING SHOW**

**MARCH 23<sup>TH</sup> TOWN HALL**  
**2.30 – 4.30**

**ADMISSION £1.00 - MEMBERS FREE**

**RAFFLE, TOMBOLA & PLANT STALL**

**TEA/COFFEE & HOME-MADE CAKES**

**NEED A SCHEDULE? CONTACT**  
**01371811641/01371810524**

**HAVE A SKILL OR PLANT YOU ARE REALLY PROUD**  
**OF?**

**WE WELCOME ALL ENTRIES. COME ALONG AND**  
**HAVE A GO!**

## GREENFINGERS

**R**AIN RAIN RAIN! That was our Winter. Perversely, this month Greenfingers suggests how to plant up that most awkward of all areas in one's garden – dry shade. Now this is a common request for help in garden magazines so off we go as we explore how to make it more attractive. with Greenfinger's imagination in top gear. If it is under trees think of a woodland so improve the soil with moist composts, home made and leaf mould are best. Go for bulbs here with a few suitable plants. In Spring any bulb will do well as the light will come through as trees are leafless.

Bulbs for later are the expensive Lilies Martagon, but easy and cheap to buy, the Asiatic hybrids Enchantment is orange but Cinnabar is red. All cyclamen will do well.

Plants: common old Vinca, the periwinkle creeps along in the choice of blue or white or plum coloured. Epimedium has attractive heart shaped leaves, but cut all leaves off now so sprays of yellow flowers are on show. Obvious are Digitalis, the foxglove. Around shrubs all the above plus my best choice:

Geranium Nodosum and the widow Geranium Phaeum. Heuchera, the plant of the moment i.e. loads available. Coloured leaves from lime green, orange to purple with speckled in between, these would look great 'stabbed' with the Lilies as above. Plant Euphorbia Griffithii as it has brilliant orange bracts in late Spring, Fireglow is the one to have. Yes to foxgloves, written above plus honesty e.g. Lunaria, common in purple but special in variegated white and the taller Corfu Blue. Let seedlings of foxgloves and honesty survive where fallen to flower the following year.

Exciting shopping for you and if not to your taste just place large pots of acid compost and keep moist with only rain water. 'What's in them?' you ask: Camellias, so glamorous!!



## Come and visit our museum

Part of the attraction of living in Bardfield is its close links to history from Mediaeval to more recent times. The museum tells some of these stories from support for the poor to its rich benefactors.

To be found near Place House in the Dunmow Road, it is open every Sunday from Easter to September between 2.00 and 4.30pm.

New to the village or just curious, please do visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Historical Society is looking for stewards to sit in the Museum during opening hours. It is not an onerous task and gives you an opportunity to study the information in more detail.*

*If you are interested, please contact Nigel Hill  
(beamteam13@gmail.com)*

## From the Vicarage...

One of the most important ways in which we cement our relationships is by eating together. There's something about sharing one of our most basic human activities with other people which deepens our connection to one another. This is something we know and care about in church, and which takes on a special significance as we approach the celebration of Easter, which falls this year at the end of March. The events we remember at Easter had one of their beginnings with a shared meal in a now famous 'upper room' in Jerusalem. Here, Jesus' sharing of bread and wine with his followers had such a profound significance that we still repeat it Sunday by Sunday some two thousand years later.

This 'Holy Communion' is not meant to be an exclusive club dinner for a chosen few, but a means by which everyone has the opportunity to share in God's holy feast, and so experience his generous love. If it's something to which you feel drawn, then there are all sorts of ways of exploring further. One is to share the drama of the various services which trace Jesus' journey to the cross during Holy Week. This year, our events for then include a showing of the film 'Babette's Feast', in which the idea of a feast giving rise to profound changes in relationships is explored. Maybe one of these services or events could show you a place at God's table – come and taste and see!

Rev'd/Fr Alex

### Services for March 2024

#### Sunday 3 March – The Third Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield  
 9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford  
 10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield  
 11am Celtic Morning Prayer ('Prayer & Pilgrimage') – Wethersfield  
 3pm Children's Church – Wethersfield

#### Sunday 10 March – Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford  
 9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield  
 10.45am Communion Service – Finchingfield  
 11am Family Service – Wethersfield  
 3.30pm Family Service – Great Bardfield  
 4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

#### Sunday 17 March – Fifth Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield  
 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford  
 10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield  
 10.45am Family Service – Finchingfield  
 4pm Evensong – Cornish Hall End

#### Services for Holy Week and Easter

#### Sunday 24 March – Palm Sunday

10.00am Procession of Palms – Wethersfield (starting at the church)  
 10.30am Family Communion Service for Palm Sunday – Wethersfield

#### Monday 25 March

10am Said Eucharist – Finchingfield  
 7.30pm Film Night with talk: 'Babette's Feast' – Great Bardfield Town Hall

#### Tuesday 26 March

10am Said Eucharist – Great Bardfield  
 8pm Compline – Shalford

#### Wednesday 27 March

8pm Compline – Shalford

#### Thursday 28 March – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Benefice Eucharist of the Last Supper – Great Bardfield  
*This is followed by a vigil in church until midnight.*

#### Friday 29 March – Good Friday

10.30am Walk of Witness – jointly with other churches in Great Bardfield  
 2pm Solemn Service of the Lord's Passion – Little Bardfield  
 2pm Meditations on the Cross – Shalford  
 9pm Tenebrae – Cornish Hall End

#### Saturday 30 March – Holy Saturday

10am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield  
 7.30pm Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter – Little Bardfield

**Sunday 31 March – Easter Day**

Family Communion Services at the following times:

9am Cornish Hall End

9.30am Shalford

10.30am Great Bardfield

10.45am Finchingfield

11am Wethersfield

4pm Festal Evensong & Benediction – Great Bardfield

**Regular Services and Events during the week**

**Monday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

**Tuesday** 10am Eucharist – Great Bardfield  
(preceded by Morning Prayer at 9.30am)

**Thursday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield  
10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th in the month) – Shalford

Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th in the month) – Shalford

Coffee Morning (3rd in the month) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

**Friday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

**Saturday** 10.30am (3rd in the month) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

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*Shrove Tuesday at St Mary's by Jackie Newton*

## 1st Finchingfield Scout Group

Since the covid shut down 1st Finchingfield Scout Group has reopened our three sections, Beavers 6-8 years, Cubs 8 -10.5 years and Scouts 10.5 -14 years. Scouting is a fully diverse organisation open to all genders, races and backgrounds. We have a large catchment area that covers the areas around Finchingfield, Great Bardfield, Wethersfield, Shalford, Great Sampford.

Scouting provides opportunities to take part in adventurous activities like camping, hiking, climbing and kayaking, but they also get to join in every week with their friends having fun, playing games, working in a team and tackling new challenges.

We provide young people with skills for life that they can use for school, college, university, job interviews and life in general.

It is the largest Youth Organisation in the UK, with almost half a million members joining in every week.

Locally we have availability in all our sections and new members are welcome to come and try-out our meetings at our Headquarters in Finchingfield.

To continue our growth, we are also looking for additional adult



volunteers to assist in our sections to help organise meetings and activities. All volunteers need to be over 18 and undergo a Scout Association DBS check. Experience is not necessary as training will be provided. Volunteering can provide a number of benefits; it promotes confidence and responsibility and is recognised by most employers as a positive attribute. But above all working with young people can be fun and rewarding. If you think you might like to help, contact us to find out more.



To find out more about Places for young people or about Volunteering opportunities for adults

Please contact us on [finchingfieldscouts@outlook.com](mailto:finchingfieldscouts@outlook.com)

**Mark Wells – Group Scout Leader**  
**1st Finchingfield Scout Group**

## Nature Notes - Birds of Prey

I have always enjoyed seeing the birds which visit my bird table, they are not only entertaining but since I lost my faithful dog Jill, I have come to realise that in a small way they are also company and I have started to take much more notice of them. That is possibly what has made me realise that I have more than one stranger mixing very happily in with the great tits and blue tits which seem to have



bottomless tummies as they seem to be feeding all the time. The strangers are in fact nuthatches and although they blend in quite well their markings and the colour of the plumage is very different; they also have longer beaks. Rather than trying to describe the differences I will attach a picture. The nuthatch is a woodland bird which is found in deciduous woods in most parts of England and Wales almost up as high as southern Scotland. There is also an Asian specie which has different markings and a red or yellow beak. Nuthatches are the only birds which can run down a tree as easily as they run up. As the name suggests they are fond of nuts and their main food is eech and hazel nuts and acorns which they store for winter but they also feed on other kernels, seeds, berries and insects. They have a very clever method of dealing with nuts. They jam the nut into a crack or crevice in a tree and peck a hole in the

shell to get to the kernel. Their favourite work bench often has a small pile of empty shells under it. This clever way of dealing with a nut is what earned them their original name which was a 'nut hack' which later became nuthatch. They breed in late April early May and nest in holes in trees or nest boxes. If the entrance hole is too big they build it up with mud which sets rock hard. The bottom of the nest is lined with fragments of wood bark and bits of dried leaves. They lay six to nine white eggs which are boldly marked, especially at the large end, with red to purple blotches. The hen incubates the eggs on her own and incubation takes about two weeks; both parents feed the chicks. Considering the fact that the nuthatch is a completely separate species to the tit family it is amazing that they have so much in common and they are quite happy sharing the food on the bird table and in fact feeding at the same time. Another feature they have in common with one of the tit family, the long tail tit is they are both communal roosters sleeping together in cold weather to keep warm.

### Mac Beanland



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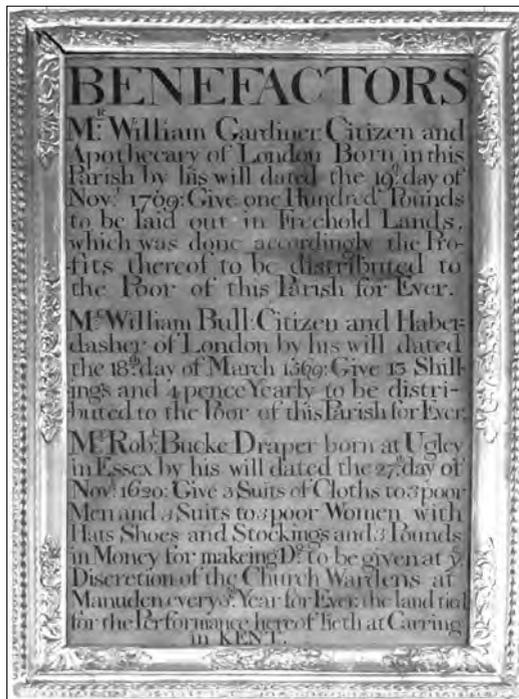
We are fortunate today that we have a benefit system to help vulnerable people. In the past, the less fortunate relied on parish relief or the generosity of the better-off. Some wealthy benefactors left money for the provision of almshouses. You can see an article on almshouses on the Hundred Parishes website at www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

Other philanthropists helped the poor by giving money in a variety of ways. Some churches record the benevolence of these donors on large "benefactor" boards. For example, in St. Peters, Ugley we are told on one board that Robert Bucke, a draper, in his will of 1620 gave 3 suits of clothes to 3 poor men and 3 suits to 3 poor women with hats, to be given every third year "for ever".

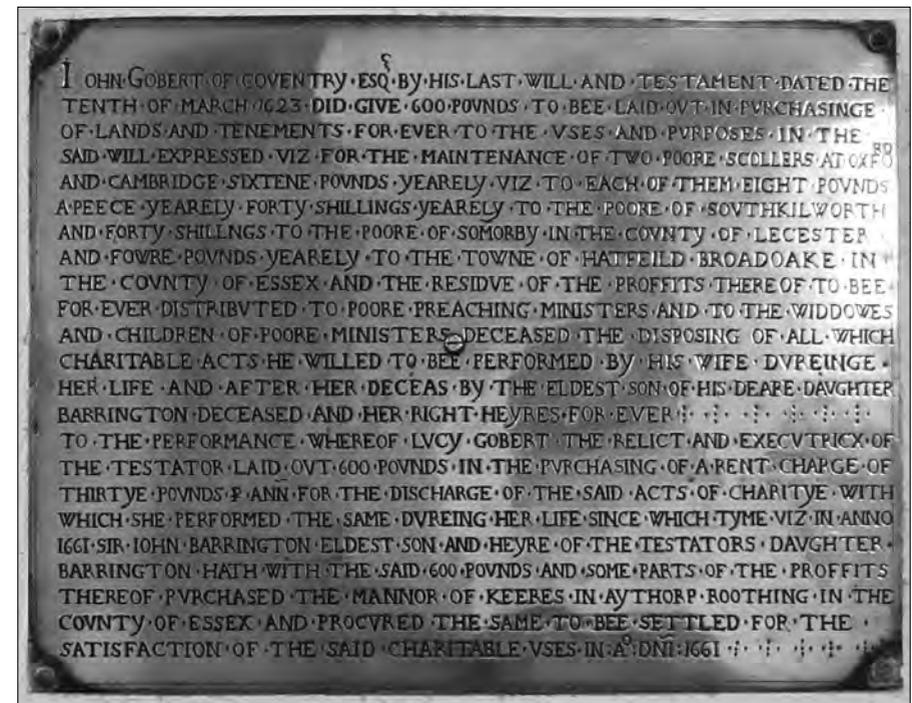
Just a few miles away in Manuden's parish church, a board describes three benefactors, one of whom is the same Robert Bucke. Here he gives the same number of suits to the poor



Ugley



Manuden



Hatfield Broad Oak

of Manuden, here with additional hats, shoes and stockings.

In Little Hadham the church of St. Cecilia has a board recording that Miss Ann Scott, in her 1865 will, left dividends to the rector and church wardens to distribute bread on Shrove Sunday each year "at their discretion" to the poor of the Parish.

Hatfield Broad Oak's Church of St. Mary the Virgin has a brass plaque describing the generosity of John Gobert. He left £600 in his will of 1623 for the purchase of land, the proceeds from which were to be distributed in a variety of ways including £4 per annum to the town of Hatfield Broad Oak. His heir Sir John Barrington subsequently bought the manor of Keeres in Aythorpe Roothing to comply with the will.

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**Ken McDonald,  
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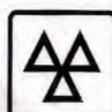


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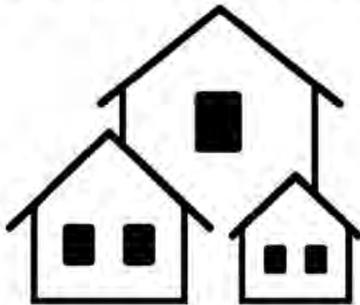
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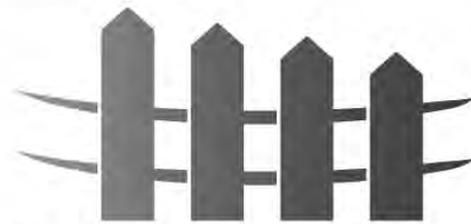
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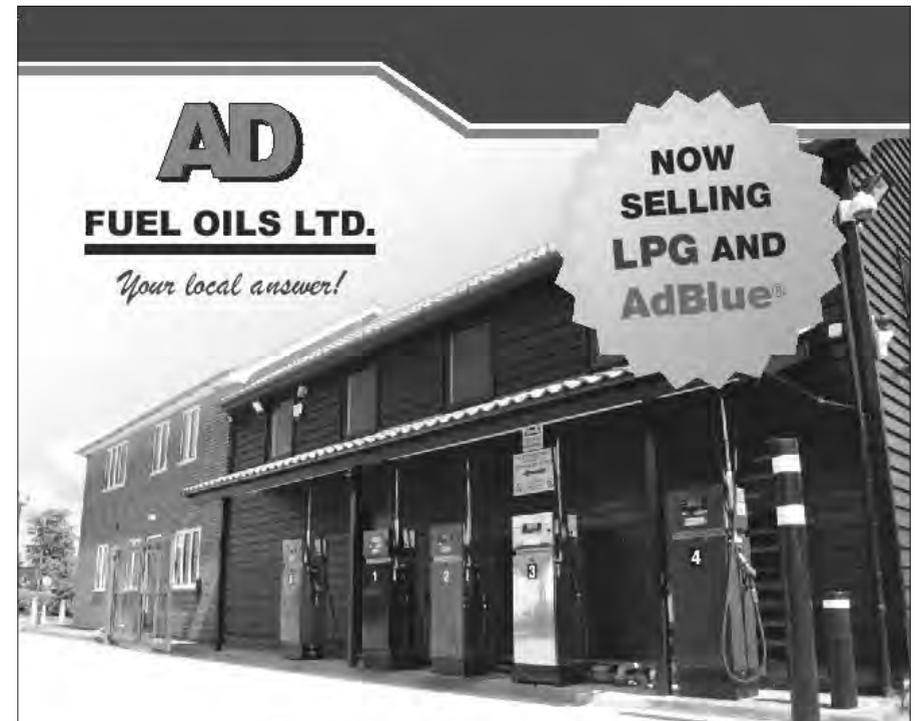
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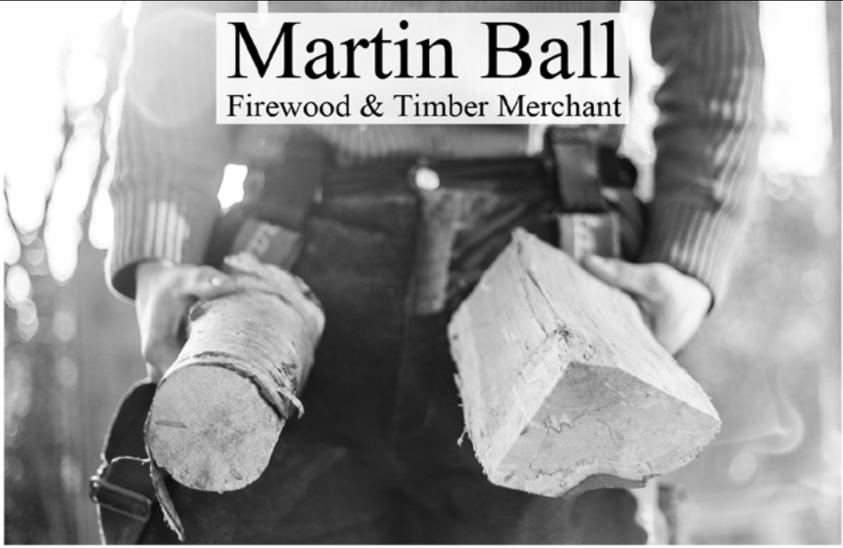



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For further information and to join the project please contact:  
Rebecca Jordan on 01371 810776 or  
Claire Griffiths on 07983 823388  
Email: rebecca@greatlodge.co.uk  
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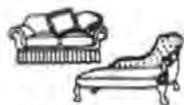
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Pat Coles (01371 810995), Debbie Rogers (01371 811083)  
Mick Gell (01371 810113), Nick Holland (07795 280647)  
Annika Woodcock (07900 491636)  
Rev Alex Shannon (01371 810309)

Or email [GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com](mailto:GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com)

**TOWN HALL DIARY**

**March 2024**

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
	Bardfield Players BR	7.00pm
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Cinema club	7.30pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Tuesday club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
	Bardfield Players BR	7.00pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
	Parish Council meeting	7.00pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Town hall quiz	7.00pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
	Bardfield Players BR	7.00pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Horticultural society	4.00pm
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Horticultural Spring Show	2.30pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Private Function	10.00am
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Film – “Babettes Feast” – Rev Alex	7.30pm
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players BR	7.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
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**Clerk to the Parish Council** [clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk) 810111

**Councillors** Carolynne Ruffle (Chair) 810986

Paul Kennedy 810540

Darren Hockley 810836

Peter Walmsley 07843 498243

Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402

Janet Dyson 07957 483207

Iain Graham 07831 595555

**Braintree District Council**

**Councillors Cllr Michael Staines** 07922 487666

**Cllr Mark Ault** 07963 744481

**Police** for non-emergency enquiries dial 101

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**Little Bardfield Parish**

**Chairman of the Parish Council** [LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com](mailto:LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com)

**Clerk to the Parish Council** Andrew Davies [davies@farmline.com](mailto:davies@farmline.com)

Kate Rixon 01371 404 321

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**Uttlesford District Council**

**Councillor** Cllr Mike Tayler

[cllrtaylor@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrtaylor@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Bardfield After School & Breakfast Club** Pat Moore 07767 413055

**Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club** Clifford Richardson 810782

**Bardfield Charities** Nick Holland 07795 280647

**Bardfield Players** Ian Ruffle 810986

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**Gt Bardfield Primary School** [admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk) 810252

**Gt Bardfield Pre-School** Kathy King 811580

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**Horticultural Society** Linda Prior 811641

**Parish Priest Great & Little Bardfield** Fr. Alex Shannon 01371 810309/07483 878659

**Catholic Priest** Fr Celestine 810428

**Town Hall Bookings** [bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com)

**Tuesday Club** Marilyn Edwards [mazjedwards@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mazjedwards@yahoo.co.uk)

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# Bardfield Cinema Club

## Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

# Great Bardfield Town Hall

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BARDFIELD CINEMA CLUB - FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH