

May  
2024

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# Bardfield Times

News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield



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 and above:** Bardfield Horticultural Society Spring Show by Doug Joyce

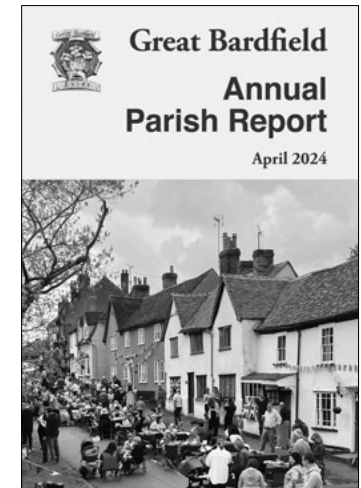
## Editorial

April, as TS Eliot reminds us, is 'the cruelest month' – I'm not quite sure what he meant but it's been warm enough to sit outside one day and freezing cold the next. Dry enough to water plants one minute and then soaked by torrential rain. There are many traditional country sayings about the weather and, with our climate undergoing significant changes they may be out of date but I recall the one about the oak and the ash as predictors of future weather and feel there may be some truth in the rhyme 'If the oak before the ash then we will have a splash; if the ash before the oak then we will have a soak!' I notice that the ash trees around here are coming into leaf way behind the oaks this year so perhaps a dry summer is on the way? Until the C19th the majority of people living in and around Great Bardfield would have been involved in farming and their lives would have revolved round the agricultural year and the patterns of the weather. So, perhaps their country sayings were based on observations and experience? Who can say? Do feel free to disagree!

There are plenty of village events planned for the summer when people will be hoping for good weather. These include the Garage Sale, the Arts and Crafts Weekend, Bardfest, and a new addition to the village calendar, a Landscape Artist of the Year competition. See dates and times in this edition.

Finally, if you missed the Parish Assembly held at the end of April it's not too late for you to pick up the excellent Annual Report which is full of contributions from many village groups, photographs of events of the last year as well as information about the work of the Parish, District and County Councils. Numbers are limited but copies can be collected from the CIP and Between the Lines Bookshop.

**Janet Dyson**

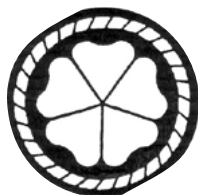


## Great Bardfield Primary School

A huge thank you to everybody who came along to our Community Spring Concert last term. It was lovely to welcome so many of you and the children really enjoyed performing some of the songs and pieces of music they have been learning. Some of the highlights included Reuben's brilliant solo on electric guitar and listening to an original composition by Emily played on glockenspiel. Our audience also enjoyed a range of songs including Here Comes the Sun, The Bare Necessities and Singing in the Rain. We have received lots of positive feedback which makes organising these events so worthwhile. A huge thank you to all of my staff, our wonderful music teacher, Mrs Metson, and the fantastic Mr Merry, who joins us every Monday to teach singing, for their support in organising and running the afternoon.

Our younger children were very proud to enter some of the classes at the Horticultural Spring Show at the end of March. They all coloured in a picture and spent a morning learning about flower arranging for their 'Spring flowers in a mug' entries. The arrangements looked beautiful and bright and the children were very pleased with their hard work.

During the last week of the Spring Term, our traditional Easter orienteering event took place indoors although on a much smaller scale than usual due to the terrible weather. Nevertheless, the children had great fun hunting for clues and amongst much excitement, we were visited by the Easter Bunny who arrived with a huge basket full of chocolate eggs to share. This is always a highlight of the Spring Term and



*Sophie and Mia arranging flowers for the Horticultural Show*

it was so lovely to see our older children helping the younger children hunt for clues to secure their chocolate egg. Thank you to our 'bunny' who was key to the success of the Easter Hunt.

Children and staff have returned from the Easter Break, rejuvenated, refreshed and ready for the third and final term of this academic year. This term, our Year One, Year Four and Year Six pupils will undertake statutory assessments in Phonics, Multiplication Tables, and Reading, Writing and Maths respectively. These assessments are important to benchmark the attainment of our children. However, at Great Bardfield Primary School it is important to note that these are certainly not the only way we measure our children's achievement. We value each and every step of progress our children make, whether this be learning how to do column addition in Maths, remembering to have equipment ready at the beginning of a lesson or simply having the courage to try a new food at lunchtime. Each one of these is a vital part of our children's learning journey and we value and celebrate each and every one of them.

This term we are excited to open our field so that the children have more space to play in at break and lunch times. We are looking forward to bringing out our new Reading Trolley, funded by The Co-op, so that the children can choose books and magazines to read while sitting on our cosy set of picnic blankets. This is a wonderful opportunity for those children who enjoy more tranquil break times and a way to encourage reading and the sharing of books. Our youngest Reception children will now join the rest of the school at these times as part of getting them ready for Year One. Later in the term we are looking forward to meeting our new Reception children who will be visiting us for some 'settling in' sessions before joining our school in September.

**Liz Crow**  
Headteacher



*Our Easter Bunny*

## Vintage Tractor Run May 12<sup>th</sup>

**W**e will be coming into Great Bardfield down the Braintree road past the church at approximately 13.20 and going up Bell lane to Hawksper green, so we hope to see lots of people in the village.

**Mac Beanland, David Hunt and Dick Hughs**



*The team with two people from the air ambulance response car.*



*Scruffy ready to start last year.*



Great Bardfield Primary School

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## PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

As a governor you will be a volunteer who makes a vital contribution to the success of our good school.

We are looking for someone with:

- **Time** - for six evening board meetings a year, day time visits, training, working parties, policy reviews...
- **A willingness to learn** - regular training and governor network opportunities provided.
- **Enthusiasm** - the roles and expectations are diverse and an ability to adapt, commit and undertake actions between meetings would be welcomed.
- **Transferable skills** - being a team player is critical, other general business skills, HR, finance, or educational insight may help, but are not essential.

For a chance to chat with other governors about what the role involves, please contact Jane Tillotson at [cog@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:cog@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk)

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## Great Bardfield Parish Council report

### Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is now ready to be reviewed and we will be consulting on the proposed content in June/July. Prior to its acceptance as an integral part of the local planning process we are required to obtain residents' feedback on the Plan.

A Drop-in Session will be held at the Town Hall, 10am – 4pm on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> where you can view excerpts of the Plan (or the whole thing) and discuss it with members of the Neighbourhood Plan team (volunteers from Great Bardfield) and our planning consultant. The Plan will also be available to view in The Community Information Point (CIP) and at Between The Lines Bookshop during the consultation period which runs for 6 weeks from 15<sup>th</sup> June. You will also receive an invitation to respond formally using our online or paper questionnaire.

Please take time to consider our plans and aspirations for the community of Great Bardfield including conserving what we have and having some control of future development of the village.

### Planning Applications

- Black Gables, Dunmow Road: The final works to garden levels as required by the Inspector following an enforcement notice by Braintree District Council in 2023 are required to be completed by mid-May. Failure to do so may result in a further enforcement notice.
- Great Pitley Farm: notification of a non-material amendment to re-site the proposed new dwelling.

### Playingfields/Pavilion Project

The Pavilion Project is now nearing completion with minor internal works to be completed over the next two months. We are now obtaining quotes to lay the extended carpark which will provide additional spaces behind the building and will include disabled parking. This is an additional expensive, but necessary, aspect of the project which will be funded partly by residents' donations. We thank all those that have given generously to this project. We are still seeking further funding, so if you are able to make a donation, please contact Kate Fox, the Parish Clerk, on 810111 or by email at [clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk)

### Community Garden Project

Work to improve the Quiet Space and create a Community Garden has had

to be put on hold, temporarily, due to the waterlogged ground – much rain and more springs springing up. The PC and the Community Garden team are considering what can be done to drain water from this area to make it more usable.

### Bus Service 9/9A

You may have seen recent news items about the removal of a number of bus services in our area. It seems that this includes the 9/9A to/from Braintree. Though the Parish Council have had no formal notification of the withdrawal of this service from the bus company or Essex County Council, we understand this will happen at the end of July 2024 and will be replaced by the 'DigiGo' service whereby transport must be booked in advance. The Parish Council do not agree with this erosion of our bus services and have been campaigning for improved levels of service on the current bus routes plus additional routes to link us with Dunmow, Saffron Walden etc. We recognise that the 9/9A service to Braintree is vital for the independence of many of our residents, including those that need it to attend work, school/college, medical and other appointments. It is one of only 2 forms of public transport available to residents of Great Bardfield and the surrounding villages.

Many residents have informed us about how this will impact on them and the Parish Council have written to Cllr Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader of Essex County Council and Cabinet Member for Levelling up and the Economy, copied to Michael Gove MP Secretary of State for Levelling Up et al. expressing our opposition to the erosion of rural bus services and particularly those impacting on us. Such a loss affects the ability of those living in rural locations to access services in other towns. We understand that other bus routes to be withdrawn include the village link service that runs through Thaxted to Saffron Walden and Stansted Airport.

### Stansted Airport Night Flights

The Parish Council have received notification of the intention of Manchester Airports Group's application to remove the Government restrictions on night flights which currently allow a maximum of 13,700 Stansted night flights a year. The PC will be objecting to this proposal. For those residents that wish to do so, further information on the proposals and information on how to respond are available at [www.stanstedairportwatch.com](http://www.stanstedairportwatch.com)

### Bin Collections May 2024

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May** (following Bank Holiday)

Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin, Green Bin (for subscribers only)

**Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>** Grey Bin & Food Bin

**Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>**

Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin, Green Bin (for subscribers only)

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May** (following Bank Holiday) Grey Bin & Food Bin

### Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and will be held on Wednesday 8 May 2024 at 7.00pm, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall.

**Carolynne Ruffle, Chairperson**

## RECYCLING

Braintree District Council have asked if we could publish the following information:

The quality of recycling collected in the Braintree District continues to be very high, although there are still pockets of contamination with nappies, food, glass, and polystyrene as well as loose cardboard (which must be bagged along with the other recyclables to prevent it getting wet). In recent years, recycling companies have demanded higher quality Recyclate with little or no contaminants as this commands a greater resale value. Consequently, contaminants in the material we deliver to the reprocessor can result in whole vehicle loads being rejected, which is not only a waste of everyone's efforts to recycle, but is also bad for the environment. For these reasons, where contamination is evident, the crews will sticker and leave the sacks and the onus will be on the resident to remove the offending items and re-present the sacks on their next scheduled collection day.

### RIDE LONDON RETURNS TO ESSEX

This event will take place on 26 May 24. It will not be coming through Great Bardfield but the nearest villages where this can be followed are The Rodings, Great Dunmow, Felsted and Stebbing.

### CHANNEL SWEEP 2024/25

This is when it is hoped many of the cars will not be in the village in order for the equipment to sweep along the kerbs. The dates are:

**Tuesday 21 May; Wednesday 21 August; Thursday 21 November and Tuesday 25 February 2025.**

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BaRDfieLD  
pLayeRS

IN A HOLE  
BY  
RUPERT DICK

Great Bardfield Town Hall, CM7 4SA  
May 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 2024  
Doors open 7.30pm. Show Starts 8.00pm

Tickets £8.50

Tickets available from: [www.ticketsource.co.uk /bardfield-players](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardfield-players)

## Town Hall Happenings

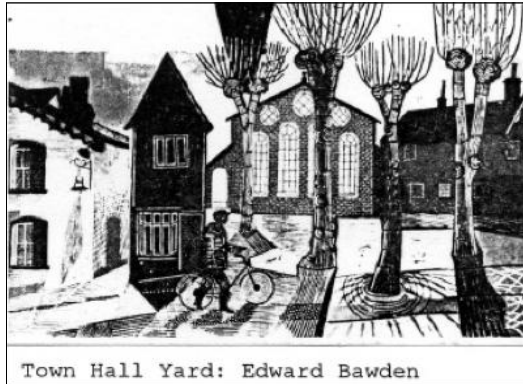
Last night we held the Town Hall AGM and were pleased to see representatives of many groups who use the buildings in attendance. We were able to report that we continue to be financially stable and lettings are holding up. Use of the hall for parties and such like has in fact increased over the year.

Our next event is the annual Art Show over the Bank Holiday at the end of May (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>). This is always interesting and we already have entries from our regular artists and also a few new ones.

Unfortunately, there has been some fly tipping in the vicinity of the hall and if anyone notices this being done, please take any details and let us know.

Finally, the group rounds of the Boules competition are now starting. If you are competing "good luck", if you are not it's well worth watching a few games (normally early evening or weekends). It's a good opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

**John Maidman**  
Chairman



*Boules 2023*

Great Bardfield Town Hall

# Bardfield ART SHOW 2024

SUNDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> MAY

11 am – 4 pm

MONDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> MAY

11 am – 4 pm

Paintings for sale, including prints,  
ceramics and other mediums  
Refreshments available.

Admission Adults £2  
(includes tea or coffee)  
Children Free admission

*Peter Keynton and Katrina Ralston*  
Art Show Organisers  
bardfield.art.show@gmail.com

## Great Bardfield Historical Society

The Society's AGM was held in the Town Hall on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Acting Chair Jonathan Davies welcomed everyone and highlighted some of the events of the past year. Links with Great Bardfield Primary School had been strengthened with the whole school making visits to the Museum, Cage and Bawden Room as part of their local history studies. There had been further groups from all over the country with a particular interest in the Bardfield Artists visiting the village. A successful Open Afternoon had been held to raise the profile of the Society. He thanked the Committee for their support and loyalty throughout the year. Particular thanks were given to Bill Gustar who was retiring as Treasurer after 28 years, Secretary Marilyn Edwards, and Claire Willetts who have left the Committee. Janet Dyson was thanked for her 20 years as Chair and Jenny Rooney for her continuing work as Archivist. George Wilder was welcomed as new Treasurer. Thanks were recorded to Doug Joyce and Neil and Lisa Churchman for their care of the Museum garden. Jonathan said that he would be standing down from the Committee. He emphasised that this had been a quiet but ultimately significant year for the Society with a rediscovery of what it can, with its broad historical focus, contribute to our village and beyond. Notice had been given for proposals for Chair and Vice Chair in advance of the meeting and Tim Regan was elected as Chair and Kate Lloyd as Vice Chair. Nigel Hill was welcomed onto the Committee. Remaining Committee members are Pat Coles, Janet Dyson, Norman Newton, Jenny Rooney, George Wilder.

After the AGM Ashley Cooper, farmer, writer, historian and environmentalist gave a lively and entertaining talk on 'Heroes and Villains of the Essex-Suffolk Border' which took the audience on a tour through history starting with the Romans and Boudicca, sweeping though the Peasants' Revolt, the Black Death and the Industrial Revolution, highlighting the part played by significant men and women on the way. His quick-fire questions kept the audience on their toes, testing their historical knowledge and rewarding correct answers with beautifully illustrated cards. The evening ended with delicious refreshments served by the Committee. Look out for announcements of further events.

If you missed the AGM you can still join the Society for just £6 per year which gives a reduction on entry to events. We are still looking for volunteers to help staff the Bawden Room and Cottage Museum on Sunday afternoons and Bank Holiday Mondays. Training will be provided!

**Please contact the Secretary [drjanetdyson@gmail.com](mailto:drjanetdyson@gmail.com)**

**P** Parking and maps available!

**BBQ & HOG ROAST!  
TEA AND COFFEE!**

**£15**

**A STALL**

Limited stalls available  
in public areas

**BARDFIELD  
GARAGE SALE**

**2024**

**SATURDAY 11TH MAY  
12PM - 4PM**

To book a pitch please contact:

Email: [Bardfieldgaragesale@outlook.com](mailto:Bardfieldgaragesale@outlook.com)

Text : 07936538897

(No calls will be answered)

Follow us on Facebook 

Great Bardfield Pre school Charity number: 100159



## The Tuesday Club

At our April meeting we welcomed Bryan Thurlow, actor and storyteller, who joined us in the guise of George Barrington. George joined the staff of a grand Yorkshire house at the age of 13, working his way up the ranks from boot boy (having to take out the laces of every pair of boots he polished and ironing them before relacing the boots) to looking after the lights of the house (candles which had to be lit in each room every evening, including over 200 in each chandelier when guests were dining) to then taking on the role of master of the clocks, before eventually becoming valet to the master, and finally butler to the household, an immensely important and responsible position.

He remembered missing his family when he first went into service, but how the staff became his new family. During the story he moved seamlessly into playing the parts of the master of the house, the gardener, the former butler, the housekeeper, and his favourite maid, Dora. An amazing performance, and if you weren't able to be with us for this one, then we very much hope to welcome Bryan back again for a future meeting.

One fact which I learned (though you may already know) is that the daily newspaper wasn't ironed by the staff just to make it look tidier, but it was actually to set the ink so that the master didn't get his fingers dirty when he read it.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May we welcome back Graham and Mary Brace, for a talk on the "Wild Life of Tanzania". They are both keen photographers and we look forward to seeing more brilliant images of their travels and the animals they met along the way.

If you haven't been to a meeting yet why not join us for this one? We meet in the Town Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 2.00 and talk starts at 2.30. We are a friendly group, everyone is welcome, visitors pay £5 including refreshments and membership is only £25 for the whole year.

**Cherry Whitby**

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

## GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB *WILDLIFE OF TANZANIA*



**A talk by Graham and Mary Brace**

**TUESDAY, MAY 14, 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 was held on Saturday March 23<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall. Thank you to everyone who came to support us - exhibitors, judges, stewards, helpers and visitors.

The Show was very well supported and we were delighted with the number of entries – nearly 230. There was a wonderful display of spring flowers together with lovely flower arrangements, cakes and jams etc. and a good range of different handicrafts and photographs.

We held the Inter Village Floral Shield at this show. Four villages submitted floral displays—Bardfield, Finchingfield, Gosfield and



Sampford. The Shield is quite imposing with about 70 years of winners!

A huge “Thank You” to Bardfield School for entering about 70 coloured pictures and 60 mugs of Spring flowers—a particular thank you to Mrs Crow for delivering them to the hall for us the evening before.

It was pleasing to see a few children from the school come to the show in the afternoon to proudly show their parents their efforts.

Visitors in the afternoon enjoyed a colourful and interesting display of exhibits including floral art displays depicting “These Boots are made for Walking”. There was a tombola, raffle and a plant stall.

Tea and home-made cakes made by our members were served at The Bell Inn. Thank you Ciaran and Sharon- very much appreciated by everyone. Donations were given to the Horticultural Society.

### Here are the winners:

#### Trophies-Spring Show

##### Arthur Willis Cup

Highest points in the Flower Section Peter Morris

##### Floral Art Cup

Highest points in the Floral Art Section Amanda Boon

##### Ann Hayward Cup

Highest points in the Domestic Section Janet Morris

##### George Hervey Murray Shield

Highest points in the Handicraft Section Shirley Foster

##### Irene Horsnell Shield

Highest points – Children aged 5 to 8 Sam Yarrow

##### Inter Village Floral Shield

Gosfield

Congratulations to you all – well done.

Our **Summer Show** will be held on **Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** in Bardfield Town Hall.

Our Spring Event will be a “**Garden Fiesta**” to be held on **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** at The Friends Meeting House from 11am until 4pm.

Everyone will be most welcome to join us for the various events taking place throughout the day. Please look out in the village for posters and leaflets which will let you know the timings of the events during the day. The timings will also be on Great Bardfield Facebook

For the children there will be a “bunny” themed Treasure Hunt outside, sunflower seed planting and several other activities.

A garden game with all prizes being garden related. There will be a

hanging basket demonstration and two floral art demonstrations. A quiz sheet (with a prize for the winner). A Gardener's Question Time- if you are not able to come but have some questions you may like answered please email-dwjoyce46@btinternet.com in advance to be received by Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>

Plant and seed stalls, a stall with decorative items for the garden, a stall with second hand planters and garden related items.

Light lunches, tea, coffee etc will be available during the day. We hope to see many of you there—come along and see what is on offer! Admission is free! For further information please contact Linda Prior 811641 or any Committee member

**Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>** 2.30pm This will be our second private garden visit of the year by kind invitation of Wendy and Mervin Wright. At "Wayhours", Cowels Farm Lane, Lindsell CM6 3QQ

It is some years since we visited their magical garden. Those of you who remember walking through the wild flower meadow with lots of orchids, pond and lovely borders and plenty of vegetables will certainly want to go again to enjoy. Hopefully more of you will be tempted to join us.

Entry will be by ticket only - £5 for members. We will need to know numbers by Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tickets available from Linda Prior 01371 811641 or Lynne Joyce 01371 810524.

Our third garden visit of the year will be to Ultingwick on **Friday September 6<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm

#### **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.

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

## **BARDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

### **GARDEN FIESTA!**

**MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 11 AM – 4.00 PM**

**FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**

**BROOK STREET**

**GREAT BARDFIELD**

**THROUGHOUT THE DAY WE WILL BE HAVING:**

**HANGING BASKET MAKING**

**FLORAL ART DEMONSTRATIONS**

**GARDENERS QUESTION TIME**

**GARDEN QUIZ, GARDEN THEMED GAMES**

**THERE WILL BE A CHILDRENS ACTIVITY TABLE**

**PLUS A BUNNY THEMED TREASURE HUNT!**

**PLANTS STALLS**

**DECORATIVE GARDEN ORNAMENTS STALL**

**SECOND HAND GARDEN ITEMS STALL**

**Light Refreshments available all day**

**FREE ENTRY**

## From the Vicarage...

One of the joys of second-hand books is that one finds, from time to time, a note which has been folded carefully and used, perhaps as a bookmark, perhaps as a reminder of who gave the book. Clergy particularly like passing on books to one another, and it's interesting sometimes to get some insight into where previous owners of a book ministered. Sometimes the writing is on the inside cover pages of the book itself – a mark of a particular occasion when it was given as a present. In any case, all these things give the book a story of its own, and one can feel the privilege of being part of a new chapter of that story.

Some particularly special books get treasured for a very long time. One of the oldest books I've had the privilege of seeing (but definitely not touching!) is the book of Gospels which is thought to have been brought to England by St Augustine in 597. A number of families have traditions of family Bibles where names of new generations are added as the years pass. In some of our churches, I have the experience of leading services from prayer books where prayers for the monarch have been adjusted from 'King' to 'Queen', which already puts a lower limit on their age. Perhaps as we read more and more on screens, we will learn in a new way the significance of having a physical printed book which can connect us with previous generations of readers.

Perhaps though, the most exciting thing about these connections to previous owners of books is the fact that there will often be many things we don't know about them. Our imaginations have some freedom to wonder about how they might have felt reading the book, compared to us. And when we let our imaginations loose on that question, we really start to get a feel for a whole community behind a book, much like the communities which have left their marks and their prayers on our churches. These are real communities, albeit separated by spans of time, and it is a delight and a privilege to recognise when we become a part of them too.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

### Services for May 2024

#### Sunday 5 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

#### Thursday 9 May – Ascension Day

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

8pm Said Communion Service – Finchingfield

#### Sunday 12 May – Sixth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.45am Communion Service – Finchingfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

#### Sunday 19 May – Pentecost

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Great Bardfield

#### Sunday 26 May – Trinity Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10am Morning Prayer with Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

#### Regular Services and Events during the week

**Monday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

**Tuesday** 9.15am Eucharist – Great Bardfield

(preceded by Morning Prayer at 8.45am)

10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great Bardfield

'St Mary's Munchkins' story & song time with refreshments

**Thursday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield

10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)

Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford

Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

**Friday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

**Saturday** 10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield




**THE SALINGS**  
**Plant Sale**  
**MONDAY MAY 6TH**  
**VILLAGE HALL,**  
**PICCOTTS LANE,**  
**GREAT SALING CM7 5DW**  
**10am - 2pm**  
**PLANTS SHRUBS**  
**TREES REFRESHMENTS**  
**SALINGS ART GROUP**  
**FACE PAINTING**  
  
**ALL PROCEEDS TO THE SALINGS CHURCHES**

## GREENFINGERS

Remember science lessons at school when the order was Method, Practical, followed by Result? Well, this month let us start with Practical, bit of a joke

for you readers but some true plants included and followed with Method to achieve the perfect garden. I feel very strongly that you should always look fabulous in the garden, as you never know who might call. My perennial wardrobe advice will add style to your borders in that tricky time after the full on spring flush but before summer is in full



swing. So wear Red Undies (Begonia) and Purple Petticoats (Heuchera) perhaps a light sweater in Kashmir Blue (Geranium). Should it turn chilly, don a Claret Cloak (Vitis coignetiae) but if sunny you will need hat protection, Wide Brim (Hosta) and on your feet? Slipper Orchids of course.\*

### Jobs AKA Method

- Acquire all the above for your shady area, except for the sun-loving begonia
- Wisterias in the village are spectacular but do not feed as all members of that botanical family, Leguminosae, the pea family, produce their own nitrogen.
- Do spray your roses with Uncle Tom's organic, and next month comes an organic recipe to stem black spot . Interested? then order black soap in readiness.
- Making a hanging basket? No need to buy a coir liner It may be lined with grass turves, sacking or a cut up old jumper, must be an earthy colour.
- Dahlias can be planted in the garden about the middle of May, just in case we have a frost, unlikely but possible.
- Time to buy in colourful bedding plants and that's it till next month's recipe

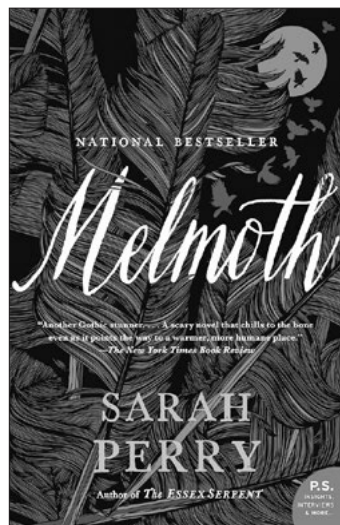
\*Inspiration from book by Sacha Langton-Gilks

## Page turners

For the readers amongst us it's always interesting to hear what other people are reading and enjoying. There are several Book Clubs in and around the village with numbers ranging from small friendship groups to one with as many as 60 members some of whom participate online. Here are a few of their recent choices.

### Melmoth by Sarah Perry

Sarah Perry is an Essex born writer who is perhaps best known for her novel *The Essex Serpent*, set in the Victorian period with its conflicts between religion and growing scientific knowledge against the evocative landscape of the Blackwater Estuary. She followed this success with her third novel, *Melmoth*, a very different, much darker story, described as 'postmodern gothic'. Set during a freezing winter in Prague the author creates the perfect atmosphere for her recreation of the mythical Melmoth as a woman 'cursed to wander the earth without home or respite'. Often nothing more than a dark presence glimpsed out of the corner of the eye the grim figure Melmoth appears as a perpetual reminder of the most dark and painful occasions of human suffering. It's not an easy read but the group found it beautifully written and relevant in our own times when there is so much suffering in the world, of the need to bear witness.



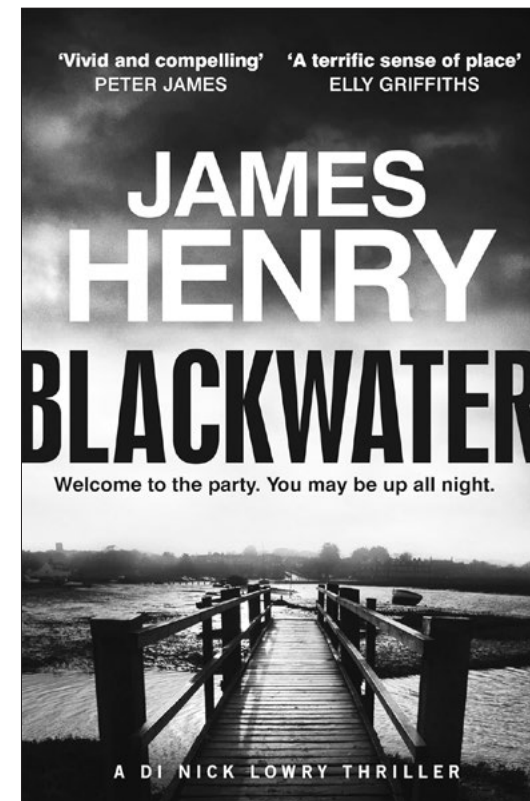
### Weyward by Emilia Hart

Another book that explores supernatural themes, *Weyward* deals with fear, superstition, persecution and the amazing strength of women. The book takes as its title the name that, in the medieval period,

women accused of witchcraft took as their own name for themselves. The author weaves together the stories of three resilient women connected across five centuries all of whom experience the transformative power of nature. The group reported a very positive response to this novel.

### Blackwater by James Henry

*Blackwater* is a suggested book club read with a strong local connection. This traditional crime novel is set locally and the well plotted narrative unfolds against the background of the misty landscape of the Essex marshes and mudflats during a grim, snowy winter. The story takes place in the late 1980s when a newly formed team of detectives based in Colchester is confronted with a series of killings sparked off by the arrival of a shipment of drugs on the Essex coast. The author is very skilled at portraying period detail and police procedures at a time before computers, digital communications or CCTV. Crime fiction is, so I'm told, the most popular genre and this book, by James Henry, the first in a series of detective novels set in Essex, is sure to capture the interest of local crime fans!



Bibliophile wonders whether book groups are primarily of interest to women? If there are any groups with more diverse membership please get in touch with your choices.

**"Bibliophile"**

## Nature Notes - Woodpeckers

There are three breeding species of woodpeckers native to this country the Green, the Greater Spotted, and the Lesser Spotted. I am very fortunate as I have two of them as visitors in my garden, both the Green Woodpecker and the Greater spotted. They are by no means residents they just pop in from time to time to check up and to see if I am okay and have a feed. The Greater spotted goes on the nut feeders eating peanuts whereas the Green is a ground feeder, feeding on ants, other small insects and vegetation. All woodpeckers are of course woodland species and I am very fortunate in so far as I have a strip of woodland just over the road about 75 yards from my kitchen window. I find the names of the two spotted species very confusing (but it doesn't take much to confuse me these days!).

The 'lesser' and 'greater' is a reference to the size of the bird but it seems to imply that it is a reference to the spots or flecks of white on the plumage. So let's put it straight the Greater spotted is the size of a thrush and the Lesser spotted is the size of a sparrow. The Greater spotted is all black on its back and the top side of its wings, but the Lesser spotted has lots of white specks on both wings and back. Both have crimson vents and the males of

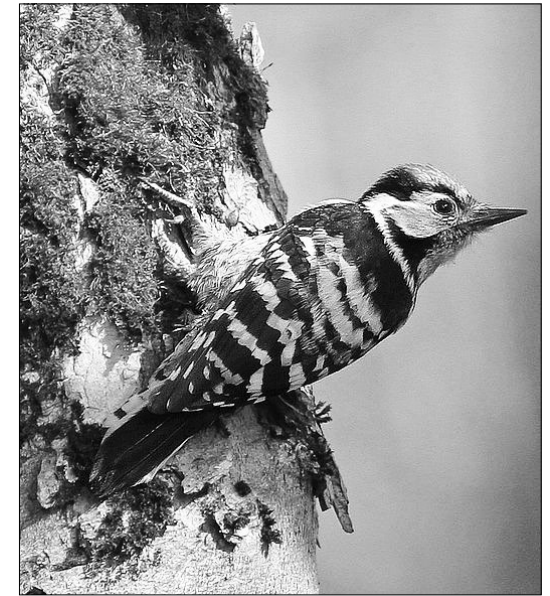


*Greater Spotted Woodpecker*

both have crimson naps or caps. I have never had the privilege of seeing a lesser spotted woodpecker in the flesh. The thing which prompted me to write about the wood peckers this month is the fact that I had three in my garden at the same time one morning this


week, two greater spotted females feeding on my nut feeders at the same, with a green one on the grass. The green one is very wary if I move a muscle it's off but the other two are quite brazen, almost tame until I reach for my phone. I think they are camera shy. One thing that amuses me about them is the way they use their strong thick tails as a perch when they are feeding. It is a well-documented wood pecker feature, they do it all the time. The tails of most birds are made up

of a few nice straight feathers which are used to steady the bird in flight and they can present quite a problem when damaged. But not so the wood peckers, they have a great wedge of feathers and they are used extensively as a means of sitting comfortably whilst working away excavating holes in dead trees or trees with dead boughs. They only excavate dead or decaying wood to feed on the insect and larvae that live in decaying wood. There is a well-documented case of a Vicar complaining that a wood pecker was damaging his church but when a joiner climbed up to look at the damaged woodwork he found it was riddled with death watch beetle and he was able to stop it from spreading, so the woodpecker did them a big favour. They also nest in holes that they have excavated the only nesting materials are small wood chips. Another interesting feature of woodpeckers is their mating call once heard never forgotten, best described as a series of rapid clicks. It is quite loud and it carries a long way. They find a loose flap of bark and bang it against the tree using their beaks at the same time having their voice box full of air which helps to create an echo effect.



*Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*


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## The Blackwater & Pant Fluvial Audit & Restoration Plan

The Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust (ESRT), with help from our partners, are running a large-scale project on the rivers Pant and Blackwater\* in two parts. Firstly, a Fluvial Audit is being conducted over the spring and summer of 2024 with a final report being produced in the late Autumn. This report will then form the backbone of a strategy for this river system to be produced by the ESRT in early 2025.

**Why the Blackwater & Pant?**  
In 2023, Essex County Council and the Essex River Hub identified the Blackwater as a priority catchment for the county for both restoration and for climate change action.

**What areas are being covered?**  
The whole non-tidal length of the Blackwater & Pant will be assessed as part of the fluvial audit and will fall under the restoration plan. This covers an area of 24 parish councils from Swards End to Langford as well as Braintree District Council and Witham Town Council.

**Who will be involved?**  
The ESRT's main partners for this project are the Environment Agency and Essex and Suffolk Water with the fluvial audit conducted by JBA consulting. We hope to use this project as a method of bringing together groups and individuals from across the catchment including (but not limited to) the North Essex Farm Cluster's members, parish councils, private land owners & farmers, local environmental action groups, other NGOs and local businesses. During the fluvial audit, landowners will be contacted regarding land access for the survey.

**What will the outcome of this be?**  
At present, environmental restoration projects across the catchment are opportunistic. The restoration plan produced from the fluvial audit will identify key target sites and issues for NGOs and the EA to work on. Larger scale projects will be more achievable with greater evidence of their worth and better coordination. This project is key to ensuring the long term environmental quality of the river.

**\* The Pant and Blackwater are the same river.** The upper section is the Pant and the lower portion is the Blackwater. The name changes under the Church Lane bridge at Bocking, on the outskirts of Braintree. No one is sure which name came first, with historic records contradicting each other including from the Romans and the historian Bede.

**A Fluvial Audit is a type of large-scale river survey formed of two parts:**

1. A desk based study that looks at historic records of the river
2. A hydrogeomorphological survey of the whole length of the river that captures a complete picture of the watercourse's current state

Want to contact us? Email: [info@essexsuffolkriverstrust.org](mailto:info@essexsuffolkriverstrust.org)

## 500K in May

Captain Sir Tom Moore, with his walking endeavours in his 100th year, inspired millions. In a more modest way I wish to walk half a million steps, 500k in May on behalf of Little Havens Children's Hospice [www.havenhospices.org.uk](http://www.havenhospices.org.uk)

Little Havens is a specialist facility providing care and support to babies, children, and young people with complex or incurable conditions. From day care to end of life, Little Havens provides activity and a loving engagement for those under their care and importantly, for families in bereavement.

My wife and I recently visited to see at first hand the fantastic different activity centres, the specialist pool, individual rooms and the wonderfully landscaped adventure gardens and maze of cycle pedal car pathways. In its own way the hospice was filled with warmth, it seemed a happy place. But as I left, I wondered how a mum, or dad, sister or brother felt when they said their goodbye in leaving their loved one behind.

For those in need, Little Havens is with them each step of the way. Please help me as Tilly and I step out to help them. Go to [www.justgiving.com/page/chris-green-walking](http://www.justgiving.com/page/chris-green-walking) or scan the Q R code

**Chris Green**



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As day length increases and the air becomes warmer, plants put out new shoots. Many insects emerge and birds pair up, preparing to breed. Since the 1960's the average minimum winter temperatures have been rising. Snow fall is now a rarity, and frosty days are much less frequent. The current growing season is almost a month longer than 50 years ago. Primroses and bluebells are opening earlier. Researchers recorded that the first flowering of some 406 plant species has advanced by almost a month since 1986! This has a knock-on effect for the time of emergence of pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies; some are adapting to the warmer climate.



Littlebury - bluebells in Howe Wood

Hedgerow shrubs and trees are leafing and flowering earlier too, providing food for so many hungry caterpillars which are ideal food for nestlings. Hedgerows are a valuable wildlife habitat, often providing a living framework to the landscape and our rural heritage. Long-established hedges grow in soil that is rich in stored carbon and older trees within the hedgerow also hold large stores of carbon.

A recent planning application to fell an ancient hedgerow oak close to



Linton

Clavering led to a vigorous and successful campaign by residents to save it. This tree is now registered on the Ancient Tree Inventory, a record similar to the one for listed buildings. There are more trees in local hedgerows that could be recorded - details of how to do this can be found on <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/how-to-record>.

National Hedgerow Week organised by the Tree Council runs from 6th May to 12th May and is timed to showcase hedgerows resplendent with fresh new growth and full of wildlife. Please enjoy one or more of the many walks listed on the Society's website - and consider recording some of our wonderful old trees.

**Tricia Moxey**  
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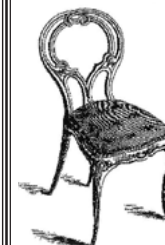
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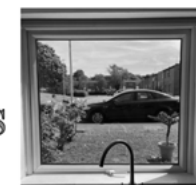
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**For more information contact:**

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# CAN WE HELP YOU ?



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For more information please contact one of the Trustees:  
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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**

**May 2024**

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bardfield Players	5.00pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bardfield Players Performance	7.00pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bardfield Players Performance	7.00pm
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players Performance	7.00pm
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	10.00am
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
	Parish Council meeting	7.00pm
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cinema Club	7.00pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Tuesday club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Private Function	11.30am
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Art show set up	4.00pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Art show set up	4.00pm
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Art show	11.00am
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Art show	11.00am
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Set up for Function.	6.00pm

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**Great Bardfield Parish  
Clerk to the Parish Council**

**Councillors** clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk 810111  
Carolynne Ruffle (Chair) 810986  
Paul Kennedy 810540  
Darren Hockley 810836  
Peter Walmsley 07843 498253  
Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402  
Janet Dyson 07957 483207

**Braintree District Council** Iain Graham 07831 595555

**Councillors Cllr Michael Staines**  
**Cllr Mark Ault** 07922 487666  
**Police** 07963 744481

for non-emergency enquiries dial 101  
for emergency enquiries dial 999

**Little Bardfield Parish**  
**Chairman of the Parish Council** LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com  
**Clerk to the Parish Council** Andrew Davies davies@farmline.com

**Uttlesford District Council** Kate Rixon 01371 404 321  
**Councillor** LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com

**Bardfield After School & Breakfast Club** Cllr Mike Tayler  
cllrtayler@uttlesford.gov.uk  
**Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club** Pat Moore 07767 413055  
**Bardfield Charities** Clifford Richardson 810782  
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# Bardfield Cinema Club

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

## Great Bardfield Town Hall

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BARDFIELD CINEMA CLUB - FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY