

March  
2026  
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£1  
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sold

# 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 edit any material received for publication. Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the management team.

**Editor:** Janet Dyson  
[drjanetdyson@gmail.com](mailto:drjanetdyson@gmail.com)

**Layout designer:** Helen McGlynn  
[helenBTlayout@gmail.com](mailto:helenBTlayout@gmail.com)

**Hand written letters  
or articles for typing:** Alicia Holmes  
Bunbury, Bridge Street, CM7 4SY

**Advertising:** Kate Fox 01371 810111  
[kateandianfox@btopenworld.com](mailto:kateandianfox@btopenworld.com)

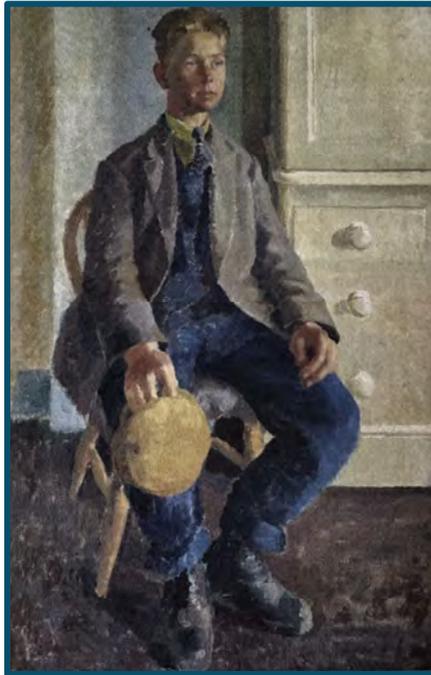
**Distribution:** Ray Coles 07470 992224  
Mike Brown 07977 929614  
[distribution@bardfieldtimes.com](mailto:distribution@bardfieldtimes.com)

**Treasurer:** Jackie Newton 01371 810586  
[treasurer@bardfieldtimes.com](mailto:treasurer@bardfieldtimes.com)



**Front cover:** Carolynne and Ian Ruffle discuss murder on stage.  
**Above:** The cast of 'Who Killed the Farmer' takes a bow.

## ARTISTS OF GREAT BARDFIELD Charlotte Bawden (1902-1970)



*Eric Townsend the Gardener's Boy, 1932 (Fry Gallery).*

Like many women artists Charlotte Bawden (née Epton) is a neglected figure. She was a painter, potter and teacher who trained at the Royal College of Art where she met and married fellow student Edward Bawden. Charlotte studied pottery in St Ives with Bernard Leach between 1927 and 1930 and exhibited her work, examples of which can be seen in the Victoria and Albert Museum and in the Fry Gallery. She was also a fine painter as shown in this picture of Eric Townsend, a Great Bardfield boy who did gardening and building repair work at Brick House. He poses proudly for her, on a kitchen chair, in his working clothes, as she captures his ruddy outdoor complexion and serious expression. After her marriage Charlotte's life was taken up with providing generous hospitality at Brick House, supporting the work of her husband and the many visiting artists. She became very active in the village, was a magistrate, lecturer for the WI, and a school manager but also found time to give pottery lessons at the primary school – some of her pupils still have the artefacts they made with her.

# Bardfield Cinema Club



Great Bardfield Town Hall



Doors Open 7.30pm

Film Starts 8.00pm

Members free

Non-members £7

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March



Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender

## Editorial

The recent seemingly interminable rain reminded me of the chapter in AA Milne's Winnie the Pooh in which Piglet is entirely surrounded by water. It describes a severe flood in the Hundred Acre Wood where Piglet is trapped in his house by rising waters and sends a message in a bottle. Christopher Robin and Pooh rescue him using an umbrella as a boat named '*Brain of Pooh*'. Some of the pictures of views across the Pant Valley posted on the Community Facebook show the alarming extent of the floods, with many roads around the villages impassable and more than a few vehicles requiring rescue! The Pooh story also reminded me that this year is National Reading Year and March 5<sup>th</sup> is World Book Day. On that day every young person will receive a voucher so that they can choose their own book for free. Our village bookshop will be giving books to over 150 children. It's a great boost for reading real books and a chance to reflect on and share your favourite stories. Coincidentally, this year is also the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the publication of the Winnie the Pooh books. These stories have never lost their appeal to readers of all ages with many memorable quotes from the cast of well-loved animal characters, often focusing on simple pleasures, friendship and simply being yourself. Here the 'bear of very little brain' shows his wisdom reminding us that we often underestimate ourselves: "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

Speaking of brains, March seems to be a 'Quizzy Month' with quizzes in both the Vine and the Bell and, following on the Pre-school quiz fundraiser last month, the big Town Hall Quiz on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Make sure your team is Quiz-ready! Good luck!

**Janet Dyson**  
**Editor**



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I feel I must reply to Mac Beanland's article 'My garden birds', he suggests that the demise of the small birds we see in our gardens might be down to the growing numbers of Red Kites.

I would like to draw your attention to the description given by the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) "Red Kites are mostly scavengers feeding on dead animals including road kill, for small birds the risk is very low. They do also feed on live prey, but mostly earth worms." I have seen them following the plough with flocks of gulls and I read of medieval towns supporting large numbers for cleaning up butchery waste etc. I would suggest that the decline in small birds is more likely to be modern farming techniques, the increasing numbers of Jackdaws, Crows and Magpies and global warming.

Sincerely,  
Jo Gillingham

## World Day of Prayer

(Formerly Women's Day of Prayer)

**Friday 6th MARCH 2026**

**at 10.30 am**

The Quaker Meeting House, Great Bardfield

This year it is from Palestine

**ALL WELCOME**

Followed by refreshments

Please help us to pray with and for the women of Nigeria

**A Service for Everyone**

# Update of the future of the GB Cottage Building

Dear Residents

We are writing to provide an update regarding the Cottage Building, formerly the Great Bardfield Cottage Museum. This small, Grade II listed, thatched cottage is owned by the Great Bardfield Charities and was previously leased to the



local Historical Society. As many of you will know, the museum became financially non-viable and closed in September 2024.

In March 2025, following the closure, the Charity Trustees and the Historical Society Committee jointly held a public meeting to explain the circumstances to residents and to consider the future of the building. At that meeting, an invitation was extended for expressions of interest from any prospective groups wishing to take on ownership and responsibility for running the building for the benefit of the community.

A group of local residents subsequently expressed an interest in continuing the museum and taking on full ownership and responsibility for the building. This has followed a lengthy consultation process to ensure compliance with Charity Commission regulations. In accordance with our legal duties as Trustees, a formal valuation of the property was required and has now been undertaken by an independent surveyor.

Also, as Trustees of a registered Charity, we are legally required to act in the best interests of the Charity and to obtain the best market value reasonably achievable for its assets. In the first instance this involves offering the cottage on the open market, as the building's unique nature makes it difficult to determine an actual value. In this way we hope to ensure that we protect and maximise the Charity's resources for the benefit of the community, both now and in the future.

The Trustees continue to consider the offer that has been made by the other party, and hope to meet with the interested group shortly to explore whether a way forward can be found that satisfies both the Charity's legal obligations and the community's aspirations for the building.

We will provide a further update as soon as there is more information to share.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Select Society Theatre Company Presents

# Divorced, Beheaded, Died An Audience with King Henry VIII

The Year is 1544 and King Henry, the Eighth of that name, is engaged upon 'Royal Progress'; halting here to afford his Loyal Subjects the opportunity to have Audience with their Sovereign Lord and King.

Performed by:

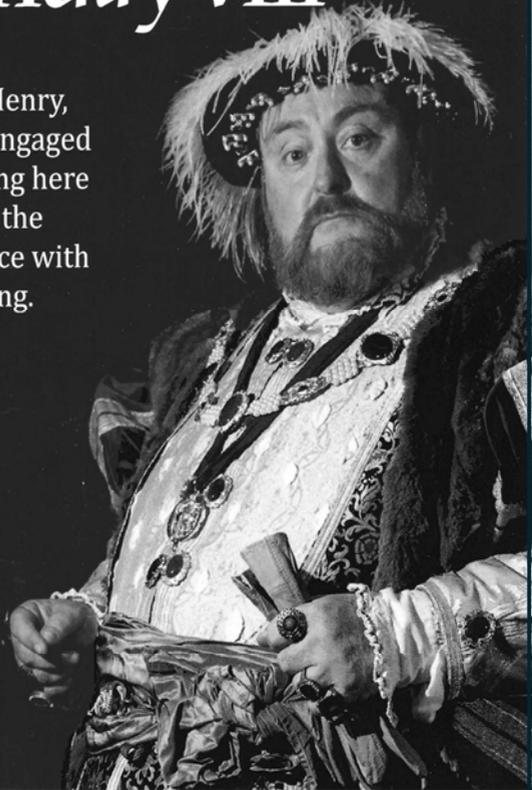
**Jack Abbot**

Written by:

**John White**

*Audience Age Guidance: 12+*

[www.kinghenry8tfi.com](http://www.kinghenry8tfi.com)



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm**

**Town Hall, Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield, CM7 4SA**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/greatbardfield-town-hall-management-committee](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/greatbardfield-town-hall-management-committee)

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL



**SATURDAY 21ST MARCH**

**7.00 for 7.30 pm start**

LICENSED BAR

TEAMS OF 8 MAX

£12 PER PERSON, 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

# **Great Bardfield Parish Council Report**

**March 2026**

## **Pavement Repairs**

We were most excited and pleased to see that repairs to a stretch of pavement between The Bell, High Street and Place House, Dunmow Road was undertaken by Essex Highways in February. These were agreed by Essex as an emergency and put into their programme as a last-minute repair. This was as a result of the Parish Council lobbying the County Council and Highways department and inviting the Cabinet member for Highways to visit and view the dangerous pavements in the village. We will continue to push for further works in other areas of the village which we are aware are just as bad. However, we are very grateful that at last we have a decent surface in this area.

## **Refuse/Recycling Collection – New Bins**

We have been advised that, for those with standard collection, new 240 litre red and blue lidded bins will be delivered to residents in the CM7 post code area, including Great Bardfield, by 10th March. Boxes will be delivered to properties identified for non-standard collection. The new collection service will start in June so the new bins should not be used until then. Please remember that, other than on the day of collection, all bins should be kept off the highways and pavements of the village.

Please note that a presentation on the new recycling arrangements will be made by the Braintree District Council (BDC) Waste Management Team at the Annual Village Meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. A date for your diaries.

## **The Fountain**

We are pleased to advise that the leak to underground pipes supplying the Fountain have been repaired, and we didn't even have to shut off the supply. Our contractor found that a large and very long root had found its way into the pipework and cracked a short length of the pipe. An ongoing programme of maintenance of the pipe and the Fountain itself was agreed by the Parish Council.

## **Planning Applications**

None received this month though the Parish Council continue to support Little Bardfield Parish Council in objecting to an application for additional industrial units at Paul's Farm. This is a cross-boundary application as it crosses the Uttlesford/Braintree boundary.

## **Tree Work**

A reminder that no tree works should take place during the nesting season. Also any works planned within the conservation area of the village require permission from Braintree District Council.

## **Bin Collections – March 2026**

Tuesday March 3rd	Grey Bin & Food Bin
Tuesday March 10th	Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin Green Bin (for subscribers only)
Tuesday March 17th	Grey Bin & Food Bin
Tuesday March 24th	Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin Green Bin (for subscribers only)
Tuesday March 31st	Grey Bin & Food Bin

## **Next Parish Council Meetings**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. Our meetings are open to the public. Please contact Kate Fox, Clerk, if you plan to attend on 810111 or by email at [clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk).

## **Carolynne Ruffle Chairperson**

**WETHERSFIELD PLANT SHARE & COFFEE MORNING**

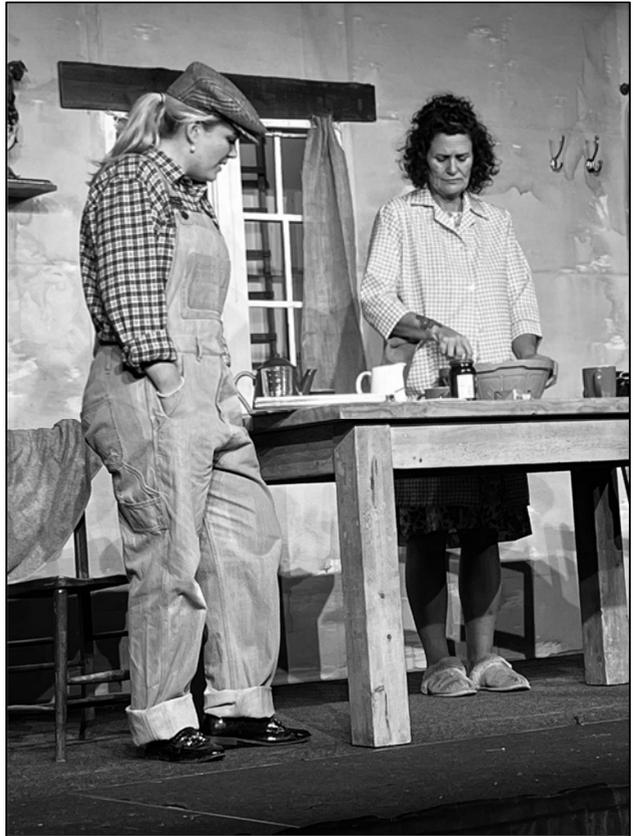
**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 10.30AM – 12.30PM**

**WETHERSFIELD PARISH CHURCH**

# Review: The Bardfield Players' Production of Who Killed the Farmer?

There's nothing like a good murder mystery to cheer up the dark winter months and the recent production from the Bardfield Players was just the thing. An everyday story of country folk, *Who Killed the Farmer?* by Chris Martin, certainly kept audiences guessing. The real

fun of a murder mystery is that audience participation is actively encouraged and on all three nights the audiences entered enthusiastically into the task of solving the whodunnit, taking every opportunity to cross-question the suspects on stage. The clever device of using the author to explain how the story has been created was an added dimension which also allowed the cast to use scripts thus relieving the pressure of learning lines and obviating the



*Scarlett Thirkell and Sally Beanland*

need for a prompt. Carolynne Ruffle who has shown herself to be a consummate character actress over many years of Bardfield Players productions gave an excellent portrayal of the Agatha Christie-like author, Agnes Dalrymple, adding her commentary from the side of the stage as the plot unfolded. There was plenty of blood. The surly farmer in question, Amos Ramsbottom played with pronounced surliness by Ian

Ruffle, was killed off quite early leaving him free to discuss the finer points of plot writing with the author whilst heavily bloodstained, with a dagger through his heart! His wife Constance Ramsbottom, Sally Beanland, surely had a motive as did prime suspect Burt Lard, the permanently bloodstained, womanising local butcher, played by Mike Brown, both of whom gave strong performances. But it is often the least likely characters who turn out to be the culprits and in the end who suspected that the soft-handed musician Tom Ramsbottom, played by promising new comer to



*Mike Brown and Sally Thirkell*

the Players, Scarlett Thirkell, and irritating local councillor, Lottie Belcher (Jo Magro-Andrews) could have the strength and cunning to do the deadly deed? Unravelling this complex case was in the capable hands of retired detective Miss Mabel Nippitt, played by Margaret McCloud, however, on the night Phoenix attended, several clever sleuths in the audience solved the mystery and the murderous duo were unmasked.

As ever the set was perfectly designed to

accommodate all seven characters on the small stage – it even included a mysterious back passage! The excellent front of house crew also contributed to a most enjoyable evening which left me thinking that village life truly holds rich pickings for would-be murder mystery writers – anonymously of course!

**“Phoenix”**



# LITTLE BARDFIELD CRICKET CLUB

Fundraising Event

In loving memory of Charlie Holl



**Saturday 11th April 7.00pm**

**Great Bardfield Town Hall**

**Licensed Bar - Cash Prizes!**

**Tickets £3 in advance / £5 on the night**

To book tickets visit [www.lbvcc.co.uk](http://www.lbvcc.co.uk)

or contact Mo Graham 07775515000 / Sandra Hitchcock 07974682309

For more info: [www.lbvcc.co.uk](http://www.lbvcc.co.uk) / [contact@lbvcc.co.uk](mailto:contact@lbvcc.co.uk)

Proudly sponsored by



# Village People

It's good to see another small business starting up in the village. Lara Scott-Norris who moved to Bardfield 2 years ago is the owner of Village Green Gym situated at the Bardfield Centre. Lara says, 'I love living in the village, it's lovely to be able to walk to the pub and all the local facilities.'



She has been a personal trainer for 10 years specialising in pre and post-natal care, and support for long-term health issues. The gym provides facilities for clients to work out alone. Lara says 'It's a gym you can use



on your own so there's no need to be self-conscious!' Lara describes the other services that are available: 'Alongside the gym we have a beautiful therapy room offering a range of treatments including Physio

with Karen from Reconnect Women's Physio, Aesthetics with Sophie Bennet at SB Medical, Reflexology with Andrea from Lighter Steps Reflexology, Yoga with Carley at Illuminate Yoga and Wellness, and Massage treatments with Charlotte. I really am so pleased that we are able to offer a wide range of treatments to support people's fitness and wellness.' Lara is very excited about this new venture and we wish all those involved every success.

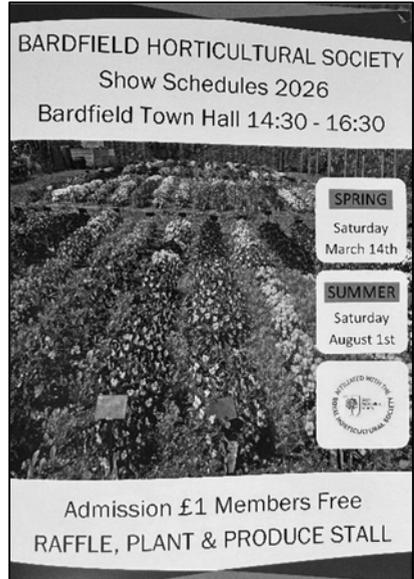
# Horticultural Society

**Our Spring Show will be held on  
Saturday, March 14th 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. It will be interesting to see how the weather conditions have affected the growing season this year - some plants are early and some are late. Our schedules for 2026 are now available. All members and previous exhibitors should have received their copy. Schedules are also available from a number of outlets in the village. Please contact Linda Prior 07969 184845 or Lynne Joyce 01371 810524 if you would like one.

Entries for the show should be registered before 10.15am and be staged by 10.30am. If you would like any help on the day (deciding in which class to put your flowers etc) there is a steward for each of the sections and they will be more than happy to help. We have many classes for all different skills: flowers, pot plants, both plants in flower and foliage plants, vegetables, cookery, handicrafts, flower arranging and photography. If you tried and enjoyed the cake recipe (Orange Sponge) in the February issue of the BT why not enter, you might win a rosette or a trophy? We welcome everyone - you do not have to be a member to enter.

Please also encourage your children to get involved. We cater for all ages; under 5 up to 16 so there is something for everybody. If you would like a copy of the picture "Get Growing" for children's classes 45 (children under 5) or 49 (children ages 5-8 years) please ring 01371 810524 for an A4 copy. Bardfield School is always very supportive and we receive many entries creating a wonderful display which we and visitors to the show 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 2.30pm until 4.30pm. Admission is £1 - members and children are free. There will be a raffle, tombola and plant stall. We will have tea and homemade cakes available at The Bell, thanks to Zoe and Scott - cakes made by our members. The trophies will be awarded at 4.30pm after the raffle has been drawn.

Here is another recipe for you to try (and enjoy) in advance of the show.

### **Recipe for Cheese Scones**

225 gm (8 oz) self-raising flour

75 gm (3 oz) finely grated cheese

1 rounded tsp baking powder

½ level tsp of mustard powder

55 gm (2 oz) margarine

A pinch of salt

6 - 7 tbsp of milk

Milk or egg to glaze

- Heat the oven to 220°C (Fan 200°C), 425°F, Gas mark 7.
- Sieve all dry ingredients together.
- Rub in the margarine to a breadcrumb consistency.
- Stir in the grated cheese and mix with milk to form a soft but not sticky dough.
- Knead lightly on flowered board, roll out to approx. 2 cm (½" thick).
- Cut with a plain round cutter, brush tops with glaze.
- A little extra cheese can be sprinkled on top if needed.
- Bake for 12 – 15 minutes.
- Cool on a wire rack.

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

**For any information about Bardfield Horticultural Society please contact Linda Prior 07969 184845**

## Greenfingers

**W**hat a quandary planting for the new season. Remember in recent scorching summers, should the choice of plants be sun-lovers?

But then the wet winters may see their demise. The answer is always mulch heavily as it retains moisture so doing it now traps 2025/26 torrents ready for a possible heat wave in the summer.

It is also time to plant if your garden needs a fresh look or just filling in gaps, send away for 'open ground' plants rather than potted ones as they are bigger and less money.

Loving the look of roundabouts in France showing tall spires of blue from Russian sage, correct name *Perovskia*, with the flutter of gauras. Sadly, gauras dead in the garden this year from drowning so sow seed and be patient or buy!! This look invites grasses and flag iris, and all wallow in heat. Topped with gravel it covers all likely weather so my choice.



*Flowers next to Luxembourg Palace, Paris*

Mentioning grasses leads to ...

### Jobs for now

- ✿ Comb in hand attack the pony-tail grass *stipa tenuissima*; this pulls out the sandy coloured strands to make way for fresh green of this swaying grass, yes, it has attractive movement.

- ❁ Oh dear, forgot to write last month, wisteria need a trim of all side growth rather like arteries, to 5 buds from the main stems. More trim = more flowers.



*Wisteria growing around a door*

- ❁ Cut severely the yellow flowered winter jasmine, prune back congested winter flowering chimonanthus (similar to witch hazels but heavier scent), the winter honeysuckle (a shrub not a climber) and the bright coloured stems of cornus (dogwood) and salix 'midwinter fire'.
- ❁ No mention of roses? That's because you gardeners know it is time to hard prune and feed!

*Any questions for Greenfingers?*

*Email the Editor and your messages will be passed on to Greenfingers.*

# **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 2026.

The show will be held over the Late May  
Bank Holiday on

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

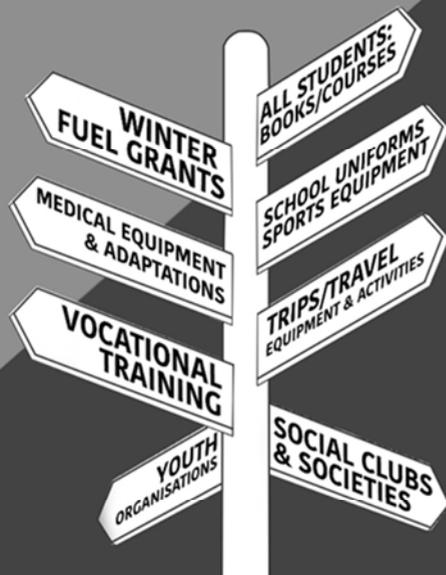
Great Bardfield has a rich art heritage and  
we wish to continue celebrating this by providing  
the current artists of Great Bardfield and beyond  
with a setting for displaying their work.

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 GREAT  
BARDFIELDcharities  
Charity number 207305



# CAN WE HELP YOU ?

If you live in Great Bardfield, are a group or organisation benefiting Great Bardfield residents then you are eligible to apply for financial assistance.

For more information please contact one of the Trustees:  
Pat Coles - 01371 810995, Mick Gell - 01371 810113  
Nick Holland - 07795 280647, Annika Woodcock - 07900 491636  
Cathy Stuttle - 07711 880965, Rev Alex Shannon - 01371 810309

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

## Nature Notes: My Birds Return

I should have trusted my instincts and not got myself into a state but I did miss my little friends; this is part of growing old! I find myself worrying about small things. To keep it in context with Nature Notes you could say making mountains out of mole hills. Yes, my birds are back but numbers are down and as yet I am not seeing such a variety as I usually see. The tits are the dominant species - blue tits, great tits, coal tits, and long tail tits, they are very entertaining and in the main don't mind me working at the kitchen sink a few feet from the bird feeders. All the time I have lived at Grey Roofs I have had the pleasure of visits from two woodpeckers, the greater spotted feeding on the



*Great Spotted Woodpecker*

feeders, and the green woodpecker which is a ground feeder. But yesterday I had a very special treat, a greater spotted woodpecker was on the feeders eating nuts and not far away on the ground was a lesser spotted woodpecker. This is the first time in my life that I have had the pleasure of seeing one. The lesser spotted woodpecker is smaller than the greater spotted and not a lot bigger than a sparrow they don't have a red under carriage like the greater spotted but the male does have the same red cap. The one I saw was a female as no red at all they are not normally ground feeders their behaviour is the much same as the greater spotted, they can walk up and down trees with ease. February and March see the start of the drumming season, the rapid hammering of a branch to establish a territory. I do hope she comes back as a feeder and becomes a regular visitor. My books tell me they are quite elusive little characters, usually found in wooded gardens, old orchards, small spinneys, and park land. When lesser woodpeckers pair up for mating

apparently, it's a very odd sort of affair with both parties flitting from tree to tree like a pair of moths.



*Green Woodpecker*

They have a long breeding season which can be any time from April to June, the male makes the nest by digging a hole in a dead, rotten part of a tree, a small entrance with nesting chamber inside. They usually lay four to six eggs

with incubation taking eleven to fourteen days. Both parents take it in turns to sit the eggs and often it's the male sitting at night, then both parents feed the young which leave the nest at three weeks of age.

My family clubbed together and gave me money for my Christmas present as I had made it known I would like a wild life camera, and I am pleased to say I have now been able to purchase one. I am looking forward to getting it set up and hopefully get some pictures to share with you.

I wonder how many of my readers took part in the RSPB garden bird count this year? I have taken part for the last few years, this year I did exactly as one is supposed to, I set aside one hour just to sit and count the birds which visited my garden. I chose to do it from 11am until 12 mid-day which is a popular time for my birds to feed, they do like early lunch so that they can have a nice afternoon nap. The sum total of my vigil was one great tit, and no I didn't fall asleep! Normally I would expect to see 30 birds during that hour but they stayed away. Maybe they decided they didn't want to be a statistic, or was it some sort of protest against the RSPB!

**Mac Beanland**

## The Tuesday Club

In February we welcomed back Bryan Thurlow as our first speaker of the year. Bryan is a great story teller, some of you may have seen him before in the guise of a butler from the Edwardian period, or an old Suffolk gardener. This time he entertained us with his Music Hall Memories, complete with songs, monologues and lots of humorous stories. We enjoyed recalling old favourites, and getting to know some new ones. In between the laughter we did learn a lot too. Music halls can be traced back to the taverns of 18<sup>th</sup> century London, where someone would sing, or tell a joke, or play an instrument. Landlords began to see the potential for selling more drinks on these evenings and some set aside a room for the entertainment and began to introduce professional acts. These evenings were so popular that tickets began to be sold and The Canterbury in Lambeth converted it's skittle alley into a "musical hall". And so the concept of a separate building for this type of entertainment was conceived. These new music halls attracted the middle classes as well as those who might have previously gone to the taverns, and by 1900 there were 370 music halls in the country. But by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century times were changing and the music hall fell out of fashion. Now the only one remaining in London is Wiltons in Graces Alley.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> we welcome back another popular speaker, Sharon Gould, who will be asking "Who is H?" H is in fact Sharon's second child, Heather, born with Downs Syndrome in 1976, when children with the condition weren't expected to live 'normal' lives. Sharon thought otherwise and this is Heather's story. We look forward to Sharon telling us about Heather in her own unique way.

We would love to see you at our next meeting, if you haven't made a New Year's Resolution to try something new it isn't too late! Membership of the club for the year costs £30, and includes all talks and refreshments, but if you would prefer to just come along to a talk which appeals to you we would love to see you on that occasion, visitors pay £5 including refreshments. There will be posters around the village each month, so feel free to just turn up for any which sound interesting, you will be very welcome. Doors open at 2.00 and the meetings start at 2.30.

**Cherry Whitby**

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

# **GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB**

# **H?**

## **WHO IS H?**

**A talk by Sharon Gould**

*We are delighted to welcome back Sharon,  
who this time will be telling us about her  
daughter who has Down's Syndrome*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 10<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**at 2.30pm**

**GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL**

Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome  
Visitors: £5 per talk



**Bardfield  
Horticultural Society**



# **Spring Show**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**Great Bardfield Town Hall**

**2.30 - 4.30pm**

**Classes for adults, children, flowers, domestic,  
floral art, photographs and handicraft.**

**Plants for sale, raffle, tombola, tea,  
coffee, cake.**

**Admission £1 Members free**

**All welcome, members and non-members can  
enter.**

**Need a schedule?**

**Contact 07969 184845 or 01371 810524**



## Town Hall Happenings

**A**s we look forward to spring we host the Great Bardfield Horticultural Society Spring Show on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Our annual Quiz Night is on 21<sup>st</sup> March (See details elsewhere in BT).



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

On 25<sup>th</sup> April we have “An Audience with Henry VIII”, a light-hearted review of his life and wives. Tickets are available from 1<sup>st</sup> March. [www.ticketsource.co.uk/great-bardfield-town-hall-management-](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/great-bardfield-town-hall-management-committee)

[committee](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/great-bardfield-town-hall-management-committee) This is a new venture for us and we hope as many people will support us as possible. There will be a licensed bar. At the end of the performance the King will hold a question and answer session. As Great Bardfield has links to this Tudor King this could be very interesting!

Into May we have our annual Art Show on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May.

We have also now installed hand dryers in the toilets at the hall and welcome suggestions for any other improvements.

Don't forget our new website [www.greatbardfieldtownhall.com](http://www.greatbardfieldtownhall.com) to see updates, events and contact details for tickets.

**John Maidman**

**Chair Great Bardfield Town Hall**

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***The Pavilion Committee***

# Memories of Great Bardfield in WWII

Last month I mentioned a pill box near the Fountain which is now long gone, but there is still one locally at Walthams Cross. If you take the road sharp left to Finchingfield, go down the steep, narrow hill, and before you cross the river, look to your right you will see the pill box in the meadow. Apparently, there are still thousands around the country.

During the war the school windows were covered in strips of brown paper on the inside so that in the event of an explosion, the pupils would be safe from flying glass.

I feel we must also remember the Heroes from our village who served our country, Howard Sams, Les Sams, George Wade, Sam Lockley, Jim & Alan Robinson, George Cornell, Cecil Monk, Eric Dunell, Frank Morris and Roland Perkin, please forgive me if I have missed anyone out.



*Walter Goldstone's saddle shop*

I also remember Mr Goldstone, the saddler, working well into the night repairing harness and binder canvas to keep the horses working to get the harvest. Most farms had horses. Blue Gate Hall had four: Boxer, Prince, Jolly and Deper. Mr Davidson an Australian Sheep farmer who owned Blue Gate Hall would send tinned food parcels over for the workers. During the war we had double summer-time, the clocks went back 2 hours.

Another memory is the smell of freshly baked bread coming from Prances and Gurney (now Gray & Co estate agent).



*Gas works by School Green*

When I was a young boy, there were only 12-15 cars in the village, so hard to imagine now with cars everywhere. In my day, Bardfield also had a fire engine kept in what now is a hair dresser and was previously Townsend's electrical shop. Now the standard of living has improved beyond recognition and most houses are privately owned, most of us have cars, all for the better.



*'Ole Guzzle' the fire engine*

**P G Morris**

# **Royal British Legion**

## **Finchingfield and District Branch**

### **Poppy Appeal 2025**

Since my last article, we have been given another £250-25 which now brings our total to **£3171-46**. Well done and thank you all.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Beetle Drive**

Saturday 21 March at 2.30 in Finchingfield Guildhall. Fun for all the family. See poster for more information.

**60s 70s and 80s Dance** on 18 April. Music from Jack the Lad band. Tickets £10 each. More details next month.

**Our Branch would always welcome new members. Membership is £22 and anyone can join. RBL Membership Line is 0800-307-77773.**

The Crafty Community Group meets every Tuesday from 2 to 4 in Finchingfield Guildhall. Our present project is making knitted or crochet poppies to (hopefully) decorate our War Memorials in Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End. If you would like to help, please drop in on Tuesday afternoons, or work at home. Patterns and wool can be provided. Please get in touch with Janet.

Contacts: Ivan Fleming (Chairman): 07525 751179  
[isskhs@googlemail.com](mailto:isskhs@googlemail.com)

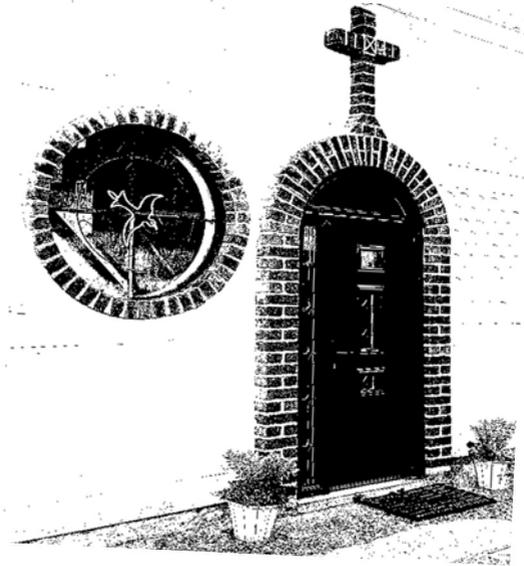
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**Sunday Mass – 9.30 am**

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Following the departure of Fr Celestine to South Woodford Parish, we are fortunate enough to welcome

Rev Dr. Michael J. Britto,  
who is also parish priest at Dunmow.

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Great Bardfield

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## From the Vicarage...

A glance at the list of services for this month will tell you that things start to get busy towards the end of March. Every year, throughout December, people engaging me in conversation will mention how it's my 'busy time' as a Vicar. And while Advent and Christmas do tend to give me a full diary, Easter is, if anything, rather more all-consuming. With much of what goes on in church packed into the narrow window of the week leading up to Easter, the services trace dramatically what happened to Jesus between his arrival in Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday and his subsequent crucifixion and the revealing of the empty tomb.

It's a sequence of events which has captivated artists of every kind throughout the ages, with music, drama and visual art all being produced to re-tell the story of Jesus' Passion. For me, it has always been music which has been at the forefront of how I have encountered the power of these events, the culmination of Jesus' earthly life. This Lent, I'm giving a couple of talks to share my thoughts on two very different musical portrayals of the Passion (possibly drawing on parts of a few others as well):

**Thursday 12 March, 7.30pm at the Great Bardfield Quaker Meeting House:** J.S. Bach's *St John Passion*

**Thursday 26 March, 7.30pm at the Great Bardfield Quaker Meeting House:** Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice's *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Just as the composers and lyricists for these two works had different views on the religious significance of the events they were depicting in words and music, so these talks are intended for anyone, whatever your own personal views or faith convictions. I hope, though, that for everyone who comes, it will be a good opportunity to discover at a deeper level what it is that makes Easter so significant a celebration for Christians. The two talks will operate independently of one another, so that either can be enjoyed on its own, or both together. And if they give you something to think about, why not try some of the services which will be taking place in our churches during Holy Week – and if you're someone who tends to come to church on Easter anyway, it's good to discover how following the thread through Good Friday and all that comes before makes a difference to how significant that Easter morning feels.

**Rev'd/Fr Alex**

## **Services for March 2026**

### **Sunday 1 March – Second Sunday of Lent**

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Cornish Hall End

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic Morning Prayer) – Wethersfield

4pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

### **Sunday 8 March – Third Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Morning Worship – Finchingfield

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

### **Sunday 15 March – Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)**

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Mothering Sunday Service – Shalford

10.30am Mothering Sunday Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Mothering Sunday Family Service – Wethersfield

### **Sunday 22 March – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

## **Services for Holy Week**

### **Sunday 29 March – Palm Sunday**

*Children's activities and breakfast refreshments in Wethersfield Church  
from 9am*

9.45am Palm Procession sets off around the village – Wethersfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Wethersfield

### **Monday 30, Tuesday 31 March & Wednesday 1 April**

9am Eucharist – Finchingfield (Mon & Wed) / Great Bardfield (Tue)

8pm Compline – Shalford

### **Maundy Thursday (2 April)**

6.30pm Communion Service commemorating the Last Supper –  
Wethersfield

8pm Sung Eucharist followed by Vigil – Little Bardfield

### **Good Friday (3 April)**

2pm Meditations on the Cross – Shalford

2pm Solemn Service of the Lord's Passion – Little Bardfield

9pm Tenebrae – Cornish Hall End

### **Holy Saturday (4 April)**

8pm Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter – Little Bardfield

### **Service times on Easter Day (5 April)**

Cornish Hall End: 9am

Shalford: 9.30am

Finchingfield: 10am

Great Bardfield: 10.30am

Wethersfield: 11am

## **Regular Services and Events during the week**

### **Monday**

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club (1st weeks) –

Between the Lines, Great Bardfield

### **Tuesday**

8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

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

Time for you...

With Julie

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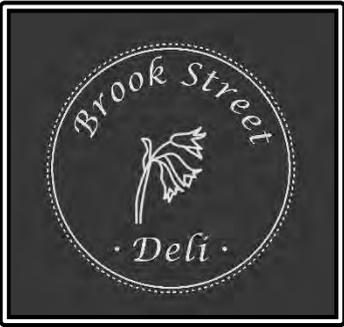
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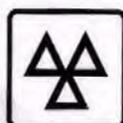
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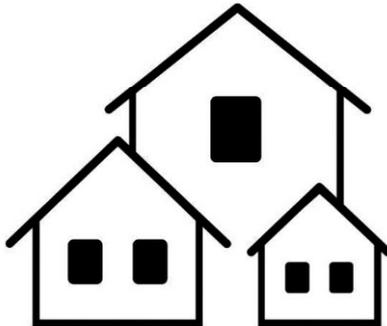
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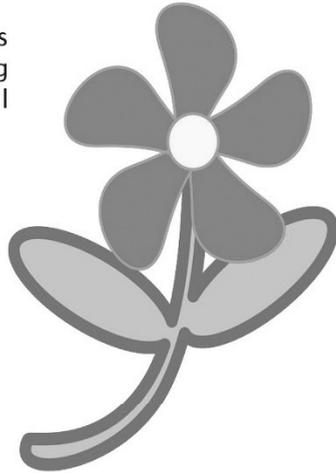
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Claire Griffiths on 07983 823388

Email: [rebecca@greatlodge.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@greatlodge.co.uk)

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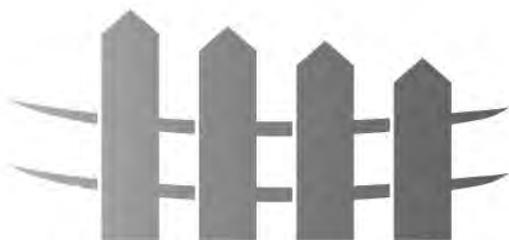
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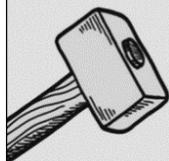
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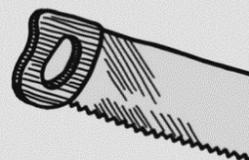
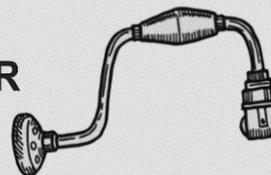
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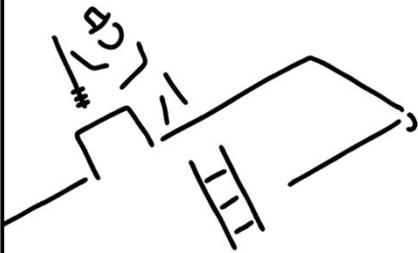
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# Town Hall Diary

## March 2026

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cricket training	7.00pm
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Cinema club	7.30pm
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket training	7.00pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Tuesday club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parish council meeting	7.00pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Set up for H/S	4.00pm
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	H/S Spring show	8.00am
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket training	7.00pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Town hall quiz	7.30pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cricket training	7.00pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Set up for function	2.00pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Private function	7.00pm
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Clean up	10.00am
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket training	7.00pm

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**Councillors**

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### Little Bardfield Parish

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### Braintree District Council

**Councillors**

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### Uttlesford District Council

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**1<sup>st</sup> Finchingfield Scout Group**

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**Tuesday Club**

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

**Parish Priest Gt & Lt Bardfield**

Fr Alex Shannon 810309/07483 878659

**Catholic Priest**

Fr Celestine 810428/07440 394171

**Town Hall Bookings**

[bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com)

**Refuse Collections**

Gt Bardfield Tuesdays from 7.00am

Lt Bardfield Thursdays from 7.00am

**Bawden Room**

Every Sunday & Bank Holiday from Easter

to the end of September 2.00 – 4.00pm

**Community Information Point**

Thursday & Saturday 10.00am – 12.00 noon 811975

**The Samaritans**

01245 357357