

May
2026

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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 **14th 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

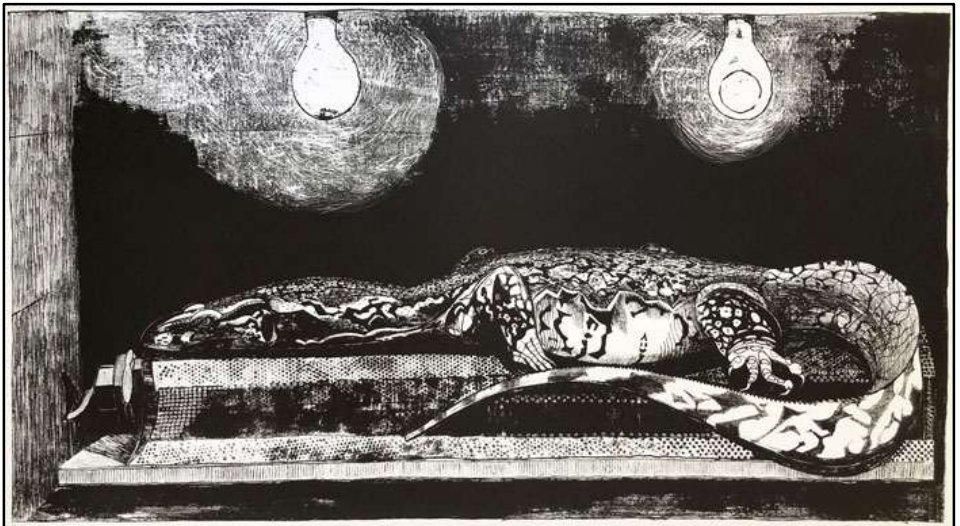
Layout designer: Helen McGlynn
helenbtlayout@gmail.com

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

Advertising: Kate Fox 01371 810111
kateandianfox@btopenworld.com

Distribution: Ray Coles 07470 992224
Mike Brown 07977 929614
distribution@bardfieldtimes.com

Treasurer: Jackie Newton 01371 810586
treasurer@bardfieldtimes.com



Front cover: The Bardfield Oxlip

Above: Nile Monitor by John Norris Wood

Great Bardfield Historical Society presents
The Choir of Clare College, Cambridge
Graham Ross, conductor



**In a special concert celebrating 700 years since the
foundation of Clare College, Cambridge.**

Saturday, June 27th at 7.30pm. Doors open 7.00pm.

**St Mary's Parish Church
Braintree Road, Great Bardfield, Essex CM7 4RN**



A wonderful opportunity to hear the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge singing in the church a few hundred yards from the home where, Elizabeth de Burgh, the Lady of Clare, signed the statutes of the college on 26th March 1359.

A memorial will be unveiled in the church to remember her vision of meritocracy, with scholarships for the poor, and the hope that students would 'discover and acquire the precious pearl of learning.'

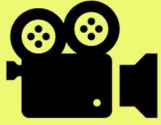
Tickets £15 per person available from www.ticketsource.com or via the QR code.

Please note there is no car park at the church.

Refreshments courtesy of Great Lodge Vineyard.



Bardfield Cinema Club



Great Bardfield Town Hall



Doors Open 7.30pm

Film Starts 8.00pm

Members free

Non-members £7

Friday 8th May



Editorial

Our cover this month features the special plant that has become associated with our village, the Bardfield Oxlip. This plant whose formal botanical name is *primula elatior* is a member of the family Primulaceae. It has clusters of drooping pale-yellow flowers on stems up to 12 inches/30 cms. There has been considerable debate amongst botanists about its origins and the relationships between the oxlip, cowslip and primrose since the C17th and many people are still confused. The remarkable story of the Bardfield Oxlip is told by Dr Doug Joyce in his book *The Bardfield Oxlip: the intriguing story of over 400 years of scientific inquiry and debate*, published by Great Bardfield Historical Society. In the early 2000s there was a successful scheme to re-establish the oxlips on three sites in Great Bardfield. Community support was strong. Children from the Primary School were involved in planting, counting and monitoring the oxlips, managing to plant more than a thousand plants per session! The oxlip has become the village symbol featuring on the school badge and the village sign on the front of the Town Hall. Between March and May you can see the oxlips blooming in Piper's Meadow beside the River Pant. Follow the path along the left of the meadow and look carefully as they are hard to spot, taking care not to tread on them!

Readers will be sad to hear of the death of Pam Suckling at the age of 92. Pam was born in Great Bardfield and lived here all her life. I remember her as our cheerful and helpful next-door neighbour when we lived in Fountain Terrace. She later moved to a bungalow in Bendlowes Road. We send condolences to her son Dale and other members of her family.

Finally, a reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting is on May 14th. Everyone is welcome to come, have a glass of wine and hear about the work of the Parish Council and the many village groups and organisations. It is always more interesting than it sounds!

Janet Dyson
Editor

Village Litter Pick

The village litter pick and spring clean was on Saturday 18th April, many thanks go to all those who gave up their time to help keep our village clean and tidy.



Parish Councillors Carolynne Ruffle and Peter Walmsley with Harry and Emily.

GREAT BARDFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 14 MAY 2026

7.30 pm at Great Bardfield Town Hall

Representatives of Braintree District Council's Waste Minimisation & Sustainability Team will be in attendance to answer your questions

Join us for a glass of wine at 7.00pm.

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

Don't miss out on a chance to win some easy cash by subscribing to the Great Bardfield Pavilion 100 club draw!

It couldn't be easier, to participate, pick up an entry form from the CIP, Between the Lines Bookshop, The Vine or the Co-Op or download from greatbardfieldpavilion.com

The cost is £3.50 per month (£42.00 pa), a monthly draw will be done, publicly, and there will be 3 prizes of **£100.00, £60.00 and £40.00.**

The first 100 entries will receive draw numbers, additional entries will be added to the waiting list to join in the future.

The first prize draw will be held on the 7th of June at the Pavilion Fun Day.

Please support your local facility and enjoy the opportunity for a monthly prize.

Good luck to everybody who participates in the draw.

Iain Graham on behalf of the Pavilion Committee

Great Bardfield Parish Council Report

Forthcoming Elections and Local Government Reorganisation

The next Essex County Council elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday 7th May 2026. These elections will go ahead as planned and are not impacted by Local Government Reorganisation. This is because the proposed new unitary council structures for Essex will not come into effect until April 2028.

On 25th March, the government confirmed its preference for five new unitary authorities in Greater Essex. This will see all 15 councils in Essex replaced with five, all-purpose, 'unitary' authorities (UAs). Braintree, Colchester, and Tendring councils will become one UA, the North East Essex Council and will be responsible for all services currently provided by Essex County Council and Braintree District Council.

Pavilion Summer Fun Day

A year on since our opening day for the Bardfield Pavilion, the Pavilion Committee is planning an anniversary event with fun and frolics for all the family. This will be held on Sunday 7th June. We hope many residents will join us for another 'fine' day at the pavilion and playing fields. More details to follow.

Playground Maintenance

Ready for summer playtime? We have had the play equipment assessed and repaired where necessary, by Wicksteed who supplied the original equipment, so all are in good condition and can be enjoyed by the younger members of our community.

Village Spring Clean

Thank you to those who came along on Saturday 18th April to pick up litter and give the village a tidy up. Though our village is kept very tidy by our village caretaker and year-round volunteers, it is pleasing to see that residents are keen to come and help out.

Planning Applications

Holly House, Dunmow Road – fanlight over entrance door – no objections providing the design and materials used are appropriate and any conditions required by the Historic Buildings Officer are met.

The Parish Council have submitted their response to Braintree District Council's Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation. Although no development sites have been allocated in our parish or neighbouring parishes, there may well be pressure to do so to meet the council's

housing targets, should other proposed sites elsewhere in the district be rejected.

Bin Collections for May 2026

Wednesday May 6th Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin
(following bank hol) Green Bin (for subscribers only)

Tuesday May 12th Grey Bin & Food Bin

Tuesday May 19th Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin
Green Bin (for subscribers only)

Wednesday May 27th Grey Bin & Food Bin
(following bank hol)

New Bin Collections

These will start in June. We are assured by Braintree District Council that all households will be delivered a printed schedule of collections as it is likely to take some getting used to. If you have not received the bins or boxes you were expecting please contact the Waste Management Department at BDC. We have representatives from BDC attending our Annual Parish meeting on 14th May so please come along and ask your questions about this new system.

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 14th May

A welcoming glass of wine will be served from 7pm with the meeting starting at 7.30pm

All residents are invited to the Parish Council's annual presentation to the community, where we will provide copies of our annual report. Also, we will receive annual reports and updates from many village societies and organisations. In attendance will be representatives from BDC Waste Management to answer any questions about the new arrangements for our waste and recycling.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 13th May 2026, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. This is the Parish Council's AGM. Our meetings are open to the public. If you plan to attend please contact Kate Fox, Parish Clerk on 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

Carolynne Ruffle
Chairperson

The Tuesday Club

Our speaker at the April meeting was Joanne Lerner, who talked about The Wonders of Norway. Joanne loves to travel and Norway is her favourite country. She revealed how and why she fell in love with Norway and gave us a personal insight into the people, the landscape, the customs and idiosyncrasies of The Land of the Fjords, along with an introduction to the Norwegian language. Her stories were accompanied by stunning photos of the Norwegian scenery. For those who haven't already visited Norway, and also for those who have, we all learned a lot about this beautiful country and it's now on the travel list!

We look forward to welcoming Nick Blurton to our next meeting on 12th May, whose talk is called "The Confessions of a Coach Driver", an illustrated wander through 45 years of coach driving at home and abroad, and competing in the UK Coach Driver of the Year competition. This talk promises to be informative and fun, and if you would like to join us you can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome.

Visitors pay £5 for the talk and refreshments, while members pay just £30 for nine talks including refreshments, and there is also a summer outing and Christmas Lunch. There are posters around the village each month, so please feel free to just turn up to any which appeal to you. Doors open at 2.00pm and the meetings start at 2.30pm.

Hope to see you soon!

Cherry Whitby

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

GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB

Confessions of a Coach Driver



A talk by Nick Blurton

Nick drove coaches for some of the UK's leading operators and has many entertaining stories and anecdotes

TUESDAY, 12th MAY 2026 at 2.30pm
GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

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

Artists of Great Bardfield: John Norris Wood



John Norris Wood is not one of the best-known names amongst the group known as ‘the Bardfield Artists’ but his work, mostly of carefully observed birds, reptiles and other creatures, has an interesting, very individual style. His father was a doctor at Black Notley hospital and he grew up in Shalford. As a young man in the early 1950s he attended Edward Bawden’s painting classes which were held in his studio in Brick House. Bawden gave the young artist much encouragement and support and he went on to study and teach. He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Art in 1960 and exhibited widely becoming well-known as a wildlife artist. He was a passionate conservationist who lived his later life on his small nature reserve in Sussex with his family and his beloved menagerie of reptiles and amphibians. The delightful lithograph above is one of the recent acquisitions for the Bawden Room, adjacent to the Town Hall, which is open on Sundays from Easter to the end of September from 2-4pm.

Great Bardfield Town Hall

Bardfield ART SHOW 2026

SUNDAY, 24th MAY

11 am – 4 pm

MONDAY, 25th 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 Primary School

As the warmer months begin to settle in, we find ourselves making the very most of our beautiful school grounds. On our return after the Easter break, the announcement in assembly that our school field is now open was met with a resounding cheer from the children. We are incredibly fortunate to have such generous outdoor space for our children to explore.



Felix exploring a wind-up cine-camera

Our grounds provide a rich environment for not only play but also for learning. The variety of established trees and shrubs around the site offer endless opportunities for hands-on Science work, from exploring plant structures to identifying different species. Outdoor learning remains a key part of school life and our 'OWLS' (Outdoor Woodland Learning School) sessions are always eagerly anticipated by the children. These experiences encourage curiosity, teamwork and resilience giving children the chance to learn in a different way and in a different setting.

A highlight of the Summer Term is swimming lessons in our much-loved outdoor pool. During June and July, pupils take part in twice-weekly swimming sessions, led by our fantastic returning instructor, Andy. Alongside developing stroke technique, the children build confidence in the water and learn vital safety skills, something that is truly invaluable. We remain incredibly grateful to our families for their ongoing support through their voluntary contributions which help us to continue offering this opportunity to our children. Without this generosity, maintaining the pool simply wouldn't be possible.

At Great Bardfield, we are passionate about enriching the wider curriculum through memorable, 'hands-on' experiences that truly bring

learning to life. These opportunities not only deepen understanding but also create lasting memories for our children. Already this year, pupils have enjoyed a wide range of exciting experiences and this week we were absolutely delighted to be entertained by our older children's fantastic performance of 'Stomp'. Their energetic, rhythmic showcase, using everyday items such as mops, buckets and brooms, was both creative and a real joy to watch. This half term, Aldridge Class have been lucky enough to take part in some Indian dance classes and our KS1 children have enjoyed handling and researching historical household items as part of their history lessons.



Year 6 performance of Stomp

On the theme of 'hands-on' experiences, a huge thank you for all of the kind and generous donations towards our 'Imagination Station'. We have had such fun organising and setting up the resources and it has been wonderful to see them come to life in the hands of the children. Their creativity has truly shone through—using the materials to build their own games, construct imaginative dens and create entire worlds of play. One group have even designed and run their very own drive-thru, complete with milkshakes and plenty of enthusiastic "customers"! It has been fantastic to watch their ideas evolve, their teamwork develop and their confidence grow as they explore, create and collaborate. Your support has helped to provide a space where imagination can flourish, and it is already proving to be a much-loved part of our school day.



Aldridge class taking part in an Indian dancing lesson

Finally, we are very much looking forward to welcoming families and friends to Bardfest on Saturday 13th June from 12pm to 5pm. It promises to be another fantastic afternoon with music, shopping, refreshments, bouncy castles and plenty more to enjoy for all ages. We do hope you'll be able to join us and support the school - it should be a wonderful community occasion.

**Liz Crow,
Headteacher**

If you would like to donate anything for:

‘THE IMAGINATION STATION’

Kitchen items, wooden planks, pipes, tubes, plant pots, dressing-up clothes, buckets, spades, baskets
etc

Please contact the school.

Food and Drink
Hog Roast, BBQ
Hot and Cold drinks
Ice Creams

£10
a pitch



SATURDAY 16TH MAY
11AM - 3PM

In the grounds of
Great Bardfield Pre school
Braintree Road
CM7 4RN

To book a pitch please contact:
EMAIL: Bardfieldgaragesale@outlook.com
TEXT ONLY: 07936538897
(please note no phone calls will be answered)

Follow us on Facebook for updates
Bardfield Garage Sale

Great Bardfield Pre School Charity number : 1000159

Bardfield Horticultural Society

It hardly seems possible that we are now in the middle of April as this article is being written. We have enjoyed snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils, tulips and now all the wonderful blossom on the trees and lots of cowslips on the road verges. Not to forget the Bardfield oxlips in Pipers Meadow.

In April we held our Spring Show - see last issue of BT. The Trophies and Shields have now been engraved and back with their worthy winners.

Inter Village Floral Shield

The Inter Village Floral Shield was held at the Gosfield Show on Saturday, March 28th. The theme was "Time Moves On". Sadly, only two villages submitted floral displays for the shield; Bardfield and Gosfield. Congratulations to Gosfield, who won, Bardfield came second – well done.



Bardfield and Gosfield entries

Summer Show

Our **Summer Show** will be held in Bardfield Town Hall on **Saturday, August 1st**. There will be a "Novice" only class in the vegetable section: Class 18. "Five dwarf beans with stalks attached – seed will be provided". Seed can be sown April until June and harvested July to September. For the show in August, we recommend sowing in the first week of May. The

variety chosen is a later maturing Kenyan bean with a vigorous plant habit, producing a heavy crop of thin, 12cm (5") long stringless pods of outstanding flavour. Plants show a high level of disease resistance. Height 35 – 45cm (14 -18") - so no need for staking. Please contact Lynne Joyce 01371 810524 for the dwarf bean seed and instructions.

If you have lost your schedule or would like to enter, schedules are available from various shops in the village and the Blue Egg or call 07969 184845 or 01371 810524.

Garden Visits

Our first garden visit of the year will be on **Thursday, May 28th 2026, 2 – 4.30pm to The Gardens of Easton Lodge, Park Road, Little Easton CM6 2BB**. The Gardens of Easton Lodge are an idyllic haven near Great Dunmow, with a history dating back to Tudor times and redesigned by Harold Peto in 1902. They have been partially restored to their former glory by a team of dedicated volunteers and the owners of Warwick House.

This is a ticket only event and must be booked and paid for by May 14th. Members: £10.00, non-members: £12.00. It will include a garden guide, guided tour of the garden, free time to wander and tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Tickets are available from Sue Dennison 07702 238 987 or email-suedennison50@gmail.com

Cash payments to Sue or electronic payment as below:

Account name: Bardfield Horticultural Society

Sort code: 09 01 55 Account number: 02585706

Please put your surname and "Easton Lodge" as the reference.

Our second garden visit will be on **Tuesday June 16th to Porters Lodge Garden** and tea room 2.00 until 4.00pm **Icknield Way, Cavenham, Bury St. Edmunds IP28 6DB**. Tucked away in the Suffolk countryside, Porters Lodge is a haven of tranquillity where beautifully designed gardens meet the warmth of a country tearoom. Situated on the edge of the village of Cavenham, the gardens were created by Craig Wyncoll and architect Lionel Stirgess when they moved to Porters Lodge in 1989. Their vision and dedication over many years has transformed the grounds into a place of lasting beauty. In 2004, Porters Lodge was honoured with the title of Britain's Best Back Garden, and for many years opened just once a year

in support of charitable causes. Today, they are delighted to share this much-loved retreat more regularly, offering visitors the opportunity to enjoy its charm throughout the seasons. WE will be welcome to explore the three-acre garden which features a series of garden rooms and delightful architectural structures, fountains and magical water features, all in a peaceful woodland setting. See next month's BT and posters for details.

Thinking of joining our thriving Society - please come and see us at **Finchingfield Guildhall on Sunday May 10th**, between **11am and 3pm**. Entry free. Come and see what is on offer in our local villages.

Plea for a new Chairman for Society

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

**For any information about the Society please contact Linda Prior
07969 184845.**

Stebbing Vintage Tractor Run



May 10th 2026
Great Bardfield



This year we will be passing through Great Pitley Farm, Hawkspur Green and down Bell Lane into Great Bardfield, turning right onto Dunmow Road and continuing on to our destination at Brazen Head Farm. We should be in Great Bardfield at approximately 2.00 – 2.35 pm. As usual, we will be supporting the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

Please help us by donating.



THE GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE
• ESSEX •

Bardfield Horticultural Society

Visit to **THE GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE**

Park Road, Little Easton, Great Dunmow, CM6 2BB

Thursday 28 May 2026 • 2–4.30pm

Members £10 • Non-members £12

Includes:

- ✦ Guided tour of the gardens
- ✦ Garden guide
- ✦ Free time to wander
- ✦ Tea or coffee and homemade cake

**Ticket only event — must be booked and paid for
by 14 May 2026**

To book tickets, contact Sue Dennison

☎ 07702 238987

✉ suedennison50@gmail.com

Greenfingers

Is it your opinion that May is the best month of the year in the garden? The esteemed gardener E A Bowles thought so. Yes, you do know of him as many of us gardeners will have or had the perennial purple



Honesty in flower in summer

roses haven't succumbed to black spot, that the slugs have yet to feast, in fact all is set to be perfect.

How to have flowers in May? The easy answer is have biennials such as honesty, wallflowers, sweet rocket and foxgloves. Easy because once flowered the seeds drop, germinate later in the summer, grow strong roots in autumn and winter and burst into flower this month. Ignoring sweet rocket, *Hesperis matronalis*, all the others are available in particular varieties. Who wouldn't want to have honesty in one or all 3 of these varieties *Lunaria* annual *alba*

wallflower *Erysimum* E A Bowles, plus many more plants introduced by him, crocus, snowdrops etc. He lived at Enfield and his garden is open most of the year, Myddleton House and certainly worth a visit from snowdrop season till now, May his favourite month. Now is the best month for gardening, now is when one's garden is flourishing, lots of foliage but maybe a dearth of flowers (read on for advice on rectifying this). Now is when the



Winter honesty seed pods

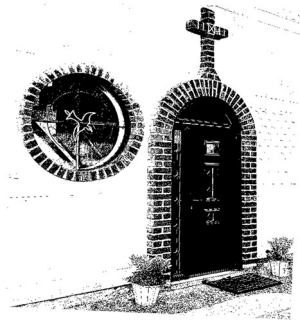
variegated, or Lunaria Corfu blue and Lunaria Rosemary Verey. Their colour in order: variegated leaves white flowers, blue flowers and, finally, nearly black leaves and magenta blooms. Worth having as these three seed true to their original colour.

Now to jobs, contrary to the 'few flowers in May' there are shrubs, in particular lilac will grow tall with blooms in the heavens, lilac and weigelia being examples.

- ✿ Prune shrubs after flowering to maintain a reasonable size.
- ✿ Spray roses with organic feed. Surround the base with coffee grinds for nitrogen and to stop black spot rising from last year's diseased leaves
- ✿ If lavender is cut back now it delays flowering, an advantage if you want them to flower after the roses first flush of flowers
- ✿ Take off dead flower of hellebores unless you want to be inundated with seedlings, Feed the plants now.
- ✿ Do not prune clematis! In particular if you have Macropetla, Montana and winter flowerers.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Great Bardfield



Sunday Mass 9.30am

Saturday Mass 5.00pm
(held at St, John's Thaxted)

Fr Michael Britto
07917 319811

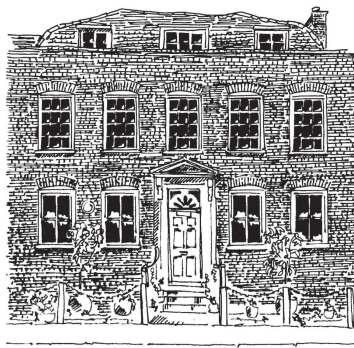
All welcome

Great Bardfield Landscape Artist of the Year

At Brick House

Sunday 5th July 2026

Join us for an amazing opportunity to enjoy Plein Air painting in the famous **Brick House Gardens, Great Bardfield.**



Follow in the footsteps of Bawden, Ravilious, Aldridge and many others. Recreate a famous scene or create your own from the delightful areas within the garden.

From: 12pm -4pm

Entrance fee £7.50 – to be donated to Bardfield School. Refreshments are available at Between The Lines Bookshop or The Vine. Please come prepared for the weather.

We always welcome spectators to this event, however, this year we will have to limit numbers and are not having a children's art table. In the event of rain the event will be postponed.

Please contact Helene on **07775515647** or email to express your interest as there will be limited places.

Email: Bardfieldlandscape.brickhouse@gmail.com

Open Gardens

and
Art Exhibition

In The Guildhall



Finchingfield



Saturday 30th May

10 gardens

11-4pm

Tea, coffee,
cakes & plants
for sale at
The Guildhall

Entry all gardens £10
or £2 per garden

In aid of The Guildhall, charity no: 1157103
www.finchingfieldguildhall.org.uk

SPRING FAYRE

St Mary's Church Great Bardfield

Saturday 23 May, 11am – 3pm

Join us at St Mary's for a fun-filled day including a **raffle**, a **bottle tombola**, a **craft stall**, and **children's table top games**.

Treat yourself to **teas, coffees, bacon butties**, and **cakes** at our refreshment stall.

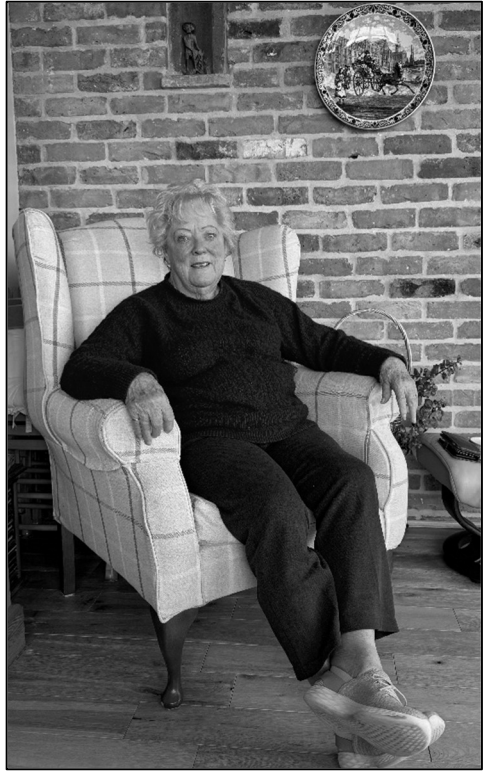
Enjoy the music of **Bardfield Brass** and of the **Bardfield Chimes** handbell group, and don't miss your chance to **have a go** and learn the art of handbell ringing yourself!

We look forward to welcoming you!

Village People

Adrienne Poulson has turned 90! In her 13 years in Great Bardfield Adrienne has contributed so much to the village. She just can't help herself; it seems whenever she joins a group or takes on a task she ends up being one of the leaders or even the leading light. With her gentle manner and clear mind (she is a lady who knows what she wants), she is perfect for the responsibility of leadership. Describing herself as a bit of a "go-getter", "if I want something I will come up with ideas to make it happen".

Adrienne simply hates to see a club fold and so, thankfully, she stepped into the position running 'The Tuesday Club' in Great Bardfield and the club has gone from strength to strength, thriving even after Adrienne has now decided to step back, having chaired the group for ten years. Adrienne invites a group of friends to her beautiful home to play whist, and share in a delicious afternoon tea, possibly the scrumptious cakes have become more important than the cards! 'Busy Fingers' was the name of the craft group Adrienne ran in Blackmore End, where she was also Chair of the Village Hall, embracing the organisational skills required for the annual village fete. A highly skilled seamstress and joining an amateur dramatics group led to the role of wardrobe mistress making elaborate costumes for many productions such as pantomimes and the frilly dresses required for the cast of 'Oklahoma'. She joined a badminton group and ended up becoming secretary; she doesn't set out to take on extra responsibility but "if no one else will do it, I will put my hand up" she says.



Let's start at the beginning.... entrepreneurial blood must run through her veins. Her grandfather started selling door mats and then began his own business as a carpet wholesaler in 1936, "In those days carpets were always narrow runners with a border, similar to the carpet often used on stairs now. When broadloom came in people wanted carpet fitted to a room, edge to edge, so we had a vast warehouse full of great big rolls of carpet". The business went through many changes over the years growing to employ 26 staff. When she entered the business Adrienne taught herself to use a computer and enrolled on a course to learn accounting software so she could run the payroll.

Eventually Adreinne sold the business; she wanted to be "part of a country community life". Her and husband Bryan were keen gardeners, he would spend 24 hours a day in the garden if he could, and he would look up to the sky spotting an aeroplane wondering "where is that one going?" And so began their travels.

Adrienne feels she has been very lucky and fortunate to travel so widely. An aunt invited them to visit her in Australia and they explored the continent widely visiting many times, touring all areas including the Great Ocean Road, islands of the Great Barrier Reef and exploring the famous Australian Bush. They went to a performance in the Sydney Opera House; she made the most of the opportunities offered and loved every minute. The couple travelled to almost all parts of the globe including India, Argentina, the South Pacific, island hopping in Greece and much more.

At the age of 80, Adrienne went on safari to Botswana, which was "fabulous" and included touring the desert on a quad bike. As she was on her own, she was able to go out with a driver in the early morning to search for animals before the main tourists arrived, she felt she "got so much more out of the incredible experience".

Sadly, Bryan died in 2011 at the age of 78, they had always done everything together; he is greatly missed. The house and garden in Blackmore End were too much for Adrienne alone. "I love Great Bardfield, I really do, and I was determined that this was where I was going to come – and I did!"

Helen McGlynn

Bardfield Brass

It does not seem possible that Bardfield Brass came into existence as a brass band almost 25 years ago to the day and has grown from a small group of disparate musicians



and wannabes into the magnificent brass band it is now! We have been entertaining the village of Great Bardfield and surrounding villages ever since with many different varieties of music from traditional brass band music, show and modern pop songs.

The band was incorporated on the 9th of May 2001 by Mrs Barney the then head mistress of Bardfield School, Wendy Brayshaw also a teacher from the school, Sylvia Benham a local parent of two sons Stuart and Andrew who expressed an interest in playing a brass instrument along with myself and my first son Tom. With the help of a generous donation from Bardfield Charities we formed Bardfield Brass. Claire Cornell, a young trombone player, became our conductor and the rest is history!

Bardfield Brass has gone from strength to strength, including the main senior band which now has in excess of 20 regular players and, more importantly, a junior band made up of players from age six years upwards. The junior band are being taught and coached by Mrs Metson at the school. We are pleased to say that we are becoming well-known in the surrounding area and getting very busy with many gigs particularly at Christmas and of course our annual “Last Night of the Proms” concert in October at Great Bardfield Town Hall. We pride ourselves on being a very friendly group and it is good to see that there are many family connections within the players and we’re always on the lookout for new members of any age and experience.

To celebrate our 25th anniversary we are giving a free concert of music in the open air in front of the new pavilion building on the **9th of May 2026**. Please bring something to sit on, and something to eat and drink and enjoy the music. It would be great to see you all on what should be a very enjoyable occasion.

Iain Graham

Town Hall Happenings

Our Annual Quiz Night was a great success hosted by Iain Graham quizmaster extraordinaire!!

At the end of May we hold our annual Art Show, open on both 24th and 25th May from 11.00 to 4.00pm. This is always an

interesting event with many different styles of art. Do come along, refreshments will also be available.

By the time you read this “The Bardfield Boules Competition 2026” will have started. Games are arranged by the participants so throughout the summer evenings it’s worth popping by the Town Hall to watch a game or two.

John Maidman

Chair Great Bardfield Town Hall



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

Churchyard Tidy


Saturday 2 May, 10am–1pm

Can you spare an hour or two to help care for our lovely churchyard?

This peaceful green space in the centre of the village holds special meaning for many local families, and is a much-loved spot for walkers (and their dogs!).

We will be:  Cutting hedges

 Sweeping paths

 Having a bonfire (if the weather allows!)

 **Refreshments will be provided –**

just bring along your tools if you can.

Let’s come together to keep this space tidy and welcoming for all.

Everyone welcome – we’d love to see you there!

Nature Notes: History of Deer

Most people who know me are aware that I started life in the city of Nottingham but very few people are aware of the fact that there are herds of deer living in the city. Three miles from the city centre is Wollaton Park, a 500 acre (sorry 202 hectare) walled park with the 16th century hall, a lake, a walled garden and two herds of wild deer, one of red deer and the other fallow deer. The park was set up and the hall built by the Willaby family who made all their money from the local coal mines. The hall is built using Ancaster limestone which was brought by barges returning from delivering coal. The estate was bought by the Nottingham Corporation in 1925 for £200,000 valued at £14.4 million in 2023. The park was about three miles from my home and I could cycle there on a footpath through the houses known as 'colliers' pad', the way the old miners used to walk to Wollaton Colliery. I think I was about 8 when I got my first two-wheel bike and used to go there. Although the deer have always been there, they are still wild but used to having lots of people at a safe distance away. The park is a public place open from dawn to dusk. Free of charge even free parking but lots of warning notices; the deer are dangerous especially during rutting season.



Rutting deer

We know fallow deer are not native but by the time the park was enclosed they had been about for some 500 years and as Nottingham was part of Sherwood Forest, they were probably the dominant breed. As the Midlands became more industrialised the red deer moved on, going both north and south. They like big open spaces with some forest, so they are now concentrated mainly in Scotland and the New Forest although we do see a few but they are mostly young stags who have been driven away from the herds by dominant stags. I once had four of them at Frenches Farm digging up my potatoes with their antlers to get moisture in a dry time. To me the red deer is king among deer, they live up to their title 'Monarch of the Glen'. I feel it is such a shame that they are being driven away by lack of habitat and now they have another threat in the form of the sika deer which were imported from Japan and escaped into the wild. They are a bit smaller than the red and don't have the same magnificent stature. Sika stags get driven away by red stags during the rutting season but they will cross breed given half a chance causing hybridisation which could well result in hybrid vigour but would create mongrels and a loss of pure breeds. None of the other deer will cross breed. Roe and fallow have lived together for hundreds of years and remained pure. I can't understand why but then I am not an animal geneticist, I am just an old retired farmer who happens to like wildlife and tries to write nature notes.

Mac Beanland

The Great Bardfield Charities

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or

email GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com

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Upcoming Events

60s 70s and 80s Dance Music from Jack the Lad band. This has been postponed until 18 July. Watch out for more details.

Our Branch would always welcome new members. Membership is £22 per year and anyone can join. RBL Membership Line is 0800-307-7773. (Apologies for incorrect number in last edition).

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

Janet Ridgewell (Secretary): 01371 810051
janet.ridgewell510@btinternet.com

From the Vicarage...

One of the delights of living in this part of the world is how lovely it is to be outside. Those of us who live here are understandably keen to talk about the beauty of our local countryside. And while we are blessed to have beautiful church buildings in our villages, it is worth remembering that there is an honourable history of taking the life of the church out into the countryside too. In the past, as soon as spring began to arrive, our people would go in procession, taking prayers and blessings out into the life of the land around the church. As Easter approached, Palm Sunday would be the first such opportunity, but then, as spring took root, other occasions were also traditionally celebrated with church processions.

In May, we will be looking back into this treasury of tradition to revive two such opportunities to take our prayers outside. The first of these is in recognition of the long-standing traditional association of the month of May with the celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are joining together with our friends in Thaxted Parish Church to honour this custom on the evening of **Sunday 3 May at 5pm**, with a procession of the statue of Mary with music and dancing, preceded and followed by a service in Thaxted Parish Church. As the signs of spring surround us, we remember how Mary's consent to her part in God's plan was a beginning of the coming into the world of the divine life we see in the earthly life of Jesus. The second of these traditions is that of the Rogationtide Procession, also known as 'Beating the Bounds'. Historically, this involved walking around the boundary of the parish, and literally beating with sticks the boundary markers. The procession would include prayers for the fruitfulness of work on the land, effectively enclosing the parish in a net of prayers. With our collection of six parishes, walking around the entire boundary is not possible, but on the afternoon of Rogation Sunday (which is always the fifth Sunday after Easter, this year on **Sunday 10 May**) we will be reviving the tradition of walking prayerfully, taking a route which follows part of the course of the River Pant, from which our group of parishes takes its name, and which symbolically and geographically connects them together. Our walk will begin at The George in Shalford, setting off at 2pm and returning by 4pm to St Andrew's, with services there in the morning and evening that day. If you are someone who likes walking, or has a particular appreciation or care for the land on which we live, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to join us – all are welcome, as is always the case to all our services and other events.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Services for May 2026

Sunday 3 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Cornish Hall End
9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield
11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic Morning Prayer) – Wethersfield
5pm May Devotion (Evening Prayer, Procession and Benediction
in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary) – Thaxted (*joint service*)

Sunday 10 May – Rogation Sunday

10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Shalford
followed by lunch at The George
2pm Rogation Walk – *setting off from the George,*
returning to St Andrew's by 4pm
5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Thursday 14 May – ASCENSION DAY

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Little Bardfield
8pm Said Eucharist – Finchingfield

Sunday 17 May – Sunday after Ascension Day

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield
11am Community Celebration Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 24 May – PENTECOST

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford
10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield
5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

Sunday 31 May – Trinity Sunday

10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Finchingfield

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club (this month will be the second Monday because of the Bank Holiday) –
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

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With Julie

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Julie - 07967 989124

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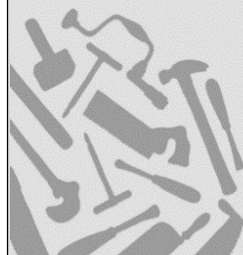
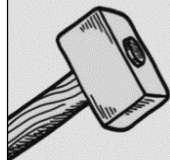
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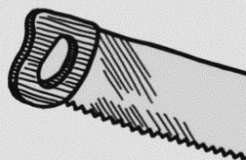
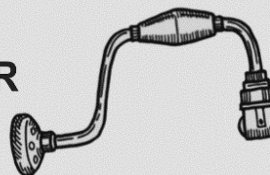
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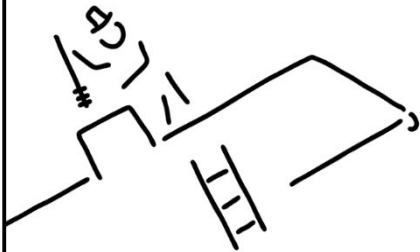


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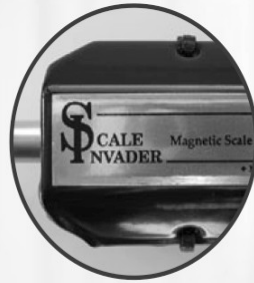
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May 2026

Monday 4 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 5 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 6 th	Pilates	10.30am
Thursday 7 th	County Council Election	7.00am
Friday 8 th	Cinema Club	7.30pm
Monday 11 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 12 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Tuesday Club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 13 th	Pilates	10.30am
	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm
Thursday 14 th	Annual Parish Meeting	7.00pm
Monday 18 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 19 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 20 th	Pilates	10.30am
Sunday 24 th	Art Show	11.00am
Monday 25 th	Art Show	11.00am
Tuesday 26 th .	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 27 th	Pilates	10.30am

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Councillors Janet Dyson 07957 483207
Iain Graham 07831 595555
Darren Hockley 810836
Peter Walmsley 07843 498253
Mark Wells 07788 318118
Richard Winsborough 07917462320

Little Bardfield Parish

Chair of the Parish Council Andrew Davies cllr.adavies@littlebardfield-pc.gov.uk
Clerk to the Parish Council Sophie Wolker clerk@littlebardfield-pc.gov.uk

Braintree District Council

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