



# Great Bardfield Annual Parish Report

May 30<sup>th</sup> 2019





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

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

Cover: Horticultural Show Summer 2018 photographed by Doug Joyce



# Annual Parish Report 2019

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# Great Bardfield Parish Council

## Annual Parish Meeting 2019

To be held on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm in the Town Hall

### Agenda

1. Chair's introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018
4. Matters arising
5. Parish Council Review 2018-2019
6. Parish Council Financial review 2018-2019
7. Braintree District Council report
8. Essex County Council report
9. Town Hall report and accounts
10. Charities report and accounts
11. The *Bardfield Times* report and accounts
12. Great Bardfield Primary School report
13. Questions from the floor
14. Closing remarks

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





## Chairman's introduction

**T**hank you for attending this meeting and for your support. This is our opportunity to give you an insight into the work undertaken by the Parish Council in the last year and for you to raise questions or make suggestions for us to take forward.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and Clerk for their continued support over the last year. We have a Council that works well together, comprising individuals with complementary skills and interests.

It is pleasing that Great Bardfield is such an active and caring community, with many volunteers willing to run its many clubs and societies, organise fundraising events and undertake charitable work. The Annual Report produced for this meeting includes reports from many local groups and societies, several of whom will give their reports tonight.

The Parish Council also benefits from the support of volunteers including Dr Doug Joyce who has guided the oxlip project for many years and keeps an oversight on Long Green, the ancient pathway and surrounds which is owned by the Parish; Mick and Sue Gell who maintain the Memorial Green and Kevin Wade, Tracy Clarke and other residents who have helped with recent tree-planting and litter-picking arranged by this Council.

Last year we lost our dear friend Ian Fox who was for many years a great support to the Council; setting up for meetings, offering technical and website support and photographing many village events. A stalwart of the Players and the *Bardfield Times* too, he is sorely missed.



Local businesses such as the Co-op support the fundraising activities of several village-based groups to the benefit of the community as a whole. But it also works the other way round, as demonstrated when a group of local residents volunteered to help keep The Bell open after Ciaran suffered serious injuries in a car collision. We are pleased to hear he is making good progress and wish him all the best.

Great Bardfield is a vibrant village, benefiting from a good range of shops and businesses. It does not seem that our High Street is in decline – rather the opposite with several independent shops, cafés, and two pubs. We are lucky to have these services as they keep our community alive and are vital for the elderly or those on their own, providing meeting places and local facilities for those without private transport.

It is a popular place to live and we understand the difficulties for local

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



people who wish to stay here but are faced with ever-increasing property prices. The new development on the Braintree Road, has recently been launched with the largest and, therefore, more expensive properties completed first. This is a mixed development, and smaller and more affordable dwellings will gradually become available over the next few months.

The development of Great Bardfield and its surrounds is a contentious issue. Earlier this year we organised a public meeting to determine if there was interest in producing our own Neighbourhood Plan. Such a plan is created and adopted by the community (supported, but not produced, by the Parish Council) and gives residents the opportunity to agree what they want for their village or town and have a meaningful say in its future development. Sufficient interest was shown at this meeting and a Steering

Group has been established to take this project further.

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

I hope that you find this meeting informative and interesting.

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

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*Residents meet to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan in the Town Hall*





# Great Bardfield Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

### 1. Chairman's introduction

The Chairman welcomed residents and guests to the meeting and began by thanking her fellow Councillors and Clerk for their support during her first year as Parish Council Chairman. She said that despite having been a member of the Parish Council for many years it was quite different taking on the position of Chair. However, thanks to having a Council that works well together, made up of individuals with complementary skills and interests willing to put in their own time, Great Bardfield remains an excellent place to live and work. She added that we are very lucky to live in a vibrant community with many people willing to volunteer to run clubs and societies, organise fundraising events and undertake charitable work. The Annual Report, produced for the meeting, includes reports from many local groups and societies, some of which will be reporting in person during the meeting. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for supporting the Council.

She highlighted the fact that Great Bardfield also benefits from a range of shops and businesses. We still have two pubs, there's a new café on the High Street, an excellent Co-op, butchers, homewares, post office, bookshop – all providing local services to our community and visitors. The museum and new gallery in the Bawden Room also raise the village profile and are great examples of clubs working together.

We have a popular primary school where there is increasing demand for places as new families with young children move into the village. Having a vibrant school and thriving village businesses and services ensures the future of the community.

Over the past few years less funding has been available from the District Council, and this will continue to reduce. The Parish Council has endeavoured to control their portion of the council tax, but the budget for the services it provides is limited. However, the Parish Council is also taking on more tasks and responsibilities as services from other agencies, District and County Councils are reducing. It seems there is a need to do more with less.

Countrywide there is great demand for housing, particularly in the south-east. Central government has imposed high targets for house building in many areas and the village is impacted by this with a new development of 37 houses on the southern side of the village and the threat of several 'garden villages' within only a few miles of us. Despite objecting to the Braintree Road application this was granted on appeal and the Parish Council have since worked positively with the developers, undertaken consultation with the community on the recent detailed plans and have raised the village's concerns and preferences for the character and design of this development, including vehicular and pedestrian access to it.

The Parish Council has joined forces with other local parish councils to make representations to the government's inspection of Braintree District Council's local development plan which includes new large 'garden' communities along the A120, raising concerns about infrastructure and services, loss of rural land and the potential impact on existing rural communities such as Great Bardfield.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Schwier, Alan and Doreen Prior and Jenny Rooney.





### **3. Minutes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

These were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting; proposed by Ian Ruffle, seconded by Patricia Walsh.

### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Guest Speaker: Alistair Andrew, Planning Manager, Manchester Airport Group (MAG Stansted)**

The Chairman welcomed Alistair Andrew, who explained he was deputising for Chris Wiggin who was on paternity leave. Andrew gave a very interesting and informative presentation describing how MAG acquired London Stansted in 2013 and with steady growth the business was now the third busiest airport in London with a record 26 million passengers using the airport last year. He said that Stansted Airport employed 12,000 people across all parts of the airport, recruiting mainly from the Bishops Cleeve area but employing suppliers from across the local area. The airport has increased the number of operators – now at 22 airlines – and destinations, with Primera Air and WOW launching new long-haul services to the USA. After five years of negotiations Emirates are starting direct flights to Dubai. Freight cargo is a big part of the airport's business carrying everything from fresh produce, to racehorses and Formula 1 cars. He explained the proposed building works will create separate arrival and departure lounges to allow easier movement and create more check-in desks. He confirmed that despite all this work there would be no expansion to the original footprint.

MAG were particularly pleased with their work with young people and education. The Aerozone, the airport's education centre designed to inspire young people and boost skills in science, technology, engineering and maths, has been running for some years. The new Stansted College – part of Harlow College – will open in September 2018. This new £11m facility will offer opportunities in aviation skills, engineering, aircraft maintenance and hospitality. It has already been inundated with applications.

To conclude, Andrew took questions from the floor from Mick Gell, Peter Benwell and Geoffrey

Gardner in regard to night flights, noise levels, parking charges, expansion and public transport.

### **6. Parish Council report and accounts**

A brief overview of the work of the Parish Council in 2017-18 was presented by Cllr Walsh, Vice Chairman. His detailed report is contained in the Annual Report.

#### **Precept:**

This coming year sees an increase in the rates, across all authorities. The phasing out of the Localism Fund to zero by 2019/20 means the sum received by this parish council will reduce from £2,845 17/18 (£4,267 in 2016/17) to £1,423 this coming year. These funds are a top-up to the Precept, and have been significant over the years in helping the Parish Council to maintain its level of service. In order to compensate for the reduction, a small increase of £1,700 (5.07%) in the Precept was approved, which equates to £2.98 per eligible household per annum for a Band D property.

#### **Annual audited accounts 2016/17:**

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

#### **Grants, donations, fund-raising:**

Income from this source continues to be difficult to source but the following income was received:

- £1,431 from BDC towards street cleaning/village handyman and related works.
- £185 from sale of Christmas Cards.
- £1,485 profit from the Firework Display event.
- £185 EALC Training Bursary.
- £5,000 from the CIF fund towards the cost of the Masquerade unit.



### **General expenditure:**

The Parish Council is responsible for key services and costs increase year on year. The most significant items for 2017/18 were:

- £4,769 – street lighting maintenance and supply.
- £4,443 – grass cutting and care of the greens and other open spaces.
- £1,574 – insurance.
- £2,986 – playground and pavilion.

### **Capital expenditure:**

- £1,194 – new street light for the Causeway.
- £12,000 Wicksteed Playground Masquerade – final element of the playground scheme.

### **Overview:**

The external auditor was satisfied with the transparency and management of the Council's finances and the reserves held for special projects. The call for the 2017/18 accounts had already been received and when prepared for submission would be available for public scrutiny. Notices would be posted at that time and accounts published on the Council's website.

### **7. District Council report**

This was presented by Cllr Peter Tattersley on behalf of both himself and his fellow District Councillor, Peter Schwier; the full text is reproduced in the 2018 Annual Report.

Peter said that the year had been both challenging and interesting and whilst there was a significant workload, they felt privileged to represent their Parishes on issues affecting them at the District Council. Their aim was to keep the Parish Clerk up-to-date with all relevant activities. Over the last couple of months, these had included external funding and grant

opportunities, clarification about the legal definition of affordable housing and rents, road closures, Braintree town centre redevelopment proposals, A120 improvements, improved wi-fi, assets of community value and clarification about the availability of brownfield sites for development. They were also able to direct the Parish Council to the most appropriate Council Officer, Department or body that was able to deal with local Parish issues.

**Development:** The District Council is obliged to provide within the Local Plan development space for around 850 new homes each year, up to the year 2033, when the Plan will be updated. Failure to provide this space would result in the Council's planning powers being handed to Government-appointed, unelected officers. Clearly, the aim was to restrict all new building to areas which had the local communities' support, but unfortunately this was not always the case, although a good number of parishes had recognised that some small-scale development could be helpful in maintaining schools, shops and pubs. However, the Council could only allocate land where the landowner is willing to allow development.

**Finance:** Against a backdrop of the well-publicised reductions in the Central Government Grant to local councils, the Council found savings or opportunities for raising income for the financial year 2018/19 of around £877,000. They also continued to maintain all essential services and support the local economy and infrastructure by:

- Providing a financial contribution to speed up a consultation on the preferred routes for the widening of the A12 and new route for the A120.
- Working in partnership with the NHS to provide modern health-care facilities in Braintree, Witham and Sible Hedingham.
- Redeveloping Braintree town centre.
- Securing £4.95 million to build new slip roads to reduce the congestion around the A120 and Millennium Way.
- Providing improved disability access at our swimming pools and introducing more schemes to allow over-60s to become more active, including new, dementia-friendly swimming sessions.



- Carrying out research into the extent of social isolation and loneliness, especially in more rural areas, and helping to minimise the problem through continued use of the community transport and similar schemes.

### **8. County Council report**

This was presented by Cllr Graham Butland, member for Three Fields with Great Notley Division of ECC. He said that since being elected in May 2017 he has spent a significant period getting to know what is one of the largest geographical electoral divisions in Essex.

As well as local issues he reported some key achievements during 2017/18:

- 94% of Essex schools were judged good or outstanding – three points higher than the national average.
- 1,330 young people not in education, employment or training were helped to move into employment or learning.
- Investment in our country parks continued which has increased visitor numbers by 7.5% to almost three quarters of a million.
- 11,370 apprenticeships in the county were created, and investment will continue to ensure our economy has the skills it needs to thrive.
- Household waste over the last 12 months was reduced by 32kg per household through promoted activities and delivered services.
- Construction work on 64 housing units was started providing 41 units for private sale and 23 units for independent living for people with learning disabilities.

During 2017/18 three separate initiatives were launched that give local communities access to funding to make improvements in their local area:

- The Local Connections Fund – £500,000 committed to support community-led activity.
- The Local Services Fund – £500,000 to support more formal, traditional services by being more locally responsive and to improve local places.
- The Essex Lottery – the lottery is open to anybody aged 16 or over who is physically based in Essex. Tickets cost £1 and the jackpot could be as much as £25,000.

### **Essex County Council budget for 2018/19:**

Despite a difficult financial environment the Council, with its strong record of sound financial management, set ambitious targets for the county, focusing on providing efficient services that matter to residents. The Council would spend a gross budget (including schools) of £1,847m and a capital programme of £299m to deliver its priorities in 2018/19.

However, with price increases, population growth and increasing demand for services, particularly for social care, Essex County Council will need to utilise the 2% Social Care precept facility offered by government, and increase Council Tax by 2.99%. The precept is being used to insulate Adult Social Care from the savings required across other portfolios.

In conclusion Cllr Butland said he was available to try to help any resident who may be experiencing an issue which is the responsibility of Essex County Council; his email address was provided in the Annual Report.

### **9. School report**

A brief overview was given by Cllr Dyson, on behalf of Alison Kerrell the Head Teacher, whose report was produced in full with delightful images of activities undertaken by the children during the year. She referred to the school's wish to ensure that the children have plenty of opportunities for learning in the classroom, outdoors and beyond the school gates. Last summer Year 6 enjoyed a successful residential visit to the Isle of Wight and there was a whole-school trip to Frinton. School sports were very important and Sports Day eagerly anticipated. The school





also joined with other schools in the Dunmow cluster to share educational, sporting and training opportunities. Fundraising continued to be a very important aspect of developing a sense of citizenship and respect for others.

Cllr Dyson said there was so much more she could say and recommended that time be taken to read the report in full. She said the community was indeed fortunate to have such a vibrant school whose excellent 2017 Ofsted report noted that, 'Pupils learn in a friendly, caring and supported environment which enables them to develop positive attitudes towards learning and achieving their best.'

#### **10. Charities report and accounts**

These were presented by Pat Coles, Chair of the Charities. Pat wished to record appreciation of the contribution made by Alan Bray, the previous Chair. She introduced two new co-opted trustees, Annika Woodcock and Mick Gell. The trustees met quarterly to consider application for grants, which included contributions towards fuel payment, Christmas lunches, disability equipment, educational support and applications from village groups, clubs and societies. All applications were considered carefully and without prejudice by the Trustees. The accounts were audited yearly by Bill Mules, and she thanked him for his ongoing professional support.

#### **11. Town Hall report and accounts**

These were presented by Cllr Ruffle who was also Chair of the Town Hall Committee. She was pleased to report that Great Bardfield Town Hall continues to be well utilised by many groups and clubs for social and fundraising events and they currently have

a waiting-list for bookings. Regular users included Mothers and Toddlers, Bardfield Choir, Bardfield Players, Carpet Bowls Club, Horticultural Society, Historical Society, Cinema Club, Parish Council, art classes and a variety of keep-fit and dance sessions, as well as a number of ad hoc bookings. Thanks to Sarah Hymas, who manages all the enquiries and bookings, and also acts as caretaker of the hall.

The Town Hall Management Committee is made up entirely of volunteers, who represent or have links to regular clubs and groups using the hall. Thanks go to the Committee for their work on improvements to and maintenance of the hall and for the fundraising events we put on to finance these – quiz nights, carol concert, prize draw, Arts & Crafts show and tea and cake stalls. This year they have undertaken some major work including a complete refresh of the gent's toilets. Another major project was undertaken this year, led by the Historical Society but with the co-operation, financial assistance and support of the Town Hall Committee and other village groups, was the development of the Bawden Room. The Town Hall benefits from this much-improved space, which is now the committee meeting venue of choice. The Historical Society and the village now have a space where artwork by several renowned Bardfield Artists can be displayed, after many years in storage. To enable these works to go ahead the Town Hall committee has relied on grants ably obtained by its Treasurer, Patricia Walsh. Future projects planned include the well-overdue improvements to the Ladies' toilets together with toilet facilities for the disabled.

The Bawden Room will next be open to the public during the Arts & Crafts weekend at the end of May. The committee is grateful to Peter Keynton, Katrina Ralston and Cherry Twydell for stepping forward to run this long-standing and popular event for the Town Hall.

#### **12. The Bardfield Times report**

The magazine continued to thrive despite difficulties and unforeseen circumstances. The most challenging of these was the retirement of co-editor Jenny Rooney, owing to ill-health, half-way through the year. The community gives its thanks to her for years



of inspirational guidance and hard work. He said they were fortunate that Anna Steinbauer stepped forward to take on the role. Another asset has been the work of Anna Bass, who has taken over the Village People column and produced fascinating articles on Bardfieldians young and old.

Finances remain strong, thanks to the energies and skills of Kate and Ian Fox, who handle the advertising, and Jackie Newton, who looks after the income from it. The success of the magazine merited a thank-you buffet in The Vine for all regular contributors who fill the magazine and the stalwart team, managed by Ray and Paddy Coles, that delivers it to the doormats of the village.

The Cinema Club continues to prosper and added a thousand pounds to the magazines coffers. The *Bardfield Times* was delighted to support local good causes and people to the tune of £2,250. Beneficiaries included the charity Channel-swimmer Abigail Brockwell, the Bawden Room, the After School Club, and Braintree Foodbank, amongst others.

The aim for 2018/19 is to increase advertising revenue to enable the *BT* to continue this support

and to attract young budding journalists to write articles and reports.

### **13. Items of report**

There were no items of report.

### **14. Closing remarks**

The Chairman closed proceedings by thanking the residents and the District and County Councillors for attending and emphasised the importance of the Annual Report as a reflection of life in the community. She thanked Jenny Rooney for her work in preparing the report for publication. She also wished to thank her fellow Councillors and Clerk for their support and work during the year. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Kate Fox**  
**Parish Clerk**



*In March 2019, members of the Parish Council made a site visit to review building work on the new Braintree Road development of 37 houses.*





## Parish Council review 2018-2019

**T**his year saw the end of the present Parish Council term. As you may all now be aware, there was an uncontested election and the new 4-year term started in May.

A lack of candidates is reflected not only across Braintree District, where only a handful of councils are contested, but across the whole country, with some areas reporting no candidates at all for their Parish Councils. This is a worrying situation as it affects the very bedrock of local democracy. The reasons why are difficult to explain, so I shall take a degree of comfort that no contest is a vote of confidence in the present incumbents!

Cllr Carolynne Ruffle continued as Chairman with me as the Vice-Chairman, and between us we chaired 11 council meetings throughout the year. Many additional meetings were held to deal with finance, planning matters and to organise events. Our councillors also have special areas of responsibility; Cllrs Graham and Kennedy look after the public footpaths and general environment matters, whilst the planning sub-committee is populated by Cllrs Ruffle, Graham and Slemmings. Cllrs Hockley and Slemmings look after matters relating to the playing fields and pavilion, while I act as the parish Tree Warden dealing with tree works, Piper's Meadow and the village greens.

We remain indebted to our clerk, Kate Fox, who provides invaluable service and advice on budgets, finance, Parish Council laws and regulations as well as a host of other matters. The

sparkling streets are kept clean by Ian Ruffle, the village handyman, and the CIP has been kept open thanks to many volunteers helping out when others are unavailable. Jenny Rooney needs a special vote of thanks for putting this report together.

Our District Councillors, Peter Tattersley and Peter Schwier maintain contact with the council throughout the year, either by attending meetings or via email and newsletter contact, as does Councillor Butland the County Councillor for this area. District Council elections occur this May, and we will say goodbye to Peter Schwier who is moving from this ward. Our thanks go to him for supporting our parish, along with Peter Tattersley over the past four years.

### **Planning**

As with previous years, planning is a dominant theme, and in particular maintaining a watching brief on the new Braintree Road development, and participating in various stages and iterations of the Braintree District Local Plan. Firmly on our radar remains the West of Braintree Garden Community proposals which could massively impact our environment, local services, the highways network and many other facilities such as schools and surgeries.

We had slightly fewer planning applications this year at 21, but there were also a number that were referred back after changes had been made or to explain further matters of detail. Of these, four listed buildings were involved. Thirteen tree-related applications were also dealt with, most of which were to deal with management of overgrowing trees.

The Parish Council has also been involved in developing proposals to take forward a Neighbourhood Plan which, once completed, carries greater weight when considering planning matters at Braintree District.

### **Highways**

In general, there has not been too much disruption during this past year. Locally, Gigaclear has been installing broadband fibre optic cables along many of the roads out from the village, and this has caused





periodic disruption due to temporary traffic lights and road closures. Further disruption was caused by the temporary closure of Finchingfield Bridge resulting in traffic taking the back lanes to avoid the official diversions. This is a taste of things to come, as at the time of writing, the bridge replacement at Finchingfield is still due to occur next year. We will continue to lobby for better control over the back lanes to prevent accidents occurring.

On bridge closures, our own bridge is scheduled to be closed for essential repairs this summer in order to minimise disruption to school traffic. Again, the same concerns arise about the back lanes being used and these have been forcefully reflected back to Highways at the County Council. We are particularly mindful that this period also is a very busy time for our farmers gathering in the harvest, and then getting the grain away for storage. A number of farmers have land either side of the bridge, and alternative routes for combines and grain trucks are just not feasible.

The perennial problem of parking just seems to be getting worse, especially around road junctions. Again the plea is to be considerate about where you park, and to observe the highway code regarding junctions and pavement parking. We are reluctant to request more yellow lines, but this may be inevitable if the situation deteriorates further.

And finally, speeding is another recurrent theme, where there appears to be a blatant disregard for the speed limits in the village. We have discussed 20mph zones around the school and hope that this, if approved, will help improve the situation.

#### **Recreation field and pavilion**

The playing fields continue to be well used, with regular football matches and many families using the play equipment. We have made significant progress with the replacement pavilion, with a complete rethink about design and function and new plans drawn up and submitted for planning approval. Fundraising remains a challenge, but we are monitoring closely for any significant funding opportunities.

#### **Footpaths/environment/green spaces**

As mentioned in last year's report, concerns were raised about the deteriorating condition of the riverside trees

at Piper's Meadow. After another tree split apart, a thorough survey was done on all of the trees, and it was determined that they were all in a dangerous condition, whereby they could fall and injure people, damage property or block the river. Consequently they have all been felled, and it is hoped new shoots will grow from the base. In the meantime, a further ten trees have been planted, further back from the river, many of which were donated by residents. Special thanks goes to Kevin Wade who contributed and provided advice and assistance on the planting day. The oxlips continue to thrive, and are spreading across the meadow. Future plans will seek to improve the hedge along the ditch boundary opposite the river, to further enhance the habitat.

In general, the village greens have been trouble free. We are re-fencing the tree plantation on Long Green so that the trees there remain protected; indeed they are thriving despite the poor ground conditions. The small green along Mill Road had a new water valve installed, and it was decided that it was a good time to clear the rest of the brambles back to the hedge.

#### **Other matters of general interest**

Again we secured a Certificate of Merit in the 2018 Essex Village of the Year Competition, an accolade reflecting the vibrant community we live in. We look forward to this year's assessment and hope we can do even better this time round.

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

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# Parish Council financial review

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

This brief report is to highlight key items of income and expenditure for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## Parish income

The Precept and Parish Support Grant amounts to 80% of our income with a further £2,332 grant coming from BDC and EEC for verge cutting, and street cleaning etc. Income from donations and fund-raising continues to be difficult to secure but the following was received:

- The Pavilion project fund received £2,031 from the annual firework display plus £985 from the sale of Christmas cards.
- Public donations of £1,150 for WOBS (West of Braintree Garden Village Inspection) were received (and match-funded by the Parish Council).

## Parish expenditure:

The Parish Council is responsible for key services and costs increase year-on-year. Of a total of £20,877 expenditure on village amenities (58% of total spend), the most significant items of expense for 2018/19 were the Pipers Meadow project (see below) and:

- £3,751 on street lighting supply and maintenance.
- £3,620 in total on grass cutting, care of the greens, verges etc, and street cleaning.

## Pipers Meadow management project:

This project had been in the planning for some time and was finally started in November. The first stage of re-planting

took place on 9<sup>th</sup> March and with the generous donation of Kevin Wade and Kings Nurseries we were able to carry out the work with minimal expense to the parish. In addition, residents purchased trees in memory of family members. The overall cost of the project to date is £4,820.

**Precept:** This coming year (2019/20) rates will increase across all authorities. The phasing out of the Localism Fund will see a reduction of £1,474 received by the Parish Council this year and it was agreed that an increase in the Precept was needed to maintain the work of the Council and safeguard any other projects going forward. An increase of £4,990 was approved (0.79p per month per qualifying household).

## Overview

The external auditor was satisfied with the transparency and management of the Council's finances and the reserves held for special projects. The Annual Audited Accounts for 2017/18 were approved without reservation by PFK Littlejohn, the appointed auditor. The call for the 2018/19 accounts has already been received and when prepared for submission will be available for public scrutiny. Notices will be posted at that time and accounts published on the Council's website.

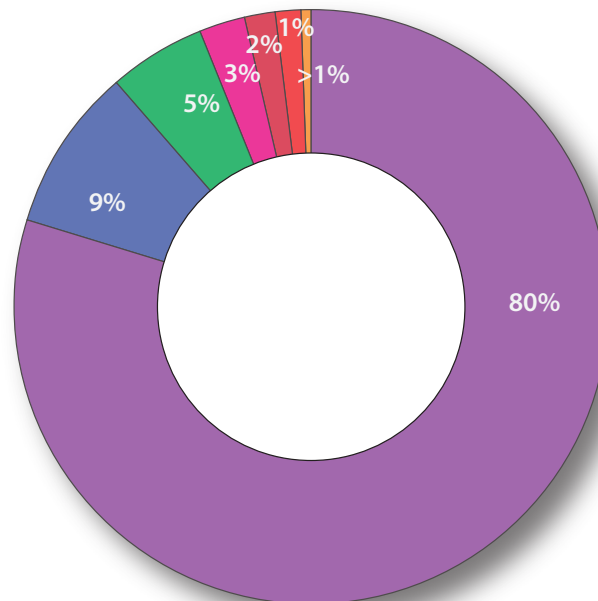
**Kate Fox**  
**Parish Clerk and**  
**Responsible Financial Officer**



# Parish income

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

- Precept and Parish Support Grant
- VAT refund
- Verge cutting/village cleaning
- Public donations to WOBS
- Sundries and substation rental
- Pavilion and playing field
- Bank interest



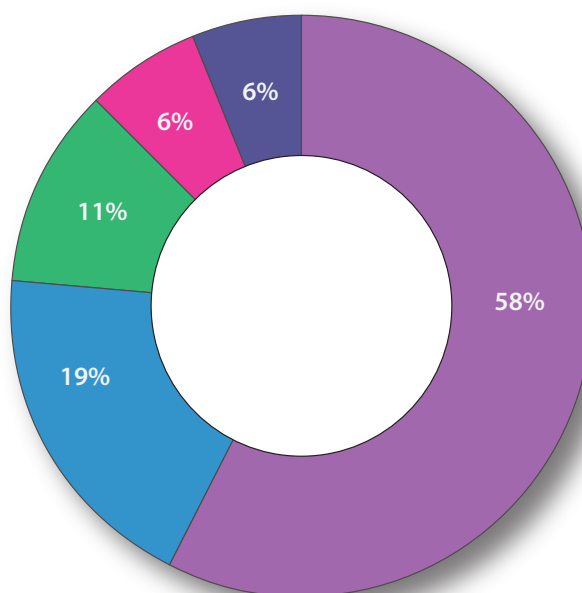
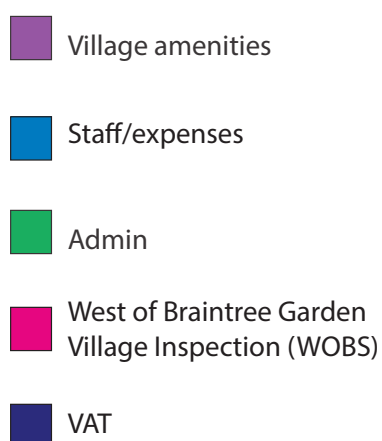
Precept and Parish Support Grant	£35,952
VAT refund	£4,007
Verge cutting/village cleaning	£2,332
Public donations for WOBS (West of Braintree Garden Village Inspection)	£1,150
Sundries and substation rental	£737
Pavilion and playing field	£644
Bank interest	£198
<b>Total</b>	<b>£45,020</b>
Pavilion project fund:	<b>£39,446</b>
Special projects account:	<b>£2,688</b>
Business reserves account:	<b>£74,270</b>





# Parish expenditure

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019



<b>Village amenities</b>	
Pipers Meadow management project	£4,820
Street lighting – supply and maintenance	£3,751
Pavilion project	£3,088
Grass cutting/memorial green/open spaces	£2,302
Town Hall: grant and substation rental	£2,108
CIP: Town Hall rent/IT and BT rental	£1,871
Verge cutting/street cleaning (agency arrangements)	£1,318
Subscriptions, donations and courses	£1,058
Pavilion maintenance/playing field	£561
<b>Staff/expenses</b>	
Salary/postage/stationery/website/sundries	£6,900
<b>Admin</b>	
General admin/telephone/audit/stationery/tax/insurance	£4,034
<b>West of Braintree Garden Village Inspection (WOBS)</b>	£2,300
<b>VAT</b>	£2,147
<b>Total</b>	<b>£36,258</b>



## Braintree District Council report

In May this year your two District Councillors will stand for re-election. Cllr Tattersley will hope to continue representing the Three Fields Ward (Great Bardfield, Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Panfield and Shalford) of Braintree District Council – Cllr Schwier will contest a seat, in his home ward – Gosfield and Greenstead Green.

It has been a challenging time for the whole of local government and the County Council, District and Parish Councils have felt the impact of increasing expectations and demands, at a time when there has been a continued reduction in central government funding. By 2020 the Council will receive no revenue support grant at all. This has meant finding £8.6 million pounds of savings since 2010, but by carefully considered investments, we have generated £4.4 million of additional income.

Our proactive financial approach means we are able to invest in the services where we see the most increased demand; housing and planning. Throughout all this our customer satisfaction remains higher than the national average and we have received the externally assessed Customer Service Excellence Standard for the fourth year running.

This year we have announced a £100 million investment boost to the District. This will see money directed to those areas that matter to our residents – health, homes, journeys, and jobs. We have secured £10 million external funding for the Millennium





Way Slip Roads to ease congestion at Galleys Corner in Braintree, acquired an employment site at Great Notley providing additional land to support business growth and create up to 2,000 new jobs, and are seeking planning consent to regenerate Braintree town centre, comprising a Livewell Hub, 70-bed hotel, restaurant/café, commercial unit, 35 residential units, bus interchange, car park and enhanced public open space.

We have granted planning permission for over 1,200 dwellings, and enabled 154 affordable homes, but many developers seem reluctant to start using these permissions to actually begin building.

On a more local level, we are developing our Livewell Programme with a range of local projects to support our residents to lead healthier lifestyles. We have seen a reduction in the number of overweight children in schools signed up to the Livewell Child project, which has been recognised nationally, for our innovative work in this area.

We have maintained the Braintree District Volunteer Awards to recognise the valuable contributions volunteers make to our district, and have introduced a number of activities to benefit those living with dementia and their carers, such as dementia-friendly cinemas, tea-dances, swimming, walks, shopping events, and meetings in local tea rooms, pubs and cafes to support those feeling socially isolated or lonely. Local Community Groups have been able to seek funding from the £1,500 individual Councillor Community Grant Scheme to help support local projects and activities. During our



*Cllr Peter Schwier*



*Cllr Peter Tattersley*

term of office we have been able to provide financial support for a number of local ward projects including: car park improvements, replacement toilets, a new photocopier, handrail, digital archive, a new kitchen floor, swimming pool changing-room renovations, village hall wi-fi installation, cricket sight screens, a replacement oil tank, a new floor polisher, play equipment, hearing aid support and a community planting scheme.

It has always been our aim to be accessible to parish representatives and individual residents and we have always tried to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible. At these meetings we normally present a verbal report of the more interesting events happening throughout the district, together with relevant information we may have that directly affects the specific parishes. We also regularly email an ongoing stream of relevant information to the Parish Clerks.

We have been proud to be associated with the many achievements of the District Council, but also privileged to have been able to work and support the Parish Councils and Community Groups in this glorious corner of Essex.

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

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## Essex County Council report

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report as your County Councillor representing the Three Fields with Great Notley Division on Essex County Council.

The council's budget this year totals £939.9m in revenue to continue to deliver quality services to Essex residents, and £249m in our capital programme to fund investments to ensure the long-term financial stability of this council.

The budget contains an increase in council tax of 2.99% and 1% for the Adult Social Care Precept.

Some examples of the things the council will do in the coming year are:

- Invest £117m to improve and maintain our roads – keeping Essex moving.
- Invest a further £14m on faster broadband.
- Spend an additional £700k to help repair defects in pavements and foot ways.
- Progress the delivery of the meaningful lives programme to improve the outcomes for adults with learning disabilities and autism.
- Continue to develop and implement initiatives to promote safer provision of care for elderly residents and drive higher standards of care.
- Improve the quality and accessibility of information for carers and vulnerable people.
- Invest a sum of £1 million to implement a variety of schemes for both adults and children with mental health issues or who need support.
- Deliver the final year of our 5-year flood programme which will mean we have reduced the risk of flooding to 1,000 properties.

The scourge of County Lines, which has brought drugs and associated crime to urban and rural areas of Essex alike, is a real and present danger to communities up and down our county. Essex police have identified this as a priority and our Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is also committed to tackling the issue. Thus in this financial year the County Council will



*County Councillor Graham Butland,  
Member for Three Fields with Great  
Notley Division of Essex County  
Council.*

be making £500,000 available to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, for a partnership-based approach which will aim to protect young people at risk from those who may exploit them through County Lines.

On the local front during the year I have attended meetings of all of the nine Parish Councils in my Division. I have dealt with 43 different issues that have been raised by Parish Councils or individuals. The majority of these issues have been Highway matters.

**Cllr Graham Butland**  
**Essex County Council**



## Town Hall report

Recently I was looking at the Town Hall diary at the back of the *Bardfield Times* and was pleased to see how many bookings are listed. Many regular users fill the hall during the day and evening, from Mothers and Toddlers, various fitness and yoga classes (now five classes a week, for all abilities), art classes, the Bardfield Community Choir, Bardfield Players, Carpet Bowls Club, the Horticultural Society, Cinema Club and the Parish Council. It's sometimes difficult to accommodate one-off bookings, such as private parties or the Town Hall's own fundraising events. We are pleased that some of these groups are now using the improved space in the Bawden Room in addition to the main hall, and that the Historical Society are now opening this gallery every Sunday afternoon. Thanks to our hall caretaker Sarah Hymas, who manages all the enquiries and bookings.

The Town Hall Management Committee is made up of volunteers who represent or have links to clubs and groups using the hall. Thanks go to the committee for their continued attention to the hall's maintenance. Over the last year we have been able to make much needed improvements to the ladies toilets, provide new chairs and racking, install a hearing loop, provide more accessible storage for the Carpet Bowls Club (one of the longest running clubs using the hall), purchase a new floor polisher and proved an additional fridge for the kitchen. Our focus this coming summer is the repainting of the

interior of the hall. The maintenance of the hall is funded by events organised by the Committee and other 'Friends of the Town Hall'. These include our annual Arts & Crafts Show organised by Peter Keynton, Katrina Ralston and Cherry Twydell, quiz nights (see photo below), the boules competition and our carol concert and prize draw. We also benefit from grant-funding, and thanks to Patricia Walsh our Treasurer, for her efforts in applying. In the last year we have been awarded grants by the Bardfield Charities towards refurbishment of the ladies' toilets; the District Councillors' Community Fund for a new floor polisher; the *Bardfield Times* for the hearing loop and from Stansted Airport Community Trust for redecoration of the hall. We also received a generous donation of £500 from a village resident.

We understand that the Historical Society are currently researching the history of the Town Hall with the intention of releasing a publication in the next year.

The committee will have held its AGM prior to this meeting and are hoping to have welcomed two new members who have recently expressed an interest in helping to manage this valuable village amenity.

With thanks for the support of all those who use and benefit from this community building.

**Carolynne Ruffle**  
**Chairman**





## Great Bardfield Charities

I am pleased to present the report of the Great Bardfield Charities covering the last 12 months from May 2018 to April 2019.

During this period, we held quarterly meetings, where we considered the applications received from our community for grants. We were concerned that overall the number of personal applications received was lower than in previous years, and have looked at ways of ensuring that there is an awareness of the Great Bardfield Charities throughout the community. Posters are displayed on the Village Notice Boards and in the Community Information Point. Details of the Charity appear on the Parish Council website, and the Great Bardfield Charities Facebook page. Our meeting

dates appear in the *Bardfield Times* and on the Bardfield online community Facebook page the month before the quarterly meeting takes place. The Trustees also kindly ask that villagers are mindful of family, neighbours and friends who may benefit from, but not be aware of, this provision, or who are unable to make an independent application – the Trustees will help wherever possible.

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

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

**Pat Coles – Chair**

Trinity Cottage, High Street, Great Bardfield 01371 810995

**Brenda Poston – Secretary**

Buck House, Vine Street, Great Bardfield 01371 810519

**Tony Hayward – Treasurer**

Littles Farm, Beslyns Road, Great Bardfield 01371 810320

**Debbie Rogers – Minutes Secretary**

Dixons, Bridge End, Great Bardfield 01371 811083

**Mick Gell – Co-opted Trustee**

3 Mill Close, Great Bardfield 01371 810113

**Annika Woodcock – Co-opted Trustee**

Hillside Cottage, Dunmow Road, Great Bardfield 07900 491636





The Trustees are continually mindful of the generosity of our benefactors and it is only through them, that we are able today to financially assist the residents and organisations of the parish of Great Bardfield.

Alongside the invested funds, the Great Bardfield Charity owns the Grade 2 listed Cottage Museum on the Dunmow Road. This little, 16<sup>th</sup> century, timber-framed, thatched building with a long history of use as an alms house, was bequeathed to the Charity in 1584, and today is rented and safeguarded by the Great Bardfield Historical Society.

**The Charity Expenditures over the Year April 2018 – March 2019 are outlined as follows:**

Income including museum rent and bank interest: £20,038

Total expenditure: £26,230

*(NB these figures are unaudited at the time of writing this report)*

**Examples of grants made in the last year include:**

- Contributions for fuel payments for pensioners and others in need.
- Provision of paramedical treatment, disability equipment and hospital travel expenses.
- Educational: supporting school extra-curricular activities, student projects and travel, school uniform and local school transport, equipment and books for school and university students and apprentices.
- Nursery / child-minding fees.
- Town Hall refurbishment.
- Village groups, club and societies.
- Cricket ground sporting expenses.

The Trustees meet four times a year to consider applications, and meeting dates are notified in the *Bardfield*

*Times*, on the Great Bardfield Parish Council website and on the Great Bardfield Community Facebook page. In extraordinary situations, Trustees will consider applications between scheduled meetings.

**All applications to the Charity are considered carefully and without prejudice by the Trustees. Organisations or individual villagers can approach any of the Trustees at any time with requests for assistance in making applications**

The Charity Accounts are audited yearly by Bill Mules, and we thank him for his on-going professional support.

This report, together with the audited accounts are deposited with the Clerk to the Parish Council.

**Pat Coles**

**Chair of the Bardfield Charities**



*Bardfield student (second from left) benefited from grant for equipment and warm clothing on recent university geology field trip to Wales*



# The Bardfield Times

Our magazine is in good health. Its finances are sound; the team that keeps it healthy is solid and well-experienced. More and more villagers seem willing to contribute to our pages, too. The year-long series of interesting guest editorials has introduced some new writers to our readers.

Our great tragedy this year was to lose our guide and inspiration, Ian Fox, to cancer. For many years he looked after the advertising sector, supplied inspired photographs and filled in for us when a colleague was absent. His common sense and good humour kept us working with a will.

We also lost our layout designer, Anna, who found it difficult to cope with the commitment in her increasingly busy life. We all thank her for her contribution. There was a period of panic, of course, as this is a job demanding of no little skill. Then Joe Jones got in touch, out of the blue, and rescued us. She is a professional layout designer and soon learned the *BT* job, producing immaculate editions with no fuss. She's a delight to work with, helping Kate Fox with the adverts as well as composing each issue.

Thanks to the hard work of Jackie and Kate, finances remain strong. The Cinema Club (see report following), headed up by Ray and Paddy Coles, who with Paul Eusden also deliver the *BT* to our wonderful distributors, plays a big part in this financial probity, too.

Anna Bass continues her excellent series of interviews for the 'Village People' monthly feature, and the

Bardfields throw up subjects as diverse as horse-riding butchers, European wanderers, professional brewers and winners of TV reality shows. Are all villages as interesting as Bardfield? The series must be nearing a hundred now and all subjects have fascinated.

**David Yates**  
**Editor**

<b>The Bardfield Times</b>			
<b>Statement of Account for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>			
		<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>
<b>Income</b>			
	Advertising	8,104.00	9,117.00
	Subs/Sales	66.50	171.95
	Fundraising/Cinema	1,941.47	2,502.10
		<b>£10,111.97</b>	<b>£11,791.05</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
	Printing	7,690.00	8,459.00
	Stationery/Other	40.83	784.22
	Postage	186.92	177.54
	Cinema	1,757.96	1,529.55
	Donations	946.00	2,250.00
		<b>£10,621.71</b>	<b>£13,200.31</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>- £509.74</b>	<b>- £1,409.26</b>

Current A/c (as at 20.3.18):	£4,683.16
Savings A/c:	£3,036.63
Cash in hand:	£ 33.10

**Jackie Newton**  
**Honorary Treasurer**



## Bardfield Cinema Club



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

We currently have a membership of sixty people with audiences averaging fifty to sixty each month.

Thanks to the Bardfield Charities we were able to purchase the essential state-of-the-art projection equipment to show quality DVDs as soon as they become available, with occasional classic films included at members' request. Examples of recent films include – *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, *Their Finest*, *Some Like it Hot* and *The Wife*. Details of showings can be found on the back cover of the *Bardfield Times* and on the Great Bardfield Parish Council website.

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

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

A new hearing-loop provided by the *BT* has recently been installed in the Town Hall to facilitate those with hearing difficulties and will ultimately help all those visitors with hearing aids to enjoy all enhanced sound events at the Town Hall in the future.

**Ray Coles**









*Top row l to r: Boules finals day, Lucien singing solo at school nativity service, Ned winning fastest boy at Fun Run, Staff at School fete. Next row: Tree planting at Pipers Meadow. village litter pick, Bardfield from the air taken by Dan Mercer. Next row: Remembrance Sunday service at War Memorial, Mac Beanland's Tractor Rally, Village Garage Sale, Arts & Crafts show at Town Hall. Bottom Row: Morris men dancing at The Vine, Tuesday Club cake decorating afternoon, Bardfield Players in 'Who Killed the Mad Professor?'*







## Great Bardfield Historical Society

*Brook Street, Great Bardfield showing almshouse at end of Sgt Bendlowe's cottage c. 1900*



This has been another successful year for the society. We've had an interesting programme of talks on a range of subjects and an excellent visit to the Museum of Power during the summer. You'll see from our membership card that there's another varied programme of talks and visits planned for this year.

There have been a record 12 village walks this year, The walks start with a talk in the Bawden Room, followed by visits to the Museum, Cage and Church. The groups range in size from 12-40 people. Some groups were organised by the Fry Art Gallery, attracting interest from all over the country. The growing popularity of the Bardfield Artists has certainly boosted the number of visitors to our village.

The visits provide good income for the society but they are time-consuming – I'm very grateful to everyone who has

helped out with refreshments, setting up the Bawden Room, staffing the Museum and clearing up, especially David and Mandy Slow who have been a tremendous support.

Sales of publications have been extremely good – the Bardfield Artists book has just gone to its 3<sup>rd</sup> reprint – well over 500 copies have been sold, mostly via the bookshop plus some sales in the Museum, Harts Bookshop in Saffron Walden and the Fry Art Gallery. The information leaflet, and map produced by Jenny Rooney, showing the houses of the Bardfield Artists is still proving very popular with visitors to the village. The guide to the art collection in the Bawden Room also sells well.

Last year I referred to the large and valuable collection of books and papers relating to the artists which have been stored in Braintree District Museum





for the last 20 years. Much of this collection belongs to the Dyson family who have asked for it to be returned to their stewardship. The committee has agreed to this and it will be made available for display and research.

The committee agreed to set up a small purchasing fund to add to the Bawden Room collection with the aim of acquiring work by artists who are not represented in the collection so far. Their work attracts very high prices and there are few bargains to be had! There have been two additions this year: a lithograph by Michael Rothenstein, of a chicken, and Thaxted Morris Ring have kindly donated one of the waistcoats designed by Marianne Straub – this will be displayed in a box frame and placed underneath the Walter Hoyle poster of the Morris dancers wearing the waistcoats. The Rothenstein is large and will be hung at the top of the stairs.

There has been a renewed interest in many aspects of village history with lots of posts on the village community Facebook page and people sharing photos and stories. Some of us have been researching the history of the Town Hall and are planning to produce a booklet in time for the talk in November.

Thanks to the committee for their work during the year. Thanks also to the volunteers who staff the museum and to Nigel Hill for managing the rota. I'm delighted that, as a result of articles in the *BT* and on the community Facebook page, we have some new volunteers this season for the Museum and the Bawden Room.

A quick reminder about signing up for the Epping and Ongar Railway visit on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Janet Dyson**  
**Chairman**

### Programme of Talks and Visits for 2019–20

Sat, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AGM and Crittall Old Iron Portraits</b> – a talk by author Clare Willetts
Thur, 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Visit:</b> to Braintree District Museum to see the Old Iron Portraits exhibition
Thur, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Story of the Bardfield Oxlip</b> – a talk by Doug Joyce
<b>To come:</b>	
Thur, May 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Victorian Murders in Essex</b> – a talk by Martyn Lockwood
Thur, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The 100 Parishes Project</b> – by Ken McDonald
Sat, July 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Visit:</b> to Epping and Ongar Railway
Mon, Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Wethersfield in the time of Patrick Bronte</b> – a talk by John Woollard
Wed, Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Two Wives, One Mistress</b> – Julian Prideaux
Thur, Nov 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>History of Great Bardfield Town Hall</b> – Janet Dyson
Sat, Mar 14 <sup>th</sup> 2019	<b>AGM and Social Evening</b>

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



## Bardfield Horticultural Society

Wherever has the year gone? Seems no time at all since writing this last time! We got off to a flying start with a good turnout for our Spring Show. We reinstated a 'Men Only' class in the cookery section. This was well supported and surprise, surprise, we have discovered there are some talented male cooks in the village. Perhaps it was the shiny cup that attracted all the entrants! Will it be on your mantelpiece in 2019? Also many colourful tractor pictures were on display in the children's section. Thanks to the school for their support.

This was swiftly followed by our Spring Supper. A great success as always.

We had two floral art mornings and I would like to say a special thanks to all our lady committee members who work so hard on these occasions.

The garden we visited in Chrishall was a delight. There was lots to see and wonderful weather as well.

We shared an outing to Bressingham Gardens on the hottest day of the year with the Tuesday Club and easily filled the coach. It was a grand day out. Lovely gardens and complimentary train rides included!

We had another fantastic Summer Show. Lots of new exhibitors and some different names on our trophies this year too.

Our Harvest Supper was a sell-out; with the usual gorgeous food and a very clever magician entertaining us at our tables.

We had an exceptional attendance at our AGM. Unfortunately our speaker was unwell so yet again two of our wonderful supporters saved the day

*Below left:  
Summer  
Show  
2018  
Right:  
Spring  
Show  
2018*







with a slide show and talk put together at very short notice!

Christmas by Candlelight was our theme for the December floral art event and some fabulous arrangements were carried proudly home for our celebration tables.

We tried something new in February this year when we held our annual talk on a Saturday afternoon instead of a Tuesday evening. Tim Fuller gave us a very knowledgeable talk which was well attended. Afterwards we were able to purchase some unusual plants and finished with refreshments.

Our society continues to thrive thanks to all who support our events and a superb, enthusiastic hard working committee. Everyone is welcome at our meetings but we need to keep our membership up and at £2.50 per year or £4.00 for couple living at the same address it is excellent value.

Below is a list of some upcoming events. More may be added so watch out for posters and in the *Bardfield Times*.

**Linda Prior**  
**Chairman**

*Summer  
Show  
2018*

### **Programme of Horticultural Society events 2019**

Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Show – Town Hall
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Supper – Town Hall
Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Garden visit – Parsonage House, Helions Bumpstead
Saturday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Summer Show – Town Hall
Saturday, 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Supper – Town Hall
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	AGM cheese and wine, and speaker – Town Hall

*Dates for floral art/craft mornings to be advised*



## Plantings at Long Green

It is coming up to nine years since the native trees and shrubs were planted at Long Green and despite their difficult start in life, in respect of a series of summer droughts shortly after planting, the vast majority of the trees and shrubs are now well-established and should be able to cope with most future challenges they are likely to encounter. The majority of tree stakes have now been removed and the shrubs are now sufficiently well-advanced to resist grazing damage. Many of the trees and shrubs are mature enough to flower well and set fruits, as well as provide stunning autumn colour. Grasses and wild flowers abound; some such as cowslips grown from locally-sourced seed, and aside from a rapidly expanding patch of brambles, the site is now well on its way of being restored back to nature.

Some ongoing maintenance work is required to deal effectively with the encroaching brambles, and the original barbed-wire fence running adjacent to the main trackway is in need of replacement. It was hoped that the fence would have been renewed last autumn when the ground had softened up sufficiently following the dry summer period: but as the original contractor has so far failed to carry out the agreed work a new contractor is being sought whilst ground conditions remain suitable for replacing posts.

At the southern end of the lane the annual broadcasting of seed of our native bluebell has continued on an annual basis using locally-sourced seed from a private wood just west of Sible



Hedingham. Suitable sites for sowing the seed alongside the trackway are few and far between, however, as the tree canopy soon becomes too dense and the soil beneath both too dry and compacted. Thankfully, broadcasting the seed is a quick and efficient way of establishing plants and discovering the best spots where bluebells might thrive. Once these 'sweet spots' are identified further sowings can be made to help establish more robust populations.

Plants grown from the very first sowings have been flowering for some time now but alas not in any great profusion. Bluebells are an indicator species of ancient woodland, however, so perhaps our expectations may only be rewarded after a period of prolonged patience, determination and many buckets full of dried bluebell heads.

*Above:  
Spindle  
fruits  
August  
2018*

**D W Joyce**





## Great Bardfield allotments

Where do I start with this annual report? It was a challenging year on the plots, the hottest summer since having the allotments, and just trying to keep the vegetables watered was a daily chore, morning and night.

The vegetables that thrived in the heat were tomatoes, lettuce, beetroot, sweetcorn, courgettes. Things that were slow, or just not as successful, were runner beans, French beans, potatoes, onions, leeks, late-fruiting raspberries – essentially all vegetables and fruit that love water.

As I write, the plots are all nearly dug and ready to starting sowing soon; the rhubarb is crowning, and

still some Brussels sprouts to be picked. Who knows what the weather will bring this year, but the mild February has already given us a taste of spring.

That's the great thing about gardening, it's never the same and it gives us a challenge, in a beautiful spot in Great Bardfield.

**Tansey Bolsom**





## Freshwell Health Centre

**T**his will be my last Parish Report as the Practice Manager at Freshwell Health Centre and I would like to use this opportunity to encourage our patients to continue to be considerate and appreciative of the wonderful health care facility they have in Finchingfield.

### **Staff news**

Over the last year we have seen Dr Meakin and Nurse Mary Joy retire, welcomed Dr Hopgood and our Advanced Nurse Practitioner Bernadette Parsons and looked at other ways to develop our team. Diversification of the staff team is essential for general practice to survive because the Government promise of another 5,000 GPs by 2020 is not going to materialise! As patients you have been very co-operative in embracing our Care Navigation scheme where the receptionists ask what your problem is so that they can direct you to the best available clinician. Thank you for your support in this.

### **Patient feedback**

We continuously collect feedback to the national 'Friends and Family' question via paper forms in reception, [www.iwantgreatcare.org](http://www.iwantgreatcare.org), and through our text messaging service. I apologise if you get fed up with receiving requests for feedback but this is a national initiative that we have to fulfil. We welcome your suggestions and ideas as patients see our services from a different angle from staff and it allows us to review, develop and improve where necessary.

We are lucky that the number of complaints we receive is lower than at many other practices. We do, however, get a stream of grumbles about car parking and having to ask people to move their cars when they block our drive is one part of the job I will not miss when I leave! We know that as our patient list grows parking is tighter than ever, so please show consideration for others when parking either in the car park or in the neighbouring roads.

### **How do you want to be contacted?**

In the new contract changes from April we will have to start asking patients how they wish to be contacted

in the future. The options include letters, emails, texts and phone calls. Our introduction of text messages 18 months ago has allowed us to use the resources we have more efficiently. We have a limited pot of money and if we spend it sending you letters or trying to phone you we can't spend it on something else. For each patient the amount is tiny but when you multiply the costs by over 7,000 people it soon adds up. When you are asked for your preferred method of contact please bear this in mind.

### **CREAMER Fund support**

I cannot stress enough the difference that this wonderful, unique charity has made to the practice. Whilst I see other Practice Managers struggling to keep their premises and equipment up to scratch, I have had the luxury of knowing that we can make requests to CREAMER for what we need – see Christopher Blewett's report opposite for details of support provided over the past year. Please continue to support this tireless group of people who are doing so much for the community.

It has been a privilege to manage such an outstanding organisation as Freshwell for the last eleven years and I have never before met such a hard-working and dedicated group of people. I wish them every success going forward and hope that you all will do what you can to support them.

**Linda de Silva**  
**Practice Manager**





## CREAMER Fund

I would like to thank the Trustees for their continued hard work and support. We have a great team, with a wide range of skills.

Kay Painter has been our Treasurer since 2011. Eight years of negotiating with suppliers; talking to the banks; seeking out the best interest for our capital; writing letters to donors and generally promoting the Fund every chance she gets – I really don't know what we would do without Kay.

Silvia Gould has also worked tirelessly for us in a public position and behind the scenes. The collecting tins have contributed £2,350. The two raffles she has organised have raised £2,160. This is a huge help financially but Silvia's contribution to promoting the CREAMER Fund is vital.

The main change in our support this year has been to provide funding of £12,164 for two part-time clinical staff at the surgery; a muscular skeletal specialist for the whole year and a pharmacist for the latter part of the year. We are pleased to continue to provide this money for as long as we can. The CREAMER Fund is committed to ongoing costs for maintenance of equipment and some

associated consumables, which in 2018 amounted to £18,000. We also need to retain a substantial reserve for any necessary replacement of equipment. We try to work to a five-year plan, which is reviewed each year at the AGM.

The Trustees are well aware that none of this could take place without the donations we receive from the community. We have several people who quietly give us a one-off donation or a monthly contribution, without any public recognition. This is always because of the excellent care they have received from staff at the Freshwell Health Centre.

Our total income this year has been £20,947. This is made up of collection tins – £2,350, 'in memory' and general donations – £15,234, raffles – £2,160, interest on investments – £1,200.

Our expenditure has been £56,495. This has included repairs and refurbishments – £8,174, maintenance and support – £17,702, clinical staff – £12,164, community heartbeat (defibs) – £4,015. Please see the CREAMER notice board for the exact figures in the audited accounts. We obviously draw on our reserves but the generous contributions to the CREAMER Fund are there to be used.

The CREAMER Trustees would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Fund this year. It wouldn't exist without you.

**Christopher Blewett**  
**Chairman**



## Tuesday Club

The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Town Hall. Our aim is to enjoy talks and demonstrations on varied subjects to suit all our members, both male and female. We are pleased that our membership is growing and we welcome all our new members. Visitors are always welcome. The subscription is £20 per annum and visitors pay £3 per meeting. We serve refreshments following our speakers and hold a raffle each month with the proceeds donated to our chosen charity for the year. In 2018, a donation of £140 was given to Farleigh Hospice to help with their excellent work. The charity for 2019 is the CREAMER Fund.

We endeavoured to organise two theatre trips to Chelmsford per year. Unfortunately these were not so well supported this year so we are looking to try theatre productions closer to home. The summer outing in July 2018 was a Garden Tea Party at Braeside, Dunmow Road. Fortunately the glorious weather last summer and a great selection of cakes, ensured that this was a very enjoyable afternoon. Outings have also been sparsely attended but joining forces with the Horticultural Society in an outing to Bressingham Gardens was a great success.

The annual Macmillan Coffee Morning was held on September 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday Club members held a Coffee Morning in the Quaker Meeting House which

raised £730. It was a most enjoyable and rewarding occasion and one we hope to repeat next year. Our other highlight last year was December's Christmas Lunch when once again all our members enjoyed a delicious lunch at The Vine, Great Bardfield. Thank you to Steve Mann and staff for a very festive occasion.

Sadly I have to report the very sad loss of Marion Macdonald in February 2019. The Tuesday Club was formed in 1992 when Great Bardfield decided to end its attachment to the WI after 71 years. Marion was a founder member of the Tuesday Club and continued to be at the helm until her retirement in 2013. An amazing lady, very talented and a great leader, she will be greatly missed by so many in Great Bardfield.

For further information contact Adrienne Poulson on 01371 811401 or email: [adriennepoulson@btinternet.com](mailto:adriennepoulson@btinternet.com).

**Adrienne Poulson**

### Tuesday Club Programme for 2019

January 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AGM</b>
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Wiltshire Farm Foods</b>
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Doppelgangers</b>
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>A Nice Cup of Tea</b>
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Royal British Legion</b>
<b>Still to come:</b>	
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>My Life as an Author</b> – a talk by Pamela O'Herlihy
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>My Titanic Connection</b> – a talk by Pat Gilbey (through family history)
August 13 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon tea at Cressing Temple Barns
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>My Wacky Life</b> – by Andrew Bovingdon based on his experiences as a Toast Master, MC, and with the Police Force.
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>My Trip to the Arctic</b> – by Mac Beanland
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Training of a Guide Dog and their Work</b> – by Brenda Weaver
December	<b>Christmas lunch</b>





## Bardfield Community Choir

The Community Choir continues to thrive. We meet in the Town Hall at 8pm every Tuesday evening to sing for pleasure. Our repertoire is broad, ranging from pop, folk and jazz to classical. This year our programmes have included a selection from *West Side Story*, Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, music by Bach, Mozart, Fauré, Fats Waller and Bob Dylan.

In July we gave a concert of words and music in the Town Hall which featured the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and starred soloists from the choir singing songs from *Jesus Christ Super Star*. Once more we enjoyed taking part in the carol singing at the Town Hall Christmas Draw evening, with plenty of audience participation, and also Carols at The Vine, accompanied by Bardfield Brass.

We were privileged to take part in the memorial service for stalwart Bass, John Parker, and to lead the singing at

the funeral of Ian Fox, both dear friends who are sadly missed. On a more joyful note, we enjoyed singing at our first wedding. We have several concerts planned for the summer including Music in the Garden at Whinbush Farm in July, Finchingfield Church in August and an Autumn Concert in Little Bardfield Church.

Singing is a very sociable activity and we are a friendly group. New singers of all ages are welcome so if you enjoy singing come and give it a try. You don't need to be able to read music and no previous singing experience is necessary. We each pay £2 per rehearsal which covers the cost of hiring the hall and buying or hiring music. In the summer we organise evenings for those who like singing madrigals and early part songs – sometimes out of doors with a glass of wine.

I would like to express my thanks to the *Bardfield Times* who have given a generous donation to our music fund this year. Thanks also to Avril Nelson, our excellent accompanist and to Jackie Newton who looks after our finances. If you would like to join the choir contact me: [jm.dyson@btinternet.com](mailto:jm.dyson@btinternet.com).

**Janet Dyson**  
**Musical Director**

## Bardfield Community Orchestra

The orchestra grows a little each year as people dust off their instruments and revive their skills, re-discovering the enjoyment of playing with other musicians.

This year we have added to our woodwind and brass sections but still need more string players. However, I can find a part for most instruments so whatever you play you will be welcome!

We have a wide repertoire which includes classical, pop and jazz. We

rehearse, monthly, in the Town Hall on a Friday from 8-9pm. Our most challenging piece this year has been *Gold and Silver Waltz* by Franz Lehár but we keep practising! The orchestra will be performing during Music in the Garden at Whinbush Farm in July. If you're interested in joining, contact me: [jm.dyson@btinternet.com](mailto:jm.dyson@btinternet.com).

**Janet Dyson**  
**Musical Director**





## Great Bardfield WEA

*Top: London  
Dock Strike  
of 1889*

*Below: The  
Beatles*

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

Our first course this academic year concentrated on the East End of London during the second half of the Victorian age, looking at the social problems caused by the industrial revolution. The Beatles, their music and who they went on to inspire was the theme of our spring course. Courses for the next academic year include one entitled *Pirates of the Caribbean and Beyond* and another covering the history of Britain in turbulent times.



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

**Annette Joyce**



Workers' Educational Association

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



## The Bardfield Players



**I**t's been a funny old year. I have been involved with the Bardfield Players since 1997 and for the first time we put on three productions in the same year!

We began 2018 with a pantomime, *Treasure Island*, (which was featured on the cover of last year's report). This was very popular, and resulted in Carolynne Ruffle and Louisa Ruthven winning an award for the Best Comedy Performance (as two useless pirates), from the North Essex Theatre Guild. Secondly, in May, we put on a Murder Mystery entitled *Who Killed the Mad Professor?* Everyone enjoyed this immensely and it was very well directed by one of our new recruits, Sheree Reilly. And finally, *Bazaar and Rummage*, written by Sue Townsend and directed by Louisa. This play dealt with the lives of four women who suffered from agoraphobia. Not only was our last play a graphic and very honest study of their situations, but as the setting for it was at a Jumble Sale in a community hall, it made perfect sense to us to have the play performed on the floor of the Town Hall, instead of on the stage. So, special tiered staging was hired for the seating, and for the first time three sides of the Town Hall were

occupied by the audience! (See photograph below). Another first for us I think!

We have been fortunate to receive from Michael Hitchcock several photographs and programmes from the middle of the last century. This spurred us on to at last get our archive sorted, and neatly presented in box files. Thanks to Niki Scripps who did most of the hard work. If anyone else has material regarding the past of the Players, we would love to see it.

We have also been fortunate over the last couple of years in attracting several new members to our group, enabling us to put on ever-larger productions.

We are currently in rehearsals for our show in May 2019, which is called *Some People*, a farce which is set in a run-down hotel, and has a cast of 15. This production has had its share of ups and down, but it will be terrific when it is finished!

If you would like to join us, then please do.

**Ian Ruffle, Chairman  
The Bardfield Players**







# Great Bardfield Primary School report

## AIM HIGH – TRY YOUR BEST – GO FAR

This has been another incredibly positive year at Great Bardfield Primary School. We are working hard on our goals following our Ofsted Inspection in 2017. Caroline Pardy, Lead Ofsted Inspector wrote, 'It is clear that Great Bardfield is a good and improving school.' *Ofsted Report* January 2017. We are looking in particular at broadening and deepening learning in foundation subjects such as Art, Music, Design and Technology, Computing and French, alongside maintaining high standards in the core subjects of Maths, English and Science.

Together as a whole school community; senior leaders, governors, staff, pupils and parents we continuously work hard to move our wonderful school forwards. Progress is a top priority for every child at Great Bardfield and we were delighted with our results across the board, last July. Our progress results, in particular from the end of Key Stage One to Key Stage Two, are very strong and we are proud that disadvantaged children

make at least the same progress as their peers.

Children who attend our school who have Special Educational Needs

have tailored learning plans and provision that supports them in many different ways. At Great Bardfield the progress of all children is a top priority.

### **Reflecting on last year's Summer Term**

Experiences are very important at Great Bardfield Primary School and we try to ensure that the children have plenty of opportunities for learning in the classroom, outdoors and beyond the school gates. Last summer our Year 6 children enjoyed a very successful residential visit to the Isle of Wight. We only had nine children in the year group and we didn't want them to miss out on the opportunity to visit the Isle of Wight; Great Easton Primary School very kindly agreed to us sharing their coach and hotel so we could keep our costs down. The children had a brilliant time on this trip and it was wonderful to see their independence and maturity blossom as they learnt to be independent and more responsible for themselves and their belongings.

Last summer we also enjoyed another whole-school trip to the seaside at Frinton. The children really built on their social and creative skills, paddling and building sandcastles together. Whole-school trips are a regular part of our curriculum with the children going out at least once per term. A less welcome feature of the summer term,



*Fun on  
our whole-  
school trip  
to Frinton  
Beach in  
July 2018*







for our Year 6 children, are the dreaded SATs tests! We were very proud of how the children approached the tests last summer and with our results.

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

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

#### **A sad farewell to our Year 6 pupils**

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

whole school sang their hearts out in our final assembly, which was a joyful and uplifting end to a very busy and successful year.

#### **A brand new school year, 2018-2019**

We began the new school year with our Growth Mindset firmly in place!

Unfortunately, the school has had to take some drastic steps this year to cope with the ever diminishing Government School Fund. We have eighty children currently in Key Stage Two and if we had maintained the same class structure as the previous year, this would have meant 40 children in each of our two Key Stage Two classes. The Local authority were not prepared to fund another teacher so it was decided that I would teach full-time this year and create a fifth class. This has been very challenging and demanding as it has meant working fourteen-hour days and most weekends and holidays but I was determined that the children at our school should not be disadvantaged. Since we have worked so hard over the last five years to raise standards and to offer excellent experiences for our children, I wanted the cuts to our school budget to have minimum impact. I think we have achieved that this year because we have amazing and dedicated staff who have been

*Year 3  
enjoying  
their  
visit to  
Colchester  
Castle*

*Year 6  
Visit to  
the Isle  
of Wight  
June 2018*





*'Great Bardfield Bake Off' in aid of Macmillan Cancer.*

*Year 5 and 6 children take part in an Inter-Schools Football tournament*



stretched across five classes rather than our previous four.

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

Fundraising at Great Bardfield continues to be a very important aspect way of developing our sense of citizenship and respect for others in the wider community. We frequently take part in fundraising activities and this year have already have raised money for Macmillan Cancer, the Royal British Legion, Save the Children, the Braintree Foodbank, the NSPCC and Comic Relief.

As always in October, we invited George Mills to school. The children were very proud to present him with 131 shoe-boxes to take to the orphanages he supports in Ukraine. We have worked very hard with the children to raise their awareness of the importance of British values. These fit in with our five key skills of Respect, Resilience, Resourcefulness, Responsibility and Reflectiveness which run through the heart of everything that we do at Great Bardfield Primary School.

#### **Remembrance Day 2018**

We were delighted to be part of the very special local community events, organised by the Royal British Legion, to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the World War I. Along with Finchingfield and Wethersfield schools, the children took part in a project to create pieces of art to represent World War I. The children did us proud and we were so pleased to be part of the community project. Each child also made a poppy which we hung on the school fence so that when people drove through the village they could see our mark of respect for the fallen soldiers.

#### **Providing a rich and varied curriculum**

The curriculum at Great Bardfield Primary is rich and exciting. We enjoy teaching all subjects in a way





that encourages active learning and consolidation of key skills. For example, the children really enjoyed taking part in a week of fun circus activities when the Cirque Normandie came to visit again in September 2018.

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

We are keen to give the children opportunities to explore life beyond Great Bardfield. We have continued this year to take the children to museums and country parks where they can experience bringing their learning to life. In the Autumn term Years 4, 5 and 6 visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford as part of their work on World War II and Key Stage One visited the Toy Museum when they were learning all about the history of toys. Then in the Spring term Year 3 visited Colchester Castle when they were learning about the Romans.

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



music is tangible. Our Year 4 children have greatly enjoyed learning the ukulele through lessons offered by Essex Music Services.

#### **Our School Community**

We are incredibly lucky at Great Bardfield Primary School to have amazing staff who are dedicated and determined in their desire to secure the best outcomes for the children. Together we are a strong team of people who care about each other and who have deep respect for one another. We set good examples to the children in the way that we get along together and how we speak and communicate with each other. We model our five key skills of Respect, Resilience,

*Children improving their fine motor skills when the Circus came to visit in September 2018*

*A visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford*







*Unicorns 2018 are well settled in to school and are getting ready for the challenges of being more independent*



Responsibility, Resourcefulness and Reflectiveness; leading by example encourages the children to also show these five key skills.

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

#### **Things to look forward to in the Summer Term**

The summer term is always a fun-packed term with lots of outdoor learning opportunities. Our Year 6 children are working very hard for their SATs and even gave up some of their Easter holiday to do extra preparation. They will once again be visiting the Isle Of Wight for their week-long residential trip in July. Some children will be taking part in the May Day celebrations in Great Saling and we will be supporting the village car boot sale, in May. We will of

course be holding our annual Summer Fete in June. Also, we will welcome our new Unicorns when they have a taster afternoon after the May half-term. The current Unicorns are now completely settled in to school and are getting ready for their next challenge of Year 1.

#### **Moving the school forwards**

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

We are incredibly lucky to have a school where people work tenaciously in many different ways be it staff, governors or parents to secure the best opportunities for our children to reach their full potential. It is a very happy place where everyone has a sense of belonging and a deep sense of pride in our children. It was wonderful to read that at our Ofsted inspection it was noted that, 'Pupils learn in a friendly, caring and supportive environment that enables them to develop positive attitudes towards learning and achieving their best. All of the pupils I spoke to enjoy coming to school and are proud of their school.' Ofsted 2017

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

**Mrs Alison Kerrell**  
**Headteacher**



## Great Bardfield Pre-School



There has been pre-school provision in the village since the early 1970s when local parents got together to establish a play school for their children in a modest building opposite the church. In 1999 with the aid of lottery funding and a huge effort on behalf of the community led by Steve Slemmings, a purpose-built pre-school building was opened on the primary school site. Since then the facility has gone from strength to strength providing exemplary care for over 40 children aged from 2-5.

Our fully-qualified team of staff draws on many years of experience. They are as equally skilled at settling a tearful toddler on their first day (and their parent!) as preparing a rising 5-year-old for their first day at 'big' school. Many, but not all, of the children attending Great Bardfield Pre-School go on to Great Bardfield Primary School, just a short hop, skip and jump away across the field.

Sessions are held every day starting from 8.50am. The latest pick-up time is 3.00pm and, depending on the needs of your child, there is a choice of sessions which may or may not include lunch. For a full breakdown of times and fees (government funding is available for 15 hours per week), please contact us or go to our page on the Parish Council website.

We are fully accredited and regularly inspected by Ofsted. We are supported by a Pre-School Committee comprising enthusiastic and hard-working parents.

Our aim is to broaden the children's horizons by learning through play in our safe, well-equipped building and beautiful garden. Children are taught respect for one another, to learn to share and play with other children, to trust adults and accept new situations. We encourage children to experiment with new materials, to express themselves in different ways, to develop their language skills and work out how to do things for themselves.

This is just a brief snap-shot of how we prepare early years children for the next stage of their education. For more information or an informal chat, please contact us on: 01371 811580.

**Kathy King**  
**Pre-School Supervisor**



## Great Bardfield After School and Breakfast Club

A hidden gem in the village for working parents is the Great Bardfield After School and Breakfast Club which shares the purpose-built Pre-School building. The club is open to children from all schools. We have been situated on the Great Bardfield Primary School site for 20 years now, providing out-of-school care for children aged 3-14 years. The club is open from Monday to Friday during term time. We are an Ofsted registered childcare provider; at our last inspection in 2015 we were rated 'Good'. We are also a registered charity, hence we always need fundraising help.

The day-to-day running of the club is undertaken by a group of friendly, qualified and DBS-checked staff led by Pat Moore. With numbers having increased dramatically this year we have had to employ two more members of staff. Nick Holland stepped down as Chair in October and Mel Sims took over the role. The Committee meets termly and welcomes willing new members with fundraising ideas.

We have a healthy number of Breakfast Club children attending from 7.30am at just £6.50 a head, which includes a cooked breakfast if required. Mary efficiently runs our Breakfast Club supported by Carol and Kerrie, who drop the children into their morning playground lines.

The After School Club runs until 6pm every day apart from 5.30pm on Fridays. Our staff collect your little ones from their classrooms and take

them back to our warm building to play, make craft, watch TV, play computer games or do homework – with or without dinner. If they attend the Primary School's after-school clubs, our staff will collect them when they end. Children from other schools can be dropped off whenever convenient.

Our main fundraising activities are the annual Family Fun Run, and the village Garage Sale. We also raise funds by selling candy floss at the Garage Sale, teddies at the school Christmas fete and mulled wine at Bonfire Night.

We are immensely grateful to the Co-op for thousands of pounds of funding received so far. And, of course, thanks to Bardfield Charities which has helped us pay to train our new staff, undertake DBS checks and provide first-aid courses. Finally, we are immensely grateful to all parents and carers who use and support us.

As well as placing big orders of craft supplies, we have bought two new homework laptops and a new large fridge freezer for our kitchen. We have set up a donated Wii to get the kids moving when it is not warm enough to use the excellent outdoor space. Buying some outdoor trikes is next on our wish list as well as improved, more efficient lighting. If you are interested in finding out more about what we offer then just ring 01371 811580 for an informal chat. More information about the Club can be found on our website: [www.greatbardfieldasc.btck.co.uk](http://www.greatbardfieldasc.btck.co.uk) or follow our Facebook page.



**Mel Sims**  
**Chair, Great Bardfield After**  
**School and Breakfast Club**





## Great Bardfield Carpet Bowls

This year has been a disappointing year for our club. We are members of North West Area of the Essex County Carpet Bowls Association Winter League. We began the year with a fantastic 8-0 away win, but then our form seemed to desert us. We did have some good wins but we lost various matches which we should not have. We eventually came third but many points below second. Seward End won the League by a considerable margin.

Third seems to be the theme as we were also third in the Summer Singles League 2018. Again, it was that team Swards End that won. We will be competing in the 2019 League and we have a strong group of players so we are looking forward to another good summer.

We arranged some friendly fixtures with other clubs and villages in the area, attended various Charity events and played all the Essex County competitions which are held at Braintree. Everyone who represented our club did us proud, especially Pauline and John Smith who came runners-up in the County Pairs competition. Four members of our club have been invited to represent Essex at the National Championships 2019 being held in Gateshead.

Each year I tell you a little bit about the club for the benefit of those new to the village. Our club has been in existence in Great Bardfield since 1990 and I am glad to report it is still going strong. Like so many teams around the county we would like to encourage new members to bolster our numbers and bring in new blood and interest. It is an ideal way to meet new friends locally and find out about other villages in the area. Is there anyone new to the area who would like to try their hand? We would really welcome some new faces into the club so if you think it might be worth a look; please do not be shy in coming forward. The club meets all year round on a Wednesday at the Town Hall from about 7.45 pm.

Sadly the number of players is falling all over the county with various clubs seriously considering whether they can continue to join the league and,

even more worrying, actually cease altogether. This is a great shame as the sport is very enjoyable and highly sociable. Essex County also run a competition at Potters Leisure Centre near Great Yarmouth and we have a great social weekend there with all the food you can eat and great entertainment, all at reduced prices.

This is not a sport for old fuddy duddies – just look at the competitors in the world bowls championships you see on TV – it is a sport for all. Secondly, despite the name ‘carpet’ it is not the toy game that you play in your lounge. The bowls are 10cm (4 inches) in diameter and the carpet is 10 x 2 metres. Carpet bowls is a proper, skilful sport open to all; the young and not-so-young, the able and less able-bodied. We even let males and females compete together. Finally, it is cheap as the club provides the equipment; it prides itself on its friendly nature and is as competitive as you wish to make it. If you would like more information about carpet bowls call me, Cliff, or Lynda on 810782.

Sadly Bardfield does not have an outdoor lawn bowls green but there are clubs at Dunmow, Thaxted and Stebbing if you are interested in the full-size game. Lynda and I play at Castle Hedingham. The outdoor season will soon be upon us so if you would like contact details we should be able to help you out here too.

**Clifford Richardson**



## Great Bardfield Folk Club



*Our Special Guest Night on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019: Becky Mills and Ruth Angell*

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the Great Bardfield Folk Club continues to bring diverse musicians together to sing, play, listen, and of course socialise. All of the participants, whether from within or outside the village, consider it a great asset and we're delighted to be hosted by the Friends' Meeting House; we often get compliments about both the acoustics and the 'friendly vibe' of the venue. Indeed we make a point of being open to all performers of any genre, age, and experience, and there is room for everyone among the different formats a Folk Night might take. The three main formats are:

### 1. 'Second Thursday' folk nights (£3).

These are our regular folk evenings on the second Thursday of the month and feature a scheduled guest as well as the opportunity for attendees to perform informally. We start and finish the evening with an informal 'round the room' with audience members taking it in turns to sing and play. The scheduled guests are usually either performers we've encountered at other folk clubs, or performers who have previously attended the Great Bardfield Folk Club and played us a couple of songs during the informal part of the evening and been invited to return. They come in all shapes and sizes (solo performers, duos, bands) but can all be considered 'folky' at some level (and we

have quite a broad definition of what's already a broad musical category). However, to play in the informal session you don't have to fit into any category whatsoever. Never performed in front of an audience? Perform for us – we're friendly. Just learned a new song or written a poem? Try it out on us! No need to book beforehand – just turn up and play.

### 2. Local Artist Showcases (£3)

Twice a year, instead of one guest performer doing a 45-minute set, we invite three local performers each to do a twenty-minute set. This is ideal for up-and-coming musicians who might not feel ready for the full 45 minutes, or for more seasoned performers who might be trying out a new lineup. The before and after sing-around still happens, so expect a huge variety of music on Local Artist Showcase nights.

### 3. Guest nights.

Every now and then – a couple of times a year – we manage to book a more high-profile guest artist and then



we usually just give them the entire evening, with no 'floor singers'. Those are a bit more expensive and we try to do them on Saturdays, although our co-conspirators Rod and Marian Stokes – who book folk acts in both Bardfield and Finchingfield – sometimes arrange a guest night on a Thursday. Some highlights from 2018 include:

- Several people performing for the first time in public. Anyone who has ever performed will tell you that playing in front of people is not the same as playing a song or tune at home in your living room. We consider it a great honour when people feel safe enough to give their first public performance at our club.
- A full-length guest performance from a band whose lead singer was one of the very people whose first public performance was at the club a couple of years before. We've watched her develop from a shy, reticent vocalist to a confident and skilled performer and were also hosts to some early performances

of the band's current line-up. We're delighted to have been a part of their journey.

- Katie Spencer, a young star-in-the-making from Yorkshire, amazing us with her beautiful guitar work, compelling vocals and powerful songs. She's been making waves at several folk clubs around the country and drew an enormous crowd.
- We were also lucky enough to be able to host legendary band Hunter Musckett in one of their rare appearances in their full four-piece line-up. Their set was magical from start to finish – and in addition, we broke our 'no-support-act' rule for Special Saturday Nights and asked a young songwriter named Zoe Wren to play a few songs beforehand. She too was excellent, and she will be reappearing in the September Second Thursday night with musical partner Jasmine (together they are the duo 'Roswell') as our invited guests. Not to be missed!

For 2019 and the future, we hope that more and more Bardfielders will discover that along with all the other village and community resources Bardfield has to offer, a thriving music scene is there for them to enjoy – whether they like to sing, play or listen.

**Anna Bass and Ray Taylor**

#### **'Second Thursday' special guests booked for 2019**

May 9 <sup>th</sup>	The John Ward Band
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wildwood Jack
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Delta Ladies
Aug 8 <sup>th</sup>	Local Artists' Night featuring: Taylor, Phil Ericson and Nicky Vere-Compton
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Roswell
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Colin Frid
Nov 14 <sup>th</sup>	John 'Daddio' Clarke
Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tony Winn

#### **Our Special Guest Night on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June: Becky Mills and Ruth Angell**

For more details, tickets (where applicable) and any future bookings see <http://greatbardfieldfolk.wixsite.com/club>

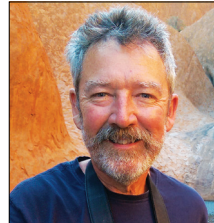




# Great Bardfield Parish Council



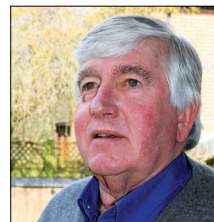
**Cllr Carolynne Ruffle**  
**Chairman**  
01371 810986



**Cllr Simon Walsh**  
**Vice Chairman**  
01371 810451



**Cllr Janet Dyson**  
01371 810838



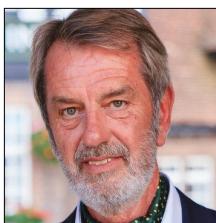
**Cllr Iain Graham**  
07831 595555



**Cllr Darren Hockley**  
01371 810836



**Cllr Steve Slemmings**  
01371 810098



**Cllr Paul Kennedy**  
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**Parish Clerk**  
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## Community Information Point

Town Hall Cottages  
01371 810327  
[gbcip@btconnect.com](mailto:gbcip@btconnect.com)

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



