



Friday, May 6th
Great Bardfield Town Hall

Doors Open 7.30pm Film Starts 8.00pm
Members free, Non members £6



BARDFIELD CINEMA CLUB - FRIDAY 6TH MAY

May
2022

•
50p
where
sold

News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield

Bardfield Times



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

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Front cover: Michael Hitchcock 1927-2022

Above: Sunset by Erin Jones

Editorial

It is sad to report the death of Michael Hitchcock in his 95th year and it's appropriate to reflect on his long life. Born in a cottage on Dunmow Road in 1927, Michael attended Great Bardfield Primary School and later Braintree High School. He lived his whole life in the village apart from 3 years' National Service. At 17 he was shipped to the far east, spending time in Japan and visiting the memorial to those who died when the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. When he returned to Great Bardfield aged 20 he went to work in his father's shop, 'Hitchcocks' (formerly 'Tanners') in the High Street where he stayed for the next 50 years. He retired at 70, enjoying an active retirement, particularly travelling with his wife Diana, including revisiting Japan.

Michael will be remembered by many for his quirky sense of humour and his endless fund of stories, some of which he has shared through the *Bardfield Times*, right up to last month's issue. He had an engaging style and a good turn of phrase and his memories have added to our knowledge of 'the old days' in our village. He will be greatly missed and we send our condolences to his family.



Michael's funeral will be held in St Mary's Church on May 13th at 10.00am. In line with Michael's wishes the cortege will pass the shop in the High Street at 9.45. Those wishing to follow the procession to the church are asked to be in the High Street by 9.30.

Janet Dyson, Editor

The Bardfield Players

By the time you read this there will be barely two weeks to go until our first opening night for two and a half years. All of our performers have been working very hard on learning their lines and fitting in rehearsals, along side their real lives and responsibilities. Never an easy thing to do. Also our set builders have spent weeks putting the set together (as you may know, we do not do things by halves!), bar managers have been stocking up, our technicians have been testing equipment, putting together sound effects and music, props and costumes are being collected and brought together, the posters and programmes have been designed and printed. In fact all manner of things too numerous to mention have been going on for months, in readiness for that opening night on **May 19th**.

I would like to thank the Co op who for so many years have sold our tickets for us, but now we are using a more modern way of selling our tickets online, they are available from - www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardfield-players

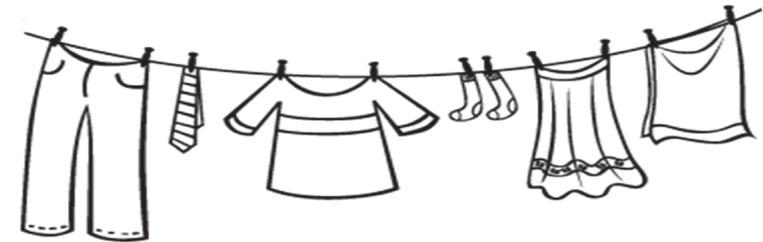
This has proven to be a very easy and efficient way of obtaining tickets for our play 'A Bunch of Amateurs', however if you do not have access to a computer, please just give me a ring and I will reserve some tickets for you, to be paid for on the door. I look forward to seeing you all at the Town Hall on May 19th, 20th and 21st. **Ian Ruffle 07980960082**

TABLE TENNIS IN FINCHINGFIELD

Following the easing of Covid-related restrictions on our activities, the group who come to the village hall on Monday evenings to play table tennis have been able to re-start the regular weekly sessions. We would welcome new members to join the group. Sessions start at 7.30pm each Monday and run for 2 hours. The group has 3 tables and mainly play doubles matches during the evening. All equipment is provided. Currently, to provide most protection for each other, everyone brings along their own refreshments.

The standard of play is varied. Most of us had not played since our school days! The key point is that we have a lot of fun whilst aiming to help us keep in shape. Well-being has been realised as a major need following the last 2 years experiences. Table Tennis definitely provides an uplifting and enjoyable exercise for all who attend the weekly sessions. Why not consider a new venture as the world tries to return to some normality and come along and join us for some laughs and good exercise? We look forward to greeting you. If you would like to have a chat beforehand, please call me on 07775 531781.

Brian



JUMBLE SALE SATURDAY 14th MAY

14:00 – 17:00 Great Bardfield Town Hall

Entry: Adults: £1 Children: Free

Tea, Coffee & Cakes also available

**All proceeds to the Disasters Emergency
Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal**

Donations of jumble needed:

bric-a-brac, clothes, toys, books, DVDs, etc.

Drop off jumble to the Town Hall on
Saturday 14th May from 09:00 onwards



For more info:
Nick & Sarah
01371 810209



Great Bardfield Parish Council report

With Covid restrictions no longer in place, the Parish Council has resumed meeting at the Town Hall. Space is limited in the Committee Room however parishioners are always welcome to raise matters of concern relating to Great Bardfield.

Planning

Bluebell Cottage, Walthams Cross: Erection of outbuilding for a home gym and swimming pool. Although the application was made under Permitted Development Rights, meaning the Parish Council could not formally make a representation, it was felt that the elevated location of the proposed building within a small hamlet was not appropriate, and it was hoped that this application would be dealt with as a full planning application.

Chief's Farm, Walthams Cross: Extension to an Agricultural Building, with Change of Use to a carriage workshop. This proposal is well set back from the road and would have little visual impact to the area. The nature of the new use would have little impact on traffic movements, and no objections were raised.

There were no objections to for three applications concerning tree works at the following properties: North House, Bridge Street, Holly House in Northampton Meadow and The Beeches, Braintree Road.

Highways: In the Public Forum, a member of the public raised concerns about the faded white lines opposite the Co-op*. This had been reported many months ago to Essex County Council, and to Cllr Butland our County Councillor. The Clerk agreed to chase this up. Also raised was the damage by large vehicles to Crown Green, and it was resolved that measures to prevent overrunning such as those on Memorial Green need to be implemented. Highways will also be approached to seek a permanent solution. Many access covers and drain surrounds have suffered damage through the winter meaning these ironworks are in some cases quite exposed. Some have been marked off for repair particularly along the route of the cycling event later in May.

Parking: The Police recently visited the village to check on inappropriate parking especially on the pavements. Some drivers were offered advice, and where unavailable windscreen notices were left. They will be returning in a few weeks and if necessary, will ticket the offenders.

Bridge Street Footbridge: The replacement woodwork is now complete and the quality of workmanship is superb. We extend our thanks to the

County Council and their contractors for doing such an excellent job. There will be a new plaque made to acknowledge that this work was done during the Platinum Jubilee year.

Dog Problems: pavements and the recreation ground continue to be subject to irresponsible owners not clearing up their dog's mess. Bags are available free of charge from the Community Information Point, and there are numerous bins around the village for their disposal. A talk to the school children by the Dog Warden and a poster competition is planned.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: two applications have been received for funding. These are for a Jubilee Dance in the Town Hall, and a Jubilee Tea Party hosted by the Horticultural Society. The Parish Council has also been notified of a Street Party to be adjacent to School Green organised by the school's PTA.

Wethersfield Prison Proposal: The SWAP leaflet was circulated with the April *Bardfield Times* and WASC continue their work in presenting a constructive argument against the proposal. A donation of £1,000 towards this work was approved.

Litter Pick: this is being arranged for May 21st/22nd – see poster for details. *ED. * The white lines have now been reinstated.*

Simon Walsh, Vice Chairperson

“YOUR PAVILION NEEDS
YOU”

Following the article in the April edition of the *BT*, just a word of appreciation to the response both financial and in kind so far. Please continue to keep this community project in your thoughts and donate whatever you are able. Once the pavilion is completed, we will be able to publicly acknowledge all donations (unless requested otherwise) and this includes those residents who have given previously. Cheques can be made out to Great Bardfield Parish Council and delivered to the Parish Clerk or one of the Councillors.

Thank you again. **Kate Fox, Parish Clerk**

GREENFINGERS

Tulip time is nearly over, you may just manage a visit to the tulip openings in some gardens but be quick. Look at the National Gardens Society listings.

We all associate Autumn with the time to plant bulbs to give us joy in the Spring *BUT* there is more to bulbs than snowdrops, daffodils, camassias, ohh, and — tulips. Now is when gladioli continue to be planted, March and April are the start if continuous flowering is desired but look for the gladioli relative *ACIDANTHERA*. This truly is a delectable addition to the late Summer display, 40cm. tall, white with a burgundy stripe and deliciously scented. It's great in a pot where one can appreciate the perfume but they are not winter-proof so in November store the bulbs out of frost. Definitely a 'must-have'.

There are other lovely bulbs/corms that quite surprisingly may be planted now. Alliums will be later than the normal May and June flowering but the most curious is anemone blanda – yes, the sort that finished flowering after its April display but put the corms in now (they are available to buy) they flower in the summer and in 2023, hey presto they revert to the norm and bloom in the Spring - the wonders of Nature.

Now for the list of **JOBS**

1. Baskets and pots will need planting up for your spectacular summer display so start acquiring the plants.
2. Hellebores have been fantastic this year (the winter wet I suspect) so conserve their energy by cutting the finished flowers down to the base and give the plant a sprinkling of blood fish and bone.
3. Hoe out the weeds, and place tall twiggy sticks to support those tall plants. This applies not just to delphiniums but phlox and thalictrums.
4. Gaps in your planting can still be cheaply filled with seed: cosmos, marigolds, clarkia are all 'good doers'.
5. Shorten over-zealous growth on clematis armando and montana but *NOT* the dainty alpine and macropetala sort.
6. Plant bulbs as advised above!!

Reminder: next month is the start of Platinum Jubilee - send for your tickets for the Tower Flower experience 🌸



GREAT BARDFIELD ARE TAKING PART IN THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Join us to give our village a tidy up.

Litter pick on Saturday 21st and/or Sunday 22nd May

Meet at The Fountain, Brook Street, 10am either day

Hi-vis jackets, litter pickers & rubbish bags will be provided

Families welcome - Children to be accompanied by a responsible adult

Further information from Paul Kennedy 810540





PRESENT

'A BUNCH OF AMATEURS'

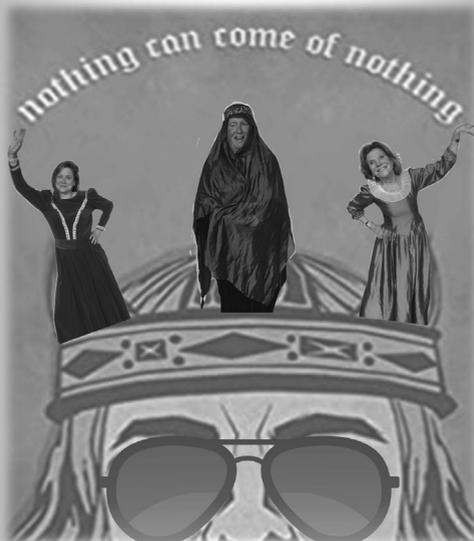
By Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

*Amateur theatre meets Hollywood—
but wished it hadn't!*

19th, 20th, 21st May, 2022, Starts 8.00 pm
Great Bardfield Town Hall, CM7 4SA

**Ticket Price £8.50—order from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardfield-players**

Further details from 07980 960082



This production contains bad language, some adult content, and flashing lights.

<https://bardfieldplayers.chessck.co.uk>

From the Vicarage...

It has now been six months since the service in which I was welcomed as the Parish Priest of Great and Little Bardfield, in addition to the parishes of Finchingfield, Cornish Hall End, Wethersfield and Shalford, where my ministry began nearly two years ago! It's not just a significant marker in time for me, but for all six parishes too, as we get used to a new way of working as a larger group. Over the past few weeks, the congregations have been having conversations about what we want the future of our churches to look like. But because they are parish churches, these are not the only views that matter, because our churches are there to serve the whole community, not just a particular group within it.

I would love to widen the conversation about the future of our churches, and how best they can serve our villages, so please get in touch to say what you would like to see from your parish church! Part of that will be about making our church buildings welcoming places by providing a space for all kinds of activity which enrich the lives of our communities. But I would also particularly like to hear what you think would help the church serve you spiritually. How can we help you pray? (The boards and books for prayers in our churches suggest that there is plenty of praying happening already!) When and where are the times and places that you want to talk about what gives our lives meaning and purpose? And how best do we provide support for the times when the answers the world gives to life's challenges don't seem quite adequate?

One of the ways in which the Church is changing – not just here, but in many other places too – is by reflecting in its operation the fact that what we do is not just about what happens on Sundays. The patterns of modern life are such that Sundays are not always the easiest day for people to come to church; but actually, real faith has always been about more than just what happens for an hour or so each week! So by making church life about what happens every day, we are rediscovering something really important about what the Church has always stood for. Sunday will always be an important day for Christians – it is the day when we remember the message of Easter, still hopefully fresh in our minds – but we will miss its importance if we don't let it spill out into the rest of the week, and out of the church building into the rest of our lives.

The stereotype of church is that it's where people go to be told things – why not turn the tables, and come and tell us what the Church might mean to you! You will always be welcome.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Services for May 2022

in the Pant Valley Churches

Services on Sundays and Principal Holy Days

Sunday 1 May – Easter 3

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield
9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Shalford
9.30am Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End
10.30am All Age Eucharist – Finchingfield
5pm Time to Be – Wethersfield

Sunday 8 May – Easter 4

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford
followed by breakfast
9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Cornish Hall End
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield
11am All Age Morning Worship – Wethersfield
5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 15 May – Easter 5

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield
9.30am Morning Worship – Shalford
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield
10.30am Time of Prayer – Finchingfield
(a simple service to which we are encouraged to bring our own prayers)
5pm Words and Music for Easter – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 22 May – Easter 6

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
9.30am Mattins (traditional language) – Shalford
9.30am Sung Eucharist – Little Bardfield
11am All Age Eucharist – Wethersfield

Thursday 26 May – Ascension Day

7.30pm Benefice Eucharist – Great Bardfield

Sunday 29 May – Easter 7

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield
9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Shalford
9.30am Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End
10.30am All Age Eucharist – Finchingfield
5pm Time to Be – Wethersfield

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday

8.30am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

Tuesday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

Thursday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield
10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)
Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford
10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield (except 26 May)

Friday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

Particular Services and Events this month

Thursday 19 May

10am Coffee Morning – Cornish Hall End

Saturday 21 May

10am Children's Church – Wethersfield
11am Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

Tuesday 31 May (The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth)

9.30am Eucharist – Great Bardfield
*followed by coffee at 10am, to which all are welcome,
whether you've been to the service or not*

Great Bardfield Horticultural Society

invite you to join us for

A Royal Jubilee Afternoon Tea



Saturday 11th June

at 2.30pm in The Town Hall

£10 per head - Includes a glass of Fizz

Booking Essential

To Book Contact: Iris Couldridge 01371 810088 or Linda Prior 01371 811641

Great Bardfield Horticultural Society

Our Spring Show was held at the end of March-it had been 2 years since the last one. A huge thank you to everyone who came-exhibitors, helpers and visitors.

The Show was well supported and we were really pleased to see so many entries—there was a wonderful display of spring flowers together with the floral arrangements, cakes and jams and handicrafts.

A big “Thank You” to Bardfield School for the excellent range of pictures painted-over 30 and the amazing decorated crowns—such a great range of colours and designs.

Visitors in the afternoon enjoyed a colourful and interesting display of exhibits including floral art displays and imaginative arrangements in gravy boats and lemons. There was a tombola, raffle and a well stocked plant stall

We also hosted the Inter Village Floral Shield – “A Royal Posy”

Tea and cakes were served at The Bell Inn next door to the hall. Thank you Sharon- very much appreciated by everyone. Donations were given to the Horticultural Society.

Here are the results:--

Trophies-Spring Show

Arthur Willis Cup

Highest points in the Flower Section

Peter Morris

Floral Art Cup

Highest points in the Floral Art Section

Liz Drane

Ann Hayward Cup

Highest points in the Domestic Section

Janet Morris

Men's Domestic Cup

Best exhibit in class 36

Nick Holland

George Hervey Murray Shield

Highest points in the Handicraft Section

Sarah Holland

Ian Holmes Shield

Highest points – Youths aged 13 to 16

Alfie Holland

Gill Hervey Murray Shield

Highest points – Children aged 9 to 12

Katie Philip

Irene Horsnell Shield

Highest points – Children aged 5 to 8

Sam Yarrow

Red Rosette

Highest points—children under 5's
Inter Village Floral Shield - Gosfield.

Harry Wormsley

Well done everybody!!! Congratulations.

Visit to the Gardens of Easton Lodge Thursday May 12th at 2pm

Just a reminder of the date and time for those of you that have booked tickets for this garden visit. Fingers crossed for good weather.

Saturday 11th June at 2.30pm in the Town Hall

To celebrate the extra special holiday weekend we are inviting you to

A Royal Jubilee Afternoon Tea

£10 per head - includes a glass of fizz

Booking Essential

**To book contact: Iris Couldridge 01371 810088 or
Linda Prior 01371 811641**

Coach Trip Saturday July 9th to the RHS Gardens at Hyde Hall

Highlights include a beautiful Hilltop Garden with its colourful herbaceous borders and scented rose garden, a Mediterranean-inspired dry garden, which has an array of drought-tolerant plants, and the innovative Global Growth vegetable garden, displaying fruit and vegetables from around the world.

For details please contact Iris Couldridge 01371 810088

We are delighted to let you know that we have had a volunteer for our role of Treasurer.

For any information about the Society please contact Linda Prior 811641

Great Bardfield Historical Society

AGM

**Thursday May 12th 8pm
in the Town Hall**



Photographs from the archive will be displayed.

New members very welcome.

Wine and nice things to eat!

Town Hall Happenings

Our Quiz Night was a sell-out and was enjoyed by all even those of us who knew no answers!

The Community Fridge continues on Monday, Friday and Saturday mornings thanks to the Co-op for the food and our caretaker Sarah for organising.

The Spring Horticultural Show was a success with many entries. The Summer Show is scheduled for the 6th August so put that date in your diary. Other dates for your diary are the Art Show 1st and 2nd May and Bardfield Players 19th, 20th and 21st May.

For the Queen's Jubilee we are arranging a Dance in the Hall on the evening of Thursday the 2nd June, the band is The Beavers and tickets will be available soon.

Please do think of using the Town Hall for any event. As well as the Main Hall we have a committee room and the Bawden Room. Both of these are useful for meetings or small gatherings.

John Maidman
Chair Great Bardfield
Town Hall



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

THE SALINGS

PLANT SALE

MONDAY MAY 2ND

VILLAGE HALL,
 PICCOTTS LANE, GREAT SALING

10AM - 2PM

• PLANTS • SHRUBS

• TREES

• REFRESHMENTS



ALL PROCEEDS TO THE SALINGS CHURCHES

Great Bardfield Town Hall

Bardfield ART SHOW

2022

SUNDAY, 1st MAY

11 am – 5 pm

MONDAY, 2nd MAY

11 am – 4 pm

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

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

Peter Keynton and Katrina Ralston

Art Show Organisers
 bardfield.art.show@gmail.com

Village People – Claire Willetts

The last time you went to a museum, as you looked at the objects or photographs on display, did you wonder who wrote the information or decided which exhibits would interest you? And how they came to be doing that?

Claire grew up in Wiltshire, and an inspiring history teacher sparked an interest in history while she was still at school. After school, she headed to Warwick University to study history. A casual remark by a friend alerted her to the fact that it was possible to have a degree in "Museum Studies." It struck a chord - and she knew immediately that this was what she wanted to do.

A few years later, armed with a Master's Degree – in Museum Studies, of course - from the University of Leicester, she applied for a job at the National Army Museum in Chelsea. In retrospect, she says, she was lucky to be entering the world of museums at a time when Millennium funding was available and jobs were available – these days, people who want to work at a museum often find themselves volunteering to gain experience before they stand a chance of a successful application. She got the job at the National Army Museum. The job title was "Documentation Officer" and it involved recording catalogue information about the photographs in the collection – but only the information. She didn't actually get to see the photographs. "It was bizarre," she says. "I don't recall ever seeing an object." She enjoyed the experience nonetheless.

A year later, however, Claire was able to move to a job at the British Museum. It was similar work – but this time she saw objects! It was an exciting place to work – just walking into the imposing building was a thrill, and once she got there, she had access to the hallowed store rooms underneath the Great Court.

It might seem as though working at the British Museum would be the ultimate job for someone interested in museums, but the vast number of employees meant that each person specialised in a very narrow area, and there was little opportunity for change or advancement. Claire spent a year cataloguing Greek vases and Roman sculpture, but when the next project offered was working with neolithic flints – which was even farther from her area of interest – she decided it was time to move again.

She had always been interested in medical history, and to the dismay

of most of her colleagues at the British Museum, she left to take a job at the British Dental Association. Not only was it much more to her liking in terms of subject area, the work itself was much more varied: coordinating volunteers, writing articles, and managing projects. Things were coming together for her.

"Then," she says, "I got the job I really wanted to get." It involved a move from London to Stevenage, where she was to be responsible for the collection at the town museum as the Museum Curator. Working in a local area museum was something Claire absolutely loved. "It was a really lovely museum to work at and I got to the opportunity to create some great exhibitions" she remembers. She enjoyed the work and especially the big celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the New Town of Stevenage. She liked the team and being connected to the community of the town. We got a lottery award to open a new gallery to commemorate the anniversary. She bought her first house, something that would have been impossible in London, and met and got engaged to John Willetts.

Just as it seemed that everything was looking very settled, and just as they were planning their wedding, John got a new job - in South Essex. They decided they wanted to move closer to his work and, as luck would have it, Claire spotted an advertisement for a Curator position at Braintree Museum and the rest - as they say – is, er, history. A new start beckoned, and they moved to Finchingfield shortly after they got married.

Additions to the Willetts family arrived in the form of Oliver and Reuben, and they discovered that the neighbouring village of Great Bardfield offered many family-centred activities and found themselves getting to know and love the village. "We spent all our time travelling to Bardfield," Claire remembers. "We just wanted to live there!" After four years in Finchingfield, they found a house in Bendlowes Road and completed the move.

Claire's work with Braintree Museum brings her into contact with various local communities (it's part of her role to liaise with village historical societies in Braintree District) and she particularly enjoys working with the Bardfield Historical Society because of her connection to our community. She has always been interested in art and loves Bardfield's history as a gathering place for artists. But she is also involved with a local book group – Finch Readers – which meets in the Kitten and Hare salon, and she, John and Reuben all play handbells



(L to R) Claire, Reuben, Oliver and John

with the local group started by Sarah and Nick Holland. She sings in the Bardfield Community Choir. Reuben and Oliver both attend Bardfield School (they're in years 3 and 6 respectively) and Oliver likes the fact that he can walk to school and to the village shop by himself, something that would never have worked in a bigger town or city. They've been here for eight years now, and, as Claire puts it: "It just feels like home."

Anna Bass

Great Bardfield Historical Society

The Cottage Museum will be open on **Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd May from 2-4pm** and will be open on **Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until September 25th**.

The Bawden Room which has the village collection of work by the Bardfield Artists is open by appointment, **email Janet Dyson jm.dyson@btinternet.com to book.**

Village walks exploring the history of the village can also be booked for small groups.

Ninth Stebbing Vintage & Classic Tractor Road Run

Sunday 1st of May 2022

In Aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance

As usual we start and finish at Brazenhead Farm, Oxen End, Little Bardfield By kind permission of Mr and Mrs David Hunt. Each year we try to take a different route of approximately 25 miles using a mixture of off road, byways, minor roads, and a few unavoidable busy roads, at the same time trying to pass through as many of the villages which support us as possible. This year I am pleased to say we will be coming through part of Great Bardfield. We aim to come down Dunmow Road at approximately 10/15 and we will turn left up Bell Lane. Please come and give us a wave and help us support the Air Ambulance last year we managed to give them £10,510.



Nature Notes

Something which puzzled me on my early morning walks in the last few weeks was a wet patch on the road under one of the roadside trees. Residents of Shalford know it well; it is in Cliff Field a pleasant road with a row of trees along the east side, a nice mixture of species. The tree I am referring to is a silver birch there are other silver birch trees but only the one has the wet patch, it's not wet enough to be a water leak and the road is sound, no pot holes! (aren't we lucky). Then one morning I noticed there was water running down the trunk of the tree and I was able to trace it back to a point where a branch had the end cut off to stop it interfering with the electric wires last year, and the tree was haemorrhaging water from the wound. Now I know trees bleed sap a little bit after surgery but soon heal up, I mentioned what I had seen to my elderly neighbour and she said "Oh yes, people have survived on water from silver birch." I was amazed so I looked it up on the internet and there it is in black and white even a video showing you how to get water from a tree if you are rough camping.



You can even get water from some beech trees, apparently the best time of the year to get water from a tree is March when the sap starts to rise, so that probably accounts for the fact I haven't spotted this before. This interesting set of facts got me thinking I didn't know much about the silver birch: what is the wood used for etc. It seems a very insignificant sort of tree. Wrong, it has in fact many uses it's a hard wood mostly white with some brown core wood and is used in furniture manufacture, also plywood, veneers, parquet blocks, skis, kitchen utensils, toys, and turnery. One place where we have all seen silver birch wood is traditional wooden yard brush heads. It makes

good firewood although it burns rather quickly, the thin twigs also have many uses; the brush jumps on racecourses, the bristles on besom brooms, what would witches do without them? And so on. The life span of a silver birch is 120 years height 24 meters they are native to Europe, North Africa, and west Asia, they are known to support up to 334 species of insect, from now on I think I have more respect for the humble Silver Birch Tree.

Mac Beanland





The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

2nd/3rd/4th/5th June

Celebration Window Competition

Why not join in the village celebrations by decorating a street view window in a way that highlights our Queen's amazing 70 years on the throne! Be as creative as you like! It will be so lovely to walk around the village over the special extended weekend and see all the jolly windows.

We will be running a competition with 1st/2nd & 3rd prizes (although you can of course still join in even if you don't want to be a part of the competition).

How it works

1. If you'd like to take part in the competition please email, with your house address, to: floraolney@icloud.com
2. Windows must be ready by **Thursday 2nd June**
3. Judging will take place on the morning of Thursday 2nd June and prizes presented later on in the day.

'The Art of Friendship'

Our current exhibition at Braintree Museum 'The Art of Friendship' encompasses many different themes from creativity and new friendships, to community and family. Through the work of two Bardfield artists – Denise Hoyle with her collages and watercolours and Marianne Straub with her textiles – the exhibition demonstrates how creative collaboration can achieve remarkable results.

So how did all this start? In May 1954 as a young French au pair, Denise visited Great Bardfield for the first time. She attended Great Bardfield's Open House Art Exhibitions where she met her future husband the artist Walter Hoyle. Last year I was lucky enough to meet Denise, now in her late eighties, and she recalled, "It was very popular, the exhibition and full of people and was very pleasant, everything was very nice and going into people houses. I looked at all the work of the different artists and I really loved Walters' work ... he had come back from Sicily, a holiday with Edward Bawden and he had done wonderful watercolours with real gold in the sky, it was absolutely wonderful".

A year later Denise and Walter Hoyle married and moved to Great Lodge on the outskirts of the village. It was a life very different to where she had grown up in Paris and where she worked in London as an au pair. She remembered, "I suddenly was plunged into the mud of Great Lodge. It was fantastic. And no light, you know, no lamp light, nothing, and at night the sky was wonderful, full of stars. A discovery. And I didn't know about birds and I saw birds of all sorts. It was wonderful, absolutely marvellous."

Denise and Walter became firm friends with Swiss-born Marianne Straub, a textile designer at Warner & Sons in Braintree who lived in the village in Trinity Cottage, High Street. In fact, Marianne had presented Walter with a curtain she had made out of squares of fabric when he had first moved to Great Lodge (which is on display in the exhibition). By the late 1950s Denise was a mother to two young children and in her spare time took to creating collages from textile magazines given to her by Marianne. With no formal art training, Denise worked instinctively, playing around with pattern and shapes, firstly creating images of animals, followed by circus scenes and scenes from classic children's stories. Denise's most ambitious collage book told the story of Pinocchio, and included over fifty individual images. If you look carefully, you can see fabric designs and textile adverts on some of these larger collages.

Denise made her collages at her kitchen table while her children slept, in stark contrast to Marianne's work for Warner & Sons where she designed fabrics for some of the most prestigious interiors worldwide, including ocean liners and embassy buildings. If you travelled by public transport in London in the 1970s or 1980s, it's likely you sat on one of Marianne's designs, for in 1964, Marianne designed a moquette for the London Underground. This was a robust woven fabric usually made from wool and nylon which ensured travellers stayed cool in summer and warm in winter. It was used in the early 1970s on the Northern and Bakerloo lines, London Transport buses and later the new Piccadilly line. In 1977 Queen Elizabeth II inspected the new Piccadilly line underground trains decked out in Marianne's moquette.



Celebrating James Hoyle's birthday at Great Lodge in 1957. From left to right: Ben Cheese, James and Nina Hoyle, Walter Hoyle, Sheila Robinson, Marianne Straub and Chloe Cheese. Image from Denise Hoyle.

These words from Denise really sum up her cherished friendship with Marianne Straub, "Well, you know, it was so strange – Marianne very often

would call, you know, on her own, she come, and, very, very friendly, and very helpful all the time. That's how it started. And then when she saw that I did collage she brought me the magazine. And she was wonderful, really, in a very, very, quiet way. Very kind."



Great Lodge Farm, pen and ink, 1955 by Denise Hoyle

Two important events will be held this month as communities share and explore arts, crafts and textiles: the return of Great Bardfield Art and Craft Show at the start of the month and Braintree Textile Fair on Sunday 15th May.

Claire Willetts
Collections and Exhibitions Curator

The Art of Friendship Exhibition is at Braintree Museum until 2nd July 2022.
www.braintreemuseum.co.uk

For more information about Braintree Textile Fair and to book a ticket.
www.warnertextilearchive.co.uk

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Many delightful gardens are listed in the current National Garden Scheme handbook and website, www.ngs.org.uk. This is a major showcase for owners who are willing to share their gardens with others; last year £3 million was donated by visitors to help nursing and health charities. Some gardens have limited opening days, others more frequent opportunities to appreciate seasonal changes; some offer opportunities for booked group visits.

Some gardens open early to showcase spring flowers but as spring gives way to summer, more are opened to show off the variety of brightly-coloured blooms and intense floral fragrances, especially from roses. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable owners may specialise in growing cottage garden flowers, others in designing hidden features or ponds and all are willing to share their passions with visitors.

With so many varied gardens to visit it is a challenge to decide which one should top your list! I would recommend including Easton Lodge, where Harold Peto's Italian garden is always colourful and recent



Bridge End Garden, Saffron Walden



Audley End House, Saffron Walden



Gardens of Easton Lodge, Little Easton

restoration works to the balustrade have enhanced this area.

Throughout the summer at Henry Moore Studios & Gardens at Perry Green, many of Moore's sculptures are displayed in a garden setting and an exhibition focuses on his work in the Sixties.

The What's On listing on the Hundred Parishes website includes dates for individual open gardens and also where a village has organised a group of open gardens, sometimes with added attractions like cream teas. Enjoy!

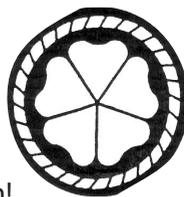


Henry Moore Studios, Perry Green, Much Hadham

Tricia Moxey
Trustee

Great Bardfield Primary School

Shortly after the spring half term, it was a little surprising to have a phone call from Ofsted letting us know that we had an inspection the following day! Two inspectors duly arrived at 8.00am on the 23rd February and our visit began! We found that they were very supportive throughout the day, really listened to us and understood the values and ethos of our school. We have now received the inspection report which is available to read on our school website.



Children celebrating Ofsted

I am very proud of our wonderful children, our hardworking staff, our tenacious governors and supportive parents. The opening paragraph of the report explains what it is like to attend Great Bardfield Primary School, 'At Great Bardfield Primary School, pupils are proud of their school and live up to the well-established school values. Pupils appreciate the school's positive ethos. They feel both safe and happy.'

I feel incredibly lucky to be the Headteacher of this proactive and positive school community and our recent inspection reflects the heart of our wonderful village school. One child told the lead inspector that the school is like 'a caring family'. Our school has faced many challenges in recent times with the pandemic and managing to do all that we do with our meagre school budget. In spite of these challenges we have continued

to provide the best opportunities, academically, socially and emotionally for our pupils. In the feedback on the day of the inspection, the lead inspector shared his belief that the school had been through a torrid time and without the strong leadership the school would have crumbled.

We are now beginning the summer term and are continuing with our plan to have a 'normal' school year given the disruptions of the last two years due to Covid. It is hard to believe that just a year ago we had parents queuing around the outside of the school to drop off their children, thankfully this is now a distant memory. We are very excited for the trips that we are planning this term, particularly our Year 6 residential visit to the Isle of Wight. We also have Sports Day and our summer fete to look forward to! We hope to see all of the village community at our upcoming events and I look forward to sharing all of our adventures over the coming months.

Mrs Kerrell, Headteacher

Editor: Congratulations to Mrs Kerrell, Staff, Governors and pupils on such a fantastic Ofsted report.

Great Bardfield Charities

The Trustees of the Great Bardfield Charities announce the resignation of our secretary, Brenda Poston after many years of loyal and dedicated service to our village community as Trustee.

It therefore follows that we have a vacancy for a secretary / trustee to fulfil her role.

The Trustees meet 4 times yearly with ad hoc discussions to manage business which may arise between meetings. This voluntary role will include various secretarial duties pre and post meetings (not including minute taking), alongside some telephone contact with applicants. Applicants must be resident in Great Bardfield or working in the Parish of Great Bardfield.

If you would be interested to join the body of Trustees and meet the above criteria, we would be pleased to hear and discuss informally with you, prior to application in writing.

For further information please contact either

Pat Coles 01371 810995 Mick Gell 01371 810113
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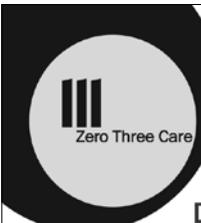
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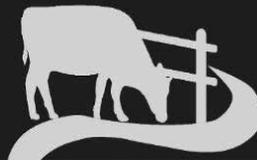

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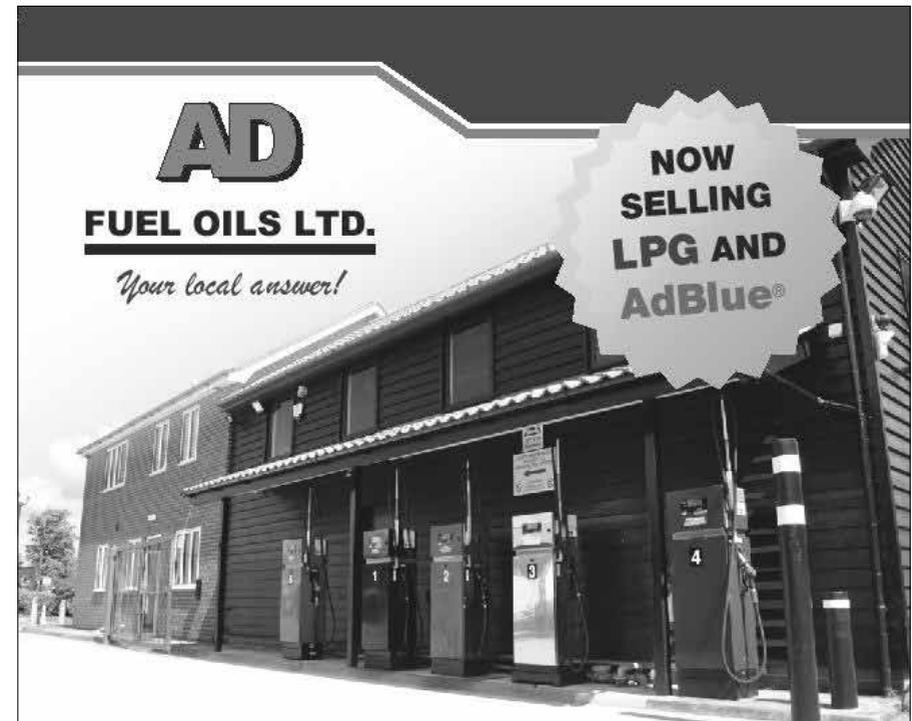
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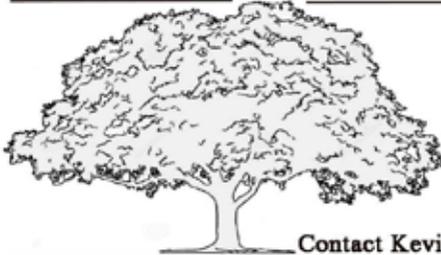
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HELP YOU

Are you eligible for a financial grant?

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*For more information please contact one of the Trustees:
Pat Coles 01371 810995, Mick Gell 01371 810113,
Annika Woodcock 07900 491636,
Debbie Rogers 01371 811083*

DO YOU NEED CHILCARE HELP BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL?



Following Covid, our plan is to reopen our Clubs with the new term after Easter, on Monday 12th April. We will be following Covid guidelines to make sure our Breakfast and Afternoon School Clubs are as safe as possible in our warm, safe building behind Great Bardfield Primary School. It has been a tough year as a Charity. The lack of grants available for Charities and the focus on Rates paid; (which we do not pay as a Charity) has meant we have suffered hard, plus our Insurance Co is refusing to pay the forced closure as Covid was not a listed reason.....

So, let us tell you some information about us and please note that children must be registered with us before any bookings can be taken. This is a quick process and will confidentially cover preferences, allergies and any medical info we need to know. All staff have First Aid and Safeguarding qualifications and our Managers are qualified in Early Years Foundation Stage.

Mary is the Manager of our Breakfast Club which is open 7.30-8.45am and we will drop them off at the top playground with their teacher. We offer a delicious Breakfast between 7.30-8am only (due to our ratios of qualified staff to children being affected when someone is needed to cook). This can be a hot cooked plate including; Sausage, Bacon, Eggs (scrambled, boiled or fried), Beans or Spaghetti or Hash Browns or Toast, Pancakes or Waffles. There is always cereal too and they will be asked on arrival what they prefer.

We cater for Gluten Free, Vegetarian and Pescatarian morning and afternoon.

Pat is the Manager of our After School Club and children can be picked up from their classrooms or from the School's Clubs and brought back to us. Tea is served at ours 4.15-4.30. Pick up, due to Covid is at the School Gate at 4,5 or 6 and pls make sure to be wearing a mask.

A Hot Tea is provided every day and alternatives are available, such as hot soup, salads, sandwiches or fruit. There is always a pudding after the meal and a snack when they arrive.

We have PlayStation, 'Monitored' Internet, X Box, Crafts, Board Games, a Football Table and Themed Days (see below) - everything is monitored to be age appropriate.

Here is an example of what we have running for kids to join in if they wish:

Monday - Group Games/Board Games
Tuesday - Crafts
Wednesday - Story Times for Early Years
Thursday - Art Club
Friday - Film & Chill

There are limited spaces available so please book up block bookings, as soon as possible. Odd days/adhoc bookings are available and can only be made 1 week in advance and will depend on space being available. All bookings are payable and there are no monies returned.

We look forward to seeing you and making your child feel really at home.

Stay Safe Always and follow us on Facebook 'Great Bardfield After School Club' for updates.

Pat & The Team

Great Bardfield After School Club, Great Bardfield Primary School, CM7 4RN
Tel: 01371 811580 Email: afterschoolclub@outlook.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/GBASC Website: www.greatbardfieldasc.btck.co.uk

TOWN HALL DIARY

May 2022

Sunday 1 st	Art Show	11.00am
Monday 2 nd	Art Show	11.00am
Tuesday 3 rd	Young @ heart dance fit	9.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 4 th	Carpet Bowls	7.30pm
Thursday 5 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Friday 6 th	Cinema Club	7.00pm
Saturday 7 th	Private Funtion	7.00pm
Sunday 8 th	Set Build	11.00am
Monday 9 th	Horticultural Society	3.00pm
Tuesday 10 th	Young @ heart dance fit	9.30am
	Tuesday Club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 11 th	Carpet Bowls	7.30pm
Thursday 12 th	Historical society	7.00pm
Friday 13 th	Bardfield Players	11.00am
	Parish Council	7.00pm
Saturday 14 th	Jumble Sale	2.00pm
Sunday 15 th	Set Build	2.00pm
Monday 16 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Tuesday 17 th	Young @ heart dance fit	9.30am
	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Wednesday 18 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Thursday 19 th	Play	7.30pm
Friday 20 th	Play	7.30pm
Saturday 21 st	Play	7.30pm
Sunday 22 nd	Bardfield Players	9.00am
Tuesday 24 th	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 25 th	Carpet Bowls	7.30pm
Friday 27 th	Private Function	11.00am
Tuesday 31 st	Young @ heart dance fit	9.30am
	Choir	8.00pm

Enquiries and bookings bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com

Great Bardfield Parish

Clerk to the Parish Council clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk 810111

Councillors Carolynne Ruffle (Chair) 810986

Paul Kennedy 810540

Darren Hockley 810836

Simon Walsh 810451

Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402

Janet Dyson 07957 483207

Iain Graham 07831 595555

Braintree District Council 01376 552525

Councillors Cllr Peter Tattersley Cllr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk 07938 930003

Cllr Vanessa Santomauro Cllr.vsantomauro@braintree.gov.uk 07740 348528

Police for non-emergency enquiries dial 101

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Little Bardfield Parish

Chairman of the Parish Council Andrew Davies davies@farmline.com

Clerk to the Parish Council Liz Williamson 07866 400607

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Uttlesford District Council Saffron Walden 01799 510510

Councillor Cllr George Smith

Cllrsmith@uttlesford.gov.uk 07896 618944

Bardfield After School & Breakfast Club Pat Moore 07767 413055

Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club Clifford Richardson 810782

Bardfield Charities Pat Coles 01371 810995

Bardfield Players Ian Ruffle 810986

1st Finchingfield Scout Group Mark Wells 810447

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Muddogs Youth Football Tony Clarke-Holland 07710 506007

www.muddogs.co.uk/tch@thebcf.co.uk

Gt Bardfield Primary School admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk 810252

Gt Bardfield Pre-School Kathy King 811580

Gt Bardfield Historical Society Marilyn Edwards 810555

Gt Bardfield Horticultural Society Linda Prior 811641

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

Catholic Priest Fr. Richard Rowe 830808

Town Hall Bookings bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com

Tuesday Club adriennepoulson@btinternet.com 811401

Children's Clinic (Finchingfield Freshwell Health Centre) 810328

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