



# Great Bardfield Annual Parish Report

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018



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 photographs to illustrate this document.

Cover: Bardfield Players' *Treasure Island* pantomime, January 2018



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# Great Bardfield Parish Council

## Annual Parish Meeting 2018

To be held Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 8.00pm in the Town Hall

### Agenda

1. Chair's introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017
4. Matters arising
5. Guest speaker: Chris Wiggins, Head of External Affairs at Stansted Airport
6. District Council report
7. County Council report
8. School report
9. Charities report and accounts
10. Town Hall report and accounts
11. The *Bardfield Times* report and accounts
12. Items of report
13. 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

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and Clerk for their support during this, my first year as Parish Council Chairman. Despite having been a member of the Parish Council for many years it is quite different to take on the position of Chair. Thankfully, we have a Council that works well together; individuals with complementary skills and interests, willing to put in their own time to ensure that Great Bardfield remains an excellent place to live and work.

We are lucky to have such a vibrant community with many people volunteering to run clubs and societies, put on fundraising events and do charitable work. This is so well demonstrated by the Annual Report produced for this meeting which includes reports from local groups and societies, a number of which you will hear from tonight. So, thanks to all of you for attending this meeting and for your support of the Council. This is our opportunity to give you an insight into the work undertaken by us over the last year and yours to raise questions or make suggestions for us to take forward.

Great Bardfield also benefits from the range of shops and businesses in the community. We still have two pubs and want to retain them; we have a successful and popular school which brings life to the village. In fact, there is increasing demand for places as new families with young children move into the village. We have the benefit of a new café on the High Street, as well as an excellent Co-op, butchers, homewares, post office, estate agent, bookshop, hair salon and electrical shop, all providing local services to our community and visitors. The volunteer-run Cottage Museum and new gallery in the Bawden Room also raise our public profile.

Over the past few years less funding has been available to us from the District Council, and this will continue to reduce. We have aimed to control our portion of the council tax, and our budget for the services we provide is limited. However, we are also taking on more tasks and responsibilities as services from other agencies, district and county councils are reducing. It seems we need to do more with tighter funds.

There is strong demand for housing across the country, particularly in the south-east and central government has imposed high targets for house building in many areas. We have been impacted by this with a new development of 37 houses on Braintree Road. Despite objecting to the application it was eventually granted on appeal. We have since worked with the developers of the site in a positive way; we recently undertook a consultation with the community on the detailed plans, and voiced the village's concerns and preferences for the character and design of this development, and, in particular, the vehicular and pedestrian access to it.

We joined forces with other local parish councils to make representations to the government's inspection of Braintree District Council's local development plan. This includes new large 'garden communities,' within a few miles of us along the A120, raising serious concerns about infrastructure and services, loss of rural land and its potential impact on existing rural communities such as ours. Though we appreciate the need for new housing we also wish to protect what we all love about living in Great Bardfield.

I hope that you find this meeting informative and interesting.

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



# Great Bardfield Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### 1. Chairman's introduction

The Chairman welcomed residents and guests to the meeting and referred to the Annual Report 2017 which was available on the evening.

The cover featured the school visit to Frinton which she said reminded her of the annual whole school outings of the 70s and 80s and how lovely it was to see that the school continues to give the children so many opportunities to explore life beyond Great Bardfield. She added how fortunate we were to have such a thriving and successful primary school and the recent excellent news from Ofsted – that Great Bardfield Primary is a good school – confirmed what they already knew. Congratulations to Headteacher Mrs Kerrell and her staff, and thanks to the governors, all members of the community, who give up so much time to support the school. (Read more about what the children have been doing in on page 40.)

Those who follow the Bardfield Online Community Facebook page will be aware that there are some people who criticise and moan about everything and some people who just get on and do things! The Parish Council has set up a Facebook page so that it can respond quickly to any issues and questions raised. However, it's easy to sit and criticise from the comfort of your own keyboard – much better to actually talk to people and see how you can help to make things better. The Clerk and all the Parish Councillors are

happy to talk and if you have ideas, time or skills to offer, you'll be very welcome.

The Chairman emphasised the important issues that have to be addressed by the community, particularly how we want to see our village develop in the future. Great Bardfield is one of the few historic villages in the Braintree District which has retained its character whilst planning for small developments to meet local needs. However, this village and the other villages in the Pant Valley are under increasing pressure from developers and it is important that we maintain a balance between reasonable growth with appropriate infrastructure and preserving those qualities that give the villages of North West Essex their unique character. Remember – you don't always recognise and value what you have until it's gone!

She wished to thank everyone who supported the work of the Parish Council, particularly Kate Fox, Parish Clerk, and Jenny Rooney and Ian Fox for their work in producing this report and everyone who has taken the time to write contributions. Thanks too to all the volunteers who organise and run the many groups and initiatives and do the jobs that add so much to the quality of life in Great Bardfield.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Iain Graham, County Councillor Roger Walters and Mr and Mrs Holland.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017

These were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting, proposed Iris Couldridge, seconded Jenny Rooney.

### 4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 5. Guest Speaker: Jane Gardner, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

The Chairman welcomed the Deputy PCC, Jane Gardner to the Parish Assembly. Jane said in reply that getting out and about and talking with different



communities across Essex is really important; she valued the input from these meetings, and said it was vital that the PCC team take the time to hear how individuals feel about policing in their communities. She spoke about the Strategic Plan which had seven policing priorities for Essex:

- Provide more local and accessible policing
- Crack down on anti-social behaviour
- Break the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reverse the cycle of serious violence
- Tackle gangs and organised crime
- Protect children and vulnerable people
- Improve safety on our roads

This plan aims to make sure that, wherever possible, we prevent crime from happening in the first place; that the police service is so close to the community that people feel confident that the police know what is going on and that serious harm and recurrent issues of concern are being dealt with. The delivery of operational policing remains the responsibility of the Chief Constable, his officers, PCSOs and police staff. Jane expanded on the individual policies and added that they were aware of the problem of communications, particularly the 101 number. Resources were being increased to deal with this.

At the end of the presentation Jane took questions from the floor which included concern regarding a recent arson attack when a farmer lost £10K of straw and the police response was disappointing; motor-bike nuisance from noise and careless riding and a spate of anti-social behaviour to which the police response was totally inadequate. She said these would be investigated and a response provided via the Clerk.

#### **6. Parish Council Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

The brief report is to highlight items of income and expenditure and full accounts will of course be available when these are prepared for annual audit.

**Precept:** This coming year sees an increase in the rates, across all authorities. The phasing out of the Localism Fund by 2019/20 will see the sum received by this parish council reduce from £4,267 to £2,845. 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 £1,933 (5.9%) in the Precept was approved, which equates to £4.89 per eligible household per annum for a Band D property.

**Insurance:** It was agreed to accept the quotation from Zurich and elect for a fixed payment for a three year term.

**Annual Audited Accounts 2015/16:** These were approved without reservation by PFK Littlejohn, the appointed auditor.

**Pipers Meadow:** Following the submission of the 10-year programme, work has progressed on clearing brambles and overgrowth and the new fencing is now in place. Work is to go ahead on the willow tree which is badly overgrown and should have been completed by the time of this report; other tree maintenance work is to follow.

**Grants, donations, fund-raising:** Income from this source continues to be difficult to obtain but the following income was received:

- £1,431 from BDC towards street cleaning/village handyman and related works
- £534 from sale of Christmas Cards
- £2,385 profit from the Firework Display event
- £400 from the District Councillors Community Fund to replace the photocopier in the CIP
- £157 EALC Training Bursary

**Playground Project:** Some very positive news is that the playground project is more or less complete. In total £53,468 has been spent on the new scheme which has received very good feedback and seems to be well used. A further grant of match fund-





ing has been awarded to replace the last piece of old equipment, which although perfectly safe to use, its days are numbered. It should be remembered that in addition to 106 monies from the District Council, much of the funds were raised from the community from quiz nights, fun runs and donations. Finally, when we were ready to start the project, volunteers from the village and local firefighters based in Wethersfield came forward to help dismantle the existing equipment (see *BT* June 2016); saving nearly £3,000.

**Other Capital Expenditure:** The village map was installed earlier in the year as was a new bench on the Causeway.

**Income and Expenditure Charts:** A resident queried the figures presented in the pie charts which appeared to indicate that the Parish Council had spent £96,935 against an income of £47,327. These were representative figures as the expenditure included £51,950 spent on the new playground scheme which came from earmarked funds achieved over several years and retained in a separate account. A full set of accounts will be submitted to the external auditor in June and available for public scrutiny.

## **7. District Council Report and Three Fields Ward 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 2017 Annual Report. They were elected in May 2015 onto Braintree District Council, at a time when the overall number of councillors was reduced from 61 to 49, resulting in all District Councillors representing a

larger number of constituents than previously.

They both hold key positions on the Council. Cllr Schwier is a member of the influential Planning and Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cllr Tattersley is the portfolio holder for health and communities on the council Cabinet. They attend the Great Bardfield Parish Council meetings as frequently as possible, both to listen to any concerns Councillors and residents may have, and either suggest solutions, or in many cases try to resolve them through their contacts at the District Council. They also use the opportunity to advise and inform about important and relevant issues happening across Braintree District which may interest or affect the Parish. Sometimes dates clash meaning they cannot attend, but their good relationships and communications with our parish clerk can often overcome their non-attendance.

**Overview of District activities:** Peter reported that the last 12 months have seen a number of achievements at the District Council. Many of these do not attract much political or press attention, but which nevertheless are an important feature of the work of the Council. Examples include the inspection of food premises and places of work, maintenance of open spaces, lobbying for external funding, support to voluntary organisations, equalities and safeguarding obligations, business development, employment creation and liaison with other public bodies.

However, whilst many of these services receive no publicity, there are also a number of activities which do attract attention, not least BDC's financial viability. The squeeze on local government finances comes from many directions, and pressure for increasing spending on key areas is inevitable. As a Council, they have made savings of £11.2 million since 2010, whilst maintaining public satisfaction rates higher than the national average; 86%, compared to 67%.

Other achievements:

- Increased recycling facilities into flats
- Combined an excellent refuse collection and litter clearance service
- Granted planning permission for over 1,200 houses in the past year, often with the support of parish councils



- Provided business loans to help, amongst others, provide new doctors surgeries. These provide ongoing income streams which help to minimise council tax bills
- Allocated £250,000 to support Superfast Essex in providing improved internet coverage
- Increased participation in sporting activities
- Introduced obesity initiatives in schools
- Introduced community-priced weddings and tea dances to increase the use of Braintree Town Hall
- Introduced councillor community grants

**2017/18 New Challenges for District and Parish Councils:** Funding levels from central government will continue to fall, requiring ever more innovative solutions to maintain services as an alternative to increasing council tax.

However, the most significant challenge the council has faced over recent years is the requirement by government for around 862 houses to be provided in the District, each year to 2033, making a total of around 13,600 houses. Some communities are advocating building these alongside existing settlements, whilst others prefer these to be concentrated in new purpose-built Garden Communities. Whatever the final decision is, infrastructure (roads, schools, community facilities, open space, etc) is clearly the key to the success of this significant challenge.

Peter added that they were proud to be associated with such dedicated Parish Councils, and individual Parish Councillors in the most picturesque area of Essex. In addition to their obligations to the district as a whole, they will always aim to ensure the opinions and concerns of all our communities are fully understood by our District Council colleagues.

## **8. County Council Report**

Cllr Walters was unable to attend the meeting and his report was presented on his behalf by Cllr Walsh who selected a few key points.

Essex County Council are working with an ever reducing budget – funding from Government through the Revenue Support Grant has reduced by £44m in 17/18 and will be phased out completely by 2020.

Over the last four years Council Tax had been kept low but investment has still been made to achieve

additional school places (£191m) – with 91% of schools achieving good or outstanding at their Ofsted inspections. Also an investment of £681m has been made in transport infrastructure with major work on the A120 and M11 J7a. Superfast broadband has been brought to over 75,000 homes and businesses that didn't have access before March 2014.

**Economy:** There are a number of key challenges – raising skills and qualifications; improving transport infrastructure; and supporting business growth. Two Innovation Centres are being developed (Harlow and Colchester) and further education colleges that will deliver vital skills.

**Communities – to live and work:** To enable people to live independently for as long as possible two initiatives are being launched; a Supporting Communities Fund to get schemes started and the Essex Lottery to provide funding to community projects that already exist.

There are more details about the work of ECC and the full text is presented in the Annual Report.

## **9. School Report**

The Head Teacher, Alison Kerrell, was delighted to report that in January the school received a Good grade following the Ofsted Inspection. It has been a busy year including a Year 6 visit to the Isle of Wight and a whole school trip to Frinton. In addition to the hard work for the SATs tests, sport has played a very important part in the children's lives – learning new sporting skills over a wide range of activities.

Fundraising at the school is a very important aspect of developing the children's sense of citizenship



and respect for others in the wider community. Activities took place for Macmillan Cancer, Red Nose Day and Braintree Foodbank. Also the staff and children filled 116 shoe boxes for children in orphanages in Ukraine.

Weekly music lessons encourage children to perform, compose and appreciate music and four children have now joined Bardfield Brass. Extra-curricular activities include cookery, cinema and football clubs which have proved firm favourites

Mrs Kerrell's full report outlined the approach to developing other skills in reading and maths, educational visits and liaison with the community of Great Bardfield. She said that the children were incredibly special and, quoting Ofsted, ".....pupils learn in a friendly caring and supportive environment that enables them to develop positive attitudes towards learning and achieving their best".

#### **10. Charities Report and Accounts**

Pat Coles, Chair of the Bardfield Charities, presented the report for the 12 months to April 2017. The Trustees meet quarterly to consider applications for support and are mindful of the generosity of the benefactors that enables them to financially assist residents and organisations of the parish. She mentioned the Cottage Museum which was bequeathed to the Charity in 1584 and is rented and safeguarded by the Historical Society. During the 2016/17 financial year there was total expenditure of £20,605 which included grants for fuel payments, contributions to Christmas lunches, disability equipment, educational projects and village projects

The Charities' accounts are audited

by Bill Mules and he was thanked for his ongoing professional support. The Charities' report, together with the audited accounts, are deposited with the Clerk to the Parish Council.

#### **11. Town Hall Report and Accounts**

This was presented by the Chair of the Town Hall Committee, Carolynne Ruffle, who stated that the venue is a valued asset for the village, providing community space for clubs and social events. Regular users include the Mother and Toddler Group, Bardfield Choir, Bardfield Players, Carpet Bowls Club, the Horticultural Society, Cinema Club, Tuesday Club and the Parish Council.

She said the committee members were blessed with a broad range of talents from building experience and other practical skills to mass catering and cake baking. Patricia Walsh, who stepped forward as Treasurer last year, has also been a great fund-raiser and a significant achievement was raising the money for the Hall's new roof which was attained far more quickly than hoped for. Together with grants and support from the community the roof has now been completed but the list of jobs is never ending.

Although it was disappointing not to hold the 2016 Arts & Crafts weekend this will be going ahead in May 2017 with Peter Keynton and Katrina Ralston stepping up to revive this popular event. Thanks to support from the *Bardfield Times* and residents they were able to install a Christmas tree in front of the Town Hall. Unfortunately, the decision had to be made to close the 200 Club, because there were insufficient volunteers to collect contributions.

#### **12. The *Bardfield Times* Reports and Accounts**

This was presented by joint editor David Yates who said the *BT* team felt they were producing a quality parish magazine that attracts a wide readership. In recent months there has, for example, been an increase in correspondence from readers, including letters that have tackled contentious topics beyond the usual notes of thanks and pleas for help. They were pleased that Anna Bass offered to join the team as an occasional contributor to their Village People column. This series of interviews has now covered more than eighty individuals. He said it was marvelous that





such a small village is home to so many fascinating and diverse characters. Another popular addition has been Paul Boon's useful monthly series of articles on matters technical. His well-judged advice on local services such as rival telephone and internet suppliers has been particularly useful for many villagers.

They attempted to commission from the Historical Society a series on old village buildings and were disappointed when no-one would volunteer to contribute. Recently, though, they have received from readers scanned copies of postcards that feature Bardfield scenes from the early days of the last century. What they would now like are copies of photographs from family albums – village scenes and people from past decades. These would be both of interest to readers and valuable archive material. They hope that old Bardfield residents might dig out some for their pages.

Thanks to the unflagging efforts of Kate and Ian Fox, advertising pages are full and their design and presentation improving year on year. Revenue from this source has enabled the magazine to contribute substantial sums to local causes over these last few years, as letters of thanks attest.

The next task is to set about improving the overall presentation of the feature pages, perhaps making them more attractive to younger readers, who are more likely to turn to the internet for local information.

### 13. Items of Report

There were no items of report.

### 14. Closing Remarks

The Chairman closed proceedings by thanking the residents and the two District Councillors for attending and emphasised the importance of the Annual Report as a reflection of life in the community and thanked Jenny Rooney for her work on 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 9.30pm.

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

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*Below left: Signage for new development on the Braintree Road and right: new bus shelter on corner of Alienor Avenue*





## Parish Council review 2017-2018

Cllr Janet Dyson stood down as Chairman at our annual meeting last May after 22 years of service in that role. Her contribution over those years has been enormous, and I offer, on behalf of the Parish Council and the wider community, our heartfelt thanks for all her involvement in matters of concern to the parish. She remains an active Parish Councillor, a helpful mentor to her successor, and continues to be involved in many aspects of village life.

Cllr Carolynne Ruffle assumed the mantle of Chairman after serving for a number of years as Vice-Chairman. She has stepped into her new role seamlessly, and like Janet, has many other village interests. As you may have by now guessed, I have been elected Vice-Chairman, and with that goes the job of preparing this report!

The Parish Council has remained busy, with many important matters to deal with. Planning is a key area as is Highways, but also managing our recreation field, open spaces and other items which are brought to our attention. Not only do the councillors meet formally as a council 11 times a year, but attend numerous other meetings to deal with planning, finance and ad hoc matters as they arise.

We also have special areas of responsibility on the council. Cllr Iain Graham and Cllr Paul Kennedy attend to our public footpaths and general environmental issues, whilst Cllr Steve Slemmings, Cllr Ian Graham and Cllr Carolynne Ruffle lead on planning matters. The playing field and pavilion are in the capable hands of Cllr Darren

Hockley and Cllr Steve Slemmings, whilst I attend to tree matters (as Tree Warden), Pipers Meadow and our village greens.

Keeping us in order, is our clerk, Kate Fox, whose in-depth knowledge of Parish Council laws, regulations and finance ensures everything is done appropriately.

Ian Ruffle, our village handyman, does sterling work keeping the paths clean, bins emptied and any number of other jobs as they arise.

Jenny Rooney has unfortunately been unwell of late, so the CIP has been covered by various Parish Councillors and other volunteers in order to continue to provide a service to those who need it. My thanks to all those involved, and we wish Jenny all the very best, and thank her for her behind-the-scenes work in helping to prepare and collate this report.

Our meetings are often attended by parishioners, who may wish to raise with us matters of concern, or perhaps explain a planning application. We host an annual visit from the School Council, which helps us understand better the needs of the younger members of our community.

Our District Councillors, Peter Schwier and Peter Tattersley regularly attend and provide timely updates from Braintree District Council. We also welcome Graham Butland who has taken over from Roger Walters as our newly elected County Councillor. All three work hard in their various councils to ensure matters are promptly dealt with on our behalf, and for that we are very grateful.

### **Planning**

Three big ticket items have occupied the Council over the past year. The Braintree Road Development is one, and as it moved towards detailed designs being submitted for decision under reserved matters at Braintree District Council, it was felt that we needed to ask the village what they thought. An open session was held with the plans and drawings made available; this was well attended and helped inform the Parish Council's response to the planning application. Key amongst concerns was the nature of access to and from



the Braintree Road, and we were robust in pressing for a better solution to the one proposed.

Second was the proposed West of Braintree Garden Community Development. We have attended a number of meetings with other Parish Councils to discuss this and develop a strategy to express our concerns in a collective way. The impact of this cannot be underestimated, and although it may seem a long way off, these initiatives suddenly come upon us.

This feeds into the third matter, which was our parish response to the Braintree District Local Development Plan. This is district-wide and encompasses development proposals beyond just that of the West of Braintree Garden Community. Your Parish Council has submitted representations on this, primarily voicing concerns regarding the Garden Community proposal. Cllr Dyson also spoke at the Inspector's hearing alongside professional advisors brought in by the Parish Councils' Partnership. It was felt the Inspector was attentive and acknowledged our concerns.

Overall, the Council dealt with 23 planning applications, of which nine involved listed buildings. The applications included extensions, agricultural buildings, barn conversions, a dropped kerb and one certificate of lawfulness. Additionally, ten applications were considered which involved tree works, most of which were to manage tree height and bulk, with very few removals.

### **Highways**

During the year, most of the roads through the village and beyond were resurfaced. This is part of a large investment by the County Council to get the network back into good order. This caused some disruption as it occurred, with road closures announced and then not happening and signage put up with diversion arrows pointing the wrong way! Overall, the results are impressive, and it was amazing to see sections of the village with no vehicles parked on them as the works progressed.

On parking, this continues to be a vexed issue with it seems, ever more vehicles vying for spaces to park. This is a very challenging area, with no easy answers, so please be considerate where you park to ensure that visibility at junctions isn't compromised and pavements aren't blocked. We watch with interest the recent Government

announcement that it may extend powers (currently used in London) to ban pavement parking across the country.

This year saw the arrival of a new street light on the Causeway. This is quite a rare event and its much-anticipated arrival was thwarted by a series of unexpected events. Having decided where to position the light column, it was duly sited and there it stood, a lonely sentinel awaiting its connection. This part was meticulously planned, with a contractor engaged to dig up the path, pull the cable through and connect it to the power supply, the location helpfully supplied by the electricity company. Unfortunately, the power supply wasn't where people thought it was, and so the electricity company had to come in and locate it. So, in they came, the path officially closed, and a new hole dug. And there it remained, as the Beast from the East arrived and further disrupted the work! Eventually, I am pleased to report, the light is now working, and is a welcome addition to our village infrastructure.

### **Recreation Field and Pavilion**

The play area had new equipment installed and a new fence erected around it. Families have made good use of the area so far and reports are very favourable. Funding was through building development funds known as Section 106, and also a number of grants.

Thinking around the replacement pavilion has also had refresh, with a new approach to look at a more practical building which could be built for less money. Some inspiration was taken from the newly-built pavilion at Radwinter, which is very functional and multi-use. We are now seeking estimates for what such a building might cost in order to help focus our fundraising activities.





Whilst the Parish Council is presently leading on this it feels a separate group with interests in using the pavilion may give this added impetus. It should be remembered that a number of elements have now been achieved, the new play-ground layout and car park, with service ducts already laid underneath.

#### **Footpaths/Environment/Green Spaces**

A number of footpaths have been cleared through the year either by our own volunteers, landowners or with help from the ECC Rights of Way team. A number of trees were cleared from the path running alongside the brook behind Mill Close which had been tipped over by a storm. Some overgrowing hedges affecting footways were also dealt with.

Molehills on the school green continue to proliferate, which is a testament to the rich soil and healthy earthworm population; but due to its very public position, and proximity to the school, little can be done to control the moles that make them.

Unfortunately, the rowan tree that got blown over and heroically propped back up did not survive. However, a memorial tree has been planted nearby, so our tree inventory remains the same.

The dying willow in Pipers Meadow was taken down as it was deemed too dangerous to leave. UK Power Networks attended to the trees fouling the electricity lines but didn't really do a thorough enough job. Further work on the riverside willows that require pollarding is likely to be brought forward as they are beginning to deteriorate. The grass-cutting regime continues and the oxlips continue to thrive in this area. The 'quiet space' has required some tidying up, as brambles had begun to encroach again, and fallen branches tidied away.

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

Essex Police have launched their Rural Crime Strategy and now have a dedicated policing team to deal with this. In Great Bardfield, antisocial crime has diminished; however, thefts of heating oil have increased.

A new defibrillator is now installed on the school wall near the front entrance gate. We are grateful to the Community Heartbeat Trust for their support for this.

We gained a Certificate of Merit in the Essex Village of the Year 2017 competition. A lot of preparation goes into this, to demonstrate the vibrancy of our community and the many initiatives and activities that occur here. Thanks go to Cllrs Dyson and Ruffle who took the lead on this.

And speaking of a vibrant community, new Tea Rooms have opened where the carpet shop used to be. This is, I'm sure, a welcome addition to our two pubs, several shops, post office and hairdressers. How many villages around here can boast such an array of accessible facilities?

Finally, to keep up with the electronic age, our parish website has been refreshed and a new Parish Council Facebook page created.

It should be acknowledged that being a Parish Councillor is entirely voluntary, and we all give up our time willingly to ensure our community is effectively served.

My thanks go to all involved in making the Parish Council run and function in such an effective way.

**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 2018

This brief report is to highlight items of income and expenditure. Full accounts will of course be made available when prepared for external audit.

**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 obtain but the following income was received:

- £1,459 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 new play equipment

**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
- £4,576 – 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 on 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 has already been received and when prepared for submission are available for public scrutiny. Notices will be posted at that time and accounts published on the Council's website.

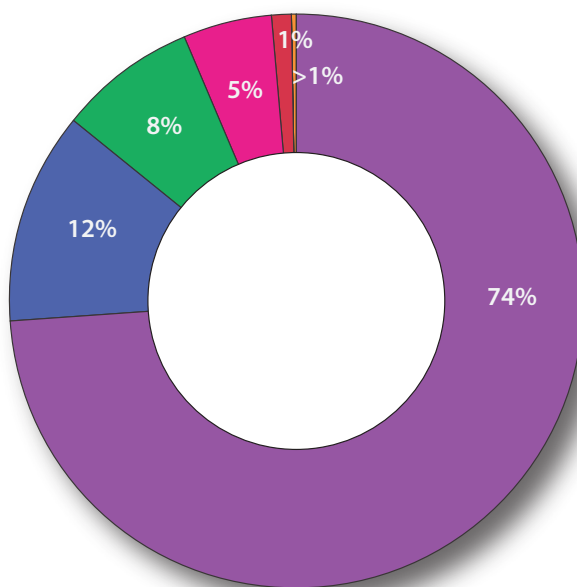
**Kate Fox**  
**Parish Clerk and**  
**Responsible Financial Officer**



# Parish income

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

- Precept and Parish Support Grant
- Pavilion and playing field
- VAT Refund
- Verge cutting/village cleaning
- Sundries and substation rental
- Bank interest



Precept and Parish Support Grant	£34,206
Pavilion and playing field	£5,457
VAT refund	£3,665
Verge cutting/village cleaning (agency arrangement)	£2,296
Sundries and substation rental	£464
Bank interest	£38
<b>Total</b>	<b>£46,126</b>

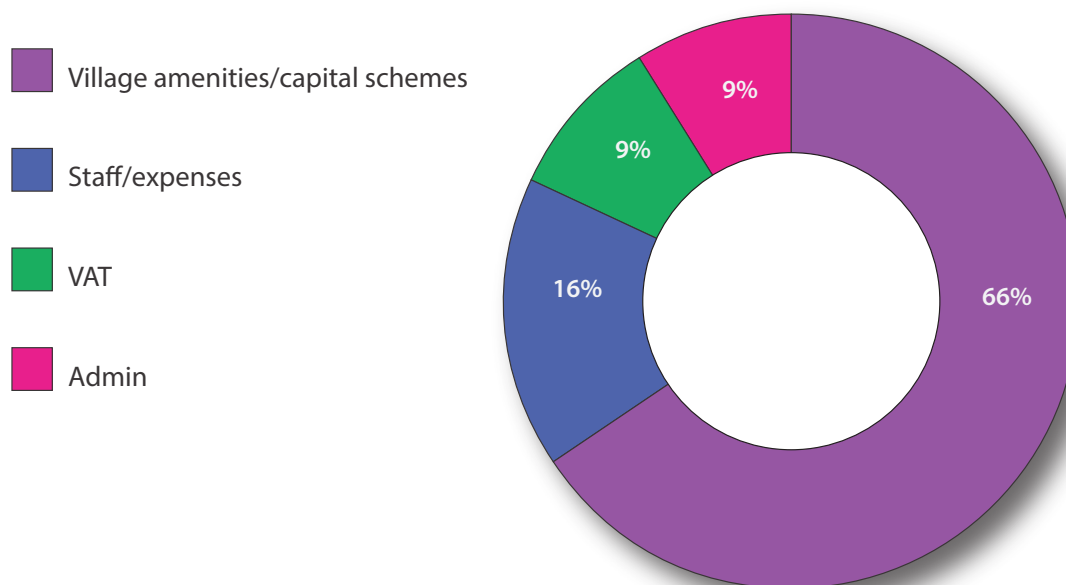
Pavilion Project fund stands at:	£35,593
Reserves and special projects account:	£4,935





# Parish expenditure

For the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018



Village amenities/Capital schemes	
Capital schemes	£10,000
Grass cutting/Pipers/Memorial/Meadow/open spaces	£4,576
CIP/Town Hall rent/IT and BT rental/staff	£2,970
Pavilion/Playingfield	£2,986
Public lighting – supply and maintenance	£4,769
Town Hall: grant and substation rental	£2,108
Verge cutting/street cleaning (agency arrangements)	£1,330
Subscriptions and donations and courses	£1,293
Staff/expenses	
Salary/postage/office expenses/website	£7,452
VAT	
VAT	£4,166
Admin	
Gen admin/telephone/audit/stationery/tax/insurance	£4,058
<b>Total</b>	<b>£45,708</b>



## Braintree District Council report

The last year has been both challenging and interesting for us as your District Council representatives. We were elected in May 2015 to represent the parishes of Great Bardfield, Finchingfield, Panfield, Shalford, and Wethersfield, and will face re-selection by the Conservative Party, and re-election in 2019.

We are not full-time or salaried but receive a monthly allowance. In addition to attending Parish Council meetings, we also have a role in the District Council and between us we attended around 340 meetings, seminars and events related directly to our elected responsibilities. This is in addition to the telephone and e-mail queries that occur on a daily basis.

Whilst this is a significant workload, we feel privileged to represent our parishes on issues affecting them at the District Council. We also aim to keep the Parish Clerk aware about issues that the parish council may find interesting and informative which they may otherwise not get to hear about. Over the last couple of months, these have 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 brown field sites for development. We are also able to direct the Parish Council to the most appropriate Council officer, department or body that is able to deal with local parish issues.

Whilst we would normally support the Parish Council's views on all things affecting their parish, sometimes we have to consider issues in the wider community interest. A typical example would be the Braintree District local plan, and in particular the development of larger community settlements.

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 will result in the Council's planning powers being handed

to government appointed, unelected officers.

Clearly, the aim would be to restrict all new building to areas which have the local communities' support, but unfortunately this is not always the case, although a good number of parishes have recognised that some small-scale development can be helpful in maintaining schools, shops and pubs. However, the Council can only allocate land where the landowner is willing to allow development. A criticism that the Council could have met its housing obligations through only allocating brown field sites is misguided. Statistics gathered during the development of the plan show that if all the brown field sites in the district were offered for development by the landowner, they would only provide 17% of the housing numbers required. This falls to 5% when the sites actually offered are considered.

The majority of the identified developments will take place in and around the major settlements of Braintree, Witham and Halstead, but in order to avoid widespread development of our villages it has been necessary to consider new developments to the east and west of Braintree. The proposal that is most likely to affect our parishes, a development proposal to the west of Braintree, is for 2,500 homes during the life of the plan, although space is being identified for more properties, depending on circumstances after 2033. These proposals will help ensure there is housing available for our children and grandchildren, with



the necessary infrastructure of roads, schools, health and leisure facilities, shops, and employment land. Of particular concern is that planning permission has been granted for over 1,800 new homes where building has not started. This appears to be due to developers sitting on land waiting for property prices to increase.

The Council is also looking to deal with the problem of homes being left unoccupied by doubling the council tax on those properties.

Against a backdrop of well-publicised reductions of central government grant to local councils, the Council has found savings or opportunities for raising income for the financial year 2018/19 of around £877,000. We also continue 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.
- Purchasing 63 acres of land at Great Notley to provide spaces for new factories and employment land.
- Redeveloping Braintree town centre.
- Securing £4.95 million to build new slip roads to reduce the congestion around the A120 and Millennium Way.
- Handing over the management of the Braintree Museum and Warner Archive to external Trustees who



*Cllr Peter Schwier*



*Cllr Peter Tattersley*

have the background and expertise to further enhance this asset.

- Awarding over 80 grants to local community groups through the councillor grant scheme.
- Providing improved disability access at our swimming pools and continuing to introduce more schemes to allow over-60s to become more active; introducing new dementia-friendly swimming and exercise sessions at our leisure centres and swimming pools, and investigating the growing problem of childhood obesity.
- Carrying out research into the extent of social isolation and loneliness, especially in our more rural areas, and helping to minimise the problem through continued use of the community transport and similar schemes.

We are proud to be associated with our dedicated Parish Councils, individual Parish Councillors and community groups in one of the most picturesque areas of Essex.

If you need to contact us, our email addresses are as follows: [cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.pschwier@braintree.gov.uk) and [cldr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk)

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



## Essex County Council report

Since being elected in May 2017 I have spent a significant period getting to know what is one of the largest geographical electoral divisions in Essex.

The division contains nine parishes; Rayne, Great Notley, Panfield, Shalford, Great Bardfield, Great Saling, Bardfield Saling, Wethersfield, and Finchingfield. In addition, there are a small number of residents who live in unparished areas of Braintree.

During the year, I have attended meetings of all Parish Councils in the area and established a good working relationship with both Parish Councillors and Clerks. I have taken up several issues that have been raised with me both by individual constituents and Parish Councils. It will be no surprise to anyone that Highways matters, particularly those concerning potholes, have dominated my in-box.

It may be of interest to know that the County Council has resurfaced over 400 miles of roads – nearly four times around the M25 – and filled in 5,000 potholes during the last year. I recognise however, that this matter continues to be a cause for concern amongst constituents. The issue of speeding in our villages has also featured highly.

Other issues that have been raised with me are flooding and the availability, or lack of availability, of Broadband in parts of the area.

I have also been working closely with both the County Council and representatives of Finchingfield Parish Council on how necessary repairs to the iconic bridge in the village should be dealt with.

On the wider front the key achievements of Essex County Council during 2017/18 were:

- 94% of Essex schools were judged good or outstanding – three points higher than the national average.
- We helped 1,330 young people not in education, employment or training to move into employment or learning.
- We gave substantial business support to 22 firms resulting in about £2.3m finance raised and multiple new products brought to market.



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

- We reduced the number of delayed transfers of care due to social care to an average of 1,100 days per month.
- We continued to invest in our country parks which has increased visitor numbers by 7.5% to almost three quarters of a million.
- We supported the creation of 11,370 apprenticeships in the county, and we'll continue to invest to ensure our economy has the skills it needs to thrive.
- We promoted activities and delivered services which helped reduce the amount of household waste over the last year by 32kg per household.
- We began construction work on 64 housing units – 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, using a crowd-funding platform known as The Essex Crowd Movement. Depending on the number of individual pledges (min. £2), ECC will match the fundraising efforts of qualifying projects up to the value of £5,000.
- The Local Services Fund – £500,000 to support more formal, traditional services by being more locally responsive and to improve local places. The fund is being administered by the Essex Association of Local Councils who publicise the fund to parish councils, housing associations, and other formally constituted local groups.
- 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 can be £25,000.
- I have been pleased to support a number of applications for projects within the division.

#### **ECC Budget for 2018/19**

We have set high ambitions for Essex in the face of a difficult financial context and the Council has a strong record of sound financial management, focusing on providing efficient services that matter to residents.

The Council will spend a gross budget (including schools) of £1,847m and a capital programme of £299m to deliver its priorities in 2018/19.

We have an outstanding track record of delivering value to tax-paying residents. We have delivered £350m of savings in the last four years by driving out inefficiency, generating income and reducing costs, and the budget now presented is based on delivering a further £59m of savings and efficiencies in 2018/19. This track record has enabled the Council not only to maintain services in new and improved ways at lower cost, but also to invest for the future so that Essex is a better place in which to live and work.

Despite our efforts, price increases, population growth and increasing demand for services, particularly for social care, means we 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.

We need to ensure effective services not just for today, but for the future. Therefore, we have ambitious plans for our capital investment – a capital programme of £299m, an increase of £32m on that for 2017/18. This investment will help deliver our strategic aims and priorities, and in some cases, give us a return on investment. The programme includes investment in independent living schemes for older and vulnerable adults, generating a greater supply of housing, sufficiency of school places (including schools for children with special needs), and investment in schemes to promote economic growth, including improvements to the roads and footpaths that we all use daily. We are also providing an extra £3m investment in our highways over the coming twelve months.

Finally, I am available to try and help any resident who may be experiencing an issue which is the responsibility of Essex County Council. I can be contacted by email at [cllr.graham.butland@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.graham.butland@essex.gov.uk).

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

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## Great Bardfield Charities



*Support  
for winter  
fuel  
payments  
were much  
needed this  
bitterly  
cold  
winter*

I am pleased to present the report of the Great Bardfield Charities covering the last 12 months from May 2017 to April 2018.

Of significant note during this period was the retirement in June '17 of our much valued Trustee, Alan Bray, followed by the appointments of two new Trustees, Annika Woodcock, and Mick Gell. Alongside the (extraordinary) meetings, which dealt with appointing Annika and Mick as co-opted trustees, we also held quarterly (ordinary) meetings, where we considered the many applications received from our community for grants.

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 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 2017 – March 2018 are outlined as follows:**

Income including museum rent and bank interest: £20,456  
 Total Expenditure: £17,045  
*(NB these figures are unaudited at the time of writing this report)*

- Religious groups
- 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 Bardfield Online Community Facebook page and on Parish Council website. In extraordinary situations, Trustees will consider applications between meetings.

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

- Contributions for fuel payments for pensioners and others in need
- Contribution for Christmas Lunches
- 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 students, university students and apprentices
- Historical Society publications and support towards the development of the Bawden Room

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**

**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**

Little's 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





## Town Hall report



Great Bardfield Town Hall continues to be well-utilised by many groups and clubs for social and fundraising events. We currently have waiting lists for bookings. Regular users include 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. We also have ad hoc bookings such as carpet and garden furniture sales, private parties, etc. Earlier this year the hall was booked by a professional theatre group for rehearsal space. Thanks to hall caretaker Sarah Hymas, who also manages all the enquiries and bookings.

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, boules competition and teas/cakes stalls. This year we have undertaken some major work including a complete refresh of the gent's toilets – I am told they are a great improvement and much more sanitary.

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 – a real joint

community endeavour. The Town Hall benefits from a much improved space, which is now the committee meeting venue of choice. The Historical Society and the village benefit from a space where artwork by several renowned Bardfield Artists can be displayed, after many years in storage.

To enable these improvements to the hall we have relied on grants ably obtained by our Treasurer, Patricia Walsh, and our own fundraising events. Future projects planned include the well overdue improvements to the ladies' toilets and toilet facilities for the disabled.

Together with the Historical Society we organised a successful official Opening Day for the Bawden Room last November. At the same time we also celebrated the completion of the new roof, and groups and clubs who use the hall regularly were given the opportunity to showcase their activities and attract new members. Reports of the event were very positive and I'm sure we will do Open Days again in the future.

The Bawden Room will be open to the public during the Arts & Crafts weekend at the end of May. We are most grateful to Peter Keynton, Katrina Ralston and Cherry Twyford for stepping forward to run this long-standing and popular event for the Town Hall last year (see photo) and for their enthusiasm for organising and growing the show this year with new exhibitors and new ideas.

**Carolynne Ruffle**  
**Chairman**





# The Bardfield Times

The magazine continues 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. It seemed unlikely that we would find a replacement with her skills of layout and design, but – as often happens in Great Bardfield – a suitable volunteer stepped forward. Anna Steinbauer has a degree in graphic design and has worked in advertising. Despite a busy life, she has quickly learned the system, if that's what we have, and produced several visually pleasing issues.

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. Strong enough this year to merit 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 magazine's coffers. It goes from strength to strength with over 50 members and a strong following both from inside and outside of the village.

We were delighted to support local good causes to the tune of over £2,000. These included villagers raising money for charity, such as Channel swimmer Abigail Brockwell, and local institutions like the Bawden Room and the After School Club.

**David Yates**  
Editor

<b>The Bardfield Times</b>			
<b>Statement of Account for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>			
		<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>£501.49</b>	<b>£1,806.28</b>
<b>Income</b>			
	Advertising	9,117.00	10,729.00
	Subs/Sales	171.95	123.15
	Fundraising/Cinema	2,502.10	2,531.17
		<b>£11,791.05</b>	<b>£13,383.32</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
	Printing	8,459.00	7,730.00
	Stationery/Other	784.22	367.53
	Postage	177.54	154.78
	Cinema	1,529.55	1,679.52
	Donations	2,250.00	2,950.00
		<b>£13,200.31</b>	<b>£12,881.83</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>- £1,409.26</b>	<b>£501.49</b>

Current A/c (as at 20.3.18): £4,543.35  
Savings A/c: £3,030.59  
Cash in hand: £ 27.39

**Jackie Newton**  
Honorary Treasurer









*Top row l to r: Christingle service at St Mary's, Steve Hudspith as the panto dame, Grayson Perry at Great Lodge, Boules finals day. Next row: Family Fun Run, Last Night of the Proms, John Parker and Tony Hayward at Bawden Room opening. Next row: Late night Christmas shopping at the bookshop, Community Choir at St Katherine's, Ray and Pat Coles on BT stand, Tuesday Club Macmillan Coffee Morning. Bottom Row: Mac Beanland's Tractor Rally, Town Hall Quiz, Bardfield Orchestra at Whinbush Farm.*







## Great Bardfield Historical Society

*Right:  
Richard  
and Hattie  
Bawden  
talking to  
Norman  
Newton  
(right)  
at the  
opening  
of the  
Bawden  
Room*



The highlight for the society this year has been the setting up of the Bawden Room, which was opened by our Patron, Richard Bawden in November. At last we have somewhere to display our collection of works by the Bardfield Artists, making them accessible to everyone. This was a joint project undertaken with the Town Hall Committee and with help from the Bardfield Charities, the *Bardfield Times*, Braintree District Council, Stansted Airport Community Fund, and a number of individuals and local trades people.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to create this lovely space for the village. At present the room can be opened by arrangement at a charge of £2 per person which is split with the Town Hall. We plan to advertise the

room more widely to attract visitors and are planning for the room to be open on Sunday afternoons from Easter to the end of September when the Museum is open. Volunteers to help with this are welcome – it's much warmer than the museum and there is a guide to the pictures. The project is not complete as there are items in our collection which are not yet on display. Some pictures and a large collection of books and papers relating to the artists are still in Braintree Museum. It would be good to find some way of making these accessible.

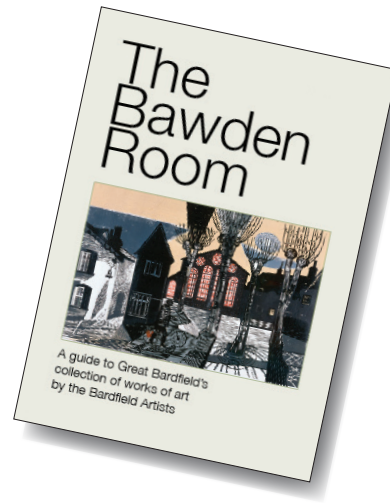
There has been a surge of interest in the Bardfield Artists recently and more visitors are coming to the village to learn about them and see where they lived and worked. We have nine bookings for village history walks,





which will include the Bawden Room, between April and September; these visits generate significant income for the society. Sales of Historical Society publications have been extremely good this year, totalling around £1,500. All proceeds from the book about the artists published by Between the Lines Press go to the Historical Society.

The talks and visits during the year were very well attended. The visit to Bulmer Brickworks was a particular success. We have some interesting and entertaining speakers lined up for this season including a talk by Bardfield resident Jeremy Nicholas: *Idle Thoughts on Jerome K Jerome* (June 14<sup>th</sup>) and Rakesh Pathak, a popular speaker, who will be asking the question: *Clement Attlee – Greatest PM of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?* (July, 11<sup>th</sup>). There is a visit to the Museum of Power, Langford, planned for September 20<sup>th</sup>.



Tony Hayward has retired after many years as a committee member and we thank him for all the support he has given to the society. Thanks also to the volunteers who staff the museum and help to organise events.

**Janet Dyson**  
**Chairman**

### Programme of Talks and Visits for 2018–19

Thur, April 26<sup>th</sup>  
Sat, April 29<sup>th</sup>

**The Women who flew for Hitler** – a talk by author Clare Mulley  
**What do you know about Great Bardfield?** – village walk led by Janet Dyson (limited numbers, booking essential)

#### To come:

Wed, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Wed, June 14<sup>th</sup>  
Wed, July 11<sup>th</sup>  
Thur, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>  
Wed, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>  
Wed, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>

**Anglo Saxon Life** – a talk by Peter Jennings  
**Idle thoughts on Jerome K Jerome** – a talk by Jeremy Nicholas  
**Clement Attlee – Greatest PM of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?** – by Rakesh Pathak  
**Visit to Museum of Power, Langford, near Maldon with cream tea**  
**Horsehair Tales** – a talk by John Miners  
**“Colonel Belchamp’s Battlefield Tour” – remember Calais in May 1940** – a talk by author Adrian Crisp

Nov (date tba)  
Sat, Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019

**The Ariel Crittall lecture**  
**AGM and Social Evening**

Unless stated otherwise, all meetings are in the Bawden Room at the Town Hall 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



*Above:  
Spring  
Show  
awards  
2017*

Well what a year we have just had! Hopefully some of you noticed the Christmas wreaths appearing on many Bardfield doors throughout December, which were produced at our floral art morning with great enthusiasm and enjoyed by all who came. Superb value as well.

Our February meeting made us scratch our heads as we were let down at the very last minute by our speaker, but, as ever, we pulled together and had a very interesting talk by Hilary Thomas who spoke to us about seasonal colour which was just what we needed in the depths of winter.

Our last two shows have had record numbers of entries again. In fact we really had a job to find space to display everything to the best advantage. I was told by a very good, reliable source that the Summer Show was the best for over 30 years! This is hugely encouraging as many societies are struggling to survive. Our special thanks should go to the school who always encourage the children to enter and after all, they are our future exhibitors/members of course.

We won the Intervillage Floral Art Trophy, the Intervillage Vegetable Cup AND this year the Intervillage Festival

Cup which was held in Gosfield. Several new members were involved in producing some superb exhibits to enable us to achieve this.

We had two enjoyable suppers again. Both were sell-outs attended by almost 80 people each time. Bingo with a twist caused some amusement in the Spring, and in the Autumn we all joined in with the singer (tunefully I hope) as he entertained us.

A request was made for a talk on vegetable growing and once again we came up trumps. Who better to give the talk than our own president Peter? It was incredibly informative and also very humorous at times. Free seeds were supplied courtesy of Kings of Coggeshall, so no excuse for not having a go, especially when Peter made it sound so easy!

We had a visit to a very special garden in Lindsell. It was a pleasure to explore this wonderful garden and the sun always shines in Lindsell for us! Tea, cake and good company. Always a winner.

Our AGM was well attended. After the business side we enjoyed a talk by Andrew Sankey entitled *Six of the Best* (gardens that is!) and cheese and wine refreshments. We appealed for a new



treasurer at this event as our wonderful treasurer of many years decided he wants to stand down and enjoy more free time. Happily we now have a couple of new, younger members among our committee and one of them was willing to take on this position. We are, however, always keen for new people to join us. I really believe that is what it takes to keep a society like ours afloat.

We have some old favourite events this coming year and hopefully several new ones as well. Please support us in any way you can. Perhaps put an exhibit in our shows? Lots of classes, something for everyone. Don't be afraid to ask advice from a committee member if you need it. We love new faces and exhibitors. Join us on one of

our outings/visits, and don't forget the ever popular suppers. You don't have to be a member of our society to join us but the more members we get the more we are encouraged to add new events. Its amazing value too! I firmly believe that we have the one of the best horticultural societies around and it's because of the support and dedication of so many of you that we can continue to thrive as we have been doing.

Below is a list of our events for 2018. Hopefully some other events will be added to this list. Please look out for information on our website or posters around the village.

**Linda Prior**  
**Chairman**

20 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Alan Bloom: Thinker and Doer</i> – talk by Jamie Blake
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Show – Town Hall
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Supper – Town Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Garden Outing – 'Two Cottages', Chrishall, nr Saffron Walden
27 <sup>th</sup> June	Floral Art Event – Quaker Meeting House
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Coach Trip to Bressingham Gardens
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Summer Show – Town Hall
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Supper – Town Hall
16 <sup>th</sup> October	AGM and speaker – Town Hall





## Bardfield Oxlip Recovery Programme



*Above left:  
Pipers  
Meadow,  
right: Oxlips  
growing in  
abundance*

The 2017 season proved to be the best yet for the flowering of oxlips in Piper's Meadow. Whilst the numbers of plants has not increased a great deal, the size and robustness of already established individuals has grown significantly. This is not unexpected in a closed grassland community, primarily managed as a hay meadow. Few opportunities exist for newly-germinated oxlip seedlings to establish in areas free from general plant competition, except perhaps on ground disturbed by moles and the like. Aside from mowing, general management of the site will soon have to include the control of some noxious weeds, in particular nettles which are beginning to take hold beneath the alder tree in the centre of the field.

Thus far the oxlips in Piper's Meadow have not been greatly damaged by deer during the flowering season. Deer in particular graze off newly-emerging flower stalks, often long before the flowers have opened and seed has been set. Any measures taken to prevent this are welcome, and

the erection of a new fence along the field boundary adjacent to the bridge, has greatly helped, as well as improving both the general safety and appearance of the site.

In the parish, both at Piper's Meadow and at the Ash Ground/Purple's Spinney at Great Lodge, the emphasis is now largely focused upon general site management.

In Purple's Spinney, the re-erection of the fence around the wooded area has to a large extent protected plants from the worst excesses of deer-grazing and allowed the population to stabilise if not to increase a little. But damage to the fence in the adjacent pasture beyond (Ash Ground) did allow cattle to invade the protected area and damage it by trampling.

It remains to be seen if this small area will quickly recover, but it is still disappointing to see that such a flourishing community of oxlips can so easily be at risk.

**D W Joyce**





## Plantings at Long Green



The native trees and shrubs planted at Long Green (Coney Green) in the spring of 2010, have now begun to thrive in spite of the poor ground into which they were first planted and the series of summer droughts that followed: and the site has finally assumed its long-hoped for exciting and natural appearance, particularly later in the year when the autumn colours are ablaze – the rich yellows of the field maples and the fiery reds of the spindle trees.

Although all the trees planted as ‘standards’ have established, most have been slow to put on growth, possibly as a result of the difficult soil conditions in the rooting zone, and the exposed nature of the site, particularly in regard to the westerly winds. The exception is the alder which was planted close the bottom of the slope and adjacent to the ditch where the ground stays wet for most of the year. Not only has this moisture-loving tree grown quite rapidly but it has already begun to flower and fruit. Likewise, the majority of the ‘bushes’ planted have prospered

and are starting to fill out the ‘shrub layer’. Unfortunately the original fencing running beside the byway is still in need of repair and this should be a priority in the forthcoming year.

At the southern end of the lane the annual broadcasting of seed of our native bluebell has continued on an annual basis as before – sowing has continued along the lane as suitable locations are found – open areas beneath the tree canopy where the soil is not too compacted.

Plants grown from the very first sowings have been flowering for two years now, and as bulbs from later sowings mature more flowers can be expected. All the seed sown continues to be sourced locally from a wood just a few miles to the east of the parish, so there is little danger of contamination from the unwelcome Spanish Bluebell. From now on the key to success is simply one of prolonged patience, persistence and litter control.

**D W Joyce**

*Left:  
Glorious  
viburnum  
and  
right: the  
planting  
beginning  
to fill out*



## Freshwell Health Centre

I am sure that you will have seen in the media that the NHS is working under huge pressure. Last autumn our newsletter explained how we were striving to provide a high quality service under the challenging conditions of reduced funding and increasing demand. The high number of cases of flu-like illness over Christmas and recent bad weather have done nothing to ease this situation. We have kept afloat this winter but other local services are really struggling and there are long waits for some specialities at the local hospitals.

### **Staff News**

We wish Dr Barrett every happiness with the imminent arrival of her second child. Whilst we have been recruiting her replacement we have had some very experienced locum doctors working for us (Dr Mackin, Dr Tayler and Dr Williams). We were delighted to welcome Dr Low to our team in February and have another permanent GP (Dr Hopgood) joining us in April.

We also now have an Orthopaedic Specialist Practitioner, Paul Harrison, providing appointments here twice a week. This is being funded by the CREAMER Fund to give patients a greater choice in who to see for advice and treatment. If you have muscle or joint problems such as back, knee or hip pain or a sports injury you can ask for an appointment with him.

### **Patient Feedback**

The latest results of the recent National Patient Survey came out last week and are very encouraging. These are available at [www.gp-patient.co.uk](http://www.gp-patient.co.uk). Thank you to all who responded. Such results

are a real boost to staff morale. We also continue to collect feedback to the national 'Friends and Family' question via [www.iwantgreatcare.org](http://www.iwantgreatcare.org), the paper forms in reception and through our new text messaging service. We always welcome your comments and ideas.

### **Text Messages**

We now offer a text message service to remind patients about their appointments and invite them for flu jabs, asthma reviews, blood tests, etc. It has already reduced the number of patients who do not turn up for their appointments as it provides an easy way to cancel. This helps us to reduce wasted appointments and hence keep the wait down for everybody needing to see a doctor. If you would like to benefit from this service, please keep us updated of any changes to your mobile number.

### **CREAMER Fund Support**

We are forever grateful to the CREAMER Fund which has funded (amongst other things) the smart new reception area, a replacement generator, an audit and training to improve access to our services for patients with sensory impairment and increased the number of community defibrillators to 17. Last summer, we lost NHS funding for our ultrasound service but we are still able to offer appointments here thanks to CREAMER support. It is now funding an upgrade to one of our treatment rooms which should be completed shortly.

**Linda Cutts**  
**Practice Manager**



## CREAMER Fund

I would like to thank the Trustees for their dedication and hard work for the CREAMER Fund. I would particularly like to mention Kay Painter, our Treasurer and demon negotiator, Sylvia Gould, our Chief Fundraiser, and Sarah McCarthy, who has been extremely helpful bringing us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

A big 'thank you' to everyone in the community who has supported us through selling and buying raffle tickets, donating and buying puzzles and books, and holding collecting tins on our behalf. We are very grateful for the many personal donations we receive, often anonymously. Much of our money comes from patients, or their relatives, who have had care from the surgery and want to say 'thank you' in a way that will help others.

Dr Andrew Hildrey is still very involved as Vice Chairman of the CREAMER Fund. This year, through consultation with Dr Oliver and the Practice Managers, some new developments have been proposed for

support by the CREAMER Fund. One of these is already up and running; an orthopaedic specialist practitioner now works at the Freshwell Health Centre, assessing and outlining treatment for acute back and joint problems. This provides specialist input locally. The cost is met by the CREAMER Fund. The Trustees feel that the CREAMER Fund should contribute to services such as this, the X-ray facility and the soft tissue scanner, which would otherwise not be available at our surgery.

The NHS is changing and we are all seeing financial constraints. We hope the CREAMER Fund will evolve to help the community to benefit by supporting the practice as it grows in its diversity of health care provision.

The Trustees are keen to hear ideas and suggestions from the community and particularly patients of the Freshwell Health Centre.

**Christopher Blewett**  
**Chairman**





## Great Bardfield allotments

Another great year on the plots. Sadly, a couple of the original plot holders moved on from the village – truly missed as they contributed a lot – but as a result their plots became available in time to produce enough vegetables before the season was over. One plot in particular is only now just finishing their Brussels sprouts and leeks!

I am always so interested in allotments in other villages and towns, especially seeing what other people grow and how their plots are kept. But I think for us, as a village, our location in the meadow behind The Vine would be hard to beat.

Personally no gluts for me, due to the warm spring/early summer, followed by rain. This year we started swapping vegetables with each other – if one person was growing sweetcorn and someone else was growing carrots a trade was done! I understand this happens

in many community allotments and is a great way for everyone to enjoy different types of vegetables, especially if some growers are more successful than others.

We still have a battle with pigeons, squirrels, rabbits hence the reason we all wire, net and fence off everything but we do get results.

What is great is the age range of our gardeners, from four years old to seventy plus – start them young and you hope that they will continue for our future.

**Tansey Bolsom**







## Bardfield Community Choir

The Community Choir has been running for seven years and has at least 50 members of all ages. Our repertoire is very broad ranging from pop, folk and jazz to classical. This year our programmes have included music by Fauré, Bach, Vivaldi, Billy Joel, the Beatles and Gilbert & Sullivan. We are also enjoying singing songs from *Oklahoma* and *Les Miserables*.

In July we joined with other local musicians for a lovely summer concert in the beautiful gardens of Whinbush Farm. We also gave a concert of Words and Music for Autumn in St Katharine's Church, Little Bardfield with music by Vivaldi and popular songs including *California Dreamin'*, *You Raise me Up*, and *Bridge over Troubled Water*, interspersed with poems by Keats, Stevie Smith and Wendy Cope. We ended our concert with *Autumn Leaves*.

We enjoyed taking part in the carol singing at the Town Hall Christmas Raffle

evening, with plenty of audience participation. Some choir members sang at an evening of Christmas music in Shalford Church which also featured the Bardfield Community Orchestra and we cheered everyone up on a freezing December night when we sang carols, accompanied by Bardfield Brass, outside The Vine!

We were all saddened by the death of Celia Rhodes, one of our altos and a founding member of the choir, in January. We were privileged to sing one of Celia's favourite songs at her funeral, *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, by John Rutter.

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 8pm, usually in the Town Hall and are very fortunate to have Avril Nelson as our excellent accompanist. We each pay £2 per rehearsal. And we have parties! 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. Singing with others is fun and makes you feel good. New singers are always welcome and you don't need to be able to read music. Why not give it a try? Contact me [jm.dyson@btinternet.com](mailto:jm.dyson@btinternet.com).

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

## Bardfield Community Orchestra

The orchestra has continued to grow with new members in the strings, woodwind and brass sections.

We play a range of classical and light music and have added to our repertoire with a lovely arrangement of Lehar's *Gold and Silver Waltz* and the theme from *The Pink Panther* by Henry Mancini.

We performed at the Shalford Christmas Concert and in the gardens at Whinbush Farm in the summer.

New players of intermediate standard are very welcome. So be brave, dust off that instrument you used to play at school and come and give it a try, you may surprise yourself! We rehearse in the Town Hall, monthly, usually on Friday evening from 8-9pm. Contact [jm.dyson@btinternet.com](mailto:jm.dyson@btinternet.com) for further details.

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





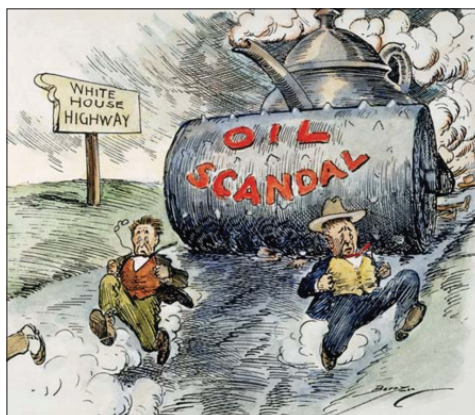
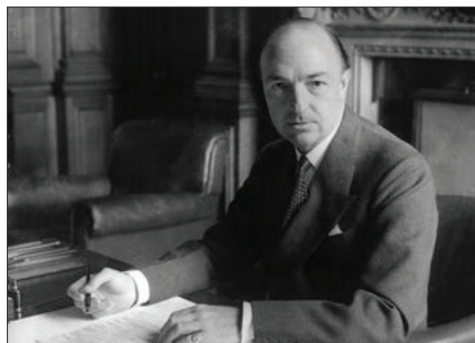
## Great Bardfield WEA

*Top: John Profumo and below: cartoon depicting the Teapot Dome Scandal – both topics of Richard Till's course on Scandals*

Great Bardfield WEA has been offering courses in the village for many decades. We usually 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 covered the history, beliefs and philosophies of seven prominent British people over the past two millennia. *Scandals* was the title of our spring course presented by Richard Till, a local lecturer and historian. This course covered various scandals which rocked the world, including the Profumo Affair and The Teapot Dome Scandal.

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

It's been a funny old year. We have been blessed with an increase in actors and various good people who are willing to help the Players in different ways.

In May of 2017, we did a series of very short plays which we entitled *A Slice of Life*. They gave all of our new members a chance to try out acting, stage management, etc, without putting too much pressure on them. This proved successful and everyone stayed with us!

In light of this, and due to popular demand, we decided for the first time in nearly ten years, to put on a pantomime. Fortunately Janet Dyson was available to act as our musical director, and Alison Burkert (dancing teacher) moved to the village.

This was a huge undertaking, involving music, singing, dancing, acting, slap-stick, explosions, video recordings, sound effects, elaborate sets, props and costumes, all put together by a crew and cast of 35. With all of this and four months'

rehearsal *Treasure Island* was presented to the public on the Town Hall stage (see below). If I say so myself, it was a smash hit with 400 people coming to see the four performances.

I have been fortunate to receive some photographs and programmes from the Players dating from the war years, and the 1950s, from Michael Hitchcock. These are really interesting and it is lovely to see both him and Diana (Clapson as she was then), in their younger days. Michael has hardly changed.

If anyone else has anything similar from previous incarnations of the Players that we could either have, or make copies of, that would be lovely.

Ian Ruffle  
Chairman







# 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 to 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 so we were delighted to receive a letter from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, Minister for School Standards, congratulating us on being in the top 2% of English schools for progress

between Key Stage One and Key Stage 2. This is the second letter that we have had from Mr Gibb; in October 2016 we

also received a letter from him congratulating us on our excellent Phonics results which put us in the top 8% of all primary schools in the country.

### Summer Term 2016-2017

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 term our Year 6 children enjoyed a very successful residential visit to the Isle of Wight. We took twenty children 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, 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.



*Year 6  
Visit to  
the Isle of  
Wight-  
June 2017*







### **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 such a bundle of mischievous fun and energy! The children had us all hooting with laughter as they presented a play based on what happens during a school inspection, which was timely given our Ofsted experience earlier in the year. Watching them present their 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, 2016-2017.

### **A brand new school year, 2017-2018.**

We began the new school year with our Growth Mindset firmly in place! 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 DEEP Partnership (Dunmow Excellence in Education Partnership) brings many opportunities to take part in joint projects and training eg: Sports events, Reading Gladiators, Meeting Authors and School Council training.

Fundraising at Great Bardfield continues to be a very important aspect of developing our sense of citizenship and respect for others outside 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

*Fun on  
our whole  
school trip  
to Frinton  
Beach  
July 2017*

*Our  
winners  
on Sports  
Day 2017*





*Children giving their Smile Boxes to George Mills for orphan-ages in Ukraine.*

*Children practising for the Christmas Carol Concert*

Braintree Foodbank and the NSPCC. As always in October, we invited George Mills to school. The children were very proud to present him with 124 shoeboxes to take to the orphanages that he supports in Ukraine. We have worked very hard with the children to raise their awareness of the importance of British Values. These jigsaw with our 5 Key Skills of Respect, Resilience, Resourcefulness, Responsibility and Reflectiveness which run through the heart of everything that we do at Great Bardfield Primary School.

We have been keen to develop music in the school this year. Mrs Carey, 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. Mrs Carey has been offering individual music lessons and we now have several children who have joined Bardfield Brass. We very much enjoyed singing in the village church at Christmas and our Key Stage Two children will take part in Spring Concert in April.

#### **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 science activities.

Improving writing skills across the broader curriculum has been a priority this year. We encourage the children to write every day for a range of different purposes focusing on (and often independently choosing) the genre they are writing in and their target audience. As always the children love getting dressed up as their favourite book character when we celebrate World Book Day in the Spring term.

Developing the children's Speaking and Listening skills are 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. This spring term we took Key Stage Two children to the Tower of London as we were studying The Tudors and Key Stage One to Hatfield Forest to support their learning about habitats and mini beasts.

At Hatfield Forest the younger children had lots of fun taking part in a bug hunt and in making a giant nest for everyone to shelter in. Getting the children learning outside helps them to develop a respect for the environment and an appreciation of the world around them.

#### **Easter egg hunt**

We most recently enjoyed the end of term celebrations for Easter. We were joined by the Easter bunny who helped the children to use their thinking and problem solving skills to complete a sheet of clues, which led them to the ultimate prize of an Easter Egg.

#### **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 5 Key Skills of Respect, Resilience, Responsibility,



Resourcefulness and Reflectiveness; leading by example encourages the children to also show these 5 Key Skills.

We are lucky to have a very committed team of Governors who work hard to support the school with being 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.

*Children enjoying a visit to Hatfield Forest— March 2018*

*Children enjoying a visit to the Tower of London— March 2018*







*Year Six children enjoying practical Science activities*



### 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 and on this occasion we will be joining up with Great Easton Primary School. Some children will be taking part in the Mayday 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

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



current Unicorns are now completely settled in to school and are getting ready for their next challenge of Year One.

### 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. Great Bardfield Primary School 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 After School and Breakfast Club

We are Great Bardfield After School and Breakfast Club and we provide out-of-school care for children aged 3 to 14 years. The club opens from Monday to Friday during school terms. We are an Ofsted registered childcare provider; at our last inspection in 2015 we were rated “Good”. We are also a registered charity.

The Club first opened its doors in 1997 following some amazing fundraising undertaken by members of our Bardfield community. After 20 fantastic years, we still use the purpose-built facilities in the school grounds, which we share with the pre-school.

The childcare and day-to-day running of the Club is undertaken by a group of friendly and dedicated staff led by Pat Moore. All staff are qualified in childcare and teaching as required by Ofsted. The Club is also overseen by a group of parents, staff and community-minded individuals. We welcome anyone, with or without children at the Club, who wants to have a say in what we do to join this group.

This year the Club has continued to provide a varied programme of themed activities for our children. Activities have included; yoga, cookery sessions, craft making, a film club, and a multitude of games. We have widened our breakfast menu; now offering a cooked breakfast each day, in addition to cereals, fruit and yoghurt.

Last year we organised a range of successful events to raise funds. The village Garage Sale, which takes place each May, is the main focus of our fundraising team. Our other big event is the Family Fun Run, which covers a 3-mile course around the village. All ages and abilities are welcome to enter; there is even a certificate for the first dog home and first pushchair past the post!

If you are interested in finding out more about what we offer then just ring 01371 811580 for an informal chat. If you'd like to get involved with the Club, then please also get in touch. You could



*Nick and Alfie promoting the After School Club outside the Co-op*

volunteer to help at the Club or offer to run a themed session for the children. We would also welcome any donations of toys, craft materials, CDs or DVDs.

More information about the Club can be found on our website: <http://www.greatbardfieldasc.btck.co.uk>.

**Nick Holland**  
**Chair, Great Bardfield After**  
**School and Breakfast Club**



## Great Bardfield Folk Club



As we look back on the past year at the Great Bardfield Folk Club, we're amazed by the quality and diversity of the music we've been able to host here in the village.

We have several different club night formats. The most frequent one, which takes place on the second Thursday of each month, involves a mixture of informal performances from singers and musicians who just turn up on the night and one longer set from an invited guest. Both "floor singers" and invited performers range from well-established artists to lesser-known musicians and the floor spots are also an excellent place for new performers to try out their skills. Indeed, folk clubs have long served an important purpose as a jumping-off point for up-and-coming young (and sometimes not so young!) artists and we've been lucky enough to play host to performers who are clearly going places. In particular we were dazzled by Katie Spencer, a teenager from Hull with a unique, distinctive voice and delivery and a stunning guitar technique, and a three-part harmony trio called Columbines. We're delighted to announce that Katie will be returning later this year, and the Columbines next year, to do a full 45-minute guest spot.

Our Second Thursday nights feature a wide variety of formats and musical styles; the invited performers all qualify as "folk" although that in itself is an enormously diverse musical category, ranging from the traditional

to the contemporary and with links to blues, pop and world music.

We're extremely fortunate to have a solid base of excellent "regulars" who play floor spots on Second Thursdays, including the band Revival, whose members played together for the first time at the club, songwriter Kevin Johnson, bluegrass musician Paul Brewer, singer/guitarist/concertina player David Griffin and local poet Didi, a cast of characters augmented by occasional visits from – among others – expert melodeon player Ellie Moffat, Newmarket-based duo Penni McLaren Walker and Bryan Causton, Mary and Steve Dickinson from the Everyman Folk Club, and local multi-instrumentalist Jonny Dyer. And as well as the usual complement of guitars, the aforementioned fiddles, and Ellie's melodeon, we've been entertained over the year by mandolins, accordions, concertinas, an autoharp, a bass ukulele, various keyboards, hurdy-gurdy, dulcetina, harmonica and cajon. And one of the things we love about folk music is the breadth of





subject matter. Among others, we've heard songs about shipwrecks, railway closures, refugees, lost love, puffins, mining, hunting (from the fox's viewpoint, of course) and a medieval ballad about the delights of Winchester. If you're bored with same-old same-old love songs, we suggest a good helping of folk music as an antidote!

Rod and Marian (who formerly presided over a thriving folk scene at the Bluebell Inn, Hempstead) are still booking bands on some of the other available Thursdays in the month. Rod and Marian are experts at finding extremely high-quality acts and talking them into detouring into Bardfield to amaze us with their talents, one example being award-winning duo Katriona Gilmore and Jamie Roberts – both exceptional songwriters; they shared their stories with us in flawless vocal harmony, expertly framed by Jamie's guitar and Kat's fiddle and mandolin. It's easy to see why they were shortlisted for the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards' "Best Duo."

As if that wasn't enough, we also organise a couple of Saturday

concerts each year. Again, these feature higher-profile performers playing full-length sets. The first of these, early in 2017, featured dynamic and thoroughly entertaining French-born (but resident in Durham) singer Flossie Malavaiille. Her witty, observant chatter made us laugh and her poignant singing sometimes moved us to tears. Last Autumn we also hosted – back by popular demand – the flawless voice and exquisite songs of Mike Silver. As ever, he held us spellbound and we wished the evening would never finish.

One of the highlights of the year came in November as the result of the connection between the Folk Club and Bardfield singing group HeartSong. The choir have been working on a song by Scots (but now based in Reading) singer-songwriter Jim MacLean. Jim was our November guest, and a fair sampling of the choir came along to hear him. The evening ended with Jim AND the choir on stage, all joining together in a captivating version of Jim's song "Freewheeling." It was definitely a spine-tingling moment. (See photo).

A friendly setting, tea and biscuits (or bring something stronger yourself if you prefer), chat and interesting, skilfully performed music right on your doorstep. See you there?

**Anna Bass and Ray Taylor**

### **"Second Thursday" special guests booked for 2018**

May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Revival
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cambridge and Walker
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Colin Frid
Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>	Local Artists' Night
Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	Marina Florance
Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	David Griffiths
Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>	Katie Spencer
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Rosewood

**Our Special Guest Night on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April featured Hunter Muskett**

For more details, tickets (where applicable) and "Fourth Thursday" concerts see <http://greatbardfieldfolk.wixsite.com/club>



## Great Bardfield Carpet Bowls

I am pleased to say that it has been another very good year for our club. As I write this report we are second in the North West Area of the Essex County Carpet Bowls Association Winter League. Unfortunately the leaders, Swards End, are really in an unassailable lead with just two games to go. But we will keep going right on to the bitter end and there is always next year!

Second seems to be the theme as we were also second in the Summer Singles League 2017. Again, it was that team Swards End that won. We will be competing in the 2018 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 and again attended various charity events and all of the Essex county competitions which are held at Braintree. All the individuals who represented our club did us proud.

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. For those new to the parish; not only is it an ideal way of meeting new friends locally but also of finding out about other villages in the area. Is there anyone new to the area that 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 stay in the league and, even more worrying, actually ceasing 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. Two of our members, Maxine and Don Poulter, won the competition for 2018.

This is not a sport for old fuddy duddies, just look at the competitors in the world bowls championships on TV and you will see 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 2m. 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 male and female compete together. Finally; it is cheap as the club provides the bowls etc; 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.

Unfortunately Bardfield does not have an outdoor lawn bowls green now but there are many clubs around that would welcome any interest you may have in the full-size game. There are clubs at Dunmow, Thaxted, and Stebbing to mention just a few. Lynda and I play at Castle Hedingham. The outdoor season will soon be upon us so if you are new to the area and would like contact details we should be able to help you out here too.

**Clifford Richardson**



## Tuesday Club

We are very pleased to announce that over the last two years our membership has slowly increased, a trend we would very much like to continue. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm in Great Bardfield Town Hall. Our aim is to enjoy talks and demonstrations on very varied subjects to suit all the membership. The subscription is £20 per annum, visitors £3 per meeting. We serve refreshments following our speakers. A raffle is held and the proceeds donated to our chosen charity for the year. Last year our charity was Essex Herts Air Ambulance Trust. A donation of £135 was handed to Roger Smith who updated us on the running and the day-to-day costs of EHAAT. An incredible insight into the logistics of managing a facility so very much in demand.

We endeavour to organise two theatre trips per year and support CAODS in Chelmsford, an amateur company with an excellent reputation. The next production, in September, will be *Top Hat*.

The summer outing in June 2017 took us to Wilkin & Sons Tiptree Jam Shop and Tea Rooms. Unfortunately there are no longer any visits to the factory but after a very interesting visit to the Museum we all had a delicious Cream Tea.

September 28<sup>th</sup> was the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Tuesday Club members held a Coffee

Morning in the Quaker Meeting House and raised £535 – a most enjoyable and rewarding occasion and one we would all like to repeat next year.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> Great Bardfield Town Hall celebrated the completion of the new roof and the opening of the Bawden Room with an open day to showcase the various clubs and societies that use the Hall. The Tuesday Club, led by Iris Couldridge, was pleased to be represented with a table showing all our activities.

Another highlight was our Christmas Lunch when once again all our members enjoyed a delicious lunch at The Vine. Thank you to Steve Mann and staff for a very festive occasion. We would very much like to continue to increase our membership and of course visitors are always welcome.

Further information is available from Adrienne Poulson on 01371 811401 or email: [adriennepoulson@btinternet.com](mailto:adriennepoulson@btinternet.com).

**Adrienne Poulson**

### Programme for 2018

#### So far this year:

January	Essex Herts Air Ambulance Trust and <b>AGM</b>
February	<b><i>The Essex Scrubber</i></b> – Christine Beedle
March	<b><i>Mysteries of Chinese Medicine</i></b> – Julie Betts
April	<b><i>Making a Stand for Chelsea</i></b> – a presentation by Dr Tim Wreghitt

#### Still to come:

May	<b><i>Laughter in the Village</i></b> – a humorous talk by Bob Jones
June	<b><i>Everything Stops for Tea</i></b> – a talk by Eve Regelous
July	To be announced
August	<b><i>Into the Shadowlands</i></b> – an intriguing talk by Carl Merry
September	<b><i>Constable Country and Flatford Mill</i></b> – a presentation by Simon Gallup
October	<b><i>A Trip to Mongolia with the Scouts</i></b> – by Stephen Sudbury
November	<b><i>Decorating your Christmas Cake</i></b> – a hands-on demonstration with Diana Forrow
December	<b><i>Christmas lunch</i></b>

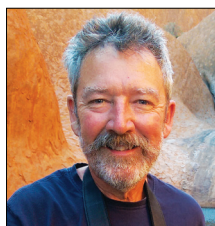




# Great Bardfield Parish Council



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



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



**Cllr Janet Dyson**  
01371 810838



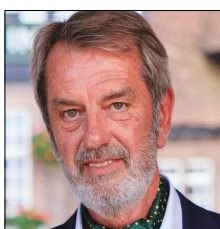
**Cllr Iain Graham**  
07831 595555



**Cllr Darren Hockley**  
01371 810836



**Cllr Steve Slemmings**  
01371 810098



**Cllr Paul Kennedy**  
01371 810540



**Mrs Kate Fox**  
**Parish Clerk**  
01371 810111  
[clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk)

## 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.



