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News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield

Bardfield Times



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

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Front cover: Great Bardfield School celebrating World Book Day at Between the Lines bookshop

Above: Spring Lambs by Barry Jones

Editorial

It was privilege to attend the simple ceremony that was held recently when the ashes of artist Edward Bawden were interred in Great Bardfield churchyard. Bawden, with his wife Charlotte, an artist in her own right, lived in the village for over 40 years and much of his work featured local scenes, people and events.



Bardfield Town Hall by Edward Bawden, pen and ink. Private collection.

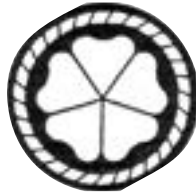
Bawden was the catalyst who drew artists and other creative people to the village. He died in 1989 and it is good that his family have chosen Great Bardfield as his final resting place. Charlotte is commemorated by a plaque in the church and their son Richard designed the etched glass doors in the church tower. Artist John Aldridge is buried in the churchyard.

The work of this interesting and significant group of artists who lived and worked in and around Great Bardfield from the 1930s until the 1980s has come into the spotlight recently. In this issue Julia and Andrew Collins have written an article introducing an important exhibition at the Fry Art Gallery, Saffron Walden: Great Bardfield and Beyond – A Working Landscape. It's exciting to see this aspect of our village heritage celebrated in this way. Writing in 1988 artist Olive Cook described 1940s Bardfield as "paradise", with winding lanes, well cut hedges and the land "shaped by men who still felt a real sense of responsibility to it", with a village who accepted the influx of strangers who came to live among them. A description I think we would recognise today. See the article (pp.24/5) for further information about the exhibition which runs from April to October. Coincidentally the 100 Parishes piece (pp.30/31) also celebrates the lives and work of the Bardfield Artists, and the art tradition in the village continues with the annual Art Show on May 26th and 27th in the Town Hall which attracts work from many local artists.

Other notable dates this month include the Historical Society AGM and talk by Ashley Cooper on April 13th and the Annual Parish Assembly which will be held on April 26th. Finally don't forget to book your tickets for the Bardfield Players' next production on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th – you know it's always a sell-out!

Janet Dyson

Great Bardfield Primary School



Here at school we are racing towards the end of the Spring Term. Preparations are underway for us to celebrate Easter with our usual 'Easter Themed' Orienteering Competition. This event involves the children following a set of co-ordinates to collect letter clues around the school site in order to construct a secret sentence. If they manage to solve the puzzle, the Easter Bunny will share his or her chocolate eggs with them. We have our fingers crossed that the weather improves by the end of the month and we can open our lovely school field for this traditional event.

This term continues to be a busy one, a highlight of which has been World Book Day. The theme this year was 'reading for pleasure.' This is something we hope all of our children will learn to appreciate whilst at our school but, more importantly, continue throughout their life as



Year 4 enjoying a story with Sarah Holland at *Between the Lines*

adults. The American author, Mary Pope-Osborne wrote that 'reading is a passport to countless adventures' and this encapsulates what we hope our children learn.

World Book Day was an opportunity to highlight the pleasure we can achieve from reading and the children had a wonderful day sharing books, learning about different authors and visiting our village bookshop, 'Between the Lines'. At the bookshop they listened to stories, browsed the books and swapped their WBD voucher for a text of their choice. They all had a fantastic time and I have really enjoyed hearing about some of the books they have chosen. Thank you to everybody involved in organising and delivering this wonderful experience to our children. Thank you also to our parents who joined in with the fun and sent us lots of photos of their children reading in a huge variety of creative ways. We have seen our children reading on horseback, on trampolines, in go karts, in trees and on fairground rides to name just a few examples!

This term we have also enjoyed 'Science Week'. This year, each class focused on a prominent Scientist and learnt about their life, their work and the contribution they have made to the world of Science. I wonder how many of you reading this can identify the contributions made to Science by Rachel Carson, Mary Jackson, Louis Pasteur, Alan Turing and Stephen Hawking? I will confess – there was one name amongst them which I had to google! Also during Science week, Aldridge Class took advantage of a break in the terrible weather and seized the opportunity to get out into the village and study the effect of rainfall on the speed and depth of the river.

As we approach the Summer Term we look forward to Sports Days, our traditional day at the beach, swimming lessons, the Year 6 residential at the Isle of Wight and much more. The third, and final term of the year is always the busiest and promises many opportunities for our children to continue to shine.

As I write this, we are looking forward to welcoming some of you to our Spring Concert on Monday 25th March. It promises to be a lovely afternoon full of singing, cups of tea and delicious cake.

Liz Crow
Headteacher

Vintage Tractor Run

Save the date - 12th May. Last year we raised over £11000 thanks to all your support and our running total is just over £60,00! We are working on the route now and will update you once it is finalised but for now pop the date in the diary and we'll see you on May 12th more details in May's *BT*.



This is a picture of three organisers presenting last year's cheque to the crew of the air ambulance for £11,662.

Great Bardfield Churchyard

Last month's Editorial proved that, as usual, we're late to the party when it comes to looking for volunteers. However, every day dozens of people walk through the churchyard at St Marys and many of them, villagers and visitors, are good enough to stop and say how nice it looks. It is thanks to the work of a little group who cut the grass, trim the hedges, clear the paths. Spread out it's not hard work but time goes on and new faces really are needed if it is to stay a credit to the village. We have the machines, can you give up a little time to use them? It's actually quite satisfying, honest. **Tony Forrest on 01371 810344** can provide more information, or as you pass just have a chat with anyone who is working there.

The Dry Garden

Thursday 25 April 2024

7.30 pm

A talk by Ian Bull

Garden Manager RHS Hyde Hall, Essex

Ian Bull oversees the maintenance of the Hilltop Garden with roses and herbaceous borders and the drought tolerant plants set in the dry garden

Tickets for the talk are £10 and can be purchased through our website.

www.finchingfieldguildhall.org.uk/events

Bardfield ART SHOW 2024

The show will be held over the Late May Bank Holiday weekend on **Sunday 26th and Monday 27th May 2024.**

If you are interested in showing any of your work, please contact us for details and an entry form or collect a paper copy from *Between the Lines* bookshop in Great Bardfield.

Deadline for entries is **Friday 3rd May 2024.**

Peter Keynton and Katrina Ralston
Art Show Organisers
bardfield.art.show@gmail.com

Great Bardfield Parish Council report

Community Garden (previously The Quiet Space)

A team of volunteers has met to plan the Community Garden to be established on land to the rear of the Town Hall. Fruit trees have been purchased and will be planted in the next few weeks (the ground being too wet currently). Plans include raised beds for vegetable planting, wildflower area and habitats for wildlife: birdboxes, bug hotels etc. We will also be applying for further grants to purchase a couple more benches for those coming to enjoy the space. The gardens are open to all. It will be interesting to see progress over the next few months. If you are interested in helping out, then please contact the Parish Clerk on 01371 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk

Wethersfield Airbase Update

Braintree District Council have updated us to confirm that they will be appealing the High Court's decision to permit the use the RAF Wethersfield to house up to 1700 asylum seekers, The appeal will be held on 11 and 12 June 2024.

We understand that around 500 residents are now at the airbase. The Home Office have published a Community Update Newsletter at www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-wethersfield/wethersfield-community-update-newsletter. This provides factual information about the site and addresses some of the questions and concerns of the local community.

Local voluntary groups are assisting with warm clothing, providing English language and conversation sessions and assisting with other activities such as music and sports.

Bus 9/9a (to Braintree)

The Parish Council have heard (unofficially) that there are plans to withdraw the bus service to Braintree from this summer. We are working with our District Councillors to have this decision reversed as this is a vital service for many people and will mean that public transport services to and through the village will be severely curtailed. The quality of service on this route has been poor for some time, resulting in a drop in numbers using the No 9 bus. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you wish to comment on the adverse effect that stopping this service will have on you (01371 810111 or clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk).

Planning Applications

- Lumley's, Crown Street (listed building): installation of dual unit heat source pump. No objection if the Historic Building Officer is satisfied with position and appearance.
- 6, The Corniche: application for certificate of lawfulness for replacement windows. Notification only.

- Greenacre, Brook Street: alteration to materials on the exterior of the approved extension. No objection.
- Bardfield Centre: variation of approved application. To retain the existing substation in current position. No objection if the HBO has been consulted and is satisfied.
- Tree works at The Matchings, Bridge End. The Tree Warden had no objection subject to replacement planting and no disturbance to nesting birds.

Highways/Pavements

- Works are progressing on the damaged road surface and drain at Bridge End.
- The Parish Council continue to chase Openreach to replace the broken manhole cover in the High Street.

Parish Assembly for residents of Great Bardfield (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

This will be held on Friday 26th April at 7.30pm. Reports will be presented on the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months plus additional reports from churches, schools, clubs, societies and other village groups. Open to all residents.

Refuse Collection and Recycling

Here are the collection dates for the coming month. If you have access to the internet the full calendar is available at www.braintree.gov.uk Please leave bins etc out by 7am on the collection date.

*Green bin (garden waste) collection only for those that have registered for this service.

Wednesday April 3rd	Grey bin & food bin (bank holiday week)
Tuesday April 9th	Clear sacks, food bin and green bin*
Tuesday April 16th	Grey bin & food bin
Tuesday April 23rd	Clear sacks, food bin and green bin*
Tuesday April 30th	Grey bin & food bin

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th April at 7.00pm, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. Members of the Public are welcome to attend and to raise any issues at the Public Forum which is held at the beginning of the meeting.

Carolynne Ruffle
Chairperson

PAVILION UPDATE

Recently at the Parish council, we have received quite a few complaints regarding the deplorable state of the car park area at the recreation ground surrounding the children's playground and the new pavilion. This has been caused by several separate actions, and not helped by the atrocious weather of late! First of all I must stress, contrary to popular opinion, is nothing to do with the construction of the new pavilion building.

National Power and their agents have been carrying out a much-needed programme of replacing overhead power lines with underground lines which are much less subject to the vagaries of the British weather. The delay has been caused by several unforeseen circumstances including the inclement weather. The Parish Council are chasing them to complete the job as soon as possible. I should point out that the pavilion team are extremely grateful in the early days for assistance given with the progress of the pavilion building, with the demolition of the old building and a substantial donation to the pavilion fund to compensate for the inconvenience caused.

It would be very remiss of me not to mention the progress made on the building so far. Since my last article, the interior is coming on fine, and the plumbing is nearly done, and the electrical work is almost complete. The remaining biggest job on the inside is to lay the floor covering, which has been chosen and will happen in the next few weeks.

Finally, (and yes, you've guessed it!) we are still hoping for donations from the wonderful Bardfield residents to go towards the provision of a much-extended car park to complete the outside space to a standard suitable for such a superb facility. This is very big and essential expense. Please if you feel you can help in any way, no amount is too small, (or too large!). I would also like to add a very big 'Thank You' to the donations already received which have helped with the interior fittings and flooring. Donations can be made direct to Great Bardfield Parish Council Acc. No. 20459929 Sort Code 60-83-01
Iain Graham on behalf of the PC and the Pavilion Committee

Great Bardfield Parish Assembly

Friday, 26th April, 7.30 in the Town Hall

Don't miss this chance to hear reports on the work of the Parish, District and County Councils and other village groups.

All residents in the parish are welcome.






Great Bardfield Town Hall, CM7 4SA
May 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 2024
Doors open 7.30pm. Show Starts 8.00pm



Tickets £8.50
Tickets available from: [www.ticketsource.co.uk /bardfield-players](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardfield-players)

Town Hall Happenings

Our annual "Town Hall Quiz" was a great success. Eleven teams battled through 8 rounds and at the end two teams were tied first. A tie break question was needed for the second year running. Thanks go to everyone who attended and organised things but mainly to quizmaster Iain Graham and scorer Kate Fox.



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

By the time you read this we will have had the Horticultural Society's Spring Show and then on 13th April Great Bardfield Historical Society's AGM. We are lucky to have so many organisations and events in the village.

In May we have The Bardfield Players production "IN A HOLE" on 2nd, 3rd and 4th. At the end of the month, 26th and 27th our Art Show which is always an opportunity to view and purchase varied and interesting items.

John Maidman, Chair Great Bardfield Town Hall

Great Bardfield Historical Society

The AGM will be held on **13th April** at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

The Historical Society invites nominations for the posts of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Anyone wishing to apply should contact me at the email address below by the end of March.

Jonathan Davies, Acting Chair
jonathan6davies@gmail.com

IT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL WINTER THE RETURN OF THE BARDFIELD BOULES COMPETITION

Enter your team by April 30



Photo: Boules Action 2023

Come and join our annual boules competition
 A great & sociable way to meet new people
 Two players per team - any age, gender, ability, etc.

Competition runs May to September
 Finals Day - Saturday 28th September
 (keep this date free if you intend to be in the last 4)

£10 per team - Proceeds to Town Hall Funds

FURTHER DETAILS, ENTRIES & FEES TO
 Madame Boules (or Carolynne Ruffle)
 caruffle@gmail.com or drop off at
 Between The Lines Bookshop, High Street
 (in a named envelope please)

A View from The Quaker Meeting House

When in 1652, George Fox arrived at Swarthmore Hall near Ulverston in Cumbria, the home of Judge Thomas Fell and his wife Margaret he had already been 'on the road' as an itinerant preacher for almost 9 years.

Fox had left his home and his family in Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire as a young man of 19 or 20 years old. He was experiencing a spiritual crisis and had turned his back on priests and the established church to begin travelling in search of a form of religious expression that, as he said, would 'Speak to my condition.'

He was far from unique. Seventeenth century England was a period of intense religious questioning and change: the country was only two generations away from the religious persecutions of the later Tudors, religious factions were challenging the authority of the established church, parliament was challenging the authority of the king. The common people, thanks to the circulation of Tyndale's bible in English were finally becoming literate.

In 2024 Quakers are celebrating the 400th anniversary of George Fox's birth and also reflecting on his mission, his quest for Truth and the consequences of the arrival of this extraordinary man at the home of Margaret Fell.

Margaret Fell is regarded by many as 'The Mother of Quakerism', a co-founder of the Movement, alongside George Fox. At the time of their meeting, she had been the wife of Judge Fell for 20 years so it was with considerable risk to her reputation as a pillar of the local establishment and a devout and God-fearing woman that she listened to George Fox, finally becoming 'Convinced of the Truth' and opening her house to him and the steady stream of 'Seekers' who followed.

('To be 'Convinced' or 'Convincement' is a term used by modern day Quakers when they have become members of the Religious Society of Friends from choice rather than having had Quaker parents and being born into it.)

Credit should be given to Judge Fell here. While he never joined his wife in her new found mission, he did nothing to discourage it acting as host and protector to those who gathered under his roof. The story is told of him being seated in an adjacent room quietly listening to the earnest (and no doubt loud) discussions and debates while not actively joining in.

Judge Fell's Chair, a heavily and ornately carved piece of oak is still to be seen (and sat upon) in Swarthmore Hall.

From Swarthmore Hall the gradually forming Quaker movement set out, 'Travelling in the Ministry' to take the message deep into their own country and eventually to America and the wider world

Unlike many religions the place of women's work and ministry within The Religious Society of Friends has always been equal to that of men, so many of these 'travellers' were women, ordinary wives, daughters and sisters. Travelling on horseback, in rough carts or waggons but frequently on foot they took with them letters or 'Minutes' of recommendation and introduction to emerging groups far away, seeding the ground for the 'Truth' to grow. Many suffered the persecutions frequently endured by early Quakers: they were beaten, stripped, pilloried and often imprisoned. But despite the hardships and the privations they remained 'Valiant in The Truth.'

The recent celebration of International Women's Day reminds us of the continuing significance of women's lives and the contributions made by them in both the spiritual and material spheres of influence and how in so many places in the world they are called upon to show remarkable resilience in the face of repression, misogyny, brutality and war.

As a Quaker and as a woman I salute my sisters, past and present. I am in awe of you!

Jackie Bartlett



Embroidered panel from the Quaker Tapestry which is housed in The Friends Meeting House, Kendal, Cumbria.

The Tuesday Club

Our March speaker was Eve Regelous, who returned for another of her enjoyable talks, this time on "Everything Strictly". She followed the path of Come Dancing from the 1950s, when all the contestants were amateurs, their costumes often hand-made, and yet which attracted 10 million viewers. Strictly Come Dancing, which aired in 2004, was a very different format, pairing professional dancers with celebrities, but it still attracted the viewers, reaching 13 million at it's peak and settling at 9 million in more recent years. Quite an achievement considering the greater choice we all have these days, but due in part perhaps to the way in which the format has adapted over time. And we mustn't forget the presenters and judges, perhaps the most memorable being Bruce Forsyth, who apparently was asked not to say "you're my favourite" to dancers as it could affect voting, and Len Goodman with his "seven". Anyone who has watched Strictly will be able to hear his voice saying that. Nowadays very few celebrities turn down the offer to take part, although there were a few who declined over the years, among them Meghan Markle!

And for those who like some numbers, in the past 21 years Strictly has had: 278 celebrity dancers (how many can you name?) 65 professional dancers 8 presenters, 13 judges, AND is broadcast in 60 countries.

At our next meeting on 9th April we welcome Bryan Thurlow, whose talk is titled "Through the Green Baize Door". He will speak as retired butler George Barrington, who looks back with nostalgia on the many years spent in service at a grand Yorkshire house, from starting there as a boy and working his way up the ranks to eventually becoming a butler. Bryan is an amazing story teller and this should be a very good afternoon.

If you haven't been to a meeting yet why not join us for this one? We meet in the Town Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 2.00 and talk starts at 2.30. We are a friendly group, everyone is welcome, visitors pay £5 including refreshments and membership is only £25 for the whole year.

Cherry Whitby

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

GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB

THROUGH THE GREEN BAIZE DOOR

A life in service

A presentation by Bryan Thurlow

as George Barrington



"Retired butler, George Barrington, looks back with nostalgia on the many years he spent in service at a grand Yorkshire house. Born in 1856 he remembers starting there as a boy and working his way up the ranks to eventually becoming a butler."



**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 at 2.30
GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL**

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

Horticultural Society

Our February meeting—a talk by Lucy Skellorn was a great success. She gave an excellent talk which everyone enjoyed - being greatly helped with the new screen, projector and sound system in the Town Hall—everyone could hear and see.

We had a lot of interest in a proposed garden visit to Benton End (home of Cedric Morris) to be arranged in 2025.

For those of you who would like more information about the artists and garden books are available to be seen/purchased from “Between the Lines”.

On **Saturday, April 27th** 2.30pm we will have our first garden visit of the year. Members can enjoy an afternoon in a private, local garden at Waltham's Cross. It is a large garden with many lovely specimen trees, large borders, lawns, orchard, vegetables, meadow area and patio. There are also some interesting garden sculptures. If it is a damp day then “proper” shoes are recommended!!! **Admission by ticket only** - £5 for members. Proceeds will be donated to St Mary's Church. Tea and refreshments are included. Car parking will be available. Tickets available from Linda Prior 811641 or Lynne Joyce 810524

Our Spring Event will be a “**Garden Fiesta**” held on **Saturday, May 18th** at The Quaker Meeting House from 10am until 4pm. Everyone will be welcome to the various events taking place during the day. For the children there will be a Treasure Hunt outside, sunflower seed planting and several other activities. A garden game with all prizes being garden related. There will be a hanging basket demonstration and floral art demonstrations. A quiz sheet (with a prize for the winner) and Gardener's Question Time. Plant stalls and seed stall, a stall with decorative items for the garden and a second hand stall with planters and garden related items. Light lunches, tea, coffee and etc will be available during the day. We hope to see many of you there—come along and see what is on offer! For further info contact Linda Prior 811641 or any Committee member

Another date for your diary **Saturday June 8th** 2.30pm—this will be our second private garden visit—further details in the next *BT*

Plea for new Chairman for Society—

Linda Prior has been our Chairman since 2014. At our last AGM, she gave notice that she would be standing down from this role in October 2024. She is very happy to remain on the Committee.

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

**For any information about the Society please contact
Linda Prior 811641**

**BARDFIELD
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
PRIVATE GARDEN VISIT**

27 April at 2.30

Members can enjoy an afternoon on a private tour of a local garden at Walthams Cross. Spring will show us its beauty including many specimen trees, large borders, lawns, patio area and the visit includes afternoon refreshments. Tickets are £5 each and to be purchased in advance.

For Tickets Call 01371 811641

BARDFIELD BOULES 2024

We are now gearing up for the Bardfield Boules competition. This is a great, relaxed competition and an excellent way of meeting other people as you play your boules matches at The Town Hall.

In 2023 over 40 teams played, with games starting in May and ending with the Grand Finals Day at the end of September. Last year's winners were Tom and Louise Grinstead beating Rory Hitchcock and Cam Meldrum. Who will get through and win this year?



Teams of 2 play 4-5 games each in the first round (arrange your own games during May & June), The top 2 teams in each group go through to the next rounds which take place in July & August with the quarter finals in early September.

See the advert in this edition of the *Bardfield Times* on how to enter. Entries by the end of April please so that we can start the competition in good time in early May.

For those that would like an intro or a practice come along to the Town Hall on Monday evenings, 7-8pm, starting 1st April and every following Monday until you are all experts.


Happy Bouling
Madame Boules

GREAT BARDFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, April 13th at 7.30pm
Great Bardfield Town Hall

AGM followed by

**Heroes and Villains of the
Suffolk-Essex border**



Mr Pickwick visits Eatonville (Sudbury) © Ashley Cooper

**An entertaining, illustrated talk
by Ashley Cooper**

Wine and nibbles and the opportunity to begin/renew membership of the Historical Society @ £6 per person

Everyone welcome

From the Vicarage...

As the calendar page changes to April, the sun will have just set on Easter Day, heralding a season in church for thinking about resurrection and new life. It remains to be seen whether this will be reflected in greater amounts of sunshine or warmth, but whatever the weather does, farmers and gardeners alike across our parishes will be watching eagerly for green shoots.

Green is a colour we associate strongly with spring, being the colour that we see return to plants and trees alike. This shared colour comes from the means by which plants use energy from the Sun to provide themselves with the nourishment which they need to grow. The interesting thing is that the green light which gives them their colour is the colour which the plants don't use – it's the reflected part of the sunlight, rather than what is absorbed. We don't see what the plants keep for themselves, the part which gives them that energy for life – we see what is left.

It is so often the case that what's really important in our lives are the things which we don't see. I think we consider that particularly when life has come to an end, and we sense that the part of someone which we might call their soul now has its own existence, separate from the body. The 'invisible' part of life is often what we talk about when we address matters of faiths.

It might be tempting to think that, because this side of existence isn't visible in itself, it is somehow less 'real' than other things which we can see and touch. But it is often the case that we can see the visible imprint of that which we cannot see. Just as the green light reflecting off the spring leaves and shoots reminds us that other parts of the sunlight are going about their work of fuelling that growth, so what happens under the surface in our souls can be perceived by seeing what visible reflections scatter into the wider world. For Christians, Easter is the visible imprint of the promise of resurrection, and it gives us real hope in the promise which this great feast celebrates.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Services for April 2024

Sunday 7 April – Second Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

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

Sunday 14 April – Third Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.45am Communion Service – Finchingfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 21 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

10.45am Family Service – Finchingfield

4pm Evensong – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 28 April – Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10am Morning Prayer with Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End

11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

Tuesday 9.15am Eucharist – Great Bardfield

(preceded by Morning Prayer at 8.45am)

New from 9 April... 10am Baby & Toddler Group in

Great Bardfield 'St Mary's Munchkins'

Story & song time with refreshments

Thursday 8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield

10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)

Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford

Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Friday 8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

Saturday 10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

Benefice Ringers' Outing

On March 16th, bellringers from our Pant Valley Churches spent a happy day ringing at villages along the Stour Valley. First stop was at Nayland where we rang the six bells, the tenor bell weighing some 15cwt.

Then on to a somewhat lighter ring of six at Higham (9 cwt), where the steep and narrow spiral staircase proved a challenge to some of us. At home, of course, we are spoilt with our ground-floor rings, with just Shalford having a very short ladder.

Lunch was in The Anchor, Stratford St Mary where we received efficient, punctual service and really enjoyable food.



Gt Bardfield, Wethersfield, Finchingfield and Shalford ringers at East Bergholt bell "cage".

The church at Stratford St Mary was our third ring of the day, once again with a spiral staircase leading to the ringing room and the 16cwt six.

The final visit was to East Bergholt, not to ring, but to watch the ringing, because the five bells here are unique in that they are rung directly by hand, rather than with a rope and wheel. They are the heaviest ring of five in the world, with the tenor of 25cwt, and housed in a cage in the churchyard. We were thrilled that the Bergholt ringers turned out to give us a demonstration of their frightening-looking, and very noisy, skill.

Roy Threadgold

GREENFINGERS

Seeds: how many unopened packets have you? It isn't a competition so won't tell you how many in my boxes! Yes, dedicated boxes for seeds. There is a mixture of branded pretty packets plus some hand-picked and in an envelope, correctly named, I hope. Guess you have the same. This month be disciplined and sort through them because perfect sowing weather is finally here.



Be it vegetables for your potager (posh name for that dedicated patch at the back of your garden) or numerous packets of potential flowers, get sowing this month. Wish for the wild look? Use the cornflowers, nigella and poppies, sprinkled where you would like to see them flower. It will be late summer to bloom as autumn is a better time to sow but still worth doing now. Good time to use up those sweet peas. The well-deserved popular cosmos is great in amongst the regular flowers of perennials. The English marigold makes a good edging to the potager. Now open the vegetable seeds you are keen to try, spinach is nice and easy, lettuce too if the slugs don't feast. Dill has ferny leaves and pretty yellow flowers. Carrots do well if they are in a raised bed so the dreaded carrot fly doesn't gorge on them. Courgettes may be sown directly in to the soil like the above but better is to nurture them in a pot till after May bank holiday. As for tomatoes and cucumbers, well they crave the warm comfort of a windowsill above a radiator. What is left, are they in date, do you really want them? Decisions made, fill up the box when next some packets catch your eye.

JOBS

- Time to prune shrubs that have finished flowering, yellow winter jasmine and forsythia being examples.
- Time to prune those shrubs that respond to being cut down to stimulate growth that will flower later in the season eg. Hydrangea Annabel and the paniculata group but not the mop headed pink and blue hydrangeas hortensis.
- Cut down buddleias to a metre.
- And finally time to be vicious with penstemons, best flowers come from new growth so cut to the base.

Exhibitions at the Fry Art Gallery this year

The Fry Art Gallery re-opens on April 7, and closes on October 27. It is open every day except Mondays, 2pm to 5pm, with Saturday opening from 11am to 5pm.

The exhibition in the main gallery is **'Great Bardfield and Beyond – A Working Landscape'**. Both Edward Bawden and Eric Ravilious, who initially settled in Great Bardfield in 1931 saw the countryside as a working landscape and a place where they could develop their watercolours. Later, Bawden attracted other artists to Bardfield and nearby villages. They too found a sympathetic



countryside, and their homes became their studios. They took the Jennings bus to London where a number were teaching part-time in art schools. By the 1970s, when Bawden moved to Saffron Walden, the community was largely dispersed. This exhibition includes artists as diverse as Bawden and Ravilious, John Aldridge, Michael Rothenstein, Walter Hoyle, Anne Rothenstein, Keith Vaughan, George and Katie Chapman, Tirzah Garwood, Olive Cook, Edwin Smith and others. All of them responded to the landscape, buildings, farming and village communities they saw around them.

In the adjacent Gibson Room there will be two exhibitions during the year. The first – from April 7 – June 30 is **Working Women - the art of Sheila Robinson and Chloë Cheese**, curated by Julia and Andrew Collins. This focuses on the art of Sheila Robinson, who lived in Cage Cottage, her daughter Chloë Cheese and her granddaughter Florence Shaw.

Born in 1925 Sheila Robinson worked as an artist and illustrator throughout her life studying at Nottingham Art School before entering the Royal College of Art (RCA) where she met Edward Bawden who was then her tutor and who would later become a lifelong friend. She married Bernard Cheese, a fellow student, but they were soon divorced, so unlike many of her contemporaries who put their own dreams to one side once they were married, Sheila had to work to earn a living for herself and her

two small children. Already successful as an illustrator, once living in Great Bardfield in 1957 among the group of artists already established there, Sheila began to make prints in her studio at Cage Cottage in Bridge Street. In 1968 Sheila moved to Saffron Walden where her cardboard cut technique would evolve to become more sophisticated.

Chloë (born 1952) attended Cambridge Art School and then the RCA like her mother before her and her own daughter Florence after her. Chloë has always made prints, lithographs and etchings. These often depict still life images of the collection of everyday objects - jugs, bowls, textiles, chairs - which Sheila bought cheaply in local junk shops. Chloë worked as an illustrator for many years, first becoming interested in the visual aspect of food after visiting Paris as a student. Some of Chloë's food illustrations for The Eagle, Habitat and The Sunday Times are in the showcases together with sketchbooks and Sheila's BBC Schools illustrations.

Sheila's influence has extended through her daughter Chloë to her granddaughter Florence Shaw (born 1988). All three women have drawing and close observation at the heart of their practice. They have all travelled abroad and brought the observing eye to work made away from home. In particular, Sheila made some exceptional prints capturing life on the street in 1970s Istanbul with subjects such as cats and turkeys enjoying winter sunshine on a roof, or a still life of an orange and green melon next to a red glass dish.

After graduating from the Royal College of Art Florence worked as an artist and like her mother and grandmother taught in art schools. In 2017 Florence joined the post-punk band Dry Cleaning. She is the front person and writes the lyrics for their music. Her spare, observant and witty words are closely related to her spare, observant and witty drawings. Some of Florence's words and drawings are included in the exhibition.

The final exhibition of the year from 6th July to 27th October 2024 in the Gibson Room is **Charles Mahoney RA: The Pleasures of Life**. Charles (Cyril) Mahoney (1903-68) has been largely forgotten and this exhibition offers a reassessment. Mahoney was a close friend of Bawden and Ravilious who first met him while they were students at the Royal College of Art and all three worked on the 1933 Morley College mural project. An interest in gardening and plants enhanced his mutual friendship with Bawden, which continued after Mahoney moved to Kent. This exhibition will explore the pleasure that he derived from life, through his deep love of plants, gardens, and all things botanical, as well as other significant mural commissions and landscape studies in Essex and Kent.

Julia and Andrew Collins

Nature Notes - River Fish

Over the last couple of months the river Pant has been in flood through Shalford and the surrounding district and we have seen it rushing over the bridge in the fields below the church making many roads impassable. But as I write these notes the water has receded. It has rushed away at high speed and there is no way you could stand up against that current. It has torn huge trees out of the river banks and brought them



with it. Several have got jammed at the bridge and had to be removed. This sort of thing has been happening all over the country, we have seen it on the news night after night. The cost of sorting the damage out has cost millions and a lot of people will never recover. Although the weather may be beyond our control the result was that our rivers have been neglected. Not too many years ago we had the river authorities who used to do a great job of maintaining our rivers and used to remove dead trees or trim any which were in danger of becoming a problem. They also even dug some ponds at the side of the river with an inlet from the river where fish could breed or shelter when rivers were in flood. Sadly the river authorities were replaced with the so called "Environment Agencies" with lots of "experts" advising the government what to do but nobody doing it, so things like removing dead



trees and trying to remove debris is being done by public spirited farmers and land owners, the ones whom I call the custodians of the country side and wild life. But they have to be careful not to upset the so called experts. One farmer has been taken to court for removing silt from the river which ran through his land which was blocking one arch of a bridge under a road. Fortunately the case was thrown out.

Now that I have got that off my chest I can get down to writing what I intended to talk about and that is, how do the fish and little residents of the river banks survive not getting washed away and carried downstream? Well fish are very resilient, most of them find a place where there is deep spot in the riverbed which causes ebbs, this means the water is swirling round which eventually enlarges the hole and also makes it deeper. There must be some big ones along the river through the fields below the church because dear old Molly told me she remembers going swimming down there so a lot of fish survive there but the ones which do get washed down stream will swim back when things calm down. Fish have this remarkable instinct to return to where they were born; after all we know that salmon return to where they were born after years at sea, to lay eggs in order to start the next generation.

Mac Beanland

The Big farmland Bird Count 2024

Many of you may have taken part in the RSPB's Big Garden Bird watch recently, now in its 45th year and the largest wildlife citizen science project in the world. Inspired by this project, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust set up a similar experiment for farmers in 2014.

We are asked to record the bird species we see on our land as part of an annual nationwide survey which helps to identify any species which are struggling.

In my case that was easier said than done! Despite going on a training morning organized by the North Essex farm cluster to learn how to identify farmland birds, to me they are still mainly LBJs (little brown jobs) which is apparently a recognised birdwatching term, so I can't be the only person getting confused!

Fortunately, 2 RSPB volunteers, Tim Hayward and Paul Everett came to my rescue and spent a morning on the farm.

They identified 33 species and Paul took a wonderful photo of one of our barn owls

Barn Owl =1	Herring Gull=2
Blackbird = 6	Jackdaw = 20
Black-headed Gull=150	Magpie = 3
Blue Tit = 12	Mallard = 36
Buzzard = 11	Pheasant = 3
Canada Goose = 2	Red Kite = 2
Carrion Crow = 6	Red-legged Partridge = 12
Chaffinch = 4	Robin = 7
Common Gull = 3	Siskin = 10
Cormorant = 2	Skylark = 5
Goldfinch = 6	Song Thrush = 2
Great Spotted Woodpecker = 1	Stock Dove = 1
Great Tit = 5	Treecreeper = 1
Green Woodpecker = 1	Tufted Duck = 4
Greenfinch=1	Woodpigeon = 64
Grey Heron = 2	Wren = 2
	Yellowhammer = 6

We hope this will provide a benchmark for us to monitor how the environmental schemes we are putting into place will increase biodiversity on our farms and birdlife in the future.

Rebecca Jordan



Barn Owl by Paul Everett

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Eric Ravilious and Edward Bawden were both Royal College of Art students when, on a cycling holiday, they happened upon Great Bardfield in Essex. There, they rented Brick House, starting a fascinating period for the village. Over the next two decades, numerous artists came to live there; they became known as The Bardfield Artists.

In 1932 Bawden married fellow student Charlotte Epton, a potter, and his father bought Brick House as a wedding present for them. In the same year



The Hundred Parishes logo by Eric Ravilious



Brick House, Great Bardfield



Blue plaque on Brick House, Great Bardfield

Ravilious was married to Tirzah Garwood, an artist and engraver, and they lived for a while with the Bawdens at Brick House.

Bawden's work can be seen today on three Victoria Line stations - Victoria,

Tottenham Hale and Highbury & Islington - for which he designed the logos.

Another artist, John Aldridge, bought Place House in Great Bardfield in 1933 and soon became friends with Bawden. They produced Bardfield Wallpaper together for the company Cole & Sons to distribute.

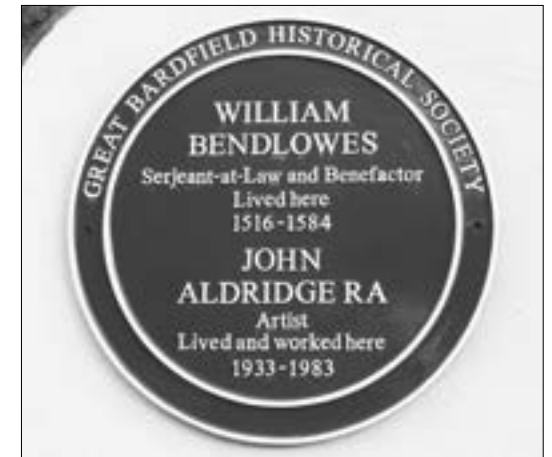
In 1952, painter Stanley Clifford-Smith moved into Bucks House and later to the Old Bakehouse. He was very involved in Open House exhibitions that were held in the 1950s when the public could view and buy art in the studios and homes where it had been created.

Marianne Straub, a textile designer, moved to Great Bardfield in 1953, buying Trinity Cottage. She was the senior designer for Warner & Sons of Braintree.

Other Bardfield Artists included Kenneth Rowntree, Michael Rothenstein and Walter Hoyle.

A good selection of the Bardfield Artists' work can be seen at Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden – it reopens on April 7th – see <https://fryartgallery.org/> for opening hours. In Great Bardfield, books and other information about the artists can be purchased at the new premises of Between The Lines bookshop.

Ken McDonald,
Secretary



Blue plaque on Place House, Great Bardfield



Edward Bawden's logo at Highbury and Islington Station

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For more information please contact one of the Trustees:
Pat Coles (01371 810995), Debbie Rogers (01371 811083)
Mick Gell (01371 810113), Nick Holland (07795 280647)
Annika Woodcock (07900 491636)
Rev Alex Shannon (01371 810309)

Or email GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com

TOWN HALL DIARY

April 2024

Tuesday 2 nd	Choir	8.00pm
	Bardfield Players BR	7.00pm
Wednesday 3 rd	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 4 th	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Friday 5 th	Cinema club	7.30pm
Saturday 6 th	Bardfield Players	11.00am
Sunday 7 th	Bardfield Players	11.00am
Tuesday 9 th	Tuesday club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
	Bardfield Players BR	7.00pm
Wednesday 10 th	Badminton	7.00pm
	Parish Council meeting	7.00pm
Thursday 11 th	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Saturday 13 th	Bardfield Players	10.00am
	Historical Society	6.00pm
Sunday 14 th	Bardfield Players	11.00am
Tuesday 16 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
	Bardfield Players BR	7.00pm
Wednesday 17 th	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 18 th	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Saturday 20 th	Bardfield Players	11.00am
Sunday 21 st	Bardfield Players	11.00am
Tuesday 23 rd	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Bardfield Players BR	7.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 24 th	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 25 th	Parish Council Assembly	7.30pm
Saturday 27 th	Bardfield Players	11.00am
Sunday 28 th	Bardfield Players	11.00am
Monday 29 th	Bardfield Players	2.00pm
Tuesday 30 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Bardfield Players	2.00pm

**Great Bardfield Parish
Clerk to the Parish Council**

Councillors clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk 810111
 Carolynne Ruffle (Chair) 810986
 Paul Kennedy 810540
 Darren Hockley 810836
 Peter Walmsley 07843 498243
 Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402
 Janet Dyson 07957 483207

Braintree District Council Iain Graham 07831 595555

Councillors Cllr Michael Staines
Cllr Mark Ault 07922 487666
Police 07963 744481

for non-emergency enquiries dial 101
 for emergency enquiries dial 999

**Little Bardfield Parish
Chairman of the Parish Council
Clerk to the Parish Council**

LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com
 Andrew Davies davies@farmline.com
 Kate Rixon 01371 404 321

Uttlesford District Council
Councillor LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com

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