

June
2026

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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 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: Celebrating 25 years of Bardfield Brass with the windmill on the horizon.

Above: Bardfield Hand Bell Ringers at the Bardfield Brass celebration.
Photos by Pat Coles.

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

Please note there is no car park at the church.

Refreshments courtesy of Great Lodge Vineyard.



Bardfield Cinema Club



Great Bardfield Town Hall



Doors Open 7.30pm

Film Starts 8.00pm

Members free

Non-members £7

Friday 5th June



Editorial

Summer events are coming thick and fast! The boules court is crowded most evenings as the first matches get underway with over 60 teams playing this year. It's a pleasant way to pass a summer evening even if you're just watching and perhaps sipping a glass of wine, very sociable. Another happy occasion was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Bardfield Brass. The sun shone and it was a delight to see groups of friends and families, old and young, gathered around on the grass sharing picnics and listening to the band playing a selection of well-known tunes. They were joined by the Community Choir and the Bardfield Handbell Ringers. As a finale all the musicians came together for a performance of Any Dream Will Do. Congratulations to the band for 25 Years of Music!

The prospect of the desecration of the historic landscape by the creation of a sand/gravel pit on farmland close to Long Green on the edge of the village is alarming. The environmental implications are significant and there is considerable opposition from the village community - I've only spoken to one person who thinks it's a good idea! A major campaign to oppose the application is planned. See reports on how this will be organised and what you can do to help on page 8.

Village happenings this month include the Family Fun Day at the Playing field on June 7th. And don't miss the Clare College Concert in St Mary's Church on June 27th. This is a rare chance to hear a choir of such distinction and tickets are limited. See poster on inside back cover for details. David Yates pays tribute to the Lady of Clare in his poem (p. 2).

Readers will be sad to hear of the death of Tony Hayward. Tony, whose family has farmed the acres around Bardfield for many years, devoted much of his 94 years to working enthusiastically for local councils. He was a parish councillor for over 40 years and Chair of Great Bardfield Parish Council for over 20 years. He believed passionately in the importance of this first tier of local government as being the one most closely in touch with people's lives. His work at parish, county and national level was recognised with the award of OBE. He was also a dedicated Treasurer and Trustee of Great Bardfield Charities for many years. We send our condolences to his wife Ann and their family.

Janet Dyson, Editor

1357

The first of the 'Chaucer Life Records' appears in 1357 in the household accounts of Elizabeth de Burgh, the Countess of Ulster, when he was aged fi een. Geoffrey Chaucer became the noblewoman's page and was perhaps in her 'Beloved Bardfield'.

He's on the slope of Brook Street in the dawnlight.
As day rises, rises too a snowfilled
Wind that blinds the page-boy's eyes like night.
But here he waits as his good Lady willed.

Southwesterly, this swirling air has passed
The Great Hall where the Countess lies at ease,
Has scoured her ponds, her moat and tossed the last
December leaves from bowing deerpark trees...

And the church of Mary where at dawndark mass
The lad had sat and heard the priest with dread
Tell tales of God-sent plague that came to pass
Nine years before...and half the village dead.

Those shadowed faces in the corbels tooled
The boy recalls, still waiting in the chill:
The carpenter in holy craft well schooled
Was he the same who built the gallows on the hill?

It's not for a simple page to read God's will
(So Geoffrey muses as he mounts his steed)
But serve his Lady with his every skill
Foresee, address her every courtly need.

David Yates

Ed note: *This beautiful poem by former BT Editor David Yates recalls Bardfield's links with two significant figures.*

Village People – Bob & Margaret Wass

Long lived in Great Bardfield!

Congratulations to Bob & Margaret Wass as they celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, and 60 years of married life in Gt Bardfield. Born in Gt Bardfield, Bob is best known for his decades as a driving instructor, but in his youth helped with various tasks in the village including cutting the church



Walking in Chalkney Woods, April 2026

grass and climbing the bell tower twice a week to wind the clock.



*Just married at St Mary's Church, Great Bardfield
May 1966*

In addition to her working career, Margaret had many years commitment to village life including toddler groups, play school and Sunday school. She was part of the campaigning group to get the footbridge installed over the Pant. Currently Margaret supports with St Mary's church Munchkins sessions, and volunteers weekly at Bardfield Primary School, where both her children and husband previously attended as pupils.

Glenys Patten

Great Bardfield Primary School

As always, the summer term has begun with energy, excitement and so many reasons to feel proud of our wonderful children here at Great Bardfield Primary School.

I would like to say an enormous well done to our incredible Year 6 pupils, who approached SATs Week with maturity, determination and positivity. We could not have asked for more from them. The children demonstrated resilience, perseverance and a fantastic attitude throughout the week, supporting one another and tackling each challenge with confidence. We are exceptionally proud of the way they represented our school and know that they should feel extremely proud of themselves too. A huge thank you must also go to our staff, families and whole school community for the encouragement and support they have given the children during this important time.



Alice and Lucy enjoying a 'catch up'

Excitement is also building for our upcoming residential visit to Aylmerton Outdoor Centre, where our Year 5 and Year 6 children are eagerly looking forward to an unforgettable adventure together. Residential visits provide such valuable opportunities for children to develop confidence, independence and teamwork whilst creating memories that will stay with them for years to come. During the week, the children will take part in a range of fantastic outdoor activities including climbing, team challenges, beach exploration, mud walks, boat trips and seal spotting, orienteering and even learning how to make fire! We know the children will, as always, embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm and courage.



Cooking up a storm in the mud kitchen

The summer term is always a particularly special one at Bardfield, and we are delighted to be welcoming back some of our much-loved traditions which contribute so positively to our children's personal development and wider experiences. Children are already looking forward to Proms in the Playground, our exciting trip to the beach, Bring Your Pet to School Day and, of course, the reopening of our swimming pool for lessons. These

memorable experiences help to build confidence, develop social skills and create the sense of joy and community that makes school life so special.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for the continued donations to our new Imagination Station – the children are telling us that lunchtimes at Great Bardfield have never been better! We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support and generosity of our wonderful community, which makes such a positive difference to our school.

Finally, we are very much looking forward to welcoming families and friends to Bardfest on Saturday 13th June from 12pm to 5pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for what promises to be another fantastic



Hector enjoying playing in the tyre zone

community event. There will be live music, a BBQ, bar, shopping stalls, bouncy castles, refreshments and plenty more to enjoy for all ages. We do hope you will be able to come along, support the school and enjoy what is always a wonderful afternoon bringing our community together.

**Liz Crow,
Headteacher**

GREAT BARDFIELD FUN DAY

SUNDAY
7TH
JUNE
FROM 1PM

ENTERTAINMENT AND FUN FOR EVERYONE!

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:



BARDFIELD
BRASS



FORBESY
CHILDRENS
CAMP



BBQ



BAR



TEAS &
CAKES



STALLS



CLASSIC
CAR DISPLAY



FREE ENTRY
— JUST COME AND
ENJOY YOURSELF!

ALL PROFITS AND DONATIONS
GO TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PAVILION.

Great Bardfield Parish Council Report

Gravel Pit Proposal

There is a separate item from the Parish Council on this subject. If you were not able to attend the Aggreg8 event on 14th May, the information boards from that event are available to view at the Community Information Point (CIP), next to the Town Hall. The CIP is open 10.00 - 12.00 on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 14th May in the Town Hall and was well attended by residents. This was the Parish Council's opportunity to inform residents of our activities and responsibilities over the last 12 months. We were also joined by our two District Councillors, representatives of several village groups and the Co-Chair of the School governors, Jane Tillotson, who gave their own reports. Copies of the Annual Report are available to residents at the CIP or at Between the Lines Bookshop.

In Memory of Tony Hayward

All members of the Parish Council were sad to hear that Tony Hayward had died recently at the age of 94. Tony had farmed in the village since he was a young man. He was an active member of Great Bardfield Parish Council for over 40 years and Chair of the Council for many of these. He was dedicated to local government having been Chair of both the Essex and National Associations of Local Councils. He had been awarded an OBE by Her late Majesty, the Queen. Condolences go to his family.

Pavilion Summer Fun Day – 7th June

All residents are invited to the Fun Day to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the opening of the Pavilion. See further information in this magazine.

Recent Big Bills

The vast majority of Parish Council funding comes from the precept, which is your contribution via your Council Tax payments, and this is provided to us in two tranches by Braintree District Council. In addition to

our regular expenses, the Parish Council occasionally have big bills to pay. In the last month we have paid nearly £1800 for repairs and maintenance to the playground equipment. Our annual insurance premium was over £2500.

Planning Applications

- Flintstones, Bell Lane – additional side window. No objections
- Heslyn, Dunmow Road - single and two storey extension. No objections.
- 45 Bendlowes Road – two storey extension. No objections.
- Walfords Villa, Mill Road – replacement dwelling. No objections.
- Tree works at The White House, Dunmow Road. No objections

Bin Collections for June

The new waste collection process starts on Tuesday 2nd June. Our collection day remains Tuesday, all residents should now have received the schedule of collections for grey/black bins (non-recyclable waste), red-lidded bins (paper & cardboard), blue-lidded bins (glass, metal, plastic & cartons), food bins and green garden bins (for those that subscribe). We will not, therefore, be providing this information in the Bardfield Times in the coming months.

Please note that recycling bags, as used previously, will no longer be collected.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10th June 2026, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. Our meetings are open to the public. If you plan to attend, please contact Kate Fox, Parish Clerk on 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

Carolynne Ruffle
Chairperson

Great Bardfield Parish Council prepare to fight the Gravel Pit Proposal, Braintree Road

What is proposed?

The Parish Council (PC) share the strength of feeling and concern about the recent proposal for a Gravel (Sand) Pit on agricultural land on Braintree Road, just south of the Blue Egg Shop, Montessori Nursery and Garden Centre and adjacent to Long Green and other well-walked footpaths. This site would provide 1.5m tons of silica sand over a 10 year period, the sand would be processed on site and its distribution would involve an average of 57 lorry movements a day, 5 days a week over that 10 year period. This is clearly unacceptable!

Prepare your objections

We urge all concerned residents to prepare to make their objections once a full application has been made by the applicant to Essex County Council, probably in June or July. We will oppose this application in the strongest possible terms and encourage individuals to submit their own responses at that time. Objections must be made to Essex County Council not to the applicant.

A community event/meeting will be called once we have the full application as this will give further information about the proposals and the likely impact on the community.

Can you help?

We are setting up a working group to assist us in fighting this proposal. We have professional assistance from experts in planning and development and have had offers of help from others with strong expertise in various areas. We would be pleased to hear from anyone with relevant experience and expertise in areas of concern, such as:

- ❖ Planning
- ❖ Mineral extraction
- ❖ Legal
- ❖ Ecology
- ❖ Environment and landscape

- ❖ Highways and transport
- ❖ Potential health issues

If you have expert knowledge in any of these areas or any other that you feel is relevant and would be willing to give some time to preparing our case against this prospective application, please contact Kate Fox, Clerk to the Parish Council at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk

GRAVEL PIT - COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PROTEST WALK



Join members of Great Bardfield Parish Council on a guided walk on footpaths adjacent to the proposed site, starting at the Blue Egg

Sunday 14TH June at 10.30am

Children and dogs welcome, under parental supervision.

Great Bardfield Landscape Artist of the Year

At Brick House

Sunday 5th July 2026

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



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

From: 12pm -4pm

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

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

Please contact Helene on **07775 515647** or email to express your interest as there will be limited places.

Email: Bardfieldlandscape.brickhouse@gmail.com

Artists of Great Bardfield: Fred Mizen, Artisan

Fred Mizen, Master straw craftsman and corn dolly maker lived and worked in Great Bardfield all his life apart from periods of war service. Fred's talents were recognised by Edward Bawden and John Aldridge who encouraged him to create his best known work, the seven-foot high straw Lion and Unicorn which he made for the Festival of Britain South Bank exhibition in 1951. Sadly, this fantastic piece did not survive and was eventually eaten by mice in Selfridges' basement where it was stored.



Fred Mizen's corn dollies at the Fry Gallery exhibition

English popular art ... delightful from start to finish." The exhibition runs until 25th October, and I highly recommend a visit.' The Historical Society plans to honour Fred's work with a Blue Plaque on Vane Cottage, Dunmow Road.

However, we are fortunate to have a number of his corn dollies in the Historical Society's collection. Tim Regan, Chair of Great Bardfield Historical Society writes 'We are proud that several pieces from our collection - including Fred Mizen's corn dollies and two of Edward Bawden's *Life in an English Village* sketches (The Bell and the Saddler's Shop) have been included in the Fry Art Gallery's 'Fry's Popular Delights' Exhibition. It was wonderful to see Laura Freeman, Chief Art Critic of *The Times*, review the exhibition, calling it "a sunny charabanc tour of



The Lion and the Unicorn with Fred in Place House garden

The Tuesday Club

The speaker at our May meeting was Nick Blurton, who shared his experiences of 45 years of coach driving at home and abroad. This wasn't Nick's main career, but one which he did during weekends and holidays (he had a very understanding wife!). His passion for coaches started at the age of 19, when in 1973 he bought an old coach for £5, which he restored and took along to rallies. A few years later he saw an advertisement for a part time weekend driver for a local coach firm, who ran journeys between Clacton and Blackpool, and so his part time career began.

His first foreign trip was to Paris, where he drove on the right-hand side of the road for the first time, without any training and admits that his most terrifying moment as a coach driver was negotiating the infamous 'craziest roundabout in Europe,' the one surrounding the Arc de Triomphe. On the same trip he accompanied the passengers to the Folies Bergere, and realised when they were getting back onto the coach that a sixteen-year-old girl was missing. He attracted some strange looks when he searched the streets of Paris telling people in his schoolboy French that he was looking for a sixteen-year-old girl! (She was found, by the way.) As he said himself, it wouldn't be allowed now! Nowadays he is happy to be a passenger and able to enjoy the scenery, and his wife is happy with that too.

We are looking forward to inviting Sara Lodge to our next meeting on 9th June. Sara is a writer, broadcaster and academic who you may have heard on Radio 4's Women's' Hour and other radio programmes. Her latest book "The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective" follows the lives of the often-overlooked women who successfully investigated crimes in Victorian Britain, working both with the police and for private agencies. She also reveals the role of these women in Victorian melodrama, enthraling the public who relished the spectacle of a fist-swinging woman getting the better of a murderer!

As a member recently said "Tuesday Club is a lovely sociable event and everyone is friendly and welcoming. The talks are interesting and you learn something new every month".

Cherry Whitby

GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB

VICTORIAN FEMALE DETECTIVES



A talk by Sara Lodge

Sara Lodge is a writer, broadcaster, academic and author of four books; her latest was shortlisted for the 2025 Wolfson History Prize:

“The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective”

Copies of Sara’s book will be available to buy at the meeting.

TUESDAY 9th JUNE 2026 at 2.30pm

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome

Doors open at 2.00pm and the meetings start at 2.30pm.

Visitors pay £5 including refreshments.

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

Bardfield Boules 2026

Madame Boules is excited to report the most popular competition ever. sixty-one teams have entered for the Bardfield Boules Competition 2026!! The competition raises funds for the Town Hall.



Over the first 10 weeks of the competition each team plays one game against 5 other teams in their group. There are 10 groups; 9 groups of 6, and one group has 7 teams. By mid-July we should know who has won each group and they will automatically go through to the last 16, taking 10 places. The runners-up of each group will have to play off for one of the last 6 spaces. The first few games have now been played. When the sun is out there is nothing better than playing or watching others play boules, on the court in front of the Town Hall. Replacement benches have been provided for spectators so do stay and watch if a game is being played when you are passing.

Thank you to Tom Grinstead and Ian Ruffle for offering training and advice, to those new to the game or who wanted a refresh, at our Monday evening practice sessions which ran in April/May.

Thanks also to Lorraine King who runs the Bardfield Boules Facebook page.

Advance notice that the Finals Day, when the semis and final will be played, will be on **Saturday 26th September**. See you there.

Madame Boules

Town Hall Happenings

Our Evening with Henry VIII at the end of April was a great success! King Henry gave a lively and light-hearted account of his life and six wives. By the time you read this, our Art Show will have taken place. Thanks to all those who came to support this important event.



Future events organised by the Town Hall Committee for your diaries are:

Boules Final BBQ - Saturday 26th September

Craft Fair – Saturday 10th October

Ben Waters - Saturday 24th October

Ben plays 'Boogie Piano' and last played to a packed audience in the Town Hall in 2015. Ben's music has been described as 'Key shattering boogie-woogie and Rock 'n' Roll'. The whole Ben Waters' Band will be joining him this time. It should be a great evening!

Patricia Walsh

Treasurer Great Bardfield Town Hall

Great Bardfield Historical Society

Saturday 6th June

Gestingthorpe Villa Field Trip.

Ashley Cooper has offered to show us the site of the Roman Villa and the museum. We plan to meet there at 2.30pm and hope to car share. There will be a cuppa at the end and donations go towards their church. There is no other cost.

If you are interested, please let me know.

kate_lloyd62@hotmail.com

Bardfield Horticultural Society

We had a table at Finchingfield Guildhall on Sunday May 10th with a number of other local Societies from Bardfield and surrounding villages to show villagers the type of activities that were on offer to try and raise awareness and to try and encourage people to come to local events. It was an enjoyable and hopefully successful day. Many thanks to Damian Loneragan, Chair of Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End Horticultural Society for organising.

Garden Visit

Our second garden visit of the year will be on Tuesday June 16th to Porters Lodge Gardens and Tea Room 2.00 - 4.30pm, Icknield Way, Cavenham, Bury St. Edmunds IP28 6DB

Porters Lodge

Tucked away in the Suffolk countryside, Porters Lodge is a haven of tranquillity where beautifully designed gardens meet the warmth of a country tearoom. Situated on the edge of the village of Cavenham, the gardens were created by Craig Wyncoll and architect Lionel Stirgess when they moved to Porters Lodge in 1989. Their vision and dedication over many years have transformed the grounds into a place of lasting beauty.

In 2004, Porters Lodge was honoured with the title of Britain's Best Back Garden, and for many years opened just once a year in support of charitable causes. Today, we are delighted to share this much-loved retreat more regularly, offering visitors the opportunity to enjoy its charm throughout the seasons.

Visitors are welcome to explore the three-acre garden which features a series of garden rooms and delightful architectural structures, fountains and magical water features, all in a peaceful woodland setting.

This is a ticket only event and must be booked and paid for by June 2nd. Car sharing will be an option. Members: £10. Non-members: £12.00. It will include a garden guide, guided tour of the garden, free time to wander and tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Tickets are available from Sue Dennison 07702 238 987 or email-suedennison50@gmail.com

Cash payments to Sue

or

**Electronic payment as follows:

Account name: Bardfield Horticultural Society






Sort code: 09 01 55 Account number: 02585706

Please put your surname and "Porter's Lodge" as the reference.





Summer Show

Our Summer Show will be held in Great Bardfield Town Hall on Saturday, August 1st. This is a great family friendly activity to enter or to visit with adult classes for so many different skills and plenty of children's classes. We welcome new and regular exhibitors. There are classes for flowers and pot plants, floral art, vegetables and fruit and domestic crafts – including cakes, biscuits, jams, homemade wines and spirits. Handicraft classes to appeal to the creative and lots for the children to enter.

The handicraft section includes the following classes:

-  A photograph entitled "Berries, Seeds or Catkins"
-  A homemade doll or soft toy
-  An item of hand embroidery or tapestry or cross stitch
-  An item of textile handicraft
-  An item of handicraft

The following classes are for children under 5 years and 5 to 8 years:

-  Make an animal out of vegetables
-  Decorate a flower pot
-  Make three strawberry jam tarts (cover in cling film)
-  Create an A4 collage of leaves and turn the shapes into creatures

For children 9 years and over as above, with: A Picture of your own choice in any media - in place of the collage.

Here is one of the recipes from the Domestic Section for you to try –and enjoy!

Gingerbread Flapjacks - class 47

450 gm (1 lb) oats











175 gm (6 oz) granulated sugar

250 gm (9 oz) unsalted butter

250 gm (9 oz) golden syrup

3 tsp ground ginger

¼ tsp ground cinnamon

-  Pre-heat oven to 200°C (Fan 180°C), 400°F, Gas mark 6.
-  Grease a square baking tin with butter and line the base and sides with baking paper.
-  Put the oats in a large mixing bowl, add the brown sugar and stir with a spoon until combined, breaking up any lumps of sugar.
-  Put the butter, golden syrup, ground ginger and ground cinnamon into a saucepan.
-  Heat gently until the butter has melted. Stir until everything is combined together.
-  Pour the butter mixture into the oat mixture. Mix everything together until well combined and sticky.
-  Pour the mixture into the lined tin and using a spatula, press your flapjacks down into an even layer.
-  Bake for 25 minutes.
-  Take the flapjacks out of the oven and leave to completely cool before cutting.
-  Cut into 16 squares or triangles and serve.

If you would like a show schedule which gives all the show classes and rules, they are available from various shops in the village and the Blue Egg or call 07969 184845 or 01371 810524.

Would you like the opportunity to visit the

RHS SANDRINGHAM FLOWER SHOW

On WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026

By coach from Dunmow at 8.00 am
Pick up from Wethersfield at 8.30 am
Return to Wethersfield at 6.00 pm
Return to Dunmow at 6.30 pm

Show Ticket Price : £35.10

Coach travel approx: £20.00

(Depending on final numbers)

Tickets available from Julia Broad on 0771 267 4949

Or by email broad.julia@yahoo.co.uk

Autumn Social

By popular request we will be holding our Autumn Social on **Saturday, October 3rd at 7pm** in Great Bardfield Town Hall. We will be having a lovely cooked supper and sweet plus free glass of wine and entertainment—see next BT for more details.

Plea for a new Chairman for the Society:

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

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

Bardfield Horticultural Society

— Visit to —

Porters Lodge *Garden and Tearoom*

Icknield Way, Cavenham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6DB



Tuesday 16th June 2026

— 2–4:30pm —

Members £10 • Non-members £12

*Includes a brief welcome talk, time to wander around
the gardens at your leisure, and tea or coffee with homemade cake.*

— — — — —
Ticket event only — book and pay by 2nd June 2026

To book, contact Sue Dennison

07702 238987

suedennison50@gmail.com



Great Bardfield Neighbourhood Watch includes providing information for the village and also Little Bardfield and The Salings and surrounding areas.

You can find us on Facebook or email us on: greatbardfieldnhw@yahoo.com

Please feel free to send any information or requests that you would like us to report on and we will do our best to accommodate.



On your marks ...

On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK '**Ride and Stride**' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings.

Get set ...

- Add Saturday **12 September 2026** to your diary
- Seek sponsorship from friends and family
- www.friendsofessexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride for further information or scan the QR code.



Go ...

- Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot
- Enjoy the exercise, meet new people and raise much needed funds for your church.



**Please
join us!**

Greenfingers

Welcome to this month's gardening hints. Do you recall the suggestion for putting parsley in the pots for winter? What a success, the vivid green leaves a perfect backdrop to the small bulbs and jewel flowers of pansies/violas plus 'snip snip' to the kitchen with this herb, essential to many recipes.



Now for the summer hint. Think of June and two gardening topics come to mind: roses and Chelsea. Add Wimbledon tennis and it is champagne and strawberries. Can't help with the champagne (well perhaps a substitute) but 'Yes' to strawberries. Unless you plant the small alpine type, room is needed for strawberries but wait, strawberries in a hanging basket so out of reach of the slime team Mr Slug and Mr Snail. Better still



Strawberries in a hanging basket



Elderflower

there are attractive pink flowering plants that continue fruiting in the summer sun so search for Rosana or Toscana. As they ripen do not delay picking till tomorrow as blackbirds eat first, keep them off with a tea towel. Oh, nearly forgot the champagne substitute, the elder flowers are ready for picking, add lemons and sugar to ferment and produce an elderflower fizz, cheers!

Jobs:

- ✿ All this sun has been perfect for irises. Dead-head and when finished cut these flowering stems to the base. The winter flowering iris unguicularis should have all its growth cut to the base as it revels in sun to ensure a good winter display.
- ✿ Sweet peas are best sprayed with water in preference to watering the surrounding soil, in morning or evening, don't ask why 'cos I read it! But if very dry, drench the surrounding soil thoroughly, at intervals of not more than ten days. The same applies to clematis.
- ✿ Support your tall plants by pushing twiggy sticks around them, phlox in particular.
- ✿ Dahlias, salvias and all summer annuals will be planted now.
- ✿ Penstemon and salvias are so easy for cuttings, a 10-centimetre piece cut just under a leaf break, into a pot of compost covered with a polythene bag will root in weeks but put in a shady place.
- ✿ Box, if you have any after the moth attacks, and now blight, is trimmed now but the tedious job is picking up all the bits cut off as they can cause blight.
- ✿ Revel in the beauty of your garden, not content with it? Then fill with different coloured cosmos and you will be happy with the quick results.

Nature Notes: Maintaining our Hedges

The Enclosures Act of 1773 says land owners should enclose their land and put an end to much of the commoners' grazing rights. Most of the hedges and field boundaries date back to that time, some parts of the country have stone walls and here we have our hedges; none of them look after themselves, they all need some sort of maintenance. The way farmers maintain their hedges depends on two things: the type of farming and the legislation. In the case of livestock farms, hedges contain the livestock and provide shelter, for arable farms hedges provide boundaries and help to keep unwelcome visitors out. For all farmers and landowners hedges provide much needed wildlife habitat and these days we are told they contribute to reducing our carbon footprint.

Much of the legislation depends on the various environmental schemes in which a farm may be involved, but some years ago we were all told to only trim hedges every other year to allow lots of berries to remain to feed the birds. This may have worked well on hedges which were one hundred percent hawthorn but on mixed species hedging with things like field maple, ash, elm, hazel and dog rose which can all put on a great deal of growth in two years it was a disaster with flail hedge cutters leaving ugly



split damaged branches, which allow in rot and disease. Now the rules tell us to trim the hedges in late winter when most of the berries have been consumed or dropped off. My favourite method of hedge maintenance is hedge laying. We were taught hedge laying at Brackenhurst, my agricultural college and being in Nottinghamshire we were taught Midland's style which is designed to keep livestock in and produce a healthy hedge with little thought given to the cosmetic effect. We are now seeing increasing amounts of hedge laying taking place locally but this is southern style and places more importance on looking pretty. But both have the same longterm objective: to rejuvenate the hedge and help wildlife. Hedge laying is very skilled labour intensive and expensive, the reason we are seeing more now is because there are some grants available due to hedge laying's enormous benefit to wildlife and particularly small birds. The ideal hedge for laying is a hawthorn hedge which has been left to grow for 5 to 10 years.

If hedges were left to their own devices they become tall, wide and open which allows predators and raptors to get inside the canopy and so becomes useless for nesting birds with wood pigeons being the only bird daft enough to use them. Once a hedge reaches this state the preferred method of management is coppicing, this entails cutting everything off close to the ground. This sounds and looks drastic but in fact the result is fantastic, nature fights back and each stump which has been cut off will send up a number of new shoots and we will have a nice young vigorous hedge in a few years. Those of us who have travelled the road from Shalford towards Braintree during the last couple of months can't help but notice that a long length of badly overgrown roadside hedge has been coppiced. It does look very messy as the owners have left a lot of branches and rubbish on top of the stumps, this is what prompted me to write these notes to defend the practice. We have far too many deer about and they would just love to graze the new shoots and the hedge would not survive, so leaving the stumps covered is one way of protecting the new growth. On the other side of the same road is another example of coppicing but this time they have erected a wire netting fence on each side of the stumps to keep the deer off, a very expensive way of doing it - which is the most environmentally friendly?

Mac Beanland

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From the Vicarage...

One of the many things I have been delighted to see happen over the time I've been Vicar of our churches here in the Pant Valley is the continuation and establishment of existing and new joint ventures with other groups in our village communities. It's great for our churches to be places where people come for concerts (although we've just finished this year's series of Wethersfield Chamber Concerts, we have two more concerts in June, this time in the Bardfields); and Wethersfield hosted the fantastic work of local artists too last month. It's a wonderful thing that we have members of the Bardfield Community Choir singing for a service once each month in St Mary's, and two of our churches are locations now for community pantry schemes. We have wonderful relationships with our local schools, not only our church schools in Finchingfield and Wethersfield, but also the schools in Shalford and Great Bardfield who come and use our churches at significant moments in the year. We even venture out into other locations, with our monthly book club in *Between the Lines*, the occasional lunch trip out to one of our local pubs, and please do save the date for our Harvest Celebration this year at Bardfield Vineyard: Sunday 20 September at 4pm.

None of this is, of course, particularly revolutionary – the Church has always been a natural partner to other groups in the community. Indeed, in previous chapters of history, many of these kinds of activities would have been run by the Church, so the difference now is that we provide hospitality and partnership, rather than always being the controllers, which is not necessarily a bad change! Whilst we hope that everything we do of this kind benefits the community, it also benefits the Church, as it widens the group of people who value and support the particular kind of presence which we are able to offer. This kind of support is hugely valuable to rural churches in a time when there are lots of challenges to face. So if you are involved with running a group or organisation in our villages, and would be interested in doing something in one of our churches, or working together on a joint project, please do get in touch – we would love to hear about new ideas!

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Concerts in June

Saturday 6 June, 5pm

Songs of Devotion and Reflection, a recital for voice and organ,
St Katharine's Little Bardfield, tickets £10 on the door

Saturday 27 June, 7.30pm

Concert by the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge,
St Mary's Great Bardfield, tickets £15 available from
www.ticketsource.com/between-the-lines-bookshop-great-bardfield

Services for June 2026

Sunday 7 June – First Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Cornish Hall End

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Family Eucharist – Great Bardfield

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

5pm Evening Prayer & Benediction for Corpus Christi – Great Bardfield
(joint with Thaxted)

6pm Fete Weekend Service – Shalford

Sunday 14 June – Second Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Family Eucharist – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 21 June – Third Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 28 June – Fourth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Festal Eucharist for the Patronal Festival of St John the Baptist –
Finchingfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club
Between the Lines, Great Bardfield

Tuesday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great Bardfield
'St Mary's Munchkins' story & song time with refreshments

Thursday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield

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

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

Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Friday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

Saturday

10.30am (3rd week) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield



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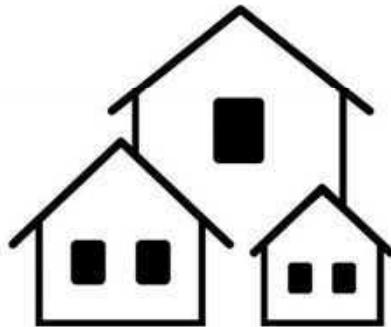
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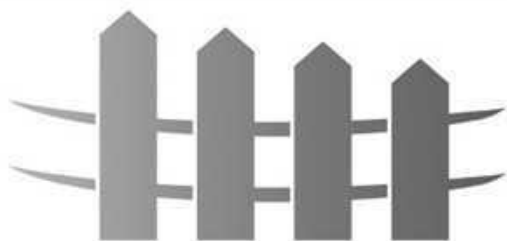
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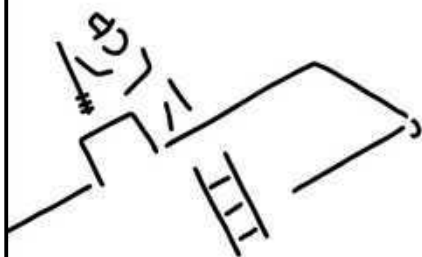


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- ◆ Craft activities
- ◆ Nature walks
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For further information and to join the project please contact;
Rebecca Jordan on 07961078522 or
Claire Gri ths on 07983 823388
Email: rebecca@greatlodge.co.uk
Bardfield Vineyard and Great Lodge Garden
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Town Hall Diary

June 2026

Monday 1 st	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 2 nd	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & balance	10.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 3 rd	Pilates	11.00am
Friday 5 th	Cinema Club	8.00pm
Monday 8 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 9 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & balance	10.30am
	Tuesday Club	2.30pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 10 th	Pilates	11.00am
	Parish council	7.00pm
Monday 15 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 16 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & balance	10.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 17 th	Pilates	11.00am
Monday 22 nd	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 23 rd	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 24 th	Pilates	11.00am
Saturday 27 th	Historical Society	4.00pm
Tuesday 30 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
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Chair of the Parish Council Carolynne Ru le 810986
Clerk to the Parish Council Kate Fox clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk 810111
Councillors Janet Dyson 07957 483207
Iain Graham 07831 595555
Darren Hockley 810836
Peter Walmsley 07843 498253
Mark Wells 07788 318118
Richard Winsborough 07917462320

Little Bardfield Parish

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

Braintree District Council

Councillors Cllr Michael Staines 07922 487666
Cllr Mark Ault 07903 744481

Uttlesford District Council

Councillor Cllr Mike Tayler cllrmtayler@uttlesford.gov.uk
Police for non-emergency enquiries dial 101
for emergency enquiries dial 999

1st Finchingfield Scout Group Mark Wells 810447 mark.2millside@btinternet.com

Bardfield Charities Nick Holland 07795 280647

Bardfield Horticultural Society Linda Prior 07969 184845

Bardfield Players Ian Ru le 810986

Gt Bardfield Allotments Adrian Thomson

Gt Bardfield Bell Ringers Nick & Sarah Holland 810209

Gt Bardfield Historical Society tim_regan82@hotmail.com

Gt Bardfield Pre-School Kathy King 811580

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

Muddogs Youth Football Tony Clarke-Holland 07710 506007

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

Tuesday Club Marilyn Edwards mazjedwards@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Priest Gt & Lt Bardfield Fr Alex Shannon 810309/07483 878659

Catholic Priest Fr Michael Britto 07917 319811

Town Hall Bookings bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com

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