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2025

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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: Michael and Diana Hitchcock's Memorial Seat
by Adrian Hitchcock

Above: Snowdrops by Darren Hockley

Editorial

What a cold, gloomy start to the year! The snowdrops, the 'Fair Maids of February,' were late in braving the chill wind and are only just blooming in the copse on the Little Bardfield Road. It was certainly a bitterly cold day when three generations of the Hitchcock family gathered with friends and neighbours, well wrapped up, on the Memorial Green where a seat in memory of Michael and Diana has



Aconites taken in Brick House garden.

been installed. The family have been in Bardfield since the C18th. The seat faces the High Street where Michael and Diana ran Hitchcock's Stores for many years, an amazing emporium selling absolutely everything, which is remembered fondly by many villagers.

You will see from the Parish Council report that the new Pavilion is finished at last and we look forward to a Grand Opening event in the summer. The Pavilion is already in use by Great Bardfield Football Club. I notice from the Community Facebook that the club is having a very successful season with good local support for their home matches played on Sundays. Look out for the semi-final cup game this month and go up to the playing field and cheer them on!

There are plenty of Town Hall events this month. If you haven't been to Film Club why not give it a try. This month's film is *The Outrun* starring Saoirse Ronan. You can enjoy a glass of wine in a very sociable atmosphere. The Horticultural Society's Spring Show is on Saturday 22nd March and is always a riot of colour and a delight, particularly after such a cold start to the year. And it will soon be time to polish up your boules for the new season. If you're a beginner or want to improve your game come to the practice sessions run by Ian Ruffle on Monday evenings.

Finally, if you have a view on the future of the Cottage Museum please come to the meeting in the Town Hall on March 14th at 7.30.

Janet Dyson

Great Bardfield Primary School

As half term is nearly upon us, it is hard to believe we are already approaching the middle of the school year. Our children have been working so very hard and we are looking forward to sharing their progress with parents in their mid-year reports and learning reviews in March. We are also looking forward to warmer, drier weather which will hopefully bring an end to the winter bugs both staff and children have been fighting off for what seems like forever! The Spring will also bring the reopening of our wonderful field which will mean that the children have much more space in which to work and play throughout the day.



Here at Great Bardfield Primary School this term, we continue to work hard to embed our three core values of Courage, Compassion and Community. These are the golden threads which run through all that we do in school. We believe courage in learning, and in life, is essential. It gives our children and staff the confidence to take risks, ask questions, and tackle challenges without worrying about getting things wrong. Whether it's trying a tricky maths problem, speaking in front of the class, or giving a new sport a go, we encourage everyone to step out of their comfort zones. We understand that mistakes aren't failures—they're just part of the learning journey!

Compassion is at the heart of absolutely everything we do. We want our school to be a place where everyone feels valued, understood, and supported. By showing kindness and empathy, our pupils and staff create an environment where people help each other, ask for support when they need it, and celebrate each other's successes. A great example of this is when our older pupils buddy up with Reception children, helping them settle in and feel welcome. Whether it's tying shoelaces, reading a story together, or offering a reassuring hand to hold, these small acts of kindness make a big difference to everybody.

Community is what brings us all together here at school. From pupils and staff to parents and local organisations and businesses, we all play a role in making our school a warm and welcoming place. We love getting involved in projects that connect us with our local community. Not only does this teach valuable skills, but it also strengthens relationships and gives everyone a sense of belonging. By working together, we create

a school where every child feels supported, encouraged, and ready to take on the world!

Charity is also important to us at Great Bardfield. This month we celebrated NSPCC Number Day which gave us all an opportunity to reflect on the important work that the charity does in helping children. This year, our focus was on 'Time' and the children dressed up and spent a fun day taking part in activities which revolved around time. They made timelines, took part in quizzes and raised nearly £200 in the process.

Other highlights of this term so far include a KS2 visit to the Srinivasa Hindu Temple in Sible Hedingham, a visit from the first year degree students at the ROM theatre who ran a workshop around the theme of sentimental objects, an Active Maths event for our Year Ones and our attendance at the USSP Swimming Gala. It has certainly been a very busy term so far!



KS2 Visit to the Hindu Temple.



KS2 take part in a workshop from the ROM Theatre students.

Next month, we are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day during which the children will taking part in activities around the theme of 'Reading for Pleasure'. We will be taking all of the children up to visit 'Between the Lines' where they can choose a book and listen to some stories. Thank you to Janet Dyson and her team for joining with us to ensure the day is memorable for our children. We will also be entertained with an author visit and lots of reading related activities.

On Monday 31st March, the children are hosting a Spring Concert which will be an opportunity for senior members of our community to come and enjoy listening to them perform songs and music along with enjoying tea and a slice of cake. If you would like to attend, please have a look at the flyer contained within this edition for more information. You are all most very welcome to join us.

Liz Crow
Headteacher




Great Bardfield Primary School
Presents:

'A Spring Concert'

We would like to invite senior
members of the community to a
celebration of singing and musical
talent followed by tea and cake in
the school hall on

Monday 31st March

2.00pm

Please ring or email the school office to confirm your seat.



Tel: 01371 810252
Email: admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk



Great Bardfield Parish Council report

Pavilion & Playingfields

We are planning an official opening celebration for the new Pavilion when the weather is kinder and the field less muddy, so watch this space for a date.

Braintree District Local Plan Review 2041

The Issues and Options Consultation is live until 07 March 2025. The comments of The Parish Council on aspects such as Housing, Design, Transport, the Local Economy and Natural Environment were agreed for submission with particular reference to our rural community. Residents are also encouraged to consider the proposals for the District Council's approach to development in the district up until 2041, and to respond to this consultation by visiting www.engage.braintree.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/local-plan-review

Transport

'Love Your Bus' Initiative: It was agreed to join with neighbouring parishes and our District Councillors in bidding for a grant to improve our local bus services, though the timescale for applications was short and the bidding process complex.

Planning Applications

- Fairfield Barn, Braintree Road: Revised application for garage with ancillary residential accommodation. Despite the reduced scale of this second application, there were still concerns regarding the size and massing of the building in the historic setting. The Parish Council would object to this application.
- North House, Bridge Street: a single storey rear extension. In principle there was no objection, however there was concern about the lack of information on materials to be used in the Conservation area and the proposal for a large lantern light, which was unsympathetic within the setting and proximity to neighbouring listed properties.
- North House, Bridge Street: replacement of garden studio. No objection provided neighbours' views were taken into consideration considering the proximity to the boundary.
- Chiefs Farm, Walthams Cross: replacement garden wall. No objection

No objections to tree works at:

- The Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Braintree Road
- The Beeches, Braintree Road
- Manton Cottage, Bridge End
- Houllkers, Beslyns Road
- Friends Meeting House, Brook Street

Bin Collections - March 2025

Tuesday March 4th Grey Bin & Food Bin

Tuesday March 11th Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin
Green Bin (for subscribers only)

Tuesday March 18th Grey Bin & Food Bin

Tuesday March 25th Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin
Green Bin (for subscribers only)

Subscriptions to the green bin service can now be renewed for the 25/26 year which can then renew automatically on an annual basis.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 12 March 2025, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall.

Carolynne Ruffle Chairperson

Boules practice

In advance of this years village Boules competition we will be having Monday evening practice sessions on the Town Hall Boules Terrain (car park), starting at 7pm on the 7th April, for anyone who wants to hone their bowling skills, or just have a game or two.

Ian Ruffle

The Future of the Great Bardfield Museum

We have reached a significant moment in the history of one of our village's historic almshouses, which currently houses the Great Bardfield Cottage Museum. This late 16th-century cottage on Dunmow Road requires ongoing maintenance that far exceeds the income of the Great Bardfield Historical Society who are the current tenants of the building. Although the cottage is owned by the Great Bardfield Charities, its upkeep does not align with their charitable aims of relieving residents in need, hardship, or distress. If the cost of ongoing maintenance were to fall to the Charities, it would significantly affect the amount of money available to meet the many pressing requests for assistance which the Charities receive.

The cottage holds strong associations with the village, but practical considerations limit its use: it is small, the access steps are difficult for those with mobility issues, and it lacks plumbing, drainage, and a sewage system. The Historical Society and Charities have, in their discussions so far, reached the conclusion that significant external funding would be required to keep the cottage as a village asset.

To decide the next steps, the Great Bardfield Historical Society and the Great Bardfield Charities would like to meet with interested residents to discuss options for the future, including questions of ownership, use and funding. We are planning to hold this meeting on Friday the 14th of March at 7.30pm at the Town Hall. Please come with your ideas.

Tim Regan (Great Bardfield Historical Society chair) and Alex Shannon (Great Bardfield Charities trustees)



Dear Editor,

When we started the Bardfield Cinema Club over 15 years ago, we thought also about making good use of the purchased DVDs, and what transpired was a rental service for any of our residents who might want to watch any of our DVD collection in the comfort of their own home.

How does this work? After the DVDs are shown in the Town Hall, they are placed in the CIP (Community Information Point) and are then available for all to rent for a £1 charge. Perfection!

We now have an excellent library of films available for rental, but sadly, over time a large number seem to be missing.

So this is a simple request - if you have rented a DVD in the past, please check your cupboards in case you have overlooked its return. We would be most grateful if we could fill some of the missing gaps.

Many thanks

Ray Coles

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(formerly women's world day of prayer)



Please join us to pray with
and for the women of
The Cook Islands.

**FRIDAY 7th MARCH
at 10.30am
The Quaker Meeting House
Great Bardfield**

All welcome, to be followed
by refreshments.

Town Hall Happenings

As I write we have had a long period of cold weather but look forward to Spring with all our regular community events.

On 1st March our Quiz Night will test the memory of us all. Regular events continue including Film Club. In February we tested using subtitles for those who need them, from all

accounts that worked well. It helped that the film "The Critic" starring Ian McKellan was superbly acted and articulated. Those of us not reading the subtitles were soon immersed in the plot so were not distracted.

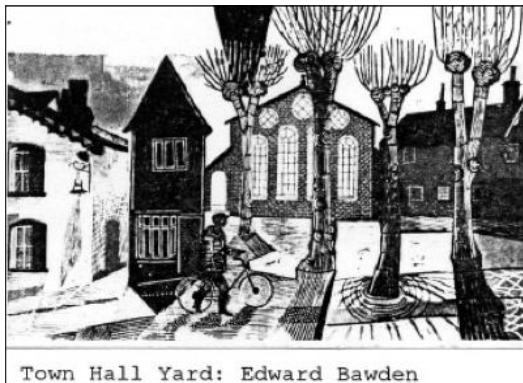
Regular events continue and we look forward to the Horticultural Society Spring Show on 22nd March, the Art Show at the end of May and the start of the Village Boules Competition organised as ever by Madame Boules.

Don't forget if you wish to hire the Town Hall or the Meeting rooms bookings can be made with Sarah our caretaker on 07368 503459.

John Maidman

Chairman

Great Bardfield Town Hall



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

Fancy a game of Badminton?

Wednesday evenings in the Town Hall 7pm - 9pm.

£5 per person (first session is free for new members).

Please call Ryan on 07921336618 to register interest.

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

qu?z

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH

7.00 for 7.30 pm start

LICENSED BAR

TEAMS OF 8 MAX

£12 PER PERSON, INCLUDING SUPPER

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE BY

BACS, CHEQUE OR CASH

To book and for bank account details please contact:

Patricia on mrspwalsh@aol.com or 07971 627407

Please let us know of any dietary requirements

St. Mary's Church
Great Bardfield

MUNCHKINS

Baby & Toddler
GROUP



Every Tuesday morning

In Church from 10 am

Come and join us for stories, singing and
refreshments

We look forward to you seeing you.

GREENFINGERS

Just stepped onto the newly laid carpet at home, a cheap one but with superior underlay like a fluffy cloud. The experience was like sinking into leaf mould in an established wood, easily achievable albeit on a smaller scale, in one's garden.

So, to begin ... take all those dead leaves scraped up and stacked to rot in a sunless area and lay cardboard as a base for a path, perhaps looping between existing shrubs /trees. Top with leaf litter, insufficient you say? Then begin with wood clippings. And now for the icing on the cake, this is what gardeners love, plant either side with shade lovers either new or resited from other parts of the garden. Obvious are snowdrops, corms of anemones and cyclamen but consider pulmonaria, This is a spring flower usually blue but there is white which is most alluring in shade, pink too and all have good leaf cover. But to flower in March is my favourite, an epimedium. Commonly yellow, available in rust red it has sprigs of flowers followed by wonderfully glossy heart shaped leaves, just divine and it thrives in dry shade. So no shady spot available? Replicate wriggling bare feet in sand, well not quite the feel of a Caribbean beach as it will be gravel or just cracks between paving but they will feel warmer than bare foot in leaf-litter. Great plants for warm places are creeping thyme and save the best for last with an unpronounceable name erigeron karvinskianus, a pretty pink and white daisy with a simply ugly common name, fleabane. Highly recommended, spreads without being a nuisance as it is low growing and flowers from April to November. Most attractive in pots or hanging baskets too. Get some this week.

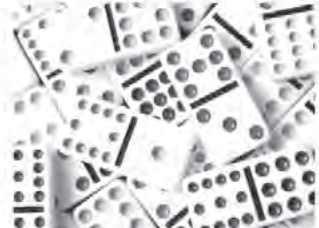
Now, having suggested two types of simple to achieve new areas let us turn to the necessary but mundane in JOBS for March:

1. Roses, finish pruning, feed with a bought fertiliser or mulch with well-rotted manure (available in bags at garden centres).
2. Remove dead foliage and stems then I just love to tickle the soil to let air enter the rain flattened earth. Use a fork and avoid plants and emerging bulbs. Do not cut down penstemons yet.
3. Seeds can be sown if there is a warm place to nurture them till Easter. Tiny seeds of nicotiana and impatiens and tomatoes benefit from this early start.
4. Shear closely the branches of yellow flowered winter jasmine, it will grow back nicely to flower next winter
5. Scatter fresh shingle or bark chippings on your lovingly created or existing pathways

Cheers to warm days of Spring for all gardeners!

GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB

A GAMES AFTERNOON



Join us for a fun afternoon playing table games, including dominoes, draughts, cards, Boggle, Jenga and Connect 4. Refreshments provided.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 at 2.30

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome

Visitors: £5 per talk

THE GREAT BARDFIELD ART SHOW

We're pleased to announce that The Great Bardfield Art Show in aid of the Town Hall will be back again in 2025.

The show will be held over the Late May Bank Holiday on **Sunday 25th and Monday 26th May 2025.**

Great Bardfield has a rich art heritage and we wish to continue celebrating this by providing the current artists of Great Bardfield and beyond with a setting for displaying their work. There will be refreshments available in the Town Hall.

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

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

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Braintree Road, Great Bardfield
E mail celestineiheme2016@gmail.com

Sunday Mass - 9.30 am

Weekday Services

Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am

Rosary and Holy Hour – following Friday Mass

All welcome

Horticultural Society

Our Spring Show will be held on **Saturday, March 22nd** in the Town Hall. One of the highlights of our programme is the Spring Show – always a mass of colour from spring flowers, shrubs and bulbs.

Our schedules for 2025 shows are now available. All members and previous exhibitors should have received a copy. They are also available from a number of outlets in the village. Please contact us if you would like one and haven't been able to get or see a copy.

Entries for the show should be registered before 10.15am and be staged by 10.30am as judging starts at 10.45am. We have many classes for different skills – flowers, pot plants vegetables, cookery, handicrafts, flower arranging and photography. If you tried and enjoyed the biscuit recipe in February issue of *BT* please enter and enjoy the results.

We welcome everyone - you do not have to be a member to enter.

Please encourage your children to get involved. We cater from ages under 5 to 16 so there is something for everybody. Bardfield School is always very supportive and we receive many entries from them which we really appreciate.

Please come along and visit in the afternoon. The show will be open at 2.30pm until 4.30pm. There will be a raffle, tombola, and plant stall.

We will have tea and homemade cakes available at the Bell - thanks to Ciaran - cakes made by our members. Any help or questions please contact Linda Prior 07969 184845.

Here is one of the recipes to try for the "men only" class

Anzac biscuits (class 36)

These delicious biscuits were made to send to the ANZACs (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) serving in Gallipoli.

Ingredients

- 85 gm (3 oz) porridge oats
- 85 gm (3 oz) desiccated coconut
- 100 gm (3½ oz) plain flour
- 100 gm (3½ oz) caster sugar
- 100 gm (3½ oz) butter, melted
- 1 tbsp golden syrup
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

Method

1. Heat the oven to 180°C (Fan 160°C), 350°F, Gas mark 4.
2. Put the oats, coconut, flour, and sugar into a bowl. Melt the butter in a small pan or microwave and stir in the golden syrup.
3. Add the bicarbonate of soda to 2 tablespoons of boiling water, then stir into golden syrup and butter mixture.
4. Make a well in the middle of the dry ingredients and pour in the butter and golden syrup mixture.
5. Stir gently to incorporate the dry ingredients.
6. Put 20 dessertspoonfuls of the mixture on to buttered baking sheets, about 2.5 cm (1") apart to allow room for spreading.
7. Bake in batches for 8 – 10 minutes until golden.
8. Transfer to wire rack to cool.

Gardener's Question Time

One of our neighbouring villages is delighted to be hosting BBC Radio 4 Gardener's Question Time, yes the real radio show! Ridgewell Garden Society will be welcoming Bunny Guinness, Bob Flowerdew and Matthew Pottage on the panel for the recording of two shows and Kathy Clugston will be in the chair.

This will be taking place on **Tuesday 11th March**, from 5.30pm, in St Lawrence's Church, Ridgewell. Tickets are £4.50 each and can be purchased from Bardfield Horticultural Society.

Please phone Helen McGlynn 07710 768320 to check availability.

Cedric Morris – Artist and Plant Collector

We have a rare opportunity to visit the revived Art School and garden at Benton End near Hadleigh (IP7 5JR). There are a few places left for our guided tour on **Wednesday, April 23rd** at 11am.

A donation of £20 is requested by Benton End which covers a guided tour of the house, tea and biscuits followed by a tour of the garden.

There is parking for 7 cars with further parking available at £5. For further details please contact Linda Gustar 01371 811079 or linda.gustar@gmail.com

Future events for your diary.

Following the success of our Garden Fiesta last year, we will be organising another one this year.

- It will be on **Saturday, May 24th** in the Friends Meeting House. Details in next *BT*.
- There will be two garden visits in June. The first will be on **Saturday, June 7th**-details in next *BT*
- The second garden visit is a joint visit with Finchingfield Horticultural Society on **Thursday, June 12th** to Wethersfield Mill Rose Field - Neil Birks Flowers. 4.30pm until around 6pm. A glass of wine or soft drink will be served on arrival in the garden. Neil will give an introductory welcome & some background about the roses & how it all came about. We would then go up to the rose field and have a walk around and he will answer any questions as they arise. Tickets will be £5 per person. There is plenty of parking. Tickets available from Linda Prior 07969 184845

Plea for new Chairman for Society

Linda Prior has been our Chairman since 2014. At our 2024 AGM, she gave notice that she would be standing down from this role in October 2024. Sadly no one came forward so Linda very kindly agreed to do a further year—until October 2025.

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 07969 184845**



BARDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SPRING SHOW

**MARCH 22nd TOWN HALL
2.30 – 4.30**

ADMISSION £1.00 - MEMBERS FREE

RAFFLE, TOMBOLA & PLANT STALL

TEA, COFFEE & HOME-MADE CAKES

**NEED A SCHEDULE?
CONTACT 07969 184845 or 01371 810524
HAVE A SKILL OR PLANT YOU ARE REALLY PROUD OF?
WE WELCOME ALL ENTRIES.
COME ALONG AND HAVE A GO!**

The Tuesday Club

Our speaker at the February meeting was Sharon Gould, who entertained us with stories of her career journey. Sharon found school difficult and left at the age of 15 with no qualifications, before marrying when she was 17 and having three children by the time she was 23. Her ambition had been to become an actress or a hairdresser, but she was told firmly that she could do neither. Over the next two decades she had 21 jobs, from working in a transport café, managing a butchers shop, being a rent collector, having a stall in Petticoat Lane, running a fish and chip shop, being an Avon Lady, working in a pet shop (until they started to sell snakes) and potato picking (the only job which she didn't enjoy).

At the age of 38 she was offered a job in a hairdressers, just washing hair and sweeping up, but it was her dream job, at £1.50 per hour. The owner suggested she trained to become a qualified hairdresser, but having just been diagnosed with dyslexia she told them she would never be able to cope with the exams. But with help from her employer she overcame her problems and became a hairdresser. Not the end though, as someone then suggested she should teach the hairdressing courses, but that required a degree in education. With the support of her husband, who took over the household management on Sundays so that she could study, she got her degree and went on to teach hairdressing, catering and special needs at Havering College. Sharon has a daughter with Downs Syndrome, so this last aspect of her lecturing was especially important to her and she was frustrated that after training these young people they were unable to get a paid job. So in 2006 ROSE was set up, an organisation which not only finds jobs for these young people with local employers, but guarantees that they will have a job coach with them for as long as it takes for them to be able to work on their own, which might be a few weeks or a few months. What an amazing lady Sharon is and we are grateful that she was able to visit us and share her story.

Our meeting on 11th March will be a games afternoon, no physical exercise required, just fun games with refreshments. For our April meeting we will be welcoming back Amanda Sutherland, who will be telling us how to Make Do and Mend. Look out for posters nearer the time.

We do hope you will be able to join us for one or more of these. Membership for the year costs only £25, but if you prefer to just come along to a talk which appeals to you we would love to see you on that occasion, visitors pay £5 including refreshments. There will be posters around the village each month. Doors open at 2.00 and the meetings start at 2.30.

Cherry Whitby

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

Finchingfield and District Branch

VE Day Dance

Saturday 10 May at 7.30. See poster page 29 for details.

Finchingfield Street Party 10 May

Plans are progressing for a great day of entertainments and fun, thanks to Councillor David Bide and the Parish Council. Further details soon.

Proposed Coach Trips

We are hoping to organize coach trips to RAF Museum, Hendon and Southend. More information soon. Meanwhile, if think you might be interested, please contact Ivan or Janet.

**Ivan Fleming (Chairman): 07525 751179
or isskhs@googlemail.com**

**or Janet Ridgewell (Secretary): 01371 810051
or janet.ridgewell510@btinternet.com.**

From the Vicarage...

Sometimes I'm asked who owns our churches. It's interesting to hear what people think the answer is, past suggestions including me, the Diocese, the Church of England and the King. It's actually a trick question, because the technical answer is that in English law, nobody owns a parish church. Certain groups have legal responsibilities towards it, and there are laws which determine what can be done to or with it, or what happens if it is ever closed. But nobody is a legal owner, and the reason for that is that, if it belongs to anyone, it belongs to its parishioners – that means you!

There are several things which follow from this: first is that parishioners are given a say in how their parish church is run, through being able to attend and contribute to our annual parish meetings in April and May (details of which are advertised in each church), and vote for members of the Parochial Church Council, or PCC, who act as trustees of the parish church; second is that the services and events which take place in the church are open to all, and it is our aim to make everyone feel welcome in what is, after all, their church. This means that we want to be able to tell people about what happens in church, and offer, to those who would like them, direct and regular updates with church news.

Every so often, we are required to update the list of people who have registered their eligibility to vote for the PCC and contribute to the annual general meetings in church, and this is happening this year. If you would like to be included on this list – the 'church electoral roll' (which is not the same as the electoral roll used for civic elections) there are forms available in the churches (ones for Cornish Hall End can be collected from Finchingfield church) which we encourage anyone eligible to fill in. If you are not eligible, but would still like to be kept informed about church services and activities, there are forms available for that as well. By sharing this information with us, you will be helping us to help *your* churches serve *you*!

Re'd/Fr Alex

Services for March 2025

Sunday 2 March – Sunday before Lent

- 8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
- 9.30am Parish Communion Service - Shalford
- 10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield
- 11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic Morning Prayer) – Wethersfield
- 3pm Children's Church – Wethersfield

Wednesday 5 March – ASH WEDNESDAY

- 10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield
- 5pm Reflective Service for the beginning of Lent – Wethersfield
- 8pm Said Communion Service – Finchingfield

Sunday 9 March – First Sunday of Lent

- 8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford
- 9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield
- 10.45am Parish Communion Service – Finchingfield
- 11am Family Service – Wethersfield
- 4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 16 March – Second Sunday of Lent

- 8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield
- 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
- 10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield
- 10.45am Family Service – Finchingfield
- 4pm Evening Prayer – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 23 March – Third Sunday of Lent

- 8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield
- 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
- 10am Holy Communion – Cornish Hall End
- 11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 30 March – Mothering Sunday

- 9.30am Informal Service with children's craft activities – Finchingfield
- 9.30am Mothering Sunday Service – Shalford
- 10.30am Mothering Sunday Communion Service – Great Bardfield
- 11am Mothering Sunday Family Service – Wethersfield

Lent Talks

Lent, which is the season of preparation for Easter, begins this year on 5 March. During this season we will be having a series of three talks given by invited speakers on the subject of the Nicene Creed – the summary of Christian belief which was first formulated 1700 years ago this year. Provisional dates for these are 6 and 20 March and 3 April, at Wethersfield Pavilion, beginning at 8pm.

Regular Services and Events during the week

- Monday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield
- 1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club (1st weeks)
Between the Lines, Great Bardfield
- Tuesday** 9.15am Eucharist – Great Bardfield
(preceded by Morning Prayer at 8.45am)

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 weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

Thaxted Festival 2025

Each summer, the world comes to Thaxted – along with its music and the very finest performers! Thaxted Festival runs from 20 June to 13 July 2025, offering a captivating mix of orchestral, chamber, choral and jazz performances – and more!

Our season launches with exciting young French violinist Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux (a former Classic FM rising star) performing Beethoven with the London Mozart Players Orchestra. This majestic orchestra will also be closing our Festival with a programme including Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, Bach, Purcell and Handel.

If vocal performances are more your thing, don't miss soloists Nicky Spence OBE, Alexander Chance and Neil Balfour, nor ensemble performances from the Gesualdo Six and the Choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Summer Opera lovers will be well served too, with Wild Arts' fully-staged performance of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin. Mighty Like the Blues bring great jazz/blues, including legendary guitarist Jim Mullen and we have a dramatic evening of tango with the London Tango Quintet.

A raft of Festival Extra events provide a deeper connection to the music, artists, and the festival's ethos. Whether it's an interview with our musicians, a private view of a local gallery, or a ghost tour of the historic area, these events will enhance your Thaxted Festival experience.

A welcoming, relaxed atmosphere awaits you here in Thaxted – book your tickets via www.thaxtedfestival.co.uk. Don't miss the chance to experience the magic of Thaxted Festival 2025 – where world-class music meets historic charm in the heart of Essex. A timeless musical experience.

General Booking opens 31 March 2025.



An invitation to a meeting with Great Bardfield Charities and the Historical Society

On Friday, March 14th at 7.30pm
 Great Bardfield Town Hall

An opportunity for residents to come and discuss the options, including ownership and funding, for the future of the Cottage Museum.

Your views and ideas are important to us

Nature Notes - The Twit

So sorry I was not able to do any Notes for last month and thank you to all the friends who have sent me messages.

I have found not being allowed to drive for the best part of five weeks very restrictive even though friends and family have been fantastic carting me about, but I am beginning to pick up the threads and at last got round to doing some research for Nature Notes, I was reading in a fairly old book about birds and found a reference to a bird called a Twit.

The Twit winters in the Blackwater Estuary. Now one must remember I don't hail from this part of the world although I have lived in Essex for a long while, I originated Up North as they say, and most of my wildlife knowledge goes back a long way. I have heard reference to a Twit or a very similar word when sailing in the Blackwater when someone cuts across your bow at high speed on a water scooter! But no, this is a bird.

The Twit is a member of the Linnet family; it is the same size as the other linnets. They live in the very north of Scotland in areas of gorse and scrubland which becomes inhospitable in winters, so they migrate south and flocks of them descend on



the salt marshes of the Blackwater estuary. They move off as the tide rises onto neighbouring fields, they feed on weed seeds and some green vegetation they also eat insects. Depending on the weather they move back to Scotland in time for breeding, which is a social affair. They nest in colonies with the female building the nest on the ground amongst the gorse and scrub. It's a very loose, affair you could say a pile of dry grass and small vegetation lined with bits of wool, dry bark and wood chips, The female sits the 5 or 6 pale blue eggs which have a few pink-red to brown spots on the broad end. The hen sits the eggs and incubation takes 12 to 13, days then both parents feed the brood by regurgitation. The chicks leave the nest after about 15 days but remain dependant on their parents for about another 2 weeks. The name 'Twit' comes from the bird's nasal call note which sounds rather like 'twa-it'.

Mac Beanland

St Helena's Hero Run returns for March 2025!

Run, walk or fly across the finish line at **St Helena Hospice's Hero Run** this March!

Hero run is coming back on **Sunday 23rd March** at Colchester Sports Park, and everybody is invited! Children aged 4 and above can participate in the 2km Family Fun Run, with a parent accompanying them for free! Alternatively, you can choose to take on the 5km or 10km runs, with the 5km open to ages 7 and above, and the 10km open to ages 16+.

What matters is to come dressed as your hero, whether that's a superhero, a sports icon, a family member, a celebrity or a nurse.

After all, not all heroes wear capes!

This year, there will be an expanded event village for more family fun. A variety of exciting activities await you there – delicious food, classic games, face painting, and meeting our mascot, Saunders!

Marcus Poston, St Helena Hospice fundraising manager, said: "We are thrilled to be bringing back Hero Run once again and we hope to see lots of families and individuals joining us, dressed as their heroes, to have fun and raise money for St Helena Hospice.

"This year is extra special as it's St Helena's 40th anniversary. By taking part, you will be helping more local people to access the end of life care and support they need to allow them to make their own choices and live with dignity, regardless of their personal circumstances.

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

This article was drafted by a member of The Hundred Parishes Society who has allowed us to adapt and publish it.

Like others, I have covered many miles through the patchwork of landscape in the Hundred Parishes and have often crossed intersecting footpaths, stopping to examine my map to understand why they exist and where they go.



Elmdon – looking south from B1039 towards Rockell's Wood.

Recently, I picked up local author Christopher Hadley's book, *The Road*, in which Hadley explores a spur of Ermine Street which connects former Roman towns at Braughing and Chesterford, carving a straight line for 13 miles through The Hundred Parishes. Hadley draws on years of archaeological and historical research. Tracing the route, he gathers lost names, locates burial mounds and tracks down archaeology in the hope of revealing two thousand years of history. Through his words, we gain a glimpse of the civilisation that sited and constructed the road, of

the people who used and maintained it and, eventually, of what happens when a road passes out of general use and the legacy it leaves behind.



Beard's Lane - Elmdon - Clavering parish boundary along former Roman road.

Much of this route can be walked still; the actual Roman road is most visible as Beards Lane where it defines straight parish boundaries, with Clavering and Arkesden to the south-east and Langley and Elmdon to the north-west.

In short, *The Road* is a lyrical, nostalgic, sometimes humorous and intriguing social history and travelogue which will enthral enthusiasts of cultural and local history. After finishing this book, I find myself re-examining parish churches, wondering if the red, small bricks in the tower are Tudor in origin or perhaps pillaged from a lost Roman storehouse.

The highway which is the focus of this book is one of several local routes with Roman origins. Many feature somewhere in the walks that can be downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

Ken McDonald
Secretary

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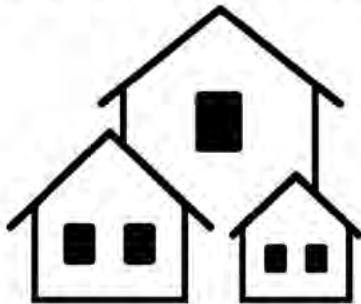
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For more information please contact one of the Trustees:
Pat Coles (01371 810995), Mick Gell (01371 810113)
Nick Holland (07795 280647), Annika Woodcock (07900 491636)
Rev Alex Shannon (01371 810309)

Or email GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com

TOWN HALL DIARY

March 2025

Saturday 1 st	Town hall quiz	7.30pm
Monday 3 rd	Bardfield players	7.30pm
Tuesday 4 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 5 th	Flower workshop	9.00am
	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 6 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Friday 7 th	Cinema Club	7.30pm
Monday 10 th	Bardfield players	7.30pm
Tuesday 11 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Tuesday club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 12 th	Badminton	7.00pm
	Parish Council	7.00pm
Thursday 13 th	Bardfield player	7.30pm
Friday 14 th	Charity Meeting	7.30pm
Monday 17 th	Bardfield players	7.30pm
Tuesday 18 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 19 th	Flower workshop	9.00am
	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 20 th	Bardfield players	7.30pm
Friday 21 st	Set up H.S	4.00pm
Saturday 22 nd	H.S Spring show	2.30pm
Monday 24 th	Bardfield players	7.30pm
Tuesday 25 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 26 th	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 27 th	Bardfield players	7.30pm
Saturday 29 th	Cricket club quiz	7.30pm
Monday 31 st	H.S Meeting C.R.	5.00pm

Enquiries and bookings bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com

Great Bardfield Parish

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

Councillors Carolynne Ruffle (Chair) 810986

Paul Kennedy 810540

Darren Hockley 810836

Peter Walmsley 07843 498253

Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402

Janet Dyson 07957 483207

Iain Graham 07831 595555

Braintree District Council

Councillors Cllr Michael Staines 07922 487666

Cllr Mark Ault 07903 744481

Police for non-emergency enquiries dial 101

for emergency enquiries dial 999

Little Bardfield Parish

LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com

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

Clerk to the Parish Council Kate Rixon 01371 404 321

LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com

Uttlesford District Council

Councillor Cllr Mike Taylor

cllrtaylor@uttlesford.gov.uk

Bardfield After School & Breakfast Club Pat Moore 07767 413055

Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club Clifford Richardson 810782

Bardfield Charities Nick Holland 07795 280647

Bardfield Players Ian Ruffle 810986

1st Finchingfield Scout Group Mark Wells 810447

mark.2millside@btinternet.com

Muddogs Youth Football Tony Clarke-Holland 07710 506007

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

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

Gt Bardfield Pre-School Kathy King 811580

Gt Bardfield Allotments

Gt Bardfield Historical Society tim_regan82@hotmail.com

Horticultural Society Linda Prior 811641

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

Catholic Priest Fr Celestine 01371 810428/07440 394171

Town Hall Bookings bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com

Tuesday Club Marilyn Edwards mazjedwards@yahoo.co.uk

Great Bardfield Bell Ringers Nick & Sarah Holland 810209

Refuse Collections Gt. Bardfield Tuesdays from 7am

L. Bardfield Thursdays from 7am

Mobile Library Little Bardfield, Styles, Thurs 10am fortnightly

Gt Bardfield Town Hall, Thurs 11.15am fortnightly

Museum and Cage Every Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday from

Easter to the last Sunday in

September 2-5.30pm.

Community Information Point (CIP) Thurs and Sat 10am -12 noon 01371 811975

The Samaritans 01245 357357



Bardfield Cinema Club

Friday, March 7th

Great Bardfield Town Hall

Doors Open 7.30pm Film Starts 8.00pm

Members free, Non members £7



BARDFIELD CINEMA CLUB - FRIDAY 7TH MARCH