

May
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: Great Bardfield's victorious football team by Adrian Hitchcock

Above: Bardfield Horticultural Society Spring Show by Doug Joyce

Editorial

If you are not a cat lover then perhaps you should skip the first paragraph!

Very sadly I recently lost my beautiful, much-loved ginger cat, Professor Biscuit, killed by a car in Bell Lane. I have been comforted by the hundreds of kind messages on the Community Facebook from people who clearly identified with my loss. I was touched that someone took the trouble to



Professor Biscuit tackles the daily Sudoku

cover him up and so grateful that someone else picked him up and drove him to a vet where they were able to identify him by his chip. He was a real character and the house seems empty without him. However, the birds in my garden are still celebrating!

On a brighter note this issue is full of posters and notices of forthcoming events, in particular, two featuring the lives of significant women who are so often hidden from history. The Historical Society has what promises to be a fascinating talk by archaeologist Rebecca Batley about the life of Lady Ann Neville, Queen and wife of Richard III, details on p.13. And, on May 16th you can meet author Clare Mulley at Between the Lines Bookshop where she will be talking about her recent book Agent Zo, the fearless WWII Resistance Fighter Elzbieta Zawacka (see p.14).

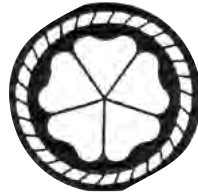
If you are someone who has lost confidence in driving then read Cherry Whitby's interesting account of the recent Tuesday Club meeting where Essex Fire and Rescue Officers gave details of a free 'Driving with Confidence' course (p. 16), although I fear it's too late for me!

Other events this month include the Annual Garage Sale on May 17th and the Art Show in the Town Hall on May 25th/26th. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 15th May in the Town Hall at 7pm. All residents are invited to attend, come and find out what your Parish, District and County Councils have done over the past year and hear reports from many village organisations. Come and have your say.

Janet Dyson

Great Bardfield Primary School

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us for our Community Spring Concert last term—it was wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout! The children were thrilled to share some of the music they've been working hard on, and it was clear the audience enjoyed every moment. From the cheerful "Red Red Robin" to a touching performance of "Tomorrow," and a particularly adorable version of "Spring Chicken" by our youngest performers, the afternoon was filled with joy and talent. We've had some lovely feedback, and it's always so rewarding to know these events are appreciated. A big thank you goes to our dedicated staff team for making it all happen, and a special thank you to the brilliant Mr Merry, whose Monday singing sessions bring so much to our school community.



At the end of March, our younger children were thrilled to take part once again in the village Horticultural Spring Show, proudly entering several of the children's classes. In preparation for the event, they spent time carefully colouring in spring-themed pictures, designing their very own Easter cards, and making (as well as decorating) delicious chocolate Easter nests. It was a joy to watch their creativity and enthusiasm shine through in each piece they submitted. The classrooms were filled with colour, glitter, and the sweet smell of chocolate as the children worked



Our Easter nests for the Horticultural Show

on their entries with great care and excitement. Many of the children spoke with pride about seeing their work on display, and it was lovely to see how much they value being part of the wider community event. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to share their efforts beyond the school gates, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We are so proud of all they achieved—well done to everyone who took part!

As the Spring Term drew to a close, we were delighted to celebrate with our much-loved Easter orienteering adventure in the school grounds. The children threw themselves into the challenge, eagerly navigating their way around using maps and coordinates to uncover hidden clues. Adding to the excitement, the Easter Bunny made a surprise appearance, delighting everyone with a basket brimming with chocolate eggs! It was fantastic to see our older children supporting their younger peers during the hunt, making it a truly joyful and collaborative experience. A huge thank you goes to our fabulous Easter Bunny for bringing the magic—and the chocolate—to one of the most anticipated events of the term.

As we return from the Easter break, there's a real sense of energy and purpose around the school. Both children and staff have come back recharged and enthusiastic, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the summer term—the final stretch of what has already been a fantastic academic year. Over the coming weeks, some of our pupils will be taking part in national statutory assessments. Year One will be completing the Phonics Screening Check,



Darcy at the Easter Egg Hunt

Year Four will be tackling the Multiplication Tables Check, and our Year Six children will sit their end-of-Key-Stage assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. These assessments are a useful tool in helping us understand where our pupils are in their learning journey and identifying areas for further support and growth.

It is important to note that while tests and scores provide one snapshot of a child's learning, they are by no means the only measure of success. We place great value on the everyday moments that reflect true progress—whether that's finally grasping a tricky concept in maths, moving up a book band, or simply finding the confidence to share a thought during a class discussion. These small but significant steps are what truly shape our children's development, and we are proud to celebrate every single one of them. Our focus remains firmly on nurturing a love of learning, encouraging curiosity, and helping each child grow in confidence and independence.

Liz Crow
Headteacher



Our Easter Bunny

F O B S
FRIENDS OF GREAT BARDFIELD SCHOOL PTA
CHARITY NO - 1019891

**GREAT BARDFIELD PRIMARY
PRESENT**

BARDFEST

**SATURDAY,
JULY 19TH**

**AT GREAT BARDFIELD
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

12:00 PM- 17:00 PM

Events

Live music, Bouncy Castles, Bar, BBQ, Candy Floss,
Food Trucks, Arts & Craft, Local stalls plus much
more

£4 ENTRY - UNDER 12S FREE

TICKETS

Great Bardfield Parish Council report

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council will be hosting the Annual Meeting for residents on Thursday 15th May, at The Town Hall, starting at 7pm. All residents are encouraged to come and hear about the activities of your Parish Council over the last 12 months. We also take this opportunity to invite village groups and societies to provide their reports. Please come along - the meeting is open to all residents

Thank you for Helping us Keep Bardfield Tidy

Thank you to everyone who joined our village clean-up on Saturday, April 5th. Twenty volunteers of all ages donned hi-vis jackets, picked up litter, trimmed overhanging brambles, and weeded overgrown areas in various parts of the village. Several rubbish bags were collected for disposal by Braintree District Council, especially from the village entrances where many beer cans, bottles, and takeaway boxes were found. We appreciate the community's efforts to keep our village tidy. More activities are planned for the summer, so stay tuned for information and join us next time.



Presenting the new Community Pavilion – 1st June 2025

We are really looking forward to the event planned for 1st June at the playing fields where the new community pavilion will be open for viewing. Please accept our invitation to come and see the new facilities and join in celebrating the successful completion of this Parish Council -led project which has been funded by our community. The Parish Council are very grateful for the support of Kellie, Scott and Cadia of Forbsey Camps for all their assistance in organising this event and to The Vine public house, Brook Street Butchers and the PTA among others and will include activities, music, refreshments and a party atmosphere. Also expect a special visitor for the children. See leaflet in this edition of the *Bardfield Times*.

Planning Applications

- Coote House, Brook Street – single storey extensions and new porch

No objections provided the materials and design of the proposed extensions and porch meet the requirements of the Historic Buildings Officer and BDC planners for a property in the Conservation Area.

- Springfield House, Braintree Road – demolition and rebuild. Despite revised plans the Parish Council continue to have concerns over the design and materials proposed. However, if these new plans now meet the planning officers' approval, we would not object provided that every effort is made to use appropriate quality materials to ensure that the building sits comfortably in its rural setting.
- Houllers, Beslyns Road – single and two storey extension, wall cladding and replacement roof. No objections provided the materials and design of the proposed extensions meet the requirements of the Historic Buildings Officer and BDC planners for a property in the Conservation Area.

Tree Works

The Beeches, Braintree Road – no objection to tree works requested at this location.

Call for Sites (Local Plan Review)

The PC were recently notified of an additional area of land that had been put forward for development as part of Braintree District Council (BDC)'s review of their Local Plan. This site is the Glebe Meadow, which sits to the north of The Vicarage, Braintree Road, and currently provides a clear view of the Parish Church from the centre of the village and the village greens. This proposal was considered an entirely inappropriate use of this significant site, and a strong objection will be lodged.



This site is one of 3 parcels of land within Great Bardfield parish that have been submitted by their respective landowners as potential development sites. Under the 'Call for Sites', BDC will review these locations to decide whether they may be accepted. The Parish Council recognise that BDC are required to meet their housing targets, however, we have objected to each of these sites as inappropriate locations for new development. Local residents may also lodge their comments with BDC Planning department.

To view BDC's map of sites currently under consideration please view the following web page and scroll down to find the Call For Sites link: www.braintree.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan-review-2

We do not yet know when these sites will come before the BDC planning committee for a decision. We have asked to be kept informed and hope to be able to attend.

Footpaths

Following receipt of a 'Proposed Stopping Up Order' from the Department of Transport relating to land off Bell Lane, adjacent to Bell Cottage, the Parish Council have undertaken site visits and discussions to ensure that this order does not impact on the existing footpath that leads from Bell Lane to the Vine and does not compromise the allotments. A response to this effect has been submitted to the Department of Transport.

Any residents that wish to make a response to this order should send their comments to nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk, with the reference: Proposed stopping up order, Moomin House, Bell Lane, OS Grid ref. E56392 N230584.

Allotments

The Parish Council agreed to donate a number of raised beds to the Village Allotments. These had been made for the proposed improvements to the Quiet Space which cannot now go ahead in its planned form, due to the increased marshiness of this site. We believe this to be due to underground springs,

Bin Collections - May 2025

Wednesday May 7th Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin
(following the bank hol) Green Bin (for subscribers only)

Tuesday May 13th Grey Bin & Food Bin

Tuesday May 20th Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin
Green Bin (for subscribers only)

Wednesday May 28th Grey Bin & Food Bin (following the bank hol)

Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting is the Parish Council's AGM and will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 14th May 2025, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public. Please contact Kate Fox, Clerk, if you plan to attend: clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

Carolyne Ruffle, Chairperson

Parking and maps available

COME JOIN US FOR
BBQ AND HOG ROAST
HOT AND COLD DRINKS
ICE CREAM VAN!

£10
A pitch. (Limited public spaces)

Bardfield Garage Sale

2025

SATURDAY
17TH MAY
11AM - 3PM

To book a pitch please contact:
Email: bardfieldgaragesale@outlook.com
TEXT ONLY: 07936538897
(Please note no calls will be answered)

Follow us on Facebook 

Great Bardfield Pre-School Charity Number - 100159

Town Hall Happenings

Following on from last month we are continuing to carry our various work at the Town Hall. The cloakroom behind the stage has been refurbished and the large storage cupboard in the "Green Room" has been removed.

The Bardfield players will be on stage 1st, 2nd and 3rd of May. Tickets available online.

Plans for the Annual Art Show which is on the second May Bank Holiday Sunday 25th and Monday 26th are progressing thanks to Peter and Katrina. This is such an important event I would recommend a visit.

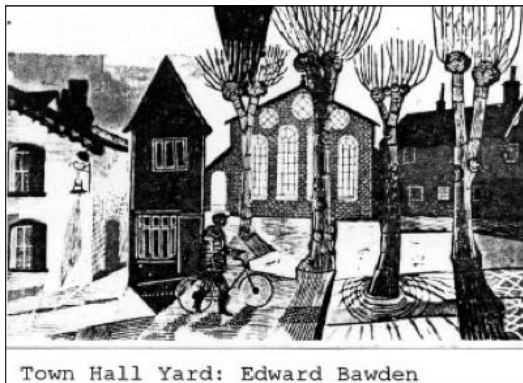
The Village Boules Competition is open for entries and some brave souls have started practising.

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

Bardfield ART SHOW

2025

SUNDAY, 25th MAY

11 am – 4 pm

MONDAY, 26th MAY

11 am – 4 pm

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

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

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

GREENFINGERS

Gourmet's Paradise

Let me begin with the not-so gourmet, a possible cure for blackspot on roses: 2 parts water with 1 part milk and spray. Blight on Box: coat with sour milk. I am prepared to try the success of the first but the second! Stomach turning?

Now for the more appetising starter. First pick some wild garlic to scatter over grilled goat's cheese. Main course gives a choice from the garden, aforesaid wild garlic in a stir fry. Or, salivating at the thought of dill and cucumber in a vinaigrette over your grilled white fish. The garlic plant is invasive in a garden but acceptable in a woodland however, planting under a hedge, restricts its spread and you can enjoy lovely white flowers in late spring. Moving on to dessert, take a large meringue and decorate the cream and raspberries with edibles, violas and the large pink petunias (see April's *BT* article). Are you asking what gave rise to this cooking subject? Why, it is the promoting of veg patch to 'potager' status, but how?

Create a potager

The potager is possible in a small area. Pass under the rose, clematis, honeysuckle arch into a growing area. Make it neat with a couple of raised beds, 4 wooden gravel boards, will make a bed 6ft by 4ft. Make it accessible with a brick or scaffold board path. Plant alpine strawberries to smother weeds along the soil abutting the bed. Now for easy seeds to sow. Tagetes, orange flowers, they deter unwanted insects on your veg plants. Better still, a dwarf hedge of dill, fronds for leaves with an attractive aniseed smell plus pale yellow flowers. A must have. Prefer the strawberries? Then dill and coriander grow well in pots. Dreamlike but attainable with the minimum effort.

Jobs in May

1. Spray roses with my favourite and organic, Uncle Tom, or be brave and try the milk recipe but scatter rose feed around the base of the plants.
2. Plant out sweet peas if you haven't already. Support with twiggy sticks, Birch is good, metal obelisks better but costly.
3. Tender summer plants need to stand outside against the house wall for a week to get used to the outdoors. Then plant away particularly into pots to burst with summer flowers.

Hurrah to making gardens beautiful!

GREAT BARDFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, May 22nd at 7.30pm
Great Bardfield Town Hall

AGM followed by

Anne Neville – Queen and wife of Richard III



A talk by archaeologist and author Rebecca Batley

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

Everyone welcome

Between the Lines Bookshop

Friday, May 16th at 6.30pm



Join us for an evening in the company of renowned local author, Clare Mulley, who will be talking about her latest biography "Agent Zo –The Untold Story of Fearless Second World War Resistance Fighter Elzbieta Zawacka".

Clare Mulley is an award-winning author, historian and broadcaster, primarily focused on female experience during the Second World War. Her most recent book is Agent Zo, a biography of the only woman to parachute from Britain to Nazi German-occupied Poland. It is short-listed for the prestigious Women's Prize for Non-fiction 2025.



Clare will be at Between the Lines Bookshop, Great Bardfield to talk about and sign copies of Agent Zo on Friday, May 16th at 6.30pm.

Entrance free. Licensed bar.

Between the Lines Bookshop, The Old Post Office, High Street, Great Bardfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4SP. Tel: 01371 810087.

Landscape Artist of the Year

Great Bardfield 2025



On: Sunday 13th July 12 -4pm

At: School Green to register 11.45am

Children free: equipment provided

Adults £5 entrance fee: bring your own equipment

Judging at 4.15pm

Sponsors: The Vine and Kitten and Hare

All entry fee's donated to Great Bardfield School and Pre-school Charities

For further information

email:GREATBARDFIELDLANDSCAPECOMP@GMAIL.COM

The Tuesday Club

We had a late change to our April speaker, as Amanda Sutherland was unable to be with us. She will be visiting us for her scheduled talk later in the summer, and two officers from Essex Fire & Rescue Service stepped in at short notice and gave an interesting talk about safety on the road and around water. There was an opportunity for interaction with a video where we were sitting in the driver seat and after a short time were asked if we had noticed things happening on the pavement or at junctions. At the end there was an opportunity to wear a virtual reality headset and experience aspects of driving in an emergency situation.

They also asked if we knew anyone over the age of 70 who had passed their driving test some years ago, but perhaps hadn't driven for some time and had lost confidence, or perhaps someone who felt that their journeys were restricted because they had never driven on a motorway or didn't feel confident when faced with large roundabouts. Anyone living in Essex can access a free "Driving with Confidence" course, during which the instructor comes to their home and accompanies them in their own car, giving advice and feedback on the issues they have raised. For more information visit www.saferessexroads.org, look at the Driving with Confidence option, where they will be able to download a form or use the telephone number provided.

Another tip, for those who haven't already done it, is to download the free "what3words" app. If you are ever in a situation where you need emergency help, this app will pinpoint your location to within a few yards, which the emergency services find very useful. And as someone said, it's useful for finding a friend who has wandered off during a shopping trip!

In May we shall be welcoming back a popular speaker, Brian Carline, who will be giving us "An Amusing Account of Life in Schools". After 35 years teaching in Essex schools he will have some tales to tell!

We welcome all to our meetings. 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**

GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB

AN AMUSING ACCOUNT OF LIFE IN OUR SCHOOLS



A talk by Brian Carline

Brian was a schoolteacher for 35 years and finished his teaching career as Assistant Headteacher in a school in Essex.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 at 2.30

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome

Visitors: £5 per talk

Dear Residents

We know that The CREAMER Fund has some wonderful supporters out there and we are hoping some of you might like to get involved in helping the Charity in some way. Well, here's a way you can! We are looking for someone from each of the villages who fall under the reaches of Freshwell Health Centre to act as our 'eyes and ears on the ground'! We would really value people's insights and opinions on how to develop CREAMER - both in outreach/PR and in the services we offer in the community. In essence you would:

- Help to co-ordinate representation of the charity at local village events (equipment provided)
- Help deliver occasional publicity materials
- Obtain feedback on services provided
- Generally help to raise the profile of CREAMER within their communities

If you think you could help out, and it really wouldn't be more than a couple of hours a month maximum, we'd love to hear from you.

Please email Alexandra Cox at hellorubyred@outlook.com to express your interest.

Thank you!

The CREAMER Fund



THE SALINGS

Plant Sale

MONDAY MAY 5TH

VILLAGE HALL,
PICCOTTS LANE,
GREAT SALING CM7 5DW

10am - 2pm

PLANTS SHRUBS
TREES

From North End Nurseries
and the Blue Egg

SALINGS ART GROUP

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE SALINGS CHURCHES

Horticultural Society

Our Spring Show was held on Saturday March 22nd in the Town Hall. Thank you to everyone who came to support us - exhibitors, judges, stewards, helpers and the visitors.

Sadly, the entries were slightly less than 2024—but the weather is out of our control!! Had it been a week later—probably a different story! So we were thrilled to have 147 exhibits from adults. We had 33 adult exhibitors, 7 of whom were new!—Welcome-hope to see you again.



There was a wonderful display of spring flowers together with some lovely flower arrangements, cakes and jams etc. and a good range of different handicrafts and photographs

We had 10 children exhibitors-5 of our usual plus 5 new some of whom came from St Mary's Church Munchkins-baby and toddler Group for the first time! A huge "Thank You" to Great Bardfield Primary School for entering about 60 coloured pictures depicting "Recycle and Reuse", 60 very colourful edible Easter nests and some amazing Easter cards—well done.

We were delighted to see a quite a few children who had entered items either under their own steam-or from the school and Munchkins come to the show in the afternoon to proudly show their parents their efforts.

We had a lot of visitors in the afternoon who enjoyed seeing all the exhibits. There was a very popular tombola, raffle and a plant stall. Hopefully some of you got radish seed and seed for children to enter the Summer Show.

Tea and home-made cakes made by our members were served at The Bell Inn. Thank you Ciaran - very much appreciated by everyone. Donations were given to the Horticultural Society.

Here are the winners:--

Trophies-Spring Show

Arthur Willis Cup

Highest points in the Flower Section Peter Morris

Floral Art Cu

Highest points in the Floral Art Section Mandy Boon

Ann Hayward Cup

Highest points in the Domestic Section Janet Morris

Men's Domestic Cup

Best exhibit in class 36 William Edwards

George Hervey - Murray Shield

Highest points in the Handicraft Section Helen McGlynn

Gill Hervey - Murray Shield

Highest points - Children aged 9 and over Maddie Woodcock

Irene Horsnell Shield

Highest points - Children aged 5 to 8 Sam Yarrow

Winner - Children's Section - under 5 Emily Walmsley

Congratulations to you all - well done. We hope to see you all again at the Summer Show.

Our **Summer Show** will be held in Bardfield Town Hall on **Saturday, August 2nd**. If you have lost your schedule or would like to enter Schedules are available from various shops in the village and the Blue Egg or call 810524.

Inter Village Floral Shield

The Inter Village Floral Shield was held at Gosfield Show Saturday April 5th. "80th Anniversary of VE Day"

Three villages submitted floral displays—Bardfield, Gosfield and Sampford. Congratulations to Gosfield—Bardfield came joint second with Sampford - well done.

Our visit to Benton End in April—will have report in next *B.T.*

Garden Fiesta

Following the success of our Garden Fiesta last year, we are organising another one this year. It will be on Saturday, May 24th from 11am until 3pm

in the Friends Meeting House. Everyone will be welcome to the various events taking place during the day. There will be a plant stall, quiz, cash raffle, tombola and children’s seed planting activity.

Entry will be free. Refreshments with sausage rolls and home made cakes will be available during the day.

We hope to see many of you there—come along and see what is on offer! Look out for posters in the village. For further info contact Linda Prior 07969 184845 or any Committee member.

Local Garden visits June

Saturday June 8th 2.30pm—Visit to local garden in Lindsell It is some years since we visited this magical garden. Those of you who remember walking through the wild flower meadow with lots of orchids, pond and lovely borders and plenty of vegetables will certainly want to go again to enjoy.

Hopefully more of you will be tempted to join us. Entry will be by ticket only – free for members. Non members £5. We will need to know numbers by Saturday May 31st.

Tickets available from Linda Prior 07969 184845 or Lynne Joyce 01371 810524.

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. This visit is currently fully booked

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 more than 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

GARDEN FIESTA

SATURDAY MAY 24TH

11AM – 3PM

FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

GREAT BARDFIELD

.....

PLANT STALL, GARDEN QUIZ

CASH RAFFLE

CHILDREN’S SEED PLANTING ACTIVITY

REFRESHMENTS

.....

FREE ENTRY

ALL WELCOME

ENQUIRIES 07969184845

From the Vicarage...

One of the significant moments of this month will be the 80th anniversary commemorations of VE Day, which will be observed through a number of events across our villages. No doubt, we will around that time see many clips from VE Day itself, with the waving flags and smiling faces depicted in the black and white film of the time. It's perhaps worth taking a moment to consider what it was that people were celebrating. On the one hand, the answer may seem obvious – who would not want to celebrate the ending of (at least part of) a war? But the challenges of war did not go away overnight; those who had lost loved ones still had to come to terms with their grief, a whole generation was affected by their experiences of armed service, and economic impacts, such as rationing, went on for many years afterwards.

One thing which had changed though was that people now had an increased sense of safety. No longer did they have to fear the possibility of the air raid siren going off, or of receiving a telegram with dreadful news. Those daily burdens of anxiety had been lifted, and a new freedom would come from the lifting of many necessary wartime regulations and restrictions. The sense of being constantly anxious for your safety is hugely debilitating, and it is in this, I think, that one of the most powerful messages of the VE Day commemorations is to be found.

We are fortunate to live in a time and place when our collective fear for our safety is relatively low, although we also know how fragile that can be. We do indeed owe a debt of gratitude to those made sacrifices to help establish relationships between nations based on mutual stability and cooperation, rather than aggression. But if we truly recognise what was being celebrated 80 years ago, we realise that our responsibility today is towards those who do not have that sense of safety, whether personally or within their community. If we are so glad to be able to celebrate our own freedom from that burden, we should also be conscious of how much further there is to go until a victory is won which will achieve that for all.

Re'd/Fr Alex

Services for May 2025

Sunday 4 May – Third Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic morning prayer) – Wethersfield

Sunday 11 May – Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.45am Parish Communion Service – Finchingfield

11am Family Service – Wethersfield

2pm Commemorative Service for VE Day – Finchingfield War Memorial

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 18 May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

5pm Evening Prayer – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 25 May – Rogation Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Shalford

Thursday 29 May – Ascension Day

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

8pm Said Communion Service – Finchingfield

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

Finchingfield and District Branch

COACH TRIPS

RAF Museum, London (Hendon) Sunday 8 June

Coach leaves Finchingfield 9.30 am
Cost: £20

Southend Saturday 2 August

Coach leaves Finchingfield 9.30 am
Cost £20

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

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

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Sunday Mass - 9.30 am

Weekday Services

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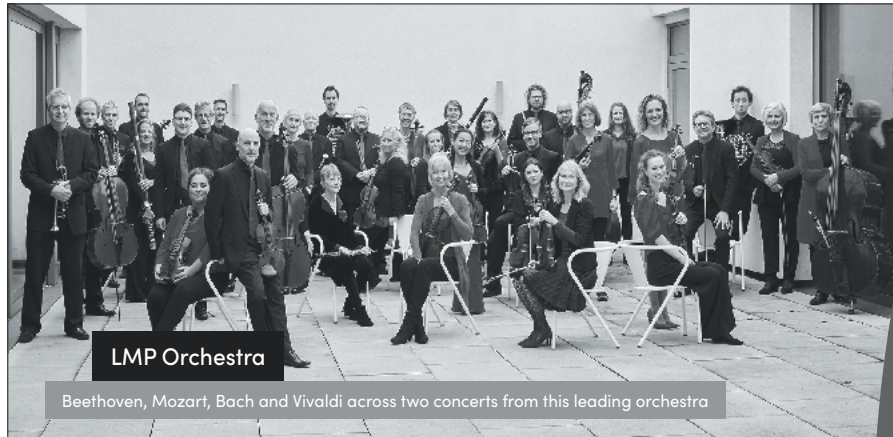


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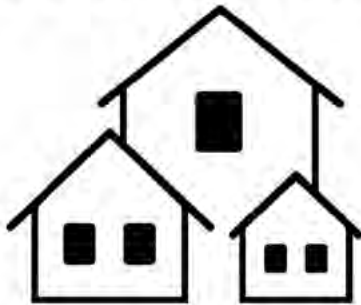
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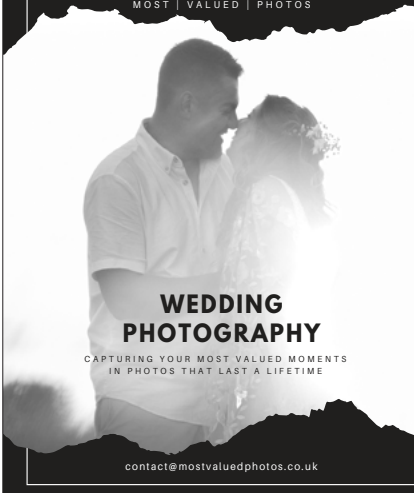
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07-Aug 28-Aug 18-Sep 09-Oct 30-Oct 20-Nov 11-Dec
Between 11.10am and 11.45am

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Are you eligible for a financial grant?

The Great Bardfield Charities are here to assist YOU if you are a resident of Great Bardfield, or a group or organisation benefiting Great Bardfield residents

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

May 2025

Thursday 1 st	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Friday 2 nd	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 3 rd	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Sunday 4 th	Bardfield Players	9.00am
Tuesday 6 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 7 th	Badminton	7.00pm
Friday 9 th	Cinema club	7.30pm
Tuesday 13 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 14 th	Parish council	7.30pm
	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 15 th	First aid course	8.30am
	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm
Tuesday 20 th	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 21 st	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 22 nd	GBHS	6.30pm
Saturday 24 th	Art show set up	4.00pm
Sunday 25 th	Art show	11.00am
Monday 26 th	Art show	11.00am
Tuesday 27 th	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 28 th	Badminton	7.00pm

For private parties, social activities, exercise classes, meetings.
Excellent facilities, including spacious kitchen and catering equipment,
sound system with hearing loop, free wifi, stage and meeting rooms.

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, May 9th

Great Bardfield Town Hall

Doors Open 7.30pm Film Starts 8.00pm

Members free, Non members £7



BARDFIELD CINEMA CLUB - FRIDAY 9TH MAY