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Bardfield Times

News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield



Joe Jones runs the Virtual London Marathon 2020



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: Danny and Rachel

Above: Danny's funeral cortège by Doug Joyce

Editorial

As I write this editorial and as we move into winter months the news of tightened restrictions on our socialising has been announced. With no visiting allowed between households, this is clearly a time to look out for neighbours and friends, particularly those who live alone, with no family nearby. The last lockdown showed how Great Bardfield met this challenge and supported each other uncompromisingly and I am confident our community will respond again.

Even through the last difficult months Community Spirit prevailed in our village. As you will read in the magazine, many of our residents have been involved in brilliant fund raising events, including the McMillan Coffee morning, the Vintage Tractor Run supporting Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, our stalwart magazine designer, Joe, running 'her' marathon in the village for Alzheimer Research, and the church doors open daily through October for Braintree Food Bank donations. We thank you, and raise our hats to you all and others not mentioned here.

A mention here too for our small local enterprises who manage to keep their businesses going for us. In the coming months it will be important to frequent and use these services as they will need our continued support. A reminder too that the Great Bardfield Charity is able to support families or individuals in times of unemployment and hardship. Details of the Charity and Trustees are posted on the Village notice boards, at the CIP and on the Village FB page.

Alongside their sadness, villagers recently lined the streets in Finchingfield and Bardfield to clap and say their farewells to Danny Smith, as his funeral cortège passed by his shop - a veritable acknowledgment of the fondness held for this man - butcher and friend to many.

The annual October/November celebrations of Halloween and Guy Fawkes Day cannot take place in their usual way this year, but we hope village children and grown-ups will have enjoyed the Neighbourhood Pumpkin Trail. Thank you parents for planning this fun activity. I am looking forward to carving my pumpkin and filling it with light!!!

So as the resplendent autumnal leaves shed from the lovely American Oak on the little green on Crown Street, enjoy the last days of summer sun, the rose hips and berries in the hedgerows and the magnificent fungi

nurtured by excessive rain, in the fields and under hedges - not edible but lovely to look at.

Lastly, sending wishes for happiness in their new home in Saffron Walden, as Dave (former editor of our BT) and Joyce Yates, leave the village at the end of October.

Pat Coles

Dear Editor,

I hope you are keeping well in these difficult times it was great to see all the pictures of our Tractor run in this month's BT it was a wonderful day and we managed to spread a lot of happiness but the best part was the fact we managed to raise £3250 for The East Anglian Air Ambulance at a time when they are badly in need of money, This was a fantastic achievement considering the fact we were not able to go round asking for sponsors as we usually do.

Regards

Mac (Beanland)



Vintage tractor run in aid of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Hello neighbour,

Do you know anyone within Great and Little Bardfield who will (or will you yourself), be alone this Christmas and would appreciate a Christmas Hamper? If so, please could you contact me with their name and telephone number so that we can contact them and offer them one.

Like previous years, a group of people within the villages will donate items to go into the hampers. However, this year I will be packing them alone and making sure the items are isolated for the recommended period (due to Covid) before being packed.

As people's circumstances can change, if you have received a hamper in previous years and would like another this year you will also need to contact me to confirm this.

Please call Joanne Magro-Boorman on 07590397178 by Wednesday 25th November 2020.

Best wishes,

Joanne Magro-Boorman

Dear Bardfield,

A big thank you, my first ever marathon, Virtual London Marathon 2020, completed and I'm really pleased with the time (4:25:38) especially considering the weather, rain and even more rain. I would like to say a massive thank you to all of you that have been so generous and donated to my charity page <https://www.justgiving.com/VMLMBallotPlace-JoeJones> raising money for the Alzheimer's Society. I can't thank you enough; it means so much to my family and me, the amount raised so far is over £1500.



I must also say a big thank you to the support team that turned out in the awful weather for all those miles to cheer me on and keep me going when things got tough, I couldn't have done it without you and you all made it so special. Lastly to all my neighbours who braved the weather to come out to see me cross the finish line in Durham Close, thank you.

Bring on October 3rd 2021 and hopefully the real thing in London next time.

Joe Jones

Dear Sir,

This week the Prime Minister announced ambitious plans to have every home powered by wind energy.

This is to be welcomed and it is timely that I write to share some thoughts that have emerged from a recent meeting of the Essex Climate Change Commission, where the built environment was under consideration.

Accepting the need to move forward to achieve a 'zero-carbon' world, amongst the many ideas were discussed were factory-built energy efficient homes, the incorporation of water harvesting and home generating measures, and updating the Essex Design Guide to reflect new innovations such as camouflaged solar panels which mimic lichen covered roofing slates.

Essex County Council has already committed to implement a number of measures, and this year has completed the building of two net-zero carbon schools. Last year we ran a successful campaign to offer discounted solar panels to Essex residents, and now many Essex homes benefit from having solar power.

Four former landfill sites are already generating electricity from captured methane they produce which otherwise would have to be flared off; methane is a particularly potent greenhouse gas.

The Commission also considered the retrofitting of existing buildings with measures that improve energy efficiency, insulation, and a move away from using carbon-based fuels.

I am also pleased to support the launch of the Government's Green Homes Grant meaning that Essex homeowners and landlords can now apply for government funding to make their homes low carbon and more energy efficient.

Measures can include installing cavity wall or loft insulation, upgrading windows or replacing old boilers with a heat pump. These measures could save up to £600 a year on energy bills.

All the information residents need can be found on the Simple Energy Advice at www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Councillor Simon Walsh

County Council Member for Thaxted Division

Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Action

Great Bardfield Parish Council report

Covid-19 Restrictions

As with previous months, the Parish Council met via Zoom. This internet technology allows for safe meeting from the comfort of our own homes. Residents who wish to attend future meetings are always welcome but are advised to contact our parish clerk in at least 24hrs in advance to get the log-in details.

As I write, we are in the first day of new Covid-19 restrictions sanctioned by the Secretary of State for Health. This new level means that there are some further constraints for social gathering in indoor settings. Public health data has shown a rapid increase in the rate of infection across Essex and rising hospital admissions associated with the disease. The intention of these new measures is to reduce the extent of a second wave across our communities and avoid moving into the top tier. Volunteers continue with their good work, and are available if you need any help with shopping or prescriptions. Kate Fox is the point of contact (contact details are on the last page).

Environment

Little Bardfield: Essex County Council's minerals and planning department have provided a detailed report on the alleged waste processing activities in Little Bardfield and have confirmed that these are permitted activities.

Northampton Meadow: Trees in the public spaces are now to be added to the BDC's Landscape Services maintenance list and will be attended to in accordance with BDC's Tree Strategy and Duty of care obligations.

Memorial Garden: A number of bald patches on the turf of the memorial green have become unsightly and investigations have shown that these are being caused by Chafer Grubs, which live underground and destroy the grass roots by eating them. A biological treatment using nematodes can control this and will be applied over the next few weeks. This method is safe for pets, children and other wildlife.

Pipers Meadow: Unfortunately a number of newly planted trees were lost due to the drought conditions in the spring and early summer. These are to be replaced this Autumn, with the village handyman agreeing to keep them watered during periods of dry weather.

Braintree District and Essex County Councils

Cllr Tattersley, (BDC) and Cllr Butland, (ECC) attended and both made

further comments about the new Covid-19 restrictions. They reported that there will be some extra funding to enforce the new measures and that the need to protect the NHS from the effects of a second wave was paramount.

Planning

Six planning applications and three tree works applications were discussed as follows:

Westfield House: installation of timber weatherboard cladding. There were no objections.

Laurel House: erection of 5-bar timber gate and post and rail fence. No objections; erection of single storey detached studio/outbuilding. No objection.

Old Police House: Single Storey Rear extension. No objection.

Yew Tree Cottage: Conservatory, 2 storey and single storey extension. No objection – Historic Buildings Officer to approve materials used.

6 Bendlowes Road: single storey extension. No objection but neighbours' views to be taken into consideration in this location.

Prances: High Street – various tree work. No objection

23 Northampton Meadow: – tree management work. No objection.

Hillside Cottage: Brook Street – tree management work. No objection.

The Planning Committee has discussed and responded to the following consultations:

- (i) The Current Planning Policy
- (ii) Local Plan – Modification to Section 1

The Planning White Paper consultation is under consideration and a response due by the end of the month.

Neighbourhood Plan

Meetings have continued using Zoom and a draft questionnaire has been drawn up. A planning consultant has been brought in to provide expert advice to the group. Funding has been approved for carrying over to next year due to delays caused by Covid-19.

Highways Matters

Cllrs Kennedy and Hockley have been active in liaising with neighbouring councils and the police regarding the increasing use of local roads by visiting motorcyclists. This year has been particularly fraught with this occurring during weekdays, not just weekends. There is a fuller report elsewhere in this edition.

Parking continues to be an issue and we are pursuing further measures

following a meeting with Essex County Council earlier in the year. Several cars have been damaged where they have been parked close to junctions, making it difficult for some large vehicles to manoeuvre.

Public Footpaths

The Footpath Survey Sub-Committee was renamed the Rights of Way Sub-Committee. Membership comprises Cllrs Kennedy, Graham and Hockley with co-opted lay members Nigel Hill and Chris Morrell. There has been an enthusiastic response from residents wishing to be part of the Volunteer Group following last month's *BT* article. The intention is to walk all the paths and bridleways in the parish to ensure accessibility and accuracy, noting any changes to the Definitive Footpath Map which have to be registered before 1st January 2026

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th November 2021 at 7.00pm

Simon Walsh, Vice-chairman

Excessive Motorbike (& vehicle) noise and speed problems

The Parish Council have responded to many residents' complaints by creating a working group with representatives from neighbour Parish Councils (Stebbing, Steeple Bumpstead and Finchingfield) to form a collective approach to tackle the blight of excessive bike noise and speeding in our areas.

Two meetings have been held, common problems identified and communication lines established with key authorities raising our problems directly up to the Police, Fire & Crime Panel and senior officials. We believe our issues were taken on board but the group will continue to reinforce them over the next few months. Certainly there has been far more police presence and speed watching activity over the past few months across the region but we need them to focus upon our areas. We have had articles appear in Motorcycle News and on bikers' Facebook pages, we are considering Community Speed Watch schemes, investigating the use of "noise cameras" and considering press, tv and/or radio coverage.

Hopefully, the quieter Autumn and Winter months will allow us time to implement these and other possible solutions that will reduce future noise distress to residents.

Paul Kennedy

MUSHROOM STROGANOFF

Serves 4.

Ingredients

1 Large Onion
 4 Celery sticks
 350g Chestnut Mushrooms
 50g Butter
 1 Tbsp Plain Flour
 150 mls Water
 1 tsp yeast extract or 1/4 veg stock cube
 A splash of dry sherry
 1/2 tsp Tarragon
 1/2 tsp Thyme
 1 Bay Leaf
 1/4 pint Soured Cream
 Salt & Black Pepper to taste
 Chopped parsley to garnish

Method

Slice the onions, celery and mushrooms. Melt half the butter in a saucepan, and sauté onion and celery until the onion is transparent. Add remaining butter and allow to melt, add mushrooms and stir occasionally over a medium heat for 2-3 minutes. Stir in the flour, then the sherry and stir together. Then add the water, yeast extract or stock cube, crumbled and the herbs. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered, for 2-3 minutes. Off the heat, stir in the soured cream and adjust the seasoning to your taste. Heat very gently to serving temperature. Remove the bay leaf.

Serve at once on freshly cooked rice. Sprinkle with parsley.

Sheila Keynton



GREENFINGERS

or the reluctant gardener

Reluctant because to rip out the lingering flowers of summer and chop down the towers of climbing beans and Morning Glory is to shut the garden gate on our glorious Indian Summer. Reluctant because the dreamy concoctions in one's head need resources and work to achieve. Procrastinating over, as a sharp frost will destroy the lot - so pull on your wellies, put on your gloves and work for the next season and more importantly, the one after that.

Chores for autumn

- Hellebores will be grateful if nasty leaves are cut off, bonemeal is sprinkled around to give sustenance, then mulch each plant to snuggle them for winter.
- Plant tulips deep, deep so that they will be more inclined to appear in 2022 as well as next spring.
- Get out the shears and brutally clip across all that foliage on shrub roses, say a foot /30cms (they are the ones that don't continue flowering after June).
- Chop down anything unsightly, leaving the deliciously blue tall flowers of monkshood, this is autumn's delphinium substitute, Aconitum. Leave the seed heads of whatever plants appeal, and a bit of dead-heading improves any display.
- Too late to clip over the winter jasmine as it is waiting 'off stage' to flower at the end of the month. Too soon to trim the wisteria, that is next month's job.
- The best for last: Create florist-like displays!

A line of small pots on a shelf, a winter basket, and, the most important, a knock-out tub by your entrance, at front and back doors.

Here is a tip, make a reserve of small bulbs like crocus, scillas and dwarf narcissus in small pots. They are waiting in the wings so when the cyclamen are frosted or the pansies aren't flowering, pull them out and pop your now-flowering reserves, still in their pot, into your magnificent tub.

Ooh just before I end, I bought Mr. Fothergill's seed packet of a bi-coloured annual lupin, sprinkled into a small seed tray and on the windowsill. Fingers crossed there will be 50cm tall flowering stems in summer, and scented.

Happy gardening. 🌱

Page Turners

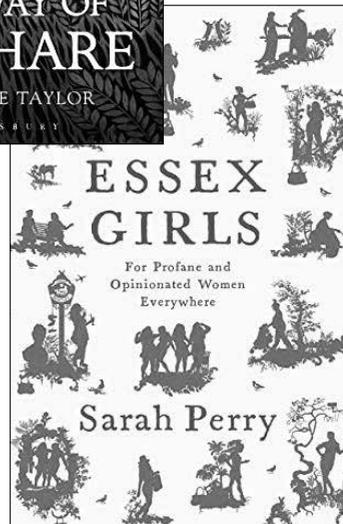
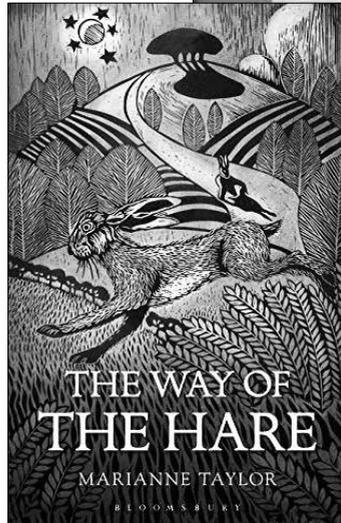
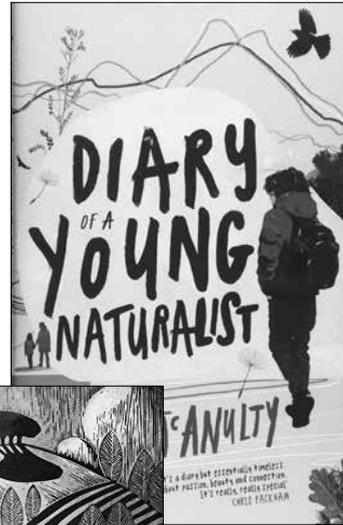
A selection of some recently published books to cheer up Winter evenings or to give as presents.

The Diary of a Young Naturalist by Dara McAnulty, award winning teenaged conservationist, is a beautifully written record of a year of meticulous observations in his own garden, at school and in the surrounding countryside.

It is disturbing to read the report of the cruel practice of hare coursing in our area. These beautiful, swift running animals are often seen as magical and mysterious, possessing special powers. *The Way of the Hare* by Marianne Taylor is full of fascinating information about hares, their biology and behaviour, and their precarious relationship with humanity.

Another carefully observed account of a local species is *Essex Girls* by Sarah Perry author of the *Essex Serpent*, and an Essex Girl herself. She dedicates this little book 'to profane and opinionated women everywhere' and celebrates the lives of some feisty and forgotten women, some burnt as witches, imprisoned for their beliefs, campaigners for justice, who are often written out of history.

Popular presenter of BBC's *Pointless*, Richard Osman has written his first novel, *The Thursday Murder Club*. It is set in a peaceful retirement village, where four unlikely



friends meet every week to investigate unsolved murders but soon find themselves faced with a real murder to solve, surely a potential must read for Book Clubs.

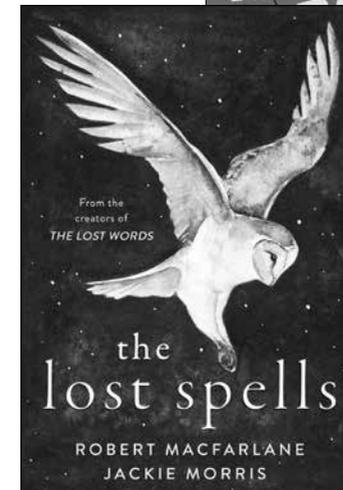
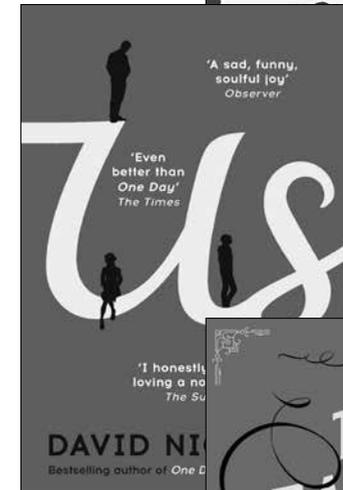
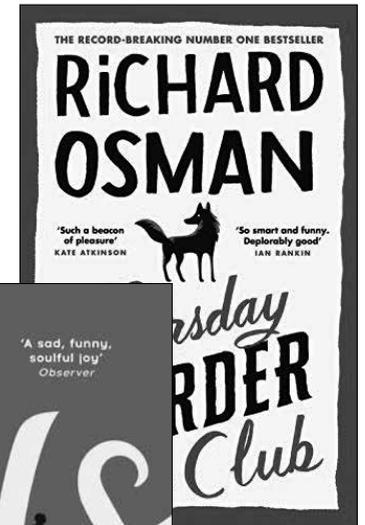
There's plenty of new paperback fiction around at the moment. If you enjoyed the television version of David Nicholls' novel *Us*, the book, which tells the story of a father desperately trying to win back the love of his wife and the respect of his teenage son, is just as good, moving and often funny.

If you're someone who has in your head the novel you're going to write one day then *The Reader's Room* by French writer Antoine Laurain is a hugely enjoyable venture into the world of publishing and literary prizes; a story of mystery, love and the power of books.

One book I'm planning to give as a Christmas present to adults and children this year is *The Lost Spells*, poetic words about the natural world written by Robert MacFarlane, exquisitely illustrated by Jackie Morris; a beautiful book to treasure.

A reminder to fellow book lovers and local book groups of our invitation to take over this page and share some of your favourite reads.

'Bibliophile'



From the Reverend Dr Robert Beaken

My dear friends,

The Coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve and to affect people in many different ways, economic as well as medical. Through no fault of their own, many of our fellow-countrymen and women have recently lost their jobs or are in danger of doing so. One man told me recently that his income had diminished by one-third and wondered how he was going to make ends meet.

To try to respond to this situation, St Mary's congregation began to collect food and other goods for the food bank at Braintree. I suggested one Sunday that we might all like to contribute two items a week, and to give nice things that we should really like to eat ourselves. The response has been overwhelming. We have decided, therefore, to continue our collection until Christmas: there is a large basket at the back of St Mary's into which tins, packets, etc, may be placed.

May I appeal to readers of the Bardfield Times to contribute to St Mary's food bank collection, which will support many families at a very difficult and anxious time. If we can help someone to have a decent meal and perhaps put a smile back on his or her face, we may have done something very important to help that person get through this pandemic and to keep going until better times.

We are continuing to hold a simple Eucharist in St Mary's at 10.30am on Sundays and a weekday celebration in St Katharine's, usually at 10.30am on a Thursday, though this varies sometimes if there are funerals, etc – please check with me for details.

Remembrance Sunday this year falls on 8th November. We very much hope to hold a simple service of remembrance at Great Bardfield war memorial at 3.00pm.

With my love, prayers and blessing,
Father Robert



Great Bardfield and the Festival of Britain 1951

The Festival of Britain was held on the South Bank in London from 3 May to 30 September 1951. Towns and cities across Britain still bore the scars of the Second World War and gloomy post-war Britain needed a lift after a decade of rationing and austerity. The organisers hoped that it would provide some much-needed respite by celebrating the nation's past achievements in the arts, industry and science as well as looking ahead to a future of progress and prosperity. It was to be a year of "fun, fantasy and colour." (Now, there's a thought).

The Festival was conceived as a nationwide endeavour with events happening across the country. Great Bardfield was sponsored by the Essex Rural Community Council as one of the Festival of Britain Villages along with other villages in the Pant valley. Here rural crafts were demonstrated to the public such as thatching and wheel-wrighting. However, the centrepiece of the Festival was the South Bank of the Thames in Lambeth. The 27-acre site of derelict and bomb-damaged Victorian buildings and railway sidings untouched since the war was transformed by Hugh Casson and his team of architects into a modernist vision of the future with multiple levels of buildings, walkways and open interiors.



Fred Mizen with his amazing straw figures

So why am I telling you all this? Well, Great Bardfield's involvement in the Festival of Britain was not just as a charming rural village for visitors to marvel and gawp at. Bardfield's Fred Mizen, who learnt the craft of straw dolly-making in the fields as a boy and was a gardener to both Edward Bawden and John Aldridge was commissioned to create the huge lion and unicorn straw figures for the Lion and Unicorn Pavilion. Bardfield artist Michael Rothenstein was a great admirer of Mizen's skill and would often present his friends with Mizen's beautiful straw anchors tied with red ribbon. It was Rothenstein who recommended him to the organisers of the Festival of Britain. Mizen's seven-foot tall lion and a unicorn symbolised two of the main qualities of the national character; strength and action (lion) and imagination and fantasy (unicorn). The figures took six months to create and were made of straw spirals attached to a wire mesh frame. Edward Bawden was also commissioned to design a mural painting depicting British country life for the Lion and Unicorn Pavilion. He created the mural with the help of fellow Bardfield artists Sheila Robinson and Walter Hoyle. The mural comprised 72 panels occupying the full length and width of the end wall of the pavilion. To give the painting some



Sheila Robinson working on the mural



The Lion and Unicorn Pavilion

rigidity each panel, about six feet in width, was angled vertically, like the leaves of a partly opened fan.

The Festival was always intended to be a temporary installation, and it closed after a five month run. A month later a new Conservative government was elected and Churchill's first act as Prime Minister in October 1951 was an instruction to clear the South Bank site of everything except the Royal Festival Hall.

So what happened to Bawden's mural? According to the National Archives, when the Festival closed in September 1951, the Ministry of Works put Bawden's mural into temporary storage. The original plan was to get the Ministry's architects to relocate it in a new building. However, no opportunity arose, and ten years later it was agreed that the mural be disposed of by the Berkshire Institute of Agriculture which was willing to pay the transport costs. Apparently the mural had no monetary value for in a letter dated 11 July 1961, the secretary of HM Treasury wrote: 'It has been impossible to assess even the nominal value of the work; its decorative value is a matter of opinion and it is not considered saleable for any other purpose, or even as firewood.' (Imagine its value today!) There are no surviving records from the college, nor any physical traces or accounts which can verify what happened to the mural. All we know is that despite being carefully stored it suffered in the process.

Sadly Fred Mizen's Lion and Unicorn endured a similar fate. The figures were stored in the basement of Selfridges after the Festival, and when they were eventually found were discovered to have been eaten by mice.

Jenny Rooney



Symbols of Britain's character

Village People – Danny

"I love Bardfield. There's nowhere else I'd want to live!"

Danny lived in Bardfield all his life (he was born in the old St John's Hospital in Chelmsford). His father, Harold, who himself was born in Ipswich, managed butcheries in Co-op stores in several locations. At that time there were two butcher's shops in Great Bardfield – Bones (near the Vine) and Stokes. Danny says that in 1952 Harold noticed that the Stokes



shop was on the market and tried to persuade the Co-op to acquire it, but they weren't interested. Harold decided to run it himself and rented the space until he had saved enough money to buy it outright. He built it into a successful business while raising two young boys – Danny and his elder brother – as a single parent.

Danny found school problematic. These days he has a name for the issue – dyslexia – but at the time, the condition was still poorly understood and largely ignored. His teachers had no tools to help him; instead they dismissed him as "troublesome" and eventually, when he was 15, he was expelled. He earned a little money collecting eggs on Alan Bray's farm but as soon as he was sixteen he got a moped and a working apprenticeship at the "Dunmow Flicht" – a bacon factory in Dunmow (now closed). After that he tried his hand as a bricklayer at Harrison's (also in Dunmow) – an apprenticeship which actually involved studying once a week in Chelmsford. By this time Danny had acquired some faster wheels: a Mini, "chocolate brown, with a white roof and big meaty white tyres." He smiles at the memory. It didn't take him too long to decide that bricklaying was not for him, and he went back to the butcher's trade, working this time with Vincent Duckett in Stebbing.

During a celebration – after the Braintree Rugby team (of which

Danny was a member) had won a cup – he noticed a local girl named Rachel he'd once gone out with, but hadn't seen for several years, and made a decision. "There I was in my blazer and tie, and I just said, 'I'll see you tomorrow.'" He was 25, she was 23. They're still together. They married in 1990 in Little Sampford Church, and the reception afterwards at Towerlands was, it seems, quite a lively affair. "They needed a new carpet" is how Danny put it.

By the time Harold died at the age of exactly eighty-four and a half, Danny was running the butcher's shop and it was thriving. He had several excellent apprentices, saying, "They've all gone on to success." As did Danny himself, having no shortage of customers in spite of the trend towards eating less meat, because people are more careful about where their meat comes from and how it was raised: "If I get a lamb in, I can show you where it was born, raised, killed – it's all on the ticket." He'd be up every morning at the crack of dawn supplying meat to two local pubs. They call in the order the night before and expect it by 8 the following morning. Having enough stock on hand to meet the needs of two of your biggest customers – without knowing until the night before what those needs are going to be – can be a bit like solving a complicated puzzle, but Danny navigated it with the skill of long experience. "We've had a five star food hygiene rating for more than eight years running." He emphasised the support from those around him saying emphatically, "If it wasn't for my wife, Rachel, I wouldn't be doing this," explaining that although he now understands his dyslexia and copes better with it, it makes some elements of running the business difficult for him. "She works full time for the Ambulance Service, then comes home and helps me. If it wasn't for her support, the business wouldn't be going." Rachel, who's sitting in the kitchen drinking tea with us, looks slightly uncomfortable to be the focus of attention but there's no doubt that this is a team effort. Danny also stressed that "without support from local people, we wouldn't've survived." He does see an increase in business at certain times of year – Easter, Christmas, summer barbecues. He quoted a tongue-in-cheek reminder from his friend Simon Walsh (Village People, December 2017): "A butcher's not just for Christmas!"

The Interview ends with Danny's words: "I love Bardfield. There's nowhere else I'd want to live."

Anna Bass

(Extracts from an interview published in the Bardfield Times December 2018)

Town Hall happenings

A message from the Town Hall

Where is everyone? Never in my 160 years have I known it so quiet. The last busy thing I remember happening here is the usual Town Hall Quiz which I have enjoyed for several years

though I can't get the questions about something called TV and things called 'celebrities'. A week after the bustle of the Quiz everyone stopped coming. That must have been before spring as it was a bit chilly with no one even putting the heating on for me. I get a bit lost about time but also have been feeling neglected and lonely without all the lovely people and clubs visiting me all day every day.

I miss the happy squeals of the toddlers and the intense concentration of the carpet bowlers. I miss the Zumba-ists jumping about and their heavy breathing; the quiet focus of yoga-ists; the interesting talks about gardening (which I know little about even after so many years). Where are those acting people and singing people that cheer my rafters? The piano hasn't seen the light of day all this time and there's no one to stroke its keys.

The only people I've seen for months are Sarah who has kept the spider population under control, Boonie putting a hook on my back door and strange white spraying boxes on various walls, and John putting posters up everywhere. Posters usually mean some event of other but it is still quiet.

Hooray!! What's this? People have arrived (wearing strange masks for some reason). Loud music is being played and it's those Zumba-ists jumping about. Puffing more than they used too and my floor boards are creaking. But it's great to see them. Only once a week so far but it's something.

So don't forget me please. I miss you. I hope I get my Christmas tree this year.

Your Town Hall



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

Ruffle's Picture Puzzle Page

To while away the time whilst 'railing' against that nasty Covid virus



Where in the village will you find this iron work?

Answers next month

Great Bardfield Horticultural Society

MISSING YOU

The Committee of the Horticultural Society have really been missing you all taking part in the spring and summer shows we run every year and I hope you missed taking part as well. Lockdown has given us all a chance to stay home and find hobbies to pass the time. Making, baking and family games nights have all featured in my house and I am sure you have had fun too. As we head towards Christmas and start to think about what gifts are allowed, I wanted to give you a few fun ideas for the family along the lines of our shows. We have cooking, growing and handicraft sections so thought you may want to try something new.

Creamy Fudge goes down well with everyone, sitting in front of the fire with a throw over your knees or out walking the dog on a cold chilly morning, fudge will help. Plain or with added nuts, raisins or chocolate chunks, it is easy to make with the added bonus of making a great present if wrapped up in a pretty parcel.



You will need a 18cm shallow non-stick square tin, medium heavy-based saucepan, sugar thermometer (needs to get to 116°C), wooden spoon, knife.

Ingredients: 450g of caster sugar, 50g of unsalted butter, 170ml can of evaporated milk, 150ml of milk and ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract.

1. Grease the tin.
2. In the saucepan add the sugar, butter, and the milks and on a gentle heat dissolve the sugar and butter, stirring with your wooden spoon.
3. Bring the mixture up to 116°C or 240°F and then remove from the heat. Add your vanilla extract.
4. Now being incredibly careful because it is extremely hot, and off the heat beat the mixture with the wooden spoon until it is thick and

paler in colour for about 3 mins. (Best for a grown up to do this bit). If you are adding nuts or raisins now is the time to do that.

5. Pour your mixture into the tin and leave to cool down.
6. When it is cold you can lift the fudge from the tin and cut into small squares.

Wrapped in baking parchment and tied with a nice ribbon you can give a handmade gift to a loved one or just enjoy it yourself.

It is also at this time of year the sloe gin makers are busy. Any fruit liqueur can be made, and we have had some genuinely nice ones entered in our shows. Crème de cassis is a sweet and dark red liqueur made from blackcurrants, sugar, red wine and then brandy, gin or vodka. I am doing raspberry vodka because I had a glut of raspberries, so they went into the freezer a month ago. Now I am adding caster sugar, and vodka (keep the bottles) to a sealable container, demijohns are good but a Kilner jar works just as well. Shake the mixture every day for two weeks then strain off the raspberries. Bottle up the mixture in the vodka bottles you kept. At this stage you have a chance to adjust the sweetness of your liqueur by adding more caster sugar, the more you add the syrupier it gets. You can keep for about two years if you want to, but I suggest at least two months and again this can make a genuinely nice gift.

The Horticultural Society hope you find these ideas useful and that you can enjoy a creative time with your family and enter one of our shows in the future.

Mandy Boon



Nature Notes: Daddy Longlegs

The last few days several people have been complaining via social media about a plague of Daddy longlegs. It would seem some people have quite a phobia I can appreciate that to a certain extent as they are quite large as far as flies go and they are not particular as to where they land. Like moths they are attracted to lights and often get into tents in



the evening and can be a nuisance in that respect. Some people call them mosquito; that is quite wrong, they belong to a very different family group. Daddy long legs is a name given to the Crane fly, the nice thing is they are completely harmless when they are in the fly part of their life cycle; they don't bite or harm us in any way. But it is the larvae stage of their life cycle that is the problem. At this stage they are Leather jackets and live in the upper layers of soil feeding on roots of grass and other plants and can destroy a nice lawn or grass field the first indications of the problem will be brown patches appear but these very quickly spread as the leather jackets feed on the root system so if we see a lot of Daddy longlegs in late summer and autumn the next thing is going to be leather jacket problems through to next year. Since 2016 when all the chemicals which kill leather jackets were banned Farmers and horticulturists haven't got a chemical to fight the pests so the plague of daddy long legs which we are seeing now is bad news. It has been estimated that there could be as many as a thousand crane flies per head of human population in the UK. The good news for people who don't like them is they only live for three days.

Last month I talked about the Swallows preparing to leave us as they start their migration to warmer parts for the winter but as one lot of birds leaves us another joins us. Yesterday on my early dog walk I was treated to a fly past by a flock of Geese at least fifty in number in

the familiar V flight formation calling to each other as they fly. I would love to know what they were saying, could it be 'Look at that funny old man!' Or, 'Are you sure this is the right way?' Or maybe the young ones saying, 'Are we there yet?' Whatever it is it's something which I find fascinating and they always do it well. Curiosity killed the cat as the old saying says and on this occasion it got the better of me and I had to look it up and this is what I found out, as written.

Geese fly in a V formation because it reduces the naturally downward pull of gravity. When the birds fly behind one another it creates free lift, in essence it allows the birds to save energy. Each bird flies slightly above the one in front of him resulting in reduced wind resistance, the birds take it in turns being in front and they chat to each other to keep the flock together especially the juveniles. They honk when they take off to let the whole flock know they are leaving.



So once again I am amazed by wild life. How on earth have birds been able to work this out and moreover pass the knowledge on from generation to generation, and share the knowledge on to other species of water fowl - swans and other heavy weights all use it.

Over the next few weeks there will be many more birds returning from colder parts of the globe for the winter many of them water fowl which prefer the coastal areas with mud flats and wet lands but they also feed on farm land. There are some farmers who have had massive problems with these geese in the past devastating winter sown crops (a goose eats the same amount of food in a day as a fully grown sheep) so they now sow special crops on certain fields just for the geese, then re-sow the fields in spring after the birds have migrated this is one of the many ways that farmers are the custodians of the countryside and wildlife.

Mac Beanland

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Since March, getting out in the countryside has been greatly encouraged.

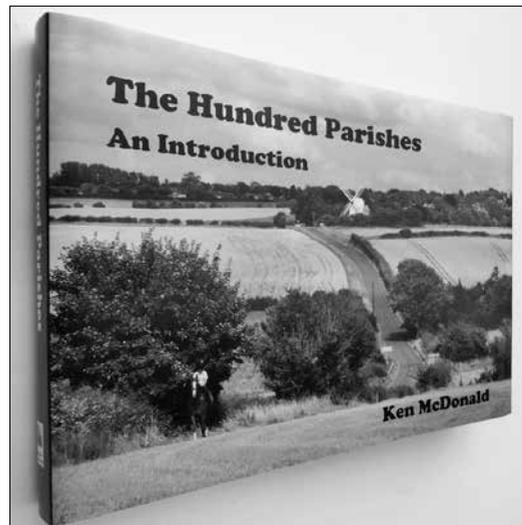
Successive generations have shaped this fertile land. They have planted hedges and cut wood from ancient, coppiced woodlands, tended animals, planted orchards and harvested honey from bees. Profiting from this productive land, many constructed beautiful buildings that reflected pride in their locality. Today, a significant number of these are listed buildings. Our rich architectural tapestry is brilliantly recorded in

The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction. There are a few copies still available by mail order from the Society's website or from local bookshops and Tourist Information Centres.

Museum collections of assorted artefacts and documents add another dimension to the human history of the area. Saffron Walden Museum opened in 1835 and houses a real treasure trove of historical and other material relating to the local area.

A recent grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund is enabling the development of plans to attract new visitors to the museum and adjacent castle.

Smaller museums hold collections of agricultural implements, local artefacts and archive material. The Grade II* building of the Forge Museum in Much Hadham houses a collection of metal tools while striking medieval wall paintings reveal details of Tudor fashion. The Ashdon Village Museum has exhibits about life in the 20th century and the curator is updating information on the family trees of seventy local residents and preparing displays in anticipation of re-opening in the future.



We look forward to the time when our museums can safely reopen. Meanwhile, we can enjoy our heritage and celebrate the past by continuing to explore outdoors. With regular additions of new walks to the Society's website, we can use these descriptive routes, some as short as 1 mile, to explore the cultural landscapes that make up the Hundred Parishes.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee.

The article above reminds us of the many small museums in this area which like our own Cottage Museum have sadly remained closed since March. The book referred to is richly illustrated with colour photographs and has several pages about Great Bardfield. Copies are available from Between the Lines. Ed



Cottage Museum Great Bardfield



The Cage Great Bardfield



Countryfile

I have just been reminded that another Countryfile is due on the 14th of October, that is just two days' time, so I had better put my thinking cap on. Looking back over the last issue, I particularly congratulate Janet on being able to keep the magazine going during these difficult times. She has been able to keep 30 pages of local news flowing, and the article written by Anna Bass pays a just tribute to her and her recent achievements. I hope she will be able to carry on and keep this magazine going in the present manner for the months and years to come.

Last month I referred to the situation which has been caused by the present restriction in the number of people, limited to six at any one time making it difficult for people who were planning a turkey for Christmas lunch. I suggested that the turkeys should be grown to a smaller size, but a turkey farmer has suggested that that would not be very practical at this stage, and it would be more practical to have one bird to be carved into different joints or to divide the party into two and have the one bird, served hot one day and cold on another. The only problem would be who to invite on which day! I think we have decided what to do, the rest of the family have made their own plans.

We have just heard that there has been an increase in the outbreaks of coronavirus in Essex so we shall have to expect an increase in the number of restrictions on people's activities, so we can expect there to be more in the near future.

As far as the farming scene goes it is very much like last year when we had an early start to the drilling activities in the autumn but then the weather turned wet and we did not get much more drilling done before Christmas as the land was too wet. This was followed by a long dry spell which was unseasonably cold and the crops that were in the ground were slow to get going. Consequently, they were slow coming to harvest, and so they were lower in yield and thus we had one of the poorest harvests we have had for many years. However, it doesn't necessarily follow that the same thing will happen this year

but there is a tendency for it to do so, as we have not got very much drilled so far.

Tony Hayward

Thank you for your kind words Tony, the BT is a team effort and I'm sure everyone will keep working together to keep it going! Ed

Hare Coursing

Would you know what to do if you saw Hare Coursers?

Gangs of men with lurcher dogs and 4x4 vehicles appear on the fields around our village after harvest, when the land is easy to move across. In the daytime you may see these coursers walking the fields, ready for a hare to bolt. Their cars will be close for a quick getaway or parked up near our homes and footpaths. When a hare makes a move to escape they release a lurcher to pursue it. Someone from the group will film the chase, and live-stream footage to gamblers who have bet money on the result. Which dog will kill the most hares?



Prized dogs are bought and sold on the dark web for up to £20,000.

Illegal but common in our area, hare coursing is punishable by imprisonment and fines of up to £5,000. The crime is hard to prevent because of the type of people who do it; often arriving in convoy

with 'minders' to the front and rear. In cars with false number plates, uninsured and untaxed. Individuals have tried to confront coursers and been abused; farmers received death threats and have seen their barns and cars burnt down.

These violent groups have known links to illegal gambling, firearms and drugs. Their crimes in our area involve poaching and trespassing, road traffic offences, damage to crops, and property. They prey where local farmers feel isolated and inflict huge suffering on hare and deer populations. It's best to avoid engaging with coursers.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO if you witness this kind of activity?

PC Matt Harkness, from the Rural Engagement Team, advises **"If you see coursing in progress, dogs chasing hares, or people breaking into land to course, then please call 999 immediately"**. Give the exact location, with descriptions and numbers of vehicles, people and dogs. It is also useful to mention you are aware of police **Operation Galileo**.

The most helpful location code comes from smart phone app What3Words. Download the app in advance and use it to generate the unique code for your precise location. Pinpointing a remote field is a struggle without that vital detail! If the report is **second hand, or suspected, or a few hours old then, please still report online at www.essex.police.uk or by calling 101 or anonymously to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.**

Small pieces of information build an intelligence picture of what's happening, who is involved and where the police are needed most. Left unreported then Essex Police can't get a clear idea of crime levels around our village or police it effectively.

PC Harkness said "We're working closely with the local rural and farming communities as well as partner agencies to combat this issue. The information we receive really has helped the team. I ask you to **please continue to assist us and combat this illegal activity.**"

Twelve tips for Christmas and after

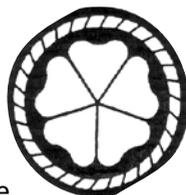
With Christmas rapidly approaching here are a few tips to help keep you safe at home, shopping, visiting (whilst Covid compliant), and after Christmas too:

1. If you must store Christmas food and drink, presents and other goodies within garages and outbuildings, ensure that they are out of

sight and that it's securely locked with good quality well fitted locks. Treat your shed to a shed alarm.

2. Avoid tempting window shopping burglars; don't leave presents and valuables on full view in front of a window.
3. Ensure that your windows and doors are closed and locked before leaving the house (remember your face covering). Don't attract burglars to your home by leaving it in darkness; leave lights on timers, perhaps treat yourself to a TV simulator too.
4. Lock gates to keep unwanted visitors from getting to the rear of your home.
5. Whether an evening out or Christmas shopping keep your bags, handbags, wallets and mobile safe. Busy places make it easier for the sneak thief, so be alert at all times.
6. Park safely; look for a Parkmark accredited car park www.parkmark.co.uk/car-park-finder Check that your car is locked before you leave it and don't leave valuables and gifts on display in your car.
7. When you go to leave the house and find that your car is all iced up, don't leave it unattended with the engine running to de-ice it. It only takes a second to steal your car and it would invalidate any insurance claim.
8. A small Christmas get together – make sure that you have considered how you are getting home in advanced and avoid using unlicensed taxi's. Ensure you drink responsible, social distance and are aware of your surroundings, whilst keeping your drink and belongings safe. www.suzylamplugh.org/Pages/FAQs/Category/personal-safety
9. Watch what you put on social media; check your settings to ensure that you are not broadcasting when you are not at home and the lovely gifts you may have received.
10. After Christmas don't advertise your nice gifts to the thieves by putting the empty boxes out for collection, disguise them, fold them up inside out or put them inside another non-descript box.
11. Record your new property free on www.immobilise.com , install tracking and security apps on relevant electrical and computer products.
12. Have a Great Christmas and New Year!! For further crime prevention advice see: www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/

Great Bardfield Primary School



It is hard to believe that we have almost completed the first half of the autumn term, at Great Bardfield Primary School. We have adapted well to our 'new normal' and we are becoming used to the changes which have had to be made to our daily school routines. It makes us sad that we can't see all of our friends at Break and Lunchtimes and that we have to learn differently when we sit in rows in our classrooms. The start and end of the school day are also very different because there isn't the opportunity for parents to meet up and chat on the playground as they normally would. We are all having to be very resilient and thankful for the opportunities we do have to be together in as safe a way as possible. We are realising more now than ever the important lifeline that our school is in holding everyone together.

We want to try to keep our curriculum and activities as engaging as possible and we have been determined to be outside in the fresh air. To help with everyone's emotional health and wellbeing we have been continuing with our regular PE lessons and the children have been able to access an extra-curricular sports club every week. We were also determined to deliver the annual cycle safety awareness programme Bikeability; our Year 6 children really enjoyed taking part in this earlier in the term. We also arranged for a session to be delivered to our Reception and Key Stage One children on how to scoot safely. We did smile when they fondly named it Scootability!

We still have lots to look forward to this half term with a week filled with Harvest activities. Sadly, no Harvest Assembly this year which the children all absolutely love but we are instead looking forward to



sharing our work on our school website. We are also looking forwards to organising tours of the school for pupils who will be starting school in September 2021. These will take place at weekends in November and for more information please see the school website or contact the school office.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

REMEMBER REMEMBER

Eleventh of November. The eleventh hour on the 11th November 1918 is recognised as Armistice Day and the end of the First World War. The significance of that date and subsequent conflicts where service men and woman have died or suffered injury or trauma, is now recognised as Remembrance Day, with Remembrance Sunday being the second Sunday in November where services and ceremonies are held to remember, and give our respect to all those that serve and have served our Country.

Leading up to Remembrance Sunday has been the annual Poppy Appeal which was first started in 1921 to raise funds to help service men and woman. This appeal is as important today as it was nearly 100 years ago. Sadly, because of Covid 19 restrictions, our normal manner of raising funds through the selling of poppies door to door, and retail outlets as well as through organised various events are curtailed this year. Whilst the Royal British Legion will undertake a National TV campaign I wish to let you know what we as a local RBL Branch are doing.

Jane Welsh has kindly offered to sell poppies and metal pins in the Post Office, Finchingfield. The local branch is trying to set up a donation page on Facebook and for those, including myself, not on Facebook there's the National Poppy Appeal donation site.

We will be laying wreaths in Finchingfield but at present it is uncertain what format it will take. I would like to thank Chris Green for his help in writing this article.

Finally and most importantly keep well and stay safe.

Tommy

Father Robert Beakin plans to lead a memorial service at the war memorial in Great Bardfield on Sunday, 8th November at 3pm. Ed

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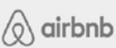
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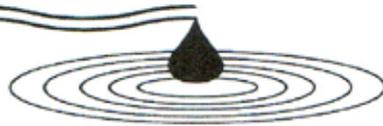
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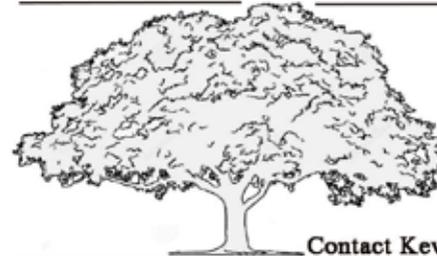
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We cater for Gluten Free, Vegetarian and Pescatarian morning and afternoon.

Pat is the Manager of our After School Club and children can be picked up from their classrooms or from the School's Clubs and brought back to us. Children from other schools can be dropped off directly at ours. Tea is served at ours 4.15-4.30.

A Hot Tea is provided every day and alternatives are available, such as hot soup, salads, sandwiches or fruit. There is always a pudding after the meal and a snack when they arrive.

We have Playstations, 'Monitored' Internet, X Box, Crafts, Board Games, a Football Table and Themed Days (see below) - everything is monitored to be age appropriate.

Here is an example of what we have running for kids to join in if they wish:

- Monday - Group Games/Board Games
- Tuesday - Crafts
- Wednesday - Story Times for Early Years
- Thursday - Art Club
- Friday - Film & Chill

There are limited spaces available so please book up block bookings, as soon as possible. Odd days/adhoc bookings are available and can only be made 1 week in advance and will depend on space being available. All bookings are payable and there are no monies returned.

You are welcome to come and visit us for a look around with your children on Mon-Fri 3-5.30pm. We look forward to seeing you and making your child feel really at home.

Great Bardfield After School Club, Great Bardfield Primary School, CM7 4RN
 Tel: 01371 811580 Email: afterschoolclub@outlook.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/GBASC Website: www.greatbardfieldasc.btck.co.uk

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

Simon Walsh 810451

Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402

Janet Dyson 07957 483207

Iain Graham 07831 595555

Braintree District Council 01376 552525

Councillors Cllr Peter Tattersley Cllr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk 07938 930003

Cllr Vanessa Santomauro Cllr.vsantomauro@braintree.gov.uk 07740 348528

Police for non-emergency enquiries dial 101

for emergency enquiries dial 999

Little Bardfield Parish

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

Clerk to the Parish Council Liz Williamson 07866 400607

LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com

Uttlesford District Council Saffron Walden 01799 510510

Councillor Alan Storah cllrstorah@uttlesford.gov.uk

01799 525924 or 07772760289

Bardfield After School & Holiday Club Pat Moore 811580

Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club Clifford Richardson 810782

Bardfield Charities Brenda Poston 810519

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 Historical Society Marilyn Edwards 810555

Gt Bardfield Horticultural Society Linda Prior 811641

Parish Priest Great & Little Bardfield Fr. Robert Beaken 810267

Catholic Priest Fr. Richard Rowe 830808

Town Hall Bookings sarah.hymas@yahoo.com

Tuesday Club adriennepoulson@btinternet.com 811401

Children's Clinic (Finchingfield Freshwell Health Centre) 810328

Refuse Collections Gt. Bardfield Tuesdays from 7am,

L. Bardfield Thursdays from 7am.

Mobile Library Little Bardfield, Styles,

Thursday 10am fortnightly

Gt Bardfield Town Hall,

Thursday 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) Wed and Sat 10am – 12.00 noon 811327

The Samaritans 01245 357357



Autumn Leaves by Janet Dyson