

July
2026

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News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield

Bardfield Times



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

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Front Cover: Parish Council Chair Carolynne Ruffle leads the March
(Photo Ros Stone)

Above: Residents of Great Sailing who joined the walk



Bardfield Cinema Club



Great Bardfield Town Hall



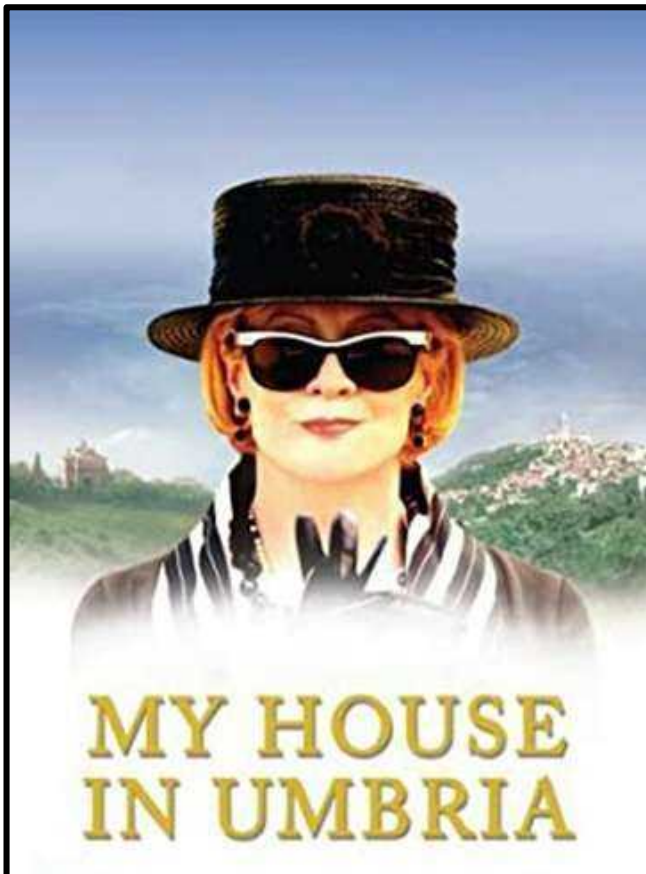
Doors Open 7.30pm

Film Starts 8.00pm

Members free

Non-members £7

Friday 10th July



Maggie Smith

Editorial

inevitably, this issue has a strong emphasis on one topic – the proposal to site a quarry for the extraction of silica sand in open countryside on the borders of our historic and environmentally precious village. It must be quite rare for a community to be, apparently, so solidly united in their objections to something but the outcry on social media, objections sent to the Parish Council and the hundreds joining the protest walk suggest that this is the case. As the many photographs show, people (and dogs) of all ages and states of fitness came out in force to walk to the site and, in the process, to see just how beautiful the countryside surrounding our villages is on a sunny, June morning. The strength of support shows that this is an issue that matters to many people who believe that the effects of ten years of excavation on air pollution, traffic movements, wildlife habitats and the historic landscape are unacceptable. The Parish Council is well-organised and has access to excellent expertise to enable them to produce a robust objection on many fronts (See PC Report, p.4). However, when the planning application is submitted objections from individuals and groups will play an essential part in fighting this proposal. Stay engaged - do not give up!

In other more cheerful news, we must congratulate our wonderful primary school on their recent successful Ofsted Inspection. Our Headteacher, Mrs Crow keeps us all up to date with her delightful accounts of school life each month in the BT but it's fantastic to read the words from the Ofsted report affirming what we know about our school:

“The school’s ethos of ‘courage, compassion and community’ shines through in everything that leaders plan for the pupils.”

Well done to everyone involved!

Janet Dyson, Editor



St Mary's Spring Fayre

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making the St Mary's Spring Fayre such a success. From foot-tapping numbers by Bardfield Brass to the melodic sounds of Bardfield Chimes, from delicious freshly cooked bacon butties to homemade cakes and scones, from the chance to pick up a bargain on the bric-a-brac stall to the opportunity to win on table top games, a raffle and a tombola, visitors from far and wide enjoyed the day.



“I'd like to thank everyone who made the day so special,” said Spring Fayre organiser Mandy Boon. “Thank you to the visitors and all our amazing volunteers, to the Horticultural Society for their help, and the generous local businesses that supported us including Jesmond Garage and also Brook Street Butchers.”

The event raised £1089 for St Mary's.



Cheryl Campbell

Great Bardfield Parish Council Report

Gravel Pit Proposal

At the time of writing (mid June) there is no formal application for the proposed silica sand pit. Until the application is in front of us we cannot write our objection as we need to consider all the information and reports as submitted by the applicant to inform our own objections. In the meantime, the Parish Council are pulling together offers of help from those with knowledge and expertise on several topics (highways and transport, ecology, the environment, health issues etc). We also need help to take photos and measure traffic movements to include in our objection, so if anyone can help (with expertise or time), please contact Kate Fox, the Parish Clerk on 01371 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

The Community Walk to view the site and raise objections to the proposal has now taken place and was extremely well attended by residents of the Bardfields and the Salings. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success. See more about this amazing event elsewhere in this issue.

Pavilion Summer Fun Day – 7th June

We hope you all enjoyed the Pavilion Fun Day held on 7th June to mark the first anniversary of the Pavilion opening. Thanks to those who helped on the day and particularly Kellie and Scott Forbes for providing the 'Fun', The Vine for the bar and members of Bardfield Men's Football team for the BBQ. Don't forget to sign up for the Pavilion 100 Club to help raise funds for this excellent village amenity.

Planning Applications

- Walfords Villa, Mill Road – outline planning permission for a new home on this site. The Council objected to this application as the proposed property was outside of the village development line.

- Land Adjacent Stables Retreat - permission in principle for the erection of 2 dwellings. The Council felt they could not support this PIP, as the proposed development was outside the village development line, on the edge of the hamlet of Bridge End and within the ecologically sensitive valley of the River Pant. Reference was also made to the previous application in 2022 which was rejected on appeal.
- Activities off Bendlowes Road and Deer Park View: Following sighting of works and reports from residents, the Clerk contacted the landowner, who confirmed this work was being undertaken by Mulberry Homes. We are expecting another application for development on this land.
- Songsters, Brook Street There was no objection to this tree management work.

Bin Collections

We are now a couple of weeks into the new bin collection arrangements. I hope you are all getting the hang of these arrangements. Any issues should be reported to Braintree District Council's waste management team.

Many thanks to Pam Blackbourn who continues to remind those on Facebook which bins are being collected each week. I'm glad there is someone who can work it out. I keep having to refer to the schedule on my fridge.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 8th July 2026, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. Our meetings are open to the public. If you plan to attend please contact Kate Fox, Parish Clerk on 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

Carolynne Ruffle
Chairperson

Great Bardfield Primary School

The summer term is flying by at Great Bardfield Primary School and, as always, it is packed with excitement, achievements and plenty of memorable moments.

The warmer weather has meant the return of one of the children's favourite activities – swimming in our outdoor heated pool. There has been a real buzz around the school as pupils have eagerly headed to their lessons each week, building confidence and developing new skills in the water. The return of our much-loved swimming teacher, Mr Grose, has been warmly welcomed, and his enthusiasm and encouragement have helped make every session enjoyable and rewarding.

Another highlight of the term was our annual Sports Days. Blessed with a sunny, dry spell after what felt like days of endless rain, the children embraced every activity with enthusiasm, determination and plenty of



Year 5 girls enjoying Blakeney

smiles. Across the two days, pupils took part in a mixture of skill-based challenges and traditional races, showcasing excellent teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship throughout.

One of my proudest moments was watching the way our children approached both success and disappointment. They celebrated their achievements with humility, encouraged one another wholeheartedly and showed real maturity when things did not go their way. The courage and compassion they demonstrated were a wonderful reflection of our school values, and I could not have been prouder of every single child.

Earlier in the term, for our Year Five and Six pupils, the much-anticipated residential trip to Aylmerton provided adventure, challenge and lots of laughter. The children were a credit to the school throughout the week and impressed the outdoor activity leaders with their resilience, independence and positive attitudes. Highlights included the famous mud walk to Blakeney Point, spotting seals during a boat trip and, of course, the end-of-week disco, where some rather enthusiastic dance moves were on display! The children returned home with muddy shoes, tired legs and, hopefully, memories that will last a lifetime. We are incredibly grateful to the staff who gave up their time to make such a special experience possible.

As one group of children prepares to spread their wings, another is getting ready to begin their journey with us. Our Year 6 pupils have been busy attending transition events at their secondary schools while also rehearsing for their end-of-year production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We cannot wait to see their hard work come together on stage. At the same time, our reception team have been visiting our newest Reception children in their homes and nurseries ahead of their September start. It is always a special time of year as we celebrate those moving on and look forward to welcoming new faces into our school family.

Last Saturday, we fundraised in style with the return of Bardfest. Once again, the school field was transformed into the heart of the village, filled with music, laughter and a fantastic community spirit. It was wonderful to

see current families, former pupils, future families and local residents all coming together to enjoy the day. From live entertainment and delicious food to games, stalls and plenty of opportunities to catch up with friends, there was something for everyone. Events like Bardfest remind us just how lucky we are to be part of such a supportive and caring community. A huge thank you must go to our incredible PTA and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise such a successful event. Their dedication and hard work not only created a wonderful day for everyone to enjoy but also raised a fantastic £3726.09 which will directly benefit our children.



Year 3 boys giving their all in the sprint race

As we head towards the end of another successful school year, we have much to celebrate and much still to look forward to. We are incredibly proud of all our children and thankful for the continued support of our families and the wider village community, who help make Great Bardfield Primary School such a special place to learn and grow.

Liz Crow,
Headteacher

A message from Great Bardfield School governors

Our school had an Ofsted Inspection last month, and we are delighted to let you know that it went very well. The experience is never an easy one, but our staff spoke positively about the process, which has changed in the last year. The rigorous investigation into many aspects of school functioning still stands, but the terminology is different, and there is no one overall word which sums up. Instead, the Inspectors decide if the school meets the “expected” standards, which were described by the lead inspector as “a very high bar”. We were therefore thrilled to be told that our school met the standard across every area, with no exception.

What was particularly pleasing was the number of positive statements included in the report, showing that the inspectors recognised many of the fabulous key features of our school. We’d like to share some of them with you:

“This is an inclusive school - Pupils are happy and excited to come to school - They want to be here - Their attendance is high - They are ready for learning and settle quickly to the task at hand - Pupils have positive relationships with staff - They know that they can share their worries and concerns - Pupils trust staff to look after them, this helps them to feel safe - Pupils behave well - Pupils are considerate and respectful towards each other - Pupils... are keen to learn and interested in their learning - The school's ethos of 'courage, compassion and community' shines through in everything that leaders plan for the pupils.”

Our school values are Courage, Compassion and Community and we are so grateful to so many of you in the community that contribute to our school in many different ways, from volunteering, donating time and support via our fabulous PTA, coming into school for celebrations and spreading the word about all our achievements. Thank you!

We recognise that a successful Ofsted inspection only happens because of the dedication, commitment and very hard work of all the staff, which is on-going throughout the year- not just for the days of the inspection!

Parents are also an incredibly important part of the school community, and play a vital role in helping the children and staff all work together, so

we thank them, and are sure they will be pleased with the successful outcome of the Ofsted experience.

While we are really pleased with so many positives in the report, we understand that there is always room for improvement. Please know that we will continue to work with Mrs Crow and her team to ensure that the Ofsted recommendations will be implemented, building on our acknowledged strong foundations.

We would like to thank all of our staff for their continuing over-and-above hard work, and in particular our Head Teacher, Liz Crow, who has brought into the school leadership her unfailing professionalism, distinctive warmth, and ever-open-door approach, which underlie our school values of courage, compassion and community.



On your marks ...

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

Get set ...

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



Go ...

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



**Please
join us!**

The Tuesday Club

The speaker at our June meeting was Sara Lodge a writer, broadcaster and academic who you may have heard on Radio 4's Woman's Hour and other radio programmes. Her latest book "The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective" follows the lives of the often-overlooked women who successfully investigated crimes in Victorian Britain, working both with the police and with agencies.

As early as 1861 advertisements were being placed in newspapers specifically for the services of these women, who had certain advantages over their male counterparts. (The police force had tried using men in drag, but for some reason this didn't work!).

These female detectives used their gender as a primary investigative asset. Society tended to underestimate women and so they were able to operate invisibly, gaining access to private households as domestic staff and uncovering clues that their male counterparts would not have been able to reach. The 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act allowed women to petition for divorce in the courts, but they needed evidence of adultery as well as other things. Enter the female detectives, who could covertly track adulterous spouses through pubs, hotels and brothels. Victorian women's clothing, with its heavy petticoats and bustles, offered hiding spaces for weapons and recording equipment. They were especially useful in targeting female-centric crime, working to uncover backstreet abortionists, searching female suspects for stolen goods and investigating cases of domestic violence.

The public were fascinated by these 'super sleuths' and they began to appear in novels and in stage dramas, often portrayed as feisty, larger than life characters, with the audience delighting in seeing the men (the villains in these dramas were always men!) getting their just desserts. But although they were perceived as formidable, and indeed some were, others worked in this career simply to earn money and went home to a husband and children at the end of the day. A fascinating subject, which Sara brought to life for us.

In July we will be taking a month off from our usual meetings and enjoying our Summer Lunch at the Axe and Compasses in Aythorpe Roding. So enjoy the sunshine, and there will be details of our August meeting in the next Bardfield Times.

Cherry Whitby

Artists of Great Bardfield: Sheila Robinson

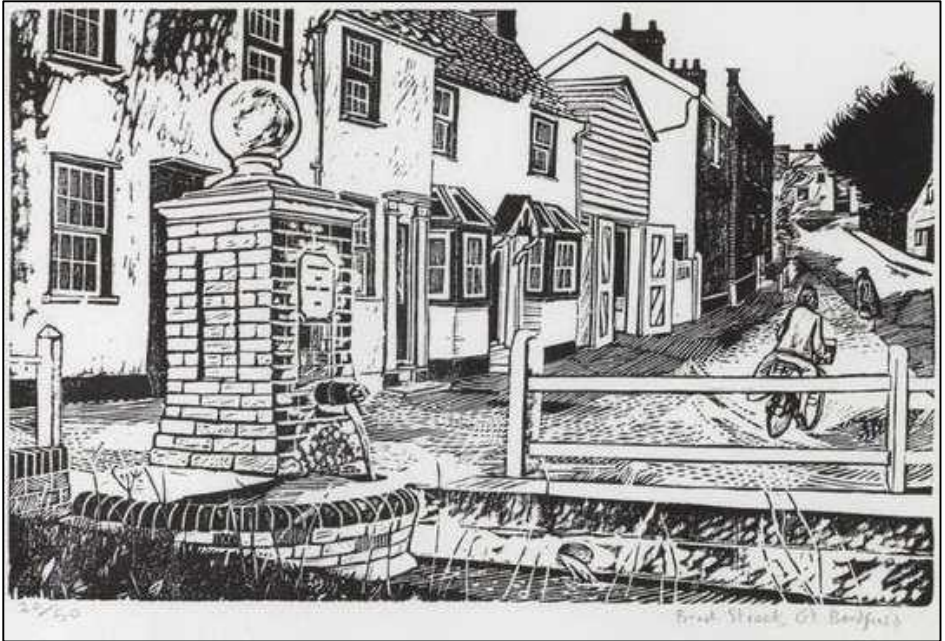
Perhaps, like many of the Bardfield women artists, Sheila Robinson is not as well known as she should be. She produced an impressive and varied body of work and her life became a significant part of the story of the Great Bardfield artists. After the war, having been conscripted to work in the Land Army, Sheila was successful in winning a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Art in London where one of her tutors was Edward Bawden. She worked with Bawden on a number of projects and following her marriage to artist Bernard



Woodcut: Bridge over the River Pant

Cheese came to live in Essex, at Bardfield End Green with their two young children. Sadly, the marriage did not last and Charlotte and Edward Bawden were a great support to Sheila helping her to find a home for herself and her children in a small semi-detached thatched cottage in Bridge Street, Great Bardfield, known as Cage Cottage due to its

proximity to the village 'cage' or lock-up. Their daughter, artist Chloe Cheese, recalls how excited she was to be in the village and able to attend the local school: 'I have fond memories of the walk to school, the teachers and my fellow pupils seemed the best of small rural schools. My classroom was little changed from Edward Bawden's illustration for *Life*



Woodcut: Brook Street Gt Bardfield

in an English Village (1949)'. Sheila, like the other artists in the village, was a working artist creating work in a wide range of media. She created prints, lithographs, illustrations for books and BBC publications, and developed an innovative technique of printing using cardboard - collagraphs. She printed everything herself using her feet to create pressure in limited floorspace. Her home was also her studio. The cottage was decorated with wallpaper and posters designed by Sheila. She used one of the downstairs rooms as a studio with a rack for drying prints. Printing inks were kept in an old hat cupboard. The children grew up surrounded by their mother's work. Chloë notes perceptively: '... the

men's studios were all quite grand, not for domestic use, but Sheila had little space and no funds to build or rent more. Staying at home meant that her children were close by - a consideration male artists might have preferred to reverse.' Sheila's reputation as a printmaker grew and she later taught at Walthamstow School of Art and the Royal College of Art. The family were forced to move out of Cage Cottage in 1967 when the thatched roof was destroyed by fire but she continued to work until her death in 1988. Examples of her work and that of Chloë Cheese may be seen at the Fry Gallery and in the Bawden Room in Great Bardfield. I have drawn on the book *Sheila Robinson: Balance, Humanity, Nature* (2024) for this article.



Sheila Robinson in her studio at Cage Cottage

Janet Dyson

Town Hall Happenings

Our annual Art Show on 24th & 25th May was a great success and it was very busy on both days. There were 60 artists, displaying 250 pictures. We made a profit of £2,450.93 which will be used by the Town Hall to maintain our facilities and keep hire costs as low as possible.



A very special thanks to Katrina, Peter and Sheila without whom it would not be possible to hold the Art Show. Many thanks too to Carolynne Ruffle and Helene Brown who assisted Peter & Katrina on the Sales Desk. Thanks to Chris & Amy, Ian Ruffle and Mike Jones for their help with the Art boards and to Ian Holmes for putting the advertising boards and banner up. Thanks too to Patricia Walsh for organising the Kitchen and her merry band of ladies who assisted.

The Boules competition is in full swing and the Boules Court is busy most evenings with happy players, the sound of boules and sometimes, the clink of glasses!

The Boules Finals are on the 26th September so put that date in your diary. It's a fun afternoon with Boules, BBQ and Music.

John Maidman

Chairman Great Bardfield Town Hall

SLOW YOGA FOR ALL ABILITIES

EVERY WEDNESDAY

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Great Bardfield Pavilion (playing field)

Booking ahead is recommended as it is a small hall

07975 806093

hello@yogawithtallulah.co.uk

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

FINCHINGFIELD AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Upcoming Events

Thursday 16 July 7.30pm. Talk on Essex Air Ambulance by Terry Nunn at Finchingfield Guildhall. Free entry. Everyone welcome. SEE POSTER.

September 12 and 13. Battle of Britain 85th Anniversary Display. Finchingfield Guildhall. 11 am to 4pm each day. **If you have any suitable WW II artefacts you would like us to display, please contact Ivan.**

Saturday 12 September. A return visit of the fabulous Galaxy Big Band. Finchingfield Village Hall 7.30 to 11. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Ra le. Tickets: £20 each or £30 for two. Dressing up welcomed.

18 November 7.30pm. Annual General Meeting at Finchingfield Guildhall. All welcome.

Saturday 5 December 3pm. We are again hosting our “C” Group Carol Service. Further details later.

Looking ahead.

November 9 2028 will be our Branch’s Centenary. We’d love you to help us celebrate this momentous occasion. Let us know if you have any ideas about events you would like to see.

Memories Are Made of This

We are hoping to compile a record of people’s memories, from the Second World War onwards. Have a think and let us know if there is anything you would like to tell us.

Our Branch would always welcome new members. Membership is £22 per year and anyone can join. RBL Membership Line is 0800-307-7773.

The Crafty Community Group meets every Tuesday from 2 to 4 in Finchingfield Guildhall. Our present project is making knitted or crochet poppies to (hopefully) decorate our War Memorials in Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End. If you would like to help, please drop in on Tuesday afternoons, or work at home. Patterns and wool can be provided. Please get in touch with Janet.

Contacts: Ivan Fleming (Chairman): 07525 751179
isskhs@googlemail.com
Janet Ridgewell (Secretary): 01371 810051
janet.ridgewell510@btinternet.com



A Talk 
With Essex and Herts
Air Ambulance

Led by Mr Terry Nunn

Thursday 16th July 2026

Free Entry

7:30pm Start

Everyone welcome

Light refreshments will be provided

This event is free and has kindly been sponsored by Finchingfield and District Royal British Legion

Bardfield Horticultural Society

Tony Hayward OBE

Members were saddened to hear that Tony had died at the end of April at the age of 94. He would have been 95 this month (July). Tony was a well-known figure in the village, being a local farmer and an active member of the Parish Council for many years. Also involved with other activities as mentioned in June issue of BT. He was the first President of Bardfield Horticultural Society from 1983 until 1989. He served with three Chairmen during that time: Tom Clucas, George Hervey-Murray and Len Horsnell. Tony was a very active President and was awarded Life Membership of the Society for his contribution to the Society's success. He very much enjoyed the shows; at that time, the tables were stored at Little's Farm and had to be transported to and from the shows. He kindly offered tractor and trailer to do this, usually done by George Cornell.

He enjoyed auctioning the vegetables etc at the end of the Shows, to help swell the Society's funds.

Our thoughts are with Ann, Robert, Julie and the rest of the family. They have many happy and precious memories of Tony.

Garden visit to The Gardens of Easton Lodge, May 28th



Well, it proved to be a hot day for the visit—but thankfully there was enough shade from the magnificent trees to keep everyone cool and enjoy the afternoon. About 25 members and guests arrived for the afternoon. We had a warm welcome and started our visit with refreshments and cake, served in the shade. We then split into two groups for our tour of the gardens. The walled gardens showed promise of lots of colour, vegetables and fruit to come. There are about 40 volunteers that help keep the garden well-tended. There is a wonderful collection of trees planted over the years, and still being planted. Orchids in the meadow for the first time this year.

We climbed the steps to the tree house, giving us yet another view of the garden and thoroughly enjoyed our walk around the Italian Gardens which had a lot of lovely flowering plants.



Our visit ended back at the refreshment area where we were able to visit the archive building and see what was available from the produce stall.

Our second garden visit was to Porter's Lodge, Icknield Way,

Cavenham. Bury St Edmunds, Tuesday, June 16th. We will have a report and some photos of this visit in the next BT.

Summer Show

Our Summer Show will be held on **Saturday, August 1st** in the Town Hall. We look forward to seeing many of you there as exhibitors and visitors. There are classes for flowers and pot plants, floral art, vegetables and fruit and domestic; including cakes, biscuits, jams, homemade wines and spirits. Handicraft classes to appeal to the creative and lots for the children to enter.

Entries to the classes is free. Entries should be registered before 10.15am and be staged by 10.30am as judging starts at 10.45am. The

hall opens at 8am. If you would like a schedule detailing all the rules, advice and the classes you can enter, they are available in some of the village shops and the Blue Egg or please call Linda Prior 07969 184845 or Lynne Joyce 01371 810524

The show will be open at 2.30pm until 4.30pm. Admission is £1- Members and children free. There will be a raffle, plant and produce stall and refreshments with homemade cakes.

Here is another recipe for you to try in advance, there was a recipe for Gingerbread Flapjacks in the June BT.

Boiled Fruit Cake (class 44)

- Place in saucepan:- 1 cup water, 1 cup brown sugar, 250 gm (9 oz) mixed dried fruits, 1 teaspoon bi-carbonate of soda, 1 teaspoon mixed spice, 100 gm (4 oz) margarine.
- Melt slowly until all dissolved, cool slightly.
- Add two beaten eggs and mix.
- Add one cup of plain flour and one cup of self-raising flour. Mix well with a wooden spoon (looks a bit of a mess!)
- Pour into a lined 18 cm (7") tin (can be round or square).
- Bake for 30 mins at 180° or gas mark 5. Turn oven down to 150° or gas mark 4 for approx. 45 – 60 minutes.
- Cover with brown paper if needed so as not to burn the top of the cake.
- Turn out onto wire rack to cool.
- This cake keeps and freezes well.

Autumn Social on Saturday October 3rd at 7pm in the Town Hall

We will be holding our "autumn social", including a lovely cooked supper and sweet plus a free glass of wine. There will be a magician as entertainment. More details in next BT, Facebook and posters in the village.

Horticultural Society AGM

Our AGM will be held in the Town Hall at 7pm on Tuesday October 20th

For any information about the Society please contact Linda Prior
07969184845

**BARDFIELD
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY
SUMMER SHOW
1 AUGUST
2.30PM TOWN HALL**



**Entries to classes
from 8.30 until 10.30.
Viewing starts at 2.30.
Schedule of all the classes available.
Call 07969 184845**

Greenfingers

And best in show is ... no not at Chelsea but in your garden! Take a look and you will find something that makes your spirits lift, the perfect rose, an eye-catching combination from your pot full of annuals. This could be the base of a planting of distinction and by chance this gardener

has one. An established smoke bush, *Cotinus coggygia*, the one with the deep plum leaves is smothered with a Clematis, pink flowered Ernest Markham that galloped away from his obelisk support to lean on the



shrub, a pleasant combination. Two years ago, a gift of Red Fox rose, where shall it go? Plonked it in a space and now it decided to be a moderate climber and joined the aforesaid plum and pink and what an eye-catching sight, and not a deliberate one, red and pink!! Never have considered that. Not everything is rosy in Greenfingers' plot, apart from devastation from muntjac's munching, costly failure of alstroemeria, £10 each x 2. In they went last July to add much needed bulk to a border, obeyed the garden gurus and covered with bark clippings in late autumn for winter protection, and where are they? Bare soil.



July Chores

- ✿ Pinks (small carnations) are worthy plants so increase yours by taking cuttings now. No greenhouse or cold frame required, just a shady spot. Maybe I'll plant a few in front of the stunning shrub, clematis and rose combo.
- ✿ Always pruning to do whatever the time of year, yes snip the wispy lengths on the wisteria to 5 or 6 leaves back to the woodier growth. While out there snipping tidy up shrubs that have finished for this season, philadelphus, weigela, spirea.
- ✿ A problem dry, shady area? No more if a scattering of seeds are watered in now such as common aquilegia, honesty and good old Mr Foxglove. Buying not required as gather your own seeds, or a friend or neighbour is certain to have some to offer.
- ✿ Alstromeraia failure; searching for seeds of the plain yellow or orange cottage type to sow in the spring.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Great Bardfield



Sunday Mass 9.30am

**Saturday Mass 5.00pm
(held at St. John's Thaxted)**

Fr Michael Britto
07917 319811

All welcome

Nature Notes: Coppicing

Last month I talked about coppicing to rejuvenate overgrown old hedges but coppicing is also a very old traditional woodland craft which dates back many years. If you take a walk in ancient forests or woodland such as Hatfield Forest, the New Forest or Thetford Forest, you will find trees such as hazel and sweet chestnut with lots of stems growing around a central stump; this is the result of coppicing. In a well-managed woodland these would have been harvested every ten years or so and used for making stakes and binders for hedge laying or fence stakes and rails woven into hurdles, gates and all manner of things, in some cases they would have been burned to make charcoal which had many industrial and domestic uses long before BBQs caught on. The life of a hazel tree left to grow naturally will have a lifespan of approximately 70 years but if regularly coppiced 200 to 500 years.



When woodland is coppiced trees such as oak are left as standards and form a canopy. This type of woodland management has many ecological benefits, by letting shaded light into the ground it encourages the growth of the dormant seeds of bluebell, primroses and wood anemones. By creating vegetational growth at different heights and density it creates habitat for all manner of wildlife like butterflies, nesting song birds, dormice and bats. So taking everything into account it is a fantastic form of woodland management. The downside is it is very labour intensive.

I can't believe it's 70 years since I left agricultural college and went to live in and work as a cow man on a remote farm in a part of north Nottinghamshire which time had left behind. We didn't have the luxury of mains electricity but we had tap water as long as no one in the village half a mile away turned a tap on.



After coppicing

The farm was a tenanted farm one of about six farms all part of a relatively small estate belonging to a Colonel Denison the Squire who lived up at the Hall. There were two relatively large areas of ancient woodland, one at each end of the estate, each was divided into four

segments by tracks known as rides leading to a central point. The woodland was coppiced on an 8 year rotation by 4 woodsmen and a game keeper who kept vermin under control as well as keeping the Hall supplied with game. As far as I know there was no commercial shoot. No one living on the estate was allowed to own a shot gun but once a year the game keeper asked us all to join him for a Day's Pigeon shooting. I could never work that one out. The woodsmen spent most of the winter in the woods but the rest of the time was spent in the estate yard which had a steam engine driving saws and machines, making gates, hurdles and all manner of wooden things. The woodland was a perfect mixture of habitats. I only stayed at that job for less than two years and moved back to the modern world, but a couple of years ago I went back to one of the farms which had a big sale of caterpillar tractors. The farm was next to the old estate yard which now lay derelict and I dare say the woodland is now neglected and overgrown like so much woodland.

Mac Beanland

Editor: You can read more about Mac's 70 years in farming in his fascinating book From smokestacks to haystacks.

the GREAT
BARDFIELDcharities
Charity number 207305



CAN WE HELP YOU ?

If you live in Great Bardfield, are a group or organisation benefiting Great Bardfield residents then you are eligible to apply for financial assistance.

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
Cathy Stuttle - 07711 880965, Rev Alex Shannon - 01371 810309

Or email GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com

Pavilion Fun Day

What a good day was had by all!

The weather gods smiled upon all that came to the Pavilion Fun Day on Sunday the 9th June! It rained on the Saturday and it poured on the Monday, but glorious sunshine was the order of the day for the Fun Day held at the pavilion playing field!

Many thanks must go to the many people who turned up to enjoy the multitude of attractions, and thanks to all the contributors who worked so hard to make the day a success. Special thanks goes to Kelly and Scott who kept the youngsters happy with a fabulous version of Forbsey Camps, Bardfield Brass for providing excellent music, Andrew Taylor for organising the Classic Cars show, the football club who kept everyone well fed with burgers and sausages, the PTA serving cakes and delightful snacks and not forgetting Spencer from The Vine for providing a first class bar service, much needed on such a very warm day!

The first draw of the Pavilion 100 Club took place with much interest, and the results were as follows;

1st Prize	£100	Ticket number 17	Kate Fox
2nd Prize	£60	Ticket number 44	Leon Lister
3rd Prize	£40	Ticket number 29	Ben Blackwell

Well done to all the winners, the next draw will take place at the beginning of July. There are a few tickets remaining for sale, so it's not too late to participate, application forms are available from the CIP office (next to the Town Hall). Don't miss out on a summer bonus!

Thanks once again for making the day such a success, see you all next year.

Iain Graham on behalf of the Pavilion Committee

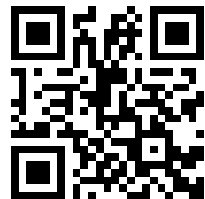
From the Vicarage...

This month's magazine issues present an opportunity again for me to share more of what is taking place in our churches over the summer. While these months are traditionally quieter in terms of activity, and they don't have quite the same round of festivals which take place at other times of the year, the hope (whether fulfilled or not!) of summer weather means there's more of an opportunity to enjoy some social time together.

With that in mind, I would like to draw your particular attention to the fact that, in July and August, we will be serving cream teas at 3.30pm before the evening service on the fourth Sundays at St Katharine's, Little Bardfield. When 5 o'clock arrives, we will then gather together for a short (roughly 20 minute) service of Compline, or Night Prayer – one of the most ancient and beautiful forms of service which the Church possesses.

We also have a fifth Sunday this year in August, which customarily sees us gathering from across the six parishes for a single service, which this August will be at St John the Evangelist, Cornish Hall End. We will have with us as our preacher for the service the Rev'd Katy Hacker Hughes, who leads our chaplaincy at the Wethersfield Base, holding services for those who are resident there, many of whom have faced persecution for their Christian faith in their home countries. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear from her about the realities of these men's experiences, and what has shaped and strengthened their remarkable faith. Afterwards, we will be gathering for a benefice lunch – for information about this, and indeed for questions about other aspects of church life, do get in touch with our administrator, Mrs Caroline Shingleton, on pant.valley.churches@gmail.com.

With six churches all working together, keeping in touch with everyone who might want to know what's going on can be challenging, so here's a reminder that we have a weekly email newsletter, to which you can subscribe via the following link: <http://eepurl.com/ifMMHz> or QR code below. Also this month, don't miss the fact that we are advertising for two employed roles within the



churches, so please either consider applying, or passing details to anyone you think might be interested. And, of course, as well as the seasonal or one-off events mentioned above, we continue to have a number of regular monthly or bi-monthly coffee mornings at several of our churches, not to mention our toddler group and book group, so there are many opportunities to come and meet at church events, and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Services for July 2026

Sunday 5 July – Fifth Sunday after Trinity

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

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Family Eucharist – Great Bardfield

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

Sunday 12 July – Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

(with breakfast served afterwards in church)

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Family Eucharist – Wethersfield

5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 19 July – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield

11am Morning Worship – Wethersfield

Sunday 26 July – Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford

10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

11am Morning Worship – Finchingfield

5pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

(with cream teas served beforehand from 3.30pm)

Regular Services and Events during the week

- Monday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield
1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club –
Between the Lines, Great Bardfield (not meeting in August)
- Tuesday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great Bardfield
'St Mary's Munchkins' story & song time with refreshments
- Thursday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield
10am 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

Do you know someone who would like to work for our churches?

The Benefice of the Pant Valley Churches is looking to recruit to two new posts. The Pant Valley Churches are six Church of England parish churches in rural north west Essex: Cornish Hall End, Finchingfield, Great & Little Bardfield, Shalford and Wethersfield.

Children & Families Worker

We are looking for an enthusiastic new member of our ministry team to help grow our work with local children and their families. There are a number of areas covered by our group of churches which have new families moving in, and we would like to reach out to them and to those who have already had some contact with the churches through Christenings or services on special occasions. The successful candidate will be enthusiastic about communicating the Christian faith to young people, will be able to build on good existing links with our local schools, and will help facilitate a range of activities, including baby & toddler groups, after school clubs and Sunday morning worship or Sunday school provision. The role will largely be based in Finchingfield & Cornish Hall End, but will involve contact with the other parishes too as we work closely together across parish boundaries. It is an occupational requirement that the postholder be a practising Christian under part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010, and the appointment will be subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check. Our churches are fully committed to the safeguarding of children, and indeed all who have contact with us,

and the postholder will be expected to undertake Church of England safeguarding training and adhere to the relevant policies. The role will be part-time, 12 hours per week, which will include a regular Sunday morning element (not necessarily every week). We are offering a salary of between £8,700 and £9,200 per annum depending on prior experience, with additional pension contributions. The term of employment will be one year, but there is a possibility of extending this if we are able to secure additional funding.

Church Buildings Maintenance Officer

We are looking for a dedicated person to assist with the maintenance of our church buildings. The successful candidate for this role will take on some of the administrative and practical tasks associated with three of our churches, in Finchingfield, Cornish Hall End and Great Bardfield. This will include liaising with Church Councils, contractors, volunteers and Church authorities to plan and execute necessary work, both regular and one off. We are privileged to have such beautiful and ancient buildings, which are important as places of worship not only for our congregations but the whole local community, and so we are looking for someone who is able both to manage the complexities of organising work within the context of a historic building and appreciate and respect their particular significance. The role will be part-time, 10 hours per week, which can be worked flexibly; the successful candidate will, however, need to be available for meetings with contractors and church officers, and will need to have a means of transport to allow them to reach the relevant churches. We are offering a salary of £7,800 per annum, with additional pension contributions and expenses for travel. The term of employment will be two years, but there is a possibility of extending this if we are able to secure additional funding.

To find out more about either of these roles, please email our administrator, Mrs Caroline Shingleton, who will be able to provide you with a complete job description on pant.valley.churches@gmail.com. The deadline for applications is Friday 17 July, and we hope to interview candidates at a convenient time the following week. If you would like to apply, please send a CV and covering letter to our administrator at the email address above. Rev'd Alex is also happy to talk informally if you would like to know more about either role.

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Link : <https://forms.office.com/r/zhiftZrbb>



Shalford Parish Council on behalf of the DigiGo NORTH ZONE—comprising x7 Parish Councils was awarded a £48,000+ grant in 2025 to help improve the existing transport service and establish a North Zone Bus User Group. “NBUG”.

3 Fields District Cllr **Michael Staines** is also attending the Essex County Council Integrated Passenger Transport Unit event on **24 JUNE 2026** 10am to 12noon in Chelmsford to discuss rural North Zone services with the new County Cabinet lead for Public

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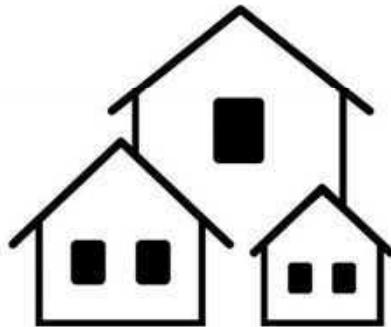
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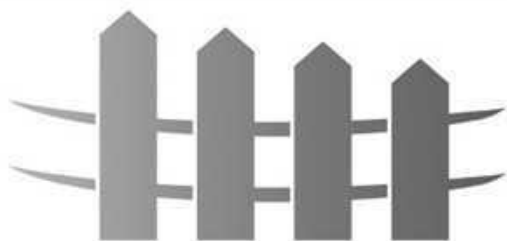
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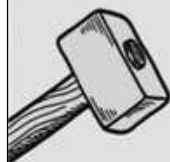
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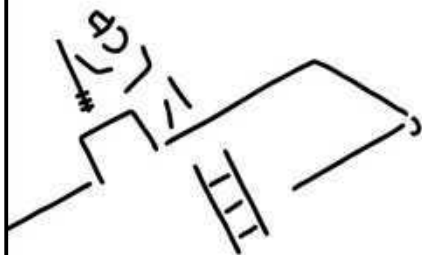


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Rebecca Jordan on 07961078522 or
Claire Gri ths on 07983 823388
Email: rebecca@greatlodge.co.uk
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Town Hall Diary

July 2026

Monday 6 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 7 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
Wednesday 8 th	Pilates	11.00am
	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm
Friday 10 th	Cinema Club	7.30pm
Monday 13 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 14 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
Wednesday 15 th	Pilates	11.00am
Monday 20 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 21 st	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
Wednesday 22 nd	Pilates	11.00am
Monday 27 th	Pilates	6.30pm
Tuesday 28 th .	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
Wednesday 29 th	Pilates	11.00am
Friday 31 st	Horticultural set up	4.00pm

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Clerk to the Parish Council Kate Fox clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk 810111
Councillors
Janet Dyson 07957 483207
Iain Graham 07831 595555
Darren Hockley 810836
Peter Walmsley 07843 498253
Mark Wells 07788 318118
Richard Winsborough 07917462320

Little Bardfield Parish

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

Braintree District Council

Councillors Cllr Michael Staines 07922 487666
Cllr Mark Ault 07903 744481

Uttlesford District Council

Councillor Cllr Mike Tayler cllrtayler@uttlesford.gov.uk
Police for non-emergency enquiries dial 101
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1st Finchingfield Scout Group Mark Wells 810447 mark.2millside@btinternet.com

Bardfield Charities Nick Holland 07795 280647

Bardfield Horticultural Society Linda Prior 07969 184845

Bardfield Players Ian Ru le 810986

Gt Bardfield Allotments Adrian Thomson

Gt Bardfield Bell Ringers Nick & Sarah Holland 810209

Gt Bardfield Historical Society tim_regan82@hotmail.com

Gt Bardfield Pre-School Kathy King 811580

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

Muddogs Youth Football Tony Clarke-Holland 07710 506007

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Tuesday Club Marilyn Edwards mazjedwards@yahoo.co.uk

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

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