

October
2026

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where sold

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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Cover: refurbished plaque on Town Hall.

Above: Horticultural Summer Show. Photographs by Doug Joyce.

**Some local Christmas
elves are looking for
anyone in Great or
Little Bardfield who
might be alone this
Christmas!**



**To deliver a
Christmas
hamper to
with lots of
treats inside!**

**If you know anyone who would like one,
please send their name and address
(with any food or access needs) to Vic at:
Victoria.graves@gmail.com
or 07444 556257
before 30th November.**



Bardfield Cinema Club



Great Bardfield Town Hall



Doors Open 7.30pm

Film Starts 8.00pm

Members free

Non-members £8

Friday 2nd October



Editorial

Our cover this month shows the sign on the Town Hall which has been beautifully refurbished by Mark Hitchcock. The sign was designed by Michael MacDonald and carved by Colin Tubbs to commemorate the Parish Council Centenary in 1996 and features the Bardfield Oxlip which has become the village symbol. So don't forget to look up next time you pass the Town Hall and admire Mark's meticulous work. You can read the story of the Bardfield Oxlip in an excellent book by Doug Joyce, published by the Historical Society, and also on the new information board in Pipers Meadow designed by local artist David Meldrum.

In this issue we have more stories of Bardfield, a fascinating account by Donald Jennings, of his memories of domestic life in Bardfield in the 1930s (p.16). Conditions were harsh with no indoor plumbing, water, gas or electricity. This resonated for me as I was born shortly after the end of the war and remember that the weekly wash was done just as Don describes. Water was heated in a large 'copper' which had to be filled with jugs of water from the single kitchen tap. The bath was filled in the same way and was never a pleasant experience especially for the last person to bathe in the fast-cooling water. Our copper was called the 'Hurry' - a misnomer as it took ages to fill and even longer to heat. The process of putting the clothes through the mangle was another chore my mother hated - unsurprisingly. It's hard to imagine how all this has changed within living memory - how fortunate we are now. See Jenny Rooney's request for people to share their memories of Great Bardfield on p.17.

There are many interesting events planned for the autumn. Don't miss the popular Scarecrow Festival and the annual Craft Fair, both happening on October 10th. And Bongo's Bingo organised by the Friends of Bardfield School on Oct 17th promises to be a riotous evening!

Finally, with Christmas approaching it's time to nominate those who may be alone at Christmas and would like a hamper full of Christmas treats. See the poster on the back inside cover with details of how to apply.

Janet Dyson
Editor

Remembering Helen Drummond, 13 September 1943 to 31 July 2026.

My mum, Helen Drummond, made Great Bardfield her home in 2001, settling happily at The Old Telephone Exchange (TOTE) in 2004. She had lived all over the country, but Great Bardfield was where she truly found her place.

Mum spent her career in London, beginning at the Bank of America in the early 1960s before joining Clyde & Co in 1964. She remained there for over forty years, a highly valued secretary whose quiet skill and steady professionalism supported generations of solicitors and partners.



Retirement in 2008 allowed mum to throw herself into village life. She made dear friends through the Tuesday Club, the Horticultural Society (winning 2nd prize for her flapjacks), the Community Choir (an asset to the altos), and as “Miss Drummond” at the village school, helping children with their reading. She was a familiar and friendly presence around the village - visiting friends, popping into the shops, and attending events.

Covid slowed things down and afterwards mum preferred the comfort of home: her favourite chair, her cat Mabel curled on her lap, birds at the feeder, and the TV on. I’m deeply grateful to the “Blue Egg gang,” who continued to include her and bring joy to her days when getting out became harder.

The last few years were challenging as her health declined, but we still found laughter - our roles reversed, and giggling remained a constant to

the end. Mum stayed at TOTE until June 2025, then moved to Redbond Lodge in Great Dunmow, where she was cared for with exceptional kindness and compassion. She was content, often visited, still laughing and still herself.

Mum died on 31 July 2026, six weeks before her 83rd birthday. She was our family matriarch, and she was my mum, whom I loved dearly.

Looking through old photos has been poignant and comforting. They show her life clearly: family, friends, and cats - Puff, Maximillian, Sheba, Rosie, Daisy, Bentley, Maurice, Oliver, Mango, Pawpaw, Mushroom, and finally Mabel, who now lives with us.

People remember mum with great affection. They speak of her steadfast friendship and gentle presence. Words used to describe her - kind, thoughtful, sweet, gentle, generous, loyal, lovely - are all true.

Friends and family joined us on Friday 4th September 2026 to give Mum a good send off at St Mary's, Great Bardfield, and the Dunmow Crematorium - thank you to Reverend Shannon, the bell ringers, the organist and the Bardfield Community Choir who made it such an uplifting and fitting tribute.

Sarah Webb



Great Bardfield Parish Council Report

October 2026

Memorial Green

For almost 20 years Mick Gell has often been seen tending Memorial Green, where the war memorial stands, commemorating those from Great and Little Bardfield who died in the two World Wars. As a volunteer, Mick has spent many hours cutting the grass, pruning and replacing the roses, and carrying buckets of water during dry periods. Mick has now decided to retire. Following Armistice Day this November, Mick will stand-down from this voluntary role. The Parish Council, and I'm sure all residents, would like to thank Mick wholeheartedly for giving his time over very many years to ensure that this important space, in the centre of our village, is kept tidy and well-cared for. Thank you Mick!

Is there anyone who could offer some time to care for Memorial Green? If so, please contact Kate Fox, clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk

Other Village Maintenance

The Parish Council has undertaken a survey and review of all its assets in the village. These include litter and dog bins, streetlights, the Fountain, the Cage, and the white railings alongside village greens in the centre of the village. Thanks go to Cllr Peter Walmseley for pulling all this information together, and to Harry Walmseley for helping to find all the streetlights and litter bins. This data will be used to plan maintenance jobs around the village. Our two telephone boxes are already earmarked, and work has started to remove rust and to repaint both boxes. This work is being undertaken by John, our village caretaker,

We also wish to do similar work to the white railings at School Green and Causeway Green. We would like to organise a working party at weekends over the next couple of months. Materials will be supplied. Please contact Kate Fox (contact details at the end of this report) if you can offer to help us with this project.

New Defibrillator

The CREAMER Fund has offered to supply us with a third defibrillator and the Parish Council has gratefully accepted, planning to site this at the pavilion/playingfield. This will provide life-saving equipment in a location at the southern part of the village, off Bendlowes Road, and where sporting activities take place. The Parish Council will take on the

monitoring and maintenance of the device as they do for the other two defibs in Great Bardfield (outside the bookshop on the High Street and the village school in Braintree Road).

Planning Applications

- Stable Retreat, Beslyns Road: a retrospective application for the retention of a covered vehicle shelter for agricultural use. Provided the planning officers at Braintree District Council are satisfied that the location, scale and materials used are appropriate, there were no objections from the Parish Council.
- Tree works at 16 Durham Close (within the Conservation Area). No objection.

Highways

Heavy goods vehicles continue to cause problems, causing damage to vehicles, properties and the road surface over the last few weeks. All these incidents have been reported. The Parish Council is working with our District Councillors to provide evidence of these ongoing problems to Essex Highways in support of a proposal to restrict heavy goods vehicles using local country routes when they have no reason to do so.

Essex County Council have, at last, inspected the Vehicle Activated Sign in Dunmow Road, as you enter the village. This has not been working for some time. They have advised us that they will be undertaking repairs to this sign.

Local Government Reorganisation

The planned move to unitary authorities from the current system of county and district councils has been cancelled by central government recently. We understand that the next local elections will take place in May 2027.

Advance Notice: Firework Event

With support from the Parish Council this event will take place at the playingfields on Saturday 7th November. Funds raised go to the village school, pre-school, cricket club and pavilion.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 14th October 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

Fireworks Display

Saturday 7th November 2026

GATES OPEN AT 5:30PM | BONFIRE TO BE LIT AT APPROX 6:45PM

DISPLAY STARTS AT 7:00PM

BBQ AND HOG ROAST | BAR | LIGHT UP TOYS

PRE-BOOKED ENTRY PRICES

ADULTS: £9.00

UNDER 16: £2.50

FAMILY: £23.00
(2 Adults & 3 Children)

UNDER 4: FREE

**SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO BOOK**



OR VISIT

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BARDFIELDFIREWORKS

ON THE GATE TICKETS - SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

ADULT: £12.00 | UNDER 16: £3.00 | UNDER 4: FREE

**GREAT BARDFIELD PLAYING FIELDS, BENDLOWES ROAD,
BRAINTREE, CM7 4RR**

★ Children must be accompanied by an adult ★

CHARITY EVENT SUPPORTED BY GREAT BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

FUND RAISING FOR GREAT BARDFIELD SCHOOL PTA,
GREAT BARDFIELD PRE-SCHOOL,
LITTLE BARDFIELD CRICKET CLUB AND THE PAVILION FUND.

Bardfield Boules 2026

This report has to go in before Boules Finals Day on 26th September – I hope you didn't miss the fun. Was the weather good? Was the competition exciting?

During the summer the competition has moved on and the Quarter Finals were due to be played by the 20th September. Each quarter final consists of the best of 3 games.



Two of these quarter finals have been played and 2 semi-final places taken by Ian & Alex Ruffle who won 13-2 & 13-6 against Paul & Nancy Turnpenny; and Tom & Louise Grinstead who won 13-1, 13-5 against Iain Graham & Andrew Taylor. Will there be another Ruffle/Grinstead Final. Not if the remaining teams have anything to say about it. With 2 more quarter finals games yet to be played (as at mid-September), the other two semi-final places will go to either Jo & Jeremy Goldsmith or John & Chris Maidman and Julie McSween & Tom Carey or David & Jane Beanland.

The final results will be reported in the November edition of the Bardfield Times. Entries for the 2027 competition will open in April next year – not long to wait!

Madame Boules

Great Bardfield Primary School

A new school year always arrives with its own unmistakable energy. Corridors fill with excited voices, exercise books open onto spotless first pages and every item of uniform still seems to have its owner's name in it. September brings anticipation, a few understandable butterflies and the promise of countless opportunities. Here at Great Bardfield Primary School, our pupils have returned eager to learn, our staff are full of fresh ideas and our classrooms are once again buzzing with activity.



Riley and Sienna settling in nicely to Garwood Class

After the farewells and celebrations that marked the end of the Summer Term, it has been especially lovely to open our doors to our new Reception children. They are already finding their feet, forming friendships and discovering the rhythms of school life. Their enthusiasm is infectious, whether they are exploring a new story, investigating the outdoor area or proudly navigating the lunch hall. Watching every child begin a new stage of their journey is one of the many reasons September remains such a special time in our school calendar.

Throughout the year ahead, Courage, Compassion and Community will continue to shape life at Great Bardfield. We want children to have the courage to persevere when something feels difficult, the compassion to notice when somebody needs support, and a strong sense of responsibility towards the community around them. These values will be presented and discussed in my first assemblies of the new year and we will continue to proudly present certificates each week to those children who have gone the extra mile in exemplifying our core values.

Since becoming Headteacher in 2022, I have been committed to strengthening the relationship between the school and the village it serves. It has been wonderful to see those connections continue to deepen through shared events, visits from local residents and opportunities for pupils to learn about the people, places and stories on their doorstep. These partnerships enrich children's education and help them understand that they are valued members of a much wider community. This year I hope to continue to build these important connections.



Edward enjoying the trikes



Teddy enjoying the home corner

The Autumn Term is already gathering pace, with pupils preparing to take on a range of responsibilities across the school. From School Ambassadors and Class Councillors to Eco-Monitors, Well-being Champions and House Captains, these roles give children a genuine voice in school life. They learn to listen carefully, represent others and turn thoughtful ideas into positive action - important skills for tomorrow's leaders, whatever path they choose.

We are also looking forward to meeting families whose children will join our Reception Class in September 2027. Our forthcoming Open Days (**Saturday 3rd October 10am-12pm and Friday 16th October 1.30pm-2.30pm**) will provide an opportunity to visit our school, explore the learning environment and discover what makes Great Bardfield such a fantastic place to begin a child's educational journey. Please share this information with friends and family.

Here's to a year filled with curiosity, friendship and achievement - and to keeping at least some of the paint on the paper!

Liz Crow,
Headteacher

Pavilion Hundred Club Winners

August Draw

1 st Prize	£100.00	Jackie Newton	No 3
2 nd Prize	£60.00	Iain Graham	No 8
3 rd Prize	£40.00	Wendy Temblet	No 66

September Draw

1 st Prize	£100.00	Adrian Hitchcock	No 45
2 nd Prize	£60.00	Chloe Coles	No 73
3 rd Prize	£40.00	Michael Hales	No 28



CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
10AM - 4PM

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL



JEWELLERY • WOOD TURNING
GLASS FUSION • CANDLES
HANDMADE SOAP
DÉCOUPAGE & MORE

LUNCHES, TEA,
COFFEE & CAKE

For further info contact: mrspwalsh@aol.com

The Tuesday Club

I hope everyone had a good summer, and with autumn approaching we now get back to our normal routine of monthly speakers. On 8th September we welcomed back Amanda Sutherland for a Styling Masterclass. Amanda has had an amazing career working on costumes at the Royal Opera House as well as on TV productions such as Downton Abbey and West End productions like Jesus Christ Superstar. She showed us dressing tips for different figure shapes, and told us that there were two important aspects to styling: colour and shape. Many of us get stuck in a rut when it comes to styling, but Amanda showed us clever tricks to suit different body shapes. For example, with an athletic shape wearing a V-neck or asymmetric top would break up the straight body contours, empire-line dresses are good for apple shaped bodies, and hourglass figures need to add interest around the top area to achieve balance. We were also given tips on how to wear hats and fascinators.

As before she brought along her hats, scarves, mittens and jewellery, which we were able to buy for ourselves, or as some early Christmas shopping! Amanda is a very talented young lady and we look forward to inviting her back on a future occasion.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th October, when Dr Neil Dickinson will be talking to us about “Arsenic’s Toxic Legacy”, a look at how, during the 19th and 20th centuries, arsenic and its compounds appeared to offer marvellous solutions particularly in the areas of medicine, fashion, design and pest control, so long as an increasingly blind eye was turned to the problem of its dreadful toxicity. The talk should be interesting, as it is presented with horror and humour in balanced measure. One not to be missed.

If you would like to join us in October or for any of our talks, you would be very welcome. Visitors pay £5 and membership for the whole year is just £30. Doors open at 2.00pm and the talk starts at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments.

Cherry Whitby

GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB
ARSENIC'S TOXIC LEGACY
People, places, pests and peppermints



THE GREAT LOZENGE-MAKER.
A Hint to Paterfamilias.

A talk by DR NEIL DICKINSON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13th 2026 at 2.30
GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome
Visitors: £5 per talk

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

BARDFIELD SCARECROW FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

11AM - 4PM

MAPS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY FROM GREAT BARDFIELD
PRIMARY SCHOOL - £2 EACH



- FARMERS MARKET STALLS
 - PRIZE FOR EVERYONE WHO FINDS THE SCARECROWS
 - FOOD
 - DRINKS
 - CAKE STALL
 - BEST SCARECROW PRIZE
 - TOMBOLA
 - SCARECROW SHOP
- TO NAME A FEW...

Town Hall Happenings

By the time you read this the Boules Finals will have been completed. If you see this online the Finals are on the 26th September at 2pm with Boules, BBQ and Music.

On 24th October we are delighted to welcome back Ben Waters and his Band. Ben plays Rock 'n' Roll & Boogie Woogie. There will be a Licensed Bar. Those of you who remember Ben's last visit will no doubt wish to buy tickets. Those who don't remember will also be welcome to a fun evening. Our website: greatbardfieldtownhall.com has a link you can use to purchase tickets.

I would also mention a date for your diaries Tuesday 15th December at 7pm The Town Hall Carol Concert with Bardfield Community Choir and Bardfield Brass. This is always a good fun evening.

As always, our Management Committee tries to provide a good venue for local groups and individuals. If anyone feels they could help us in any way, please get in touch.

John Maidman

Chairman Great Bardfield Town Hall Management Committee



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Mass 9.30am

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

Fr Michael Britto

07917 319811

E-mail: brittofather@yahoo.com



All welcome

Great Bardfield in the 1930s

Here are a couple of extracts from Donald Jennings' memories of growing up in Great Bardfield. Don (1921-2003) wrote his life story in 1999 aged 78. His family lived at Pant Place, Bridge Street.

"We lived in a cottage, one of three, water was obtained from a pump in the garden, we had paraffin lamps, no sink, no water laid on and no radio. The toilet was up the garden, and if it was dark, you carried a candle. Toilet rolls were not heard of for the likes of us, so we had to use newspaper. Dad used to empty the bucket, after digging a hole in the garden but later on the council laid on a soil cart that made things easier provided you stayed indoors at the time of emptying. Also lamps and globes had to be cleaned and filled with paraffin. Mother used to wash up in a bowl on the table, and bathing was in a tin bath in front of the fire, that is, after heating the water either in saucepans or in the copper in the shed.

I think it was about 1930 that electricity was supplied to the village. My dad and mum had electricity put on in the house. It was lovely after paraffin lamps; then we had an electric boiler that made quite a difference both for baths and washing clothes. Before that, Mum used to have to wash the clothes in the shed, often an early start, 5 or 6 in the morning. Mum had to first light the fire under the copper boiler for hot water, not gas or electricity – but paper, wood and coal – and then wash the clothes, rubbing by hand and ringing out in the ringer. The ringer had wooden rollers and had to be turned by hand, then hung out on the linen line. I must say – time was important! To keep up with the neighbours it was often the question, who was first hanging out the washing?"



Electricity came to Bardfield in the late 1930s, replacing oil lamps and candles. This oil lamp belonged to the Bawdens in Brick House. Edward Bawden preferred lamp or candle light for drawing.

“As the river Pant was only 200 yds down the road and the water mill about a mile and a half along the river, my brother Doug and I were very interested in making a boat each, so this we decided to do. Doug’s was to be made of wood, a canoe for two. And mine was to be wooden and covered in layers of canvas. I think it finished up painted blue and named Bluebird.

It took us many weeks to make these boats. We obtained permission from Mr George Piper to launch them in the river from his market garden. He had about two acres of ground beside the river, for his market garden. Our family and George were local bellringers so we did know each other very well. George sold his garden produce at his brother’s shop just across the road. At last our boats were finished, so now to try them out. I think Doug was first to launch his boat, he was bound to, as he was the eldest. Very gingerly he got in but was a bit uncertain at first, it seemed very tippy. I don’t think he ever tipped out but he got used to it and with paddles was able to use it very satisfactorily.

So far so good, now it was my turn. My boat was more flat-bottomed than Doug’s so I found it quite good. It was not so tippy and easier to handle. The disadvantage was Doug’s would go fast; mine was slow. I can’t remember if we had any leaks, even so we would mend them. We had lots of fun on the river. It was not a fast-flowing river and not very deep. Quite near our mooring we had a road bridge to go under on our way to the mill. It was good fun to go under the road bridge in a boat instead of over the top by road. As we moved on we saw quite a few back gardens that came down to the river; we paddled on through meadow land and on to the mill and it was as far as we could go by boat. It was a water mill, still working, the mill was built across the river with sluice gates and a water wheel, and the house very close beside it.

The Smith family owned and worked the mill. I remember when we used to go near the mill in our boats, Miss Hilda Smith would yell out, ‘Get away from the mill it’s too dangerous and deep water.’ Neither myself nor Doug could swim.”

The Historical Society is very grateful to Andrew Taylor for passing on Don’s life story. Look out for further extracts in future editions of the BT. If you have memories of Great Bardfield to share, please let us know.

Jenny Rooney



Ben is back!

Great Bardfield
Town Hall

October 24th 2026

*A familiar face to many in Great Bardfield.
Having performed many times at
High Barn and the Town Hall*

Ben Waters

With the Ben Waters Band



A night of Rock 'n' Roll & Boogie Woogie

Tickets £15
Licensed Bar
Doors open 19:00
Limited seating



Tickets are now on sale via the
QR code or
greatbardfieldtownhall.com

Enquires to: Sarah, 07368 503459
barfieldtownbookings@gmail.com
What3Words ///polite.torso.proper
Dunmow road, Great Bardfield, CM7 4SA

Please note this is a standing event.
However, some seating around the sides will be
available on a first come first served basis.
Licensed bar until 11:00 pm ; Carriages 11:30pm

Great Bardfield Town Hall is a registered charity no. 301308

BARDFIELD

PRESENTS

BONGO'S BINGO

WE ARE BACK!!!!

LIVE DJ AND BONGOS PLAYER

**SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER
GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL****1830 - 2330
BAR OPENS AT 1830 - EYES DOWN 2000****£30 PER PERSON
UNLIMITED PROSECCO & BEER FROM 8 - 9PM****TICKETS SALES GO LIVE ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2026 -
PLEASE EMAIL
BARDFIELDBONGOSBINGO@GMAIL.COM**

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO GREAT BARDFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

STRICTLY 18+

Greenfingers

Oh no! The work in the garden begins again but think positively, no more lugging heavy watering cans. Don your woolly pully and start with a pleasurable task like cutting off spent flowers, dahlias in particular, as frosts are generally much later than writers of gardening books suggest.

One can maintain colour till mid-November on aforesaid dahlias plus cosmos, snapdragons, geraniums simply by dead-heading. Next a tidying by clipping down of finished plants but not penstemons (Easter for those). And the third task is to look for seedlings and take command over



nature! Foxgloves, forget-me-nots, primroses, honesty, love-in-the-mist (*Nigella*) - move them to where you want them!

October is a perfect time to sow some hardy annuals for early flowering in May, poppies and there are some lovely types, e.g. small and pale grey, English marigolds and *Nigella*.

Then the '3 Ps', pleasure of planning, purchasing plants and planting for spring-bulbs, heathers, grasses, violas, it is a feast of temptation in the garden centre.

To end just a little snippet learnt from a visit to Lion Seeds at Maldon. A sweet pea festival with advice from the experts:

- ✿ Nothing to gain by Autumn sowing of sweet peas. What counts is nutrition and a litre of water per week per plant and just misting with a watered-down feed of the leaves, contrary to all catalogues and books.
- ✿ For those with a cold greenhouse there are seeds of a Japanese variety to sow and grow in this environment and actually flower in pots by April. How exciting. I am searching now to buy the seed.

Bardfield Horticultural Society

The Bardfield Horticultural Society Summer Show was held in the Town Hall on Saturday, August 1st. Before this year's show we wondered how many exhibits we would receive as we have had such little rain. But we needn't have worried! On the day we were amazed to see so many wonderful entries, **thank you to all our exhibitors.**

We had some new exhibitors in many of the classes. In the afternoon we had a lot of visitors who were able to enjoy some lovely flowers, flower displays, buttonholes, photographs, a wonderful array of handicrafts, a good selection of domestic entries plus the delightful array of exhibits in the children's sections. The raffle was very well supported with the winners taking away lots of lovely prizes. This year the plant stall was smaller than usual due to the hot summer but again some interesting plants to buy. Tea and homemade cakes were served at The Bell Inn next door to the hall. Thank you to Chris and Jason – we very much appreciated you kindly offering to host our refreshments. Thank you, to everyone who helped serve the teas and wonderful homemade cakes. Donations were gratefully received by the Horticultural Society.



Some of the flower section of the Show

**A huge “thank you” to everyone who entered and visited the show.
It was lovely to see everyone and much appreciated.**

Here is a list of the winners of the Cups, Trophies and Shields for the Summer Show 2026: Congratulations to you all – well done.

<u>Exhibition Perpetual Challenge Cup</u> Most points in the Flower Section	Mr A. Ripley
<u>Brunwin Perpetual Challenge Trophy</u> Best Flower Exhibit in Show	Mr A. Ripley
<u>Novice Class Certificate</u>	Ms K. Paxton
<u>Coronation Perpetual Challenge Cup</u> Most points in the Vegetable Section	Mr P.G. Morris
<u>P.G.Morris Perpetual Challenge Cup</u> Second highest points in the Vegetable Section	Mr A. Ripley
<u>Worshipful Company of Gardeners Diploma in Horticulture</u> Best Vegetable Exhibit	Mr A. Ripley
<u>Bob Gray Trophy</u> Best Potato Exhibit	Mr P.G. Morris
<u>Banksian Medal</u> Most points in the Horticultural Sections (Flowers & Vegetables)	Mr B. Gibson
<u>Domestic Perpetual Challenge Cup</u> Most points in the Domestic Section	Mrs J. Morris
<u>Domestic Shield</u> Best Exhibit in the Domestic Section	Mrs P. Coles
<u>Men’s Domestic Cup</u> Best Exhibit in class 48	Mr M. Rees
<u>Palmer Perpetual Challenge Trophy</u> Most points in the Floral Art Section	Mrs M. Boon
<u>Worshipful Company of Gardeners Certificate of Merit for Floral Art</u> Best Floral Arrangement	Mrs M. Boon
<u>Clucas Perpetual Challenge Cup</u> Most points in the Handicraft Section	Mrs M. Edwards



Vegetable and Handicraft Sections of the Show

CR Tubbs Perpetual Challenge Shield

Children age 9 and over

Maddy Woodcock

Evelyn Swift Challenge Shield

Children age 5 – 8 years

Lucy Woodcock

Tony Hayward Challenge Shield

Most points in Spring & Summer Shows - Children

Maddy Woodcock

Bardfield Horticultural Challenge Trophy

Most points in Spring & Summer Shows (excl. flowers & veg)

Mrs J.T. Morris

Reg Dent Perpetual Challenge Cup

Most points in Spring & Summer Shows (all sections)

Mr P.G. Morris

President's Award

For Outstanding Services to the Society

Mrs T. Bolsom & Mrs H. McGlynn

Inter-Village Cup

Gosfield

Our special Prize for under 5's went to Emily Walmsley.



Tansey Bolsom receiving the President's Award

The Autumn Social this year will be held on **Saturday, October 3rd at 7pm** in the Town Hall. Don't forget to bring your own drinks for the evening. All tickets should have been booked by September 14th. We look forward to seeing you there to enjoy a lovely evening and see our wonderful magician, Jack Blackburn.

Our **AGM** will be held on **Tuesday, October 20th** at 7pm in the Town Hall. We look forward to seeing you all there. After the formal meeting we will have cheese and wine followed by a talk by Deborah Hart. For the last twenty years Deb has been running willow and basket weaving workshops all over the UK and Canada, for the National Trust, English Heritage and the Royal Horticultural Society plus many other charities and schools. She has constructed willow

structures in private gardens, as well as building fences and gardens at the Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. She has worked in horticulture for 26 years. She is a keen wildlife gardener. Willow is a naturally grown biodegradable material, and, as well as being beautiful to look at, creates an essential overwintering habitat for ladybirds, lacewings and beetles as well as many other creatures. This should be a very enjoyable and interesting evening---so do come along and enjoy.

There will be a raffle and you will be able to renew your membership by paying cash or electronically**.

Annual Membership is £5.00 per person and has the benefits of reduced prices to our events.

****Electronic payment as follows:**

Account name: Bardfield Horticultural Society

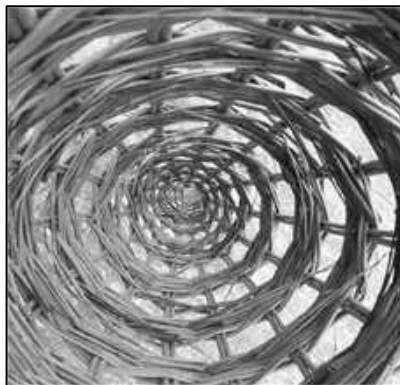
Sort code: 09 01 55 Account number: 02585706

Please put your surname as the reference and membership.

Another date for your diary—**Friday, December 4th** Floral Art morning in the **Quaker Meeting House** 10.00 am - 12.30 pm. The theme is **'Christmas Delights'**. All materials will be supplied. Tickets £15 per person. Please remember to bring your secateurs. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Numbers are limited so please let us know if you would like to join us at this fun morning a.s.a.p. by contacting Sue Dennison 07702 238 987 or email-suedennison50@gmail.com for a ticket.

BARDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

AGM & WILLOW WEAVING DEMONSTRATION



**Tuesday 20 October at 7pm
Great Bardfield Town Hall**

Come along and hear how the society has been doing over the last year. Enjoy a glass of wine and a demonstration of willow weaving arranged for your entertainment. We will have a raffle, and you will have a chance to renew your membership.

Nature Notes: The Barn Owl

Recently my son Richard rang me up to say he was topping a grass field and he had come across a sick Barn Owl lying in the grass and he was asking my advice as to what to do with it! So that he could get on with his work I drove over to meet him and take a look. There



he was driving the tractor while nursing the barn owl, which was carefully wrapped in a t-shirt. In a lot of cases, we would quickly dispatch a very sick bird to save it suffering but this was a barn owl, and it was bright eyed but not able to fly. I took charge of the owl to let Richard get on with his job. Next move I rang the barn owl trust for advice and they sent a video to my phone advising me how to examine the owl and a list of things to look for. I completed the examination, not easy on one's own, I only have one

pair of hands but the conclusion was nothing obviously wrong with it so I reported back. The young lady at the trust said I should take the barn owl to a vet and that all vets are legally obliged to treat wild birds free of charge so there would be no cost to myself. I took the owl to Maloney's veterinary clinic at Great Dunmow where I was made welcome. A vet nurse came out and collected the owl from my car and said a vet would examine it as soon as one was free so I left them to it. One hour later they rang me to say they had x-rayed it and there was nothing broken and they

would be taking it to the owl lady who looks after owls until they are fit enough to be released back into the wild.

It must be difficult looking after owls in captivity as they are carnivorous and don't eat any vegetable matter at all. Their diet revolves around voles, rats, mice, bats, and amphibians, such as frogs, toads, lizards, newts. They will also take small birds if food is in short supply. An adult barn owl requires the equivalent of three voles or mice per day, and because of their appetite for rats and mice they have always been known as the 'Farmers Friend' most old barns were built with a hole for a barn owl nest, they will use holes in trees and readily use man-made nest boxes placed high up on poles.

Barn owls are unique; they are designed for hunting their prey. First, and possibly their most important feature, is their heart shaped dished face rather like a satellite dish or should we say a satellite dish is like a barn owls face, one ear has a higher entrance than the other allowing the owl to pinpoint exactly where a sound is coming from. Their hearing is very sensitive, they can hear a vole moving through grass and land on it with their long legs which can penetrate the grass and grab the prey with sharp long reversible talons which usually kills the prey, if not a peck to the back of the head will, and then it is swallowed whole. Once digested anything which is not digestible such as bones and fur is regurgitated in a ball known as an owl pellet, these can be found on the ground under a roosting or nesting sight, some people collect owl pellets and dissect them to see what the owl has eaten. I have a report in a Ministry of Agriculture bulletin which states 700 barn owl pellets from one site, which were dissected in a laboratory, contained the remains of 2513 mice, one mole, and 22 birds; 19 of which were house sparrows. Another report states that a half-grown barn owl swallowed 9 mice in rapid succession and was hungry again in three hours. Barn owls breed in April-May they lay 4 to 6 white roundish eggs; unlike most birds' eggs they don't have a dormancy so it is not unusual to find young of different ages as well as unhatched eggs in the same nest.

Max Beanland

Royal British Legion

FINCHINGFIELD AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Talk by Terry Nunn on Air Ambulance.

In July we had a very informative talk by Terry, who is a volunteer with the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. We learned that it operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Each month the expenses amount to £1,000,000 and each mission costs on average £2,800. Last year their critical teams treated 1,904 patients. Mac Beanland, who has organised the Tractor Run each year reported that they had raised over £100,000 over nine years for the Air Ambulance. Mac is now retiring and is looking for someone to take over this organisation. We are hoping to make a trip to the Air Ambulance HQ at North Weald to see them in action.

Upcoming Events

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 £24 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. We are now well on the way to completing our knitted or crochet poppies to decorate our War Memorials in Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End.

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

From the Vicarage...

Around our villages, October marks the coming to an end of another cycle of the agricultural year, with final harvests coming in, and preparations for next year's growing season getting well under way. As we prepare to celebrate this with traditional harvest hymns and displays, the gulf between this slowly changing world and the fast-paced technological change dominating our news seems ever wider and deeper. I offered a few thoughts on the significance of the emerging capabilities of Artificial Intelligence, or AI, in my magazine piece just over three years ago, but what has become clearer since then is that the warnings surrounding the development of AI are getting much more refined and specific. Instead of the general 'nightmare scenario' which almost always greets the emergence of a new technology, we have experts beginning to spell out the particular ways in which significant harm could result from allowing AI to be developed in an unrestricted way. And in my day-to-day conversations, anxiety about AI features largely in the lists of modern anxieties which people share with me.

All this places on the computer scientists, entrepreneurs and politicians who work at the forefront of AI and its regulation a huge responsibility; but we might be wondering how the rest of us should react. In answer to this challenge, I think there is one attitude of mind which we can learn from our farmers, whose harvest we are celebrating in this season: they appreciate most powerfully what difference it makes when they get to *know* the land they work. The connection which is forged by the time spent on and around the land, getting to know its rhythms and patterns, is something for which there are no short cuts or substitutes.

Our use of AI on the other hand, has the opposite effect: it separates us from the act of acquiring knowledge and wisdom; it keeps us apart, as we no longer feel the need to consult and discuss when such seemingly comprehensive answers are served up to us at the click of a button; and it removes our sense of dependence, as it exaggerates our view of our own capabilities. Indeed, one of the themes of our harvest prayers and hymns is how that most essential part of our lives – our supply of food – is ultimately dependent on many factors which are beyond our direct control (though often influenced by our actions). Renewing our commitment to remain connected to each other and to our world, and resisting the temptation to let technology do that for us, is a powerful way in which we can keep hold of what it means to be human – even what it means to be children of God.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Services for October 2026

Sunday 4 October – Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

- 9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Cornish Hall End
- 9.30am Harvest Festival Service – Shalford
- 10.30am Family Eucharist Harvest Festival – Great Bardfield
- 11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic Morning Prayer) – Wethersfield

Sunday 11 October – Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

- 8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford
- 10am Harvest Festival Service – Finchingfield
- 10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
- 11am Family Eucharist – Wethersfield
- 5pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 18 October – St Luke the Evangelist

- 9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
- 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
- 10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield
- 11am Harvest Festival Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 25 October – Last Sunday after Trinity

- 9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford
- 10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
- 11am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield
- 4pm Sung Compline – Little Bardfield

*Also, there will be a time of prayer in Finchingfield Church **7-8pm on Thursday 15 October** as part of the 'Wave of Light' initiative to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week, the last 15 minutes of which will be a short service.*

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

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

Tuesday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

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

Thursday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield

10am Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford

Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Friday

8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

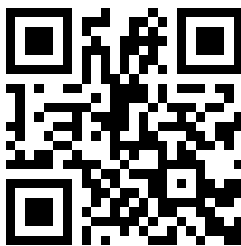
Saturday

10.30am (3rd week) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

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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

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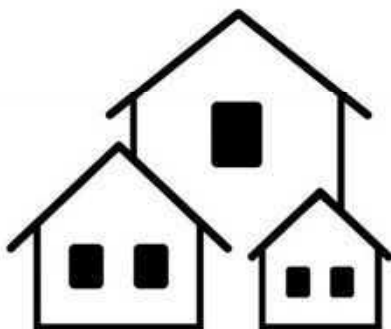
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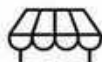
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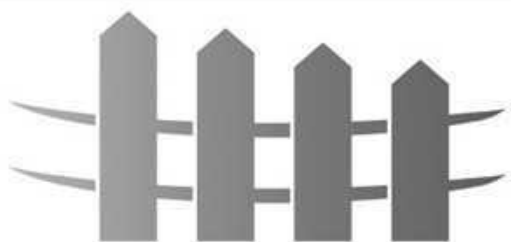
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Town Hall Diary

October 2026

Thursday 1 st	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Friday 2 nd	Cinema Club	8.00pm
Saturday 3 rd	Horticultural Society	7.00pm
Monday 5 th	Pilates	6.30pm
	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Tuesday 6 th	Mobility & Balance	9.45am & 10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 7 th	Pilates	11.00am
Thursday 8 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 10 th	Craft Show	2.00pm
Sunday 11 th .	Private Function	10.00am
Monday 12 th	Pilates	6.30pm
	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Tuesday 13 th	Mobility & Balance	9.45am & 10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 14 th	Pilates	11.00am
	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm
Thursday 15 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 17 th	Bongo's Bingo	7.30pm
Sunday 18 th	Bardfield Players	2.00pm
Monday 19 th	Pilates	6.30pm
	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Tuesday 20 th	Mobility & Balance	9.45am & 10.25am
	Horticultural Soc AGM	7.00pm
Wednesday 21 st	Pilates	11.00am
Thursday 22 nd	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 24 th	Ben Waters	7.30pm
Sunday 25 th	Bardfield Players	2.00pm
Monday 26 th	Pilates	6.30pm
	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Tuesday 27 th	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 28 th	Pilates	11.00am
Thursday 29 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 31 st	Bardfield Brass	7.00pm

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Councillors

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Kate Fox clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk 810111

Janet Dyson 07957 483207

Iain Graham 07831 595555

Darren Hockley 810836

Peter Walmsley 07843 498253

Mark Wells 07788 318118

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