



Friday, October 1st Great Bardfield Town Hall

Doors Open 7.30pm Film Starts 8.00pm
Members free, Non members £6



BARDFIELD CINEMA CLUB - FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Aug/
Sept
2021

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News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield

Bardfield Times



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

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Front cover and above: Vintage Tractor Run by Doug Joyce

Editorial

This is a double issue giving our excellent team of volunteers a well-deserved rest over the summer. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the *BT* in any way. It's a pleasure to see that many of our village groups are getting going again with plans for meetings in the autumn, cautiously optimistic and ensuring that any required Covid measures are met. If you're new to the village joining a group or starting one yourself is a great way to meet people. Read on and you'll see that the brilliant group of Thespians that is the Bardfield Players are scouting for new talent, and that the Horticultural Society needs a new Treasurer – could it be you? Perhaps carpet bowls is your thing? Do you have time and skills to offer as a School Governor? And the *BT* needs a new Farming Correspondent to fill the shoes of the irreplaceable Tony Hayward!

It's fantastic that the Horticultural Society had the optimism and determination to put on their Summer Show on August 7th – we've really missed these wonderful, colourful occasions. It's not too late to enter – have a look at what's in your garden or allotment and give it a go – see page 8 for details. Cinema Club is re-opening too and I've tentatively booked the Town Hall from October 5th for Community Choir – fingers crossed!

Our communities are full of interesting people many of whom have been featured in the Village People pages over the years. In this issue local artisan Graham Thrussell talks about his life and craft of metal working. If you'd like to suggest someone for Village People let us know. It's very good news that another new business is opening in the village as local butcher Stuart Ray follows in the footsteps of our greatly missed Danny Smith. Good luck with your new venture Stuart!

After 19 years as Parish Priest of Great and Little Bardfield Father Robert is leaving for pastures new in the Diocese of Chichester. We wish him well in his new parish.

Just a reminder that although Covid restrictions have been lifted for the time being there may still be elderly or otherwise vulnerable people in our community who may not be confident to go out and about and may be glad of support. Enjoy the Summer whether you're in Great Bardfield or venturing elsewhere. We'll be back in October.

Janet Dyson

Paul Robinson

As many already know, Paul died suddenly at home, on Sunday 16th May; a day indelibly etched in our hearts. On Friday 18th June, we said our goodbyes to him at St. Mary's church. On behalf of all our family, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who have supported us all; either by your kind words, anecdotes of times remembered, all the cards we have received, or by the huge number of you lining the streets on that dreadfully wet day. The church was as packed as it could have been, with the then restrictions. Some old friends of Paul's, drove many miles to pay their respects. Thanks also to Reverend Helen Pelly for her thoughtful service, to Sharon and team at the Bell for the excellent catering in the very busy marquee. Also to the kind occupants of our old home, for the floral tribute to Paul, on their doorstep. It really bought a lump to my throat as we walked past it.



Paul was born in 1965 and was the youngest of us 5 Robinson children. He grew up in our idyllic and happy family home, 1 High street. He was always a cheeky, sporty lad, and was usually up to mischief, but was so well loved, nonetheless. He truly loved Bardfield, and after a few years of living in Haverhill, and then Wethersfield, he returned to the village as soon as the opportunity arose. He was father to Freddie and Herbie, with his first wife Diane, and then became stepfather to Amy, Daniel and Liam, when he married Kerrie, and, seven years ago, they proudly became parents to young Monty. Paul absolutely loved being home during lockdown, and as so many people have said, they miss his cheerful greetings from his kitchen window. He was never a shy retiring type!

Paul was a very happy optimist, and he wouldn't want any of us to be miserable. So let's all remember him, by thinking of all the fun times, and laughter we shared with him.

Pam Blackburn.

Dear Editor,

After the last article in the *Bardfield Times* saying that the Baby and Toddler Group would open in September I am sorry to say that due to a change in circumstances Angela and I have made the decision to close the group that we have been running for so many years.

It has been an enjoyable privilege to run the group, and we have both loved meeting the many families that have passed through over the years. We want to thank everyone who has helped us during this time especially Camilla Bucknell and Katie Parker, who have generously given their time. Also we want to thank the Co-op who have provided snacks each week, and a big thank you to the Bardfield Charities who have helped financially many times. The money that is currently in the group account we will donate to Great Ormond Street (the child first and always).

The opportunity is now there for some new leaders to open a new group. We are very happy to donate all the toys, crafts and other equipment to a new group if one does start up. Otherwise they can be donated to a relevant charity or any other children's group if they make contact.

It has been a wonderful experience for Angela and I, and on that note, with love, we say goodbye and thanks to everyone that has been involved.

Anita Lister and Angela Boyle

Editor: Thank you Anita and Angela and helpers for all you've done for the village babies and toddlers over many years.

To all would-be Thespians and Back/Front Stage Crew

We at the Bardfield Players are hoping to put on a production in November, after a break of what will be 2 years! As there is time before planning and rehearsals begin, we thought that we should give everyone who may be interested a chance to join us!

So if you feel that you can help with set building, acting, running the bar, make up costumes or techie stuff, please contact me via my email address.

We do take producing a play very seriously, and always do the very best we can. BUT we also have to have fun doing it! I look forwards to hearing from you.

Best Wishes, Ian ian.ruffle@gmail.com



Great Bardfield Parish Council report

Covid-related Restriction Easing from 19th July

The statement below was recently issued by Braintree District Council and could be useful to residents.

“Although most legal restrictions will be lifted on 19 July, it's important for residents to know that COVID-19 has not gone away and the increased transmissibility of the Delta variant has seen case numbers rising across the country and in our district.

As restrictions ease, it's now more important than ever to remind residents to continue acting carefully and remain cautious.

- Whilst Government is no longer instructing people to work from home if they can, Government would expect and recommend a gradual return over the summer
- Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport and indoor spaces
- be outside or let fresh air in
- minimise the number, proximity and duration of social contacts and **keep testing regularly** to help manage personal risk and protect others
- isolate when positive or when contacted by NHS Test and Trace
- encourage and support businesses and large events to use the NHS COVID Pass in high risk settings.

You can read the full government guidance online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-summer-2021-roadmap/coronavirus-how-to-stay-safe-and-help-prevent-the-spread>”

Planning Applications and Tree works

Summary of responses agreed at the meeting. The full responses can be viewed on the planning portal on Braintree District Council's website.

Stables Retreat, Beslyns Lane: The Parish Council have objected to this proposed outline planning permission for a greenfield site, on a narrow protected lane, adjacent to the Conservation Area and overlooking the valley of the River Pant.

Box Cottage, High Street: replacement front door. No objection if Historic Buildings Officer is satisfied.

Elmside, Dunmow Road: single storey two bay cart lodge. No objection in principle, however concerns raised about the proposed location, and the impact on the street scene and neighbouring properties.

Consultation on Rosewood, Mill Road – camp site proposals. The Parish Council welcomed the inclusion of the flood plan location on the plans and the re-siting of camper van plots. Other concerns raised previously were reiterated.

Units 1-5 Bardfield Centre: 2x2 bedroom dwelling houses. No objection if Historic Buildings Officer is satisfied.

Sweet Briar, Walthams Cross Cottages: 2-storey and side extension. The Parish Council have objected to this application due to the size in relation to the existing property, in a rural hamlet in a Special Landscape Area.

Shepherds Cottage, Bridge Street (Listed Building) - removal and replacement of existing floor and staircase. There was no objection to this application if it met the approval of the Historic Buildings Officer.

Little Hoppett/Dell Cottage, Dunmow Road: tree works. There was no objection to the tree management work.

Roadworks and Drainage Works

Drainage Works are due to take place in Alienor Avenue, Braintree Road and Bridge Street in August with road closures expected.

Parish Council Meetings

There is no Parish Council meeting in August.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 13 September at 7pm, in The Town Hall. The meeting is open to the public and as we intend to continue to operate a Covid-safe and socially distanced meeting, please contact the Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting if you wish to attend, on 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

Carolynne Ruffle
Chair

THE OLD DAYS with Michael

The photo and mention of the absence of parked cars in the street in the last issue of *BT* took me back to what things were like years ago, and some of the things that happened during that time.

When I was a very young lad the children's playground was the street and one of our favourite games was to stretch a long rope across the street and turn it so that everyone could join in skipping in the middle. If anyone stopped things by treading on the rope they were thrown out. This went on until only one person was left who was the winner.



The trouble was that about once every 20 minutes a car would arrive and want to proceed on its journey past which delayed things a bit.

There were only about 12 cars in the village, owned by some of the better off people. These were mostly driven by chauffeurs and used for whole family outings to Braintree or Dunmow and then towed away into the garage again. Every car had its own garage and leaving a car outside overnight had never been heard of.

One of the people that owned a car at that time was a lady named Miss Otter and she named her car Alice! Sometimes she would ask me and my friend John if we would like to go for a ride. We could hardly contain

our excitement. She would pull the "Dickey" seats out of the back and we would jump in. On extra adventurous days we would get as far away as Steeple Bumpstead. Miss Otter lived at Town House in the High Street and I discovered quite a good picture of Alice parked in the Street by what is now Cole's cafe.

Another good chance for a ride in a motor came with tradesmen's vehicles. They had a Ford 8HP van at the shop, and we used to be able to get round the out-lying farms when they delivered groceries.

I remember on the way home the old boy that drove liked to show off to us boys and after having his foot down for some time would reach 45MPH! The only snag was fumes started coming up from the engine and filled the cab, but the excitement at travelling at that speed was intense.

As the years rushed past and more and more people became car owners, at first people would apologise if they were forced to park in front of your house. I was lucky to be a car owner fairly early on, a Morris Series E, shown here parked in the High Street. Now I live in the High Street but don't own a car! I keep trying to think of an answer to your parking problem but so far nothing has turned up – but keep trying.

Michael Hitchcock



Great Bardfield Horticultural Society

Thank you so much to the 27 members of our Society who braved the weather and joined us on our garden visits in July. In the morning the weather looked really bleak and even as we drove to Boyton Cross the heavens opened with very heavy rain. However, the rain stopped, sun came out and we were able to enjoy two fabulous gardens. So much colour and variation! We discovered how much can be achieved in a small space by careful planning and use of plants. Tea and homemade cake were consumed sitting outside and all in all it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Summer Show on Saturday, August 7th in Town Hall

As we mentioned in last month's *BT* we have decided to go ahead with our Summer Show. We have based the schedule on 2020 but have reduced the number of classes by about 1/3. There will be no entry fees and no prize money but we will be awarding the relevant cups.

We will be taking the entries in a slightly different way so there will be no queuing. The hall will be open at 8am onwards to accept entries. All entries to be staged by 10.30am. Viewing of the Show will be at 2.30pm. Entry to the Show will be free with the Trophies being presented outside at 4.30pm.

We will still be asking both exhibitors, stewards, judges and visitors to wear your masks inside the hall, use a one-way system and will be limiting numbers in the hall at any one time. We feel that at the present time that is the responsible thing to do.

Amended schedules now freely available from local outlets in and around the village of from Lynne Joyce 810524 or Linda Prior 811641.

Homemade refreshments are kindly being served at the Bell next door from 2pm on Saturday 7th. All proceeds to go into Bardfield Horticultural Society Funds. Please support Sharon who has helped us out this year by doing this for us.

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your entries to our show.

For those that prefer to bake cakes see recipe below:

Chocolate chip and vanilla marble cake (class 48)

175 gm (6 oz) soft margarine	1 tablespoon hot water
½ teaspoon vanilla essence	1½ teaspoons baking powder
175 gm (6 oz) caster sugar	35 gm (1½ oz) dark
1 tablespoon cocoa	chocolate chips
225 gm (8 oz) self-raising flour	3 medium eggs

For the icing:

1 tablespoon milk

40 gm (1½ oz) plain dark chocolate

- Preheat the oven to 180°C (Fan 160°C), 350°F, Gas mark 4.
- Grease and line a 11" x 8" approx. tray bake tin.
- Measure the butter, sugar, flour, baking powder, eggs, milk and vanilla essence into a large bowl and beat well with a hand held electric whisk for about 2 minutes until well blended.
- Spoon half the mixture into the prepared tin dotting the spoonful's apart. In a small bowl blend the cocoa and hot water.
- Cool slightly then add to the remaining mixture along with the chocolate chips.
- Spoon mixture in between the plain cake mixture to fill the gaps.
- Bake for approx. 45 minutes. Leave to cool in the tin.
- To make the icing break the chocolate into a bowl and melt over a pan of hot water. Dip a spoon into the chocolate and drizzle over the cake to decorate.
- Leave to set for approx. 30 minutes before cutting into squares.

Look at your vegetables and flowers and dig up/pick a few and bring along - you might surprise yourselves and win a prize.

For those of you that prefer domestic, handicrafts or floral art there are classes for you to enter, and don't forget the children's and youth's section, keep them busy at the beginning of the holidays doing things for the show.

Don't forget the B.H.S. Summer Show Sunflower Challenge for the children or the picture to colour.

Possible future dates – more info in next *BT* and look out for posters

October 2nd Saturday-possible harvest supper

October 12th Tues –AGM and speaker

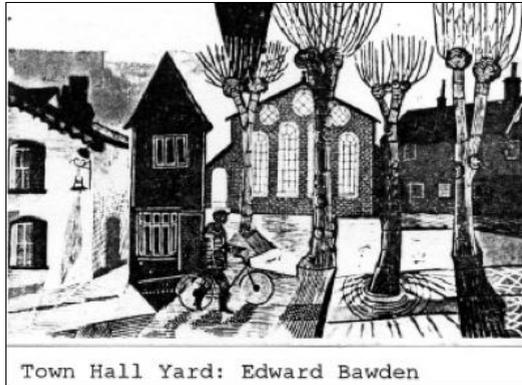
Urgently required—New Treasurer—there must be someone who would like to take on this satisfying role!!!!

If you or you know anyone who would be interested in taking on the Treasurer's role for us please contact Linda Prior for further details.

For any information about the Society please contact Linda Prior 811641

Town Hall Reopens for Bookings

We are pleased that the Town Hall is now open and available for bookings. Some of our regular users are now up and running. In particular we are pleased that the Horticultural Society is planning their Summer Show on Saturday 7th August. The Boules competition is also now in full throw.



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

We are planning a function in the Hall for October 23rd. The band "Strike School" has been booked. They play classic rock from the 70's and 80's. More details nearer the time but a date for your diary.

John Maidman, Chair Town Hall Management Committee

Bardfield Cinema Club Returns



Dear Cinema Goers

Our new season will be starting again in October - this of course subject to any further changes regarding COVID 19 restrictions.

So, on Friday 1st October at 8pm in the Town Hall, we will be showing 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood', starring Tom Hanks.

Entrance to the Town Hall will be via the side door (Green Room) with seating limited to 50 people. Exiting will be via the front door.

Membership will be available at the same rate as before (£25 per person for the season of 10 films), alternatively £6 cash payment per person on the door. Refreshments will also be available.

We do look forward to welcoming everyone back again for an enjoyable experience with new films to see, in a safe and comfortable atmosphere.

Looking forward to seeing you then

Ray Coles



School Governors Required!

We are privileged to have our good school at the heart of our village community. The Governing Board of Great Bardfield School is a committed team of volunteers who work together to support the school and contribute to its continued success.

We currently have a number of vacancies on the Board that we are keen to fill with people from the Bardfield community. We would be particularly keen to welcome you if you have finance or HR skills, but essentially we would be happy to hear from anyone who has the time, enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved.

For further details and a chance to chat about what the role involves, please contact Jane Tillotson at cog@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

An Introduction to Carpet Bowls

Carpet Bowls was devised as a scaled down version of indoor bowls and was designed to be suitable for playing in small halls.

It has flourished in many rural areas, particularly in the North East, and Eastern England, becoming an important part of the community activities of many villages around the country. It has also become the main factor in saving many village halls from closure, generating a regular, and much needed, revenue.

The principle aim of the game, is the same as all other bowls disciplines, to deliver your wood closer to the jack than your opponent, but changes had to be made to suit the required equipment.

The game is played on a mat approximately 30 feet in length and 6 feet wide, using biased bowls of 4 inches in diameter. On the centre of the mat there is an 18 inch block and the delivery of the woods takes place from a designated area, this prevents the game continually being killed by the firing shot and creates a more interesting and skilful game.



All bowlers use the same woods, this removes the need for players to purchase equipment themselves, making it a relatively inexpensive sport to take up. The mats are manufactured so they can be rolled up, and stored easily.

Another important aspect of the game is that it is a sport that is played with no discrimination. Both male and female, children of all ages, as well as less able-bodied people have the ability to compete on an equal footing, at all levels of the game. At County level, there is more than one county with wheelchair-bound competitors. This makes the game fully fall under the category of 'Sport For All'.

The game is played at a number of different levels. Social bowling

is played in many halls, all around the country, by school children, over 60's clubs, village clubs, sports centres and many other situations. All county associations run their own competitive leagues, with other organisations contributing other affiliated competitions

At the higher level there are the inter-county competitions, that require a more sustained and consistent game, but still played with the same respect and sportsmanship that is experienced in the social game.

Your local Club:

Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club

Carpet Bowls Report

Due to the pandemic all carpet bowls games in Bardfield were cancelled in early March 2020 and there has been no carpet bowls nationwide since the start of the pandemic with the exception of a few clubs which did try to reopen after the first lockdown. The biggest worry now for those that oversee the sport is what the level of uptake will be when we are able to get back into the village halls and start bowling again. Having had a year without bowling, how many will want to start again?

Unlike a large number of clubs, our Club in Bardfield has actually restarted with limited numbers and under restrictions based on the guidance issued by the English Association. I hope you have seen the article from the English Association explaining about our sport.

If you wish to come along to see what carpet bowls is all about, please contact us on the numbers below. Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club has its club night every Wednesday in the Town Hall. The evening starts at around 7.30 and finishes around 10:00. It is best to call first.

Contact: Lynda or Clifford Richardson

01371 810782 / 07977 403122 / 07582 540524



From the Reverend Dr Robert Beaken

My dear friends,

As I sit here, typing these words, it seems hard to believe that this will be my last letter for the *Bardfield Times*. I have been your Priest-in-Charge for nineteen years, although in a way it feels like five minutes, so quickly have the years passed. I have lived in Great Bardfield longer than I have lived anywhere else. I have been immensely happy at St Mary's and St Katharine's, and have come to love the parishioners and think of you all as a sort of extension of my own family.

My last Sunday in the parishes will be 22nd August and I shall move a few days later. My new address will be:

**The Rectory,
Church Lane,
Catsfield,
Battle,
East Sussex,
TN33 9DR.**

Lastly, may I commend to you the Reverend Alexander Shannon, the Priest-in-Charge of Finchingfield, Shalford, Wethersfield and Cornish Hall End. There is still a lot of paperwork to be done, but in some months' time Father Shannon will also become Priest-in-Charge of Great and Little Bardfield. I am sure that you will give him the same love and support that you have given me since I first came here in 2002.

Writing for the final time as your parish priest, I send you all my love, prayers and blessing,

Father Robert



Flowers: Friend or Foe?

Looking more closely at the beautiful photograph on the front cover of the July edition of the *Bardfield Times* I noticed that the pretty flowers framing the picture were Himalayan Balsam. These are the plants which some residents, whose gardens back onto the river, are trying to get rid of by cutting them down before they seed. You can read about this invasive plant, which was introduced into Britain in 1839, on the R.H.S. website and watch a video of the exploding seed pods. The seed pods are very light, shoot off the plant when ripe and then fly off into the wind.

So why are they a nuisance when they look pretty and bees love them? The plant spreads quickly excluding other native vegetation as it goes; the pods can shoot up to 7 metres and travel even further afield by water. Bees do like them but they are so rich in nectar that the bees feed on them at the expense of other flowers.

While out walking this week I saw another flowering plant, Lacy Phacelia or Purple Tansy, which has been introduced and sown at the edge of a wheat field to attract pollinators. You can see this long stretch of blueish-purple flowers in the field next to Beslyns. They do look beautiful and are attracting insects. I have not noticed them in this field before nor have I seen them anywhere else although they do spread easily by seed. I wonder if they will become invasive. On the website they encourage you to plant them in your own gardens as pollinators and for green manure so they are obviously not a problem like Himalayan Balsam.



If you are lucky enough to have visited Cornwall this summer you may have seen fields of these stunning flowers where they are grown in between crop sowings then ploughed in for green manure. It looks as though the tansy in Great Bardfield has been sown for the same reason. Look out for it when you are out walking and watch its progress.

Marjorie Clough

Village People – Graham Thrussell

“That’s not dirt on the mug,” says Graham Thrussell as he hands me a cup of tea. “It’s weld splatter.” Ah. OK. Much more respectable. We’re in his workshop, an Aladdin’s cave of interesting odds and ends, mostly old and salvaged, and mostly made of metal (although there is some ancient farm harness). The middle of the room is almost entirely occupied by the stripped-down chassis of a WW2 era jeep. It has quite a story – but so does Graham.

His father Frank was born in India, one of thirteen children, and, when he relocated to the UK at the age of 21, joined the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). He met a girl named Joan, but was posted to Egypt almost immediately, where in between fixing tanks, he rode speedway and tinkered with motorcycles. He and Joan “wrote lots of love letters.” Back home in Braintree, he got a job at Crittall Windows, but “he was always taking engines out of cars. He could fix anything,” Graham was allowed to help, and learned all about engines, and how to fix things, from the man who became his childhood hero.

Joan worked as a seamstress, having trained at Fortnum and Mason’s. She was also an artist, and Graham himself has been able to draw and sketch ever since he can remember. Always preferring the arty to the academic side of things at school, he wanted to study art, but his father was against it. “All I wanted to do was to be an artist,” he says, “but my Dad said, ‘you need to get a trade.’”

Following in Frank’s footsteps, at 16 he applied for a four-year



Graham Thrussell with Roly sculpture

apprenticeship at Crittall Windows. He learned to use a lathe and a grinder, which he found excruciatingly boring. The thing that saved him was that he was occasionally asked to help out in one of the other workshops – the toolroom, the machine shop, or, best of all, the blacksmith’s shop, run by Dennis who became a mentor to young Graham, teaching him the rudiments of smithing.

When no diversions were available, Graham would sit at his lathe, working just enough not to get into trouble, and making drawings in his sketchbook. He enrolled in evening classes at Braintree College to study art and sketching. Not long afterwards he moved into his own place, and this was to prove pivotal, because for the first time in his life, he had his own shed.

Immediately he started making things. He made a wrought iron bench, taking it in to work with him for stages that required smithing. Not long afterwards, a friend asked “Could you make one of those for me?” and just like that, Graham became a working craftsman. He stayed on at Crittall until he couldn’t stand it any longer, and got a job at Stansted Airport driving tugs and towing planes. “I’ve always liked aeroplanes,” he smiles. Life was suddenly “freer and more interesting.”

Graham still hadn’t really settled down. For a while he had a milk round in Takeley but then the foreman at Crittall contacted him and asked if he would come back to help them set up a new factory in the Springwood Industrial Estate. There was more variety, planning building layouts, moving equipment, and, best of all, unlimited access to the forge. His old friend Dennis was retiring, and Graham was sent to learn his job. In between, he was always making or fixing metal things, both at work (galvanised hooks, and a particularly interesting project to make new Gothic window tops for Yale University in the USA) and at home.

He was now in his 30s, married to an air hostess he’d met while working at Stansted Airport. All the time he was adding to his skill and knowledge of smithing. A generation of skilled workers was retiring and Graham bought as many tools as he could at bargain prices. He left Crittall – again – and spotted an advertisement for an “Insect Technician.” He had no idea what that involved, but was intrigued enough to apply and found himself in Theydon Bois at a farm which bred locusts for research and pet food. The directors didn’t mind his lack of experience with insects – they could teach him that – but they were delighted with his building and welding skills, as they were in the process of setting up a new site. He got the job

and stayed until 2020.

Now single again, Graham signed up to an online dating agency for artists and art lovers. Not too far away, a woman named Juls had signed up to a different dating agency. They should never have met – but sometimes computers do unexpected things. He still doesn't know why he was shown her profile page, but immediately he felt drawn to it. "There was something about her," he remembers. They corresponded for a while, and then met for their first date in Green Park. His first instincts were confirmed – they hit it off perfectly.

Graham, of course, was still sculpting. "Juls moved here as my assistant," he says, but they soon realised that it was more than that. The log cabin near Theydon Bois where Graham was living was clearly no longer suitable. He sold his only asset – his jeep – for the deposit on a rented cottage in Great Dunmow. For Juls, a city girl from Streatham, it felt like the dream of country living. She acquired a spaniel (Max), a cat, and four chickens "instantly," laughs Graham. "Oh, and we got married."

Then Juls' father, who lived in London was diagnosed with cancer, and was told he had a short time to live. He was leaving his house to Juls. "He said that he wanted us to set up our own, to buy our own house", remembers Graham, clearly moved by his generosity. "We looked for somewhere that was near a village, but not in a village. We wanted a place where you felt you didn't need a holiday from it," is how Graham puts it. They also – obviously –



Juls and Graham Thrussell

needed an outbuilding. Graham was doing his sculpting from a workshop near Theydon Bois but wanted to move it closer. When they first drove past the cottage in Walthams Cross, they loved the way it looked but thought it was too small. And it didn't have an outbuilding. But they couldn't quite forget it, went back, and couldn't resist a look inside. Then they were both hooked. "We fell in love. We like old places." And so the Thrussells became residents of Great Bardfield Parish.

When they discovered Great Bardfield's rich heritage of artists and artist connections, they were amazed. "It seemed like fate!" He began to meet other artists. He discussed his search for a workshop with wood carver David "Beany" Beanland, who had an idea. A friend had a farm with several unused outbuildings, and Beany himself was looking for a workspace. Why not share?

The two of them had already collaborated on a sculpture of a dragonfly so they knew they had a good working relationship, and the shared workshop has been a great success. In February 2020 Graham finally left his job and became a full time metalworker, dividing his time between sculpture and fixing or restoration projects. "You have to be in the right mood for sculpture," he says.

He can't help becoming emotionally involved with his commissions – which is partly why he is successful. He likes to visit the location the sculpture is intended for, and get to know the customers. He often talks them into something more complex and creative than they had asked for. It means extra work for him, but he finds it much more rewarding. Examples of his sculpture projects include: a pair of gates made to look like a piece of knitting; a scale model of a spitfire; a windmill made from old tools; a portrait of Stirling Moss (Graham researched Moss' life thoroughly in the process), several life-size gardener figures, and half a full-size car.

There have also been other collaborations with Beany and not long ago, Graham's son Sam started working at the forge. His brother Jake studied engineering single-mindedly, and is now designing computer robot arms for surgery, but Sam tried numerous lines of work without really finding something he enjoyed doing. "He's a free spirit," explained Graham – but he has discovered a talent for metalwork, and has made a series of dragon sculptures which have all found enthusiastic buyers.

Graham loves living here. Sometimes in the narrow lanes under the tall trees he feels as though he has entered "another dimension. The outside world is elsewhere." He smiles. "It's magical." He is an enthusiastic



Graham and Sam Thrussell

contributor to the village community, always looking for old newspaper clippings which tell interesting stories of Bardfield history and sharing them on the village Facebook page. He organised meetings for local artists to share resources and inspiration. He loaned sculptures for Open Gardens events and you might have seen him driving his jeep in the recent Tractor Run.

Speaking of jeeps, the jeep whose chassis is taking up most of his end of the workshop at the moment was used for military purposes during the war and has spent most of the intervening years at the bottom of a pond. To many people, it would have been just another piece of scrap metal. To Graham, it's a piece of history that he can bring to life. He smiles at the thought. "It's all about the story," he says.

Anna Bass

Ongar Ploughing Match



Date: Saturday, 25th September 2021

Time: Ploughing starts at 9.30am till 2.30pm ish

Location: Hatfield Regis Grange Farm, Broad Street, Hatfield Broad Oak, CM22 7JZ (on B183)

Ploughing competition, vintage & classic tractors, horse ploughing, catering facilities & bar...plenty to see

A great family day out - come and join us!

Current Covid-19 Guidelines will be adhered to on site



For more information, please contact Helen McTurk on 01279 876151 or opmsecretary@bfinternet.com.

GREENFINGERS or 'Thug with a Slug!'

Thank goodness those damp and wet June and early July days have gone. No chemical bait is safe so as the moon rose, with torch in hand out I trod, on the hunt. Not just slugs and snails on the dahlias but high yields came from catching the two beasties as they trailed across the lawn. Oops, lawn! now infra dig as all naturalists and horticulturalists urge all to let grass grow long and now is the time to put one's action into achieving something acceptably beautiful. Start by keeping an access path cut and later in the summer introduce yellow rattle. This is best as seed and forms a parasitic relationship with the long grass. It weakens the grass thus permitting the desirable to thrive, the desirable being poppies and cornflowers mentioned in last month's *BT* but also include scabious, corncockle, ox-eye daisy, geranium pratenses, wild carrot, and knapweed, marvellous to attract the decorative daytime Spotted Burnet moth. Yes, plug plants or mixed seed can be bought but better to go for individual packets and even collect seed from the grass verges where plants such as pink achillea abound. With luck, orchids may appear just like the verges as one approaches the airport.



In addition there is maintenance to do:

1. Shorten the dead flowered stems on climbing rambling roses and replace with the long new growth.
2. Prune philadelphus and weigelia shrubs as flowering is over.
3. Continue to cut back to 5 or 6 buds from the main stem the straggly strands of your wisteria
4. Remember 'Feeding Friday' (see *BT* July) to continue your summer display in particular sweet peas and gladioli
5. No 'chat' with you till October so think BULBS in September—dwarf narcissus Tete à Tete, etc and sow some violas to accompany them.
6. Sit in the deckchair and admire your plot.

Happy Days! 🌻

Flower Festival

St John the Baptist Church

28th-30th August Bank Holiday Weekend



An appeal from St John the Baptist church

Are you having a tidy up? Clearing out a few things?

Please can we ask: Do you have any bric-a-brac?

Items suitable for a tombola prize?

We would love it if you would donate them to us.

Items can be left in the box provided inside the church or left at Finchingfield Library on Saturdays.

Can you bake a cake or make a few sausage rolls for us so we can offer refreshments over the flower festival weekend? We would love to hear from you and be most grateful for your support.

Commemorative Board

We will be including our commemorative board again this year. Anyone wishing to have a dedication in remembrance of loved ones can do so by sending details and donation to:

Linda Turner 1 Hall Villas Gt Bardfield Braintree Essex CM7 4RY or

Email: linda.turner1@outlook.com or telephone 01371 810542

Cheques made payable to Finchingfield PCC - Thank you.

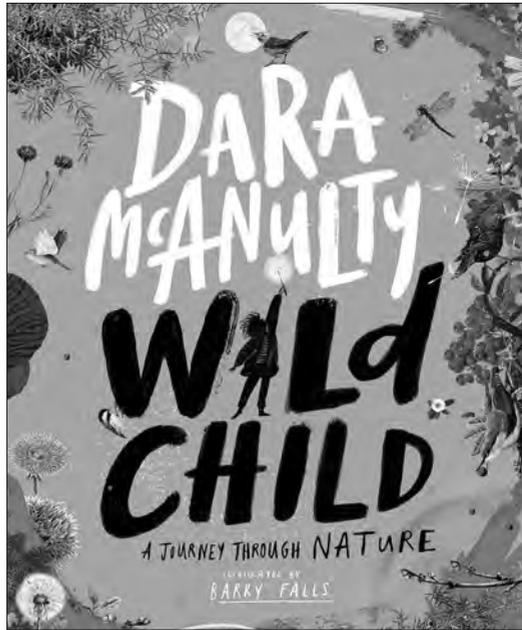
River of Roses

Our popular river of roses will also be available for you to participate in. For a small donation you can add a rose (provided) along with your message and then add these to our display.

Page Turners

Summer Reads

A delightful book for nature-loving children age 7+ is **Dara McNulty's *Wild Child: A Journey Through Nature***. This young author who recently won the Wainwright Prize for his *Diary of a Young Naturalist* has written a book which encourages young people to go out and discover the natural world. The book is beautifully illustrated and takes the reader on a journey through different habitats showing the different plants, animals and birds to be found in each one. Discovery sections take a close look at natural phenomena such as metamorphosis and migration, and there are excellent activities which can be done at home. A wonderful resource for the summer holidays.



***The Manningtree Witches*, A.K. Blakemore**

This dark novel, set in Manningtree, Essex, throws new light on the story of the Essex witch trials of the C17th, the period of the English Civil War when suspicion was rife and 'witch' was a word used to describe any woman who lived as she pleased. The witch trials allowed male oppression and misogyny to flourish under the guise of religious fervour. In this fictionalised account the usually glamourised character of Matthew Hopkins dubbed 'Witch-finder General' is shown as an offensive zealot and the women he persecuted are given a voice.



***The Feast*, Margaret Kennedy**

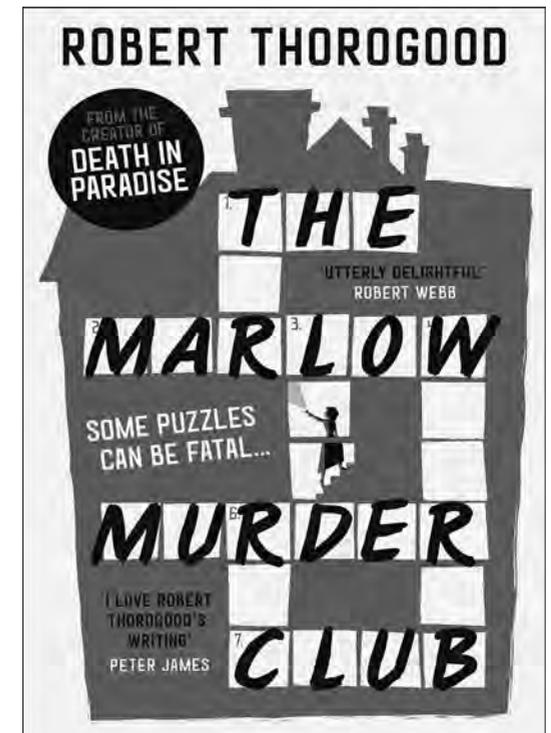
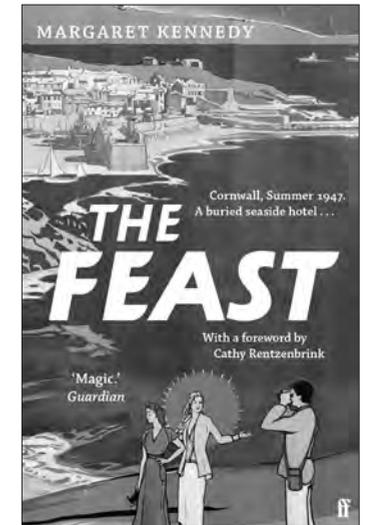
Written in 1950 and recently republished this has been described as the perfect staycation read. Set in Cornwall, Midsummer, 1947 it has shades of Agatha Christie and Daphne Du Maurier. The novel explores the mystery of a collapsed hotel in which seven guests have perished. Over the week before the landslide we meet an eccentric cast of hotel guests and their friendships, romances and indiscretions. No spoilers but it has a truly unforgettable ending! Retire with it to your sun lounger.

The Marlow Murder Club

For lovers of the gentle murder mystery genre this intriguing mystery novel from the creator of the TV series *Death in Paradise* is an enjoyable read. 77-year-old Judith Potts lives alone in a faded mansion near Marlow. One evening while swimming in the Thames she witnesses a brutal murder. The local police don't believe her story so she starts her own investigation joined by Suzie, a dog-walker, and Becks, wife of the local vicar. Another body is discovered. Can these local sleuths find the murderer?

Bibliophile

Editor: Book lovers and Book Groups – please write and tell us about your favourite reads.



Summertime Home Security Advice

With the removal of most Covid19 restrictions and as we start to spread our wings a little don't get complacent with your home security, unfortunately there are those that will take advantage of this newfound freedom to seek opportunities to commit crime.

Even if you are at home, home working or enjoying a 'staycation' still consider your home security for as it gets warmer, we get to see a rise in the number of "Creeper Burglaries" where burglars take advantage of open gates, windows and doors. An open or insecure garden gate will provide the thief with access to the back of your home. Before going out or turning in for the night don't forget to check all doors and windows, someone may have closed it, but did they lock it?



A few tips for keeping your home secure:

1. Don't attract a thief with insecure pedal cycles or cars or gates on display.
2. Keep side or rear gates, sheds and garages shut and securely locked.
3. Doors - Leave any accessible external door open or insecure and an opportunist thief could pop in and anything lying around would be gone. You may have only popped out, or down the end of the garden or having a quick shower; it only takes a second for a thief to steal. Don't forget that with a PVCu multi-locking door you may have lifted the handle but until you turn the key (or on some doors a thumb turn on the inside) you have not locked all of the locking bolts in place.
4. Windows - If you have unoccupied rooms that are accessible to others from outside or off flat roofs make sure the windows are closed, if you need ventilation in these rooms whilst at home at least lock the larger window and only have the small window open even during the daytime. If you only have bigger opening windows, consider a lockable window restrictor and a small alarm sensor on the window to detect entry. Before going out or 'turning in for the night' lift the blinds or open the curtains and check windows and patio doors are closed, the sun may have been on the TV when it was hot, and so the curtains were drawn whilst the window was open.
5. If you have an intruder alarm activate it when going out and activate the zone for any unoccupied areas whilst in.
6. Car keys - don't take them to bed with you, where possible leave them in noisy drawer/location. Keep the keyless car fobs in a "Faraday" bag.
7. If you do hear a suspicious noise in the house that you are not happy with dial 999 and make a noise, shout out, it could cause any intruder to flee, they may not have known you were home, remember your life is more important than your property. If safe to do so, get a good description of the person/s and if possible the car index number and direction of travel.
8. Make sure in case of fire that keys to windows and doors are readily accessible to occupants at all times but not in view of possible burglars.

For further crime prevention advice see: www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ or www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice/ensure-your-home-is-secure

Stephen Armson-Smith, Essex Police Heritage Crime Prevention Lead

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

On a recent visit to Thaxted's Tourist Information Centre, I could not resist buying their new set of postcards, featuring some of the town's well-known views. Nowadays, it is quite unusual to see postcards for sale – and even rarer to receive one in the post. How times have changed.



Great Bardfield 1905

Picture postcards became extremely popular in the UK after the introduction in 1902 of the format with a picture on the front and a divided back - half for the address and the other half for a message. Pictures were generally black and white but sometimes coloured. Popularity waned after the First World War but it remained customary to send postcards to family and friends from somewhere visited on holiday or a day out. That custom has now almost died out, no doubt due in part to the availability – albeit only in this century - of more immediate means of exchanging messages and photos electronically.



Saffron Walden High Street

Many people used picture postcards for sending short messages. Until 1918 it cost only an old halfpenny to send a card – that's 480 cards for a Pound (today's price is 66 pence per card). In those early days, there could be as many as five postal deliveries in a day, at least in towns, so it was not unreasonable to expect a reply the same day.

It wasn't just seaside towns that sold postcards; almost every town and village had its own postcard or set of postcards. Within the Hundred Parishes, it seems that only one parish has never had a postcard – Flich Green, which became a parish only in 2008. Many of those old cards have survived. They often provide a revealing insight into our past and into an earlier way of life, for example buildings, roads, transport and dress.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Historical Society

*We are planning a provisional programme of meetings and visits starting in the Town Hall on October 14th with a talk by Gillian Darley, author of *Excellent Essex*, a book which celebrates some of the over-looked delights of our frequently maligned county. A full programme will be published shortly.*

Great Bardfield Primary School

Final 2021

We are pleased and relieved to have ended the year on a high note! There have been so many challenges this school year so it has been good to have some wonderful experiences this term. We have made some happy memories and lifted everyone's spirits!



We were delighted to be able to take our Year 6 pupils on a week of activities back in June. We went to: Danbury Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Southend on Sea, Legoland, bowling, for a pizza and to the cinema for a private screening of Cruella. We rounded off the week with a pool party and sleepover in the Hall on the Friday night. The children had so much fun throughout the week and we were very proud of their impeccable behaviour.



Year 6 on their activities week

We were also thrilled to be able to take the whole school on our traditional annual visit to the seaside. The sun shone and the children had a marvellous time. A word about this term from our Year 6 School Ambassadors Alice and Charlie, 'This term has been fun and it has been good to be back at school able to do things like swimming and Sports Day. We have had lots of interesting topics to learn about this term and we have enjoyed being able to see our friends again in other bubbles.'



Recent trip to the seaside

We closed the year by saying a sad farewell to our wonderful Year 6. It has been my privilege to watch this group of children grow and develop over the last seven years; we both started at the school at the same time. They are extraordinary children who I know will go far. We will miss them and all of the staff and governors wish them so much luck for the future.

It will be wonderful to return to normal in the autumn term and to get back to the things that we have missed the most such as being together at Break and Lunchtime, whole school assemblies and welcoming parents back on to the playground. The staff could not have worked harder this year and are in need of a well-deserved holiday having given so much throughout the pandemic. We look forward to the new school year with hope and optimism being grateful for the everyday things that we never knew were so important.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

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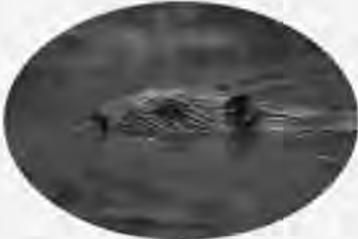
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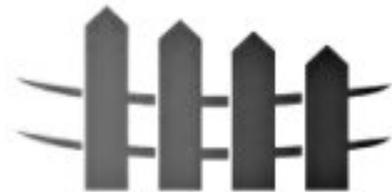
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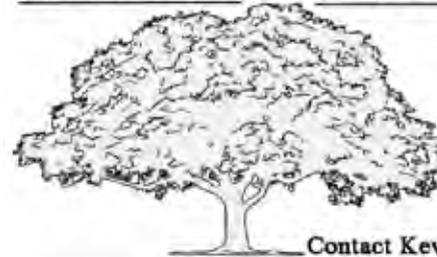
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Brenda Poston (01371 810519),
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Following Covid, our plan is to reopen our Clubs with the new term after Easter, on Monday 12th April. We will be following Covid guidelines to make sure our Breakfast and Afternoon School Clubs are as safe as possible in our warm, safe building behind Great Bardfield Primary School. It has been a tough year as a Charity. The lack of grants available for Charities and the focus on Rates paid; (which we do not pay as a Charity) has meant we have suffered hard, plus our Insurance Co is refusing to pay the forced closure as Covid was not a listed reason.....

So, let us tell you some information about us and please note that children must be registered with us before any bookings can be taken. This is a quick process and will confidentially cover preferences, allergies and any medical info we need to know. All staff have First Aid and Safeguarding qualifications and our Managers are qualified in Early Years Foundation Stage.

Mary is the Manager of our Breakfast Club which is open 7.30-8.45am and we will drop them off at the top playground with their teacher. We offer a delicious Breakfast between 7.30-8am only (due to our ratios of qualified staff to children being affected when someone is needed to cook). This can be a hot cooked plate including; Sausage, Bacon, Eggs (scrambled, boiled or fried), Beans or Spaghetti or Hash Browns or Toast, Pancakes or Waffles. There is always cereal too and they will be asked on arrival what they prefer.

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Pat is the Manager of our After School Club and children can be picked up from their classrooms or from the School's Clubs and brought back to us. Tea is served at ours 4.15-4.30. Pick up, due to Covid is at the School Gate at 4,5 or 6 and pls make sure to be wearing a mask.

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

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

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

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

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

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Great Bardfield Parish

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Clerk to the Parish Council Liz Williamson 07866 400607

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