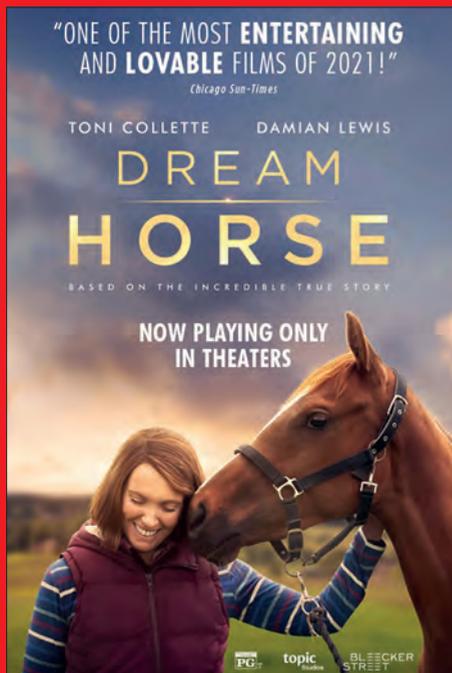




**Great Bardfield Town Hall**  
 Doors Open 7.30pm Film Starts 8.00pm  
 Members free, Non members £6



**Friday,  
 December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Dreamhorse**

**Friday,  
 January 7<sup>th</sup>  
 The Father**



Dec/  
 Jan  
 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 **14<sup>th</sup> 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:** Bardfield Remembrance service by Paul Kennedy

**Above:** Frosty morning by Barry Jones

## Editorial

As I write this our thoughts are turning to Christmas and plans are being made to celebrate in the village and with our friends and families in as normal a way as possible. People often comment on how friendly our village is and it's good to see offers of Christmas hampers and meals to be delivered to those who need them. I'm sure we will all be aware of neighbours and those who may be alone or need help over Christmas. Although it isn't possible to hold the traditional Town Hall Carol Concert this year, for those who have been missing Christmas music, Bardfield Brass and the Community Choir will be playing and singing at several venues around the village on December 13<sup>th</sup> – see page 23 for details.

As usual we have some interesting, carefully researched articles on local history, natural history, horticulture and topography in this issue and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those regular contributors who take the time and trouble each month to prepare their articles and reports for the *BT*. In this issue you'll find more of the ever-popular memories of Michael Hitchcock and an interesting article about the importance of the Skynner Map which hangs in the church. Hopefully people will be encouraged to go and look at this important historic document. The article refers to the many ancient tracks, bridleways and greens that are a feature of our parish, one of which is the subject of Nigel Hill's fascinating account of how one such path, Black Lane, is being brought back to life (page 12). It's worth remembering that some years ago the Parish Council took the unusual step of purchasing the Manorial Rights thus ensuring that the people of Great Bardfield, through their Parish Council, are the Lords of their own Manor.

Thanks to all our contributors, and members of the *BT* Team especially all those who organise the distribution and delivery of the magazine to every house. Particular thanks to our layout Editor Joe Jones for her skill in making the *BT* look so lovely.

Good wishes to everyone in our villages for Christmas and the New Year from the *BT* Team.

**Janet Dyson**  
**Editor**

## Dear Readers,

Thank you very much to Elizabeth & Anthony Bray, Scott Forbes for administrating first Aid to Janet, and a lady in a black pick up truck who helped. Overwhelmed by such kindness & good wishes to Janet & family.

**Thank you, Janet, Peter & all the Morris family**

## FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

If you will be alone on Christmas Day and/or can't prepare a Christmas lunch, you can have one delivered free together with some goodies such as chocolates, wine etc. Please either call me on 01371 810519 or 07973 736707. If you received a meal last year, can you please confirm that you would like one this year.

There are no restrictions on age etc.

The meal will be delivered hot and ready to eat.

**Brenda Poston**

**Bucks House, Vine Street**

## Tuesday Club

Will Edwards gave an interesting talk about 'Plastic and Recycling' at our meeting this month. There's a surprising number of different types of plastic with various uses and I, for one, found the subject much more interesting than expected!

We next get together on the **14<sup>th</sup> December for our Christmas Lunch at The Angel & Harp, Great Dunmow, 12.30 for 1pm.** Everyone should by now have supplied Adrienne with their choice of menu and payment but, if not, payment is needed by the end of this month.

At our January meeting on the **11<sup>th</sup> January, which is our AGM,** we will be visited by a representative of this past year's charity, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance.

We look forward to seeing you all at these events.

**For further information on the Tuesday Club, contact Adrienne Poulson on 01371 811401  
Helen Drummond**

## Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank the *BT* and the Bardfield Charities for their kind donations to contribute to the costs of a new sound system and hearing loop in the church. The sound is much improved, and the hearing loop is making a difference to all the users. We hope that it will make it easier for village groups to make use of the church.

With best wishes

**Julia Collins**

**Church Treasurer**

## Great Bardfield Parish Council report

### Highways and Pavements (Parking)

We would urge residents to be considerate when parking on roads and pavements in the village. Though we understand that parking is a major problem for some, particularly in the centre of the village, please be considerate of pedestrians and others. Remember to leave sufficient space for those with prams and pushchairs to pass safely on the pavement and not have to venture into the road. You may be considered to be causing an obstruction so please do not block pavements and pathways. Also can you ensure that you do not park too close to junctions where lines of sight can be severely restricted. It would help if residents ensure boundary hedges are maintained and do not encroach on the footpath reducing pedestrian space.

### Planning Applications

**Shepherd Cottage, Bridge Street (listed building):** replacement of timber floors. No objections provided the Historic Buildings Officer is satisfied with the materials proposed and the results of a heritage assessment undertaken on this listed cottage.

**Land Rear of Deer Park View:** erection of 56 dwellings. The Parish Council objected most strongly to this application. The main reasons for objection are that the site is outside any development boundary (village envelope) and is contrary to National Planning Policy and Braintree District Council (BDC)'s Emerging Local Plan. BDC can demonstrate a 5-Year housing land supply without the need to consider such unallocated sites. Such a development would be harmful to the village and would have significant negative impacts. The rural nature and historic character of the village is seriously threatened by this proposal. The current infrastructure and local

services cannot accommodate this development.

Our full response can be viewed online at Braintree District Planning Portal for application number 21/03121/FUL

**Tree Works**

There were no objections to tree works and management at Holly House and Brindley House in Dunmow Road or Rosetta in Bridge End. Comments on tree works at Place Farm, Dunmow Road were deferred, awaiting information from BDC.

**Proposed Prisons (MOD Wethersfield)**

Representatives of Great Bardfield Parish Council attended a meeting with, and are in ongoing discussion with, other local parish councils, and District and County Councillors, regarding the proposal to build two prisons on land currently owned by the Ministry of Defence at Wethersfield Airbase. The Ministry of Justice had requested residents' comments, though the formal application together with full details of the proposal and plans, is not likely until early in 2022. At this time we will submit our response as a consultee. We will, of course, take residents' concerns into consideration.

**Town Hall Christmas Tree**

The Parish Council were pleased to approve a contribution of £100 towards the cost of a Christmas tree to be situated outside the Town Hall.

**Parish Council Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

On behalf of Great Bardfield Parish Council may I wish you all a joyous Christmas where you can safely get together with family and friends, and a healthy and happy 2022.

**Carolynne Ruffle**  
**Chairperson**

**Joanna Bawden, 1935-2021**

Some readers may remember Joanna Bawden who has died recently. She was the daughter of Edward and Charlotte Bawden and older sister of Richard. Joanna grew up in Brick House, Great Bardfield and studied painting at the Ruskin School of Art in Oxford and later at the Royal College of Art. In spite of her talent for painting Joanna was advised by her parents to take up textile design which she studied under the distinguished weaver Marianne Straub who lived in Trinity Cottage in the High Street, opposite Brick House. She went on to teach weaving at both



*Joanna with Charlotte and Richard at Skegness, c.1947*



*Joanna Bawden, self portrait, c.1954*

the Central School of Art and the RCA, later setting up a shop selling wool in Camden Town. Joanna was clearly a talented artist and craftswoman in her own right, one of a number of women artists sadly overlooked as so many female artists of that period were.

## From the Vicarage...

What is at the heart of Christmas? It's a question we might have found ourselves pondering last year, as restrictions meant that many of the things we would usually have done to celebrate were simply not possible. I remember vividly spending an evening alone in church on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, doing take after take of my sermon (not a luxury I usually have!) as I recorded a service which I knew, for many, would be the closest they could get to their church that Christmas. Although I did it with a heavy heart, knowing what a serious situation was making this necessary, there was no sense in which I minded going through this strange experience. For at the heart of my Christmas, last year, this year, and every year, is the desire to bring people close to God.

After all, Christmas is about God coming close to us. The mystery we celebrate, is that of God the Son coming to share the experience of being human – to demonstrate God's love through closeness to us. For many people, coming to church, at Christmas or any other time, is a way of responding in kind – a way of drawing close to God. Of course, we don't just find God in church, but churches have that special quality of being places where the distractions and business of everyday life can be set aside. Their whole purpose is to be places dedicated to being with God, and so it was important last Christmas to help people reach out, even if only virtually, to bring that sacred space into their own homes.

It is our hope, in all the churches of our new group (which, you might notice, has a new name, coming from the River Pant which joins the six parishes together), that they will once again this Christmas be places where many people can come and draw close to God, as they hear the story of how God came to live among us. Amidst all the frantic preparations that December inevitably brings, do take a moment, or as many moments as you can (!), to ponder these things, and to reflect on how the message of Christmas is, quite simply, how much each one of us is loved.

**Rev'd/Fr Alex**

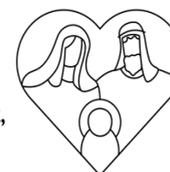
## Christmas Services 2021

in the Pant Valley Churches

### Carol Services

#### Sunday 12 December

4pm Blackmore End  
Village Hall  
6pm St John the Baptist,  
Finchingfield



#### Sunday 19 December

4pm St John the Evangelist,  
Cornish Hall End  
6pm St Mary Magdalene,  
Wethersfield

### Christingle Service

Saturday 18 December

3pm St Mary the Virgin, Great Bardfield

### Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service, St John the Baptist, Finchingfield  
5pm Carols by Candlelight, St Andrew, Shalford

#### Midnight Mass

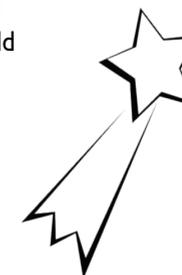
11.30pm St Katharine, Little Bardfield  
11.30pm St Mary Magdalene, Wethersfield

### Christmas Morning

9.30am St Andrew, Shalford  
9.30am St John the Evangelist, Cornish Hall End  
10am St John the Baptist, Finchingfield  
10am St Mary the Virgin, Great Bardfield

### Sunday 2 January

2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed  
at Boydells Farm



## Services for December 2021 and January 2022

in the Pant Valley Churches

### Thursday 2 December

10am Prayer Group – Shalford  
10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

### Sunday 5 December – Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield  
9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Shalford  
9.30am Café Church – Cornish Hall End  
10.30am All Age Eucharist – Finchingfield  
4pm Time to Be – Wethersfield

### Thursday 9 December

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

### Sunday 12 December – Third Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford  
9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Cornish Hall End  
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield  
11am All Age Morning Worship (Toy Service) – Wethersfield  
4pm Carol Service – Blackmore End Village Hall  
6pm Carol Service – Finchingfield

### Thursday 16 December

10am Prayer Group – Shalford  
10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

### Saturday 18 December

10am Children's Church – Wethersfield  
3pm Christingle Service – Great Bardfield

### Sunday 19 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield  
9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford  
10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield  
10.30am All Age Morning Worship – Finchingfield

4pm Carol Service – Cornish Hall End  
6pm Carol Service – Wethersfield

### Thursday 23 December

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

### Friday 24 December – Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service – Finchingfield  
5pm Carols by Candlelight – Shalford  
11.30pm Midnight Mass – Wethersfield & Little Bardfield

### Saturday 25 December – Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion – Shalford & Cornish Hall End  
10am Sung Eucharist – Finchingfield & Great Bardfield

### Sunday 26 December – St Stephen's Day

10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Shalford

*Services in the week following Christmas:*

### Monday 27 December – St John the Evangelist

10am Said Eucharist – Cornish Hall End

### Tuesday 28 December – Holy Innocents

10am Said Eucharist – Great Bardfield

### Wednesday 29 December – St Thomas of Canterbury

10am Said Eucharist – Little Bardfield

### Sunday 2 January

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield  
9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Shalford  
9.30am Café Church – Cornish Hall End  
10.30am All Age Eucharist – Finchingfield  
2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed – Boydells Farm

### Thursday 6 January – The Epiphany

10am Prayer Group – Shalford  
10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

**Sunday 9 January – The Baptism of Christ**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford  
 9.30am Eucharist with Hymns – Cornish Hall End  
 10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield  
 11am All Age Morning Worship – Wethersfield

**Thursday 13 January**

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

**Sunday 16 January – Second Sunday after Epiphany**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield  
 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford  
 10.30am Sung Eucharist – Great Bardfield  
 10.30am All Age Morning Worship – Finchingfield  
 4pm Words and Music for Epiphany – Cornish Hall End

**Thursday 20 January**

10am Prayer Group – Shalford  
 10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

**Sunday 23 January – Third Sunday after Epiphany**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield  
 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford  
 9.30am Sung Eucharist – Little Bardfield  
 11am All Age Eucharist – Wethersfield

**Tuesday 25 January – The Conversion of St Paul**

9.30am Eucharist – Great Bardfield

**Thursday 27 January**

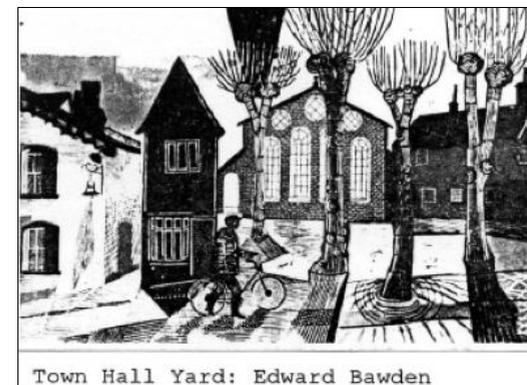
10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

**Sunday 30 January – Candlemas**

10.30am Benefice Eucharist – Wethersfield  
 3pm Christingle Service – Finchingfield

**Town Hall Happenings**

Things are now well and truly open at the Town Hall. We were lucky to enjoy a night of classic rock on 23<sup>rd</sup> October with “Strike School” whose performance was excellent. We hope to be able to arrange another evening later next year. Thank you to all those involved in making arrangements and assisting on the night.



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

A Christmas Tree will be erected outside the Hall at the beginning of December and on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December** Bardfield Community Choir and Bardfield Brass are planning to travel around the village playing and singing Carols. They will end the evening at around **7.30pm outside the Town Hall** around the Christmas Tree. Everyone is welcome.

Finally, the Town Hall Management Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas. The Town Hall is available for hire and let's hope in 2022 we can all be involved in events and activities. Keep your eyes open for activities including Cinema Club, Quiz night, Carpet Bowls and much more.

**John Maidman, Chair**

**Town Hall Management Committee**

**Bardfield Community Choir**

I'm pleased to announce that the Community Choir is singing once more after nearly 2 years of silence due to Lockdown. There are currently about 30 members who will be meeting in the Church from 7.30-8.45 pm every Tuesday. We were delighted to be invited to sing at the Licensing of our new Priest in Charge, Rev. Alex Shannon. Open air singing of carols and Christmas songs is planned for December. We sing all kinds of music and would be happy to have more singers – sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. If you'd like to join the Choir contact me on [jm.dyson@btinternet.com](mailto:jm.dyson@btinternet.com)

**Janet Dyson, Musical Director**

## A sleeping beauty is brought back to life

For many residents of Bardfield, Black Lane is a line of trees, from Charity Farm to Paul's Farm, at the back of the fields on your left as you enter the village from Dunmow.



This impressive, ancient green lane is a bridleway which has been impossible to walk and enjoy until its knights in shining armour from the Friends of the Flitch Way spent eight weeks and 200 hours of their time turning back the years of neglect and bringing it back to life. Please do take the time to follow in the footsteps of our ancestors once more.

The Parish Council are consulting with the PRow team at Essex about how to improve the access and drainage so the path near Charity Farm is accessible in all weathers.

The years of lack of maintenance meant that the exact location of the track was hard to discern so a delve into the cartographic record was

required – and what a rich and varied story this important thoroughfare had to tell.

We start at the end, the present day, and work back to the late mediaeval years but for the moment must leave the beginnings in the mists of time still to be researched.

Modern satellites and the internet, courtesy of ECC & Ordnance Survey, show us the distinctive shape of Black Lane - starting on the

Dunmow Road at Charity Farm, arcing towards Paul's Farm, followed by a double right-angled turn before continuing to Bell Lane.



Taking our lead from these technological marvels, Ordnance Survey past editions start our journey back in time.

70 years and very little has changed with major landmarks still the same. Black Lane and the surrounding footpaths are clearly marked. A few new field boundaries have appeared.

30 years earlier and Paul's Farm has become Cracknell's Farm. Some of our current residents have memories of this name.

The importance of water in the wider landscape is represented by the large pond, marked at the junction near Charity Farm. This forms the



1955



1924

Brook which ultimately makes an entrance in the village by the Fountain

Astute observers will note that the parish boundary has changed. More of this later.

140 years and the smallholding on Bell Lane is known as Paul's Farm rather than being referred to as a set of cottages.

The importance of trees at this time is reflected in their representation within the hedgerows.

Mention was made earlier about the parish boundary which crosses the large field and whose junction with Black Lane is marked by an oak pollard. Could the dead oak pollard pictured be the one mentioned – it is in the right place



Oak pollard



1881

These printed Ordnance Survey maps give us a



1838 Little Bardfield

modern, industrial age view of the Bardfield landscape and use conventions which we readily recognise. Now we have to rely on the hand drawn and coloured maps that have miraculously survived in our public record offices. These were surveyed



1835 Great Bardfield

by individuals riding on horseback, living in the community for months whilst using chains and a notebook to record their observations.

The 180 year old tithe maps, surveyed and drawn by James Beadel of Witham, give us a glimpse into older traditions. Two maps are required as each parish had its own tithe map and much of Black Lane formed the boundary between Great and Little Bardfield. The gaps at the southern end reflect the piecemeal arrangement of the parishes at this time.

The importance of Black Lane as a thoroughfare is clearly shown as it is depicted in exactly the same style as the Dunmow Road and Bell Lane. The junction with Bell Lane was called Paul's Cross.

The pond at Charity Farm also warranted inclusion.

From the accompanying apportionments, we know who owned the farms - Charity Farm (Parish of Bardfield, Trustee Rev B Lampett); Town Barn (Dorcas Smith); Place Farm (James Pasmore); Cracknell's Farm (John Tabor); Paul's & Wainsford's (Humphrey Smith) (Courtesy of the National Archives)

The maps covering the whole of Essex, surveyed and drawn by Chapman and Andre, allow us to travel back 250 years.



1777 Plate VII

Black Lane is clearly depicted indicating that it must have been a significant feature in the landscape for them to have spent time surveying and drawing it. (Courtesy of Essex Record Office)

Our final stop, for the moment, is 1755 and a local treasure - the map that hangs in the church for all to see.



1777 Index

It is an estate map that was surveyed and drawn by Timothy Skynner of Coggeshall for the local landowner, James Raymond.

This map again reinforces the idea that Black Lane was of some significance since it is depicted in the same detail as the other roads in the parish.

These older maps often give an indication of the origin of names so "Paul" would seem to be a modern spelling of the original "Poll"

As I walk this green lane



1755 Estate Map

in the months to come, my thoughts will turn to those who have travelled along it over the last 270 years. I will also marvel at the persistence and accuracy of the surveyors who made my research of this sleeping beauty possible.

Curiosity means that the journey back in time continues.



## Great Bardfield Horticultural Society

Get longer-lasting bulb displays in pots—using layering technique (also known as bulb lasagnes). With careful bulb selection, you can have colour from late winter right through to late spring in just the one pot. Now is the best time to plant as you will have the pick of the bulbs at garden centres and online. Pick your pot - be sure to choose a container that is at least 30cm (1ft) wide and high – this will provide enough room for three layers of bulbs. Bear in mind that larger containers can be heavy and difficult to move. Ensure that the pots are free of chips or cracks and are frost resistant. Then follow three simple steps:

- First layer: cover the drainage hole with crocks and add some peat free compost. Position big late-flowering bulbs such as tulips and late-



From "The Garden" RHS Advice

blooming daffodils in a circle, leaving a bulb-sized gap between each one. You will need 9 to 12 bulbs in a 30cm (1ft wide) container.

- Second layer: cover the first layer of bulbs with enough compost so that the tops are just visible, firming down and filling the gaps, ready for the next bulb layer. About 10 – 15 early-flowering daffodils will give colour in March; or try a few hyacinths for scent. Nestle each bulb into the gaps between the tops of the bulbs below, so that bulbs in lower layer will be able to grow easily past those above.
- Third and final layer: add more compost to cover the second layer and position the final layer of small early-flowering bulbs, such as crocus, snowdrops or Iris reticulata, on top.

You can plant 15 -18 bulbs here to start the show in February or early March. Top up the pot with the last layer of compost, finishing just below the rim, so there is room for watering. Place in a sunny, sheltered spot and keep moist.

Our first meeting for your new 2022 diary is **Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm in the Town Hall**. Our speaker is Alan Gray from the wonderful gardens at East Ruston. The title of the talk is "**The History of the Garden at East Ruston**". This is an event not to be missed!!

Alan has been gardening since the age of 4 and by the time he was 7 he had 3 gardens, so we can safely assume he has gardening in his blood!!! East Ruston gardens were established in 1973 by Alan and Graham Robeson who have created a 32 acre design which incorporates exuberant and innovative planting alongside a more traditional design. **Tickets for the talk will be £10 each (for members) and £12 for non members**, this will include tea, coffee and homemade cakes. There will be a lucky ticket draw and raffle. **Tickets are available from Linda Prior 811641 and Lynne Joyce 810524.**

We would like to wish all our members a safe, enjoyable and peaceful Christmas with best wishes for 2022.

**For any information about the Society please contact Linda Prior 811641**

## The Skynner Map of 1755 – A Glimpse into Bardfield's Past

If you've not already come across it, next time you are in St Mary's Church do have a look at the T. Skynner map which hangs on the wall. This was commissioned by Jones Raymond, Lord of the Manor and shows the parish of Great Bardfield with Bardfield Saling as it was in 1755. Some years ago, the map was digitised by Essex Record Office so that we could study it in more depth without damaging the original.

Every parcel of land and track in the parish is named and provides a fascinating insight into how the land was farmed and used. The map lists the main landowners and details the size of their holdings. Several references to Hop Grounds tell us that hops were widely grown for beer, and Brick Kiln, Lime Kiln and Clay Pitt meadows suggest brick-making activities. Sometimes the names simply describe the field, its size or who owned it – there are at least two triangular Three Corner Fields. Mill Fields lie close to wind and water mills, Home Fields are close to farms and Dovehouse and Barn Fields contain... dovecotes and barns. Some names are worth mentioning. We can see that Walthams Cross was actually Walderhams Cross, Sculpins Bridge was Sculpit Bridge and Hawkspur Green was Hawksby Green. Money Field Common and Anford Common on the western edge of the parish appear to show narrow strips of land – perhaps common land for grazing or haymaking.

Woodland and hedgerows are depicted on the map as stylised little trees and all the buildings are shown as red-topped houses, varying in size. Most of the houses in the village are clustered along High Street, Brook Street, Vine Street and Crown Street. There are only a few houses near the church, not many along Bridge Street but there's another cluster at Bridge End. Where the school stands now is just a field. It is impossible to know whether Skynner included every building, perhaps not all the out-buildings or stables, but we can identify the principal older buildings in the centre of the village and the farms standing in their own land. Indeed, there are a few farms which appear on the map but are no longer in existence.

Outside The Vine and The White Hart you can just make out large 'goal post' inn signs across the road. Where the memorial green is now we see the Guildhall, quite a large building, which contained a boys' school and almshouses originally provided by Sergeant Bendlowes. This was not looked after by his charity and fell down overnight in 1795. Directly opposite

the entrance to St Mary's Church we see a tree-lined avenue (The Walk) which follows an almost straight line all the way to Great Lodge. This was a magnificent mansion built by the Lord of the Manor, Sir Martin Lumley in c.1620. By 1729 it had fallen into disrepair and was pulled down. Looking at the map there is still quite a lot of what was probably a service wing and the barn still standing with a footprint of where the rest of it once stood.

One final thing worth looking out for is the highways and green lanes which weave through the parish following the contours of the ancient fields. Coney Green, Tom's Lane, Gallow Green – these ancient routes are protected and looked after by the Parish Council and are a precious reminder of how for centuries villagers traversed the parish by foot or horseback, long before roads as we know them were built.

**Jenny Rooney**

**Great Bardfield Historical Society**

### BLACKWATER

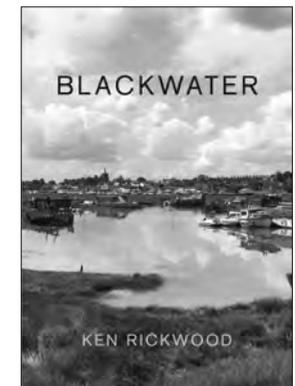
**KEN RICKWOOD**

The Essex river Blackwater rises in the parish of Wimbish and flows for 34 miles through the picturesque villages of North-west Essex. The Pant in Great Bardfield is a tributary of the Blackwater which flows through Finchingfield then passes by the historic towns of Bocking, Coggeshall and Witham to enter the largest of all Essex estuaries at Heybridge near Maldon.

Ken Rickwood has walked the length of this interesting river from source to estuary recording his journey in words and pictures, parish by parish as he followed the course of this river through history and across his home county.

Price £10

On sale at Between the Lines, Great Bardfield; Red Lion Books, Colchester and other local outlets and [www.localeastanglianbooks.com](http://www.localeastanglianbooks.com)

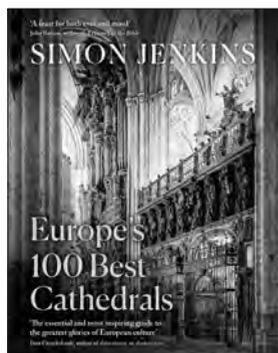


## Page Turners

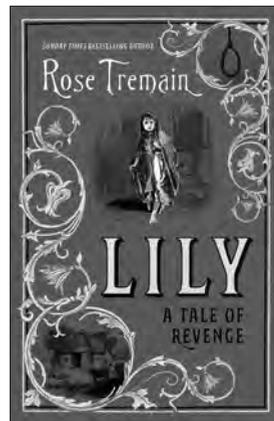
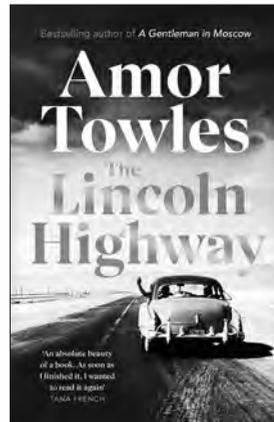
There's always an avalanche of new books published in time for Christmas. Books make great presents and have the advantage of being easy to wrap, so here are some suggestions for readers of all ages.

Fans of the American author Amor Towles who wrote the highly successful *A Gentleman in Moscow* will be delighted to receive his new novel *The Lincoln Highway*. Written in the tradition of the great American road novels it starts with an apparently straightforward car journey along the highway that begins in Times Square, New York and ends 3,000 miles away in Lincoln Park, San Francisco. This extraordinary, dramatic story is set in the 1950s and unfolds as its characters travel along the road. This epic novel has been described as a love letter to America. At almost 600 pages it's a long read - perfect for when the Christmas guests have departed!

There's a new historical novel from Rose Tremain. *Lily: A Tale of Revenge* is a dark story set in Victorian London. Abandoned at the gates of a London park baby Lily Mortimer is saved by a young police constable and taken to the London Foundling Hospital. Over the years the young policeman keeps watch over the young girl he once saved from a distance. When they meet again there is an instant attraction but Lily harbours a dreadful secret. For lovers of Dickens this fable of revenge in Victorian London with themes of suffering and rebirth is a perfect Christmas read.



For those who prefer non-fiction Simon Jenkins' new book *Europe's 100 Best Cathedrals* would be an excellent gift and a delight for someone who is no longer able to travel abroad. It is an inspiring guide to some of the greatest glories of European culture from Ely to St Mark's in Venice. Beautifully illustrated with colour photographs this is a gorgeous book to dip

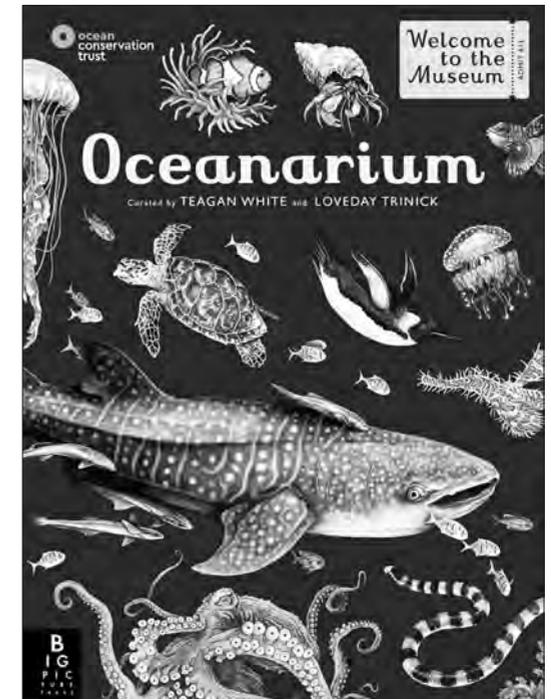


into on cold winter evenings.

A delightful addition to the Penguin Classics list is Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*. These three interlinked stories set in rural Alabama between the wars are an evocative tribute to the Christmas season as the author recalls Christmases spent on his parents' farm, a troubling encounter in a wintry New York and a festive miracle in a drug store. With its pretty gold-patterned cover this is perfect for a literary stocking-filler.

The latest book in the beautifully produced Welcome to the Museum series is *Oceanarium* – a guided tour of the world's oceans; the intricate artwork celebrates the beauty and strangeness of sea creatures from giant white sharks to tiny tropical fish and majestic manatees, showing why it is so important that we protect our oceans. A gorgeous book to keep. Age range 10+.

Finally, you can't go wrong with Annuals. The Beano, Dandy and Doctor Annuals cross the generations and are perfect for a quiet read on Boxing Day. **'Bibliophile'**



## GREENFINGERS

**W**ell folks this is when we have a rest from gardening, so just two jobs to consider. Evergreen Agapanthus are vulnerable to cold winters so give a nice wrap of fleece if it turns overly chilly. A layer of bark chippings on top of the soil gives protection, a good tip for other borderline hardy plants, dahlias, gauras, salvias and the like. Our agapanthus in pots are pulled near a conifer for shelter and tipped on their side. A second little chore is to cut off some of the leggy stems on roses, proper pruning done in late February, weather permitting.

Before I trundle off to an Iris talk I present Twelve Days of Christmas as the seasonal base for this reflection on the best plant delights of 2021:

**Valerian officianlis** to begin. Perhaps you have never heard of this wild and tall variety. I acquired it 4 years ago after seeing it surrounding a statue of Mercury accompanied by grasses in a National Trust garden. Peter Beale's Rose Gardens in Norfolk have armies of this white, touched with pink wild flower, towering at 5 feet fronting all their roses.



It has seeded a colony here but now not a problem as they have a new site to show them to perfection fronting all our roses along the gravel path.

**Rosa Odyssey**, a delicate lavender pink beauty, open flowers display its pink stamens, it has a gorgeous scent and looks good with silver.

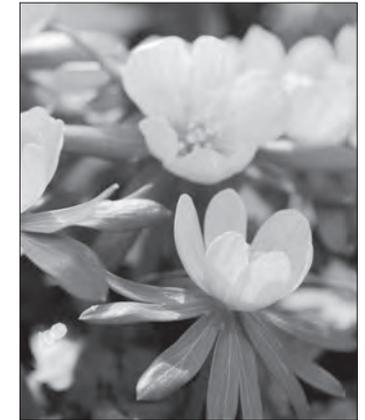
*Rosa Odyssey*

Into August now, **Penstemon Czar** took my eye with its mauve flower spike.

**Salvia ulignosa**, 5 feet, wafts in the breeze of September showing sky blue flowers, a dream of a plant.

October/ November brings another tall blue to bloom, **Aconitum napellus**. Liken it to an autumn delphinium but be aware if you have a dog do not risk it as the whole plant is deadly poisonous.

December, perhaps you think of holly, my choice is the delicate silver and white leaves of the evergreen holly **Milky boy**, but also the vigorous climber Solanum jasminoides. Plant it amongst the wisteria as it has fine evergreen leaves and flowers in the autumn.



*Eranthis*

January's choice has to be the early golden aconite **Eranthis**.

Just four to go so here is a quick list should you, the reader, begin to lose interest. Winter flowering yellow **Jasmines**; I still adore the grass **Carex Evergold**, it manages to look good all year, be it in shade or in a pot; **Cornus Midwinter fire** with its pinky orange stems, and finally the **Iris** selection bred by the artist Cedric Morris.

**All gorgeous for 2022** 🌸

## CAROL SINGING



**On Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> Bardfield Brass and the Bardfield Community Choir will play and sing carols and Christmas music in three locations:**

**6pm: Deer Park View**

**6.45: Bendlowes Road**

**7.30: At the Town Hall Christmas Tree followed by Mulled Wine.**

**Everyone Welcome!**

## Nature Notes

According to the nursery rhyme 'Slugs and snails and puppy dogs' tails, that's what little boys are made of', insinuates that little boys are not very nice! Well, I wouldn't put slugs and snails in the same league as puppy dogs' tails, I like puppy dogs' tails but loathe slugs and snails, especially after this year which has seen my worst ever year for slug damage in my veg garden. I can honestly say I have never known a year like it; 50% of my potatoes were unfit for use and those that I could use had at least one slug hole in them. Some even had slugs still inside the potato, most of my carrots had holes in them and even a few beetroot had been attacked, and most of courgettes had been nibbled. As much



as I detest slugs, I don't like using slug pellets in fear of my dog and birds eating them but I do set slug traps with some success. All God's creatures were put on this earth for a reason so they must have a purpose, but what is it? Well, they do provide food for a lot of birds especially thrushes and blackbirds, rooks, and crows, ducks, slow worms, earth worms, and several mammals also eat slugs. It's a shame wood pigeons don't eat slugs but they are vegetarians. We have so many pigeons they would help to control the slugs. Hedgehogs eat slugs but there are not many hedgehogs about these days. It's very interesting watching a thrush

bashing a snail against a stone to smash the snail shell so that they can eat the contents. Slugs can and do transmit rat lung worms to humans so it is very important that we wash things like lettuce. Even the Queen found a slug in the lettuce on her plate recently so the little devils



get everywhere. There are lots of different types of slugs and snails both on the land and in water and even in the sea, and of course there are several types of snails which are edible and even considered a delicacy. I know of one farmer not very far away who makes a living growing edible snails for top London restaurants.

Slugs are hermaphrodite, so each individual can lay eggs - up to 300 each. Slug eggs are laid in batches, usually 10 to 15, in moist but not waterlogged soil. Most species found in our gardens have an annual life cycle lasting less than a year, and can lay eggs in any month providing conditions are suitable. The different strains of slugs have different life expectancies between 1 to 5 years, The ones that are the smallest in size are the ones which do the most damage to our plants and are the constant pests on farms. Some slugs are cannibalistic and eat other slugs and snails but others can co-exist. There are lots of ways to control slugs in our gardens but the most environmentally friendly is to encourage the carnivorous predators such as toads, hedgehogs and thrushes into our gardens but that is easier said than done. Another way is to use a slug trap which is something which has worked very well for me in the past. To do this you need a piece of black polyethene sheet. You spread slug pellets on the ground where slugs are active and cover them over with the polyethene sheet which you then peg down. The slugs go under the sheet where it is dark and damp and consume the slug pellets and die under, the sheet. After a few days you can peel back the sheet, dig a hole in the ground, scrape all the dead slugs and leftover pellets into the hole and bury them that way. Birds and other creatures don't eat dead slugs or slug pellets and end up poisoned.

**Mac Beanland**

## THE OLD DAYS with Michael

The farmers finished harvest some time ago now, but I don't expect many people will object to my coming up with a story of something that happened at that time of the year ages ago?

I am going back to the time when binders were towed round the fields cutting the crop and tying it into sheaths. This was done with horses which worked all day and were much aggravated with flies and the heat!

Later on tractors started to appear as yet combine harvesters had never been heard of!

There were lots of rabbits as well as hares and the odd fox existing in the crop and their living room was gradually getting smaller, with every round of the binder.

Quite a few would run out of the corn in search of safety, but sometimes they were confronted by a boy or man holding a stick or accompanied by a dog and would return into the corn for safety.

The people who were there with the sticks and dogs were villagers who were there for the 'sport' but also hoped that they would get a rabbit for a nice stew or pie! We had started by selecting a stout stick out of the hedgerow and trimming it up to suit us.

Sometimes it was apparent that the harvest of a large field would be completed that evening which meant there would be no more corn standing for the animals to take cover in. When one of these evenings was likely to occur, news of it spread round the village and when you grabbed your stick and went to the field, you were greeted by a dozen or two men and young lads and quite a festive and jolly evening developed, and a very happy time was had by all, especially those who were taking home a rabbit or two which they had chased and overtaken.

**Michael Hitchcock**



*Harvesting by John Nash depicts the scene described by Michael. The picture was one of the series of School Print Posters done for Shell Mex. They hung in most school classrooms in the 1950s.*

*Finchingfield Library*

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*We will be CLOSED from Wednesday*

*22<sup>nd</sup> December to*

*Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January*

*We reopen on*

*Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January*



*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas &  
a Happy New Year*

*Linda & all the library team ladies*

## Little Bardfield School

The building that stands beside the Almshouses in Little Bardfield was once the village school, now converted to a house. The school was endowed by the Church of England and this extract from the Trust Deed gives insight into the curriculum and the requirements of the School Mistress in the C18th. We would be surprised today to find the virtues of sobriety and discretion listed in the job description for a teacher!

In the Trust of 1724: "Three vicars are to pay the sum of £18 of lawful money of Great Britain unto some sober, discreet woman ... to teach freely and constantly such children either boys or girls of Poor Persons belonging to the Parish of Little Bardfield. Not exceeding 18 at one time, to read English, and the girls to sew plain work, and knit, and to instruct all the children in the Catechism of the Church of England. The sum of £4 to a School Mistress, to be tax free."



### Little Bardfield School struck by Lightning

An interesting little story recorded by the late Rev Norman Clift:

In a letter to Mrs Mears, the rector's wife, in 1926, "To the nearest date of remembrance of my mother, the thunderstorm that hit Little Bardfield School was 27th April 1881 in the morning whilst the lessons were in progress. The screams of the children were heard 2 miles away. The bell fell from the building to the ground and bricks fell in all directions. Fortunately everyone escaped, but some had a few cuts by falling glass. Not one pane of glass was left in

the two cottages near the school ... A service of thanksgiving was held in the church. The church itself was struck the very same year! My mother being only 10 years old when this happened."

Editor: I wonder if any of our readers has ever heard anything about this cataclysmic event?

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## Great Bardfield Primary School

At Great Bardfield Primary School, we are enjoying delivering our brand new Foundation Subject Curriculum which staff have worked hard on over the last year. It is bespoke to our school and accommodates our mixed Year groups. We have been so pleased with the children's enthusiasm for learning and the positive way in which they have responded to developing their skills and knowledge. Already, we have narrowed some of the gaps that inevitably opened up when the children missed three months of school this year, in spite of the marvellous job our parents did with Home Schooling.

Part of our extended curriculum is thinking about others and looking after our world. Every year in November, we collect our Smile Boxes for children in The Ukraine. This year we were delighted to collect 112 boxes which we were able to give to the charity that has collected them every year at the school, for the last 23 years. This tradition every year is very important to our school ethos but we were incredibly sad to learn that this will be our last year for the boxes. George Mills who organises the Smile Boxes, is retiring but we will still find a way to keep fundraising for the children that he supports and who badly need our help.



Remembrance Week, is also a very important week in our school calendar. Every year, the children are involved in an art project to mark Armistice Day. This year, we hope that you noticed our Poppy Wall if you were driving through the village. All of the children decorated a poppy

and wrote a message of thanks to the servicemen and women for the sacrifices they made for our freedom. As we do each year, our Year 6 children walked up to the War Memorial in the village, on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday, and laid a wreath on behalf of our school. This year the wreath was laid by our Year 6 school ambassadors Ellie and Luca. We were pleased to welcome two of our parents who are currently serving in the army, to our special Remembrance Assembly. The children enjoyed hearing all about the special jobs they do and how they help people.



Christmas will be joyful this year as we return to all of the events and activities that are so special in December. We will value them more this year than ever! We will be having our Nativity presented by Reception and Key Stage One and our Key Stage Two children will present their traditional Carol Concert, at St Mary the Virgin church, in the village. We are also very excited to be visiting the pantomime again in Chelmsford, as a whole school, on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. In addition to all of these great events, our PTA are working very hard to pull together our Christmas Fair which will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 12 noon-4pm. We will also have a special shopping event just for the children, Shop 'til you drop and of course our traditional Christmas dinner and Christmas Class parties. We are hopeful that Santa has his vaccine passport and passenger locator forms in order so that he can pay us a visit!

This has been another very challenging year for our school but we have much to be grateful for. Our whole school community is stronger than ever and we have pulled together to get through the difficult days. We are hopeful that 2022 will be a year of wonderful times and positive opportunities.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Great Bardfield Primary School.

**Mrs Kerrell**  
**Headteacher**

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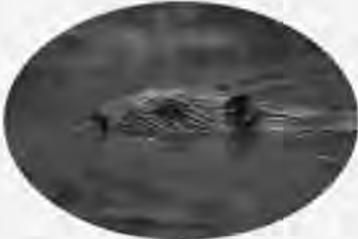
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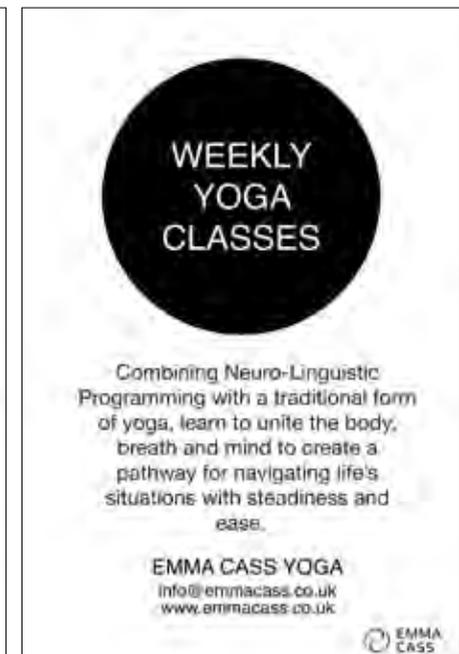
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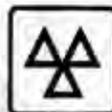
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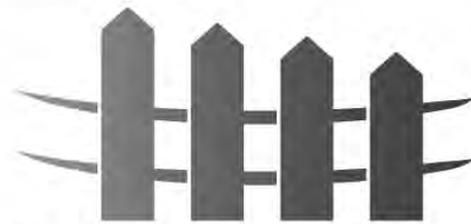
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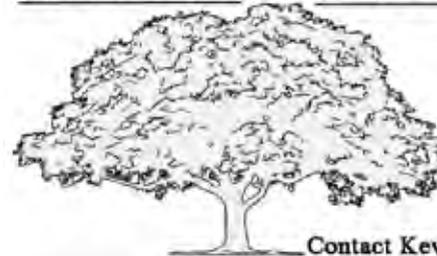
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**DO YOU NEED CHILCARE HELP  
BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL?**



Following Covid, our plan is to reopen our Clubs with the new term after Easter, on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Pat is the Manager of our After School Club and children can be picked up from their classrooms or from the School's Clubs and brought back to us. 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.

We look forward to seeing you and making your child feel really at home.

Stay Safe Always and follow us on Facebook 'Great Bardfield After School Club' for updates.

Pat & The Team

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

## TOWN HALL DIARY

### December 2021

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cinema Club	7.30pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Carpet bowls	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Carols out the front	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Carpet Bowls	7.30pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm

### January 2022

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Carpet bowls	7.30pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cinema Club	7.30pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Young @ Heart Fitness Fun	9.30am
	Tuesday club	2.00pm
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm
	Committee Room	
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Carpet Bowls	7.30pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Young @ Heart Fitness Fun	9.30am
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Carpet Bowls	7.30pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Young @ Heart Fitness Fun	9.30am
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Carpet Bowls	7.30pm
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30pm

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

**Enquiries and bookings** [bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com)

## Great Bardfield Parish

**Clerk to the Parish Council** [clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk) 810111

**Councillors** Carolynne Ruffle (Chair) 810986

Paul Kennedy 810540

Darren Hockley 810836

Simon Walsh 810451

Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402

Janet Dyson 07957 483207

Iain Graham 07831 595555

**Braintree District Council** 01376 552525

**Councillors Cllr Peter Tattersley** [Cllr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ptattersley@braintree.gov.uk) 07938 930003

**Cllr Vanessa Santomauro** [Cllr.vsantomauro@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.vsantomauro@braintree.gov.uk) 07740 348528

**Police** for non-emergency enquiries dial 101

for emergency enquiries dial 999

## Little Bardfield Parish

**Chairman of the Parish Council** Andrew Davies [davies@farmline.com](mailto:davies@farmline.com)

**Clerk to the Parish Council** Liz Williamson 07866 400607

[LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com](mailto:LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com)

**Uttlesford District Council** Saffron Walden 01799 510510

**Councillor** Cllr George Smith

[Cllrsmith@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:Cllrsmith@uttlesford.gov.uk) 07896 618944

**Bardfield After School & Breakfast Club** Pat Moore 07767 413055

**Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club** Clifford Richardson 810782

**Bardfield Charities** Brenda Poston 810519

**Bardfield Players** Ian Ruffle 810986

**1st Finchingfield Scout Group** Mark Wells 810447

[mark.2millside@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.2millside@btinternet.com)

**Muddogs Youth Football** Tony Clarke-Holland 07710 506007

[www.muddogs.co.uk/tch@thebcf.co.uk](http://www.muddogs.co.uk/tch@thebcf.co.uk)

**Gt Bardfield Primary School** [admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk) 810252

**Gt Bardfield Pre-School** Kathy King 811580

**Gt Bardfield Historical Society** Marilyn Edwards 810555

**Gt Bardfield Horticultural Society** Linda Prior 811641

**Parish Priest Great & Little Bardfield** Fr. Alex Shannon 01371 810309/07483 878659

**Catholic Priest** Fr. Richard Rowe 830808

**Town Hall Bookings** [bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com)

**Tuesday Club** [adriennepoulson@btinternet.com](mailto:adriennepoulson@btinternet.com) 811401

**Children's Clinic** (Finchingfield Freshwell Health Centre) 810328

**Refuse Collections** Gt. Bardfield Tuesdays from 7am,  
L. Bardfield Thursdays from 7am.

**Mobile Library** Little Bardfield, Styles,

Thursday 10am fortnightly

Gt Bardfield Town Hall,

Thursday 11.15am fortnightly

**Museum and Cage** Every Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday from

Easter to the last Sunday in

September 2.-5.30pm.

**Community Information Point (CIP)** Thurs and Sat 10am – 11.00am 811327

**The Samaritans** 01245 357357