



Yellowhammer by Barry Jones

June
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.

Editor: Janet Dyson
jm.dyson@btinternet.com

Layout designer: Joe Jones 07946495148

**Hand written letters
or articles for typing:** Alicia Holmes
Bunbury, Bridge Street, CM7 4SY

Advertising: advertising@bardfieldtimes.com
Kate Fox 01371 810111

Distribution: distribution@bardfieldtimes.com
Ray Coles 07582 640002
& Paul Euesden 01371 810118

Treasurer: treasurer@bardfieldtimes.com
Jackie Newton 01371 810586

Announcements: nicolapascoe.announcements@gmail.com
01371 811640



Front cover: Great Bardfield Horticultural Society visit to the garden at Ulting Wick by Doug Joyce

Editorial

Despite the cold, wet weather we are fast approaching the middle of Summer! From 1262 Midsummer's Day, June 22nd, was the day of the annual horse fair in Great Bardfield. On that day the village would be thronging with people and animals from all over East Anglia buying and selling, drinking and celebrating. The pubs and ale houses would be doing a roaring trade and some people would be spending a night in the Cage! There was even a special pudding for the occasion, 'Barful Fair Pudding' – see page 11 for recipe – you'll need a big bowl! The fair declined with the introduction of traction engines in the early part of the C20th and the loss of both horses and men in World War I.

There are many memories and stories about Bardfield Fair some of which are recorded in a booklet written by Peggy Swift, published by the Historical Society. She tells of a man from London who came back to visit his relations in Little Bardfield and offered to take his fourteen year old nephew back to London. His mother was worried the boy might get lost but he scoffed, 'Well I went to Bardfield Fair and I didn't get lost so I won't get lost in London!' On his return he reported, 'There's a tidy few people in London but nothing to what there are on Bardfield Fair day!' Peggy also recalled that it never rained on Bardfield Fair day!

As I write this we have heard the sad news of the sudden death of Paul Robinson. I'm sure many people have memories of Paul with his quirky sense of humour and cheery nature. His life was too short. We send condolences to Kerry and all members of Paul's big family.

We also remember the family of Dawn Dollimore who has died at the age of 94. Dawn and her husband Trevor were tremendous supporters of many village organisations and events. Dawn was active in the PTA and on the Town Hall Committee, especially the Arts and Crafts events, and many more, a tireless organiser and fundraiser.

You will see from his letter (page 12) that Father Robert is moving on to pastures new. We wish him well as he prepares to make the move to his new parish in Sussex and thank him for all he has done for our village communities over the last 19 years.

Janet Dyson
Editor

To the Editor of the Bardfield Times,

As some of your readers will know the Diocese of Chelmsford has decided to merge the parishes of Great and Little Bardfield with the benefice of Finchingfield, Wethersfield, Shalford and Cornish Hall End.

Arising from this decision Father Robert has been obliged to seek another position outside of the Chelmsford Diocese.

The proposed link with the enlarged benefice cannot take place until all the legal formalities have been completed and we will keep you advised as the procedure progresses through the system.

In the meantime, Father Robert has accepted a position as Priest Charge of Catsfield and Crowhurst in Sussex which he will take up later in the summer. We all wish Father Robert every happiness and success in his new post.

Father Robert has been our Parish Priest for some 19 years and has been our longest serving Incumbent since the time of Father Richard Masheder and he will be leaving his many friends and parishioners in the Bardfields with great sadness.

To commemorate his service to our community and our gratitude for his long ministry we are launching an appeal on his behalf which will be presented to him on his departure.

We believe that many of our readers will wish to contribute, and this can be done in the following ways: -

- By Cheque, payable to Great Bardfield PCC. Please mark the back "Father Robert"
- Bank Transfer, Great Bardfield Parochial Church Council. Sort Code 20-97-40 Account no 30144010. Showing "Father Robert" as reference.
- Cash, in an envelope please mark "Father Robert"
- Donations can be given to any of us or sent direct to our Treasurer, Julia Collins, Whinbush Farm, Walthams Cross, Great Bardfield. CM7 4QJ

Thank you all in anticipation of your support.

The Churchwardens.

Great Bardfield

Keith Farnfield – Peter Benwell

Little Bardfield

Charles Thompson – Peter Wood

Stebbing Vintage Tractor Run

This year's Tractor run in aid of the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance will be held on **June 20th** under strict social distancing rules. Each year we try to take a different route, last year we received a very warm



reception when we passed through Gt Bardfield so we are planning to pass through again this year by coming from the direction of the Blue Egg down the Braintree road up to the War Memorial then along Dunmow road to Charity Farm at about 2-30 to 3pm, it is very difficult to stick to a definite time. The main aim of the Event is to raise much needed funds for the Air Ambulance and we hope to be able count on everyone's support as usual.

Mac Beanland



Great Bardfield Parish Council report

This report covers the meetings held in April and May (our Annual General Meeting) as we were advised that it would be unlawful to hold our regular monthly Parish Council meeting, planned for 14th April, as this date fell within the period of mourning for the Duke of Edinburgh. This meeting had to be postponed until later in the month, after the deadline for this magazine.

The May meeting was the first held in person since March 2020. The interim measures put in place due the Covid emergency, for such meetings to be permitted via video call, expired in early May, so that Parish Council, and other local government meetings must now be held in public once more.

At the Annual General Meeting the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair were confirmed to be unchanged – Carolynne Ruffle (Chair), Simon Walsh (Vice Chair).

Works by Gigaclear

Gigaclear are working on behalf of Essex County Council to install ultra-fast fibre broadband throughout the County. We have come across them in the roads and lanes for some time but they are now starting work within the village. This will, of course, cause some disruption for the coming weeks.

Representatives of the Parish Clerk and Gigaclear met in mid May to discuss some concerns raised by residents and councillors, and to ensure we had a better understanding of the extent and timing of the works.

The works involve laying fibre cable along the main road and the verges. All works will take place on Highways property, and only on private property with the agreement of the landowner. Reinstatement will take place following the cable laying.

A number of green cabinets will also be installed along Dunmow Road and the High Street – the locations of these were indicated to us, and aim to cause as little impact as possible, particularly as these are in the conservation area.

Dunmow Road and the High Street will be closed to traffic for 6 days, **26th – 31st May** (including over the bank holiday weekend). If you are lucky enough to get your *Bardfield Times* early then this may be advanced warning for you, but otherwise you will have come across the stoppages. Diversions will be in place.

Parking on these roads will not be possible during this time. The Parish Council requested that Gigaclear write to affected residents.

Pavements will also be closed, mainly on the south side of the road. Diversions for pedestrians will be indicated.

We have been informed of other planned road closures as follows:

Vine Street: 18 – 21 June

Bell Lane: 6 – 8 July

Here are some useful links provided to us by Gigaclear:

- www.gigaclear.com/mycommunity - residents can use our postcode checker to register for service updates and to see if they are included in our network design.
- www.gigaclear.com/help - our FAQs
- <https://one.network> – published highways permit information.
- Our Network Build Care team contact details for residents - We know building the infrastructure can be disruptive. If residents have any issues or questions please contact the Network Build Care team.
T: 01865 591 137
E: networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com

Prescription Deliveries – Volunteer Group

For some time a group of volunteers has assisted in delivering prescription medication to those self-isolating or unable to collect for themselves. Freshwell and Thaxted Surgeries are asking those who are now able to get out and about again, to collect their prescriptions from the Surgery as before the pandemic. The volunteer group will remain in support of those who are unable to do so. Many thanks to these volunteers that have provided a friendly and reliable service over this time, to Cllr Lynsi Haywood-Smith and Kate Fox for organising us all, and to Cllr Iain Graham for collecting the prescriptions from the surgery and manning the CIP.

Planning Applications and Tree works

1 Mill Close – two-storey front extension and single-storey rear extension. No objections.

Songsters, Brook Street - erection of bay window and alterations. No objections.

Three Elms, Dunmow Road – single and two-storey extensions. No objections in principle though some concerns were raised about the substantial increase in size of this property and a request to refuse the rear balcony on privacy grounds.

Rosewood/Hill Farm, Mill Road - increase in permitted tent pitches and additional pitches for campervans – no objections in principle though concerns were raised about the proposed location of campervan sites, the

impact of additional vehicle movements in the narrow protected lane, and the possible impact on public rights of way.

Crown House - installation of 2 panes of leaded light glass in existing door. No objections though referred to the Historic Building Officer as this is a listed building.

Claypit Hall – change of use of an agricultural building to dwelling house. No objections pending the full planning application for this property which are considerate of its proximity to a listed building.

Park Hall Farm, Braintree Road - change of use of an agricultural building to dwelling house. No objections pending the full planning application for this property which are considerate of its proximity to a listed building and historic barns.

Park Hall, Braintree Road – alterations to former servants' quarters – no objections if the Historic Buildings Officer is satisfied with the proposals and materials to be used in this listed property

5 High Street – replacement of shed with garden room. No objections

Yew Tree Cottage – discharge of conditions on previous approved planning application – materials to be used. No objections.

4 Walthams Cross Cottages – 2-storey side extension. No objections as sympathetic to the cottage and its historic environment.

Trinity Cottage, High Street – single and 2-storey rear extension. No objections though referred to the Historic Building Officer as this is a listed building.

Tree Works Applications – no objections to the following:

Chiefs Farm – tree management

South Lodge/Beattie House – tree management

The Beeches, Braintree Road – reduction of tree

4 The Maltings, Bridge Street – fell one conifer

Black Gables, Dunmow Road. Enforcement Officers from Braintree District Council are investigating the works at this site which vary from that permitted by the planning consent for two properties on this site. This was raised by residents and the Parish Council, with support from our District Councillor, Peter Tattersley.

Parking and Access Problems

We have received a number of complaints about inconsiderate parking in the village, particularly in the vicinity of the school and Co-op. We remind residents to park considerately, and to walk rather than using a car, wherever possible. We have requested that the Parking Partnership attend the village

more often to enforce the yellow lines in the area, and to provide advice.

Telephone Box, Braintree Road

This telephone box is owned by the village but rather neglected in recent years. The Parish Council, with the help of the village handyman and a local resident are cleaning, repairing and repainting to give the box a new lease of life. We would like your suggestions as to how the community could use it. Other villages have set up book or toy exchanges, or plant/seed swaps. Would you like one of these or have any other imaginative ideas? Let us know what you would like to see. Contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 14th June at 7pm, at The Town Hall. The meeting is open to the public and as we need to ensure a 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

Great British Spring Clean Campaign 2021

Great Bardfield is taking part and
the Parish Council are organising a
village Litter Pick for

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June

Meet at the Fountain on either day, at 10am, to collect litter pickers,
rubbish bags, hi-viz jackets etc,
Please follow social distancing advice.

Families welcome. Children to be accompanied by an adult.

**Further information from Carolynne Ruffle 810986
or Paul Kennedy 810540**

Little Bardfield Parish Council Report

Annual Parish meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday 4th May. It was disappointing that no residents from the parish attended the meeting. Andrew Davies was re-elected as Chair with Terry Cutmore as Vice Chair.

End of Year Financial Records

The Annual Governance report and end of year finances are posted on the Little Bardfield website.

District/County Councillor

The Parish Council expressed their thanks and appreciation to Simon Walsh for his support over many years as County Councillor and Sandi Merifield as acting District Councillor. The Parish Council welcomed Martin Foley as our new County Councillor and George Smith as our new District Councillor

Parish Meetings

Due to the Covid pandemic meetings have been held remotely via zoom. This will no longer be the case and all future meeting will be held in person. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 14th September, in the Cricket Pavilion. Further details of the meeting will be published on the Parish Council notice boards and on the website at least one week prior to the meeting. Minutes of all previous meetings can also be found on the website.

Liz Williamson, Parish Clerk

On 22nd June DANCE FITNESS FUN for the Young at Heart

is planning to be back in Gt Bardfield Town Hall.

At last ! I look forward to seeing you all again.

Even if you think you have 2 left feet, you're welcome to join our weekly class on **Tuesdays at 9.30 to 10.30.**

Fees are payed monthly, based on £8 per session

Our aim is to maintain and improve our flexibility, stamina and balance starting with some Ballet Barre exercises for posture. Then with a change of pace, using motivational music such as Salsa, Rumba, Swing, we focus on a total body workout that doesn't involve any jogging or jumping. It's Exercise in Disguise!
To be certain of a place, do phone **Alison on 07790 701 723**

St. John the Baptist Church Finchingfield



Return of our annual Flower Festival

After being unable to hold a festival last year, we are delighted to announce the return of our much loved Flower Festival.

Government guidelines permitting, we will be holding this at our church over the **August Bank holiday weekend 28th – 30th August**

Our theme is: **SAINTS**

We hope to raise much-needed funds for our beautiful Parish Church and would be very grateful to receive your support for this event.

If you feel you would like to be involved or are able to help in any way please do get in touch.

(Further details about our festival to follow in next month's magazines.)

Rev Alex Shannon 01371 810390

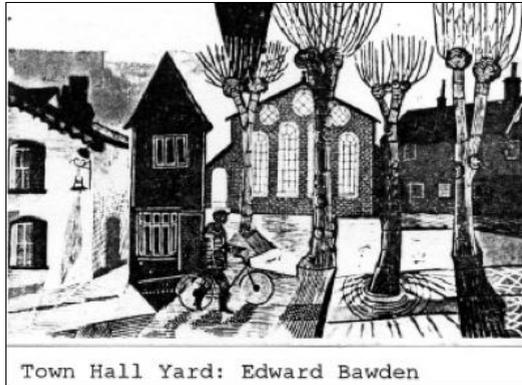
Linda Turner 01371 810542

Dawn Willett 01371 810705

Jenny Wright 01371 810825

Town Hall Reopens for Bookings

The AGM of the Town Hall Management Committee took place on 20th May, actually in the Town Hall for the first time since February 2020. We were well spaced out (physically not mentally) and with face masks. It was good to see everyone after so long, and also to see representatives there from the Cinema Club/Bardfield Times, Horticultural Society and Tuesday Club.



This was my last meeting with the Town Hall Committee as I am standing down as member of the committee and Chairperson. Nobody can recall how long I have been on the committee (or we don't like to think about it) but I think I have been Chair for at least 6 years. I really should have kept a diary. I will be sad to go as I have had much fun with fundraising and social events in the Town Hall. However, I will continue to pop up there in various other guises, enjoying amateur dramatics, quiz nights and Christmas concerts, to name but a few.

John Maidman, who joined the committee last year, was elected as the new Chair. Good luck to John and the rest of the Town Hall Committee in looking after the Hall and raising funds. Hopefully it will soon be in full use again by local clubs and societies, after a very quiet 15 months or so. John is already looking at the repairs and renovations needed to the CIP, Storage Room and Caretaker's Cottage. These buildings pre-date the Town Hall itself by a few centuries and need some appropriate care and attention, particularly to windows and doors some of which are looking very sad.

Madame Boules confirms she will be continue to organise the Boules competition which raises funds for the Town Hall – the 2021 competition has now started with 36 teams entered.

The Committee were saddened to hear of the recent death of Dawn Dollymore who served on the committee for many years and was a true stalwart of village life. The Committee has made a donation to the



Dawn Dollimore at the Town Hall Christmas raffle with Jim Bray

CREAMER Fund in memory of Dawn.

So bowing out now with many best wishes to all of those that help run and enjoy events in the Town Hall.

Carolynne Ruffle

Recipe for 'Barful Fair Pudding'

1½ lb flour	½ lb black treacle
1½ lb bread crumbs	2 teaspoons mixed spice
1 lb stoned plums	6 big apples
2 lb mixed fruit	2oz sugar
¼ lb mixed peel	1 doz eggs

A goodly measure of brandy
Add milk to mix. Mix thoroughly and steam for 24 hours.
(This would probably have been steamed in the
copper boiler used for washing clothes.)

From the Reverend Dr Robert Beaken

My dear friends,

As many of you know, in 2019 the Bishop of Colchester informed me that the Diocese of Chelmsford was looking to amalgamate the Benefice of Great and Little Bardfield with the Benefice of Finchingfield, Shalford, Wethersfield and Cornish Hall End, and told me to be proactive in finding another job.

The Bishop of Chichester has offered me the post of Priest-in-Charge of Catsfield and Crowhurst in Sussex, and I have accepted his offer. A date has yet to be set for my Licensing, but I expect it to take place later this Summer.

The late Archdeacon Ernie Stroud originally recruited me from the Diocese of Leicester to the Diocese of Chelmsford in 1994. Between 1994 and 2002 I was the Vicar of St Barnabas, Old Heath, Colchester. Since 2002 it has been my privilege to serve as the Priest-in-Charge of Great and Little Bardfield. The past nineteen years have been some of the happiest and most creative of my life, and I will always retain a special place in my heart for the people of Great and Little Bardfield.



Please pray for me over the next few months as I pack up my things and prepare to move to my new parishes, and please know that you have a place in my prayers.

Know, too, that I am more grateful than words can easily express for all the support, encouragement, and may I say, love, that you have offered me since I came here nineteen years ago.

With my love, prayers and blessing,

Father Robert



Crossroads Braintree and Chelmsford

Braintree Day Respite Centre

- Professional care and support in a warm and welcoming atmosphere
- Activities and entertainment throughout the day
- Cooked lunch
- Fully trained staff

All places must be booked in advance

Please call 01376 529985 for more information or to book a place.

As an alternative to home care the aim of the Centre is to provide a safe, friendly and relaxed atmosphere for the 'cared for' with an opportunity to meet and socialise with other people in a similar situation. At the same time their carer will have an opportunity to have some precious time to call their own.

Held every Friday
10:00 a.m. till 3 p.m.
Braintree Baptist Church
Blyths Meadow, Coggeshall Rd, Braintree

A daily charge of £38 which includes raffle and cooked lunch
Places are limited and subject to eligibility.
Crossroads also provide a respite service in your own home. Call the above number for more information.

braintreexroads@btconnect.com

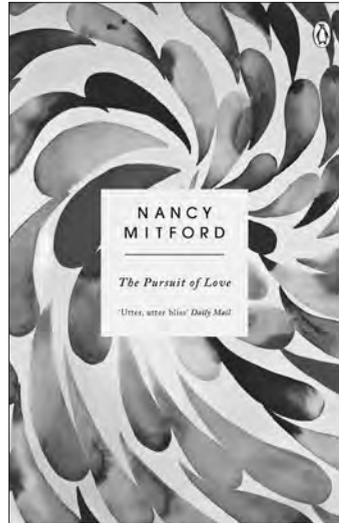
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Page Turners

The Pursuit of Love, Nancy Mitford

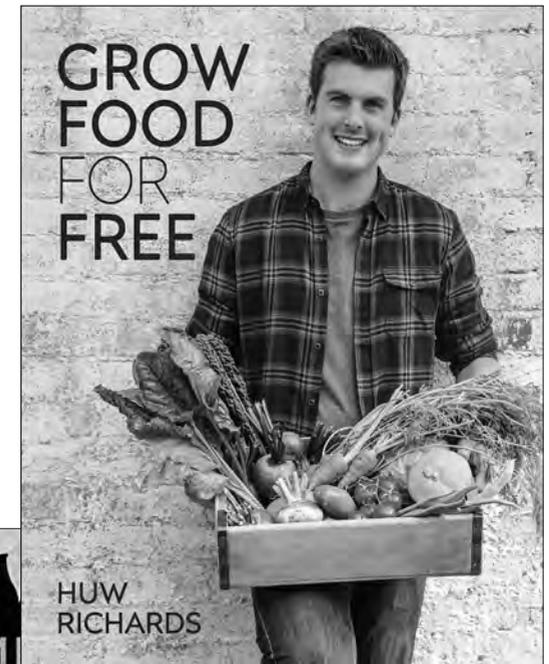
TV and film adaptations can be disappointing, even infuriating if you've read and loved the book. The recent series based on Nancy Mitford's *The Pursuit of Love* have certainly divided critics but, for me, this period piece is a delight and the TV series made me return to the book. Published in 1945, *The Pursuit of Love* is a brilliantly witty story of the upper classes in pre-war London and Paris. Mitford describes a world of glamour, gossip and decadence peopled by a cast of eccentric characters largely based on her own family. It's a long lost world but the characters of Fanny, the narrator and her flighty cousin, Linda, shine through in their adventures and endless longing for an idealised love which is never realised. This is a nostalgic and entertaining read. I couldn't wait to read her next novel, *Love in a Cold Climate*, purportedly soon to be televised.

There are many keen gardeners in the Bardfields so two recent books are sure to be of interest. First, *Grow Food for Free* by Huw Richards, an author and gardener who set himself the challenge of growing his own fruit and veg for free for a year. He succeeded, and in this book he shares a wealth of practical advice on how to grow, propagate and harvest your own food organically and at no cost. The book covers everything including how you might arrange to share a neighbour's garden, composting, seed and plant swapping, and dealing with pests. The author shares his journal and provides a three-year plan to the key stages of the journey of growing food for free. The photographs provide excellent help for the



novice gardener.

Seed to Dust: A Gardener's Story by Marc Hamer will enchant both active and passive gardeners. This is a month by month account of the author's experience of working in a garden that is not his own. It is part autobiography, part handbook and part travel book that explores our relationship with the earth and our sense of who we



are. It is a journey through the changing seasons, beautifully written and illustrated. As the author writes: 'Any garden belongs to everyone who sees it – it is like a book, and everybody who visits it will find different things.' A wonderful gift for garden lovers.

Bibliophile

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

Village People – David Baird

David Baird's mother and father met by accident. A young woman working at a department store in Toronto, Canada, Marge was set up on a blind date with a man named Jim Baird. He didn't show up, but there was a fellow there also waiting for someone who hadn't arrived. "Are you Jim Baird?" she eventually asked him. And although he was not the Jim Baird she was waiting for, the fact that his



name also happened to be Jim Baird seemed like fate, and it didn't take long for them to settle down together. Jim was a Welshman who had only just arrived in the country; Marge gave up a singing career to become a housewife. Soon they had a family – daughter Janet was followed by son David and then another daughter, Barbara.

David's father was away when he was born, having departed to Algoma District, Ontario to prospect for uranium with a couple of friends on the suggestion of an Australian bush pilot they'd met in a bar. "They took two pistols, two crates of whisky, tents, bedding - and Bran Buds!" says David. They were planning to survive on alcohol and breakfast cereal. There was no way of contacting anyone. Fortunately, he made it home – albeit without any uranium. David's childhood was typically Canadian. They lived in the suburbs between city and country, and he and his friends spent the winters skiing and sledding on the golf courses. He played junior ice hockey for the Toronto Maple Leafs and would sometimes skate to school, towing his euphonium (the first instrument he learned to play) on a sled behind him.

Family life, though, had additional cultural facets. In the great mixing bowl of Canadian culture (Marge herself was the daughter of Polish immigrants) there were many people from Wales, Ireland and Scotland. It seemed to David that his father knew all of them: "The Celts stuck

together!" Their basement became an informal pub and Marge would go downstairs and sing to the merry and enthusiastic crowd. The family always attended the annual Eisteddfod at Niagara Falls. This, thinks David, made his father nostalgic for home and when David was about 12, the family boarded the "Empress of England" in Montreal, bound for Liverpool. The ship's swimming pool kept David amused during the sailing ("I swam to England!" is how he puts it) but he was unprepared for the realities of post-war Britain. "I thought it would be the land of milk and honey," he remembers. Instead, they found themselves in the grey urban winter, They were appalled at the bomb damage they saw from the windows of the London-bound train.

They landed in Hampstead Garden Suburb, where Jim's brother and sister were both living. David was sent to a private school in Highgate and then to a comprehensive in Chalk Farm, where he was bullied for sounding like a "Yank" and then, once he and several other children from various countries had been given elocution lessons, bullied for sounding too posh. "The school printing club saved me," says David, with the help of a big old-fashioned printing machine, a kindly teacher, and half a dozen other students. It was a big responsibility, and, together with his ability on the rugby field (his older cousin played rugby for Hendon) helped to establish his identity on the school campus. Living in London also had its rewards. His extended family was well connected to the arts world. "They knew everybody," he laughs, remembering such characters as Donald Sinden, John Hurt, Terry Downes and Pat Wymark visiting the house.

When David was 13 his father lied about his age and he joined the Air Training Corps. He remembers an underground rifle range in Hampstead, and training weekends which seemed like amazing adventures. At the same time, he was learning to play guitar. He and his friends would sneak into the Roundhouse and listen to groundbreaking young musicians like Nick Drake. He began to feel the conflict between the arts and a military life.

When he was 15 his father moved the family back to Wales. He continued in the Air Training Corps, learning to fly gliders and at one point, "flying" a Lightning fighter via a simulator at RAF Wattisham. He took to it immediately – "I looped the loop!" he smiles – and they asked him if he would like to fly Harriers one day. But he was still torn between the military and the arts. 1970s Cardiff had very little of the glamour and energy of London. He met a colourful character named Ivor Bosanko who was head of music for the Salvation Army, and learned trumpet and cornet. He

became involved with drama at the Chapter Arts Centre, and helped to put together an installation that ended up in the Tate. He went to Folk Clubs, playing his guitar and soaking up the influence of other musicians.

The growing friction with his father reached a culmination when he was 17. Drawn by his Scots roots, he escaped to Edinburgh with his guitar and the clothes on his back. "It felt like coming home," he says. He had no money, but found his way into the music community, did some busking, and ended up in Hendersons Wine Bar, which was run by a rugby playing organic farmer called Mac. A musician was performing – "loud, funny, larger than life" – and later on, he and David got talking. "He sussed my predicament right away," laughs David. He took David under his wing, got him established on the local scene: and David realised he had made a friend for life. His name was John Martyn.

David talked to John about his plans to enter the military. John saw clearly through the dilemma. "You're not a killer," he told David. David returned to Cardiff and was offered a place at the Cardiff College of Arts. At 18 he served an apprenticeship with the Welsh National Opera and Drama Company leading to involvement with the Cardiff Laboratory for Theatrical Research which specialised in "mad avant-garde theatre." He travelled all over the world taking part in various productions. "I would look up what was happening and stay on afterwards and play music."

Through the Cardiff theatre scene he met a young woman named Ljiljana and when he got a bursary to study Balinese dance and drama, it seemed the perfect opportunity to combine the trip with a visit to Ljiljana's family in Australia. Back in the UK David continued to be involved with theatre and music, sometimes writing soundtracks for theatre productions, but when their daughter Alexandra was born in 1989, they moved back to Australia, where Ljiljana curated a costume exhibit at the National Gallery and David stepped in as Artistic Director at the Handspan Theatre in Melbourne to rescue a flagging company with a production based on TS Eliot's *The Waste Land*.

In the 1990s they returned to the UK and found a house in Newport. Alexandra went to school locally, then University in London and Florence. David put together a series of books – "A thousand paths" - with quotes and sayings on various topics such as wisdom, love, happiness. These did well and continue to sell. He and Ljiljana parted on amicable terms and he moved into one wing of a rambling country house near Finchingfield to keep a recently widowed friend company. The friend, an art historian, had

a house full of books and paintings, and every now and then he would be called upon to verify a rediscovered masterpiece, the treasure on one occasion being flown in by helicopter with an armed guard. "Parties by the lake and DaVincis on the kitchen table" he says with a smile.

David met Sheri, a Canadian musician living in Little Bardfield, and, through her, various other Bardfielders. At this point your narrator becomes part of the story, because I was one of those Bardfielders, and David and his mandolin became part of our folk band Two Coats Colder. For most of the past ten years, David, Ray, Chris and I have driven all over the country to sing and play at folk clubs and festivals.

Meanwhile David worked with two London-based theatre ventures: Cardboard Citizens (in which homeless people are included in the cast) and MakeBelieve Arts (children's first theatre experience). And when Ken Nicol's unique multimedia show "The Glass Chronicles" was staged in Great Bardfield's High Barn, David found himself directing the production. As well as a rock band and a string quartet, two actors were required for short scenes, somebody reminded David that there was a professional actor right here in Great Bardfield, and Louisa Ruthven joined the cast. It turned

out to be another fortuitous twist of fate. Several years later, David and Louisa held a "hand-tying" or "hand-fasting" ceremony (a Celtic wedding) by the lake, and David moved to Great Bardfield. He started a community choir called HeartSong, which now has a spin-off group in Colchester, and which has continued online throughout Covid restrictions. Of his life with Louisa and his beloved stepdaughters Flora and Jessie, he says, "I found a good reason not to be stupid anymore," and of life in general, "Your life is what you make of it on the day - how you visualise getting up in the morning and doing something creative." Exactly.

Anna Bass



GREENFINGERS

Phlox *divaricata*, let's begin with the formal name but do read on for more about the enchanting Clouds of Perfume. Such a heavenly scent, low growing, 5cm high, spreads obediently and the colour, a pretty pale blue, sets off all rose colours except tangerine. Growing in an alpine sink, inspiration came to me to move it and acquire more to grow under the roses. Other popular plants around roses are violas and lavender but this year after such a cold, wet and prolonged Spring the rose flowers are so late we can have interest now; this phlox is in flower and will continue into July. Perfect place for planting them, yes, as more are coming soon, put them in the light shade around a rose where the fertile soil they love is guaranteed as we all care for our roses. Thinking of roses, Rosa Boscabel is on the list for planting in a pot surrounded by common old lobelia. Continuously flowering with red buds opening to coral pink and scented. Why not have a change from the usual annuals? Yes, it will be costly and what happens



Phlox divaricata



Rosa Boscabel

to it at the end of September? Replant it in a large plastic pot and hide it behind the shed until next year!

Work schedule

- Spray roses with Uncle Tom's organic feed (no I don't have shares in the company!).
- Time to clip topiary, if you have box buy a moth trap to attract them to it instead of the box plants.
- The very keen gardener takes cuttings now of all and sundry. Easy are salvias, pinks and silver leafed plants but so too are sprigs off your purchases of annuals, even petunias!
- Lift the tulips but replant them in a box, spray them with a feed and leave them to wither away. They can be taken out and cleaned to store somewhere cool but easier is to hide them as they are, somewhere shady waiting to be replanted in November. Can't be bothered? Then throw them away and splurge out on new ones in late summer.

Happy gardening. 🌱



THE OLD DAYS with Michael

In the April edition of *BT* our Editor, Janet, was asking about occupants of village houses of the years. I should imagine she was surprised at my old photo taken right outside her very own front door at Brick House. All this at the time she was moving into her new home. The occupants of the old carriage are Mrs. Charlotte Bawden and the driver my Uncle Tom Ives. I can imagine Mrs. Bawden who was full of fun jumping aboard.



Tom Ives and Charlotte Bawden 1930's

Uncle Tom was keen on horses and loved driving them around. In his younger days at the turn of the century (the 19th) he lived at the Vine with his father Mr. John Ives and his 7 sisters! In those days the Vine was a wooden building with a brewery at the rear. There are some old photos of all this around, so you might be lucky to see one. In time Tom took over running the pub from his father and was in charge in 1917 when it was burnt to the ground. A few unkind people said he had had a few drinks at the time! Anyway, Tom wasted no time and took what remained round to the thatched cottages round Bell Lane, on the right with meadows going down to the river. He was a very good builder and erected various sheds and established a farm. As



Tom Ives at 'The Buildings' now Bell Cottage, Bell lane

you can see on the photo of Tom in the farmyard these were the days when all the different farm animals and poultry dwelt all together in the same yard. In time a dairy farm was established and milk was sold in the village. This entailed milking cows by hand commencing at 4am so the milk could be sold fresh as there were no bottles or refrigeration. The milk would be taken by my Aunt round the village in churns and measured out into customers' jugs. People could also take their jugs and cans round to the cottage front door to get supplied. Cows had to be brought in for milking from meadows twice a day. Sometimes these meadows were situated at the opposite end of the village and had to be driven along roads to the farm. Cars were just getting around and finding progress along the roads very slow, stuck behind a herd of cows. Uncle Tom enjoyed this situation and couldn't understand why those motorists always seemed to be in such a hurry! As you know the motorists won in the end but Uncle Tom Ives stuck to his pony and trap to the end.

Yours,

Michael Hitchcock

Editor: Thank you Michael, it was a lovely surprise to see this photo to add to the story of Brick House.

Great Bardfield Horticultural Society

Our garden visit to Ulting Wick was enjoyed by 26 of our members. It was a beautiful, clear and sunny afternoon even if a bit chilly. It was lovely to get out into someone else's garden in such beautiful and tranquil surroundings. The garden was looking very well-manicured as the following weekend it was open for the National Garden Scheme-Tulips for which Ulting Wick is renowned. Due to the unseasonal cold and dry weather in April the tulips were a bit behind so they hadn't yet reached their usual "wow" factor, though we did see promise of the full glories to come.

The big pots of tulips looked wonderful displayed around the greenhouse. There was a small auricula theatre together with an area of other types of spring bulbs in pots.



It was a very relaxing afternoon. There was plenty to see in the 8 acre garden with stream-fed pond with lovely mature weeping willows, some lovely sculptures scattered around as we strolled around the water's edge and in the meadow cowslips in full bloom. We rounded off the afternoon with tea and cake and had the added bonus of a wonderfully- well stocked plant stall to purchase from!

We hope to arrange a visit to another garden in July. Details in next *BT*.



One of the plus sides of the very cold April was that the bulbs lasted much longer in flower - in fact at time of writing there are still narcissus poeticus (pheasant's eye) in flower and some lovely white multiflowered "Thalia's" which are looking lovely with the tulips. Remember to dead head your daffodils and tulips to help them make strong bulbs (and flowers) for next year. Most of us gardeners are running out of space in the greenhouse and are surrounded with tomato, pepper, courgette, salad, other vegetable plants and tender annuals which have had to be brought in at night to avoid the frosts - our plants have spent many nights in the bath. We have had to take a more pragmatic approach to normal domestic protocols - makes a change from coal!!! We were very pleased to see some rain at long last in May.

With lockdown rules easing we are still hoping to hold our **Summer Show on Saturday, August 7th in the Town Hall**. As you will have seen in last month's *BT* we are running the **B.H.S. Summer Show Sunflower Challenge for the children**. It has been well supported and over a dozen children have collect everything they need (seeds, pots, compost, labels and instructions) from Linda Prior. We are looking forward to seeing lots of pots of lovely sunflowers to brighten up the show bench and judging the winners.

For any information about the Society please contact Linda Prior 811641

Nature Notes

In recent times there has been some publicity about the beavers being introduced to the river at Spain's Hall with the aim of reducing the flood risk further downstream; my first reaction was 'that's a stupid idea!' All I really knew was that beavers destroy trees, but I started to think, 'Mac what do you really know about it?' And the answer was nothing! So, time to try and learn before you judge.

There are two strains of beaver the American beaver and the Eurasian beaver, the Eurasian has a slimmer tail and is the one which was native to the UK but until their reintroduction they had been extinct in the UK for 400 years. This was due to over hunting for their scent sacks, fur and meat. Beavers are large semiaquatic rodents, they are known as a keystone species, which means they are good for nature in the areas where they live. They change the environment to suit their needs and in so doing create complicated wetland habitats which are beneficial to many other species. These wet-lands can soak up a lot of water and release it slowly thus reducing some of the flooding downstream, so this concept begins to make sense in some situations. Earlier this year beavers have been introduced to the South Downs, and more are being planned for release in Dorset, Derbyshire, the Isle of Wight, Nottinghamshire, and Monmouthshire.

Beavers can be used to help in the fight against climate change. They have two strong incisors which keep growing all their life. These large prominent yellow teeth are coated in an iron rich enamel and are used for gnawing through tree trunks. Beavers eat bark, twigs and leaves and use larger branches and tree trunks to build their dams and lodges. The objective is to dam shallow rivers to form deep pools of water then build a lodge with an underwater entrance which is a safe environment for a beaver family. The dams are usually built on small fast flowing rivers and by creating these deep pools they slow the flow of the river and create ideal breeding grounds for some breeds of fish and all sorts of other wildlife, the ideal place for school parties to go pond dipping. Some of you may well have had the pleasure of doing just that. Where I grew up in Nottingham the rivers and streams were so polluted pond dipping was unheard of, although we did play in the river Leen, One day I cut my foot on broken glass in the river, walking home bare foot leaving a trail of blood up a road called Cowley street which had very old terraced houses on both sides opening onto a narrow pavement. An old lady took me in washed my foot with carbolic soap, ripped a pillow case into strips and bandaged

my foot up. My Mother sent me back to the old lady with a replacement pillow-case; some years later when I had left home I decided to take the old lady a bunch of flowers only to find Cowley Street had gone due to slum clearance and I had a few tears. I never found out what happened to the old lady.



Back to beavers! By creating a dam they slow down the flow of the river and allow the sediment to settle thus cleaning the water and improving the water quality downstream. The ponds and the cleaner water that flows on create very different environments supporting many different species. The dams hold back silt, which locks up carbon, and new plant growth in the surrounding area and this forms a carbon sink. Beavers mate for life and live with their offspring in lodges. A female gives birth to 2 to 4 young each spring known as kits. Once they are old enough they help the parents to repair the dam and lodge, and take care of newly born kits. Back to my initial reaction: beavers cut trees down. Yes, that's true but is that a bad thing? When we stop to look at what trees they cut down, most of them will be growing near water where we find things like willow, dogwood, spindle, buckthorn, elderberry and poplar, all of which send up loads of new shoots if you fell the main trunk which is what we used to do. This is called coppicing a practice which has been neglected and almost disappeared, so the beavers are doing a great job. I think this is a strong case in favour of reintroduction.

Mac Beanland

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Many of us wait anxiously for the outcome of the recent public inquiry into a possible increase in the passenger cap at Stansted Airport, yet the local community's love-hate relationship with Stansted Airport is only the latest in a series of significant aviation events that have occurred within the Hundred Parishes.

In a field at Standon Green End in the parish of Thundridge, a monument marks the spot where Italian balloonist Vincenzo Lunardi landed in 1784 after completing the first manned flight in England. He took off from London beneath a balloon filled with hydrogen.



Thundridge - Standon Green End, opposite Knoll Farm - Lunardi memorial

In 1913, Bentfield Hucks was the first Englishman to loop-the-loop in his Bleriot aeroplane. He was born in 1884 in Bentfield Cottage, Stansted Mountfitchet and thus acquired his unusual forename.

Duxford airfield, now the site of Imperial War Museum, Duxford, first



Spitfire in Imperial War Museum, Duxford



Andrewsfield memorial in Great Saling

became operational in World War I. Some of its buildings, constructed by German prisoners-of-war, still stand. In 1938, Duxford was the first airfield to take delivery of Spitfire fighter planes. Frank Whittle flew regularly from here while he was developing ideas that eventually led to the invention of the turbojet engine just before the end of WWII.

Altogether, twelve military airfields operated within the Hundred Parishes during WWII. Andrewsfield, straddling the parish boundary between The Salings and Stebbing, was the first American-built base in Europe, becoming operational in 1943. Stansted was another American-built airfield. Thousands of Americans were based in this area; many never saw home again.

Many of us have enjoyed the relative peace that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to our skies, in particular discovering the joy of walking in the countryside. It is sad that it has taken so many deaths to remind us of the quality of life that exists right here, without the need to fly.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Great Bardfield Primary School

We have all settled back into our classes and thankfully lockdown is a distant memory. Our pupils have shown so much positivity and determination over the last eighteen months and have epitomised our key skill of Resilience. We recently asked the children how it felt being back at school and these are some of the responses from our Year 5 and 6 pupils:



'What I have liked about being back at school is seeing my friends and teachers and getting back into a good routine. I did enjoy being at home a bit though because it was quieter and I had lots of space.'

Charlie Year 6

'I am pleased that I can see my friends and teachers and have all the books and stationery I need. It is also good not to have my dog barking or my family making noise in the background. I have found it harder to get up early and to get back into a routine.'

Alice Year 5

'I am happy to be back at school because I missed my friends and my social life. The interactive learning that school provided was extremely helpful. Overall though I am glad to be back at school for many reasons.'

Louise Year 6

'It has been good to come back to school and learn with a teacher and not through a screen. It is also good because I get to see all of my friends and talk about things. It is challenging though because the lessons in school are a bit harder.'

Ben Year 5

Our Year 6 children made us smile this month when they told us that they still wanted to sit their SATs tests in the hall! They shared that they felt it was something that felt 'right' to them. So we arranged a 'Psuedo SATs week' complete with our legendary SATs breakfast! The children really impressed us with their positive attitudes to learning and love of watermelon!



Year 6 Children

The Year 6 pupils are now in the last part of their school journey at Great Bardfield Primary School and have now been at the school as long as me, as we started at the same time. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to watch this group of young people grow and flourish over the last seven years. We are incredibly proud of them all and wish them luck as they make their next step to High School.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

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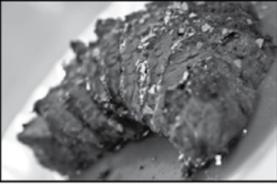
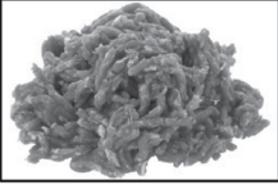
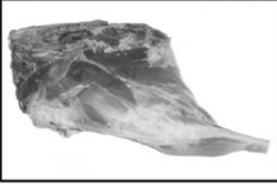
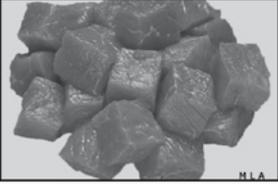
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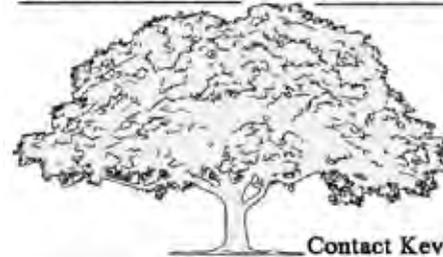


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Following Covid, our plan is to reopen our Clubs with the new term after Easter, on Monday 12th April. We will be following Covid guidelines to make sure our Breakfast and Afternoon School Clubs are as safe as possible in our warm, safe building behind 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:
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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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Pat & The Team

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