

August/
September
2025

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News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield

Bardfield Times



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

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Front cover: Julie Bell winner of GB Landscape Artist of the Year

Above: Enjoying the Rose Garden by Doug Joyce

Back Page: Sunrise by Freya Crockatt

Editorial

As I'm writing this the long run of hot weather has been broken by torrential rainstorms – just at the wrong time for farmers who are well into harvest and have been working throughout the night to ensure that 'all is safely gathered in'. See how the harvesting was done before mechanisation in Jenny Rooney's article on page 26. Sadly, the wet weather resulted in the postponement of the school's Bardfest day – a big disappointment as this is a major fund-raiser for the school and a day full of exciting activities and events for all ages. Don't forget to enter for the school's next big event the Bardfield Scarecrow Festival on September 13th/14th. This was a wonderful success last year attracting many visitors to see the imaginative creations!

A number of recent activities are reported in this month's issue including the Historical Society's fascinating day at Ickworth (p.10) and the Horticultural Society's visit to the Rose Garden at Wethersfield Mill (p.16). Our cover shows Julie Bull the winner of this year's Landscape Artist competition with her fine painting of the view looking up Brook Street from the Greens. This is only the second year for this imaginative event – if you missed it make a note to get your paints out for next year and have a go. Thanks to all the organisers of our many village events, they contribute so much to community life.

Our wonderful BT Layout Editor, Joe Jones, is leaving Great Bardfield. We will miss her. We wish her well for the future and thank her for all her help with the magazine over the last seven years. We welcome Helen McGlynn who has volunteered to take on this role. Contributors please note that copy may now be sent to helenBTlayout@gmail.com and/or to me.

Wishing everyone a good summer. You may be holidaying in exotic faraway places but if you're not then Great Bardfield is a lovely place to be! Thanks to all our contributors and delivery team – you have a well-deserved rest for a month. The next BT will be out on October 1st, the deadline for copy is September 14th.

Janet Dyson

Great Bardfield Primary School

As we reach the end of another school year at Great Bardfield Primary, it's a lovely chance to pause and reflect on the achievements, growth, and joy we've shared over the past twelve months.

From the first day back in September, our children returned full of enthusiasm; ready to learn and excited for the year ahead. Our Reception children settled in brilliantly, making fantastic progress and



Dolly and Lola

bringing their boundless energy and curiosity into every corner of the school. At the other end of the journey, our Year 6 children have shown real maturity and resilience, not just in preparing for their SATs and enjoying their Norfolk residential, but also in the way they've taken on important leadership roles. We're incredibly proud of them all and wish them the very best as they head off to secondary school. A special thank you goes to Aliza and Rafe for doing such a fantastic job as our School Ambassadors this year.

At the heart of school life are our values: *Courage, Compassion, and Community*. These are not just words on a wall - they are woven into everything we do. We see them in action every day: in the kindness shared on the playground, the confidence shown during performances, and the teamwork that shines through during charity events and community celebrations.

This year has been packed with exciting learning and memorable moments. Our children have enjoyed a wide range of educational trips and experiences, bringing their learning to life beyond the classroom. We've had fun raising money for causes like Children in Need and NSPCC Number Day as well as for our fantastic PTA. A highlight of this year for the children has most definitely been the PTA Colour Run held in June. Taking part in sports days, swimming lessons, and USSP sporting events has given everyone the chance to get active, work as a team, and cheer each other on. There really has been something for everyone to experience and enjoy.

It's been a joy to welcome so many visitors into school this year, whether for special assemblies, sports days, concerts, afternoon tea or Proms in the Playground; these occasions are such a lovely reminder of how strong and supportive our school community is, and we are so thankful for the involvement of our parents, families, and local supporters.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our wonderful staff team. From teachers and support staff to office, kitchen, and site-teams every single person plays a part in making Bardfield Primary a happy, welcoming and inspiring place to learn. A huge thank you to them all for everything they do.

As we look ahead to September, we're already looking forward to building on all that's been achieved this year. There'll be new opportunities, new faces, and plenty of fresh adventures to enjoy - but, as always, it will be our shared values of Courage, Compassion, and Community that guide us along the way.

Liz Crow, Headteacher



Staff enjoying the colour run

Great Bardfield Parish Council Report

Parish Council Vacancies

By the time this report is published we will have started the co-option process to fill the two vacancies for Parish Councillors on the Great Bardfield Parish Council. We thank all those that expressed an interest and really appreciate your willingness to support the community. The appointed Councillors will hopefully be in place for our next full Council meeting in September.

Travellers at Playing Fields

Around 10-12 caravans arrived on the playing field site on Thursday 19th June, having accessed a secure gate, and were reported by the Parish Council as soon as informed by a resident. An eviction notice was served on them early on Friday morning and they had left the site by Monday 23rd June. The police Rural Engagement Team and Essex Country Travellers' Unit were involved, visiting the site daily. There were some reports of noise nuisance and branches taken from neighbouring residents' trees to fuel a bonfire which damaged the football pitch. The police have recorded these incidents of criminal damage.

The Parish Council thanks the village handyman, Ian Ruffle, for his prompt clearance and reinstatement of the field following the group's departure and we are now looking at ways to provide additional measures to restrict access to the field.

Housing Needs Survey

The Parish Council have appointed the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) to undertake a Housing Needs Survey for the village. It is a few years since we last undertook such a survey and this will inform us of current needs to see if there are gaps in provision of appropriate housing and will help inform future decisions on development and housing requirements. Further information is provided in this magazine and survey questionnaires will be distributed at the end of August/early September. Volunteers would be appreciated to help us stuff envelopes and/or distribute them to every household. If you can help, please contact Kate Fox, Clerk, on 01371 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

Planning Applications

Local Plan Update – Call for Sites. A representative of Great Bardfield Parish Council spoke at the Braintree District Council's planning meeting on 19th June to oppose development at three sites within the parish, put forward for inclusion in the updated Local Plan. It was agreed by BDC's planning committee that these sites will not be accepted for inclusion.

- Springfield House, Braintree Road: revised plan to demolish the existing property and build new. The PC informed the planning authority that their ongoing concerns about the property's design remain unaddressed in the new application.
- Barn Rear of Bell Cottage (now named Moomin): reduction in size of a previously approved outbuilding. No objection.
- Paul's Farm, Little Bardfield Road: this cross-boundary application for commercial units has replaced that previously withdrawn. It was agreed that the Planning Committee would consider this application following the meeting as the details had only just been received.
- Tree works at Ethel House, High Street: no objections.

The Bell Inn: the Parish Council welcome new tenants, Scott & Zoey who have recently taken over tenancy of one of our much valued pubs, and wish them all the best with their new business.

Bin Collections – Aug/Sept 2025

Tuesday August 5th	Grey Bin & Food Bin
Tuesday August 12th	Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin Green Bin (for subscribers only)
Tuesday August 19th	Grey Bin & Food Bin
Wednesday August 27th (following bank holiday)	Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin Green Bin (for subscribers only)
Tuesday September 2nd	Grey Bin & Food Bin
Tuesday September 9th	Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin Green Bin (for subscribers only)
Tuesday September 16th	Grey Bin & Food Bin
Tuesday September 23rd	Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin Green Bin (for subscribers only)
Tuesday September 30th	Grey Bin & Food Bin

Next Parish Council Meeting

There is no Parish Council meeting in August. Our next full meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10th September 2025, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public. Please contact Kate Fox, Clerk, if you plan to attend on 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

Carolynne Ruffle

Chairperson



New community pavilion now fully open!



Suitable for:

- *Children's parties (adjacent to safe children's area)*
- *Exercise groups*
- *Meetings*
- *Musical group rehearsals*

.....and many, many more.....

Facilities include:

- *Fully heated*
- *Small kitchen facilities*
- *Tables and chairs*
- *Toilets and washing facilities*
- *Plenty of parking, with easy access.*

For details of hiring including hiring rates, or for a viewing, please contact Lily Purcell (caretaker) on 07808 079877

The Pavilion Committee

Bardfield Boules 2025

Hasn't the boules 'piste' been busy for the last few weeks? Many players and spectators enjoying some very sociable games and sunny weather. Do feel free to come along and watch some of the games.

The Competition is hotting up with 54 teams in Round One playing nearly 150 games between early May and mid July, we now have 16 teams going into Round Two, the top 2 teams from each group. For several groups it was a VERY close-run thing with final placings being decided on points difference.

There were examples of teams being extra generous, with many people assisting and advising newcomers to the competition even when they were the opposition. And thanks to those teams in Group D who offered at least one of their team members to play with their non-



Careful judging in round 1

dominant hand against Claire Oldroyd who had broken her arm just before the competition started. Good show all!

Thanks to Tom Grinstead and Ian Ruffle for providing training for new and developing teams. From now on it's a knock-out competition with two teams aiming to win a best of 3 games match to go through to the Quarter Finals which will be played towards the end of August.

Boules Second Round

Julie McSween & Tom Carey	v	Alastair & Jill Burt
Jan Hitchcock & Paul Kenning	v	Jo & Jeremy Goldsmith
Ray & Pat Coles	v	Ryan French & Kevin
Ian & Alex Ruffle	v	Iain Graham & Andrew Taylor
Tom & Louise Grinstead	v	Bertie Reilly & Monty Robinson
Ian & Anni Woodcock	v	Sheree & Matt Reilly
Sophie Hitchcock & Spencer Smith	v	Steve & Abbie Snow
Simon & Lorriane King	v	John & Chris Maidman

Madame Boules

Welcome to the Bell!

It was good to meet new landlords Zoey and Scott, and their two dogs, Ollie and Bo, for a chat and to hear about their plans for the future of the Bell. Zoey has 30 years of experience in pubs and hospitality management and the couple has just finished running Brentwood Town Football Club.

Zoey has family members in Bardfield and the surrounding villages and is looking forward to being in a more rural area: 'We want this to be a friendly, welcoming country pub', she says. They commented on the great community spirit in Great Bardfield: 'We really want to be part of the community – we'd like to sponsor a sports team and encourage local musicians to play here. We're animal friendly and will be open every day from 11am - 11pm. We're looking forward to welcoming everybody!'

So, a warm welcome to Zoey and Scott and here's to a new chapter in the history of this historic village pub.



Zoey & Scott

Town Hall Happenings

The Village Boules competition continues to fill the Town Hall area with games now progressing to the “knockout” stage. It’s great to have such a vibrant community event through the summer. Also, now The Bell is open



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

again games can be complemented with a small tippie. The Boules Finals will be played on 13th September. Great entertainment with BBQ, music and hopefully sunshine. Everyone is welcome to watch.

Our Craft Fair will be held on 11th October (10am till 4pm). Always a good time to start with some Christmas present purchases.

The rear corridor at the hall has now been redecorated and we are starting to investigate the provision of a disabled toilet and improved access.

Don’t forget if you wish to hire the Town Hall or the Meeting rooms bookings can be made with Sarah our caretaker on 07368 503459.

John Maidman
Chairman



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

BOULES FINALS DAY
SEE THE SEMI FINALS AND FINAL

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER STARTING 2PM
AT THE TOWN HALL
BBQ, MUSIC, WEAR SOMETHING FRENCH
3 MARVELLOUS MATCHES

ALL PROCEEDS OF THE COMPETITION GO TO TOWN
HALL FUNDS

Historical Society

The visit that brought History to Life

In late June, 20 members of the Great Bardfield Historical Society made a memorable visit to Ickworth House, the Italianate Rotunda, National Trust property in Suffolk. Our visit was to build on our recent historical society talk that explored the life of one of its former residents, Lady Molly Lepel - Molly's position at court, her wit and charm and her marriage into the powerful Hervey family. Lady Molly Lepel later became known as Mary Hervey, Countess of Bristol.

Now, walking the house and grounds of Ickworth, we were able to experience the living context of her story, and we were delighted that Emily Deal, who had presented her PhD studies about the life of Lady Molly Lepel to us in October 2024, once again joined us and led our visit.

In our group discussion outside the imposing Rotunda, Emily reflected enthusiastically with us, how the building encapsulates the world of art, learning and intellectual debate which Molly Lepel participated in during her years at court and at Ickworth.



Emily Deal, our guide



Mandy & David Slow studying the building

One of my highlights of the visit was the Ickworth Library, a quiet and atmospheric room, where archives have shown Molly to have spent many hours reading and writing letters to friends and family - her letters offering glimpses into the emotional and intellectual life of this extraordinary woman. By visiting the spaces where Molly Lepel lived, we were able to bridge the gap between biography and space and was a perfect complement to Emily's previous talk.

We had the most enjoyable day, sunshine and picnicking together but also with a warm welcome and sharing of Emily's expert knowledge. We are looking forward to planning future visits.

GREAT BARDFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Saturday, 20th September
7.30pm, Great Bardfield Town Hall**

Paths Through Time: Uncovering the History of Essex Rights of Way

A talk by Tom Breen

Tom Breen is a landscape historian with a passion and wide knowledge of the development of public rights of way and how they have shaped our landscapes.



Entry: £6 non-members, £4 members. Refreshments after the talk.

Landscape Artist of the Year

Landscape Artist of the Year Great Bardfield took place mid July on a beautiful sunny, but not too hot, Sunday. The environment provided a fabulous choice of subjects for creating some amazing pictures.

Unfortunately, we had a poor show, with multiple apologies this year, and only seven adult artists competing. However, they were all very talented and we had a wonderful and exciting display at the end of the four hours. Several children also completed beautiful pictures and prizes were given for the best.



Proud competitors and their paintings

The winning entry on canvas was created by Julie Bull and it will be displayed at the *The Vine* for the next month. Julie's painting depicted the view from School Green up the hill, to include the War

Memorial. Julie had encapsulated the very essence of the village. Runner-up was Sue Webber with a delightful view of the fountain and surrounding cottages.

We had quite a few very welcome spectators who enjoyed chatting with the artists and generously donating to the Great Bardfield School PTA charity. Thank you to Amelia at *Kitten and Hare* and Spencer at *The Vine* for both sponsoring the event and being the judges on the day. Thanks too to Steve and Mike for support before and on the day.

We all had a great time and look forward to doing it again next year!

Helene, Abilene and Amelia.

Summer Music in the Church

The Summer Music afternoon held in the Church was a great success. On a very hot afternoon the church provided a cool and spacious venue for music from local choirs and performers.

The singers of Heartsong delighted the audience with a selection of songs that brought back memories of the 60's and 70's.

The Bardfield Community Choir accompanied by pianist/organist Avril Nelson got off to a rousing start with the opening of Vivaldi's Gloria.



8-year-old Thomas gives a jazzy rendering of 'Fly Me To The Moon' on his violin



5-year-old Beatrice confidently performs on the smallest cello ever!

Their programme also included The Teddy Bears' Picnic, an amusing arrangement of Old Mother Hubbard in the style of Handel and ended with a powerful performance of Take That's Shine.

Talented young musicians Thomas and Beatrice Shannon played solos on piano, violin and cello. Tea and a wonderful selection of homemade cakes were served. This was altogether a most enjoyable way of spending a summer afternoon and

£300 was raised for the Church improvement fund.

Tuesday Club

In July we usually arrange an outing, and this year we enjoyed lunch at The Bell Inn, Panfield, a very sociable event and the food and service were excellent, the ice cream sundaes being very popular on a hot day!

Carrying on the theme of food, in August we are having an Afternoon Tea in the Town Hall, think finger sandwiches, scones, sausage rolls, cake and more cake. We are all looking forward to it, though I suspect that a brisk walk may be needed afterwards!

After all the excesses of the summer, in September we return to our schedule of speakers, starting on 9th September with the return of Amanda Sutherland, who visited us last year to talk about her journey from sorting her granny's button box to designing costumes for the Royal Opera House and making wedding dresses for famous fashion houses. This time she will be telling us how to Make Do and Mend. If this sounds a little like a war time necessity, I know that Amanda will make it much more entertaining than that, and we look forward to welcoming her back.

We hope everyone enjoys the summer, and that you may join us for the afternoon in September. Not only will you enjoy an interesting talk, but you will have the opportunity to have a chat over the refreshments afterwards. We welcome all to our meetings. Membership for the year costs only £25, but if you prefer to just come along to a talk which appeals to you we would love to see you on that occasion, visitors pay £5, including refreshments.

Look out for posters around the village, our talks are varied so you may hopefully see something which you would find particularly interesting. Doors open at 2.00 and meetings start at 2.30.

Cherry Whitby

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

GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB

MAKE DO AND MEND



A talk by Amanda Sutherland

We are delighted to welcome back Amanda, who will show beautiful garment recreations that can be achieved from charity shop finds and old keepsakes with simple but effective methods. There will also be an opportunity to buy a range of fabric jewellery and eco accessories created by Amanda.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 at 2.30

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome

Visitors: £5 per talk

Horticultural Society

Garden visit to Neil Birks Roses at Wethersfield Mill in June



Demonstration by Neil Birks

Members of Bardfield Horticultural Society had a most enjoyable visit to Wethersfield Mill and rose field together with Finchingfield and Cornish Hall End Horticultural Society.

We started with a glass of wine or elderflower cordial and had a very warm welcome from Neil Birks. Neil gave a short talk about the history of *NB Flowers* which was followed by a tour of the field to see the wide variety of

English roses growing there. There were about 40 different varieties – a lovely range of colours – all with a scent. The roses are picked early morning on Sundays and Wednesdays and taken straight to New Covent Garden Flower Market. The florist business is based above the market.



Inspecting the roses

After the tour of the roses we returned to the lovely garden and Neil prepared a wonderful flower arrangement with the roses picked that morning. We also had the opportunity to buy some bunches of roses before we left. A thoroughly enjoyable and interesting visit.

Summer Show Saturday August 2nd in the Town Hall

The Summer Show in the Town Hall is only a couple of days away as you read this. We look forward to welcoming existing and new exhibitors. You do not have to be a member to enter - we welcome everyone and entry to the classes is free.

We have many classes for all different skills - flowers, vegetables, cookery, handicraft, flower arranging and photography. Encourage your children to get involved. We cater for ages from under 5 to 16, so there is something for everybody.

This year we have added two new classes for Novices* only. The first one is Class 7a in the Flowers section: "Any flower, 3 stems – any varieties". Have a wander into your garden - we are sure you can find some lovely flowers to bring along and enter. There is always lots of help and advice available.

The second one is Class 19 in the Vegetable section: "Five radishes complete with tops". A few of you collected radish seeds at the Spring Show for this and instructions for sowing were given in the June issue of the BT - we look forward to seeing the results!

Whether you have exhibited or not, please come along and visit in the afternoon to enjoy the show. The shows are a wonderful village tradition and we need your entries and support to continue to thrive.

Hopefully some of you will have tried the recipes published in previous issues of the *Bardfield Times* and enjoyed the results, so you will bring along your efforts. Look at your vegetables and flowers - dig up/pick a few and bring them along to the show - you might surprise yourself!

(*Definition of *Novice class*: an exhibitor that has not won at a previous Bardfield Show.)

The Town Hall will be open from 8am. Entries for the show should be registered before 10.15am and be staged by 10.30am as judging will begin at 10.45am. The show will be open to all at 2.30pm until 4.30pm. Raffle draw and prize giving at 4.30pm. Admission is £1 - Members and children free. There will be a raffle and a plant & produce stall. Refreshments with homemade cakes will be available at *The Bell*. Cakes are all made by our members.

Future dates for your diary

- On **Saturday October 4th** we are holding an *Autumn Social Event*, at 7pm in the Town Hall - please look out for posters and the next *Bardfield Times* for more details.
- Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday October 21st** at 7pm in the Town Hall with cheese & wine and a speaker.

Look out for posters, Facebook and BT for future information.

Plea for new Chairman for Society – Now becoming Urgent!

We now have over 100 members and October when we hold our AGM is not so far away. We need a new Chair to continue the brilliant work that has been done over the last years so the Society continues to flourish in the future.

Linda Prior has been our Chair since 2014. At our 2024 AGM, she gave notice that she would be standing down from this role in October 2024. Sadly no one came forward so Linda very kindly agreed to do a further year - until October 2025. She is more than happy to remain on the Committee.

If you would be interested in volunteering for this role please contact Linda who would be more than happy to tell you what is entailed.

**For any information about Bardfield Horticultural Society
please contact Linda Prior 07969 184845**

BARDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SUMMER SHOW

2 AUGUST 2025

Take part in this traditional show that has something for everyone, young and old. Lots of classes for you to choose

including growing vegetables, handicraft, flowers, baking and making. Drop off entries in the morning by 10.00 and view from 2.30pm. Refreshments, a raffle and a plant stall at the Town Hall in Great Bardfield.

For more information call Linda 07969 184845



From the Vicarage...

Everyone loves an anniversary (indeed, with wedding season well underway, it's also a season for anniversary celebrations!). In the Church, because we've been around for a while, anniversaries often come with large numbers attached, but this year marks a big milestone, even for the Church. It is 1400 years since a group of bishops met in the city of Nicaea (now Iznik in modern Turkey) at the request of the Roman Emperor Constantine. The reasons that this meeting is still remembered (amongst the many, many meetings of bishops which are not!) are, firstly, that it was the first attempt to gather representatives from the whole of the Christian Church in one place; and secondly, that the bishops agreed the first version of a text which (with a few later modifications) continues to be recited together by congregations across our churches Sunday by Sunday.

The 'Nicene Creed', as this text came to be known, is a summary of several of the most important Christian beliefs – it affirms belief in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, about God the Son taking on human nature in the person of Jesus Christ, the significance of the events of Jesus' life, and the purpose of the Church as a community in which we come to share eternal life. By its very nature, talking as it does about the nature of God which we believe to be the greatest of all mysteries, it is a text which can still inspire and challenge even after many years of recitation – which is true both for individuals, and for the Church as a whole. There are not many texts which have been sources of such inspiration over such a long period of time, which is testament to the power of these words as a statement of faith.

They can also be a challenge; I remember one wise and faithful Christian who once said that, on a good day, he could just about get as far as the end of the first line, 'I believe in one God,' but he took seriously the promise of faith which the words represent, and strove to grow into it. I also remember reciting the Creed myself at age 10, as a member of the choir, and being excited and fascinated by some of the words which I hadn't encountered in any other contexts, and being hungry to learn more about what they meant. The

Church of England has recently produced a series of short reflections examining the Creed line by line, which are available on its 'Everyday Faith' app (<https://cofe.io/EverydayFaithAndroid> or <https://cofe.io/EverydayFaithiOS>), which might be a way for you to discover something about these words, and their power to provide meaning to explore for a lifetime.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Services for August 2025

Sunday 3 August – Seventh Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service – Great Bardfield

I Iam Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic morning prayer) – Wethersfield

Sunday 10 August – Eighth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

I Iam Family Service – Wethersfield

5pm Evensong – Shalford

Sunday 17 August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Sung Communion Service for the feast of St Mary (Patronal Festival) – Great Bardfield

5pm Evening Prayer – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 24 August – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10am Holy Communion – Cornish Hall End

10.45am Flower Celebration Service – Finchingfield

I Iam Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 31 August – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Cornish Hall End

3pm Children's Church with 'Blessing of Backpacks' for the new school year – Wethersfield

For September... we are reviewing our pattern of services, and do not have a final list quite ready for the double-edition magazine, so please consult the church noticeboards in September for details of those services. However, we have a few special ones to highlight:

Sunday 14 September, 11am Pet Service in Wethersfield

Bring your pets to receive a special blessing as we celebrate how we share our lives with animals and the rest of God's creation. If your animal is difficult to bring (though we have welcomed horses to our pet services before, and they have provided welcome help with churchyard grass cutting!), or they are a pet from years past whom you would like to remember, then you are welcome to bring a picture or other token to represent them.

Sunday 21 September, 4pm Harvest in the Vineyard

After last year's hugely enjoyable service and celebration, we are gathering again for a harvest celebration amongst the vines of Great Bardfield Vineyard, followed by refreshments, music and dancing in the neighbouring barn.

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club (1st weeks) –

Between the Lines, Great Bardfield

*Note, however, that August's Faithful Fiction will be on **Monday 11 August** rather than the usual first Monday.*

Tuesday 8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great Bardfield

'St Mary's Munchkins' story & song time with refreshments

Munchkins will have a two week summer break on 29 July and 5 August but will be back from 12 August and will continue the rest of the month.

Thursday 8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield

10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)

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

Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

Friday 8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

Saturday 10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

Ode to our crane who flew without wings.....

By Pat Coles

*(With a very little help
from ChatGPT)*



Oh where, oh where, has our garden bird gone
Tall as a lamp post (well almost) - he vanished at dawn.
Crafted from metals, copper and tin
A marvel of welding - your heart he would win.
He stood by the nettles, stately and grand
A veritable protector, lovingly sculpted by hand.
But one dark night with stealth and with nerve
Some rascal made off with our beautiful bird.
Standing 5 feet tall.....
He didn't just fly away in the night
- though this would have been a magnificent sight
He was heavy you see - not the type to just go
A scheming thief - with muscles - we know.
Now our garden is empty, his presence we mourn
We feel very sad, in fact - quite forlorn
So to the bold bandit we say with disgust
Return our fine fellow - honesty is a must.
Even in Bardfield, strolling birdies are few
But if you do see one - it could be the clue
To know he was nicked and didn't flew!!!

GREENFINGERS

Is your garden jaded after the heat of June and July? Get tips here to revive it and plan for the next seasons.

'Cin-Cin' say I sipping a mocktail sat in the heavenly garden of a Relais Chateau hotel - a simple gardener does not stay here at their prices so just ordered at the bar and sat taking in the beauty of the borders. Annuals of pink and white cosmos fronted with lilac nemesia and salvia farinacea. A permanent background of lavender, roses and hydrangea Annabel with white flowers the size of footballs. Add alstroemerias to this mixture and they were the stars of this show for me.

Now is the perfect time to buy and plant because:

1. In flower so buyer chooses the colour.
2. They have brittle roots so easier to plant a sturdy specimen straight from the pot.
3. August gives them time to get settled in, a mulch of bark at the end of October and they will be bigger next summer,

Yes, they are perennials, yes a wide selection of colours and like sun or partial shade. And what a 'Wow' in your garden mimicking the stunning scheme at this hotel. Three plants coming my way this week.

ACTION FOR AUGUST

- Buy alstroemeria but add anemones and aquilegias to your trolley, the former for autumn flowering and the aquilegias for spring, as one is planning for coming seasons.
- Scatter seeds of poppy, foxglove and nigella if you want a natural look next year.
- Forget buying bulbs till 6 or 7 weeks' time but concentrate on cutting off faded flowers, cut down to the ground those like geraniums and catmint and ladies' mantle that have finished their display.

So 'A' was for August and 'A' for a fair number of recommended plants and now Adieu till true Autumn, the BT October issue.

Sing 4 Charity



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Wethersfield Village Hall

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THIS YEARS THEME : FILMS

Harvesting

Before we look at harvesting in the 1920s/30s as described in Elsie James' booklet '*Bardfield Memories*,' a quick word about Pipers Store in Bridge Street where Elsie's family, the Pipers, ran a general store. In Piper's meadow by the bridge they kept four or five cows, and sold milk during the First World War. Elsie's mother made butter in a dairy at the back of the house and kept free-range poultry and pigs. On the other side of the road was a five-acre market garden, stretching from the river along to the Vine Meadow behind the houses in Bridge Street right up to Northampton Meadow. There were green houses for grapes and tomatoes and one heated with hot water pipes from a coke fire for propagating seedling plants. There were nearly a hundred fruit trees and an acre of soft fruits – gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries and currants. Elsie remembered the local women who came in their pinafores to pick blackcurrants for her father.

The following extract comes from Elsie's account of harvesting in the early 1930s.

'Barley, wheat, oats and some rye, were the corn crops on our arable land. There was always some excitement in the air when we heard the horses and binders going along the street to the cornfield for the reaping. Some, of course, went straight to the field from the farm. It was a long day's work and sometimes the binder-twine broke and there was a stoppage for repairs. Each bundle of corn was automatically tied, then fell off the back of the binder. There would be a halt for elevenses and the horse given a drink and a nosebag. Then back to work, and excitement would build up as the last stand, the middle of the field was left. This was where all the rabbits congregated, as the horse and binder came nearer and nearer. The terrified rabbits rushed out and made for the field perimeter chased by the shouting boys who cracked skulls. The dogs joined in, killing and retrieving the families' prospective dinners.

The next job for the harvest gang was the propping up of all the sheaves, into stooks of several bundles and leaving them for wind



Scything by hand - cutting barley at Great Lodge C1904 and sun to dry the straw and corn, before it was finally gathered in.

When the day arrived for the 'harvest home' the great shire horses or the breed called Suffolk Punch, drew the wagons to the harvest field. The sheaves were pitch-forked up, and taken to the stack yard. It was a skilled job. Two men stood on top to receive the heavy sheaves, tossed off the two-pronged forks, to place each in a compact level. Next the threshing tackle arrived – steam engine, conveyor belt and other paraphernalia. This time the boys and dogs were alert for rats and mice which had been having a bonanza on the corn stacks! The lads stood around with their sticks and the dogs straining at the leash as the stack dwindled and the corn grains were bagged up. The threshed straw would be re-stacked for winter bedding for the livestock.'

At the end of harvest there would be a merry Harvest Supper or 'horkey' as it was known in East Anglia. 'Boiled beef, or perhaps rabbit pie, was served, washed down with ale or cider. Plum pudding was always on the menu, and bread baked in the shape of an ear or sheaf of corn.'

With grateful thanks to the late Elsie James for her wonderful accounts of village life.

Jenny Rooney

Great Bardfield Historical Society

Future of the Great Bardfield Cottage Museum



The Great Bardfield Charities and Great Bardfield Historical Society held a joint public meeting on 14 March this year to consider the future of the Great Bardfield Cottage Museum. At this meeting, it was explained that the museum's finances are such that the current arrangement, by which the Historical Society lease the building from the Charities to run as a museum, cannot continue. A hope was expressed at the meeting that another group might be formed to allow the cottage to remain a heritage asset for the village.

The Great Bardfield Charities, as current owners of the cottage, would therefore like to invite expressions of interest from a prospective group or groups wishing to take on the ownership and running of the building. This could be to continue the current use as a museum, or for another purpose for the benefit of the community. We invite representatives of any interested groups to contact greatbardfieldcharities@gmail.com by 1 September.



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Before the “dissolution of the monasteries”, instigated in 1536 by King Henry VIII, the Hundred Parishes area had its fair share of religious houses – monasteries, convents, abbeys and priories. The remains of some can still be seen today.



Tilty Parish Church

Tilty Abbey is one. It was founded for Cistercian monks in 1153 and prospered mainly due to the wool trade before being dissolved. In 1220 a chapel was built outside the abbey gates for use by visitors. The chapel survives and today functions as Tilty’s parish church. Little remains of the other abbey buildings but the site can be visited; interpretation boards inform the visitor and give an artist’s impression of how the site would have looked.

Little Dunmow Priory was founded in 1104 and was home to Augustinian monks until the Dissolution. Most of the priory church was demolished but the southern aisle survived. It is now used as the parish church.

Several of our larger hospitality venues were developed on sites of former religious houses: Hanbury Manor in Thundridge was

once Poles Convent, Down Hall in Hatfield Heath evolved from a 14th-century monastery, while Leez Priory in Felsted became the home of Richard Rich through his leading role in dissolving the monasteries.



Little Dunmow Priory

In Saffron Walden, Audley End House was built on the site of Walden Abbey, founded in the 12th century and whose lands were granted in 1538 to Sir Thomas Audley, Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor. The present house was built some 60 years later by his grandson Thomas Howard.



Audley End House

and became the first Diocesan Retreat House in England in 1927.

Ken McDonald
Secretary

Ed: All three of the sites discussed here are very close to Great Bardfield and well worth a visit.

While we tend to think of religious houses as a bygone era, Pleshey has one that is relatively new and active: its House of Retreat was founded as a convent in the early 1900s

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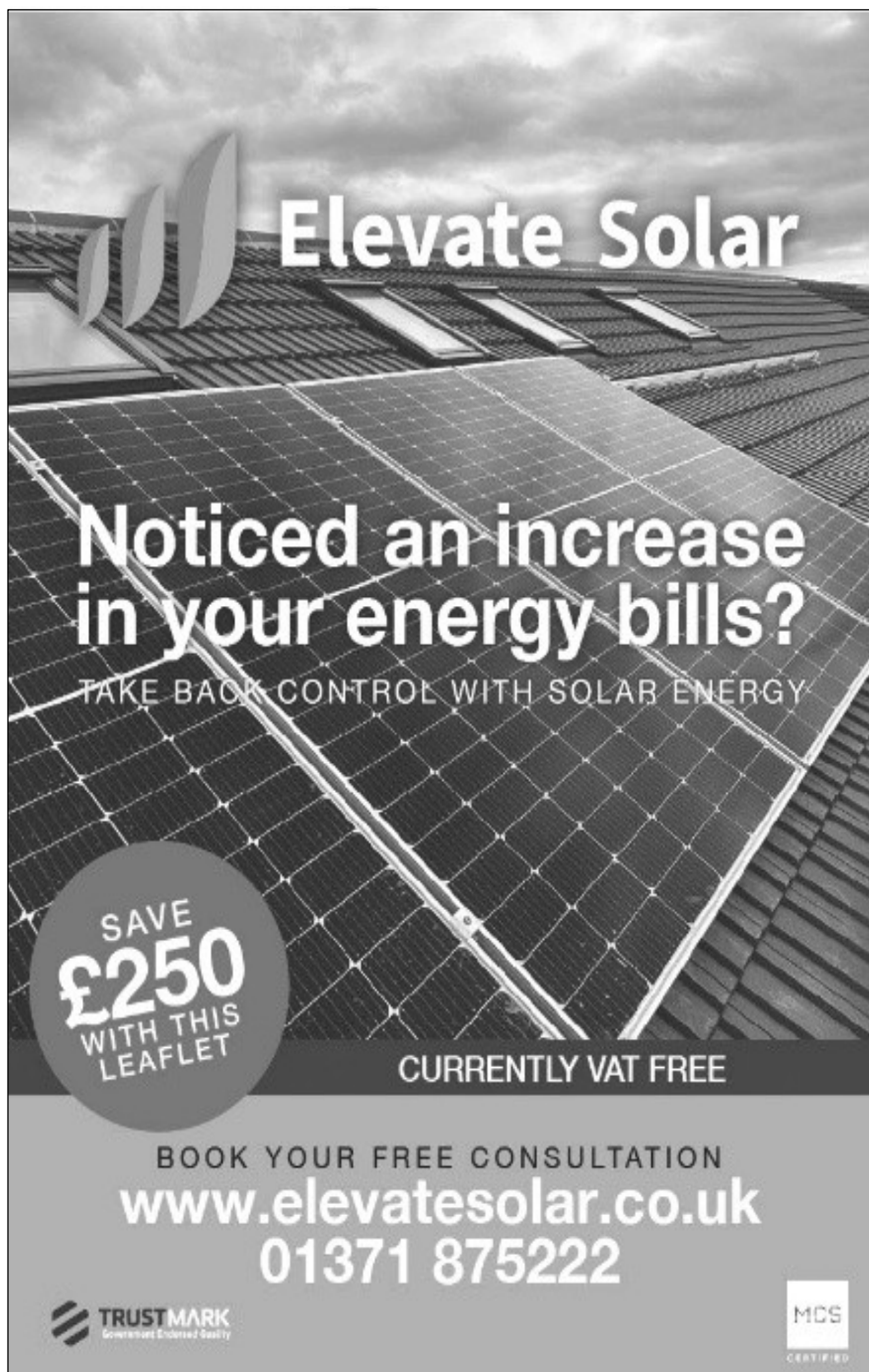
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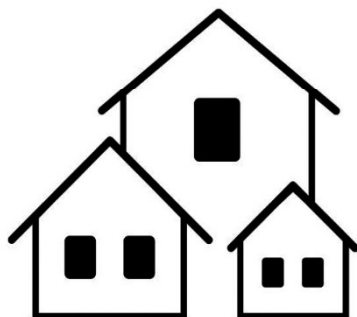
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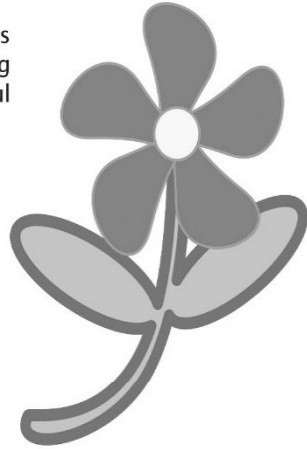
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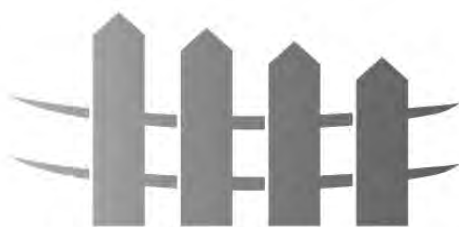
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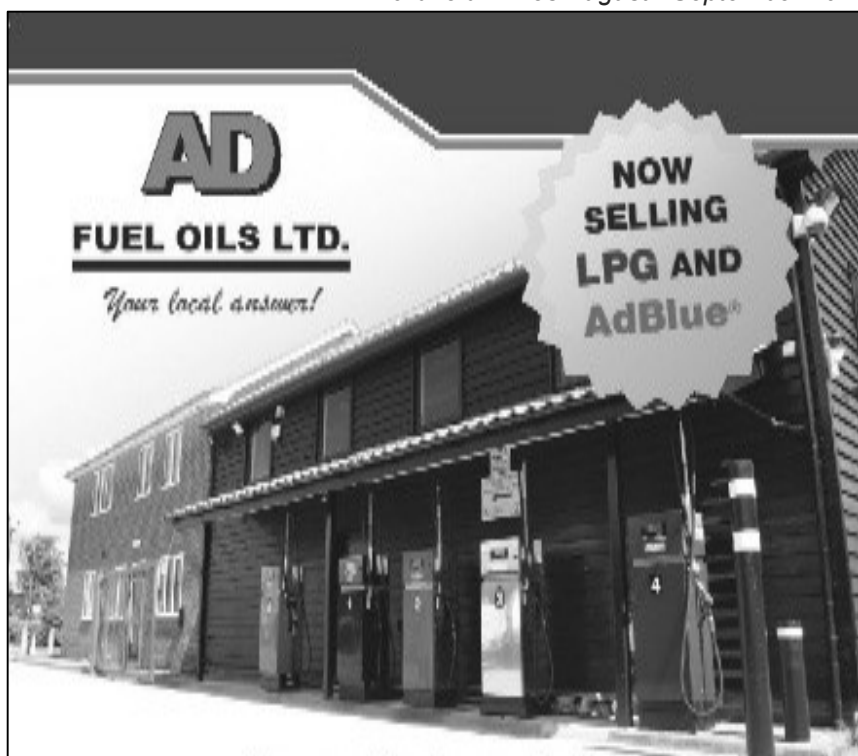
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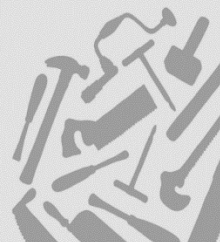
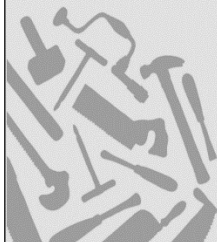
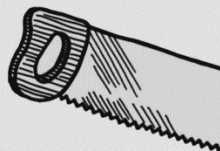
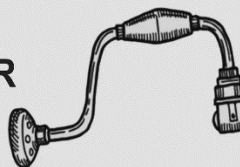
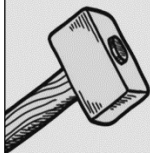
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Our new opening hours are:

- ❖ Monday – Thursday: 11am – 11pm
- ❖ Friday & Saturday: 11am – 12.30pm
- ❖ Sunday: 11am – 11pm

Whether you're popping in for a quick pint, a catch-up with friends, or a pot of tea with family, we want to make The Bell Inn a place where everyone feels at home.

Although we are not currently serving food, we are hoping to do so in the coming months. We are passionate about supporting the local community, and hosting exciting events for the village. So, we invite you all to come down, meet us, and enjoy a drink or two as we start this new chapter.

We look forward to meeting you all and working together to make The Bell Inn a vibrant, friendly spot for everyone in Great Bardfield!

Come and support your local pub!

Warm regards,

Zoey & Scott

The Bell Inn

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Pat Coles (01371 810995), Mick Gell (01371 810113)

Nick Holland (07795 280647), Annika Woodcock (07900 491636)

Rev Alex Shannon (01371 810309)

Or email GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com

Town Hall Diary

August 2025

Friday 1 st	Horticultural Society set up	4.00pm
Saturday 2 nd	Horticultural Soc. Summer Show	2.30pm
Tuesday 12 th	Tuesday Club	2.00pm
Wednesday 13 th	Parish Council Finance Meeting	6.30pm
Thursday 21 st	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Thursday 28 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm

September 2025

Thursday 4 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 6 th	Private Booking	4.00pm
Tuesday 9 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility Class	10.45am
	Tuesday Club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 10 th	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm
Thursday 11 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 13 th	Boules' Finals Day	2.00pm
Tuesday 16 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility Class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Thursday 18 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 20 th	G.B.H.S.	6.30pm
Tuesday 23 rd	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility Class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Thursday 25 th	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Tuesday 30 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility Class	10.45am
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Clerk to the Parish Council	Kate Fox clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk 810111
Councillors	Janet Dyson 07957 483207 Iain Graham 07831 595555 Darren Hockley 810836 Peter Walmsley 07843 498253

Little Bardfield Parish

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

Braintree District Council

Councillors	Cllr Michael Staines 07922 487666 Cllr Mark Ault 07903 744481
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Uttlesford District Council

Councillor	Cllr Mike Tayler cllrtayler@uttlesford.gov.uk
Police	for non-emergency enquiries dial 101 for emergency enquiries dial 999

1st Finchingfield Scout Group	Mark Wells 810447 mark.2millside@btinternet.com
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Bardfield Charities	Nick Holland 07795 280647
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Bardfield Horticultural Society	Linda Prior 07969 184845
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Bardfield Players	Ian Ruffle 810986
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Gt Bardfield Allotments	Adrian Thomson
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Gt Bardfield Bell Ringers	Nick & Sarah Holland 810209
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Gt Bardfield Historical Society	tim_regan82@hotmail.com
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Gt Bardfield Pre-School	Kathy King 811580
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Gt Bardfield Primary School	admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk 810252
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Muddogs Youth Football	Tony Clarke-Holland 07710 506007 www.muddogs.co.uk/tch@thebcf.co.uk
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Tuesday Club	Marilyn Edwards mazjedwards@yahoo.co.uk
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Parish Priest Gt & Lt Bardfield	Fr Alex Shannon 810309/07483 878659
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Catholic Priest	Fr Celestine 810428/07440 394171
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Town Hall Bookings	bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com
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