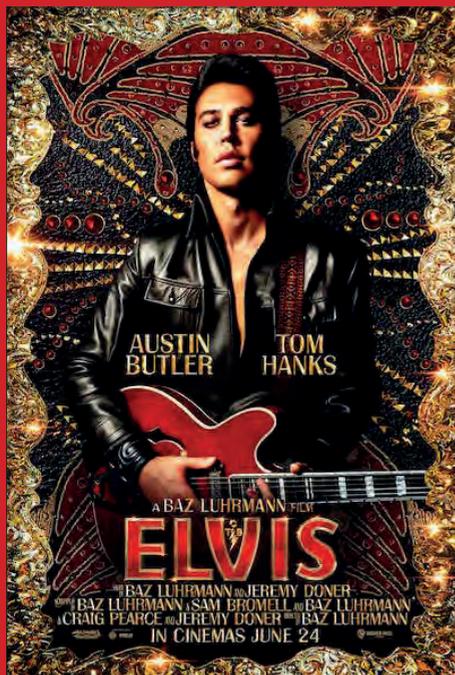




**Great Bardfield Town Hall**  
Doors Open 7.30pm Film Starts 8.00pm  
Members free, Non members £6



**Friday,  
December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Elvis**



**Friday,  
January 6<sup>th</sup>  
The Dig**

Dec  
2022

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50p  
where  
sold

# Bardfield Times

News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield



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

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**Front cover:** Bardfield Brass and Carol singers from the Community Choir  
by Ian Holmes

**Above:** Bardfield on Remembrance Day by David Slow

## Editorial

I'm writing this at the end of November when the leaves are turning and there's a chill in the air. The long hot summer seems a distant memory and much of the news is grim. But there's much to look forward to. The Community Choir have started practising carols and twinkling, coloured lights are appearing around the village – signs that Christmas is coming. Plenty of festive events are planned. On December 12<sup>th</sup> Bardfield Brass and Carol singers from the Community Choir will be going around the village starting at Deer Park View at 6pm, Bendlowes Road at 6.45 and outside the Town Hall at 7.30 where mulled wine will be served. Last year's event is featured on the cover.



Not everyone enjoys Christmas and it can be a lonely and anxious time for some. The rising cost of living and particularly escalating energy prices are real concerns for many. Please remember to check that older neighbours are safe and warm – perhaps offer a lift to the Warm Space offered by Sharon at the Bell. I'm sure seasonal donations to the Food Bank will be very welcome – details from Mandy Boon. Other support includes the hampers organised by Jo Magro-Andrews. If you're alone on Christmas Day or find it difficult to cook a lunch you can have a full Christmas lunch, free, delivered on the day, hot and ready to eat - festive goodies included! Contact Brenda Poston on 01371 810519. The story of London George on page 20 shows that Bardfield villagers have always been a caring lot.

If you're looking for new interests or challenges in the New Year why not try some of the many and varied clubs and activities? If you're new to the area it's a great way to meet new people. Perhaps you have particular skills to offer and time to take on the role of a School Governor – see letter from Jane Tillotson, Chair of Governors on page 2. Or maybe you have an idea for starting up a new group? Don't be afraid to come forward and share your ideas!

The *Bardfield Times* Team wishes everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**Janet Dyson**

## Dear Editor,

The Department for Education defines effective school governance as:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

I've always felt this is a big ask for a group of volunteers, however here at Great Bardfield our Governors are, in many regards incredibly lucky. In particular, and not missed by the recent Ofsted Inspector in reaffirming that the school remains Good, our "...pupils are proud of their school and live up to the well established school values. Pupils appreciate the school's positive ethos. They feel both safe and happy."

Likewise all our staff, headed up by our new Headteacher (maybe new to the role, but certainly an experienced Bardfield teacher) Mrs Crow, are an incredibly committed and dedicated team, who genuinely go above and beyond to ensure the best for the children.

It'll however be no surprise to you that currently fulfilling our oversight of school finances, is particularly challenging. Costs are likely to outstrip our small and incredibly tight budget, but the school works tirelessly reviewing all its expenditure.

Through various evening committees, school visits, working parties, meeting with other local governors, regular training and many informal chats, the Board of Governors works through a diverse range of responsibilities, conundrums and expectations. The role is broad and often challenging, however you just have to visit a school assembly, see a school production or hear the children talk and you realise what it's all about. These children deserve the very best and their enthusiasm is inspiring.

We currently have a vacancy for a governor from the community and I'd love to hear from interested locals to talk through the role. Time and commitment, preferably in abundance, are the essential requirements. Should they have Human Resource type skills, that would be useful, but not necessarily essential; everything else can be learnt once in the role and training is provided. Skills are often readily transferrable - chairing meetings, organising and undertaking strategic reviews, being a team player and being proactive in sharing the workload?

I'd be grateful if anyone who might be interested, would please get in touch with me at [cog@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:cog@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk) and a group of governors, will be delighted to meet and share our insights and answer any questions. In the meantime try googling 'School governance', or look at [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk) or [www.essex.gov.uk/school-governors](http://www.essex.gov.uk/school-governors) for further information.

Kind regards,

**Jane Tillotson**

# Great Bardfield Charities

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
Applications for help need to be with Trustees by  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Please be in touch with  
**GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com**  
Or any of the Trustees

**Pat Coles** Linseys, Bridge Street, Great Bardfield 01371 810995  
**Debbie Rogers** 01371 811083  
**Mick Gell** 3, Mill Close Great Bardfield 01371 810113  
**Annika Woodcock** Yew Tree Cottage Dunmow Road  
Great Bardfield 07900491636

Any of the Trustees will be happy to advise potential applicants. Please support your neighbours if they are unable to apply in their own right.

## Great Bardfield Parish Council report

### Plaques on Footbridge

To commemorate the works undertaken to the footbridge during our late Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, a plaque has been installed on the footbridge over the River Pant together with the original two plaques installed when the footbridge was originally built in her Silver Jubilee year, 1977. The older plaques have been renovated and repainted.

### Planning Applications & Tree Works

There were no planning applications to consider this month, however 3 applications for tree works, listed below were discussed and no objections made as all were necessary management works:

Canter House, 5 Northampton Meadow

36 Durham Close

The Long House, Brook Street

### Braintree District Housing Supply

The Parish Council are concerned to hear that Braintree District Council (BDC) have recently advised that they are no longer able to meet the necessary 5 year housing supply. This comes only a few months after BDC's Local Plan was adopted at which time a 5 year supply was confirmed. BDC's recent statement, which can be read in full on their website, states that 'using the government's methodology, Braintree District Council has calculated that it cannot currently demonstrate a five-year housing land supply for 2022-2027, with it sitting at 4.86 (as at September 2022):'

To demonstrate they can meet the target set by the national government the Council has to count how many plots of land have either full planning permission for housing or are likely to come forward soon. Evidence is required from developers to add housing allocations to the supply calculations including when taking control of a site or coming forward for development, and there is no requirement in national policy for developers to provide local authorities with this.

The number of homes needed to be built in the Braintree district is calculated by adding the government's annual target of 716 new homes in the Local Plan to the shortfall of homes delivered since 2013. In Braintree's case, the number of new homes it can show it can provide over the next five years is 4,851, against a target of above 4,986. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which dictates planning rules, states that if a local

authority does not have a five-year housing land supply, a tilted balance comes into play, where there is a "presumption in favour of sustainable development" on land not allocated for housing in the Braintree District Local Plan, unless the negatives of a development significantly outweigh the positives.

### Application for 57 Dwellings adjacent to Deer Park View, Braintree Road.

Since the last PC meeting, we have heard that this planning application will be considered by Braintree District Council's Planning Committee on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Parish Council members will attend this meeting and object to this proposal. Bearing in mind the situation described above there is a higher risk that this application may be approved though we very much hope that BDC will recognise that this would have a detrimental effect on the village and its environment, and that it is not sustainable in terms of available services (local schools, medical services, public transport, etc).

### Cost of Living Concerns

The Parish Council recognise that many of our residents will be concerned with cost of living and energy price rises. There are a number of initiatives on offer by the County Council and District Council as well as help locally.

The Bell Pub is offering a Warm Space if you need it – contact The Bell for opening times and further details.

Do not forget that you can also apply directly, and confidentially, to The Bardfield Charities whose contact details are on the inside back cover of this magazine.

If you need other advice or assistance, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01371 810111 or by email at [clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk)

### Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next full meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7.00pm, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall.

Members of the Public are welcome to attend and to raise any issues at the Public Forum which is held at the beginning of the meeting.

Great Bardfield Parish Council wish you all a warm, healthy and happy Christmas and our very best wishes for 2023.

**Carolynne Ruffle, Chairperson**

## LITTLE BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

### New councillors

Since the parish council's last report, Jan Warren and Juliet Loftus have very kindly joined the council so we are at our full complement. Each area of the parish – Hawkspur Green, Oxen End and Little Bardfield – continues to have at least one councillor who lives in that area. Contact details for councillors can be found on the Notice Board and the Little Bardfield website [www.littlebardfieldparish.org.uk](http://www.littlebardfieldparish.org.uk).

### New clerk

Kate Rixson became the clerk (the administrator, in other words) in July and has been getting to grips with the paperwork. She can be contacted on 01371 404321, a phone number which will accept texts as well as voicemails, and on [littlebardfieldparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:littlebardfieldparishclerk@gmail.com) (unchanged).

### Grants available from the Community Fund

On the Parish Council notice boards you will find details of the fund which is administered by the parish council. It is for the benefit of residents of Little Bardfield parish and in the past few months the fund has supported a Ukraine school student with bus fares and undertaken some work to prevent repeated flooding in Hawkspur Green.

The council is making an award to the Little Bardfield Alms Houses towards the cost of roof repairs and is donating to the GP surgeries at Finchingfield and Thaxted for items to benefit patients. A grant is also being made to the Little Bardfield Cricket Club towards the cost of renovating the all-weather pitch, to encourage new members.

### Next parish council meeting

The next meeting will be on 8 February, at the Cricket Pavilion at Little Bardfield Cricket Club. Full details will be on [www.littlebardfieldparish.org.uk](http://www.littlebardfieldparish.org.uk) by early February.

If there is anything you would like the council to discuss in their meeting, or issues you would like to raise before that, please contact the clerk on 01371 404321 or [littlebardfieldparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:littlebardfieldparishclerk@gmail.com), or any parish councillor.



## Great Bardfield Primary School Have you considered becoming a school governor?

We are privileged to have our good school at the heart of our village community and the Governing Board is a team of volunteers, who work together, to provide it with support and strategic direction.

### Do you have transferrable business skills?

**Can you think Strategically?**

**Are you organised?**

**Are you willing to learn?**

**Do you have time to commit?**

**Are you a team player?**

We have a vacancy and are keen to welcome you if you are enthusiastic, willing to learn and most importantly, have time to commit to this rewarding role.

For further details and a chance to chat with other governors about what the role involves, please contact Jane Tillotson at [cog@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:cog@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk)

## GREENFINGERS

**D**ark, damp, drab and dank, is that your garden in November and December? Certainly not, because you readers must be gardeners.

Gardeners want something to delight at every month on their plot and the beginning of winter is quite a challenge but here are two small shrubs to delight. At only 120cms high, pale lemon and scented flowers appear in November on Coronilla and again in April, plus it has leaves in the prettiest blue/green. Go on, you want one and can find room as it relishes the shelter grown against a fence or wall. The modest looking evergreen of Sarcococca, belies its powerful scent, small white flowers perfume the garden on the coldest of days. Pick a few sprigs and bring indoors and the whole room will be fragrant. At only 50cms high its narrow dark green leaves shine in the shadiest spot, difficult to find to buy? Just rely on the yellow winter jasmine.



*Sarcococca confusa* (Sweet Box)

If these have n't tempted you then here is down to earth advice. Never underestimate the value of gold magic that turns to black magic. What? You may ask. Why, it is all those fallen leaves that if put in black plastic bags will change in time. Make a few holes in the bags, put them out of sight and forget them, rediscover them after a year or two and they have changed to a rich dark compost that is invaluable to your soil. If one feels it is too much effort, then take them off the grass and leave them around your plants and the worms will digest and excrete them.

### **JOBS—kept to a minimum**

1. Itching to cut and chop? Secateurs in hand cut your wisteria to two or three buds on any side branches. easy to see where now the leaves have fallen.
2. That hellebore sulking in the corner will reward you with flowers soon if old leaves are cut to the base and a little fertiliser is fed to it.
3. Brighten up the indoors with a purchase of a cyclamen or poinsettia, better still await the flowers from your forced hyacinths and paper white narcissus that you potted up last month and put in the dark. Well done you organised keen gardeners—be in contact next year.

# CarOL Singing



**On December 12<sup>th</sup>  
Bardfield Brass and Carol singers  
from the Community Choir**

**will be going around the village starting at  
Deer Park View at 6pm, Bendlowes Road at 6.45  
and outside the Town Hall at 7.30  
where mulled wine will be served.**



**Everyone Welcome!**

## Town Hall Happenings

As I sit writing it seems that it has been raining for weeks. Let's hope for some dry weather in the run up to Christmas.

The recent Craft Fair held in the Town Hall was a great success. The members of the Town Hall Committee work very hard to plan and support the many and varied events.

By the time you read this our "Night of Classic Rock" on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December may have happened, if not tickets are available from Between the Lines and online.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> the Film Club are due to show "Elvis". The film follows the life of rock and roll icon, singer, and actor Elvis Presley, told from the perspective of his manager, Colonel Tom Parker. It should be a good night.

On Monday evening 12<sup>th</sup> December Bardfield Brass and Bardfield Choir are due to tour the village ending outside the Town Hall at 7.30pm where we will sing around the Christmas Tree, eat mince pies and have a glass of mulled wine. The more the merrier. (People and mulled wine!)



Patricia Walsh helps serve teas and homemade cakes at the recent Craft Fair.

On behalf of the Town Hall Committee, I would like to offer everyone Christmas Greetings and a Happy 2023.

**John Maidman**  
Chair Great Bardfield Town Hall



Stella Herbert demonstrates her fine embroidery skills at the Craft Fair.

## From the Vicarage...

**A**t the heart of the coming celebration of Christmas is the beginning of a human life. Many years separate the events of the stable in Bethlehem from the words and deeds of Jesus of Nazareth which would make his birth such a cause for celebration. So, even while we know where the story will lead, what we celebrate at Christmas is like the anticipation signified by a blank canvas before the artist gets to work. It's all about potential – the kind of potential that we recognise at the beginning of every human life – the potential to transform the world, and, in Jesus' case, to bring about a transformation which stretches far beyond the confines of this world.

Perhaps this is why Christmas is a festival which is so good at accumulating traditions – having the potential of a new life at its centre means that we have the freedom to imagine what the joy of new life might mean to us. So what does it mean to us? What potential might lie hidden within, to make even a small transformation in the lives of those around us? Christmas is a wonderful time for thinking about ourselves – as acknowledged in much Christmas literature, and perhaps most famously Dickens' A Christmas Carol. So, amidst all the busyness and activity which surrounds our Christmas celebrations, I hope you find some time to appreciate the way in which you too have a share in that same divine spark which so entranced those who came to visit the infant Jesus in the manger. Find it, cherish it, and consider what you may be able to do with it.

There are many ways in which this message of Christmas can be celebrated – traditionally, or with a contemporary twist; contemplatively, or dramatically, with lots of noise – but in all those ways, full of joy. Across our range of Christmas services, that whole spectrum will be represented, so we hope you will find some opportunities to come and join in the celebrations, in churches which are rich with the memories of Christmases past. And may you find blessings in your lives, and peace in your hearts, now and in the year to come.

**Rev'd/Fr Alex**

## Services for December 2022 & January 2023

in the Pant Valley Churches

### **Sunday 4 December – Second Sunday of Advent**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield  
 9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford  
 10.30am Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End  
 10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield  
 4pm Time to Be – Wethersfield  
 4pm Carol Service – Blackmore End Village Hall

### **Sunday 11 December – Third Sunday of Advent**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford  
 9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield  
 10.30am Morning Service – Finchingfield  
 11am Family Service ('Toy Service') – Wethersfield  
 4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

### **Saturday 17 December**

6pm Carol Service – Wethersfield

### **Sunday 18 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield  
 9.30am Morning Service – Shalford  
 10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield  
 4pm Carol Service – Cornish Hall End  
 6pm Carol Service – Finchingfield

### **Saturday 24 December – Christmas Eve**

3pm Christingle Service – Great Bardfield  
 3pm Crib Service – Finchingfield  
 5pm Carols by Candlelight – Shalford  
 9pm Midnight Mass – Little Bardfield  
 11.30pm Midnight Mass – Finchingfield

**Sunday 25 December – Christmas Day**

9am Family Communion Service – Cornish Hall End  
9.30am Family Communion Service – Shalford  
10am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield  
11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

**Monday 26 December – St Stephen**

10am Communion Service – Finchingfield

**Wednesday 28 December – The Holy Innocents**

10am Communion Service – Great Bardfield

**Sunday 1 January**

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Cornish Hall End  
2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed – Boydells Farm

**Sunday 8 January – The Epiphany (transferred)**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield  
9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford  
10.30am Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End  
10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield  
4pm Time to Be – Wethersfield

**Sunday 15 January**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford  
9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield  
10.30am Morning Service – Finchingfield  
11am Family Service – Wethersfield  
4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

**Sunday 22 January**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield  
9.30am Morning Service – Shalford  
10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield  
10.30am Morning Service – Finchingfield  
4pm Words & Music for Epiphany – Cornish Hall End

**Sunday 29 January – Candlemas (transferred)**

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield  
9.30am Morning Service – Shalford  
10.30am Family Communion Service – Finchingfield  
4pm Christingle Service – Wethersfield

**Regular Services and Events during the week**

**Monday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

**Tuesday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield

**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** 11am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

**HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Braintree Road, Great Bardfield**

**E mail [celestineiheme2016@gmail.com](mailto:celestineiheme2016@gmail.com)**

**Sunday Mass - 9.30 am**

**Weekday Services**

**Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am**

**Rosary and Holy Hour – following Friday Mass**

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**18 December 5pm – 9 Lessons & Carol Service**

**24 December 5pm – Family Vigil Mass & Nativity**

**25 December 9.30 am – Christmas Day Mass**

**All welcome**

## Horticultural Society

**T**hank you to everyone who attended our AGM and talk in October. The hall looked very inviting with the tables covered in pale blue gingham cloths and vases of magnificent purple dahlias—the speaker was so impressed with them that she asked to have a bunch to take home!! The main business of the AGM ran smoothly and it was followed by plates of various cheeses and biscuits with a choice of wine.

The talk on “The Secret Gardens of East Anglia” by Barbara Segal was most enjoyable. We had sight of 22 lovely gardens of varying sizes and designs in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge and Essex, one of which was very close to Great Bardfield!! The photography by the late Marcus Harpur was stunning. The speaker’s accompanying book was on sale. There were some lovely raffle prizes to win and memberships were renewed. We also had a table of gardening books and vases from the late Pip Chapman. All donations for these went to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Our first meeting for your new 2023 diary is Saturday, **February 25<sup>th</sup>** at 2.30pm in the Town Hall. Our speaker will be Simon White, who is the Garden Centre Sales Manager at Peter Beales Roses with over 39 year’s experience in growing the nation’s favourite flower the Rose. He has a passion for all roses and would like to share this with others. The late Peter Beales started the rose nursery in 1968 and started to specialise in the old fashioned style of shrub rose and climbers and ramblers. Today the nursery lists over 1100 different varieties which is possibly the largest collection of roses grown commercially in the world with over 250 which are unique to them and cannot be purchased anywhere else in the world. They have over 2.5 acres of display gardens at the nursery and Garden Centre in Attleborough Norfolk where they showcase most of the collection combined with a vast selection of perennials, shrubs and clematis.

Simon is also President of The Norfolk and Norwich Horticultural Society. The title of the talk is “Climbing and Rambling Roses for every Situation”. This shows promise of being an excellent talk! Simon will be bringing plants and sundries for sale. So come prepared! Tickets for the talk will be £5 each (for members) and £8 for non-members including tea, coffee and homemade cakes. There will be a lucky ticket draw and raffle. Tickets are available from Linda Prior 811641 and Lynne Joyce

810524. You can also renew your membership at this meeting.

We would like to wish all our members an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas with Best Wishes for 2023.

**For any information about the Society please contact  
Linda Prior 01371 811641**

## Great Bardfield Historical Society

**F**or those wanting to find out more about the history of our village the Society offers guided walks and talks for small groups. The walks start in the Bawden Room which houses the village collection of works by the Bardfield Artists. A unique feature of the collection are 14 of the original sketches by Edward Bawden for the King Penguin book *Life in an English Village*, published in 1949. These give fascinating insights into life in Great Bardfield in the period just after the end of World War II. The sketches feature village people and familiar places. The walk continues around the centre of the village, discovering the houses where the artists lived and worked and also the medieval origins of the historic centre. Walks cost £5 per person, children free. For more information email [drjanetdyson@gmail.com](mailto:drjanetdyson@gmail.com)

If you prefer to do your own guided walk the Society has published a map available for £2 from the CIP and Between the Lines. We have a good range of publications about village history and are always pleased to hear your stories, memories and see photographs relating to the history of the village.

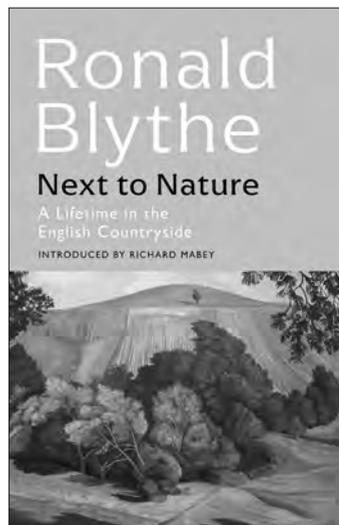
**Janet Dyson**

## Page Turners

**B**ooks make excellent Christmas presents; something to suit all ages and tastes and so easy to wrap! Here are some suggestions for your Christmas List.

### **Next to Nature, a lifetime in the English countryside by Ronald Blythe**

Ronald Blythe is 100 years old. Probably best-known for *Akenfield*, his social history of a Suffolk village, published in 1969, he has spent his long life carefully observing, and recording in his gentle prose, the passing of time in the East Anglian countryside – the changing seasons, agriculture, the celebrations which mark the Church year, and village life. Beginning with the arrival of snow on New Year's Day and ending with Christmas Carols in the village church, *Next to Nature* is a celebration of his long life and a delightful introduction to his writing which is itself a celebration of East Anglia, especially Suffolk, where he has lived his whole life. A gorgeous present.



### **The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell**

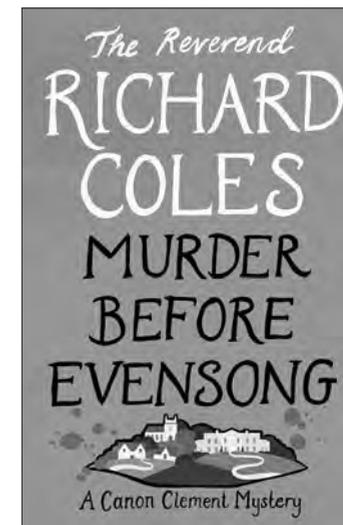
I couldn't put this remarkable and fascinating novel down. It's a gripping story which gives extraordinary insights into the lives of the aristocratic women in Renaissance Italy through a reimagining of the life of Lucrezia, who at the age of 15 was forced to marry the cruel and controlling Alfonso Duke of Ferrara. In 1560, a year after entering her husband's court, Lucrezia died in mysterious circumstances. Set in the cities of Florence and Ferrara, and the Tuscan countryside, the story was prompted by Robert Browning's poem 'My Last Duchess'. It is finely written and vividly imagined with rich descriptions of the glories and horrors of this period in Italy's



history. Only currently available in hardback, this is a beautifully designed book – a perfect present.

### **Murder Before Evensong by The Reverend Richard Coles**

There is a growing trend for celebrities to turn their hands to writing fiction with much commercial success. This is Richard Coles' first novel in a promised series of mysteries featuring Canon Daniel Clement, Rector of the village of Champton. The plot hinges on Daniel's controversial plan to install a lavatory in the church, a proposal which unexpectedly divides the parish. The local Flower Guild led by the formidable Stella Harper is determined to put a stop to his plan and before long old resentments surface and a body, the first of several, is discovered in the church, brutally murdered, stabbed in the neck with a pair of secateurs. Canon Clements turns detective and, assisted by his eccentric mother Audrey, sets out to solve the crimes. Well written and highly entertaining this classic English village murder mystery is just right for a cold winter's afternoon read.

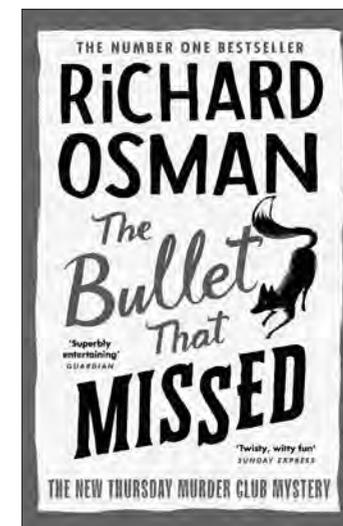


### **The Bullet that Missed by Richard Osman**

Another celebrity writer, Richard Osman, has for the third year running shown impeccable timing in bringing out a new Thursday Murder Club novel just in time for Christmas. If you're a fan of these stories with their cast of quirky characters who inhabit the Coopers Chase Retirement Village, and the gentle humour around the absurdities of life in old age, then this latest episode where the residents tackle a ten-year-old unsolved murder, you won't be disappointed.

Finally, surely no family Christmas book-list is complete without those eternally delightful annuals – Beano and Dandy!

**'Bibliophile'**



## London George

I recently acquired this pen and ink drawing of the High Street and am interested in identifying the artist. I believe it was bought in one of the Town Hall art shows in the 1970s judging by the cars. The artist would have been standing outside the Rolls Royce garage which was called The Corniche. Ken



Long has been suggested as a possible artist. He did many pen and ink sketches of the houses in the village. The figure standing outside Hitchcocks' is London George. A 'gentleman of the road' who was a frequent visitor to Bardfield riding a bicycle and carrying an old tin can for his tea. David Slow recalls that he used to play his barrel organ at village fetes. Janet Patmore recalled how her husband Derek, on his milk round would leave a bottle of milk in the hedge for George.

In a letter to the *BT* some years ago Stephen Woodcraft who lived in Bardfield Saling wrote:

I remember seeing George leaving the churchyard one morning. He had spent the night in the church porch. I had spoken to him the previous evening, he was sitting by the war memorial drinking his supper of Oxo cubes dissolved in hot water. I was concerned about George's welfare one Christmas Day so after dinner I made a flask of tea, cut some turkey sandwiches and cake and set off for Letches barn where George lived. I was probably the fifth person to visit George that day, he was snowed under with Christmas Fayre! We chatted for some time and he told me that he had tramped the length and breadth of England. He ended his days in Stisted Hall Old People's Home where he was known by my Grandmother as Mr Callaghan. One resident remembered how much she had enjoyed dancing with an almost unrecognisably spruce and dapper London George at their Christmas party. He was finally laid to rest in Stisted churchyard, one of the last 'Gentlemen of the Road'.

**Janet Dyson**



# Fancy a game of Badminton?



We are seeing if there is any interest in launching a Badminton Club in the village.

Monday or Wednesday evenings in the town hall 7-8.30pm



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To register or for further information, please contact **Lorraine Patient** on **Mobile – 07775 531781** or **Email – lorrainepatient@gmail.com**

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## Tuesday Club

**M**artyn Lockwood's talk at our November meeting on 'Saucy Seaside Postcards' was fun, and it was amusing to see what was considered to be risqué in the 50s and 60s!

We next meet on the **13<sup>th</sup> December** for our Christmas lunch at The Vine, and our first meeting of the New Year will be on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**.

Meanwhile, early Christmas greetings to everyone!  
**Helen Drummond**

**New members are always welcome**  
**Please contact Adrienne Poulson**  
**if you have any queries (01371 811401)**

## Nature Notes the Weasel Family

It's a long time since I wrote about the Weasel family, and as there have been some recent sightings in the Shalford district I have been asked more than once what is the difference between a stoat and a weasel. Well, to be quite honest I get very confused myself these days and often get the facts mixed up. The Stoat is bigger than the Weasel and is much more common in the north of the UK but we do have them in Essex.

They both have white bibs and under parts of their bodies. The stoat has a black tip to its tail and the stoat can turn white all over in a hard winter. They both have one thing in common, they are vicious little fighters. The stoat is reputed to be the fiercer of the two and the more relentless, it is widely believed that both the stoat and weasel kill their prey and feed on the blood, but this is far from true; they are flesh eaters. The main reason behind this belief is the fact that they usually kill their prey by biting the throat and



Stoat

penetrating the jugular vein they hang on until the victim is dead which gives the appearance of sucking the blood. The preferred prey of the stoat are rats and rabbits but they will take ground nesting birds and their eggs, and in some cases poultry and their eggs. This is what can give them a bad press with game-keepers and poultry farmers. I have written in the past about my experience seeing a stoat dragging a large rat across the road in the same place at the same time three days on the trot; it had found a good place to catch rats in a muck heap and I think it must have been feeding young. The weasel's favoured prey is mice. Unlike a cat the

weasel does not play with the mice, it kills to eat and it has a ferocious appetite. That said it is less likely to kill poultry than a stoat due to its size but it does take smaller birds and this puts it in conflict with game-keepers. On balance both the stoat and weasel are considered to be of



Weasel

benefit to farmers but the stoat of less benefit due to the poultry issue. The weasel is the UK's smallest carnivore and although we don't see a lot of them their conservation status is common the best time to see them is December/January. One reason we don't see a lot of them is maybe the fact they sleep about 18 hours each day. They live in a wide range of habitats including woodland, grassland, moorland, and old buildings. Their young are called kits, They have two litters per year and litters vary between three and six kits. Weasels are so small and agile and can fit into the burrows of their small rodent prey, enabling them to hunt day and night in any season; they even hunt in the snow.

### Mac Beanland

*Editor: I can't resist quoting the old country saying: 'You can weasily tell the difference between a weasel and a stoat because a stoat is stoatally different'!! (LOL!)*

# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Before the middle of the twentieth century most people did not have watches; they relied on public clocks which could be seen at railway stations, post offices and other public buildings - and on church towers. This reminds me of the lines written in 1912 by the homesick poet, Rupert Brooke:

“Stands the church clock at ten to three  
And is there honey still for tea?”



Great Bardfield

The Hundred Parishes has a variety of interesting church clocks. In Furneux Pelham, St Mary's clock is topped by Old Father Time and the words "Time Flies, Mind Your Business". One wonders what prompted those words to be included.

The bell tower at Sheering has two clock faces which were installed in the 1940s to remember those who served in the War. The north-facing one tells us to "Work and Pray" whilst the west-facing proclaims "Today Is Yours".

The church at High Wych was built in 1861 to the design of local architect George Edward Pritchett. Its clock is almost as wide as the thin flintstone tower on which it is mounted.

Hinxton possibly has our oldest church clock, believed to date from 1700 AD, albeit extensively renovated in 1809 when a new face was fitted.

Artist Eric Ravilious lived in Great Bardfield and his wood engraving of the church of St Mary the Virgin clearly shows the enormous clock that was added to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1912. One assumes the residents of Great Bardfield are never late for work or church. The engraving has been adopted as the logo of The Hundred Parishes.

I hope you will keep an eye open for the variety of clocks to be found around the Hundred Parishes.

The Hundred Parishes Society's trustees join me in wishing you a Merry Christmas.

**Ken McDonald**  
Secretary



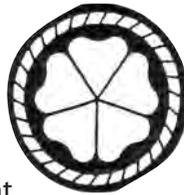
Furneux Pelham



Sheering

# Great Bardfield Primary School

At Great Bardfield Primary School we are embarking upon what promises to be a very busy half term. So far this half term, our Year 3/4 children have represented us at football events at



St Mary's School in Great Dunmow and our Year 6 children have taken part in a Maths Competition at Rodings Primary School. I am always so proud of the way in which our children represent our school and it is so very important that children take their learning and experiences outside the school gates and into the wider community.



Year 6 Maths Competition

Remembrance Week is always a very important week in our school calendar. Every year, the children are involved in a poppy project to mark this special time of year. If you have driven past the school, we hope that you noticed our Poppy Wall, which has become something of a tradition here at Great Bardfield Primary School. All of the children decorated a poppy and wrote a message of thanks to the servicemen and women for the sacrifices they made for our freedom, along with their hopes for peace. Our Year 6 children walked up to the War Memorial in the village with a wreath on behalf of our school. This year the wreath was laid by our school ambassadors Martha and Dylan.

We fundraise regularly here at school, not only to help others outside our own community but also to teach the children about social responsibility and how their actions can make a difference. So far this term we have raised money for Macmillan, Young Minds and Children in Need. The children (and staff) at Great Bardfield always love an excuse to join in with dressing up, non-uniform days and cake sales!

As December approaches, we begin to remember what a wonderful (and busy) time of year Christmas is in our school. We are very excited for the celebrations and events that will take place during coming the months. We will be holding our Nativity performance, presented by



Reception and Key Stage One, along with our traditional Key Stage Two Carol Concert held at St Mary the Virgin Church in the village. We are also delighted as this year, in a break with tradition, the pantomime will be coming to us in the Town Hall! Behind the scenes, our amazing FOBS team are working very hard to put together our Christmas Fair which will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We will also be holding our 'Shop 'til you drop' event just for the children and of course our traditional Christmas lunch and class parties.

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

**Mrs Crow**  
**Headteacher**

## Finchingfield Guildhall

We thought it would be a good idea to tell new Bardfield residents and remind older ones about our lovely Guildhall. It was built in about 1470 with additions in the early 17th century and was then sold to the village in 1630. At various periods in its history, the Guildhall housed priests and provided meetings rooms, a school for boys and almshouses. The Guildhall fell into disrepair, so a major restoration was started with fund raising commencing in 2008 with building work completed in 2013. Significant grants came from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage, Essex County Council and many grant making trusts for which we remain grateful.

The Guildhall has an interactive Museum showing the history of the village supported by many artefacts. The Museum is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons in the summer, when volunteers are available. The historic paintings by Arthur Legge of Finchingfield from 1902-1940 are on display in the Guildroom. Next door to the Museum is our excellent Library also staffed by volunteers and is open on Saturdays 10.30-12.30 and 2.00-4.00 and on Wednesdays 2.00-4.00.

The meeting room upstairs hosts a variety of activities and fund-raising activities, ranging from weekly coffee mornings and excellent craft and food markets to musical events, talks and ghost hunts, and is available for private hire for functions such as parties and receptions. It has a fully equipped kitchen and toilets and has disabled access and a lift. We host regular visits from our fabulous primary school and University of the 3rd Age members. We are happy to give tours showing visitors this beautiful and historic building.

The Guildhall is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and charitable objectives include preserving the Guildhall for the benefit of local people and improving education and social activities for their benefit. Anyone with an interest in the Guildhall can become a member of the CIO and meetings are held four times a year. The Guildhall belongs to the village and is there to be used by all its residents.

Our website is being updated and now contains a good range of old photos of the village as well as a number of historical documents. We are working to improve access for those wishing to carry out research into Finchingfield, their homes and family history.

We look forward to seeing you when you next visit Finchingfield.

If you are interested in hiring our historic Guildroom please contact the Clerk, Doug West, 01371 811333 (Answerphone- not monitored daily) or [newmail@finchingfieldguildhall.org.uk](mailto:newmail@finchingfieldguildhall.org.uk)

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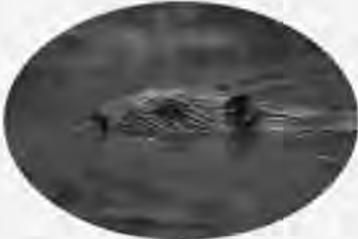
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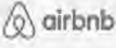
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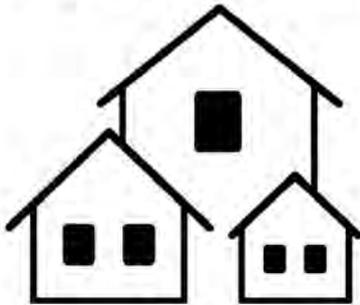
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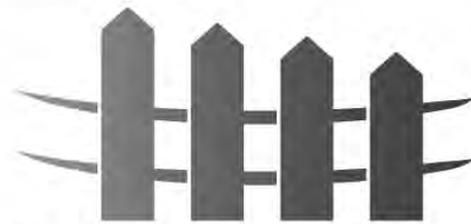
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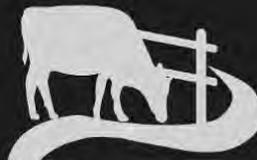
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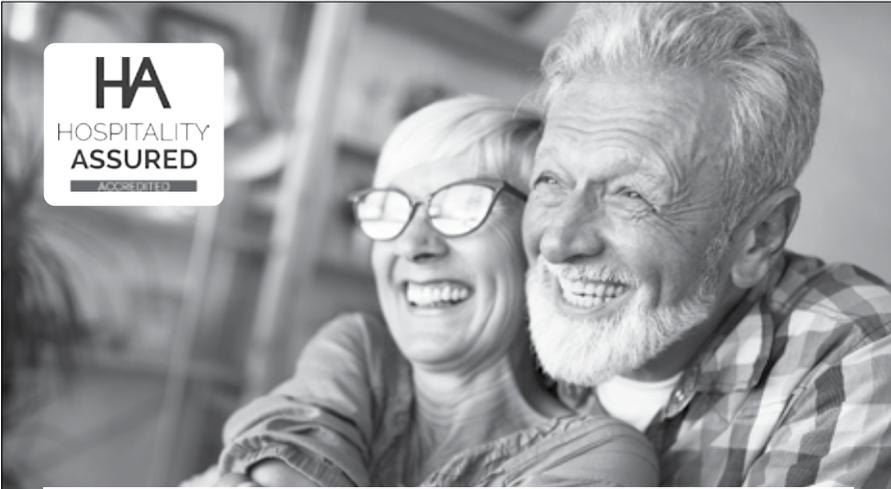


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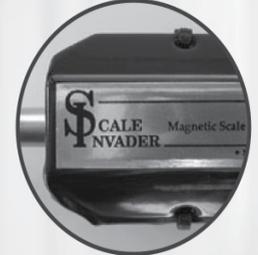
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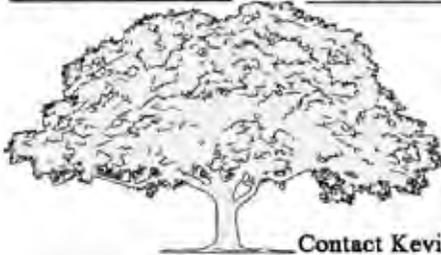
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Or email [GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com](mailto:GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com)



## Braintree Christmas lights

### switch-on and street market dates revealed

Braintree's Christmas Lights switch-on event is back next month on **Saturday 20th November**, kicking off the start of the exciting Christmas celebrations in the district. Radio Essex will be hosting the festive entertainment for the day, with live music from local singers and school choirs, all leading up to the big switch on at **5.30pm** which will take place in **Market Place outside Tesco's**.

**George Yard Shopping Centre** will light up with their switch on at **5pm** and live music and entertainment will take place down the **Fountain end of the High Street** from **1pm-6pm** organised by The Boars Head.

The popular street market will be making a return with over 50+ stalls across the town centre where visitors will be able to pick up lots of goodies from handmade jewellery to Christmas decorations and more. There will be plenty of stalls selling gourmet street food and festive drinks. Two more Christmas street market dates have also been confirmed for **Saturday 4th December** and **Saturday 18th December**.

Children's rides and street performers will also be there providing extra fun for those who want to make the most of their day. There will also be several events over the course of the day across the town, including **free entry to Braintree Museum** with their **space exhibition**, Christmas children activities, a drinks bar, family photo shoots and **face painting at Braintree Town Hall**, as well as festive entertainment and a chance to meet Christmas characters in George Yard Shopping Centre.

## TOWN HALL DIARY

### December 2022

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Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Young @ Heart Fitness Fun	9.30am
	Exercises for Mobility & stability	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Cinema Club	7.30pm
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Carols	7.30pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Young @ Heart Fitness Fun	9.30am
	Exercises for Mobility & stability	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30pm

### January 2023

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Cinema Club	7.30pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Young @ Heart Fitness Fun	9.30am
	Exercises for Mobility & stability	10.45am
	Tuesday Club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30 pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Choir	8.00pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Horticultural society Meeting	2.00pm
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Young @ Heart Fitness Fun	9.30am
	Exercises for Mobility & stability	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.30pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Private Function	1.00pm
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Young @ Heart Fitness Fun	9.30am
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## Braintree District Council

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

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

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

for emergency enquiries dial 999

## Little Bardfield Parish

**Chairman of the Parish Council** [LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com](mailto:LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com)

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

Kate Rixon 01371 404 321

**Uttlesford District Council** [LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com](mailto:LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com)

**Councillor**

Cllr George Smith

**Bardfield After School & Breakfast Club** [Cllrsmith@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:Cllrsmith@uttlesford.gov.uk) 07896 618944

**Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club** Pat Moore 07767 413055

**Bardfield Charities** Clifford Richardson 810782

**Bardfield Players** Nick Holland 07795 280647

**1st Finchingfield Scout Group** Ian Ruffle 810986

Mark Wells 810447

**Muddogs Youth Football** [mark.2millside@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.2millside@btinternet.com)

Tony Clarke-Holland 07710 506007

**Gt Bardfield Primary School** [www.muddogs.co.uk/tch@thebcf.co.uk](http://www.muddogs.co.uk/tch@thebcf.co.uk)

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

**Gt Bardfield Historical Society** Kathy King 811580

**Horticultural Society** Marilyn Edwards 810555

**Parish Priest Great & Little Bardfield** Linda Prior 811641

**Catholic Priest** Fr. Alex Shannon 01371 810309/07483 878659

**Town Hall Bookings** Fr Celestine 810428

**Tuesday Club** [bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com)

**Great Bardfield Bell Ringers** [adriennepoulson@btinternet.com](mailto:adriennepoulson@btinternet.com) 811401

**Refuse Collections** Nick & Sarah Holland 810209

Gt. Bardfield Tuesdays from 7am,

L. Bardfield Thursdays from 7am.

Little Bardfield, Styles,

Thursday 10am fortnightly

Gt Bardfield Town Hall,

**Museum and Cage** Thursday 11.15am fortnightly

Every Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday from Easter to the last Sunday in

**Community Information Point (CIP)** September 2.-5.30pm.

**The Samaritans** Thurs and Sat 10am – 11.00am 811327

01245 357357