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Bardfield Times

News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield



Bardfield's Ice Sculpture by Sarah Needham



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

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Front cover: Sunrise by Janet Dyson
Above: Snowy Bardfield by Will Edwards

Editorial

As I write this in the last week of February the weather is positively spring-like, following one of the coldest periods we've experienced for a long time. The spring sunshine lifts the spirits and, although many summer holiday plans will have to be postponed yet again, the thought of warmer weather and the prospect that, with the vaccination programme providing protection for an increasing number of people, our social lives may slowly begin to blossom, is a cheering thought. In this issue we have an interesting mix of articles from our contributors. In this issue there's more from our avid local historians, naturalists and gardeners and a call for support from Nigel Hill to help explore and record the footpath network around our village. It's almost a year since Braintree Collection and Exhibition Curator Claire Willetts gave a fascinating talk to the Historical Society AGM about the women behind the famous Courtauld textile business – I think it was probably the last social event held in the village before Lockdown. Claire has continued her research and on p.10 you can read more about the story of the women who are so often hidden from history.

Reading about the involvement of the Courtauld women in the Women's Suffrage movement prompts me to echo Carolynne Ruffle's reminder in the Parish Council report to make sure that you vote in the May local elections by booking a postal or proxy vote if needed. The County Councillors we elect will play an important role in decisions about the future of this part of Essex and in the last CC elections 75% of the electorate did not vote.

Thanks for all your letters, photos and articles – please keep them coming!

Janet Dyson

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Letters

Anthony Sadler

Anthony Sadler 'Tony' - Sadly passed away on Thursday 28th January 2021, aged 89 years. A much loved father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Dear Editor,

One of my major faults alas is my memory when it comes to remembering people's names even important ones as is the case here, I pause here to allow all you others so cursed to put up your hands!, I should point out I can be excused as I'm 'of an age'. On Christmas day I was treated to a magnificent Christmas dinner, my shame comes to the fore here as I can't recall the lovely lady's name who I have to say should be a TV cooking star as it was as perfect as I have ever had, as a hater of Brussel Sprouts hers were perfection I have to say as everything else. My deepest thanks to you for the dinner and please excuse my dreadful memory not being able to recall your name.

In addition to my dinner I caught a very attractive lady delivering a package to my door leaving a Cheese Platter selection, I feel it was supposed to be a Secret Santa gift, sorry if I ruined that but a big thanks for the thought, also to the After School Group who delivered a very welcome parcel of goodies again many thanks to you all.

I'm sure all the other 'oldies' who were treated to various gifts from the various ladies and groups in Bardfield would wish to extend their thanks.

Phil Clarke

Dear Editor,

We cannot allow the passing of Countryfile to go unmentioned. It was, literally, the first thing I read with every edition. Tony's unique insights to farming and his forthright political views on everything to do with Westminster and Brussels have chronicled the changes this rural community has seen over the decades.

Whether you agreed with Tony's robust politics or not, for those of us who are not farmers, it provided a privileged insight into agricultural life.

Can I wish Tony a very happy retirement from the magazine? He will be greatly missed.

Ben Rooney

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Janet Dyson for the complimentary remarks that she wrote at the end of my Countryfile Article in the February edition of the *Bardfield Times*. I didn't realise how long the magazine had been going since George Harvey Murray started it, and how it has improved over the years.

I am also pleased that Janet has taken over the editorship of the magazine along with all the other activities she has been involved in over the years in the village. This is a good opportunity for other people to join the editorial team to assist with the future publications.

Tony Hayward

Dear Editor,

Seeing the picture of the Spread Eagle, Little Bardfield, in the January issue of the *Bardfield Times*, reminded me that, when I was young in the late 1940s, my grandfather Ernest Norden had a blacksmith's workshop behind the Spread Eagle. I was too young to remember much about it but do remember horses coming to be shod. Do any of your readers remember it, or have any records relating to the blacksmiths? I should be interested to know more about it.

Thank you

Bob Wass

ANGELA BOYLE

As many people will know by now Angela and David Boyle are moving house to live in Suffolk. Angela has for many years run very active Baby and Toddler Groups here in Great Bardfield and also in Finchingfield.

Over the years she has worked tirelessly to raise money, organising fun events like Christmas fairs, and has secured grants from various organisations and other donations. This has enabled the groups to keep going and to be well stocked with all the necessary equipment and toys.

Since the groups started I cannot imagine how many children from the village and surrounding areas have passed through the groups and enjoyed their time, together with their mums, dads and carers. They will have benefited enormously from all the activities, love and attention they received.

Angela's lovely smile and happy personality has always welcomed children and parents into the groups, and it is with huge thanks that we say our fond farewells, and wish her and Dave a wonderful new adventure in Suffolk.

Anita Lister

Great Bardfield Parish Council report

I am hearing that many of you over-70s have now had your first jab and are already feeling more positive about a freer spring and summer. Let us hope that we can soon start seeing each other in a more sociable way, have a few glasses of wine together and even, possibly, a hug. I am much too young (!) to have been called up yet but I'll be there as soon as invited to have my vaccine. Please do ask for assistance if you are unable to get to the vaccination centres – there are other alternatives that can be arranged.

Community Information Point

The Parish Council and Town Hall Committee have started some maintenance works on the CIP which was suffering from damp problems. Plaster was stripped from the walls internally, exposing the lathe and plaster which will be left to dry out for a few months before we replaster with lime plaster which will let the walls breathe more easily. The CIP remains open 10 – 11am on Thursdays and Saturdays (with thanks to Councillor Iain Graham for opening each week) for collection of recycling and doggie bags, and for distribution of prescription medication by our volunteers.

Open Spaces Action Plan

We were asked to update Bardfield's entry to Braintree District Council's Open Spaces Action Plan which gives us an opportunity to highlight the spaces we want to protect and enhance. These include the playingfields and pavilion, Pipers' Meadow: the protected water meadow next to the bridge, and the Quiet Space behind the Town Hall. We have indicated additional enhancements we would like to make such as more tree planting and wild flower areas. We have also asked for additional areas to be added, such as all the village greens in the centre of the village, and also Long Green and Coney Green which are historic rights of way to the south of the village. We would like to improve these as attractive places to be with more trees, wildflowers and improved access for all.

Flooding Issues

These continue to be a problem and we continue to remind Essex County Council about these issues. With all the rain in recent months there are many such problems around the county so it may take some time to address and solve the problems some residents, the school and the roads in the centre of the village have been facing.

Tree Felling

We have received some questions about the trees adjacent to Bendlowes Road which are currently in the process of being felled. This is privately

owned land but we understand that regular issues with the power supply in recent months were being caused by the proximity of these trees to overhead power cables. With the advice of Network Power, the landowner has arranged to remove these trees, though we understand that they will be replaced with additional tree planting later in the year.

Planning Applications

The Co-operative Stores, 1 -2 St John's Terrace, Brook Street – internal works to expand and improve the retail space, single storey rear extension and change of use from residential for the first floor flat above and No. 2, the cottage adjacent to the existing Stores. The Parish Council recognise the value of the Co-op to our community and the effort made in the plans to maintain the frontage appropriately for the Conservation area. The plans for rear extension, new plant/equipment and extension of the retail space into the rear of the shop were approved. However, it was agreed to object to the change of use of No. 2 St John's Terrace, the adjacent cottage, to additional retail space with interior walls removed, as this would mean the loss of a small, affordable home (at a time when there is much pressure on the availability of housing). Concerns were also raised about the impact of the bigger store space to No 3 and other neighbouring properties.

The Laurels, Dunmow Road – tree works – no objections.

May elections

Local elections will be going ahead on 6th May 2021, under appropriate distancing rules. For electors registered in Great Bardfield these will include Essex County Council elections and Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner election. The Town Hall will be our local polling station, as usual, but we remind those who wish to vote remotely, to apply for a postal vote by the deadline, 5pm on Tuesday 20th April 2021. Contact the Returning Officer at Braintree District Council by phone on 01376 552525 (main switchboard) or apply online at www.braintree.gov.uk/voting-elections/postal-proxy-votes

Parish Council Meetings continue to be held by video call. These meetings are open to the public so please contact the Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting if you wish to attend, on 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk. An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent to you.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th March at 7pm.

Carolynne Ruffle
Chair



STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES.

The new variant of COVID-19 is spreading fast. If you go out, you can spread it. People will die.

Find out more [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES



Can't Travel Quiz

by *The Frustrated Traveller*

Whilst we remain locked down at home, can you recognise these places I'd like to visit?

Some are far away and some closer to home.

Answers page 15 in this edition of the *Bardfield Times*.



Our Network of Rights of Way

The importance of a healthy and comprehensive network of paths around the village has been highlighted in the last few months of lockdown. It is heartening to see families and, in less regulated times, groups of friends setting out to walk the surrounding fields for their daily exercise.



For many, this has meant negotiating the perils of the inner ring road – the Church to Dunmow Road, the Vine to Copford Hall and behind Bridge Street - but how many venture further afield to walk our longer, less accessible paths? How many know which is our longest path and where it goes? The other day, I felt privileged to see a herd of 30 young bucks, about 20 hares, a sparrowhawk, numerous kites and buzzards and to hear a skylark enjoying the sunshine.

There are 36 designated paths in the parish, numbered from 1 to 40,

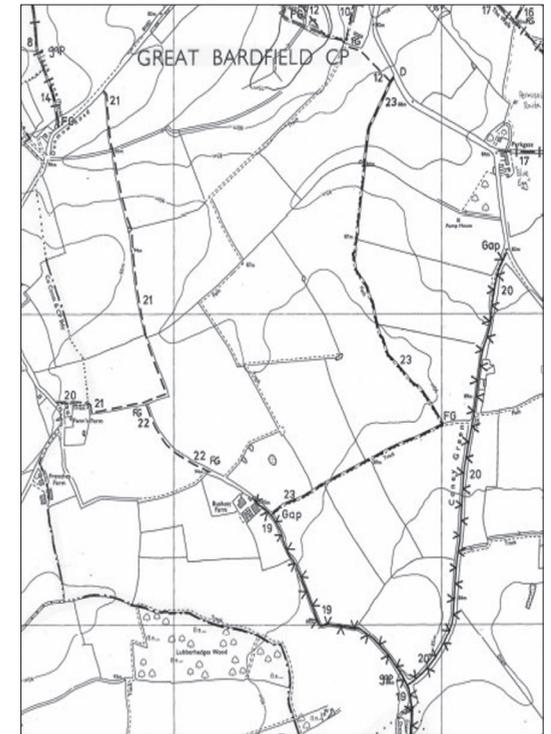


covering nearly 20 miles. What has happened to the missing four? How many residents have walked them all in the last year?

Is it actually possible to walk them all? In order to answer this question and to check the Definitive Map for accuracy, the Parish Council have organised a group of residents to survey and document all the routes; something that appears to have not been carried out in such detail before. Most have now been reported on, with over 1000 photos taken. Issues regarding access, signposting and maintenance will be discussed with the Public Rights of Way officer at Essex CC in the hope of improvements.

You could add to this information, maybe you have photos and memories, recent or historic, you would be willing to share. Perhaps you have some suggestions about how the network of paths could be extended to create a greater variety of destinations or to relieve the pressure on others. Do get in touch either via the editor or using the email rowgb13@gmail.com

Nigel Hill



Courtaulds: A Women's Story

Anyone familiar with the industrial history of North Essex will know of the famous textile business Samuel Courtauld & Company. The family name itself conjours visions of stovepipe-hatted, be-whiskered male Victorian industrialists. It was Courtauld men who created the silk crepe powerhouse; it was innovative male scientists at Kew who discovered how to make artificial fibres, it was a twentieth century chairman who led the company's rayon boom and became a prolific collector of Impressionist and Post-impressionist art and the local politicians who reformed civic life in Essex were all men.

For those trying to piece together the Courtauld family history, there are many Georges, Samuels and Augustines to place and understand. Like many companies it was led by men; yet the story of Courtauld's success is actually full of women – local women who wound the silk, dominated the weaving sheds and Courtauld women within the family who used their position and influence to contribute to local and national agendas.

In the 1860s Samuel Courtauld & Co employed many women and young children. The 1861 census shows that almost fifty percent of female workers worked in the silk industry in Braintree and Bocking, with Courtaulds being one of the main employers. A hundred years later John Miners joined the company as an apprentice at Halstead Mill. Along with the foreman and the engineer

they were the only men in the spooling department – the remaining workers were all women. Certainly in the twentieth century Samuel Courtauld & Co employed many more men, but in some departments women continued to outnumber their male counterparts. Photographs from local collections show a very stereotypical view of female workers and a male foreman.



Mill workers, 1859. Reproduced by courtesy of Essex Record Office. Cat No. D-DU 1721-2

Courtauld women sought to improve the welfare and conditions for female workers in the mills. Ellen Courtauld, wife of Samuel III, instigated a nursery and a lodging house for young women in the 1850s and 1860s. These

initiatives had mixed success as many of the women employees resented the strict requirements and moral standards expected to access such resources.

Ellen and Samuel were also keen supporters of a woman's right to vote, signing the first mass suffrage petition of 1866, considered to be the birth of the suffrage movement – a cause that was championed by future generations of the family. Katherine Mina, daughter of George Courtauld III, who campaigned for women's votes, was a parish councillor and a member of Essex County Council from 1919. She became Secretary of the North West Essex branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. As a landowner in the 1911 census, Katherine wrote in red: "As a householder & ratepayer I deeply resent being denied the privilege of a citizen in the exercise of the parliamentary franchise". Katherine's cousin, Catherine Courtauld was also an active campaigner using her artistic talents to design posters and propaganda for the movement. In particular, her posters 'The Anti-Suffrage Ostrich' and 'Waiting for a Living Wage' had a witty style which complimented the suffragettes' cause.

It is an interesting connection that at the same time there were a number of small strikes by women workers at Courtauld mills. Strikes were not something new to the company, but this group photographed in Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens was linked to the new artificial fabrics and an increased awareness of women's rights. Neither Katherine Mina or Catherine were involved in the textile business, but one can but wonder what the conversation regarding women's rights over the family dinner table may have entailed.

Some Courtauld women were not content with the limited conventional life of a wealthy young woman and actively sought careers. Katherine Mina supported the suffrage movement and was a successful farmer

in nearby Colne Engaine. She worked tirelessly to help women working in agriculture and as an early champion of the Women's Farm and Garden Association, promoted the running of smallholdings for women to help them get a foot on the farming ladder. She was also instrumental in the establishment



Silk Workers on strike at Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens, c. 1913 BRNTM 516

of the first Women's Land Army during the First World War. Despite family opposition, Katherine's half-sister, Elizabeth qualified as a doctor in 1901. She spent most of her life working in a hospital in India, but it was her time as an anaesthetist on the western front during the First World War where she made a remarkable contribution to the patients she cared for. Dr Elizabeth worked at Royaumont Hospital, the largest British voluntary hospital and the only one run by women near the Western Front. Conditions were horrifying and Elizabeth faced new challenges with the scale of appalling injuries caused by modern warfare. She worked tirelessly and was well liked by soldiers and staff for her kindness and simplicity. Dr Elizabeth Courtauld received the Croix de Guerre from the French Government for her work at Royaumont Hospital. Female doctors, like Elizabeth, made a significant contribution to the war effort and their pioneering work enhanced their reputation in the medical profession.

These are just a few of the stories of women who worked for Courtaulds and members of the Courtauld family, there are so many more: those who painstakingly checked parachute silk during the Second World War, kept the secretive process of manufacturing crepe from their families and a silversmith who led the family firm in the 1700s and retired to Clacton!

Claire Willetts



Katherine Mina Courtauld, permission kindly given from the Courtauld Family.



Dr Lelia Henry, the youngest doctor, and Dr Elizabeth Courtauld (on the right), the oldest doctor at Royaumont Hospital. Courtesy of Birlinn Ltd, Angels of Mercy: A Women's Hospital on the Western Front 1914-1918 by Eileen Crofton.

GREENFINGERS

Don't you love a party?!! Sadly there has been a shortage of fun times but fortunately the keen gardener has a dual personality, reveling in solitude; lost in thought whilst pruning in the shrubbery, mind planning a scene for another season; the clematis that flowers in spring, 'macropetala' and 'alpina' are usually climbing up a wall/trellis or fence but the gardener imagines one in a large feature pot with the plant not climbing but tumbling out. Visualise it surrounded by a sea of daffodils or, better still, a lagoon of dog's tooth violets, Erythronium.

Forgive me the dreamy description: 'sea' 'lagoon', they sound poetic even though the said bulbs are a pretty lemon colour. Blame the allure of a book compiled of notes written in The Observer circa 1950s by the illustrious gardener Vita Sackville-West. Turning to extending the season of the aforesaid clematis pot, the autumn flowering bulbs acidenthera would look pretty when the clematis is not blooming. And now on to the practical.

JOBBS

- Acquire some summer bulbs, e.g. gladioli, lilies and acidenthera.
- Finish pruning roses and quickly the wisteria! As the ornamental quince/Cydonia, Latin name Chaenomeles, is in flower it is a simple task to cut off all the unwanted non-flowering shoots whilst they are so obvious.
- Went out to the nearest garden centre for bird food and discovered all seeds half price! Naturally a pile came home and now sown in the electric propagator are tomatoes, tobacco plants, nicotiana, and zinnias. Need to sow herbs and more sweet peas whilst the bag of compost is warm in the kitchen.
- No warm place to sow? Make sowings outside of the following: cornflowers, pot marigolds, antirrhinums, flax and poppies.
- Received delivery of a nice combination compost, a mixture of manure and peat free compost. Perfect to cover the borders after all dead material removed and the rich brown makes an attractive setting for the flowering bulbs, scented daphne and fresh green growth. Now searching for the spears of hostas poking through to find how resilient most plants are to the chill of the past winter.

Happy gardening. 🌱

From the Reverend Dr Robert Beaken

My dear friends,

As I type these words in mid-February, we are still asked by the Diocese not to hold public worship in our churches, to try to stem the spread of Covid-19. I hope it may be possible for us to hold services at Easter, but we shall have to wait and see. Meanwhile, I continue to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays in St Mary's, and these services can be viewed on 'YouTube': search for 'The Benefice of Great and Little Bardfield.'

St Mary's and St Katharine's churches remain open for individual private prayer. There is a collecting basket at the back of St Mary's for gifts of food etc for the foodbank at Braintree.

We are again fundraising during Lent for St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. The Eye Hospital is a Christian foundation, run by the Order of St John of Jerusalem. It treats Christian, Muslim and Jewish patients, irrespective of faith, ethnicity or ability to pay.

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a seriously adverse impact on the work of the St John Eye Hospital. Much medical care has had to be curtailed, though it has been possible to continue some emergency work. More worryingly, the Eye Hospital's income has greatly diminished during the pandemic. St John Eye Hospital is run on a shoe-string and is very dependent on donations.

Any donations you can offer during Lent would be very greatly appreciated and will help to save someone's sight. Imagine a father



or mother who, for the first time in years, is suddenly able to see their children clearly, or to go out to earn a living and put food on the table.

If you would like to make a donation electronically, our church bank account is in the name of 'Great Bardfield Parochial Church Council', sort code 20-97-40, account number 30144010 – please enter 'Eye Hospital' as the reference. Alternatively, cheques may be sent to me at the Vicarage made payable to 'Great Bardfield P.C.C.', with 'Eye Hospital' written on the reverse. We shall send off the final sum raised after Easter. No amount is too small, and every penny will help. The postman brought me the first cheque for £30 today, which I thought was a very good and encouraging start to this Lent's collection. You can find out more about the wonderful work of St John Eye Hospital at: www.stjohnseyehospital.org

With my love, prayers and blessing,
Father Robert



Answers to Can't Travel Quiz

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Florence | 5. Paris |
| 2. Weston Super Mare (Grand Pier) | 6. Mars |
| 3. Kew Gardens | 7. Cambridge Arts Theatre |
| 4. Tintagel Castle | 8. Norwegian Fjords |

THE OLD DAYS with Michael

It seems as if my literary efforts usually refer to articles from the previous month's *BT*. In the case of last month's excellent piece by Jenny (watering holes in Great and Little Bardfield), I couldn't avoid diving head-first in.

Having enjoyed a pint of draught ale for about 80 years. The old boys used to say "I'd be glad when I've had enough".

The reference to The Crown was of particular interest.

My Grandad, Walter Goldstone, purchased it and turned it into a saddlery and harness makers shop which carried on for many years.



By Edward Bawden from "Life in an English Village"

He had moved out of a premises, now known as 'Hockleys' in the High Street, where he raised 11 children!

Unfortunately I can't supply a date when all this happened, you tend to learn these sort of things when you over-hear conversations from the old folk but will keep a look out to see if it's written down anywhere in the family papers.

Regarding the White Hart there was great disappointment when that closed down. This was forced by Benskins Brewery who had an eye on the finance that could be raised from the fine timbered house and out-buildings etc. It was run by members of the Clapson family for over 60

years. The last one to do so was Albert a respected gentleman who ran a pub that was greatly enjoyed by lots of village folk.

It is now time for me to bid my farewells to you, and let you know my most wonderful pub experience.

A most lovely lady called Diana was the daughter at the White Hart and she agreed to become my wife and we had 63 happy years together.

She is sadly missed every day.

God Bless.

Michael Hitchcock

The Bardfield Riot of 1793

One of the most notorious incidents in the history of the village was the infamous Bakehouse riot. New research has just come to light about where the incident took place.

A father of five young children, John Blake, by trade a baker was in fear of his life. His Bardfield home was under attack by an angry mob raining stones down on his house, his children were hidden, terrified, in the barn and as he looked out he saw villagers with flaming brands, threatening to burn his house down. His crime? Allowing non-conformist preachers to use his premises for their services. Blake only survived thanks to the timely arrival of the magistrate.

This dark moment in the village's history is well known, but until now what was not clear was where Blake and his family had hidden from the mob that fateful summer in 1793. Thanks to research by Wenda Fleischmann, who lives in Crown House, we believe Blake was living in that property.

Crown House had been a public house for most of its existence. The earliest records we have are in 1692 for an inn known as Devonshires which changed its name a few years later. In 1775 it is described as "...now known by the name or sign of the Saracens Head with the shops, warehouses, baking office, outhouses, barn, stable buildings, yards, gardens and orchard." This is a substantial range of buildings and a later map of 1835 shows five separate buildings extending behind Crown Street, three of which remain comprising Crown House as we know it now. Wenda's research shows that from 1785-1793 these buildings were owned or leased by one John Blake, baker.

Blake had arrived in the village from Bocking. At some point he had befriended a Methodist, Samuel Barker, in Wethersfield who asked him whether he would like the preachers to come to Bardfield. Blake agreed telling him that Bardfield, "was a very dark place" where the people scarcely knew good from evil. Blake offered his bakehouse to the preachers. However,

their activities began to stir great resentment amongst the villagers.

Preaching radical ideas took great courage in those days. Methodists were denounced in print and from pulpits, and meetings were often disrupted. It seems "wicked Bardfield" was not a place to tolerate religious difference.

A local committee was formed, apparently at the instigation of the parson, to put Blake out of business by bringing in and subsidising a rival baker. When this did not work, partly because Blake made better bread, the committee arranged a full boycott enforced by masters on their servants and on the poor by threat of removal of parish relief. This continued for a year until matters reached a head on Sunday 14 July 1793 when a mob attacked the preachers who took refuge in the bakehouse.

Here is an excerpt which captures the terror the family would have felt: "The children were removed into a kind of passage behind a stack of chimnies (sic) for shelter from the stones, but as they continued crying so excessively, Mr Blake removed them to the barn, where he laid them in a crate of straw, and covered them up, leaving his wife to watch over them. It being now dark, at least within doors, we thought it necessary to barricade the doors as well as we could, for the stones came so rapidly through the windows, and the noise at the doors was so great, that we expected they would break in every moment.

"Thus it continued till near ten o'clock, when John Blake came up stairs, and said the mob was threatening to burn the house! Upon which I went to the window, creeping close to the wall to avoid the stones, and looking out, I saw some fire among them, resembling a brand, from whence sparks issued. This, after what Mr Blake had related, alarmed us exceedingly; being so late at night, and the men not returned, we concluded they were preparing to execute their horrid threatenings, and we knew not what to do. But the men soon returning with a warrant from Dr Wakeham, which they delivered to the constable, and then climbing over the yard gates, informed us what they had done. About a quarter of an hour after a message was sent to inform us, that the mob was dispersed, and we were at liberty to go."

The full account of the trial was published as: "The Triumph of Religious Liberty over the Spirit of Persecution: being an Account of the Trials of several Persons, for an outraged and unprovoked Persecution, at Great Bardfield, in the county of Essex, before The Honourable Mr. Justice Lawrence; At Chelmsford Assizes, in the Month of May, 1794." We have a copy in the archives if anyone would like to read the full, lengthy transcript.

The outcome was hefty fines, rather than imprisonment, for the

ringleaders with the threat that if they rioted again, they would be hanged. Blake was allowed to continue preaching but understandably moved away.

The behaviour of the established church towards Non-Conformism makes for uncomfortable reading as does the 1861 description by Lovewell Blake, a descendant of Blake, that the village had "obtained an unenviable notoriety in the surrounding neighbourhood for the profligacy of its inhabitants and was known at a time not at all conspicuous for a high standard of public morality as Wicked Bardfield".

The ongoing story of Crown House

In 1872 The Saracen's Head became The Crown Inn and after changing hands a few times was bought by Walter Goldstone, Michael Hitchcock's uncle, in 1928. His family lived there until 1957. Whether it was still being run as a pub before Walter bought it we don't know but Walter's main line of business was as a saddle and harness-maker. He also repaired agricultural implements. Wenda interviewed his niece Mary Adams in 2002 when Mary was 88 about her memories of Crown House. Mary told her that she went to live with her uncle Walter and his wife when she was 14 years old, in 1928. When they married, Walter's wife was quite lonely and Mary came to live with them to keep her company. He had two other people working for him – Ben Rickwood and a man called Alfred Saggors, nick-named Dummy, because he was deaf and dumb. Mary would talk to him in sign language. The Saggors family lived in Mill Lane and were a large family; the 1881 census lists parents Samuel and Esther, five sons and two daughters. Tragically, three of the sons were born deaf and dumb. They were sent to school in Margate (to a "Deaf and Dumb Asylum") where they were taught useful trades.

Edward Bawden depicted Walter Goldstone at work in the King Penguin "*Life in an English Village*". (see pic page 16)

In 1957 Crown House was sold to Bardfield Artists George and Kate Chapman, who moved there from Vine Cottage, Walthams Cross. Between visits to Wales they were part of the artist community and took part in the Open House Exhibitions of the 1950s. They moved to Norwich in 1960.

If you live in one of the older houses in the village, why not think about doing some detective work yourself? Wenda's research, as indeed that already undertaken by other members of the community, has told a remarkable story and really contributed to the social history of our lovely village.

Jenny Rooney

Great Bardfield Horticultural Society

Hello everyone, we trust that you are all keeping well and safe. The lighter nights are coming in fast now and we are all eager to get out into the garden. It won't be long before the daffodils, tulips and other bulbs will be showing their faces.

We have already been enjoying the snowdrops, early dwarf daffodils, winter aconites, crocuses, cyclamen and reticulate irises along with the hellebores and early flowering shrubs—the winter sweet has been in flower for weeks. It's been a joy to cut and arrange in a small vase with snowdrops—the scent is wonderful.

Perhaps we can look forward to holding our Summer Show later this year in August - Saturday 7th in some form or other, to comply with the regulations at that time.

With this in mind and using our 2020 schedule you might like to start thinking about what you would like to enter.

For example if you would like to enter the Vegetable Section you should think about sowing your parsnip seeds and planting your onion sets, if you haven't done so already.

For the Domestic Section you could consider the following classes

49. A jar of raspberry jam - 2021
50. A jar of strawberry jam - 2021
51. A jar of blackcurrant jam - 2021
52. A jar of any other jam
53. One bottle of home-made white wine (dry or sweet)
54. One bottle of home-made red or rose wine (dry or sweet)
55. One bottle of fruited spirit

You could practice or think about the Floral Art Section

57. An exhibit entitled "The Bird Table" foliage and accessories allowed – max. width 69 cm
58. An arrangement in a toast rack with flowers and foliage
59. An arrangement of flowers only in a cocktail glass

Similarly for the Handicrafts Section – some classes to be thought about or exhibits to be made in advance.

60. A photograph of "Garden Shed" - 30.5cm x 23cm A4 maximum excluding mount. May be mounted or unmounted
61. A picture in any medium
62. Make a door plaque, house name or number in any medium – max. width 50cm
63. Make a miniature garden on a dinner plate

If you have mislaid your copy of the 2020 schedule (for use in 2021) and would like to receive one, please contact Lynne Joyce (810524) or Linda Prior (811641).

More next month!!

Answers to the quiz in Feb issue

1. Tomato
2. Number of rings
3. Belladonna
4. Wheat
5. Monty Don
6. Hidcote
7. Giant hogweed
8. George II and George III
9. Tulips in the Netherlands
10. Topiary
11. Lancelot
12. Crocus
13. Europe
14. Aloe vera
15. 500
16. Vitamin C
17. False. RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival is bigger
18. Koi
19. Two to three years
20. Avocado

For any information about the Society please contact Linda Prior 811641

Nature Notes

Last month when talking about the water vole I mentioned the mink being the main predator which was the main reason for the decline in the water vole population and that I had been led to believe this problem had been caused by animal liberation activists releasing mink from fur farms. My research now tells me this was less of a problem than I believed as most of the ones released at that time were in fact semi-domesticated and were easily recaptured. The main problem had started before that with a few escapees which were less domesticated and therefore much more able to cope in the wild. This population became established and was added to when fur farms closed and some mink were released.



The mink used on mink farms were American mink but there is a slightly smaller European mink some of which have become established in the UK and although they have been known to interbreed in captivity producing hybrids there have been no indications of them mixing in the wild. The American mink is a promiscuous animal that does not form bonds; the mating season lasts for a month with ovulation triggered by the presence of a male and runs from February in the south to April in the north, Mating lasts from ten minutes to four hours and females are receptive for seven to ten day intervals and can mate with multiple males. The American mink is among the only mammals to mate in spring and have a delayed implantation. This delayed implantation allows the pregnant female to keep track of environmental conditions and select an ideal time and place to give birth. The gestation period lasts for 40 to 75 days, with actual embryonic development taking 30 to 36 days, indicating that delayed implantation can last as much as 45 days. The young

known as kits are born from April to June, litter sizes vary in number from 4 to 11; the kits can have multiple sires.

Mink are semiaquatic members of the mustelid species which includes stoats, weasels, pole cats, and ferrets. They are carnivores. The mink feeds on rodents, fish, crustaceans, frogs, birds, and of course our little friend the water vole. Due to the expansion of its range it is not on any lists of endangered species although it is top of the list of animals hunted or farmed for fur. They are ferocious killers and have no predators other than man. Fossilised remains differ very little from their present form. During my time living in Shalford I have walked by the river most days and I have never seen any signs of mink but I have seen them more than once in the same river through Little Bardfield and further up near Hawkins Hill and Little Sampford



Sadly American mink is just one of the growing list of problem species of wild life which have been introduced into the UK like grey squirrels and muntjac deer each of which sooner or later become a threat to other species. You must all get fed-up with me repeating myself but it is true, wild life and nature as a whole is a very fine balance and the introduction of any new species is bound to lead to problems.

Mac Beanland

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

At this difficult time, we are fortunate to live in such a lovely area where we can take exercise close to home in attractive and interesting surroundings. One of the local delights is the number of thatched buildings.



Edward Bawden painting of thatched cottages at Waltham's Cross

Thatch was once the roofing choice of the poor as it was locally sourced, inexpensive and sustainable; now it seems that only the better-off can afford the necessary regular servicing and replacement. Most roofs are thatched with long wheat straw and many are topped out with a decorative straw feature on the apex. These are called straw finials.

Pheasants and foxes are still among the favourites for this tradition that goes back centuries. These finials may once have been installed to keep away birds or even witches, while some may have been the trademark of the individual thatcher. Today, they are more likely chosen by the

customer from an online catalogue. They seem to be more abundant and varied than ever.

I have spotted some fine examples around The Hundred Parishes such as the two running hares on a cottage at Ashdon. In Finchingfield and Radwinter you may find families of ducks and there is a large thatched cow on the barn of the Red Cow pub at Chrishall.



Great Bardfield - thatched horse near Beslyn's



Sgt Bendlowes Cottage, Brook St, Great Bardfield

You may see a hare on Dick Turpin's Cottage at Hempstead or a galloping horse at Great Bardfield. High Roding has a delightful cat stretching up the chimney stack and a fox chases a hare in Brent Pelham. An eagle has landed in Aythorpe Roding and there is a flying pig in Ugley.

The 16th-century Thatchers pub at Hatfield Heath is appropriately situated on a road that was once part of the route for horse-drawn cartage of wheat from Suffolk to London.

Do keep looking up!

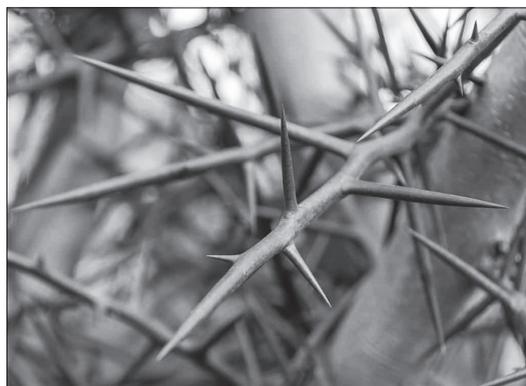
Ken McDonald
Secretary

Spring Garden Crime Prevention

Hopefully by the time that you read this we will be moving into spring and the weather improving inviting us out into the garden. It is a good time to take a look around; are your fences and gates in good condition do you have good quality locks on gates, will they keep the unwelcome intruder out? To the front of your property where possible keep fencing, planting and hedges to about 1.5m in height so that an intruder is not hidden from view.

Defensive planting

Security does not have to be just about locks, bolts, and spiky fence toppings; nature provides some excellent plants to keep people away. There are a number of attractive, fragrant plants of a spiky nature such as climbing roses, pyracantha and berberis and other planting of a dense nature that can work quite well. Have a chat at your garden centre or with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) for the right plant for the right location. We have worked with the RHS at Hyde Hall and there are a number of mature examples that can be viewed there, why not book a visit at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/hyde-hall>.



Barberry (Berberis) has a dense growth and lots of painful thorns.

New plants
Larger plants etc. can be secured to land or rootball anchors or plant through chicken wire covering the area with soil. Cement or bolt down containers to the ground. The RHS or your local garden centre or DIY store should be able to help.

Working in the garden

It is easy to get engrossed in what you are doing when working in the



garden, if the house is empty it is wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!). Remember when you stop for a break put your tools away, and at the end of the day as well as putting tools away put the wheelbarrow and wheelie bin away too. "It will add insult to injury" if your tools are used to break into your house, a neighbour's, nearby building such as a church, or provide a climbing aid or method of carrying things away.

New tools and lawn mowers

Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging to your new purchases; don't advertise it to the thieves and burglars with your empty boxes on display outside for roadside collection. Fold boxes inside out or break them up and put them in bag for collection. If you are not using your lawn mower, jet washer or other put it away out of sight from prying eyes.

Property marking

It may deter a thief if your property or flower pots is visibly security marked with your house number and post code such as www.creproducts.co.uk or labelled if a forensic (hidden) property marking system is used such as www.smartwater.com or www.selectadna.co.uk. You can also record the serial numbers of any tools at www.toolwatchapp.com or www.immobilise.com/. If your property does get stolen with property marking and/or recording there is a greater chance of you getting it back.

For suitable security products look for the Secured by Design or Sold Secure logo's and for further garden security advice see the following webpages:

www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/
www.securedbydesign.com
www.soldsecure.com
www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=606



Storing your expensive gardening tools inside the shed is better than leaving it out on show

CREAMER Fund EASTER Raffle

(Registered Charity Number 1095414)

The CREAMER Fund is a local charity founded over 30 years ago by donations made in the memory of three patients of the Freshwell Health Centre in Finchingfield. It has since grown with generous donations from patients, families and friends.



The purpose of the CREAMER Fund is, and has always been, to provide and assist in the provision of facilities, support services and equipment not normally provided by the statutory authorities. We work for all the community, not just patients of Freshwell.

The CREAMER Fund provides funding for community projects such as the installation of over 20 defibrillators in local villages which have already proved life saving for visitors and villagers alike. We are pleased to confirm that two new defibrillators are on order for installation at second sites in Stebbing and Shalford. The CREAMER Fund also provides funding for local medical services based at the Freshwell Health Centre where patients can benefit from local x-rays and ultrasound scans, entirely funded by The CREAMER Fund, as well as numerous other diagnostic and medical equipment purchased through donations.

The CREAMER Fund relies totally on donations and fundraising to be able to carry on supporting local communities in this way. The CREAMER Fund contributes over £40,000 per annum to run the local x-ray and ultrasound facilities, and the installation of each defibrillator costs over £1,900.

However our ability to fund raise is very limited in these COVID restricted times. Once again COVID restrictions have prevented our annual fundraising Easter Raffle which has been cancelled, as indeed was our 2020 Christmas Raffle. With ongoing COVID restrictions limiting our fund raising, the Trustees of The CREAMER Fund would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the CREAMER Fund is still working hard to support local communities.

If you can help at all with a donation, however small, we and the local communities would be extremely grateful. If you are able, please complete the Gift Aid Mandate below and by returning this with your donation we will be able to claim a further 25% on your donation via the Government Gift Aid Scheme.



Please have a look at our Facebook Page or website (creamerfund.co.uk) for further information on our projects and forthcoming activities, where you will also find further information on Gift Aid and a printable mandate.

-----Happy Easter !-----

If you would like to make a donation, please complete and return this form to : Freshwell Health Centre, Wethersfield Road, Finchingfield CM7 4BQ

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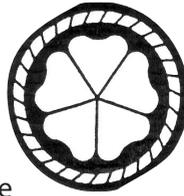
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SIGNATURE:DATE:

Great Bardfield Primary School

It has been an unexpected start to the Year at Great Bardfield Primary School. Sadly our school, like all schools, has restricted opening and once again we are asking our parents to home school their children. We know that the lockdown has been put in place to keep us all safe and we will work in partnership with parents to make sure that our pupils continue to have the best learning possible, in the situation we find ourselves in. We are endeavouring to deliver as normal a curriculum as possible either in school to critical worker children or at home remotely,



We have reflected on the previous lockdown last summer and have put in place new ways of communicating with the children at home. Teachers are offering Zoom sessions three times a day, whilst still teaching the critical worker pupils who are in school. The Zoom sessions support the teaching activities that have been set remotely and are designed to offer help and guidance with anything that the children find difficult. They also allow the children to interact with their teacher and other members of the class so that they don't feel isolated.

Once per week I have a remote assembly with each class and we have even managed a whole school assembly with ninety children in place of our usual Friday Celebration Assembly. This is an opportunity for our whole school community to come together in the best way possible during this crisis. It is wonderful to see the children's excited faces when they see friends that they miss and to know that they are experiencing a sense of togetherness with their teachers and other pupils.



Critical Worker children in school, working in the reduced capacity of the school

Staff are very much on the frontline of this Pandemic. We have not shut for a single day since it all began and the Governors and I are thankful for all of their hard work and dedication. Like many critical workers they are putting themselves, and their families, at risk every day and we could not be more grateful for this.

We are very hopeful for brighter and safer times ahead when we can return to normal and enjoy all the wonderful things that our school has to offer.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

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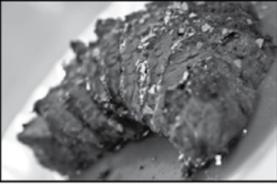
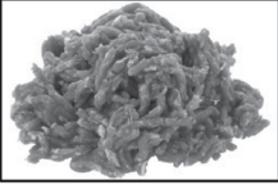
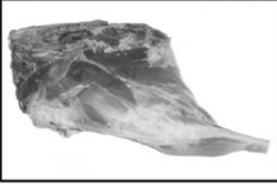
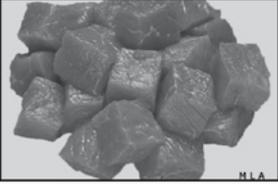
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<p>A wonderful alternative to beef.</p> <p>400g pack £3.00 (£7.50/kg)</p>	<p>A great value, tasty and lean option. Butcher yourself or simply roast whole.</p> <p>Sizes vary £18.00/kg</p>	<p>A versatile cut. Slow cook for the perfect stew.</p> <p>400g pack £5.00 (£12.50/kg)</p>

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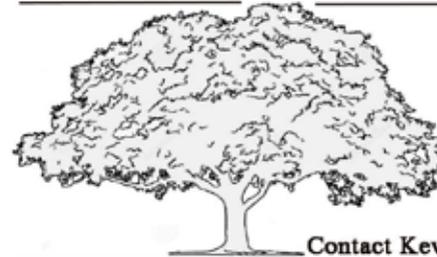


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Mary is the Manager of our Breakfast Club which is open 7.30-8.45am and we will drop them off at the top playground with their teacher. We offer a delicious Breakfast between 7.30-8am only (due to our ratios of qualified staff to children being affected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

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Pat is the Manager of our After School Club and children can be picked up from their classrooms or from the School's Clubs and brought back to us. Children from other schools can be dropped off directly at ours. Tea is served at ours 4.15-4.30.

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

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

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

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- Tuesday - Crafts
- Wednesday - Story Times for Early Years
- Thursday - Art Club
- Friday - Film & Chill

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

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Gt Bardfield Pre-School Kathy King 811580

Gt Bardfield Historical Society Marilyn Edwards 810555

Gt Bardfield Horticultural Society Linda Prior 811641

Parish Priest Great & Little Bardfield Fr. Robert Beaken 810267

Catholic Priest Fr. Richard Rowe 830808

Town Hall Bookings sarah.hymas@yahoo.com

Tuesday Club adriennepoulson@btinternet.com 811401

Children's Clinic (Finchingfield Freshwell Health Centre) 810328

Refuse Collections Gt. Bardfield Tuesdays from 7am,

L. Bardfield Thursdays from 7am.

Mobile Library Little Bardfield, Styles,

Thursday 10am fortnightly

Gt Bardfield Town Hall,

Thursday 11.15am fortnightly

Museum and Cage Every Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday from

Easter to the last Sunday in

September 2.-5.30pm.

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

The Samaritans 01245 357357



Pitley Farm to Finchingfield by Marjorie Clough