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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 **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: Last Night of the Proms by Lesley Graves

Above: Last Night of the Proms by Paddy Coles

Editorial

Looking back through the *Bardfield Times* over the years I was struck by the extent to which the themes of the articles, photos and covers reflect the changing seasons and the landmarks of rural life. The two horticultural shows always mark the beginning of spring and midsummer, and the harvest festival signals the coming of autumn, with Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day following. I was delighted to attend another regular celebration this weekend – Bardfield’s own Last Night of the Proms held in the Town Hall with music provided by the wonderful musicians of Bardfield Brass. We are very fortunate that in a relatively small rural area we have such a talented group of musicians. Twenty-five players of all ages playing brass instruments large and small ranging from the Sousaphone to the less well-known flugal horn, treated the audience to a varied programme of music. Under the expert baton of Claire Plunknett they played a great selection of music ending with the flag-waving audience joining in with Land of Hope and Glory and other Prom favourites and, as a final encore, a dramatic rendering of the Great Escape. It was indeed a Great Evening!

Events coming up in November include the latest production of the Bardfield Players: Being of Sound Mind. Book early to avoid disappointment.



Janet Dyson

Great Bardfield Primary School

What a busy time it has been at school since we returned in September! The children have been making excellent progress with their learning and as I write this, our first half term break of the year is almost upon us.



When I became Headteacher last year, one of my priorities was to develop the school's links with the community and the village of Great Bardfield. Over the past few weeks our older children have had the opportunity to visit The Bawden Room, Museum and Cage in the village and we are incredibly grateful to Janet, Jenny and David for helping to make this possible. It is so important for our children to learn about the history of their local area and how this relates to the wider world. They were all so enthused by their experiences – hopefully we have inspired some future local history enthusiasts. Great Bardfield really is a special place and one which we want our children to appreciate for many years to come.

This week, our younger children were treated to a 'Great Fire of London Experience'. They spent the day 'living' in the London of 1666 and took part in lots of typical activities such as sewing, weaving, making smelling bags and candles and even trying their hands at archaeology which involved searching for artefacts from the time. It was such an enjoyable and interesting day and really brought the events of 1666 to life for our children.



Grace and Freya sewing in 1666

In other news, our open mornings this term have been a great success, with many families coming to have a look around our lovely school and meet myself and the teaching staff. Prospective parents got to see our wonderful new classrooms and learned about our ethos and curriculum as well as the important business of school lunches. We very much hope to

welcome another full Reception intake of children next September.

This month, we have also been raising money for MacMillan Cancer Support which is an important tradition at our school. The children made delicious cakes for the 'Great Bardfield Bake Off' which were then judged by



Winners of The Great Bardfield Bake Off

the staff (a difficult but enjoyable task). We held a coffee afternoon for our parents and families and are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed in some way. Our Year 6 children did an excellent job of serving at the coffee morning and their help was much appreciated. We all agreed that we have never had such a vast number of entries, raising an amazing £300!

Sport continues to be an important part of our school and this term, although limited by the recent wet weather, our children have taken part in Teddy Bear Runs and a football festival in Great Dunmow. Our Sports Leaders from Year 6 have taken part in Ambassador Training which involves planning, preparing and delivering sports activities to children within the school.

As I write this, we are looking forward to celebrating our Harvest Festival next week followed by an opportunity for staff and children to rejuvenate over half term in readiness for the many exciting events of the second half of the Autumn Term.

Liz Crow
Headteacher

A JULY THANK YOU

The first day of July was dry and warm and we were delighted to welcome over 180 visitors to our garden at Brick House, Finchingfield on behalf of the National Garden Scheme.

The National Garden Scheme (NGS) has a rich and interesting history going back to 1926 when, at a Queens Nursing Institute committee meeting, one of their members, Elsie Wagg came up with the idea of raising money by tapping into the nation's passion for gardens. A year later the NGS was founded, and garden owners were asked to open their gardens for "a shilling a head". In that first year a total of £8,191 was raised from 609 gardens.

Today some three thousand gardens are opened under NGS raising more than £3 million for a range of national care charities, with Essex gardens contributing £161,000 of that total.

Our garden was in full bloom and with the warm weather it was wonderful to see so many families, many accompanied with their dogs, stroll around, and then enjoy the wide range of refreshments provided and served by a team of volunteers. Thank you team; but a special thank you to all those that came and contributed to the total of £1827 to the NGS charities. We are delighted with the success on the day and have agreed to open again next year on Saturday 29th June 2024.

Susan and Graham Tobbell

Dear BT,

We are delighted to announce that after running our bookshop, Between the Lines from premises in Vine Street since 2013 we will soon be moving to new premises in the Old Post Office in the High Street. This will enable us to increase our range of books and also to serve coffee, tea and cakes. We would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last 10 years and we look forward making new Bookshop Friends in the future. We are very grateful to all our volunteers who have helped us keep the shop going and are excited to be embarking on the next chapter in our story. We hope to be open from the beginning of December – keep an eye on the Community Facebook for details.

Anyone interested in taking on the lease of the Vine Street shop should contact us and we will pass your details to the landlord.

Carolynne, Jenny and Janet

FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

Once again, I am hoping to provide Christmas Day lunch to anyone who is alone and can't cook for themselves. I am hoping that villagers will once again help by providing ingredients. If you can, please let me know.

This is the list:

- Stuffing
- Potatoes
- Petit Pois
- Baby Sprouts
- Carrots
- Chipolata sausages/Pigs in Blankets
- Mince pies
- Christmas Puddings
- Fresh custard
- Small bottles of wine

I also hope to provide a tea for Christmas Day/Boxing Day and need the following:

- Small pork pies
- Sausage Rolls
- Small quiche
- Gift bags
- Toiletries
- Chocolates

Brenda Turner 01371 810519

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Hello neighbour,

Do you know anyone within Great and Little Bardfield who will (or will you yourself), be alone this Christmas and would appreciate a Christmas Hamper? If so, please could you contact me with their name and telephone number so that we can contact them and offer them one.

As people's circumstances can change, if you have received a hamper in previous years and would like another this year you will also need to contact me to confirm this.

Please call Joanne Magro-Andrews on 07590397178 by Friday 1st December 2023.

Best wishes,

Joanne Magro-Andrews

Great Bardfield Parish Council report

Co-operative Stores Refurbishment

The Co-op Stores remain closed until mid-November for refurbishment. A pop-up shop was not permitted as Essex Highways felt the pavement was not strong enough for a temporary structure. In the meantime, we thank other local business for expanding their offering: The Vine pub with its vegetable boxes, pet food, wine shop and other groceries and Brook Street Butchers with dairy products, cooked meats etc. We know that many residents have offered to do shopping for neighbours and friends. Isn't our community great?

New Pavilion

Following a request in the last edition of the *Bardfield Times* for additional financial contributions to help us complete this project we are most grateful for the donations received recently from local residents. If you are able to donate to this project please contact the Parish Clerk, Kate Fox at clerk@greatbardfield-pc-gov.uk

Firework Night

We look forward to the relaunch of Bardfield Firework Night on 4th November (tickets available online and on the gate). It is 4 years since we were able to enjoy this village event and thanks go to Jess Walmsley and Bardfield School PTA for taking on the organisation of this event and to other village groups for their contributions: a bar, hot food, light-up toys etc. The Parish Council has underwritten the cost of the fireworks and the hire of porta-loos. Profits will go to the Pavilion project, the PTA, Little Bardfield Cricket Club and Great Bardfield Pre-School.

Planning Applications

10 Northampton Meadow, single storey rear extension. No objection providing the Historic Buildings Officer is satisfied with the materials to be used in the Conservation Area

Willow Barn, Braintree Road, (listed building consent for external flues). No objection providing the Historic Buildings Officer is satisfied with the materials to be used.

No objections to tree works at 34 Durham Close and 3 properties in Dunmow Road: Strachan House, Place House and Devon Cottage, Dunmow.

Update on Planning Appeal: 56 Houses on Braintree Road

The date of the appeal hearing has again been postponed. The date for this hearing is now 15th November at Braintree District Council Offices. The Parish Council will be represented. Anyone else wishing to speak at the hearing should give advance notice via Braintree District Council,

appeals@braintree.gov.uk or directly to the Planning Inspector's office at VE.RT@planninginspectorate.gov.uk for the attention of Aimee Peckham.

The Appeal reference is APP/Z1510/W/23/3317112 with the site address as Deer Park View, Braintree Road, Gt Bardfield.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 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.

Carolynne Ruffle, Chairperson

Bid win for Community Garden and Open Spaces Fund

We are very excited to announce that we have won a bid for a grant to help us develop the Quiet Space for community use.

You may not know the piece of land we would like to develop it is situated behind the Town Hall in the village. Currently it is just an overgrown area and is not very often used. We would like to make the area into somewhere which is attractive for local people and will offer the opportunity for people to come together for community activities. We would like these to include growing food, celebrating events and meeting each other in a safe and attractive outdoor space. We see that there will be the opportunity for those visiting to "get in touch with nature" as we know not everyone in the village has a garden.

We envisage the possibility of a Village Band event once a year and possible other opportunities to bring the community together. We want to include the establishment of a gardening club for children in partnership with the School and Pre-school and after-school club.

The vision for the area would include planting some fruit trees, installing some raised beds, establishing some wildflowers, making some paths through the grass and providing bird nesting boxes and bug hotels.

We hope to start the project in November with the clearing and tree planting and then organize some events to launch the garden/community space. We will need help with all the tasks as so far there is just a small number of people who helped put the bid together.

If you would like to be involved in some way, can help with time or resources or have ideas for how we might develop this project do get in touch with us via Kate Fox the Parish Clerk on 810111

Lynsi Hayward-Smith

The Tuesday Club

In October our speaker was Rose Griffin Twiddell, who gave a very interesting talk on The First Essex Witch Trials. In the 1500s there were more witch trials in Essex than any other part of England, four of those witches living in Great Bardfield, all men interestingly – Henry Chitham, William Asplin, Edward Mason and Alan Moore. It was actually relatively easy to be branded a witch, you just needed to have a white cat (the black ones came later), have eyes of a different colour or the wrong number of fingers or toes. Quite often though, the accusation came about following an argument with a neighbour, where one neighbour cursed the other, the next week that neighbour's pig died, and hey presto you were a witch. Since these trials could lead to the hanging of the accused, the moral seems to be not to fall out with your neighbours!

Incredibly, witch trials continued until the early 1950s under the Witchcraft Act 1735, although the last conviction was in May 1944, when a Helen Duncan received a sentence of nine months imprisonment.

So, if you would like to try a spell, this one may help a wish to be granted: "You must wear something orange, dig a hole in the garden, write your wish on a piece of paper, wrap a clove of garlic in the paper and bury in the hole. Plant an orange flower on top. If the flower flourishes your wish will be granted, if it withers then you are unlucky this time" Good luck!

On 14th November Will Edwards will be giving a talk on Christmas Puddings. Some of us may remember making a wish while stirring the Christmas pudding, so we look forward to hearing more about these lovely seasonal delights.

We meet in the Town Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 2.00 and talk starts at 2.30. We do hope you might like to come along and join us, non-members pay £5 including refreshments, and if you decide to become a member you will only pay £25.00 for the whole year.

Cherry Whitby

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

Great Bardfield Tuesday Club



THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

An informative talk

by

Will Edwards

Great Bardfield Town Hall

Tuesday, November 14 at 2.30pm

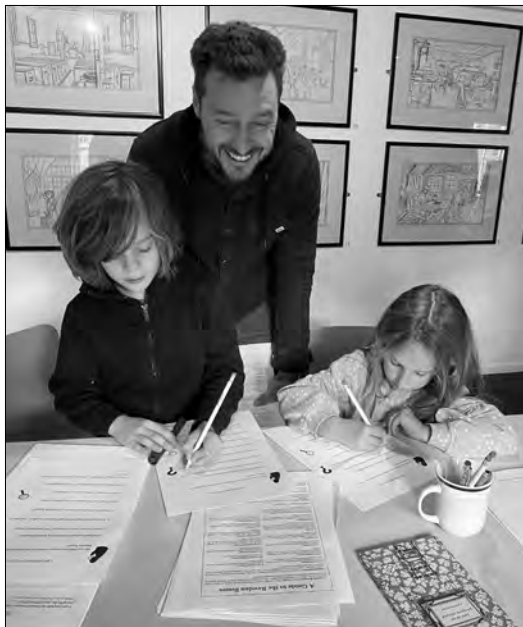
Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome

Visitors - £5 per talk

Historical Society Drop-in

A recent successful 'Drop-in' afternoon was held to raise awareness of the society's role and activities. The meeting was in the Bawden Room which houses the village collection of works by the Bardfield artists. The Museum and Cage were also open. Artefacts including photographs from the archive and a range of the society's publications were on display. Visitors were able to chat to members of the society over a cup of tea. There was a Bawden Room Quiz for children and a Survey for adults to gain views about the Society. One family who were visiting the village to research their family history were delighted to discover their family's grocery account in the old ledgers from Hitchcocks' shop, and photographs of their house in the photographic archive.

Tim and Kate complete the Historical Society Survey.



Ezra and Myla with their Dad, Pete, tackle the Quiz



This month we have been very pleased to be involved with the primary school visits to the Bawden Room, museum and Cage as part of their local history unit. It was good to see how interested they were in the history of our village.

Joey, of Aldridge Class, carefully observes one of Edward Bawden's sketches for the book Life in an English Village.



Sue and John Dennison chat to Archivist Jenny Rooney about the history of their house.

Bardfield Boules Competition 2023

The finals of this year's Boules Competition took place on Saturday 30th September, the weather was kind to us and many spectators arrived to spend a sociable, enjoyable afternoon watching the last 4 teams play off for the ultimate position in this popular village competition. Thank you to the Town Hall committee and particularly Patrica Walsh and John & Chris Maidman for the BBQ and refreshments, and The Bell, of course, for keeping players and spectators lubricated. The Bardfield Boules Competition raises money for the Town Hall, and entry fees, Finals Day BBQ etc raised a total of £549.94 for Town Hall funds.

The competition had kicked off as usual in early May with 44 teams of 2 signing up to play. All games are played at the Town Hall (is it a boules court or is it a carpark??). The first round games took place May to July (this involved 100 games across all groups). The top 2 teams in each group (16 teams in all) progressed through to Round 2, a knockout round. By the end of August, we were down to the last 8 and the quarter finals, which had to be completed in advance of the Grand Finals Day.

The final 4 teams were Tom & Louise Grinstead (last year's champions, and several times over the years), Rory Hitchcock & Cam Meldrum (previous



finalists and winners), Greg & Jane Tillotson (reaching their first finals after several attempts) and Matt & Sheree Riley (reaching the finals in the second year they took part). So, it was great to see new teams playing at the finals, and more mixed pairs than ever before.

The crowd were treated to some excellent shots by all. Each match, two semis and the final, were to be best of 3 games, but none needed to go to that third game. Iain Graham was wearing his International Boules Referee t-shirt so got the job (as usual) with Ian Ruffle rushing onto court with his tape measure when required to help with close decisions (he is bendier than Iain G).

Both semis went the way of the favourites, though the scores do not reflect how close some 'ends' were. Tom & Louise beat Greg & Jane 13-5, 13-0 and Rory & Cam beat Matt & Sheree 13-3, 13-9. The Final was between two previous winning teams and was a thrilling match. Tom and Louise were in particularly good form with some excellent shots, striking just where they needed to go (we may have to check for performance enhancing drugs in future). So, the final scores were a win to Tom & Louise 13-7, 13-4 and they took back the classy bronze trophy for their mantelpiece. We will all try and beat them again next year!

Many thanks to all those who support and enjoy this competition. I know many teams are already looking forward to next year's boules competition, having enjoyed some very pleasant sessions at the Town Hall with friends old and new. There's always room for new teams, so come along and play next year. All standards are welcome. Any age also. This year the age range was 8 to 80+. Entries will be taken in April 2024 so watch this space. We will also run some 'intro to the game' sessions in April.

Madame Boules (relaxing in the South of France)



Tom and Louise receive the trophy from 'Madame Boules'.



CHRISTMAS

CRAFT FAIR



SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

10.00 AM – 4.00 PM

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

*Buy your Christmas presents
or just treat yourself!*

REFRESHMENTS

For further info contact: mrspwalsh@aol.com

GREAT BARDFIELD *Fireworks Display* IS BACK!

Saturday 4th November 2023

GATES OPEN AT 5:30PM | DISPLAY STARTS AT 7:00PM
BBQ AND HOG ROAST | BAR | LIGHT UP TOYS

ENTRY

ADULTS: £8.50

UNDER 16: £2.00

UNDER 4: FREE

BOOK YOUR TICKETS BEFORE
01.11.23 TO GET DISCOUNTED PRICES!!
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO BOOK



OR VISIT
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BARDFIELDFIREWORKS

**GREAT BARDFIELD PLAYING FIELDS, BENDLOWES ROAD,
BRAINTREE, CM7 4PR**

CHARITY EVENT SUPPORTED BY GREAT BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
FUND RAISING FOR GREAT BARDFIELD SCHOOL PTA, GREAT BARDFIELD
PRE-SCHOOL, LITTLE BARDFIELD CRICKET CLUB AND THE PAVILLION FUND.

Town Hall Happenings

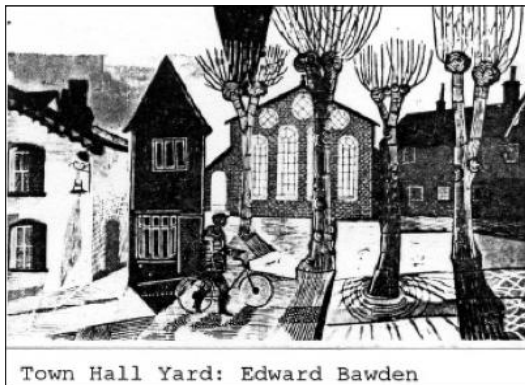
We are now installing a new Projector and Electric Screen which will be used for the first time on 1st December by the Cinema Club. We thank Bardfield Charities for their contribution to the cost.

The Boules final day was a great success with good weather, close matches and a fantastic turn out of supporters. Congratulations

to all the finalists and particularly to Tom & Louise this year's winners.

Bardfield Players will be performing on 9th, 10th and 11th November. I understand tickets are selling fast so make sure to get yours soon.

Finally, dates for your diaries. We will hold our Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 25th November and have Christmas Carols around the tree on Monday 11th December.



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

John Maidman

Chair, Great Bardfield Town Hall

MOBILE LIBRARY BUS

MOBILE LIBRARY BUS VISITS GREAT BARDFIELD
ON THE FOLLOWING DATES

16 November
7 December, 28 December

Between 11.55am and 12.25pm

If there is no room at the Town Hall to park
the bus will be located further along Dunmow Road

**tHe
BaRDfieLD
pLayeRS
pResEnt**

Being of Sound Mind

By Andrew Hall

9th, 10th, 11th November 2023

Starts 8pm (Doors open 7.30pm)

Great Bardfield Town Hall, CM7 4SA

Ticket Price £8.50

order from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/bardfield-players

Further details from 07980 960082

<https://bardfieldplayers.chessck.co.uk>



Horticultural Society

It hardly seems possible that when you read this, we will be into November. As this is being written we have just picked buckets of huge walnuts after the latest wind and rain—plenty left for the squirrels!

Where has the year gone? The autumn flower displays in the garden have been wonderful—annuals continuing to flower their heads off, dahlias, asters, autumn bulbs—colchicums, autumn crocuses, cyclamen, sternbergias, nerines and amarines—even some early snowdrops and muscarii. The berries and fruit will provide winter food for the birds

Thinking towards our gardens for next year there are a lot of good offers on bulbs in the local garden centres and on-line. Daffodils and narcissus should be planted in the ground or in pots as soon as possible. Tulips can be planted later.

And don't forget to look at the various seed catalogues for your veg and flower seeds for next year!!

Will look forward to being able to report on our 2023 AGM and speaker in the December issue of the *BT*. Very much looking forward to the talk "Rewilding" and enjoying the cheese and wine refreshments along with our members and guests

Next date for your diary **Thursday December 7th** Floral Art morning in Quaker Meeting House 10 until 12.30.

The theme is '**A Candlelit Christmas**'.

All materials supplied. Refreshments and raffle for £15.00 per person. Numbers are limited so please let us know if you would like to join us at this fun morning a.s.a.p.

by contacting **Linda Prior 01371 811641** for a ticket.

Spending a morning with friends, playing with flowers and making a table decoration for Christmas sounds like a wonderful thing to do. It gets you out for a few hours and helps with the preparations for Christmas.

You could make it for yourself or as a gift or for someone special.

The Bardfield Horticultural Society is keen for everyone to feel able to enjoy fun with flowers and Mandy Boon will be on hand to demonstrate, giving tips and guidance.

So if you have never done anything like this before, book your place now. If you have been before we would love to see you again as we always enjoy a get together.

The dates for our 2024 programme of events at the Town Hall will include:

- A talk on Saturday afternoon 24th February:-
- Revival of a Garden and Plants re-found – Lives in Plants and Art: Sir Michael Foster and Cedric Morris by Lucy Skellorn, (more details in December *BT*!)
- Our Spring Show on Saturday, March 23rd
- Spring Event on Saturday, May 18th
- Summer Show on Saturday, August 3rd
- Harvest Supper on Saturday, October 5th
- AGM on Tuesday, October 22nd

There will be local garden visits :

- Saturday, April 27th
- Saturday, June 8th

Hopefully another in September and other events to enjoy during the year.

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

Re - Engage (formerly Contact the Elderly)

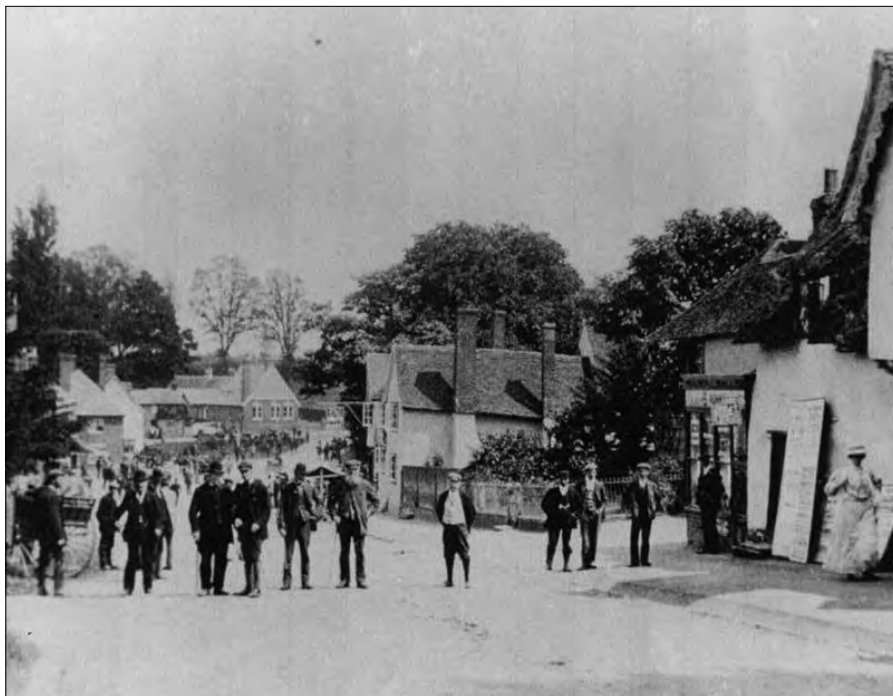
Sunday Tea We are coming up to our 13th year running our lovely tea group for older people in our community. We now have spaces for new guests and would love to welcome you along to a tea! This is a free service and transport is provided to pick you up and make sure you are home safe. If you like to have a chat and some good cake then come along. We are a small, friendly group and you would receive a warm welcome. We also really need volunteers to keep this lovely group going. Can you spare just 2 hours a year to host a tea in your home? You just need a downstairs loo and not too many steps into your home and love cake! Would you like to drive for us and join in the tea and chat. Drivers can volunteer every month or a couple of times a year. Any help is much appreciated and we can't run our group without our wonderful volunteers. For more information please call **Sarah 07505241237** or email **sarah8750@hotmail.co.uk**
Thank you!

Tales of Bardfield Fair

All through the preceding night, the rattle of gipsy caravans and the patter of the sheep, the clop-clop of ponies from Wales and the New Forest would be heard in the lanes ... and all through the next morning, farmhands would go trudging past, under the hot June skies, with their jackets slung over their arms.

From: "This Land is Yours" Henry C. Warren 1943

Every year from 1262 until the outbreak of WWI, Great Bardfield held a Horse Fair on June 22nd. By the first part of the 20th century the fair had declined – perhaps because so many horses were needed for WWI or simply because the introduction of the motorcar and traction engine gradually replaced the need for so many working horses. After WWI the fair was held intermittingly, with more emphasis on the funfair. The last time the fair was held was in 2000 to mark the millennium.



For centuries the Great Bardfield Horse Fair was a major event in East Anglia's rural calendar, attracting dealers from as far a field as Wales and the New Forest to trade in horses, sheep and cattle. For the inhabitants of the village it was the most significant date of the year. It was the day that new potatoes were dug, that the first peas were harvested, the first gooseberry tarts of the year baked and 'Barful Fair Pudding' was served. Farm hands rose early to get their jobs done so they could enjoy the fair. The inns and beer houses were open all day until the barrels ran dry and many local people were allowed to sell beer and homemade food by special permit to help feed all the visitors. Extra constables were drafted in to help keep law and order and the Cage on Bridge Street was used to house the drunk and disorderly.



White Hart on Fair day

Henry C. Warren in his book about rural life, *This Land is Yours*, describes the scene: "Sheep and cattle were penned at either side of the main street, whilst the horses, combed and braided for the occasion, were tethered by the score to the churchyard railings". Warren goes on to say that after the morning cattle sales, farmers would retire to

The Vine for lunch, "served to them on trestle-tables out in the yard," consisting of "beef and pudden' and peas, and cherry-tart with cream – and all for a bob!"

Bardfield Fair was not just for the working folk of the village. All classes enjoyed the event. A.F.J. Brown in Prosperity and Poverty – Rural Essex, 1700-1815 tells us that by the end of the 18th century, the fair was, "attended, as usual by the fashionables of the county."

Miss Buck who used to live at Bucks House opposite The Vine wrote this account of Bardfield Fair in the early 20th century when the funfair was the principal attraction.

"Stalls were set up on either side of the High Street where all sorts of exciting things, toys, etc, were on sale. There was no pavement outside Bucks House. Water carts kept down the dust in dry weather, but if the season were wet the road would become a quagmire. There were swings by the Quaker Meeting House gate; there were coconut shies and shooting galleries. On one occasion, during the setting up of the roundabouts, which was a great business as they were complicated contraptions, the brick wall surrounding our garden was damaged. This caused a commotion which all added to our entertainment. As darkness drew on, the naphtha lamps would be lit, and the crowds and noise would increase. The gaily-painted roundabout horses began to whirl faster and faster to the sound of the same old tunes. The music continued till midnight and later. Sleep was difficult, but who cared? Certainly we children did not, for the night was full of magic. It was Fair Week once more."

Peggy Swift was born in 1917 and lived in the village all her life. In 2000 she recounted her memories of Bardfield Fair to Janet Dyson. The resulting booklet, *So Long at the Fair*, is an evocative account of Bardfield Fair, including two stories connected with Bardfield Fair, handed down through the generations. *A Bunch of Blue Ribbons* and the gruesome story of the Bloody Sticks murder. The booklet is available at Between the Lines and the Cottage Museum and is well worth a read.

Jenny Rooney
Great Bardfield Historical Society

BARDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Thursday 7 December 2023

FLORAL ART MORNING

A CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS

Friends Meeting House

Gt Bardfield at 10 am

Prepare a table decoration after having a demonstration by Mandy Boon. You will learn how to make and display some flowers to be centre stage at Christmas. All materials are provided so just bring sharp scissors and willingness to learn. We will serve some refreshments and have a raffle so do come along and bring a friend or two. Tickets are £15.00 each. Limited places so buy your ticket now. CALL Linda 01371 811641



From the Vicarage...

The fast-paced spread of news in the modern world is such that, between writing something and it going to print, much can change. I am very conscious that I am writing this piece having only recently heard about the appalling escalation of conflict in the Holy Land, and with little idea how things will look by the time these words are read. But I am also conscious that, whatever the developments – and we pray they will be in the direction of peace – these words will be read in a season when we are remembering the consequences of wars which are now regarded as part of history.

When we think of this latest chapter in a long-running conflict alongside continued fighting in Ukraine and other less well-publicised outbreaks of war, it is easy to wonder whether our human family has learnt anything at all from the world wars of the twentieth century. It gives us a reminder of the importance of our continued observance of Remembrance, particularly when we learn that many of today's conflicts have their roots in matters not properly addressed when what we think of as 'historical' wars came to an end. Wars cast a long shadow over history – often longer than the memories of the individual people who experienced them.

Helplessness and hopelessness are easy and natural reactions to the waves of 'bad news' which reach us from across the world, but remembrance is also a time of hope. One of the most important things we do at Remembrance services is to read the names of individuals who lost their lives in recent wars. On the one hand, this brings home to us the human cost of war, but on the other, it reminds us of the individual acts of courage and selflessness which we always find amidst the horror of armed conflict. Somehow, even the worst we see of ourselves cannot extinguish that core of humanity which we have in common with every single other person – and that, surely, is something worth remembering.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Services for November 2023

Thursday 2 November – All Souls Day

10.30am Requiem Eucharist – Great Bardfield
5pm Service of Remembrance – Shalford

Sunday 5 November – All Saints Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford
10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield
11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (a Celtic tradition morning worship) – Wethersfield
4pm Shoebox Service – Cornish Hall End (Children's Church meeting at 3pm)

Sunday 12 November – Remembrance Sunday

9am Requiem Eucharist – Great Bardfield
10.50am Services of Remembrance – Finchingfield, Shalford & Cornish Hall End
3pm Service of Remembrance – Great Bardfield War Memorial

Sunday 19 November – Second Sunday before Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield
9.30am Morning Service – Shalford
10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield
10.30am Family Service – Finchingfield
5pm Evensong – Cornish Hall End

Sunday 26 November – Christ the King (Sunday before Advent)

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield
9.30am Morning Service – Shalford
9.30am Sung Communion Service for the feast of St Katharine – Little Bardfield
10.30am Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End
11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Regular Services and Events during the week

Monday 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

Tuesday 9am 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 10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

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Would you like to help our churches flourish as they serve our village communities? This benefice, or group of churches, comprises six parish churches, and we would like to appoint someone to help coordinate activities and communications across the constituent parishes.

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Hours: 6 hours per week, 2 of which to be usually on a Friday, and the remainder worked flexibly.

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Apply by: Monday 6 November 2023.

We are seeking someone who is sympathetic to the Christian faith, and the ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills, as they will be the first point of contact for a range of church enquiries. They will also have excellent IT skills, as the role will require use of Google Calendar, Word, Excel, web based interfaces & social media.

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If you would like to apply, please send a CV, covering letter, and contact details of two referees to the Vicar, The Rev'd Alex Shannon, at rev.alex.shannon@gmail.com. Rev'd Alex is also happy to answer any queries about the role.

GREENFINGERS

November doesn't give many good days to garden, 'an excuse to stay in' say those not so keen. 'Sun's out, pull on the wellies,' say those ardent gardeners, me being one of them. This is the list of jobs for all.

1. Do a bit of tidying, this means leave nice looking seed heads for the birds but cut drab plants to 30 centimetres.
2. Edge the lawn, it does make a difference to the garden.
3. Imagine scent from winter flowers so acquire some as it is a good time to plant. Simple bulbs have fragrance like narcissus and some tulips e.g. orange Ballerina, do smell like orange peel. Plus there are shrubs Daphne, Sarcococca (Christmas Box) Witch Hazel and Viburnums. 'No room!' you shout. Well go for the first two as they are small.
4. More pleasure to anticipate for those that look ahead, plant lily bulbs now -yes even those that will be August flowering - 10 pink Tiger Lily just planted and a little heap of chipped bark/leaf mould nestles them for the winter.
5. Improve the look of a border, (yes, as written last month,) 3 pots, 3 grasses with winter appeal e.g. Carex Evergold, Uncinia Rubra, Ophiopogon, black grass. Plus violas but choose one colour to contrast with your grass. Under these are your Spring gems: BULBS.



Nature Notes - Oak Apple

Someone asked the question what is this? It was what is commonly known as an Oak apple which can be found growing on oak trees. They are not a fruit at all, they are in fact a deformed leaf. The adult female oak gall wasp which is wingless crawls up the tree and along the branches to reach a leaf. She then lays a single egg on a leaf and as the eggs hatch and form larvae, they excrete a liquid which irritates the leaf causing it to wrap round and start to form a gall; a round ball 1 to 2 inches in diameter. The larvae feeds on the gall tissue until it matures. It gets mated then falls to the ground, burrows into the soil where it lays eggs on the oak tree roots. Once these eggs hatch into larvae they feed on the oak tree roots for over a year. Once these have matured into wasps they emerge from the soil, some male, some wingless females which start the whole process over again. We are told oak wasps are beneficial to the tree but I can't find out in what way, may be it's to do with fertilization if the males fly from tree to tree. It's a well-known fact that the oak tree is host to more insects than any other tree. Oak gall wasps are very small and don't look like any other wasp, gone are the familiar stripes these are brown and shiny with a flat abdomen.

Oak apples have been well known in folk law, they still have oak apple day in some parts of England and Wales and there is also an Oak Apple song. As oak apples mature they turn to shades of brown, these have



been collected and provided colour dyes for artists. Vincent van Gogh used oak apple gall ink to tint his drawings.

Mac Beanland



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Before the 15th century, people attending a church service would stand or kneel. When benches or pews were introduced, they were sometimes decorated by skilled craftsmen. In particular, the top of the ends of some pews were carved with figures called finials or poppyheads.

The word poppyhead comes from Latin via Old French meaning the poop or figurehead of a ship. Poppyheads can be found in churches across the country and they are particularly prevalent in East Anglia. The Hundred Parishes has some fascinating examples.

The carved figures can represent almost anything. Some are of flowers or fruit or animals. Mythical creatures or demons were introduced to remind parishioners that if they led a sinful life they would go to hell. Saints and angels however meant that if you lived a good life you would go to heaven.

You will also find carved creatures depicting saints. In St. Mary's, Hatfield Broad



Widford – floral design



Ickleton – St Michael weighing souls

Oak, 300-year-old poppyheads symbolize saints, with a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke and an eagle for John, while Matthew is represented by a 'divine man'.



Hatfield Broad Oak – a bull representing St Luke

Ickleton's parish church has some fine examples of medieval carved poppyheads. One shows St. Michael weighing souls of the dead and another features a dragon-like creature.

In Wendens Ambo parish church you will find a fearsome-looking beast which you may meet if your soul goes to hell!

Linton's church has a wide range of subjects including scribes resting their books, one on the back of an angel and another on a dragon.

When you are out and about, I encourage you to seek out these wonderful examples of ancient craftsmanship. Please let us know of others on either the feedback page on our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk or share a photo with the Hundred Parishes Group on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/562396892237665

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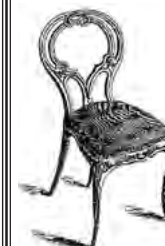
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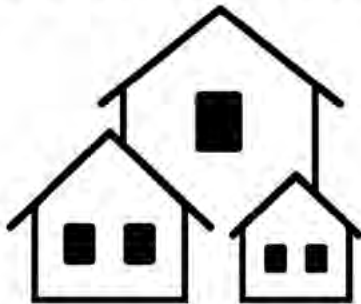
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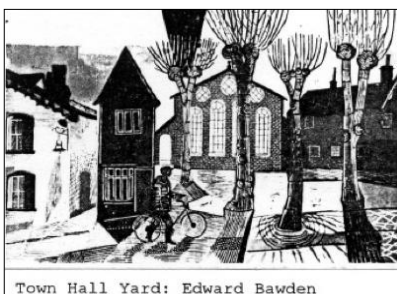
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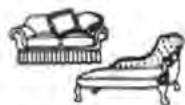
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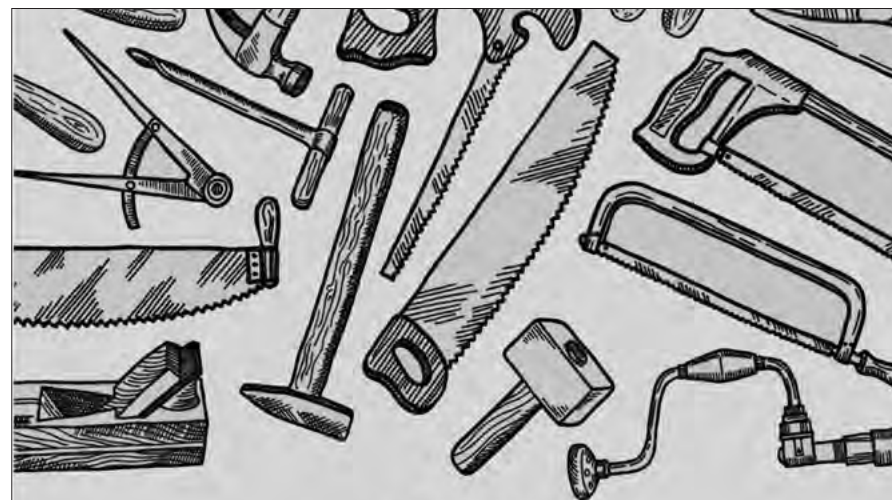


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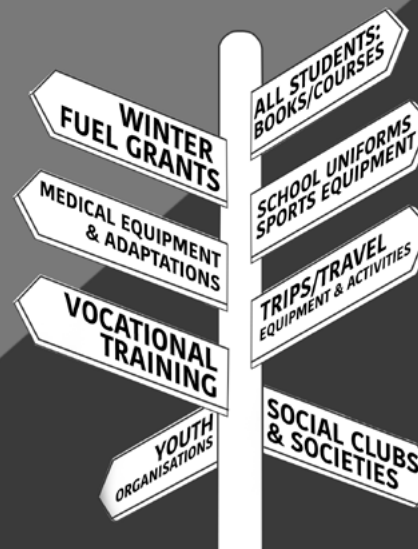
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Mick Gell (01371 810113), Nick Holland (07795 280647)
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Or email GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com

TOWN HALL DIARY

November 2023

Wednesday 1 st	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 2 nd	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Friday 3 rd	Cinema Club	8.00pm
Saturday 4 th	Bardfield Players	10.00am
Sunday 5 th	Bardfield Players	10.00am
Monday 6 th	Bardfield Players	10.00am
Tuesday 7 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Stability Class	10.45am
	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Wednesday 8 th	Parish Council	7.00pm
	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Thursday 9 th	Bardfield Players	8.00pm
Friday 10 th	Bardfield Players	8.00pm
Saturday 11 th	Bardfield Players	8.00pm
Sunday 12 th	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Tuesday 14 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Stability Class	10.45am
	Tuesday Club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 15 th	Badminton	7.00pm
Tuesday 21 st	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 22 nd	Badminton	7.00pm
Friday 24 th	Craft Show Set Up	2.00pm
Saturday 25 th	Craft Show	1.00pm
Tuesday 28 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Stability Class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 29 th	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 30 th	Set Up for Panto.	4.00pm

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Paul Kennedy 810540

Darren Hockley 810836

Peter Walmsley 07843 498243

Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402

Janet Dyson 07957 483207

Iain Graham 07831 595555

Braintree District Council

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Police for non-emergency enquiries dial 101
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Little Bardfield Parish

Chairman of the Parish Council LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com

Clerk to the Parish Council Andrew Davies davies@farmline.com

Kate Rixon 01371 404 321

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Bardfield After School & Breakfast Club Pat Moore 07767 413055

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Gt Bardfield Historical Society jonathan6davies@gmail.com

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