

October
2025

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News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield

Bardfield Times



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

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Front cover: Madame Boules and the winners

Above: Scarecrow festival

Editorial

We have a full issue this month with many autumn and winter events planned, and getting off to a good start with the Scarecrow Festival. Well done to everyone who entered, taking so much trouble to create scenes from films which attracted many visitors to the village and raised much needed funds for the primary school. You can see some of the imaginative entries on page 77.

Cold, wet weather did not dampen the spirits of the boules players and their loyal supporters on Finals Day. The Ruffles, father and son, triumphed after very close matches and were presented with the trophy by Madame Boules aka Carolynne Ruffle! Congratulations to all the players and thank you to Madame Boules for her organisation of this popular annual event. However, I must say my feet have never been so cold! It took several stiff whiskies to warm them up!

The archaeological dig currently happening near the playing field has attracted much interest and it was exciting to have a Channel 4 film crew making a programme about it. The team are excavating the site where an American aircraft crashed in 1944. There are detailed information boards at the site and the archaeologists are very happy to welcome visitors and show the finds. Some older residents remember this incident and Peter Morris was interviewed for the TV programme. See p. 8 for a full report.

You may remember that in the last issue Alfie Holland requested residents to contribute to a project he is undertaking by sending him the three words that best describe their feelings about living in Great Bardfield. He received an excellent response and has analysed the results, presenting them in a colourful art work. Sadly we cannot do justice to it in the BT but Alfie plans to create a poster which will be displayed in the Bookshop and the CIP. Unsurprisingly the words chosen relate strongly to community, nature, neighbourliness, peace and security. What an interesting project!

Finally, after 20 years of caring for the village our 'Handyman' Ian Ruffle is retiring. Clearly, he is irreplaceable but we do need someone to take his place so please look at the advert on page 2 and consider whether this could be you. I'm sure everyone joins me in expressing thanks to Ian for all he has done for the village.

Janet Dyson

Letter to the Editor

Hello! I am writing this having just returned from a school expedition to Morocco. I wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who helped me raise the funds for this fantastic trip; it wouldn't have



been possible without the help and support I received from the Bardfield community. People generously donated money and gave me items that I sold at the garage sale. Thanks also to the Bardfield Charities for their support. A particular thank you to everyone who has given me work allowing me to earn this fantastic trip.

Morocco was unforgettable, a particular highlight was climbing Mount Toubkal (standing at 4167m). Also memorable was working with a local community to rebuild roads damaged in the 2023 earthquakes. It was a humbling and rewarding experience. I'll be forever grateful for everyone's support.

Alfie Holland



VILLAGE CARETAKER REQUIRED



COULD THIS BE YOU?

The Parish Council are looking for someone to take on the role of Village Caretaker from November 1st. This paid position includes keeping the village tidy with litter picking and regular emptying of the bins, doing odd jobs as required and managing assets such as the play area, benches and signs. Hours vary, minimum 2hrs per week. If you care about our village and have some time to spare contact Kate Fox Parish Clerk for further details:

clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk



Applicants must be over 18



the**GREAT**
BARDFIELDcharities
Charity number 207305



CAN WE HELP YOU?

If you live in Great Bardfield, are a group or organisation benefiting Great Bardfield residents then you are eligible to apply for financial assistance.

For more information please contact one of the Trustees:

Pat Coles - 01371 810995, Mick Gell - 01371 810113

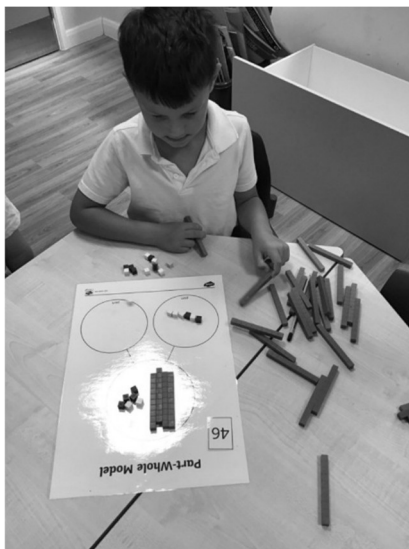
Nick Holland - 07795 280647, Annika Woodcock - 07900 491636

Cathy Stuttle - 07711 880965, Rev Alex Shannon - 01371 810309

Or email GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com

Great Bardfield Primary School

There is something magical about the start of each new school year. The pencils are sharp, the glue sticks haven't mysteriously vanished yet and the lost-property box is momentarily empty. September always brings with it a mix of excitement, nerves, and the sense that a whole new chapter is about to be written together. Our children arrive looking smart and ready for action, our staff return re-energised, and our classrooms are primed for another year of learning, laughter and the occasional glitter explosion.



Charlie working hard on partitioning numbers



Leo enjoying a measuring activity

The Summer Term is always a bittersweet one as we wave goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils but September gives us the joy of welcoming our new Reception children. They have bustled in with their big smiles and endless curiosity about the adventure of 'big school'. This season is all about fresh starts, new friendships, and setting our sights on the year ahead and it is why September will always be one of my favourite times as a Headteacher.

This year at Great Bardfield Primary School, we'll continue to put our children firmly at the heart of everything we do. Our focus remains on embedding our three core values of

Courage, Compassion and Community because we believe they are not just words for our noticeboard, but principles that help shape confident, kind, and respectful young people. Whether it's bravely trying something new in the classroom, kindly looking out for a friend, or cheering one another on at Sports Day, these values guide how we grow together as a school family. When I became Headteacher in 2022, I wanted to make sure our school wasn't just *in* the village but *of* the village. Over the past few years, I've been delighted to see this intention flourish; more community reading volunteers, local history walks and village concerts. These experiences remind us that education goes far beyond the classroom walls.



Evie enjoying our OWLS area

Here at school, the Autumn Term is already in full swing. Our new Year 6 School Ambassadors, Theo and Sophea, are stepping confidently into their roles, and soon we'll be electing our Class Councillors, Eco-Monitors, Well-being champions and House Captains. These leadership roles are vital in helping us make our school the best it can be—and who knows, we may even have some future Prime Ministers in the making!

Looking ahead, we're already preparing to welcome the next generation of Bardfield children. Our **Open Days** will be held on **Saturday 4th October (10am – 12pm)** and **Wednesday 8th October (1.30pm – 2.45pm)**. Please do share these details with any friends or family who have children starting school in September 2026.

Here's to a busy year of courage, compassion, community (and perhaps just a little less glitter in the carpets).

Liz Crow, Headteacher

Great Bardfield Parish Council Report

Welcome to Our New Councillors

We are pleased to welcome Mark Wells and Richard Winsborough as our two new Parish Councillors. Both have lived in the village for many years and have contributed to the community over that time. We were very pleased to have 5 excellent candidates for the 2 vacancies and thank all those that came forward.

Thank you to our Village Handyman/Caretaker/Operative

I am sure you have all become very used to seeing Ian Ruffle wandering the village with his purple binbags, emptying the litter bins, clearing the footpaths, weeding the playground and generally keeping our village neat and tidy. Ian has decided that after 20 years in this role that it is time for retirement. We thank him very much for his reliable service to the village, often noticing things that need sorting before he is asked. As a result the Parish Council are looking for someone new to take on this role, with a new job title (we are still thinking about this – any ideas on a postcard). Please see the advert for this vacancy in this magazine. Just a few hours a week, caring for Great Bardfield.

Housing Needs Survey

Every household should have received a paper version of the Housing Needs survey which can also be completed online. Please complete this even if you do not see an immediate need for you or your family. This information is useful too. The survey will help the Parish Council to understand if there are any particular housing needs within Great Bardfield as seen by existing residents (affordable housing, sheltered accommodation, smaller properties, for example) and will help inform future decisions on development and housing. The forms need to be completed online or posted back in the freepost envelope (this costs the PC) or delivered to the Community Information Point or Bookshop by October 12th. Thanks to those who assisted with stuffing envelopes and delivering them around the parish, this included all parish councillors, Kate Fox, Joyce Robinson, Cathy Stuttle, Hilary Simkins, Mike and Helene Brown and Ian Ruffle.

Planning Applications

Local Plan Update – Call for Sites. Our comments on the impact of development on proposed sites at the former RAF Wethersfield airbase

and at Andrewsfield / Blake End have been submitted to Braintree District Council. These sites are to be considered at BDC planning meetings in September and October.

Great Bardfield School – replacement of windows, doors, and installation of a new access ramp. The Parish Council finds the proposed design and materials suitable for the historic Victorian building and its Conservation Area setting and has no objections to the works.

Pavements and Potholes

The poor state of the pavements in the village is to be raised again with Essex Highways, with the support of our District Councillors, as this is a problem raised by several local villages.

Proposed Changes & Extension to Speed Limits in Braintree Road and Deer Park View

Essex Highways plan a 20mph speed limit within Deer Park View as this is now a requirement for all new residential developments. The Parish Council point out that they have been asking for reduced speed limits in the centre of the village for some time, so far with no results.

A 40mph limit is also proposed by Essex Highways from the existing 20mph limit on Braintree Road towards the Blue Egg corner. The Parish Council have asked that the 30mph limit be extended to include the entrance to Deer Park View.

Bin Collections – October 2025

Tuesday October 7th	Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin Green Bin (for subscribers only)
Tuesday October 14th	Grey Bin & Food Bin
Tuesday October 21st	Clear Recycling Sacks & Food Bin Green Bin (for subscribers only)
Tuesday October 28th	Grey Bin & Food Bin

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 8th September 2025, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public. Please contact Kate Fox, Clerk, if you plan to attend on 810111 or by email at clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk.

Carolynne Ruffle
Chairperson

The Dig

You may have noticed that a team of archaeologists has been excavating a site adjacent to the Playing Field over the last few weeks. The dig is being carried out by a Ministry of Defence team for the Defense Prisoner of War /Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) who conduct research, investigations, recovery and identification of remains from conflicts. Some of the team members are ex-military personnel. On this site they are

searching for the remains of 2nd Lt. Lester Leo Lowry, US Army Air Forces, who on January 26th 1944 was involved in a tragic incident during a



2nd Lt. Lester Leo Lowry



Bullets found at the dig

practice flight in a P-47 'Thunderbolt' operating out of RAF Bodney in Norfolk. The team investigating the crash site is using meticulous archaeological methods to recover evidence such as personal effects, uniform remnants and physical remains and repatriate

them, bringing long-awaited closure to his family and friends. Lt Lowry remains unaccounted for and is listed on the Wall of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery.

It is reported that residents of Great Bardfield witnessed the crash as it dove vertically and at speed. It appeared that the pilot did not have the opportunity to bail out. The site was unsafe for some time taking the



Peter, Sandi and Raksha in The Bell

American recovery team two days before they could approach the wreckage.

A Channel 4 film unit visited the village to make a programme about the dig. Peter Morris who was at school at the time of the crash was interviewed by presenter Sandi Toksvig and archaeologist Raksha Dave. Peter recalled hearing the plane coming down and a terrific explosion. The school, which is close to the site, was evacuated and his class was led to the Anderson Shelter by their teacher Mrs Dunell. The programme, Hidden Treasures, will be shown in November.

Janet Dyson

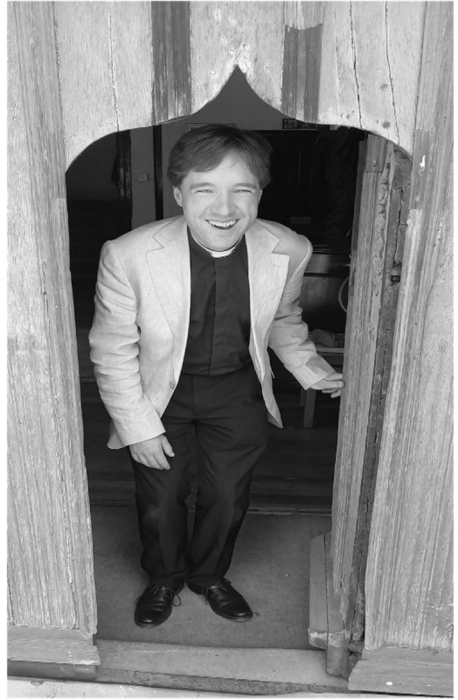
Visit to Clare Priory

A group of villagers from Great Bardfield stepped away from daily life in August, for a few hours of tranquillity, prayer and reflection at 13th century Clare Priory. The building and grounds are set on the banks of the River Stour in the village of Clare in Suffolk, and, founded in 1248, it remains a working Priory.



The Shrine

The day was organised by the Pant Valley Benefice of Churches, which includes the Churches of Great and Little Bardfield and a group of



15 parishioners from across the Benefice joined the modern-day Augustinian Friars for a morning service in their chapel before a tour of the Priory and its grounds. After lunch in the Priory dining room the group had a chance to spend time enjoying the peace and serenity of the grounds, the chapel and the ancient shrine, before coming together for some final reflections on the Rule of Saint Augustine which emphasises the need to search for God together in order to achieve oneness of mind and heart.

Cheryl Campbell

The Brook Street Deli

It's great to see another business starting in the village. Welcome to Lisa at the Brook Street Deli (which is actually in Vine Street!). Lisa stocks plenty of delicious and unusual treats. She says she's building up her stock and is always happy to listen to customers' suggestions. We wish her every success!



Lisa enjoying her work serving customers



Adult Learning Within Reach

Hi Everyone,

I hope you've all had an enjoyable summer and are keeping well. We're getting near to the start of our new course next month. I'd like to draw your attention to an error found by Margaret on the WEA website detailing this course. It is in fact a 6 (not 5) session 2-hour course comprising of 12 hours in total. WEA have updated the course fee to £96.00 but as yet they haven't changed it showing correctly as a 6 session course. It has been confirmed that there will be no half-term break so the dates are Monday 6, 13, 20, 27 October and 3, 10 November.

We hope you will join us for this interesting course. Booking is required and if you've already done so, may I confirm that this is a 6-week course. For those who haven't yet signed up but are interested, please

try to sign up before the middle of September in order that we can be sure of it running.

I have tried to send this email to all on my list but please check with others who are interested in our courses that they know about this new course. An advert added below will be placed in the Bardfield Times.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind regards,

Annette and the Committee

Great Bardfield WEA is pleased to announce a 6-week course for the Autumn Term, starting Monday 6th October 2025 at the Quaker Meeting House. Derek Robinson is a new tutor for our Branch and we look forward to welcoming him to present this interesting course:

History: Spanish History and Regions

Although you may know Spain, do you know about the country away from the Costas? In this course we look at the history of Spain from prehistoric times, through the many periods of occupation by the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Visigoths, the Moors and the wars of independence from the French of the 18th & 19th centuries. Then onto the civil war of the 20th century and the current situation.

Each 2-hour session runs from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and there will be no half-term break. Refreshments will be served and the course fee is £80.00 (NB this course may be free for those on means-tested benefits or a similar low income). Booking is required as soon as possible (please see details below) so that the venue is not overcrowded and to ensure that there will be sufficient students to run the course. Full refunds are available if you decide to cancel before the second session.

New members are always welcome. To book on-line, please go to www.wea.org.uk using the Course Code of Q00023117. If you prefer to book by telephone, please call the WEA Central Support Team on 0300 303 3464 or call Margaret Wass (a member of Great Bardfield's WEA Branch committee) on 01371 810498 for more information.

The Tuesday Club

We all enjoyed our summer events, but in September it was time to return to our schedule of speakers, starting on 9th September with the return of Amanda Sutherland, a talented and imaginative designer and seamstress, whose work has included designing costumes for the Bond films and the London Opera House, before establishing her own brand in recent years.

This time she was telling us how to Make Do and Mend, turning outdated clothing and charity shop finds into stylish new favourites. Who could imagine an old pair of stretchy leggings becoming a little bolero to wear with that little black dress! The bunting made from old ties was a favourite of mine, who doesn't need more bunting? She brought along a selection of her handmade jewellery, scarves, wrist warmers, turban headbands (think glamorous Land Girls) and 'Downton Abbey' hats, and quite a few Christmas presents were purchased, as well as treats for ourselves.

Never one to stand still, she has recently studied for a diploma in Creative Hypnotherapy, helping people with their fears, phobias and chronic pain. Her new presentation on this sounds fascinating and we hope that she may be able to return to speak to us about it at a future date.

Meanwhile, our speaker on 14th October is Sheila Hasler, who will be talking to us about Dominica, it's past, present and future. Sheila has lived on this small island in the Caribbean Sea, and will be telling us about her life there.

We were pleased to welcome five visitors to our September meeting, we hope they enjoyed their afternoon with us and look forward to seeing them again. Visitors pay £5 including refreshments, so if you see a poster showing something you think may interest you please come along, you will be very welcome. Doors open at 2.00 and meetings start at 2.30.

Cherry Whitby

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

GREAT BARDFIELD TUESDAY CLUB

DOMINICA



A talk by Sheila Hasler

*“A Cinder-Ella of an island, protected by nature
and its people for so long”*

*Sheila will talk about the island’s past, present
and future, it’s geology and history, and the life
she lived on the island.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025 at 2.30

GREAT BARDFIELD TOWN HALL

Non-members of the Tuesday Club are very welcome

Visitors: £5 per talk

Town Hall Happenings

On Sunday 14th September we held the finals of the 2025 Village Boules Tournament. Although the weather was not perfect there was a good crowd to see the two semi-finals and final. After some close games Ian and Alex Ruffle won the final and were presented with the fantastic trophy by Madame Boules.



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

Thanks go to everyone who took part, helped on the day and in particular to Carolynne Ruffle for organising everything. Next year's final will be on 26th September 2026.

Our next event is our CRAFT FAIR on Saturday 11th October from 10am until 4pm. A good opportunity to purchase some early Christmas gifts.

Go to www.greatbardfieldtownhall.com to see updates, events and contact details. We have also updated our website.

John Maidman

Chair Great Bardfield Town Hall



GREAT BARDFIELD *Fireworks Display*

Saturday 1st November 2025

GATES OPEN AT 5:30PM | DISPLAY STARTS AT 7:00PM

BBQ AND HOG ROAST | BAR | LIGHT UP TOYS

PRE-BOOKED ENTRY PRICES

ADULTS: £8.00

UNDER 16: £2.00

FAMILY: £20.00

(2 Adults & 3 Children)

UNDER 4: FREE

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OR VISIT

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BARDFIELDFIREWORKS

ON THE GATE TICKETS - SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

ADULT: £9.00 | UNDER 16: £2.00 | UNDER 4: FREE

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

Children must be accompanied by an adult

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.

Boules Finals Day – 14th September 2025

Boules players are a hardy lot and so, it seems, are the spectators. Rain was forecast for the afternoon of Boules Finals Day and, though the first game or two were completed in the dry, the rain soon came in. Thank goodness for the gazebos put up over the spectator seating areas by the Town Hall committee. The players did not have that luxury and with rain-proof coats on, or in some case not on, as it impeded the all-important throwing arm, the competitors put up with the damp conditions. No 'Rain Stopped Play' in this competition. Cricketers would just have gone in for tea.

This year's competition started in May with a record 54 teams of all ages and abilities, and now we were down to the final 4 teams – Tom & Louise Grinstead, Simon & Lorraine King, Ian & Alex Ruffle and Ian &

Anni Woodcock. At 2pm the draw was taken to see who would play who, with young Master French pulling the names out of Madame Boules' beret.

First up, Tom & Louise against Simon & Lorraine. They had hoped to meet in the final. Some excellent boules as usual from all players and a very close match with Simon & Lorraine drawing ahead but Tom & Louise clawing it back. As the



scoreboard below shows it could hardly have been closer, but the Kings pipped it with both games going their way, 13-11.

The second semi-final started as the rain came in. Ian & Alex were on top form and though there were some very close ends, their placement and most of Alex's bombing paid off. The first game was close, another 13-11, but Ian & Alex pulled away to win the second game 13-7.

Despite the weather everyone was in good spirits, and the crowd enjoyed the afternoon watching some excellent shots and surprise results, clapping, cheering and as the wine & beer took effect, getting quite boisterous. John Maidman's burgers and hotdogs were also going down well, Patricia Walsh was serving soft drinks, and Julie McSween had kindly brought some yummy cheese sablé biscuits to pass round the crowd.

On to the Final! Ian & Alex and Lorraine & Simon played some excellent close shots. The crowd oohed and aahed and the gazebos dripped water into people's shoes but most of the crowd stayed put, enjoying the game to the end. The final score was 13-7, 13-1 to the Ruffles. Well-deserved though not the favourites for the title. The trophy will be on another mantelpiece this year but there is always next year....

Semi Finals			Scores				
Simon & Lorraine	v	Tom & Louise	2	-	0	13-11	13-11
Ian & Alex	v	Ian & Anni	2	-	0	13-11	13-7

Final			Scores				
Ian & Alex	v	Simon & Lorraine	2	-	0	13-8	13-1

**Au revoir,
Madame Boules**

Horticultural Society

The Bardfield Horticultural Society

Summer Show was held in the Town Hall on Saturday, August 2nd. Several days before the show we wondered how many exhibits we would receive as we



Many visitors enjoying the flower section

had had so little rain! On the day we were absolutely delighted to see so many wonderful entries for every section of the show; lots of flowers and vegetables, floral art, domestic, handicrafts and children's. We were very pleased to include a lovely display of pictures (56) coloured by Bardfield School pupils.



A small sample of the vast range in the vegetable section

We had 16 new adult exhibitors including a number of our allotment holders which was refreshing — thank you all for your entries. We also had 7 new children enter exhibits.

In the afternoon we had an amazing number of visitors looking round the show. They enjoyed benches full of colourful flowers including some amazing dahlias and pot plants, lots of vegetables, floral art displays depicting “Down on the Allotment”, some floral arrangements in a

chocolate box, interesting handicrafts, cakes and preserves in the domestic section and plenty of “Sea Shore” photographs. The children made miniature sea scenes on a plate and some also decorated spoons. There was also a well populated plant stall and raffle which were both well supported.

Tea and homemade cakes were served at The Bell Inn next door to the hall. Thank you Zoey and Scott – we very much appreciated being able to hold the refreshments with you. Thank you, also to Helena and Adrian, for serving the teas and cakes. Donations were



Some of the entries for the Handicraft section

gratefully received and given to the Horticultural Society.

For the first time this year we initiated a Certificate for a Novice class in the Flower Section—this was awarded to Mrs J. Rees

A huge “thank you” to everyone who entered and visited the show. It was lovely to see everyone. Here is a list of the winners of the Cups, Trophies and Shields for the Summer Show 2025: **Congratulations to you all – well done.**

Exhibition Perpetual Challenge Cup
Highest points in the Flower Section

Mr A. Ripley and Mr P.G. Morris
Joint winners

Brunwin Perpetual Challenge Trophy
Best Flower Exhibit in Show

Mr P.G. Morris

The Cecil Monk (Toot) Cup
Best Gladiolus Spike in Show

Mr P.G. Morris

Coronation Perpetual Challenge Cup
Highest points in the Vegetable Section

Mr P.G. Morris

P.G.Morris Perpetual Challenge Cup
Second highest points in Vegetable Section

Mr A. Ripley

Bardfield Times October 2025

Worshipful Company of Gardeners Diploma in Horticulture

Best Vegetable Exhibit Mr P.G. Morris

Bob Gray Trophy Mr A. Ripley

Best Potato

Banksian Medal Mr P.G. Morris

Highest points in Horticultural Sections: Flowers and Vegetables

Domestic Perpetual Challenge Cup Mrs J.T. Morris

Highest points in the Domestic Section

Domestic Shield Mrs M. Carter

Best Exhibit in Domestic Section

Men's Domestic Cup Mr M. Rees

Best Exhibit in class 48

Palmer Perpetual Challenge Trophy Mrs M. Boon

Highest points in the Floral Art Section

Worshipful Company of Gardeners Certificate of Merit for Floral Art

Best Floral Arrangement Mrs M. Carter

Clucas Perpetual Challenge Cup Mrs M. Edwards and Mrs J. Beanland

Highest points in the Handicraft Section

CR Tubbs Perpetual Challenge Shield Maddy Woodcock

Children age 9+ years

Evelyn Swift Challenge Shield Harry Walmsley

Children age 5 – 8 years

Tony Hayward Challenge Shield Emily Walmsley

Most points in Spring and Summer Shows - Childrens

Bardfield Horticultural Challenge Trophy Mrs J.T. Morris

Highest points in Spring (sections 2,3&4) and Summer (sections 3,4&5) Shows

Reg Dent Perpetual Challenge Cup Mr P.G. Morris

Most points in Spring and Summer Shows

President's Award Mrs M. Carter

For Outstanding Services to the Society

Inter Village Cup Bardfield

**Please don't forget to come to our AGM
in the Town Hall
at 7.00pm on Tuesday, October 21st.**

We look forward to seeing you all there.

After the formal meeting we will have cheese and wine followed by a talk. Our speaker this year will be Suzy Nicholson, Gardener at Spains Hall. The title of her talk will be "*Experience of a Gardener*"

There will be raffle and you will be able to renew your membership by paying cash or electronically** see below.

Annual Membership is £5.00pp and has the benefits of reduced prices to our events.

This should be a very enjoyable and interesting evening - so do come along to enjoy.

Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances, we will not be holding our Autumn Social this year.

Another date for your diary—**Friday, December 5th Floral Art** morning in the Quaker Meeting House 10.00am until 12.30.

The theme is 'A Seasonal Table Decoration'. All materials will be supplied. £15 per person. Refreshments are supplied and raffle tickets will be available to purchase.

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 07969 184845 for a ticket.

**Electronic payment as follows:

Account name: Bardfield Horticultural Society

Sort code: 09 01 55

Account number: 02585706

Please put your surname and 'membership' as the reference.

Many hands make light work....

Members of the BHS committee are sharing out the jobs involved in running the wonderful events we hold each year. We help each other and work as a team, having fun while we go. We are a very friendly bunch and will be really pleased if anyone would like to join us.

Tasks are large and small, some individual and some in a group. If you would like to take part in one of the enjoyable and rewarding roles ranging from organising a garden visit or speaker, manning a plant stall, running a raffle, helping with the Horticultural Shows or a range of administrative tasks please come and join us.

If you have some time to spare, or would like to find out more, please contact Linda Prior.

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



New community pavilion now fully open!



Suitable for:

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

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

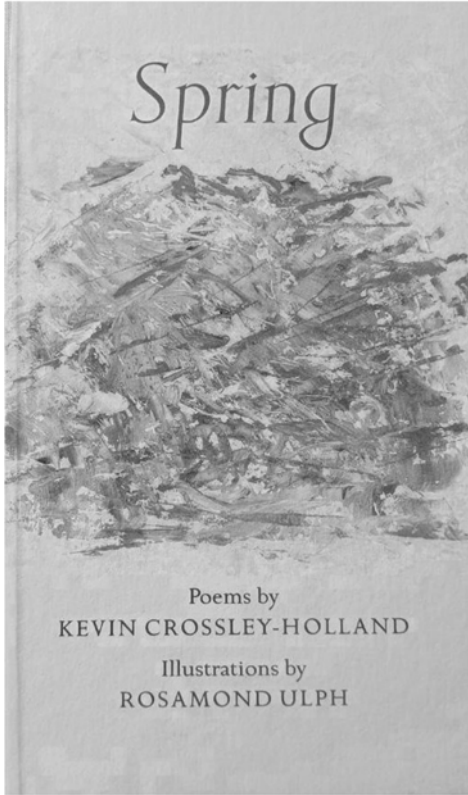
Facilities include:

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

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

The Pavilion Committee

October at Between the Lines: Two Poetry Evenings



October brings not one but two poetry events to Between the Lines.

On our normal third Thursday slot (16/10/25) we have Poetry Club at 7:30 pm with people reading favourite poems: poems they have written or ones they have read and loved.

The following week, 7:30 pm on Thursday 23/10/25, we have a book launch. You may have noticed two beautiful poetry collections at Between the Lines, illustrated by Rosamond Ulph; Kevin Crossley-Holland, Carnegie Medal and Guardian Children's Fiction Prize winning author, poet, and Anglo-Saxon translator will be with us to launch his collection "Spring". He'll be reading from that and other recent collections, with conversation over drinks to follow.

See you there.

Sing 4 Charity

A Concert in aid of the Creamer Fund

Saturday, November 8th at 7.30pm

Wethersfield Village Hall

A programme of popular songs
by local choirs and musical groups



Community Garden - Help Us Bloom!

The Bardfield Quakers are looking to transform the historic meeting house garden into a haven of flowers, wildlife and peace for everyone in the Great Bardfield Community to enjoy - and you can be part of it!

Join our Silent Auction now (from 1st to 30th Sept) and bid for a stunning original painting by acclaimed East Anglian artist Paul Evans, or donate to our GoFundMe page. Every pound raised will help transform our community garden for everyone to enjoy.

To bid or donate, please visit the website below or scan the bar code.



Scan the code, or go to
bardfieldquakers.org.uk to learn more



From the Vicarage...

October is a month which, as the change of season mixes with the Church calendar, sees the culmination of Harvest Festival services. The cycle of harvest activities, begun back in July, draws to a close, and churches are decked out in produce amidst the rich colours of autumn. For communities such as ours, which include farms and those who own, run and work on them, harvest has a deeper significance than simply being an annual ritual – we get a flavour of the fact that not all harvests are equal, and that the feelings accompanying harvest thanksgiving vary accordingly.

This year has been a generally difficult one for farmers; the lack of rain over many months has not been good for most crops, and this comes at a time when much farming finance was already in a precarious position. It means that reflecting on the harvest season gives us a few more things to think about.

Firstly, it is a reminder to us that real gratitude for the food we eat means not taking it for granted. We are so used to the idea that technology can shield us from most problems that it is easy to forget that we are still dependent on our environment for our continued flourishing, and even our survival. The farming community feels this dependence year on year, and keeping harvest in a way which is attentive to the realities of each season's yield helps remind those of us who are not so directly connected to the land.

Secondly, it makes us think more deeply about issues of justice concerned with access to the essentials for life. When food is scarcer, the principles of sharing and just distributing of the earth's produce become more critically important. With food prices having risen noticeably in recent years, the now well-established support of food banks around harvest time has become an essential element of our society's social support.

The Bible contains many accounts of difficult harvests, and they are often accompanied by moral lessons: they show the contrast between those who hoard and those who share (the latter generally coming out

better in the end); they often accompany the accounts of rulers who have considered themselves invincible, who then learn that wealth and armies can only shield them so far when the land is against them. If a difficult harvest reminds us, then, of anything, it is the reverence due to the earth and those who work close to it. What comes from their work is a precious and sacred gift, and our relationship to it runs deeper than simply what we eat.

Rev'd/Fr Alex

Services for October 2025

Sunday 5 October

- 9am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Cornish Hall End
- 9.30am Harvest Festival – Shalford
- 10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield
- 11am Prayer & Pilgrimage (Celtic Morning Prayer) – Wethersfield
- 5pm Compline (Night Prayer) with reflection – Little Bardfield

Sunday 12 October

- 8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford
- 9.30am Pet Service – Finchingfield
- 10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
- 11am Holy Communion – Wethersfield
- 5pm Sung Evensong – Wethersfield

Sunday 19 October

- 8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield
- 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford
- 10.30am Sung Communion Service for Harvest – Great Bardfield
- 11am Family Service – Wethersfield

Sunday 26 October

- 8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield
- 9.30am Parish Communion – Shalford
- 10.30am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
- 11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

Regular Services and Events during the week

- Monday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield
1.30pm 'Faithful Fiction' book club (1st weeks) –
Between the Lines, Great Bardfield
- Tuesday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Great Bardfield
10am Baby & Toddler Group – Great Bardfield
'St Mary's Munchkins' story & song time with refreshments
- 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

DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE OF USING DIGIGO?

The Parish Council wish to know your experiences, positive and negative, of using the DigiGo bus service as we approach the anniversary of its commencement.

- Do you use DigiGo regularly and find the service ideal for your needs?
- Does it get you to work, college, hospital appointment, shopping?
- Have you found it difficult to book a ride?
- Can you rely on the service to arrive for the time booked?
- Where does DigiGo take you? Braintree? Dunmow, Other Locations?

We would love your feedback as the Parish Council continues to monitor the service and whether it is providing for the transport needs of our communities.

**Please forward your comments, good or bad, to
clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk**

Royal British Legion

Finchingfield and District Branch

Remembrance Day 11 November

Service in church on Sunday 9th and on the green around the War Memorial on Tuesday 11th. As usual, our local schools will be putting on an Art Exhibition in the church during the week before Remembrance Sunday. The theme this year is “Life in the 1040s”.

Branch AGM

Wednesday 19 November at 7.30 in Finchingfield Guildhall. **Please support your local branch by attending.**

Carol Service 6 December 3pm

This year we are again hosting a Carol Service on behalf of the “C” Group in Finchingfield Church. We warmly welcome all families to this service.

London Lights Trip

A trip to see the Christmas Lights is arranged for Saturday 13 December, leaving Finchingfield at 4 pm. Cost: £15 per person. **BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.**

Contacts: Chairman: Ivan Fleming 07525 751179
isskhs@googlemail com

Secretary: Janet Ridgewell 01371 810051
janet.ridgewell510@btinternet.com

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Sunday 09:00 – 15:00



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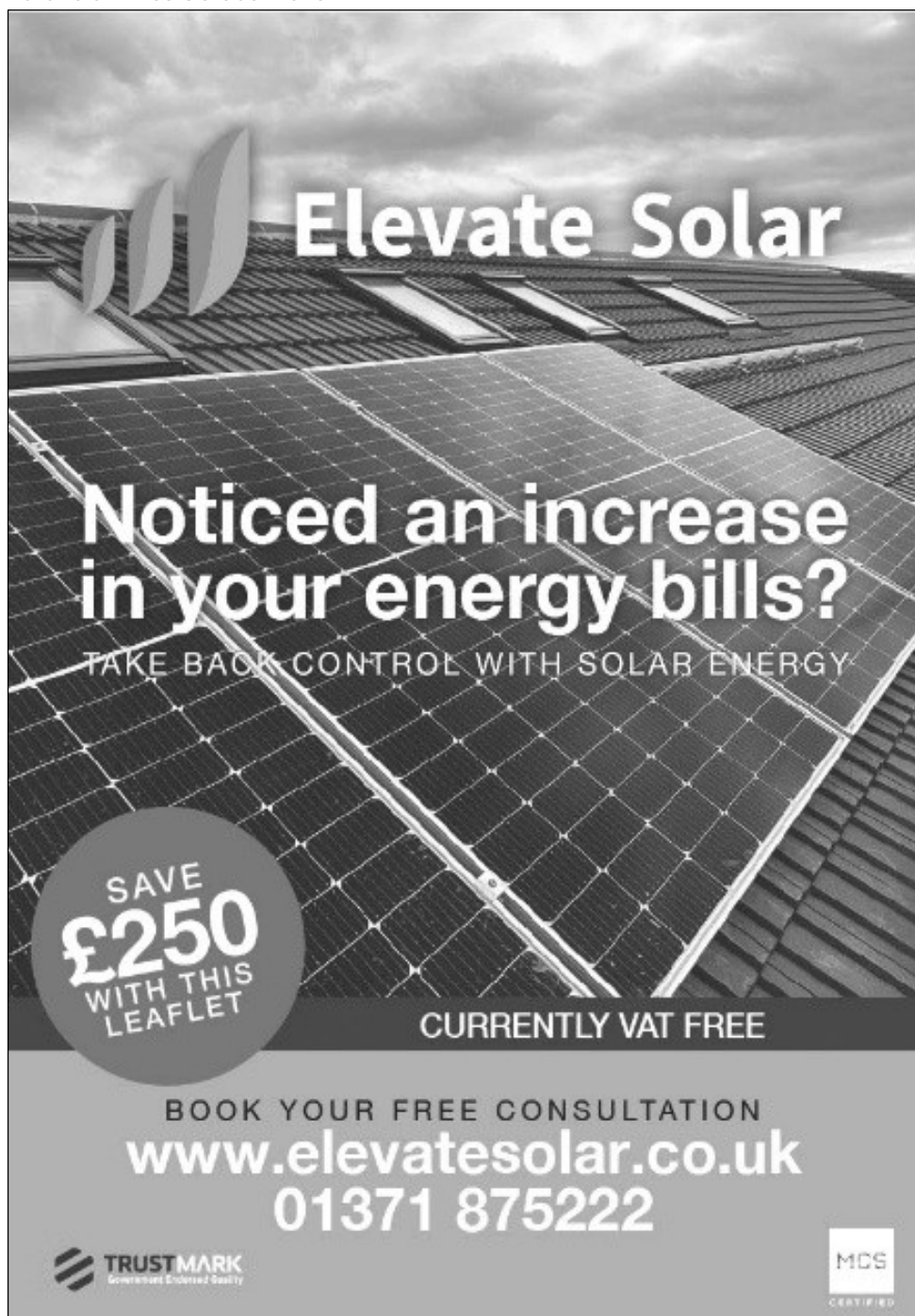
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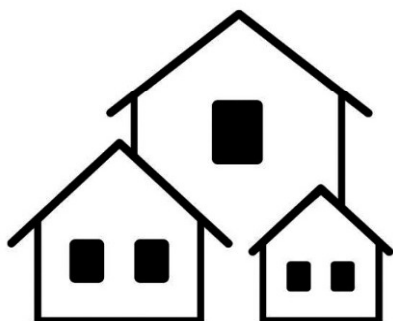
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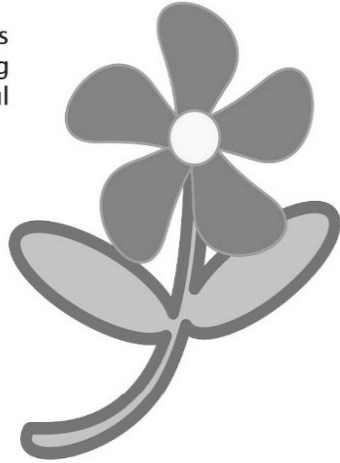
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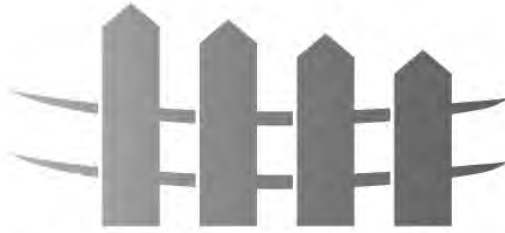
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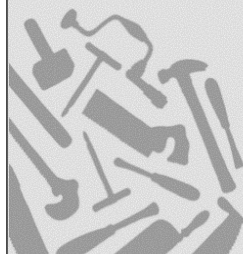
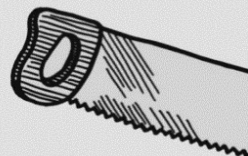
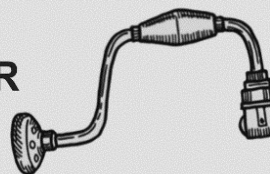
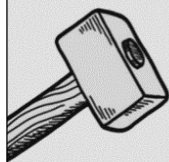


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Town Hall Diary

October 2025

Wednesday 1 st	Pilates Class	11.00am
Thursday 2 nd	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Sunday 5 th	Private Booking	10.00am
Tuesday 7 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 8 th	Pilates Class	11.00am
	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm
Thursday 9 th	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Friday 10 th	Set up for Craft Show	2.00pm
Saturday 11 th	Craft Show	10.00am
Tuesday 14 th	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Tuesday Club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 15 th	Pilates Class	11.00am
Thursday 16 th	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Friday 17 th	Cinema Club	7.30pm
Saturday 18 th	School Bingo	7.30pm
Tuesday 21 st	Dance Fit Class	9.30am
	Mobility & Balance	10.30am
	Horticultural Society	7.00pm
Wednesday 22 nd	Pilates Class	11.00am
Thursday 23 rd	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Saturday 25 th	Private Booking	7.00pm
Tuesday 28 th	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 29 th	Pilates Class	11.00am
Thursday 30 th	Bardfield Players	7.00pm

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Councillors Janet Dyson 07957 483207
Iain Graham 07831 595555
Darren Hockley 810836
Peter Walmsley 07843 498253
Mark Wells 07788 318118
Richard Winsborough 07917462320

Little Bardfield Parish

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

Braintree District Council

Councillors Cllr Michael Staines 07922 487666
Cllr Mark Ault 07903 744481

Uttlesford District Council

Councillor Cllr Mike Tayler cllrtayler@uttlesford.gov.uk
Police for non-emergency enquiries dial 101
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1st Finchingfield Scout Group Mark Wells 810447 mark.2millside@btinternet.com

Bardfield Charities Nick Holland 07795 280647

Bardfield Horticultural Society Linda Prior 07969 184845

Bardfield Players Ian Ruffle 810986

Gt Bardfield Allotments Adrian Thomson

Gt Bardfield Bell Ringers Nick & Sarah Holland 810209

Gt Bardfield Historical Society tim_regan82@hotmail.com

Gt Bardfield Pre-School Kathy King 811580

Gt Bardfield Primary School admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk 810252

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Parish Priest Gt & Lt Bardfield Fr Alex Shannon 810309/07483 878659

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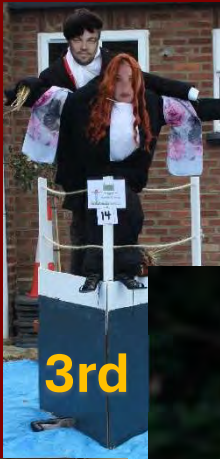
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