



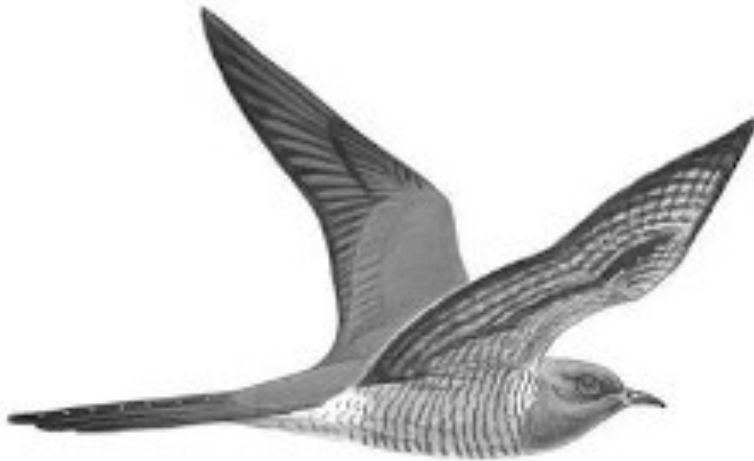
HARTFORD HUNDRED WEST
Bayford, Brickendon, Essendon,
Little Berkhamsted & Ponsbourne.



THE
**PARISH
MAGAZINE**

**April
2022**

**Price
60p**



Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

see page 26
image: rspb

DIOCESE OF ST. ALBANS



The Bishop of St Albans: The Rt. Revd. Dr. Alan Smith
The Bishop of Hertford: The Rt Revd Dr Michael Beasley
Archdeacon: The Venerable Janet Mackenzie .
Rural Dean: The Revd. Mark Dunstan
Assistant Rural Dean:

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RECTOR: Rev'd Theresa Musiwacho,

Hartford Hundred Rectory,
1 Little Berkhamsted Lane, Little Berkhamsted, SG13 8LU.
Telephone: 01707 875940 email - hartfordhundred@outlook.com

*Communion to the sick, Notice of Banns and of Marriage by arrangement with the Minister.
Please advise us of any cases of sickness so that prayers may be offered
or where they may be of any assistance.*

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01992 511041

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Mrs S Maniez. 11a Ashdene Road, Bayford,
SG13 8PX, **01992 511542**

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West End, Broxboume, EN10 7QN
01992 465304

ORGANIST

Mrs V Haryott, Wellpond Cottage, Brickendon,
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TREASURER

c/o Hartford Hundred Rectory

ORGANIST

Mr P Minchinton, 14 Byfield, Welwyn Garden
City, AL8 7AL **01707 323742**

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Dr M E Wainwright. 12 Church Road, Little
Berkhamsted, SG13 8LY. **01707 875970**
parishmag@begesford.co.uk

ST MARY THE VIRGIN - ESSENDON & WOODHILL

D ear All

Revd Theresa Musiwacho



Weddings, Baptisms and other matters

Saturday Registration is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month
10.00 am to 11.30 am at Little Berkhamsted Church.

If you, or someone you know is interested in a wedding or baptism, or just have
a question for our Rector, we will be happy to see you.

All are welcome, you do not need an appointment, just turn up.

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It is now possible to donate to any one
of our churches on-line via the donate
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website www.hartfordhundred.org.uk

Thank you.

INVIGILATORS REQUIRED at Richard Hale School in Hertford.

Please contact Liz Bradbury
(ebr@richardhale.co.uk) for further
information or visit our website at
www.richardhale.herts.sch.uk/
vacancies/ where details of the post
and application forms can be found.

My apologies to any readers who were
misled by the advertised times for the
special Confirmation Service in last
month's magazine. One entry was
labelled 9:30am (incorrectly) and the
other three 10:30am (correctly). I am
not sure how many people arrived an
hour early, but it is better than arriving
an hour late! **Editor.**

APRIL CALENDAR

3rd April 5th Sunday of Lent

9:30am Parish Communion & Sunday Club	Essendon
9:30am Family Service	Ponsbourne
11am Parish Communion	Brickendon

Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday

9:30am Parish Communion	Bayford
9:30am Family Service CANCELLED	Essendon
11am Family Service	Little Berkhamsted

14th April Maundy Thursday

8pm Parish Communion	Bayford
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15th April Good Friday

11:30am Zoom	Online
12noon 1hr at the Cross	Little Berkhamsted
6:30pm Evening Service	Essendon

16th April Easter Eve

7pm Easter Lights/vigil	Ponsbourne
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Sunday 17th April Easter Day

9:30 am Parish Communion	Essendon
9:30am Parish Communion	Ponsbourne
11:15am Parish Communion	Brickendon
11:15am Parish Communion	Little Berkhamsted

Sunday 24th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Parish Communion	Little Berkhamsted
11:00 am Family Service	Bayford
6:30 am Evensong	Essendon

Wednesdays

9:30 am Parish Communion	Essendon
10:00 am Telephone Service	Free Telephone

Joining instructions for both the Zoom and telephone services are available from hartfordhundred@outlook.com

On-Line Bible Study Group

The Bible Study happens twice a month on a Wednesday in the 1st week (Zoom 7-8pm) and 3rd week (in person 7-8.30pm). We take a break in December and April as well as the summer months. We choose a theme, then follow a programme which runs for about six weeks but each individual evening study is self contained. If you are interested in joining us or wish information please email: mckellartrish@gmail.com

PILATES

Essendon Village Hall
As well as live on Zoom
Monday 7pm - All levels
Thursday 9.30am - All levels



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www.fittawithpilates.com

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07718386195

keti.snee@googlemail.com

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Street Pastors.



On Sunday 24th April, at **Bayford Church Family Service at 11.00am** we have a visiting speaker, David Elder who is the co-ordinator of Hertford and Ware Street Pastors. If you ever wondered who the Street Pastors are that roam the streets of Ware and Hertford at night, what they do and why they do it, please come along.

Mass and Memorial for Celia Rochford

Mass: 12 noon on Saturday 28th May
At the Catholic Church of St Joseph and Immaculate Conception, St Johns St., Hertford SG14 1RX

Parking is limited so please plan to use the car parks nearest the Church.

Reception to follow: Joseph Rochford Gardens, Pipers End, Letty Green. SG14 2PB

Please respond to lizzer@btinternet.com if you would wish to attend. If you are unable to attend but would like to be able to join in celebrating her life we are hoping to have a video link to the service. Please contact Lizzer for this link.

Subscription Renewals. £6 per annum (£18 postal)

We trust that receipt of the magazine each month has in some way played a part in getting through what has been a most demanding past twelve months for many of us. Hopefully, better times are ahead of us in 2022.

The renewal of your **Annual Subscription** was due in **January** and has reverted back to the pre-pandemic rate of £6 for twelve copies. Your local distributor will collect the money, cash being preferable, but cheques are also acceptable. The price for postal copies has increased to £18, reflecting the current Second-Class large letter rate, together with the cost of the magazine.

All cheques payable to 'Hartford Hundred West Parish Magazine'

We thank you for your ongoing support and wish you well in 2022.

So, what do we do with all of the monies?

Not an unreasonable question to be asked by one of our new advertisers, but one I hadn't been faced with before. In the spirit of openness and accountability, I have no hesitation in sharing with our readers where the monies come in from and how this is then spent.

Our two principal sources of income come from our 500 readers and their annual subscriptions - £6 this year - and from our 50 plus local businesses advertising their services within the parishes. We also receive a number of donations from our subscribers, for which we are very grateful. Now that interest rates are so low, interest on our deposit monies is negligible - 79p in the last calendar quarter of 2021!

Turning to our expenditure, we aim to cover the cost of having the magazine printed each month by the subscriptions received, but this is proving challenging this year against the backdrop of rising prices wherever you look. We also make some small ongoing contributions to the costs of running the Parish Office.

Surpluses have been accumulated over the past few years, primarily from the advertising monies received, and have been held in our bank deposit account until such time that deserving causes have been identified to make best use of these hard earned monies. Last year we made equal distributions to each of the four Parochial Church Councils (PCCs), to bolster their income which had been hit hard during the Covid pandemic. We have also just made a significant donation to the Ukraine Appeal through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) - please see separate article from our Editor.

Full accounts are prepared each year, which in turn are examined by our Independent Examiner before being placed before the Parish Magazine Team for adoption at our annual meeting.

Hopefully, this article will assure our readers that all financial contributions received, however small, are put to good use in furthering the needs of all of our parishioners in whichever way we can.

PC

The Parish Magazine is going on-line

As part of the ongoing development of the Parish Magazine, we are now trialling during 2022 the option for subscribers and advertisers alike to be able to access the latest monthly offering both in hard copy and on-line.

Access to this months and subsequent

months magazine can be gained by typing the following link into the address bar of your internet web browser:

www.begesford.co.uk/ParishMag

Then click on 'Enter' on your PC keyboard or 'Search' on your mobile device (tablet or 'phone) to navigate to the latest magazine, as well as all

back copies in the months ahead.

Not only will current subscribers and advertisers be able to access the magazine on-line, but this development will allow access to a much wider audience of readers and thus potential customers to our existing advertisers at no cost to them.

We hope that our current hard copy subscribers will take the opportunity to access the on-line version on

occasions during the year to assist them in making a conscious decision on their preferred format going forward into 2023.

Please do not hesitate in coming back to our editor, Mike Wainwright, with any feedback, either positive or negative, on this progression in order that we may take further steps in meeting the needs of our readers.

MW

Disaster Emergency Committee

A Ukrainian soldier says goodbye to his girlfriend at the station.



Ukraine Appeal Donation of £1,000 from Magazine funds.

As mentioned opposite by our Hon. Treasurer, Peter Chivers, the Parish Magazine Team have made a donation of £1,000 to the Ukraine Appeal from Magazine funds.

Anne Mitcheson

45 years ago, Anne and George Mitcheson moved into Farmleigh in Berkhamsted Lane and shortly afterwards they joined the congregation of St Mary's Essendon. Anne still tells of the warm welcome they received on that first visit. The need to welcome and be interested in newcomers and regulars alike has been a constant theme of Anne's, and rarely has she not been a welcoming presence at the door.

In 1990 Anne became deputy Churchwarden and three years later, Churchwarden, forming a formidable team with Molly Freak, and subsequently with Beresford Thomson and now with Paul Wombwell: three decades of highly successful, amicable teamwork.

When the Mitchesons first arrived, St Mary's was facing an enormous challenge. The condition of the roof had been ignored for too long and the Parish faced an emergency. George led the call for action and with others started a restoration campaign to raise the considerable money needed. Importantly, following its success, The Friends of St Mary's was set up to build on this and provide funds for future projects.

Anne and George continued to support the Church financially (much of it anonymously), and to give their time and energy over many years. They both strongly supported many aspects of Essendon village life.

The first major challenge for Anne as Churchwarden came with the retirement of the Reverend John Cotton. Anne has always preferred action to meditation. Anne, together with the other churchwardens, tried

to set up a meeting with the Patron, the previous Marquis of Salisbury, but all to no avail. Eventually the Bishop "suspended the living" to allow John's curate, Pauline Higham, to become Priest in Charge. And thereby was achieved a smooth transition for Pauline to become our new Priest-in-charge (later to be Rector). The link between Parish Priest and Churchwarden is a vital one, and the loyalty and support Anne provided Reverend Pauline contributed to the well-being of St Mary's and its community for many years. Anne has been able to offer similar support to Reverend Theresa during the last two years.

The second major challenge for Anne came with the PCC's decision to build a church room. This was an extremely fraught and draining episode in our Church's life, particularly for the Churchwardens and the Rector. Anne and Reverend Pauline's determination kept our spirits up when the project seemed doomed. Importantly, Anne reminded those of us involved in the project to remember that the opposition were our neighbours and members of the village community. She was determined to remain on good terms with everyone despite heightened passions.

The third major challenge was Reverend Pauline's retirement. St Mary's owes Anne, supported by Paul, an enormous debt of gratitude for the maintenance of the Church's life during the ensuing vacancy. All the Churchwardens came together during this time, working and becoming a strong team; Anne was a leading light

in this Group and together they ensured that not one service was missed during the vacancy. Additionally, she, with two other members of our congregation, having previously trained as Lay Leaders of Worship, served all the Churches in our Group. Regularly giving a talk as a substitute for the sermon was not a role Anne would have envisaged when agreeing to be a Churchwarden all those years before. (In fact, the only job in Church life that Anne has refused is to join the flower roster).

There is so much to remember about the many ways in which Anne has carried out her duties: she has been a loyal and supportive friend to three Rectors; she has focused tirelessly in involving as many people as possible in the activities of the church; she has ensured no special anniversaries in

our congregations have been forgotten; she has given sterling support to the parish magazine editor. Visitors to Gardens Open Day have gone away with plants dug up on the spot from Farmleigh garden; weeds have been kept at bay in the churchyard; church heating checked before services and service books set out ready. Many individuals and families have known her friendship and generosity. She has sat by the ill and dying and visited the bereaved. In one person, Anne has personified the church's outreach.

Practical, rural Christianity, based on kindness and a keen sense of duty, a worshipper in the traditional Church of England all her life: Anne, we salute you, thank you, and wish you many happy years in your new home.

JT

Farewell to Gerry and Eileen

In 2003 Gerry became Churchwarden of the Bayford Parish, which of course incorporates Brickendon. Gerry's particular responsibility was for Brickendon. His involvement in the Church cannot be underestimated and it is difficult to put down in writing all he has done for the Chapel that he loves so much. Many people will remember the warm welcome he provided to all visitors. It has been a feature that has made such a difference.

At roughly the same time as Gerry

became Churchwarden, Eileen was elected Treasurer of Bayford PCC, and the Council is more than grateful for the efficient and quiet way she has carried out this position. As well as being a well-known and successful optometrist, Eileen and Gerry have been a formidable team.

We will miss them enormously and thank them so much for their friendship. We wish them a long and happy retirement in Gibraltar

VH



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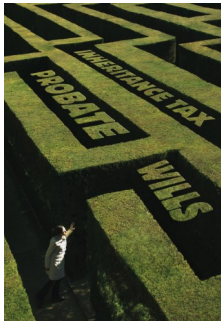
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Bayford and Brickendon PCC Treasurer

Eileen Gay is stepping down after many years of faithful service as Treasurer of the PCC when she and Gerry move away to live permanently in Gibraltar.

It is an important task, but not too demanding in time, and it would be much valued and appreciated if a volunteer could be found to take over. You do not need to be an accountant or skilled in figures, or a member of the congregation – just a willingness to help our local parish affairs.

If you are willing to help, or can suggest anyone who can do so, please contact **Gerry or Eileen Gay – 01992 465304** or **Colin Taylor – 01992 511041**

Sunday Club St Mary's Church, Essendon



The first Sunday of the month
in the Church room
9.30am - 11.00am

Each session will include a story or chat, activities, games and refreshments

You are very welcome to leave your children or stay and enjoy the morning with us

if you would like any further information, please contact Pauline Alleyne on 07979 505104

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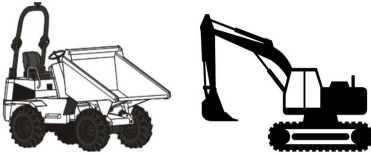
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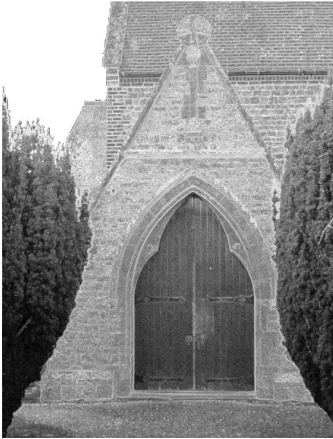
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Bayford

St. Mary's Church

The Church is open on Wednesdays.

Church Cleaning
Sandra Maniez and Andrea Trendler

BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL.

To read the accounts, minutes and agendas just Google 'Bayford Parish Council' and follow the link to 'Minutes'.

Rose Triangle

The Parish Council is looking of ways to improve the appearance of the rose triangle. Over the last several years it has been gradually eroded by traffic.

We are considering putting bollards at the three corners, and granite sets to form a kerb along the edges.

It is not clear at present if we are able to undertake this work or whether this will be a job for HCC.

Meetings.

Meetings are once again taking place in The Memorial Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend. Masks may be worn and hand sanitiser will be provided. Seating will observe '*social distancing*' recommendations.

The next meetings:

16th May.

Please see the web site for information and minutes.
Michael Wainwright (Dr),
Chairman.

pc@begesford.co.uk,
01707 875970.

Please check the web site
www.begesford.co.uk

The Parish Council has purchased a tree, to be planted on the village green to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

The Baker Arms.

Bookings open for Easter Sunday,

Please book early to avoid
disappointment.

We will be doing a **Quiz Night** soon
watch this space.

Should you need **Accommodation** for
the Easter Week end we do have
availability.

Please call or pop in for a chat
01992 511235

We look forward to seeing you all
Martin & Beverley

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Save the date - Friday 3rd June

Bayford will be holding a jubilee picnic
on the village green from 2pm to 5pm
on Friday 3rd June (the Jubilee bank
holiday).

More details to follow but please save
the date.

For more information please speak to
Katie Neilson (07962 232535) or
Jason Ruben (07515 490387).

Knitting and Crocheting Group

A group of us have started meeting in
the Baker Arms on the first and
third Wednesdays of the month.
We have everyone from complete
beginners to experts and everyone
is welcome. The April meetings are
Wednesday 6th and Wednesday
20th. For more information, please
contact Caroline Fletcher on 07919
317212.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Bayford

Maureen and I are keen to make a
small exhibition of **Bygone Bayford**
for our afternoon celebration at the
Cricket Field on the afternoon of 3rd
June.

We would love to borrow any old
photographs you have of the village
(which your name on the back for
their return). Much has changed over
the years and it would be lovely for
'newcomers' to see photographs of
how things used to be. Although we
have both lived in the village for
decades we sadly do not have many
photographs so if you are able to help
us to put together a decent display we
would be very grateful.

Contact Maureen Whyman 511344 or
Joyce Mentern 511220





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Mike Aston, 01707 658644
mike@kcited.co.uk



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Brickendon

Chapel of the Holy Cross & St. Alban

Sunday 3rd April – Parish Communion at 11.00am
Easter Sunday 17th April – Easter Day Service at 11.15 am

Sunday 1st May - Parish Communion at 11.00am

**You are welcome to stay for a chat
and coffee/tea after the services**

The Church requires more volunteers as flower arrangers and cleaners. Virginia Haryott 01992 511575

Brickendon Clubs:

We have some excellent clubs in Brickendon which are always happy to welcome new members.

Book Club - meets every first Tuesday of the month at 8pm, contact **Andrea Trendler for venue - 01992 511558**

Gardening Club - Sadly the Brickendon & District Gardening Club has closed with immediate effect. JR

Friendly Club - meets third Monday afternoon every month in Fanshaws Room (the village hall), contact **Beryl Mathews on 01992 511617**

Pilates - Every Tuesday morning in Fanshaws Room (the village hall) at 9.15am, to register contact **Harriet Barton, 07944 500504 or pilateswithharriet@hotmail.com**

Fanshaws Room (the village hall)
The village hall in Brickendon is a lovely space for meetings and other gatherings. More details and photos can be found on the village website www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk Hire

charge for non-residents is £10 per hour. All Government guidelines concerning Covid must be followed by hirers. Phone 01992 511551 for further information or to make a booking.

PLANS FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Brickendon Liberty Parish Council and Fanshaws Room Committee are planning a Picnic on the Green on Sunday 5th June from 12 noon to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. All residents of Brickendon Liberty are welcome to attend, music etc will be provided, bring your own picnic. The Parish Council are also considering commissioning a sculpture to be erected in the Parish to commemorate this jubilee.

Brickendon Liberty

Farewell to Gerry and Eileen

Saturday 9th April 2022 Bayford Village Hall – 12 noon

You are invited to a light lunch to say goodbye to Eileen and Gerry. In order to cater, please could you let either Colin Taylor (01992 511041) or Virginia Haryott (01992 511575) know if you will be able to attend. There will not be a charge for this event.

Tennis Courts.

Bookings for courts should now be made via the village website: www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk

Go to the 'Things to do' section, select Tennis and you will find a calendar which allows you to book to play. The key should still be collected from The Farmer's Boy, as before.

The fee is still £5 per court per hour for everyone. Last summer the courts and pavilion were renovated and are in excellent condition.

Brenda Lambie

Parish Council

Meetings 2022

Meetings are normally held in the Fanshaws Room at 7.30pm and all parishioners are welcome to attend and to raise any issues of concern. Agendas are posted on Noticeboards at least 3 days before the meeting.

Meetings:

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne
Brickendon Liberty Parish Council
PO BOX 81, Knebworth, SG3 6YZ

Email clerk@brickendon-liberty.org.uk
Mobile 07803 906291

**Brickendon
Petanque Boules Club**

Play at The Farmer's Boy

Winter Play Times

Tuesday 5.30pm - 7pm
Thursday 10am - 12 noon
Sunday 10am - 12 noon

Further information and enquiries contact Janet **01992 511515**



The Farmer's Boy

After 6 successful years at the helm of the Farmers Boy in Brickendon, Kevin and Mitch have decided not to renew their lease on the pub, Kevin will be retiring abroad and Mitch is beginning an exciting new project in London.

We understand the owners of the freehold have decided to take the site on themselves and run it as a managed premises.

We in the parish will be sorry to lose the present crew but wish them all the very best for the next stage in their professional and private lives. BL

Essendon

Essendon, Woodhill, Wild Hill & Woodside

St. Mary the Virgin



Flower Arrangers:
Pam Worsley.

Tennis Courts

It has been good to see so many members playing tennis on the court now it is open again and we always welcome new members.

To join the club or any questions please contact,

Nicki Whitelaw 07946300512

nicki.whitelaw@sky.com

Essendon Tennis Club Committee

Essendon Connect Coffee Mornings:

We meet in the Village Hall on Friday Mornings 9.30-11.30 - drop in any time - tea, coffee, cake and conversation - all free. We have a "swap" facility for books, DVDs and puzzles - you might just find something ideal to while away a few hours!

All Sorts Dementia Group. Social and activity group for people with mild to moderate dementia starting at Essendon Village Hall every Wednesday 10.30am till 3pm from 12th Jan. Spaces limited so please call **01279 498938** or email allsortsdg@gmail.com for more information. Website: www.allsortsdg.co.uk

The Village Hall.

For clubs, remember to check with your governing body for any specific COVID related requirements.

Tel: 07442 499601

email:

essendonvillagehall@hotmail.com

[facebook.com/essendonvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/essendonvillagehall)

essendonvillagehall.wixsite.com/

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Essendon Playing Fields Association

The AGM will take place on Thursday 17th March @ 7pm in Essendon Village Hall.

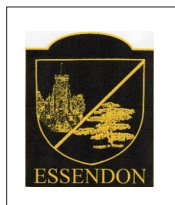
All welcome

IV



All Sorts
Dementia Group

ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL



The agenda will be available on the PC website,
(<https://www.essendonpc.org.uk/>)
and on noticeboards in the village.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.

Village Day Postponed

Dear all

After recent meetings the committee all feel a lot more positive that we will be able to put on another fantastic Essendon Village Day in the future.

We have come to the tough decision to defer this year's village day until next year 2023 However we could not feel so positive about putting on our much loved bank Holiday event next year if it wasn't for you all. We are continually grateful for your past, on going and new support.

Thank you to everyone who has come forward over the last month, whether you've got in contact or answered your door to us we really appreciate your offers of help which we will be calling on next year , when the village day will resume on bank holiday Monday 28th August 2023

We decided that with the queen's jubilee this year was a more than worthy reason to defer the event with many of our volunteers already giving up a Bank Holiday to help with the platinum Jubilee celebrations it wouldn't be fair to ask you to do it again in August . There could not be a better more deserving reason to defer the E.V.D. until 2023 the queen has given so much to us , let's make her platinum jubilee the best ever .

Please do continue to get in touch with any committee members , Colin or myself our details are below if you have any future interest in joining our team or helping in any way.

We will be in touch with all whose names we have at the end of this year/the beginning of next.

Thank you from all of the Essendon Village Day Committee.

Regards Ian.

ian@newlandconstruction.co.uk, colin4444@yahoo.com.

VACANCY FOR TREASURER

AT

ST MARY'S CHURCH ESSENDON

David Mitchell will be moving away from the area in the New Year and will be looking for a volunteer to take over as Treasurer at St Mary's Church, Essendon.

Please contact David who will be pleased to give you further information.

Thank you

David Mitchell, Telephone: 01707 659243, Email: mitchelldavid145@gmail.com

Essendon Nature Notes

It is our good fortune that for the last three years the first cuckoos of the spring recorded in Hertfordshire have been in Essendon or Wildhill. The cuckoo, arriving in mid-April, is one of our later migrants but also one of the first to depart, not surprising, given that it leaves others to do its parental duties. The cuckoo is famous for its habit of laying its egg in a host's nest and each female has a favoured species whose egg it mimics. Cuckoos are involved in an evolutionary arms race as the host gets better at identifying rogue eggs and the cuckoo, like an art-world forger, gets better at producing convincing replica colourations to match the original. The eggs which are the best counterfeits are those for which the species has been parasitising the longest and the most favoured are dunnock, meadow pipit and reed warbler.

The young cuckoo chick rolls the host's eggs out of the nest on its back and once it has completed this instinctively murderous act, the stage is set for the single cuckoo chick to monopolise the attention of its duped

foster parents and it quickly dwarfs them in size.

Despite its unusual family habits it remains one of our most loved birds. The golf course in Essendon has been a regular haunt for the last few years and it is probably the most reliable place locally to see and hear them. As it perches calling on a branch it characteristically drops its wings below its tail. The cuckoo itself is a mimic of the sparrowhawk in appearance, assisting it no doubt in flushing unsuspecting victims from their nests when looking to lay and adding to the mystery of this unusual bird.

There is nothing quite as unmistakable as the cuckoo's call but it is easy to understand why the word cuckoo has come to be associated with madness given the relentlessness of its two-note refrain. So if you are having a pint in the garden of The Woodman this month, listen out for this iconic harbinger of spring but don't let it drive you to drink.

DC

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

This June is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It would be lovely for the Village to celebrate this together. We need a Committee! Would representatives from all the Village Societies, ie Parish Council, Cricket Club, Playing Field Association, WI, Village Hall, Essendon Society, Tennis Club, School and any I have missed like to join Mandy Nevel and me to start planning events? The National Event is scheduled for Sunday 5th June, but the Bank Holiday starts on Thursday 2nd June and runs to the Sunday.

PLEASE contact us! Mandy 07967 500289 Hilary 07974 231206

Essendon Family Services, 2022

Services for families of all ages.

3rd Sunday of every month at 9.30.

(some details are still to be agreed so this calendar will be updated regularly)

Everyone is welcome!

March – Mothering Sunday, A big thank you for all mums.

April – Chickens, eggs, ducks and some very important bits for Easter. (Easter day 17th April)

April Palm Sunday, 2nd Sunday. CANCELLED.

May - Pet Service; All pets are part of our families. Let's bless them.

June – Fathers' Day. A special day for Dad.

July –Children's service – A special service run by the children

September – Harvest – A time to give thanks and think of others. Farming families most welcome.

October – Teddies: How many can we collect this time for children in Syria who have lost theirs?

November – Remembrance. Thinking about those who gave their lives for us so we can live in freedom.

December – Christingle. Remind me, what's the orange for? Oh yes, the Children's Society.

Christmas Day – The big day is here. Jesus's Birthday. So did you get any presents?

Essendon and Woodhill Annual Parochial and Church Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Church Council will take place in the Church Room on Monday 25th April at 7:30pm. All the people whose names appear on the church electoral roll are entitled to attend and take part.

It will be followed by a short meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

These meetings will be preceded by a short meeting to elect churchwardens, which all parish residents and people on the church electoral roll are entitled to attend.

Sunday Club St Mary's Church, Essendon



The first Sunday of the month in the Church Room.

9:30am—11.00am

Each session will include a story or chat, activities, games and refreshments

You are very welcome to leave your children and enjoy the morning with us.

If you would like any further information please contact **Pauline Alleyne on 07979 505104.**

Essendon Sunday Club

Essendon Women's Institute. February

Our evening's talk was entitled '*Gardeners and Gardening in Literature*'. Hazel Bell read introductory and explanatory notes between exerts, read by Diana Holt, from a variety of different books about gardeners and gardening. The exerts were arranged chronologically starting with Adam in the garden of Eden and a reading from the book of Genesis. Little is written on gardening before the 14th century, but the selection of readings (prose and poetry) illustrated the differing methods and trends through the centuries, the gardeners' gifts and styles, their favourite flowers and plants, and their love of gardening in general. Gardens of many designs were described from wilderness to the palatial as many gardeners (often ladies) were aristocratic or well-off people. Books from which the readings had come were on display, many by well-known authors such as Beatrix Potter (who described Camfield Place as the place she loved best in the world and which inspired some of her books), RL Stevenson, Vita Sackville West and Pam Ayres. The peace and enjoyment to be gained from gardening was very evident.



We are a friendly local group who meet on the third Wednesday of each month in Essendon Village hall at 7.30pm for 8.00pm and we always welcome visitors to our meetings.

20th April 'A Year in a Hertfordshire Garden'.

KG

Gardening in April

The sun is shining but still no proper winter temperatures, strong winds and heavy rains and I hope that we won't pay for this in the months ahead. Assuming things will be reasonably normal, start sowing vegetable, herb and annual flower seeds both indoors and outdoors. Feed the now 'dying back' Spring bulbs which have been wonderful this year. Look after them both by gently raking and feeding the soil round them but also by using a 'foliar feed' spray on the leaves. Don't be tempted to 'tie up' or remove the Daffodil leaves as they will die back in their own time.

Have a good look at your climbing and rambler roses, tying in any good new stems that will give them a good horizontal shape for their main flowering. Do use good 'protected' ties for this so these fresh shoots grow on well.

Hardy annual flower seeds sown a few weeks ago will need 'thinning'. If you are careful you can rescue the best of of these 'rejects' and plant them elsewhere later on.

Lawns will benefit from an application of the right fertiliser but chose this carefully to maintain the correct balance of lawn nutrients. Continue to feed the birds and to enjoy all that is going on around you!

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Church Cleaning

How exciting!

**In June we will be celebrating the
Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

Save the date!

St Andrew's Church will be holding a flower festival weekend celebrating the Queen's 70 years on the throne.

- Music with a children's concert
- Vintage afternoon teas
- Children's picnic games and gardening competition.
- Stalls



There will be something for everyone if you would like to help, please call.
Sandie Ash 01707 875221

Church Service

If you are unable to get to Church and would like to join a service, there is a telephone Service on Wednesdays at 10am. This is free, and you can get details from Hartford Hundred Rectory **01707 875 940**
or email hartfordhundred@outlook.com

News from Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The agenda is published on the website and village noticeboard the week before the meeting and residents are welcome to send questions and comments to the clerk beforehand, clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk or attend the meeting and ask in person.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND

2nd-5th June

A wonderful opportunity for us all to come together and celebrate this once in a lifetime event.

Thursday 2nd June from 6pm

At 8pm there will be a short ceremony to mark the planting of a tree as part of the **Queen's Green Canopy Project** and at 9.45pm the **Village Beacon** will be lit. Come along and enjoy a **BBQ** and drinks at the cricket pavilion.

Sunday 5th June 1pm



The Big Jubilee Lunch is to be held on the recreation field. A day for all the family with a 'Craft a Crown' competition, music, children's games and races, a family cricket match and raffle.

HELP NEEDED!

As you can see planning is well under way for the village's Jubilee celebrations and it promises to be a very memorable weekend. Please contact us if you are available to help in any way (however big or small) with these events before, during or afterwards. Thank you.
penny.stokes@littleberkhamsted.org.uk

Spring Litter Pick

This will be on Sunday 3rd

April meeting at 10:30am on the recreation field. All equipment, apart from gloves is provided. The Five Horseshoes have kindly offered to supply the workers with a sandwich lunch once the hard work is done, so please let Councillor Elaine Hunter know if you are coming along so we can let the pub have numbers.

elaine_hunter@sky.com 01707 875961

The **GOOD NEWS** is that Herts County Council have started to implement a programme of 20mph zones across the county. The **BAD NEWS** is that a scheme in Little Berkhamsted has been ranked 413 out of 552 and we are extremely unlikely to see a 20mph limit here from this programme. Along with "*20s Plenty for Herts*", we are continuing to campaign for changes to HCC's Speed Management Strategy, so that we too can benefit from a 20mph limit in the same way as many other communities across the country.

VACANCY

Little Berkhamsted Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a Parish **Councillor**. This is a rewarding voluntary role in which you can really can make a difference in your village. To obtain more information or to apply for the position, please contact;
Clerk to the Council, Laura Brooks-Payne by email
clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk or
phone 07803 906291.

Little Berkhamsted Community Facilities for Hire

The following facilities are available for hire -
Village Hall and Cricket and Community Pavilion



The Village Hall has disabled access and toilet, a fully equipped kitchen for any refreshment needs and projector equipment.



The cricket and community pavilion has a fully equipped kitchen, bar area, changing rooms and shower facilities.

Hire Charges (per hour): Little Berkhamsted Resident: **£12** Other: **£17**

For further details contact: Sandie Ash 01707 87522
or clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk



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Newgate Street

Ponsbourne St. Mary

Next

Village Coffee Morning

Monday 4th April
10—12 noon in the **Church**

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

All bookings can now be made through the Village website

www.newgatestreet.org/

Follow the link to Hall Rental and Book the Hall .

Book Exchange.

A BIG THANK YOU for the donation from the **BOOK EXCHANGE** which continues to run at the **Post Office** in Newgate Street Village Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings .



What's On in Newgate Street

Table Tennis: Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm in the Village Hall. £1 pay and play

Tennis - Tuesday mornings 9.30-10.30am Village Courts. Term time only. Contact 07710 507 215

Book Swap - Pre read books to buy £1 or swap 50p, in the Village Hall Post Office Tuesday & Thursday mornings.

Village Chat - WhatsApp group for people living in the village. To join the group contact 07710 507 215

Village Pub Social - 8pm the second Friday of every month in either The Crown or The Coach & Horses Pubs, come along to meet friends and make new ones. See Village Chat WhatsApp group or Village website for details.

Post Office.

A small Post Office is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the village hall.

A Chapter Closes at Ponsbourne

Michael (Mike) Sutcliffe, who sadly passed away recently, will be remembered for a lifetime of service to the community in many, often unsung, ways. He was for instance a Churchwarden of St. Mary's, Ponsbourne for 50 years, during which time he served eight incumbents and assorted curates - some of whom went on to be incumbents - (but only four organists!).

As an often-consulted source of advice and expertise his involvement with the other parishes in the Group was invaluable. There is not space here for a full list but his work included contributions to projects such as the Tower at Essendon, the internal refurbishment of Little Berkhamsted and investigations into the roof and the churchyard wall at Bayford.

Ponsbourne projects included repairs to the roof of the Nave, the Chancel and Vestry, the conversion of the South Transept to a meeting/coffee space and refurbishment of the Organ Chamber as part of the overall Organ Restoration project.

During National Service, he served in the Royal Engineers (and years later could still remember and demonstrate some of the army drill commands and actions to a rapt Family Service congregation). Training as an architect followed, enabling his involvement in a wide variety of projects and also, importantly, many years of mentoring and examining aspiring entrants into the profession.

His professional background meant that he could and did converse with contractors and regulatory bodies with authority. Local examples of his work include the block of flats at the eastern end of French Horn Lane in Hatfield, and the circular enclave of flatlets near the south end of the Digsweil Viaduct in Welwyn Garden City (probably best seen from a passing train). His ability to devise ingenious constructions included the garden outbuilding which made maximum use of full-size sheets of plywood, thus minimising effort in cutting smaller pieces to size.

With a marriage lasting some 60 years, his achievements were supported in no small measure by his wife Gillian, his offspring, and in due course also their families.

In recent years, he continued to work for a variety of clients, despite severe challenges to his health, and functioned as both churchwarden and treasurer for the parish. It is to be regretted that the church authorities to whom he had given much support for many years were found wanting when a few ignorant but arrogant individuals were a cause of much strain and distress for a time.

His "family" within the church must now adapt to his absence: others must now be found to greet arrivals, read lessons and take collections. His own family are of course grieving themselves but being amazingly strong and resilient are already putting plans in place for the next stages of their lives.

Thomas Michael (Mike) Sutcliffe – Well done, thou faithful servant.
Now rest in peace.

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For more information, visit www.isabelhospice.org.uk/teaparty

If you are fundraising for Isabel Hospice, please ensure you are following government covid-safe guidelines and adhere to social distancing.
For a list of fundraising events, visit <https://www.isabelhospice.org.uk/>

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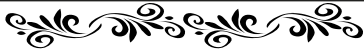
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Scout Troop - Monday 8.00pm—9:30pm

1st Birch Green Brownies - Monday 6.30pm - 7.45pm

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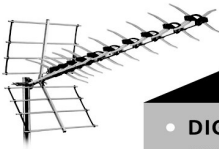


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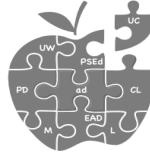
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