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*Little Berkhamsted & Ponsbourne.*



THE  
**PARISH**  
**MAGAZINE**

July  
2022

Price  
60p



**Hobby.** (*Falco subbuteo* )

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parishmag@begesford.co.uk

**The Parish Magazine is also available online, free of charge.  
Google 'Hartford Hundred Parish Magazine'.  
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# Dear All

## *Celebration of Platinum Jubilee*

As expected, the Platinum Jubilee weekend from 2-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 was an extremely joyous occasion across the whole country. Nationally it was a four day Bank Holiday for everyone. The largest celebrations were in London. In London, there were events such as a fly past and a concert which was attended by most people from all walks of life. This was a truly international event, with tributes coming from all corners of the globe. A special mention needs to be made for one of our very own musicians who took part in this event, **George Ezra** from Brickendon. He sang beautifully two songs at that concert.

Our five communities did not disappoint in the arrangement of celebrations for that weekend. Varying activities were held in each of the five communities. In **Little Berkhamsted** there was a flower festival in St Andrew's Church led by Sandie Ash where different flower arrangements were displayed. At the Pavilion there were astonishing events: joyous activities, music, BBQ and lighting of a beacon at the end. People loved every moment.

In **Essendon**, there were wonderful different activities at the playing field and in the village each day: music and dancing, picnics, community coffee mornings, family gatherings, competitions, etc. Each day people from all age groups attended in great numbers. Indeed we saw great things

in Essendon!

To honour Her Majesty, the Queen, The Hartford Hundred West Group Church held a significant Group Service on the Pentecost Sunday morning at Essendon. There was a Group choir led by Katie Nelson with 35 people including children from all the 5 communities. All organists in the group participated. In addition to the hymns, they sang the Jubilee song (*Rise up and Serve*) and the National Anthem. People cheered and clapped and some had tears running down their faces. Someone who attended the group service at Essendon said, "The choir was wonderful and the prayer that was read whilst the choir was singing was incredibly special". There was a sense of unity and joy.

It was also awesome in **Bayford**. There was a community picnic, a BBQ and a steel band on the green opposite the Baker Arms. I saw most of the village people coming out. People I had never met before. The Jubilee choir from the 5 communities also sang the Jubilee song and touching speeches were given. Bayford community displayed a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

**Ponsborne** was not to be left out. Under the skilful leadership of Jo, over 100 people assembled outside the Village Hall for a picnic, the unveiling of the plaque and later, various competitions in the field. I participated in one of the games (Egg Race) unfortunately I did not win. People mingled and chatted joyfully. A community spirit was there.

**Brickendon** met on the Village Green on Sunday afternoon for a lovely

picnic. People attended in numbers, chatting and sharing food. There was an amazing performance from a singer for entertainment. Later we sang happy Birthday to John L. People enjoyed the singing. Brickendon showed love for each other. All what was done was to thank God and appreciate the dedication to duty that the Queen has shown over the country throughout her reign. Thank

you all! There have been many victorious times and challenges over the years. We all have a lot to learn from the Queen. Times of celebration like this are refreshing after facing many difficulties over the past few years; with the most recent being the start of the war in Ukraine.

Blessings to you all!  
Revd Theresa Musiwacho

## Prayer Share

God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



## The Parish Magazine—Online

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 month's and subsequent months' magazines, can be gained by typing '**Hartford Hundred Parish Magazine**' in to **Google**. We are the third hit.

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 to contact me with any feedback or suggestions.  
MW

## Weddings, Baptisms and other matters

**Saturday Registration** is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## On-line Donations

It is now possible to donate to any one of our churches on-line via the donate button on the home page of our website [www.hartfordhundred.org.uk](http://www.hartfordhundred.org.uk)

Thank you.



# JULY CALENDAR

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

9:30am, Family Service, Ponsbourne  
9:30am, Parish Communion, Essendon  
11:00am, Parish Communion, Brickendon

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

9:30am, Parish Communion, Bayford  
11:00am, Family Service, Little Berkhamsted

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July

9:30am, Family Service Essendon  
9:30am, Parish Communion Ponsbourne  
11:00am, Family Service, Brickendon

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July

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

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July

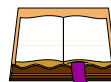
10:00am, Group Parish Communion, Bayford

## **Wednesdays**

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

Joining instructions for both the Zoom and telephone services are available from [hartfordhundred@outlook.com](mailto:hartfordhundred@outlook.com)

## PARISH REGISTER



### **Weddings**

6 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Jason Alexander RUBEN Sarah Louise TANSLEY	Bayford
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### **Death**

18 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Tom Lambe aged 83	Brickendon
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### **Burial**

5 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Olivia Elizabeth HARDING R.I.P 3/04/2022 Born asleep	Brickendon
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### **Interment of ashes**

1 <sup>st</sup> June 2022	Robin Keith BATES R. I.P 7/12/2019 Aged 72	Essendon
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### **Baptisms**

29 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Willow Miller Mcaloom D.O.B 12.08.2018 Ralph Thomas Mcaloom D.O.B 28.07.2021	Ponsbourne
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## Opportunity to join the Parish Magazine team

As if by magic and as regular as clockwork, each month the magazine drops onto the doormats of 480 homes within the five parishes. This is primarily down to our dedicated team of distributors and sub-distributors, to whom we are all indebted.

Due to a change in personal circumstances, we now have the following voluntary opening for anybody living within the parishes who wishes to make a small contribution in maintaining this quality of service:

### **Little Berkhamsted Sub-distributor – Robins Nest Hill & Bucks Alley:**

Liaising with the Little B Distributor for delivery or collection of 20 copies of the magazine each month and subsequent delivery to the subscribers' homes.

Should you be interested in playing a part in village life as we know it or wish to learn more about what is involved in the above role, please feel free to contact in the first instance either:

**Mike Wainwright, Editor: [parishmag@begsford.co.uk](mailto:parishmag@begsford.co.uk) or on 01707 875970**

OR

**Peter Chivers, Treasurer: [peterchivers53@gmail.com](mailto:peterchivers53@gmail.com) or on 01707 642622**

Only when this role has been filled will we be able to guarantee the quality of service that our readers have become used to and are entitled to receive in the foreseeable future.

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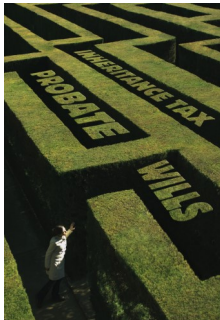
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## Adventure for Dementia.

### Westward Ho! Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Our adventure for dementia continues; walking the whole SW Coastal Path for Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's research for my mum.

You may remember her, Margaret ran the flower Rota for Essendon church for several years, helped out at the Sunday Club and helped on numerous village days and open gardens. My sister and I were also married at Essendon church and had our children christened there.

### Hello from Plymouth in week 6.

We have walked 410 miles along the N Dorset & Devon coastlines and all around Cornwall; just 220 miles and 29 days left. Our country is stunningly beautiful, I don't think we realise how lovely it. We are still alive, definitely weary, with creaky joints and sore ankles! We have been checked up on, joined by family and friends.

We have stayed in surfers digs (too old), YHA hostels (time warp from the 50s), Airbnb studio apartments (washing machine!!!), people's spare rooms (so kind to let our kids sleep too), guest houses (generously donating the second night) and luxury bnbs (my husbands favourite - the breakfasts!)

**Day 23** There was some level walking, especially as we descended into Sennen cove, with its lovely beaches. We walked the steps repaired by our



BnB host and saw the bay, from the salt path.

Replenished with tea and cake we took the scenic path to Lands' End. We had our official photo taken before heading in land to the hostel.

**Day 27** "Well behaved night rain", lulled us into thinking we'd escaped. Instead we were drenched in dew, pollen and rain drops from giant heavily laden foliage! We stopped for coffee and cake in a hillside café to recover. Everything chest down was soaked!

You can read more about our adventures and see photos on our **blog** <https://paulasmadadventure.wixsite.com/swcoastpathwalkblog>

Thank you for reading my story , and a huge thank you for your support. Paula  
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(Follow my progress on Facebook Instagram & Tiktok – as a social media novice this could be interesting!)

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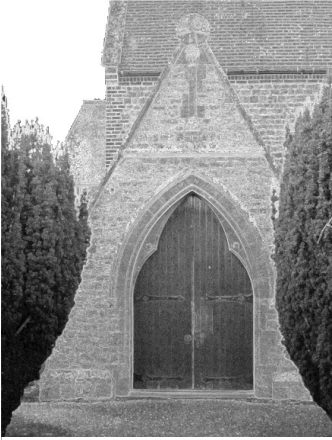
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# Bayford

## St. Mary's Church

Bayford Church will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Weekends (weather permitting). JM

**Church cleaning.** July 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>  
Gabrielle Dolan and Lorna Fitzjohn

### **BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL.**

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

#### **Jubilee Celebrations**

The Parish Council would like to congratulate everyone who was involved in the wonderful Jubilee celebration on the Village Green. It is some time since such an event was held. The informality of the seating, the steel band and the great joy at meeting friends and neighbours, old and young, made the event very special. Mention must be made of the presence of Joan Morris at the event, who is the same age as The Queen, and looked just as regal.

#### **Verge Maintenance.**

The provisional date of 3<sup>rd</sup> July has been set for a working party to remove ivy and to carry out other maintenance on the Parish verges on Ashdene Road. Please meeting at

Penny Royal (Buck's Alley) at 10am. All Welcome.

**Congratulations to Jason and Sarah** on the occasion of their marriage, at Bayford Church on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Jason and his team on the Memorial Hall committee have worked wonders in refurbishing the Hall. A building of this age (1933) is constantly in need of attention. We are grateful to all involved in maintaining this important village institution.

#### **Meetings.**

**The next meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> July.**

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

**pc@begesford.co.uk**  
01707 875970.

Please check the web site  
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Bayford  
**The Baker Arms.**

Both Beverley and I would like to thank the residents of Bayford and Surrounding areas for the wonderful support we received during the **Queens Platinum Celebrations.**

*Long may that spirit continue.*

**Quiz Nights** resume third Thursday of the Month 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 @ 7:30 pm.  
Please watch the boards for details.



Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

**Martin & Beverley, 01992 511235**

### **Knitting and Crocheting Group**

The Bayford knitting group pulled out all the stops for the jubilee weekend to create 100m of red, white and blue knitted bunting with which to decorate the village. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. For our last meeting we enjoyed a private tour of the extraordinary jubilee decorations at Hertford Castles with one of the yarnbombers. A very special evening. We continue to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 8pm in the Baker Arms. All are welcome.



For more information call **Caroline Fletcher** on **07919 317212**.

### **A Day to Remember**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 a date to be etched on our memories. A day of celebration to honour one Lady, Her Majesty the Queen, our longest reigning Monarch.

Since this gracious lady took the throne, seventy years ago, she has been a steady influence for our nation, during many governments of various persuasions and huge social changes. From regular meetings with her Prime Ministers over seven decades, with discussions in confidence or Privy Councils, she has been our quiet leader, while travelling the world to promote the country where she has been received with great enthusiasm and respect. Ceremonial events have been spectacular: State occasions or garden parties at Buckingham Palace for people from all walks of life; endless handshaking; a vast knowledge not only of



## Bayford

places and people but subjects from industry to current affairs. At her coronation she vowed to serve her country and people. This she has done beyond all doubt.

Bayford joined the Platinum Jubilee holiday with a '*bring your own picnic*' on the Village Green. Part of Ashdene Road was temporarily closed to traffic for safety reasons. On this day even our weather was kind, adding cheer with some warmth and sunshine to a declared national holiday, while everywhere, people gathered in gardens and parks to enjoy the company of others, make new friends or catch up with neighbours. Festooned with bunting, most of it home made by Bayford's knitters, the picnic was well attended, folks sitting at tables, on straw bales or on the grass, with complimentary teas and cakes provided while over the hubbub corks were-a-popping as toasts were drunk to 'The Queen'. Just across the road the Baker Arms added a wider selection of sustenance.

Neville Hudson made a short speech reflecting on her reign, with local resident Joan Morris, the same age as Her Majesty, by his side. Keeping a rhythmic note, background music was provided by a steel band. And we must not forget our newly formed community choir singing a specially written Jubilee song.



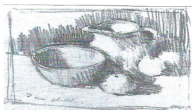
The young, and those somewhat older were present, the latter recalling the time Her Majesty became head of the 'firm', while the younger generation will be able to recall this day and relay history as it was made to their own grandchildren.

A tulip tree has been planted by the Parish Council on the green in lasting recognition of seventy years of her reign, an unprecedented achievement.

Although an informal event, it did not happen just by chance. We owe a vote of thanks to those who put it together namely Neville Hudson, Caroline Fletcher, Neil Morris, Jason Ruben, Sara Walduck, Katie Neilson, Jennifer Henderson and Lorna Fitzjohn for their quiet backroom efforts, and all the other helpers on the day, to the Parish Council for its contribution and to those who made and donated home-made cakes and bunting.

A real village day: friendly, relaxed, cheerful and greatly enjoyed. A resounding success.

Thank you your Majesty.



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# Brickendon

## Chapel of the Holy Cross & St. Alban

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Family Communion at 11.00am  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July - Family Service at 11.00am  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July - Group Communion at 10.00am  
in Bayford Church

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

For enquiries about the Chapel please contact Richard Haryott 01992 511575  
d.haryott@gmail.com

### Flowers

Maureen Reid 1<sup>st</sup>  
Maureen Reid 8<sup>th</sup>  
Adrienne Hollingsworth 15<sup>th</sup>  
Adrienne Hollingsworth 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Adrienne Hollingsworth 29<sup>th</sup>

### Cleaning

Claire Courtney  
Tessa Whitlow

### 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**

**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](http://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.



## Tennis Courts.

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

For further information and to book see Brickendon website ([www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk](http://www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk))  
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.

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

Email [clerk@brickendon-liberty.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brickendon-liberty.org.uk)  
Mobile 07803 906291

**Minutes:** Brickendon website  
[www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk](http://www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk) for .

**Meetings:**  
are on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 29<sup>th</sup> September and 24<sup>th</sup> November

## Brickendon Petanque Boules Club

Play at The Farmer's Boy

Summer Play Time

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Thursday 10am - 12 noon  
Sunday 9.30am - 12 noon

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



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City  
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Essendon

# Essendon, Woodhill, Wild Hill & Woodside

St. Mary the Virgin



Flower Arrangers:  
**9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, Jude Wood**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Diane Sparkes**

### Family Service.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 9.30.

**17<sup>th</sup> July** –Children's service – A special service run by the children

### 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!



### 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*

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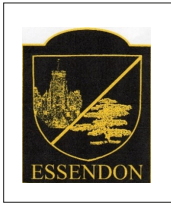
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### All Sorts Dementia Group.

Social and activity group for people with mild to moderate dementia starting at Essendon Village Hall every Wednesday 10.30am till 3pm from 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. Spaces limited so please call **01279 498938** or email *all-sortsdgd@gmail.com* for more information. Website:

[www.allsortsdg.co.uk](http://www.allsortsdg.co.uk)





The Annual Council meeting of the Parish Council was held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Mike Brown stood down as chairman, and Ian

Venables accepted the nomination to succeed him, with Rex Jones taking on vice chair. There was a vote of thanks to Mike in appreciation of his hard work and commitment as chair.

The council has been asked to publicise the Free Safe and Well Visit offered by Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service along with Hertfordshire County Council. Together they are working towards ensuring that every home in the county has working smoke detectors that are correctly situated. Anyone who feels that they would benefit from this service should phone Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue's Public Enquiry Line to arrange a visit -**0300 1234 046**.

If required, they will fit smoke detectors free of charge. These detectors have a ten year battery life. For full details see the letter in the PDF, Safe and Well Visit, the poster and the application form available on the Essendon Parish Council website <https://www.essendonpc.org.uk/>

The next meeting will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Agendas will be available on the PC website, (<https://www.essendonpc.org.uk/>) and on noticeboards in the village. Dates for the meetings for the rest of 2022 are available on the website. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.

The Friendly Club was started many years ago by Beryl Hickman to provide an opportunity for people over 60 years old, living in Bayford, Brickendon, Essendon, Little Berkhamsted and Ponsbourne, to meet once a month to socialise in a Village Hall over a cup of tea and home-made cake.

Subsequently, it was taken over by Beryl Callaby and finally in 2009 by Beryl (and Iohn) Matthews.

Beryl is now 89 and John 94 - and it is too much for them, and hope that someone (it would be too much to ask for another Beryl!) will now take it over. However, there appear to be fewer elderly people in the villages. (Brickendon's last recruit was their postman who had just retired)

Please get in touch if you want to know more. Thank you. Beryl Matthews



## Chess



at The Woodman.

**Tuesday evening, 7:30pm to 9:30pm**

We play in a couple of back rooms at the pub (with thanks to The Woodman) and, when the weather is right, are keen to play on the tables in the pub garden. Same weeks as school term.

- ◆ No fee,
- ◆ Bring your own set or use one provided,
- ◆ Learn basics, discuss strategies
- ◆ Total beginners
- ◆ Used to play and want to try again
- ◆ Competitive or relaxed
- ◆ Drop in from time-to-time

Hope to see you there.

## Cricket fixtures in Essendon.

SATURDAY					SUNDAY				
Date	Team	Venue	Time		Date	Team	Venue	Time	
July 2	Matching Green II	Home	1.00		July 3	Potters Bar	Away	2.00	
9	Woodford Wells IV	Away	1.00		10	Switch Hitters	Home	2.00	
16	Bishop's Stortford IV	Away	1.00		17	North Harrow	Home	2.00	
23	Harlow Town III	Home	1.00		24	Guy Spraggs	Home	2.00	
30	Nazeing Common II	Away	1.00		31	Harrow	Home	2.00	
Aug. 6	Sawbridgeworth III	Home	1.00		Aug. 7	Epping CC	Home	2.00	
13	Ardeley Walkern	Away	1.00		14	Chinar CC	Home	2.00	
20	Stansted H & E II	Home	1.00		21	New Calypsonians	Home	2.00	
27	Cloghams	Away	1.00		28	TBA			
					Sept. 4	New Ham	Home	1.30	
					11	Carpenters Arms	Home	1.30	
					18	Rosslyn	Home	1.30	

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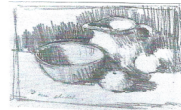
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## Essendon Nature Notes

If you have ever wondered how the old table-top football game, Subbuteo, found its name, look no further than one of our summer falcons, the hobby. The originator was inspired by this beautiful bird, the Latin name of which is *Falco subbuteo*. I was reminded of this obscure fact on a recent evening walk through the fields that border the River Lea at the bottom of Essendon Hill. Three hobbies were making hay while the sun shone, feasting voraciously on flying insects and characteristically plucking the wings of their prey in flight before devouring them. Although small as a falcon, they are a striking bird with black moustache and red 'trousers'.

The hobby arrives from Africa every spring and is often a bird of reed beds and lakes, preying on damselflies and

dragonflies using its remarkable speed and acrobatics to catch them on the wing. Later in the summer they will use that airborne agility to change their diet from insects to young birds including swallows and martins. They will even take bats and rob other birds to feed their own young in the old nests of crows.

Hobbies have been on the increase. Indeed prior to the 1960s the last ones to breed locally were in Hertford in 1875. In the past they were a target for egg-collectors so the decline of this practice as a 'hobby' alongside the effect of climate change may have accelerated their expansion. They are certainly a welcome addition to our summer evenings so look out for them and don't forget their Latin moniker.

DC

### Essendon Women's Institute. March

The Birthday meeting and AGM was held on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen members were present to hear their President, Angela Venables, thanking her committee for their work during the year in keeping the monthly meetings motivated and appealing. Many interesting speakers had visited and plans were well advanced for a Day Out on the 17<sup>th</sup> August to Kathy Brown's Garden, The Manor House, Stevington. In June the Speaker will be Analiza Jones talking about making handwoven Bags from the Philippines. The evening concluded with Tea and Birthday cake.



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

Essendon WI meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Visitors are always very welcome.

## **Moving to Essendon in 1977. Anne Mitcheson.**

On Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> 1977 George, Anne, Thomas and Jasper dog moved to Farmleigh, Berkhamsted Lane, Essendon. Around 12.15 p.m. on the following Sunday morning the front doorbell rang and standing there were Michael and Joy Hargreaves who had walked up from Little B. after Church to welcome us. We realised that Farmleigh was equidistant from Essendon and Little B. Churches and we joined Little B. The Hartford Hundred Group had recently been put together and Rev. Jack Davies and family had been moved from Essendon to the then Rectory in Little B. in charge of the Group. George asked the Rector about giving an annual Covenant to the Church and was told very firmly that water was pouring through the roof at Essendon and they needed the money so we decided to follow it. The water continued to pour in and was causing considerable anxiety, and George, in a wild moment, thought something should be done, and a meeting was called in Essendon Village Hall. George set off very apprehensively wondering if anyone would turn up – there was an amazing attendance and a very good Committee was formed. He was elected as Chairman with representation from all sides of the local community who realised that St. Mary's was an important part of local life and couldn't just be left to fall down. There were all sorts of amazing money raising ideas put forward, carefully planned and thought through, but so enjoyed by many including the first Gardens' Open Day brought back from Norfolk. Eventually the money was raised, St. Mary's was 'water tight' and, much more importantly, it brought people together. The Restoration Committee was closed down and The Friends of St. Mary's formed and this is still flourishing today, for the benefit and entertainment of so many.

My own first introduction to Essendon Village life was to Penny and the then 'Meals on Wheels Service'. This, of course, no longer used for understandable food safety reasons, but it was a worthwhile connection with people in our community. There were one or two very cold winter at this time and we had our adventures!

Our Village Communities are so vital to us all, our super School here in Essendon, the Playground, the Village Hall, the Cricket team, the W.I, other group gatherings, the Tennis Club, the various dog walking groups and our Church and lovely churchyard so lovingly tended by many families. Certainly, over these recent difficult years, the hidden care and kindness of so many has kept things going and many friendships made and kept have been such a support. With our remarkable Queen's Platinum Celebrations and all that entails let us again have memories of happy times to carry forward.

Over these many years there have been so many people here whose wisdom and friendship, on all sides, we can all treasure. Annual Charity Suppers which originated at Farmleigh, sitting up the stairs, the early Carol Concerts which Judy so brilliantly turned into the Christmas Suppers in the Church for all our community. Dear Canon Lovell, the names of past Rectors who followed on after Jack Davies, gentle John Andrews whose wife always said that she married an architect not a Rector. The great team of John and Margaret Cotton followed,



### **Moving to Essendon in 1977. Anne Mitcheson. (continued)**

Margaret, herself also a superb Magistrate too and it was from her I learnt to ask 'How are you today' - a question that always has an answer. 'Better than yesterday' or 'not so good today' etc. but always a question that people can answer reasonably easily. John and Margaret were followed, so happily by Pauline with Rod's support and now we have Theresa with dear Solomon. We also owe our grateful thanks to two very good friends, both in the 15 month Vacancy when we never missed a Service throughout the Hartford Group and, in recent times. A big 'Thankyou' to Ian Lane and our own dear Rosemary.

This is all part of life in this lovely community surrounding us all. The five villages, that make up the Hartford Hundred Group of Churches and the longstanding friendships that have gone on over many years. These last years have not been easy, made so complicated by all the restrictions caused by Covid and the difficulties of not being able to communicate with each other but it has also brought out a wonderful spirit of thoughtfulness and kindness, not only among good friends but also among complete strangers. We must all build on this in the days ahead.

You would be reading this for ever if I thanked everyone individually. The wonderful Church Wardens I have served under - Molly and Tony Newton Jones, one whose eyesight was not too good and the other didn't hear too well but they managed everything else so well. The old heating had to be set for every Service and I could wizz up and down those wretched boiler room steps, even when it was flooded. I also put the books out. That awful Saturday night when Molly was taken into the QE2 with Earnestine telling me I must follow the Ambulance and see Molly safely in. There seemed no lights anywhere and when I finally left I couldn't find my car. Sadly she didn't come home again after many weeks there and how we all missed her.

I can never express enough thanks to two of life's gentlemen both Beresford with Joan's constant support and to Paul, again with all Sue's help - we have been very happy teams and it has been a pleasure to work together. Again, I could mention so many names. Paula for her constant wisdom and memory, Shirley who can always find a way to sort things out that works, Clive for his supervision of the refurbishment of the Church Room and his help to Paul over the churchyard wall and to John Ford who can always read the impossible Lessons.

Among things I have learnt from people far wiser than me is 'do read e mails before you send them out so that they don't, unwittingly, appear offensive and misunderstood by other people.

My own Father's wise words 'If you can't see the answer to something, go off and do something else more useful and it will often sort itself out' - so very true. Another thing I have also learnt over the years is that when someone stands in front of you making a very direct statement that, in fact, you don't agree with, listen and the perfect answer to that is 'I hadn't thought of it from that point of view' This firstly shows courtesy and then, whether one goes on to agree or not it really doesn't matter. This I realise I learnt from Pauline and she always did it

## **Moving to Essendon in 1977. Anne Mitcheson. (concluded)**

so perfectly.

It is lovely to see so many of you here tonight. I can only thank a very dear friend in Judy for arranging it all and apologise for the chaos with dates caused by my recent 'adventures' health wise. You have all been so much part of my life for a very long time.

Lastly, I must mention those wonderful friends and neighbours for over 25 years, David and Sue, and how much I miss them!

I hope once I am in better order that you will be able to come and visit me in my new home. Maisie Cat has also settled remarkably well but next door's beautiful cat will pop in and eat her 'Munchies'!

Anne

## **Jubilee Celebrations Essendon.**

A massive thank you to our wonderful village of Essendon for an absolutely amazing Jubilee weekend. Thursday started with the church bells ringing and then a ceilidh brilliantly called by Lou from the Ceilidh Tree. It was wonderful to see all ages up and dancing and the field looked just the part with straw bales from Alan F. Gazebos were up in case of poor weather, but we needn't have worried it was a warmish evening and beautiful sky (have you all seen Helen's amazing photos?). Food and drink were in plentiful supply with big thanks to Jamie, John C and James F on the BBQ and the Horners for their delicious sausages. People brought picnics which looked lovely on the field.



Martin R, our 'crier' undertook the Proclamation announcing the lighting of the beacon which was then lit to the sound of Diu Regnare. All joined in with God save the Queen to draw the evening to a close. The beacon, constructed by Freddie and Rachel, continued to flame well into the evening!

Various activities continued in the village over the Friday and Saturday with plenty of street parties and a very good gathering of Essendon Connect on the Friday morning (all welcome every Friday from 9.30 for coffee, cake and a chat). There was a wonderful service in St. Mary's on Sunday with singing from the community choir. It is rumoured that the choir will continue which would be great.

Then to the final event; the Big Street Party. A mammoth task to organise and only made possible thanks to a huge army of helpers. Freya North, our local author, judged the Red, White, Blue and Platinum fancy dress - a small but stylish turnout - thanks to those who joined in. Cakes and sandwiches were provided by a large team of makers (around 50, so too many to mention individually, but many thanks - the food was delicious). Thanks also to those who lent the tables and chairs - Essendon primary school, village hall and St. Mary's Church, the stackers and put-er-away-ers - in particular Ross McK and his family, Darren T who came to our rescue and the team of fit young movers.



Thanks also to Chris J who arranged chairs and hoops for the races from the school and the Pickard clan who ensured all were returned to the correct places. The bouncy castles and Vanessa's races were a huge success – thanks to all that manned them or helped and Ian who painted the running track. Despite the wind and rain in the morning, the team of helpers set up the tea party tables which looked stunning – Richard D helping at every stage and Len even brought his car which sat proudly in the middle of the party. Again, too many helpers to mention, but very many thanks and Simon deserves special thanks for multi-tasking. Music was provided by the Sky High duo and an impromptu sing-a-long with Pat C. Tea kept flowing, as did the Side Pocket for a Toad from the Woodman pub and even a few bottles of Prosecco were consumed! Thanks to the cricket club who opened and manned the bar. Thank you to all our helpers, all of those who came along to support the village over the weekend, and big thanks to all our very generous sponsors, including (but not limited to!) Essendon Country Club, Essendon Parish Council and Herts County Council.

The Essendon Jubilee Committee.



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# Little Berkhamsted, Howe Green & Epping Green

St. Andrew



## Church Cleaning.

10<sup>th</sup> June Jeff and Louise Robinson

24<sup>th</sup> June Sandie Ash and Diane  
Standbrook

## Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival St Andrew's Church, Little Berkhamsted, 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> June

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations began in the village in spectacular fashion, with the grand opening of the Flower Festival at St Andrew's Church, at 12 noon on 2nd June. On a glorious summer's day, with the church bathed in bright sunshine and flags fluttering in the breeze, a crowd gathered outside the beautifully decorated South Porch, to watch the official 'cutting of the ribbon', carried out by our local show-business celebrity and long term supporter of the village, Dave Peacock, to get the Festival underway.



Inside the church, the visual experience was breath taking. A magnificent exhibition of floral displays of the highest quality, with blooms bursting with colour, their scents and fragrances hanging in the air to greet us all. Every surface of the church's interior, every column, every window cill and every ledge was festooned with arrangements of superb artistry, all brought together with extraordinary skill and imagination.

Thanks must go to the Revd. Theresa Musiwacho for giving her permission to use the church for the Festival. And of course enormous recognition and thanks go to the talented team of dedicated helpers and volunteers whose artistic skills, energy and enthusiasm created this wonderful event, under the direction of Sandie Ash.

## Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival

The Festival ran for the full four days of the special Jubilee Weekend in honour of our Queen's long and historic reign, bringing much joy and great pleasure to everyone who visited this stunning and exceptional spectacle. J.O'R  
Photographs of the Flower Festival will be published shortly on the Community website, <https://www.littleberkhamsted.org.uk>

## News from Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 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](mailto:clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk) or attend the meeting and ask in person.

### *'The Platinum Jubilee Beacon'*

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, with Little B looking resplendent with so much bunting adorning the village, we gathered at the cricket club on the village green on a beautiful evening to start the celebrations for our Majesty's Jubilee weekend.

The cricket club members made everyone very welcome and enjoyed another opportunity to show off the recently refurbished pavilion and provide food and drink which was greatly appreciated.

We all wish for a glorious summer and we got it when 'Summer' a very talented singer opened her first session and proceeded to entertain us with a wide range of songs with many of us joining in, but not with the same ability.

Two oak trees have been planted on the green as part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy Project' and a special ceremony was held to dedicate them as part of this wonderful initiative. In due course we can watch them grow and remind ourselves of the lovely occasion we enjoyed at their dedication.

As the corks popped and the noise levels rose with so many people enjoying themselves, Summer returned to the stage, sang beautifully and managed to get lots of us up to dance.

A magnificent beacon had been placed on the field and we all gathered round for its lighting, but not before we heard a beautifully spoken special reading and bugle fanfare.

We held our breath as we watched wondering if it would light, but we need not have worried, for off it went and a huge round of applause rang out.

Celebrations continued late into the evening at this 'once in a lifetime' event, something never to be forgotten and our thanks go out to everyone involved in its organisation especially to Penny, her team and the cricket club. MB



## *The Platinum Jubilee Street Party'*

The Sunday Jubilee lunch again was an astounding success with about 150 local people attending with their picnics, despite the inclement weather, more than could possibly be imagined in the planning. The atmosphere beneath the row of marquees created by everyone coming together and celebrating was quite magical. Lunch was rounded off well by the Jubilee cupcakes tea and coffee so generously provided. The afternoon will be a lasting memory for all to carry forward and treasure.

The occasion was marked with the amazing Irish dancing twice world champion Joe McGeown who



performed especially for 'Little B' before going off on his tour with River Dance. It was lovely to see the children who were so obviously impressed and inspired by Joe, doing their own little renditions of his amazing footwork on the stage for the rest of the afternoon as well as making crowns and competing in the games, races and family cricket match, that alone demonstrates quite how

incredible Joe was. We all wish him the best of luck for the future and will surely follow his career.

A special Jubilee raffle raised over £1000 and the money will be used to benefit residents. Thank you to all the donors: There were some very lucky winners!

Thank you everyone for coming together, supporting our Jubilee event and making it a weekend to remember. LB

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

### *Vintage Tea and Cakes Concert*

at the Flower Festival

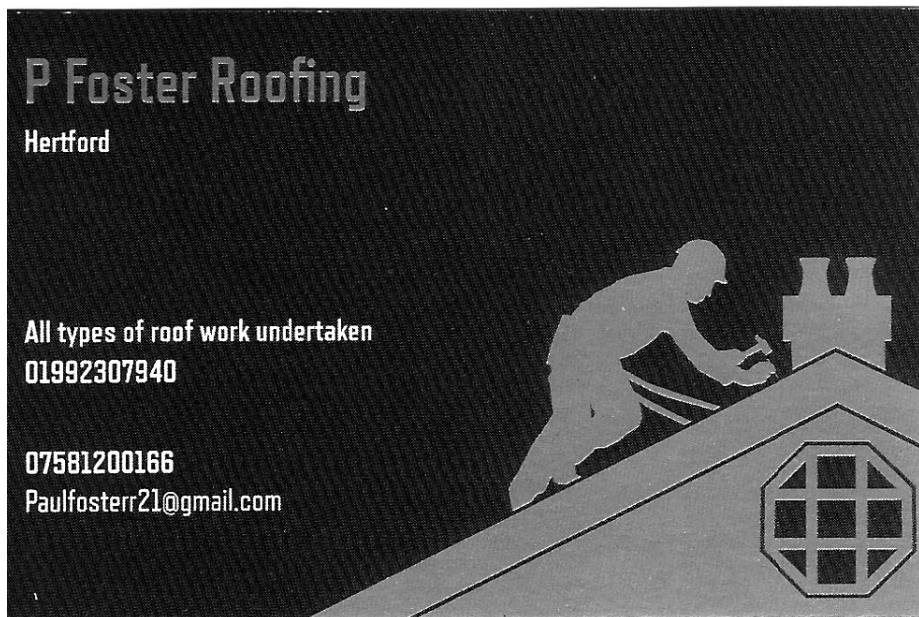
St Andrews Church, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June

What a lovely afternoon enjoying a cup of tea and home-made cakes and biscuits whilst listening to the strains of a fourteen piece flute ensemble wafting across the churchyard.

The open-sided marquee protected the players of 'Flute Cocktail' from the glorious sunshine as we sat at table and chairs or reclined on the grass. We whiled away the afternoon spending a much earned break from hectic schedules to relax and catch up with friends and neighbours and make new friends.

Many thanks to the players, bakers and organisers for a simply gorgeous afternoon.

JAB



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...

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They lay down in their curtain'd bed:  
Like two blossoms on one stem,  
Like two flakes of new-fall'n snow,  
Like two wands of ivory  
Tipp'd with gold for awful kings.  
Moon and stars gaz'd in at them,  
Wind sang to them lullaby,  
Lumbering owls forbore to fly,  
Not a bat flapp'd to and fro  
Round their rest:  
Cheek to cheek and breast to breast  
Lock'd together in one nest.

...

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# Newgate Street

## Ponsbourne St. Mary

Next

## Village Coffee Morning

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

10—12 noon in the **Church**

### VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

All bookings can now be made through the Village website

[www.newgatestreet.org/](http://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.





**THE 1<sup>st</sup>  
NORTHAW  
SCOUT GROUP**



Both our **Beaver Colony** (6-8 years) and **Cub Pack** (8-11 years) have resumed "normal" activities including hiking, camping and learning new skills and having great fun.

The numbers in both Sections are growing and we would love to welcome new members. We would also be really happy to have more adult helpers and leaders to support this. Beavers meet on Thursday and Cubs on Monday.

Meetings are based at our Headquarters in Northaw Village.

To find out more contact Gordon Marshall at

[gordon.marshall@pscouts.org.uk](mailto:gordon.marshall@pscouts.org.uk)

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For more information, visit [www.isabelhospice.org.uk/teaparty](http://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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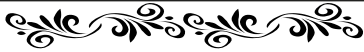
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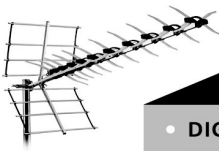


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