



HARTFORD HUNDRED WEST  
THE



# PARISH MAGAZINE

*Bayford, Brickendon, Essendon,  
Little Berkhamsted & Ponsbourne.*

May  
2023

- Coronation Weekend. Events throughout the Group.
- The War in Ukraine: a personal story. (p.8)
- Bayford Parish Council publishes 100 years of PC Minutes online! (p.10)

Price  
**80p**



Black Cap. The 'mock' Nightingale. (p. 9.)

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:**

### THE PARISHES OF BAYFORD & BRICKENDON, LITTLE BERKHAMSTED, ESSENDON & WOODHILL, PONSBOURNE:

**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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Little Berkhamsted, SG13 8LY **01707 875221**

##### **PCC SECRETARY**

Ian Bailey, Tower House, Stockings Lane,  
Little Berkhamsted. SG13 8LW **01707 875791**

##### **TREASURER**

Mr C Nunn, Trewinnard House, Little  
Berkhamsted, SG13 8LS **01707 874299**

##### **ORGANIST**

#### **ST MARY - BAYFORD and HOLY CROSS & ST ALBAN - BRICKENDON**

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Mr C Taylor, Baybury House, 41 Ashdene  
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**01992 511041**

##### **PCC SECRETARY**

##### **TREASURER**

Mrs. L. Fitzjohn, Home Farm, Bayford  
Lane, Bayford

##### **ORGANIST**

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SG13 8NU **01992 511575**

#### **ST MARY THE VIRGIN - ESSENDON & WOODHILL, AL9 6AS**

##### **CHURCHWARDENS**

Paul Wombwell, 27 Rectory Close, Essendon,  
AL9 6HG **01707 273729**

Colin Rees, 2, Letty Green, Hertford,  
SG14 2NZ. **07540 351 530.**  
colin4444@yahoo.com.

##### **PCC SECRETARY**

Ms C Blackman, 42 High Road, Essendon,  
AL9 6HW 07831 341886  
casblackman@yahoo.com

##### **TREASURER**

Mr Nick Pickard, Cucumber Hall, Essendon,  
AL9 6JB 07779 325847

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##### **TREASURER**

##### **ORGANIST**

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Berkhamsted, SG13 8LY. **01707 875970**  
parishmag@begeford.co.uk

The Parish Magazine is also available online, free of charge.  
Google 'HHW Parish Magazine'.  
For the HHW web site Google 'Hartford Hundred West'.

## Rector's Article.

**D**ear All

### **The Coronation of King Charles III 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

The Coronation will be a historic moment in the life of our nation, a time to reflect on our history, celebrate who we are and look to our future.

#### **A Prayer ahead of the Coronation.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God and King of Kings,  
to you be glory and praise forever!

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

You gave the Christ as a light to the nations,  
and through the anointing of his Spirit  
you established us as a royal priesthood.

As Charles our King prepares for his Coronation,  
enlighten his heart and strengthen his spirit,  
so that we, with him, may bear witness to your truth  
and proclaim your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Revd Theresa Musiwacho



## Group Announcements

### Prayer Share

May the risen Lord Jesus bless us with love, joy and peace.  
May he watch over us and renew us as he renews the whole of creation.  
May he bless King Charles, both now and always,  
in the ways of humility and grace for his ministry among us.  
May we, with King Charles, echo his love in our hearts and lives. Amen



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### Weddings, Baptisms and other matters.

**Saturday Registration** is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month  
at 10.00 am to 11.30 am in Little Berkhamsted Church.  
No appointment necessary

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### Parish Magazine Team AGM

This took place on 20<sup>th</sup> March in Little B Village Hall. Many thanks to Sandie for organising the Hall and putting on the heating, on this very chilly evening.

After the usual introductions, presentation of accounts etc, a discussion took place reviewing the previous year's trends and looking forward to the coming year.

Subscriptions were again down this year, the cost of printing has risen sharply and, although at present the magazine editing, printing and distribution runs very smoothly, it is increasingly more difficult to find volunteers to fulfil these posts.

As highlighted in the ONS article in March's magazine, (page 9) this reflects the national trend in church attendance and in the number of people identifying as Christian. The trends highlighted, concerning the demographic of the congregation, are also reflected in the magazine team.

So what does the future hold? Will the magazine continue for several years to come? Will there be a slow decline or will it be decided at some point to just turn it off? Does the magazine fulfil a need?

Many magazines, journals and newspapers are switching to online editions. Would this be appropriate for the HHW Magazine? MW

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The Parish Magazine, including back copies, continues to be available free of charge online.

Just Google '*HHW Parish Magazine*' or scan the QR code. MW



# MARCH CALENDAR

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Fifth Sunday after Easter

10:15 am, Family Group Service Essendon (Coronation Service)

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, Sixth Sunday after Easter

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Bayford

11:00 am, Family Service Little Berkhamsted

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May, Seventh Sunday after Easter

9:30am, Parish Communion, Ponsbourne

9:30am, Parish Communion, Essendon

11:00 am, Family Service, Brickendon

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, Pentecost, Whit Sunday

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Little Berkhamsted

11:00 am, Family Service Bayford

6:30 pm, Evensong, Essendon

## **Wednesdays**

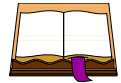
9:30 am, Parish Communion, Essendon

10:00 am, Telephone Service Free

For joining instructions see

*hartfordhundred@outlook.com*

# PARISH REGISTER



## **Interment of ashes**

18<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Brian Edward PLUCKWELL  
RIP 10. 12. 2022 Aged 84 years

Essendon

28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

June WAYT  
RIP 31.12.2022 Aged 91 years

Little Berkhamsted

## **Wedding**

8<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Rachel Jayne EDWARDS  
Christopher Anthony PARSONS

Ponsbourne

## **Bayford Experienced Cleaner Wanted.**

Large, dusty house,  
Two tidy people plus dog.  
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well.

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of your **own home.***

## **Bayford Litter Pick.**

Many thanks to everyone  
who *turned out to clean-up  
our Village once again.*

*As you can see in the  
photograph, it was another  
successful event.*



## **QR Codes**

A QR Code is like a barcode. It is readable by mobile phones. It encodes some text, any text, but usually a web site address, such as your favourite;  
*<https://www.begesford.co.uk/ParishMag>.*

Most mobile phones are able to read this link and then open the corresponding web page.

Sometimes the print quality effects this, so please try the QR Code opposite and let me know! MW



Please mention HHW Parish Magazine when responding to an advert.



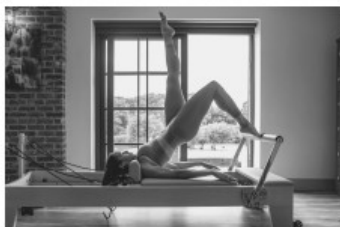
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### Memories of the war

It's been more than a year since I had to leave my country.

My homeland, my loved ones, my plans, my understandable prospects, my comfort zone, and my certainty have remained thousands of kilometres behind the back of our winter jackets and suitcase wheels

Despite the level of danger, the decision to leave everything behind was difficult. I think most people are familiar with the scene from the "Titanic" film where the captain of the ship decides to go down with it, because he knew that the tragedy that had happened was largely his responsibility. Therefore, he considered it worthy to perish on his own board rather than to try to save himself, leaving the deck entrusted him. With the proviso that we can't fact check it anyway.

That was the hardest dilemma that kept us in the grip of doubt for a month, in our house's basement. Which we were lucky enough to have compared to many others who needed to lay down in the subway stations.

Whether to jump into the bottomless abyss of the unknown, with a chance of survival, or to remain on solid ground, but ready to be buried alive in the walls of our own house. To indulge in sick-founded hopes for good fortune or to rationally cut down the roots that bound us to the homeland.

And harder than this decision was only a paralysing terror that any word, look, touch, in an attempt to keep yourself warm on the dusty concrete basement floor - would be the last memory of the people around you.

You are not afraid to perish under the rubble of your supposedly fortress or personally sentenced by unpunished looters. You are afraid to survive when they won't. Afraid of the helplessness and weakness that a frail human carcass represents. Defenceless against mechanical weapons created only for the purpose of extermination.

Or the trivial inequality of power in the dastardly physical carnage. Where the value of your life costs equally to your German washing machine.

So there was nothing more to fear after crossing borders, running from shelter to shelter, on the way to Britain, which gave hope to the battered refugees who had lost everything, including a manually amputated part of themselves, to save the rest of their exhausted bodies. The blind uncertainty of tomorrow, the difficulties of bureaucracy, the language barrier, and the depersonalisation of status and identity were only collateral damage of the massive catastrophe. Small in comparison to the loss of contact with those who have not found the opportunity, the strength or the will to leave the expanse of their homeland. They stayed to fight for their ideals face to face. Knowing the doom of that decision. To live for what you believe and to die for it.

And having kept yourself alive, at least physically, you have no right to question



## Ukraine

their decision, no matter how much you want to get everyone out of the deathly pit.

But I know that this is not the end of our fight. Having witnessed all the motion of the human spirit and the steely stamina, the unbreakable willpower, the selfless courage of those who fled, and those who stayed, I believe that nothing can break us.

One day, our fields will be filled with the spring wheat and flowers again, covering the burnt bomb-damaged lands and giving peace to the fallen ones.

Kateryna



## Essendon Nature Notes

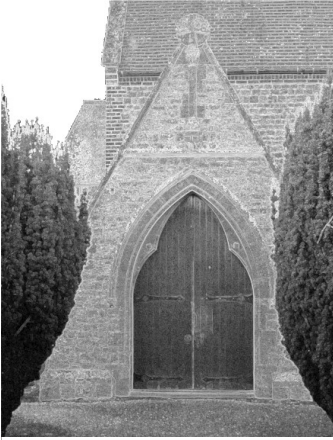
Whilst we wait for the future return of the nightingale to our woods and scrub, we can listen to the blackcap, known as the 'mock' nightingale. It is perhaps unfair to suggest that it is somehow second rate as its song has its own brilliance, the fluty notes pouring out deep and sweet from this effervescent songster. The first occasion I hear the blackcap song each spring, often from the top branches of the old apple tree, always lifts the spirits. Its melodic warble bubbles and bounces along at a breathless pace and it is perhaps the finest of the warblers we are likely to hear locally. Maybe the fact that it is a summer migrant stops us from taking its vocal artistry for granted as we seem to do with the blackbirds and thrushes. A few birds do winter here, mostly from Germany, but not in sufficient numbers to stop us looking forward to the first spring arrivals from southern Europe and north Africa with anticipation.

with the glossy black crown which gives it its name and it is easy to recognise. The female is perhaps even finer with its striking chestnut cap but it is much harder to spot, as it is usually the singing male which draws the eye. We would do well to find its nest which is usually deep in the brambles and thorns but numbers are rising and it sometimes has a second brood to boost numbers even further.

May is the finest month of the year for birdsong. Earlier in the season some of the summer migrants might still be on their way and later on others will have stopped singing, as they get on with the business of rearing young, so this is the time to stop and soak up the sound as the days lengthen. Everything is in full voice with the bewitching blackcap leading the choir.

DC

The blackcap has a smart appearance



# Bayford

## St. Mary's Church

Bayford Church is open Mondays Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

### CHURCH CLEANING

**Annual Spring Clean Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
(see opposite)**

### FLOWERS

**Jane Honeyman, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

### BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL.

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

#### **Robert Wilson Stephens**

The Parish Council, with the agreement of Robert's family, has decided to place a bench on the Village Green, with a plaque, noting Robert's tenure as Chairman from 1980 to 1995.

#### **100 years of Minutes**

I have photographed the first hundred years of Parish Council minutes and placed them online. They start on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1894 with a meeting in the Schoolroom at 5:30pm. Present: Charles Barclay, William Clinton Baker, Edwin Henry Preece and the Revd Charles Edward Hornby. Mr Barclay was appointed Chairman. The main subject of these first meetings was the 'inadequate water supply to the Parish'.

Other names which appear are F Fountain, Henry Clinton Baker, Revd R W Vidal and Job Jones.

#### **Wednesday.**

We have decided to change our meeting day to Wednesday.

#### **Meetings.**

19<sup>th</sup> July

#### **(Wednesday)**

Please check the web site.

Michael Wainwright (Dr),  
Chairman.

**pc@begesford.co.uk**

01707 875970.

*www.begesford.co.uk*



Scan the QR code to go to the PC web site.

Bayford

# The Baker Arms.

**BBQ on 29<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday. (Weather dependant)**

**Darts night 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.**

**Quiz Night 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month**

**FATHERS' DAY booking essential. 18<sup>th</sup> June**

**Kind regards, Martin & Bev  
01992 511235**



## The Knitting Group

Look out for our coronation creations in the village over the Coronation weekend! We are now going to try to learn to crochet. So if you'd like to join us, please come along to the Baker Arms at 8pm on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We are a friendly group of all ages and all abilities!

Please call **Caroline Fletcher on 07919 317212** for more details.

**The Annual Church Spring Clean** will take place at 10am on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. It would be great if we could repeat last year's success. Please do come along, even if you can only spare half an hour.

Please call **Caroline Fletcher on 07919 317212** for more information.

## The Coronation King Charles III

Bayford village will be holding a **Coronation Day Picnic** on the weekend of the Coronation Bank Holiday. This will be held on

**Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm -5pm.**

This is planned to be on the **Village Green and The Baker Arms**, similar to the great Jubilee Village Day we had last year.

Music, Children's Treasure Hunt with prizes, Children's Coronation Picnic table and Ice Cream! Bayford village Homemade cake stall and Baker Arms BBQ.

We look forward to seeing everyone there on this great day with family and picnics All are welcome to bring a Crown as there maybe a prize for the best one!

Please note that the road closure for the event will be from 1pm to 6pm The road will be closed from the Memorial Hall to the Rose Triangle . A notice will be put on the notice board on the Memorial Hall and the bus shelter





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Isabel Hospice is a local charity and each year, we care for hundreds of people across eastern Hertfordshire.

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- Donate **pre-loved goods**
- Donate **your time** as a volunteer

[www.isabelhospice.org.uk](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk)  
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*Barbara Cartland,  
historic romantic novelist,  
is buried in the grounds of Camfield Place,  
marked by a simple stone.  
It is close to a wizened oak  
supposedly planted by Queen Elizabeth I*



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# Brickendon

## Chapel of the Holy Cross & St. Alban

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**The Chapel of the Holy Cross & St. Albans will be 90 years old this year!**

Everyone in the village is invited to come to the Chapel where there will be a celebration consisting of songs, poems and readings followed by a glass of wine and refreshments. If you haven't ever visited the Chapel, come and join friends and neighbours to celebrate. Everyone very welcome!

### Services

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May** – Group Communion Service (at Essendon) 10.15am to celebrate the Coronation

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May** – 11.00am Family Service

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June** - Parish Communion at 11.00am

For enquiries concerning the Chapel, please contact Richard Haryott **01992 511575** or email [richard.haryott@gmail.com](mailto:richard.haryott@gmail.com)

### **Flowers**

Cathy Gibbens  
Cathy Gibbens  
Brenda Lambie  
Brenda Lambie

### **May**

5<sup>th</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup>  
19<sup>th</sup>  
26<sup>th</sup>

### **Cleaning**

Amanda Davey  
  
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 511588**

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

### **Fanshaws Room** (the Village Hall)

The Village Hall in Brickendon is a lovely space for meetings, children's parties 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 £15 per hour (£10 per hour for residents of Brickendon Liberty parish)

Phone **01992 511551** for further information or to make a booking.



**Brickendon Fete & Dog Show 2023**  
will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
11.30am - 3.30pm - Save The Date!!

Brickendon Parish will be holding a

## **Coronation Social Event on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

which will be open to all those living in  
Brickendon Liberty Council Parish  
(i.e. Brickendon Village and Wormley  
West End residents).



## **Brickendon Petanque Boules Club**

**Play at The Farmer's Boy**

### **Summer Play Times**

Sunday 9.30am - 12 noon

Tuesday 5.30pm - 7pm

Thursday 10am - 12 noon

Further information and enquiries  
Contact Janet 01992 511515



## **Parish Council**

### **Meetings**

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:**

25<sup>th</sup> May

27<sup>th</sup> July

28<sup>th</sup> September

23<sup>rd</sup> November

## **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





## The Chapel of the Holy Cross and St. Alban

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May at the 11.00am Family Service we will be celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Consecration of the Chapel.

What an amazing gift to this village and I thought it worthy of a short history of how it came about.

In 1883, parts of the Brickendonbury Estate were sold to the local businessman, Mr. Henry Wilson Demain Saunders. He died at an early age in 1888 and his widow, Minnie, remarried Mr. Arthur Henry Kingsley in 1892.

The Chapel was built with funds provided by Mrs. Kingsley during her lifetime, and by her daughter Constance Demain Saunders, who was responsible for its completion. The Demain Saunders family were so impressed with the way in which some friends of theirs had converted an old timbered barn into a Chapel, that they decided to ask the architect W.F. Haslip, to design a similar Chapel in Brickendon. The timber was cut from trees on the Brickendon estate and lay weathering on the Green for the necessary length of time. Constance Demain Saunders stipulated that for the building of the Chapel, men of Brickendon should be employed by the Builders, Rattee and Kett of Cambridge.

Before the building began, the field was marked in 1931 by the setting up of a Great Cross of oak, designed by Alexander Nairne, a Canon of Windsor and a close friend of the



Demain Saunders family.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 1933 the Right Reverend Bishop Lander consecrated the Chapel and Burial Ground. The pews came from Ely Cathedral but most of the contents of the Chapel were given by the Demain Saunders family and their friends. As lovingly as the Chapel was planned and built, so was the Church Field planted.

In thanksgiving to Constance Demain Saunders and her mother, an inscription in Welsh slate by Quin Hollick was placed in the porch on Whit Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1983. By a strange coincidence, May 22<sup>nd</sup> was the day on which Constance Demain Saunders died.

Please visit the Chapel and see for yourselves what a beautiful and peaceful place it is.

Virginia Haryott

## Are you looking for HR support you can count on?

The HR Dept offers a comprehensive HR service, providing expert advice that won't break the bank on all employment issues including contracts, recruitment, absence, management training, and disciplinary and grievance issues.

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E [annette.tyler@hrdept.co.uk](mailto:annette.tyler@hrdept.co.uk)

W [hrdept.co.uk/hertford-and-hatfield](http://hrdept.co.uk/hertford-and-hatfield)



Preventing People Problems

### ANNETTE TYLER SETS UP THE HR DEPT HERTFORD AND HATFIELD.



A human resources expert from Howe Green, Hertford has set up her own business offering HR advice and support to local small and medium-sized companies in the area.

After a varied corporate career, Annette Tyler has taken an opportunity to start The HR Dept Hertford and Hatfield, providing outsourced HR services in the local area which also includes Hoddesdon, Cheshunt and Ware.

Before her new venture Annette spent more than 25 years in a rapidly growing insurance group, working her way up through the company after starting as an executive and HR assistant.

During that time she covered secretarial, operational, generalist and strategic HR duties, alongside studying at college and eventually becoming HR director.

“My former role gave me accountability for decision making, with the responsibility of working under my own steam,” she said. “So psychologically I certainly feel like I’m ready to run my own business.

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Meetings are based at our Headquarters in Northaw Village.

To find out more contact Gordon Marshall at

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

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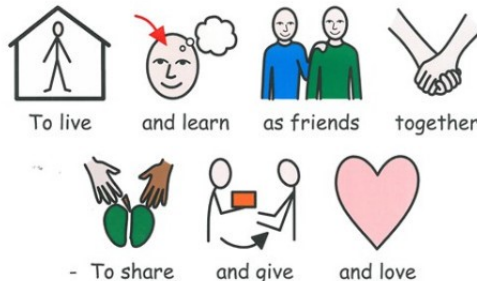


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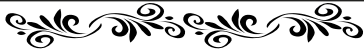
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Essendon

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## **The Village Hall.**

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[essendonvillagehall.wixsite.com/](http://essendonvillagehall.wixsite.com/)

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## **Tennis Courts**

New season starts 1<sup>st</sup> May. The prices are £40 family, £25 individual and £15 for a junior. New members always welcome. To join the club

To join the club or any questions please contact,

**Nicki Whitelaw 07946300512**

**[nicki.whitelaw@sky.com](mailto:nicki.whitelaw@sky.com)**

Essendon Tennis Club Committee

## **Save the Date!**

The Friends of St. Mary's Essendon  
are delighted to be hosting a

## **Progressive Supper on 8<sup>th</sup> July.**

We have held the event a couple of times before with great reviews. Not only do participants have a wonderful meal, they are also hosted in wonderful Essendon homes and make some new friends. A great evening for everyone – young or old, new or established, single or one of a party! Please put the date in your diary and look out for more information nearer the date. If you'd like to know more, please call

**Mandy 07967 500289**



## ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL

ALL MEETINGS AT  
ESSENDON VILLAGE HALL, @ 7PM  
**16<sup>th</sup> May,**  
**14<sup>th</sup> June**

Agendas will be available on the PC website,

(<https://www.essendonpc.org.uk/>)  
and on noticeboards in the village.

Minutes of all meetings are also available on the website.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.

### Essendon Cricket Club

We are looking for a scorer for the coming 2023 season and beyond, ideally Saturday and Sunday, but if someone only wanted to do Saturdays or Sundays that works. Saturday is the day we are struggling with as having your own scorer in a league game is very important. If anyone is interested please contact me.

**Ian Venables 07764777343**  
Essendon CC Captain



## THE CORONATION

**HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

### IN CELEBRATION OF THE CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

All residents of Essendon are hereby cordially invited to the

#### ESSENDON PICNIC ON THE FIELD

3pm - 7pm Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2023  
Essendon Playing Field  
(in the school if wet)

**BBQ, Bar and Real Ale** available.  
Music and laughter!  
**Bouncy castle** and fun for the kids!

Free parking on the field.

Bring your own Picnic, Drinks,  
blankets, chairs, sunscreen etc.

**A SPLENDID TIME IS GUARANTEED  
FOR ALL!  
GOD SAVE THE KING**

#### 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.  
Spaces limited so please call

**01279 498938** or

email [allsortsdg@gmail.com](mailto:allsortsdg@gmail.com)

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

## ESSENDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**Essendon WI was entertained in March by Gary Matthews**, a volunteer at The Gardens of Easton Lodge, Great Dunmow. He gave a fascinating insight into the historic Warwick House and Gardens, particularly the period since 1865, when Frances Evelyn Maynard, known at Daisy, inherited the estate. She became Countess of Warwick and was mistress of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII.

In 1902 the Countess commissioned landscape garden designer, Harold Peto, to create stunning formal gardens and lawns, with a yew walk, wooden pergolas, a Japanese garden, an Italian garden with a balustraded lily pond and a "pleached" lime avenue with treehouse.

In 1939 Easton Lodge was requisitioned by the Army and Home Guard and during 1942/43 thousands of trees in the estate were felled to accommodate an airfield. In 1943 "Crusaders", the USAAF bomber group, took up residence. When they moved to France on D Day, the 190 and 620 Squadrons of the RAF were billeted throughout the estate.

Abandoned in 1950 after demolition of most of the house, the Gardens were forgotten for nearly 45 years. Today, the garden restoration is being undertaken by dedicated volunteers of The Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust, a charity that helps maintain, restore and renovate the Gardens allowing public access.

There will be no speaker in May, which is AGM evening, but on June 21st the speaker will be Suzi Clark and guitar talking about " An Eventful Life".

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.



### THE ESSENDON VESTRY MEETINGS MINUTE BOOK, 1833

A bomb damaged book found in the Essendon St Mary's Clergy Vestry at the back of a cupboard recently, turned out to be carrying details of all the vestry meetings, from 1833 - to 1918. It has significant shrapnel damage from the 1916 Zeppelin attack.

The Vestry, which ran village matters prior to Parish Councils, was formed from parish ratepayers including the owner of Bedwell Park and other landowners and chaired by the Rector of St Mary's church. The meetings were held in the Church Vestry until 1894 when Parish Councils were formed.

The meetings are described as dealing with all spiritual and physical welfare of the Parish and its amenities and other secular matters including collecting local taxes, care of the poor, upkeep of roads, law enforcement, maintenance of church buildings and appointing parish officials.

The minute book mentions existing villagers family surnames. CR

## Gardening

Don't give in to wonderful temptations at Garden Centres too early in the month until you are sure that you have suitable protection from frost in your greenhouses or cold frames as there could well be still some nasty drops in overnight temperatures. When potting up your baskets, pots and troughs don't plant the plants too close together as they will get bigger and you must be able to water and feed them properly.

Once the risk of frost is over, usually round the end of May, you can plant out your 'garden ready' vegetable plants into good well-worked soil but keep one or two cloches or some fleece handy if there is a very cold night threatened. Keep an eye open for greenfly and blackfly and carefully deal with them without damaging your young plants. Should you have a Clematis Montana in you garden now is the time to prune it after its flowering – where you have room you can let it scramble just giving it a light 'tidy' but you can also really cut it back as it will quickly re-grow. Pinch out broad beans, and, on a warm morning, hoe up seedling weeds and let them wilt well before collecting

them up and carefully dig out perennial weeds

- the secret is to hoe a little and often!

If you have room, try and find room for another water butt so you always have plenty of water available at the right temperature. Lift and divide pond plants, repotting where necessary.

Keep earthing up your early potatoes and plant your main crop.

Lift and divide clumps of Primroses once they have finished flowering and have died back, carefully pulling the bunches apart and re-plant them somewhere in semi-shade. If you have set up your Dahlias in a place free from frost, keep an eye on them and they will want to be eventually in a sunny position – they are hungry feeders so need plenty of organic material for their final place and will need well prepared soil. Look out for slugs and snails on their new shoots and they must be kept damp. They are always well worth the effort!

Germander Speedwell



*Zeppelin airship (see opposite)*



# Little Berkhamsted, Howe Green & Epping Green St. Andrew

## CHURCH CLEANING

12<sup>th</sup> May Chris and Trish Hare

26<sup>th</sup> May Georgie Deering

## The King's Coronation Castles and Crowns Competition.

The competition is to make a model of  
**a Castle or a Crown**  
fit for the King.

**They can be made from any  
material.**

**It's open to everyone.**

All castles and crowns will be  
displayed in the church during the  
Coronation weekend. There will be a  
prize for everyone taking part.

The competition closes on  
**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> May.**

If you're interested, please  
**Contact Sandie on 0170787522**



## The King's Coronation

This is going to be a wonderful  
weekend in our church and village!

Friday St Andrew's Church  
Exhibition of

### Castles and Crowns.

From 7pm, enjoy a glass of wine  
whilst being entertained by  
**Ware Local Ukulele**

### Sunday 2pm Afternoon Tea with music from **Flute Cocktail.**

Come and join us for a relaxing  
afternoon.

## Baby Group

**Every Tuesday 10 - 11.30am  
St Andrew's Church,**

Very casual so feel free to  
pop in and say hello!

All babies and toddlers welcome  
with parents,  
grandparents and carers.



## News from Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk) or attend the meeting and ask in person.



### *Little Berkhamsted Coronation Day BBQ*

**Saturday 6th May**  
**Cricket Pavilion | from 5.30 PM**

Bar

**Hertfordshire Band Adjuo 7-9pm**

**Auction of Promises including round of golf for  
4 at Essendon, wine tasting, babysitting,  
gardening and more!**

### **First Aid Training**

**Sarah McGuinness from Critical Response Training** led an excellent course for 12 village residents.

A refresher for some, but valuable emergency life support skills and the use of the defibrillator were covered, and everyone came away feeling much more confident in their ability to cope in an emergency.



### **Village Hall Insulation Project**

Our village hall has no loft insulation and badly needs secondary double glazing and energy efficient lighting to make it both warmer and more environmentally friendly.

The PC are applying for grants but are also fund raising.

You can help by buying tickets for the East Herts Lottery, donating clothes in the village clothing bank and donating to and/or bidding in the **Auction of Promises on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Thank you for your  
support**



## Little Berkhamsted Community Facilities for Hire



**The Village Hall** has disabled access and toilet, a fully equipped kitchen for any refreshment needs, internet access 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 875221  
or [clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk)



## Managing St Andrew's Churchyard for Wildlife

Further to our previous article about the churchyard becoming a haven for wildlife, we had a visit from a volunteer with the Diocese who gives advice to parishes concerning how to improve their churchyard to make them more attractive to wildlife. We have now implemented two of the suggestions and will be looking closely at some of the other ideas with a view to introducing them into the churchyard either later this year or at the beginning of next.

The first suggestion which we have acted upon is the thought that we should leave an area of grass unmown from the end of May until about the end of August to encourage the growth of wild flowers and thus provide a habitat for more insects. An area which is species-rich was identified at the west side of the church, and you will notice that this area will not be cut with the rest of the churchyard during the above mentioned period. It will then be cut and removed in order to prevent the cuttings increasing the fertility of the soil and thus smothering the plants underneath. When you enter the churchyard from Church Road through the lychgate, you will notice on your left this area of grass which has not been cut.

Our hope is that any increase in insect population in the churchyard will also increase the bird activity within the same area, and, secondly, we have tried to encourage the birds a little bit further. Thus, we have also put up three nesting boxes which can be seen in the trees to the south of the church over towards the glebe land. The

three boxes are designed to attract blue tits, great tits and robins respectively, but we will be interested in seeing which species are attracted to nest in these boxes. Thus, if you sit on one of the benches to the south of the church, you should see at least one of the new nesting boxes in the trees towards the glebe land. If we are fortunate enough to have residents in these boxes, please keep your distance as we do not want to then scare the birds away again.

Only time will tell if these initiatives have been successful in providing an extended habitat for wildlife in our churchyard, but we will keep you posted on any progress.

IC



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# Newgate Street

## Ponsbourne St. Mary

Next

## Village Coffee Morning 1<sup>st</sup> May

### 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.

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Cub Pack - Thursday 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Scout Troop - Monday 8.00pm—9:30pm

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

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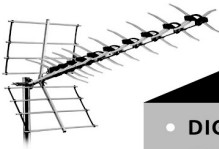


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