



HARTFORD HUNDRED WEST
THE



PARISH MAGAZINE

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

July
2024

- **Editor Required.** p. 5
- **Save The Baker Arms latest.** p. 8
- **PCC Treasurer.** Bayford & B'don p. 15
- **Bell ringers required.** p. 6

Price

80p

The Swift. p. 21

"screaming and swearing,
screeching and swooping as it
tears round the rooftops"



DIOCESE OF ST. ALBANS



The Bishop of St Albans: The Rt. Revd. Dr. Alan Smith
The Bishop of Hertford: The Rt. Revd. Jane Mainwaring
Archdeacon: The Venerable Janet Mackenzie .
Rural Dean: The Revd. Mark Dunstan
Assistant Rural Dean: The Revd. Ysmena Pentelow

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. See p4.
Please advise us of any cases of sickness so that prayers may be offered
or where they may be of any assistance.*

ST ANDREW'S - LITTLE BERKHAMSTED

CHURCHWARDEN

Sandie Ash, Hall Cottage, 7 Church Road,
Little Berkhamsted, SG13 8LY **01707 875221**

PCC SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

Christopher Nunn, Trewinnard House, Little
Berkhamsted, SG13 8LS **07885 464055**

ORGANIST

ST MARY - BAYFORD and HOLY CROSS and ST ALBAN - BRICKENDON

CHURCHWARDEN

Mr C Taylor, Baybury House, 41 Ashdene
Road, Bayford, Hertford, SG13 8PX
01992 511041

PCC SECRETARY

TREASURER

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

ORGANIST

Mrs V Haryott, Wellpond Cottage, Brickendon,
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ST MARY THE VIRGIN - ESSENDON and WOODHILL. AL9 6AS

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Paul Wombwell, 27 Rectory Close, Essendon,
AL9 6HG **01707 273729**
Colin Rees, 2, Letty Green, Hertford,
SG14 2NZ. **07540 351 530.**
colin4444@yahoo.com.

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AL9 6HW 07831 341886
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TREASURER

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

ST MARY - PONSBOURNE

CHURCHWARDEN AND TREASURER

Phil Ryan
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Berkhamsted, SG13 8LY. **01707 875970**
parishmag@begesford.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.

Dear All

Sometimes in the history of Israel -(the apple of God's eye), there is a fearful account of how the nation forsook God and went into idolatry (Judges 11-12). Amenity to idolatry brought Israel into adoration and worship of idols. They abandoned Jehovah – the God of their fathers because of that Israel became powerless before the enemies – (the Philistines and the Ammonites).

Israel then cried out to God. God reminded Israel how He had delivered Israel as a nation in the past. God listens to our cry. We are also reminded of God's great heart of forgiveness and tenderness, like a father who is tender towards his children. Our misery calls forth His mercy. However, as Israel got ready to fight its enemies, there was a need for a mighty warrior who would lead the army into war.

There was a man called Jephthah, a Gileadite who was a mighty man of Valor and the son of an outcast. He was rejected by his own people, family and countrymen. After being rejected he wandered off far away from his own people to another land. When he got there because of what was in him, Jephthah became a leader of gangsters.

The leaders of Israel came together and decided to seek for Jephthah and ask him to lead them into war against their enemies. They promised him recognition of headship if they win the war and defeated their enemy.

This story reminds us of our Lord Jesus Christ, when He was rejected by His own and led to the cross. Later, people called upon Him as their Saviour. In Matthew 21:42, Jesus said, *"Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.."*

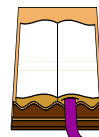
Following the pattern of leaders in the book of Judges, Jephthah was the unlikely leader, his mother was not legally married, by the time he was recognised as a grown up, he was thrust out by his half - brother. However, God used Jephthah from a humble background to deliver Israel. He later became a Judge who presided over Israel for six years.

God discovers the marginalised Jephthah had his faith in God despite his background. He drew his strength from God. We also see his name cited alongside other great men of faith (Gideon, Samson,...) in Hebrews 11:32. These men had their faults but they were mightily used by God.

Rev'd Theresa Musiwacho

Website statistics: During the whole of May, 46 hits were received on the 'May Parish Magazine' web page. This is up from only 9 for April and 6 for March. Whilst encouraging, this represents a very poor hit rate. There were 100 posts on the 'Bayford Village' What'sApp chat in just the first **3 days** of May, (at which point I got fed up with counting).

PARISH REGISTER



Deaths

23rd May 2024

Kathleen Louise BETTLE

Essendon

25th May 2024

Maureen Ann COLEMAN

Essendon

Interment of Ashes

d. 20th January 2024

Joy RORKE

3rd June 2024

Brickendon

Prayer Share

Almighty God, your mercy endures forever, and your love is from generation to generation. You are our strength in our weaknesses. Our hope and our deliverer. Give us the strength to focus and continually look up to you, the source of life and light. We pray all this in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen



JULY CALENDAR

Sunday 7nd July, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Essendon

9:30 am, Family Service, Ponsbourne

11:00 am, Parish Communion, Brickendon

Sunday 14th July, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Bayford

11:00 am, Family Service, Little Berkhamsted

Sunday 21st July, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Ponsbourne

9:30 am, Family Service, Essendon

11:00 am, Family Service, Brickendon

Sunday 28th July, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost.

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Little Berkhamsted

11:00 am, Family Service, Bayford

6:30 pm, Evensong, Essendon

Sunday 4th August, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 am, Parish Communion, Essendon

Wednesdays

9:30 am, Holy Communion, Essendon

10:00 am, Telephone Service Free

For joining instructions email
hartfordhundred@outlook.com

Time is Running Out! Editor Required.



We are now into the latter half of the current calendar year, with time running out to have a new editor in place by the start of 2025.

The appointment to this post is key for the magazine's future, with all the other vacancies reported over the past couple of months dependent upon a new editor being identified by early Autumn.

Whilst literary skills do not need to extend to the ability of writing a best-selling novel, anyone reading this article and being tempted to throw their hat into the ring, would be interested in knowing what is involved.

Key points are:

- * On about the 12th of every month copy is received from contributors, almost entirely by email. This means there is very little typing.

- * Allocate a few hours over the next seven days for production of next month's magazine. This can be on several different days.

- * Use of Word or similar software. The magazine is produced using MSPublisher, but this is very similar to Word and makes the task much easier.

- * Review copy with proof readers, ahead of despatching the pdf via email to the printers based in Cambridge.

- * Most of our c. 40 advertisers keep the same advert month after month. Most

adverts can be placed directly in the magazine with no editing.

A few adverts are sent as text and require a small amount of layout and formatting.

Our current Editor, Mike Wainwright, would be available to ensure a smooth and structured handover to his replacement, which could extend to tuition in the use of the preferred software programme. So, no need to have any early fears, you will not be abandoned by Mike at any stage of the monthly process!

If you feel this is possibly a role for you to play in current parish life, why not contact Mike on 01707 875970 or parishmag@begesford.co.uk in the first instance, to learn more about what is involved in stepping up and taking over as Editor – it cannot be that onerous!

Peter Chivers. 11/05/24.

Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what
you got 'til it's gone?
They paved paradise to
put up a parking lot

JONI MITCHELL

Weddings, Baptisms and other matters.

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

No appointment necessary

The Bells of St Mary's

Why become a bell ringer?

In case you thought you heard bells in the second week of June, you did! Very often, on National occasions, the bell ringers at Essendon are 'commanded' to participate in a 'National Ring'. By Royal command, they were told to ring the bells at 6.30 pm on D day, 6th June in common with every other church in the UK. This was supposed to accompany the lighting of the beacon which sadly, Essendon does not have; however, this time, the band was made up of both experienced ringers and learners who now have mastered the first step of controlling the bell (which makes it bong in the correct place!)

For some, it was their first National event, one of many we hope.



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01992 877666 hertfordhearing@outlook.com

Essendon Events

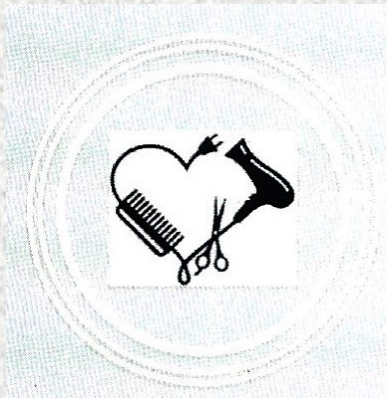


Save the Date!
Essendon Residents and Friends.
Saturday 7th September



St Mary's Friends are at an early stage of planning a village event on the playing field to raise money for St Mary's and we wanted to make sure that we give as much notice as possible. Details are still being outlined but we are planning food and music for all the family. Timings are TBD but it is likely to be an afternoon and evening event to appeal to all the family. A small organising group has been established - we would love the get more help!

If you are interested please contact Mandy mandynevel@gmail.com or 09767 500289



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Liz Wainwright

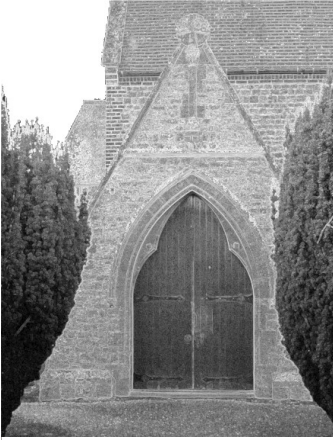
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Bayford

St. Mary's Church

Bayford Church is open **Sunday, Wednesday** and **Saturday**.

CHURCH CLEANING

July 14th and 28th Gabrielle Dolan and Lorna Fitzjohn

BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

The Old Playground.

Gavin Nelson continues to update us on the progress as Bonnel Homes negotiates its way through the red tape of EHDC Planning Department.

Meetings.

29th July, 8pm

Please check the web site.

Michael Wainwright (Dr),
Chairman.

pc@begesford.co.uk

01707 875970.

www.begesford.co.uk

Friends of the Baker Arms

A number of meetings and emails have been exchanged between FOBA and Tom McMullen. There is much common ground and McM's seem to be committed to retaining a public house in Bayford.

There are still issues to sort out, not least the division of the building and car park between possible development and pub.

McM are likely to submit a planning application for the site. We hope the whole village will support this. None of the parties involved will get 100% of their desired outcome. We hope it will 'please most of the people, most of the time'.

Our COF (*Community Ownership Fund*) grant application has been put on hold due to the declaration of the election.

The COF grant will allow us to obtain government funding both for capital and revenue.

We have set up a Community Benefit Society, provisionally entitled '*The Bayford Community Benefit Society Limited*' (A catchy title you will agree), including the form specifying the rules under which the CBS will operate.

We have also joined the Plunkett Foundation. This will (already has)



provide us with guidance and will reduce the fees to make the various applications.

We have now almost completed the COF application. This is a much more involved process, and a number of decisions will have to be made beforehand.

Please follow, like and share on social media for all the latest campaign news.

www.friendsofbakerarms.org
hello@friendsofbakerarms.org

The Right of Way Issue.

At the PC meeting on the 29th April, Oliver and Mike set out the proposed plans for the division of the Baker Arms site into the bit retained by McM for development and the bit that becomes the new Baker Arms.

We are still in discussion with McM, but are converging on a layout which will give FOBA (roughly) the right-hand two thirds of the pub and half the car park.

After being pressed by the FOBA team,

and because of the possibility of a legal right of way, McM have conceded a two metre wide footpath down the north/left side of the car park, giving access from Ashendene Rd to Station Rd. This will not be a Public Footpath in the legal sense, but will be owned by the PC, and thus be a Permissive Footpath. This will safeguard this access for the future. We must emphasize that McM have made it clear that any attempt by us to apply for a legal RofW will mean 'the deal is off'.

We are very grateful to everyone who can forward to express their interest in testifying that they had used the pub as a footpath.

All this is subject to further discussion.



Bayford St Mary

Bayford Knitting

The knitting group has been very busy knitting 46 pairs of bonding squares for babies in intensive care at Stoke Mandeville hospital and almost 200 forget me nots for Alzheimer's awareness.

Our current project is trauma teddies for the Hertford fire service to give out to children caught up in traumatic events such as fires or car crashes.

We meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Farmers Boy from 8pm. For more information please call **Caroline Fletcher** on 07919 317212.



The Medication Appeal



Isabel Hospice calls on local community to help buy vital medication for In-Patient Unit

Isabel Hospice, the hospice care charity serving eastern Hertfordshire, has launched an appeal to raise money to help buy essential medication so it can continue to deliver expert care to patients in its In-Patient Unit.

Only 30% of the medication used at the Isabel Hospice In-Patient Unit is funded by the NHS, meaning Isabel Hospice must raise a staggering £70,000 each year to pay for the rest.

The Medication Appeal features the story of local couple Rich and Katy. In 2021, aged just 38, Katy was diagnosed with cancer and sadly began to deteriorate rapidly with severe bouts of pain. Katy was later admitted to the Isabel Hospice In-Patient Unit where she was given a bespoke number of carefully balanced medications which had an immediate impact.

"Within days she was up, showering and washing her hair" said Rich "Our family were so surprised by how quickly she improved – it almost seemed like she was going to make a miraculous recovery."

"Isabel's care and careful medication plan meant we could enjoy all our 'lasts' together in the best way we could – with Katy present and free of pain."

The appeal is asking for donations to go towards medications that can provide pain relief, nausea relief, seizure relief, mental distress relief and more.

Manisha, a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Isabel Hospice commented: "A person

could be struggling

with a whole range of other symptoms contributing to, or on top of their pain. Suddenly, the simplest of tasks can be overwhelming; things like showering, getting dressed, or taking a walk may be almost impossible."

"But when we manage to get these symptoms under control, it can make an enormous difference. Medication, alongside our incredible team of doctors and nurses, plays a crucial role in that care; without it there's only so much we can do to ease their journey."

Anybody wishing to learn more about how to support the Medication Appeal should visit isabelhospice.org.uk/MedicationAppeal or call Isabel Hospice on 01707 954 850



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CUCUMBER LANE, ESSENDON

Email Scams

Your TV Licence expires on 08/06/2024.



From "© TV Licensing" <info@registermyteam.co.uk>
to "mike" <mike@modgraph.co.uk>

Tue 04/06/2024 18:02

① You forwarded this message on 05 June 2024 08:33:08.

⚠ Download pictures or always download pictures from this sender. To preserve privacy, external content was not downloaded.

Here is an example of the many emails you might receive from people attempting to empty your bank account.

It looks quite authentic. The logos have been copied from the real TV licencing web site. It even has a .co.uk email address.



Please renew your licence now, it only takes a few minutes.

[Renew My Licence](#)

Dear mike@modgraph.co.uk

Your TV Licence expires on May 8th, 2024 11:00:58 AM.
To renew, choose whether you want to pay monthly or all in one go, get your payment details ready and then it's done for another year.

Confirm Delivery: Your parcel will be delivered by David



From "EVRI PARCEL" <ldapuser@selectio.com.mx>
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Tue 06/02/2024 01:30



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[Proced to portal](#)

Note : **Your parcel will be delivered by David**

Regards,

Evri Help Service

Issable offers Collect points <https://secure.tesco.com/clubcard/collect-points> Hot Clubcard deals From us, to you Buy a 60GB SIM...

And here's another one looking like it's come from EVRI, but actually from Mexico. (.mx).

Such emails sometimes ask you to pay additional postage or confirm delivery.

Never reply or provide any details in response to such emails.



Brickendon

Chapel of the Holy Cross & St. Alban

For enquiries concerning the Chapel, please contact **Virginia Haryott 01992 511575** or email **wellpondharyott@gmail.com**

Many people will have noticed that the front hedge, fence and noticeboard at the church were destroyed late at night by an out of control driver. Parts of the car were also found the next day. Unfortunately no one had the decency to admit to the accident and we are now in the process of getting it all restored.

Services

Sunday 7th July - Parish Communion at 11.00am

Sunday 21st July - Family Service at 11.00am

Flowers

Amanda Davey

Maureen Reid

July

5th July

12th July

19th July

26th July

Cleaning

Amanda Davey

Tessa Whitlow

Knit N Natter at The Farmer's Boy

Brickendon Knit N Natter meet every Tuesday in The Farmer's Boy from 10am until 12 noon.

We are a very friendly and welcoming group. Some people knit, some crochet, some sew, some natter and some knit n natter.

If you want to learn how to knit or crochet we can help you just come along on a Tuesday morning and join us.

Some of the group have been making the postbox toppers. Keep a look out for the next one.

For more information contact Janet **01992 511515**.

Tennis Courts.

The fee for hire is still £5 per court per hour. The courts are in excellent condition and we like to see them being used, there is also a pavilion for changing in.

To book a court please telephone 07734 715002 or email tony.roberts@brickendon-liberty.org.uk

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

Book Club - meets every first Tuesday of the month at 8pm, contact **Andrea Trendler for venue - 01992 511588**

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 Council meetings in 2024
25th July, 26th September,
28th November

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

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

Minutes: Brickendon website
www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk for .

Brickendon Petanque Boules Club

We play at The Farmers Boy
Sunday 10am - 12noon
Tuesday 5.30pm - 7pm
Thursday 10am - 12noon

We have a full and active summer programme and new players are always welcome, boules can be borrowed from the club hut.

For further information contact our Club Secretary Janet 01992 51151



Village Fete and Dog Show

As usual, this will take place on the first Sunday in September (1st) on Brickendon Green. All the usual attractions are being booked, Punch & Judy, Birds of Prey display, Band, Craft Stalls, Refreshments and games for young and old. Please put the date in your diary, we look forward to seeing everyone.



The Farmers Boy PH

In recent weeks there has been concern about changes at The Farmers Boy PH with the possible loss of our lovely landlady and her family ... but we have now had it confirmed that Rachel is taking over the tenancy. This means she has a greater influence on the way the pub operates, so look out for locally sourced fresh food, including meat, fish and ice cream plus menu items that also meet the needs of those with allergies and special diets.

Bayford CofE Primary School & Nursery

Due to a recent change to their constitution Bayford CofE Primary School & Nursery have a vacancy on their Board of Governors. We would like to appoint a local person with a real interest in young people and their education. There would be between 6 and 12 early evening (5pm) meetings to attend per year. If you are interested in school governance and think you could support this thriving village school please contact the Chair of Governors (01992 511551) for a chat.



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Please mention HHW Parish Magazine when responding to an advert.

Bayford and Brickendon Parish

Would you like to support your wonderful local churches?
Have you got a few hours to spare each month?

St. Mary's Bayford and Holy Chapel Brickendon are seeking a new Treasurer,

as our present Treasurer is retiring in June. It would be possible to have one Treasurer for each church.

The PCC meets three times a year and has an annual meeting when the accounts for the previous year are presented.

The role is voluntary and includes paying bills, managing bank accounts, and producing the annual accounts which are examined by an independent accountant.

The Treasurer does not have to be experienced as a handover will be provided. The weekly collections and fundraising money are paid into the bank by the churchwarden.

For more information or to arrange a chat with the current Treasurer about the role, please contact:

Lorna on 07582538996 (lorna.fitzjohn@gmail.com) or
Virginia on 07770944854 (virginia.haryott@gmail.com)



Are you applying for a Reception Class place in September?

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AL9 6HD

Essendon

Essendon, Woodhill, Wild Hill & Woodside

St. Mary the Virgin



6TH & 13TH
20TH & 27TH

SARA WALDUCK
JUDE WOOD



Services. See page 5.

Sybil Emily Howlett, who passed away 8th January 2024, was a regular churchgoer before COVID. She would and should have been celebrating her 100th birthday on the 27th June 2024 .

She spent all her life in Essendon where she had a great many friends who miss her very much. We gathered in the village hall for tea and refreshments, and enjoyed our memories with each other .

Her funeral, which was arranged by her friends, was on the 13th February 2024, at St Mary the Virgin, Essendon.

It was a lovely celebration of Sybil's long, interesting and happy life .

The service was conducted by the Revd Teresa Musiwacho.



**Sybil's 99th birthday,
"My best party ever."**

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

for more information.

Website: www.allsortsdg.co.uk

Bible Study

All are welcome.

More information and dates from

mckellartrish@gmail.com

The Village Hall.

Tel: 07442 499601

email:

essendonvillagehall@hotmail.com

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

essendonvillagehall.wixsite.com/

essendonvillagehall



Essendon Toddlers

The new Baby and Toddler group meets in Essendon on Friday mornings, 10-11.30 in St Mary's Church room (just to the side of the St. Mary's Church).

If you have or look after a baby or toddler and want to meet up, why not come along and join us?

All are welcome.

There is no charge although in the future we may ask for a contribution for tea and coffee! Any questions please message mandynevel@gmail.com

Tennis Courts

The prices are

£50 family,

£30 individual and

£15 for a junior.

New members always welcome.

To join the club or any questions please contact,

Nicki Whitelaw 07946300512

nicki.whitelaw@sky.com

Essendon Tennis Club Committee

Essendon WI will be meeting on Wednesday 17th July and the speaker will be Jo Cowan explaining “The Powerful Effects of Magnets”.

Jo is an Executive Director and has worked at Magnetix-Wellness UK for eight years. Her talk on the history of magnetic power describes the surprising benefits on our health and explains the various scientific theories. Testimonials will describe how magnets have helped sufferers of the menopause, hot sweats, sleepless nights, joint-ache, nerve pain, arthritis, back pain and many more ailments. Samples of beautiful magnetic jewellery will accompany her presentation.

WI Meetings in the Village Hall start at 8.00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Visitors are very welcome. Please call Lyn McCash on 07971 909540 for further details.

Please call Lyn McCash on 07971 909540 for further details.

GARDENING in JULY

Sitting here writing this on a cold miserable June afternoon I can only hope that this July Gardening article will be read under lovely sunshine and that your gardens are all catching up after a very odd and difficult Spring! With warm wet weather it is difficult to keep on top of things. Pests and diseases can rapidly multiply. Do not despair!

Mulch borders with any suitable organic matter available making sure that the ground under this mulch is sufficiently moist before doing this. Water thoroughly to be ready for dry warm spells.

Deadhead Roses to prolong their display pruning to lower outside buds which will clear the centre of the bushes. Give the roses a ‘feed’ using a high potash one to encourage strong shoots and more flowers later in the summer and spray regularly in good time using recommended treatment. Prune early flowering shrubs such as Philadelphus and Weigela if not already done. Remove cleanly any unwanted growth from the base of shrubs and trees and try for fun taking cuttings from Hydrangeas!

Disbud Dahlias if you want large blooms for local Shows etc. and carefully and strongly support these sturdy single flowering stems - you will need good stakes for this as they can be a bit ‘top heavy’.

If your Dahlias are just a lovely show in your own gardens just carefully support them and remember that they do vary in height and colour! If buying new ones their pots will probably have not only their colour but also the individual expected height to help when you plant them out. (continued opposite)

Essendon Nature Notes

There are some birds I have taken for granted over the years. One of them is the swift, screaming and swearing, screeching and swooping as it tears round the rooftops. A church spire isn't a church spire without the devil-bird in attendance. It has always been the sound of summer, late to arrive and early to depart, providing a piercing backdrop to these warmer months. However in recent decades they have declined and are sadly not such a constant voice anymore. I have only seen them now and again this summer over the village.

Swifts are insects feeders, taking tens of thousands a day in continuous flight, like whales hoovering up plankton, the 'frog-gapers' as the poet Ted Hughes called them. In our childhoods, after a long car journey number plates and windscreens would be covered with dead insects. But no more and this dramatic fall in invertebrate numbers must be a factor in the swift's troubles.

However research suggests that the

loss of suitable nest sites maybe a more significant issue as the cracks and crevices and open eaves are disappearing from buildings. Just down the road the Hertford Swift Group has done an amazing job getting over five hundred nestboxes put up around the town. It will be a while before they are all occupied but hopefully it will contribute to reversing the trend. As well as boxes, swift bricks are specifically engineered to allow the birds to nest. These have been incorporated into the Lea Wharf development and the newly reconstructed Hertford theatre.

Seen up close they are not beautiful birds although their aerial speed and grace and scythe-like wings are special and always a joy. But it is their call that is unique and must not be lost. Maybe we can all get a brick and a box and at some point start taking them for granted again.

DC

GARDENING in JULY (concluded)

Keep an eye on bulbs from earlier Spring plantings that you have now lifted and 'heeled in'. Throw out any that show signs of rot, lay the remaining bulbs out singly to dry completely and store in trays in a cool dry place to be ready to be re-planted later.

Top up ponds in hot weather keeping a good eye that water levels are high enough and regularly make sure that there isn't too much weed there as oxygenating plants can take over.

Autumn flowering bulbs will soon be about and these can give such a lovely unexpected spectacular late Summer/Autumn show so look out for them!

Keep harvesting and enjoying your lovely flowers and vegetables!

Germander Speedwell

ESSENDON PC

Essendon Parish Council meetings held at Essendon Village Hall at 7pm. The next full council meeting will be Tuesday 9th July. Agendas will be available on the PC website – www.essendonparishcouncil.gov.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. Appointed at May's Annual Meeting of the Parish Council are Chairman, Cllr. Ian Venables and Vice-Chair, Cllr. Tracey Willets serving together with

councillors Keith Venables, Mike Brown, Fran Christensen and Chris Jenner. The Clerk is Caroline Chapple who you are welcome to email at clerk@essendonparishcouncil.gov.uk with any comments or questions you may have.

Caroline Chapple
Clerk

Essendon Parish Council
clerk@essendonparishcouncil.co.uk

Essendon Cricket Club (Colts)

Introduction to cricket for Year 4's to Year 7's.

Open to all boys and girls, of all abilities

When: Wednesday 5th June to 10th July

Time: 6pm to 7pm

Where: Essendon cricket field

If you are interested, please message Nigel on 07960424230 to be added to the WhatsApp group.





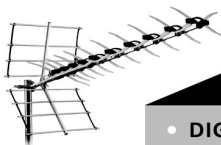
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Services for July

Family service 14th July 11am

Parish Communion 28th July 9.30am

Telephone service Wednesday 10am

**The Church is open every
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**So, pop in and see what is
going on.**

This service is for anyone at home and would like to join us. Contact me for details. 01707875221.

80 D-Day 6th June 2024

We would like to thank the members of the Parish Council who arranged a very enjoyable evening with the lighting of the Village Beacon on the Recreation field and arranging an opportunity to see the exhibition of 'Little Berkhamsted in Wartime' both in the Pavilion and then in the Village Hall.

Thank you to everyone involved in the Church Service on Sunday the 9th June to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.



The Church is open through the summer, we have free books and a quiet corner why don't you join us some time.

D-DAY 80

Family Service at St Andrews Church, Sunday 9th June 2024

A special and well attended Family Service was held at St Andrews Church on Sunday 9th June, as part of Little Berkhamsted's programme of events to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, on 6th June 1944.

The service was expertly led by Trish McKeller, with her usual thoughtfulness and gentle style. She poignantly reminded us of the momentous part that the Normandy Landings played in our Nation's history, when so many soldiers, sailors and airmen gave their lives in the cause of the freedoms that we hold so dear today.

Well illustrated and informative, with prayers, readings and stirring hymns to set the emotions racing of young and old alike, this family occasion was a memorable and thought provoking commemoration of the historic events of 80 years ago. Jerry O'Reilly



D -Day 80 Commemorations
in
Little Berkhamsted

News from Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 17th July 2024** 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.

80th Anniversary of D Day

At 9.15pm on Thursday 6th June, the Little Berkhamsted villagers met on the Recreation Field to witness along with many other communities throughout the land the lighting of the beacon to commemorate the landings in Normandy 80 years ago.

The Parish Council had moved the beacon from its normal resting place beside Church Road just outside the Recreation Field to its new location next to the Cricket Pavilion for this occasion. They had invited the villagers to come along for the evening and bring a picnic if they so desired. The Cricket Club bar in the pavilion was open and so the villagers could get refreshments. Also in the bar area were several boards which gave some indication of the war time activities which were happening in the village. As well as being on display that evening, the boards were subsequently moved to the village hall for a week so that everybody had the chance to study them.

The people of Little Berkhamsted entered into the spirit of the evening and congregated into groups to share some time together, enjoy the music from that era, conversations with their neighbours and refreshments. Penny gave some thought about the occasion and our District Councillor Bob Dearing read out "The International Tribute" for those who landed in Normandy and particularly for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Finally, the beacon was lit and villagers then dispersed but with thanks to the Parish Council who had worked extremely hard to make the evening so enjoyable.

Report by Ian Bailey.

See photos on previous page.

Little Berkhamsted Community Facilities for Hire

The Village Hall has recently been insulated and redecorated. It has disabled access and toilet, a fully equipped kitchen for any refreshment needs, a table tennis table, 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



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Saturday 27th July – Visit us at the Dutch Marketplace Craft Fair Watercolours with Deana Kim Page 10-1pm Special Fair price £45

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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@pbscouts.org.uk



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The day is always a firm favourite with families, as there is something for everyone! There will be a chance to join in with fun and games for the little ones, as well as the opportunity to pick apples as a family and either donate them back to us, or buy them to make some goodies of your own.

Come and join us between 11-3pm! For further information, please email fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk



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Village Chat - WhatsApp group for
people living in the village. To join the
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Village Pub Social - 8pm the second
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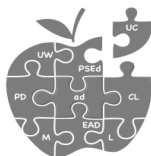
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