

ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016 to JANUARY 2017

Diary of Events

Date	Event
Dec 3 rd	Brent Pelham Christmas Festive Fair - Village Hall, 11am - 3.30pm
Dec 6 th	Village Link– Meesden Village Hall 7.30pm – Christmas Dinner
Dec 10 th	Brent Pelham Village Hall - Children's Winter Wonderland Workshop - 9am – 1pm.
Dec 13 th	Village Supper Club Xmas Dinner – The Woodman, Nuthampstead– 7.30pm. Advance booking required
Dec 14 th	Carols in the Sapsed Barn, Anstey – 7.00pm
Dec 16 th	Lantern Carols – Meesden Village Hall – 6.30pm
Dec 18 th	Christmas Songs with Tony & Dave - The Blind Fiddler - 8pm
December	Hormead Garden Club – No Meeting.
January	Village Link – No January meeting
Jan 10 th	Village Supper Club – The Woodman, Nuthampstead – 7.30pm
Jan 19 th	Hormead Garden Club – Hormead Village Hall 8pm – “A History of Hertfordshire's woods, commons & hedgerows.” Speaker: Anne Rowe
Jan 28 th	Sausage Supper – Meesden Village Hall – 7.00pm
March 4 th	Meesden Quiz night – Village Hall
March 9, 10 and 11	“Meesden Gothic” by the Village Players – Brent Pelham Village Hall.

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Please send in your own news to: Jackie Godfrey on 01763 848732 or rjmo@tinyworld.co.uk (for Anstey);
Peter Wrightson on 01279 777435 or peter@wrightson.u-net.com (Brent Pelham);
Margaret Beach on 01279 777195 or moth@sotamail.com (Meesden) or, for last minute material, direct to the editors.

The next deadline is **15th** January 2017



A Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to Us All!

GENERAL NEWS

A date for your diaries. We are all in for a real treat when the **Village Players** return in the New Year. On **March 9th, 10th, and 11th** they will be performing the acclaimed “**Meesden Gothic**” at Brent Pelham Village Hall. Tickets will be on sale in the New Year at the ridiculously low price of £7.00 and details will appear in the next newsletter of how to get hold of them. For those who want to jump the queue it is rumoured that Mandy Parker amanda.parker@hotmail.co.uk 01763 848275 may have tickets on sale as from January 1st!

French Tutor: Is your son or daughter struggling with French at school? I can help to re-build their confidence and improve their French understanding (both verbal and written). With every emphasis these days on speaking a foreign language, this is a great opportunity to give your KS 1, 2 or 3 child the head start he or she needs, and build a strong foundation in the French language. Contact Wendy Sellers, Anstey 01763 848903 for details. (*Enhanced DBS checked*)



Hertfordshire County Council warns residents to be vigilant against rogue traders. On average, almost 250 reports of rogue trading are made each year in Hertfordshire, but it is estimated that only between five and 20 per cent of these crimes are reported – that’s why Hertfordshire County Council’s Trading Standards team is advising residents to follow a few top tips:

**Say no to doorstep callers. Do not buy goods or services at the door. *If you are considering having work done, always shop around first and get at least three quotes. You can search for a Hertfordshire Trading Standards Approved Trader on the [Which? Trusted Traders website](#) or by calling Trading Standards.*

**Honest businesses agree pricing beforehand, including VAT. Get a written contract.*

**Avoid paying cash in hand. It’s better to pay by bank transfer or cheque, as these can be traced. If you think you or a vulnerable relative or neighbour has become the victim of a rogue trader, report it straight away.*

David Russell, 67, from Ware, contacted a local trader when he had a problem with a drain in his back garden. “From the beginning, the trader didn’t seem the least bit friendly. After about an hour he came and he said, ‘Well, this is going to cost more than we thought [...] because I need more equipment.’ He was there for about five hours altogether, and as time went on seemed to get unhappier.” The trader quoted him £200, but David was charged almost £1,500 – for a job that wasn’t done to a satisfactory standard. “I did write a cheque and when I thought about it the next day or so, I thought, well this is really a bit too much, I should take advice on this. I was speaking to friends, and one of them recommended that I go to Trading Standards. I phoned them up and spoke to them and they said, ‘Well, the first thing to do is to cancel the cheque.’”

David was lucky as he contacted Trading Standards quickly and was able to cancel his cheque before it was cashed. As the trader had failed to give cancellation rights or indicate VAT-inclusive prices, Trading Standards brought him to court, where he pleaded guilty and was fined a total of £2,400 for David's case and two others. The company he worked for was also fined a total of £5,600. Get advice through the County Council's website at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards. Report rogue traders through the Citizens Advice consumer service on 03454 04 05 06. Search for trusted traders at <http://trustedtraders.which.co.uk/>

We are sorry to announce the death, in early November 2016, of **June Wyld** of Great Hormead. Her funeral service was taken by the Rev'd Kate Peacock in a packed Great Hormead Church on the 22nd November. A tribute to her will appear in the Great Hormead newsletter, but we know she will be very much missed and send our sincere condolences to her family.

Fabulous Christmas Concert in aid of St. Clare Hospice, December 10th: Amici Cantate (conducted by John Tripp), the Imperial Male Voice Choir and Thaxted Primary School Choir will be joining forces for a great Christmas concert in **Thaxted Church** on Saturday December 10th at 7pm. This concert will feature Britten's "A Ceremony Of Carols" and Vaughan-Williams' "Fantasia On Christmas Carols", with other carols and festive favourites and an opportunity to join in too. With a baritone soloist, harpist, cellist and percussionist this is a concert not to miss – please come and support it – tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/amivicantate, or by mailing tickets@amicicantate.org.uk or calling the ticket secretary on 01279 506773

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME – *If you need a lift to a hospital, or doctor's surgery, help with the shopping, or minor jobs around the house, etc, just give us a ring on 01763 848536.*

There is a local Supper Club: on the second Tuesday of each month. It is held at The Woodman, Nuthampstead at 7.30pm (please book on 01763 848328).

ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk

A warm welcome to **Ian and Lyn Marie Palmer**, from Stotfold, Beds. Ian has taken over at **Anstey Chapel** from Ian and Sue Merrick. Ian Palmer's Induction Service as Pastor took place on the 12th November and he and Lyn Marie will be moving into Chapel Bungalow in early December. We hope they will have a fulfilling and happy time in Anstey.

A fond farewell and best wishes for the future to **Mike Thompson** of **Castle House** who has moved to the West Country.

The Yew Tree Christmas Shop is back for 4 days in early December – Fri 2nd, Sat 3rd, Fri 9th, Sat 10th from 10.30am - 4.30pm. Don't miss the chance to enjoy your Christmas shopping and see our alpaca family. Wide range of alpaca products for sale; alpaca yarns, hand knitted accessories and babywear, alpaca socks, cards and alpaca bags. Our newly launched alpaca pillows and cushions will also be available.

ALSO NEW this year, LB Truly Chocs, luxury home made chocolates from Hertford and Jan's cool candles, hand crafted and also based in Anstey. Butlers Grove provisions will also be on sale. Complimentary mulled wine & mince pies, teas and coffees will ensure a relaxing shop. *If you bring the Christmas shop flyer found in your newsletter you receive 10% off your purchase, valid on all 4 days of the shop – valid on one transaction only on any one of the 4 days the shop is open, not to be used with any other offers).*

Anstey School. "THANK YOU everyone who donated to get our children back into school after the long summer holiday. I'm delighted to say that we raised £1020 and now all our children can be in school having loads of fun with all the new equipment. The money raised is going towards a minibus for the school to enable our children to attend sports fixtures, swimming lessons and much much more. We now have almost £7000 in total to go towards this bus and estimate that

we only need a further £3000. We will be trying our hardest to achieve this before the end of term so please keep spreading the word. All donations are very welcome at the school office. THANK YOU once again for your tremendous support and generosity."

The Barker family would like to thank the Parish for their amazing support over the past few weeks, after the passing of Martin. Particularly to the unsung heroes who on September 6th helped with car parking, allowing the use of their meadows and fields, and to the Village Hall committee for opening up for toilet facilities. We are so fortunate in being a part of such a caring community. Kind Regards, Nicky Barker.

BRENT PELHAM NEWS

Congratulations! Proud grandparents Jenny & Steve announced the birth of Arthur Walter Lewis, born on September 29th, a son for Ross & Charlotte Wiegold.

Dawn Long This is the entry which gives me the greatest pleasure and it's to welcome Dawn back to the village. For those of you who don't know, Dawn has been seriously ill and away from home & family for 28 months. In June 2014, she became a medical emergency, was admitted to Addenbrookes & diagnosed with a very rare illness called Anti NMDA Receptor Encephalitis. This started an extremely long process of treatment & rehab which now continues at home. I heard from husband Russell who said "It has taken a long while to get to this point but on behalf of Dawn, our family & me, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone in & around Brent Pelham who has offered support while Dawn was away. I am pleased to say that she came home in October and is working hard to re-adjust to village life. Hopefully, the familiar faces & surroundings will help her progress and reach her goals. Once again, thank you and we look forward to seeing you around." Russell Long & Family.

Churchyard Clean Up The annual clean-up of the churchyard & war memorial was held on a lovely sunny morning on October 22, organised by Graham White. Many more folk than expected joined in which presumably was nothing to do with the invitation to the pub afterwards! Even the children helped and Graham said that there was little organising to do as everyone got stuck in which made it a relatively simple exercise. Bacon & onion rolls were served, prepared by Kristian in the Village Hall kitchen, together with lashings of coffee. Then a column of folk trooped down to The Black Horse and were greeted by Hugh who generously provided wine & port for the workers

Pop-Up Pubs continued to be popular at the Village Hall on September 30 & October 28.

Well Done Miro ... and Emma! During a dog walk in the middle of June, Miro happened on a damaged kestrel, lying on its side in the field behind his house. The bird was alive but didn't move so he picked it up in his gilet, took it home and put it in the shed with some cat food & water. Keen to get advice, he made some calls, including to a charity in Stevenage which suggested that cat food was not a good idea so that was removed! He then called Emma Weatherhead at the Woolpack Vet Surgery in Buntingford who he had used in the past to restore



a couple of Brent Pelham hedgehogs! In addition to her receptionist duties, Emma runs a rehab service from the Woolpack, funded by donations. Emma identified the kestrel as an underweight adult female & x-rays revealed a broken right ulna (wing). The wing was strapped to stabilise and the bird was given anti-inflammatory pain killers for 21 days. Plenty of food was eaten, mostly dead mice & chicks, and the bird put on weight. In early August the kestrel's bone had healed and it was transferred to the Raptor Foundation near Woodhurst, Cambs who have a large aviary where they can check a kestrel's ability to hover which is essential to survival.



The Foundation found that although the ulna had healed, the bird had lost a couple of flight feathers so it needed two more months of rehab.

There was a happy ending as on October 6th Emma picked the bird up from the Foundation, brought her back to Brent Pelham, met Miro and they released the kestrel near where Miro had found her. If you are walking in the fields between The Causeway & the Hornead road, and see a female kestrel (female = brown head; male = grey head) with a ringed leg, it is almost certainly this bird. If you are inspired by this story, please consider giving a small donation to help Emma in her voluntary work. She will take on any form of wildlife, treat accordingly, & work with specialist organisations such as the Raptor Foundation, and she expects to return a high percentage to the wild. So, the next time you are passing the Woolpack, Emma has a donation box in reception. Thanks.

Marathon Peel of Bells You may have noticed a long, high quality peel from the tower at St Mary's on the afternoon of Tuesday November 8th. Kate Hinch mentioned that our six bells were used by the Bedfordshire Association of Change

Ringers to successfully ring a continuous peel of 166 minutes with no mistakes! For those of you knowledgeable in these matters, it was a 5040 Surprise Minor – 1 extent each Carlisle, Bamborough, Bourne, York, Ipswich, Norwich & Cambridge.

The Black Horse We are expecting the pub to re-open towards the end of November/early December! Let's show it our support and meet friends & neighbours there over the Christmas period.

Natter with Nanny During a recent cuppa with 93 year old Nanny she told me a lovely story about something that happened when she was 7 years old. You may recall that she had many illnesses as a child and was regularly hospitalised. One of the effects of this was that she was a very shy girl who lacked confidence, and Nanny told me that she used to hide under the table when visitors came to the house! One day there were visitors and her father asked her to come out of her hiding place to meet a very important person in the car outside. She wouldn't. Then her mother suggested that Nanny should show the visitor her new miniature Singer sewing machine which she loved. That did the trick & Nanny proudly demonstrated the Singer to the very beautiful, elegant & well-dressed lady in the soft coat outside. Her father told her never to forget the lady's name, which Nanny admits she has, but she has never forgotten who she was. The lady had been Governess to the two youngest children of Czar Nicholas II who was the last Emperor of Russia, cousin of King George V, and executed, along with his family in 1918. I find it extraordinary that, through someone in the village, we have a small link to world history a century ago!

The Christmas Festive Fair will be in the Village Hall on **Saturday December 3rd from 11am to 3.30pm**, run by Beth Featherstone & Katey Hügi. This is a great opportunity to buy Christmas presents or stock up for the celebrations. Light festive refreshments, including mulled wine, will be available. For more details, call 777281.

Christmas Workshop Following the success of last year's Christmas Workshop, Katey Hügi will be running a **Children's Winter Wonderland Workshop** in the Village Hall on **Saturday December 10th from 9am – 1pm**. They will be making decorations, decorating the hall & stage with a winter scene, storytelling & games. Mums, Dads, Grandparents or Guardians can drop off their children at the VH and enjoy extra time to complete preparations for Christmas. Katey has a current, enhanced CRB check. She welcomes any parent to help out and join in on the fun, if they are free. Booking is preferable to ensure we stick to numbers. Please contact Katey at ecotreecare.katey@gmail.com

Phoenix Choir John Tripp will be resurrecting the village Phoenix Choir again this year for the village carol service. This is a completely open access group and anyone interested in singing will be welcome to join the regulars – please call John or Jo for more info on 777944 – they would love to hear from you – don't be shy!

The Carol Service will be held at **6.30pm on Sunday December 18th** at St. Mary's.

Christmas Drinks – immediately after the Carol Service in the Village Hall on **December 18th**. As in previous years, please bring along some snacks to share.

Brent Pelham Memories & Memorabilia You may not be aware but the Pelhams fall within the collecting area for Hertford Museum and they are planning to represent Stocking, Furneux & Brent Pelham in an exciting exhibition planned for Spring 2017. To collect material for the exhibition, the museum is hosting an Open Day on **Saturday January 28th from 2-4pm** at the Furneux Pelham Village Hall in order to meet folk who can share interesting stories, memories, photos or objects etc.

Are you on Facebook? Don't forget to like the Brent Pelham Facebook page to keep up to date with local gossip & upcoming events. Fraser often lists the link in his village emails.

MEESDEN NEWS

Well Done Will William Murphy's place on the talent pathway for 2017 will continue for his Olympic Trap Clay Shooting. He represented Hertfordshire twice this year at Inter-county competitions finishing 2nd in one and 3rd in the other. He took part in a Grand Prix over 2 days at Nuthampstead in July, finishing 3rd and posting a personal best each day. He was on BBC Breakfast in August which came live from Nuthampstead shooting ground during their coverage of the Olympic Games. In October he travelled to Wales for the Welsh Grand Prix. He finished 3rd again. 2017 will see him compete in the selection shoots for teams but this is for experience for future years. Fantastic achievements, Will. Keep up the good work!

Lantern Carols If you would like to take part in some rousing Carol singing, please come along to this year's traditional Lantern Carols event on Friday 16th December. The singing will be rewarded with some warming mulled wine and mince pies, and a visit from Father Christmas is promised for the younger members in our community! The event will take place in Meesden Village Hall at 6.30pm with the opportunity for children to arrive from 6.00pm to decorate the Christmas Tree. Further details will be circulated before the event, via email/flyer. Attendees are invited to bring along a donation for Jimmy's Shelter. I have been in touch with one of the staff at the Shelter who gave me a little bit of background information which you might find of interest.

Jimmy's is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is the only emergency accommodation provider in Cambridge. They offer a warm, welcoming environment for those who would otherwise be homeless or vulnerably housed. They help their guests gain new skills and regain control of their lives. Their aim is to assist them to move on to stable accommodation. Jimmy's opened its doors in November 1995, so providing Cambridge's first year-round night shelter just in time for Christmas! Throughout their 21 years, they have accepted both men and women, although their ratio is 70 per cent male to 30 per cent female. The Shelter is named in memory of Jim Dilley, who spent much of his life sleeping rough in the region, or spending winter nights in one of Cambridge's temporary shelters. In the last few years of his life, he slept under the bridge over the M11 motorway at junction 13; their logo is inspired by that bridge! In the winter of 1993, Jim was told he had lung cancer.

He died in Papworth hospital in June 1994, and subsequently his ashes were scattered at his old 'home', junction 13 of the M11. His story so moved a small group of people that they were determined to establish a permanent night shelter in Cambridge. This was subsequently set up, and since then it has moved from strength to strength, principally due to a tireless team working as volunteers and, of course, to the continued generosity of donors. The member of staff who gave me the above information said that donations of tinned food and a mixture of toiletries for both sexes are always well received, especially, as she emphasised, "as the weather turns colder". She asked me to thank St Mary's Church and the village of Meesden for their kindness and thoughtfulness towards their guests at Jimmy's! *Margaret Beach*

Sausage and Mash Evening We are pleased to announce that we will be starting the New Year with our traditional Sausage Supper. This will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 28th January 2017, starting at 7pm. Ticket prices are excellent value at £8 for adults, £5 for children under 14 and £20 for a family of four. Where else can you buy a sumptuous meal for these prices?! Our tasty sausages will once again be accompanied by creamy mashed potato, neeps and delicious onion gravy. This will be followed by a selection of scrumptious home-made desserts to suit all tastes. We suggest you book early for this popular event. So, if you would like to come, please contact Margaret for your tickets, either by phone on 01279 777195 or email moth@sotamail.com

Advance Diary Date We will once again be holding our popular Quiz Night. This will, as usual, be hosted by Trevor and Fiona Hughes, and this year's date will be Saturday 4th March. So don't miss this entertaining evening, and get the date in your diaries now! Further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

BT Phone issues Many people in our village will have had problems with their land line phones and if like me you call BT when you have a problem you will be frustrated by all the questions they ask before arranging an engineer callout. Having called BT many times I have found a much better way of logging a problem. If BT is your service provider; problems are reported by dialling 151. This takes you to an automated system where you are asked to state the nature of the problem. My tip is not to say anything about the actual fault, but to just say "**Complaint**". This will then route the call to their Customer Services team in the UK where they make note of everything you have to say, perform tests on your line and then arrange for an engineer to visit. They keep the case open whilst repairs are ongoing, liaise with the engineer and call you back when they receive the engineer's report. They will keep the complaint open longer if you are not yet convinced that the repair has been fully tested and will call you again at an agreed date to check you are happy before closing the case. They assign each complaint to a personal case handler and he or she will give you their name and direct line number should you wish to call back at a later date. From personal experience crackling on the line causes the broadband to drop and this gradually slows down transmission speed to compensate. A good way to check for any noise on your line is by dialling 17070 from your BT phone then select option 2 - 'Silent Test'. This keeps the line open so that you can listen for noise - it should be crackle free. If it is not - report it. - *Ken Newstead*

Community Garden The growing season is now over and attention turns to ground preparation for next year's crop. If



the soil is dug now the rain and frost will help break down the heavy clay and make planting

a lot easier come the spring. This year it was cold and damp in the spring and this made it difficult to get things growing. The summer was dry and hot, too dry for many plants and they struggled. Most of the early sowings failed and had to be re-sown later in the year, but the dry weather slowed down the growth. One crop that did do well though were the cooking apples which fruited heavily and had to be taken door-to-door to avoid them being wasted. We are hoping that Vegware that helped fund the garden last year will be able to do so again next year. – Ken Newstead

P.S. from Margaret Beach to Ken's report

above..... If, like us, you enjoy a Family Fun Quiz at Christmas, here is a question for you. "What is a cucamelon?" I certainly didn't know, but I do now, as Ken grew them in the Community Garden this year. A cucamelon is a vine-growing plant native to Mexico and Central America. It bears an edible fruit about the size and shape of a grape, with its skin colour resembling that of a watermelon. It makes a novel addition to salads, and tastes like a cucumber, but with a hint of sourness, or some might say, 'a lemon/lime flavour'.

The Parish Council The Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council receives an annual allowance from Hertfordshire County Council which is used for maintenance of trees and drainage ditches throughout Brent Pelham and Meesden, as well as to provide public liability insurance for anyone on Parish land. This year in addition to this allowance, the Parish has received some money to be used for the benefit of the residents in the parish. The Parish Council would welcome any suggestions on how this might be used and encourage you to send your suggestions to the Parish Clerk by emailing clerk@brentpelham-meesden-pc.org.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR SPEED WHEN DRIVING THROUGH THE VILLAGES. THE SPEED LIMIT IS 30MPH

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BED AND BREAKFAST



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www.ansteygrovebarn.co.uk
contact Alice at
enquiries@ansteygrovebarn.co.uk 01763
848828 or 07791296060

	<p>The Costume Company <i>Fancy Dress and Vintage Costume Hire</i> Opening Arkesden 18th April 2016</p>	
<p><i>Come and see our large collection of fancy dress and vintage costumes for adults and children, based in our new premises in Arkesden</i></p>		
<p><i>Parties and Events: Fancy dress, murder mysteries, Goodwood Revival, Queens Birthday</i></p>		
<p><i>Black Tie and Evening wear Hire: Balls and Proms</i></p>		
<p><i>Historical Re-enactments: Saffron Walden's Wartime Week, Audley End, Kentwell</i></p>		
<p><i>School Events: World Book Day, school plays and educational days</i></p>		
<p><i>Theatrical Productions: plays and pantos</i></p>		
<p><i>Seasonal Events: Halloween and Christmas</i></p>		
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Graham Mascall Landscaping

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