

# ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

## APRIL to MAY 2018

### *Diary of Events*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Village Link– Meesden Village Hall 7.30pm – ‘Training and Use of Police Dogs’ - speaker Len Little
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Anstey Pop-up Cinema – Village Hall 7.30 for 8pm
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Village Supper Club – The Woodman, Nuthampstead – 7.30pm.
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Hormead Garden Club – Hormead Village Hall 8pm – ‘The Gardens of Easton Lodge’ – speaker Claire Matthews
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anstey Plant Sale 10.30am to 12 noon
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anstey Village Hall Quiz Night 7.30 for 8pm
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Village Link – Meesden Village Hall 7.30pm - ‘When Rogers Met Hammerstein’ – speaker Stephen Barnard
May	Anstey Pop-up Cinema – Village Hall 7.30 for 8pm
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Village Supper Club – The Woodman, Nuthampstead – 7.30pm
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz Night – Meesden Village Hall – 7,30pm
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Hormead Garden Club – Hormead Village Hall 8pm – ‘Blood Sweat and Tears’ otherwise ‘Advice for the Reluctant Gardener’ a talk by Brian Carline.
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cheese and Wine Tasting – Anstey Village Hall

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**Please send in your own news** to: Jackie Godfrey on 01763 848732 or [rjmo@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:rjmo@tinyworld.co.uk) (for Anstey);  
Martin and Katey Hugi [martinhugi@outlook.com](mailto:martinhugi@outlook.com) or [kateyjane@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kateyjane@hotmail.co.uk) (for Brent Pelham);  
Margaret Beach on 01279 777195 or [moth@sotamail.com](mailto:moth@sotamail.com) (Meesden),  
Or, for last minute material, direct to the editors.

The next deadline is **15<sup>th</sup>** May 2018



## GENERAL NEWS



**Farewell and Godspeed.** The Reverend Kate Peacock is leaving the Benefice at Easter to take up a Diocesan post as Church Growth Officer. Shortly before Christmas 2012 Kate, her husband Daniel and their daughters Emma and Alice moved into the vicarage in Great Horstead. Since then she has been a dedicated and much loved member of the community. Those who have had dealings with her over the five years she has been with us will know what a lively, energetic, enthusiastic, caring and fun person she is and how much she has brought to the churches, our villages and the wider community. We wish her and her family all the best for the future and success and happiness in her new role.

We regret to report the death of **Antony Woodall**, who died on the 9<sup>th</sup> March surrounded by his family. He and his wife **Deidre** had lived for many years in Great Horstead after they moved there from Wyddial. He was among other things a former High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, but will be remembered locally as a much loved and respected member of the community. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Have a look at **OWL** (Online Watch Link) <https://www.owl.co.uk/> which is a Neighbourhood Watch scheme backed by Herts Police. The website is packed full of useful information and links. Once registered, residents can get email alerts from the police should they learn of any crime in our area and residents can post any information worthy of police investigation. OWL keeps communities safe, helps reduce crime and keeps people informed of what's going on locally. Over 100,000 homes are already registered in Hertfordshire and receive alerts!

Jan Pledger writes: - "I get a lot of **old tennis balls** on a regular basis suitable for dogs. I am raising money for ARC, the Animal Rescue Centre in Bishops Stortford and am happy to sell these on at 10 pence per ball. If anyone would like a batch let me know." [janpledger99@btinternet.com](mailto:janpledger99@btinternet.com)

As part of the wider national scheme to deliver the benefits of energy efficiency to households, **E.ON** has decided to offer **free cavity wall and loft insulation** to households that are currently without these, regardless of whether the household uses E.ON as their energy supplier. The insulation, which would usually cost around £775, is being offered for free for a limited time to all homeowners, landlords and private tenants who have their landlord's permission. Households who take up the offer could save up to £285 a year on their energy bills. If you'd like further information to help you follow up this offer, you can find more information here: <https://eoninstall.com/products-and-services/insulation/cavity-wall/> or call E.ON on 0330 400 1083.

Advance date for your diary. **Anstey Fair** will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018 from 1pm to 5pm with all the usual attractions including Sky West's marvellous music.

**Bunnies Abscond.** Until recently one of the side attractions in the **Black Horse** in Brent Pelham, apart from the marvellous food – do try it if you haven't already! – was the presence on the tables of white china rabbits as salt and pepper holders. Maybe it is because the rough shooting season is with us and they were scared but the little furry animals have gone walkabout. So if anyone sees any ceramic cottontails in the woods in Brent Pelham please point them in the direction of the Black Horse – maybe they will be back in time to be Easter Bunnies!

**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](http://www.ansteyvillage.co.uk)

**Anstey First School News.** We have had a great start to 2018 so far. Our little school is growing and growing – we are proud to say we now more than doubled in size since January 2015. We now have 3 mixed-age classes and a preschool. We have welcomed many new faces and families to our school.

We have fully completed our Montessori transformation in our Early Years Nursery and Reception Class. Children are confident in using the materials and making great progress. Our Nursery and Reception class recently decided they wanted to put on a play around the Three Little Pigs, as this was our book of the week. Our children designed the set creating and designing three houses using various materials and lots of team work. They also decided to change the title to "The Six Little Pigs" to make sure everyone had a chance to join in the play. The children then invited parents to come in for an afternoon and morning performance. The children performed very well and were very proud of themselves. Currently we are studying all about Chinese New Year and the Year of the Dog. We are tasting Chinese foods and learning about the Chinese zodiac. We have also tried our hand at writing Chinese characters and making Chinese lanterns. We also had fun trying to use chopsticks to eat our lunch! We are also proud to announce we have completed the first phase of our Forest School area. All children in the school from preschool to



Year 4 take part in Forest School activities. Children have enjoyed making dens and building bridges over the stream, building fires and roasting marshmallows - of course with hot chocolate. We have studied animal habitats and have created structures that will help woodland animals and creatures to thrive. We have gone on nature walks to spot birds and various types of flora and fauna- fungus is an interesting thing!

At Anstey we like to keep a healthy mind, body and spirit. We continue to practice our relaxation and mindfulness alongside our Yoga. After Easter we will welcome our Calm Kids Yoga teacher, Renay Jacobs, who will be teaching all

groups each week. We think it is very important to know how to regulate and relax your body and mind. We are also excited about our Healthy Eating afterschool club where we make healthy recipes as well as learn about foods that keep us healthy. Some of us have even been brave enough to try new food. So far our favourites are the healthy smoothies. We are also trying to incorporate our learning into our daily physical activity. We are now completing a mile run almost every morning before lessons and are using a programme called Math of the Day. Finally, we have enjoyed attending the Dance Festival held at Meridian School. It was our first year and we are proud of our collective performance.

*Anstey First School is a very small school in a wonderful setting with our own Owlets Pre-school and Nursery. We offer wrap-around care 5 days a week and are registered for the government's 30 hours of free-funded childcare for 3 year olds., If you would like to find out more about us or want to offer your services as a volunteer please do not hesitate to call 01763 848 346.*

**School Governors Wanted.** Anstey First School are looking for two new governors and we would love to hear from you if you are interested in helping to develop our friendly, successful school into the future. Governors have a key role in the development and oversight of schools. *You do not have to be the parent of a child at the school to be a governor nor to have a background in education.* School governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. The governing body has a key role in the development and oversight of the school. We have 3-6 meetings a year and training is provided for both introductory and for more specialised topics. As an essential part of the Safeguarding Children Policy all governors must complete some checks.

If you are interested and would like to know more about the role of governor, please contact Natalie Punter (Vice Chair) at [governors@anstey.herts.sch.uk](mailto:governors@anstey.herts.sch.uk) or via the school 01763 848346.

**Sadly there have been two recent funerals at St George's Church.** Firstly **Daphne House** died on the 17<sup>th</sup> January aged 88. Her service was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. She and her husband bought Anstey Bury, then a farm with substantial acreage, in the mid-1960s. After her husband's death she moved to Cottered and the farm was taken over by David House. She had a long illness before her death. Another who was away from Anstey for some years was **Jean Mustoe** who also died in January. Her funeral was on the 19<sup>th</sup> February. She had lived in Royston for many years but was brought up in Anstey. One of her brothers and sisters is Daphne Bailey, and they are all from

the Martin family, an Anstey family for many generations. Our sincere condolences to all family members and friends for both these losses.

**Anstey Village Hall News.** Our next fund-raising event will be the **Annual Village Hall Quiz** on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April**, 7.30pm for 8.00, with quizmaster Edward Burton testing those little grey cells once again! Admission is £10, including supper, with a licensed bar and, of course, a raffle. For catering purposes please let us know in advance if you're coming – contact Colin Smith: [colingsmith@gmail.com](mailto:colingsmith@gmail.com) / 01763 849949 or Dave Oxley: [oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk) / 01763 848584. You can reserve a table for 6 to 8 players or simply turn up and join one on the night – all welcome.

**Two new events for 2018!** On **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** we will be running a **Cheese and Wine Tasting Evening** and on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** we will be holding our first ever **Race Night!** More details to follow and we hope you'll be able to join us.

### **SPORTS & EXERCISE CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE HALL.**

Mondays Senior Zumba 6.30pm – 7.30pm  
Tuesdays Yoga 5.15pm – 6.15pm  
Table Tennis 7.30pm – 8.30pm  
Wednesdays Table Tennis 10.30am – 11.30am  
Pilates 4.30pm – 5.30pm  
Carpet Bowls 7.30pm – 9.30pm  
(September 27<sup>th</sup> to April)

Thursdays Yoga 11.45am – 12.45pm  
New members are always welcome at any of these classes. The first session is free – thereafter, it's just £3 per session, pay as you go - no upfront fees. Contact Dave Oxley [see above] for more information.

**To book the hall for a private function please contact Ruth Hart:** [ruth.hart@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.hart@btinternet.com) / 01763 849724

**Anstey Pop-up Film and Social Club.** On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb we showed DUNKIRK, a film by Chris Nolan, and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March we showed VICTORIA & ABDUL, starring Judi Dench. Our next screening will be on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April** – doors open 7.30pm, film starts at 8.00. All members should receive an email flyer with details of the next film to be shown. If you don't receive one, or would like to become a member, please contact Colin Smith: [colingsmith@gmail.com](mailto:colingsmith@gmail.com) / 01763 849949 or Dave Oxley: [oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk) / 01763 848584. Non-members are welcome to join us on the night, as a guest (for £3) or to sign up as a member. Membership is still just £12 per calendar year and allows free entry to all 9 films!

**Anstey Church.** We would like to thank all our volunteer cleaners and flower arrangers for keeping our church looking so special for services, baptisms, weddings, funerals and for visitors who come in to look round our historic building. We are looking for extra volunteers to clean and if you have a spare hour to offer us we would very much welcome your help. Please contact Daphne Bailey 848675 *Ann Grimsdale*

**Plant Sale.** A reminder that we will be holding our annual plant sale on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> outside Anstey Church (in the porch if wet). Please support us with donations of plants to Jan Pledger (848242), Wendy

Hillier (848685) or Jenny Goymour (848271). Do come along and purchase your plants for 2018. We usually have a selection of vegetable plants, annuals and shrubs at reasonable prices. All proceeds are joined with those of Anstey Fair for village fund raising.

## BRENT PELHAM NEWS

### **A warm welcome to the village to: -**

Mark and Erica Debnam who have moved into The Sticks (where Jean Byrne used to live). They moved in late February 2018. Erica's parents Mel and Diane Brewer moved from Anstey to Clavering a few years ago.

Tracey Hart has moved from Bishops Stortford in February to one of the Owletts Cottages.

Lee and Dawn Spink have just moved into Piper's End. Congratulations on the birth of their 3<sup>rd</sup> child this month, a sister for the two boys.

Rob and Hayley Petts – who moved into the new house on The Causeway in the autumn last year.

Justin and Charlotte James - Stocks View (arrived autumn 2017). Sons Oliver and Alexander, and daughter Georgina who sang in the Phoenix Choir at the Carol Service.

**Parish Visitor** You may or may not be aware that Annette Farrimond (Tel: 777627 or email: [annettefarrimond@gmail.com](mailto:annettefarrimond@gmail.com)) is the current Parish Visitor for Brent Pelham. She visits on behalf of the Vicar and would welcome any information about arrivals, departures and anyone else who would like a visit. As the Farrimonds will be moving to Cheltenham in due course, she is looking for somebody to take over the role.

**BBC TV comes to investigate the legend of Piers Shonks** The presenter of the programme Inside Out East, David Whiteley, came to the village in January to cover a story about The Hunt. One morning he was intercepted outside the church and informed of the legend of the dragon slayer and, with permission from the Vicar and Ted Barclay, returned to film on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January during and after the Informal Holy Communion Service which is held weekly at 9.30 am. The day before, which was fortuitously beautifully sunny, he brought his cameraman and a drone to film some spectacular views of the church, churchyard and surrounding village area. The item appeared on the Inside Out programme broadcast on the last Monday evening in February. Kate our Vicar and Ted Barclay spoke extremely well about the legend of Piers Shonks and some lovely views were included inside of the church. The Inside Out programme concerned is available on BBC iPlayer until 28<sup>th</sup> March. Search on iPlayer for "Inside Out East" and select the episode on 26/02/2018 – Available until 21:00 on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Coverage starts from 19:50 mins, or the 8 min clip has been uploaded to YouTube – Search for "Piers Shonks"

**The Black Horse pub** has several dates for the diary: - **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Mencap Easter Egg Hunt & Charity Lunch.** Sally Ann-How will be running the London marathon on behalf of Mencap, to help raise some money the pub is delighted to host an Easter egg hunt in the morning (10.30am) for the children, with coffee and cake for the adults! Later in the day, we will be hosting a

charity lunch sitting down at 2 pm, followed by an auction hosted by Julian Clarke at 4 pm. (See further details of Sally Ann-How's fundraising below).

**Thursday 29th March - Pelham's Supper Club.** Gather on communal tables to share a simple meal with other locals! Sit down for 8 pm. Best to reserve a seat. This will be £16 for two courses, £22 for three courses.

**Thursday 5th April - Wine Tasting.** Our resident wine buff Ellie will be leading a tasting of Burgundy wines. The Burgundy region produces some of the finest examples of Pinot Noir & Chardonnay wines in the world. Alongside the wines, there will be a selection of canapes to enjoy. This will cost £25 per head.

**Saturday 7th April - Kiddies Art Workshop.** After the success of the first art workshop in the New Year, we've decided to host another one. Kiddies art supplies will be provided by us, and a few staff members will be there to help the children. It'll be on between 3.30pm & 5.30pm, with a simple dinner for the children towards the end. All provided free of charge.

For more details on any of these events please speak to landlord **Hugh** on **01279 778925**.

**Support Mencap Grove Cottage in Bishops Stortford.** As mentioned above in the pub news Sally-Anne How is running the London Marathon in April in aid of Mencap Grove Cottage in Bishops Stortford. She tells us that *"Grove Cottage are passionate about helping and supporting individuals and their families who deal with learning disabilities. My son Ruben has a condition that affects his development, which means he needs more help and support and has been attending the Grove Cottage nursery since September. This has made an incredible impact on both Ruben's and my life and this is why I want to help to support them."* If you are unable to attend the event at the pub, or missed it but still would like to support Sally-Anne then you can donate through her fundraising web page at [uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com) Search for **"Sally-Anne How Mencap Grove Cottage"**

**For the benefit of those new to the village and as general reminders: -**

**Brent Pelham Voluntary Emergency Telephone Service (VETS) scheme.** As the name suggests this is an Emergency Telephone Service run by volunteers in the village. It can be called in an emergency to provide local support whilst waiting for the emergency services to arrive. It is important to note this is **NOT** a substitute for the emergency services - **Call 999 first**. Then, if you need a fellow villager to help manage the emergency, or just some company while you wait for the emergency services to arrive, you should call **01279 260911**.

**Village Defibrillator** This is located near the village hall and post box opposite the church. The access code for the box is **C159X**.

**Brent Pelham Facebook page.** If you are a Facebook user then don't forget to like the Brent Pelham Facebook page to keep up to date with upcoming events & local news. Fraser Murray sends out emails to the village with general news, these are useful for getting out urgent news, reminders and information quickly. To add your name to his distribution list, or if your email has changed, then send a blank email to [frasermurray@me.com](mailto:frasermurray@me.com) with your name and address in the header.

**Pilates** at the Village Hall **every Monday** from 7 to 8 pm, led by experienced teacher Becky - newcomers are welcome whether male or female. Each class costs £6 if you pay for one or £5 if you pay monthly. Any questions - contact Hazel Norris on 777316

## MEESDEN NEWS

**Sausage Supper – 17th January** Another year, another Traditional Sausage Supper at Meesden Village Hall. A convivial, warm and delicious meal on a cold January evening was just the ticket for a good get together. With Ken Newstead setting the wood burning stove aglow and producing mashed potatoes from Meesden's communal garden, the evening was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Margaret for selling tickets, and delicious puddings and food contributions from Jill Allbrook, Fiona Hughes, Cathy Dimsdale, and Kath McCrow. The ticket sales produced a good contribution towards the Village Hall and Church funds.

**Quiz Night at Meesden.** Meesden Village Hall are to host another of their fun Quiz Nights on Saturday 12th May. These evenings are always popular and tickets are already selling well. A delicious Ploughman's Supper spread is included in the ticket price of £12 with teams of 8 to a table. There will also be a pay bar open all evening. So why not put your own team together or simply come along and join others for a fun filled fact finding evening commencing at 7.30. Tickets available from Trevor and Fiona Hughes Tel: 01279 777404

**"Thank you" Message** I would like to thank all those in the village for their cards and support during my illness. I hope to go back into hospital sometime this year for a second operation. Your kindness and thoughts are appreciated. - *David Cross*

**Marc's Blog** "Since my last article I completed the Buntingford 10 mile race on New Year's Eve. The weather was good and it was an enjoyable run to finish the year. My seventeen week training programme up to the London Marathon started in the New Year. This consists of running four times a week - twice during the week, and then Saturday and Sunday. My longest run has always been on a Sunday with the other three days varying in speed, distance and time. I take two days' rest each week with the final day being rest, cross train or stretching.

At the time of typing this article my longest run has been 16 miles. I am scheduled to run the Dartford Half Marathon on 11th March. I will then run three long distances consisting of 20 miles twice and then 22 miles. I will then gradually reduce my distance after that so that I am in the best shape possible on the big day.

As mentioned before, the reason why I am putting my body through this programme is to raise money for our local NHS. As you will have read in the news funding in the NHS is stretched. My target is to reach a minimum £3,000.00. At the time of writing this article I am at 89% of my target. I have continued to raise money when I can which has included a book sale and car boot sale. I would like to say a big thank you to those in the village who have made a donation. If you would like to make a donation, or just view

how I am progressing with my fundraising, please go to my just giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marc-etherington>. Thanks for your support! Marc"

**Harry Robinson, father of John Robinson of Meesden.** The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment was formed at Bedford as part of Kitchener's call to arms for 100,000 men to leave their civilian lives and enlist into the British Army. Initial training took place at Ampthill, Colchester and then Salisbury Plain. The Battalion served entirely in France and Flanders between their arrival in July 1915 and their disbandment in May 1918 as part of a major reorganisation of the army.

Harry Robinson of Meesden joined very early, being awarded the 1914-1915 Medal. He was born in 1888, making him 26 years old on joining up. Apart from his war service he spent his entire working life in and around Meesden working at Rectory Farm and then moving on to Manor Farm when Jim George's father took on the tenancy.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion took part in numbers of operations in the run up to the start of the Somme Battle on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, when it is likely that Harry was wounded on the first day, the name of Pte Robinson, 3 Company appearing with a number not dissimilar to his own, his being 17294. It would appear that the Bedfordshires performed particularly well; it is difficult to comprehend how men managed to fulfil their tasks whilst all around them the most frightful noise of machine guns, wounded and dying men, and the din of the artillery was going on. *'The behaviour of the men under the most trying circumstances was wonderful – it is entirely by their own initiative, and total disregard of danger that Pommiers Trench was taken, cutting the wire as if nothing was doing – every man went over perfectly clear in his mind of his objective and full of determination to get there.'* W H Bull. Captain 7<sup>th</sup> Beds. After being wounded in the leg on that day, Harry was invalided out of the army, returning to Meesden for the rest of his life until his death in 1959. A celebration of the end of WW1 will take place at Meesden Bury on Saturday September 29. *Any further family stories dating from WW1 gratefully received* wtdim@mac.com

**Meesden Community Garden** The cold and wet weather has put a stop to all activity in the garden, but early sowing under glass has meant that planting out can start as soon as the ground warms a little. Some of the logs collected locally and stored in our shed for the last year have been for sale outside the village hall for just £2 a bag, and have sold well. All monies collected go towards the cost of maintaining our hall.

**Bright Ideas?** If anyone has any ideas for a village event that might liven up the usual annual events please do let us know! We would welcome any new ideas, and anyone who might like to run something interesting and new for Meesden! We are also looking for a volunteer to run a potential Race Night event in the village hall. Just email [jo.vernonharcourt@gmail.com](mailto:jo.vernonharcourt@gmail.com)

**Affinity Water.** There is a risk of water restrictions in our villages. Affinity tell us: "We have had exceptionally low effective rainfall over the past two winters. This means we are actively planning for usage restrictions this spring

and summer if conditions fail to recover sufficiently. If we get above long-term average rainfall in the next three months we hope that we will not need to introduce them this summer. However, that does not remove the possibility that usage restrictions will have to be introduced in 2019. This will be dependent on rainfall next winter being sufficient to refill groundwater stores. For tips on how to save water in the home and to order free water saving devices, visit: [www.affinitywater.co.uk/savewater](http://www.affinitywater.co.uk/savewater)

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[www.ansteygrovebarn.co.uk](http://www.ansteygrovebarn.co.uk)  
contact Alice at  
[enquiries@ansteygrovebarn.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ansteygrovebarn.co.uk) 01763  
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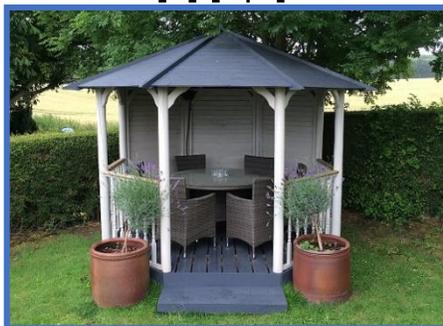
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