

ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY to MARCH 2017

Diary of Events

Date	Event
Jan 28 th	Sausage Supper - Meesden Village Hall - 7.00pm
Feb 7 th	Village Link – Meesden Village Hall 7.30pm - Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust
Feb 14 th	Village Supper Club Xmas Dinner – The Woodman, Nuthampstead– 7.30pm.
Feb 16 th	Hormead Garden Club - Hormead Village Hall 8pm – “Making the Most of Petunias” – Speaker: Neale Holmes-Smith
Feb 17 th	Anstey Pop-up Cinema – Village Hall –doors open 7.30 pm, film starts at 8.00pm
Feb 22 nd	Meesden Village Hall Committee Meeting – 7.30pm
March 4 th	Meesden Quiz night – Village Hall
March 7 th	Village Link – Meesden Village Hall 7.30pm – “From Angelsey to East Anglia.” Speaker-Margaret Rogers.
March 9, 10 and 11	“Frankenstein or The Sound of Muesli” by the Village Players – Brent Pelham Village Hall. Bar. Curtain up 8.00pm
March 14 th	Village Supper Club – The Woodman, Nuthampstead – 7.30pm
March 16 th	Hormead Garden Club – Hormead Village Hall 8pm – “How to Look After Your Orchids” – Speaker: Michael Radley, Lea Valley Orchid Society
March 20 th	Anstey Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 7.30pm
April 24 th	Anstey Parish Council AGM – Village Hall – 7.30pm
May 6 th	Quiz Night at Anstey Village Hall
May 24 th	Rogation Walk 9.45 am starting at Little Hormead Church

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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** March 2017



GENERAL NEWS

Not to be missed! We are all in for a real treat when the **Village Players** on **March 9th, 10th, and 11th** perform their acclaimed **“Frankenstein or The Sound of Muesli”** at Brent Pelham Village Hall. Curtain up 8.00pm. There is a Bar. Tickets are now on sale at the ridiculously low price of £7.00. Please apply to Mandy Parker: - 01763 848 275 or email: amanda.parker@hotmail.co.uk : or Ann Grimsdale on 01763 848 372 or email agrimsdale@btinternet.com Please have a look at the flyer included with this edition.



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Apologies to the **Nu-Bourne Garden Design** team whose ad somehow got missed in the last edition. Here it is on the left and hopefully attracting a lot of custom!

Village Link. Village link meets once a month at Meesden Village Hall (except January and August), on the first Tuesday of the month, 7-30pm to 9-30pm. We have a wide range of speakers and include at least one outing during the year. Our first speaker is from the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust. It costs £15 to join for the year or £4 per month. For more information please contact Wendy Hillier on 01763 848685 or Jan Pledger on 01763 848242.

Anstey Pop-up Film and Social Club. On Friday the 13th January at 7.30pm the club held its first “General Viewing” evening in Anstey Village Hall. The film shown was a rare glimpse into some of the early years of The Beatles on Tour, with music to set the ageing pulses racing. The next meeting of the Film Club will be on Friday 17th February. Doors open [at 7.30pm](#) and the film will start at 8.00. All paid-up members should receive an emailed flyer with details of the film being shown. If you haven't, please contact oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk and he'll forward it to you. Non-members are welcome to join on the night; either as a guest (£3 entrance) or to sign up for the year's subscription. For those of you who would like to join the club and benefit from the very low prices (free

after a £12 annual fee) please contact Ian Jennings at ianjennings800@gmail.com or Dave Oxley oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk

Exercise at Anstey Village Hall. There are weekly sessions as follows: *Tuesday evening* - Table Tennis (7.30pm). *Wednesday* - Pilates (8.50 to 9.50am) and Table Tennis (10.30 to 11.30am). *Wednesday evening* - Carpet Bowls (7.30pm). *Thursday* - Yoga (10.45 to 11.45am)

New members are always welcome. The first session is free: thereafter, it's just £2 per session (pay as you go). For more information contact oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk

Hare Street Horse and Pet Supplies have moved to Lovely View, Barley. Their opening times are Tues, Wed, Fri 10am-1pm and 1.30-5pm. Sat 10am-4pm and Sunday 10am-1pm. CLOSED Monday and Thurs.

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

Congratulations to **Selina** and **John** at Cargreen Cottage on the birth of their son **Leo John**, on 5th December 2016, a brother for **Olivia**.

We regret to announce the death on Boxing Day of **Derek Fricker**. He and his family lived for many years in New Barns Lane Anstey before moving away about five years ago. His funeral was taken by the Rev'd Kate Peacock at St George's Church Anstey on the 13th January and attended by his family and many friends. Our sincere condolences to **Carole** and all his family.

QUIZ NIGHT at Anstey Village Hall, Saturday 6th May. Exercise the little grey cells at the annual Village Hall Quiz! £10 including hot supper. Form a team of 6 to 8 or join one on the evening - newcomers more than welcome. All proceeds to the Village Hall fund. Please contact Colin (colingsmith@gmail.com / 849949) or Dave (oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk / 848584) to reserve your places - money to be collected on the night. It would be helpful to know if anyone requires a vegetarian option.

Susie and Peter Sapsed would like to thank everybody who attended the "**Carols in the Barn**" on the evening of 14th December. Over 50 people supported it and a special thank you to those who supplied the mince pies and the mulled wine. The fantastic collection raised £265.00 which has been sent to the Milton Children's Hospice near Cambridge.

Anstey Chapel. "Ian and I would like to say a very big thank you to the people of Anstey and surrounding villages who have shown us such love and care and made us feel so welcome. The chapel will continue to hold a Sunday morning service at 10.30am with Sunday

School at 11am. Refreshments and fellowship after the service. On the 3rd Sunday of each month there will be No Service. Bible Study will re-start on 14th February 8pm-9.30pm @ Yew Tree Cottage and will continue to be on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. We are really looking forward to getting to know everyone."
Lynn-Marie & Ian Palmer - 01763-849256

Anstey Parish Council. The Parish Council accounts have been running at a slight deficit annually due to several cost increases. This deficit has been covered by using money that has been carried over for many years. Unfortunately, the previously accrued amount is becoming exhausted and the Parish Council have no option but to increase the annual precept this year by 25%. The Precept has remained at the same level, £3,800 for six years. However, with rising costs, it will be raised to £4,750 this year. The total increase of £950 pa amounts to an additional sum of approximately £6.78 per household for 2017. More information can be found on the Village Website: <http://www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/parish-council/> You can also contact the Parish Clerk, or East Herts District Council if you have any queries.

The Parish Council met on 16th January, their first meeting of 2017. Future meeting dates are: 20th March, 24th April (AGM), 15th May, 17th July, 18th September and 20th November 2017.

We would be pleased to see you at any forthcoming meeting, especially the AGM which will be held on 24th April.

BRENT PELHAM NEWS

Christmas Festive Fair was in the Village Hall on December 3rd, successfully run by Beth Featherstone & Katey Hügi, the first year under their management. Beth told me that it had been a real learning experience

and they already have some great ideas for this year. Thanks to Katey & husband Martin for decorating the hall so beautifully and to the volunteers who gave generously of their time.

Christmas Workshop Katey also ran a Children's Winter Wonderland Workshop in the Village Hall on December 10th. Katey writes "... a lovely gathering of Brent Pelham children and a chance to prepare for Christmas, play games & have fun. We had story time,



a picnic, made decorations and decorated the tree & stage into a winter wonderland, including Snow Bear & the North Pole! A big thanks to those who donated decorations, picnic treats and helped out. A special thank you to Fran Bromage who took charge on the day and to Ellis Long who made an intricate star to top

the Christmas tree. Many of you were able to see the end result the following week at the Carol Service."

Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's and drinks afterwards in the Village Hall on December 18th. The lovely service led by the Rev'd Kate Peacock and wonderfully supported by John Tripp & the Phoenix Choir, had readings by Annette Farrimond, Fraser Murray, Robert Barclay, Lottie & Sophie Welch, Graham White, Helen Collins and Ted Barclay. A cameo performance by Ted as the fierce & helmeted Herod was enjoyed by all! Thanks, as ever, to Annette & her team for a beautifully presented church. Thanks also to Beth & helpers for their hard work at the Village Hall.

Santa Claus made a surprise but very welcome appearance in the village! Folk tell me that he was spotted on Christmas Eve near Meesden Corner Cottage, at Borley Green and in The Causeway. Thanks also for answering my letter Santa!

The Puckeridge Hunt A record 1200 folk attended the Boxing Day Meet at Washall Green from 10.30am, the number being boosted by coverage on Radio 4 & 5 from 7am, including an interview with the Master, Di Pyper. Crowds were treated to mulled wine and Cure & Simple bacon rolls as well as the traditional sight of the local hounds. People from all over the UK attended, some of them visiting local friends & family, and the hunt's popularity caused unfamiliar rural traffic issues!

The Puckeridge Hunt dates back to 1725 when the hounds were kept at Cheshunt but the boundaries of the country now hunted were set in 1799 and, of course, the hounds are kept at Brent Pelham.

Adjoining hunts are the Thurlow to the north east, the Essex to the east & south east, and the Cambridgeshire with Enfield Chace to the North West & south west. If you want to find out more about this important part of our local culture, check it out at <http://puckeridgehunt.co.uk/>

Brent Pelham VETS Scheme I am delighted to report that Sarah Fryer now has the required number of volunteers to get this important service off the ground. As mentioned previously, the Voluntary Emergency Telephone Service is a telephone number you can call to provide local support during an emergency. It is NOT a substitute for the emergency services, so you must call 999 first, as necessary. 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. Well done Sarah, and those volunteers who have put their names forward to help.

Village Defibrillator Just a reminder that the access code for the defibrillator box in the village phone box is C159X.

Kevin the Kestrel The tale about the rescued kestrel in the last Newsletter prompted Di Pyper to recall a wonderful personal story. Di writes "I found a kestrel on the road to Cole Green. He was almost fledged, abandoned, very weak, cold & soaking wet. I kept him warm in the tack room at the stables and fed him dead mice which were in plentiful supply. Over a few weeks he grew stronger & braver and I left the cage door open so he could come & go as he chose. I made no attempt to tame him but to gently return him to the wild. Gradually, his visits became less frequent but when I was out walking or riding, he would often find me and sit close by so we could have a catch up. Sightings further reduced and I hoped he had found a mate but 2 years later, this pathetic near dead bird was lying on the mounting block in the stable yard. Kevin had returned and the whole process started over again. I still think it is him sitting on the wires at the bottom of Borley Green Hill looking out for me. I know this is ridiculous as it was over 20 years ago but it's a comforting thought"

The Black Horse Its great news that the pub is up & running at full speed following the re-opening on November 21st. I received the following from Hugh, Mike & the team: - "It's been an amazing & exhilarating 8 weeks and we'd like to thank everyone in the village who's been kind enough to support us and shown such generosity of spirit by giving their time, advice, expertise or simply their money across the bar. We are humbled by such largesse and cannot thank you enough. We have exciting plans and look forward to many years providing people with fun memories, warm bellies and, dare we say, the occasional fuzzy morning head!"

Bon Voyage to the Collins Family Richard, Helen, Matthew (14) & Katie (13) are relocating to Dubai. Richard has been appointed CEO of a large retail business there and will be leaving at the end of January. Helen, Matthew & Katie will be following, probably at half term, when details of the Dubai schools have been finalised. We can expect to see them back in the village during their long holidays! Good luck to you all!

Brent Pelham Memories & Memorabilia This may arrive in time to remind you that Hertford Museum is planning to represent the Pelhams in an exciting exhibition in the Spring and to collect material for this, 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 stories, memories, photos or objects.

Pilates happens at the Village Hall every Monday from 7 to 8pm. It's led by experienced teacher Becky and newcomers are most welcome whether male or female. If you've never tried it, give Pilates a go. Each class costs £6 if you pay for one or £5 if you pay monthly. Any questions - contact Hazel Norris on 777316

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.

Email address list..... and on that point, don't forget to let Fraser know if your email address has changed or you are not on his list and would like to be. All you need to do is send a blank email to frasermurray@me.com with your name and address in the header.

MEESDEN NEWS

Tapas Evening. In the dark days of November we held our first Tapas night in Meesden. Tapas means 'small plates' and it is a very popular way of eating out in Spain and Portugal, where the practice is to order a variety of tapas and share them with your companions around the table. Our Tapas Night had live music from Dave Oxley and friends, cheering us up and making us feel we were still in the sun. We had a selection of food provided by a number of villagers, all very tasty and delicious. The Fox and Beehive, our village pop-up pub, was running during the evening too, and it had been well stocked with Spanish wines and beers in addition to the usual drinks- thanks to Ian Barr for that. It was a fun, low-key evening and one that we hope to repeat in the future.

Lantern Carols and Crib Service. The evening of 16th December was damp and murky, but the cheerful flames from the brazier raised our spirits as we sang our Carols with gusto! Once back inside the Village Hall, we enjoyed the pleasures of mulled wine - many thanks to Jen West - mince pies and other savouries donated by the villagers. Father Christmas paid us a visit, and none of the children went away empty handed. This was, as usual, a most enjoyable event. Our traditional Blessing of the Crib Service took place on the afternoon of Christmas Eve and our little Church was as packed as ever for this occasion. This was once again a moving and uplifting Service - a fitting start to the Christmas celebrations for all who attended.

Meesden Quiz Evening. Meesden will again be holding their Quiz Night in Meesden Village Hall on Saturday the 4th March at 7.30 pm. Tables will be in teams of 8, or you can join with others on the night to make up a table. Tickets £10 to include delicious ploughman's supper, and there will also be a pay bar. This is always a popular event so call early to reserve your tickets available from Trevor and Fiona Hughes on 01279 777404.

Village Oil Club. Now that the winter is well and truly with us, I would just like to remind you all that we do have a Village Oil Club that covers all the local villages. The website is www.oil-club.co.uk It's easy to sign up, and it doesn't tie you in to buying from them all the time. When I check, I always find that their rates are very competitive. It also makes sense to buy in bulk when we can, making it cheaper of course, as well as involving fewer heavy lorries on our roads! Jen West.

Community Garden. Community Garden - Things are very quiet this time of year. Thanks to a generous supply of stable muck from Wilfred Dimsdale the soil should be very fertile in the spring for planting the vegetables. The ground has been dug and the first crop of the year, Garlic, has been planted. We grew a lot of potatoes last year and so cannot grow them again this year. We're hoping that we can grow plenty of other vegetables that the slugs, caterpillars, mice and moles don't destroy.

If anyone would like to be part of a much larger Organic Community Garden, there is an emerging business in our area that needs people with a variety of skills (not just gardening) that would be prepared to give a few hours each week in exchange for a share of the returns. Please contact Ken on 01279 777 700 for further details.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. I am pleased to report that last November's Poppy Appeal raised £149.67 from the residents of Meesden. This



was described by the local organiser as an “amazing amount”. Thank you all for your generosity! Donations from the whole Benefice raised a total of £957.22 – again a wonderful achievement! I would like to add that Stephen and I enjoy doing the house-to-house collection as it gives us an ideal opportunity to exchange a few words with most of the villagers, some of whom we don’t see all that often in the usual run of events. So, many thanks from us too. – Margaret Beach

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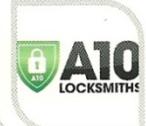
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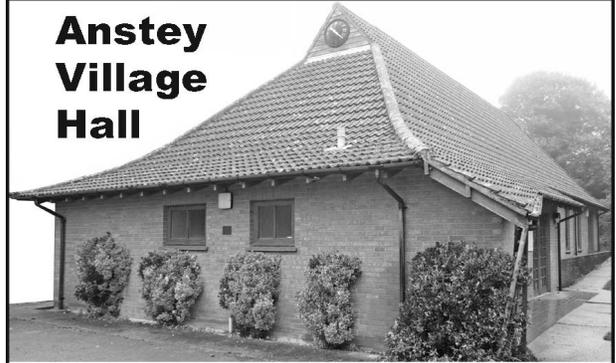
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