

# ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY to MARCH 2020

### *Diary of Events*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	Supper Club at the Black Horse, Brent Pelham
Feb	Hormead Garden Club - Hormead Village Hall 8pm – no details yet available. Please contact Alison Wade 289529 or Chrissy Withers 289476
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sausage and Mash Evening - Meesden Village Hall at 7pm
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Meesden Village Hall Committee Meeting 7.30pm
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Village Supper Club – The Woodman, Nuthampstead – 7.30pm. Please book
Feb 28 <sup>th</sup>	Anstey Pop-up Film & Social Club – Village Hall 7.30 for 8pm
Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>	Supper Club at Black Horse, Brent Pelham
Mar	Hormead Garden Club - Hormead Village Hall 8pm – no details yet available. Please contact Alison Wade 289529 or Chrissy Withers 289476
Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	Village Supper Club – The Woodman, Nuthampstead – 7.30pm. Please book
Mar 26 <sup>th</sup>	Supper Club at Black Horse, Brent Pelham
Mar 27 <sup>th</sup>	Anstey Pop-up Film & Social Club – Village Hall 7.30 for 8pm
Mar 28 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Quiz at Meesden Village Hall time tba
Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	Shonkes' Supper Brent Pelham Village Hall
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Anstey Village Hall Quiz
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rogation Walk round the benefice
Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Herts and Essex Country Fair Brent Pelham

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**Please send in your own news** to: Jackie Godfrey on 01763 848732 or [rjmo2@btinternet.com](mailto:rjmo2@btinternet.com) **PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS** (for Anstey) ; Martin Hugi [brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com](mailto:brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com) (for Brent Pelham); Margaret Beach on 01279 777195 or [mothbeach27@gmail.com](mailto:mothbeach27@gmail.com) (Meesden), -  
Or, for last minute material, direct to the editors.

The next deadline is **15<sup>th</sup>** March 2020



**Sadly Village Link has closed.** *Wendy Hillier and Jan Pledger write:* - It was our last Village Link meeting in December 2019. Unfortunately the numbers had dropped to an unsustainable level which was a huge pity. The modern trend of small village groups is on the decline and many local groups have closed recently. Just a sign of the times.

We formed the Village Link back in the summer of 1991 when the WI closed in the village. We used to meet in Brent Pelham Village Hall and moved to Meesden in 2000 as it was smaller and cosier. We had people coming from so many local villages, Therfield, Barkway, Nuthampstead, Gt Hormead, Arkesden, Clavering, Little Hormead, Hare Street as well as Anstey, Meesden and Brent Pelham.

During this time, we have had a huge variety of speakers on topics ranging from Astronauts to Animal Rescue, Pottery demonstrations to Police dog handlers and plenty of other interesting subjects. The meetings were informative, funny, thought provoking and on the very odd occasion downright boring - but those were very few and far between. We have had guided tours of Cambridge, City of London, Ware, and Hertford, quiz evenings, cookery and flower demos. The content has been always varied and always good. A special feature of the evening was the light supper that was put on where we could catch up with each other for an hour or so each month.

We will miss not seeing friends there, but life moves on. The small amount of funds left over will be distributed between Alzheimer Society, Cancer Research and British Heart Foundation. Our last meeting was a super meal at The Blind Fiddler when we closed our Village Link in fine style.

**Local Signposts.** THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) write: -

It is easy to take for granted the helpful signposts to be found at many of our road junctions, yet they are part of our culture and heritage. Early road signs were erected by cycling and then motoring organisations as ordinary people began to enjoy the freedom afforded by ownership of a bicycle or motor car. Standards for signage on main roads were redefined in the 1960s to satisfy faster traffic and night visibility. Fingerposts that indicate direction and distance from rural junctions are frequently much older and can merit further investigation. Fingerposts, with arms pointing in several directions, are white with black lettering, and generally made of wood or iron. Many local examples, some almost 100 years old, were made of iron in Essex at Maldon Iron Works. The manufacturer's name is now usually obscured by many layers of paint.

Some favourites include the fingerpost at Matching Green indicating the mileage to London – precisely 26¼ - and one north of High Roding that points to Takeley Station which closed 60 years ago. On the B1039 between Chrishall and Great Chishill, a finger points to a non-existent GREAT CHISHALL. A Henham sign shows the way to the pub, “Ugley Chequers”. These and all other signposts were removed for the duration of WWII lest they should aid the enemy.

Some signs at T-junctions have information on the back, albeit hidden from view. Usually this is the same as the visible side, but not always: the southerly finger of one on the B1051 in Broxted points to Broxted and Bps Stortford, but the back reveals that it has been recycled and once pointed to Wimbish Green. As you travel along the lanes, take time for a second look at our humble, ancient fingerposts.

**Our District Councillor** has asked if we could make a regular brief note in our newsletter of the **Community Bus service** to/from Buntingford which apparently is seldom used by our villages and our routes are danger of being scrapped. The service to Buntingford operates as follows: Tuesday: Wyddial – Anstey – Meesden. Thursday: Brent Pelham – Hormead – Hare St.

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

**There are two local Supper Clubs.** On the second Tuesday of each month one is held at The Woodman, Nuthampstead at 7.30pm (please book on 01763 848328). This now features a SET MENU of two or three courses with a choice of three for each course and your choice as to having two or three courses. Then on the last Thursday of each month it is the turn of the Black Horse, Brent Pelham, (pre booking only) 01279 778925.

**Garden & DIY Equipment** A reminder that we have equipment that is available for people to borrow. For full details of the equipment visit <https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/> and check out the Loan DIY Equipment tab. Please do let us know if you have equipment that we can add to this list.

# ANSTEY NEWS

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

ANSTEY VILLAGE CAROL SINGING, 18 DECEMBER. A new tradition (hopefully, Barry?!) began this year with village carol singing taking place in the Blind Fiddler pub. Zena, Barry and Emma were such generous hosts, kindly providing delicious sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine following the singing, and people stayed on afterwards to chat and exchange Christmas cards; it was a lovely friendly and sociable atmosphere. Barry and Emma nominated the Milton Children's Hospice as their chosen charity and £181.70 was collected. Many thanks to Zena, Barry, Emma and to all those who came along, sang lustily and donated generously. Some commented that we didn't sing quite as many carols as usual, which if true I must make a note to self to rectify next year. Just remember to shout out loudly your requests - none will be refused! *Alison Cossor*

**Quick Communication around the Village.** Should you want to send a message around the Village, announcing an upcoming event or suchlike, please don't forget the service run by Dave Kellett. Just send him an e-mail with the message to be sent round at [daveandpaulinekellett@outlook.com](mailto:daveandpaulinekellett@outlook.com) and he will press a magic button and Hey Presto!

There is also **AnsteyLink**, which we referred to last year, run by Sarah Cruise. This is an e-mailing list only accessible to the residents of Anstey and neighbouring villages that sign up for it. It would enable you to email directly to everyone in the group at one email address [ansteylink@googlegroups](mailto:ansteylink@googlegroups).

This would mean you could easily share local information, list items to sell/give away/share, recommend local businesses/services/events, ask for help and community support, and anything else that may be useful to get in touch with your local residents about directly from your email account at the time when it's relevant for you. As a member of AnsteyLink you will receive messages from other members (i.e. local residents) directly into your email account or via Google Groups on the web (whatever best suits you) and can respond in a timely fashion. This direct group email can be incredibly useful and beneficial, for example: sending out missing pet messages, informing people about suspicious goings on, recycling unwanted items locally, finding a lift when your car breaks down etc. If you do want to join this group, please email Sarah Cruise on [cruise.s@icloud.com](mailto:cruise.s@icloud.com) or if you already have a Google account of your own then please visit the AnsteyLink group at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ansteylink> and ask to join there. Sarah will only accept members from Anstey or the close villages such as Meesden, the Hormeads and Brent Pelham, and will send further guidelines when

you join. If you would like to discuss this further before joining, then do email her.

**Anstey Chapel News.** Happy New Year!! And in addition to that, we wish you a steady and peaceful year ahead. Even with life's ups and downs, that we all experience, we wish you favour, wisdom and patience.

Highly recommended comes our fortnightly soup lunch at the Chapel where a hearty, homemade vegetable soup with rustic bread/rolls, huge Victoria Sponge Cakes, Ginger Cake, Tea, Coffee and Biscuits are all served at your table between noon and 2pm. Be pampered. You deserve it. Bring a friend. Restarting February 4th & 18th.

The word is getting around about the monthly Anstey Ecumenical (different Christian Churches) Prayer Hour held the 1st Friday morning of every month 7-8am at The Chapel. Our meetings so far, have had four churches represented. Please feel free to come for 10 minutes or the full hour.

See you Friday 7th February? Prayer is Powerful!!

While we have the opportunity, we would like to thank all those who came to our Carols by Candlelight celebration which saw the Chapel full, singing traditional Christmas carols, modern carols, testimonies, and, of course, the customary eating of mince pies – and more mince pies! Likewise, it was good to share a Christmas morning service of thanksgiving with so many people with their Christmas socks and jumpers.

A thought to ponder:..... as this new decade starts it is now that I must make a choice. Because of God's love I am free to choose; and I choose love. No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Why don't you? God bless, *Pastor Ian*

## NEWS FROM ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL

**ANSTEY POP-UP FILM AND SOCIAL CLUB** On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan we showed Fisherman's Friends, a comedy drama set in Cornwall. Our next two films will be shown on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** and **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** - doors open 7.30pm, film starts at 8.00. All members should receive an email flyer in advance, 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. Please note that all memberships will be due for renewal in January. However, the good news is that it's still just £12 per calendar year and allows free entry to all 9 films! We have shown 28 Blu-ray films to date, all of which can be borrowed by our members from our archive. Please email [oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk) if you wish to see the full list.

**QUIZ NIGHT – SAVE THE DATE!** The annual Village Hall fundraising quiz will take place on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April**, with quizmaster Edward Burton once again testing those little grey cells. Tickets are £10, pay on the night, which includes a ploughman's supper. There will, as usual, be a licensed bar - and raffle! Contact Colin or Dave (as

above) to reserve your table or just come along on the night and join one. Doors will open at 7.00pm for a **7.30 start**.

#### **EXERCISE CLASSES**

Was your New Year resolution to get fit and take more exercise? If so, why not try one of the following? All classes are pay-as-you-go, with no upfront fees. New members, of any age and ability, are always welcome and the first 'taster' session is free. Text Dave Oxley on 07802 733398 (or email [oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk)) for more information.

Tuesday Yoga 5.15pm – 6.15pm £4.00 per session

Table Tennis 7.30pm – 8.30pm £3.00

Wednesday Table Tennis **9.30am** – 11.00am £3.00

*NB new start time. However, there is no obligation to be there for the whole session.*

Carpet Bowls 7.30pm – 9.30pm £2.50

Thursday Yoga 9.45am – 10.45am £4.00

#### **SUPPORTING THE HALL WITH THE EAST HERTS**

**LOTTERY** Many thanks to all those who have been supporting the Village Hall by buying lottery tickets! With the money raised thus far we have cleared the Russian Vine from the main car park (creating more parking space for school, parents and village hall users) and will shortly be installing broadband in the hall. East Herts Lottery is a weekly online lottery, where 60% of all funds raised go to good causes that benefit local communities in East Herts. Each ticket costs £1 per week, and 50p of that goes directly to your nominated cause – in our case, The Village Hall. The odds of winning any prize are 50:1 and the top prize (matching 6 numbers in a row) is £25,000! For more information go to [www.easthertslottery.co.uk](http://www.easthertslottery.co.uk). If you are keen to support Anstey Village Hall by playing the East Herts Lottery please go to [www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/hall](http://www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/hall) to sign up. Thank you!

**HIRING THE HALL** To book Anstey Village Hall for a private function, or to hire any tables, chairs or equipment, please contact Ruth Hart on 01763 849724 or email [ruth.hart@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.hart@btinternet.com)

## BRENT PELHAM NEWS

<https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/>

**Brent Pelham Christmas Fair.** *Katey Hügi writes:* - A big thank you to all those who came to and volunteered their help and support to run the Brent Pelham Christmas Fair. It was an amazing day of Christmas crafts, gifts, mulled wine, cakes, bell ringing, fun and laughter. Even with the road closed this year's fair was a wonderful success with more stalls, more people and a fabulous number of helpers to make this year's fair such a success.

Huge thankyou to: - Fran Bromage, Hannah Cakebread and Dawn Long for helping make the hall decorations, they were a real hit this year; Dave and Toby Bromage for bringing Fran and me dinner on the Saturday night so we could carry on the mission of decorating the hall in time for the fair!: all those who helped put the tent up on the Saturday, it took 8 adults in the end, guided beautifully by Robert Barclay: Fraser Murray, and Gordon Franklin for coming to save the day when the urn stopped working and made sure we had hot water to make drinks, and all who helped in the hall on the day, Decia Lane, Hazel Norris and Shirley Lacy you really are the dream team.

A very special thankyou must go to Beth Featherstone without whom the fair would simply not happen. In the background Beth dedicates many hours of work into making sure we have the best stallholders, that the fair is advertised

throughout the local area, food is sourced, raffle prizes found, signs are put up, mince pies made, tables are put up, chairs removed from the hall and our fabulous volunteers who help on the day are made welcome and enjoy the day too...Thank you Beth!

I am very proud of how the fair has grown better and better each year, all the money raised goes back into running the fair next year and I am looking forward to next year's already. We are making a few changes to the format but the date for next year's fair has already been agreed so please put it in your diaries! Sunday 29th November 2020. Happy new year everyone.

**Saturday January 25th - Burns Night Supper.** It's back! The infamous Brent Pelham Burns Supper. A fun evening of convivial socialising, *guid* food (**Vegetarian and GF Haggis on request\***), wine and all things Burns. As you may know/remember, it's a very light-hearted affair with songs and amusing musings by the bard or in his style. Those who don't feel the urge to join in, can just sit back and enjoy the food and drink (all dietary requirements catered for) and laugh. It would be good to kick the year off with a great village get-together. Book your tickets now for Saturday 25th January and break your "No Booze 'til Burns" New Years' alcohol fast. For more information/book tickets - email [fraser.murray@me.com](mailto:fraser.murray@me.com) or call 01279 777279. Note: We will of course release back into the wild any of the Haggis' that are not required.

**Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> - Shonkes Supper in the Village Hall.** Brent Pelham's unique and exclusive annual celebration to remember local hero Piers Shonkes and his victory over the marauding dragon! As seen on TV <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Eu62m9-ALI> Not to be missed!!

**Herts & Essex Country Fair – Brent Pelham – Sunday 23rd August 2020.** The 2020 Herts & Essex Country Fair, Dog and Heavy Horse Show takes place in The Park, Brent Pelham, SG9 0AT on Sunday 23rd August 2020. It is a traditional, local Country Fair which provides an entertaining day out for all the family.

### **Future newsletter items –**

The newsletter as a whole, and the Brent Pelham section in particular, relies on as many people as possible sending in items. Please do send in anything that you'd like to share...photos, interesting anecdotes about life in our village, messages of thanks for people, concerns or just to say hello! Perhaps after attending one of our village events, or a church service, think about a short write-up to share with others that weren't able to make it and if, and when, welcoming new people to the village see if they would be happy to share some details. Email to [brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com](mailto:brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com)

# MEESDEN NEWS

<https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/>

**Lantern Carols - 15th December 2019** Even though the weather was dank and dreary on the evening of our Lantern Carols, our Village Hall was warm and welcoming! A blazing fire was burning brightly in the grate - thanks to Ken Newstead - and the village children had obviously been busy decorating the Christmas tree, the result of which was colourful and very festive. Combined with the unmistakable aroma of spiced red wine coming from the kitchen, this was definitely a fitting venue for our vocal cords' warm-up in preparation for Christmas! Our Carol singing, led by James Sawyer in excellent voice, was preceded by a reading from the Gospel, relating to the Coming of the Magi.

We did justice to most of the traditional and best loved Carols! One of the lovely memories of the evening was hearing the first verse of Away in a Manger, sung beautifully by the children. Following the Carols, a well-deserved glass (or two) of mulled wine, together with warmed mince pies and various other tasty bites, were thoroughly enjoyed. This provided time for a chat with other villagers, some of whom we don't get the chance to see very often. To the delight of all the children, following a loud knocking on the door, Father Christmas was in the Hall with a sack full of gifts, one each for every child present. Following the raffle, for which there was a lovely and varied assortment of prizes, the evening drew to a close, and I think everyone went home feeling in true Christmas spirit! Thanks are due to everybody who contributed in any way to making the evening such an enjoyable one.

**Meesden Village Quiz.** Meesden will be holding its annual village quiz again this year on March 28<sup>th</sup> in Meesden Village Hall. Teams of eight or fewer will be very welcome and if you can't form a full team don't worry as we can arrange for you to join another group. This is always a popular event so don't be late in applying for tickets from: Richard and Chris Crookes at The Beehive, Meesden on 01279 777345 or [rcrookes2@gmail.com](mailto:rcrookes2@gmail.com). An interesting and challenging quiz will be run by Edward and a substantial and delicious supper and paid bar will be available.

**The Blessing of the Crib Service.** St Mary's Church Meesden held its annual Blessing the Crib Service again this year on Christmas Eve and, as usual, it was very well attended by over one hundred parishioners both young and old. Each of the windowsills in the Church had been tastefully decorated with festive flowers. For this, grateful thanks are due to Elaine and Andrew McNeile. The church looked beautiful and took on a special appearance as carols were sung by candlelight. (thanks to Sonny Gibb for taking charge of candle distribution). James Sawyer led the service which involved many of the young people particularly with the percussion accompaniment to "Little Donkey". Lessons were read beautifully by Lydia Murphy, Mae Busher and Poppy Vernon-Harcourt, telling the story of the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Shepherds to the stable. At the end of the service a collection was taken by Lucy and Harry Hughes and this has enabled us to make a donation of over £120 to Crisis to help the homeless. A great way to start Christmas.

**Meesden Poppy collection.** Many thanks to all the villagers of Meesden who raised £180 buying and contributing to the Poppy collection in November. A very

generous amount for the annual British Legion appeal helping ex-service men and women and their families.

**Meesden Community Garden.** The Meesden Community Garden is resting for the winter having had a good autumn



digging and a generous helping of compost and manure. Weather, mice, moles, caterpillars and slugs permitting, there will be the usual selection of vegetables at

the Village Hall. Along with a colourful display in the raised bed, there should also be a few annual bedding plants in pots available, together with a variety of tomato and cucumber plants for anyone with a greenhouse or sheltered spot for them to grow.

**Sausage and Mash Supper - 1st February 2020.** You will have received a flier advertising our Sausage Supper to take place on the evening of Saturday 1st February. At the time of going to print, we still have a few places available, so if you would like to come, please contact Margaret on 01279 777 195 or email [mothbeach27@gmail.com](mailto:mothbeach27@gmail.com). We can guarantee that you will have a pleasant evening and will definitely not go home hungry!

**Village Hall Committee.** We are always looking for ideas for activities and events in the village. With this in mind, we hold very informal meetings in the Village Hall about three or four times a year to try to come up with something appealing, interesting or maybe a little bit different. If you feel you could help in this direction, don't be shy; your new idea could be the very one we are looking for. Just turn up at one of our meetings, the next one of which is at the Village Hall on Wednesday 5th February at 7.30 pm. You will be most welcome!

**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](http://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*

**Rogation Walk 2020** This year's Rogation Walk will be taking place on Saturday 16th May. The walk affords a super opportunity to enjoy a ramble through some of our beautiful Hertfordshire countryside, walking between each of our six churches around the benefice. You can walk as little or as much as you would like, as transport will be provided for those wishing to walk a shorter distance.

All are very welcome so please make a date in your diary to join us. More details to follow, but should you wish to know more now, call Trevor Hughes on 01279 777404.

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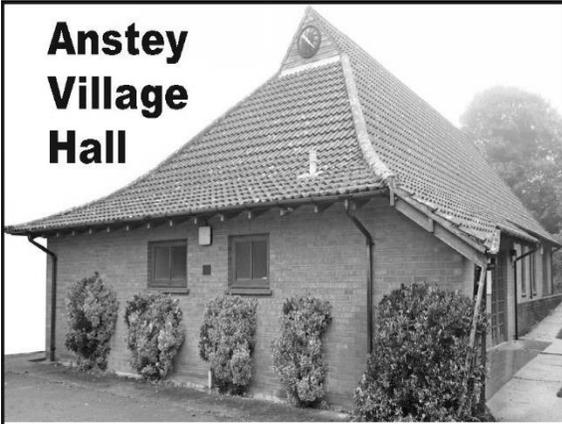
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Contact Liz Gray 01763 271988  
 Or Anstey School 01763 848346

# Anstey Village Hall



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Hall can accommodate 60 to 100 seated • Kitchen • Car parking

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