

THE ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

February - March 2022

Diary of Events

Date	Event
Sat 23 rd April	SHONK'S LUNCH, Brent Pelham (date provisional, tbc)
Sun 10 th July	ANSTEY FAIR – again, date provisional, tbc

With Covid concerns persisting, it's no surprise that the calendar is rather empty for this edition. Here's hoping that, by the next edition, we will have 'turned the corner,' and that folk will feel more confident about planning future events.

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Please send your local news to:

Jackie Godfrey on 01763 848732 or rjmo2@btinternet.com (AnsteY)

Martin Hügi brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com (Brent Pelham).

Mike West mikewest181@hotmail.com (Meesden)

And, for last minute material, direct to the editor.

Deadline for the next edition – Thursday 10th March

A reminder that all households in the three villages should now be receiving a printed copy of the newsletter, delivered to your door, for you to browse at your leisure – though there will continue to be an **online version** available as well, with **extra articles** that were too long or too late for the print edition.



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GENERAL NEWS & FEATURES

GOOD GARDENING! Topical tips and ideas for February and March

The days are beginning to lengthen now, and buds are appearing on trees and shrubs in the garden again. Here are some jobs to get you out in the early spring sunshine.

February 14th sees the launch of 'National Nestbox Week,' so there is no better time to put up bird boxes in the garden. Make sure you site your box out of the prevailing wind and strong sunlight. It should be about 1.3m above ground, ideally on a tree trunk, but a wall or shed is fine too.

Cut back late flowering clematis (group 3) to the lowest pair of strong buds. Mulch and feed at the same time.

Now is a good time to do some pond maintenance. Divide marginal and bog plants if overcrowded. Contain vigorous perennials by planting them in an aquatic plant basket and top with a layer of grit.

If you have a greenhouse, try growing on some plug plants. A wide range are available by mail order and can be grown on for summer baskets and tubs.

Check over your seed packets and see what you can sow now. There is a wide range of salad crops such as 'rocket' and 'cut and come again salad leaves' that are best sown before the weather gets too warm.

Here are two plants to add to your garden for late winter/early spring interest.



Pachysandra terminalis

An evergreen perennial with glossy green leaves, good for ground cover under shrubs and trees. Has small white flowers later in the year. Can grow in dry shade. Height 25cms, spread 60cms.

Clematis var. cirrhosa purpurascens 'Freckles'

An evergreen climber. Has pale yellow flowers speckled with maroon markings. Flowers in late winter, early spring. Good silky seed heads after flowering. Can grow in sun or part shade. Height 2.5 to 4m, spread 1.5m.

Why not visit Priorswood Clematis Nursery, Widbury Hill, near Ware? They have a very good selection of clematis and other climbing plants. See their website for opening times.



Happy gardening! Wendy Hillier.

FARMING OUTLOOK – by Wilfrid Dimsdale

The thing that most occupies farmers' time at this time of year is looking at their fields and growing crops. What they do not want to see is water running along the surface, indicating blocked land drains. Usually, a cursory inspection reveals clear water emerging from a hole before running off down the field, causing erosion. Sometimes it will be an easy fix of simply cleaning the ditch, otherwise digging to find the cause.



Looking at crops will reveal slug damage and, if one is unfortunate enough to have oil seed rape, pigeon damage; also, whether the very expensive fertiliser is actually working and in the right place!

The thing that most worries us is the significant price increase for fertiliser, nearly double that of 2021. Why? The high cost of natural gas and Hurricane Ida in the US, which forced the closure of some plants and power outages in China. Farmers are cushioned slightly by high food commodity prices, though another downside is the demise of area payments, a left-over from our time in the EU. Our commodity prices can, and no doubt will come down.

All over the country farmers are evaluating options. The new Environmental Land Management system (ELMs), which replaces the Single Farm Payment, is being managed by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is in a state of continuous development, its first iteration being the Sustainable Farming Initiative (SFI). In this part of the world, without much livestock, this will concentrate on Soil Health, so there will be fewer ploughed fields left bare overwinter. A good cover crop protects the soil from water and wind, preventing loss of soil. Nitrogen and other nutrients are lost through leaching when the soil is left bare.

To finish, a binge watch of Clarkson's Farm won't be time wasted!

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drawing & painting art courses

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Weekends in the studio:

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5 & 6 MARCH	SPRING TO LIFE <i>on our BEGINNERS' OIL PAINTING COURSE</i>
2 & 3 APRIL	THERE'S STILL LIFE <i>Painting with Helene SCHJERFBECK's work in mind</i>
7 & 8 MAY	RUDIMENTS of LIFE DRAWING <i>With a MODEL after DEGAS dancers</i>
4 & 5 JUNE	LIFE in the STUDIO <i>With a MODIGLIANI model posing as you paint</i>
2 & 3 JULY	ACTION PAINTING <i>A chance to paint with ENERGY on a LARGE scale ...</i>
6 & 7 AUGUST	IN CAMERA <i>Secret Knowledge: Try painting with a Camera obscura!</i>
3 & 4 SEPTEMBER	ABSTRACT LANDSCAPE <i>Using our PICTURESQUE setting to INSPIRE our painting</i>

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RECIPE CORNER - CHILLI PRAWN LINGUINE

Here is a quick, nutritious meal to for 2 people to enjoy!

Ingredients

150g (5oz) cooked prawns
2 tomatoes
1 clove garlic
1 lemon
25g (1oz) Chorizo

150g (5oz) linguine pasta
1 tbsp. olive oil
25g (1oz) butter
¼ tsp chilli flakes
Fresh Basil or Parsley

Method

1. Put linguine in a pan of boiling water and cook according to instructions on the packet.
2. Slice the Chorizo and place in a frying pan, with oil, butter, chopped garlic and chilli flakes. Cook for about 3 minutes, stirring.
3. Add the lemon zest, prawns and tomatoes and cook for further 3 minutes, or until prawns are hot.
4. Drain linguine and put in a dish, top with the prawn mixture and sprinkle over some chopped herbs.
5. Serve immediately.

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Facebook – Sumptuous Soups and Country Cakes



East Herts Rural response to your Community Voice.

YOU SAID: Road safety around schools including speeding, parking and inconsiderate driving

WE DID:

- Conducted speed monitoring patrols outside schools identified by local residents.



YOU SAID: Proactive Rural patrols to deter rural crime, including hare coursing and poaching

WE DID:

- Conducted regular rural patrols to deter hare coursing and poaching



Have your say on local policing issues in: East Herts Rural at bit.ly/ehrrural-police



ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk

A CENTURY OF REMEMBRANCE

On 27th November a memorial service was held at St George's Church, Anstey, 100 years to the day, to mark the centenary of the unveiling and dedication of the war memorial, remembering the 12 men from our village who lost their lives in World War I.

The church was full, with music provided by Royston Town Band's Youth Section. At a very moving service, led by Reverend James Sawyer and following where possible the original service, excerpts were read out from the letters home of Private Reg Coxall, who died of wounds eleven days before the Armistice - he was just 19. At least four of the Anstey soldiers had family members present, one family travelling from Kent to be with us.



We were privileged to be able to mark this special occasion, and lucky to be able to use the village hall afterwards for coffee and cakes, before Omicron took hold and life became more restricted again.

Jenny Goymour

"TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY.."

On Wed 15th Dec a large group of us gathered outside The Blind Fiddler to sing carols. It was a precious opportunity for many of us to meet up safely, and a very convivial time was had by all. Led by the Rev James Sawyer (this time in his elf tunic),

we sang 'a Capella' and our voices rang out. Barry and Emma were, as ever, our genial hosts, supplying us with ample servings of mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies!

VILLAGE HALL

A reminder that three classes are now up and running again, on a regular basis:

Table Tennis: Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.00 am £3

Carpet Bowls: Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30 pm £3

Yoga: Thursdays 9.15 – 10.15 am £4

Beginners are always welcome, and the first 'taster' session is free. Thereafter, it's 'pay as you go.' For more details, email:

oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk (table tennis)

janpledger99@btinternet.com (carpet bowls)

oxleykn@yahoo.co.uk (yoga)

Unfortunately, we decided to postpone the **Film & Social Club** evening on Friday 21st Jan, due to ongoing Covid concerns. However, as soon as we feel confident about restarting we will announce a new date via email and social media. Membership will remain at £12 per year, which allows free entry to up to 9 films. All existing memberships will be valid for another year - new members can join on the night, or contact colingsmith@gmail.com in advance. Guests welcome, £3 per show

ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Mon 17th January can be found on the village website www.ansteyvillage.co.uk The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held, in the Village Hall, on Mon 14th March

SOCIAL MEDIA

Email - ansteylink@googlegroups.com

AnsteyLink 'connects local residents to share local information, list items for sale, free or loan, recommend local businesses, services and events, and anything else that may be useful to contact local residents about.' The group is managed by Sarah Cruise – cruise.s@icloud.com

Facebook

The **Anstey and Meesden Community Group** is ‘a community group for residents of Anstey and Meesden to share thoughts and a place for local businesses to advertise.’ The administrator is Gemma Jacobs.

ANSTEY DEFIBRILLATOR. A reminder that the Anstey defibrillator is located outside The Blind Fiddler, just to the left of the entrance porch. The code to open the cabinet is **3456**



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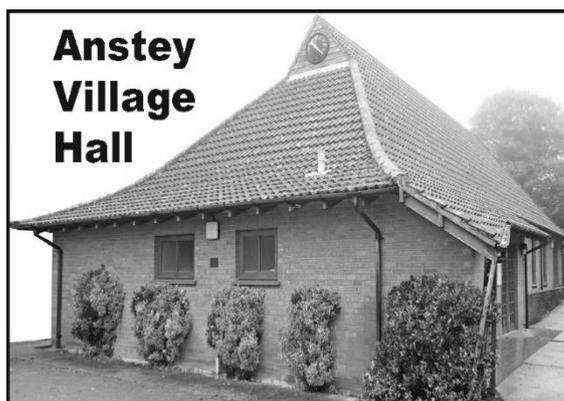


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www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/hall

BRENT PELHAM NEWS

www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org

BRENT PELHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR

It is now becoming a distant memory, but thanks to all those that came to the Christmas Fair and to all those that put the time and effort in to help with the setting up - and the taking down!

Martin Hügi

Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council

Details of the Parish Council meetings, agendas and minutes can be viewed on the [Brent Pelham Meesden Parish Council Website](#). Residents are always welcome to come along. The date of the next meeting will also be posted on this website.

The Community Choir is still up and running!

For more information please contact - sammurray68@icloud.com

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Facebook page "The Pelhams"

You can find interesting local stories and histories on the The Pelhams Facebook page, a place to share local news, stories and images so everyone can see what a beautiful part of the world we live

in. Please take a look, join the page and add any stories, pictures or posts. [The Pelhams Facebook page](#)

Community WhatsApp Group

There is a Brent Pelham community WhatsApp group to share news, information, and informal chat. Open to anyone living in the village and administered by Hazel Norris. Please get in contact with her to be added to the group at hazelnorris@icloud.com

Village News Email

Fraser Murray sends out emails to the village with general news. To add your name to his distribution list, or if your email has changed, then send a blank email to frasermurray@me.com with your name and address in the header.

Village hall internet

The WiFi network is BP-Village-Hall and the password is shonk5moat. It's free to use for basic respectful use. For prolonged heavy use a small, or large, donation would be very welcome, simply post through the letter box at the Village Hall with an explanatory note.

Pilates in the Village Hall

Pilates takes place at Brent Pelham Village Hall every Monday. Sessions start at 6.45pm. If interested please email Becky at rebecca.ashman@hotmail.co.uk or Hazel at hazelnorris@icloud.com or telephone 777316

Village defibrillator - As a reminder, the village defibrillator is located near the village hall and post box opposite the church. The access code for the box is **C159X**.

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MEESDEN NEWS

www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org

Despite the concerns over Omicron, we still managed to hold two successful events in Meesden on the run-up to Christmas. The first was carol singing outside the village hall. Warmed by the brazier Ken had prepared, we sang carols for about half an hour that reminded us of the amazing events of the first Christmas, and then afterwards enjoyed a glass of mulled wine kindly provided by Richard and Chris, as well as warm mince pies. The weather remained dry and it was good to chat and catch up with each other.

Then, on Christmas Eve, we had our usual Crib service, again in Wilfrid and Cathy's barn, an excellent venue for the occasion. The service was very well attended, with folk coming from the outposts of Anstey, Nuthampsted and beyond!

Cathy and Wilfrid had set up a beautiful crib in the partly restored shepherd's hut, and Cathy had corralled half a dozen impeccably behaved and seemingly manicured (though I am told they were not!) sheep into an enclosure by the hut, lending to the atmosphere. We sang familiar carols and James, who led the service, retold the first Christmas story.



Thanks to everyone who made both events such a success.

Mike West

Ken Newstead writes..

Now seems a good time to remind people that any problems or pot-holes on our roads should be reported to East Herts via their website <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-street-light-or-pothole.aspx>

For maintenance on our public footpaths: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-highway-fault/public-rights-of-way/public-rights-of-way.aspx>

Meesden & Brent Pelham Defibrillator

Please ensure you have the security code to enable you to access our defibrillator, should you need it. The code is C159X. If you need any assistance in an emergency, we still operate the Village Emergency Telephone System. You just have to phone 01279 260560 to get connected to one of our registered helpers.

Parish Council

Why not make a note to come along to our next Parish Council meeting, which will be held in Meesden Village Hall at 7:30 pm on Thursday 14th April? The agenda for each meeting is posted on the Parish Council website ahead of each meeting: <https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/> Alternatively, you can send your comments or questions by email ahead of any meeting to clerk@brentpelham-meesden-pc.org

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Buntingford Dramatic Society

Wind in the Willows



Buntingford Community Centre, SG9 9SQ

Friday	11 th Mar 2022	8 pm
Saturday	12 th Mar 2022	2.30 & 8 pm
Friday	18 th Mar 2022	8 pm
Saturday	19 th Mar 2022	2.30 & 8 pm

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