

THE ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

April - May 2025

Diary of upcoming events

Date	Event
Tue 1 st April & Tue 29 th	Quiz Night at The Black Horse, Brent Pelham.
Wed 9 th April	Cakes and Coffee at Anstey Chapel, 10.30 am – midday.
Sun 20 th April	Easter services at Anstey Church (page 4), Anstey Chapel (p5) and St Mary's, Meesden (p11).
Fri 25 th April	Anstey 'pop-up' Film & Social Club at Anstey Village Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm, film starts at 8.00.
Sun 11 th May	Brent Pelham VE-Day Street Party, 12.30 pm onwards.
Mon 12 th May	Anstey Parish Council + Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00 pm in Anstey Village Hall (please note earlier start).
Wed 14 th May	Cakes and Coffee at Anstey Chapel, 10.30 am – midday.
Sat 17 th May	Barley Tennis Club 'Band & Bingo' evening (see page 3).
Wed 21 st May	Quiz Night in The Blind Fiddler, Anstey, 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Thu 22 nd May	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Gt Hornead Hall, 7.00 pm.
Fri 23 rd May	Anstey 'pop-up' Film & Social Club at Anstey Village Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm, film starts at 8.00.
Tue 27 th May	Quiz Night at The Black Horse, Brent Pelham.
Sat 31 st May	Brent Pelham Annual Plant Sale, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Editor: David Oxley, 2 Castle Cottages, Anstey SG9 0BW / oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk / 07802 733398

Please send your local news to:

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

Shirley Lacy – Shirley.lacy10@gmail.com (Brent Pelham)

Mike West - mikewest181@hotmail.com (Meesden)



Welcome to another edition of the Newsletter, with local news and stories from across the three villages. All households should receive a printed copy of the newsletter, delivered to your door, for you to browse at your leisure – though there's also a digital version available as well (via email), which may include extra articles that were too long or too late for the printed edition. A digital archive of back issues can be found on the Anstey Village website: www.ansteyvillage.co.uk

Deadline for the next edition: **Saturday 10th May**

GOOD GARDENING

Topical tips for April and May

Spring is in full swing, with tulips and flowering cherries in bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers, but sunny days too, so you can turn your attention to the garden and the vegetable plot.

- ❖ Sowing seeds outdoors is an easy, inexpensive and plastic-free way to grow new plants. It's ideal for a wide range of hardy flowers and vegetables. The garden centres now have a wide range of seeds available, or you could order from one of the many seed catalogues on line.
- ❖ Mulch roses and shrubs with a 5-8cm layer of organic matter. This will help retain moisture during dry spells, reduce weed build-up and improve soil structure over time.
- ❖ Twining climbers (such as honeysuckle and clematis) need regular tying-in and twining around their supports.
- ❖ Go through your shed and remove any old, out-of-date garden chemicals. If in doubt how to dispose of them, your local authority tip should be able to help.
- ❖ During late May you can experiment with the 'Chelsea Chop,' cutting back your perennials to improve their flowering performance. This can delay flowering by up to four to six weeks. You can either prune all stems by half on a clump or just half of them at any one time. Plants suitable for the 'Chelsea Chop' include phlox, penstemons, sedums, achillea, asters, and campanula.

Here are some plant ideas to brighten your garden in April and May.

Spirea x arguta 'Bridal Wreath'



A rounded deciduous shrub with slender arching shoots bearing small lance-shaped leaves and clusters of small white flowers. Height and spread 1.5 - 2.5m. Likes well-drained soil, full sun or partial

shade. Flowers in April/May. If overgrown, it can be renovated by cutting back hard immediately after flowering.

Aquilegia 'Hensol Harebell'

A perennial plant with nectar-rich flowers. Attracts many pollinators and can handle all kinds of weather.

After flowering it will easily seed itself around the garden.

Height 45cm, spread 30cm. Likes moist but well-drained soil, flowers in late May.

Good as a cut flower.

Cut back after flowering for a fresh flush of foliage.



Why not plan a visit to Audley End House and Gardens? Apart from the house there are extensive gardens to see, and a walled kitchen garden run entirely on the Soil Association's organic principles.

Finally, don't forget that the Chelsea Flower Show is on from May 20th to May 24th this year.

Happy gardening! Wendy Hillier.

T'AI CHI CH'UAN

“Stand like a mountain, move like a river”

Literally translated T'ai Chi Ch'uan means the supreme ultimate fist. This is explained by it being a self-defence method originally, although most people practise it these days as an exercise or set of postures. Both as a martial art or exercise it is rooted in Taoist philosophy, whereby yielding or softness overcomes unyielding or hardness. Power is generated from the core of the body and legs. With T'ai Chi and the other “soft” martial arts, the waist extends from the bottom of the rib cage to the knees. Because the postures are performed slowly with an emphasis on yielding and being rooted it is recommended for balance and relaxation. May I suggest using the internet if you might be interested.

I have practised T'ai Chi for over 35 years and have recently been asked if I would be prepared to teach it in Anstey Village Hall, commencing in May. The hall is available on a Monday afternoon. As I do not want to

charge for this, the only cost will be the hire of the hall.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact me on 01763 848562, 07581420459, or djkellett@btinternet.com

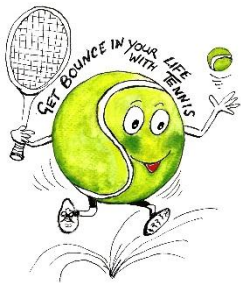
Dave Kellett

THE BENEFICE 'GOOD NEIGHBOURS' SCHEME

A reminder that local volunteers are available to drive you and help you, should you require it. If you need a lift to a hospital, or a doctor's surgery, or help with the shopping or with other tasks, just give us a ring on **01763 848536**. Please try to give advance notice, as same-day trips are rarely possible.

Patricia Hamilton

BARLEY TENNIS CLUB



Barley tennis club is a welcoming, friendly and affordable club with two hard courts in a most beautiful setting of the Plaistow, Barley village.

We welcome players of all abilities from Barley and surrounding villages. Club sessions are on Sundays (10:30 am to 12) and Thursdays in Spring and Summer from 5:30pm.

Fun cardio tennis sessions and group coaching are available on a Wednesday morning, and don't require membership. In addition, one-to-one coaching and Junior group coaching is offered with our well-qualified and experienced coaches, Chrissie Fothergill and Steve Smith. There is also the opportunity for competitive match play for more experienced players.

We truly aim to be welcoming to all, and are open to discuss any barriers to access with anyone who would like to join, and feels they need help with particular access needs.

There are various open days, a club tournament and social events during the year to enjoy, too.

We are a charity and try to keep our membership fees as low as possible. Any additional donations towards upkeep of this valuable and lively community asset are very gratefully accepted.

Please find more details on the web-site: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/barleytennisclub>.

Membership:
membership.barleytennisclub@gmail.com

Coaches:
chrissiefothergill@hotmail.co.uk 07720214721
stevesmith865@hotmail.com 07790 561817

For particular accessibility assistance contact Carol on carolbarleytennis@fastmail.com

HOT NEWS!

We are having a Band and Bingo evening on May 17th in Barkway village hall to raise funds for court maintenance. Keep the date and look out for further details - Barley shop will have a poster and sell tickets. Do come along. It will be a lot of fun.

Liz Orrock

BONFIRES

I have been asked by a concerned resident to point out that, while it is not illegal to burn garden waste, the Council can take offenders to court if their bonfires cause a nuisance to neighbours, including having an unreasonable effect on their enjoyment of their home or garden. You are asked to be considerate, for example by warning near neighbours if and when you feel that you must have a bonfire.

The Editor

HOWE ENGINEERING
LOCAL FAMILY-RUN GARAGE BUSINESS WITH GOOD SERVICE
Saab & Land Rover Specialists
ALL OTHER MAKES WELCOME

- MOT testing • Servicing • Tyres
- Diagnostics • Air Conditioning
- FREE Courtesy Cars Available

HOWE Rentals
FOR ALL YOUR VAN AND CAR RENTALS

Stones Cross, Hare Street,
Nr. Buntingford, Herts SG9 ODY
Tel: 01763 289 521
e-mail: Howe.Engineering@gmail.com

ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk

Unless otherwise acknowledged, the Anstey News section is written by the Editor.

BEAT THE FEBRUARY BLUES!

Around 70 people attended the music evening at Anstey Village Hall on Sat 22nd Feb, to enjoy the live music - and also the hot supper! A jolly good time was had by all, and the event raised over £550 towards the upkeep and running of the Hall. Many thanks to all who came, and to all the musicians, who played for free.

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE VILLAGE HALL – SAT 29TH MARCH

As we go to press all 10 tables have been reserved for the Quiz Night – which should be a lively affair! More details will appear in the next edition.

ANSTEY ‘POP-UP’ FILM & SOCIAL CLUB

On Friday 7th Feb we showed the film ‘Wicked Little Letters’ and on Friday 21st March ‘Twisters.’ Our next two films will be shown on **Friday 25th April** and **Friday 23rd May**. All members should receive an email in advance, with full details of the films to be shown - please check your Junk or Spam folder if you can’t seem to find it!

Please note that, owing to increased costs, membership fees have risen to £15 per year from January, which allows free entry to up to 9 films throughout the year - still very good value, as I’m sure you’ll agree. New members can always join on the night, or contact colingsmith@gmail.com in advance. Guests are always welcome, £4 per show.

NB If you change your email address, please email colingsmith@gmail.com with your new one, so that we can update the Film Club mailing list.

SPORT & EXERCISE CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

A reminder that we currently run three classes at the village hall:

Table Tennis: Wednesdays 9.30 – 10.30 am [£3]

Carpet Bowls: Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00 pm [£2.50]

Yoga: Thursdays 9.30 – 10.30 am [£6]

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)

janpled@gmail.com (carpet bowls)

oxleykn@yahoo.co.uk (yoga)



Anstey Village Hall

For Celebrations, Parties, Children’s Parties
Dances, Clubs, Bands, Meetings,
and Sports & Fitness Activities

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

To hire the hall contact:

Ruth Hart: 01763 849724 E: ruth.hart9@btinternet.com

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/hall

You are always welcome to hire the Hall, for £12 per hour, or £8 per hour for Anstey residents.

NEWS FROM ANSTEY CHURCH

On Sunday 20th April, Easter Sunday, there will be a Holy Communion Service in Anstey Church, to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Festive fizz to follow, after the service. All ages, and pet dogs too, will find a warm welcome!



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in Great Hornead School on Thursday 22nd May at 7.00 pm.

On Wed 11th June at 6 pm there will be a service in Anstey Church, with the Friends of the 398th USAF bomber group, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the installation of the memorial stained-glass window. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Ali Cossor

ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Mon 10th March can be found on the village website at www.ansteyvillage.co.uk. The next meeting of the Parish Council, together with the **Annual Parish Meeting**, will be on **Mon 12th May at 7.00 pm** in the Village Hall - please note the earlier start. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

QUIZ NIGHTS AT THE BLIND FIDDLER

Mark Jacobs is running a series of Quiz Nights at the Blind Fiddler pub. The next two dates are Wed 21st May and Wed 30th June.

The quiz starts at 7.00 pm for 7.30. Teams are advised to call the Blind Fiddler in advance to book a table.

ANSTEY CHAPEL NEWS AND UPDATE

A reminder to everyone in Ansteys and the surrounding villages that our Chapel cakes and coffee is a lovely get-together on the second Wednesday of each month. The next dates are **Wednesday 9th April & Wednesday 14th May, 10.30-12 midday**. This is a chance to chat, make new friends and enjoy home-made cakes and coffee/tea (no charge) in a lovely, peaceful environment. All ages welcome, arrive anytime 10.30 onwards.

Everyone is welcome to The Chapel's **Easter Sunday Service on Sunday April 20th at 10.30am** when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection with a series of hymns, songs and readings. There will be coffee and cakes after the service (and maybe a few little choc eggs ☺).



We mustn't forget to mention the new resident at The Chapel Bungalow, Betty Withers, who has recently moved to the bungalow (owned by The Chapel) from Little Horstead. Betty very much appreciates that so many in Ansteys have made her so welcome, and has already had many visitors from near and far! She is looking forward to being a member of our congregation.

If you'd like to know more details, or would just like a chat, please do call our Ansteys Chapel contacts Stephen Wylie (07979 537689) or David Tweedale (07970963666).

Wishing everyone a very happy Easter from all at the Chapel. A warm welcome awaits you at our Easter Sunday Service.

Penny Wylie

Enjoy a day out with a difference in 2025



**Book a fabulous
Alpaca Walk or Adventure***
with lunch or homemade cream tea at
Yew Tree Alpacas in Ansteys

Walks May-September on most Fridays & Saturdays

Book online or telephone
www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk or call 01763 848257.

Yew Tree Alpacas, Ansteys, SG90DA *Walks 10yrs +, Adventures 6yrs+

It's been a hard Winter at Yew Tree Alpacas, with continuous rain the ground has become saturated and very muddy. However, the last week of dry weather has been very welcome, and enabled us to wean our nine cria, who are now 6-7 months old.

We started our alpaca walks in early March. From May (after a gap in April) these continue until the end of September on most Fridays and Saturdays.

This season you will be able to book just the home-made afternoon and cream teas (without the walk) on selected dates throughout the Summer. The alpacas will be grazing close by and our Yew Tree shop and Yarn Barn will be open for those who like a little retail therapy.

Dates will be available to book online on our website (from April) or via phone - call us on 01763 848257.

Sat 24th May, Sat 14th June, Sat 21st June, Fri 4th July, Sat 19th July, Fri 8th Aug, Sat 16th Aug and Sat 23rd Aug.

Yew Tree Alpacas, Ansteys, SG9 0DA,
www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk Tel 01763 848257

DEFIBRILLATOR

The Ansteys defibrillator is located outside The Blind Fiddler, just to the left of the entrance porch. The code to open the cabinet is **3456**.

If you're dealing with a cardiac arrest, and administering CPR, there's a WhatsApp group which members can use, to request someone to fetch the defibrillator. If you wish to join the group (which currently has 25 members) please use this link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GiopuogE3BeF6ruglEyLil> or contact the Editor on 07802 733398.

There is also a defibrillator at Ansteys School, available to the public from 8 till 5 during term time. It's located in the school office.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly we report the death on 31st January of Catherine Martin, formerly of Lincoln Hill. Catherine was born in the village and lived here until failing health meant she had to move to Buntingford.

Jackie Godfrey

ANSTEY SOCIAL MEDIA

ANSTEYLINK email group - ansteylink@gaggle.email
The group is managed by Sarah Cruise – contact cruise.s@icloud.com

FACEBOOK: Anstey and Meesden Community Group.
The administrator is Gemma Jacobs.

THE WORKSHOP AT ANSTEY
COLLABORATE - MOVE - EXPERIENCE

A BEAUTIFUL SPACE TO *gather together*

wellbeing groups creative workshops

kids parties meetings special gatherings

The Workshop at Anstey is available to hire by the hour, day or longer. Ideal for groups of 10 - 50 people who want to come together (depending on style of event). Tables chairs and mats available.
Outdoor facilities and overnight accommodation available by arrangement.

Hello@theworkshopatanstey.co.uk
www.theworkshopatanstey.co.uk
0776771308 / 07877214662

HEATING OUTDOOR AREA SMALL KITCHEN

The Tile Shop

Tiles for every need.

Bathroom, kitchen, conservatory and wet rooms.

Full restoration of all works, and trades supplied for a complete service from start to finish.

01763 272838 | info@thetileshopbuntingford.co.uk
117 High Street, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 9AF

www.thetileshopbuntingford.co.uk

The Clinic

Leah Claydon
BSc, MRCoP, FRCPM, MFPM RCPS
BSc (Hons) Lic Ac, MBAcC

Podiatrist & Acupuncturist

01763 772502
www.leahclaydon.com

30+ years experience
HCPC Registered
Two Twits Barns, Anstey SG9 0FD

Don Weston Electrics

DOMESTIC INSTALLER

Local, reliable service at reasonable rates
All domestic electrical work undertaken
and most general maintenance

NO JOB TOO SMALL

07476 399007
www.facebook.com/donwestonelectrics
donweston1208@gmail.com

WWS WEBB SCAFFOLDING LTD

MARK WEBB
Director

07929 077481
enquiries@webbscaffolding.com
@Webbscaffoldingltd
@Webbscaffoldingltd

Anstey Owlets



is a small, friendly pre-school within Anstey First School where children from 2 years of age (who don't have to be out of nappies) enjoy child-initiated, free-flow play in a lovely rural setting.

We offer a wide range of activities with an emphasis on outdoor learning, including sessions in our Woodland School with our dedicated, level-3 trained staff. Shared social time with our Nursery children ensures a smooth transition to Nursery class in our Montessori-led Foundation Unit



**For information about
Owlets Pre-school
call 01763 848 346**

**BE THE BEST YOU
CAN BE AT ANSTEY**

THE ANNEXE AT MILLHAVEN

Enjoy stunning views from our ground floor one bedroom self contained annexe. Set in 6 acres of gardens and paddocks in the village of Anstey. Secure parking behind electric gates. Dogs welcome.

More photos and details on Airbnb.

Enquiries or bookings - contact Simone on 07973 745983 or simone.debruyker@hotmail.co.uk



Anstey Grove Barn

Beautiful converted barn in Anstey available for self catering.

6 double/twin bedrooms, all en-suite
Large lounge, dining room, fully equipped kitchen

Private contained garden with patios ideal for wedding guests, visiting family etc

www.ansteygrovebarn.co.uk

contact:
enquiries@ansteygrovebarn.co.uk
01763 848828



M. FLACK'S CHAIR CANING

Chair caning repairs and restorations based in Barley, Hertfordshire

All types of natural rattan caning on chairs, stools, sofa, drop ins etc...

Danish cord, rush seating, small upholstery items, drop ins, dining chairs, stools, cushions etc...

Millie Flack

Mobile: 07904 204 103
Email: m.flackschaircaning@gmail.com

: [m.flackschaircaning](https://www.instagram.com/m.flackschaircaning)

REBOOT IT SOLUTIONS

Need a helping hand?

We provide a wide range of IT services and solutions all tailored to your individual needs.

From system set up and virus management to repairs and up skilling on the latest technology.

Offsite and home support available.

Tracy Walker - IT Consultant

07521 977997

www.rebootitsolutions.co.uk



BRENT PELHAM NEWS

www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org
Compiled and presented by Shirley Lacy

WELCOME TO NIKKI AND TAM WILSON

Nikki has returned home after working in Spain for 6 years with her 13-year-old son Tam. They are living next door to Nikki's old school friend Fiona on Pump Hill. Having spent her childhood living on a farm with horses, Nikki is happy to be back to village life.

BRENT PELHAM AND MEESDEN MOTHERS' UNION BANNER

The two pictures below show the banner as it is now. The stitching that holds the braiding in place has rotted, as can be seen in the pictures. The banner has a cotton backing on it and this needs to be removed before any remedial work can be carried out. This is way beyond my sewing skills, and I was wondering if there is anyone in the Benefice who would be prepared to undertake the repair?



If you can help, please contact Kate Hinch, 07720 895852 / katehinch@gmail.com

BLACK HORSE RENOVATIONS

Works have been underway at the Black Horse to renovate the upstairs of the building. For many years most of the upstairs has been used as a dumping ground, full of broken furniture, dust and spider webs. It is now completely cleared, the flooring made good, fully plastered, has new stairs and painting has started. It will soon be ready to open as Air B&B rooms, with a relaxing ambiance and decor which suits the character of the pub.

We would all like to thank Paul Sampson and his team at Pelham Building who have carried out the project with such speed and professionalism. It has been a

pleasure working with them. We hope to open the rooms to guests around Easter time and look forward to showing some of you around very soon.

PLANTING TREES AT FURNEUX PELHAM SCHOOL

Our children, a number of them being from Brent Pelham and Anstey, all got the special experience of planting a tree in our beautiful grounds.



Thanks go to The Conservation Volunteers for the donation of 100 trees as part of their 'I Dig Trees' campaign. The children learnt how to plant a tree using one of three methods, and chose the type of tree they planted, from a selection of native trees beneficial to wildlife. The trees are now being eagerly observed and regularly tended by the children, to ensure they grow to form a thicker hedge along the boundary of our school playing field. This will form a natural barrier, enhance the beauty of the school field, provide a haven for wildlife and contribute to our initiatives to combat climate change. It was lovely to see the children's enthusiasm and enjoyment as they worked together, perfectly illustrating our school vision: 'Roots to grow, Wings to soar.'. For further information, visit www.furneuxp.herts.sch.uk

Nicki Dodds

BRENT PELHAM VILLAGE HALL

VE-DAY STREET PARTY



**** FREE lunch ****

Join us at our own street party on the village green on:

**Sunday 11th May
12.30 onwards.**

Bar and raffle available

Tickets from: Hazel Norris
(with any dietary requirements)
e-mail: hazelnorris@icloud.com
or 07850 092437 (mobile)

UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS:

- **VE-Day Street Party** – 11 May.
- **Annual Plant Sale** – 31 May.
- **Country Fair** - 17th August.
- **Harvest Festival** - 28th September.
- **Christmas Fair** - Saturday 29th November.



BLACK HORSE EVENTS

Quiz night. Hosted by Dave Bromage. Enjoy a fun mental workout with rounds such as One-Letter Different, In the News, Connections and Toby's Year 9 Extravaganza. Dates: Tuesday April 1; Tuesday April 29; Tuesday May 27; Tuesday June 24, £3 per person. Maximum of 6 in a team.

Black Horse Tutoring sessions with Phoenix Society. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 5:15pm – 6:15pm. It is great to see youngsters from the village, learning and revising together. There are still places available.

Black Horse Monthly 'Sip & Paint' sessions run by local artist Donna Reeves. Vino & Van Gogh in April followed by Prosecco & Picasso in May. Donna will also run a Children's Easter Art Workshop during the Easter holiday. See our social media for more details.

The Black Horse has teamed up with Deanna Hammond, a local Clinical Animal Behaviourist from Partners in Paw who will be leading some groups and social walks from the pub garden. We hope to see all of you and your four-legged friends there soon!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook pages: **The Pelhams** or **Brent Pelham Village Community Group**. The Brent Pelham community WhatsApp group is administered by James (07904 019572) and Miro (07812 174646).

Fraser Murray administers village emails. To add/change your name on his distribution list, send a blank email to frasermurray@me.com with your name and address in the header. To join the Brent Pelham birds WhatsApp group, message Dave Bromage on 07545 252191.

The Village Hall WiFi network is BP-Village-Hall and the password is shonk5moat.

Brent Pelham Village Hall

A lovely old unique building with good acoustics, excellent bar and catering facilities. A great place for all your parties and meetings (Free to BP residents).

- Licensed for up to 120 people.
- Fast Wi-Fi internet broadband.
- Crockery & cutlery also available.

For further details and to book: Email: beth.featherstone@btinternet.com, 01279 777 281



DESIGN NATION

We don't just sell kitchens & bedrooms - we tailor unique designs & bring them to life
www.dnation.co.uk



enquiries@dnation.co.uk
01279 777279
Local Specialist & Manufacturer
Free Consultation & Planning Service

Chiropractors
Osteopaths
Physiotherapy
Massage
Audiology
Podiatry
Hypnotherapy
Speech Therapy
Nutrition
Acupuncture
GP Services
Pilates & Tai Chi
EMDR



27 High St Buntingford 01763 87 80 87

MEESDEN NEWS

www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org
Compiled and presented by Mike West

At last, we are having some warm, dry weather! The snowdrops have braved the cold, wet February and come out in their full glory, and now daffodils, defiant messengers of hope for better days, have created brilliant patches of colour on our landscapes. The early stirrings of spring are around us; horse chestnut buds are beginning to swell and pussy willow is out.



Keeping on a nature theme, whilst taking our dog for his final walk of the day I've recently noticed a little fawn settled for the night in the scrub near the village hall, only a few metres from the road, its eyes revealed as two pinpricks of light in the beam of my headtorch.

An obvious change in the village recently has been the clearance and reinstatement of drainage ditches. In particular, the ditch along the track leading to Meesdenbury has been deepened, and the hedgerow alongside either removed or markedly cut back.

We held the Meesden Sausage Supper on 18th January and, as expected, it lived up to its reputation for great food and was a most enjoyable evening. John Wainwright supplied the sausages, whilst others in the village provided vegetables, gravy and a variety of puddings. Folk sat around three sets of tables, and some took the opportunity to move to other tables during the evening, mixing up the groups. As well as being a great social occasion, it made £200 for hall and church funds, thanks in part to the generosity of those supplying the veg and puddings free of charge.



MEESDEN BARN DANCE, 14TH JUNE 7PM

This will be another occasion for our community (and those beyond!) to get together and enjoy an evening of fun. Cathy Dimsdale writes:

"Bring friends and family for another fabulous Barn Dance in the Big Barn at Meesden Bury. *(This is a lovely old barn and a great setting for this! MW)*

Enjoy live music with Dove's Vagaries with traditional English and Scottish dancing.

A hot dog supper, delicious dessert, pay bar and raffle. Please bring cash!

Tickets now available on Eventbrite, (<https://bit.ly/meesdenbardance>): £15 adults and £8 U16, or from cathydimsdale@icloud.com

In aid of Village Hall and Meesden Church."

The Barn Dance subcommittee will meet in the village hall on March 25th at 7pm for planning, and everyone is welcome to come along. If anyone would be willing to help run the bar please let Ian Bar or Cathy Dimsdale know.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Doreen Thoroughgood left the village in mid-February and is now settling into a flat in Bishop Stortford. She has met her neighbours, who are very friendly, and she is just working out now "what to do with all her clobber!" Her old house in Meesden is being extensively modified by the new owners, who hope to move in fully, probably by the end of March. As part of the modifications the internet is being installed, something which Doreen ...er... did not require!

STEVEN DAWE

As some will already know, very sadly Steven Dawe, of 1 Jubilee cottages, passed away in early February. He had been ill for some time and spent his last few days in a hospice. *We offer Stephanie and her family our deepest condolences during this sad time.*

Ken Newstead has sent in the following:

VILLAGE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (VETS)

We are sadly somewhat short of volunteers willing to be on our VETS helpers list so have made the difficult decision to end our subscription to this service and instead use WhatsApp in the same way our neighbouring villages do.

To be able to use WhatsApp for contacting people in Meesden you firstly need to have a mobile phone that has WhatsApp and have your mobile phone number registered with the MEESDEN VILLAGE HALL group.

If you do not have this group already on your phone, please send a WhatsApp message to 07726 460108 and you will be added. Thereafter, should you need any help, advice or assistance (emergency or anything else), from anyone in the village, just send a short message to the WhatsApp group and you can expect to get one or more people messaging back.

The advantage of WhatsApp over VETS is that a much larger number of people will see your message and, where needed, you could get help from several people.

Again, please send a WhatsApp message to 07726 460108 and you will be added to the MEESDEN group.

MEESDEN VILLAGE HALL

We have been lucky to receive a grant from East Herts Council to pay for some energy saving improvements in our Village Hall. All our existing lighting in the Hall is to be replaced with LED lights and our extractor fans

are to be replaced with Heat Exchange units that recover the heat from extracted air to warm the fresh air coming back in. Work is scheduled to be completed in March 2025 so should be complete by the time this appears in our Newsletter.

THURSDAYS @ 3 COFFEE AND TEA

The Thursday coffee afternoon which is held each week in the village hall and has been starting at 2 pm over the winter months will now start at the later time of 3 pm. As always, everyone is welcome to come for a free coffee, cake and chat.

THE CHOSEN

We are showing the 4th series of the excellent drama "The Chosen," depicting the life and times of Jesus and his disciples at Anstey village hall on the following Thursdays: **March 13th, 20th 27th and April 3rd, 20th**

The hall will be open at 7 pm for drinks and nibbles and the film will start at 7:15pm. Everyone is very welcome!

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, MEESDEN

13th April, 9:30 am, Holy Communion

20th April, Easter Day: Holy Communion (said) 8:00am, Family service 10 am.

SAVE THE DATE!

Garden Opening at Meesden Hall, Saturday 21st June, 11-4 pm. To raise money for St Mary's Church.

Tilly Clanfield



REDTAIL PEST CONTROL
For All Your Pest Control Needs

All Pest Species Dealt With
BPCA (1&2) Qualified
LONDON TRAINED
Member of the NPTA
Very Reasonable Prices
CRB checked

Contact **JAMES ROSE**
MOB: 07807429843
www.redtailpestcontrol.com
email: red.tail.1st@gmail.com

COOKERY CORNER

SEA BASS WITH CAPER DRESSING – SERVES 2

Ingredients:

2 sea bass fillets
olive oil
2 tbsp chopped parsley

Caper Dressing:

3 tbsp extra virgin oil
1 lemon – zest grated
2 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp capers in a jar
2 tsp Dijon mustard
seasoning

Method

1. Preheat oven 200°C/180°F Fan, Gas mark 4.
2. To make the dressing, mix oil, lemon zest and juice, capers and seasoning, mustard and 1 tbsp water. Whisk together.
3. Place sea bass in an ovenproof dish with oil and a sprinkling of salt flakes.
4. Put fish in the oven for approx. 7 mins. Fish should be tender and flaky.
5. Pour over dressing and garnish with chopped parsley.
6. Serve

For a richer recipe, you can make a Hollandaise sauce in place of the caper dressing, adding the juice of a blood orange (reduced in a pan with some sugar), cool then add to the Hollandaise.

Elaine Wyld - Sumptuous Soups and Vintage Cakes
Tel: 01763 289 738 / m. 07501 495 940
Facebook – Sumptuous Soups and Vintage Cakes

Woodgate Carpentry & Joinery

Presented By
Russell Long

City & Guilds qualified 30+ years experience
Traditional Joinery Skills
Period Property Restoration
Internal + External Projects
Residential And Commercial Work Undertaken
Purpose Made Built In Units
First + Second Fix Carpentry
Storage Solutions
Bespoke Kitchens And Bedrooms Units
07711 324667
russell@woodgatejoinery.com
 @woodgatejoinery

www.timschimneys.co.uk
07791 741860
01763 258185
info@timschimneys.co.uk


Based in Buntingford

Chimney sweeps - log burner installations

Chimney repairs



Your local chimney sweep and stove installer for over 15 years. Call today to get booked in!



Registered local residents can receive the latest crime or emergency updates and alerts from Hertfordshire Police. The more residents that register, the better

informed and safer our communities will be. Go to <https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/> to sign up.

The Anstey, Brent Pelham and Meesden Newsletter is printed by **Sharpe Print**, Buntingford SG9 9AZ.

Telephone: 01763 273296
Email: sales@sharpeprint.co.uk

If you would prefer not to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter, and rely solely on the emailed digital version (where available), please let the volunteer who delivers your copy know. Alternatively, contact the Editor.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION

(June - July 2025)

SATURDAY 10TH MAY