

# ***THE ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER***

**August - September 2022**

## **Diary of Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Herts & Essex Country Fair in the Park, Brent Pelham
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Sponsored Beds & Herts Bike 'n' Hike (or horse ride) in aid of all churches and chapels in the two counties. Apply Patricia Hamilton 01763 848536
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Brent Pelham Harvest Festival
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Anstey Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm in the Village Hall
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Maggie's Mont Blanc charity cycle challenge (see page 3)
Thu 29 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm Meesden VH
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Anstey 'pop-up' Film & Social Club, 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Editor: David Oxley, 2 Castle Cottages, Anstey / [oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk) / 07802 733398

Please send your local news to:

Jackie Godfrey on 01763 848732 or [rjmo2@btinternet.com](mailto:rjmo2@btinternet.com) (Anstey)

*Martin Hügi* [brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com](mailto:brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com) (~~Brent Pelham~~) - **situation vacant!**

Mike West [mikewest181@hotmail.com](mailto:mikewest181@hotmail.com) (Meesden)

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

## **Deadline for the next edition – Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Welcome to another edition of the Newsletter, with local news and stories from across the three villages. All households 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 printed edition. An archive of back issues can be found on the Anstey Village website – [www.ansteyvillage.co.uk](http://www.ansteyvillage.co.uk)



- If you would prefer not to receive a printed edition, and rely instead solely on the digital version, please let the volunteer who delivers your copy know. Alternatively, please contact the Editor.

# GENERAL NEWS & FEATURES

## GOOD GARDENING! Topical tips and ideas for August and September

With August being the last official month of the summer, it is the perfect time to enjoy your garden while it is still at its best. The vegetable garden comes into its own in August, with plenty of home-grown produce to harvest and eat. However, there are still some jobs to keep you busy!

- ❖ Keep pots and baskets well-watered and feed with a liquid fertilizer, such as liquid seaweed, every week to keep them flowering until autumn.
- ❖ Pinch out the tops of your runner beans once they have reached the top of their support. This encourages side-shooting and more beans at a manageable height for picking.
- ❖ Take cuttings of your favourite tender perennials, such as pelargoniums, fuchsias and salvias to propagate them for next year.
- ❖ Fill any gaps in the garden with late flowering perennials, such as sedums, to provide nectar for pollinating insects in the autumn.
- ❖ Take some photos of your garden to remind you of any changes you want to make to the planting or colour scheme for next year.

Two plants to extend the colour in your garden during August and September:

### **Escallonia 'Peach Blossom'**

An evergreen shrub, ideal for the back of the border. Has glossy green leaves and pink flowers from summer to the autumn. Likes a sheltered site, well-drained soil and full sun. Height 1.5m, spread 2.5m.



### **Anemone x hybrida 'Robustissima'**



A robust perennial with soft pink flowers from late summer through to autumn. Likes part shade and moist but well-drained soil. Height 1.2m, spread 60cms.

Dobbies garden centre, just north of Royston, now only sells peat-free compost and has a good range for all your garden requirements.

Happy gardening! Wendy Hillier

## MAGGIE'S MONT BLANC

Do you fancy cycling Mont Blanc? Join us on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** in the Barkway-Barley-Newsells area and challenge yourself and fellow cycling enthusiasts to conquer Mont Blanc.

Okay – so we do not literally mean the actual mountain itself! All we ask is put together a team of 4 to 10 cyclists and cycle just under 200 miles in a single day! We have teamed up with the Iconic Cycling Events Company to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for all.



The Maggie's Mont Blanc charity cycle challenge will take place on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** in the beautiful surroundings of Barkway, Barley and Newsells. It is a circular 5 mile route starting and finishing at the Cokenach Cricket Club, Barkway. To minimise disruption, the route has been especially designed to ensure there is no need for any road closures.

If we have piqued your interest, please register on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maggies-mont-blanc-cycle-challenge-registration-362987624757>

As this is a charity event, you know what we are going to ask you: raise a team target of £2k for Maggie's, a charity for anyone affected by cancer, their family, friends, and colleagues.

A little bit more about Maggie's: it is a charity with 25 cancer centres in the UK, and this challenge raises funds for the centre at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Anyone affected by cancer can visit the centre, regardless of where you live, and many do visit us from our neighbouring counties. Please go to [www.maggies.org/cambridge](http://www.maggies.org/cambridge) for more information about what free support we offer.

If you have any questions, then please do contact Andrea on [cambridge.fundraising@maggies.org](mailto:cambridge.fundraising@maggies.org) or call 07557 265 462.

Thank you



## RECIPE CORNER

### TURKEY KEBABS IN HONEY MUSTARD MARINADE

For warm summer evenings, here's a tasty bar-b-q recipe and fresh dip, great with pitta bread.

#### Ingredients:

4 turkey breast fillets

#### For the honey mustard marinade

3 tbsp. soy sauce

2 tbsp vegetable oil

2 tbsp clear honey

1 level tbsp wholegrain mustard

1 level tsp grated fresh root ginger

1 clove garlic

#### Method

1. Cut the turkey breast fillets into thick slices lengthways and arrange the slices in a shallow dish in a single layer.
2. Make the marinade. Put soy sauce, salad oil, honey, mustard and ginger in a bowl. Peel and chop the garlic and add. Pour the marinade over the turkey meat and cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.
3. Thread the turkey pieces onto six skewers. Grill on a hot barbeque for 15-20 minutes, turning them once or twice.
4. Serve with **Tzatziki** - mix pieces of cucumber with crushed garlic, Greek-style yoghurt, seasoning and chopped fresh mint, 2 tbsp olive oil and 1 tsp white wine vinegar.

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**Facebook – Sumptuous Soups and Country Cakes**

# ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk

## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

A big thank you to Barry and Emma at The Blind Fiddler, who hosted Anstey's Jubilee celebrations on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The event was supported by many villagers, who enjoyed the music and barbeque, with a party tea being provided free of charge to all children attending. This was sponsored by the Parish Council, with other costs being supported by the EHDC Jubilee grant.

The Parish Council will be planting a tree to commemorate the Jubilee. The competition to name that tree was won by Annabel Lindforth-Delaney, who chose the name 'Lilibet's Beech.'

Andrew Marchant

## THE RETURN OF.. ANSTEY FAIR!!!

Well – it was wonderful to be back! The weather was incredible – a perfect blue sky and summer heat – and the grounds at Anstey Bury were filled with stalls and games. It was almost like we'd never had to pause 2 years for Covid.

The bar was busy all afternoon, the venison burgers were quickly snapped up at the barbecue, and the barn offered the perfect venue for refreshing tea and delicious cakes and savouries -



all topped off with a programme of live music! We thank our musicians from Bishop's Stortford Ukulele Society, Cut the Mustard, Lord Brasso's Beatles

Band and our own fabulous 'house band,' Sky West, for keeping us richly entertained all afternoon.

Thanks go to everyone who supported the Fair – whether as a visitor spending your cash to help maintain our village amenities, or as one of the many helpers who worked tirelessly to put on such a fantastic range of activities and refreshments, or

as a stallholder giving everyone a brilliant choice of goods to purchase. It all made for a wonderful atmosphere.



At the time of writing, it's the day after the Fair, so the cash is still being counted. However, I will put information into the next Newsletter and on Ansteylink, letting everyone know how much was raised.

And finally, huge thanks and appreciation to our hosts, Alison and Adrian Cossor, for all they have done to make the Fair such a success and for allowing us to hold it in their grounds.

Ann Grimsdale, on behalf of the Anstey Fair Committee.

## ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL

The committee are pleased to report that during the summer there will be further improvements made to the Hall. Double glazed windows will be fitted to the toilet areas to improve insulation, and new flooring will be laid in these areas, together with the kitchen and the area behind the bar.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> the 'pop-up' **Film & Social Club** showed *The Duke*, starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren. Our next screening, following a summer break, will be on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October**. All members should receive an email in advance, with full details of the films to be shown - please check your Junk or Spam folders if it doesn't seem to arrive.

Membership will remain at £12 per year, which allows free entry to up to 9 films. **All existing memberships will be valid until January 2023.** New members can join on the night, or contact [colingsmith@gmail.com](mailto:colingsmith@gmail.com) in advance. Guests are always welcome, £3 per show.

A reminder that three exercise classes run at the Village Hall, 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

**NB from September, Yoga will run from 9.45-10.45 am on Thursdays.**

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](mailto:oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk) (table tennis)

[janpledger99@btinternet.com](mailto:janpledger99@btinternet.com) (carpet bowls)

[oxleykn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxleykn@yahoo.co.uk) (yoga)

### NEWS FROM ANSTEY SCHOOL

Anstey School are delighted to have once again been able to welcome our parents to sports day activities and take our children on trips – consequently we have been making the most of our freedom this term!



How's that for a sports day finish?!

Trips this term have included:

Brent Pelham Hall, where Fledglings were lucky enough to enjoy a private

visit. We learned about bee-keeping (did you know a bee flaps its wings 20 times a second!!), visited the kitchen gardens and the stables, passing carp in the lake and chickens on the way and each of our lucky children returned to school with a potted sedum and a slice of amazing cake.

Shepreth Wildlife Park - visited twice by Little Owls and Fledglings classes, where we enjoyed meeting amongst other things, tigers, meerkats and marmosets, as well playing on the amazing pirate ship adventure playground.



**Nuclear Mud Run!** The Wild Forest obstacle course was a brilliant, slippery challenge for our Wise Owls class - testing their perseverance and resilience to the max as they scrambled up muddy ramps, and ran across watery challenges.

Stansted Mountfitchet Castle and Toy Museum.

This attraction is like a time capsule in which we travelled to the Motte and Bailey castle of Norman England as it was in 1066, complete with animals roaming freely as they would have done. Little Owls class were interested to see what a Motte and Bailey would have looked like, as Anstey had its own back in the day!

Our local police treated us to another community pop-in visit. The children love meeting the local PCs, seeing the police vehicles, flashing the blue lights and trying out a range of equipment.



Finally, we will shortly be saying farewell and bon voyage to our staff governor and Little Owls teacher Mrs Modeste and her 2 children, who have been at Anstey for almost 8 years. They will be swapping country views for coastal ones – in Turks and Caicos.

Lynne Vinton

### IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Jim Webb, who sadly passed away in the early morning on the 6th of July. The funeral took place on Thursday 21st July at Anstey church, with a wake at The Blind Fiddler. The family requested no flowers, but encouraged donations to Anstey and Hormead churches.



## ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Mon 4<sup>th</sup> July can be found on the village website [www.ansteyvillage.co.uk](http://www.ansteyvillage.co.uk) The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held, in the Village Hall, on **Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Sep at 7.30 pm.**

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Email - [ansteylink@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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[www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/hall](http://www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/hall)



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# BRENT PELHAM NEWS

www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org

## JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Brent Pelham celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in glorious sunshine on the best day of the weekend (see photo montage below).

Nearly 100 villagers of all ages came together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in an incredibly successful event held on the village green in Brent Pelham. It was made even more successful by the fantastic weather on the day.

It was a real village event, with everyone coming together to help. Many thanks go to Beth Featherstone and Tina Ward for once again cooking for such numbers, and to all the other helpers who made puddings (including a version of

the Jubilee trifle), provided and put up bunting, laid tables and cleared away afterwards.

The children were not forgotten, with a special crown decorating competition, organised by Hazel Norris. Winning medals and prizes were distributed to all the children who took part by Lizzy Barclay, who had the very difficult task of deciding the winners!

## THE HERTS & ESSEX COUNTRY FAIR

A reminder that the Herts and Essex Country Fair will be on the **21st August** in the Park at Brent Pelham. Lots of stalls, heavy horses, ring entertainments and tractors!

## 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.



## HANDING ON THE BATON – URGENT!!!

We are **still** looking for an editor to take over the Brent Pelham section of the Newsletter!!!

“Please do get in touch if you are able to step up and take this on. It’s really not that much work every couple of months. It comes with an email account with all the village contacts to send it out to digitally, which can be done in one bulk email. The role is simply collating what is sent through into a word document and sending this over to the main editor Dave Oxley, who does the real work of bringing all together and arranging and formatting it. Even the paper copy is delivered by other volunteers. Please email your interest to Martin Hügi [brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com](mailto:brentpelhamnewsletter@protonmail.com) “

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### VILLAGE HALL INTERNET

The WiFi network is BP-Village-Hall and the password is shonk5moat. It’s free to use for basic respectful use, and for those ‘your-internet-is-down’ emergencies. 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](mailto:rebecca.ashman@hotmail.co.uk) or Hazel at [hazelnorris@icloud.com](mailto:hazelnorris@icloud.com) or telephone 777316.

### COMMUNITY CHOIR

For more information please contact - [sammurray68@icloud.com](mailto:sammurray68@icloud.com)

### 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**.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

You can find interesting local stories and histories on **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](#)

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

Fraser Murray sends out emails to the village with general news, these are useful for getting out urgent news, reminders and information quickly. To add your name to his distribution list, or if your email has changed, then send a blank email to [frasermurray@me.com](mailto:frasermurray@me.com) with your name and address in the header.

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For further details



## RT HON SIR OLIVER HEALD QC MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

If you have any concerns please  
contact me

Email:

[oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk)

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or look on [www.oliverhealdmp.com](http://www.oliverhealdmp.com)

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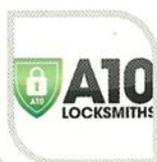
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# MEESDEN NEWS

www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org

As usual, the nature reserve, next to the village hall has a wonderful display of wildflowers that come and go during the year. At the end of June, there was an area at the back, next to the pond, full of pyramid orchids. Also, butterflies are attracted to the flowers; the photo is of a Large Skipper. There is a walkway cut in the grass all around, so why not have a stroll and see what's there?

Mike West



Trevor Hughes writes:

Kate Hinch stepped down as a Parish Councillor for Brent Pelham and Meesden recently. Her efficient and tenacious approach to village issues, particularly highways and drainage, were always a feature of her commitment to resolving problems on behalf of residents.



At the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, Kate was thanked by her fellow councillors for her sterling work and

presented with a gift in recognition of all her efforts.

Geoff Tansley writes:

Another Meesden house swaps oil central heating for the more renewable air to water heat pump. Photo of heat pump and a larger radiator below.



We'll let you know how well it works in the winter for heating but at the moment it produces a full 180 litre hot water tank for pennies' worth of electricity.

## Our visitors from Ukraine..

Like so many Ukrainian families who came as refugees to the UK, our family decided to go back to Kiev. They had adapted well to life at Meesden Bury, and Freman College and Anstey School had offered places to Anastasiia and Timofii. Nataliia continued to get help with her English from Juliette Thatcher. However, I am sure they missed their home, and language remained a problem for Grandmother Vera. As they came into the UK through the invitation of a Ukrainian relation in Royston, they had to rely on him for financial support rather than any government scheme. We wish them well.

Cathy Dimsdale

## Potholes in Our Roads

Our roads continue to suffer damage from vehicles and potholes are a danger to us all - pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Please may we ask **all** of you that you report each and every pothole (or any other road problem) that you come across via the website:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-street-light-or-pothole.aspx>

Once you have reported the problem you will receive a reference number which will allow you to check the progress of any repair. If you cannot locate the website, just go to the Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council website (see above) where you will also find the link. Please report any that you see and help make our roads safer for us all. Thanks, Ken Newstead.

### MEESDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

It has been good plant-growing weather these past weeks, and our community garden is full of colour. The roses planted in memory of Meesden resident Margaret Beach are in full bloom (below left) and the dahlias are just coming into their best.



Sunflowers planted by the children in our village are standing tall and proud.

Residents are welcome to pick a few flowers at any time to brighten up their home. Ken



### FARMING UPDATE

Farmers at this time of year normally have one thought in mind, and that revolves around the combine; it has lain in its shed for nine months without breaking down, and the farmer's worst scenario is the machine sitting in the field with one or two vans beside it and expensive problem-

solvers trying to resolve its problem whilst storm clouds gather! This year no doubt, chips or the lack of them will loom large in things about which farmers will worry.

There is a new acronym, SFI (Sustainable Farming Incentive), the first element of the government's Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) focussing on Soil Health, with which farmers will have to grapple and perhaps engage. For this year there will be three SFI standards; an arable and horticultural soils standard paying an introductory rate of £22 per ha (about £9.00 per acre) and a second rate that will increase to £40.00 per ha as a reward for adding organic matter and multi species cover crops on 20% of the land. Thirdly, there will be an improved grassland soils standard. It isn't as if this largesse is something for nothing; there will be costs, and for some the very low rates will not be incentive enough to encourage significant take up.

To add to the mix, some farmers will be thinking about Regenerative Agriculture. The five principles being:

1. Do not disturb the soil
2. Keep the soil surface covered
3. Keep living roots in the soil
4. Grow a diverse range of crops
5. Bring grazing animals back onto the land.

Of the five principles, growing a diverse range, keeping living roots in the soil, keeping the soil covered and bringing grazing animals back onto the land were all practised locally to a certain degree up until the early 1960's. On farms nearby sugar beet, cabbages, Brussels sprouts, potatoes, barley and wheat were all grown. Up until 1935 there would have been oats for the horses and after 1945 most farms would have had cattle that needed winter forage in the form of hay and straw for bedding, Brent Pelham having its own dairy herd. Here at Meesden Bury, the Aberdeen Angus cattle went along with their grazing and a new piggery was built in 1964, the pigs being fed barley, grown, milled and mixed here on the farm. The pigs needed straw that was converted into dung, good for soil health. What goes round comes round!

Wilfrid Dimsdale

**BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

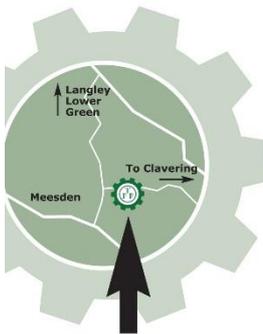
Why not make a note to come along to our next Parish Council meeting, which will be held in Meesden Village Hall at 7:30 pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September. The agenda for each meeting is posted on the Parish Council website ahead of each meeting. <https://www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org/> Alternately you can send your comments or questions by email ahead of any meeting. [clerk@brentpelham-meesden-pc.org](mailto:clerk@brentpelham-meesden-pc.org)

**Meesden & BP 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.



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