

THE ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

August - September 2024

Diary of upcoming events

Date	Event
Sun 18 th Aug	Herts & Essex Country Fair, Dog and Heavy Horse Show. The Park, Brent Pelham. Starts 10.30 am.
Fri 6 th Sep	Anstey 'pop-up' Film & Social Club, Anstey Village Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm, film starts at 8.00.
Mon 9 th Sep	Anstey Parish Council Meeting, Anstey Village Hall, 7.30pm.
Thu 12 th Sep	Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council Meeting, 7.30 pm in Brent Pelham Village Hall.
Sun 29 th Sep	Brent Pelham Harvest Festival Lunch.
Sun 29 th Sep	Meesden Harvest Festival – in the barn.

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)

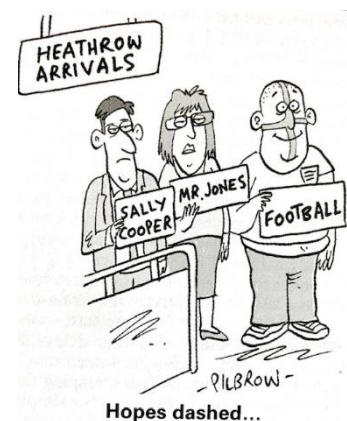
Mike West - mikewest181@hotmail.com (Meesden)

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 an online 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:

TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER



Hopes dashed...

With acknowledgements – Private Eye

GOOD GARDENING

Topical tips and ideas for August and September

August is traditionally the month for you to relax and enjoy your garden. Come September you can start to think about shaping your garden for next year, by planting new trees, shrubs, climbers and perennials. However, here are some jobs you can still do during August and September.

- ❖ Continue to dead head roses and give them a feed with a rose fertilizer. With milder winters, roses can still be in flower until late November.
- ❖ This is the last month for sowing salad crops outside. Visit your local garden centre to see what's available and you could be eating your own salad leaves until well into the autumn.
- ❖ Keep watering your pots; never let the soil dry out completely. Continue to give the plants a weekly feed using a high-potash fertilizer to encourage them to bloom well into the autumn.
- ❖ Continue harvesting tomatoes as they colour up. Removing some of the leaves from around the trusses will let more light in, hastening ripening.
- ❖ The garden centres will start to stock a wide range of spring flowering bulbs. Now is a good time to start planting your spring flower display for next year.

Here are two plant ideas to add to your garden in August and September.

'Emma Bridgewater rose' from David Austin Roses

This is a new English shrub rose launched this year. It is a repeat flowering rose, mid pink in colour with a good fragrance. Height and spread 125cms. Likes sun or part shade. Good for a rose bed or mixed border. Now available as a potted rose or bare rooted (later this year) from David Austin Roses.



Clematis 'Bill Mackenzie'



This is a climber, has yellow nodding flowers and then wispy seed heads, which means it looks good for most of the year. Flowers from July to November, height 4.5m, spread 3m. Thrives on a north wall, or can be trained along a fence. Group 3, prune hard in late winter.

Why not visit Mentley Lavender Farm at Great Munden. They sell a variety of different lavender plants and products, have a coffee shop and run a variety of workshops. Check the web site for opening hours and details.

Happy gardening! Wendy Hillier.

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.

John Hamilton

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ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk

BACK AGAIN - ANSTEY FAIR

The rain held off (at last!) and the sun shone down on Sunday 14th July for the triumphant return of Anstey Fair - in a new location, the fields behind Anstey Church.

Around 600 people, young and old, flocked to the event, to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the delights on offer – stalls selling a range of items, a variety of live music, 'Gothic' Morris dancers, teas, a bar, a barbecue, and children's games. New additions included a dog show and a ride on a steam train!



Sincere thanks to our generous hosts, for providing such a splendid venue (and the wonderful fairground carousel), and to Tim and Juliette and the rest of the Anstey Fair team, for all their hard work to ensure its success.



All proceeds from the Fair will be distributed to the church, the school, the village hall and the chapel.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Talulah and Thomas, who celebrated their wedding here in Anstey on June 22nd, and also to Coral and Steven, whose Anstey wedding was on July 6th. We wish both couples many years of happiness together.



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www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/hall

EXERCISE CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Table Tennis: Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.00 am £3

Carpet Bowls: Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00 pm £2.50

Yoga: Thursdays 9.45 - 10.45 am £5

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)

FILM CLUB

On Friday 21st June the 'pop-up' Film & Social Club showed 'The Holdovers.' Our next film will be shown on **Friday 6th September**. All members should receive an email in advance, with full details of the films to be shown - please check your Junk / Spam folder if you can't seem to find it!

Membership is still just £12 per year, and allows free entry to up to 9 films. New members can always join on the night, or contact colingsmith@gmail.com in advance. Guests are welcome, £3 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.

WELCOME BACK

Hannie Simpson, formerly of Bandons, has recently been visiting the village, from her home in Australia. She would like to send best wishes to all those who remember her. (Jackie Godfrey)

ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Mon 8th July can be found on the village website at www.ansteyvillage.co.uk. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Mon 9th Sep at 7.30 pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Andrew Marchant - Chair

SOCIAL MEDIA

Ansteylink email group

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: 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

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**.

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



Enjoy a day out with a difference!

Celebrate a special occasion!

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*Walks children 10yrs +, Adventures 6yrs+



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HEATING

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SMALL KITCHEN

BRENT PELHAM NEWS

www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org

Compiled and presented by Shirley Lacy

REMEMBERING JANE GARNER: A TRIBUTE TO A BELOVED FRIEND

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of our dear friend, Jane Garner. Her sudden departure has left a void in the lives of those who knew and loved her for the kind and generous person she was.

Jane was a friend to everyone, capable of connecting with people from all walks of life. She had a genuine interest in others and their well-being, always ready to help at village events. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her.



As the founder of a successful PR company, Jane earned respect and admiration from her peers for her tenacity and dedication to an industry she loved. A highlight was her hilarious radio broadcast about the local escaped rhea, aptly named Chris.

Jane had a profound passion for animals. She supported and donated to various animal charities, often taking in waifs and strays, and nursing them back to health. Her menagerie included Bengal cats, guinea pigs, ducks, chickens, and her beloved labrador, Jackdaw. For the past 11 years, wherever Jane was, Jackdaw was never far behind. Their image together will remain with us for many years.

On the day of Jane's funeral, 31st May, the bell-ringers rang the church bells half-muffled in memory of Jane, a fellow ringer. Rest in peace, Jane. You truly were one of life's gentle, genuine souls. You will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Sam Murray

D DAY 80: 1940s COMMEMORATIONS

Many thanks to Lizzy and Ted Barclay, who hosted an afternoon tea to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings (known as D-Day) and remember all those who took part in it. Ted gave a talk and the Revd James Sawyer gave a blessing, remembering those who were at D Day.



Thank you to all the helpers, all those who dressed for the occasion and all who took part. We were



honoured to have Betty Withers, age 99, a WWII Wren with us. She shared her D-Day experiences and related stories. You can see Betty on line at ITVX Betty Withers.



Festivities continued at the Black Horse with the amazing Miss Jones singing in the pub garden. The Black Horse was beautifully decorated. Many thanks to the great team of village helpers, Miss Jones and the Black Horse staff.



BRENT PELHAM HALL, OPEN GARDEN, 23 JUNE 2024

Many thanks to Alex and Mike Carrell, who opened their gardens, parkland and lakes. It was a glorious sunny day. Visitors enjoyed the excellent coffee, tea and sumptuous cakes served from the estate office. Many thanks to all the helpers.



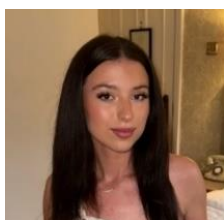
Proceeds were donated to the charities supported by the National Garden Scheme, Brent Pelham Church and the Village Hall.

WEDDING CELEBRATION, 10 JULY

A surprise party was held at the Black Horse to celebrate Giacomo and Maddie's civil wedding. There was a superb buffet and beautiful cake. The formal wedding will be in Verona later in July.

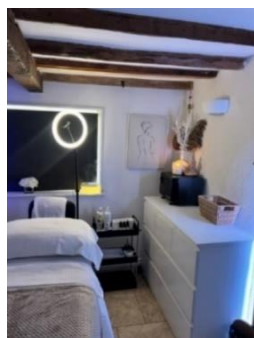


PAMPERING AT BECKY'S BEAUTY HOUSE



At the age of 13 Becky Peters' parents took her for her first treatment at a spa, and her passion for her industry started. She is now fulfilling her dream, setting up her own beauty parlour in Brent Pelham.

Becky has worked for the last 3 years in a five-star spa as a holistic therapist and skin specialist. She has taken a variety of courses, both through the spa and independently. She specialises in treatments and products for those going through cancer treatment.



Becky aims to provide all her clients (regular and new) with expert advice and treatments. She is happy to

provide a free skin consultation. For more information call Becky on 07857210437.

HERTS & ESSEX COUNTRY FAIR, BRENT PELHAM, 18 AUGUST 2024 – 10:30am

The much-awaited Herts & Essex Country Fair, Dog & Heavy Horse Show takes place in The Park, Brent Pelham, SG9 0AT. It provides an entertaining and varied day out for all the family.



Heavy Horse classes commence at 10.30am. There will be a range of classes to recognise these incredible working horse breeds, which have played such an important role in agriculture.

The Main Ring displays start at 11am. Events will feature falconry, gun dogs, horse carriage display, foxhounds, bloodhounds, beagles and a parade of vintage tractors.

All dogs are most welcome. Dogs and their owners will be able to enter classes in the Family Dog Show - there is always a class for every dog and their owner. In addition, their dogs' skills can be tested in the Gun Dog Scurry.

Local gamekeeper Steve Reynolds, of Hamels Park Buntingford, will be the commentator, as well as encouraging spectators to try their hand at traditional games such as egg throwing and the tug of war challenge.

There will be a great number of trade stands and displays, traditional games and a funfair for children. A range of refreshments will include village teas, a bar and a food hall area.

This year we are proud to support St Mary the Virgin Church, Brent Pelham, Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and Khandel Light.

For further details go to [The Herts and Essex Country Fair - Home](#) | [Facebook](#)

UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS

- Sunday, July 21st Village Picnic from 12:30 in the meadow behind Beeches. You can park on site.
- Tuesday 23rd July Quiz and Tapas Night at the Black Horse. Tapas from 6pm, Quiz starts at 8pm.
- Saturday 27th July, Dog Festival, 11:30 – 4pm at the Black Horse in conjunction with Butt Sniffers Boutique Dog Hotel and fin&fur pet specialists.



- Summer holidays – Black Horse Forest School. See social media for updates.
- Sunday August 18th Brent Pelham Country Fair
- Sunday Sept. 29th Harvest Festival and lunch
- Saturday November 30th Christmas Fair

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 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.

To join the Brent Pelham birds WhatsApp group, message Dave Bromage on 07545 252191.

Brent Pelham Village Hall

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The Village Hall WiFi network is BP-Village-Hall and the password is shonk5moat. It's free to use for basic respectful use. For heavier use donations would be welcome.



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MEESDEN NEWS

www.brentpelham-meesden-pc.org

Compiled and presented by Mike West

Village life over the last couple of months has been relatively tranquil in Meesden - no major revolutions or obvious changes to village geography (!), allowing an uninterrupted continuum of our daily lives. The countryside around us bears witness to the silent growth and ripening of crops in the fields and the quiet, unpretentious emergence of new wildflowers, whilst those of May and early June are dying back. The weather is perhaps best not discussed in detail, but probably we all hope and maybe pray that there is a sufficient warm, dry window in the current meteorological turbulence to facilitate and permit a successful harvest.

Like folk in Anstey and Brent Pelham, Meesdenites played our modest role in electing a new government, casting our votes in the village hall, and we look forward to seeing how our new MP, Chris Hinchliff, fulfils the challenge of serving our communities.

In the Nature reserve:



Marbled White butterfly on a Pyramid orchid



Greater Burnet saxifrage?



Agrimony

MEET ROSIE, OF THERAPY DOGS NATIONWIDE

For some months, Rosie and her owner, Lesley Cross, have been going to the Lister Hospital, where they are always welcome. Rosie is one of many therapy dogs visiting the hospital, and both staff and patients look forward to her visits. Commenting on Therapy Dogs Nationwide, Lesley writes:

Therapy Dogs Nationwide is a UK charity, established in 2016 and managed entirely by volunteers.



The volunteers take their temperament-tested dogs into establishments to provide comfort, distraction and stimulation, enhancing well-being and promoting emotional support.

Rosie; Comforter to those who need a little support. (She's so cute!)

Therapy dogs visit schools to help children with reading, work with autistic adults and children, visit the sick and elderly in hospital and care homes, and work with corporations as part of their staff well-being programme to reduce stress in the work place.

There are currently about 2000 volunteers up and down the country. *(Great work Rosie and Lesley!)*

TREATMENT OF LIMESCALE

Improbably though this may sound, I have a tip for easy and cheap limescale removal. I have previously bought a propriety product for the purpose, which contained a mixture of phosphoric acid and various detergents, and which, to be fair, did the job, though often required multiple treatments. However, it got me thinking about the possibility of using citric acid, (the acid in lemon juice – I've since discovered it's been used as a cleaner for years!) as much of limescale is calcium carbonate, which readily reacts with this acid. As I had a pot left over from some experiments I was doing with my grandson, I thought I would try it, and guess what – it worked brilliantly! Below are 2 photos of our kettle before and after treatment. I simply added a little citric acid powder to the kettle containing about 15ml of water, swirled it around to dissolve the acid and left it for about 2 minutes.

Before treatment



After



I have also used citric acid to clean the shower tube and head, as well as the scale around our taps and plug holes in our washbasins. Citric acid is a 'weak' acid, so it won't burn if you accidentally come into contact with it (though it will sting if you have any cuts) and it is also very cheap. We bought 1kg from Amazon for £8.95 so we've got ...er... plenty, and we're happy to give you a free sample if you want to try it. If there is sufficient interest, we could start a Citric Acid Syndicate, where I buy it and distribute (e.g. 100g) to any who might want some!

KEN NEWSTED REPORTS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Our Parish Council would welcome anyone at any of their Parish Council meetings. We would love to hear any issues residents may have, and it gives you the opportunity to chat with our Parish Councillors and possibly the District Councillor Geoff Williamson, who often attends. The next two meetings will be: 7:30pm on Thursday 12th September in Brent Pelham Village Hall and 7:30pm on Thursday 21st November in Meesden Village Hall. Residents' issues are always first on the agenda, so you don't have to sit and listen to any of the formal discussions unless you choose to.

One thing that will be discussed at our next meeting is "should villages have an electric vehicle charging point?" You may have views on this - we would love to hear them.

DEFIBRILLATOR AND VETS

Please remember we have a defibrillator in our BT kiosk. The code for the cabinet housing the defibrillator is C159X. We also operate our Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS), which you can call on 01279 260560 if you need emergency assistance of any kind. It is important to remember that this does not replace the 999 emergency services in any way. The volunteer may not have any medical training, but they will help in any way they can.

LOCAL POLICING

Hertfordshire Constabulary's new messaging system, called Herts Connected (formerly OWL), is part of the Neighbourhood Alerts system. Registering for Herts Connected is a great way of hearing about everything our local police are doing to keep us safe. You can easily contact them if you have any concerns about your security, and can choose to receive free messages from the Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other agencies.

To register to Herts Connected, visit:

<https://hertsconnected.co.uk/> or if you wish to verify the website rather than clicking the above link, please visit the Herts Police website, click on 'Campaigns' on the homepage and select 'Herts Connected'. This will direct you to the Herts Connected messaging system.

MEESDEN VILLAGE HALL

Under the VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme the ongoing effort to make our village hall warmer by installing internal insulation financed by a government grant has unfortunately stalled. An independent energy assessment looked at the booking potential of our small hall, together with the cost of insulation, and decided it is not financially viable. Sadly, this ends this particular finance route, and we can only hope that other future grants could be of interest.

(A shame Ken – thanks for all your efforts!)

ST MARY'S MEESDEN SERVICES

On 23rd June we held a Pet service on the Green – of course everyone was welcome regardless of whether they had a pet or not! Mercifully, the weather was kind to us, and afterwards we enjoyed a picnic together. Our next service in the heart of the village will be the **Harvest Festival on 29th September**, and will be held in Annabel and Andy Boucher's barn, as in previous years. More details will be published nearer the time.

Services for August:

August 11th, 9:30am, Holy Communion

August 25th, 5:00pm, Service of Light



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THE WARD FREMAN POOL



The Ward Freman Community Group is a newly formed charity working to refurbish and reopen the Ward Freman swimming pool in Buntingford. We hope that many residents of Anstey and the surrounding

villages were able to talk with trustees and volunteers and see our designs at the Anstey Fair.

The pool was closed in December 2023 on health and safety grounds, with Hertfordshire County Council and East Herts District Council being unable to afford the necessary repairs. As a charity we had been hoping to apply for a government Community Ownership Fund (COF) grant for close to £950,000. This would have enabled the charity to take on the running of the pool as a community asset for the benefit of the community. However, the general election halted any government department business. With a new Labour government and Angela Rayner shaking things up in the renamed Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, we hope that by the time you read this we have more information on whether the COF still exists.

We still plan to apply for almost £950,000. This amount of investment will ensure that we



can refurbish and reopen the swimming pool to a high standard that will entice former patrons back and attract new ones, reduce the running costs and ensure the financial stability and future of the pool. We have been working with G2 Architecture to create a new vision for the changing rooms and reception area that will improve accessibility, visibility of the pool for spectators and create a café and social space with an opportunity for additional income. You can find more details about this proposed design on our website, where we welcome your comments on the design. www.wardfremanpool.org

If we are unable to apply for a COF grant then the plans will have to be significantly scaled back, with just the essential work taking place to safely reopen the pool. Refurbishment of the changing rooms and

reception will have to wait until the pool can generate its own income and slowly provide the upgrades it so deserves.

If you would like to show support and receive the pool supporters' e-newsletter please email me on jwillett@wardfremanpool.org

Joanne Willett
Trustee

Don Weston Electrics



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

POTHoles AND FLY-TIPPING

If you are aware of a problem in and around our villages, please take a moment to report the issue.

Potholes are a Highways concern, dealt with by Hertfordshire County Council. You'll find them at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Fly-tipping, along with refuse collection, is dealt with by East Herts District Council – www.eastherts.gov.uk

Contact us



COOKERY CORNER

PUFF PASTRY PIZZA WITH BLACK GARLIC

My daughter-in-law visited the Isle of Wight recently and brought some black garlic back for me. I've sourced a recipe suitable for a summer picnic using the garlic!

Ingredients:

3 cloves of black garlic
1 red onion
1 yellow pepper
250g ripe mixed-colour cherry tomatoes
1 courgette
4 springs of fresh oregano
Olive oil
1 x 320g puff pastry sheet
Mozzarella cheese
2 springs of fresh basil
Thick balsamic vinegar

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Peel and finely chop the black garlic.
2. Separate the onion and cut into petals. Deseed and roughly chop the pepper, halve the tomatoes, and roughly slice the courgette, then add to a 25cm x 35cm roasting tray with the garlic.
3. Sprinkle over the oregano leaves and drizzle with 2 tbsps of oil, season with sea salt and black pepper. Roast for 40 mins, turning halfway.
4. Remove tray from the oven and push the veg in towards the centre slightly. Cover the veg with the pastry sheet and tuck in the edges. Place back in the oven for 30 mins or until golden and puffed up.
5. Run a palette knife around the edge of the pastry to loosen, then carefully turn out onto a board with the veg facing you. Tear over the mozzarella and basil and drizzle with balsamic to taste.

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printed by **Sharpe Print**, Buntingford SG9 9AZ

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

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(OCT - NOV '24)**

TUESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER