

THE ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

Aug - Sep 2026

Diary of upcoming events

Tue 18 th Aug	Quiz Night at The Black Horse, Brent Pelham [see page 8].
Sun 23 rd Aug	Herts & Essex Country Fair, The Park, Brent Pelham [page 8].
Sun 30 th Aug	Harvest Festival Family Service, 11.30 am in St George's Anstey, followed by lunch in the Village Hall [page 5].
Tue 1 st Sep	10.30 am - visit of U3A to Anstey Church, for a talk and tour led by Edward Burton.
Sat 5 th Sep	Makers' Fayre, The Black Horse, Brent Pelham, 10am – 4pm [page 8].
Tue 15 th Sep	Quiz Night at The Black Horse, Brent Pelham [page 8].
Wed 16 th Sep	Quiz Night at The Blind Fiddler, Anstey [page 5].
Fri 18 th Sep	Anstey 'pop-up' Film & Social Club, Anstey Village Hall, 7.30pm [page 4].
Mon 21 st Sep	Anstey Parish Council Meeting, Anstey Village Hall [page 5].
Thu 24 th Sep	Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council Meeting, Brent Pelham Village Hall [page 12].
Sun 27 th Sep	Anstey Chapel Harvest Festival [page 5].
<i>For other Church and Chapel services, see pages 5 and 12.</i>	

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Thursday 10th September.



(Private Eye)

GOOD GARDENING

Garden Tips and Ideas for August and September.

Our gardens can still remain very productive, with flowers, fruit and vegetables, despite our changing climate. We just have to plan more carefully about what we grow and plant to keep our gardens looking good throughout the year.

Here are some jobs to keep you busy over the next two months:

- ❖ Hardy perennials and annuals will continue to flower, with regular dead-heading. With cosmos, cut back the stem to the first leaves under the flowers. This will encourage the plant to produce new blooms right into the autumn. Salvias, hardy geraniums, and delphiniums can also be cut back to obtain a second flush of flowers.
- ❖ Summer prune both free-standing and trained apple trees to encourage good fruiting in future years. Check out the 'Gardeners World' web site for information on pruning apple trees.
- ❖ Harvest tomatoes, cucumbers and chillies regularly to encourage more fruits to form. Remove the bottom leaves on cordon tomatoes, up to the lowest truss, to let more light and air reach the fruits.
- ❖ Fill any gaps in the borders with late-flowering perennials, such as sedums, to provide nectar for pollinating insects into the autumn.
- ❖ As we have been experiencing very high temperatures this summer, before purchasing any new plants, consider whether they are suitable for our changing climate, with hotter summers and wetter winters. Also, look out for new varieties of vegetables adapted for these hot/dry conditions.

Here are some planting ideas to brighten your garden in August and September.

Shasta Daisy

A clump-forming herbaceous perennial. White daisy-like flowers with a yellow centre.



Flowers from July to September. Likes well-drained soil and full sun. Height and spread 60-100cms. Deer and rabbit resistant, as well as drought-tolerant.

Actaea matsumurae 'White Pearl'

A hardy perennial with light green foliage all summer and arching, scented white flowers in autumn.

Likes well-drained soil, shade or part shade, height and spread 1-1.5m. Attractive to pollinators.



Why not pay a visit to RHS Hyde Hall in Chelmsford to see the dry garden. Since being planted it has not been watered, but it is full of colourful and drought-tolerant plants. See their web site for details.

Another great visit, but further afield, is Kew Gardens and their long border. It's a 320 m double border with over 30,000 perennials, showcasing drought-tolerant species and pollinator-friendly plants.

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 any 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

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COOKERY CORNER

CHOCOLATE AND RASPBERRY MERINGUE

There's lots of fresh fruit around at this time of the year, and you can vary the filling using strawberries, blueberries, loganberries etc.

Ingredients

4 medium egg whites
225g caster sugar
50g dark chocolate, grated
150ml double cream
150g natural yogurt
200g raspberries

To Serve:

250g raspberries
50g dark chocolate, melted

1. Preheat oven to 170°C, (150°C fan) or gas mark 3. Draw a 23cm circle template on two sheets of baking paper. Place on a baking tray.
2. Place the egg whites into a mixing bowl, beat until they form peaks. Gradually beat in the sugar - the meringue should look stiff and glossy. Using a large metal spoon, fold in the chocolate.
3. Spoon the meringue onto each template and gently spread to fill the circles. Bake for 25min, without opening the oven door, then switch off the oven and leave to cool completely or overnight.
4. Whisk the double cream, then whisk in the yogurt. Fold in the raspberries. Take a meringue disc and the spoon the cream mixture over the top, spreading to the edges. Place a second meringue disc on the top.
5. Top with remaining raspberries and drizzle over the melted chocolate.
6. Served chilled.

Elaine Wyld - Sumptuous Soups & Vintage Cakes

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ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk

Unless otherwise acknowledged, this section written by the Editor.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

A jolly day was had by all at Anstey Fair on Sunday 5th July. The day was warm, but not overpoweringly so, and there was shade available under the gazebos. It was well-attended, and the whole occasion had a lovely friendly atmosphere. The ice cream man did a roaring trade, and the children's games and stalls in the orchard were popular. There were some very attractive goods on display from the visiting stallholders, and Peter Sylvester's steam train in the manege was a huge draw.



There was live music from the Bishops Stortford Ukulele Society, who played and sang songs old and new, colourful and lively clog dancing from Hertfordshire Holly, and house band Sky West played to an appreciative audience, many of whom stayed on till the end of the second set.



Enormous thanks are due to our hosts T&T for so generously lending their land, to Ellie in particular for preparing the site, to everyone on the organising committee (spearheaded by Juliette Hodson), to all the extra volunteers who helped during the Fair itself and in setting up and dismantling, and to Reverend James for being a such a marvellous compere, succeeding as he did Martyn Downer, who had taken on this role with great aplomb for many years.



The net proceeds from the Fair, which benefit Anstey Church, the Village Hall, School and Chapel, will be announced in the next newsletter, once final figures are known.

Ali Cossor

SPORT & EXERCISE CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

There are four weekly classes in the (pleasantly cool!) Village Hall:

Tai Chi: Mondays 2.00 – 3.00 pm [£3]

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

Carpet Bowls: Wednesdays 7.00 - 9.00 pm [£3]

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:

dikkellett@btinternet.com (Tai Chi)

oxleydj@yahoo.co.uk (table tennis)

janpled@gmail.com (carpet bowls)

oxleykn@yahoo.co.uk (yoga)

ANSTEY 'POP-UP' FILM & SOCIAL CLUB

In June we showed 'F1: The Movie' in the Village Hall, which tested our seven-speaker surround sound to the limit! Our next film night, following the customary summer break, will be on **Friday 18th September**.

All members should receive an email in advance, with full details of the next film to be shown - please check your Junk / Spam folder if you can't seem to find it! Membership is £15 per annum, which allows free entry to up to 9 films throughout the year. New members can always join on the night, or contact colingsmith@gmail.com in advance.

Guests are always welcome, entry £4.



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www.ansteyvillage.co.uk/hall

You are welcome to hire the Village Hall, for £12 per hour, or £8 per hour for Anstey residents. Contact Ruth Hart (see above) to check availability.

ANSTEY CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL

On **Sunday 30 August at 11.30 am** there will be a **Family Service** during which we will hear a Harvest Report from one of our local farmers. This will be followed by **lunch in the Village Hall**, which is always a very enjoyable occasion. All are welcome, £5 per adult, and no charge for children, who must be accompanied by an adult. A donation of £3 per glass of wine would be appreciated.

We hope that most people will be able to attend both the service and lunch, but if you can make only one or the other that's fine too!

For catering purposes please let Jenny Goymour (01763 - 848271, email goymour@hotmail.com) or Alison Cossor (01763 - 848479, email alicossor@gmail.com) know if you will be attending the lunch.

Ali Cossor

THURSDAY BRIDGE CLUB

You are welcome to join us at the Thursday Bridge Club, every Thursday from 2-4 pm in the Blind Fiddler. All standards are welcome, £2 per head including tea and biscuits. No need to book, just turn up for a warm welcome.

Jan Pledger

QUIZ NIGHT AT THE BLIND FIDDLER

Mark Jacobs will be running another Quiz Night in The Blind Fiddler on **Wednesday 16th September**, 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start. Teams are advised to call The Blind Fiddler in advance to book a table

ANSTEY CHAPEL NEWS & UPDATE

Chapel services continue on three Sunday mornings in each month (except the third Sunday, when there is a morning service at St George's Church, Anstey). In August & September the Sunday service dates are Aug 2nd, 9th 23rd & 30th, Sep 6th, 13th & 27th. **We'd like to highlight Sunday 27th September – this is the date of our annual Harvest Service.** The church will be decorated by our friends from Hertford Baptist and they will be supporting us during the service.

A reminder to everyone in Anstey 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 **Wed 12th August & Wed 9th September 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.

Also a reminder that there is a prayer request box in the Chapel, available for anyone to place prayer requests anonymously or otherwise. We open the requests before each Sunday service and your request will be included in our prayers that morning. If you would like to contact us for personal prayer we are very happy to arrange a time to pray with you. The Chapel is open for you to visit any time.

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

Penny Wylie

ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 27th July can be found on the village website at www.ansteyvillage.co.uk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 21st September at 7.30 pm** in the Village Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING

On Friday 10th July Anstey Village Hall hosted a screening of 'People's Emergency Briefing,' a 50 minute film (presented by Chris Packham) about the climate and nature emergency. This was followed by a lively discussion, led by David Woollcombe from Peace Child International. Thanks to Mandy Parker, for setting it up and providing refreshments, and to all those who attended.

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**.

If you're dealing with a cardiac arrest, and administering CPR, there's a WhatsApp group which members can use to request the defibrillator. Another member of the group, if available, can then offer to deliver it. If you wish to join the group (which currently has 25 members) please text the Editor on 07802 733398.

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.

Anstey First School

**Nurture, Community, Curiosity:
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KEEP IN TOUCH - ANSTEY SOCIAL MEDIA

EMAIL - ANSTEYLINK village group:

ansteylink@gaggle.email

The group is managed by Sarah Cruise – contact cruise.s@icloud.com to join.

FACEBOOK: Anstey and Meesden Community Group.

The administrator is Gemma Jacobs.



ALPACAS & AFTERNOON TEA

You can enjoy afternoon or cream teas with the Yew Tree alpacas on selected dates throughout July-September.

Enjoy lovely the lovely countryside views from Yew Tree Cottage, Anstey with the alpacas grazing close by. The Yew Tree shop and Yarn Barn will be open for some retail therapy or for buying that last minute present.

On the dates below you can book a homemade afternoon or cream tea from 2pm

Sat 18th July
Sat 15th August
Sat 22nd August
Sat 12th September
Sat 26th September

Book online at
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BRENT PELHAM NEWS

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

Goodbye to James, Miro and Jasper, who have moved to Rickling. Good luck in your new home.

Welcome to The Causeway, Eddie, Emma, Isaac and Seb. We hope you will all be very happy here.

PLANT SALE, 23rd MAY



We were lucky to have a sunny day for the plant sale. A big thank you to all those who donated plants, cakes, and their time to help set up and make the day a success on a hot Bank Holiday Saturday. We successfully sold a large selection and variety of amazing plants.



Refreshments included bumper sausage dogs and delicious homemade cakes.

Thanks also to the stall holders who came: Amberbees with their honey and candles, Keith with his delicious chilli sauces, Four Acres Estate with English Sparkling Cider and Rosie with her handicrafts. We raised over £1000 from the plants and refreshments, which goes towards the upkeep of the Village Hall. Thank you all - it was much appreciated.

Lizzy, Shirley and Decia

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THE LONDON MARATHON!

Well done Katey Huigi for raising £3,468.88 for the Epilepsy Society. This was her second London marathon, 25 years after her first one. Thank you to all that donated. To donate see:



<https://2026tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/11c3b9/2026TCSLondonMarathon#!/>

BLACK HORSE MAKERS' FAYRE, 4th JULY

Another Fayre was held in the Black Horse's garden with a BBQ. A variety of stalls sold hand-made crafts and unique gifts made and sold by local artisans and makers.



UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS

Village Hall, Pilates class, Monday 7:30pm and Friday 9:15am.

Black Horse Quiz nights. Quizmaster Dave Bromage. £50 pub voucher for the winners. Maximum six in a team, entry fee £3 per person. Next quiz dates: Tuesday July 21, Tuesday August 18, Tuesday September 15 and Tuesday October 13.

BBQ and Makers Fayre, Black Horse, 5 September. Following the success of the previous craft event, there is another on 5 September, 10 am to 4pm.

Christmas Fair - Saturday 28th November.

HERTS & ESSEX COUNTRY FAIR - THE PARK, BRENT PELHAM, SG9 0AT, SUNDAY 23 AUGUST, GATES OPEN 10.30AM



The beautiful heavy horses continue to be a highlight, with a range of classes to recognise these incredible working horse breeds which have played such an important role in agriculture over the centuries.

The Main Ring events will feature a variety of displays, including falconry, gun dogs, dog behaviour, foxhounds, bassets, beagles, a demonstration by K9 Unity dog training and a parade of vintage tractors.

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

All dogs are most welcome at the show. Dogs and their owners will be able to enter the Family Dog Show - there is always a class for every dog and their owner. There will also be a working dog class for the traditional breeds.

In addition, your dog's skills can be tested in the Gun Dog Scurry or in the dog obedience competition.

There will be a great number of trade stands and displays, traditional games and a funfair for the children. A range of refreshments will be available, including 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, Khandel Light and other local charities.

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



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook pages: **The Pelhams** or [Brent Pelham Village Community Group](#). The Brent Pelham community WhatsApp group is administered by Miro (07812 174646) and Hazel (07850 092437).

Fraser Murray looks after 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

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

A flyer for Pilates Classes. It features a woman in a black tank top and leggings performing a Pilates exercise on a mat. The text on the flyer includes: "BODY CONTROL PILATES CERTIFIED TEACHER", "Pilates Classes", "Monday evening 7.30-8.30pm", "Friday morning 9.15-10.15am", "Book your block of classes today! Spaces limited. Mixed ability - all levels welcome", "Brent Pelham Village Hall", "Faye Yorke Pilates 07922 130880", and "Higginsfaye@hotmail.com".

An advertisement for Redtail Pest Control. It features a logo of a red-tailed hawk in flight. The text on the advertisement includes: "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", and "email: red.tail.1st@gmail.com".

MEESDEN NEWS

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

There have been three major social events in the village over the last couple of months, all of which have been wonderful community occasions. First was the Meesden Heritage Day, which was a great success and much appreciated by everyone I've spoken to. Many people put in a lot of effort to make it such a memorable event, but a special mention must go to Richard and Chris Crooks and Val Parsons, who conceived the idea and through hard work and diligent organisation brought it to fruition. In this they were greatly helped by a band of willing volunteers, who came to an inaugural planning meeting and picked up responsibility for the various tasks and activities. The heritage trail started at St Mary's church, so people could look at the rare tiles in the sanctuary, which are about 700 years old. Concerning the tiles, Ashley Pepper did a lot of research delving into their history. He writes:

'Some of you may recall my excited WhatsApp messages a few weeks ago, about a possible Knights Templar connection to the medieval tiles in St Mary's. I've since done some proper digging, and the short answer is: no Templars, but an arguably better story.

The tiles were almost certainly laid around 1300 by Denise de Munchensy, daughter of "a valiant knight and wary in war," and granddaughter of a man who married into the family of William Marshal — the greatest knight of his age. Denise died in 1314 without children, ending the senior Monchensey line entirely.

What remains is a 700-year-old floor that quietly outlived every person it was built to honour, in a small church most of the world will never find.'

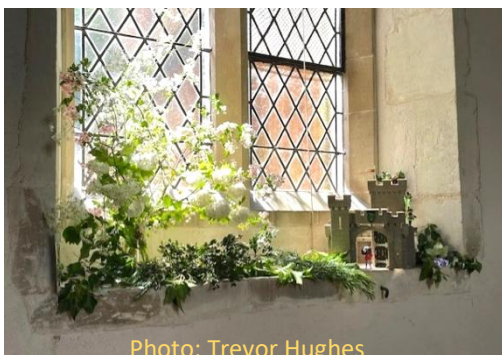


Photo: Trevor Hughes

Very interesting! Thank you Ashley!

Thanks to Annabel, folk also had a chance to make their own tiles out of clay, an activity that was really enjoyed and resulted in some beautiful, intricate designs.



Richard and Chris beginning their tiles.
Photo: Trevor Hughes

The church itself had been beautifully decorated by Fiona and Elaine, with flowers thought to be common in mediaeval times, and there was a 'wardrobe of mediaeval costumes' for children to dress up!



Fabulous tile, created by Ashley



Maria and Colin's grandchildren in mediaeval dress
Photo: Maria Hamilton

Chris and Richard organised a churchyard quiz where we had to hunt for the answers to their clues. The trail

then left the church and went back through the village, with posters containing interesting facts and history marking the way. Each poster contained a large letter. Together these letters made an anagram to solve. This was quite challenging(!) but the words were, 'Jubilee mosaic' – another special example of Meesden tiles, displayed on the village hall wall!

Inside the hall were further information about local nature and village history, all beautifully curated on display boards. Tea, coffee, savoury snacks and cakes



Some of the displays in the village hall

Photo: Trevor Hughes

had also been donated for folk to enjoy whilst socialising. It was such a good day, and the generous donations amounted to £314, to be split between the Village Hall and the Church. Thank you, and well done to everyone who, in whatever capacity, contributed to its success.

MEESDEN'S ANNUAL QUIZ, 20th June

The second social event was the Meesden Quiz, again organised by Richard and Chris who write:

'Once again Meesden Village Hall played host to the annual quiz, which saw teams pitching their brains against each other to be crowned the winners. Huge thanks must go to Edward for devising the categories and questions, and for keeping us all on track as "quiz master extraordinaire.'

Cathy provided us all with a super ploughman's supper, so many thanks Cathy. With ticket money and raffle proceeds (thank you Edward for those hugely generous prizes) we raised a sum of £530 which, in time-honoured tradition, will be split between the church and village hall. Lastly, thank you to everyone who who participated in making the ever very enjoyable success.'

The following week, anyone who had been to the "Thursdays @ 3" coffee and tea, were invited with partners for a summer BBQ at Lynn and Bob Law's to celebrate Lily Robinson's and Maureen Hammond's 85th birthdays. Bob and Lynn and their daughters were



great hosts who, along with contributions from other Meesdenites, provided everyone with sumptuous food and a whole variety of drinks. Neither Lily nor Maureen knew that the afternoon was largely in their honour, so they were somewhat surprised when



they turned up and saw everyone there! Ken Newstead presented each with a bunch of flowers from the T@3 group, and Lynn had made two birthday cakes; one chocolate and other lemon. The warm and sunny weather along with background music and the beautiful garden made for a most convivial and enjoyable afternoon. Thank you, Lynn and Bob!

Photos by
Lily's
daughter,
Julie



Information from Ken Newstead:

Meesden Defibrillator

Please remember that we have a Defibrillator in our Phone Box (access code C159X). It's there in case you, or an Ambulance team, ever need it.

E-Mail Information

The Parish Council Clerk receives emails that could be of interest to all residents, and these are forwarded from a distribution list. If you currently receive emails from our Parish Council, then you are on the list and there is nothing you need to do. If, however, you do not currently get emails from clerk@brentpelham-meesden-pc.org you are invited to send an email to this address, and you will be added to our list to receive future communications.

Brent Pelham & Meesden Parish Council

Our next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 24th September at Brent Pelham Village Hall. We welcome residents of our Parish to join any of our informal meetings and share their views with the Parish Councillors that run our small Council. There is always a slot at the beginning of our Agenda to hear your views.

ST MARY'S MEESDEN SERVICES

Holy communion, 9:30am:

9th August and 13th September.

Service of Light, 5pm:

23rd August and 27th September

Harvest Festival (Annabel and Andy's barn) 4pm:

13th September, followed by tea in the village hall.

Everyone is welcome at any or all of these services.

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