

THE ANSTEY, BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN NEWSLETTER

June - July 2026

Diary of upcoming events

Thu 4 th June	Anstey First School Open Morning, 9.30 – 11.30 (see page 6).
Sun 7 th June	Open Garden, Brent Pelham Hall, 1-4 pm (page 9).
Wed 10 th June	Anstey Chapel 'Cakes & Coffee' 10.30 to midday (page 5).
Fri 12 th June	Anstey 'pop-up' Film & Social Club, Anstey Village Hall. Doors open 7.30 pm, film starts at 8.00 (page 4).
Sat 20 th June	Meesden Village Quiz, Village Hall – 7pm for 7.30 start (page 12).
Sat 4 th July	Brent Pelham 'Makers' Fayre' at The Black Horse, 10 am – 4 pm (page 9).
Sun 5 th July	Anstey Fair, from 1pm till 5pm, in the fields behind St George's Church (page 4).
Wed 8 th July	Anstey Chapel 'Cakes & Coffee' 10.30 to midday (page 5).
Mon 13 th July	Anstey Parish Council Meeting, Anstey Village Hall, 7.30 pm (page 5).
Tue 21 st July	Quiz Night at The Black Horse, Brent Pelham (page 8).
For Church and Chapel services, please see pages 5 and 12.	

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)

The Newsletter is printed by **Sharpe Print**, Buntingford SG9 9AZ.
 Telephone: 07860 859126 / Email: sales@sharpeprint.co.uk

Deadline for the next edition: **FRIDAY 10TH JULY**



"I'm sorry, Madam, but contactless has failed. You'll have to insert your card and jab random numbers in a futile attempt to remember your PIN"

(Private Eye)

GOOD GARDENING

By June the garden should be flourishing, borders full of colour and plenty of vegetables and fruit to harvest. You can now make the most of the long summer evenings to relax and admire your garden! However, there will always be a few jobs still to do.

- ❖ Any newly-planted annuals, perennials or shrubs will need to be watered regularly. It's best to water first thing in the morning or in the evening once a week, soaking the soil around the ground thoroughly. Pots may need doing more frequently, depending on the weather.
- ❖ Dead-heading is a regular task in all parts of the garden. The flowering period can be extended considerably if old flowers are removed as soon as they fade.
- ❖ Now the threat of frost has passed many vegetable plants can be planted outside, such as tomatoes, runner and French beans, pumpkins, squashes and courgettes. If you *are* growing runner beans, water regularly at the roots to help the flowers set and the pods to form. Many gardeners recommend spraying the flowers with water once they appear, as this helps to set the flowers and produce more pods.
- ❖ Continue to sow quick-growing vegetable seeds little and often, to ensure a good supply of vegetables throughout the summer. These include salad leaves, spring onions, beetroot and French beans.

The RSPB are now recommending simple changes to how we feed our garden birds, to ensure their survival. From 1st May to 31st October, they recommend we no longer fill our feeders with seeds and peanuts. This helps reduce the risk of disease spreading, particularly during the summer and autumn months, when disease transmission is more likely. Offer instead small amounts of mealworms, fat balls and suet. Also, change the water in bird baths daily. A pond is the best way to provide the birds and other wildlife with water, if you can.

Here are some planting ideas to brighten your garden in June and July:

Cotinus coggygia 'Golden Spirit'



Makes a striking deciduous shrub for the middle to the back of the border. It has golden yellow foliage tinted with red when young, with smoky yellow flowers in June and July. In autumn, the leaves

turn fiery shades of red and orange. Grow in fertile soil, full sun or partial shade. Height 2.4m, spread 2m. Requires little or no pruning.

Salvia 'Peach Melba'

A hardy, semi-evergreen perennial. Soft peach/salmon bicour flowers with bright pink tips from spring to autumn. Grow in well-drained soil - likes sun. Height 45cms, spread 60cms. Responds well to pruning in the spring, then again after initial bloom.



At Benington Lordship there are two events planned in June for you to visit: the Plant Fair Road Show, Sunday 14th June, 11am to 4pm (with locally-grown and unusual plants from approximately 12 specialist growers from across the south east) and Benington Floral Festival and Open Gardens, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June 12-5pm. See [Benington Lordship Gardens](#) website for 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 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

COOKERY CORNER

Creamy Haddock Linguine with Tomatoes and Chilli

A friend has recommended this tasty, nutritious dish!

Ingredients (serves 2)

200g haddock bits
1 tbsp olive oil
190g linguine
1 garlic clove
125g cherry tomatoes
½ dried chilli flakes
16g tomato paste
½ pint veg. stock
5g chives
15ml Chinese rice wine
1 40g pot clotted cream

1. Dry the haddock bits with kitchen paper and add salt and pepper. Cook the haddock bits in a large frying pan with 1 tbsp olive oil over a high heat. Transfer to a plate.
2. Simmer the linguine for 20 mins.
3. Peel and chop the garlic, chop the tomatoes in half.
4. Using the unwashed frying pan, place on medium heat, add more oil if necessary and add chopped garlic and chilli flakes and cook for one minute. Add the tomatoes with a pinch of salt, cook for another two mins.
5. Dissolve the tomato paste and ½ a veg. stock cube in 200ml boiling water, creating a tomato stock.
6. Chop the chives. Add the rice wine to the frying pan and cook for 30 seconds then pour in the tomato stock and cook for 5-7 mins until it thickens into a paste-like sauce consistency.
7. Season and remove from the heat, stir through the clotted cream and ½ the chives.
8. Add the haddock and drained linguine to the sauce and give it all a good stir.
9. Serve with remaining chives sprinkled over the top.

Elaine Wyld - Sumptuous Soups and Vintage Cakes

Tel: 01763 289 738 / m. 07501 495 940

Facebook – Sumptuous Soups and Vintage Cakes



attend2health
Helping you get back to health
01763 87 80 87
www.attend2health.co.uk

**Chiropractors
Osteopaths
Physiotherapy
Sports Massage
Audiology
Chiropody
Hypnotherapy
Speech Therapy
Biomechanics
Acupuncture
Counsellors
Reformer Pilates
EMDR Therapy**

27 High St Buntingford 01763 87 80 87



Nuthampstead Airfield

SG8 8LR

Email: nicky@clayshoot.biz

Clay Target Shooting

Corporate Events

Family Gatherings, Stag/Hen Parties

One to one tuition

Pre-Game Coaching

Cartridges & Gift Vouchers

Olympic Trap, Olympic Skeet, Universal Trench, Sporting



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

ANSTEY NEWS

www.ansteyvillage.co.uk

(Unless acknowledged, this section written by the Editor)

ANSTEY FAIR – SUNDAY 5TH JULY

From 1-5 pm in the fields behind St George's Church

The time of the Fair is fast approaching! There will be the usual array of home-grown stalls (including produce and nearly new clothing), visiting stallholders selling attractive and affordable gifts, games, teas, a barbecue, bar, raffle, tombola, live music from the Bishops Stortford Ukulele Society and Sky West, plus clog dancing from Hertfordshire Holly!

We hope that as many people as possible will wish to come and support this event, and we would greatly welcome volunteers to help set up on Saturday 4th July in the morning and dismantle after 5 pm on the day itself. Also, people are needed to do a stint on the gates and to lend a hand on any of the activities listed above. If you would like to help, please contact Juliette Hodson: juleshodson@gmail.com, or Alison Cossor: alicossor@gmail.com.

Contributions to the Tombola (Kate Oxley, 2 Castle Cottages / oxleykn@yahoo.co.uk), Produce Stall (Gus and Jenny Goymour) and Nearly New Clothing (Kay Walton and Mandy Parker) would also be hugely appreciated.

Ali Cossor

PS

Anstey Fair Teas – Home-made bakes & cakes request.

We would be very grateful if any of you can provide one of the home-made items below for the Fair tea shop on Sunday 5th July:

- Quiche
- Sandwich Cake
- Tray bakes

If you are able to make any one of the above please contact me on either email pennywylie@gmail.com or text 07813 935 694.

Many thanks, Penny Wylie.

Finally, a reminder that all proceeds from the Fair will help to support the Church, the Chapel, the School and the Village Hall [Ed.]



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

SPORT & EXERCISE CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE HALL

There are four weekly classes at the 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:

djkellett@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 April we showed 'A Complete Unknown' and in May we showed 'Four Letters of Love.' Our next film night will be on **Friday 12th June.**

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 always welcome, entry £4.

ANSTEY CHURCH NEWS

It was lovely to see the church almost full on 3rd May for choral evensong, with a visiting choir from Reed who sang beautifully, ably led by their Musical Director John Haselden and accompanied by their superb organist Paul Harrison. Revd James acted as Cantor for the responses, and our visitors were very impressed by his voice!

The church looked lovely - thank you to all who contributed flowers for the windowsills - and the rousing hymns raised the roof. Many thanks to all who came to support the service, especially our friends from the neighbouring villages of Great Hormead, Hare Street and Meesden.

Ali Cossor

CHAPEL NEWS AND UPDATE



We celebrated Easter with a Sunday morning service on Easter Day with our Easter Day message from Stephen Wylie.

The inside of the Chapel was especially welcoming, with Easter decorations from our Hertford Baptist friends and our own Gill Cochrane.

We would like to highlight that there is a prayer request box in the Chapel, available for anyone to place prayer requests anonymously or otherwise. We will be opening 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.

Chapel services are held on three Sunday mornings in each month (except the third Sunday when there is a morning service at St George's Church, Anstey). In June the Sunday service dates are the 7th, 14th and 28th at 10.30am. Everyone is very welcome.

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 **Wednesday 10th June & Wednesday 8th July, 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 at any time from 10.30 onwards.

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 and the Annual Parish Meeting, on Monday 18th May, can be found on the village website at www.ansteyvillage.co.uk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 13th July at 7.30 pm** in the Village Hall. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

Thanks again to all those who joined us for the annual Village Hall fundraising quiz on Sat 14th March. We can now reveal that the event raised well over £900, which will go towards the upkeep of this precious village asset.

Anstey First School

**Nurture, Community, Curiosity:
Happy Children Learning**



**Places available
Pre-School to Year 4**

facebook.com/AnsteyFirst 01763 848 346

The summer term is well under way at Anstey First School. All children, from Owlets pre-school to Wise Owls Y3s and Y4s, are enjoying loads of amazing learning in our calm and nurturing classrooms, outside in our well-equipped playground and in the beautiful Anstey Hollow - our wonderful Forest School site.

All classes are getting curious about plants. We are growing beans, conducting science experiments, and planning some delicious recipes. We've been learning about animation in computing, building chairs in DT, starting art projects, and auditioning for our end-of-year production, Matilda the (Anstey) Musical!

Head to our Facebook page for the latest photos and videos of all the children's learning - facebook.com/AnsteyFirst

Richard McKelvey, Headteacher



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

A NEW ARRIVAL!

Many congratulations to Hannah and Jeremy at High Hall, on the safe arrival of Daphne, a sister for Hebe.

Jackie Godfrey

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.

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.





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



Computer HELP In your Own Home



Contact Tracy 07521 977 997

www.rebootitsolutions.co.uk



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)



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

Anthony Howes Ltd

- ~ French Polishing
- ~ Floor sanding and refinishing
- ~ Restoration of old floors

07790 696631 ~ howespolishing@gmail.com
www.ahowespolishingandflooring.co.uk

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

BRENT PELHAM NEWS

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

MAKERS' FAYRE, BLACK HORSE, 4th MAY

A Makers' Fayre was held on 4th May in the garden, together with a BBQ. The pub put on great value and tasty food.



A variety of stalls sold hand-made crafts and unique gifts, made and sold by local artisans and makers. Specialties included art, jewelry, home décor, gifts, plants and more. The food stalls were irresistible: one stall had different-flavoured dips, which were fun to try, while another had a range of homemade scones. There was also a chocolate stall with special gifts, plus several cake stalls with amazing cakes.

There was a great turn out and a very friendly atmosphere that made the afternoon so special.

Many thanks to Jim who organised it all. Much appreciated by all that went. Two more are planned – see Upcoming Village Events.

AN INVITATION TO A GARDEN PARTY, AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Jill Peters of Brent Pelham was invited to the first garden party at Buckingham Palace this year on Wednesday 7th May, just after King Charles and Queen Camilla returned from the United States. More than 30,000 people are invited to the garden parties at Buckingham Palace and at Holyrood House every year.

Guests are nominated to go by a national network of sponsors. Jill had started out as a nurse practitioner 48 years ago when she was 18 years old. She has had a varied career in the NHS and she worked in challenging roles for NHS England during the COVID pandemic. As recognition of her career and work on the COVID programme Jill was invited to her first garden party at Buckingham Palace.

The party started with the royal family's arrival and the national anthem. This was followed by more music, and informal meetings with guests. Guests are then invited to enjoy tea and explore the palace gardens with many members of the royal family. Apparently, guests consume around 27,000 cups of tea, 20,000 sandwiches and 20,000 cakes!

Jill enjoyed strolling round the palace garden and lake. The garden is the largest in London, covering 39 acres.

Jill took these photos. It was quite challenging to capture the front of King Charles!



UPCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS

Village Hall, Pilates class, Monday 7:30pm and Friday 9:15am (see advert on opposite page >>).

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: 26 May, 21 July, 18 August. Note that the June date clashed with an England World Cup match, so it was cancelled!

Black Horse Bingo Evenings, like the one on 18th May. These evenings have grown in numbers month on month, and the more people that play, the bigger the prize money. Booking essential - charcuterie boards available to pre-order. Eyes down 7:30pm. Please email: contact@blackhorsebrentpelham.co.uk

Makers' Fayre, Black Horse

Following on from the success of the Fayre held on 4th May, there are two more events planned, on 4th July and 5th September.



OPEN GARDEN, BRENT PELHAM HALL

7th JUNE 1-4PM

Please come and join us for Open Garden on Sunday June 7th 1-4pm. Tea, coffee and delicious cakes will be served in the Estate Office, and outside if it's warm and sunny. Proceeds are for NGS charities and for Brent Pelham projects.



COUNTRY FAIR - SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST, THE PARK, BRENT PELHAM (SG9 0AT)

Features a heavy horse show, dog show, tractors, trade stands, food, and craft stalls. More details to follow in next issue.

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 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

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

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
Higginsfaye@hotmail.com





Services Provided

- All aspects of carpentry and joinery.
- Period property restoration.
- Purpose made cabinets.
- Bespoke storage solutions.
- Kitchen fitting and manufacture.
- Internal and external work undertaken.
- Property maintenance.

Russell Long
Phone: 07711324667
Email: russell@woodgatejoinery.com






MEESDEN NEWS

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

Wow! What a glorious few weeks we are having, after the cold and wet of early spring! As happens at this time of year, the countryside is bursting into life. There is a profusion of cowslips all around, and as well as these, bugles and buttercups are the dominant flowers in the nature reserve now. Also, bluebells have quietly appeared, one of the best local displays being in the wood on the way to Meesdenbury after the path leaves the farm track. Blackthorn has flowered and faded, and now hawthorn, and horse chestnuts are in flower.



Red Horse Chestnut on Meesden green



Meesden's equivalent to the Sycamore Gap tree (!) – an oak on the path to Meesdenbury

'Reg', Dave and Susi's dog (Mill House) and bluebells on the bridle path to Brent Pelham.

WALKING THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO (WAY OF ST JAMES)

Lily Robertson's daughter, Julie, is walking this ancient pilgrimage route in memory of her dad, John. She writes:



"I lost my dad, John Robinson, to Parkinson's last year. We also lost his best friend from childhood days, Ken Thorogood, to the same disease a couple of years earlier. Both were born and lived in Meesden.

I have decided to walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostella in memory of dad and Ken, and to raise money for Parkinson's UK. Both of them loved a good walk, so it seems quite a fitting way to celebrate them.



I've wanted to walk the Camino for a long while now. They say the Camino calls you and you will know when it's your time... and I feel that now is my time.

The Camino is a series of paths from all over Europe that all meet in the quadrant of the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostella in northwest Spain. I have decided to walk the Camino Portuguese coastal route, from Porto to Santiago. I left from the steps of the Cathedral in Porto on 25th April and ... hopefully... I'll arrive in Santiago 13 days and 175 miles later. I've decided to walk alone, although a very dear friend, Bev, is coming out with me to wave me off (she made me the t shirt I'm wearing in the photo too) and my partner Tony will walk out from Santiago to meet me on day 13.

If you are able to and would like to support my fund raising, I've detailed my Just Giving page below."

[Julie Page is fundraising for Parkinson's UK](#)



Julie in Vigo City, Day 8 and 116 miles in.



Nearly there now!

This walk is QUITE A CHALLENGE, both physically and emotionally. It's a great tribute Julie, to your Dad and to Ken Thorogood - MW

MEESDEN PHONE BOX RENOVATION

Those of an observant disposition will have noticed that the Meesden Phone Box, which now houses a defibrillator and was in a forsaken, near abandoned state, now looks brand new! The initiative for this transformation was taken by Ken Newstead, who also got materials



ready for the work and asked for volunteers to help on the village WhatsApp group. With no further prompting, Gordon Livings arrived with washing equipment and began to give it a thorough clean. Once dry Ken, aided by Colin Hamilton (and very minor input from me), scraped off old paint and sanded it in preparation for the primer, which was applied by Ken, Colin and Lynn Law. Finally, it was painted bright red, leaving it looking resplendent! A big 'thank you' to Ken and everyone who helped in its restoration.

FLY-TIPPERS BEWARE!

Very recently, Danielle noticed a load of rubbish had been dumped near the road between Meesden and Anstey whilst driving to work and, having alerted everyone by the WhatsApp group, Annabel reported it to the police.



Further investigation by Wilfrid found that the rubbish was from a house clearing, and included in the pile was an order of service from a couple married in York Minster in 2018. Annabel and Andy found the name and address of the house clearance and the police collected the evidence from Manor Farm. Following further diligent investigation by Sergeant Miller from Buntingford Police station, the perpetrator was tracked down, confronted and admitted responsibility. He will be made to clear up the rubbish under police supervision!

A great result – well done to everyone who reported it and collected evidence. A suitable punishment and

deterrent from further such offences would be if the person responsible was also made to clear up another five fly-tipping sites! - MW

Other news and information:

MEESDEN QUIZ NIGHT!

Saturday 20th June, 7pm for 7:30pm start.

Don't miss this annual popular event! As usual, the quiz night will be held in the village hall. A supper will be provided, but bring your own drinks.

The **Meesden Heritage Day** was held on 16th of May. A full report will be in the next newsletter.

ST MARY'S MEESDEN CHURCH SERVICES:

Holy Communion, 9:30 am, May 31st, June 14th, July 12th.

Service of Light, 5pm, June 28th, July 26th.

An informal service followed by drinks and nibbles.



G W Services
George Stephens
Agricultural Mechanic
Repairs
Maintenance
Breakdowns
Servicing
Garden Machinery

07731 521111
gwstephens95@gmail.com

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



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



**Chimney sweeps - log burner installations
Chimney repairs**



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



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



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



Wonderful Alpaca Walks

With Yew Tree Alpacas

Have a fabulous experience walking alpacas and round it off with home-made cream tea or lunch!

- A choice of two walk options; the **Alpaca Walk Experience** and the **Alpaca Stroll**.
- The longer Walk Experience is 35–40 minutes with your alpaca, 2½ hours in total. It includes a walk on fields and footpaths, then test your alpaca on our agility course to finish (optional)! The Stroll is shorter, more a relaxed amble with your alpaca. Around fields, it's a 20 minute walk, and a total time at Yew Tree of 2 hours. There's an alpaca talk and safety briefing before each walk.
- To complete your alpaca time there's a chance to feed carrots, plus lots of photo opportunities and alpaca selfies.
- On your return you can enjoy lunch or cream tea and homemade cakes, depending on which date you select. Don't forget there's a chance for some retail therapy in our Yew Tree alpaca shop and Yarn Barn stocked with a wide range of alpaca gift items, yarns and accessories.

Full details and prices are listed on our website. Prices vary depending on walk option chosen.

Note: Children 10–15 years must share an alpaca with an adult on the Walk Experience. For the Alpaca Stroll they can walk an alpaca 1:1. No children below 10 years.

Yew Tree Alpacas

Anstey, Near Buntingford, Herts SG9 0DA
Telephone: 01763 848257
Email: info@yewtreealpacas.co.uk
www.yewtreealpacas.co.uk



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY



Although the Society is not a religious organisation, we encourage visits to parish churches as they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Inside, you may find images of angels in some form or another. These winged creatures are considered to be messengers of God. They also represent goodness, with a promise of heaven if you live a good life.

Angels in churches are depicted in paintings, on stained-glass windows, suspended from ceilings, carved into corbels that support roof timbers or on poppyheads at the end of pews.

Clavering church displays several angels in its medieval glass windows as well as a series of wooden angels suspended from the rafters - they have feathers all over, including on their legs.

It is easy to miss Clavering's angels, but not those at Furneux Pelham (see right). Their bright colours come from a repaint in the 1960s. Some play a lute and others hold a shield with a family crest, presumably of their sponsor. Furneux Pelham also has a series of angels on windows that were painted in the 19th century by renowned artists William Morris and Edward Byrne-Jones.



Radwinter has a series of stained-glass windows with angels featuring prominently. At Elmdon, one peeps out from under the lectern from which the vicar preaches. In Linton, one of the carved poppyheads depicts a scribe resting his book on the wings of an angel.



Some churches have carvings on the corbels that support major roof timbers (see Braughing, left). Hildersham's chancel has especially colourful decoration, including angels on each of its corbels.

Over the last couple of years, I have given an illustrated talk to many local organisations, taking a peek inside some of our parish churches and including photos of angels in many guises.

Ken McDonald, Secretary