

Birdbrook Parish



Birdbrook Parish Council

We were sorry to report that Peter Smart has moved away, resulting in our losing not only the chair of our parish council, but reducing the membership to just four. We need you, and particularly younger members of our community to take part in parish affairs.

If you are interested in finding out about the duties and responsibilities of your local council, which is, of course, the foundation of our country's democratic system, do come along to the next meeting and introduce yourself.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 10th May 7pm** at the Community House.

The committee planning the Jubilee celebrations also invite you to their next meeting **Monday 9th May 6pm** in the reading room, door to the right as you enter the community house.

Playground at Baythorne End

Baythorne End residents are invited to let the parish council know if this playground is still used and still wanted?

Let us know your views: Email katie_owner@hotmail.com

FACE PAINTER WANTED

June 4th to be part of the children's activities for our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Events are planned from 3pm so even if you could attend for a short period of time we would love to have you join us.

Please contact katie_owner@hotmail.com



Many thanks to Jane Garnham for the barn owl photo above. Maybe next issue we will see photos of owlets from parents who have moved into in a recently erected owl nest box. Do send us pictures from your own bird nest boxes, taking care not to disturb the birds, of course.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Birdbrook

Birdbrook Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events Committee

Wow, that's a long title. A long title for a very exciting and enthusiastic team of people who have been working to organise, fund and put on events to celebrate this wonderful occasion. It has been an amazing opportunity already to have so many different individuals, groups, clubs and parish councillors all working together on this project. As each meeting has taken place more people are wanting to join and offer ideas and support in running the events. WE LOVE THIS! These events are for everyone within our community, and we would love to have anyone on board who is able to help.

So, what have we been planning I hear you ask?

There will be further details to add closer to the events, but our basic timetable is as below.

Thursday 2nd June 2022- Lighting of the Beacon

6.30pm onwards there will be a BBQ available at The Birdbrook Plough

6.30 onwards there will be a 'beacon trail' running for the children to complete to gain a Jubilee themed prize.

Other activities will be confirmed in between these times

9.30-9.45pm Beacon lighting ceremony on the village green. (Please note this is the advised time across the country)

Saturday 4th June 2022 3pm onwards

Garden games and children fun in the play area (INCLUDING THE NEW EQUIPMENT)

The Birdbrook Plough will have a BBQ going and their doors open hoping to see everyone out and celebrating the occasion.

Jubilee picnic area in the churchyard. Bring your picnic blankets, chairs, children and even the dog, to enjoy our beautiful village and socialise with your neighbours and friends.

In the community house we will be holding the Jubilee Craft Fair with a variety of traders selling gifts, Jubilee themed items and our regular trader, 'The Mad Cake Lady' will also be joining us.

Bring spare plants for the [Plant Sale Table](#) and come and see what there is to tempt you.

We have been lucky enough to secure some funding for these events thanks to the work of our committee members, I hope you will all join me in saying a big, 'THANK YOU' to them all for their efforts and commitment to the parish.

Plans continue as I type, WE NEED YOU! If you are able, please join us at the next meeting on Monday May 9th in Birdbrook Community House at 6pm. (We will be in the

Thursday 2nd June

BBQ available at The Plough from 6.30/7pm

Further details to come including children's beacon trail

Lighting the Beacon (across the country) 9.30-9.45pm

Saturday 4th June 3pm onwards

Jubilee Craft Fair Tables available £10 each

[Bring and Buy Plant Sale Table](#)

Garden games and children's fun in the playground

Jubilee Picnic in the churchyard
BBQ at The Plough

reading room, door to the right as you enter.)

We want to make this a celebration to remember and our children to be able to tell their children about in years to come, so please if you can, go mad decorate the windows, doors, driveways and streets and enjoy celebrating the historic events of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee together. We look forward to making many memories with you all.

Committee Chair, Katie Gentry



<https://www.queensjubileebeacons.com/join-in>

St Augustine's Church, Birdbrook

Sunflowers

Earlier this year, a video of a Ukrainian woman confronting Russian Soldiers appeared on Twitter – a video which has now been viewed 8.6 million times. Filmed in Henychesk in the Kherson region, it shows the woman in giving sunflower seeds to Russian soldiers, with the striking instruction to put the seeds in their pockets so the flowers will grow where they die. It doesn't make easy viewing, as we feel united in a sense of despair as the Russian Army occupy Ukraine, largely against the will of the Russian people.



According to a 1993 Ukraine Encyclopaedia, sunflowers - soniashnyk in Ukrainian - have been grown there since the mid-18th century. When the book was published, sunflower seeds were the country's most popular snack. The flower also helps fuel the national economy today; Ukraine and Russia supply 70–80% of the world's sunflower oil exports. The presence of the flowers across the whole of Ukraine has led to it being seen as an unofficial national flower. In June 1996, to celebrate Ukraine giving up nuclear weapons, United States, Russian and Ukrainian defence ministers planted sunflowers in a ceremony at southern Ukraine's Pervomaysk missile base.

Because of this history, the sunflower is worn by those wishing to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people and as a symbol of peace. The Bible says, "when peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice." (James 3:18). Justice and peace go hand in hand when we treat people in a just and equitable way - showing respect, seeing their worth, and trying to understand their lives. When we do this, we're working towards peace.

When we watch the news, it can all feel a bit overwhelming. We don't know how to help, how to pray, or even how to understand what we're seeing unfold in front of our eyes. But we do have a role to play. As Christians, we believe that God hears and answers our prayers, and so we must continue to pray about what we see on the news. We can also seek justice by writing to our MPs to urge them to do more to help our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. Finally, we can help those who are suffering by giving financially through the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, which ensures that the money is given to the teams

working on the ground where the need is most desperate. This is the link to the appeal website should you wish to give in this way:-
<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Just as the poppy is used as a symbol of remembrance and peace, we pray the same for the sunflower, that one day it will be seen again growing abundantly across Ukraine and Russia - its big yellow head a sign of peace with the nations united in justice for all. Blessings, Jonathan
Revd Canon Jonathan Lowe
01440 731687 vicar@2rivers.faith
The Vicarage, 3 Church Street
Steeple Bumpstead, Essex CB9 7DG

Forthcoming services at St Augustine's, Birdbrook:

May 2022

Sunday 8th May 10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 22nd May 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion a

June 2022

Sunday 12th June :30am Morning Worship
Sunday 26th June 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion

Service Pattern for all six churches:

<https://www.stmaryschurch.org.uk/calendar>

Birdbrook Parish News

brought to you by Birdbrook Parish Council

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Publication dates:

Birdbrook Parish News:

February, May, September, December,

Deadlines for contributions:

15th of the preceding month.

Updated Contacts Supplements

will be issued when information changes.

Previous copies of newsletters can be found at

<http://www.birdbrook.org.uk/bbnews.html>

Check our Facebook page for latest news:

www.facebook.com/Birdbrook-Parish-Council-101754315205316

For all submissions, contributions and advertising,

and if you prefer to receive your copy by email please contact us at: birdbrook2021@gmail.com



Birdbrook Bowls Club

The grass is still growing, a lot more quickly now, due to the hot weather. All credit must go to Leigh, & his merry men for getting the green in tip top condition, ready for the start of the new season.

Our open afternoon was held on the 24th April from 12 noon to 4 pm, combined with signing on for all members.



Photos left and below from the Bowls Club open day, Sunday 24th April. Well attended on a lovely, warm sunny afternoon, in a superb setting, a try at bowling, and the delicious barbeque.

Our club nights resumed on Tuesday 26th April & will continue every Tuesday evening throughout the season. You will see it publicised in What's On delivered every month.

We offer a warm welcome to visitors, so you are more than welcome to come along any Tuesday & join us on a sunny evening to chat, watch, try bowling, along with marvellous hospitality. So why not come along & give bowls a go.



We have all suffered a lot over these last two years fighting the invisible enemy, Covid. While it is, unfortunately, still with us, but we must be extremely thankful for the vaccination program. The medical experts they all recommend exercise in the fresh air. Bowling is gentle exercise, in pleasant surroundings & in very pleasant company.

Oh yes nearly forgot, a few drinks in the bar afterwards, silly me. Whilst the idea of bowls may not appeal to everyone, at least give it a try, you may be very pleasantly surprised. You can join as a social member if this is more appealing to you. Wishing you all a very pleasant, safe summer with lots to look forward to, whatever your plans are.

In addition to the new bowls season, we have our Queens Platinum Jubilee which we will be celebrating over the first weekend in June. The village beacon will be lit on the 2nd by one of our distinguished villagers. We hope to see you all around one village green or another, in the meantime, keep safe, but most of all love one another.

Alan G Cook

Ridgewell Garden Society



Membership just £5 for the year. Contact Pam Amos 01440 788595

Friday 10 June 11.00 am - £6.00 Garden Visit and Picnic

Moat House, Little Saxham; followed by "Bring your own Picnic Lunch" in the garden of Colonel & Mrs David Gordon Lennox at Priors Farm, Great Saxham.

Wednesday 6th July 3.30 pm Guided Tour of Moyns Organic Vegetable Garden

Join us with Philip Mizen to walk round his 2 acre organic vegetable garden at Moyns Park Birdbrook.

Saturday 23rd July 12 noon BBQ & Social Afternoon

Lantern House, Details tba.

Saturday 17th September 2.00 pm Horticultural Show, Ridgewell Village Hall. Details tba.

Play Area in Birdbrook



Refurbishment began 26th April 2022

**Birdbrook
Bring and Buy Plant Sale
re-scheduled to
Sat 4th June alongside
Jubilee festivities**

Introducing a local Business: Head To Toe Holistic

How did I wind up doing this? For me it all started through years of back pain & a stressful job. I began going to Pilates classes around 13 years ago, & yoga perhaps 12 years ago. I studied catering at college, & eventually got a job in the prison service as a caterer. Working in catering is a high pressure job in itself, but adding in the prison environment it became even tougher. After several years I found that the work I did was affecting the person I was & I had lost a great deal of myself to the job. By then, as yoga & I seemed very happy together, I began my teacher training (TT) in 2016. The course was tough, but the support I had from the others training beside me was incredible. My mental issues were impossible to ignore by this point & the more yoga I did the worse I found my day job.

One day my boss sat me down & essentially nicely told me to get help as I wasn't myself anymore. So I did.

Once I qualified as a yoga teacher (YT) the pilates class I had been attending was about to lose its teacher, she asked me if I would like to take it on as a yoga class. I accepted, one thing led to another & I ended up training in Pilates too. By the end of 2018 I was teaching twice a week & starting to look at other ways to support myself. I began training in massage therapy, in 2018 I met a wonderful friend for life who encouraged me to follow the natural healing path further when I qualified in crystal healing this then led to finally training as a reflexologist, completing in 2020.

I wound up setting up an Etsy shop selling gemstone jewellery which is partly how I ended up in Birdbrook teaching! During a conversation about a future fundraising table top sale I was informed the village would like a class & could I possibly do it? It has been almost a year since I began teaching classes in Birdbrook & I love every second! Due to demand for Pilates in particular there is now a back to back Pilates class on a Monday evening with people coming from as far away as Halstead, Glemsford, Steeple Bumpstead & Castle camps. Class timetables can be found at www.headtotoeholistic.uk. The table top sale of course happened eventually & you all warmed our hearts with your fabulous community attitude & the support you show each other. My latest qualification is in facial reflexology, it is very important to me to be able to offer the latest treatments & options in holistic wellbeing. Part of this is constantly keeping my portfolio relevant, training with approved & accredited therapist teachers/trainers.

Here we are over two years later, somehow my little holistic business has survived. Largely I think in part to my determination not to give in but also to wonderful supportive people like yourselves who continue to support me & who appreciate my, style of teaching.

I hope I offer you a place where you can be you, feel safe, be comfortable & enjoy time to focus on yourself without judgment.

You can book on line, or call me, Coco, on **07377 380845**.



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Hello From Your District Councillor

Energy Bill Rebate

BDC has received a large number of queries about the HM Government funded £150 Energy Bill Rebate.

The Energy Bill Rebate is a one-off payment of £150 to households in Council Tax Bands A-D, excluding empty or second homes. The payment is being made by District Councils but funded by Central Government. There is no requirement for repayment of this rebate. If residents pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit, the rebate will be paid automatically into their account by the end of April. BDC will contact those households that do not pay by Direct Debit. There is discretionary funding for residents in Council Tax bands E-H.

I would like residents to be aware that there is likely to be scam activity that will link to this scheme and will be advising all residents NOT to click on any links that purport to come from Braintree District Council via text message or email – BDC will not be contacting residents and asking them to provide information via such a link. If residents are concerned about any communication regarding the rebate they can speak to the Revenues Team on 01376 557755. The quickest and safest way to get the rebate would be for residents to sign up to Direct Debit and they can do so by calling the Revenues Team on the number above. 78% of households in our District will receive the automatic rebate and there is in excess of 50,000 payments to be made.

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Wethersfield Prison Proposals

BDC has been informed that the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are conducting various surveys at the Wethersfield airfield site and in some cases in the surrounding areas. BDC encourages people to contact the MoJ if they have any enquiries by emailing PSDenquiries@justice.gov.uk or calling 0333 358 0502.

Information can be found on the BDC website: www.braintree.gov.uk/mojproposals

Landowner faces 3 month prison sentence and £5,000 fine for ignoring planning notices

A landowner has been given a 3-month suspended prison sentence and £5,000 fine for continuing to breach high court injunctions dating back to September 2021. In August 2021, BDC was alerted to unlawful works taking place on a section of land along Sudbury Road in Castle Hedingham and were forced

to obtain a High Court Injunction to prevent further works from taking place, granted in September and October 2021. The works, undertaken without planning consent, included the construction of a 2.5 metre fencing which closed off the area of land from view, and the installation of water and electricity supplies. An injunction was obtained to prevent any further works whilst reversing some the works which had already taken place. During compliance checks at the site, planning enforcement officers discovered that the landowner continued with the works involving several lorry loads of aggregate and topsoil being delivered and spread across the site with a digger. As a result, the Council instigated prosecution proceedings at London's High Court. At a hearing on Tuesday 29 March 2022, Mr Wilson pleaded guilty for failing to comply with the injunction and was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay a £5,000 fine along with the Council's costs. A further order was given requiring the landowner to carry out a contamination survey on imported aggregate/topsoil at the site.

As part of the Council's budget for 2022/23, over £200,000 is set to be invested into additional staffing for Planning Enforcement, to strengthen the service and increase resource following feedback from residents, members and parish councils.

Crime in the Bumpstead Ward

31/03/22 22:42 Bumpstead Ward; The Street CB9 7 'Suspect unknown has stolen the victims large antique milk churn worth £150 from their front garden by means unknown' *Some people will steal anything!*

With best wishes to all,

Cllr. Diana Garrod

District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward



Birdbrook Community House Update to Contact Details

Birdbrook Community House is available to hire for a variety of functions

For more details or to book, please contact

***Matt Unwin 07787 528985
Or Steve Filbey 07771 881201***

Birdbrook Ladies Group

BLG have held three meetings since last writing.

In February we welcomed Diana Garrod, who came to see the small electrical equipment that had been purchased with her grant for BLG and for the use in the Community House. We were all then entertained by one of our favourite speakers, Celia Stevens, who regaled us with amusing, exciting and sometimes hair-raising tales from her career as a long-distance lorry driver. Having gained her Class 1 HGV licence she travelled the length and breadth of Europe in an articulated lorry accompanied by her infant son. Her experiences were amusing, serious and historical, encompassing the fall of the Berlin Wall as she travelled to Eastern Europe as well as a brush with the Mafia on the Italian borders. One of her final delivery jobs took her back to her time as a racing driver, as she delivered (and tried out) super sports cars for Red Letter Days. Truly and amazing and inspirational lady!



Painting demonstration by local artist David Pasfield

In March we were treated to a painting demonstration given by local artist David Pasfield. Starting with a primed canvas, David first applied random blocks and streaks of colour to cover the whole surface

Any information on Family Backler?

I am trying to trace my family, the Backler family who were born and raised in Birdbrook. My great grandfather was Ernest William Backler, who married Laura Mason and had 6 children. They worked on the Moynes Park estate and my Grandmother Mary Backler (Ernest William's daughter) met my Grandfather who worked in the RAF, they married and lived in Birdbrook on "The Street" in the village. I am trying to trace any living Backler's that may be distant relatives to Ernest William as he had possibly 10 children? I have some pictures: my Grandmother Mary Mahala Backler, also a 1921 census which shows the Backler family, and also George who fought and died in service, although buried in Thailand he has a memorial in

before adding detail and vibrant colour in acrylics. By the end of the evening he had created a warm woodland scene with a carpet of spring flowers, explaining his technique and giving tips as he painted. He had also brought along a selection of his paintings, all of which displayed his love of vibrant colour.



Easter crafts at the April BLG meeting

Our April meeting involved a bit of Easter crafting. The members were able to use their own creativity to decorate wooden Easter eggs using whatever they had to hand. There were some wonderful finished products and very individual, no doubt they will take pride of place over the Easter celebrations. There were not many of us but we had great fun. A short Easter quiz was completed and I think we all learnt some interesting facts. We had our usual raffle, many of the prizes had an Easter theme and refreshments included hot cross buns.

The May meeting will be our AGM.

As always, new members are very welcome at any time.

Contact Sue King on 788118 or Alison Gilbert on 785967 for further information.

the church in Birdbrook. He married in 1941 and lived in Steeple Bumpstead, sadly never saw his new born son. My Great Grand father George William married a Laura Backler (nee Mason) so I may have a family connection to the Mason family. My Father (Ernest William's grandson is in ill health now, and can only remember little snippets of info. His family lived across from the church in a little cottage, his father Harry Hunter had married Mary Backler, they had 3 children. My dad and his siblings may have attended school in the surrounding area. After my Grandad Hunter was demobbed from the RAF the family moved back to Blackburn Lancashire. I guess selling the house in Birdbrook. I'd be please to hear from anyone with information about my family.
Mark Hunter (Ernest Williams great grandson)
Email: markhunter1966@icloud.com

History of Baythorne Park up to and during the years of Queen Elizabeth's Reign

Julian Watson bought Baythorne Park in 1954 in his early 20s.

Prior to this, in 1948, plans had been drawn up by a London Architect, Melville Wingate, for the house to be remodelled. It is not clear exactly when this was done, nor what the layout had been beforehand.

Julian Watson was born 1st November 1931 at High Canons, Shenley, Hertfordshire, his mother's family home where he spent a lot of his childhood. His great grandfather, Sir John Watson of Earnock, first baronet was his father, Somerled Hamilton Watson's grandfather and his father's family home was on the Earnock estate in Lanarkshire.

His parents had rented Newton Manor near Cambridge from 1930 to 1933, when they bought The Dower House, Bartlow where they remained until the outbreak of war. Having been educated at Cheam Preparatory School followed by Harrow and The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, Julian purchased Baythorne Park and set about making additions to the landholding and general improvements to the house and estate.

At the time of Major Rambaut's death, the estate comprised 156 acres. Julian Watson added to the estate considerably, and over the years bought and sold packages of land. At the time of his death the estate was advertised as a 676 acre holding.

In the main house he replaced the Victorian fireplaces, made two additional bathrooms, put in central heating and replaced the mosaic floor in the hall with mahogany flooring. Over the years he made many changes.



Photo of the field of phacelia, alongside the road from Ridgewell to Ashen, part of the Baythorne Park Estate, featured as the July picture in the 2022 FOHL calendar



The present day entrance to Baythorne Park at Baythorne End

1954: bathrooms and flush toilets were added to the cottages on the estate
1955: concrete paths in the kitchen garden
1957: planted two spinneys, one each side of the park
1960: created the horseshoes on the cedar lawn
1961: replaced the slate roofs with old tiles in the garage, put down the concrete and built a range of four garages
1965: hard tennis court and swimming pool
1969: converted original stables to a dwelling known as Stable Court; changing room installed at the swimming pool
1990: built the lake in the front park
1996: altered the main entrance gates to Baythorne Park
2005: extended the present gardens to the Temple Lawn.

Julian Watson also planted extensive woodland areas in line with his interest in shooting, and replaced aging trees with the magnificent avenue of limes leading from the road up to the house. After his death in 2017, the estate was sold.

The present owners, John and Pauline Pullen moved to Baythorne Park four years ago and run the estate as a working mixed arable and grazing farm.



Above: lambs at Baythorne End, May 2022.



Left: The pretty blue flowers of phacelia, (borage family), are very attractive to insects, including bees. It is grown as a green manure crop in small gardens as well as large fields.

In 2009, the owner of Baythorne Park, Julian Watson commissioned a history of the house and estate

The present owners, John and Pauline Pullen, have kindly allowed the Record to share the history.

The house was Grade 2 listed in 1952.

The author, John Pelling, accounts that there is evidence of occupation of the land going back to pre-history with stone flints found nearby. Celtic tribes were here, followed by the Romans, associated with the important town of Wixoe just across the river. The name, 'Baythorne' is derived from 'thorn bush of Babba's people', and first appeared in an Anglo-Saxon will of about 950 AD. In the Domesday book it is stated as owned by Ranulf.

It was probably included in the parish of Birdbrook at this time, rather than the closer Ridgewell, to prevent landowners becoming too powerful. In the Medieval times, the author rarely identified transactions with the name 'Baythorne', but it was probably included in many land sales. For example King Edward 1 and Queen Eleanor were given Birdbrook Hall (and presumably its lands) in 1283, which the King gave to the Abbott and Convent of Westminster in 1299.

In 1312, Baythorne Hall was built in the estate. The holder of the estate at that time is unknown. A mansion was later built opposite the Swan Public House but was dismantled and in

1668 Baythorne Park was built, probably using salvaged material from it.

Some of the present wooden panelling dates to the period 1600 to 1630.

Many transactions are noted involving the estate including, in 1322, an 8 acre meadow in Wixoe and another in 1418 included 4½ acres in Stoke. Around this period two people,

commemorated in windows of Birdbrook Church, had interest in the estate. They were Elizabeth de Burgh, and the Abbot of Westminster. Elizabeth was known as the 'Lady of Clare' and re-endowed Clare College of Cambridge. A Dr William Pykenham, a lawyer and probably related to one owner, died in 1497 leaving some 'treasured possessions' to the College at Stoke by Clare. Shortly afterwards, the dissolution of the monasteries took place and the College was appropriated to the Crown and then to the lords of the manor at Baythorne.

George Pyke purchased Baythorne Park in 1640 and in 1648 obtained the Baythorne Hall estate. It was his son, also George, who built the house. It was a time of upheaval as the Civil War began in 1642, followed by the Commonwealth. Peace returned in 1660 with the Restoration. The Pyke family was associated with the estate until the late 1800's. In 1801, the house was re-designed and the present facade erected for the Rev. George Pyke, vicar of Wickhambrooke.

In 1846, the estate was sold by James Reynold to King Viall, King Viall was born in Bulmer but was living in Chapel Street Farm in Stoke when he bought Baythorne Park. He also owned Baythorne Hall and the 1852 Census lists him as farming 1,500 acres and employing 100 men. He had married aged 19 and had 7 children, so when he died in 1872, the will was complex. A grandson inherited Baythorne Park who, by the terms of the will, had to take the name King Viall. This King Viall lived there until he died in 1931. He committed

suicide and reputedly had debts of £80,000, probably due to the stock market crash and Great Depression. There were rumours of him being cheated.

Through King Viall's niece the estate came into

possession of Major Rambaut, who in 1948, had plans drawn up for extensive renovation. He died in 1954 and the estate, comprising 156 acres, the house, 3 cottages and 20 acres with vacant possession and the remainder let for £310 pa, was sold to Julian Watson.

Article by Geoff Coleman, reproduced from Stoke by Clare Record with kind permission from Geoff Coleman

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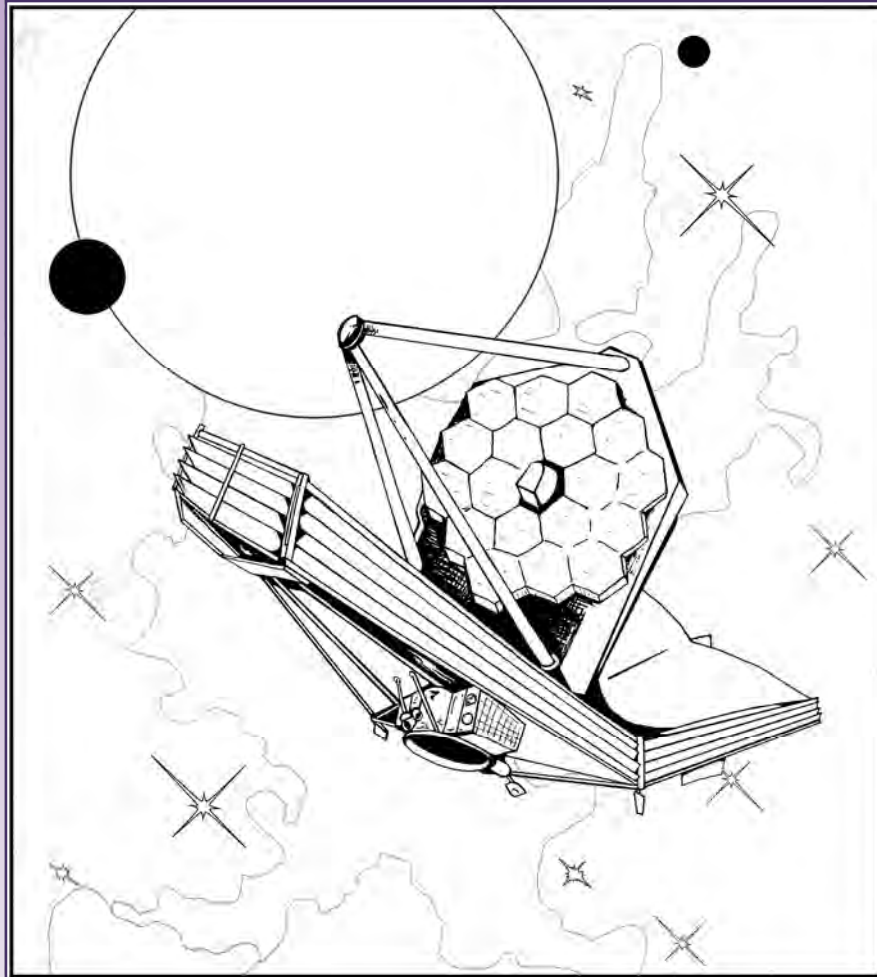
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Baythorne Park: as advertised in 1954

Summer Time Colouring



NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is a large infrared telescope with a 6.5-meter primary mirror. Thousands of astronomers worldwide will use JWST to study the Universe, including the evolution of the Solar System and the formation of distant stellar systems that might be capable of supporting life on Earth-like planets.

Visit the JWST website for even more colouring pages and other outreach materials: <https://jwst.nasa.gov/content/features/coloringWebb.html>

Special Dates at The Plough

Saturday 7th May

World Beer pong day. Get your partners and join the Beer pong event.

Teams of 2. First heat starts at 7pm. £2 per person to enter. All money raised goes towards this month's charity: Dementia UK

Friday 20th May

Quiz starts at 8pm £3 per person to enter, max 6 per team. All entry money towards Dementia UK

Friday 27th May

National Fish and Chip day - 2 for £15 for fresh beer battered fish and chips

First week in June

National BBQ week
BBQ served throughout the long bank holiday weekend: Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd, and Saturday 4th June.

Friends of Haverhill Library 2023 Calendar Competition

The 2023 calendar competition run by Friends of Haverhill Library is open to all, so we hope you will all send in entries. The theme: Scenes in and around Haverhill means we can all join in: a good opportunity for our lovely village.

Photos for the calendar will ideally cover all seasons; be pictures that you will want to enjoy looking at for a whole month; and will need to be 'landscape' in orientation.

Send your (max 4 per person) photo entries to: FOHLcalendarcomp@gmail.com
For images taken on a mobile phone, remember to send the full size image.

Closing date 3rd October 2022 and the calendar will be on sale early November, priced around £7.

Full details:
www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/about/news/haverhill-library-relaunches-photography-competition-for-fundraising-calendar

Time Machine in Birdbrook

Telescopes allow us to look back in time, this fact never gets old to me.

We can see the distant objects in our universe because light is emitted or reflected from these Deep Sky Objects and the light travels through the universe to us. A particle of light, a photon, travels extremely fast, the speed of light is about 300,000 km per sec, about 670 million mph!! Just imagine the distance a particle of light can travel in one month or indeed one year. Because the universe is so vast we talk about it's size or the distant between deep sky objects in Light-years. A Light-year is a measure of the distance light travels in one Earth year, which is about 6 Trillion miles - that's 6 million million miles!

My telescope can see back in time for about 400 million years, so detects small distant galaxies where the light that reaches my camera left the galaxies 400 million light years ago. These very distant galaxies are little blobs in my images. To get a more defined/detailed image the maximum distance in time and space I can image is about 50 million years ago, see te image below, NGC 660 (specific code/ name for the galaxy).

The galaxies in the image top right range from about 45 million to 125 million years away from us. A "wow" for me is the thought that the light reaching my telescope started it's journey to my camera in the days when the dinosaurs were around/becoming extinct. To see further into the universe or should I say to see further back in time we need bigger telescopes than mine. There are several very large earth based telescopes, in places like the Atacama desert in Chile. However, to see further into the universe, telescopes need to be located beyond earths atmosphere to avoid the light signal distortion from far distant objects.

Fun fact: It takes about 8 mins for the light from our Sun to reach earth, making the sun light-minutes away from



NGC 660, a Polar ring galaxy in the constellation of Pisces— it is about 45 million years away from us. It is believe to have been formed when two galaxies collided about 1 billion years ago. There are a few smaller/farther away galaxies in the image e.g. bottom left corner that are about 400million years (400million Light-years) away.



This beautiful region in our sky is known as The Markarian Chain, in the constellation of Virgo. So many galaxies in one spot e.g. NGC 4435 & NGC4438 the Eyes galaxies.

The recently launched JWST (James Webb Space Telescope) or Webb for short is often called the replacement for the Hubble telescope but NASA prefer to call it Hubble's successor. The Webb will see further back in time than Hubble.

Webb's capabilities versus Hubble's:

1. Webb will mainly look at the universe in the Infrared wavelengths while Hubble detects mainly in the visible and Ultraviolet wavelengths. Infrared imaging is important to astronomy because stars and planets that are just forming lie hidden behind dust which absorbs visible light. However, Infrared light emitted by these regions can penetrate this dusty shroud and allow us to see what is inside.
2. Webb has a much bigger mirror than Hubble. Webb is 21.3 feet in diameter whereas Hubble is only 7.8 feet. The larger light collecting area allows Webb to explore farther back in time than Hubble.
3. Hubble is located at a close orbit to earth, about 340miles up whereas Webb is located almost 1 million miles from earth at what is called the L2 point (the second Lagrange point). The L2 point is a wonderful accident of gravity and orbital mechanics, placing the telescope here allows it to remain in a fixed position relative to the earth and the sun. As the earth orbits the sun, Webb will orbit with it but stay fixed in the same spot relative to the earth and the sun. This L2 point is in the exact opposite direction to the sun which is critical for Webb. This is because Webb operates in the Infrared spectrum of light, our sun, earth and moon are sources of Infrared light (anything warm glows in Infrared light) which would overload Webb's detectors. Therefore, Webb must stay cold i.e. be protected/shielded from them. This is why it needs the solar shield (sunshield is about 22m x 12m, roughly the size of a tennis court).

In 1675 Sir Isaac Newton wrote the famous remark "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" - The Hubble telescope is a giant and Webb will be even more amazing: www.jwst.nasa.gov

Martina McGovern observes and photographs these distant galaxies from her garden in the village of Birdbrook.

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London Landmarks Half Marathon

Some of you may have seen me on a run around our beautiful village, there is a reason for this. Every year I run the London Landmarks Half Marathon in aid of a charity. I am by no means a runner but enjoy the peace and head space that running provides.

April 3rd came and having suffered extended symptoms of Covid I was feeling far from ready for the day after just a few weeks training. It felt very different and at points abnormal to be travelling within confined spaces again, it almost felt like a new experience using trains and the tube after so much time had passed. Two amazing friends who have run full marathons gave me some last minute pointers as well as one dropping the perfect race pack to me the night before. Eventually after a long journey, I reached the start line. The noise, beautiful landmarks, bells ringing, choir's singing and the other 11,455 people who were taking part felt 'normal'. Supporting a lovely lady who was running her first half marathon through the line I set into a comfortable pace, 8 ½ miles in I finally came to a walk for a water station before settling in for the last push. Somehow the lack of training, unplanned walk and busy route (lots of people in the same space) was just part of the journey and from nowhere I clocked I was close to running a sub 2.30 time.



Shocked, I allowed myself to think why I was running, raising money for people just like my Nan and Grandad who have battled cancer and had to leave their loved ones behind. At no point did they give up fighting and nor would I, for them, sprinting, (yes me!) through the finish line in a rush of emotions to have completed the challenge, raising £579.58 for Macmillan Cancer Support who help support so many families through the fight and the loss of cancer patients every single day.

A long trip home followed by lots of radox a marvellous recovery massage from Coco and a few days walking extremely slowly and there is still the same thought in my mind.....

Remember we will never know which day will be our last, so live every moment and be the best version of you.

Katie Gentry

Royal Mail 1st and 2nd Class Stamps

As you may have seen, Royal Mail are adding barcodes to all their regular 'everyday' stamps. This includes ALL featuring the profile of Her Majesty the Queen on a plain coloured background.



Any of these non-barcoded stamps can be used until 31 January 2023. Special Stamps with pictures on and Christmas Stamps without a barcode will continue to be valid and don't need to be swapped out. For more details and to find out how to swap out unused stamps visit:

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