

Birdbrook Parish News



Birdbrook Community House and Parish Council Meetings

On April 27th from 7pm there is to be an open meeting

at the Community House by the Community House Trustees.

All are invited and can ask any questions they may have regarding the running, use and development of Birdbrook Community House. This will give you the perfect opportunity to come and meet the volunteers involved in running it and hear their plans for the future. Maybe you would like to get involved or have an idea of your own, either way they'd love to hear from you.

Next Birdbrook Parish Council meeting:
Tuesday 9th May 7pm at the Community House

Stambourne Plant Sale

Plant sale and swap at
Stambourne Congregational Church
CO9 4NX
Sat 13th May
10 am-1 pm
Refreshments served





Birdbrook Coronation Day Celebrations

MEDALS MOMENTOS **FAMILY FUN DAY** 

10AM - 2PM COLNE VALLEY ARMS
BOUNCY CASTLE ICE CREAMS

11AM CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III & QUEEN CAMILLA
TV IN MAIN HALL COFFEE, TEA ETC
BAR OPEN THROUGHOUT

3PM ROUND TO THE PLOUGH
BBQ/HOG ROAST BURGERS HOT DOGS
CANDY FLOSS LIVE MUSIC
WHEELBARROW RACE

9-9.30PM LIGHTING OF THE CORONATION BEACON

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
BEST DRESSED/DECORATE A CROWN COMPETITIONS

FUN TIME FOR ALL
COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS

St Augustine's Church, Birdbrook



Read all about it...

Of all the weird and wonderful names used for newspapers worldwide, the Arran Banner has to be one the most bizarre. Published every Saturday on the Isle of Arran, the weekly publication gets the inspiration for its name from a variety of potato developed in the early twentieth century by a local man on the island. With subscribers from around the world, the Arran Banner is known for the feisty discussion on the letters page, covering subjects as diverse as climate change to local traffic and ferry services.

As the prominence of online sources for consumers looking to find their news rises, the death of traditional newspapers has long been predicted. The decline in sales of print editions has been dramatic, and several titles have ceased publication completely.

The immediacy of social media means that true - or fake - news is now available in real-time. There's no need to wait for tomorrow's paper to discover what might have happened the previous day. Any death of a celebrity, natural disaster or terrorist atrocity will be known worldwide minutes after it occurs. The idiom, 'bad news travels fast', could be the motto for the internet age.

But why should bad news be the driver of the news cycle, when there is so much to celebrate? The book of Proverbs in the Bible, a 'collection of collections', brings together wise sayings, and instructions for moral loving and right conduct, all under the repeated theme of submission to the will of God. A variety of authors, some named, others left anonymous, have contributed

Forthcoming services at Birdbrook:

May 2023

Sun 14 May: 10:30am Morning Worship, Birdbrook
Sun 28 May: 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion,

June 2023

Sun 11 June: 10:30am Morning Worship, Birdbrook
Sun 25 June: 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion,

On-line services are aimed at the whole family and are also available afterwards so you can watch in your own time:

Facebook: <http://tiny.cc/7y6zlj>

YouTube: <http://tiny.cc/nx6zlj>

If you need any help, spiritual or practical, or would just like to speak to someone, please contact us in the following ways:

Email: contact@2rivers.faith

Telephone: 07359 330596 and leave a message.

Text: Send a text message to 07359 330596

Please do regularly check the Two Rivers Facebook page or contact the Churchwarden as the information above may be subject to change.

to the several hundred 'proverbs' that make up the completed work.

Among the sayings, two of them, in particular, have something important to say about news;

'A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health.'

'Good news from far away is like cold water to the thirsty.'

Although there's much in the world to be concerned about, good news, whether it be a Coronation, a sporting achievement, a wedding or a birth, or the awesomeness of God's creation, the Bible tells us that good news can feed our very souls.

Blessings,

Jonathan

01440 731687 vicar@2rivers.faith

The Kings Coronation

With lots organised for the Kings Coronation celebrations Saturday 6th May, we'd love to hear if you have any donations you can offer as prizes for the following competitions:

- Best dressed palace
- Best crown
- Winner of the wheel barrow race
- Winner of the adults quiz
- Best fancy dress adult and child
- Best dressed wheel barrow

We'd also love to hear from you if you can help setting up for the event Friday 5th May or helping to keep everyone safe during the day. Our next and last meeting before the event will be at 7pm on Thursday 27th April in the Birdbrook Plough.

We can not wait to see you all out celebrating and enjoying the festivities again on May 6th, so please invite as many friends, family and neighbours as you can and join us from 10am.

A big thank you in advance to all of the wonderful volunteers and businesses involved in Birdbrook Celebrating the Kings Coronation!

BAG2SCHOOL
FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS
In partnership with your Parish Council.


www.bag2school.com

Birdbrook Parish Council



Your own clothes

Bag2School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your community. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember - the more you collect the greater the benefit to your Parish Council.



Your own bags

Please use your own bags or Bag2School bags, there is no limit.
Take to the Community House

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:
Mens', ladies', children's & babies' clothes, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.
(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

The more we weigh the more we pay!
Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit

Please return your Bag2School on:
Monday 15th May 2023 by 9am

01609 780 222 www.bag2school.com helpdesk@bag2school.com

Kedington Community Association
in association with
Banger Town Classics and Outcasts Elite
present

the 2nd Annual Vehicle Show
West Suffolk Classic

Sunday 30 July 2023
10.30am to 4pm

The Great Meadow
Arms Lane Kedington CB9 7QQ

FREE CAR PARKING
FREE ENTRY (DONATION WELCOME)
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

All Exhibitors MUST PREBOOK their vehicle via email
Kirk Pearson: bangertownclassics@gmail.com

kedington-community-association.org.uk Registered Charity Number: 304906

Two Rivers Festival

Flower
Festival

at St. Mary's Church, Steeple Bumpstead

Festival Theme:

**SONGS
FROM
THE
SHOWS**

24th & 25th June 2023
10am-4pm each day

Including food & refreshments, children's activities, and an evening concert on Saturday with the Cavell Community Choir

For further details contact: [Ann Whiting \(whitingann50@gmail.com\)](mailto:whitingann50@gmail.com)
[Barbara Smith \(bm Payne@btinternet.com\)](mailto:bm Payne@btinternet.com)



Gemma's Footcare

Foot Health Practitioner

SAC Dip RFHP

- Toe Nail Cutting
- Callus/Corn Removal
- Diabetic Foot Care
- Ingrown Toe Nail Removal
- Fungal Nail Treatment

Telephone/Text: 07498 386648
Email: gemmasfootcare@gmail.com

**Foot Care in the comfort of your own home
Or you can come to my home in Steeple Bumpstead**

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Fact: In an average lifetime we walk around the world 3 times



Hello From Your District Councillor

Finance and Council Tax

Many local authorities are under more financial pressure than ever and although good financial management over the years has put Braintree District Council in a better position than others, there may still be some difficult decisions ahead. Of course protecting the services that residents rely on will be a priority. BDC recognises the cost of living pressures faced by residents and have tried to keep the increase in Council Tax as low as possible. The Council Tax increase for the next financial year is 2.5% which is half the maximum allowed. This will be an increase of around 9p per week based on a Band D property.

You may well have noticed £25 by way of a refund shown on your council tax statement, which has been provided to all



eligible council taxpayers. This will be the largest Council Tax reduction of any District Council in the country. This money originally came from a New Homes and Growth Dividend. Between 2017 and 2022 1,159 affordable homes were completed with 417 in 2021/22, exceeding the target of 250. The Council requires 30-40% of new housing developments to be affordable. It is recognised that population is growing and people are living longer; more people want to live in this district. The Council wants to ensure that housing is decent, sustainable and genuinely affordable as it is the foundation of people's lives and essential to good health and wellbeing. As your District Councillor, I will always try to protect the Bumpstead Ward from inappropriate development going forward. There are also 2,000 empty homes in our district and the Council is also exploring ways to reduce this number.

This year, an unprecedented £1million will be invested to support the vulnerable and those who need it most by providing food security, supporting community groups and organisations, and enabling physical and emotional health and wellbeing during this cost-of-living crisis.

Fly-Tipping

I reported fly-tipping at the lay-by on Fell Hill on 26th March. BDC will respond within 24 hours to remove dumped rubbish. During 2022, 680 fly-tipping incidents were reported and cleaned up, 37 fixed penalty notices were issued and 13 cases were sent for prosecution. I use What3Words so that it can easily be found.



And There it WasGone!

I have to say that I had a small irritation every time I drove into Birdbrook. It was the graffiti on the village sign. When I mentioned it to residents at a coffee/warm-space morning, they had got so used to it being there that they had no longer noticed it at all. When I reported the fly-tipping, I ask the team at BDC if they would be

kind enough to drive a little further and clean off the spray paint.



Stray Dogs

Unfortunately, the Council has seen an increase in the number of stray dogs being reported and abandoned. In the calendar year ending 31st December 2022, a total of 60 stray dogs were reported of which 15 were not claimed. Unclaimed dogs are signed over to the RSPCA to be assessed and to be put up for adoption.

Intended Road Closure

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – intended closure of The Street, Birdbrook due to commence on 11th May 2023 for 5 days. The closure is required while UK Power Networks undertakes electrical works.

Crime

Quite a few catalytic converters are being stolen, one from a Lexus in a nearby village. Also, a 1.5 tonne digger; not too far away.

Wethersfield Airbase and Housing Asylum Seekers

As at Thursday 6 April 2023:- Following Braintree District Council applying for an injunction against the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence to stop them establishing an asylum centre at Wethersfield Airfield, BDC has secured agreement from the High Court for a full injunction to be heard on 19th April 2023. By securing a full day hearing on the legality of the Home Office's actions, BDC has been able to obtain further information about the potential use of the site. As part of the legal proceedings, the Home Office has confirmed to the judge hearing the case that they will not move asylum seekers on to Wethersfield Airfield until a time after the court hearing and will only do so if they succeed in defending their position against our injunction. More information on BDC's website.

District Council Elections – 4th May 2023

I've been your local Councillor since 2016 and am always available for residents, your parish council and community groups. If you would like me to remain as your representative, you will need to vote for me! (ID is required on the day).

With best wishes to all,

Cllr. Diana Garrod

District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

Birdbrook Bowls Club Update



Hello Dear Reader,

I hope you find this report both stimulating and thought provoking.

As you know during our closed season the Green is nurtured throughout the winter months, culminating in a massive effort by many club members on the 30th April to prepare it for our new season. Scarifying, seeding & top dressing all in a morning, a really wonderful team effort.

You may know that the Parish Council has engaged a new company to cut the grass around the village which includes the play area. Unbeknown to anyone the company is run by a member of Stoke by Clare Bowls Club who knows a thing or two about bowling greens. He took photos of our green & said one word: IMPRESSIVE !

A wonderful testimonial to all the hard work our green team have put in over the past eight months. We are so lucky to have Leigh Carter & his happy band of green men. I have said it before but it is worth saying again: Well done gentlemen !

So we have a green worthy to be proud of. But we do need new members.



Do you know we have Manchester Utd, Arsenal, Spurs & an extremely proud Leyton Orient supporter within the village, with several supporters of rugby clubs, Bath for one. Supporting sports clubs that are many miles away with one common denominator: they all bowl for Birdbrook Bowls Club and are proud to do.

You have a very friendly, welcoming club within the village, so why not support it like you support your favourite football team, rugby or cricket team & it's on your doorstep.

Did I mention our bar? It's well stocked, has a very welcoming bartender and in these trying & testing times, very keen prices.

If you don't fancy bowling then why not join as a social member, we are not just a bowls club but a Social Hub.

Bowls Club Home Game Dates 6pm

2nd, 23rd, 26th, 30th May
2nd, 9th, 13th, 16th, 27th, 30th June
4th, 7th, 11th, 18th, 25th July
4th, 7th August

Come along and support your team!

There are people within our community who are lonely, yes lonely. Two of our new members, one bowling & one social are alone. They have received, friendship, camaraderie, social activity, a friendly ear: we offer all this whenever it is needed. A smile and a sympathetic ear can change a persons outlook in the blink of an eye.

So whether you want to try your hand at bowling or just want to make new friends, come along, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome.

It only takes one step, so why not take it and see a whole new world open up to you.

From May, our club nights are held on a Wednesday evening from 6 ~ 6.30 pm. So why not come & join us.

Up the Os! Oh yes, I'm the Orient supporter.

I wish you all a very happy fulfilling summer. Keep safe & well.

Best wishes, Alan Cook

Announcement (left) is for Coco's Monday Yoga and Pilates

Introducing The Birdbrook Plough

Under new management, The Birdbrook Plough is now back open with Denis at the helm supported by his friends. We had the opportunity to pop up and find out why, how they came to be running the Birdbrook Plough and their plans for the future, we hope you will all pop in and meet the team yourselves.



Denis: "Myself and my friends found The Birdbrook Plough and feel we can showcase our talents here while providing a central place for the community to come and enjoy great food with a friendly atmosphere. We plan to showcase our talents and experience in both the food and entertainment industries within the community, and have had great feedback already from our takeaways.

Takeaways are now available for delivery via deliveroo as well as calling the pub directly to collect. With over 5 years indoor and outdoor catering experience we also have another business, the Event Caterer Ltd which will be supporting the parish's upcoming Kings Coronation celebrations providing hog roast, burger van and candy floss.

Between us we feel we have a great range of expertise to provide a variety of great food and entertainment for all ages and audiences within the parish so please pop along to our family fun days which we plan to hold regularly or pop in for a Sunday roast to see for yourselves.

The Birdbrook Plough would love to offer space to any local clubs, groups or friends and family to meet and celebrate parties, celebrations or special dinners etc just pop in or give us a call to discuss your requirements.

Entertainment, we have already held a few live music nights and have another coming up on April 29th which is a soul and funk night. Other upcoming events include regular Thursday night Burger night and Curry night Wednesdays.

We hope this gives you a bit of an insight into ourselves and that we will get to meet as many of you as possible over the coming months.

Current opening hours for the Birdbrook Plough are:

MONDAY- Closed

TUESDAY- open 5pm until late

WEDNESDAY- open from 5pm til late

THURSDAY- open from 5pm til late

FRIDAY- open from 5pm til late

SATURDAY- open from 12pm til late

SUNDAY- open from 12pm til late

To contact us or to order takeaway please call us on: 01440 788656"

Denis and the team at The Birdbrook Plough

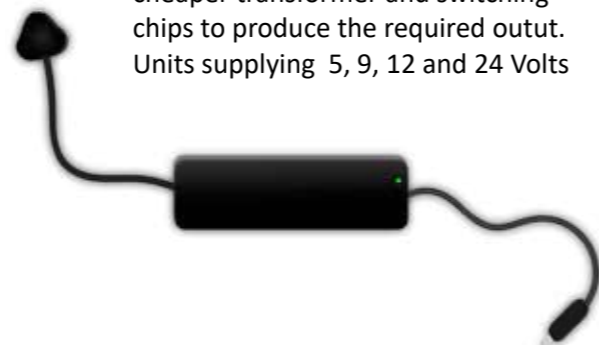
Buyer Beware: Unforeseen Consequences

The Pandemic bought us many things, including shortages of electronics for both cars and white goods, each of which contain increasingly sophisticated electronic designs and integrated circuits (chips and transistors) to improve energy efficiency and make pricing more competitive.

Reduced manpower due to the Pandemic and plunging economy led to component shortages and consequent delays in product availability. I've heard of a maker of agricultural machinery keeping production by buying brand new washing machines then stripping out the electronics for parts for their own products. A secondary consequence of the shortages has been an increase in the number of fake components – 'buyer beware'.

I've heard of 'power banks' containing lithium batteries filled with sand instead of lithium – to provide weight. The cells look identical to the real thing, except they don't work! (See 'Big Clive' channel on You Tube).

Many of us will be familiar with 'wall wart' chargers used for mobile phones, Kindles, tablets etc. Generic chargers of varying design and quality are imported from the Far East at attractive prices. These often are problematic in unforeseen ways – causing radio frequency interference (RFI). Good designs will have RFI suppression circuitry to reduce or eliminate this but some of the imported products omit the components for this. The chargers are of a 'switched mode power supply' design, more efficient than the older linear power supplies using a smaller, cheaper transformer and switching chips to produce the required output. Units supplying 5, 9, 12 and 24 Volts



Birdbrook Ladies Group

March

We had a most interesting and informative talk about the charity BLESMA (British Limbless Ex Servicemen's Association). Many of us were not aware of this charity and the work it does to help men and women who have suffered the loss of limbs.

Gareth, who came with his carer and assistance dog, Buddy, spoke openly about his situation and how the charity has helped him so much in many different ways. They are able to ensure he has access to essential equipment to make life easier for me. Francesca, who works for BLESMA, also attended the meeting and was able to tell us about the work they do and all the different activities that are arranged for the members. Gareth answered questions posed by the group candidly and with humour. He even took off his prosthetic legs and allowed us to feel how heavy they were.

A most enlightening and thought provoking talk.

Group meetings take place at 7.30 p.m on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Birdbrook Community House. Visitors are most welcome.



Programme of Events 2023 - 2024

- May 11th - AGM
- June 8th - How to avoid online scams. Presentation by fraud prevention co-ordinator Tammy Blest
- July 13th - Finchingfield Lavender Farm
- August 10th - Sue & Andy's Garden Party
- Sept 14th - Head to Toe Holistics with Coco
- October 12th - Wild Swimming: Mandy Wilson
- November 9th - Christmas Crafts
- December 7th - Christmas Meal
- Jan 11th - Social Evening
- February 8th - Quiz Evening: Martin Gilbert
- March 14th - Journey Down The Stour: Mervyn Linford
- April 11th - to be announced
- May 9th - AGM
- Annual Membership: £25.00

are common. What is often not explained is the importance of matching the voltage and current to the unit being charged. If this is not done the charge will either not be delivered, take much longer, or the charger and device will be overstressed to the point where damage, overheating or even fire occurs resulting in failure of either or both units.

It might seem that a 9V charger is more than sufficient for a unit requiring 5 Volts but that can mean the charger has to work excessively hard to provide the required voltage, ditto for the unit being charged. It is most important

to match the charger specification to the requirement of the device being charged preferably using the same brand of charger supplied with the device rather than a cheaper generic charger. These are often not built to the same specification as required by the UK and manufacturer so are not always safe or problem free.

Steve Rhenius

Zanna Newton PILATES



Zanna has been leading her 'highly recommended' Pilates classes since 2004.

Classes are live on Zoom and also in Ridgewell, on Mondays and Thursdays, am and pm.

Please check the website where you can see class availability and book.

www.zannanewton.co.uk

Birdbrook Community Speedwatch Group

Since the last BPN we had our open morning at the Community Warm Hub. This was a great chance for parishioners to ask questions discuss the positives and negatives of the scheme, its impacts and how it will support our community moving forward over the coming years. We had the recording equipment out and this gave all those attending an on-site into how Community Speedwatch works and how it will support our parish. There were lots of interesting discussions and a variety of opinions on the scheme, this is great to talk through and discuss.

As a result of the opening morning we have recruited a few more wonderful volunteers who have now completed their online learning and so will begin to start recordings at both the Birdbrook and Baythorne End sites shortly. We have carried out two recording sessions since with only 1 vehicle having to be recorded. We always welcome more volunteers and this can be as little as an hour a month so please if you are interested or have any questions pop us an email:

katie_owner@hotmail.com



Photo by Jane Garnham

M82 The Cigar galaxy

This is an amazing Starburst galaxy whose structure is believed to be “an irregular galaxy” – in Ursa Major (The plough) constellation. M82 is being physically affected by its larger neighbour – M81 Bodes galaxy. It’s approx 12M Light yrs from Earth – not far at all.



Photo by Martina McGovern
All data captured from her Birdbrook garden.

I have been working on this one over the past few years – in 2021 and this year - there is just over 20 hrs data (7hrs in 2021 and 13hrs in 2023). All captured over 10 nights.

Haverhill has been revealed as being the joint eighth best place across the UK to look into the night sky. The research was carried out ahead of Global Astronomy month, which occurs every April. It also, coincides with another annual event, International Dark Sky Week which is between 15th to 22nd April this year– people around the world are encouraged to switch their lights off and witness the night sky in all its glory.

From a list of 82 locations across the UK the study found Haverhill to be joint eighth with a score of 70.8, for comparison, London scored 28.9 and at the top was St Davids in Pembrokeshire with a score of 74.4.

So, go out and enjoy the wonders of the night sky – Clear skies to you all.
Martina McGovern

Essex Mobile Library

visits Birdbrook Church
every 3 weeks
Thursdays 2.55 ~ 3.25pm
Next visit dates:
11 May 2023
01 June 2023

Friends of Haverhill Library

Closing date 30 April 2023 for
2024 calendar photo entries to:
fohlcalendarcomp@gmail.com
Bring and Buy Plant Sale
at Haverhill Library 10am - 2pm
Saturday 20th May 2023

Birdbrook Parish News brought to you by Birdbrook Parish Council

<https://e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookparishcouncil/>

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Next edition:

News and adverts by 15 August for the September BPN

Editors Val and Katie: birdbrook2021@gmail.com