

Birdbrook Parish



From your Chair

I'm sure we would all join to wish our condolences to the Royal Family on the passing of our Monarch Queen Elizabeth II. Most of us will have known no other Monarch in our lives.

I will remember Her Majesty particularly for her unflinching devotion to her duty, selflessness and tolerance as well as her empathy with her subjects and her sense of humour.

God save King Charles III.

This is my first piece as Chair of Birdbrook Parish Council, having succeeded Peter Smart who has moved on to distant pastures. I would like to express my thanks to Peter for his efforts and guidance as Chairman.

It has been a remarkable summer with celebration and challenges. Birdbrook celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and it was great to see and meet so many of you from the Parish who came out to join the celebrations that weekend. Our thanks go to all those individuals and businesses who organised the event and took part enthusiastically in the celebrations starting with lighting the celebratory beacon.

Now we are left with the fuel and energy crisis resulting partly from the war from Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, also the aftermath of dealing with the Covid Pandemic.

Birbrook is one of the smaller Parishes (about 300 households) and like other Parishes forms the link for local residents through their Councillors with the District Council, County Council and MP to help form National Government Policy.

We are always glad to welcome new members to your Council and particularly younger people to plan and join in with Parish Projects. You are all welcome at our meetings (next: 15th November) and we would welcome any interest in joining us.

Steve Rhenius
Chair, Birdbrook Parish Council


Village Playground



Some of you may already have seen or even used the new picnic bench installed in the play area in Birdbrook. I am sure you are delighted to now be able to observe your children, playing on the new equipment in a comfortable safe environment.

The emphasis being placed on safety & security which is why the bench has been placed near to the entrance. The bench is made from recycled plastic (no splinters) & can easily be wiped down with anti bacterial wipes. It provides a space for a pram or a wheelchair so that everyone can sit round it in comfort. It is extremely heavy & robust, needing little maintenance. So good news, & there's more.

The council have ordered a second bench, this time an eight seater, I hope you will agree that these benches are a very welcome addition to the play area. Our fundraising is still ongoing but we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support & kind words of encouragement
Enjoy!



Stambourne Chapel Care
Matthew 25:40 (CEV) The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

Who are we?

Stambourne Chapel Care was formed in February 2021 as a response to the pandemic. Jill Holmes leads the project and she has over 30 years experience of working for the NHS. Her background is in Learning Disability Nursing and Mental Health Services.

She has experience of working with statutory, private and voluntary organizations.

We have some outstanding requests for gardening so if you would like to volunteer please do get in touch.

__NEW OUTINGS GROUP__

__FUND RAISING__

__CONTACT__
Jill Holmes
 Stambourne Chapel Care Project Leader

Birdbrook Wildlife: My Owl Family

After asking if anyone had an area of woodland/meadow I could access for some wildlife photography in last year's Sept issue, I was offered access to an area that had been undisturbed for many years.

Looking into the requirements for a Barn Owl nest box site I concluded that a two sided old Horse shelter in the field looked ideal – providing the height (3m min), shelter from wind and rain and the easy access the Owls require to swoop in. Barry Williams a regular BPN contributor along with his friend Keith not only procured a nest box (courtesy of another chum) but put it up for me on 9th March.

The guys were hopeful that it might attract a roosting owl in maybe the next two years but were careful not to raise my expectations. The next day I installed a trail cam about 10m away so as to not disturb any potential nesting – **serious note here, it is illegal to disturb nesting Barn Owls and advice was sought from the bird experts throughout.** On checking the trail cam after a few days, I was delighted to see a pair had been regularly visiting the box and the female seemed to be chasing the male out of the box suggesting she might be sitting! As you can imagine all involved were very excited.



Three weeks later the experts looked into the box and found 1 warm egg. Barn owls typically lay 4-6 eggs and start sitting on laying the first egg. This can mean that the first to hatch could be up to 21 days older than

the last. It is thought that this might help to smooth out the food supply requirements.

After a further month using an endoscope type camera on a pole, 5 eggs were seen. Over that weekend it was observed that the female very rarely left the nest – maybe the eggs were hatching? This typically comes after 30 to 31 days of incubation, so would fit nicely with the first egg being laid on the very day we first observed an egg (lucky again!).



The trail cam showed visits throughout the nights of the male bearing furry gifts! Barn Owls are actually very efficient natural pest controllers with a pair consuming up to 4000 rats/mice/ voles/moles a year!

On the 6th June to check on potential chicks and their progress the experts opened the box – there were 2 chicks (photo below left). One obviously older than the other, only 1 egg remained which was cold. The other two hatchlings had presumably died (or I'm afraid if times were lean, had been fed to the stronger ones).

The trail cam continued to show both parents bringing in up to 10 prey per night and on the 9th July the box was opened again this time for the purpose of ringing the chicks. We had one male (the older) and 1 female. Both were healthy and of good weight and using feather length measurements they were estimated to be 44 and 38 days old respectively (photo above right). Here you can see their thick downy coats, meaning the female can now leave them to join in the hunt too.

Eleven days later the first chick was observed by the trail cam on the nest box shelf. Since this time both chicks have been outside the box constantly during the night and the boy photographed (from a hide) shyly looking from a tree in the early morning light. Photos (right) are male chick aged 62 days (L) and mother (R).

What next? Both chicks continue to grow in confidence and will soon be hunting for themselves and by the time this issue is published may have started to disperse from their parents home range – how far is dependent on food supply and suitable dry roost sites but the median is about 12km. It seems strange that after nearly 6 months of such devotion they chase them off – but there is only so much food.

I will leave the trail cam recording the nest box and it will be interesting to see if the parents use it as a roost and I hope to see them out hunting in the nearby fields.



It has been a beautiful experience to facilitate and observe this family and I hope others will be encouraged to put up boxes in suitable sites. It's a sad fact that there are only about 4000 breeding pairs in the UK and estimates are that up to 80% of the UK owls are bred in boxes so their provision is vital. They are very susceptible to sudden dramatic drops in population (up to 70% in 1 year) mainly due to adverse weather with rain being a major issue as their feathers are not waterproof and they chill rapidly.

The Barn Owl trust (www.barnowltrust.org.uk) can be contacted for advice (and to purchase boxes or provide designs) their website is very informative too.
 Jane Garnham



07883 544537
 @nathalie08manning

Mindful Yoga
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New Village Website

Many thanks to the managers of our village website, who continued to update it for us for some years after moving to Wales. The website is now back in Birdbrook, has been revamped and the address is now:

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

Hello From Your District Councillor

Road Traffic Regulation Orders

Intended closure of Stambourne Rd, due to commence on 5 th September 2022 for 5 days. Required while Anglian Water undertakes new connection.

First Results from Census 2021

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have published the first results from the Census 2021. The estimated population of Braintree is now 155,200 comprising 79,100 females and 76,100 males. In the district the population size has increased by 5.5%, from around 147,100 in 2011. This is lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800. It is also lower than the increase for the East of England (8.3%). There are 8,500 children aged 4 years and under and 1,400 people aged over 90 in the district. Of those children aged 4 and under, 4,400 are male and 4,100 are female. However, at age 90, females outnumber males more than 2 to 1 - there being 1000 females to just 400 males. Across the country the population has continued to age. In Braintree, there has been an increase of 29.8% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 1.3% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 0.9% in children aged under 15years.

We are, though, still relatively sparsely populated, with Braintree being the 16th least densely populated of the East of England's 45 local authority areas. The population density (number of usual residents per square kilometre) is 254 - this is the equivalent to around 2 people living on each football pitch-sized area of land in Braintree. This is one of the lowest in Essex and compares with Maldon at 185 people per square kilometre and Chelmsford at 536 people per square kilometre. At the time of the Census, in Braintree there were 65,000 households (number of households with at least one usual resident) - that is less than Basildon (76,400) and Tending (67,500).

See how the population has changed in Braintree from the Census 2021 results on the ONS website: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000067/>

Developer Sought to Prevent Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan

Some villages have a Neighbourhood Plan and some don't. I thought I would share this with you: The Kelvedon Neighbourhood Plan can now be used when considering planning applications after it was formally adopted at a meeting of Braintree District Council's Full Council on Monday, July 25, 2022. The plan sets out planning policies and allocations in a neighbourhood area and is used to help determine planning applications. The plan went to community consultation in 2021 and then independently

examined in November 2021. It went to a referendum on 3 March 2022 and was backed by 94% of those who voted. A legal challenge was issued by developer Parker Strategic Land Ltd who sought to overturn the council's decision to submit the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum and thereby stop the Neighbourhood Plan being adopted by Braintree District Council. In April, a High Court Judge dismissed all grounds put forward and ordered them to pay the Council's costs. The developer then sought to appeal the decision of the High Court, however permission was refused.



It brings the total up to six neighbourhood plans which have now been adopted in the district. Seven are currently in progress.

Street Scene Enforcement

The work undertaken by the Enforcement Team during May 2022.

- 20 - Dog barking complaints,
- 1 - Dog fouling complaints,
- 5 - Stray dogs detained (5 for Braintree District Council and 0 for Uttlesford District Council),
- 29 - Reports of anti-social behaviour,
- 12 - Reports of littering,
- 2-Statutory Notices served for microchipping,
- 1 Fixed Penalty Notices served for general litter.

Prosecutions:-

On 17th January 2019, waste was found fly-tipped in a lay-by off the B1053 in Finchingfield. The origin of the waste was identified, and the homeowner provided details of an individual who had taken the waste in return for payment. The individual did not respond to any correspondence and failed to attend an interview under caution and the case was passed for prosecution. The individual was summoned to attend Basildon Magistrates Court on 21/01/22 but failed to appear and a warrant for their arrest was issued. The individual was subsequently arrested and attended a plea hearing on 13th May 2022 when they entered a guilty plea and was fined £200 and ordered to pay costs of £100 plus a £34 victim surcharge.

Crime

Sadly there was a burglary in Water Lane, Steeple Bumpstead on 29 th July. Suspects unknown have forced entry into a shed and have taken property and caused damage. A new countryside crime report says how the theft of farmers' livestock, vehicles and fuel is on the rise due to the cost-of-living crisis. Rural crime claims payouts between January and March were over 40% higher than in 2021 according to NFU. It also said that claims data from the first half of this year indicate that fuel theft has more than doubled compared to the same period in 2021. Its survey found 49% of respondents felt fuel theft was now their greatest crime concern.

Scrutiny Review into Cost-Of-Living Crisis

Braintree District Council recognises the cost-of-living crisis and the impact it is having on many residents in the Braintree District. I have been selected to Chair a short Scrutiny Review on this subject with the intention of reporting back to Council on 10 th October 2022. The committee will review the measures that the Council and its partners in Essex are already offering the residents of the district in terms of support during the current crisis and recommend any further assistance that the Council could deliver during the current financial year in order to support residents further.

I expect, like me, you are aghast at your energy renewal offer. Citizen's Advice says: If you're struggling to afford your gas and electricity bills, contact your supplier to discuss ways to pay what you owe them. Your supplier has to help you come to a solution. You should try to negotiate a deal that works for both of you. If you don't try to negotiate with your supplier, they might threaten to disconnect you. www.citizensadvice.org.uk

With best wishes to all,
Cllr. Diana Garrod
District Councillor - Bumpstead Ward

It's time for
Coffee Morning
and you're
invited



To: **Everyone who would like to be there**

I'm hosting my Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan. There's a cuppa with your name on it.

When: **Thursday 29 September 2022**

Where: **Sturmer Village Hall coffee from 10:00am**

RSVP: **porthjo@gmail.com**

From: **Jo and WI Friends with Bring & Buy Sale/Craft Cards**

More info: **Walk first? long walk village hall 9:30am shorter 10am**



Friends of Haverhill Library 2023 Calendar Competition

Theme:

Scenes in and around Haverhill
Closing date: Monday 3rd October 2022



Our very own local photographic competition is **free** to enter and open to all. We would love to see your entries —and we have evidence of excellent local photographers just in this newsletter! Do share your photographic skills and the wonderful scenes around us.

The 2023 A3 wall calendar will be on sale from Haverhill Library in early November featuring at least 25 of your stunning photos.
<https://suffolklibraries.co.uk/haverhill-calendar>

Send your photo entries by **Monday 3rd October** to:

FOHCalendarcomp@gmail.com



This photo was sent to us, found when going through some old family papers: 'Birdbrook Station' written on the back. If anyone knows more about the history, do contact us: birdbrook2021@gmail.com

Birdbrook: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

June 2022



The Wheelbarrow Race Photo by Martina McGovern

The Jubilee celebrations all feel so long ago now, and of course we have been overtaken by recent events, but we hope the parish celebrations created memories to last a life time.

A lovely few days putting up the decorations and transforming our beautiful village for the momentous occasion.

Our beacon lighting ceremony on the Thursday was just as the committee had planned it and we hope you'll agree included all ages. We had children and adults alike enjoying the beacon trail learning and exploring the village, while others enjoyed food and drink in the Birdbrook Plough. Children playing and adults socializing, it truly was a night to remember. The finale being our beacon lighting with an added celebration of Richard Walker and his years of commitment and service to the Birdbrook Parish.



Photos left by Katie Gentry; above and right by Martina McGovern



Birdbrook, decorated for the Jubilee Photo by Amy Yates

The beacon was lit and the community came together after such a tough few year for us all, to hear everyone singing the National anthem together was a moment I will never forget personally, it left goose pimples on the skin and a massive sense of community spirit in the air.

But that was not the end, Saturday brought more fun for all with the Jubilee craft fair, a whole array of cakes and delights as well as the return of the highly competitive race through the village. Adaptations to original plans made for a fantastic result which continued the community spirit, people appearing with wheelbarrows from gardens, teams and children getting parents and friends involved on the spot, it was so lovely to see.

There is so much more I'd love to say and talk about from the events but I will let the pictures do that for me, what I want to say however is that we could not have achieved such events without each and every member of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee committee and a whole list of groups, businesses, shops and individuals.

We have one final meeting for the committee (date tbc) to round off the events which will be lovely to discuss then.

Katie Gentry



Birdbrook beacon Photo by Amy Yates

Our special thanks go to all of the following :

- Paul Trinder Building Services
- The Unwin family and their incredible farm staff
- PJH Designs, but (Lewis)
- The Birdbrook Plough (reopening soon)
- Patchwork Mouse
- Birdbrook Parish Council
- Birdbrook Bowls Cub
- St Augustine's Church Birdbrook
- The Tritton Family at Birdbrook Hall
- Tutton Timber

And of course our fantastic Jubilee committee, Alan Cook, Steve Filbey, Matt Unwin, Martin Gilbert, Peter & Pippa Unwin, Mandy Wilson, Kylie Hilson, Sue King, Ginny Faire and Leigh Carter.



Birdbrook is deeply saddened at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022.

Our thoughts are with the Royal family and all who loved her



St Augustine's Church Birdbrook: Next services



Sun 11 September 10.30am
Morning Worship

Sun 25 September 10.30am
Benefice Holy Communion

Sun 9 October 10.30am
Harvest Festival

Sun 23rd October
10.30am
Benefice Holy Communion

For a full list of services :

www.stmaryschurch.org.uk

On-line services are aimed at the whole family and are also available afterwards so you can watch in your own time. Simply type the following links into your browser:

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

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

You can also listen to the daily "Words of Encouragement" via the YouTube and Facebook links.

Letter from Revd Canon Jonathan Lowe

Although I'm currently away from the Benefice on 3 months 'study leave, (July, August, September) it amuses me to consider that a combination of the following could describe my "normal" Sunday mornings:-

- Gratitude.venturing.dial
- Multiply.pods.strain
- Technical.coats.caring
- Iteration.stud.jaundice
- Brink.meaning.daily
- Artist.reception.upward

Now, if you haven't got the slightest idea what I'm on about, each of those is a place: the entrance to Steeple Bumpstead, Helions Bumpstead, Sturmer, Birdbrook, Ridgewell, and Ashen churches respectively. The system called "what three words" divides the entire surface of the planet – cities, oceans, villages, mountains, fields, and forests – into three-metre squares, then associates three words with each square.

There's a phone app which uses GPS to locate the phone and give the words which identify the square it's in. The main aim is to provide a very precise location in an emergency, but people are also using it to have fun: one way is by setting up treasure hunts where each clue gives three words which lead to the place of the next clue.

This got me thinking about how we might put things on a map of our lives with three words. Thinking of life events, a wedding might be 'church.rings.love', or a birthday 'cards.cake.gifts', or Christmas 'Jesus.stable.angels'. For more everyday things we might be 'rushed.desk.busy' when we're at work, or 'book.pool.relaxed' when we're on holiday – or in my case at the moment 'study.writing.stressed'! It can be quite a good challenge to think about a

special point in our lives and think of the three words which sum it up most accurately.

And what about our spiritual lives: what words would put them on the map? For some (and for most of us sometimes) our spiritual lives can be 'doubtful.confusion.searching' when we'd rather be at 'worship.joyful.secure'. And where do we think God is on that map? Sometimes, we might feel like he's 'absent.silent.obscurer' but thankfully at others it's more like 'soaring.glory.transcendent'.

But perhaps the most important location is where are we on God's map. These words would definitely begin with 'beloved'. God knows everything about us and yet loves us more than we can understand, which is why God sent Jesus. He died, so that we can be forgiven for all the times we mess up, and rose again so that we can know we're rescued for eternal life with God.

So in God's eyes, whichever three metre square of our planet we are in, I reckon our location is Beloved.Forgiven.Rescued.

Blessings,
Jonathan

01440 731687 vicar@2rivers.faith
The Vicarage, 3 Church Street
Steeple Bumpstead, Essex CB9 7DG

Revd Sue Cruse 01787 462062

sue.cruse@2rivers.faith

Revd Theresa Lowe 01440 731687

theresa.lowe@2rivers.faith

David Buckley 01440 730333

david.buckley@2rivers.faith

Churchwarden:

Judi Price 01440 730506

Paper £20 and £50 notes

Will no longer be legal tender after 30
September 2022

Spend them! Or to avoid your notes becoming just scrap paper, most will have three options to take before 30 September, wherever issued in the UK:

1) Deposit them into your bank account at your local bank branch or post office.

2) Swap them for polymer notes at your bank.

3) Swap paper notes for polymer versions at the Bank of England.



Birdbrook Ladies Group

May

We held our Annual General Meeting, the first since 2019, due to the pandemic. Chairman, Sue King gave a report highlighting the meetings that had been held. We began meeting again in June 2021 with outside events and returned to the Community House in September but no speakers were arranged until February 2022. Treasurer, Hilary Hoye, presented the accounts which were accepted by the group and the committee was re-elected en bloc. Members brought along their own refreshments and a Jubilee themed quiz was held followed by a raffle.



June

In June a small number of us, with a few partners, travelled to Balsham to visit the Music Maze garden. The weather was kind to us and our hosts, Hilary and Jim Potter gave us a guided tour and history of their garden. We were able to test our skills in the maze, learn how it was constructed and the maintenance required to keep it looking good.

We finished the evening off on the deck beside the large pond, around the firepit to ward off the chill, with coffee and biscuits.

July

John Walker, a resident of Birdbrook and husband of one of our members, came to talk to the group. He was an excellent speaker and gave us an insight into his life in the army, covering how he came to enlist, the many places he was deployed to and his progression up through the ranks.

John answered many questions from the group about his army life and explained the purpose of some of the equipment which he had brought to the meeting. A few members tried out some of the kit. We were also shown the medals he had been awarded. As usual, we finished with refreshments and raffle.



August

On a very warm and balmy evening, we held our annual get together, which partners are able to attend. It was held in the garden of Sue King. Sausages, burgers and rolls were provided and everyone brought

something to add to the buffet table. There was a wonderful selection of desserts and cakes which were very popular. It was a very sociable evening, with drinks taken, good food and great company. The obligatory raffle was held which helps boost the club funds.

Our next meetings will be in the Community House, October meeting tbc. November will be Mike Wabe, talk entitled 'Mistletoe and Myths'. December will be our Christmas meal. Sue King: s_54king@hotmail.com

Birdbrook Bowls Club (BBC)

Hello from The Green Man, no not the pub but the BBC!

How delighted I am to be able to report on the 2022 season, as things could have been very different.

I trust you have all had a good summer & have been able to enjoy the exceptionally hot weather. While welcomed by some, gardeners & green keepers have found the conditions exceptionally challenging.

In early April, all appeared good with the green, however it was under attack, not from above but below. Basically because of the earlier wet weather, our resident worm colony produced worm casts - big time. This created a massive challenge for our dedicated green team. While every effort was made to clear them, their legacy lasted throughout the season.

Then the club faced a more pressing challenge. During the previous two years through Covid, Lockdown and moving away, we lost five of our valued members. One being our much valued club secretary & vice chairman Peter Smart.

So the club was reduced to seven members, basically on the verge of closing, as we would be unable to fulfil our league commitments. We urgently needed new members to join the club.

On the 24th April we held an Open Afternoon event & hoped after advanced advertising & all fingers crossed for a good response. Well, my word, what a response we had! We in fact signed up twelve, yes twelve new members & what a great asset they have all been to the club.

It is fair to say that nearly half of them had not picked up a wood before let alone stepped onto a bowling green.

Without them & their considerable support our club after 60+ years would have closed. So I am delighted to report that the club is now flourishing, both on the green & at thriving club nights every Tuesday evening throughout the season in the apres bowls at our well stocked bar.

So why not come along & join us. Although season is now closed you will be delighted that we shall continue with indoor bowls to be held once a fortnight on a Friday evening.

You are assured a very warm welcome in good company, a friendly atmosphere, and oops! nearly forgot the well stocked bar.

So how did we acquit ourselves this season?

We were relegated in both divisions due to an oversight on the club's part, by way of having fifteen points deducted, the equivalent of losing three matches. Harsh, but something had to accept.

But we finished the season on a extremely positive & upbeat note, as literally the only way is UP.



Action on the green

All of our new members & several senior members have improved their bowling skills, thanks to Jim Girvan who is a Bowls England coach. He conducted a bowls seminar both on & off the green which was well received & greatly appreciated by all who attended.

We shall now move into next season with renewed energy, confidence, enthusiasm & newly acquired skill.

Here I must pay tribute to one of our new members, Eric Stone, who picked up the gauntlet & took on the role wholeheartedly as club secretary. He has brought his own unique style to the role for which the club is extremely grateful.

Another club member we must mention is Martin Gilbert who ably supported by his wife Alison, held a quiz night in order to raise funds for the club. A great evening was had by all in attendance enjoying a thought provoking & stimulating quiz.

On the 4th September we held our annual club competition: The Paul Pearce Memorial Trophy, played in a very friendly & spirited atmosphere along with a Barbeque & of course a well stocked bar, have I mentioned that before? The trophy was won by Ben Allen & Martin Gilbert well done gentlemen!

We are as you may have gathered a small club, but we have a big heart, very friendly with masses of enthusiasm.

So what is stopping you coming along & joining us like our twelve new members did earlier this year.

We have several fund raising events, in the pipeline as well as Open event for 2023 which will be advertised as & when they are planned through the village Facebook page and this publication. This is your open invitation to come along & take That First Step

We send you all our very best wishes especially in these trying & testing times: ONWARD & UPWARD

The Green Man (Alan Cook)

For more information contact: birdbrook2021@gmail.com

Steve Rhenius, Chair, BPC



I was born in Calcutta, India, in a family involved in aviation. My father left school early to join the RAF then joined civil airlines when the RAF disbanded at partition.

That line was descended from a Prussian who rejected the norms for his family and elected to

train under the Church Council in Scotland. He was sent to India as missionary, wrote a grammar of Tamil to English and had a road named in his honour. My mothers line were from Yorkshire and went to India to work on the railways.

My family moved to the UK in 1953 the year of our Queens Coronation. We settled briefly in Dover then moved to Liverpool where I spent the first 18 years of my life.

I trained as a biologist then studied Applied Biology / Biochemistry at Hatfield before researching for a PhD in Medicinal Chemistry at Chelsea College London. I worked in contract research in Suffolk; then in Gastroenterology at Addenbrookes Hospital. After that I ran the Teaching Laboratories for Cambridge University teaching practical biochemistry to 1st year Medical and Veterinary students and 2nd year Tripos students.

From there I worked in a joint post with Uttlesford District Council / Primary Care Trust (now West Essex CCG) advising on Planning and Public Health.

From my time in Liverpool I developed an interest in Music – jazz and blues initially but then the Beatles (who were they ?) happened and have played guitar in bands ever since. In parallel and supportive of this I developed an interest in electronics, particularly audio and guitar amplifiers.

So perhaps given my background in Public Health, the NHS and Local Government it's not so strange to feel supportive of the Parish at Baythorne End. We, my wife and three children have lived in Baythorne End for nearly 40 years and are just beginning to get to know a little about this area !

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The Colne Valley Arms New England



Carvery Opening soon at the Colne Valley Arms.
Also available for weddings & function hire.
Contact us Via phone on 07977365966 Or
Email us at: Colnevalleyarms@gmail.com

New Anaerobic Digestion Plant Haverhill

Acorn Bioenergy is consulting on plans to develop an anaerobic digestion plant on land to the north of Spring Grove Farm, Withersfield, Haverhill, CB9 7SW.
A drop-in event on **14th September at Withersfield Village Hall (Turnpike Hill, Withersfield, Haverhill CB9 7RX) between 4:30-7:30pm** will give residents and the wider community an opportunity to view the proposals, ask Acorn team members questions about the facility and leave feedback.

Once we have listened to feedback we will be looking to submit a planning application for the anaerobic digestion plant to West Suffolk Council in the coming months.

www.springgrovefarmplans.com

Men's Shed Group in Great Yeldham

With the support of the Parish Council, The Essex Shed Network and original funding from M.I.N.D, a Men's Shed group has been set up in Great Yeldham. Two containers have been sited in the recreation ground which will be converted into a community workshop/space.

The Men's Sheds Association was originally set up as a meeting place for retired men. Research found that men's social and support networks usually revolve around work and when they retire this network can change or vanish completely, leading to social isolation and loneliness. The

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

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Editors: Val Rhenius birdbrook2021@gmail.com
Katie Gentry 07496 763573
katie_owner@hotmail.com

Sheds are set up across the country for a variety of activities including model making, gardening, carpentry, bike refurbishment and woodwork. They help reduce loneliness and isolation but most importantly, they're fun.

Work is moving at a good pace for opening in the new year. The committee is busy searching for grants and other sponsors but appeal to the local community for support too. Do make contact to join or help donating time or tools.

You can follow progress on FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/482066230422000>

To find out more about this project, contact Martin Dowding: martinkdowding@gmail.com.