



The

Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

December 2020



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

The end of the year already! I think we can all agree it's been challenging and one like no other. The feeling that everyone is looking forward to next year is widespread, and most are feeling hopeful, I think.

The current lockdown is due to end on 2nd December, and hopefully the numbers will be in our favour and some plans for Christmas and New Year can be made, albeit maybe reduced in size.

It's natural to look back over the year and despite its challenges I hope that you are able to identify some positives. For me, I have relished seeing more of my husband and girls. I've suffered 'working-mum-guilt' for years but these last few months have helped in some way to reduce that. We've had some lovely weather and sunny days in the garden, and quality time has been in abundance. The amount of DIY we have achieved is more than the entire five years that we've lived here!

This issue of the Messenger has some extras, and a big thank you to all contributors particularly those who are regulars throughout the year. It's not possible without you and I'm sure all residents will join me in thanking you for your time, and also the volunteers

and Messenger Committee for their support in getting the magazine to you all.

One of the features this month is a colouring competition, with a prize! See page 24 for details, and thank you to Imogen for designing it for us. I've included two copies of the picture to prevent any squabbles! If you need more please email me and I can send you one to print yourself.

There are also some ideas for Christmas decorations, and some festive puzzles which I hope you or younger readers enjoy, and thank you to the Children's Committee of St George's Church for contributing these.

So will you be making any resolutions for New Year? I must admit, I don't usually bother but I might make an exception for 2021. To continue my work-life balance!

I hope you and your families have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you to everyone who has helped me over the year.

Take care, Lizzie



MATERIAL for the **FEBRUARY 2021** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger'

should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th JANUARY 2021** please.

Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc. this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

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more than a pub

COVID Opening Times:

Wednesday Coffee Shop & Post Office
10am - 12 midday
Friday 6:30pm - 10pm | Sunday 12 Midday - 3pm

We would like to thank all of our customers and shareholders for their support through the last year, and wish you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year

For more information on our opening times throughout the festive period, please visit our website or Facebook page:

www.greatbromleycross.co.uk
www.facebook.com/greatbromleycross
01206 621772

Thank you Great Bromley Cross!

Hi to you all,

I just made a typing slip (this one I noticed, but I'm sure you all see how bad my typing and spelling skills are at times), but this time I wrote 'Ho,' not 'Hi'. I did think about leaving it and starting with a 'Ho, Ho, Ho,' festive maybe, but too soon? I am writing this waiting for it to go dark as it's bonfire night and our residents have asked at the very last minute if they can have some fireworks, so we have a few just to celebrate the day. Sunday will mark a very unusual Remembrance Day, so I might have seen one or two of you there.

Before I leave November completely, on Friday 13th we will be celebrating the Indian festival of Diwali. Diwali is the festival of light, with the light conquering darkness, and this year we feel we need light and love in all our lives, so we will celebrate with light, food and music.

So now you've had a quick update on November we will move to December.

On December 4th we will be part of the national celebration for National Disability Awareness Day. We hope to turn purple on that day as it is the recognised colour for disability. This time the light will be purple, the food will be purple, and we might play some deep purple music as we have a lot of rock fans living in the home.

This will just be for the Friday, by Monday everything including the Christmas Trees will be back to normal.

We are hoping that the second lockdown will be lifted to allow our

residents to see their families before Christmas, as this has been a hard time for everyone. We do have some residents that have teenage children who have not been able to see them since March, and for them it's the only Christmas present they want to receive, just to see their children are ok and happy. I know we have all found the last nine months hard not seeing family so lets hope we get that Christmas wish.

If all goes as hoped we will see Brightlingsea Lions Club with their Christmas float again this year on Sunday 20th.

Some of us are getting ready for our starring roles in 'Seven Rivers has Talent' - I think we are going to have an interesting few days. We decided that we would run this over a few days with the three competitors with the highest number of votes going forward to the grand finale. We will have both daily winners and of course the overall winner.

Whatever happens on the outside world, we will do our best to enjoy our Christmas the best we can, with lots of laughter, lots of love and lots of food and wine.

So wishing you all, a very Happy Christmas and here's to a better and brighter 2021.

Remember to take care and keep safe.

**Happy
Christmas**

Liz xx



GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL



A socially-distanced village hall AGM and Annual Meeting were held in the Main Hall on 15th September. Kathryn Ealden, Mary Fawcett, Andy Lear, Jackie Lear and Chris Taylor were elected as trustees for the coming year and they, together with David Beech, Sue Clark, Martin Frostick and Rosemary Heaney (who have been appointed as representative trustees by village organisations) and Natalie Smith (who was appointed as a co-opted trustee) have formed the management committee for 2020/21. Unfortunately no further volunteers were forthcoming to fill the remaining two co-opted trustee vacancies but it is hoped that these can be filled at subsequent routine meetings of the management committee - so if you are interested in joining the team then please get in touch; your help with running our village hall would be much appreciated.

Martin Frostick was elected as Chairman of trustees and will also undertake the role of secretary for a further year. Chris Taylor was elected Vice-Chairman. Jackie Lear was appointed Treasurer and Bookings Manager and she was thanked for her considerable effort in both of these roles during the last year. Chris Taylor was thanked for her activities in support of health and safety, fire prevention and hygiene matters at the hall. William Marshall was thanked for auditing the accounts to a very high standard and Andy Terry and Andy Lear were thanked for their ongoing maintenance work at the hall. Marion Britton was thanked for her continuing hard work as caretaker.

There was a lower utilisation of the village hall during the last financial year, with hire income decreasing by £2082. This was due mainly to several hirings in February and March being cancelled or postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Improvements, statutory inspections and maintenance work continued at the hall in 2019/20 and this expenditure, together with the reduced

income, resulted in a £2650 excess expenditure over income for the year. However, village hall financial reserves remained healthy at just over £21,300.

Refurbishment work at the hall continues, with redecoration and possible replacement of the windows in the small hall the priorities for the coming year. The last major element of the refurbishment project is resurfacing of the car parks which it is hoped to undertake in the future, grant funding permitting.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there are no village hall fundraising events planned in the near future although it is hoped to have some next year. It was reassuring to note that usage of the hall had picked up in the weeks before the second lockdown commenced with regular Yoga, Pilates and Baby Sensory sessions booked as well as club, commercial and private events. However, apart from some training sessions booked by regular commercial hirers, the hall is closed until the current lockdown is lifted. Subsequent usage levels will be determined by any restrictions that may be imposed after lockdown has ended and the management committee remains in close contact with hirers to facilitate the return to the hall of as many activities as possible before Christmas.

Detailed advice is readily available on which activities are permissible in the hall at the current time and potential hirers should contact Jackie Lear (Bookings Manager) in the first instance on 07543974751 or email gbromleyvillagehall@gmail.com. The trustees look forward to welcoming you back to the hall soon and would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all good health and happiness during the festive season.

Martin Frostick

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk

01206 250263

News

Knocked back by Covid we are now rebuilding as quickly as is safely possible. The majority of our activity groups, including walking, ten pin bowling, fitness, canoeing and kayaking, are back up and running.

Other groups, from philosophy, to book club and languages, continue to operate using Zoom. Our gardening group has a number of visits planned, including a week away to Harrogate.

Membership

We are always open to new members. Our fee for 2020/21 is just £8. To find out more, visit our website to see how we work and get the latest updates: stourvalleyu3a.org.uk or contact Graham Manuel (chair) gandamanuel@gmail.com or Sue Basted (secretary) susanbasted10@gmail.com

About us

Stour Valley U3A is one of more than 1,000 U3A groups in the UK. We have just over 400 members based in the Essex/Suffolk border encompassing areas including Manningtree, Dedham, East Bergholt and Shotley.

We work with neighbouring branches in Hadleigh, Harwich and Colchester which provides a wider range of social and learning opportunities.

The Third Age Trust looks after all U3As nationally bringing together people in their "third age" to develop their interests and continue learning in a friendly and informal environment. Third age is a time after you have finished working full-time and have time to pursue interests or just try something new.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE BROMLEY

As with all events over the past several months, the church has remained quiet, no Friends events able to proceed.

During the first lockdown the doors were locked for a few months according to the Churches

Conservation Trust instructions. We were then able to reopen with Covid rules in place. Entry to the church is through the rear door.

The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) has now advised that the church will remain open daily for independent prayer. There is also a track and trace system in place. It is with great regret that we cannot hold our Carol service this year, but please feel free to visit St. Mary's.

This Christmas, as we have for the past

few years **from the 1st December we will have a Christmas Memory Tree inside the church.** The tree is there for anyone who would like to write a message / do a prayer request for a loved one on a Christmas tag.

Once you have filled it in you can then place the tag on the tree. After you have filled in your message (should you wish to) a small donation to the CCT would be very welcome. There is information beside the tree on how to do this. The memory tree is always a lovely sight in the church.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From the Friends of Little Bromley Church



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY



Merry Christmas from all the team!

On behalf of the doctors, nurses and staff at the Surgery, we would like to wish all our patients a very Happy Christmas.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SURGERY OPENING HOURS

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday.

Over the Christmas/New Year period the Surgery will be closed on Friday, 25 December, Monday, 28 December 2020 and Friday, 1 January 2021.

PRESCRIPTIONS Please ensure you order your December prescriptions as early as possible before Christmas to ensure you get them in time.

UPDATE FROM NURSE JO In the October Newsletter we wrote about Nurse Jo running the **Virtual London Marathon**. We are very pleased to report that Jo completed her 26.2 miles and raised over £1100 for her three charities - Diabetes UK, MIND and Addison's Disease. She would like to thank everyone who sponsored and supported her with this.

COVID-19 RESEARCH TRIAL The Surgery are participating in a COVID-19 research trial. Patients with COVID symptoms can self-refer by visiting www.principletrial.org to see if they are eligible to participate in this.

VITAMIN D SUPPLEMENT Vitamin D is made in the skin by the action of sunlight and this is the main source of Vitamin D for most people. It is essential for healthy teeth, bones and muscles. Trials are under way assessing the role of low Vitamin D levels in Coronavirus infections.

Public Health England advises that in spring and summer, the majority of the population will get enough Vitamin D through sunlight on the skin and by eating a healthy, balanced diet. During autumn and winter, everyone will need to rely on dietary sources of Vitamin D. Since it is difficult for people to meet the 10 microgram recommendation from consuming foods naturally containing or fortified with Vitamin D, people should consider taking a daily supplement containing 10 micrograms of Vitamin D in autumn and winter. This is available to be purchased cheaply from pharmacies and health shops.

COMMUNITY PHARMACIES Most people are not aware, but your local pharmacy can provide a wide range of help and advice. They offer advice on common problems such as coughs, colds, aches and pains, as well as healthy eating and stopping smoking. They can also help you decide whether you really need to see a doctor.

Please remember the Patient Participation Group does not meet in December.

Sue Mitson - Operations Manager





GREAT BROMLEY ANTIQUES **& COLLECTORS FAIR**

Sunday 20th December 2020

Also on 17th January 2021

9.30am – 3.30pm

at Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7JA

ENTRY - £1. (Before 9.30am £2) No Concessions.

6 Foot Trestles £25 or 2 for £45.

Hot Food and Drinks Available. Free Parking

COVID 19 SECURE, Face Coverings must be worn. Etc.

Table bookings only in advance.

E Mail nigel@garden-shows.com 07802 282193





**GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL IS
PLEASED TO PRESENT...**

**A CHRISTMAS-THEMED
AFTERNOON TEA**

Provided free of charge and delivered to residents of Great Bromley who are senior citizens or considered vulnerable, in the comfort of their own home to ensure safety.

If you, or someone you know meets this criteria, you can request/nominate to receive a complimentary afternoon tea, provided by the Parish Council.

Please check for dietary needs and that the recipient(s) is happy to receive.

Orders should be placed before 10th December via
email: clerk@gbpc.org.uk
or telephone: 01206 230688

The date for delivery is
MONDAY 21st DECEMBER

Season's Greetings

from
St George's Church, Great Bromley



Best wishes to you all for
a joyful Christmas!

For the latest information
on church services and our YouTube channel, see...

- the website ~ www.greatbromley.org.uk
- social media ~ @StGeorgesGtBrom

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Service this year was quite different due to Covid. As we navigated planning and organisation for the event, the national situation and Government guidelines changed a few times. In short, this led to more and more of the normal agenda to be rationalised and an emphasis placed on minimising close, social contact. We arrived at a formula which centred on a short service at the Memorial but no church service.

The service was marked by a prayer, laying of wreaths, reading the names of the fallen, last post, salute and reveille. This was complemented by a lovely display of poppies painted on

stones laid by members of St Georges Primary School.

Whilst much was distilled compared to normal content, it still remained a moving service; the bugler in the form of Oliver from Tendring Brass Band was note perfect and in all what was done, we remembered them and always will regardless of Covid or any other event we may be confronted by.

A bucket collection took place and the sum of £50.20p was collected for the Royal British Legion which the Parish Council will forward to them.

Rob Lord



IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

Hopefully by the time you read this we will be out of the second lockdown and preparing for Christmas with at least some of our family and friends. Whatever the circumstances, we wish everyone a happy Christmas and a merry New Year. The keen gardeners amongst us may provide some of their home grown produce on Christmas day but most of us could have a go at using plant materials out of the garden and hedgerows to create beautiful, and natural, Christmas decorations.

As we move into December the daylight hours are diminishing and generally the temperature is dropping. If we get overnight frosts the garden takes on a special charm but it is not helpful to most garden work and you should not walk across a frosty lawn. Old garden books always used to advise against digging in frost. Presumably this was based on the theory that it might slow the warming up in the Spring. I have never found this to be a problem. On wet sticky clay it can be an advantage as it helps to keep your boots clean without having to lug a board around to work from. In the unlikely event we get several consecutive nights of frost remember to try and keep a small area of any ornamental fish pond ice free by whatever method you prefer.

Hopefully if you intend to dig you will be able to get on with it before the end of the year. Prior to retirement I found the 'holiday' period between Christmas and New Year a good time to progress winter digging. It also helps to use some of the additional calories consumed over Christmas as well as giving the benefits of exercise. Now that I am not able to dig for several hours a day, it has to be a case of little

and often for me.

If possible, cover unused soil beds with a mulch to prevent the rain washing out the nutrients. The earth worms should incorporate some of this into the soil, helping to build up humus levels. In the Spring the remaining mulch can be incorporated into the soil with a cultivator. I do this with my dahlia beds, mulching with the cut down tops of the dahlias over winter. Any remaining foliage being dug into the soil in the Spring.

Winter watering of house plants can be problematic as you need to avoid both under and overwatering. The symptoms can be very similar, leaves turning yellow and dropping so you need to check the compost below the surface as it might be that only the surface is too wet or too dry. If the leaves turn yellow but do not drop, this is an indication that the soil has run out of nutrients. Feeding with a weak feed is required, whilst taking care not to over water. If the plants are in a centrally heated area they may need to have the humidity increased by either misting or having water in a saucer that cannot be accessed by the roots.

Remember to check supports on sprouts and broccoli and any other supported crops. If ad hoc nets were used to protect bush grown soft fruit it is advisable to remove them for storage before branches grow through and cause damage. Ensure you regularly check all stored potatoes onions other vegetables and fruit.

Finally, remember to insulate any external taps and empty/tidy up any hoses that have not yet been put away.



Dates for your diary...

DECEMBER 2020

- 03 ECC Mobile Library - Church Meadow 9.45-10.15am
- 09 Great Bromley Parish Council - Venue TBA 7.30pm
- 20 Great Bromley Antiques and Collectors' Fair 9.30am - 3.30pm
- 24 ECC Mobile Library - Church Meadow 9.45-10.15am

JANUARY 2021

- 13 Great Bromley Parish Council - Venue TBA 7.30pm
- 14 ECC Mobile Library - Church Meadow 9.45-10.15am
- 17 Great Bromley Antiques and Collectors' Fair 9.30am - 3.30pm
- 21 Little Bromley Parish Council - Venue TBA 7.30pm

Essex Highways - Report it

www.essexhighways.org

Essex Highways carry out regular inspections of roads and pavements, but issues may come up between these inspections. These could be potholes or other road surface issues, damaged street lights, overgrown trees, or issues with public rights of way.

Report maintenance issues online by using the highways reporting tool.

If you think there's a risk to public safety please call 0345 603 7631 or if you have hearing problems you can use the text phone service on 0345 758 5592.

Message from the Chairman of Great Bromley Parish Council

I urge you all to keep up to date with and follow the latest advice issued by the Government in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. I would also ask that we all be aware of our neighbours, and be on hand to provide support to those who might need it, particularly the elderly and those who are vulnerable.

For anyone who is struggling to find support, please call me on 01206 230688.

Cllr Fred Nicholls

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

The Mobile Library visits Church Meadow every three weeks

Day of visit: Thursday

Time of visit: 9.45am to 10.15am

Route: County Mobile 2 week 1

There is a 2 week break over the Christmas and New Year period.

Next visit dates

- 03 December 2020
- 24 December 2020
- 14 January 2021



Me and My Camera

I am a member of Great Bromley WI and I have been asked to write a piece for the Messenger about my interest in photography. I live in Burnt Heath. I have always loved taking photos as a record of where I live and the places I visit.

In 2018 I wanted to know how to use all the features of my camera, so I took a beginners course at ACL Colchester. The course was excellent and got me 'off auto'. I wanted to continue to develop and to use my newly learnt skills, so I joined the Stour Valley U3A Camera Group and the Manningtree & District Photography Society. I have also taken part in workshops and photo-walks run by Gill Moon, a Suffolk based landscape photographer, who has inspired me to look at different viewpoints within the landscape as well as the more intimate details you can see when you actually look at what's in front of you.

During the first 'lockdown' I used my daily walks and camera to do just that –

looking at what's about me, not just walking from A to B. On my walks, I have watched Spring unfold, it's a season I never paid much attention to before. The leaves unfurling, many going from red to green as they mature and of course the buds blossoming. I also used 'lockdown' to look more closely at what's happening in my own garden – with my camera of course.

In between 'lockdowns' I have been involved in a photography project that I volunteered for at the start of 2020. Ten amateur photographers and one professional were involved. Our brief to take up to five photos that celebrate 50th Anniversary Years of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB – my contribution is four photos taken around Shotley. Unfortunately, the actual exhibition has been postponed due to our second lockdown. Hopefully it will take place in February 2021.

My walks with my camera still continue...

Pat Ainger



**The members of Great Bromley W I wish you all a very
Happy and Peaceful Christmas**



WI WALK

The prospect of heavy rain all day on our first proposed walk led me to quickly cancel and change it to the following week, that's the blessing of today's technology, we can get a glimpse into the future! Wednesday the 28th dawned fine and bright and Pat Ainger, Julie Titey and Jackie Halsall (plus her adorable little dog) arrived promptly at Mill Cottage suitably shod for the muddy terrain of our three mile walk. I took them on a walk that we have enjoyed using during the fifty years that we have lived in the Dedham Vale, which was to follow the footpath across the National Trust fields to Flatford Mill. Pat has developed more than a keen interest in photography and was looking for photo opportunities as she walked. It was with pleasure I was able to show her where the Kingfisher lives and the Barn owl hunts plus the stream where mummy Otter leads her young away from those nasty males who would kill them. For at least 10 years we have been aware of the Otter family pillaging our pond and our neighbours mill ponds for fish whilst they escape the clutches of the males on the Stour, even on one occasion killing a mink in the garden.

As we were walking against the 'flow' of walkers it was not until we reached Flatford that we saw many families and friends enjoying the sun and the Constable views - Julie had reminded me that this week was half term!

This however didn't dampen our enthusiasm for a coffee, so suitably masked, sanitised and socially distanced we queued and collected our goodies, and again socially distancing sat in the grounds of the National Trust's newly acquired Granary Barn.

For me it was a lovely experience to walk and talk with people I hardly knew before - yes we say hello etc at meetings but not much more! I think that we all enjoyed it and if Covid regulations allow, plan to do it again, taking turns to organise and show other members our favourite bits of the countryside.

I think also that some of our members are not quite so active; and it might be an idea to plan some much shorter ambles rather than walks to provide a little exercise with that all important social contact - a stroll round Dedham with a gentle walk to the river when the Barista van is there is one example! We can sit on the steps of the War Memorial in the square or on the playing field whilst enjoying a hot drink with an excellent cake or sausage roll. With the benefit of technology we can always be guided by the weather forecast.

Merriel Gallifant





ST. GEORGE'S (C OF E) SCHOOL, GT. BROMLEY

Telephone: 01206 230305

Calligraphy

On Friday 16th October, Class Four had an exciting start to the day. We had a session on Chinese Calligraphy as part of the Tendring Junior Ambassador project. Our host's name was Simone; she was very kind and was very good at teaching the amazing alphabet of Chinese calligraphy.

Simone began by telling us about the Chinese culture, festivals, food and traditions. Then she showed us how to do the different strokes. There are five common strokes and she

explained that if you know how to write these five symbols, you can write any word you like in Chinese calligraphy.

Finally we were given a piece of coloured card to decorate a Christmas card. We included a message in Chinese calligraphy, either 'Merry Christmas' or 'Good Wishes'. Simone also kindly let us have some stickers to stick on our cards. Sadly it was soon time for Simone to go. Everyone enjoyed the day and would love to do it again!

By Daniel and Mathew

World War Two Experience Day

Class Three came to school dressed in 1940s outfits ready to take part in an experience day as part of their History topic on World War Two. They had a wonderful day, taking part in lots of interesting activities such as: marching with rifles, building Anderson shelters, defusing bombs and building and flying Spitfires!



'Funnybones'

Class One have been working on the story 'Funnybones'. The children have been learning about their skeletons and enjoying dancing to the song 'The Skeleton Dance'. They have made X-Ray hand pictures on and the children understand that X-Ray pictures are taken to check that

bones are not broken.

We talked about food that contains calcium, such as milk, cheese and cream and how it's important to eat some of these foods every day to keep our bones healthy and strong. We then made our own healthy milkshakes to enjoy at snack time.

Planning Application

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
20/0109 7/OUT Mr Stephen Walmsle y-Moore	Erection of two storey, four bedroomed detached house with cart lodge style garage and open driveway. Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons: Outside the village boundary; Overdevelopment of the site; Unmade road and concern over future repairs to lane; Query on ownership of lane; Green field site; Blocked ditches; and No utilities.	Land adjacent Nettlecroft Chapel Lane Great Bromley CO7 7UJ

Planning Determination

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
20/01070/FUL Mr William Kempster	Proposed two storey and single storey extensions and alterations.	Newhouse Farm Hall Road CO7 7TP	Approval - Full 30.10.2020 Delegated Decision

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

If you need to contact your local District Councillors please do get in touch with:

- Cllr Gary Scott by telephoning 01206 820769 or emailing cllr.gscott@tendringdc.gov.uk
- Cllr Ann Wiggins by telephoning 01206 825153 or emailing cllr.awiggins@tendringdc.gov.uk

If you are in need of red/green recycling boxes or small/large food waste caddies then do get in touch and we can bring them to you.

We normally meet at the Cross Inn on Wednesday mornings between 10.30am and 12.00midday if you have a query or concern, or even just a chat.

We are here to help,

Wishing all residents in the Bromleys a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Gary and Ann



FRONT COVER OPPORTUNITY!!

For all those who love a bit of colouring-in, here's your chance to shine:) Have some fun and relaxation by colouring the words and pictures opposite.

The winner will be on the front cover of the next issue of The Messenger in 2021, can choose their banner colour **and** will also receive a £10 gift voucher from the Messenger Management Committee.

Send your entry to:

E: the1986messenger@gmail.com

📍: 9 Johnson Road, St Osyth CO16 8PL

No age limits, be as creative as you wish!

Entries will be judged by the Editor

The

Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley
February 2021



BE KIND

always do your best

work hard - dream big

patience is power

YOU MATTER!



A MEADOW LOST

I spent a lot of my early childhood time in the meadow which has recently been cleared for new housing opposite the Courthouse Inn. My best friend David Filer lived in the house, called Crossways, which was so smart in those days, and the inn opposite was called the Black Boy then. His parents John and Gwen Filer used the lovely old barn as part of their market gardening venture, with produce being sold at the gate, in the village and sometimes at Colchester market. Low speed rides on the old Ransomes MG (Market Garden) Crawler, a blue caterpillar tractor, were a treat for us infants. It seemed huge for a small boy to climb upon but was actually only a few feet high.

When the Filers moved away to Upminster, the property was bought by the Kennedy family who kept horses. The barn became a hay store and stable and the adjoining tool shed stabled a cheeky little pony called Monty. I got quite attached to him, although I collected a few nips off him over time, and I was sorry when he went for glue. The other horses were a large skewbald stallion called Charlie and a chestnut mare called Megan. With my best friend gone away I was kicking my heels and spent a lot of my time round those horses.

One day a beautiful white horse turned up on the grazing. I soon met the owner, Mrs Betty Norfolk from Frating, who was very kind and friendly towards me. She told me the mare's name was Fantasy and let me sit on her. After that I would sometimes get up early and stalk Fantasy, wriggling on

my tummy in the dewy grass. No doubt she knew I was there but carried on munching regardless until I got up very close. Then I would try to hop on her back, with little success as she was too tall, unless I could encourage her to stand over by the gate. One misty winter's dawn I felt a weird sensation as I stood calling to the horses. I wondered what was going on until I realised my moist jumper was touching on a new electric fence, giving me some sporadic jolts.

As time went on the property changed hands a few times and became known as Little Paddocks and was allowed to fall into a sorry state. It was sad to see the pretty barn deteriorate, with the lovely thatched roof being replaced by hideous brown plastic. Now it is gone completely (although the planning application said different) as has the line of poplar trees that were there to be enjoyed all my life, and we only have yet another housing estate to look forward to.



A few years back Louise Norfolk kindly showed me some of Betty's photos. The one on the cover is Fantasy grazing by Great Bromley church, the other is with Betty herself. (Looking at these I realise my memory of brilliant white is not accurate, Fantasy was certainly dappled!) I thank Andy and Louise for permission to share them.

Hugh Frostick



HAPPY RETIREMENT COLIN!



Colin the Postman is retiring on Monday the 14th December. He's been part of our community for over 20 years. Working out of the Ardleigh sorting office, he was a big help when the post office opened in the Cross Inn Pub, calling in on his way back to East Gates to make a collection. He has always kept an eye on our older community, often calling in to make sure they are fine. I'm sure we would all like to wish him a very happy retirement, along with a big thank you for all he has done for us.

Dinah Jones

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

At long last we have our Village Sign back in place. Thanks so much to Simon at Design Clark for restoring the painting and to Paul Brown for doing such a good job at renewing the post and installing it. We hope with the new shoe at the bottom it should last a good number of years.

The new plaque commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day has also been fixed to the post - again thanks to Paul Brown for sorting that.

Because the Coronavirus has disrupted so much this year, Councillor Smith organised an impromptu litter pick around the Village. He was able to source a trailer and dispose of the bags of rubbish that were collected as well so many thanks to him.

Another event that was disrupted this year was the Village Remembrance Service. The Chairman of the Council

laid a wreath on behalf of the Village to commemorate this on Remembrance Sunday.

We have been asked by the organisers of the Village planters to thank the sponsors on their behalf. As well as the Parish Council, grateful thanks are given to The Haywain, Blenheim Gardens and the Floral Art Studio for their sponsorship of this year's plants.

We would like to wish all the Residents of Little and Great Bromley a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

The next meeting of the Council will be on the 21st January 2021 at 7.30pm. Whether this will still be a Zoom meeting or not will be decided nearer the time.



GET INVOLVED ONLINE WITH GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY

The Great Bromley and Little Bromley village websites have been refreshed in April 2020, so I thought this a good time to share a list of websites and main social media pages for our villages.

Great Bromley village website

www.greatbromley.org.uk with links to most village media pages including:

- ◆ Parish Council website www.gbpc.org.uk
- ◆ Village Hall website www.greatbromleyvillagehall.org.uk

Little Bromley village website

www.littlebromley.org.uk incorporating the Parish Council pages and with links to most village media pages.

Some other village organisations, pubs, and businesses have a website or social media; you can find links to many of them in the village websites and in The Messenger.

Social Media

You can pick up links to these via the village websites or your search engine.

Facebook

Great Bromley Community
Little Bromley Community
Great Bromley Village Hall
Great Bromley Church
Friends of Little Bromley Church

Twitter

Great Bromley Parish Council
Great Bromley Church
Friends of Little Bromley Church

Next Door

www.nextdoor.co.uk is a free neighbourhood website which allows members to sign up by postcode to share information about their local communities. Several locals use this, and Little Bromley Parish Council use it for their community messaging.

Mailing Lists

e-Mailing lists exist for *Friends of Little Bromley Church* and *Great Bromley Church*. You can refer to the websites and sign up to hear about news and events.

Hugh Frostick

Victim Support is looking for reliable volunteers with great listening skills to join their local team, providing emotional and practical support to people affected by crime.

Help people in your local community and learn new skills.

Call 01277 357557 or email:
essexvolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk



GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Clerk: Lizzie Ridout Email: clerk@gbpc.org.uk



Steady progress has been made at the Little Paddocks development. The new village shop build will be started very shortly. I understand from the developer that much interest has been shown by residents of Great Bromley who may wish to buy on this development.

There has been considerable interest has been shown in the Festive Tea, organised by the Parish Council advertised in last month's Messenger. There is information elsewhere in this edition of the Messenger. Please don't hesitate to phone me if you would like an afternoon tea delivered free of charge.....a Christmas treat for all our senior and vulnerable citizens in Great Bromley.

I have been fortunate to visit the grounds of Hamilton Lodge at the invitation of Daniel Rapson, a director of the development company, who also invited a lady from Colchester who was hoping to find a tree within the grounds that was planted in memory of her late father, who had been a prisoner of war in the Far East. We understood about 18 trees were planted by families of the Far Eastern Prisoners of War Association. We searched but were unable to find her father's tree or indeed any others that had been planted by the organisation. The lady was extremely grateful that Daniel had been very helpful. He informed her that during the course of development if they came across the location of the trees to commemorate the Far East Prisoners of War he would contact her and invite her to return. We did find a copse of trees planted by the local

Caledonian Society. Henry Fairley a member of the Caledonians can recall these trees being planted. The Caledonian Society were big supporters of Hamilton Lodge in the 50's and 60's, when Hamilton Lodge had a very large fund raising Fete. We also found trees that had been planted in memory of some of the residents of Hamilton Lodge and some trees that had been donated by members of the Parish in a fund raising scheme for the Lodge. Daniel informed me that all trees, unless diseased will be retained on the site during and after the development. This is really good news as there are some magnificent trees.

At the most recent Parish Council meeting the following Section 137 grants were made:

- PCC of the Bromley's £1300;
- Seven Rivers £500;
- St Georges PTA £2000; and
- The Bromley Messenger £1000.

Sadly we are unable to hold any face to face meetings owing to Government restrictions, but continue to use Skype as an alternative. Hopefully in the New Year we will be able to hold meetings where residents can attend.

Finally, I would like to wish all residents a very Happy Christmas and a better New Year.

Fred Nicholls
Chairman



LET'S CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!



Normally around this time of year, the Children's Committee of St. George's Church would be busily planning something to do for Christmas. It might be a colouring competition for our local school or a Messy church event to pass along the Christmas message in a fun way.

We would be handing out Christingle candles to raise money for the Children's Society, which would be gathered up at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Carol Services would be held in both St. Mary's Church, Little Bromley and St. George's Church, Great Bromley. There would be lots to look forward to at this time of year.

This year however is different, unable to predict what will happen in December, all of these events are cancelled. There are too many obstacles to try and overcome. But in these dark times, Christmas stands out as a beacon of hope. It isn't just the story of the Nativity we look forward to but the happiness Christmas brings, even if it will be different this time.

On the news many people are talking about the importance of Christmas; the happy message for everyone, of love and hope for the future.

In this light, we would like to suggest that Christmas should surround the villages of the Bromleys this December. There are quite a lot of families who already decorate their homes for the festive season; but why don't we all put something out in our gardens, in our windows, on our doors. There is nothing more enjoyable than going for a walk, day or night and spotting the decorations on show. They can be fun, big, small, colourful, religious or just festive; but what a lovely sight to see.

Wouldn't it be nice if everyone tried to make something and put it out a few weeks before Christmas? It doesn't need to cost much (or anything), but it could be fun to do alone or as a family.

Here are a few ideas of what could be made:

A metal coat hanger wreath: think back to Blue Peter. Bend the hanger into a circle, then decorate with tinsel, plants, whatever you want.

A picture frame wreath: Use any old picture frame, you can paint it if you want, then hang some baubles from the top, maybe glue something on it.

A giant lollipop: Get 2 large paper plates. Decorate on the raised side, staple together. Use a cane or pole and poke it into the middle of the joined base. Cover with clear plastic (a bag will do) and tie together with a ribbon. Stick in the ground.

Something to hang on a tree: Get an old smallish flower pot, fine an old bead or bell, thread onto some ribbon and hang through the pot, leaving enough sticking out of the top to hang on a tree. Paint a pine cone and hang it on the tree. Hang up an old bauble, the list is endless.

Make paper snowflakes to go in your window.

The list of things you can do is never-ending. There are some lovely ideas on Google, have a look for 'outdoor Christmas craft.'

Whatever you do, just imagine all the people you will make smile, when they see your Christmas offerings.

Suggestions from the Children's Committee of St. George's Church

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH



The above wordsearch is made up of various words from four popular Christmas Carols. You can find the words forwards, backwards, vertically and horizontally.

Below are the first verses of the carols. The words found are from the missing gaps in the verse; They are: **JOYFUL, BETHLEHEM, FAITHFUL, DREAMLESS, COME, SILENT, GLORY, MANGER, ANGEL, CRIB, GROUND, JESUS, FLOCKS, HEAD, BRIGHT, ASLEEP, SHEPHERDS.**

Please fill in the gaps:

- O Little Town of -----, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and ----- sleep; The ----- stars go by.
- O Come all ye -----, ----- and triumphant,
Come ye, O ----- ye to Bethlehem;
- While ----- watched their ----- by night, All seated on the --
-----,
The----- of the Lord came down, and ----- shone around.
- Away in a -----, no ----- for a bed; The Little Lord ----- laid
down his sweet -----,
The stars in the ----- sky looked down where he lay, the Little lord Jesus --
----- in the hay.

We hope that you enjoy the wordsearch.

We hope you have a very Happy Christmas and a lovely 2021!

From the Children's Committee of St. George's Church, Great Bromley

A CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

At the time of writing, it is still not clear how we will be able to celebrate Christmas with our families and friends, as the pandemic continues to restrict so many areas of our lives. With social distancing likely to continue for the coming months, St George's is not able, this year, to invite the wider community to the traditional Christmas services. This is, of course, a cause of great sadness for us. Christmas is one of the times in the year when the church is usually able to welcome many people to share in its worship, particularly the carol service, and the Crib service on Christmas Eve. We hope and pray that with the vaccine on the horizon, Christmas 2021 will enable us to celebrate Christmas again in the way we would all want.

I recently retired from Maldon, after almost 40 years as a parish priest. In a busy town church, the whole of December was taken up with the celebration of Christmas. I loved all the special services and social events we hosted, for schools, community groups, the town council and many others in the wider community. I shall miss it all terribly this year.

In the Church of England, a parish priest is not just Vicar or Rector of their church, but of the whole parish in which that church is situated. This is an important point, as it says something about how the Church of England sees itself. As the national church, we are not here just for the paid-up members, but for everyone who lives in the parish. One of the huge joys of being a priest is in sharing in the most significant moments of people's lives: times of happiness and times of sadness. I have loved taking baptisms and weddings over the years; and it has been a huge privilege to support people in times of loss.

Some people are apologetic when they approach the church for baptisms, weddings and funerals, if they are not regular churchgoers. They should NOT feel awkward if that is the case. The church is here for everybody who lives in the parish. There have, of course, been profound changes in society over recent years. When I was ordained in 1981, most weddings still took place in church, most babies were baptised and nearly all funerals were taken by a priest or minister. Since then, there has been a steady decline in those coming to church for these special events. Personally, I think this is not only due to changing patterns of belief. For complex reasons, the church has ceased to connect with the wider community in the ways it once did. Very few couples now even consider the option of a church wedding, and go straight to a "venue". Yet the church can provide a beautiful setting and a very meaningful service for a couple to celebrate their marriage. And, contrary to popular belief, it's often cheaper than the cost of a civil ceremony! We would also love to hear from those in the parish who would like to think about baptism, either for themselves or for their children.

With Covid, there are currently restrictions on the number of guests who are able to share in weddings and baptisms. But once things get back to normal, do be in touch with you if you would like to explore further getting married or having your children baptised. Also, we would welcome enquiries from those wishing to be confirmed.

The churchwardens and congregation of St George's wish you all a very Happy Christmas. May God bless you.

Canon Stephen Carter





ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH GREAT BROMLEY



www.greatbromley.org.uk

St George's Great		<i>latest info at</i> great.bromley.org.uk
Date	Time	Service
29 th November - Advent	YouTube from	Advent Service - Online
6 th December	10.30am	Eucharist BCP
13 th December	10.30am	Eucharist CW
20 th December	6.30pm	Seasonal readings and
25 th December - Christmas	10.30am	Eucharist CW
27 th December	10.30am	Eucharist CW



The Messenger Management Committee would like to thank all contributors, sponsors and volunteers for their continued support of the magazine over the last challenging year.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year, and here's to a better one!