

The

Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

February 2021



WINNER - CHARLIE, AGED 11

THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

It snowed this morning and so there was no better plan for today than to sit down with the laptop, blanket and a cuppa. The log burner is on with a good supply of logs and so the cats, who certainly weren't impressed first thing, are all curled up in their favourite spots.

Having watched an episode of Gardeners' World last night, I am fully looking forward to Spring and warmer days. I genuinely felt more positive and inspired after watching it, despite it being a repeat. Our daffodils are popping up across the garden already, so Spring is just a matter of weeks away.

This month's cover is the result of the competition in December's magazine. Well done to Charlie, who wins a £10 Amazon voucher from the Messenger Committee, and well done to everyone who entered.

Thank you to all contributors this month, it's easy to get out of the habit when you have a month off, particularly over Christmas, but you have all returned, phew!

So lockdown life has returned once more, along with home-schooling for

many. Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable are shielding, and I urge anyone who is struggling in any way to reach out and let someone know. If we learned anything from the last lockdowns, it's that there are countless people in our communities who are willing to help, and so please make use of them - they like to be busy! If you truly do not know which way to turn, Tendring District Council has a helpline that can put you in touch with whatever help is required. The number is 01255 686700 and is available during office hours.

February is a busy month - Awareness days include:

- 1st-7th Children's Mental Health Week
- 8th - International Epilepsy Day
- 14th - St Valentine's Day
- 16th - Shrove Tuesday
- 17th - Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 22nd - Thinking Day

I think I will kindly and lovingly make pancakes for the girls on at least one of those days!

**Take care,
Lizzie**

MATERIAL for the **MARCH 2021** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th FEBRUARY 2021** please.

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- Reaching retirement or thinking about it?
- Saving for the future?



“

Whatever your future goals, I want to help you achieve your perfect future. Passionate about helping business owners and those approaching retirement, whether it's to achieve a dream or to create a better future for those you care about.

”

TOM WOOD

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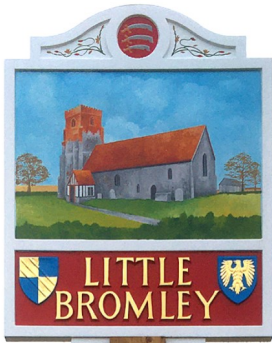
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LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com



Little Bromley Parish Council would like to wish all residents a Happy New Year and Good Health. With the pandemic still ongoing, we would like to remind residents that the Village Nextdoor Site is there if anyone needs help at this time and the Council can always be contacted on littlebromleypc@gmail.com as well.

Our Internal Auditor has resigned and we are now looking for someone to replace him. If you think you would be able to help with this role, then please email the Council. Our thanks to William Marshall for doing this for a number of years and we wish him all the best in his move.

We would like to welcome our new footpath warden, Mr Graham Knott who has kindly agreed to take on the role. If anyone has any footpath issues then please contact the Council in the first instance and we will pass these on.

As you are probably aware, our new Village Sign was refurbished at the end of last year. We would like to thank the artist, Simon Clark from Design Clark Ltd, for doing such a great job on the repainting of the Village scene and the Little Bromley Church, and to Paul Brown Carpentry for putting the new post together with the VE day commemoration plaque and reinstalling it. With the new metal shoe at the bottom we hope this will last a lot longer. A great job Simon and Paul and £40 below the original estimate!

If any resident would like to bring up any issues with the Council then please email us and we will do our best to help. We start this year with the intention of still trying to get the 30mph speed limit introduced along Bentley

Road and to that end we hope to have a meeting with Highways again when the pandemic allows.

The next meeting of the Council will be on the 18th March at 7.30 pm. This will again be a Zoom meeting. Please email the Council if you would like to attend and we will send out passwords.

COVID-19 vaccine scams To protect yourself and your family members from fraud and criminals, remember the following points.

- ✦ The vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free to people in priority groups, and **the NHS will contact you when it is your turn**. You will not be asked to pay for the vaccine
- ✦ The NHS will never ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine, and never ask for payment or for your bank details. The NHS is not making house calls to deliver or discuss the vaccine

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft you should report this directly to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Where the victim is vulnerable, and particularly if you are worried that someone has or might come to your house, report it to the Police online or by calling 101.

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL



The accounts examiner (informal auditor) appointment for the village hall is currently vacant and the village hall trustees are seeking someone who is prepared to fill this essential

volunteer post. It is not a particularly onerous duty; the post holder reviews the finalised End of Year accounts in mid-April to ensure that they accurately reflect the village hall finances and also checks that a satisfactory financial

control system is in place at the village hall. There are no ongoing commitments during the rest of the year.

No formal qualifications are required to undertake this role but the incumbent needs to be familiar with basic accounting and book keeping. The village hall accounts are based on the commercial Quickbooks accounting package which also produces the end of year financial summaries.

Interested? Then please contact Martin Frostick (Village Hall Chairman and Secretary) on 01206 250263 to register your interest and for more details.

The village hall has been forced to close again due to the current Covid 19 restrictions and will not re-open until the middle of February at the earliest. Thankfully, grant funding from HM Government has maintained a small income stream for the hall during the Covid 19 closure periods and trustees are hopeful that when the pandemic is over there will be no long term damage to the finances or the viability of our community facility.

The management committee will be using the current closure period to undertake minor internal re-decoration of the hall and ensure that it is fully fit for purpose when it is allowed to open once more.

Martin Frostick
villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk or 01206 250263

Planning Applications

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
20/01170/ FUL Mr John Williamson	Erection of 2 no. single storey pitched roof side extensions, erection of chimney to existing extension, and conversion of agricultural land to residential garden, including removal of existing metal barn, erection of 3 bay cart lodge with log store, green house, pergola, playhouse, summerhouse, shed and landscaping. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	Landmark House Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JN
20/01491/ OUT Mr John Askew	Proposed erection of one dwelling and associated parking. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	Land adjacent 4 Boulton Cottages Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JJ
20/01572/ FUL Mr A Fairley - Henry Fairley and Son Limited	Proposed general purpose agricultural building. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	Park Farm Hilliards Road Great Bromley CO7 7US
20/01290/ FUL Mr & Mrs Brazier	Variation of Condition 2 of 20/00660/FUL to permit an enlargement of the ground floor of the property and provision of a larger balcony. Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development is outside of the settlement boundary; • Overdevelopment of site. It is respectfully asked that Planning officers consider the extensive planning history of the entire site; • Resurrection of a previous permission; • Unsustainable; • Flood risk area with severe surface flooding experienced; • No mains drainage; • It was further agreed to request the District ward councillors to call the application in to TDC's Planning Committee. 	Bush Farm Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TR

Planning Determinations

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
20/00854/FUL Mr B Day	Proposed conversion of vacant barn into a four bedroomed dwelling with associated garaging and landscaping works.	Blue Gates Farm, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UZ	Approval - Full 11.11.2020 Delegated Decision
20/00872/FUL Mrs Hilary Read	Change of use from preschool back to residential dwelling.	Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR	Approval - Full 13.11.2020 Delegated Decision
20/01228/FUL Mr & Mrs Richmond	Variation of condition 2 of approved application 17/01706/FUL to reflect minor alterations to the siting and depth of the proposed utility room.	Grange Hall Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TS	Approval - Full 04.11.2020 Delegated Decision
20/00859/FUL	Proposed 3no. dwellings (replacements: Plots 1, 2 and 7), internal road and turning head; shop with visitor car parking and new access from Harwich Road; associated landscaping and structures.	Little Paddocks Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JL	Approval – Full 03.12.2020 Delegated Decision
20/01290/FUL Mr & Mrs Brazier	Erection of replacement detached dwelling and demolition of existing dwelling with alterations to existing vehicular access. Demolition of existing agricultural/domestic buildings and erection of replacement agricultural/ domestic buildings.	Bush Farm Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TR	Approval – Full 23.12.2020 Delegated Decision

BEWARE - Telephone scams appear to be on the increase



Never disclose the following details over the phone:

- four-digit card PIN to anyone, including the bank or police
- full password or online banking codes
- personal details, unless you are sure who you are talking to

Call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 to report incidents

IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

We can only hope our advice for the garden is better than our prediction for being out of the second lockdown and having a near normal Christmas. We will not make any further predictions about the virus and will stick to gardening. Hopefully you all managed to get some enjoyment over Christmas and are looking forward to better times in 2021.

By now, some of us will possibly both have made and broken some of our New Year resolutions. One of mine was not to try and save money by buying cheap permanent markers. Having done so last year I found that in the autumn when lifting chrysanthemum stools and dahlia tubers that the 'permanent' ink was faded and the name largely unreadable. For most annual crops this is not a great problem but for things you are going to propagate from it is vital not to mis-identify, otherwise, you will find out at flowering time that the blooms are not what you intended to grow. Better to use a pencil to mark the labels rather than use cheap pens.

The weather has not been very kind to those of us who have digging to do. The wet surface and cold temperatures are not conducive to working outside. Fortunately, we have had several jobs in the potting shed and greenhouse that have been pleasant to do. For example, some of the Chrysanthemum stools that were boxed up and kept in a cold frame have now been moved into the greenhouse on a thermostatically controlled heat mat to produce cutting material. These should be ready for taking and rooting in late January/early February. These will be for dis-budded varieties (only one bloom per stem). They are rooted in seed trays in a seed

compost with added perlite to aid drainage. The electric propagator is set at 19C and will be shaded with white plastic on sunny days. The spray varieties will be moved into the greenhouse in early February to enable cuttings to be taken in late February/early March. Sprays flower in a shorter time than disbuds so we delay the rooting to get the flowers in their best condition from mid-august onwards which coincides with the dates of local flower shows.

Apologies to those who have no interest in Chrysanthemums.

It is easy to assume the garden is dormant at this time of year but in truth it is not as the spring bulbs are starting to emerge, worms are active in the soil and the spring flowering plants are moving forward. It is worth reminding all who have hedges that under the Wildlife and Countryside Act it is an offence to disturb nesting birds so get any remaining pruning finished as soon as possible. Although for protected hedges pruning from 1 March to 1 September is banned, do always check before you start in case of any early and late nesters. You can get caught out. If in doubt I suggest you look up the legislation. The RSPB has some clear explanations.

Remember there was always an advantage in growing your own vegetables, as you know what, if any, chemicals have been used. Now additionally, you know who has handled the food before you eat it. So, make use of any inclement weather to obtain any new seeds and plug plants you need. There are still lots of online offers about and don't forget to check if local suppliers can provide what you need to help the local economy.

REMEMBERING ALAN (1941 - 2020) AND WALTER SEABORN (1907-1996)

Alan Seaborn died on 19th May last year, and as he had moved away from the village long ago and Covid-19 meant a limited funeral, I thought I would pay tribute to him here, and his father, with a collection of memories and local knowledge as I have heard it.

I had traced Alan and his wife Ann via the phonebook in 2014 when we met up for a delightful chat. Ann's cousin is Clive Branch, of Branches Shop (Essex Stores) that was in Hare Green, so I was also able to get in touch with Clive in Felixstowe.

I remember Alan's father, Walter Seaborn, as he used to drive the primary school bus from the south of the village. He didn't say a lot but always let us on the bus with a smile. He was known locally as "Wide awake Walter". I think his economy with words lead some to believe he wasn't very sociable.

Seaborn was a well-known name in the villages of Great Bromley and Ardleigh as they owned or tenanted a number of farms such as Fountains, Wick, Red Gate and Windy and served on the Parish Councils.

George Seaborn, son of Firmin Seaborn, went to London as a young man and was a draper's assistant in Marylebone where he met his wife Edith. They came back to Great Bromley to Carringtons Farm where their son Walter was born and then moved to Fountains Farm. Walter went to school at Great Bromley in 1912 and then went to the Technical School before working with his father on the farm. Walter had one sister, Blanche born in 1912, who married Peter

Strangeways Morton. Peter came to buy Fountains farm, met Blanche during the viewing, and they got married. He became a great friend of Walter with their mutual interest in photography. Walter's other friends in the village, according to Alan's memory, were Keith Page who went into the RAF, Malcolm Branch who was Clive's older brother, and Frank Marvin, who was motorbike crazy and always wore a red beret instead of a helmet. Those two used to go rabbit shooting with .22 rifles on the Hayward and Pirie farms.

Walter married Alice Emily Jaggard from Ardleigh. There was a lot of friction with his parents over that pairing, so Walter left the farm and went to work in Colchester as an engineer. This was the foundation for him going into the vehicle repair business and setting up the Black Boy garage on the crossroads, now known as Selectacars. He started off with four poles and a tarpaulin sheet to work under, then built the garage and a house to live in. Walter had to borrow money off his father to set everything up, and apparently there was a legal battle at a later date when his father tried to take the business off him! Peter Morton helped reconcile Walter with his father later on.

Walter told a story of how one dark night during the war he heard some noises outside near the garage forecourt, so he got his gun and went out. He pointed his gun at a man and told him to put his hands up or he would shoot. It turned out to be the local copper, who nearly had a heart attack! Walter had to take him inside to give him some brandy, where the policeman

agreed it was his own fault for creeping around.

Mrs Beryl Hurst remembers that Walter was very keen on photography, but didn't usually let anyone look at them. (I do possess some of his, as he took colour slides for my parents' wedding in 1955.) Also, he was notoriously slow with paperwork. Geoffrey Hurst took their car in for a gearbox repair, which was all fixed fine, and put money aside to pay for it. The bill never came, so eventually Geoff went to the garage and offered Walter some money and asked if that would cover it. Walter took it and nothing more was ever said, so presumably it was about right!

Alan was born in Great Bromley and went to the primary school where he was friends with Geoffrey Webber, Arthur Cole (the son of the policeman), and Clive Branch. Alan went on to Manningtree School and then the Technical College in Colchester. When he went along with Walter for his interview, they asked what he was interested in. Alan said electronics, but they told him there was no future in that, and suggested he studied chemistry!

His friend Clive had a cousin from Sudbury called Ann. She had been the Carnival Queen the day Clive introduced her to Alan. They got on well and began courting, until one day in Colchester Alan dropped to his knee. They were married in 1960, and initially they lived with his parents. Alan worked as a Lab Technician at the Tech for a few years until Ann spotted a job advert for an Industrial Chemist with a relatively new company call Koch-Light Laboratories that moved out to Haverhill from London. They resettled to Haverhill and Alan stayed with that company, through various changes and takeovers, for all his working life. He

enjoyed his work and in the 1970s went out to Cairo to organise supply of chemicals to research centres and universities out there.

Walter sold his garage business in the mid sixties; he asked Alan if he minded, but he had no interest in it. After that point the local connection was gone. Walter and Alice retired to a nice house in Great Bentley, and when they were unable to look after a big place they moved up to Haverhill for their remaining years. It was with great sadness I learned from Alan that his father had decided to have a huge bonfire before moving from Great Bentley and most of his photographs were burnt, to save clutter prior to the move.

On Walter's mother's side, the Jaggards were a large family and well known in the area, not least for their parts in the Burnt Heath & Great Bromley Brass Band. Nathan Jaggard was a coal merchant, based in Station Road, Ardleigh. He and Annie had five children. Alice was the oldest, followed by a boy who died very young. Thomas (1912-1965) played the big drum in the band, Arthur (1920 - 23 August 1944) was an RAF volunteer who was killed in Singapore, and Albert (1917- 6 February 1942) was a driver in the Royal Signals who died in Alexandria. (Alan wanted to visit the grave marker when he was working in Egypt, but didn't manage it.)

Another family casualty was Alice's first cousin called Fred who was in the 9th Essex Battalion Home Guard Volunteers. At the railway station there was a grain storage place where the Home Guard used to meet. On 28th October 1942 when Fred came off duty, for some reason he walked out of the hatch and fell to his death, aged 42. Finally in the wartime tragedies, the V1

bomb which hit Thatched Cottages, Harwich Road, Ardleigh on 27th September 1944 not only killed the Cheeseman family, but also Wilfred Jaggard, another relation.

Alan died just short of his 60th Wedding Anniversary. He and Ann had two sons, Robert and Simon. Ann is getting used to being on her own in these difficult times. Alan and Clive Branch used to phone each other almost every day for a gentle chinwag, and now it is Ann who chats to Clive a couple of times a week instead.

Dr Hugh Frostick

I would welcome any further memories of the local Seaborn, Branch and Jaggard families for the magazine or otherwise.

hugh@greatbromley.org.uk
07722 253962

The pictures show:

- Walter Seaborn and one of his dogs
- Alan Seaborn in 2014
- Nathan Jaggard in the coal yard at Ardleigh
- Walter with a Civil Defence truck outside the garage.
- The Burnt Heath brass band



20 questions on 2020...

1. At the very start of the year, which country experienced devastating bushfires in every territory?
2. In order to cope with the coronavirus pandemic a new temporary hospital was built in London. What was it called?
3. It was announced in October that which airline, that went into administration in March, had been bought out and would begin flying again next year?
4. During her April special address, the Queen references a wartime song. What is it called?
5. What is the name of the former British Army officer who won the nation's hearts when he raised over £38.9m for NHS Charities Together in the run up to his 100th birthday?
6. The Covid outbreak is said to have started in a market in which city?
7. What day and time were the 10 'Claps for the NHS'?
8. JK Rowling started publishing a new book in online instalments – what is it called?
9. Which royal TV show released their fourth season in 2020?
10. Which footballer forced the Government to make a U-turn in their decision regarding free school meals during the summer?
11. Dominic Cummings claimed to have driven to which castle to test his eyesight?
12. In 2020 who became the first female artist to have a top 40 album in each of the last seven decades?
13. Where were the Olympics supposed to be held in 2020?
14. I'm A Celebrity launched with a record 14.3 million viewers in 2020 – what was the name of the Welsh castle where it was filmed?
15. The World Health Organisation named 2020 the year of what?
16. Who won Sports Personality of the Year?
17. Who said this in 2020; "Our house is still on fire. Your inaction is fuelling the flames by the hour. And we are telling you to act as if you loved your children above all else."
18. In July, NASA launched a mission which will reach which destination on which planet in February 2021?
19. Which statue was torn down in Bristol Harbour this year?
20. What date did the First UK lock down start?

...answers on next page

Dates for your diary...

FEBRUARY

- 10 Great Bromley Parish Council - 7.30pm
- 14 St Valentine's Day ♥
- 16 Shrove Tuesday

MARCH

- 10 Great Bromley Parish Council - 7.30pm
- 18 Little Bromley Parish Council - 7.30pm
- 21 Great Bromley Antiques Fair - Village Hall - 9.30am-3.30pm

20 questions on 2020 - answers

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Australia | 11. Barnard Castle |
| 2. The Nightingale Hospital | 12. Shirley Bassey |
| 3. Flybe | 13. Tokyo |
| 4. We'll Meet Again | 14. Gwrych Castle |
| 5. Sir Captain (Honorary Colonel)
Tom Moore | 15. Year of the Nurse and Midwife |
| 6. Wuhan | 16. Lewis Hamilton |
| 7. 8pm Thursday | 17. Greta Thunberg |
| 8. The Ickabog | 18. Mars |
| 9. The Crown | 19. The statue of Edward Coulson |
| 10. Marcus Rashford | 20. 23rd March |

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 pandemic. 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.



Following the latest Government guidelines the mobile library service is suspended until further notice.



If anyone is in urgent need of the flood barrier or water snakes, these can be found in outside storage at The Courthouse, Harwich Road, Great Bromley.



Did you know? Great Bromley has two Automated External Defibrillators. You can access these at:

- The Cross Inn, Ardleigh Road, CO7 7TL or
- The Courthouse, Harwich Road, CO7 7JG

Don't ignore it - Report it at 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, street signs, 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.

GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB



We will be doing the draw on the 1st Friday of each month and the winners will be posted on the web page for all to see after each draw.

The winners for the first draw were:

- 1st. Elliot Mann -72**
- 2nd. Mike Brown - 44**
- 3rd. Freya Lawson - 17**

100 Club restart

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who has signed up to support the club and helped us get back to 100+ members for the start of the 2021 draw, this is greatly appreciated and will help us continue to run our club during these strange times we find ourselves in.

We now have a 100 Club page on the clubs website at <https://greatbromley.cricketclub.co.uk> where you can find all the information and for anyone who is a member, their number for the draw.

Congratulations to you all.

Many thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Should anyone else wish to take part please contact Trudie via email at trudiedodd@hotmail.co.uk or Mob 07977136009.

Trudie Dodd
100 Club Secretary



Burglary advice for darker nights

As a result of the national COVID-19 restrictions and being advised to stay at home where possible, house burglaries across the county of Essex decreased by 54% during 2020. However, with darker nights and worse weather, we are more vulnerable to burglars at this time of year. For more information and for advice on how you can help prevent becoming a victim of crime, please go to our website using the link below. <https://www.essex.police.uk/news/essex/news/news/2020/december/keep-your-home-safe-this-winter>

GREAT BROMLEY ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR

Sunday 21st March &
Sunday 16th May

(We are sorry the
January Sale was cancelled)

9.30am – 3.30pm

Great Bromley Village Hall, Great Bromley, CO7 7JA

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

Hot food and drinks available

Email: nigel@garden-shows.com Tel: 07802 282193

Covid-19 Restrictions: Face covering must be worn, one-way system.
Temperatures will be taken and contact details must be given

Table Bookings only in advance



STOUR VALLEY U3A

Zoom has impacted upon many of us and reluctant users have become advocates in a short space of time, some of us relying on our children or grandchildren to put us right! This video conferencing tool has enabled many of our groups to continue, including French, German, Italian and Spanish language groups. Our first Zoom lecture took place in November, Christmas quiz in December and Annual General Meeting in January.

Activity groups such as walking, table tennis and keep fit, have staggered between one tier and another but enjoy

considerable support when legally allowed. Many new members have joined in order to be active and some to learn how to play the ukulele!

We are planning for better days in 2021, including National U3A Day on 2nd June, annual social in Summer and Christmas lunch in December.

If you have finished working full-time or in the near future and would like to pursue new interests you may like to look at our website – search for “Stour Valley U3A” to see what we have to offer. New members are always welcome.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



I would like to wish all our community and village a Happy New Year. Let's hope we can overcome the pandemic and get back to as near normal as soon as possible. I hope everybody who is chosen to have a vaccine and who is eligible when it becomes available will have it. It could be the light at the end of the tunnel that we have all been waiting for.

Last year ended on a high with the Festive Afternoon Tea Boxes being delivered by Councillors to 63 of our Residents. It proved to be very popular judging by the very kind and appreciative telephone calls and cards that I have received on behalf of the Council. Hopefully the Parish Council can give favourable consideration to continuing with it for Christmas 2021, at the same time supporting a local Great Bromley business.

I also noticed around Christmas/New Year quite a number of adults and young children taking part in a Festive Trail in this part of the village getting out in the fresh air and having exercise, what a wonderful idea. A big thank you to the P.T.A. of St Georges School for organising this fun, family event.

It is also the time of the year when the Parish Council seek sponsors for our Flower Tubs. In 2020 they were magnificent, a really big thank you to the staff at Deans Nursery for the excellent planting up and also to Lewis and Bill, the village maintenance team, for watering and looking after them. If anybody would like to sponsor a flower tub or a half tub please contact me. We acknowledge the sponsorship with the sponsor's name on the tub and in the

Messenger and hope to include on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council approved the 2021-22 budget at our January meeting. There is a very small increase of less than 0.1% in our precept which equates to 5p on an average Band D property, however there will certainly be a larger increase in both TDC and ECC council tax.

If you are new to our village - welcome. I still have a few recycling boxes to share out. If you have questions or queries please do not hesitate to give me a call as you find your way around our lovely village. Hopefully you will all receive a copy of The Messenger, our local village magazine.

As we move into our latest lockdown, I wish you all a safe and healthy time, stay at home and keep safe. If you need anything, shopping, prescriptions etc., please give me a call and I will try to help.

Fred Nicholls
01206 230688

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Committee and members of the Gt. Bromley Friendship Club wish to thank the Parish Council for the delicious Christmas afternoon tea delivered to our homes in December. This was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all, and raised our spirits in these difficult times. Thank you all so much.

Sylvia Ward

Hi Everyone,

I am back with my news and views from Leonard Cheshire Seven Rivers. I must say most of the views are mine and not necessarily those of Leonard Cheshire.

We had a nice Christmas, as I hope you all did. We of course were not allowed anyone to come into the home, so no entertainers were able to perform. But we were very lucky to be able to stream The Old Vic's production of 'A Christmas Carol', this followed very closely to the Charles Dickens original so very dark, this was enjoyed by us all. They did try to make it just like going to the theatre, with music before the start of the performance and an interval advising us it was time for mince pies and a cup of tea.

Gary, our Chef, also produced a Christmas quiz afternoon and a New Year's Eve Quiz; we were all surprised at how many other things happened in 2020 apart from COVID-19.

Gary and his team also produced, as always, a lovely Christmas feast for everyone.

We had our karaoke going, singing loud and out of key, to borrow a line from Morecombe and Wise, 'we hit all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order.'

But we all agreed the best thing was the Carol singing on Christmas Eve, Our friends from St. George's Church came along about 4pm and sung Christmas Carols in the dark, we had all forgotten that we had no light outside the conservatory. Somehow they all managed to sing. The arrival of the donkeys was a high point, the singing was wonderful but the donkeys were

amazing. The only animals we have seen since March last year have been those that come into the fields, such as rabbits, birds and the odd cat. So to see the donkeys made a few residents cry. Sounds silly but we miss seeing all the pets that come into the home. Most days there is a dog that comes in and we all like to have a cuddle. While we couldn't cuddle the donkeys, it made us feel extra special that they were brought in to us. Unfortunately we were unable to offer our Carol singers a hot drink due to restrictions in place, but there is nothing in the rule book that said we couldn't give the donkeys any carrots.

We also received some lovely Christmas cards from St. Georges school; again we cried to see what they had said about missing coming into the home. We have missed them too.

So now we move forward, in the hope that soon we will be able to see everyone again and get back to how things used to be. We are trying to plan, without planning, things like our dog show in May or our cream teas in June, just having others walking into the home, or chatting to our family without having a screen between us, to enable the most important thing of all we can do, and that is have a cuddle and tell them we love them.

So, for all our sakes, please follow the rules - wear a mask, keep your distance, keep safe and hopefully we will be able to see you all in the summer.

Take care

Liz x

A census has taken place in England every ten years since 1801 (with the exception of 1941). A census gathers information about our society so that appropriate services can be put in place for everyone to enjoy now and in the future.

Fans of TV programmes such as “Who Do You Think You Are” will know the value of historic census data to family historians and genealogists, but data from the census impacts our lives every day, often without us even realising it.

Did you know that water companies use census data to anticipate peak water demand? Or that the NHS uses census data to plan a wide range of services such as hospitals and GP surgeries, mobile chiropractors and home support? Everything from schools to care home places are planned using census data to make sure that the needs of all age groups are met.

Every aspect of our lives is impacted by the census, so it is vital that everyone participates to ensure the best possible understanding of the structure and needs of our society.

By taking part, you can make sure that your community is represented and gets its share of public and other funding to ensure the provision of services now and in the future.

The next census official census date is Sunday 21st March 2021, but Census 2021 will be the first time that everyone will be able to complete the census online at any time from the beginning of March 2021.

You will receive a letter with your

CENSUS 2021

unique access code and will be able to complete the census online using any device.

Help will be available if you need it by phone, email or text. You will also be able to use web-chat or social media, or drop into a Covid-compliant Census Support Centre. Guidance will be available in a range of languages and accessible formats, and the paper option will still be available if needed.

The census is run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which operates completely independently of government and of any private sector interests.

All information submitted for the census is stored securely and anonymised. No personal data is ever sold nor is it shared with any other government department.

Information from the census is only released after 100 years when your descendants may be tracing their own family history.

Please make sure that you support your community by participating in Census 2021.

For more information go to <https://census.gov.uk/> or on social media @Census2021



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Covid-19 Vaccinations

The Covid-19 vaccination programme has now commenced and patients are currently being booked to have this at the Fryatt Hospital in Harwich.

Patients will only be able to book an appointment for this once they have received an invite which will either be by text message or a telephone call if you do not have a mobile number registered on your record.

Can we please request that patients help us by not contacting the Surgery to ask when they will receive an invite for their vaccination. We can assure you that you will be contacted at the appropriate time.

Prescription Requests

In order to deal with the high demand of prescription requests we receive every day we ask that patients allow 3 working days (not counting Saturday or Sunday) for us to process their requests. You can make a request for your prescription up to 10 days before you are due to start taking your medication to ensure you do not run out.

Please remember that we do not take prescription requests over the telephone as this is unsafe, so please do not ask as we will be unable to do this. You can request your prescription in writing as follows: by email to holliesprescriptions@nhs.net and you will receive an automatic response confirming receipt of your email, via the Great Bentley Surgery website or by putting a request in the box just inside the main entrance. Once your request has been received

at the Surgery then the prescription will be ready for collection at your nominated Pharmacy in 3 working days. Please do not contact the Surgery to check if the prescription has been issued. If you have allowed 3 working days then you will need to check with your nominated Pharmacy that your medication is ready to collect.

For patients requesting their medication is delivered to them at home rather than contacting the Surgery about this you will need to speak to your nominated Pharmacy to see if they are able to do this for you.

Door Entry Intercom System

We have recently had a door entry intercom system fitted on our main entrance door in order to help us monitor the footfall coming into the Surgery. With this new system can you please be mindful when entering or leaving the Surgery to ensure that you respect the social distancing rules and help to keep everyone safe.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 25 February 2021 for staff training.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

At the time of writing the Newsletter there isn't a Patient Participation Group meeting planned in February 2021.

***Sue Mitson
Operations Manager***

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

All of us here at St. Georges Church hope you are keeping well and safe during these very different and unusual times. We also wish you a better, healthy and peaceful 2021.

Yes, it has been a different Christmas here at our village church but there has been much to be thankful for. We are blessed to have a hardworking team who have organised services and events over the Christmas time, always with your safety and well-being at heart. Christmas Celebrations in 2020, although different, were extraordinarily beautiful services of worship and celebration.

St G's church looked spectacular, thanks to our wonderful band of flower arrangers and cleaners.

On the evening of December 20th, a service of Readings and Carols led by Laura and Stephen was memorable, with candles twinkling and lighting our church. Members of the community reading the Lessons, and carols sung by a small choir. Thank you to everyone, especially Charlie and Connor.

Our Christmas Eve service at the Lych Gate, as you know, was cancelled at the last moment. We were so sorry but considered it was the best decision. Hopefully we can try again - an idea of a Nativity Tableaux with donkeys and children in costume has ignited the imagination, so its not really cancelled, just postponed until next year.

A small group did, however, gather at Cheshire Home to sing carols to the residents. It was great to see our dear friends albeit through the window, their faces alight with much happiness, and guess what? The donkeys decked in twinkling lights really did turn up with Father Christmas!! A great evening.

Christmas Day Service was very special led by our newly refurbished Processional cross. Edith carefully carried Baby Jesus and laid him in the manger, completing the Crib Scene for Christmas.

We have so much to be thankful - life is changing for us at your local church, we have video services on You Tube, engaged in Zoom meetings (a first for many of us) and produced a monthly newsletter on the internet and in hard copy. We are working hard to keep in touch with you - please let me know if you would like to receive the newsletter by email or delivered to you at home in a hard copy. For those of you who are able, please catch up with us on our Church website, which is regularly updated.

The school visits have been limited but possible as the children were producing Christmas videos for their friends and families. Only visiting and filming in their bubbles, singing and performing just before Christmas was a real treat. The weekly newsletter from our school is also displayed in our church. Our school children are very important to us, and we can't wait to get back welcoming you all at our J.A.M. sessions and monthly family services.

We are always very keen to keep in touch with you all so please phone me if you would like to chat or maybe become involved. St. Georges is your Church and we are all here to help and support you at all times.

Your church welcomes and continues to be open but only for Private Prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays, 9am to 3pm. And remember, "No matter the storm, - there's always a rainbow waiting."

Pictures on next page...



St George's Church Great Bromley



www.greatbromley.org.uk

Parish of The Bromleys



During lockdown the normal church services are suspended.

For our online church services and events please see the church page on the village website

www.greatbromley.org.uk

or contact Jenny on 01206 230688

**St George's is open for private prayer on Wednesdays
and Sundays 9am-3pm**

Church electoral roll

All residents of Great and Little Bromley who are baptised members of the Church of England, or members of other churches which subscribe to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, are invited to join the church electoral roll. This allows us to keep in touch and send the church annual report, and you can vote in the annual election for the Parochial Church Council. It's easy to join the roll - you can find a form on the church page on the village website or ring Jenny on 01206 230688. Thank you.