

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

February 2022



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and were able to see those close to you. It seems ages ago! The children have gone back to school and university and it will be half-term before we know it. Requests for pancakes will be made each day, with me wondering how they can eat so many, while I whip up another batch of batter.


We spent some of our time off over Christmas planning what to do next in our garden and have decided a new planting scheme is the way forward. Buying plants is one of my favourite things to do, and positioning them is equally as exciting, and then I usually make a cuppa while Mr R gets digging. Definitely a team effort. I'm impatient to get started but the ground is too cold and hard at the moment. I'll know when it's warm enough, as that's when the cats start venturing out again. They've barely moved since November, with the log burner being their favourite spot. There is talk of snow at the moment so I don't expect much action any time soon, from the cats or Mr R.

It's taken me longer than normal to get this page finished, as halfway through I received one of those dreaded calls from school - "Could you please collect

your daughter as soon as possible?" - yes, you guessed it, she was poorly and tested positive for Covid-19. We're now waiting to see when/if it will get the rest of us. I suppose it was only a matter of time.

A big thank you to all contributors to the magazine for your articles, and to advertisers - it wouldn't be possible without you. I made a request for cover photos via the village Facebook group, and have received some lovely images. Thanks to Tony for this month's cover. It's also given me an idea for another feature. Have you got any historic photos of people in and around the Bromleys? It would be great to include them for a look down memory lane. Please include a description of the photo and any relevant information or stories.

Awareness days for February include:

- 4th Feb - World Cancer Day
- 7th Feb - Children's Mental Health week
- 14th Feb - Valentine's Day 
- 17th Feb - Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 22nd Feb - World Thinking Day

*Take care,
Lizzie*

MATERIAL for the **MARCH 2022** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th FEBRUARY 2022** please.

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LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

We would like to start off by wishing everyone a belated Happy New Year!

We start 2022 with some positive news in that the defibrillator is up and running and located on the outside of The Haywain. Instructions on how to use this item, if it's needed, are in the cabinet with the defibrillator. Thanks to Rob and his team for their support with this.

The 30 mph along Bentley Road is still under discussion. The Chairman met with our County Councillor and a representative from Highways to see if this can be reconsidered. Suggestions were made which will be discussed at the forthcoming Council meeting.

A planning application has been submitted for a Battery Farm next to the Ardleigh Road substation on an agricultural field of almost 1 hectare in size. The planning application is on Tendring's site for comment (ref 21/02070/FUL) and this will also be discussed at the next Council meeting.

The Parish Council are discussing the setting up of a Conservation Fund which will help conservation projects around the Village.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on the 17th March, at 7.30pm at The Haywain.



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

PATIENT INFORMATION REGARDING 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.

SURGERY TRAINING AFTERNOON

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12.30 pm on Wednesday, 23 February 2022 for staff training.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

As these meetings are now held bi-monthly the next meeting of the PPG will be held on Thursday, 17 March 2022 at 6.30pm at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

Refurbishment work at the village hall continues, with internal redecoration of the Small Hall now underway and the Small Hall windows due to be replaced in the middle of this month. Naina Shah and Ian King, the new caretakers, have taken the opportunity in recent weeks to undertake a thorough clean of the hall and this, together with some minor redecoration throughout the building, should ensure that the hall remains clean and welcoming for all users.

Past and current village hall trustees, together with other guests, attended a small party on 13th January to celebrate the 20 years of loyal service given to the village hall by Marion Britton. Marion joined the village hall as caretaker in January 2002 and has undertaken this role conscientiously and without a break until the end of 2021. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a framed original pencil drawing as retirement gifts at her party. She has indicated her wish to remain involved with village hall activities and so it is likely that the local community will see her in action at fundraising and other events at the hall

in the future. The trustees wish her good health and happiness in her retirement.

At the time of writing (mid-January) covid precautions in the village hall remain unchanged from the end of 2021. All users are requested to sanitise their hands on entry and exit and face coverings are mandatory for everyone unless exempted by previous government guidance or guidance from national bodies and associations for fitness, club, group and commercial activities. Further guidance on covid restrictions for a particular event can be obtained from the undersigned.

All facilities at the village hall are now open for use and, with bookings for the facility now picking up again, information on hall availability can be obtained from 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.

Martin Frostick
Secretary
01206 250263

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE BROMLEY

Community Carols Despite Covid, we were determined that we would hold a Community Carol service at our lovely church so we decided to hold it outside in the churchyard. Therefore on Saturday 18th December, tea lights set out by Wendy led us down to our gathering place. Despite the damp day around 45 people attended to listen to some lovely solos and music performed by Steven Cheek.



Starting at 3pm Canon Stephen Carter led the afternoon, intermingled with carols and readings. It was a lovely event with a relaxed atmosphere. The collection raised £224 which was split between The Children's Society and the Churches Conservation Trust.

Sad News We were very sad to hear that George Kent had passed away in December 2021. A Little Bromley resident, George had previously been a Church Warden at St. Mary's Church. In later years he was a loyal supporter and Friend of our church. The funeral was held in the church during January, where George was then buried in the churchyard with his parents.

Memory Tree Our Memory Tree once again adorned the church throughout December. It was nice to see that this pretty Christmas tree had been visited often, with many leaving messages for loved ones.

Epiphany Service On Thursday the 6th January we held an Epiphany Service inside the church. Canon Stephen Carter again led the service, which also had a choir. The candlesticks were in place and looked lovely alight with candles, courtesy of Gavin (a recent recruit to our committee). Floral displays decorated the church and around 20 people enjoyed the service.

Wood for Sale At some point during February 2022, there will be some tree surgery in the churchyard. Two Ash trees need to be taken down and there will also be some minor work on other trees. This work is being funded by money raised from the last Bromley 10K Run.

Following the work, we hope to have some wood available for sale. The wood will be left in full rounds and cords (approx. 3 foot long). If you were interested you would need to collect the wood and cut it up yourself.

Until the work is completed, we are unsure how much we will have available. If you are interested in buying some wood, please phone Carol Cordwell on 01206 395103 (evenings are best). Your name will go onto a list and you will be contacted once the work has been completed.

We are hoping that once again this year we will be able to hold some Friends events at the church, so watch this space.

On behalf of the Friends of Little Bromley Church

Carol Cordwell

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and please keep safe and well in 2022.

On behalf of the Parish Council I have received a number of "Thank You's" by telephone and email from residents following the delivery of a Festive Tea provided by the Parish Council to our more senior citizens and vulnerable residents. The parish Council will hope to do the same again this year.

In all 74 Festive Afternoon Teas were delivered to residents by our Parish Councillors and helpers. The teas were magnificent; a wonderful selection of sandwiches, cakes and scones with a jar of jam and clotted cream, provided by Vicky of Patisserie4U. Vicky lives in Great Bromley and is a wonderful supporter of the village, thank you Vicky.

Our new "Cost Cutter" shop is open and seems to be well used, the owner is pleased with the support he has received. He is hoping to have a cash machine installed in the near future. He is also in ongoing discussions with the Post Office and hoping to have a Post office counter within the shop.

A survey has been carried out regarding Hare Green recreation ground. It should be remembered that Hare Green Recreation Ground is an asset for the whole village not just the immediate area. Once the results have been collated the suggestions put forward will be discussed by Parish Councillors and published in this magazine. All residents in the village were able to take part in the survey online or via the Messenger.

Our budget has been reviewed and it is proposed there will not be any increase 7

in the Parish Precept.

I have entered into correspondence with the Local Highways Panel about lowering the speed limit on Harwich Road, readers may recall the then Portfolio Holder for ECC Highways, Kevin Bentley agreeing that Harwich Road speed limit should be reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph. The scheme appears to have stagnated somewhat. I have written to the chairman of the Local Highways Panel requesting an update. Our County Councillor, Carlo Guglielmi is also exploring another angle.

At our meeting in January, Daniel Rapson, MD of DRD Consultants, the Hamilton Lodge Development Company, gave a presentation to all present. Mr Rapson stated that following outline planning permission he was required to carry out many planning conditions. These included various surveys and protection for roosting bats, dormice, newts, birds etc. along with an arboricultural plan. All of these conditions have been met. The various surveys and reports run into several hundred pages. Mr Rapson had the survey results with him and invited anybody to look at them, there were no takers. The cost of these surveys was well over £100,000. Once the TDC planning officer was in agreement and accepted the various reports landscaping could begin with the layout of the pond and village green. It was envisaged building would start late summer of 2022. A further open day was proposed to be held in the village hall for those interested. He would attend a further Parish Council Meeting in April to provide a further update.

Cont'd...

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A resident asked about affordable housing, Mr Rapson informed them TDC required 30% of houses to be affordable. In relation to affordable houses, of those built at Robinson Close, there were not enough takers from the village for these available houses. TDC released them to people living outside the village. You have to be registered with TDC Housing Department to be considered.

The Parish Council has agreed to hold events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from Thursday 2nd June. We are intending to light a Beacon in Church Meadow and considering having a BBQ that evening. A Thanksgiving Service in St Georges Church at 10.30am is scheduled for

Sunday 5th June. The service will be led by Rev Canon Stephen Carter and the sermon by Ann Easter, one of the Queen's Chaplains. Following the service there will be a Hog Roast on Church Meadow, with a bar and a children's entertainer and a marquee will be provided. Further details later.

I was fortunate to be invited to Marion Britton's farewell event at the Village Hall. Marion was the caretaker whilst I was Village Hall Chairman. I would like to thank Marion for all her hard work not only whilst I was chairman, but over all the years she looked after the village hall. Thank you Marion.

Cllr Fred Nicholls

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REFERENCE & PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
21/01565/FULHH Mr and Mrs Dunne Proposed first floor extension providing bedroom and en-suite.	4 Ash Grove Great Bromley CO7 7UQ	Approval – Full 01.11.2021 Delegated Decision
21/01679/VOC Mr Gary Duncan LPCo Vary conditions 2, 5, 11 and 15 of 20/00859/FUL by way of the rewording of the timescales of conditions 2 and 11 and the substitution of drawing number 058/2019/SK250920 with 058/2019/14/P5 (facilitates relocation of bus stop and associated works) for condition 5 and 15	Little Paddocks Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JL	Approval - Full 22.12.2021 Delegated Decision

PLANNING APPEAL

Appeal reference	Site Address	Description of development	Previous comment
APP/P1560/ W/21/3284103 Mr John Askew	Land adjacent 4 Boulton Cottages Frating Road Great Bromley	Proposed erection of one dwelling and associated parking (all matters reserved).	No objection to the application

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
21/01819/ FUL Mr Thomas Frary	<p>Proposed construction of ground source heat pump plant room.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.</p>	Pond Farm, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP
21/01914/ FUL Mrs Sharon Kandiah	<p>Proposed erection of horse stable block.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.</p>	Blue Gates Farm, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UZ
21/01922/ FUL Mr A Sherwood – Gro Living Ltd	<p>Proposed erection of a new bungalow with associated parking facilities.</p> <p>Cllr Nicholls left the meeting for the duration of this item.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application.</p> <p>Cllr Scott agreed to call-in the application to TDC's Planning Committee driven by concerns relating to further development on this plot so close to a Grade 1 listed church.</p> <p>The basis for the call-in was discussed in public forum and can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proximity of further development in close proximity to a Grade 1 listed church caused concern to GBPC. • From an environment perspective, the green landscape that forms the curtilage around the Grade 1 listed church would be impacted by this development. • The proposed new bungalow was very close to the original bungalow, in what could be called a cramped position. It was also a backland development. This was out of keeping with the street scene which was an area of large individual houses with good sized gardens running along the main road through the village. The original bungalow was only granted planning permission in the 1960's or 1970's, because it was needed to house staff from the Cheshire Home. • If planning permission was granted it would spoil the view from The Old Gt. Bromley Hall (now Cheshire Home) to the historic church. 	Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
21/02032/ FUL	<p>Provision of new 5 Bed, 9 Person detached house with integral garage and improvements to existing vehicular access.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council strongly objected to the planning application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside development envelope and in contrary to Policy SPL2 (Settlement Development Boundaries) in TDC's Local Plan; • Severely out of keeping with street scene and much higher than bungalows either side with a steeply pitched roof which will loom over neighbours leading to loss of light in neighbouring back gardens; • Close proximity of building to neighbouring properties. • Loss of privacy for neighbouring properties. • Concern over potential damage to neighbouring footings which are on clay • Flooding concerns, with multiple issues of historical flooding. • Dangerous vehicle access onto the B1029; • No evidence of demand for large housing. • Ecology impact with loss of wildlife habitats. • GBPC also questions the use of dwellings, the proposed number of residents is not normally included in applications and would appreciate a response on this query. 	Weeping Ash, Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley
21/02065/ FUL	<p>Replacement of an agricultural building with a 3 bed bungalow (To amend approval 20/00552/ FUL)</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to</p>	Willow Farm, Hilliards Road, Great Bromley
21/02072/ FULHH	<p>Front porch</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.</p>	Westward House, Mary Lane North, Great Bromley



REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
21/02033/ FUL	<p>Removal of existing single garage, provision of 4 Bed, 7 Person detached house with integral garage, improvements to vehicular access and provision of new double garage to Weeping Ash.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council strongly objected to the planning application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside development envelope and in contrary to Policy SPL2 (Settlement Development Boundaries) in TDC's Local Plan; • Severely out of keeping with street scene and much higher than bungalows either side with a steeply pitched roof which will loom over neighbours leading to loss of light in neighbouring back gardens; • Close proximity of building to neighbouring properties. • Loss of privacy for neighbouring properties. • Concern over potential damage to neighbouring footings which are on clay • Flooding concerns, with multiple issues of historical flooding. • Dangerous vehicle access onto the B1029; • No evidence of demand for large housing. • Ecology impact with loss of wildlife habitats. • GBPC also questions the use of dwellings, the proposed number of residents is not normally included in applications and would appreciate a response on this query. • There is an ash tree to be felled which hasn't been referred to in the tree officer's report. 	Weeping Ash, Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley



SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

Hi Everyone,

I trust this has been a pleasant time for you all, and you have been able to be with those you love. We had a enjoyable Christmas with carol singers to pantomimes.

A traveling theatre production of Cinderella came into the home and was enjoyed by all the residents and a few were able to attend the Mercury

Theatre's production of Aladdin.

Having to keep our masks on for the show was not easy for our residents or anyone else but best to keep safe. We visited St George's Church for the carol service and had entertainment come into the home including Elvis. All of these are special treats as last Christmas was very quiet with no entertainers allowed into the home and no visitors either.

Cont'd...

Looking forward to the year ahead, we have made a start on thinking about our veg patch once again and have today sown some super veg to be grown indoors.

We are also making plans for The Queen's Platinum celebrations in June. We are also in our planning stages for trips out in the summer, as we all need things to look forward to.

Our volunteers have gone down in number due to COVID but the few we have still support us and our residents with music, craft and board games. If you feel you could give a few hours a month why not go to the Leonard Cheshire website for more information about volunteering with us here at Seven Rivers. www.leonardcheshire.org

We have started the new year with a new keep fit programme for our residents as anyone who has had anything and been unable to move will tell you it's not easy keeping fit when you have very limited

movement in your limbs. But our physio who comes in every week helps to keep things moving and with the help of extra exercises we hope to improve our ability. But like all new years promises it may not last very long.

I am hoping that when the weather improves we will be given the go ahead to hold events again, but I think the dog show is out again this year as it does take a lot of organising and time is not on our side. I used to start organising the dog show after the last one making sure I had the judges and sponsors. But it would be nice to have a mini fete this year, as long as we get the green light.

I'm sure some of you have your year all planned out and some like me, take it as it comes and hope it will all work out for the best.

Keep up with your new years resolutions,

Take care till next time
Liz x

After a short spate of crime in late October which included the theft of a high value trailer, GBPC would encourage Parishioners to observe good crime prevention practices. This might include lighting, locking systems and securing higher value assets out of sight. All crime should be reported if it does occur.

There is a criminal threat to our community and we should be mindful of it.

Essex Police's website offers best practice for you to follow alongside practical crime prevention methods: from basic hints and tips to more detailed strategies, and you can report crimes via the website too.



Visit www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/



Is it an emergency?

Does it feel like the situation could get heated or violent very soon? Is someone in immediate danger? Do you need support right away? If so, please call 999 now.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000 or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

Dates for your diary...2022

FEBRUARY

- 2 Coffee & Cake Church Hall, Little Bentley 10am - 12 Noon
- 2 Great Bromley WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 9 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 10 Ardleigh & Dist. Horticultural Society, Ardleigh Village Hall - 7.45pm
- 17 Friendship Club, The Cross Inn, 2pm

MARCH

- 2 Coffee & Cake Church Hall, Little Bentley 10am - 12 Noon
- 9 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 10 Ardleigh & Dist. Horticultural Society, Ardleigh Village Hall - 7.45pm
- 17 Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain - 7.30pm

APRIL

- 6 Coffee & Cake Church Hall, Little Bentley 10am - 12 Noon
- 13 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 14 Ardleigh & Dist. Horticultural Society, Ardleigh Village Hall - 7.45pm
- 17 Little Bromley 10K Run - 9.30am



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.

BETTY IRIS (NÉE) BLOYCE
20 APR 1929 – 24 JUL 2020
& CHARLES WILLIAM (BILL) HURRELL
10 NOV 1921 - 5 MAR 2020

Bill was born in 1921 and Betty was born in 1929. They married in 1950 and last year would have been their 70th wedding anniversary.

They both came from humble beginnings - Dad was one of six children in a 2-up, 2-down in Harwich Road, Colchester and Mum was one of 11 surviving siblings living in a council house in Frating. Life was hard and, because of this, they were both very determined to do better in life.

Dad joined the RAF as an engineer which opened up a whole new world for him. He loved the camaraderie of that life and we heard many tales of this time. He was based in Canada repairing the planes and, as several of them crashed on the test flight, the officers asked for volunteers to go up with the pilots on the flights. Dad was keen to volunteer, partly because they were offering double pay for anyone prepared to do this. As far as Dad was concerned, any extra money meant he could afford more cigarettes and whisky!

Mum went into service when she was 14, which probably explains why she was paranoid about housework! Luckily she worked for a lovely family in Frating who took her under their wings and, when Dad appeared, helped them to a better start in life. When Mum met Dad, who was always a "bit of a lad", one of the conditions of courting her was that he wasn't to carry on smoking 60 cigarettes and drinking several glasses of whisky a day. He managed to cut out the cigarettes but he always liked his whisky (in moderation, of course).



Thankfully, it all paid off and, having managed to buy a cottage in Chapel Lane, Great Bromley when they married, they eventually managed to buy a plot of land in Furze Lane where, with some help from friends, built the bungalow Mum had always dreamed of. Mum insisted she had a big kitchen, and it was here that she was in her element cooking meals for family and friends. Dad raved about her cooking and although they loved to eat out, nothing was ever as good as "Bet's cooking".

Hard work was as important as ever. Dad would work all day as a plumber for Colchester Council and then go out in the evening working for friends and neighbours. Mum worked on the land - as she told us many times, they had to pay for those Sapele doors in the bungalow somehow! But we know how important it was to her that their two daughters didn't have to struggle in life as she had. Dad took early retirement from the Council and is probably one of the few people who was paid a works pension for more years than he worked.

Together they then found other things to fill their time. They started working at the Kings Arms in Frating. Both were in their element, with Mum cooking and Dad Front of House... he did like to talk! This led to several years of pub life, either working on a day-to-day basis or living in as relief managers. Gardening was one of their great passions, Dad with his vegetables and Mum with her flowers. Fortunately, this is something they continued to share up until the last couple of years of their lives.

Dad, for as long as we can remember, supported the Royal National Lifeboat institution. Kay and I are so proud that they are honouring his kindness and his name will be on their new lifeboat at Great Yarmouth and Gorleston lifeboat station, due to be completed in the second half of 2022.

But family and home were everything to them. They helped us bringing up the grandchildren, Liza, Gemma and Jack, loving every moment they spent with them. In their latter years, they liked nothing more than seeing the great-grandchildren, Harley, Willow and Grace and we know how much they would have loved little Isla, born the year they both passed away.

As difficult as life is for us now without them, Kay and I are blessed to have had such wonderful parents. How lucky we were to have a home filled with love and warmth by parents who started their lives with very little and left with so much. Betty and Bill were devoted to one another, and one of our lasting memories will be of them sitting watching TV together, holding hands and blowing kisses to each other.

Janet & Kay

Betty and Bill died during the Covid-19 pandemic with restricted funerals, and the family held a memorial service for them in late 2021. HGF.

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Jumbo - The history of Colchester's Water Tower" will be the subject of the talk by Peter Jones at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh,

CO7 7RS on Thursday 10th February at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £1.50. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 10th March 2022	Peter Taylor - Thames Sailing Barges
Thursday 14th April 2022	Brian Carline - Pelargoniums, their varieties and propagation
Thursday 12th May 2022	Sally Hepher - "I wish I'd known that before I started"
Saturday 21st May 2022	Plant and cake sale at the Village Hall 9:30-11:30
Saturday 20th August 2022	Annual Flower & Produce Show at the Village Hall 14:00

The Mobile Library visits every three weeks at Church Meadow on a Thursday - next dates are:

17 February

10 March

31 March

9.45am to 10.15am



STOUR VALLEY U3A

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full time work and explore new ideas, skills and interests. Across the UK, u3a members are learning, staying active and having fun in later life. It's local, social, friendly, low-cost and open to all.

Most of our group activities are continuing as usual. Our next monthly meeting/lecture, on 9th February, will take place using Zoom, unless there is any relaxation in the

Government's guidelines, and David Williams gives a lecture on how London designed and built the world's first underground railway – "Mind the Gap".

On the first Friday of each month, coffee mornings for new and current members, are held at the Lambe School East Bergholt from 10am until 12 noon.

You can find more information and contact details on our website u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley

S137 GRANTS

S137 grant applications were considered by Great Bromley Parish Council in November 2021, and the following grants were made at the December meeting:

Local group/Organisation	Amount awarded
The Messenger Magazine	£1200
St George's C of E Primary PTA	£2000
Leonard Cheshire Seven Rivers	£250
Parochial Church Council of The Bromleys	£1575



GREAT BROMLEY COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Over the last 12 months Gt Bromley Community Speed Watch (CSW) has been run by just two volunteers from the village. CSW sessions of 1hr have taken place on average every two weeks rotating between our three approved and registered sites. Our presence is well received by the majority of local residents and passers by.

The CSW is run at the request of and supported by the Parish Council along with Essex Police and Essex Highways.

We are always on the look out for more volunteers and would welcome anybody who would like to join us and become

part of our team, the more people who are involved the more sessions we could potentially run. You have to be registered as a CSW volunteer which includes online training.

If you are interested or would like to find out more please contact in the first instance, the Gt Bromley Parish Clerk via clerk@gbpc.org.uk and your details will be passed on to the CSW co-ordinator for Gt Bromley.

**COMMUNITY
SPEED WATCH**

IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

We trust all gardeners were able to do as much or as little as they wanted or needed to do over the recent Christmas and New year break. If things were left undone try and be philosophical about it. Whereas keen exhibitors might need to be exact about sowing, transplanting or planting dates for the majority, tasks can be carried out in a fairly wide timescale and still achieve a good result.

For vegetables it is advisable to carry out crop rotation. This is an established system to help maintain soil health by reducing a build up of pests and diseases that are sometimes specific to one group of crops. It is also true that each group depletes different nutrients so it also helps to ensure that one particular type of plant food is not exhausted by growing crops with the same demands. It is simply planting crop families in a different part of the plot every year. There are many books and internet articles that cover it in far greater depth than is possible in this article and the detail can vary but here is a typical example using 3 rotating areas over a 3 year cycle and retaining 1 permanent plot.

times and we want to get second crops where we can.

We will often use lettuce, leaf salads and courgettes to fill empty spaces. We also follow early potatoes in the same year with leeks to make use of the cleared ground. Growing potatoes will involve opening up the soil to plant the tubers, earthing up and digging to harvest the crop. This means the area is well worked and ideal for root crops the following year. Also, as any manure incorporated for the potatoes will have been absorbed by the soil a year later and will not cause the carrots to fork.

Providing you ensure that you do not grow the same vegetable crop in the same ground several years in succession it will help to prevent the build-up of pests and disease. This is likely to become even more important in future whether or not you are organic growers as the availability of pesticides, insecticides and fungicides to amateur growers diminishes. This is one of the 3 P's that Monty Don is urging growers to avoid. (i.e., Pesticides, Plastics and Peat).

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Root Crops	Brassicas	Other
Plot 1	Roots	Brassicas	Other	Carrots, parsnips, beetroot, salsify etc	Cabbage, savoy, cauliflower, broccoli, sprouts, turnips	Potatoes, celery, leeks, peas, beans etc
Plot 2	Brassicas	Other	Roots			
Plot 3	Other	Roots	Brassicas			
Permanent Crops - Herbs, asparagus, rhubarb etc						

We use this as our guide but we break the rules somewhere most years as we don't always grow the same amount of each group and we don't want to leave fallow areas of soil for long periods. Also, different crops harvest at different

Finally, don't forget that any remaining hedge trimming should be completed in February to avoid disturbing nesting birds and possibly contravening the Wildlife and Countryside legislation.

ANDY PIRIE - EULOGY

Andy was born in 1943 the 4th in a family of 6. He was born during the war and had to spend the first couple of years of his life sleeping underground in an Anderson air raid shelter. He slept in a chest of drawers as a cot and for years my kids thought the draw was then shut.

He went to the local primary school across the road and at the age of 11 he followed me and brother Charlie to an Essex County Council boarding school in



Cranleigh, Surrey, where he spent four years. He excelled as a member of the Young Farmers Club. I have attended several Elmbridge School reunions over the years and people have often asked about Andy and it was clear people have very fond memories of him.

On leaving school he worked on the family farm driving tractors and general farm work. When I left the farm to join the Police Force Andy took over driving the farm lorry which was something he very much enjoyed, in particular the Scotland trips. He often told the story about one day he was driving the lorry through Braintree when a policeman stepped out in front of him with arm held high requesting him to stop. The Bobby said he wanted to check the lorry was roadworthy. I cannot possibly repeat the language he used when he realised it was me under the helmet.

He later met and married Gill and had three sons, James, Matthew and Andrew; 19

he was very proud of what they have achieved in life and very proud of his daughters-in-law, Naomi and Katie. I know he also thought the world of his three grandchildren, Harry, Daisy and Harriet.

Sadly, the marriage did not last, and they divorced.

Andy then entered a very difficult time in his life. When our Mum died, he moved into the family house Brook House and later when the farm was sold moved into the nearby bungalow courtesy of sister Margaret. During that time, he was supported by his sister Mary and when she passed away, I know it hit him very hard.

Sadly, his health suffered, and he went down hill quite quickly. He eventually went into hospital in Colchester and Clacton and eventually into a care home in Colchester where he passed away on November 3rd.

I would like to thank you all for coming today; Andy would have been pleased.

I would like to thank a few people who helped Andy over the last few years of his life, Jane and Nigel from Brook House who got his shopping in for him and Nigel who kept his TV going; Andy would have been lost without it.

To his nephew John who did jobs for him, including mending his mobile phone when he dropped it. Andy and mobile phones were not natural bedfellows; if you texted him, you got a one-word reply "okay" and if he texted you, it was two words; "ring me".

Also, to Bert Fairley who visited him and would bring a bag of spuds with him!

To Fred and Jenny who also kept an eye on things.

Andy had a difficult life, but he is now at peace, Sleep well mate.

A CUP OF CHRISTMAS CHEER FROM ST. GEORGE'S

Dear Everyone, Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and safe 2022 from all at St. Georges Church.

The Services and Celebrations at St. Georges have this Christmas Tide been exceptional and it was heart-warming to see so many of you supporting our services (perhaps for the first time). Of course these events do not just happen as if by magic, there is our team here at St. G's and many of you in our villages who have volunteered, helped and supported. We thank you all.

Festivities began early in December by our Flower Arrangers, getting St. Georges ready for "Darkness into Light". The next week a magnificent tree arrived donated by Grove House and put expertly in position by Bill and Hoyoie - Thank you. This year the tree was beautifully decorated by the children of St. Georges School. The messages and designs of the baubles were delightful. Thank you St. Georges School.

Our Candlelit Community Carol Service took place on December 19th at 6.30pm. Sadly no mulled wine or mince pies this year due to Covid.

Despite these restrictions, a wonderful service of Praise and Thanksgiving was led by the Rev. Laura Garnham. Chairman of the Parish Council Fred Nicholls read the first lesson followed by Ali from Seven Rivers Cheshire Home, Lorna, Governor at St Georges School, Dorothy W.I President and Martin Chairman of Great Bromley Village Hall Trustees. Thank you to all for giving your time to share with us a wonderful service. Sixty two of our community, safely distanced swelled our numbers. Thank you to St. Georges Choir who led us through the Carols and Music for the service.

Our Crib Service was held outside at the Lych Gate. The Service was well advertised by posters, social media and liaison with the school. Plans were made, donkeys booked, bales of straw ordered, sound system borrowed, Mary and Joseph confirmed they could attend.

How many families would attend? Imagine our surprise and amazement when between 100 and 150 of you arrived! Wrapped up warmly, children wearing costumes, carrying torches and glow sticks the service, devised by our great friend Rev Stephen Carter, was a resounding success, (we are already planning for next year - better lighting, music etc.) Thank you again to all those who helped especially Gavin and Carol who festooned the Lych Gate with twinkly lights and to Stephen C who kept us in time by playing his fiddle.

It was then over to Seven Rivers Cheshire Home to sing Carols to the Residents. Thank you to Liz for arranging and to the singers who brought such joy and happiness to our friends at Seven Rivers.

On Christmas Day we were privileged indeed to welcome Archdeacon Ruth Patten to our Christmas Day Service at 10.30am. Special thanks to Hoyoie and his two sisters who sang Ave Maria at the end of the service, a real treat for all. Quality Street chocolates in the porch afterwards gave everyone a Christmas treat

During the Christmas Festivities 2021 all our collections have been for the Children Society. We have also collected toiletries and other necessary items for the Afghan Refugees in Colchester throughout November and December.

We thank all of you for your very kind generosity for these very worthy causes.

£494 has been collected so far for the Children's Society.

Three deliveries have been made to Birchwood Farm Shop for the Refugees (and we are still collecting)

We are so lucky to have such a vibrant and happy church family here in Great Bromley.

Look out for a busy year in 2022, you are all welcome.

Jenny Nicholls



GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The January meeting was held on zoom due to COVID concerns. Led by Pat Ainger we explored a series of topics of interest and concern, including internet access, the messages sent by children's clothing, appropriate prison sentences for non-violent women and issues around the menopause. We learned a lot, and went away with plenty to think about before casting our votes on which of these issues we felt the WI as a national body should prioritise this year. On a lighter note, we also shared our best Christmas jokes, producing much laughter and not a few groans.

Our next meeting is at the Village Hall on Wednesday Feb 2nd at 7:30pm. The speaker will be our own Eileen Brown who will give a talk and demonstration

on cheese making. 'Making Cheese with Ease'.

Come along and learn how you too can become a whizz at making ricotta, cottage cheese and other delicious fresh products! All women are welcome. You'll also have a chance to socialise with other local women. If you're new to the village or just interested in meeting some new friends, we'd love to see you.

Because of the current COVID situation, please call Dorothy on 07791974053 if you're interested in coming, for more information and to confirm the meeting will be happening in person.

See you on the 2nd!
Dorothy O'Grady

GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Christmas lunch in December was sadly cancelled and we now hope to arrange this for a date in the near future.

Please do come along and join in, and bring your ideas for the coming year.

Sylvia

We are hoping to have our usual January meeting on Thursday 20th January at 2pm when future events will be discussed and decisions made as to future events. February 17th Meeting will be at the usual time when it is hoped more definite plans and arrangements will have been settled.

MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF “THE MESSENGER”

As someone interested in stories of days gone by, there is nothing more satisfying than when someone phones up to tell you that you are wrong. Why? Because that means they have read what you have written, and what's more, they are going to tell you something that perhaps you didn't know. Often, it is not that you have got something wrong, but rather that you can't fit everything in for space reasons, or are reporting someone else's version of events that might be from a different viewpoint.

This was the case last month, when Henry Fairley phoned to tell me about the origins of The Bromley Messenger magazine. I had mentioned about Rev. Paul Davis's part, which was only gleaned from his own words in the Parish magazine 35 years ago.

The more complete story was that the Rector and his wife Meriel continued to produce a monthly Church magazine when they arrived at The Bromleys in 1985. Henry and Ann Fairley at Park Farm were involved in delivering this parish newsletter to the subscribers, who paid a small amount to cover printing costs. Henry was also Chairman of Great Bromley Parish council at the time, which produced a quarterly newsletter for Great Bromley residents.

There was a desire to widen the scope to one, more complete, news magazine going to everybody in both villages, but it was appreciated that a paid magazine would not be a success in reaching everyone. Rev Davis was mulling this idea over with the Fairleys over a cup of tea, when Andrew came in from the farm for his break; being a cold day, he sat on the Aga to warm

himself up. As they were wondering how to finance the project, Andrew piped up, "Why don't you do what the Young Farmers do? We get sponsorship from local firms and that pays for the printing." The GBPC discussed all this at an EGM on 11th March 1986 and agreed to support it, and another councillor, Len Christodoulides, agreed to be treasurer to raise sponsorship and collect the monies. Distributor coordinator was Mrs Grainger-Brown and Mrs Hardy was stapler and helper!

Reading the early magazines (now online at www.greatbromley.org.uk) the idea was for one sponsored advert page to cover the cost each month. A sponsor wasn't always easy to find, so some months went unfilled, and others were sponsored by a combination of organisations and individuals in the village who appreciated the magazine and donated smaller sums. After 8 years or so classified ads began to appear along with smaller business card adverts, mixed in with whole page adverts, heading towards what we have today.

I had my own little part to play in the history of the magazine. First by creating the village websites and to start publishing the magazine online in 2003. Second, by which time I was living in a New Zealand village and took on the writing and editing of the monthly magazine there, I started contributing history items to The Messenger. The editor Leonie Henderson remarked she was feeling under pressure of getting material in time for most month's deadlines, and not looking forward to the work in December 2011. I said, "The run up to Christmas is no time to be sitting

compiling a magazine. I am heading for the beach myself, so I skip the January issue, and combine December and January's events." Leonie gratefully took that on board, and that is why we have 11 issues rather than 12 since 2012. Thirdly, I suggested that new editor Lizzie dropped the volume and issue numbers, as they have often been wrong, being just something else for the editor to have to remember, and never of any benefit as the date on the cover gives the whole story!

Leonie, by the way, did a marvellous stint as editor, producing a great magazine for many years, from May 1993 right up to March 2020 – thanks again Leonie for all that amazing hard work, and also for handing over the reigns into such very good hands.

Dr Hugh Frostick
hugh@greatbromley.org.uk
07722 253962

P.S. Now waiting for a call from Henry, if I still haven't got it right!

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

"Long to Reign over us"

I believe the Parish Council has plans to mark the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, in some appropriate way, early in June. We will look forward to hearing more of these plans in due course. At St George's we will also be commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the throne on Sunday February 6th. It was on this day, in 1952, with the death of the King, that her long reign began. The Book of Common Prayer provides for a special service on the anniversary of the Queen's Accession. We will be observing this at the 10.30am Parish Eucharist on that day.

In her 70 years on the throne, it is remarkable how visible and accessible the Queen has been, not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout the Commonwealth. It is often said that the Queen exercises "soft power". Every one of her Prime Ministers has spoken of the value they have placed on their regular meetings with her, and of her wisdom and long experience. She is hugely respected by the governments of the Commonwealth, an institution to which she has been personally committed throughout her reign. No one can doubt her deep sense of vocation to service, which derives from her Christian faith.

The Queen has been a huge force for good in our world. In the early months of the pandemic, it was the Queen, rather than any politician, who was able to speak to the nation to give hope and encouragement.

Many of us will have our own memories of seeing the Queen on one of her many visits to the towns and cities of Britain. One of the highlights of my ministry in Maldon, was to meet the Queen when she came to the town, and I was invited to say grace at the Civic lunch in the town hall. Her visit brought such joy and excitement to the town, which has been replicated wherever she has gone.

The Queen, as a constitutional monarch, stands as a symbol of stability, service, decency and the rule of law, in a fragile and uncertain world. Her sense of duty and service stand in sharp contrast to some world leaders who seem to be driven more by the urge to build their own wealth and power, often at the expense of their people.

We thank God that Elizabeth our Queen has, in the words of the national anthem, been "long to reign over us". We shall look forward to joining in the celebrations with the village, later in the year.

Stephen Carter



St George's Church Great Bromley



www.greatbromley.org.uk

Parish of The Bromleys

Services at St George's Church, Great Bromley

Feb 6th <i>Queen's Accession</i>	Parish Eucharist (BCP) 10.30am
Feb 13th <i>Septuagesima</i>	Parish Eucharist 10.30am
Feb 20th <i>Sexagesima</i>	Evensong (BCP) 6.30pm
Feb 27th <i>Sun. before Lent</i>	Parish Eucharist 10.30am

Services at St Mary's Church, Little Bentley

Feb 6th	Morning Prayer 10.30am
Feb 20th	Holy Communion 10.30am

Services at St Mary's Church, Lawford

Feb 6th	Holy Communion 10.30am
Feb 13th	Holy Communion (BCP) 8am Family Service 10.30am
Feb 20th	Holy Communion 10.30am
Feb 22nd	Holy Communion 9.45am
Feb 27th	Morning Worship 10.30am

To receive our email newsletter you can sign up via the website or email us at church@greatbromley.org.uk.