

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

March 2022



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

It's half-term this week so I have a lovely week off! Signs of Spring are popping up everywhere, although a couple of storms are due. Last month's mention of snow didn't materialise so maybe we'll be let off this year. It's currently sunny and forecast to be 16°, and one of my windows is being replaced so I'm very grateful for the mild weather.

Although my youngest had Covid last month, myself and Mr R escaped it. She had a very mild case and was only ill for 24 hours, so was good to return to school the following week. There is a National Day of Reflection planned for 23rd March, which marks two years since the very first lockdown. A silence to remember those suffering and lost during the pandemic is scheduled for noon that day.

This month's cover is of an oak tree in Church Meadow that unfortunately has now been felled. Cllr Mander's article explains more of the details and reasons for this.

Plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations are well underway and we received news last week that the Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £2800 to help with costs. The National

Lottery Awards for All scheme encourages communities to come together for the celebrations and so we hope to see lots of residents join us. Cllr Nicholls' article has more information on the events planned.

March is a busy month; we have a couple of concerts to go to, both rescheduled due to the pandemic and we are hoping they are not postponed further. Places are starting to feel busy again, as we get used to living with Covid. I'm sure many of us look back in wonder over the last two years, but then look forward to the future once again.

March also sees the clocks spring forward on Sunday 27th, which coincides with Mother's Day.

Awareness days in March include:

- 3rd - World Book Day
- 8th - International Women's Day
- 17th - St Patrick's Day
- 18th - Comic Relief / Red Nose Day
- 25th - Wear a Hat Day

*Take care,
Lizzie*

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

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

Copy can be delivered by hand, sent by post or e-mail (see inside back cover) or via the link on the websites www.greatbromley.org.uk or www.littlebromley.org.uk

For details of availability and costs for **ADVERTISING** in the 'The Messenger' please contact the Treasurer on 01206 230537

Please support the sponsors of our magazine.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

This month we'd like to thank the individuals and organisations who have generously made donations to **The Messenger** over the past year.



PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
21/01819/FUL Mr Thomas Frary	Proposed construction of ground source heat pump plant room.	Pond Farm Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP	Approval - Full 04.01.2022 Delegated Decision
21/01637/FUL Mr K Robinson - K W Robinson	Proposed erection of an agricultural workers dwelling.	Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UU	Approval - Full 13.01.2022 Delegated Decision
21/01914/FUL Mrs Sharon Kandiah	Proposed erection of horse stable block.	Blue Gates Farm, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UZ	Refusal - Full 12.01.2022 Delegated Decision

PLANNING APPLICATION

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
22/00031/FULHH Mr and Mrs Bell	Proposed two storey side extension. Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment on the application.	2 Firtree Cottages, Stone Road, Great Bromley CO7

LITTLE BROMLEY VILLAGE FUND

The two Oak benches which were bought for St Marys Churchyard, Lt Bromley by the Village Fund have now been installed. Straps have been put over the rails and fixed into concrete to give security - thanks to Andy for doing this for us.

The benches have been positioned at either end of the Churchyard and each give a different view of the Church. It is envisaged that these benches will be left untreated so they weather to a silver grey.

Hopefully they will bring years of pleasure to the visitors in the Churchyard.

The Village Fund are discussing with the Church Authorities regarding planting a tree to

commemorate the Queen's Jubilee - the tree to be planted near one of the benches and eventually will have a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Details will be announced when the permissions have come through.



Pier to Pier walk for St Helena Hospice returns this May!

St Helena Hospice's popular sponsored walk is returning on Sunday 8th May 2022. The family-friendly event is a favourite amongst Tendring residents, supporters of the hospice, and local businesses, attracting hundreds of people year on year.

The scenic walk starts from either Clacton or Walton Pier and participants can choose to walk the 7 miles between the two piers or challenge themselves to make the return journey – 14 miles in all! Many people walk to remember their loved ones, while others take part in groups, with their work colleagues, or simply just to support their local hospice.

For anyone unable to attend the walk on Sunday 8th May or looking to avoid

the crowds, St Helena Hospice are also offering the option to take part virtually at a time and place that suits you.



After a brief hiatus due to the pandemic, the local charity is hoping for a great turnout and the return of the fantastic atmosphere of years past. You can register now for just £5 at www.sthelena.org.uk/piertopier.

St Helena Hospice's Pier to Pier walk has kindly been sponsored by Pickering Electronics Ltd.

St Helena Marketing and Communications Office
t: 01206 931 464 e: marketing@sthelena.org.uk

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



At our recent Parish Council meeting celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were discussed. The celebrations will commence on Thursday 2nd June (Public Holiday). A Beacon will be lit in Church Meadow at 9.45pm, the remainder of the country will light Beacons at the same time. It was agreed to have a BBQ the same evening sponsored by the Parish Council with donations for Seven Rivers. People attending are requested to bring their own chairs and drinks. A Piper will play shortly before the Beacon is lit.

On Sunday there will be a Church Service commencing at 11.30am led by the Rev Canon Stephen Carter, and assisted by Canon Ann Easter the Chaplain to H.M The Queen. Following the Church Service, a Hog Roast will be held in Church Meadow commencing about 1pm, again donations for Seven Rivers. The "Motley Crew" from Brightlingsea will be performing whilst the Hog Roast is being served. They are a lively Sea Shanty group who are good entertainers. A marquee and a children's entertainer has been booked, Great Bromley Cricket Club will be supplying a bar, and a toilet will be provided for both events. Chairs and tables will be provided in the Marquee. Car parking will be available at Seven Rivers, this will be signposted.

In order to assist towards catering I request that residents notify the Clerk by email - clerk@gbpc.org.uk or myself by telephone 01206230688 or email - fryerning23@gmail.com if they intend to support these events.

Following an inspection by an expert arboriculturist and a bat survey, a tree in Church Meadow unfortunately had to be

removed for safety reasons. Councillors are considering purchasing some bat boxes for Church Meadow. There is a separate report by Cllr Mander in respect of the tree in this edition of the Messenger.

A discussion took place regarding the findings of Hare Green survey. It was agreed to make contact with TDC Open Spaces department and discuss additional play equipment, especially an enclosed area for our younger children. A meeting is being arranged with a supplier of equipment.

The ongoing speed limit reduction in Harwich Road is now being dealt with by our County Councillor, Carlo Guglielmi via the Members' enquiry system. I understand that some progress has been made, and the scheme will now include chevrons at the bend coming into the village. Hopefully the scheme will be dealt with shortly as it is now two years since it was approved.

We would like to meet and thank the 'star knitter' who has made the wonderful toppers for the post box in Brook Street!



A reminder to new members of our community, that parking is permitted as part of the planning agreement for all school users on the right hand side as you turn into Robinson Close.

Cllr Fred Nicholls

TREE CONDITION SURVEY

Last September, the Parish Council commissioned an Arboricultural Tree Condition Survey to be conducted on land that the Parish Council are responsible for, which included Church Meadow, Hare Green and St Georges Close. The purpose of the survey was to identify tree defects that are a hazard and pose a risk to users of the sites. The survey also identified works to improve tree condition by crown lifting/reduction and taking out any dead branches.

Unfortunately, the survey identified extensive disease in a Horse chestnut tree on Hare Green and the recommendation was to fell. One other casualty was a prominent Oak tree on Church Meadow. Two types of fungus were identified around the base of the Oak tree and the recommendation from the survey was either a crown reduction, fell the tree or to have a PICUS examination conducted to determine the extent of the damage caused by the fungal growth. The Parish Council agreed to arrange for the PICUS test to be undertaken (probes are tapped into the base of the trunk that send soundwaves through the stem of the tree to determine the

density of the wood, this then gives an indication of the extent of internal decay). Unfortunately, the test findings indicated significant decay and the recommendation was to fell the tree.

Because of the location of the Oak tree, being close to parking areas and the main path leading to the church, the only responsible action by the PC was to have the tree felled.

Prior to the felling of the diseased Oak an aerial inspection for roosting bats was conducted by qualified bat ecologists, however the inspection showed no evidence of bats being present.

The Parish Council will be looking at planting new trees within the parish as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



Marie Curie urgently needs a couple of volunteer drivers to help them raise funds which provide nursing care to people living in Essex who have a terminal illness.

Could you lend your time and wheels to Marie Curie? A volunteer driver is a flexible role and tasks will include delivering materials out in the community; collecting, counting and banking money from volunteers and supporters and planning the most cost effective routes. You will be able to see first hand how your help is making a difference, with regular updates on the money you have helped raised and the time you have saved for the charity to focus on their main priority - giving care to people who are the end of their life.

If you have time to give, then please get in touch with Angela on 07872 503670 or email: angela.taylor@mariecurie.org.uk



GEORGE EDWARD KENT - 9 SEP 1938 – 11 DEC 2021

George Kent was born in Little Bromley in 1938. Grandfather Samuel had moved from Suffolk to take on the Fox and Hounds public house and his father, also called George, worked the old forge next door with the help of his brother William. Samuel gave up the pub tenancy but his sons carried on with the smithy. Bill never married, but George Senior married Mary Bloyce and started building their house, Crabtrees, in Paynes Lane. This was not quite complete when George ("Georgie") was born, so his first months were in a house in Shop Road. When they moved in to Crabtrees it became home to George for the next 70 years, and Uncle Bill also lodged in the house with the family for several years.

Young George went to Little Bromley school and then went on to the Grammar School in Colchester, meaning a good walk to Pellens (Pelhams) Corner to catch the bus to Colchester North Hill, and then a walk to Lexden Road. He was bullied at first in the school, possibly because of his country accent that he retained all his life. He had to retake his fifth form, and when he left in 1956 he started work at Hiskeys Farm for Charles Frostick. Georgie was only there for less than a year when his father was hospitalised for the first time, so he had to go and help Uncle Bill at the forge.

The Kents had built a new forge in 1949. They gave up shoeing horses, in favour of the mobile blacksmith, but kept busy on various farm and machinery repairs, and general deliveries with their van. When his father died in 1965, and then Uncle Bill retired and died not long after, George carried on the work alone. He was often to be seen using an electric arc welder

without a protective face mask, which meant his glasses were flecked by the hot sparks, but George never seem to connect this with his failing eyesight. He didn't charge much at all for his work. One local lad remembers he took his motor scooter in for repair, asked George how much it would be, and George said, "Aww, just give me a couple of bob."

Georgie stayed on at Crabtrees after his mother Mary died in 1990 and became very lonely at times. Neighbouring farmer Edgar Cooper apparently made a hole in the hedge so that George could talk to the gardeners there, for some company.

George's father was a Churchwarden at St Mary's Church, Little Bromley for 40 years and his mother was also devoted to the church with cleaning and blowing the organ. After his father died, George himself became one of the last Churchwardens until St Mary's became redundant. He also served for 30 years on the Parish Council.

By 2010 George's eyesight was becoming so bad that he couldn't really manage on his own, so he sold Crabtrees and moved into Ironside Court, the sheltered accommodation in Manningtree. He was very settled and happy there, but after suffering a stroke he moved to the Cheviot home in Colchester where he was very well cared for.

Despite his difficulties in life, he generally kept cheerful. When asked, "How are you?" he would likely reply, "I'm alright, there's no use being otherwise!" He was always very grateful to the many helpers who came in to assist him and to visitors.

Cont'd...

In his last decade or so, George had much friendship and support from the fellowship of Link Line Christian Ministries in Lawford, including Frank & Margaret King and Val Abbott. Val was a marvellous companion who visited him regularly and enabled him to go on the holidays that he so thoroughly enjoyed. She took him to swim in a pool on one holiday, as he had never had the chance to try that before!

George always loved coming back to the events at St Mary's and catching up with village friends. As he said a few years ago, "I feel Little Bromley church is my church. Aside from my parents' love for St Mary's I was Christened there, confirmed there and hope to be buried there as well." He duly was on the 17th of January, a beautiful sunny day.



Dr Hugh Frostick

Copyright Photo of George at his beloved St Mary's church reproduced by kind permission of East Anglian Daily Times

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

At the last Council meeting the 30mph speed limit was discussed along Bentley Road and we have been told that a petition would be useful to persuade Essex Highways to support us in this. The petition will be advertised and set up via the Village Facebook page.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the company that has put the planning application in for the Battery Farm in Ardleigh Road. After discussions, the Council voted to support this application.

The Village sign has now been

constructed and will be situated next to the post box on Shop Road. It will be easier for residents to access as it will now face the footpath. Thanks to Paul Brown for all the work on this.

The Council is looking for help in constructing a map showing the water courses around the Village and if anyone can help with this please can they contact the Clerk with any information.

The next meeting of the Council will be at The Haywain, 7.30pm on the 17th March 2022.

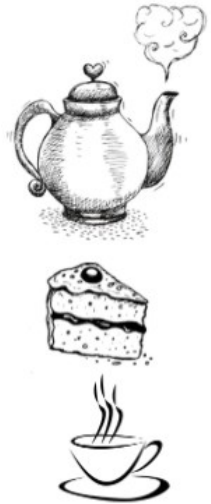
BRENDA & RICHARD INVITE YOU TO A
CHARITY COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF ENGALYNX

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 2022 10.30am-1.00pm

TETHER'S END, ARDLEIGH RD, GT BROMLEY CO7 7TL

*Coffee/tea, cake and a warm welcome –
entry free but...all donations gratefully
received. For further details of the charity,
please read the article below or contact us
on 01206 230537*

Looking forward to seeing you.



ENGALYNX

Founded in Manningtree in 1998 by Maralyn Bambridge, following a meeting with a newspaper photo-journalist who had visited the refugee camps in the DRC (then Zaire) following the 1994 Genocide. After several discussions it was agreed that she would try to do something to help the orphans and widows.

She met with some pupils of Manningtree High School, and they chose the name Engalynx which stands for England Links. For the first couple of years, these pupils were involved with fundraising events.

From the very beginning, the aim was to bring practical aid to vulnerable children. The aim is still the same. The charity has achieved many things, including building and equipping a maternity unit in Rwamagana District, training young women in tailoring and founding a co-operative to sell their goods, supplied over 400 goats to child headed families, Agreed trained hairdressers, always working with a

local contact or the local authority to ensure that what is being done is something that is really needed.

Working with the Executive Secretary of Rwamagana District (County Council) the charity is now funding a feeding programme for nursery pupils between the age of 2-6. This project is based in a truly poverty stricken area of Rwamagana and is based in the local school. The cost to feed one infant for one month is just £2.00 per week and we are looking for sponsors to help us continue this essential work. The meal is served at 10.00am and the number of infants registered for school has increased since 2019 from 90 children to 164. The benefits are two fold: more children are being educated and they are receiving a well balanced, nourishing meal each day.

For further information, please contact
Maralyn at:
maralyn.bambridge@yahoo.com

Registered Charity No. 1099700

Hi Everyone,

Coming into Seven Rivers is a joy at this time of year. As I write, we have snowdrops everywhere, and the daffodils are beginning to show their heads and will be in flower soon, and the better weather will be on its way.

March is always a time of planning, we try and find out where our residents would like to go now the warmer weather is on its way. One of the places they hope to go to this year is Duxford Imperial War Museum. This is a topic we have talked lots about and we hope we will be allowed to visit this year, as the last two years we haven't been able to travel too far. We also have residents planning their own weekends or weeks away. We also must plan our garden and we need help as this has to be kept on top off, as any gardener knows, and with limited time

and ability, if anyone would like to help please get in contact.

During February we have tried to keep ourselves busy; we've been baking, singing, quizzing like we normally do, as well as the odd sing-a-long morning or afternoon. Our volunteer, Jenny, comes in on Tuesdays and this is looked forward to by the residents. Others prefer Mondays when another volunteer comes in to play Scrabble or do craft things, jewellery making, flower arranging, and card making to name a few. So if you have a skill and an hour to spare, why not become a volunteer with us. Contact me on email at elizabethbarrenger@leonardcheshire.org

I can forward your interest to the right person.

Just to finish off this time with view of our gardens.

***So take care till next time
Liz x***



BROMLEY 10K 2022

The run this year will take place on Sunday 17th April starting at 9.30am.

Whilst on the previous five occasions the run has supported the maintenance of Little Bromley church, this year the proceeds will be given to the Air Ambulance. As an extra benefit to the village, runners were asked if they would buy some native hedging plants. This hedging has already been planted over a cold weekend in January on Andrew Fairley's land alongside Paynes Lane. The working party of hedge planters are

members of Harwich Runners and friends.

The run in 2021 had over 300 participants with some of the entrants being cautious by deferring until 2022. This year we expect the number to return to between 600 and 700 which we have had previously.

A further £2000 was donated to the church fund to pay for the tree work that is necessary for safety. The grand total given to Little Bromley church over the five years of the run exceeds £14,000.



Lawford Church Fun Quiz Night

Ogilvie Hall Lawford CO11 2JG

Saturday 2nd April 2022

Doors open 7pm, quiz starts at
7.30pm

£5 per person, max eight per
team

Bring your own drinks and
nibbles

Book your table or ask to
join a team

Contact by phone or text

07791 418388 or 07946 615470



Dates for your diary



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
- 23 National Day of Reflection - Minute's silence at noon
- 27 Mothers' Day

APRIL

- 2 Lawford Church Quiz Night - Ogilvie Hall - 7.30pm
- 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 Easter Day
- 17 Little Bromley 10K Run - 9.30am

MAY

- 2 May Day Bank Holiday
- 4 Coffee & Cake Church Hall, Little Bentley 10am - 12 Noon
- 11 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall - 7.00pm
- 17 Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain - 7.30pm



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.

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Thames Sailing Barges" will be the subject of the talk by Peter Taylor at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh CO7 7RS on Thursday 10th March at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £1.50. Everyone welcome.



GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Women are welcome to join us at our March 2nd meeting at 7:30pm at the Village Hall. Our speaker Kate Mason will talk about reusing and re-imagining clothes and fabrics. People are welcome to bring an item of clothing or fabric to ask for suggestions about how to re-invent it as something else.

Our February meeting was a fascinating introduction to the mysteries of cheese-making, led by our own Eileen Brown, and we all devoured biscuit-fuls of beautiful fresh herby homemade cream cheese. Eileen will be

offering courses in cheese-making later in the year.

We will be resuming our regular coffee mornings and lunch meetings from this month.



CLOTHES COLLECTION – BAG 2 SCHOOL

Fundraising for St. Georges Primary School, Great Bromley
(Registered Charity No. 1047072)

The PTA of St George's C of E Primary School in Great Bromley have registered with Bag2School, an online clothing collection company which supports schools by facilitating the reuse of clothing to help support a sustainable global economy. We are inviting you to help us support this company and our school by putting aside a bag of unwanted clothes. The school will receive a payment for the total weight of clothes collected. We anticipate our collection to be in May 2022. **The actual date to drop off bags will be announced on our PTA Facebook page so please check here**

shortly: <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgescofeprimaryschoolpta/>

More details about this fundraising scheme along with which items are accepted/declined can be found at <https://bag2school.com/>. Thank you in advance for your support. Happy wardrobe sorting!





GREAT BROMLEY ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR

Sundays 20th March, 22nd May, 25th Sept, 20th Nov and 22nd Jan 2023

9am – 3pm

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 07802 282193

Table bookings only in advance

£25 each or 2 tables for £50

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

10 March

31 March

21 April

12 May

9.45am to 10.15am



Clacton Choral Society is celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special concert on Saturday 9th April commencing at 7pm in St. James' Church, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1DA.



The main work is 'Vivaldi Gloria', supported by Handel's 'Let the Bright Seraphim' and the Coronation Anthem 'My Heart is Inditing', and Parry 'I Was Glad'.

The Society is joined by Members of The Belmont Ensemble of London, Elizabeth Weisberg soprano from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and Mezzo-Soprano Lucy McAuley. The conductor is Peter Dyson.

Ticket price £12.50 now available from John Kedge 01255 714746 or 07580 827415 or via email johnkedge@tiscali.co.uk. Also book on line www.clactonchoral.org.uk

GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our January meeting went ahead as planned and members discussed various ideas for the coming year. As we did not have a Speaker for the afternoon we entertained ourselves reading articles and discussing various situations in our lives which, over the years, have changed so much. This resulted in much hilarity which is certainly needed at present.

The competition for our March meeting will be something which represents the Queen's platinum Jubilee, so thinking caps on!

The Committee sadly announces the death of a long standing member of our Club, Vicky Griffiths. Vicky was our Treasurer for many years whilst living in Gt Bromley with her husband Frank. He sadly predeceased her some years ago.

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**



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Mask Wearing

In order to help us keep both our patients and staff safe we are still asking that anyone coming into the Surgery continues to wear a mask. Your help with this is very much appreciated.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

Covid-19 vaccinations can still be booked either on-line via the NHS National Booking Service or by telephoning 119.

Travelling Abroad

Now that things are opening up and people are starting to travel abroad again if patients need their Covid passport for travel this can be accessed by downloading the NHS app. Further details are available regarding the Covid passport at www.nhs.uk including how you can obtain a paper copy if you are unable to download the NHS app.

For patients who need to check whether their vaccinations are up-to-date for travel purposes there is a form on the Great Bentley Surgery website called 'Travel Risk Assessment'. This can be completed and submitted via the website. For patients that do not

have access to the Surgery website there is a paper form which can be collected from reception.

Repeat Prescriptions

In order to help our Prescription Clerks manage their ever increasing workload it would be very helpful if patients could ensure they put in their requests for medication at least three working days before they require this. We are happy to accept prescription requests seven to ten days before this is required to ensure there isn't a delay in patients receiving their medication. After allowing three working days for your prescription to be issued you can contact your nominated Pharmacy who will be able to confirm if your medication is ready to collect.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 23 March 2021 for staff training.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group will be held on Thursday 17 March 2022 at 6.30pm at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Our next monthly meeting and lecture is on 9th March when Tony Diamond talks about John Betjeman the most popular British poet of the 20th century.

While many of our interest groups are now active, the monthly coffee morning is a good way for new and current members to meet and held in the Lambe School East Bergholt at 10am on the first Friday of each month.

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. Further information and contact details are on our website u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley

IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

In Spring you need a combination of sunshine and wind to dry out and warm the soil sufficiently to sow seeds. You can accelerate the warming by using cloches or laying polythene over the soil. The soil will remain damp under the polythene and may need to be left uncovered for a few days to allow the surface to dry a little to work into a fine seed bed. Assuming the soil is starting to dry out and warm up we suggest only limited seed sowing now. Weed seeds will also be germinating and perennial weeds will be starting to grow. It is useful if you can hoe off any germinating weeds and remove the perennials before sowing. Judging the soil temperature is difficult but remember, a few days of sunshine although pleasant, will have done little to raise the temperature of the soil. It is better to be patient than waste your efforts. There may also be some early pests that need to be controlled especially slugs that have survived the winter. Asparagus beds should be hand weeded to reduce the risk of damaging shoots that are just below the surface.

The type of soil your garden will have an influence on how and when you can start soil preparation. Sandy soils are generally able to be worked all year round whereas clay soils are easily damaged by being walked on and cultivated when wet. Many soils will be somewhere between sand based and clay based. The right condition is something that has to be judged by each of us. If the soil sticks to your footwear and you get a large amount to carry around the soil is certainly too wet to be gardening. Even if you do not mind heavy muddy footwear you are doing damage to the soil by compressing it and removing air spaces. The majority

of plant roots need water and oxygen. Clearly sometimes in the winter you will have to walk on the soil to harvest root crops or brassicas. You may need to consider using temporary boards to minimise damage.

The majority of seed packets normally give details of the advised sowing dates as well as the expected harvesting period. Providing you are able to sow during March the following are recommended for early sowing.

Vegetables. Sowing inside:

Aubergines, courgettes, cucumbers, peppers, chillis and tomatoes (We always wait until the end of the month to prevent overcrowding in the greenhouse during May). Beans, some brassicas, lettuce and pumpkins. **Sowing outside:** Beetroot, some brassicas, carrots, leeks, onions, lettuce, peas and radishes.

Flowers: Sweet peas are ideal to sow at this time both inside and in the ground. Numerous other flower seeds can be shown but check the supplier's recommendations.

It is now time to cut back any remaining perennials and grasses. Leave it too late and the new emerging shoots will either be damaged or you will need to cut back at a higher position which might look unsightly for a while. Complete pruning of autumn raspberries and trim winter heathers but not so hard as to leave only old wood because this will not usually regenerate.

Unless you service your own mower and power tools, it is worth getting it done before the service companies are too busy. Remember the likely storage life of the new unleaded (E10) is thought to be shorter than the previous mix (E5).

PEGGY TWEED (NEE ELIZABETH MARGARET HAYWARD) 28 SEPTEMBER 1928 TO 22 JANUARY 2022

Peggy Tweed has passed away peacefully in Northern Ireland, the last surviving of the three children of Herbert and Molly Hayward of Badley Hall, Great Bromley. Peggy, like her brother Dick, was born while their father Herbert was renting Hoo Hall at Rivenhall. In 1929 the family moved to Badley Hall, where her younger sister Marian Burgoyne (who died last year and was remembered in his magazine) was born. Peggy's education was similar to Marian's and, like Marian, she was mad keen on her ponies and gymkhanas.



Peggy was heavily involved with running the Girl Guides, as the local unit met at Badley Hall at that time. She made friends from Guides and the Essex & Suffolk Hunt Pony Club, and went to lodge and work with Judy, Alison and Sally Wright at their mother's market garden farm in Tendring, their aunt being a Guide Commissioner.

She was intending to join the WAAFs or the Wrens. However, Marian had married a vet in the early 1950s and moved to North Antrim, and whilst Peggy was visiting her sister there, she met a farmer called Wilfie Tweed. They were subsequently married on 4 April 1956 in St George's before Peggy also moved to Ireland. Their sons, James and William were born there in the late 50s. When Wilfie died in 1978, Peggy had been married to him for 22 years and would be a widow for nearly twice that. But her family grew with the marriage of her sons, James to Cherry and Willie to Leah, and then followed seven grandchildren: Jonathan, Simon, Richard and Anna in England and Rebecca, Sarah and Matthew in Northern Ireland.

In her later years, Peggy moved to retirement flats in Ballymoney. She would comment that she had 'the best seat in the house' in her flat above the main door - where she could observe all the comings and goings of the residents and visitors. In 2018 she moved to Trinity House in Garvagh, again appreciating the community and the wonderful, dedicated staff. This is where she passed away.

In recent years, when she was getting forgetful, she still lived "in the moment". Although she couldn't recall what she had for breakfast, she would always say, "I'm sure it was very good". When asked how she was, she would say "Every day's a surprise!" Her family had continued to grow, with four great grandchildren and a fifth due imminently. Even as her memory faded, Peggy loved to see photos and videos of them whenever she had visitors.

*Dr Hugh Frostick
via the Tweed family*

JULIAN FROSTICK 4TH NOVEMBER 1940 – 5TH DECEMBER 2021

Julian was born in Monkey Street, Little Bentley, the second of three children to Tom and Alice Frostick, before the family moved to t'other end of Park Road into Great Bromley around 1950.

Julian went to primary school at Great Bentley, then Manningtree school, and went to work at Park Farm for Arthur Webb, where his father Tom was horseman. Julian then worked at Normans farm, Little Bromley, owned by Mr. Andrews. Normans Farm was bought by Tom Fairley of the Fairley family, who by now also owned Park Farm, after Arthur Webb's sad death.

Julian worked between both farms until he moved to a new career as barman at the Essex University Student's Union bar. He had previously worked behind the bars of The Wheatsheaf and Fox and Hound pubs in Little Bromley, before being a fixture for many years at the Frating Kings Arms. During this time he had married and divorced, moved from Gt. Bromley to Kirby Cross, back to Bromley, a short time in Colchester, then finishing his days in Weeley.

Ray & Derek Frostick



HOLY SIMPLICITY - THOUGHTS FOR LENT

When I was appointed Archdeacon of Bedford a number of friends and colleagues wrote to me to wish me well. This pungent advice stood out:

“I hope you will be an inveterate opponent of all unnecessary procedures, paper and “exercises,” and will promote the mission of the Church with holy simplicity.”

Lent is a good time to challenge our priorities and to be prepared to prune many of the practices which have come to be seen as essential.

Holy Simplicity can be applied to Church affairs, but it can also be applied to the way we view nature, to our dealings with other human beings, to our relationship with God, to our simple acts of kindness and much more.

Keep it simple this Lent.

The Ven. Malcolm Lesiter (Archdeacon Emeritus)

NEWS FROM ST GEORGE'S

Flower Festival - July 2022

On Friday 4th February at 10.30am the journey towards our Flower Festival 2022 began.

It was good to see and meet so many of you who had come together to start the planning for this event in July.

Flower Arrangers, refreshments, sponsorship, publicity, raffle, stalls and other activities were all discussed.

The title "Plant a Tree for Jubilee" initiated quite a lot of discussion and some of the ladies' suggestions were very innovative and interesting, Rain Forests, Climate Change, Poetry, Songs and religious themes such as Creation and the Tree of Life and of course the Jubilee and the celebration of our Queen's seventy-year reign. Can't wait to hear the results of this discussion when the Flower Arrangers choose their titles.

Then the Flower Arrangers chose their area in the church where they would like to decorate; window sill, font, rood stairs, pew ends, porch? So many, so much to do but I know it will look beautiful.

Activities were discussed. Events taking place throughout the weekend are always an attraction and fill the church with interested folk. There is no charge to come in to our Flower Festival, we just ask for a donation towards the upkeep of our beautiful church. There will be music, there may be line dancing and there will definitely be a Pet Service in Church Meadow on Sunday 3rd July in the afternoon.

All organisations in our village are invited to take part, we welcome your involvement in this event in your church and we look forward to meeting you.

Please contact me on 01206 230688 if

you haven't already and would like to join us.

So this is just the beginning, June and July 2022 are going to be busy months in Great Bromley.

Come and join us.

St George's Gt Bromley Repair Fund

We continue to make progress to keep the church in good repair. The ringers project 2020-2021 is complete and you can see photos of the whole ringers project and repainted bell frame on the church website. Repairs are underway to the stained glass in the south window and the Stone window; details are on the notice board.

We are planning a new Soakaway to correct the dampness in the south aisle floor. In January a maintenance-free pump was installed for the boiler. Finally, our fine pipe organ (J W Walker 1867) needs cleaning and maintenance. Thanks to generous donations we have the funds in hand.

With grants from GCG Environment Trust and generous personal donations we have enough money for all the works mentioned above, but our funds will then be exhausted. Donations are always very welcome to build up funds to start future projects to the exterior stone and flintwork.

Annual Meeting and Church Electoral Roll

The roll is being revised in March with a close date of 15th March. If you are on the roll you can vote at the annual meeting on 3rd April. Gt and Lt Bromley residents may be on the roll as well as non-residents who attend St George's regularly. To apply there are forms in church, on the website, or you can send an email to request one.



St George's Church Great Bromley



www.greatbromley.org.uk

Parish of The Bromleys

March 2nd	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	The Litany 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am
March 6th	<i>Lent 1</i>	Parish Eucharist (BCP) 10.30am
March 13th	<i>Lent 2</i>	Parish Eucharist 10.30am
March 20th	<i>Lent 3</i>	Evensong (BCP) 6.30pm
March 25th	<i>Annunciation</i>	Holy Communion 11.30am at St Mary's Little Bromley (BCP Sung)
March 27th	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	Parish Eucharist 10.30am

Services at St Mary's, Little Bentley

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

Services at St Mary's, Lawford

March 2nd	Holy Communion 7.30pm
March 6th	Holy Communion 10.30am
March 13th	Holy Communion (BCP) 8am Morning Prayer 10.30am
March 20th	Holy Communion 10.30am
March 27th	Family Service 10.30am

Fundraising

St George's raised £464 at Christmas bucket collections for the Children's Society

Churchyard Helping Hands

Warm welcome and coffee and cakes will be provided at the first meeting in 2022 on Saturday March 5th 10 o'clock.