

# The Messenger

The Magazine of the  
villages of Great &  
Little Bromley

September 2020



# THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

Great news....the events page is back in full flow! The list had been dwindling ever since I started editing The Messenger, and was becoming a real sorry state but I am pleased to say that the list has grown considerably this month. I hope I won't be having to add the dreaded word 'cancelled' to many more village events. So much work goes on behind the scenes in preparation and so if you can support and attend any on the list you'll be made most welcome.

The Post Office at The Cross Inn has also re-opened. Each Wednesday from 10am to 12pm you can take advantage of this useful local facility - please use it, we don't want to lose it!

Another great facility we are lucky to have is the Mobile Library from ECC. If you've never used it before, you are missing out, especially children. I took my youngest and she loved the fact it's on a lorry but still has that 'library feel' to it. Dates and times are opposite the events page.

Speaking of children - it's not long now until they go back to school and college. I'm very out of practice of taking my eldest to the railway station at the crack of dawn, and my youngest

will be starting at secondary school so a whole new routine for us. I think I will feel a little lost without them around all day. I'm lucky that they are of an age where they are fairly self-sufficient but their presence over the last six months has become normal and so a void will be left, I'm sure. Maybe not for too long. I'm still working from home most of the time and no sign yet of a full time return to the office.

On 15th August we remembered brave soldiers in the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day. Tendring District Council organised an online service with its Chairman and invited the towns and parishes across Tendring to submit pictures of remembrance. Both Little Bromley and Great Bromley Parish Councils took time to remember, and their photos are on this month's cover.

September is National Organic Month so if you've never tried it, give it a go. International Literacy Day is on the 8th, and International Day of Peace is on the 21st.

If you're feeling bored/adventurous, International Talk Like a Pirate Day is on the 19th.

*Take care, Lizzie*

## **MATERIAL** for the **OCTOBER 2020** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger'

should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th SEPTEMBER 2020** please.

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

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## Sponsorship for The Messenger

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### LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Councillors:**

Jon Buxton (Chairman)  
Anita Spall (Vice Chairman)  
Neil Stock  
Iain Smith  
Steven Sauka  
Clerk: Dawn Sauka



Little Bromley Parish Council are here to listen to Residents' concerns and act on them. We aim to support programs that benefit the Village and be responsive to any queries. We are proud to do this whilst having the lowest precept of any local Council.

Parish Council meetings are held every 2 months, on the 3rd Thursday of the month. If there are issues you are concerned about, or ideas you would like to share, please come along and talk to us or email the Clerk on [littlebromleypc@gmail.com](mailto:littlebromleypc@gmail.com).

**Covid-19**

Due to social distancing rules since the Pandemic started, we are currently holding meetings via Zoom. If residents would like to be included please email the Council and an invite will be sent over with the meeting details. Eventually we hope to be back in the meeting room at the Haywain when things are back to normal.

Join us at the next meeting in September or email us at:  
[Littlebromleypc@gmail.com](mailto:Littlebromleypc@gmail.com)

*Thank you Little Bromley Parish Council!*

# GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

Since the village hall update in the July edition of the Messenger, further restrictions on the use of community facilities have been lifted by HM Government. This has meant that as at 14th August all club and society activities routinely taking place in our village hall can recommence at the discretion of hirers. Some restrictions do remain in place however which will have a minor impact on some activities. The main one of these is that face coverings need to be worn by general attendees for all activities, less those involving fitness training or physical exercise.

The hall remains available for hire but to enable the social distancing guidelines to be met, the Main Hall and kitchen only are to be used until further notice and all seating will be on plastic chairs. A one-way circuit is operational in the building, with entry via the front (main) entrance only. Hirers are advised to monitor carefully future HM Government announcements regarding restrictions which are to be lifted, or conversely measures which may be re-imposed due to a resurgence of the virus.

Bookings are now being taken again for private parties, including children's parties, but there are strict limits on the number of attendees allowed and restrictions on the activities permitted. Those wishing to hire the Main Hall for a private function are requested to approach Jackie Lear (Bookings Secretary on 07543974751 or email [gbromleyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:gbromleyvillagehall@gmail.com)) or me so that a full briefing can be given and your requirements discussed.

The socially-distanced 2020 Village

Hall AGM will take place on Tuesday 15th September commencing at 7pm in the Main Hall. The agenda for the meeting is displayed on parish notice boards. So far I have had no volunteers or nominations from members of the public wishing to join the village hall management committee, on which there are vacancies for both elected and co-opted members wishing to get actively involved with the running of the village hall charity. Current committee members would really welcome 'new blood' onto the committee to help with the strategic and day-to-day running of the hall. No particular skills are required, however a desire to help our fine community facility to flourish and willingness to get stuck in and take on a non-onerous management responsibility would make the role more meaningful and much more enjoyable. We have fun as trustees and are proud to be responsible for the village hall and its lovely grounds. If you are interested in joining us on the committee please contact me for further information. The deadline for nominations is 10th September.

Two dates for your diary are Mr Bead's annual visit to the hall with his vast selection of jewellery-making materials on Sunday 20th September; and the Great Bromley Antiques and Collectors Fair organised by Nigel Dyson on Sunday 27th September. Both of these events will be advertised locally nearer the time.

**Martin Frostick - Secretary**  
**01206 250263**

**[villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk](mailto:villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk)**

**Stour Valley U3A is bouncing back! Groups re-opened include Wine Appreciation • Five Mile Walking • Philosophy • Country Walking • Science • Book Group • French Conversation • Italian • Canoe & Kayak • Curry Club • new group Get Fit Again and many others re-opening soon**

Visit our website for latest news and information [www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk](http://www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk) or contact Chairman Graham Manuel [gandamanuel@gmail.com](mailto:gandamanuel@gmail.com) or Secretary Susan Basted [susanbasted10@gmail.com](mailto:susanbasted10@gmail.com)

## LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: [littlebromleypc@gmail.com](mailto:littlebromleypc@gmail.com)

Little Bromley Parish Council has continued to hold the PC meetings via Zoom. We are monitoring the situation regarding the September meeting and will know nearer the time whether this is going ahead as a Zoom meeting or whether it will be held in the Haywain, depending on what the advice is regarding the rate of infections.

Tendring District Council has produced an online Commemoration of VJ Day and the Council contributed a photograph showing Major A C Downes and the Chairman, Mr J Buxton, standing in front of our

Memorial which will be included in the video.

A reminder that the Council still has a vacancy for Footpath Warden. If anyone is interested in this position, or would like any details, please email the Council.

The next meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 17th September at 7.30. As mentioned, the actual place is still to be confirmed.

**Anita Spall**

## HAMILTON LODGE

### Friends of Hamilton Lodge

I am interested in re-establishing contact with the former members of the voluntary group "The Friends of Hamilton Lodge". I also look to reunite former residents who were placed into the community. All information will be welcome.

I also wonder if anyone knows how the Hamilton Lodge has come to be sold for development, as I always

understood that Mrs Palmer had a covenant on it to ensure her dream that it should be "a home for life"?

Please contact me on 01206 851377 or email [pitts234@btinternet.com](mailto:pitts234@btinternet.com)

Thank you

**Chris Pitts**



# GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

We are fast approaching flu vaccination season and I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone who is eligible to call us to make an appointment for your annual NHS flu jab.



Flu vaccinations are currently available to all patients aged 65 and over and those under 65 with chronic health conditions. At the time of writing this Newsletter we are still awaiting further guidance on vaccinations for those patients in the 50-64 age group and we will update you once we receive further advice

Although I cannot give you exact dates as I write this newsletter, the Flu Clinics will start in October and we will be holding Saturday flu clinics as usual as well as some weekday clinics. We will of course continue to provide vaccinations opportunistically during normal routine appointments to eligible patients, so there is no need to book a separate flu appointment if you are already seeing a doctor or nurse for an appointment in October.

Flu is an unpredictable virus that can cause mild or unpleasant illness in most people. BUT, it can cause severe illness and even death among vulnerable groups including older people, pregnant women and people with an underlying health condition. If you are not sure if you are eligible,

please give us a call. We are unable to provide private vaccinations, but many local pharmacies do.

***By having your flu jab, you are not only helping yourself, but you are also helping to protect the wider population from this nasty virus which can easily spread to vulnerable people who are much more at risk from complications.***

In the same way as last year, there is a different vaccine for patients aged 65 and over, compared to eligible patients under the age of 65.

**Call 01206 250691 NOW to book your appointment.**

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## Telephone Appointments

To assist our Doctors and Nurses can I please ask that if you have a telephone consultation booked you ensure that you are available on the contact number you have provided us with at the time agreed to take the call. Our clinicians are finding that they often ring patients for their telephone consultations and are unable to get an answer.

## Patient Participation Group

At the time of writing the Newsletter there isn't a Patient Participation Group meeting planned in September. If this situation changes then PPG members will be informed by email and we will also advertise this on the Surgery website.

***Sue Mitson - Operations Manager***

# GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

[www.gbpc.org.uk](http://www.gbpc.org.uk)

Clerk: Lizzie Ridout Email: [clerk@gbpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@gbpc.org.uk)



Several residents have been in contact regarding the Little Paddocks development. They have queried why the developers have knocked down a listed barn. The barn was most certainly not listed. Any concerns over any building development comments should be made to TDC's planning department or our Parish Council during the consultation stage.

Notification of planning applications are shown on the Parish Council agenda which is displayed on the notice boards located at Hare Green, Balls Green, the Village Hall, The Cross and at Church Meadow. It should be remembered the Parish Council are not statutory consultees, they can only comment on the applications to TDC's planning officers.

The hedges at Hare Green playing field have been under discussion and a site meeting was held with the parish councillors responsible for the playing field, our tree warden, Maintenance team and myself. A programme of works will be implemented to ensure the field and hedges are kept in good order and maintained for our community to use.

A number of residents have complained about the silos that are located on Brook Farm, Hall Road. Several people suggested that drug taking was ongoing at the silos. The Police have traced and stopped a vehicle suspected of being involved, however, I am informed no offences have been detected. The condition of the silos has been reported to TDC's Enforcement team which is now investigating. If considered dangerous an order could be made to remove them.

As reported last month, the Corbeau Seats Rally will be taking place again next year. The two-day event will commence on Saturday 24th April with a Seafront Special Stage in Clacton. It appears to be a special event with a VIP Hospitality Area including catering etc. The following day the Rally moves to our area. This year the Rally will be part of the British Rally Championship. This event seems to grow each year. Following concerns by a resident it was agreed to seek a meeting with Mike Carran, the TDC Officer with responsibility for the Rally and with members of the Safety Advisory Group. Mike Carran has agreed to meet with us we wait to hear if members of the Safety Advisory Group members will also attend.

A few residents have contacted me regarding the development at Hamilton Lodge. I have had a number of meetings with the developers, Carlo, our County Councillor and most recently with Paul Honeywood, Portfolio Holder at TDC for Housing. It has been agreed the number of houses on the Hamilton Lodge development will be reduced. It is not at the moment possible to say by how many as discussions are still ongoing, but it should be in double figures. Affordable housing was discussed, and I was able to point out construction is under way for eight affordable houses in Mary Lane. Some rent-to-buy houses are also under construction. Meetings will continue.

...Cont'd

As a Parish Council we need to establish if more affordable houses are required for existing parishioners in Great Bromley. Please email our clerk if you feel you require an affordable home.

Rob Lord, our Vice Chairman, and myself laid a wreath at the War

Memorial to commemorate VJ Day on 15th August, and contributed a picture to TDC's online memorial service.

I still have a supply of red and green recycling containers and food caddies if anyone is in need.

**Fred Nicholls - Chairman**

<b>Planning Determination</b>			
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
20/00552/FUL Mr & Mrs Craven	Replacement of an agricultural building with a 3 bed bungalow in lieu of Prior Approval for a dwelling, subject of application 19/01372/COUNOT.	Willow Farm, Hilliards Road, Great Bromley  CO7 7US	Approval - Full  10.07.2020  Delegated Decision

<b>Planning Applications</b>		
<b>REF</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
20/00792/ FUL Mr Paul Willey	Proposed single storey rear extension, garage roof conversion including new front elevation dormer window as well as additional internal alterations and repairs.  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	Chatsworth, Frating Road  Great Bromley CO7 7JW
20/00854/ FUL Mr B Day	Proposed conversion of vacant barn into a four bedroomed dwelling with associated garaging and landscaping works.  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	Blue Gates Farm, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UZ
20/00859/ FUL	Proposed 3no. dwellings (replacements: Plots 1, 2 and 7), internal road and turning head; shop with visitor car parking and new access from Harwich Road; associated landscaping and structures.  Great Bromley Parish Council raised serious concerns about the access on Harwich Road. The junction has experienced numerous accidents in this well-known local blackspot.	Little Paddocks, Frating Road, Great Bromley  CO7 7JL

## IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

To continue last month's comments about the weather we expect that September will bring an end to the exceptionally hot weather we had in early August. Whether we enjoyed the heat or endured it will depend on our own circumstances, but most gardeners do not find such high temperatures helpful. Many plants we grow do not enjoy the heat and do not thrive without supplementary watering. Here we were watering our cucumbers and tomato plants twice a day just to keep them alive and if rain comes with thunderstorms it can be too much causing no end of damage. Being selfish of course we will happily accept an Indian summer that extends the growing season by delaying the first frosts until late autumn.

This time of the year it is more of the same regarding weeding, hoeing, mowing, but now is also a good time to start reflecting on what has happened this year in the garden. More detailed thinking and planning can await the depths of winter, but it is a good idea, especially if your memory is like ours, to jot down your successes and failures. Include any thoughts on why it succeeded or failed.

For many people who have small gardens it might be that you need to make changes to enable you to grow more in a small area such as creating raised beds. Always a good winter project. Choose whatever length suits your garden but I suggest a width no more than 1m with paths either side to cultivate and harvest easily. Another way of growing more intensively is the 'square foot' gardening technique that advocates creating a raised bed approximately 1m square and dividing it up in 9 squares and planting

something different in every square. By careful plant combination it is possible to use most of the bed for most of the year. This is a good discipline as it stops you from growing too many of one plant. I'll admit, we find it difficult to throw away seedlings we have raised and then difficult to use all the produce. Look out for second-hand copies of books on both raised beds and 'Square Foot' gardening.

September is also the month that the seed catalogues start to arrive. Rather like a teenager with a 'club book' (for those under 50, think of it as the internet access) Andy devours each catalogue to decide on what to grow next year. With so many people growing this year, demand is said to be strong for seeds, so best to get some early orders in if you can. However, just because varieties are new does not mean they are necessarily better than varieties that have existed for some time. It can be better to wait a year by when candid feedback is available from customers.

As well as harvesting, now is the time to either cover empty beds with a mulch to help retain nutrients or if possible, make use of it by sowing planting such as swiss chard or spinach that will stand the winter. Some gardeners advocate the use of green manures on otherwise unused beds. The crop is dug in next Spring to aid nutrition. We hope you have enjoyed your gardening this year and that you look forward to planning next year as we approach Autumn.

***Andy & Judy***

Now the country is slowly waking up from its long pandemic sleep, the W.I. had its first committee meeting not in the Courthouse (our usual haunt) but on the lawn of one of our Chairlady's gardens. We took along our own chairs and refreshments adhering to all social distancing measures.

We discussed our future plans; a small gathering of members in the Church field, which was held on 5th August just for a chat and a chance to catch up with friends and, for some, just a

change of scenery. We also talked about all our members contributing to a 'W.I. memories of lockdown' book with each member writing their favourite or worse experiences of the pandemic. This book will be kept for future W.I. generations to look at and ponder over. We plan to hold another committee meeting in the open, weather permitting, where we will finalise plans for 2020 and beyond.

Keep safe all.

**Sue Clark**

## From the Archives

On the 6th day of April in 1948 Great Bromley W I was formed - now don't forget that date.  
Three shillings and sixpence the members paid each year,  
The Federation took half a crown  
So that left a bob in the clear

The first August meeting was in the Rectory  
For members, friends and children a happy company  
But on that the summer evening they had to use the hall,  
Why?- You may have guessed it  
The rain began to fall.

Many demonstrations had interesting themes,  
Like cutting out your under clothes and sewing up the seams.  
Glove making classes and soap making too, Lantern slides on Colchester to name just a few.

Quite soon they had the problem  
Of speakers who don't come,

A County demonstrator had suddenly been struck dumb  
One very helpful member had just the remedy, She talked about some useful bags-  
How many? Thirty three!

It seems as if our members have always been quite keen, on organising outings  
To where they haven't been  
A coach trip to Norwich, the first that they did try Had to be cancelled through lack of support  
Now doesn't that make you cry!

And now we all find ourselves in 1982  
In some ways not a lot has changed  
I think you will share this view - the village of Great Bromley just wouldn't be complete  
Without our W I each month for value it can't be beat!

**Written by Gill Newman  
former member and past President  
Great Bromley W I**

# 2020 EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER

- 9 Great Bromley Parish Council - Venue TBA 7.30pm
- 10 ECC Mobile Library - Church Meadow 9.45-10.15am
- 12 St Helena Hospice Midday Walk - anywhere!
- 15 Great Bromley Village Hall AGM 7pm
- 17 Little Bromley Parish Council - venue TBA 7.30pm
- 20 North Essex Boat Jumble -10am- 4pm at Little Bentley Road, Tendring, CO16 0DB
- 20 Mr Bead's jewellery-making materials - Village Hall
- 27 Great Bromley Antiques Fair - 9.30am - 3.30pm Village Hall

## OCTOBER

- 1 ECC Mobile Library - Church Meadow 9.45-10.15am
- 14 Great Bromley Parish Council - Venue TBA 7.30pm
- 22 ECC Mobile Library - Church Meadow 9.45-10.15am

## NOVEMBER

- 7 Litter pick - 10am at The Bromley Cross
- 11 Great Bromley Parish Council - Venue TBA 7.30pm
- 12 ECC Mobile Library - Church Meadow 9.45-10.15am

## THE DEDHAM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Governors invite applications from residents in the Parishes of Ardleigh, Bradfield, Dedham, Great Bromley and Stratford St Mary for financial grants that are available in the following categories:

### **Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Colleges**

Applicants must be at least 12 years old on 1 August in the year of the application.

### **Universities and Colleges of Further Education**

Applicants must have lived in one, or more, of the five Parishes for at least two years prior to the application date.

For an application form, or further details, contact the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Jean Flewin, Coppins, Crown Street, Dedham, Colchester, Essex CO7 6AT  
Tel: 01206 322215

Closing date for applications:- 31st October 2020

## Message from the Chairman of Great Bromley Parish Council

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

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

*Cllr Fred Nicholls*

## Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

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

Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

## The Mobile Library visits Church Meadow every three weeks

**Day of visit:** Thursday

**Time of visit:** 9.45am to 10.15am

**Route:** County Mobile 2 week 1

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

## Next visit dates

- 10 September 2020
- 01 October 2020
- 22 October 2020
- 12 November 2020



# OBITUARY

**Gerald Nicholas Gurney**

**10<sup>th</sup> March 1931 - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Gerald was born during a snow storm at Great Bromley Rectory, now Copley Dene, on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1931, the youngest of seven children. His father Archer was the Rector of the parish from 1929 to 1944. His mother Barbara gave each older child the task of being a mentor and guardian to a younger one.

It was an idyllic country setting with a tennis court and the remains of a moat in the garden. One would have thought that Gerald's passion for, and expertise in the racket sports began here – but no! All his brothers and sisters were good tennis players and told him that he was too young to play tennis with them, but he could be the ball-boy if he liked!

Neither did swimming become a favourite childhood sport after he attempted to paddle himself across the moat in a biscuit tin which quickly capsized. His mentor got into terrible trouble from their mother. He could not possibly have imagined then that he would spend 60 years being married to Joan who occupied most of her time teaching swimming. Their individual sports were never mutual, but their interest was always shared. Together with her, he enjoyed the beauty, peace and wildlife of the countryside in a house on the site of the old Guildhall in Great Bromley and close to the place of his birth.

Gerald had a very mixed education – firstly from a governess, then at Great Bromley Primary School, followed by schools in Colchester: Holmwood House, the Boys High School and

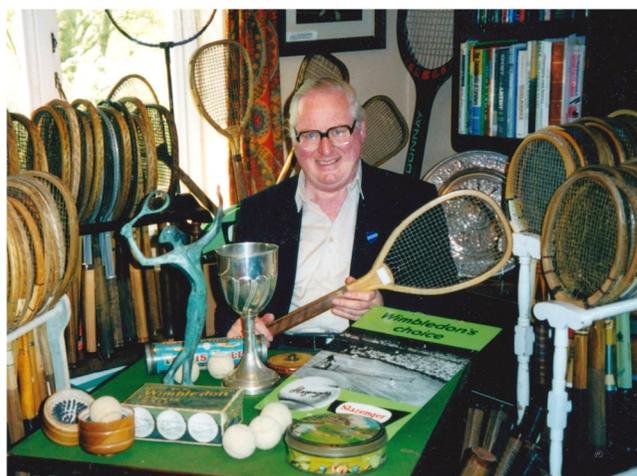
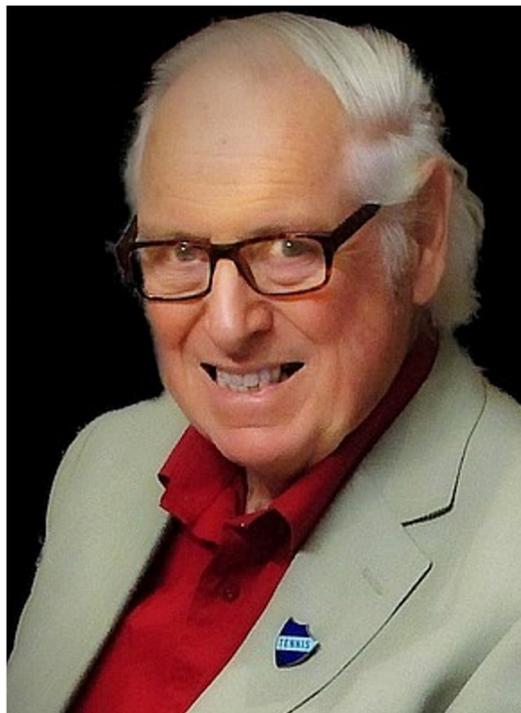
Colchester Royal Grammar School. After National Service he attended Oxford University and finally Cambridge. He was elected captain of Oxford University Table Tennis and was awarded a half-blue. At these universities he achieved the rare distinction of playing table tennis for Oxford versus Cambridge, and then for Cambridge versus Oxford. After university he returned to Colchester Royal Grammar School as Head of the English Department, and became a well-respected teacher.

In 1960 he married Joan, a farmer's daughter, and also a teacher and avid collector of Bathing Bygones. He started to develop his interest in the



extensive collection. This led to exhibitions at major events in 13 countries with three of them at Wimbledon and several contributions to films and television programmes. He also qualified as a coach in tennis, table tennis and squash, and campaigned for a National Sports Museum.

After his teaching life concluded he devoted his retirement to his collection of racket sports antiquities. He set up two collectors' clubs and edited *The Tennis Collectors Magazine* and the *Table Tennis Collector Magazine* for many years whilst he continued exhibiting both here and abroad. He wrote extensively, including books on the interrelationship of the racket sports.



A creature of habit, most of his writings were immaculately hand-written with a fountain pen, although a trusty old typewriter was sometimes a standby.

Modern technology was never his forte.

In 2012, in recognition of his outstanding services to British Sports History, he was invited with his wife Joan, to Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee Garden Party.

Joan survives him together with their son Anselm, daughter-in-law Jayne and granddaughters Martha and Isabella. Gerald's sporting

legacy will live on in them, and in many other people, both in this country and worldwide, who have been inspired by his dedication to the history of sport.

## GET INVOLVED ONLINE WITH GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY

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

### Great Bromley village website

[www.greatbromley.org.uk](http://www.greatbromley.org.uk) with links to most village media pages including:

- ◆ Parish Council website [www.gbpc.org.uk](http://www.gbpc.org.uk)
- ◆ Village Hall website [www.greatbromleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.greatbromleyvillagehall.org.uk)

### Little Bromley village website

[www.littlebromley.org.uk](http://www.littlebromley.org.uk) incorporating the Parish Council pages and with links to most village media pages.

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

### Social Media

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

#### Facebook

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

#### Twitter

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

### Next Door

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

### Mailing Lists

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

*Hugh Frostick*

## TRIBUTES IN THE MESSENGER

It has been such a difficult year for everybody, particularly those older folk who can't get the company they deserve, and the families who have lost loved ones and cannot plan the funeral they would wish.

part in village life. Where I know of somebody who has passed on, I try to write or edit a tribute for The Messenger. I don't know everyone, of course, so if you want this done then please feel free to contact me.

One little thing we can do is remember deceased residents who have played a

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

# MORE THAN JUST A FARM

We were treated to some warm weather this summer with no measurable rainfall since March. The dry weather at the start of lock down baked and dried out the land very quickly after an extremely wet autumn and winter. This wet period also put the land down very tight which will make preparing the ground this autumn very difficult.

It was a worry and concern for us farmers as to what our yields would be like come harvest. Those who had planted spring crops and sugar beet could only hope for enough moisture in the ground and for some rain to help bring their crop along.

We have been lucky on our farm this year to have enough water to allow us to irrigate our wheat and barley. This is not the first year for this and probably won't be the last as our seasons start to change and the crops we grow will need to be more versatile to our extreme new climate.

At the end of spring we put some of our cattle out on our marshland where they could roam for the summer months. It gives them a chance to grow on the grassland and also allows us some extra barn space needed for harvest.

At the start of April our resident Sow, Ruthie, had her third litter of ten piglets. She is a great mum and looks after her piglets very well, a true natural!

At the end of May, we sheared our sheep. This annual event involves our local sheep shearer joining us to take the fleeces off our ewes and rams. Sheep don't naturally shed their woollen coats and having them on during the summer months would make them too hot. This natural product is used in so many industries including

insulation, clothing and crafts.

Harvest is now finished for most farmers but the land is still very hard. You may have seen some huge cracks in the land where the land is so dry. We need a lot of rain!! However, until then we will be busy subsoiling, ploughing and hoping for rain before drilling!

We were overwhelmed with new and loyal customers in the butchery at the start of the pandemic, with a very sharp increase on work load. With a few extra hands, including my mum, we fulfilled and more with orders and walk in customers.

Due to lockdown a lot of businesses closed, including garden centres so we took it on us to keep our customers busy in the kitchen and the garden and started selling some plants. This was a real hit and we thoroughly enjoyed expanding our knowledge of plants too! BBQ season has been here for a few months now and we have been busy in the butchery making lots of kebabs, burgers and sausages. We have expanded our product range too, to offer more than just meat with fish, pies and 'ready to eat' products.

The butchery has been successful in taking part in National Butchers Week and National Pie Week through promotions on social media. I have also been extremely lucky to be a finalist in the 'Rising Star' category of the Women in Meat Industry Awards. I am so proud of this achievement and look forward to hearing the final results at the end of the year.

Until next time, Thank you

Becky

[www.beckysbutchers.co.uk](http://www.beckysbutchers.co.uk)  
(pictures on next page)



## FROM THE RECTORY

**A message from the Revd Canon Stephen Carter, who has recently retired and is helping with the services at St George's.**

I have been asked by the churchwardens to write a few words for this month's "Messenger". My wife Sue and I moved from Maldon to Lawford in March. Before I retired, I had been Vicar of Maldon All Saints with St Peter, and priest in charge of Woodham Walter and Woodham Mortimer. It was a strange time to move into a new community, just as the nation went into lock-down. After almost 40 years as a parish priest, I felt quite lost not being able to worship in church on a Sunday, as did Sue. So it was a great relief when St George's resumed public worship in the beginning of July. From the first Sunday we attended we were welcomed warmly into the church.

Alongside the warmth of the congregation, we were bowled over by the beauty of the church. Though I realise that the church is more than bricks and mortar, the opportunity to worship in a special building, hallowed by centuries of prayer, can lift the human spirit into the presence of God.

St George's has a strong vision of itself as the Parish Church which exists in order to be available for everyone who lives in Great and Little Bromley, in times of celebration and times of sorrow. Throughout its long history, it has stood as a visible symbol of the presence of God. It is a place where all are welcome, and where people of all faiths or none, can find peace. Though Sue and I don't live in the parish, we already feel that St George's has become our spiritual home. We are looking forward to sharing in its life in the coming months and years, and meeting some of those who live in this community.



# ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH GREAT BROMLEY



[www.greatbromley.org.uk](http://www.greatbromley.org.uk)

## Life at St George's Church

### Church re-opening

Our services since the re-opening in early July have been well attended. Numbers have actually been higher than normal because we have welcomed people from some neighbouring parishes who are not yet holding services.

St George's lends itself well to distancing and good circulation and with the COVID precautions in place we welcome you back to church - or if you are not used to coming to church why not give it a try?

### More music in church

Congregational singing is not allowed, but St George's has risen to the challenge and introduced more music in the services. Recently we have had organ music by Haydn, Mozart, Handel, Mendelssohn and others; music to soothe, to enliven, and inspire. Alongside this we have introduced a solo singer which is permitted under the current guidelines. Currently we have a pool of two or three young singers, whose songs have included Sanctus by Webbe, Panus Angelicus by Frank, and some beautiful simple plainsong melodies at evensong. The latest Government guidelines (15<sup>th</sup> August) allow singing by small choir groups and we are exploring the possibilities (distanced of course) of singing again in harmony.

Thank you for your support. Don't hesitate to ask if you need any information

Best wishes

**Churchwardens**

### St George's Opening Times and Services for September

Services and opening times are subject to change so please check latest info on the church page at [greatbromley.org.uk](http://greatbromley.org.uk).

Currently all our services have organ music and a solo singer.

- + September 6<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion (BCP) 9.15am and church open to visitors 10.15-5.30pm
- + September 13<sup>th</sup> Parish Eucharist 10.30am and church open to visitors 11.30am-5.30pm
- + September 20<sup>th</sup> Evensong (BCP) 6.30pm
- + September 27<sup>th</sup> Parish Eucharist 10.30am and church open to visitors 11.30am-5.30pm