

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

April 2021



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

Hurrah!! The children are back at school and college and both appreciate a return to a routine, as do I, and somewhere to go each day. I'm sure it must be a relief for parents and carers, not just for the peace and quiet those magical hours of 9am-3pm bring, but for the stability that schools provide, along with the enrichment topics that sit alongside their education. I'm sure teachers must also be relieved to be back in the classroom rather than trying to juggle online lessons and some in-school teaching too. Long may it continue.

In this month's issue there is the next instalment of the owls at Primrose Farm, and the front cover shows one of the owls perched on the fence. Last month's owl item inspired Joan to write in with her experiences of owls, including a very ghostly picture on a car windscreen. I have only seen an owl once, after returning from Election duty at 4am and it was sitting on a telegraph pole staring at me. It was huge but completely beautiful, and a surprise to see it just sitting there, as if it owned the village.

Speaking of elections, you should have received your polling cards in the last few days for the PFCC and Essex

County Council elections on Thursday 6th May. This year's poll cards are mostly being hand delivered which saves on postage. If you haven't received it, or wish to apply to vote, you should contact the Electoral Services team at Tendring District Council. Postal votes are being sent out mid-April.

A treat now, and I thought you might like to hear from Leonie (page 11), our previous editor of The Messenger, and what she has been doing over the past year - as you can probably guess, she's not been bored!

Easter, I hope, will bring us some warmer temperatures; the wind of late has made things feel chilly for some time now. Traditionally, we plan a project for the four day weekend, and this year I think it will be the re-building of a shed and the re-siting of our compostarium. I know that's not a real word but that's what we call it. It's huge as we compost everything we can, and it has bays for the different stages of composting. Mr R has to shovel it around a lot. I tend to shy away from that part of the job and concentrate on adding to it. Happy Easter!

*Take care,
Lizzie*

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

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PICTURE FROM THE PAST...



On the south-east corner of the Courthouse Inn crossroads, where the old A604 Colchester-Harwich trunk road crossed the B1029 Great Bromley to Frating Road, was a small holding named "Crossways" with a fine old thatched barn. Many people assumed the barn must be listed, but in fact it wasn't and is now demolished.

Hugh Frostick



SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

Happy Easter Everyone, from us all at Seven Rivers.

During March we celebrated both St. David's Day and St. Patrick's Day. We tried to make Welsh cakes in celebration, I'm not sure if St. David would have been pleased with the charred offering we managed. They did taste nice, but my frying pan I had cooked them in looked a mess when I had finished. I was able to divide the ingredients between the residents who wanted to make them, so they mixed, I had to cook them, no griddle so a frying pan was used, but we tried and we did get a few nice ones that we could eat, so not all was lost.

We are hoping for better things for St Patrick's Day when we will have a go at making soda bread.

In April we will celebrate St George's day and we plan to make

scones, these I can bake OK, so no need to have the fire brigade on standby.

We also took part in the BBC's Big Bird Watch. This was also a hit with four residents taking part over the weekend, and we were pleased to report back on our findings that included a roe deer, along with the 100 rabbits that also live with us.

Our monthly quiz continues; my team did not win but the other activities personal team did so the last Friday in March don't worry if you drive past and hear lots of shouting. The teams try and out-do each other with the put-down chatting, all in good fun I add.

At long last we are able to invite one member of the family back to visit their loved ones who live with us. It is so nice to see everything very slowly getting back to normal.

Take care. Liz x



GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our monthly meeting featured Adam Wightman who gave us a zoom talk about the recent archaeological excavations under Jack's store and the Mercury Theatre. It was a fascinating look at the cunning ways archaeological investigations are carried out, as the preparations are made for new building; by creating rafts, digging down in certain spots around the holes dug for new pillars etc. The intricacy of the tiny finds of mosaic tile, foodstuffs, wall footings, roof tile etc all go to build up a painstaking picture of how and by whom these buildings were constructed in Roman times, and their possible uses.

Among many interesting things, we learned that it was the Romans who revolutionized building in Britain by introducing mortar to hold everything

together, made from sand and the lime which they produced by burning oyster shells. Apparently all the building in Colchester occurred in an 18 year span, proving that Roman soldiers were expert builders and craftsmen.

Everyone stuck around afterwards to ask lots of questions and learn more. Adam invited us to take a trip to the Circus Centre in Colchester when times allow.

We agreed the talk was another zooming success! We welcome newcomers to our zoom meetings. Please get in touch if you would like more information about how to take part. We also have a weekly coffee zoom on Thursday mornings.

Dorothy O'Grady



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Easter Opening Hours

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday. Over the Easter holiday the Surgery will be closed on Friday, 2 April and Monday, 5 April 2021

Covid Vaccination Programme

The Surgery Team are working hard to ensure that patients get their Covid vaccinations as quickly as possible. If you are 50 years of age or older and have not had your first vaccination yet then please contact the Surgery on tel. 01206 250691 so that we can get you booked in for this.

For those patients who have already had their first Covid vaccination at either the Surgery or one of the local vaccination hubs, we can confirm that you will be contacted with an appointment for your second vaccination within 12 weeks of the first one. We would ask that patients help us by not contacting either the Surgery or the hub to chase up their second

vaccination appointment.

Hay Fever

Spring is in the air which means that it won't be long until the start of the hayfever season. For patients allergic to tree pollen they will normally be affected between March to mid-May and for those with grass pollen allergy, between May and July. Please do not contact the Surgery for your hayfever medication as these are products that patients should purchase over the counter from the Pharmacy.

Appointment Times

The time allowed for all telephone and face to face appointments is just 10 minutes. The clinician will be able to deal with one problem during a consultation, so you may be asked to make a follow up appointment if you have more than one issue to discuss.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

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

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

**GT BROMLEY &
DISTRICT
CRICKET CLUB
100 CLUB
WINNERS**



Thank you as always for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the club in the not to distant future, hopefully.

***Trudie
GBDCC 100 Club Co-Ordinator***

February 2021

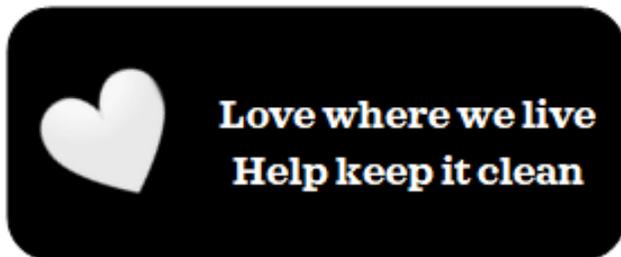
- 1st. Andy Fowles (14)
- 2nd. Ross Soterio (75)
- 3rd. Chris Lawson (96)

March 2021

- 1st. Rohan Uppal (78)
- 2nd. Tubby Austin (101)
- 3rd. Clive Earley (48)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
21/00186/FUL Mr Gray Rowe – PalletPlus	<p>Erection of warehouse extension, loading bay extension, HGV wash, service yard extension and ancillary works</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on local residents in terms of noise, particularly outside of permitted hours and overnight disturbing sleep. • Light pollution and impact on local residents. • Increased HGV usage on a B road in a residential area. • Change of use of land not in the application • Permitted hours not being adhered to in accordance with previous conditions. • Flooding issues along Frating Road. <p>It was agreed that Cllr Scott would call-in the application to TDC's Planning Committee.</p>	<p>Crossways Centre Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JW</p>
21/00214/FUL Mr and Mrs Hearn	<p>Erection of single storey rear extension (sun room) and cart lodge/store (following demolition of existing conservatory and garage</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.</p>	<p>Sparlings Hall Hilliards Road Great Bromley CO7 7UT</p>
21/00238/FUL Inova - Inova (UK) Limited	<p>Provision of revised vehicular access (following ceasing of two existing accesses)</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council was neutral towards the application.</p>	<p>Newhouse Farm Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP</p>



Litter pickers are now available for residents who wish to help keep their local community free from litter. Please contact Fred Nicholls on 01206 230688 or Owen Blowers on 07879 433716 to grab yours

Open your garden for St Helena Hospice

If you've been making use of your green-fingers over the last year, why not show off your garden in support of your local hospice?

St Helena Hospice is looking for people to share the fruits of their labour and open their gardens this to raise funds to help local people facing dying, death and bereavement in north Essex.

It's free and easy to get involved:

- Pick your own day and time
- Open your garden for a donation on the gate
- Invite just your family, friends or neighbours, or open up to your whole community
- Add special fundraising extras - cakes, plants, crafts...

Joanne Clarke, fundraiser at St Helena Hospice, said: "Whether you have grand grounds or pocket gardens; beautiful borders or stunning tubs, we'd love you to open your garden for St Helena Hospice.

"All the money raised from open gardens will go towards providing vital care and support to patients and families, and giving them hope that they can be cared for with compassion and dignity, where they want to be, whether that's at home, or at The Hospice.

"If you're worried about Covid-19, we are here to help and support you with your event. With open gardens being outdoor events, these should be able to go ahead from May, as long as you adhere to the guidelines; or you could wait until later in the summer, and hopefully hold your event restriction free!"

To find out more about opening your garden for St Helena Hospice, please visit sthelena.org.uk/opengardens or contact the hospice's fundraising team on 01206 931 468 or email fundraising@sthelena.org.uk

St Helena Hospice's Open Gardens is kindly sponsored by Stowe Family Law.



CATCH-UP WITH LEONIE...TIME FLIES

Lizzie wondered if you would like to hear from me so sorry if you don't! I can hardly believe it is a year since I ceased to be your Editor but Lizzie has done a tremendous job in what has been a really tough year copy wise. It was months before I ceased to notice the 14th coming up so geared was I to that particular date of each month. Now it is just an ordinary day for me (if I know which day it is even - Blursday!).

The year has passed, surprisingly, really quickly culminating on Valentine's Day with my first jab with No 2 jab booked for May also at the football stadium which is so efficiently run. The Jab, as I see it, is the only way out of the predicament we have been in since last March and I think we are going to have to learn to live with the virus somehow for some time to come just as we do flu and other infectious diseases.

But my goodness the year has made existing friendships stronger, new friendships have been forged through kindness, community and comradeship with the comfort of laughter through tears, bereavements and meltdowns. Not just the NHS and carers I have also come to respect the supermarket staff, the delivery drivers, the bin men, the postman etc all of whom kept going and cheerful and who I had basically just taken for granted before.

My children, I expect like yours, have been amazing. The self employed among them, the furloughed and those working from home have had a rollercoaster year of worry. They have had to home school, to cook, clean, entertain while trying to work and earn

some much needed finances but have all maintained - mostly! - cheerfulness. A new grandchild arrived in July who I saw twice in the summer who is now sitting up and trying to crawl, two have started school, two are about to move to secondary education - and I am missing out on seeing them. I had a few coveted days in the summer of enjoying crabbing, swimming and sandcastles with them all at one time or another. Also a crazy day out with my siblings in a decorated glade at Burnham Beeches to celebrate my little brother's 70th birthday with walkers passing by calling out - and singing - birthday greetings. Surreal.

I know, within a radius of 5 miles, of all the best park benches to meet friends plus discovering a number of new walks. I carry at all times in my car a folding chair, an umbrella, a parasol (in the summer), a blanket, a sitter, a spare jacket and of course my thermos accompanies me everywhere. I did think of adding a spade recently ...! Plus of course a trusty mask.

During the summer my garden had no weeds, my lawn was immaculate, my book pile disappeared, I became really tanned, my hair just grew and grew whilst I sewed practical items, crocheted baby blankets and quilted. The Durham wholecloth quilt, begun in April, is almost complete. Its title will be 'Lockdown'. At Christmas I joined my neighbours in their garden for roasted chestnuts and marshmallows, zooming the children in the morning sharing Santa stockings with them.

...cont'd

I have listened to the radio, watched so much rubbish on TV and discovered the delights of Netflix. I have zoomed concerts, opera, ballet, theatre, lectures as well as chatted to friends and family via Zoom, WhatsApp, text, email, old fashioned letter, telephone and, of course, attended countless committee meetings using the media. My IT skills have certainly widened some with more success than others. Regression into childish behaviour has occurred with my siblings over the zoom weeks as we giggle and laugh down memory lane. And, of course, here at home Katisha has been my constant company who has become, after all the

years, a lap cat. She sends you all her 'luv'.

And now having had the Jab we can look forward with hope to the return of some normality, to meeting up with friends and family, to hugging and maybe even kissing. I might even miss this way of life for a while although I doubt I shall for long.

Meanwhile take care, keep well, laugh and don't forget to wear the beastly mask.

Leonie Henderson

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

The village hall remains closed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions but at the time of writing is due to re-open on 12th April for a strictly limited range of events including retail activities (such as the regular Antiques Fairs) and providing a venue for commercial hirers undertaking training or other non-social events.

Under the current HM Government plans for the lifting of lockdown, the hall will be available to most of our regular hirers from 17th May. Activities allowed from that date include indoor exercise classes, wedding receptions and funeral wakes (subject to strict limits on numbers attending), indoor sports activities, plays and concerts. All will be subject to the current social distancing rules. Also from 17th May, social activities can take place in the hall subject to the 'rule of 6'. Under current national plans, the hall will be available for hire with no limits on social contact from 21st June. Close-contact activities such as dancing will be permitted from that date.

Given the guidance above, the village hall AGM would be permitted to take place after 17th May and unless the lifting of lockdown is delayed the AGM date will be confirmed in the May edition of the Messenger.

The village hall trustees are delighted that two suitable volunteers from the community have come forward offering their services to examine the annual accounts. Their assistance is much appreciated. The trustees are also delighted to note that County Broadband has now commissioned the free fibre broadband connection for the village hall. This Wi-Fi service will be available to all hirers and initial testing indicated a download rate of over 600Mb/s - a huge improvement on the previous Wi-Fi service provided by EE.

The trustees look forward to welcoming you back to the village hall soon.

Martin Frostick

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk
or 01206 250263

GREAT BROMLEY TREE WARDEN'S REPORT 2020/21

With the tree planting season now at an end, I am delighted to report that a significant number of trees and hedging have been planted in various locations in the village during the last 5 months. The vast majority have been as a result of the TWIG project (see below) but routine planting by the tree warden and several landowners also took place.

The TWIG Project. To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the national tree warden scheme in 2020 various planting schemes and events were proposed across the country and Tendring District Council put forward one of the most ambitious projects - to plant 30,000 hedgerow whips and trees in their district. This project, known as TWIG 30000, was approved by the Tree Council and funding was provided by Network Rail. The scheme was subsequently enhanced by additional funding from Essex County Council under the Essex Forest Initiative. In total over 42,000 trees and hedging were planted in the Tendring area by contractors, ably supervised and assisted by Mike Wadham (Tendring volunteer tree warden co-ordinator) and Clive Dawson (TDC's Tree and

Landscape officer). Three suitable areas for planting were identified in Great Bromley at Badley Hall Farm, Park Farm and the Bromley Brook Vineyard which resulted in over 6,000 trees and hedging whips being planted in the village as part of the TWIG project. Thanks go to the landowners for supporting these plantings and for agreeing to nurture the trees until they reach maturity.

General Tree Planting. Over 50 larger trees and 240 hedging plants were planted at various locations in the village including Badley Hall Farm, New House Farm, Morehams Hall Farm and some private gardens. Some of the smaller hedging plants were bought in but the larger trees were surplus self-sown saplings dug up from woodland within the village. Although most plantings are away from public view, some of the new trees can be seen alongside Badley Hall Road and along the public footpath between the Harwich Road and Morehams Hall. My thanks go to the landowners and others for supporting and assisting with the planting.

Martin Frostick - Tree Warden



Mike Wadham (left), Clive Dawson (right) and two contractors planting a 650m hedgerow at Badley Hall Farm.

PRIMROSE FARM BARN OWL UPDATE

The barn owls have had a busy month, they have started to hunt more at night now with the temperatures above freezing. The male appears to have taken on his courtship responsibilities and has been feeding her. When he returns with her food there is a great deal of flapping of wings, squawking and commotion when he presents her with her dinner.

We have some lovely video footage of her eating her mouse present whole, not for the faint hearted to watch while eating their tea!! She constantly calls him when he is out with a low-pitched call. She sometimes sits on the owl box ledge in the dark we know she is there as we can hear her calling. The male can apparently hear her up to 1km away. In the last week she has started to fly and hunt late evening so whether he has not been able to keep up with her demands so she thought she would go out on her own and get her own dinner!

They spend most of the morning asleep and in the afternoon between preening

themselves and each other or napping. We don't see them hunting at the moment as they are only going out in the dark, but the cover photo was taken late pm when the snow had fallen, they were out early probably hunting as they were hungry.

Barn owls have a sinister reputation sometimes being regarded as a bird of ill omen, presaging doom and disaster. It is thought that the barn owl is often seen as a spooky owl, it is thought to be the ghostly appearance, the sight of the silent white hunter is often seen around ruins and churchyards.

This weekend with the very windy and blustery conditions, the female has not returned from the night time hunting, only the male is resting in the day. The box was very rocky in the wind and hopefully she has gone to find a sheltered spot, in a tree root or within long cover wood. She has been gone two days now, hopefully she will return.

Karen Moss

THE DAY THE WAR CAME TO CLACTON

I was talking to Roger Kennell about connections with Clacton and Walton to the Great Bromley Radar Station. More about that another time.

Roger has compiled and produced a very interesting booklet in conjunction with Clacton VCH Group. "The Day War came to Clacton on Sea" tells how, on the 30th April 1940, a German plane crashed on the town, bringing death, injury and destruction to properties. Fully told for the first time, with images some of which are published for the first time, a map, and a chronology, this is a comprehensive record of that day and beyond to 2017 with the new memorial.

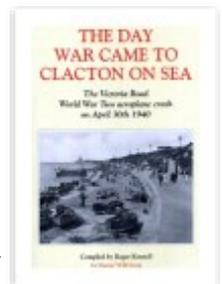
The booklet is 24 pages in A5 size. Price 11

£4 each, or by post £5.50.

Payment by Bank Transfer: The Clacton V C H Group, Barclays Bank Clacton. Sort Code, 20-21-73, Account No. 80846317, Ref. 155; or by Cheque, made payable to The Clacton V C H Group.

The booklet is available from Colin Preen, 14 Highview Avenue, Clacton on Sea, CO15 4DY or via rogerbkennell@aol.com for enquiries and postal sales only.

Hugh Frostick



Dates for your diary...

APRIL

- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 5 Easter Monday - Bank Holiday
- 14 Great Bromley Parish Council - 7.30pm
- 23 St George's Day
- 25 North Essex Boat Jumble 2021 9am-3pm

MAY

- 3 Bank Holiday
- 8 VE Day
- 12 Great Bromley Parish Council - Time TBA
- 16 Antiques and Collectors Fair - 9.30am - 3.30pm
- 20 Little Bromley Parish Council - 7pm
- 31 Bank Holiday

JUNE

- 9 Great Bromley Parish Council - 7.30pm

Message from the Chairman of Great Bromley Parish Council

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

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

Cllr Fred Nicholls

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

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

Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.



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



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



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

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

Don't ignore it - Report it at www.essexhighways.org



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

Report maintenance issues online by using the highways reporting tool. If you think there's a risk to public safety please call 0345 603 7631 or if you have hearing problems you can use the text phone service on 0345 758 5592.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



In last month's report I mentioned the flooding problems in the village. I'm due to have a virtual meeting with ECC Highways officers, our County Councillor Carlo and two residents that have been badly affected by the flooding. I will provide a summary of this meeting in the next edition of the Messenger.

Since the meeting was arranged a highways team have been to the village and cleared a number of road gullies. They have to return to complete the work.

County Broadband are at last connecting people in our village with superfast broadband. All the village in some way or other have had to put up with various inconveniences whilst they have been working, so let's hope it will benefit us all. My immediate neighbour and I have both been connected as have two neighbours opposite. I was surprised that all four houses have been connected from the same telegraph pole and have had four separate visits from different engineers to connect our properties. A local resident remarked to me that it has only taken ten years!!

The shop at Little Paddocks is taking shape very quickly and will probably be open by the time I write my next notes. I understand having spoken with the builder that it will probably be a shop under the "Spar" banner. The owner, Mr Vijay Ponnusamy is intending to sell local produce whenever possible. There will be a cash machine inside the shop and a post office counter. I understand that electric car charging points will also be available.

During the previous Village Appraisal over half the parishioners who responded stated they would like to have a village shop within the village. Now it is going to happen, let's hope it is supported.

I have been able to obtain details of the police cover for Great Bromley. The person in charge of policing in Great Bromley is Inspector Martin Richards. He has agreed to come to the Great Bromley Parish Council meeting in May, when it is hoped we will be able to have face-to-face meetings again.

We will also look to co-opt a new Councillor. If you are interested in this role please contact me, or our Clerk to discuss further.

I am approached sometimes by parishioners requesting guidance on the management of roadside hedges. Two common questions are: how far from the highway do hedges need to be trimmed and what are the rules concerning removal of hedgerows (even if they are to be replanted)? Essex County Council advises that landowners have a legal obligation to ensure that their roadside hedges do not encroach within the highway 'envelope'. Given that the highway boundary varies in width from location to location, it is difficult to generalise as to how far landowner's hedges should be cut back, but the following general guidance from ECC may be helpful:

'Roadside verges should have a clear minimum width of 0.45 metres at all times from the road edge. This means that hedges should be cut back at least one metre from the road edge to allow for vegetative growth.

...cont'd

**GREAT BROMLEY
ANTIQUES &
COLLECTORS FAIR**

Sunday 16th May

9.30am – 3.30pm

**Great Bromley Village Hall,
Great Bromley, CO7 7JA**

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

Hot food and drinks available

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

Covid-19 Restrictions: Face covering must be worn, one-way system.

Temperatures will be taken and contact details must be given

Table Bookings only in advance



...cont'd

Hedges should be cut back regularly such that there is no overgrowth of metalled footways. This includes brambles during the growing season.

Trees overhanging the road should allow a minimum clearance of 5.1 metres above the road surface, including on the road edge/kerb line. There should be a minimum clearance of 2.4 metres above footways.

Where the highway boundary is more than 1 metre from the road edge, then hedges may need to be cut back more severely. A useful guide is the position of road signs, which are properly

surveyed when installed. If a road sign is obscured, then almost always the hedge is encroaching on highway property and should be cut back.

In very general terms, the hedgerows regulations apply to hedges over 20 metres in length (including gateways, gaps, trees etc) or hedgerows which join or are adjacent to another hedgerow'.

The Parish Council requests all landowners to maintain their hedgerows, ditches and properties abutting the highway in a good, and safe condition.

Cllr Fred Nicholls
Chairman

CHURCH JOTTINGS... THE RIVER OF LIFE

In March I told you about the wonderful Stone Family and their special window. So this month when next in St. Georges look out for "The River of Life" Sculpture commissioned in 2014, a major new work of Art for St. George's Church. It was carved by Antonia Hockton in Ancaster limestone from Lincolnshire. Antonia has restored medieval statues at Lincoln Cathedral, Poitiers and Oxford. She created her own sculptures empowered by

medieval examples in a style for the present day. "The River of Life" was made possible by donations in memory of John Appleby 1925-2011. Lay reader at St. Georges for many years and a major grant from the "Cottam Will Trust". The trust supports the 'purchase of the advancement of religion, of objects of beauty to be placed in ancient Gothic churches either in England or Wales."

Jenny Nicholls



IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

There are lots of jobs to do this month, but don't forget to deadhead the daffodils and narcissi you have enjoyed in March by pinching out the faded flowers and seed capsules. The remaining leaves can die back naturally and will send their nutrients back into the bulb for next year's flowers.

There are lots of vegetable and flower seeds that can be sown this month some of which are more easily germinated than others. We find parsnips can be very difficult as they take a long time to germinate. To gain time we spread seeds on a plate, on wetted kitchen paper, having drained off any excess water, and cover them with cling film. We keep them warm, don't let them dry out and sow them when they start to sprout, in about a week or so. Sometimes we do this with peas too. As pea seed can be fairly shrivelled, we may soak them in water for a couple of hours first, before draining the excess water. They will usually start to sprout in just a couple of days.

There has been a lot of coverage in the media suggesting many people are finding gardening a good way of making self-isolation more tolerable whilst inducing the 'dig for victory' spirit. Various programmes and articles have suggested vegetables to grow including the varieties to try. For the experienced gardener this may be of some limited benefit as we tend to believe if something has worked for you for a number of years be careful of changing it. You have no way of knowing whether the variety being recommended will do well in your locality and with your soil conditions. For the inexperienced it is useful to find out what neighbouring

gardeners/allotment plot holders use particularly if their produce looks good. If any non-gardener is enthused to try to 'grow their own' our advice is to be relatively modest in what you attempt. As former allotment plot holders we have seen new plot holders turn up, usually at Easter, sometimes with several friends and family and enthusiastically tackle the preparation of a full-size allotment. Several weeks later they find it covered in weed seedlings with anything they planted overrun and unable to be seen clearly to enable weeding.

Occasionally you may see lists of what garden tools are essential, useful or just a luxury. We think the hoe is one of the most useful. Ideally you should always have a hoe to hand when you are in the garden as the only way to keep on top of the weeds is to continually hoe the soil and thereby cut them off as soon as they germinate. If weeds get too big, especially the roots, they will not only take goodness and moisture from the soil, they will disturb the roots of your precious crops as you try to remove them. Weeds are very resilient otherwise they would not still be so prolific. By being modest in your ambition it will more likely be possible to devote the time to a smaller area and not be overwhelmed by the amount of weeding needed to keep the plot in a condition where your plants flourish and produce an edible crop. By all means dig and prepare more ground than you plant in the first year. You can then more easily hoe off the emerging weeds and produce soil that will be easy to manage in later years. One old country saying was that one year's weed seed produces seven years of weeds.

MORE ABOUT OWLS

I have always loved owls. Screeching Barn owls, snoring little owls and hooting Tawny owls, all inhabit or visit my meadow and orchard, and I hear their calls. But my favourite is the Barn owl.

Often as I drove home in the dark after my evenings' work in Colchester, as soon as I entered the narrow lanes of Great Bromley, my headlights would pick out a barn owl overhead, silently searching the grass verges for small rodents.

On another occasion, driving home at dusk from London with my late husband Gerald at the wheel, as we entered Mary Lane North from the A120, I glimpsed a young barn owl sitting on a post beside the road. "Look out," I shouted. Confused and dazzled by the combination of noise, movement and car lights, it took off suddenly, hitting the windscreen hard. We stopped and I got out expecting to see a stunned bird lying in the road. But it had, apparently, flown away unharmed, leaving a tiny fragment of creamy white feather stuck to the glass as evidence of its collision.

It was a curious coincidence that only a few weeks earlier, I had watched an identical incident in a television documentary about owls, and this was the reason I shouted "look out", in anticipation of what was going to happen again.

My next exciting owl encounter was yet to come in February 2010, but this time the bird left no clue as to its identity – barn and tawny owls are similar in size. Read on for the finale!

Small birds such as chaffinches and blackbirds, sometimes fly into windows where the glass appears to be an open space. The only indication of their collision is the sound of a thud, and sadly, often a corpse on the ground below.

Pigeons usually survive but leave an intricate and eerie 'ghost' mark caused by the fine resinous and insulating powder in their feathers sticking to the glass. Nocturnal strikes by owls, as they fly silently searching for prey, are the most interesting. They are, perhaps, mistakenly lured by reflections.

This very unusual 'ghost' on the rear window of my husband's car greeted me one morning in early February after a cold clear night which had given a light dusting of snow. The impact must



have occurred at the exact moment when the temperature dropped to freezing point, because the outline is remarkably sharp, and there is no disturbance of snow beyond the periphery of the image.

Joan Gurney, Guildhall Orchard

EASTER MESSAGE - THE HOPE OF EASTER

**‘Christ is risen!’
‘He is risen indeed!’
‘Alleluia’**

That ringing Easter acclamation echoes round our churches each Sunday of the Easter season every year and it still brings the same joy, excitement and wonder that seized the very first disciples.

As it turned out that first Easter Day was to be for the early disciples the most memorable day of their lives. Soon after daybreak they heard that the tomb was empty; they heard that Jesus has already appeared to Mary Magdalene. The message of the resurrection sends Mary Magdalene running from the empty tomb in amazement, it brings peace to the apostles cowering behind locked doors, it drives Thomas to his knees uttering the words ‘My Lord and my God!’

Thomas has gone down in history as the doubter; the one who would not believe what the others told him; the realist, the pragmatist, who wanted proof for himself. And he maintains this attitude for a whole week. A week! A week is a long time – in religion as well as in politics.

Thomas goes from one end of the spectrum to the other. Thomas the doubter becomes Thomas the believer. The final irony is that the disciple who doubted the most, is the one who believes the most. “My Lord, and my God” is the deepest statement of belief in any of the gospels.

The event of the resurrection of Jesus is totally beyond our powers of explanation through which God speaks

to us. Whatever happened at the tomb on that first Easter morning means that life will triumph over death, and that hope is the true posture of the human spirit.

The resurrection of Jesus is the greatest life-giving and life-enhancing sign of all, and Easter is a message of life, of the ultimate triumph of God’s loving purposes which gives us the key to the meaning of life, the universe and everything.

If, as the high of Easter fades from our minds, we begin to wonder about the reality, the veracity, of it all, If, you sometimes find it hard to believe the events of the first Easter, if you ever have moments of doubt – take heart from Thomas.

What Jesus said to Thomas – and what he says to us as well – is that it is ok to have doubts. That doubts are, in a sense, part of the process of coming to faith.

The prayer “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief”, is the prayer of many Thomases.

May we all have minds open to the possibility that Easter was no ancient legend of someone being brought to life again, but the supreme miracle in which, as C S Lewis put it, ‘God leaned against the flywheel of history and reversed its direction’.

With love and prayers

***Rev'd Liz
Area Dean of Harwich***



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

Telephone: 01206 230305

During the months of January and February, most of our pupils were learning from home, with schools across the country closed for a second time. This new winter lockdown brought many challenges for both school staff and families; hopefully it will be the last.

Throughout the 'closure' period, a number of pupils from critical worker and vulnerable families continued to attend school. Teachers and support staff were faced with a unique challenge: providing on-site education for these children alongside remote learning for those at home. As many of you will know, the internet service in this part of the village is very unreliable. This made the situation even more challenging for us, with staff having to split their time between home (to deliver remote learning via Zoom) and school (to provide face-to-face learning).

I am very proud of how our school

community rose to this challenge, supporting our pupils and families to the very best of our ability.

At the time of writing, the children have been back in school for just over a week. It is wonderful to see them again and to hear the hum of learning and laughter throughout the school. Most are excited to be back and have settled in very well. Teachers are now working hard to assess the children's learning and support them all to move forward. Equally as important as academic learning is the children's social and emotional wellbeing. After such long periods at home, away from their peers, it is important that we provide plenty of opportunities for children to learn, play and collaborate as they settle back into school.

We are looking forward to warmer weather, time outdoors and a summer term without too many interruptions!

Mrs Keitch - Head Teacher

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

The Council would like to thank the residents who have been seen collecting litter round the Village on their walks recently. We intend contacting Highways and Essex County Council regarding the amount of litter that has been dropped on the A120 etc and asking that something is done about it.

Damage has been done to the Village tree again and the tree warden has been asked to have a look at it.

The new budget has been agreed and the precept for this year will remain the same with no increase.

The next meeting of the Council will incorporate the AGM and will be held [at 7.00 pm on the 20th May](#). At the present time this will be a Zoom meeting but if anything changes we will notify using the Nextdoor site and the website.



St George's Church Great Bromley



www.greatbromley.org.uk

Parish of The Bromleys

Welcome back! All services are in church with congregation and music

	St George's, Gt Bromley	St Mary's, Lt Bentley
1 st April Maundy Thursday	7pm Eucharist of the Last Supper	-
2 nd April Good Friday	-	11am Good Friday Service
4 th April Easter Day	10.30am Parish Eucharist	10.30am Holy Communion
11 th April Easter 2	10.30am Parish Eucharist	-
18 th April Easter 3	10.30am Baptism & Family Service	10.30am Holy Communion
23 rd April St George's Day	6pm Evensong	-
25 th April Easter 4	10.30am Parish Eucharist	-

Newsletter

Our colourful e-mail St George's newsletter will keep you informed about everything going on at St George's; it has links to music, art, and poetry (all in colour!).

Website and contacts

For details about all that's going on at St George's please see the website, or email church@greatbromley.org.uk or phone Jenny 01206 230688.

Lawford services are online only. See Lawford Church Facebook for links

	St Mary's, Lawford
1 st April Maundy Thursday	7.30pm-8.30pm Last Supper - Zoom
2 nd April Good Friday	2pm-3pm Last Hour - YouTube
4 th April Easter Day	10.30am Easter Service - YouTube
11 th April Easter 2	10.30am Family Service - YouTube & Facebook
18 th April Easter 3	10.30am Holy Communion - YouTube
25 th April Easter 4	10.30am Morning Worship - YouTube