

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

March 2023



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

It's half term already as I write, and Easter is not that far away. The weather seems quite mild for the time of year but I won't speak too soon. I'm sure we can all recall that year we had the Beast from the East in March! Weather conditions have impacted my running schedule, with any remote chance of ice keeping me indoors due to risk of injury. I went out last night though and managed a 10K so at least I know I'm capable of completing the Bromley 10K. Mr R is more than halfway through his Couch 2 5K and I'm wondering if we might have a race on our hands?

I was lucky enough to attend Tendring District Council's Pride of Tendring Awards in February, and not in a working capacity but as a proper guest! It was an amazing evening hearing about the selfless efforts of volunteers across Tendring, and TDC staff created a fabulous event. So many people give so much to their local communities and it's lovely to see some of those people and groups recognised with a special evening and to receive a thank you. Almost £1500 was raised on the night for charity organisations as well.

You may have seen the new play

equipment at Hare Green playing field; and part of it is shown on our cover this month. I hope the little ones in our community will enjoy this new aspect of the playing field, funded by S106 monies.

Thank you to our contributors this month, along with our advertisers and the wonderful volunteers who deliver the magazine.

In this edition, as well as gardening tips and advice, there are also updates from local GPs, news about a new booking scheme at ECC Recycling Centres, an event to engage with the new PFCC Rural Crime Strategy, how to get involved with the River Stour Trust, and if you have any time left over, how to become a Parish Councillor.

Awareness days in March include:

- 3rd - Dyscalculia Awareness Day;
- 8th - International Women's Day;
- 17th - Comic Relief/Red Nose Day;
- 23rd - National Day of Reflection;
- 25th - National Skipping Day.

*Take care,
Lizzie*

MATERIAL for the **APRIL 2023** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th MARCH 2023** 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 show our appreciation to the individuals and organisations who have generously donated to the Messenger this year.

The Messenger

Thank you!

Dates for your diary



MARCH 2023

- 01 Little Bentley Coffee & Cake, Church Hall - 10am-12pm
- 08 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 09 Ardleigh & Dist Horticultural Society - Ardleigh Village Hall - 7.45pm
- 16 Friendship Club, The Cross - 2pm
- 19 Antiques & Collectors Fair, Village Hall 9am-3pm
- 23 Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain - 7.30pm

APRIL 2023

- 05 Little Bentley Coffee & Cake, Church Hall - 10am-12pm
- 10 Bank Holiday Easter Monday
- 12 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 16 The Bromley 10K Run - 9.30am
- 20 Friendship Club, The Cross - 2pm

MAY 2023

- 01 Early May Bank Holiday
- 04 District, Town and Parish Elections
- 06 The Coronation of King Charles III
- 08 Bank Holiday Monday

IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

We recently attended a lecture and demonstration by Charles Dowding on *no dig* cultivation. We have been aware of his approach for some time and as we get older we are attracted by the possibility of doing less heavy work and decided to find out more. Hence, I had his new book called 'No Dig', for Christmas (ISBN 978-0-2415-4181-4) and then we decided to try one of his daytime events via <https://charlesdowding.co.uk>

Charles has not only written several books but also made many individual YouTube videos on all aspects of his approach. [Charles Dowding - YouTube](#). He runs a smallholding of about 2/3 acre in Somerset where he produces vegetables including many salad leaves and earns a living from it.

The main principle is that digging destroys the soil structure. By not digging, the mycorrhizal fungi stay intact and enable plant roots to find more nutrients and enable them to extract more moisture. Plants provide the fungi with by-products of photosynthesis completing a symbiotic relationship.

On existing beds, an annual compost mulch is applied in late autumn, which feeds the soil. Worms, bacteria and fungi work the compost down into the soil. It does not need to be aerated by digging. The undisturbed soil is better able to retain moisture and fewer weed seeds are exposed. Light hoeing is all that is required for annuals (as soon as they appear), and digging out perennials such as brambles. Paths between beds are kept weed free by the application of cardboard with composted woodchips on top. Sides to beds are not recommended as they can be great hotels for slugs and snails.

This method does require a lot of compost and so is worth making your own if you can to reduce the cost of bought-in

compost. Charles has done trials of various types of compost, but his own compost comes out top, with mushroom compost coming a good second. He suggested using 4 wooden pallets wired together with a cardboard lining and covering to keep in the heat. He also suggested that the heap did not need air flow through it.

Interestingly, it is suggested that an overgrown garden or allotment with significant weed growth can be overlaid with cardboard, well overlapped, and 100mm + of compost in which you can plant and sow. This can also be applied to an area of lawn to create a new bed very quickly.

Having prepared your growing area, Charles has some very efficient and effective ways of growing vegetables. For instance he sows 2 to 4 seeds per cell in modular seed trays (up to 60 cells), and plants those out directly in small groups, by dibbing a small hole and dropping the group in and watering them. He suggests varieties such as beetroot, onions and radishes are happy to grow together in this way.

Following the construction of our bungalow we have now reformed our vegetable growing area and it is an appropriate time to try the no dig system. By using many of Charles' tips we hope to save time in pricking out and potting on before planting out; to use beds more intensively by using his tips for better succession planting and intercropping to enable two bigger harvests from the same bed each year.

We think this approach could make such a difference to newcomers, or to those disheartened by being overrun with weeds and poor crops in both their garden plots and allotments. We hope it encourages you to have a go.



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Primary Care Network Along with two other surgeries in the Tendring locality, we work together to make up the Tendring Primary Care Network (PCN). As part of this network, we are able to commission additional services for the benefit of our patients.

Cancer Care Nurse Abby Hardy has recently been appointed as the Cancer Care Nurse for our PCN. She will be invaluable in carrying out reviews for patients with a cancer diagnosis and will be able to offer support and advice. Patients can request advice from Abby by contacting a member of our reception team at the Surgery.

Physiotherapy Clinic The Physiotherapy Clinic is a 'one stop' clinic for patients with minor musculoskeletal problems such as back pain, neck pain, joint pain and muscle sprains. The patient will be seen and assessed by a Physiotherapist in a 20 minute

appointment. They will then be given appropriate advice by the Physiotherapist, or advised about any further intervention needed for their problem.

Appointments for the Physiotherapy Service can be booked via our reception team on telephone number 01206 250691.

Surgery Training Afternoon Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 29 March 2023 for staff training.

Patient Participation Group Meetings The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group will be held on Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 2.00 pm at Great Bentley Village Hall in the Michael Wright Room. There will be a speaker from Hearing Dogs for deaf people.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

DEANERY CHOIR

March 12th

The Deanery Choir will be singing at St George's Church at Great Bromley, CO7 7TS at the 10.30am Communion service. The anthem that they are singing is the motet: **Ave verum corpus by Mozart**.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed this motet in 1791. It is a setting of the Latin hymn Ave verum corpus. Mozart wrote it for Anton Stoll, a friend who was the church musician of St. Stephen in Baden bei Wien. The motet was composed for the feast of Corpus Christi; the autograph is dated 17th June 1791 and scored for SATB and organ.

April 7th (Good Friday)

Advanced diary alert:

The Deanery Choir will be singing Faure's Requiem at 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Little Bentley CO7 8SE. This wonderful work will be performed with soloists Patrick McCarthy (Baritone) and Shirley Davison (Soprano), conducted by Sally Pudney with Peter Clayton on organ.

*Graham Bell
Deanery Choir*



STOUR VALLEY U3A

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full time work and come and explore new ideas, interests and skills. Across the country U3A members are learning, staying active, meeting new people and having fun later in life. It's local, social, friendly, low cost and open to all.

We have over 40 interest groups including walking – from strollers to 5+ milers – theatre, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, science group, keep fit, pickleball there's something for everyone.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, East Bergholt. Our monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2pm in the Constable Hall, East Bergholt. Guests are

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our grant from the Parish Council has again been received for Club funds for which we are very grateful.

Three members of our Club were able to attend the funeral of Pat Petchy on 31st January. Pat had been a member for many years, and we send our condolences to his family.

The competition for March is a small picture.

The Club will be meeting every third Thursday in the month, and we do hope to see new faces joining us this year.

welcome for a charge of £4. Lecture on 8th March by Christine Beedle entitled " Confessions of an Essex Scrubber " tells her story of establishing a large cleaning business for which she was awarded an MBE. On 12th April we have Mark Carroll talking on "DNA and Family History", then on 10th May Paula Short will tell us about her travels in Vietnam.

Please take a look at our website www.u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley for more information and contact details.

• fauré requiem

Friday 7th April 2023

6.30pm

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD
LITTLE BENTLEY
CO7 8SE**

**THE
DEANERY
CHOIR**

Soloists:
Patrick McCarthy
Baritone
Shirley Davison
Soprano
Peter Clayton
Organist
Sally Pudney
Conductor

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR CHURCH FUNDS



Hi All,

So hopefully we will soon be seeing more sunshine and that will make us all feel a lot better knowing that winter is at last behind us. I know we can still have the white stuff but it never hangs around in March or is it just me?

Over the last few weeks I've been catching up on my leave so all I can tell you is what we hope will happen in the next few weeks. I have been working hard to find new entertainment to come into the home. We have lost a few during COVID as venues having to close and we could not allow anyone to come in, so most of them have found other things to do. Last week we had a Ukulele band come into the home. This was a first for us but we hope to see them again.

We continue with our normal activities such as board games, quizzes and crafts, and we also have our monthly in-house Church services, plus the WI ladies join us for a Knit and Knatter session. Our trips out have been limited due to the cold

weather so another reason to look forward to warmer days. A few of our residents have been going shopping, swimming, cinema and tenpin bowling. We continue to offer as much as we can to all our residents, giving them a full activities programme. We are still lucky enough to have a couple of volunteers come in the home offering a different view point on music and games.

As I said last month, we hope to have a fete this year so if you could help or offer any suggestions please contact me on 01206 230345. If I'm not available please speak to Wendy or Ali in the office who will pass on your message.

Take care till next time, Liz x

Little Bentley Coffee & Cake

1st Wednesday in month,
Church Hall, Little Bentley
10 - 12 Noon



Great and Little Bromley villagers
are very welcome



Essex Oil Club

If you would like to pay less for your oil, wood and coal, come and join the Essex Oil Club and get discounts for these products by buying in bulk with other local people.

For further information and to register online go to www.essexoil.club/or call Lesley on 01206 231703.



Community Library

at
The Cross
Wednesdays
10.00am-12 noon

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REFERENC E	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
22/01555/ FUL Mr T Frary	Proposed change of use from agricultural to B2 commercial including enclosing of open fronted elevation with the insertion of 4 rolled shutters doors and 4 personnel doors.	Pond Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TP	Approval - Full 18.01.2023 Delegated
22/01561/ FULHH Mr and Mrs Pratt	Proposed replacement detached garage/outbuilding and two north western side facing dormers on the existing dwelling.	Great Bromley House, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TP	Approval - Full 26.01.2023 Delegated Decision
22/01569/ LBC Mrs and Mrs Pratt	Proposed creation of new bathroom in existing bedroom on second floor, structural alterations to rear roof space to create bedroom. Installation of 2 no. dormers and enlargement of 1 casement window to rear gable.	Great Bromley House, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TP	Approval - Listed Building Consent 26.01.2023 Delegated Decision
22/02014/ FULHH Mr and Mrs Nicholas Taylor	Retrospective application for a detached single garage for private use.	Plot 6, 8 Paddock House, Little Paddocks Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JL	Approval - Full 25.01.2023 Delegated Decision

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
23/00061/ FUL Mr Russell and Mrs Lorna Sharp	Change of Use from Highways to Private Use. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	1 Hill Cottages, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7JA
23/00115/ FULHH	Proposed demolition of existing rear extension and construction of a part single, part two storey side / rear extension and addition of a replacement front porch. Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment.	7 Council Houses Harwich Road Great Bromley Colchester

Essex recycling centre booking system

From Monday 13 March 2023, residents visiting Essex County Council (ECC) recycling centres will need to book in advance.



A booking system will be trialled for all vehicles visiting ECC recycling centres to help manage waiting times, reduce congestion, and improve the customer experience.

The booking process has already been trialled for all vehicles using Rayleigh Recycling Centre, and also for large vehicles using the nine van-friendly sites.



Both trials have been effective in smoothing the pattern of demand across operating hours and reducing queues and congestion both in and around the sites.

Residents will be able to book their slots in advance from Monday 27 February.

Blue Badge holders do not need to book a slot.

Pedestrians and cyclists carrying waste from their own home are also not required to book. For safety reasons, we advise that cyclists either queue as a vehicle (for example, if they are towing a small trailer) or dismount and enter through the pedestrian gate. Cyclists can either walk their bike on-site using the pedestrian walkways, or cycle via the vehicle access areas.

Please note, any resident that parks a vehicle outside and attempts to walk waste in will be refused entry. This does not apply to cyclists.

Cllr Malcolm Buckley, ECC Cabinet Member for Waste Reduction and Recycling, said: “The booking system trials at both Rayleigh Recycling Centre and the van-friendly sites have been well-received by residents. The sites have been less congested, and we’ve been able to reduce the misuse of sites by vehicles carrying commercial waste. Residents will continue to be encouraged to switch off their engines when waiting to access the recycling centres. We will monitor the trial to measure its success and can make amendments as necessary.”

ARDLEIGH SURGERY

Appointments

Since our last contribution to the parish magazine, we have had the holidays and the Strep A epidemic as well as the usual winter cold and vomiting viruses. These, along with the cost-of-living crisis has led to an increase in the prevalence of ill health (both mental and physical) amongst our patients and staff. We have severe pressures on an already strained appointment system. We still offer both telephone and face to face appointments every day with our clinicians. To book please call the surgery from 0800hrs. The same day appointments are usually all booked by 0900hrs. Routine appointments can be booked up to 4 weeks in advance and lastly emergency appointments can be booked with a GP after suitable triage by the duty doctor. There are extended access appointments every Saturday from 0900hrs to 1700hrs. These can be telephone or face to face. These appointments are not held at Ardleigh Surgery. We also provide telephone only appointments from 1830hrs to 2000hrs every day. All extended access appointments are pre-bookable, up to 4 weeks in advance for both GPs and Nurses. The Daily Mail has recently launched an app to show how your local GP surgery is performing using NHS digital data collected in November 2022. If you type, "How bad is my GP" into Google you should be able to access this national database. In November 2022 87% of our patients rated us as good, we offered 4592 appointments, 73% were face to face, 33% same day and 43% with a GP.

Surgery news

Dr Gladwin will be off for the next three

months at least. Sister Harrison has retired, and we are in the process of recruiting a new advance nurse practitioner. We have a new staff member, Sam Taylor, who is a GP assistant. We have two new receptionists who replaced seasoned staff who left.

Compulsory Surgery Training Days:

The next compulsory Northeast Essex Surgery training afternoon will be on Wednesday 29th March 2023. The surgery will be closed from 1230hrs and the dispensary from 1200hrs. Other dates are Wednesday 26th April 2023 and Thursday 18th May 2023.

Flu vaccinations are still available at the surgery for those over 50 years of age until the end of March 2023.

From the Partners:

We know that it is difficult to access GP services, we are also NHS patients and have the same challenges. We ask you kindly to be polite and civil to our receptionists, dispensers, and staff in general. They are doing an extremely difficult job and are trying their best in these challenging times. If you do have a poor experience please email the surgery with the scenario, the date, and the person you spoke to and we will do our best to resolve the situation.

Did you know that

Appointments cannot be booked by email or by messages sent via the medication request app on your NHS app. You can book appointments by telephone or at the reception desk.

Dr Cole and partners



**Love where we live
Help keep it clean**



Great Bromley Village Hall



The Management Committee held their first meeting of 2023 on 9th February and reviewed the activities and priorities for the coming year.

It was confirmed that the Village Hall Centenary Celebration would be held on Saturday 1st July and would include: a historical display featuring the village hall, cricket club and other aspects of the village; the opportunity to find out more and speak to the organisers about some of the activities regularly taking place at the hall; musical entertainment; fun activities for children on the cricket field and refreshments for all ages. More details of the event will be promulgated in due course.

Refurbishment work at the village hall continues apace and the priority for this year will be major improvements to the car parks. The new developers of the Hamilton Lodge site have indicated their willingness to help with this, subject to negotiation and agreement with the District and Parish Councils. Initial quotes for resurfacing the car parks have been received and the management committee will investigate further whether grant funding will be forthcoming for this project. It is hoped to undertake the majority of the work in late summer with minimum disruption to users of the village hall and the cricket club. Other improvements planned for the hall this year include the provision of improved lighting in the car parks, external redecoration and replacement of the ladies toilet and cloakroom windows.

Users of the village hall will have noted that the main hall is an ideal venue for playing badminton, with a badminton court marked out on the main hall floor

and a high ceiling which will not impede the shots of even the most vigorous players. The main hall and badminton net are available for hourly hire by parishioners at a discounted local rate. For more details please contact Jackie Lear (Bookings Manager) on 07543974751 or email gbromleyvillagehall@gmail.com. Hirers will need to supply their own racquets and shuttlecocks.

The Village Hall AGM this year will be held on Thursday 18th May commencing at 7pm in the Millennium Lounge. All parishioners are welcome to attend the AGM which reports on the past year and looks forward to the next. This is your opportunity to provide feedback in person on the facilities in our village hall and the way it is organised and managed.

The AGM is also your opportunity to volunteer to assist with the management of the village hall. There are currently vacancies on the Management Committee and my colleagues and I would really welcome new volunteers onto the committee. 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 responsibility would make the role more meaningful and much more enjoyable. We have fun as committee members 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.

Martin Frostick - Secretary
01206 250263

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk

GREAT BROMLEY ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR

Sundays 19th March 2023 & 21st May 2023 9am – 3pm
at 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

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

- 02 March
- 23 March
- 13 April
- 04 May

9.45am to 10.15am



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.

NEW RURAL CRIME STRATEGY COMMITS TO REDUCING CRIME AND VULNERABILITY ACROSS ESSEX'S RURAL COMMUNITIES

Tackling crimes within rural communities and supporting vulnerable people will be a top priority in a new Rural Crime Strategy being launched soon.

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, Essex Police and the Essex Rural Partnership will outline their new rural crime strategy 2023 – 2026 at a public event being held at Layer Marney Tower on Friday 10th March 2023.

The previous strategy, which completed its four-year term in 2021 saw a significant reduction in rural crimes. Unauthorised encampments were reduced by 50 per cent, hare coursing saw a reduction of 10 per cent and the theft of large machinery by 36 per cent.

Following feedback from rural communities, the new strategy will go even further, with a stronger focus on tackling all crimes within rural communities, supporting community empowerment, protecting vulnerable and isolated rural communities, and supporting victims of crime.

The Essex Rural Crime Strategy 2023-2026 sets out the vision of Essex Police, the Essex Rural Partnership (ERP) and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) to work together to create a safe, secure, and resilient rural community.

The overarching aim of the strategy is reducing crime and vulnerability within Essex's rural communities.

The launch event, which is free to attend and is open to everyone, will start at 1pm and finish at 4pm. There will be range of stalls, an Essex Police dog display, a drone display and police officers and fire and rescue service staff will be on hand to talk to and offer advice about safety and crime prevention including tractor and GPS theft, wildlife crime, hare coursing and fly tipping. Teas, coffees and refreshments will be available from the Layer Marney tea shop.

Layer Marney Tower is a Tudor palace with gardens and parkland, dating from 1520 situated in Layer Marney, Essex, England, between Colchester and Maldon. Address: East Court, Tower CO5 9US

BROMLEY 10K RUN

The Bromley 10K Run will take place on **Sunday 16th April 2023**.

This popular run is now open to enter. If you would like to take part please go online and search for **little bromley 10K** which can be found on the harwichrunners.co.uk website.

***Carol Cordwell
and the Bromley 10K Committee***



**The
Post Office
at
The Cross**
Wednesdays
10.00am-12 noon

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election. Make a change and become a councillor.

“Your Parish Council is the local authority closest to the Electorate.”

Each councillor has their own reasons for running but the role offers the chance to make a huge difference to the quality of life for people in your local area.

Being an effective councillor requires both commitment and hard work. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of residents and the council.

A Parish Council is a separate legal, corporate entity. First created by the Local Government Act of 1894 in most rural areas, the current consolidated legislation is that of 1972.

A Parish Council also provides services for the local people. These will range from recreation grounds and play areas, a cemetery and may be crematorium to allotments, bath-houses and nature reserves. What you provide is down to your Council. There is a list of the activities that a Parish Council has the power to provide. Like any statutory body it can only do the things for which the law or any governing document gives a power.

The Parish Council has one particular asset that is extremely valuable — it has the ability to set a Precept (sum of money), which is collected from all residents through the Council Tax system. With the right to levy a form of taxation come some duties. In particular a duty to behave in an ethical manner according to a Code of Conduct (declaring interests and leaving the room when likely to be prejudiced) and a duty to have the annual accounts subjected to audit.

Training is available and support will be found from colleagues, the Clerk to the Council, as well as from external training providers if you wish.

All Councillors retire after a four year term, but can stand again as many times as they wish; casual vacancies may well arise in the intervening period. It is a useful way of seeing if you like being a local Councillor to take a seat for a short period before the next full elections.

So if you want to do more for your community, if you want to spend your time productively, and if you can think, listen and act locally — Become a Parish Councillor.

If you wish to find out more about becoming a councillor, or you would like a parish nomination pack, please email elections@tendingdc.gov.uk



Love Singing? Come and learn to sing Abba's 'Dancing Queen' in close harmony with Chorus IcenI

FREE workshops
6 & 13 March 2023
Great Bromley Village
Hall near Colchester

improve your singing &
performance skills and make
new friends

To reserve your place go to
www.chorusiceni.org.uk OR
scan QR code below



CHORUS ICENI -

STOUR CHORAL SOCIETY

Cantique de Jean Racine
Fauré

**The Armed Man
(Choral Suite)**
Jenkins

Magnificat
Rutter



Susie Rose – Music Director
Stephen Smith – Organ
Anna Maria Rose – Mezzo-Soprano
Ben Steinitz – Percussion

SATURDAY 25 MARCH
2.30pm

MISTLEY PARISH CHURCH, CO11 1ER

TICKETS: £15 (under 18 free)

Available from:
Howells Hardware Store, Manningtree
Choir members or
info@stourchoralsociety.co.uk



Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society

Evening meetings are the 2nd Thursday
of each month (except January) at
Ardleigh Village Hall and start at 19:45.
Admission is free for members and just
£1.50 for visitors,

who are always welcome.
Refreshments are available
after the talk.

Membership is only £5 for each season
and you can join at any meeting or at
the show.

Our March meeting will be on Thursday
9th March at 7:45pm. **"Pruning -
when, where and how"** will be the
subject of the talk by Susannah
Sharman at Ardleigh Village Hall,
Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS.
Free admission to members, non-
members £1.50. Everyone welcome.

The 'Battle of the Plays' raged gently last month. Our guests from Bradfield WI put up some sporting competition with 'The Bradfield Chair Yoga Class' a witty and amusing spoof of their regular yoga class, but Gt Bromley took home the trophy with their own original play 'The Constable Cup', featuring an entirely fictional yet nevertheless shocking raid on the Bradfield allotments and some deliciously dubious behaviour on the part of the

hosts in sabotaging their neighbour's entries for the annual vegetable growing competition. (No behaviour of this sort, of course, has ever really occurred....) Great fun was had by all, many colourfully sewn vegetables were flung (and flung back with spirit), Bradfield WI went away well sustained by a delicious array of refreshments and much jovial conversation, wracking their brains as to what suitable friendship challenge to subject us to in return next year.

Great Bromley Women's Institute invites you: Men included!

Wednesday March 1st at 7:30pm at Gt Bromley Village Hall

'Climate Change and Biodiversity: What can we do?' John Hall

Our special speaker is chairman of the climate change group **PACE Manningtree (Practical Actions for Climate and the Environment)**, and former chief Executive with the Essex Wildlife Trust. He has an MBE for his environmental work and is well known for the eco house he built in Lawford and his involvement with many local projects (such as the Manningtree Earth Festival) to educate and support sustainable and responsible ways of living.

Please join us for this important talk and learn about what we all can do in practical and manageable ways to preserve our beautiful local area.

Open meeting – Men are welcome to join us.

What's coming up?

- ◆ Wed Mar 8th 2-4pm Cheshire Home Knit and Knatter
- ◆ Thurs Mar 16th Noon Ladies Lunch
- ◆ Tues Mar 22nd 10am – 1pm VH Crafting Social: Come along and have a go at making coronation bunting (bring your own fabric if you have it, fabric and sewing machines will be available) or join us for a coffee and a chat. Open to all.
- ◆ Wed April 5th 7:30pm Ukrainian hosts and their guests discuss their experiences.
- ◆ Wed April 12th 2-4 pm Cheshire Home knit and knatter
- ◆ Wed April 19th Ladies Lunch
- ◆ Tues April 25th 10 – 1 VH. Crafting Social

Contact: Dorothy 07791974053 or gtbromleywi@gmail.com

RIVER STOUR TRUST

When Spring comes, as it surely will, what better way to celebrate than a visit to Constable Country and a boat trip on the river on a boat operated by members of the RST. A registered charity, run by volunteers, the Trust came into being over forty years ago when the then Anglian Water Authority attempted to remove navigation rights.

Boat trips will hopefully be available from Easter, so why not include a visit to Flatford, maybe just for a walk or take a trip on the river; bring your family, your visitors, and yes, even your dog, all are equally welcome. Groups can also charter the boat for family and friends outings or part of a birthday or other celebration. More information and contact details can be found on the Trust's website - www.riverstourtrust.org



Finally, we welcome new potential skippers, volunteers and members. So if you want to join us on the river and the idea of becoming a skipper, taking people out on trips or helping out appeals to you, then please get in touch. Our skipper training program begins in the spring each year and on

completion you will be certified as an Inland Waterways accredited skipper. Full training is given and you can offer as much or as little time as you like. No prior qualification or experience is needed, just a love of the countryside and the great outdoors.



River Stour Trust

Registered charity number 257806

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



The Council is very pleased the alterations and additions to the play equipment at Hare Green Recreation Field have now been completed. We hope that good use will be made by the whole parish of the new look play area, It is a wonderful open space for the whole village. Thanks go to Councillors Rob Lord, David Hardy and their sub committee for their work in updating this facility.

The King's Coronation Celebrations will be on the agenda for our next meeting. We are hoping to have a Church Service followed by refreshments to celebrate the occasion. We welcome any ideas/suggestions the Parish Council can consider for this celebration. We are considering planting a commemorative tree at Hare Green.

A councillor raised the contents of a letter being circulated in the Hare Green area of the Parish regarding 'Gigaclear' who is a broadband provider. We understand they may be installing a fibre network in our Parish. Councillors have requested our Clerk to make contact with this company to obtain more information.

Further 'Speedwatch' activities have taken place during the past month in our Parish. If anybody is interested in taking part in Speedwatch they should contact our Clerk.

I would remind residents that Parish Council Elections will be held in May, if anybody is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor they should contact our Clerk for full details.

I have recently had a few days break in Suffolk. I was amazed by the lack of 'pot holes' on their roads, also most villages that have schools have a 20 mph sign

close to the school.

Essex Highways could learn a lot by a visit to Suffolk, there was very little litter on the highway.

When I was a District Councillors I sat on the Local Highways Panel, I campaigned constantly for a 20mph scheme close to the schools in the Tendring area. I have seen some 20mph signs outside some schools in Essex. I understand one of the reasons Great Bromley does not have a 20mph limit outside our school is due to "a number of other signs may confuse motorists". The Council has recently agreed to sign up to a national campaign "20 is plenty". Hopefully this may result in obtaining our "20 is plenty zone" outside our school.

Clacton Choral Society sing **Handel**

Clacton Choral Society will sing parts 2 and 3 of Handel's Messiah at 6.00 pm on Saturday 1st April at St. James' Church, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 1LE.

The Choral is under the direction of the newly appointed Musical Director Caryl Newnham. Four soloists will be supporting the choir, namely Gillian Wilson soprano, Georgia Mae Bishop mezzo soprano, Lawrence Gillians bass baritone, Matthew Keighley tenor, the organist Duncan Archard.

The ticket price is £15 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/clacton-choral-society and from Roger Broomfield 07949 127216 and rogerbroomfield@hotmail.com.

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

The next scheduled District and Parish elections will be held on 4th May 2023. Information for prospective candidates can be found on the Tendring District Council website with the deadline for the receipt of nominations being 1600 on 4th April 2023.

Lobbying against the proposed National Grid and Windfarm power infrastructure which will affect our parish continues. On the 2nd February, Graham Stuart, now Minister of State in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero visited Arleigh and Lawford at the invite of Sir Bernard Jenkin MP. He was given a tour of the area by Sir Bernard Jenkin and then joined a meeting at the Lawford Venture Centre to discuss the proposals and listen to objections from local campaigners. Our Parish Councillor and Leader of Tendring District Council, Neil Stock attended the meeting. There was an item on Look East that evening. There has also been filming by the BBC Countryfile team in Aldham (affected by the planned Pylon route) and we understand that the item was planned to be screened in February. We hope you managed to catch the item.

A few residents in the village have volunteered to maintain the War Memorial garden on a rota basis. Whilst doing the first tidy up of the year, Shelley Bellett had a lovely gentleman called Eric Benneson stop for a chat. Eric was visiting the area with his daughter and father-in-law (pictured).

He lived in Sparlings Hall, Great Bromley, and his

grandmother lived in a little cottage in the village. He complemented us on how the War Memorial is looked after and especially commented on the flowers in the summer that he has seen on previous visits. Eric mentioned that he was named after E A Howe (name on the front of the memorial) who fell literally days before the end of the war. Eric kindly donated £20 which we will use to buy some flowers in the Spring for the War Memorial. Christine and Bob Barrett are scheduled to do the March tidy up. If anyone else would like to join the rota, please get in touch (christinebarrett@sky.com) as we would value your help.

Our next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 23rd March 2023 - this is a change to the date previously advertised.



THE NEW KITCHEN AT ST GEORGE'S

For many years the team (PCC) at St George's has been looking at ways to improve the hospitality facilities in the church.

St George's Church (often called the Cathedral of Tendring) is a Grade I listed building and we have visitors travelling many miles to visit our beautiful church. Therefore we have to be careful and thoughtful with our plans so that we do not spoil the wonderful character of this special place.

After many years of planning and help financially from our American friends, in 2015 we were able to install an accessible toilet. This alone has been such a blessing, especially for those who have travelled many miles for a wedding, funeral, services or events.

In 2020, the North Aisle was improved greatly enabling inclusivity and accessibility by all when we are hosting children's activities, concerts, flower festivals, coffee mornings and much more. So now is the time to improve and expand our hospitality facilities a little more.

We have spent many planning meetings discussing ideas with the Archdeacon and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) in order to extend our capacity and efficiency for serving refreshments. We need accessibility for all, the ability to have hot and cold running water, electricity and power points throughout the North Aisle and all this has to be approved by DAC, bearing in mind our Grade I listed status.

Therefore, last week we were delighted to hear that our plans have been approved! We now have permission to proceed.

Now is the time to search for funding, certain money has already very generously been donated and we are so grateful for everyone's help. Thank you very much to Mark, our friends in America and other kind supporters, because we will have to find almost £40,000!

We are so excited to begin this new project and move forward. No longer will we have to fill the urn or kettles from the outside tap!



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Ash Wednesday on 22 February marked the beginning of the season of Lent, the time when Christians traditionally remember the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness and being tempted.

Some have used this season to give up certain things like alcohol or chocolate, but that would only be part of the customs of this season. Jesus Himself not only fasted at that time, but drew near to His heavenly Father. This enabled Him, when He faced temptations to break His fast, to test God and to worship someone other than the Lord, to stare His adversary down.

How do you get through difficult, trying and low periods in your life? Times of

scarcity, barrenness or exhaustion? In taking time away to feed His relationship with His Father, Jesus shows us how important such seasons are in terms of replenishing our reserves so that we can truly live life to the full.

This Lent you may be giving up something – or, positively, you may be starting to do something healthy or helpful – but I hope above all, that you might use it to replenish your reserves for life, by drawing near to God in prayer, through finding out more about His will for your life in the Bible and in fellowship with His people. May this Lent truly help you to flourish in every way.

Best wishes, Phillip



**A warm welcome
is waiting for you
at your
local library.**



Warm and inviting spaces, hot drinks, and the opportunity to connect with others are on offer this winter in our 'Warm Welcomes' initiative. This commits to supporting residents over the winter, particularly those affected by the cost-of-living crisis and rise in energy prices.

In addition, every library will be running at least one regular **Warm Welcomes** activity. So – come in out of the cold, and experience a warm welcome in our county's libraries!



St George's Church Great Bromley



www.greatbromley.org.uk

Parish of The Bromleys

March 5 th	Lent 2	Parish Eucharist (BCP)	10.30am
March 12 th	Lent 3	Parish Eucharist	10.30am
March 19 th	Lent 4	Evensong (BCP)	6.30pm
March 25 th	Annunciation	Sung Holy Communion	
		St Mary's, Little Bromley	11.30am
March 26 th	Lent 5	Parish Eucharist	10.30am

St Mary's, Little Bentley

March 5th Holy Communion 11am

March 19th Morning Prayer 11am

A recent collection for Turkey and Syria raised **£414.**

Further donations can be given to
Guy Everington, Church Treasurer.

Would you like to receive our email newsletter?

All our news and events are in the full-colour, monthly newsletter. You can subscribe on the 'Welcome Page' of the church website:

www.greatbromley.org.uk

New to church or new to Great or Little Bromley?

Do get in touch for more information; we'd like to welcome you.