

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley
February 2024



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

I hope you all had a wonderful time over Christmas and New Year and if you made any resolutions, I hope they're going as planned. I think the amount of rain and cold weather put me off any outdoor activity for some weeks but Spring isn't too far away. I'm looking forward to seeing the bulbs popping through, starting with snowdrops and then daffodils. I've got some poking through already but it will be a little while before any colour appears.

If you're trying to cut down on chocolates and sweets following Christmas, have a try at this recipe:

Banana & Blueberry Oatmeal Cookies

- 2 ripe bananas (mashed)
- 100g blueberries
- 100g of porridge or rolled oats
- 4 tbsp honey
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- Pinch of salt

Mix everything except the blueberries together in a bowl. Fold in the blueberries. Divide into 12 spoonfuls and put onto baking paper. Cook at

175c for 15 minutes or until golden. Best served warm. I tried it today and they're all gone so I take that as a positive.

A big thank you to all our authors and contributors, our Treasurer, delivery team, and advertisers. And my proofreader and Guest Editor - able to spot what I cannot! If anyone wants to have a go at writing an article, please send it in, don't be shy. As long as it follows the rules below, you can't really go wrong.

Our cover this month is a great image taken by Pat Ainger one day in December just after 8.00am, from a field near The Cross pub. I'm always on the look out for photographs of the village so if you have any you'd like to share, send them my way.

Awareness days in February include:

- 2nd - Wear Red Day
- 5th - National Sickie Day
- 9th - Toothache Day (2.30pm?!)
- 24th - Emotional Health Day
- 28th - School Governors' Awareness Day.

***Take care,
Lizzie***

MATERIAL for the **MARCH 2024** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th FEBRUARY 2024** 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

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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS



You still have time to use your reliefs and allowances this year

Are you ready for tax -year-end?

It's not too late to take full advantage of the reliefs and allowances available to you before the end of this tax year on 5 April.

Build a strong financial foundation finding the right balance of savings and investments. I can help you to achieve long-term goals with the best tax-savvy strategies still this year.

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Tom Wood

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ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Gardening the World - The Horticulture of the CWGC (Commonwealth War Graves Commission)" will be the subject of the talk by Peter Rowbottom at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS on Thursday 8th February at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £2. Everyone is welcome.

Hospice Hero Run returns this March

Will you don your favourite hero outfit and join the St Helena Hospice Hero Run this March?

Dress up as your hero and join the 2km family fun run, or race 5km or 10km on Sunday 3rd March at Colchester Sports Park to support St Helena Hospice.

Your hero could be anyone, whether that's a superhero, sports icon, a family member, a doctor or nurse... after all, not all heroes wear capes!

Marcus Poston, fundraising manager at St Helena Hospice, said: "Whether you're looking for something fun to do on a Sunday morning with your family, or you're a keen runner wanting to beat your personal best, we'd love you to join us at our Hero Run.

"There will also be plenty of other activities to keep participants and spectators entertained including a tombola and other stalls and food will be available.

"By taking part in our Hero Run, you will be our hero! All the money



raised from this super event will go towards helping local people face incurable illness and bereavement, supporting them, their families, friends and carers."

Children aged 4 and upwards can participate in the 2km and youngsters aged 7 and over and adults can take on the 5km. The 10km is open to people aged 16 and over and everyone will be chip timed.

Your participation means more local people can access the St Helena Hospice services they need to make their own choices and live with dignity, regardless of diagnosis or personal circumstances.

To sign up, visit www.sthelena.org.uk/hero





GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

SURGERY NEWS I am very pleased to let you know that Dr Hannah Howard-Franks will be joining the Practice as a Salaried GP from the 19 February 2024.

PRESCRIPTION REQUESTS With over 6,500 patients on regular medication requiring monthly prescriptions, we would ask our patients to help us by putting in their medication requests in writing at least 3 working days in advance. This will ensure that the prescription is sent to the nominated pharmacy within 72 hours. We are getting an increasing number of urgent requests for medication where patients have not ordered their medication in advance, and this is putting additional pressure on both our very busy clinicians and prescription clerks.

Please remember that our reception staff on the front desk are not able to deal with prescription requests or enquiries, as they are too busy dealing with the high number of incoming telephone calls and patients attending the Surgery. All medication requests should be made in writing as we are unable to take requests over the telephone. If you have a medication enquiry you can send in an email to holliesprescriptions@nhs.net or contact the prescription clerk by ringing 01206 250691 and pressing Option 2. If you go into the call queue and do not wish to wait, then you can press 1 and leave your name and number for the prescription clerk to call you back. If you phone before 3 pm on a working day, you will be called back the same day. If you call after 3 pm then you will be called back on the next working day.

FEBRUARY IS OESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

What is oesophageal cancer?

The oesophagus (gullet) is part of the digestive system, which is sometimes called the gastro-intestinal tract (GI tract). The oesophagus is a muscular tube. It connects your mouth to your stomach.

In the UK, around 9,000 people are diagnosed with oesophageal cancer each year.

Symptoms of oesophageal cancer

The most common symptoms of oesophageal cancer include:

- Difficulty swallowing (dysphagia)
- Indigestion or heartburn that doesn't go away
- Unexplained weight loss
- Pain in your throat or behind your breastbone

There are many other conditions that cause these symptoms. Most of them are much more common than oesophageal cancer.

Difficulty swallowing (dysphagia)

You may feel pain or a burning sensation when you swallow, or your food may stick in your throat or chest. This is the most common symptom of oesophageal cancer.

A harmless narrowing of the oesophagus called a stricture can also make it difficult for you to swallow. It is important to get this symptom checked by your doctor.

Indigestion or heartburn that doesn't go away

You can get indigestion when acid from your stomach goes back up (refluxes) into the oesophagus, or when the stomach is inflamed or irritated.

The valve between the stomach and

oesophagus normally stops this from happening. A tumour that develops here can stop the valve working, causing indigestion.

Remember that indigestion is common, and it's not usually caused by cancer. It can be very painful, even when there's nothing seriously wrong.

Weight loss You may be put off eating if you find it hard to swallow or have pain when you swallow your food. This can make you lose weight.

Pain in your throat or behind your breastbone You may feel pain in the centre of your chest, or more rarely in your back or between your shoulder blades. This can get worse when you swallow or have indigestion.

If you feel you have any of the above symptoms, please contact the Surgery on 01206 250691.

PRESCRIPTION REQUESTS We now have 6,500 patients on regular

medication requiring monthly prescriptions. In order to help us manage this heavy workload, can patients please remember to pt in requests for their medication at least three working days in advance. We are getting a large number of requests for prescriptions to be issued on the day

SURGERY TRAINING

AFTERNOON Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 30 January 2024 for staff training. If you need urgent medical attention on this afternoon, please contact NHS 111.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

MEETING There isn't a meeting of the PPG in February. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 28 March 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Mitchell Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager

February 11th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at the 11.00am service. The choir will sing a version of Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjeilo. In his undergraduate career, Gjeilo studied at the Norwegian Academy of Music and transferred to the Juilliard School. He studied at the Royal College of Music, London, and received a bachelor's degree in composition.

March 29th

GOOD FRIDAY: Advanced notice that the Deanery choir will be performing John Rutter's 'Requiem' at 6.30pm at **St Marys Church, Little Bentley**. More details will follow in the next publication.



**THE
DEANERY
CHOIR**



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir Organiser

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING SMOKE ALARMS

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service aims to provide working smoke alarms to all Essex residents after shocking statistics revealed that 70% of people who died in house fires did not have them. Despite fitting 10,329 smoke alarms last year, the fire service remains concerned about households without this life-saving equipment. They are offering free installations and urging communities to spread awareness. Smoke alarms are crucial, as statistics show they can reduce the risk of death in a fire by four times.



Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service

Please visit the ECFRS website - www.essex-fire.gov.uk/smoke-alarms - for some important tips and guidance for residents including: home visits, ensuring smoke alarms are installed correctly and reminding residents to check they are working.

ESSEX POLICE WEEKLY UPDATE

We're offering more ways of keeping up to date with our work across Essex through our weekly e-newsletter, called Dispatch.

Dispatch provides our communities with a weekly overview of news from Essex Police, along with crime prevention advice, information about our latest job vacancies, top tweets from our a selection of our Twitter accounts and remembering former colleagues who have sadly died.

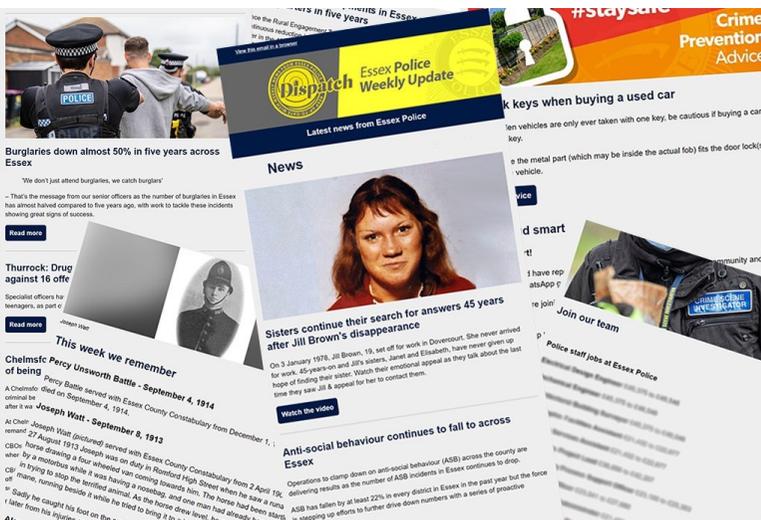
Since August 2021, we've gained 10,000 subscribers and we hope to keep growing.

Dispatch brings together news and information published by our officers, staff and volunteers, so that those who live in, work in and regularly visit Essex, can go to one place

to find out what's been happening across the county that week.

We're delighted to have received some really positive feedback from our subscribers too.

Just search online **Essex Police Dispatch**.



Have fun with the Very Hungry Caterpillar

Join us for a fun session all about the Hungry Caterpillar, at Rayleigh, Chelmsford, Colchester and Loughton Libraries.

Hear the story, join in with some fabulous crafts and activities, take part in the trail and meet a special visitor!



These events during the half-term break are aimed at children aged 3-7 and cost £5 plus £1.13 booking fee. Everyone who buys a ticket will go into a prize draw to win a picture book bundle.

(Link: <https://library-events.essex.gov.uk/search?q=caterpillar+activity>)



LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

A Happy New Year from Little Bromley Parish Council.

We have had a tremendous amount of rainfall recently and you have probably noticed it is taking too long to drain away, not to mention hiding the potholes.

The Parish Council are aware of various flooding issues in and around the village and will be looking into this going forward with a view to improving drainage of the bodies of standing water.

Not much else happening, the grant for the telephone box project has moved to the second stage, which

is good news.

More good news for the Precept also, it will remain the same as last year once again.

We will continue to review all of the ongoing Infrastructure projects in and around our village during 2024 and update as necessary, nothing to report of note at this time.

Our next meeting will be held at the Haywain from 7.30pm on Thursday 21st March 2024.

Hello Great Bromley,

Christmas always seems to catch me out, it just seems to sneak up on me like Santa. Every year I say I'll catch him next time but guess what, like Santa Christmas gets me each time, is it just me or do we all suffer the same fate? Not enough time to get anything done. Having said that we managed to get there in the end and get that Christmas spirit going, with entertainers booked, we even had an in-house Panto performed by two lovely ladies from Tickled Pink Productions. This went down well, and a fun time was had by all, even my football buddy Lloyd joined in, which took me by surprise, but a pretty smile and he's there quicker than you can say grab Santa. Funny that my smiles don't seem to have that same effect on him, then again they were a bit more attractive than me, not by much though!

We had an interesting set of performers starting with the Funky Fidler who's a new favourite with us and will be back for another show soon. We also had singer Brian a regular, even Elvis popped in for a performance which made the ladies happy and the guys a little envious, you could hear Elvis's "Uh huh huh" around every corner for the next two days. We're also looking forward to Annika popping in, another singer who's become a favourite with everyone here.

Local support has been fantastic over the last year and I can't thank everyone enough, but I'd like to take this opportunity to

name a few. Jenny, who always goes above and beyond, Chrissy, another great friend to us, also our new friends Brenda and Elaine, and let's not forget the Ukulele band who are great bunch and always put a smile on our faces. A special thanks to the Parish Council for their generous donation which went a long way in helping us book various entertainers over the Christmas period. Christmas wouldn't have been the same without it.

Finally, I'd like to say on behalf of everyone here, we hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ps. The photo is of Lloyd looking very happy after the show.



GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



I would like to wish all parishioners a belated Happy New Year as this will be the first edition of the Messenger in 2024.

If you read the Parish Council minutes you will see there will be a small increase in the forthcoming years precept, this has been achieved by the council being prudent and sensible with expenditure over many years.

The Parish Council have recently been involved in meeting with the current developers of Hamilton Lodge. I am sure that most people are aware that the original purchasers of the site sold it on to another company called Elemento. This company, under terms of the S106 agreement were required to offer the Parish Council land within the development. Members of the Parish Council previously had been to visit the site to see where the land to be gifted would be located. There are two large areas and some smaller areas. During our meeting we were able to see the areas marked on the developers plans and noted terms and conditions that would apply to the Parish Council. We would be responsible for the entire management of the areas. It was specified as to how long the grass was to be maintained, when plants should be watered and the general ongoing of the condition of the land. We would be given a small one off grant. We were not in favour of the scheme as we felt it would become a large financial burden for village residents in the long term. The Parish Council have written to Elemento declining their offer. We were also informed by Elemento that they would

honour the conditions of the S106 agreement but were unwilling to help our village in any other way. I believe they will be having a meeting with the Village Hall committee to discuss the village hall car park, perhaps after our meeting and concerns raised they may be more supportive. We have found their attitude towards helping the Parish with other matters sadly very disappointing, when we consider support within the village by other developers who have been very supportive.

We once again provided Christmas Afternoon teas for residents, it was good to hear from many residents how delicious they were. Thank you for your telephone calls.

***Fred Nicholls
Chairman***

Budget statement

Financial planning for Great Bromley Parish Council (GBPC) set a budget for financial year 2023-2024 of £37,433. The actual expenditure for same period is projected to be £40,040. This overspend is largely explained by higher expenditure on village maintenance, tree maintenance and the decision to provide a pension for the Clerk. The gap between income and expenditure has been closed from Parish financial reserves (in line with best practice recommendation) and this has been the case for the last four years, with only a minimal increase last year by £1.14. It should be noted that the reserves are now at a level where they cannot support the annual expenditure.

In setting the budget for financial year 2024-2025, GBPC has studied our expenditure from past year. The net outcome of that exercise sees a projected expenditure of £32,000 for next year. It should also be noted that £8000 of the reserves is grant funding for a small play area proposed at Church Meadow.

GBPC can confirm that this budget will require an increase in precept tax of £14.98 to individual households, or £1.25 per month (based on an average Band D property). Whilst this increase is higher than previous years, the Council has avoided making a substantial increase for as long as possible, using the large reserves for shortfall rather than burden the taxpayer. As stated above we do not hold sufficient reserves to support the expenditure – which in the past has been somewhat of a luxury, but

taxpayers' money should not be used for 'savings'.

In reviewing the budget, councillors have pledged to review initiatives which it has control over such as the flower tub sponsorship scheme, reviewing our banking arrangements and investment opportunities. Regretfully, the budget for S137 grants will reduce in 2024-25 and GBPC is keen to advise local groups and organisations of this early so that they may have the opportunity to source other funding initiatives for their projects.

GBPC thanks Parishioners for their support and remains confident that expenditure is concentrated on what matters most to residents. A practical illustration being that almost half of the total expenditure is spent on Village Maintenance which for a 'Green' community is a priority.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Left: Pat Ainger explained this year's WI resolutions at our Soup and bread evening.

Right: Jenny Nicholls ready to serve her homemade soup at the WI Resolutions evening.





Dates for your diary

FEBRUARY 2024

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 7 | WI Meeting: Learning British Sign Language, Village Hall | 7:30pm |
| 14 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall | 7:30pm |
| 27 | WI Crafting Social, Village Hall | 10:00am-12.30pm |

MARCH 2024

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 13 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall | 7:30pm |
| 21 | Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain | 7:30pm |

Blow The Dust Off

Tuesdays, 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Venue: Clacton County High School

Clacton Concert Orchestra invites

anyone with an instrument to take it out of the case, dust it off and join fellow musicians in forming a training orchestra called Blow The Dust Off. It's ideal for anyone who wants to brush up on their skills within a small friendly group.

Cost £5 (under 16 £3)

For further information contact Hannah 07952 181188

hannahspeck92@gmail.com

<https://clactonconcertorchestra.com/>



Do good Feel good Volunteer!

Volunteer with St Helena to make your skills count and your compassion matter.

We have many volunteer opportunities available, so visit our website to find out how you can support your community today.

Visit: www.sthelena.org.uk/volunteer

Email: volunteer@sthelena.org.uk

StHelena
For the people you love



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

- 1 Feb
- 22 Feb
- 14 Mar

9.45am to 10.15am



**Post Office & Community Library
The Cross**



**Wednesdays
10.00am - 12 noon**



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

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

Also at the Cross Inn is a Bleed Kit. The kit, provided by Great Bromley Parish Council, contains specialist equipment to help stem extreme blood loss before ambulance crews arrive.

Bleed control kits, also known as emergency trauma packs, are similar to first aid kits but include trauma dressings, gauze, chest seals and tourniquets to help stop serious bleeding. They can help victims of violent crime, those involved in road traffic accidents or workplace accidents, and could be particularly useful in rural areas where ambulance response times may be slower.

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



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

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

ARDLEIGH SURGERY

Happy new year to all our patients. I hope you all had a good break.

News from the surgery Our trainee GP Dr Iheanyi is leaving on the 6th of February. We should be getting a new GP trainee, Dr Jamal, she will start on the 7th of February 2024.

We continue to be plagued by illness, at one time in December nine staff members were off with illness, some with COVID. Thank you for your understanding and support. We know that it is difficult to get an appointment and frustrating when that appointment is cancelled. We are still under pressure, especially during the junior doctors' strike days. We are a training practice, so we have junior doctors training at the surgery. During the strike days we lose the extra appointments they provide. We are trying to provide more access for our patients, this leads on to our next news, we are currently advertising for a fourth partner at the surgery. We will keep you informed if and when we appoint a new partner.

Information for all our patients After the excesses of Christmas, we are seeing a rise in the diagnosis of prediabetes, obesity, and fatty liver. So please look after your diet, eat less sugar, fats, and drink less alcohol. Eat a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and seeds. Drink plenty of water, exercise at least three times a week for at least 40 minutes each time. Laugh and spend time with family and friends. Lastly, try to sleep at least 7 hours a day.

If you or your children have not had your flu vaccination yet, there is still time please book an appointment to have this done.

As motioned above, COVID is still prevalent. If you are in the high-risk group of patients and you develop flu like symptoms, please test for COVID. If you test positive contact the Suffolk and Northeast Essex Covid Management Delivery Unit (CMDU) on 01473 299612 as soon as possible. You will be assessed, as not everyone eligible for the anti-viral treatment is prescribed the medication. These medications have significant side effects, so the clinicians have to weigh the risks of the medication to your health against any potential health benefits. I would recommend that our high-risk patients buy a pulse oximeter, thermometer, and blood pressure machine so that when the clinician calls all the information to allow them to make sound treatment plan will be available to them.

The next compulsory North East Essex Surgery training afternoon will be on Tuesday 30th January 2024. The Surgery will close from 12.30pm and dispensary from 12.00pm.

Future dates are:

- Thursday 22nd February 2024
- Wednesday 27th March 2024

Did you know that you can now view your medication records on the NHS app? You never have to phone the surgery again to check on a blood result or argue that you have ordered that prescription last week. Everything you do on the app leaves an audit trail behind.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
<p><u>23/01712/</u> <u>FUL</u> Mr T Frary - TND Drilling</p>	<p>Construction of Use Class B2 (Industrial) / B8 (Storage or Distribution) flexible commercial use building.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdevelopment; • No explanation of the flexible commercial use. More detail is required to enable to Council to make an informed decision; • Concern of impact on the highway, particularly the 40mph bend; • Close proximity to a residential area; • Not designated as an industrial area as per Local Plan; and • Not in close proximity to a main trunk road. 	<p>Pond Farm, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP</p>
<p><u>23/01713/</u> <u>LUEX</u> Neil Napthine and Nico Miller - Larchcroft Trading Co. Ltd.</p>	<p>Application for a certificate of existing use or development for occupation of Building B as a community shop (use Class E a) and Building D for storage for the shop (use Class B8) for a period of 10 years or more.</p> <p>Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village already has a community shop within half a mile; • There is no pedestrian or footpath access; • The site is adjacent to a Grade II listed building with Historic England, and is directly on the Listed Building curtilage. • The site is on a 40mph bend where several road traffic incidents, including a fatality, have occurred. 	<p>Oak House Farm, Harwich Road, Great Bromley CO7 7JG</p>



ST. MARK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

St. Mark's, Hawthorn Drive, Ipswich IP2 0QQ

Holy Family Church, Ipswich Road, Brantham CO11 1TB

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour
The Presbytery, 180 Hawthorn Drive,
Ipswich IP2 0QQ

Tel: 01473

684963 revgoymour@gmail.com

Reflection February 14th this year is not only St. Valentine's Day but also Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent and the start of our 6+ week preparation for Easter. The coincidence this year seems appropriate as what greater love could God the Father show than to send His only Son to die for our sins? And we as Christians must show that love to others. For, as Jesus said "A new commandment I give unto you – that you love one another as I have loved you". He also told us to love our enemies. What a challenge that is for us! So let's reflect, as we enter Lent, on new ways in which we can shine the light of God's love on others.

Weekday and Sunday Masses and devotions All are very welcome to

attend services. Please check the parish website for updates on weekday masses in case of changes:

www.stmarksparish.org.uk or the noticeboards outside the churches.

Saturday 17.30 St. Mark's vigil mass with confessions from 17.00

Sunday 09.00 Holy Family Brantham 11.00 St. Mark's

Tuesday 10.00 Holy Family mass with Eucharistic Adoration from 09.20

Wednesday 09.30 St. Mark's

Friday 12.15 St. Mark's mass with Eucharistic Adoration from 11.40

Father Luke's Sunday sermons are available at anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour

Bring & Buy Coffee Morning at Viv Szitasi's home, Paddock Gate, Whitehorse Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TR will take place on **Thursday**

February 29th and March 28th 10.30 to 12. All welcome.

The Sick & Housebound Please let Fr Luke know of anyone who is ill at home, housebound or in hospital, so that they may receive appropriate pastoral care, he can be contacted on 01473 684963.

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
23/01481/LBC Mr J Connor - Inova (UK) Ltd	Alterations and extensions to facilitate the conversion of existing barns and cottages into residential use, including alterations to frontage wall.	Newhouse Farm Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP	Approval - Listed Building Consent 05.12.2023 Delegated Decision
23/01704/AGRIC Mr Fairley - Henry Fairley and Son Ltd	Prior Approval Application under Part 6, Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for replacement barn.	Park Farm Hilliards Road Great Bromley CO7 7US	Determination prior approval not reqred 08.12.2023 Delegated Decision

TENDRING TALKING TIMES

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 273432

Tendring Talking Times, the local talking newspaper for the Tendring District has just completed a major revamp of its Engineering Room in their local studios.

Starting six months ago, a new computer was secured to cope with upgrades in the software they were using. A new sound mixer desk was also purchased coincidentally just as the one they were using expired.

In the last few weeks, the two engineers' positions have been relocated to a new orientation alongside each other on a new desktop and facing an upgraded screen showing the recording room so the engineers can better see the readers. The studio has also been connected to a full fibre internet connection.

The latter will enable the weekly output of a digest of local news and information to be uploaded to the proposed website

which is expected to be operational early in 2024. Potential listeners can then access the output by means of a computer, tablet or an Alexa or similar device.

The new setup was utilised for the last recording before Christmas and everything is functioning well.

The charity's Chairman, Adrian Robinson, commented that "It has taken a while to complete the work required but we are grateful to those of our engineering volunteers who brought the plan to fruition and it is hoped that the changes underway will bring out weekly digest of local news and events to a wider audience."

Tendring Talking Times is a weekly newspaper which is available FREE OF CHARGE to all blind and partially-sighted people in the locality. They can be contacted on 01255 426262.

XL BULLY LEGAL RESTRICTIONS

New restrictions on the XL Bully dogs have been in force since the **31st December 2023**, making it a legal requirement for all XL Bully dogs to be kept on a lead and muzzled when in public. It is also illegal to breed, sell, advertise, gift, exchange, abandon or let XL Bully dogs stray.

The decision to ban XL Bully dogs was made following a concerning rise in attacks from these dangerous dogs, with 23 people sadly losing their lives after vicious dog attacks in the last three years. XL Bullies have been involved in many of these tragic deaths.

Owners are also being urged to apply to register their current XL Bully dogs, as

the Government takes action to safely manage the existing population of the breed. There is only a month left to meet the deadline when the ban comes into force on **1st February 2024**.

Owning an unregistered dog after this date will be a criminal offence, with owners who don't facing a criminal record and an unlimited fine. Owners who do not want to keep their dogs after this date should take them to a vet to have them put down.

If owners are unsure whether their dog could be classed as an XL Bully, they should check their dog carefully against the government guidance and photo examples of XL Bully dogs to help them decide.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

On Saturday 23rd December the Friends of Little Bromley Church opened the church doors for our Carol Service. We decided to hold it at 2.30pm and inside the church was ablaze with candlelight.

As the time to start approached, the church started to fill until around 140 people were seated and the service began.

It was lovely to see familiar and new faces, including around 15 children. The service led by Canon Stephen Carter was really lovely. Afterwards as everyone remained seated, refreshments were passed round.

The church looked really pretty with all its greenery and the memory tree, (It is nice to see that so many visitors leave messages for their loved ones.)

We are pleased to say that £550 was

raised through the generous donations and this money will go towards the restoration of the Little Bromley Bells; how wonderful it will be when the bells can be rung again!

We would like to thank the choir for their wonderful singing, all those who helped and all those who came to make it such an enjoyable afternoon.

On Saturday the 6th January at 11am we again opened the church doors for the Epiphany Service. Led by Canon Stephen Carter and the Reverend Nicky Young we held a holy communion service to welcome the 3 Kings to Bethlehem.

Over 20 people attended and the simple service was enjoyed by all. Any money raised was given to the Churches Conservation Trust.

Carol Cordwell

STOUR VALLEY U3A - learn, laugh, live

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full time work and come and explore new ideas, interests and skills with University of the Third Age. Across the country U3A members are meeting new people, learning, staying active, 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 trips, garden visits, art appreciation, curry club, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel 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. Come along, meet some members, hear more about us and decide whether you'd like to join. Monthly lectures are held on the second Wednesday at 2pm in the Constable Hall, East Bergholt. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4. Our speaker on 14th February is Dr Tobias Capwell, curator of arms and armour at The Wallace Collection (hopefully modelling some armour) and on 13th March we have Bonny Williams "Your individual carbon footprint and why it matters."

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

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



We ended the first half of our season with a very enjoyable Christmas meal and, as we start 2024, we wish everyone a very happy, healthy and safe new year.

January's featured image was 'Lady Maria's Bath' by Steve Pharez, which won a recent PDI mono competition.



We started the second half of our season in January with a print competition and a very enjoyable and interesting zoom-based presentation by Ruth Grindrod.

In February we are looking forward to:

- Field trip to Shotley Peninsula
- 8th February – PDI Competition 'Open Colour'
- 22nd February – Club Workshop
- 29th February – Print Competition 'Open Mono' – Judge: Chrissy Hart ARPS DPAGB

Please visit our website for full details

of our varied programme together with competition results, photo albums and further club information. Our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features various club news and activities.

The club continues to have fun with our monthly themed Facebook Challenge and our recent 'trees' challenge, which was won by Pat Ainger, is this month's featured image, and on this magazine's cover.

We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a

friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills through a variety of activities in the company of like-minded individuals.

If you have an interest in photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS and we would like to invite you to come along to a free club meeting. We meet at Mistleley Village Hall, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th

Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm.

For further information please contact our Secretary Pat Ainger on 01206 231242 or email: madps@post.com

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/manningtreeanddistrictphotographicsociety/>

CHURCH JOTTINGS

We are delighted to tell you that our biggest project for sometime is nearing completion.

We have been able to achieve a 'Super Servery!'

The Servery sits well in the North Aisle of our Grade 1 Listed St George's Church.

The wood is beautiful oak and all fixtures and fittings are appropriate for the location and building.

We are able to welcome everyone (we have the space now) from our village and community, young, not so young, wheelchairs and buggies.

We now have an excellent facility to provide childrens clubs, pop-up coffee mornings and possibly luncheon clubs.

No longer water from the outside tap, taking home washing-up!

We can now cater in-house/ church for all our needs.

Here are some pictures for you to admire.



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I am writing this in early January when there has been the usual promises of making New Year Resolutions mentioned in conversations. There have been aspirations to be more healthy, less lazy, more generous and so on but a theme I noticed has been to 'try one small thing'. Rather than promise radical change, we ought to be more realistic and promise to make changes, small steps at a time. If you made any resolutions this year, I wonder how they are going...

Preaching at the last Sunday service of 2023, the Venerable Ruth Patten, Archdeacon of Colchester, encouraged us to consider new beginnings rather than to make New Year Resolutions. Considering a 'New Beginning' doesn't ignore what has happened in the past – the past cannot be changed. But a new beginning does offer hope and the opportunity for change and transformation. It avoids the guilt of failed resolutions and opens the way for small steps in a new direction. Small steps can then grow into extravagant strides as we gain confidence with each little victory.

There are many issues and challenges that face us individually and as a world. Each can seem immense and

insurmountable – like climate change, wars, inflation and so on. We cannot change these things all by ourselves, but we can make small changes in our lifestyles that will help and that, collectively, can make a huge difference.

This month sees the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 14 February. For Christians, this marks the journey to Easter with time for reflection and repentance for all our failed attempts at living the way we ought to. Jesus, who we have just celebrated as 'God with us' at Christmas, is God's ultimate gift of a new start to the world and to us. Easter is the greatest new beginning offered by Jesus in his Easter Resurrection. In John's Gospel it says Jesus came not to condemn but to save the world through him (John 3:17).

As the year unfolds, let us resolve to make new beginnings; small steps of change, to live better and more prudently with our resources and to be more compassionate and caring in our attitudes. With God's good grace who knows what transformations and new opportunities may arise.

With every blessing for 2024.

Rev'd John Saxon

BROMLEY 10K RUN

We would like to confirm that on Sunday the 14th April we will be holding the Bromley 10K Run again at 9.30am.

There are still a few places available if you would like to enter. Entry is via www.harwichrunners.co.uk under upcoming events.

We would love to see you there.

Carol Cordwell



St George's Church Great Bromley



www.greatbromley.org.uk

Parish of The Bromleys

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

Please note Sunday morning time is now 11am

February 4 th	Sexagesima	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
February 11 th	Sun. before Lent	Parish Eucharist	11am
February 14 th	Ash Wednesday	Holy Communion	11.30am
February 18 th	Lent 1	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
February 25 th	Lent 2	Parish Eucharist	11am
March 1 st	Friday	World Day of Prayer	10.30am
March 3 rd	Lent 3	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
March 10 th	Lent 4	Parish Eucharist	11am
March 17 th	Passion Sunday	Evensong BCP	6.30pm

St Mary's, Little Bentley

February 4th Morning Prayer 11am

February 18th Holy Communion 11am

March 3rd Morning Prayer 11am

March 17th Holy Communion 11am

**Services details for Dedham/Ardleigh, Moze benefice,
and Manningtree CrossReach parishes
can be found on their websites.**