

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

April 2024



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

I'm hoping by April that the temperatures will start to increase a bit more. I'm still lighting a fire each evening, and managing with a full length hoodie during the day - but we've not turned on the central heating and saved a fair bit by not doing so. The clocks will have gone forward by the time you read this and it will feel like springtime by then, I hope. We've had a great year for daffodils; I've cut lots and given them to friends.

Thanks to Justin this month for a different and interesting article about his drone hobby. If you've not seen his video of the village, you should - it's really good, details on page 9.

The Parish Council meetings on Wednesday 8th May include the Annual Meeting, Parish Assembly and Ordinary meeting - times are on page 18, and everyone is welcome.

Next month, I hope to have information about the changes planned for landline telephones, particularly vulnerable people in the community. The old system will be switched off in 2025 and landlines

will use broadband to make calls. If you rely on a landline, you will still be able to make calls but the technology that powers them will be different - more next month.

Awareness days for April include:

- 1st - April Fool's Day
- 8th - My mum's birthday - she's 82!
- 9th - Unicorn Day
- 13th - National Scrabble Day
- 23rd - St George's Day

I reckon I'll be in trouble for that second one...

**Take care,
Lizzie** ☼

*A big thank you to all our authors and contributors, our Treasurer, delivery team, and advertisers. If anyone wants to have a go at writing an article or a short story, please send it in - don't be shy. Any interesting or unusual hobbies, recipes to share or short stories, it's all welcome. As long as it follows the guidelines below, you really can't go wrong.

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

Please support the sponsors of our magazine.



St George's Church Great Bromley

Parish of The Bromleys

***A welcoming, inclusive and open church flourishing
through prayer, faith and positive action.***

We are delighted to be involved in the local community and to sponsor The Messenger. It's the best way to find out about all the good things that are going on locally.

We support the Seven Rivers Cheshire Home in Great Bromley, work with St. Georges C of E primary school and we fundraise for the Manningtree Foodbank and other charities.

Open everyday

If you are a new resident or haven't yet ventured into the church, St. George's is open for you every day for a quiet time or prayer. There are walk-round leaflets and other free guide books and cards.

Monthly e-newsletter

Our monthly e-newsletter is in full colour with high quality photographs and articles. This QR code takes you to our website where you can subscribe to the e-newsletter. You can unsubscribe at any time.



Little Bromley Church

St Mary's, Lt Bromley, (owned by the Churches Conservation Trust) is also open every day and is a beautiful and peaceful spot to visit. The Little Bromley fund has provided two new benches so you can relax and enjoy the view in the churchyard.

e-mail: church@greatbromley.org.uk
telephone: 01206 230688
website www.greatbromley.org.uk
facebook & twitter @StGeorgesGtBrom



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Verbal Abuse of Surgery Staff

I am very sorry to report that there is a significant increase in the number of patients being verbally abusive and rude to both our clinical and administrative staff. All our staff work extremely hard to provide a safe and efficient service for our patients. I would ask that in future, patients treat all members of our Surgery team with respect and do not take out their frustrations on us.

Blood Tests

From May 2024 we will not be offering routine blood test appointments for the majority of our patients. We will be providing patients with the blood test request forms and asking them to book an appointment at either Clacton Hospital, Colchester Hospital or the Primary Care Centre in Colchester. Please remember these are not 'drop-in' clinics and you will need to book an appointment for your blood test. Appointments can be made for these clinics by going on-line to <https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk> and clicking on book an appointment, search Clacton Hospital Bloods and selecting adult blood tests. If you are not able to go on-line to do this, then you can phone 0300 303 5299 between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm to book an appointment.

For patients having their annual diabetic review with the healthcare assistant, blood tests will be done at

the Surgery as part of this check.

Urgent Triage Service

In order to manage our heavy workload, our urgent triage service will now operate between 8.00 am and 5.30 pm Monday to Friday. Please ensure that if you have an urgent medical problem, you contact us before 5.30 pm to ensure you are able to get the help you need. For housebound patients needing a home visit, these requests should be made on the day before 12.30 pm.

NHS App

We are trying to encourage as many patients as possible to download and use the NHS App, as this is the easiest way to order repeat medication and view medical information such as test results and immunisation records. If patients need help with using the NHS app then they can visit nhs.uk/helpmeapp for further information.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Tuesday, 23 April 2023 for staff training.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

There will not be a PPG meeting in April 2024. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 23 May 2024 at 6.30 pm in The Mitchell Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager



April 14th

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ** at the 11.00am communion service. The choir will sing **I know that my Redeemer lives by J Michael Bach**. Johann Michael Bach was a German composer of the Baroque period. He was a first cousin, once removed of the great Johann Sebastian Bach, being the son of Heinrich Bach, who was J S Bach's great uncle, and he became the more famous Bach's father-in-law.

April 28th

The Deanery choir will be supporting a Choral Evensong at 6.30pm at **St Mary's Church, Wix CO11 2SE**. The choir will sing the anthem **Beati Quorum Via** by **Sir Charles Villiers Stanford**. Stanford (1852—1924) was an Anglo-Irish composer, music



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

teacher, and conductor of the late Romantic era. While still a undergraduate Stanford was appointed organist of Trinity College Cambridge. Stanford composed a substantial number of concert works, including seven symphonies, but is best remembered for his choral works for the Anglican church. We will also sing a beautiful setting of the Lord's Prayer by Robert Stone (1516 -1613). He was an English composer and member of the Chapel Royal, born in Devon.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir Organiser

ESSEX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

ECFRS has issued a crucial reminder to homeowners to replace their smoke alarms every 10 years, regardless of their power source.

It is a common misconception that mains-wired smoke alarms don't need to be replaced every 10 years. However, the fire service emphasises that all smoke alarms, whether mains-wired or battery operated, must be replaced every 10 years.

Claire Monk, Live Safe Manager said: *"Smoke alarms are the best protection you can have in your home to keep you safe from fire, but it's important to understand that they have a finite lifespan."*

All smoke alarms, no matter how they are powered, have sensors that

deteriorate over time, rendering them less effective in detecting fires. Essex residents are urged to proactively check the expiration date of their smoke alarms to mitigate potential risks.



Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service

Hello Great Bromley,

We're lucky to have been able to book our favourite Funky Fiddler for St Patrick's Day, everyone here loves his versatility and his funky fiddling, classical to Oasis he knows no bounds. Dare I say the staff here look forward to his performance and get into the spirit of things, some more than others, no need to mention names, they know who they are.

The central courtyard is coming along nicely, everyone is looking forward to the opening day when they'll be able to relax in a quite and serene atmosphere. The decoration of that area still depends on what we get in the way of donations before we can commit to spending more funds. I'd like to take this opportunity to once again ask for any donations that you think would work well in a tranquil environment, plants, pots, statues, seating for visiting family and friends, I think you get the picture and I'd like to thank you all in advance.

Another great thing we've been arranging for our friends here is Massage therapy, it's going down very

well, and the customer base is increasing monthly. Emma, the therapist, is a lovely person and gets on well with everyone, Emma has a wide range of therapeutic skills on offer, she is a fully qualified Holistic & Beauty Therapist, Aromatherapist, Reiki Master/Teacher, Reflexologist and Sound Therapist, I think that's enough for us to be getting on with for now.

The only thing that was a bit of a downer was the Colchester FC game that got cancelled due to the weather. Lloyd and I were scheduled for that match on the 2nd of March, and he wasn't a happy bunny. Speaking of bunnies, it's Easter already and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the children telling you it's the wrong egg or it's too small, so it's out to your local supermarket to get another, I wish you all the best of luck with that one. it's amazing how everything has become so commercialised over the years, do the children of today understand what Easter represents? Maybe they should learn to fast instead hehe, wishful thinking.

*Until the next time,
Lee*

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/>



A NEW HOBBY?

I started flying a drone as a hobby over a year ago.

I wanted to get out, explore new places and learn about the history of our country, as well as seeing them from a new perspective.

I've always loved looking out of the airplane windows so this was a fantastic opportunity to fly like a bird and see from their eyes.

The evolution of drones are so much more advanced now including cameras, obstacle avoidance sensors, they use GPS signals for automatic return to take off position (so reduces losing the drone).

I do not specialise in any one subject, I have travelled to film football stadiums, film sets, churches and National Trust properties. Last year I took it on holiday to Orlando, Florida.

The drone I use is a DJI Mini 4 Pro 249g, which you can fly with minimal restrictions.

To further my interest in the subject, I have studied and sat an exam to qualify for a A2CofC certificate of competency, which is CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) approved; this allows a person to fly heavier drones up to the weight of 2kg.

As the law stands drones under 249g, do have more freedom; they can fly in any air space, which is CAA clear, with exceptions of MOD land, prisons and airports.

By law, all camera drones must be registered with the CAA and have an operator's ID displayed on the drone.

Drones are restricted to a height of

400ft (120 metres) and must always be kept in visual line of sight.

Prior to drone flights, pilots must view an app called "Drone Assist", which is governed by the CAA, to check if there are any flight restrictions and that it is safe to fly.

I publish my drone flights on social media where I have followers from all over the world including USA, Australia and Asia.

To follow my adventures, here's my social media links:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@DroneHorizons584>

Facebook: Drone Horizons

Justin Brown



MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



In March our members enjoyed a field trip to Lavenham, an online presentation by Kevin Pigney and a club workshop with James Child.

In April we are looking forward to a busy month including:

- A field trip to RSPB Stour Estuary Nature Reserve (Bluebells)
- 11th – Print Competition 'Wildlife' – Judge: Daphne Hanson
- 16th – Granville Fulger External Competition
- 25th – Presentation 'Interesting Stuff' by Justin Minns
- 29th – Harwich Interclub Competition

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 and we continue to have fun with our monthly themed Facebook Challenge.

We are a 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 Mistley 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/>

This month's featured image is 'Right Turn' by Andy Soar, which came first in a recent PDI club competition.



LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

Well, that's March done and dusted already. Where on earth did that go? It was so lovely to see the snowdrops and daffodils throughout the village which were planted many years ago by residents. Whilst writing this, the rain is still falling but lets hope it eases up soon.

In November 2023 Tendring District Council launched their Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant Scheme. After much thought we decided to apply for a Grant for a refurbished Telephone Box to form a Community Library/Book Exchange for the Village Car Park and we are pleased to report that we were awarded £3,500 to progress with this project. In years past our applications have been refused at the first stage so we were very happy to have achieved this. Once in place, we will be asking for book donations.

All residents in Little Bromley will have received the flyer following a joint meeting with Little Bromley Parish

Council and Ardleigh Parish Council on 4th March. This was organised by Zoe Fairley, your District Councillor. David Burns from Horkesley, who leads Villages Against Pylons shared the work he is doing. This inspired the Parish Councillors to try and unite the Village in an attempt to get everyone on board. We asked if you would like to join the Village network so we could update you on developments. Please email littlebromleypc@gmail.com so we can add you to the database.

Lastly, we are looking for volunteers to join the Parish Council. Please get in touch with one of the Councillors if you would like to join us or email the Clerk at littlebromleypc@gmail.com.

We will be holding the May AGM, Parish Assembly and Parish Council meeting on 9th May this year which is week earlier than planned due to holidays. It would be good to see you there.

BROMLEY 10K RUN

We are pleased to say that on **Sunday 14th April 2024** we will be holding our Road Run in Little Bromley. This may increase the volume of traffic through the village for a few hours.

The course will be the same as last year with different starting and finishing points. The event will be starting down Hilliards Road. It will then proceed through the village along assorted back roads, eventually coming down Ardleigh Road and out onto Shop Road, where the run will finish in Paynes Lane. Please note there will also be a water

station along Waterhouse Lane.

The race will begin at **9.30am**. Any support as the runners go past is always appreciated.

Between 9.50am & 11am there will be a lot of runners going along Shop Road.

We would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.

*Carol Cordwell
on behalf of Harwich Runners*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ACORN VILLAGE

Acorn Village is a charity based in Mistley, Manningtree that supports adults with learning disabilities to live their life to their full potential fulfilling the motto 'Life if for Living'. If you have a couple of hours free have you ever thought about volunteering at a local Charity? Make friends, build your skills, boost your CV and know you are helping we need your support now more than ever. Could you help by volunteering in one of the following roles:

Volunteer Sorters - Do you love organising, whilst hunting for hidden treasures along the way?

These vital volunteers sort through our donations from clothes and bric & brac

to books & records to help the charity get the best amount of income.

Charity Shop Assistant – Always fancied working in a shop? Meeting new people? Organising the shelves? Designing window displays? Whether you want to build your skill set or make friends this role could suit you.

Ecommerce Assistant – Join our new team of online sales volunteers. If you love hunting for those unique items and then listing them online to see what price they will make this exciting new team maybe one you want to join.

If any of these volunteer roles sound interesting to you please get in contact via supportus@acornvillages.com or 01206 394124.

Coffee Morning with a Clothing Swish

Saturday 13th April 10am – 1pm Great Bromley Village Hall

Join us and bring your friends for a fun and friendly coffee morning with stalls and activities, raffle, cakes, produce, quiz, bag-a-bola, music and more!

£5 at the door includes coffee/tea and homemade cake.

You can also choose to join the clothing swish!

1. Check your wardrobe for no-longer-loved, good condition clothes.
2. Bring as many outfits as you like, (each on its own hanger please), and for each one you will receive a voucher which will allow you to -
3. Choose an exciting, brand-new-to-you item to take home!
4. Voila – decluttering, new clothes and world improvement in one go!

Remaining clothes will be made available for a donation at the end of the morning

Money raised is in support of **The Girl Child Project** addressing period poverty.

Girls miss school each month and suffer health consequences due to a lack of sanitary products. Help us buy a machine for making pads for a group of schools in Uganda

Please come along and join us. Let us know if you'd like to help!

Dorothy 07791974053

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



Dear Parishioners,

I write what will be my last Chairman's Notes as I will not be standing for the post of Chairman at our next Annual Meeting in May. During my time as Chairman I have tried my best to help improve our village. I am finding it more difficult to deal with Essex Highways, it seems everything is a struggle, I am aware of the monetary restraints but they do not seem to listen to local councillors who know the area far better than officials from County Hall.

I was one of the main voices in securing the Harwich Road/A120 roundabout, following several serious and fatal collisions at the junction a battle commenced for Highways England and Essex County Council to made the junction safer by building a roundabout. Our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, supported the campaign and eventually common sense prevailed and the roundabout was built. Since the roundabout was built there have been very few incidents, certainly none fatal, also Pelhams Corner junction, which was also part of the same scheme has seen a vast improvement in terms of collisions and road safety. Although it took eight years I have managed to persuade Essex County Highways to reduce the speed limit along Harwich Road. I also assisted Great Bromley Cricket Club in

securing a large donation to enable the completion of their Cricket Clubhouse. I am grateful to our County Councillor, Carlo Guglielmi, for all of his support in helping me to achieve the above and securing funding for our school to build a new classroom. Also, I managed to have yellow lines outside the school where parking was very dangerous.

In the previous Messenger I mentioned rainwater coming off the surrounding fields and causing flooding within the development at Robinson Close, The problem, I am informed, is also caused by Essex Highways' failure in maintaining the surface water drainage system.

The new play equipment in Church Meadow has been well received and popular, in fact an outstanding success, welcomed by children and parents alike. The equipment was supported by National Lottery funding and some residual S106 funding. This equipment had been mooted by Councillors prior to me joining the Council.

Finally I would like to thank everybody that has supported me, I know that I have not pleased everybody, but I have done my best. I wish the new chairman well and I will give them my full support.

Cllr Fred Nicholls

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our April meeting will be on Thursday 13th April at 7:45pm. "Allotments" will be the subject of the talk by Lindsay Huggins at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS. Free admission to members, non-members £2. Everyone welcome.

Schedules for this year's Annual Flower & Produce Show (which is being held on Saturday 17th August) will be available at the meeting and at Ardleigh Convenience Store & Craft Nurseries soon after.

Dates for your diary



APRIL 2024

- 3 WI - Paul Gallifant: Tornado Smith and the Wall of Death: The true story of a man, a woman, a motorbike and a lion. Village Hall 7:30pm
 OPEN MEETING: EVERYONE WELCOME. VISITORS £4
- 10 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall 7:30pm
- 13 WI Coffee Morning with a Clothing Exchange, Village Hall 10am-1pm
- 14 Bromley 10K run - start at Hilliards Road 9:30am
- 23 WI Crafting Social, Village Hall 10am-12:30pm

MAY

- 1 WI AGM and social night, Village Hall 7:30pm
- 8 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall
 - Annual Meeting 7:00pm
 - Parish Assembly 7:20pm
 - Ordinary Meeting 7:30pm
- 12 Antiques & Collectors Fair, Village Hall 9:00am-3:00pm
- 28 WI Crafting Social, Village Hall 10am-12:30pm

JUNE

- 12 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall 7:30pm

PLANNING DETERMINATION

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
<u>24/00001/</u> <u>FUL</u> Mr Wayne Knowles	Erection of replacement detached chalet bungalow following demolition of existing bungalow.	Byeways, Mary Lane North, Great Bromley CO7 7TZ	Approval - Full 16.02.2024 Delegated Decision

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

- 4 April
- 25 April
- 16 May

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.

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

The importance of forgiveness

In the Lord's prayer we say "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Jesus constantly reminds us in the Gospels to forgive others. We need to remember that Jesus forgave from the Cross "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Sometimes that can be hard, but we can make a **decision** to forgive. And holding grudges eats away at us. St. Augustine said that bearing resentment is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. Letting go of grudges and bitterness improves our mental health and our relationships with others.

St. Mark's Second Sunday Praise and Worship 6.30pm April 14th
Next Alpha course begins May 8th 7.30pm and continues each Wednesday. To sign up email office@stmarksparish.org.uk

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, 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 at 9.20.

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 Sztasi's home, Paddock Gate, Whitehorse Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TR will take place on **Thursday 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.

kathy.pollard@btinternet.com
19 The Street, Capel St. Mary, Ipswich,
IP9 2EE Tel: 07889 123702

Fun fact: Snakes can predict earthquakes - Anecdotal evidence abounds of snakes exhibiting strange behaviour anywhere from weeks to seconds before an earthquake.





River Stour Trust

Registered charity number 257806

Summer is nearly here so why not visit Constable Country and take a trip on the river at Flatford 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 public navigation rights.

Bring your family, your visitors, and yes, we do take well-behaved dogs, all are equally welcome. Groups can also charter the boat for family and friends' outings or part of a birthday or other celebration. Funds raised help to maintain the river and its surroundings for the benefit of all; the current major project for RST is the renovation of Dedham lock to bring it back into a working condition. This is a significant project requiring erosion protection as well as replacement of the lock gates.

We welcome new members and volunteers either as skippers, bankside

helpers or river maintenance. Our skipper training programme begins in the Spring and anyone interested can contact our Training Manager Kevin Taylor on 01206 322122, kevintaylor@btinternet.com or our Boat Operations Manager Graham Gardner at rstbom@riverstourtrust.org On completion you would be an Inland Waterways Association accredited skipper. You can offer as much or as little time as you like and no prior qualifications or experience is needed, just love of the countryside and the great outdoors.

The Trust also operates boat trips from The Granary, Sudbury, on that section of the river. More information can be found on the Trust's website - www.riverstourtrust.org or from the main office on 01787 313199.

FORD RIDELONDON CLASSIQUE 2024

The Classique brings together the world's best female cyclists for three days of racing in Essex and London. It is broadcast on the BBC and around the world and brings international-level sport to the heart of Essex.

There will be minor delays as the first stage of the Ford RideLondon Classique will begin in the medieval market town of Saffron Walden, in north-west Essex, and finish in the historic city of Colchester.

Stage 1 of the 2024 race will pass through Great Bromley (past the Bromley Cross Inn) on Friday 24th of May - full details of the route can be found at www.ridelondon.co.uk.





Great Bromley Village Hall



At its last meeting on 29th February, the Village Hall Management Committee was briefed about the potential impact of the Hamilton Lodge site development on the village hall and grounds. It was noted that detailed permission for the roadside works (which include the access road entrance for the housing estate, a new pavement and bus stops) had yet to be submitted and the chairman was now liaising directly with the developers regarding the final designs for the infrastructure on the village hall side of the road. It was unlikely that the works would be undertaken until spring/summer 2025 so there was time for consultation and planning to minimise inconvenience to village hall and cricket club users whilst the works were taking place. It was still not clear what voluntary assistance with car park improvements the developer may be able to give the village hall whilst the roadside works were being undertaken, but discussions were continuing.

The overall number of private and commercial bookings of rooms at the hall had dropped slightly in January and February and the Management Committee was keen for all residents of Great and Little Bromley to be aware that the hall was available for private parties and other events at reduced rates for those who live locally. The current hire rates are competitive compared with other local venues and

offer good value for money. Further details on hiring all or part of the village hall are displayed within the hall or can be viewed on the village hall website.

The attention of the Management Committee is now turning towards the Village Hall AGM which this year will be held on Thursday 23rd May commencing at 7.30pm in the Millennium Lounge. All parishioners are welcome to attend the AGM which looks 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 3 vacancies on the Management Committee and my colleagues and I would really welcome 'new blood' onto the committee to help with the running of the hall. No particular skills are required, however a desire to help our fine community facility to flourish and willingness to get stuck in and take on a non-onerous responsibility would make the role more meaningful and much more enjoyable. If you are interested in joining us on the committee please contact me for further information.

Martin Frostick
01206 250263

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk

Fun fact: Australia is actually wider than the Moon. The Moon sits at 3400 km in diameter, while Australia's diameter from east to west is almost 4000 km.

THE ORMAN FAMILY COTTAGE

This old photo from 1923 turned up recently. It shows The Orman family's cottage at the south end of Brook Street. Behind it can be seen part of the roof of Brook Farm, and to the immediate foreground is a shed that was part of the Spread Eagle public house. A room of this cottage was used once a week by the Doctor visiting from Ardleigh for his surgery.

The Ormans did a lot for St George's church and are still fondly remembered. Florence Orman was on the PCC and church cleaner for many years. She had a twin sister Charlotte. "Lot and Flo" celebrated their 80th birthday in 1987.



Their older brother Frederick Orman had a son called Mick who was heavily involved in Elmstead Cricket, and he married Carol Morgan whose father ran Morgan's, the grocer at Elmstead, who travelled around the villages with his mobile grocery van. More about that another time.

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

CHURCH JOTTINGS

World Day of Prayer – 1st March each year is the day when everyone comes together to pray for each other and all the other people in over 146 countries and islands around the world. This year we prayed for, and with, the people of Palestine. The Worship service shared stories which illuminated the experience of three Palestinian Christian women from three different generations.

As we heard their stories, we were urged to bear with one another in love, despite difficulties and differences, to write a prayer for just and harmonious solutions that would bring an end to human suffering.

The Harwich Deanery of Prayer has for many years celebrated World Women's Day of Prayer as it was known then, with Catholic, Salvation Army and Anglian churches in the Deanery taking it in turns.

This year, St George's Church was invited to host this special service

-World Day of Prayer - as it is known. We were delighted to be asked and accepted joyfully.

First meetings were held in January to choose readings and find an organist, and arrange refreshments and other essential responsibilities to ensure that the service ran smoothly.

Our thanks to all those who took part and contributed in every way however small. Members from Lawford, Mistley, Bradfield and Little Bentley and many more helped to make our service memorable and resounding success, so enjoyable and so ably led by Reverend John Saxon, our new Rural Minister.

Our thanks also to those who supported the service; Wrabness, Wix, Beamont, Great Oakley, Manningtree Methodist, the Catholic Church, Dedham, Ardleigh, swelling the congregation.

Our thanks also to Peter Clayton, our Organist, who played our hymns and responses especially "Put Peace into



each other's hands" only known by a few and the words of the last verse are so special:

*"Put Christ into each other's hands,
He is love's deepest measure,
In love make peace, give peace a chance,
And share it like a treasure."*

On Sunday 14th we have two special events.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting follows our morning service at midday. Our APCM is important for the whole village and church community. There will be two meetings:

- a. Election of Church Wardens at which the whole village is allowed to attend and vote. The role of the Church Warden is huge and very important in the life of our church, supporting the priests, the community and looking after the fabric of the building.
- b. The APCM is after the election of the Church Wardens. To attend this meeting, to speak and to vote, all attendees are required to be on St George's electoral roll. At this meeting, reports are read from all members of the Parochial Church Council. Please speak to Gregory if you wish to receive an Annual Report.

Baroque Concert – 3pm

We are pleased to invite you to a concert in the afternoon, it will be a super concert followed by Afternoon Tea. There are not tickets for this concert but we would be so pleased if you could manage a donation towards the huge renovation work which has to take place this year in the North Aisle. There will be a list

to sign up for Afternoon Tea, just to let us know how many to cater for.

June 14th, 15th, 16th "Bee Friendly"

Plans are galloping ahead for our big event of the year. Please come and join us, have fun and enjoy this super weekend. A day of music involving our school is planned for Friday 14th. On Saturday the Deanery Choir will be entertaining us at midday and in the evening the Black Cactus Choir will be performing at 6pm. On Sunday evening we are hosting a "Flower Festival Praise", this is a Community Songs of Praise at 6pm, where local organisations will be invited to take part.

Look forward to seeing you all!

Love Jenny

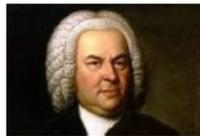


Anglia Baroque

Sunday 14th April 2024
at 3.00 pm
in
St George's Church
Great Bromley

"Bach - a family business!"

A programme of beautiful and unusual music from the
17th & 18th centuries



Rosy Payne
Stephen Cheek
Andrew Spencer
Rachel Fulcher
Christopher Dexter-Mills



violins/violas/cello/harp/sicherd/organ

Light refreshments
Donations in aid of St George's Repair Fund



J A M

On Friday 1st March our Children's Club called J A M (Jesus and Me) began to meet again in St George's Church. After a break of many months whilst our new Servery has been constructed, it was a great privilege and pleasure to welcome children and their parents back into church. We provide refreshments, activities and the chance to chat with friends and other families, every Friday afternoon after school 3-4 pm. The photographs were taken on Friday 8th March just

before Mothering Sunday. My thanks to all who came, all those who helped to make this afternoon so rewarding and fun. Special thanks to Sue and Carol for organising two super activities; 'Cress Heads ' and 'Posies for Mum '

Jenny



STOUR CHORAL SOCIETY SPRING CONCERT

Just a reminder that there are still tickets available for our spring concert, 'Messa di Gloria' by Puccini and Opera Choruses, on Saturday April 13th at Mistley Church, 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £15 adults, under 18's free, from Howell's hardware store in Manningtree, text or phone 07511 908213, or email: info@stourchoralsociety.co.uk, or pay cash on the door.

Refreshments provided in aid of the church, and ample parking available opposite the church at Mistley Park Place. All welcome for what promises to be a wonderful afternoon of music and singing.

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Spring is in the air – at least I hope it will be as you read this. As I write, there are an abundance of snow drops in the churchyard and signs the daffodils are beginning to show their glory. But the days of warmer spring sunshine are still an illusion amidst the damp and greyness of early March.

If it is not quite springlike outside and it is still too wet to attend the garden, perhaps your thoughts have turned to a spring-clean inside. I am not sure why we focus on spring cleaning rather than summer or autumn cleaning, but if you know, do tell me. Perhaps it is the warmer and lengthening days that urge us to action after our snuggled days fending off the winter chill. What are you going to tackle this year?

Cleaning itself is not a very salubrious task, but, when all is done and finished, it can be very satisfying and gives a new lease of life to the cleaned cupboard or room and importantly to the cleaner too. It is as if all the energy and effort put into the task is somehow forgotten and the reward outshines the cost.

The church's season of cleansing (Lent) has past and now, post Easter, we are enjoying the new life given as gift to us through belief in the crucified but risen Lord Jesus Christ. I think the

verses from the Old Testament book of Lamentation are very apt: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness* (Lamentations 3 v22-23 ESV). They ring around my head in a tune that sings these very words and are a great reminder of the gift of new life we are blessed with every day – not just at Springtime and Easter.

As we wait for the warmer and longer days to be with us, whatever spring-cleaning projects you tackle this year, I pray you may know something of this New Life given to us freely. That you may experience afresh something of the steadfast love and mercy of God each and every day. Do be in touch with Revd Phillip Young or I if you wish to know more about this new life and the Christian faith.

Now, what shall I spring-clean next....

***With best wishes
Revd John Saxon***

PS – many churches are organising spring cleaning sessions and churchyard tidy ups. Any offers of help gratefully accepted! Look out for notices or volunteer by contacting a church warden. The churches of our villages are there for all the community.

GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The competition for our April meeting will be an egg cup. We would welcome new members to join our monthly meetings at the Cross Inn pub on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2pm.



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

April 7th	2nd of Easter	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
April 14th	3rd of Easter	Parish Eucharist & APCM	11am
April 21st	4th of Easter	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
April 28th	5th of Easter	Parish Eucharist	11am
May 5th	Rogation	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
May 9th	Ascension Day	<i>See website or notice</i>	
May 11th	Saturday	PBS Evensong & tea	3pm
May 12th	S after Ascension	Parish Eucharist	11am
May 19th	Pentecost Whitsun	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
May 26th	Trinity Sunday	Parish Eucharist	11am

St Mary's, Little Bentley

April 7th	Morning Prayer 11am
April 21st	Holy Communion 11am
May 5th	Bluebell service 3pm
May 12th	Holy Communion 11am

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