

The Messenger



The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

February 2025



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

Welcome to another year! I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and are ready to take on whatever challenges this year brings. We're preparing for our youngest's penultimate term at high school, with GCSEs coming up in May and June.

This month's cover is a beautiful close-up of a snowdrop, which to me symbolises of a tiny sign of Spring, and hopefully the last of the cold weather. Thank you to Pat Ainger for sending it to me (a long time ago!).

Five years ago, news reports were bringing us details of Covid-19 and we didn't quite know what lay ahead for us. I remember at that time, I started editing The Messenger and I wondered how on earth I was going to fill all the space! But I didn't have to worry, as contributors worked their magic and kept on sending their work - I'm always grateful to you all and will remain so. On Sunday 9th March 2025, a UK-wide Day of Reflection will take place to remember loved ones and reflect on the impact of the pandemic. I recall that our community very quickly pulled together ways to help those who needed it, such as telephone trees and a prescription and

shopping delivery service. At times of trouble, it's reassuring to be part of a community that can step up to any challenge given.

Awareness days for February include:

- ♦ 2nd - Groundhog Day
- ♦ 3rd - National Sickie Day
- ♦ 5th - World Nutella Day
- ♦ 20th - National Love your Pet Day
- ♦ 24th - Emotional Health Day

**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. Our village is a tapestry of rich history, diverse talents, and unwavering warmth. Each contribution to this magazine is a thread that strengthens the fabric of our community.

MATERIAL for the **MARCH 2025** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the

Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th FEBRUARY 2025** please.

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

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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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MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



We began the new year with a print competition (Industrial Prints), a field trip to Colchester Zoo and a talk by Barbara Lyndsay on Macro Insect Photography. At time of printing we may or may not have held our second competition of the year, Open Mono PDI.

In February we are looking forward to;

- **13th February** - Teams Talk by Jeannette Langdon on Mobile Phone Photography
- **16th February** - Field Trip to Daws Hall Nature Reserve
- **20th February** Competition – Open colour print

Our 2024-2025 programme is available on our website together with competition results, photo albums and further club information. Our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features various club news and activities.

This month's featured image by Viv Scurrel was the winner of a recent food photography competition.

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. 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





GREAT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

NEW SENIOR PARTNER

Now that Dr Freda Bhatti has retired from the Surgery, Dr Sean O'Reilly will be taking over as Senior Partner at the Practice.

NEW SALARIED GP

I am very pleased to let you know that Dr Mohi Khan will be joining the Practice as a Salaried GP on the 5 February 2025.

REQUEST FOR PATIENTS TO WEAR A MASK

We are currently seeing a large number of patients suffering with viral symptoms such as coughs, sore throats and flu symptoms. If you do have these symptoms and are asked to attend an appointment at the Surgery, you will be asked to wear a mask when you come into the Surgery. If you do not have a mask, then the Surgery will be happy to provide you with one. Wearing a mask not only helps to protect vulnerable patients in our waiting area, but will also help to protect our clinicians and Surgery staff. Your co-operation with this is much appreciated.

AN UPDATE ON ASKMYGP

I am pleased to report that out of our 11,500 patients registered at the Surgery, over 8,000 have now registered to use our digital platform, AskmyGP. If you haven't registered for this service yet, then please visit our Surgery website www.greatbentleysurgery.nhs.uk to do this.

RSV VACCINATION

If you receive an invitation to book an RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccination with the nurse, then you can do this either via the link sent in the text, or by contacting a member of the reception team on tel. 01206 250691, who will be happy to book this for you.

SURGERY TRAINING AFTERNOON

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12.00 noon on Tuesday, 25 February 2025 for staff training. If you need urgent medical attention on this afternoon, please contact NHS 111.

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING

The PPG will not be holding a meeting in February.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager

GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We hope to see new members joining our club this year with ideas for new speakers they would like us to invite. We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 2pm to 4pm at The Cross.

Our speaker for February will be giving a talk on photography and we look forward to hearing this. The competition is a paper weight.

ERIC KEEBLE 1932 - 2024

Eric, the son of Florence and Cyril, grew up with his sisters, Rose and Eleanor, in a world defined by hard work, resilience, and a love of the outdoors. Life at Brook Farm in Great Bentley, where his father was a tenant farmer, was shaped by the rhythm of the land. The war cast a shadow over many lives, but the Keeble family were spared the worst, being essential workers with access to fresh produce and meat. Eric recalled how the Italian prisoners of war who worked there gave him chocolate, and of hearing his father shouting for everyone to lay down as they witnessed the downing of a German plane.

At just four years old Eric suffered a serious accident at Horsley Cross when he was hit by a car, damaging his foot, and his 18 months in hospital left a deep impression on him. He stood up to bullies as he wore leg irons at primary school and earned a reputation for being cheeky and mischievous. It was as a child that his love for music began - he mastered the mouth organ and learned to play the organ at the local church.

School was never his favourite place, so he was pleased to leave aged 13, when his true education began on the land as his parents took the lease of Bush Farm. Eric's hands were never idle, whether in his early days as a saddle-maker's apprentice, or as an agricultural contractor building his own business, his ingenuity and drive were boundless. He was a natural problem solver who could mend almost anything, often with a creative 'bodge job' that stood the test of time.



It was at Burnt Heath Methodist Church that Eric met Pauline, who admired his ambition, the business he was building, and his car! They married in 1957, and moved into Hall Cottage, near Bush Farm, beginning a partnership that would span decades. Eric was convinced that her insistence on washing his old hat on a regular basis led to his losing his thick curly hair, which until then had been preserved by tractor grease.

Pauline enjoyed being the wife of a businessman but when Eric's parents retired, he decided to take on the farm instead, so the young family with three daughters, Marie, Louise and Vanessa, moved into the farmhouse. Whilst Pauline kept a tidy home, the girls ran free-range with dad, and he cherished every moment spent with them. From riding on their own little seat on the tractor, to rabbiting and lamping trips in the Land Rover, every moment was an adventure.

His girls were Eric's greatest joy and he involved them in every aspect of farm life. Eric's warmth extended far beyond his family to include the girls' friends and, in time, their boyfriends. Initially wary of his towering frame, they soon realised he was a gentle giant – a name they lovingly gave him. He became like a



second father to many, always ready to fix their motorbikes. Whenever the girls asked their dad his opinion, he would say, "Whatever you girls want." If they were happy, he was happy. His one stipulation, born from his

aversion to busy social occasions, was that if they ever married, they should all do it on the same day! Visitors to the farm were always welcomed with a story over tea and cake baked by Pauline - perhaps one of her caraway seed buns that the girls knew as mice turd buns!

Eventually the time came to leave Bush Farm, so 20 years ago they moved to Dovetails in Mary Lane South, but Eric still carried on helping people with gardening and odd jobs. When Pauline suffered a stroke, Eric devoted himself to her care with unwavering love and dedication until her passing. Eric's presence was a steady and comforting anchor to all his family, and he has left them and so many friends with many very happy memories.



HGF from the family eulogy

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
<u>CC/</u> <u>TEN/31/21</u> <u>/3/4</u>	Details pursuant to Condition 3 – Project/ construction schedule (initial construction of Phase 1 only) for planning application ref: CC/TEN/31/21 (New link road between the existing A120 and A133) Great Bromley Parish Council emphasized that the infrastructure should be established first.	Land between the A120 and A133, to the east of Colchester and west of Elmstead Market

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



May I first wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

The Parish Council is responsible for many things throughout Great Bromley such as maintaining Church Meadow, the Hare Green Recreation Ground, all the trees in public places in the Parish, together with other responsibilities such as the War Memorial.

These valuable areas in the Parish do not come without a cost, unfortunately, and our budget to manage these resources is extremely tight. We would value any fundraising ideas which might add to the money available to us to spend keeping our beautiful village functioning and possibly increasing facilities such as extra litter bins and dog waste bins.

The Parish Council currently has seven serving councillors, who meet every month to consider planning applications, items of particular interest passed to us by Tendring District Council and Essex County Council, any

concerns that Parishioners may have, and to approve necessary budget spend in the village.

I would greatly appreciate and invite anyone over the age of 18, who lives within a 3 mile radius of Great Bromley and cares, as we do, for the present and future of Great Bromley and feels that they would like to become a Parish Councillor, to email our Parish Clerk, Lizzie, for further details.

Finally some great news! We have been approached by a local Junior football team who wish to use the pitch at Hare Green. They hope to have the pitch up and running by mid February. These juniors are between 12 and 13 years of age and I am sure that they would appreciate all the support that we can offer them.

Have a great month, stay safe and feel free to call me on 07824 524299 if you wish.

*Kind regards
Ian Murch*

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH NEWS

Our next parish lunch will be after the Eucharist on 2nd February from 12.30pm, at the Haywain, Lt Bromley. There is a sign-up list in church, or contact one of the churchwardens to let them know you are going to attend.

St George's spent **£331** on Christmas purchases of food for the Manningtree Foodbank, thanks to your kind donations. In 2024 income from donations was **£1,263**; expenditure on food was **£892**, leaving a balance of **£371** to start 2025.

Jenny led our annual Christmas singalong with the Cheshire Home residents, followed by tea and mince pies. A good time was had by all!

The school and parents filled the church and we heard lovely singing directed by Mrs Keitch, the Headteacher, and Mr Johnston, who teaches Years 5 and 6. Thank you to Revd John Saxon, who is now a school governor, for leading the service.



Great Bromley Village Hall



At their routine meeting in November, the Management Committee was pleased to hear that hall bookings had continued to increase slightly and that an additional yoga class was now held on a Tuesday evening and a 'warm hub' community event held each Friday. The Committee noted that the village hall historical records had now been digitised and important original documents, including past minute books, would be deposited shortly in the Essex Records Office for safe keeping.

The Committee also noted that the Hamilton Lodge developers had submitted to Essex County Council a revised roadside works and infrastructure plan which showed both existing village hall vehicular entrances remaining open. These roadside works are due to be undertaken by the developer in late spring this year. Once the final design for these works is known, detailed planning for the village hall car park improvement project will commence. Other improvements planned for the hall in 2025 include further internal and external redecoration and installation of a replacement heating oil tank and plinth.

Electricity costs at the village hall have nearly doubled in recent months following the end of the previous long term supply arrangement. A competitive new supply contract has been negotiated but, to ensure that the income and expenditure for the charity remains in balance, the Committee agreed that the hire charges for the facilities at the hall should increase by an average of 5% with effect from 1st April 2025 for all new bookings. This is

the first price increase in 2 years but, despite this increase, local research shows that the hall remains highly competitive as a convenient, flexible and affordable venue in the area with the additional benefits of a working stage, good acoustics, hearing loop and WIFI coverage.

Subject to confirmation that no formal planning permission from Tendring District Council was required, the Committee agreed to requests from Great Bromley and District Cricket Club regarding the positioning of a 20' storage container adjacent to the cricket pavilion and also the erection of a permanent cricket scoreboard adjacent to the path between the village hall and the pavilion. Discussions continue between the two organisations regarding ways to improve the drainage of the cricket field, particularly in the vicinity of the pavilion.

The Management Committee looks forward to welcoming you at the village hall in 2025 whether it be for a family party, activity class, meeting or musical event. As the hall is fully licensed, there is scope to undertake a wide range of activities in the accommodation - all at competitive hire rates. If you want to know more about what the hall can offer or if you wish to make a booking then please contact Jackie Lear, the Bookings Manager, at gbromleyvillagehall@gmail.com or by phone on 07543974751. A tour of the facilities can be arranged on request.

Martin Frostick

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk
or 01206 250263

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
<u>24/01572/</u> <u>COUNOT</u> Mr and Mrs Beech	Application to determine if Prior Approval is required under Part 3, Class MA of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for three commercial buildings to be converted to three residential dwellings and an additional existing building used in association with the existing commercial buildings to be converted into a cycle store for use by the residential dwellings.	The Old Marconi Works, Stores and Premises, Hilliards Road, Great Bromley CO7 7US	Prior aprv req – deemed appl refused 18.12.2024 4 Delegated Decision
<u>24/01610/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Mr Wynne	Householder Planning Application – Single Storey Rear Extension.	Weeping Ash, Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TL	Approval – Full 19.12.2024 4 Delegated Decision
<u>24/01530/</u> <u>FUL</u> Mr T Frary	Planning Application – Construction of agricultural building for hay and machinery storage (retrospective).	Pond Farm, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP	Approval – Full 11.12.2024 Delegated Decision
<u>24/01547/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Barry Goody	Householder Planning Application – Installation of air source heat pump.	Draco, Back Lane East, Great Bromley CO7 7UE	Approval – Full 13.12.2024 Delegated Decision
<u>24/01682/</u> <u>WTPO</u> Mr Barber	1 No. Field Maple – crown lift by 2m.	Marks Farm, Frating Road, Great Bromley CO7 7JN	Approval – Full 13.12.2024 Delegated Decision

Dates for your diary



FEBRUARY 2025

5	WI meeting, Colour Analysis, Village Hall	7:30pm
12	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
25	WI Crafting Social, Village Hall	10am-12:30pm

MARCH

5	WI meeting, Liz Cutting: 'Where has all the wildlife gone?' Competition 'C'. Village Hall	7:30pm
12	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
20	Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain	7:30pm
25	WI Crafting Social, Village Hall - £4	10am-12:30pm

APRIL

2	WI Meeting - Village Hall - Cherry Burroughs: The Great Flood of 1953 and why she wrote her book 'The Farmer and the Flood' Competition 'D'	7:30pm
9	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
25	WI Crafting Social, Village Hall	10am-12:30pm

MAY

14	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
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BE EXTRAORDINARY

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Be a[^]Parish Councillor

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Would you like to:

- make a difference to local people?
- give something back to your community?
- help shape change for the benefit of your local area?

For more details,
email
Clerk@gbpc.org.uk

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

- 13 February
- 06 March
- 27 March
- 17 April

9.45am to 10.15am



**Post Office & Community Library
The Cross Inn**



**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.



CALL FOR HERITAGE SITES

The Council is compiling a list of non-designated heritage assets to guide decision making in the future.

Anyone can submit suggestions to the Council during our 6-month 'Call for Sites' consultation.

**A nomination form is available on our website:
www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/heritage**

Consultation closes 2nd June 2025.



<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/heritage>



locallist@tendringdc.gov.uk



01255 686177



Tendring
District Council



SCAN HERE

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

We would like to start the New year with a message of thanks to all our residents for their support throughout the past year and ask that they continue to keep us in mind when they have thoughts on how things can be improved around the Village.

We have appreciated your support on those important matters, especially around the consultations of National Grid, Five Estuaries and North Falls.

2024 was an active year with the preparation of our National Grid, Five Estuaries and North Falls consultation responses. We have, as yet, to hear from any of them on the many obstacles that present themselves to our Village in their proposals, but we live in hope.

We acquired a grant for the Telephone Box Community Library which we hope you have visited and helped yourself to a book or two. Our next mission is to apply for a grant from Essex County Council's "Love Your Bus Grant Fund" for two small bus shelters for the village.

The Parish Council website publishes Meeting Agendas and Minutes and matters of interest to the village and in addition we have a Facebook page "Little Bromley Community". If you are not already a member, please join the page as it is a good way of communicating activities in the village.

Throughout the year your council works behind the scenes to resolve or progress matters around rights of ways, fly tipping, potholes, etc. and other such matters that concern our residents and we equally ask that you report matters directly to Tendring District Council or Essex County Council as appropriate. We continually push the local authority to deliver on maintenance and improvements to our footpaths, roads, its signage and drainage of surfaces.

All the Councillors and the Clerk of Little Bromley would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Christine Barrett

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
<u>24/01856/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Mr Oliver Barber	Householder Planning Application - first floor extension over existing front porch and single storey side and rear extension. Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment.	Marks Farm Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JN
<u>24/01812/</u> <u>FUL</u> Mr J Connor - Inova (UK) Ltd	Conversion, alteration and extension of existing barns and cottages to form 5 dwellings, including alterations to existing vehicular access and frontage wall. Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment.	Newhouse Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley

Hello Great Bromley,

We made it! another year passes, and the New Year's resolutions begin. I don't know about you, but I do the same thing every year and set myself up for a fall every time. Believe it or not, last year's resolution was to not set any other resolutions, well that didn't go according to plan. I won't tell you what it was this year, but it suffices to say I didn't make it, again ☐

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all the children of St Georges C of E primary school, who popped in to sing Christmas carols for our residents over the Christmas period. let's not forget the teachers and staff that made this all possible by putting a great deal of time and effort into preparing for this once-a-year event. As always, they were very professional, and very much appreciated by everybody here at Seven Rivers. We also had some wonderful Carol Singers, complements of St Georges Church, again thank you all.

It was also great to have Annika back with us for Christmas, one of our residents'

favourites. She put on a great show and got everybody into that Christmas spirit. Annika has been coming here for several years now and really knows how to interact with everybody, and get them involved, not that they needed much encouragement.



We would also like to thank the kind donations made by local businesses for our raffle prizes, The Court House, Deans Garden Centre and Relax Your Soul Alternative Holistic Health Service, for their generous contributions which went down a treat, thank you all.

To end our year, we went out with a big bang or should I say a fiddle, the played sort by our all-time favourite fiddler, James. James never fails to



deliver great entertainment with his quirky sense of humour, which we all love here, another great friend to Seven Rivers. For some unknown reason he always stays longer than he intends, I would say its my charm but that might be stretching things a bit, or is it? I'll let you decide.

I could go on thanking all the kind individuals by name, that put themselves out to try and make life as normal as possible for all our residents here at Seven Rivers, but that would be quite a long list. So, a collective thanks from us all here, your all heroes in our eyes.

Good health to you all until the next time, Lee

ARDLEIGH SURGERY

Happy New Year to all our patients!

By the time you read this, we will have been using the Anima Health communication platform for about 3 weeks. We understand that there may be some initial challenges as we all adapt to this new system. Please bear with us as we learn and refine our processes.

As of January 9th, 1300 patients have already registered with Anima. We encourage all of our approximately 8000 patients to register as well. You can access Anima through the surgery's website or directly through the Anima website. You will need a different email address for each non-dependent adult.

Key Features of Anima:

Medical Requests: Submit requests between 8:00am and 3:30pm.

During periods of high demand, we may temporarily pause accepting new requests to ensure patient safety. If your concern is non-urgent, please try submitting your request again the following morning at 8:00am.

The clinical triage team will review your request and contact you via text, phone, or schedule a face-to-face appointment.

Following assessment, you may be offered appropriate management options, such as prescriptions, blood tests, or referrals.

Administrative Requests: Submit requests between 8:00am and 3:30pm.

Examples include requesting test results, travel advice, updating personal information, and requesting copies of medical records.

We aim to respond to administrative requests within 3 working days.

Benefits of Anima:

Improved Efficiency: Anima helps us gather patient information more efficiently, allowing us to prioritize appointments based on clinical urgency rather than a first-come, first-served basis.

Enhanced Convenience: Tech-savvy patients are finding Anima to be a highly convenient and user-friendly platform.

Accessibility for All: If you are unable to use the technology, you can still contact the surgery by phone, and our team will assist you with submitting your request. Your clinical problem will be triaged by a clinician and not a computer. If you don't have a smart phone there will be two laptops in reception that you can use to submit your queries.

We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible for all our patients.

The Prescription line is still open and prescriptions can be request as before.

The phone lines remain open from 0800hrs to 1830hrs as usual.

Other news

The surgery will be closed on 25th February from 1200hrs to 1830hrs for North Essex Wide GP and staff training.

The Ardleigh Surgery Team

WINTER SUPPORT

Warm Hub every Friday at Great Bromley Village Hall 2-4.30pm

The warm hub is proving a great success, with more people and families attending every week. It is very welcoming, with endless free refreshments and crafts for children.

We have given out 50 free draught excluders, benefit advice and savings on utilities. The Bill Clinic attends every Friday and saved one person £1,400 a year with their electricity.

Christmas warm hub, saw Santa and Mrs Claus attend, children had a lovely time and the feedback from families was amazing.

Migration of Universal Credit

There is a 'hard stop' on 5th April 2025 after which tax credits will essentially no longer exist. Tax credit claimants with sensory impairments are now being contacted and have an additional 2 weeks to move to UC. However, the 3 months and 1 day window to move over to UC starts on 4th January 2025.

About 80,000 Income-related ESA claimants have received migration notices so far. By February 2025 its expected that 63,000 will be moved each month.

Issues identified so far include:

- Support Group claimants being invited to Work Focused Interviews and other work-related requirements, developing CV's and work search.

- Support Group claimants being asked once more for fit notes.

DWP have said they are addressing these issues, if you do experience any difficulties please contact an adviser. That way your claim can be checked.



Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)

DHP's are administered by local borough and district councils. Applicants must be in receipt of either Housing Benefit or the Universal Credit Housing Element. DHP's can be used for rent shortfall, moving costs, rent arrears and private rent deposits.

DHP applications are available online. However, if you unable to make an application, you can

contact Tendring District Council and arrange a phone appointment to make an application.

People can have more than one DHP in a year. However, most awards are granted for either 13 weeks or 26 weeks. 'Extensions' of these periods can be granted on application.

DHP applications do not carry the right of appeal, but you can request a review of a decision.

Advice sessions provided by Disability Advice and Welfare Network are held the first Wednesday of every month. 10-12pm at The Great Bromley Cross Pub and 2-4pm at Great Bromley Village Hall.



HELP KEEP GREAT BROMLEY TIDY

Last November, Great Bromley Parish Council organised a litter pick and, with the help of several volunteers, over thirty bags of rubbish were collected throughout the village. Unfortunately, within a short period of time the litter started to appear again along the roadside. Most of the litter strewn along our verges is the result of being thrown out of passing vehicles, making it extremely difficult to remedy.

Litter is a national problem with over two million pieces dropped every day at a cost of over a billion pounds to the taxpayer annually (Keep Britain Tidy). Not only is litter unsightly but also causes a hazard to wildlife, attracting vermin and disease. The Parish Council is always looking at ways to

combat the litter problem in the village and one trouble spot has been the bench opposite Selectacars. People sitting on the bench enjoying their snacks unfortunately tended to just throw their food wrappers, cans and bottles on the ground or over into the neighbouring field. A litter bin has now been introduced and thankfully is being well used. Great Bromley Parish Council is grateful to **Costcutters** for kindly donating the funds to purchase the bin.

Unfortunately, litter bins can cause other issues, if full people will leave their rubbish beside the bin rather than taking it home with them. This happens

frequently by the litter bins in the village, especially in Church Meadow. Unfortunately, the bin quickly fills up with people using the bottle bank depositing bags and containers that the bottles have been brought in. This is perfectly acceptable however it has been noticed that recently, the bin is being filled up with household rubbish, which is not what it should be used for. The bin is emptied once a week, however there is often rubbish hanging out of the bin or dumped behind it.

The bottle bank is an asset to the village and is well used by residents, it also brings in substantial revenue of around £1500 per annum to the Parish. Unfortunately the bottle bank is seen by some as a dumping area for items that



do not fit into the containers (panes of glass, ceramic pots etc). Just recently a broken pane of glass was left leaning against one of the containers. When the containers were emptied the pane of glass was shattered and left strewn on the ground.

This left shards of broken glass on the ground causing a potential hazard to anyone using the bottle bank.

The Parish Council is grateful to all those who help to keep the village litter free and welcome any suggestions on how the situation could be improved.

***Carole Mander on behalf of
Great Bromley Parish Council***

DEANERY CHOIR



THE
DEANERY
CHOIR



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

February 9th 2025

The Deanery choir will be singing at St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7HZ at the 11.00am Communion service. The choir will sing a version of Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjeilo.

Gjeilo was born to Inge and Anne-May Gjeilo, and grew up in Skui, Norway. He began playing piano and composing when he was just five years old and learned to read music when he was seven years old. Gjeilo studied classical composition with Wolfgang Plagge. In his undergraduate career, Gjeilo studied at the Norwegian Academy of Music (1999–2001), transferred to the Juilliard School (2001), and

studied at the Royal College of Music, London (2002–2004) to receive a bachelor's degree in composition. He continued his education at Juilliard (2004–06) where he received his master's degree in 2006, also in composition. From 2009 to 2010, Gjeilo was composer-in-residence for Phoenix Chorale.

He currently resides in Manhattan, working as a freelance composer.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir
grahambell493@gmail.com

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, international dining, science group, languages, keep fit, pickleball, overseas travel there's something for everyone. Membership costs only £15 a year.

Monthly coffee mornings are held on

the first Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at the Lambe School, Gaston Street, 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 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4. Our speaker on 12th February will talk about the work of the East Anglian Air Ambulance Service, on 12th March we have Claire Benn returning to update us on “ Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT “ and on 9th April Sally Haltingh will tell us all about the latest happenings at Sutton Hoo.

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

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Now February is here, I trust the weather at least shows a hint of warming with the afternoons lengthening. For many these are difficult days with feelings of lethargy and tiredness, low mood and general all-round apathy. I write this during the New Year holiday where the festivities have often included big family meet ups and party celebrations! With these far behind us now February is here, it is no wonder many of us feel jaded, even depressed.

In our group of nine churches, we have just had one of our 'Nine Together' services. On these Sundays, usually where there are five Sundays in a month, there is only one service held among our churches and all are encouraged to attend. Our service of Holy Communion at St George's Church, Great Bromley was a wonderful and jubilant occasion where we enjoyed each other's company with a real sense of the presence of God as we worshipped. The occasion provided an opportunity to mingle and meet each other afterwards, enjoying drinks and finger foods we brought to share together.

For those from smaller churches it is a great moral boost to be among many others, singing and worshipping together. But for everyone, it is a real encouragement to realise that we are

part of something bigger too. This may be said to be the numinous – the mystical and spiritual nature of worship – that connects us with each other and the Christians that have gone before us over many years.

Our bible reading that Sunday was from Paul's letter to the church at Colossi, chapter 3 and challenged us to live with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. In verse 14 it says

'Over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them altogether in perfect unity'

It is often easier to show love to our friends and family, but we should show love to one and all, particularly those who live alone. As we emerge from the depths of winter, let us be aware of our friends, family and neighbours who may be struggling with their well-being. Let us be mindful to be caring towards others in need, whatever the cause. And there may be no better way to do this than to share time with a drink and bite to eat together. It did wonders for us as a 'family' from nine churches. Can we be 'families' together in our village communities too I wonder, acting with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience.

Best wishes
Revd John Saxon

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Nature Through the Seasons - Part 2 – Autumn and Winter" will be the subject of the talk by Roger Hance at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS on Thursday 13th February at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £2. Everyone is welcome.



St George's Church, Great Bromley

TADP - Tendring and Dedham Parishes

For contact details, or to receive our email newsletter, please visit the website
above or email us at church@greatbromley.org.uk

February 2nd	Candlemas	Parish Eucharist BCP	11 am
February 9th	4 th before Lent	Parish Eucharist	11 am
February 16th	3 rd before Lent	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
February 23rd	2 nd before Lent	Parish Eucharist	11 am
March 2nd	<i>Next before Lent</i>	<i>No service at St George's - Group Service 11am tba</i>	
March 5th	Ash Wednesday	Holy Communion BCP	11.30am
March 9th	Lent 1	Parish Eucharist	11 am
March 16th	Lent 2	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
March 23rd	Lent 3	Parish Eucharist	11 am
March 30th	Mothering Sunday	<i>Service tba</i>	

St Mary's, Little Bentley

February 2nd Morning Prayer 11am

February 16th Holy Communion 11am

March 2nd Morning Prayer 11am

March 16th Holy Communion 11am