

The Messenger



The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

April 2025

Happy Easter



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

Welcome to the April edition of our Village Magazine!

I wonder how many of you spotted my error in the last edition where I referred to the wrong month! I just noticed it today - apologies for that!

This month's edition is packed with a variety of articles. I had to hold some back for next month, so if you've sent me something and can't see it, I'll try to include it in May's edition. Suddenly, there seems to be a lot happening in and around the villages.

Our daffodils have flowered in the last couple of weeks, bringing reassurance that spring is definitely on the way. Winter always seems such a long season. The temperatures are rising, and the need for extra heating is easing. I'm grateful to get a line of washing dried in a few hours too.

Our youngest is approaching the crucial GCSE season. The mock exams have gone well, which is encouraging, but the intense studying continues. Stress levels are bubbling just beneath the surface, with frequent complaints about the lack of enough hours in the day to get everything done. We're doing our best to provide

support and encouragement, but it's a challenging time for everyone involved!

Awareness days in April include:

- 9th - Unicorn Day
- 13th - Scrabble Day
- 22nd - Earth Day
- 23rd - St George's Day
- 25th - World Penguin Day

Happy Easter to you all, and thank you to the beautiful Roo for posing for the cover!

***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 **MAY 2025** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th APRIL 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.

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 Editor via the1986messenger@gmail.com
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 @StGeorgesGtBrom



Great Bromley Village Hall



At its last meeting on 4th March, the Village Hall Management Committee noted that the Hamilton Lodge site had recently reopened and the developer had recommenced work, as well as submitting to Essex County Council the final planning application for the roadside infrastructure works. The Committee understood that this application would include the retention of both village hall car park entrances and that the work would be undertaken in late spring 2025. The village hall car park improvement project remained on hold until the final design of the roadside infrastructure works was known and the current problems with local drainage had been resolved.

The overall income from private and commercial bookings of rooms at the hall had remained steady in recent months, boosted by the monthly 'Warm Hub' initiative organised by Annie Sands which had proved popular with Parishioners. The Advocacy Advice sessions provided monthly by Annie Sands in the village hall had also been well received. These sessions had led to £92k being paid out in additional benefits to entitled claimants and other achievements such as the provision of help with completing Power of Attorney forms. Based on the feedback from the first 6 months of this service, the Management Committee agreed that the Advocacy Advice service should

continue to hold sessions in the village hall free of charge for a further 6 months.

The attention of the Management Committee is now turning towards the Village Hall AGM which this year will be held on Tuesday 27th May commencing at 7.00pm in the Millennium Lounge. All parishioners are welcome to attend the AGM which reports on the past year and looks forward to the next. This is your opportunity to provide feedback in person on the facilities in our village hall and the way it is organised and managed.

The AGM is also your opportunity to volunteer to assist with the management of the village hall. There are currently 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 - Secretary
01206 250263

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk

**CALL YOUR
LOCAL
POLICE**



101

**IN AN
EMERGENCY
ALWAYS
CALL 999**



GREAT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Easter Opening Hours

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00 am to 6.30 pm Monday to Friday. Over the Easter bank holiday, the Surgery will be closed on Friday, 18 April 2025 and Monday, 21 April 2024. If patients require urgent medical care over the Easter weekend, then they should contact NHS 111 for assistance.

If you are on regular medication, please remember to order this in good time so you don't run out over the Easter weekend. We do require three working days (excluding Saturday and Sunday) to process all prescriptions.

Doctors Appointments

In order for us to try and offer as many GP appointments as possible, we are only able to allocate 10 minutes for each slot. To help our doctors run as close to their appointment times as possible, in future they will only be able to deal with one problem in this appointment. If you require more than one problem to be dealt with, you will be asked to make another request via AskmyGP for an appointment.

Time Change on the Prescription Enquiry Line

The times when patients are able to phone the prescription clerk to ask a question about a prescription has changed. Patients are able to ring between 9.00am and 12 noon and then between 2.00pm and 3.00pm Monday to Friday. If you go into the hold queue because the prescription clerk is on another call but you do not wish to hold, then please leave a message with your name and contact number and she will call you back.

Fitting of contraception implants and coils

Now that Sue Webb, our Nurse Practitioner has retired, if patients require an implant or coil fitted for contraception, then they should contact the Essex Sexual Health Service on tel. 0300 003 1212. If a patient requires a coil be fitted for non-contraceptive purposes, then they should make a request for this via AskmyGP, as the Surgery will need to make a referral for the patient.

Appointments for RSV, Shingles and Pneumonia Vaccinations

The Practice continue to send out invites for the above three vaccinations to patients that are eligible for these. If you receive an invitation for any of the above then you can either book this by clicking on the attached link on the message, or by contacting a member of the reception team on tel. 01206 250691.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 30 April 2025 for staff training.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

There will be no PPG meeting in April 2025. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 22 May 2025 at 6.30pm in The Mitchell Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager





If you have not already heard of us, let us introduce ourselves. We are a local Campaign Group called **POWER - People Opposing Widespread Electrical Ruin**. We are fighting to prevent the destruction of Little Bromley and surrounding villages.

There are campaign groups countryside...this isn't just our fight. There are four separate plans for Substations/Interconnector developments and electric cable installations that impact Little Bromley, Tendring and the surrounding areas (National Grid, Five Estuaries, North Falls and Tarchon).

You can keep up-to-date by

visiting www.savelittlebromley.co.uk.

Join our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/power.people.opposing.widespread.electrical.ruin/>

Please get in touch if there is anything you can do to help with our fight - Email campaignpower3@gmail.com

Collective pressure gives us a fighting chance. We have a voice to send a clear message and say 'NO'. If we just sit back and do nothing then we can expect damage and destruction to be coming our way from 2027.

POWER - People Opposing Widespread Electrical Ruin

ADVANCE WARNING OF THE BROMLEY 10K

We are pleased to say that on **Sunday 13th April 2025** 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 start 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***

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



Join us in commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May. This significant milestone marks the end of WW2 in Europe, and we have planned a series of events to honour this historic occasion and bring our community together.

We'll begin the day at 9am with a formal proclamation and flag raising to acknowledge the importance of VE Day and pay tribute to those who served and sacrificed. A wreath-laying will follow, allowing us to remember and honour the fallen heroes.

As the evening approaches at 7pm, we invite everyone to enjoy a hog roast or BBQ, providing an opportunity to socialize and celebrate together.

As the evening concludes at 9.30pm we will light a beacon to symbolize hope and unity, reflecting the spirit of VE Day and take part in the Nation singing I Vow To Thee, My Country.

This event is not only a chance to commemorate VE Day but also to strengthen our community bonds. We hope to gather residents and local groups, fostering connections and supporting village organizations that may be in need of volunteers.

Whether you are part of a local group or a resident, your presence and support are invaluable. Join us in making this 80th anniversary of VE Day a memorable and meaningful occasion for all. We look forward to seeing you there!

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
24/0185 6/FULHH Mr Oliver Barber	Householder Planning Application - first floor extension over existing front porch and single storey side and rear extension.	Marks Farm Frating Road CO7 7JN	Approval - Full 07.02.2025 Delegated Decision
25/0009 6/NMA Mr Wayne Knowles	Non Material Amendment to 24/00001/FUL - Alterations to door/window combinations, size of entrance lobby and roof including dormer windows.	Byeways Mary Lane North, CO7 7TZ	Refusal 06.02.2025 Delegated Decision
24/0157 7/FULHH Mr A Wendon Smith	Householder Application for First floor attic storage added to existing approved application (23/00984/FULHH) with rear window and staircase access.	Paddocks House, 8 Little Paddocks Frating Road CO7 7GN	Approval - Full 19.02.2025 Delegated Decision
24/0181 2/FUL 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.	Newhouse Farm Hall Road, CO7 7TP	Approval - Full 21.02.2025 Delegated Decision

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



In March Members enjoyed a talk on Portraiture, a field trip to Holbrook Creek, and at time of print, a smart phone photography competition may or may not have taken place.

In April we are looking forward to;

- 10th April – Workshop on flash photography
- 13th April – Field Trip to Arger Fen and Spouse's Vale Nature Reserve
- 15th April – Granville Fulger External Competition
- 24th April – Print Competition

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 Samantha Innard was the winner of a recent competition – theme Open Mono PDI.

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

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



GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the March WI meeting Liz Cutting gave a very thought provoking talk on "Where has all our Wildlife gone". Liz Cutting with the President Dorothy



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

March 8th - Helping at Leonard Cheshire Home

March 12th - Knit & Knatter. Happy Easter! Bringing Easter Cheer to the Residents of Chesire Home each one receiving a knitted / crocheted Easter Bunny expertly crafted from a square!



JAM - A term time meeting for parents and children Sharing games , stories, a cuppa and having fun 3.15-4.15 every Friday.



TREVOR GLADWIN 15 MAY 1951 - 19 JANUARY 2025

Trevor was born in Little Bromley to a farming family. He told fondly of growing up in a farm cottage with tin baths in front of the fire - although being the youngest in the family he'd usually be the last to use the bath water! He spent school holidays sat atop a heavy horse as his grandad James and father Ted worked the farm. The old farmhands were convinced that these fancy new tractors and motorcars would never catch on because a good horse would always be more useful. Those early years weren't without misadventure - a fall from a Suffolk Punch is a long way for a child, and on one occasion a broken harness propelled a heavy brass fitting into Trevor's nose, an injury he'd later attribute his terrible snoring to.



His mother Betty was one of 14 Walne children who lived in New House Farm, nearly opposite to the Gladwin residence. His Uncle Reg Gladwin repaired clocks and watches amongst other things in the village, and young Trevor would sit on a stool in the workshop to learn all manner of tinkering.

Trevor and family were regular churchgoers, his father being the church warden and for a while Little Bromley church choir consisted of Trevor, his brother Chris, his father and uncle.

As a teenager Trevor spent much of his time bicycling on lanes and farm tracks along the river, often with a fishing rod or airgun strapped to the bike frame, sometimes stopping for a friendly chat with the local policeman who never gave the child cycling around with a gun a second thought - it was a different time. On a good day he'd return home with something fresh for tea. The back door frame of their farm cottage was peppered with holes where his father would nail up eels to skin them, victims of Trevor's handmade spear.

At school he was an early recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh's award, having hand built a canoe to explore Suffolk backwaters. He enjoyed woodworking and loved competing in weight lifting – he admitted his secret weapon was only having to lift the weights half the distance of taller competitors!

When Trevor could afford his first motorcycle, his mother was right to be concerned as anyone who'd travelled with him through Bromley to Manningtree could attest, as every other bend in the road he'd point to a hedge and recall the story of how he'd ended up crashing his motorbike through it. Journeying with him further afield you'd notice him navigate primarily by the location of pubs, despite the majority of them having closed decades ago. In his twenties he enjoyed the friendly competition of pub teams, be it darts, cricket or football. Known for his tendency to always keep his eye on the ball, this once led to an amazing disappearing act when, running at full pelt looking into the air, he went head first into the ditch at the pitch boundary.

Cont'd...

His bachelor lifestyle ended when he walked into the Tailors Arms in Great Bromley (now the Snooty Fox) and met Susan, the lovely barmaid. When she stepped down from behind the bar they found she was half a foot taller than him. They enjoyed six years courtship followed by 32 years of marriage.

Trevor left his job at the shipyards and joined BT as a telecoms engineer – which was ironic, as he didn't even have a home phone until he

was in his late 20s! initially working as a technician on phone lines, he remembered the moment he decided to seek a desk job, when in the bad winter of 1987 he was repairing connections shattered by ice and found he could reach the top of the telegraph pole just by climbing a snowdrift.



When the couple moved to Elmstead, Trevor decided to treat Sue to an exotic new pet. When searching pet shops for something small and fluffy, he noticed a little parrot. The shop keeper assured him they were low effort and lived 3 to 4 years ... it seems Trevor must have misheard, as for the next 34 years the family would be terrorised by a cockatiel! A spate of regular skiing holidays ended with Trevor's last trip down a mountain being on a medical sled. His story varied somewhat, different versions had him hitting a tree root or trunk, a signpost, a gondola pylon or small cliff ... Sue's version confirmed it looked like all of them in rapid succession and she was very impressed by the splits he managed in mid-air.

Sue had a number of health challenges over the years, and was told she was unlikely to have children, but she ignored that and the couple had a son, Adam. Trevor's style of parenting was to explain something carefully once and then let Adam get on with it. With both Trevor and Sue having grown up with dogs, Trevor decided Adam needed a puppy who could also act as a working gundog. Trevor got the pick of a litter and decided the confident and energetic pup who first approached him would be a perfect fit - the springer spaniel was named Dexter and Trevor spent the next 9 years training him... in hindsight no one was sure if Dexter was aware of this training. It never failed to amaze countryside folk how Trevor and Dexter could do the work of 5 men, mainly because the single-minded spaniel was hellbent on hunting at 20 miles an hour through brambles, across ditches and wetlands, yet somehow Trevor always managed to keep up with his headstrong hound.

Trevor had a challenging time in later life, losing his mother just before Sue had a cerebral aneurysm and for the next two years he strived to support his wife back to health. It was during this period that his own serious health problems

emerged, and one awful day just after Trevor was released from hospital, Sue suffered another serious brain injury and passed away weeks later. For a time he handled the situation stoically - stepping up when he never expected to be a single father to Adam who was about to sit 'A' levels - but he admitted he was heartbroken, and decades of planning a relaxed retirement travelling with Sue would never happen. and for a time he struggled to find purpose. Yet while he struggled to look after himself at times, whenever someone needed Trevor, he would be there.

In recent years Trevor had become a local contact for some of the less mobile pensioners around the village, and being known as someone to call if an animal was in need. He'd drop everything to rescue a cold hedgehog, or to wrestle an injured goose into the back of his car, to rush them off to a vet or wildlife sanctuary for help. He was determined to do something useful every day, and last year in particular he took every opportunity to return to old endeavours: fishing, shooting and exploring his favourite old backwaters in a new Canadian canoe. He passed away peacefully at home.



HGF from the eulogy by Adam Gladwin

BOOK CLUB IN GREAT BROMLEY

Are you a lover of books and live in Great Bromley
or the surrounding area?

Would you like to join our small, friendly book club?

We meet at The Cross Inn, Great Bromley on a Tuesday evening every six weeks; the next date is Tuesday 8th April. It's a casual meet up for a chat, to share books, make friends and have a drink or two.

If you would like any more information please contact
Sarah on 07742 105972

Dates for your diary



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 |
| 6 | St George's Annual PCC meeting & Election of Church Wardens | 12:15pm |
| 8 | Book Club - The Cross | |
| 9 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall | 7:00pm |
| 10 | Ardleigh & Dist Horticultural Society, Ardleigh Village Hall | 7:45pm |
| 13 | The Bromley 10K Run, start at Hilliards Road | 9:30am |
| 17 | Great Bromley Friendship Club, The Cross | 2:00pm |
| 18 | Good Friday | |
| 20 | Easter Day | |
| 25 | WI Crafting Social, Village Hall | 10am-12:30pm |

MAY

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 8 | VE Day - 80th anniversary | |
| 14 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall | 7:00pm |
| 16 | Great Bromley Friendship Club, The Cross | 2:00pm |
| 25 | Tabletop Sale - Great Bromley Village Hall | 11am-3:00pm |
| 27 | Village Hall AGM, Millenium Lounge, Village Hall | 7:00pm |

JUNE

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 14 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall | 7:00pm |
|----|--|--------|

BE EXTRAORDINARY

Great Bromley

Be a[^]Parish Councillor

**ordinary
people
doing an
amazing job!**

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:

- 17 April
- 8 May
- 29 May

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.

FRIENDS OF LITTLE BROMLEY CHURCH

The year is already flying past and we are pleased to say that we have a few events planned.

Already this year, on 22nd March, there was an Open Tower Day for bellringers to help fundraising for restoration of the bells. We are slowly creeping closer to our target but the cost will be considerably higher than we originally thought because of extra repairs to the bell frame. We have raised £37,000 but still need another £36,000. Can you help? Donations are very welcome.

On **Saturday 19th April at 8pm**, the PCC of The Bromleys will hold the **Easter Vigil Service** led by Reverend Stephen Carter. It is a lovely service beginning outside the church then finishing inside.

On **Sunday 25th May between 3pm and 5pm**, we will be holding our **Friends AGM with refreshments and music**. This is a lovely social event and we would love to see you there. If anyone would like to join the Friends Committee, we are very friendly and would love to meet you. We only have a few meetings a year and some social events, all very informal. More details next month.

On **Saturday 21st June between 4pm and 7pm**, we are planning to hold a **Midsummer Tea Party**. You can bring your own picnic, and we will have Pimm's and Strawberry scones to enjoy. There will be informal music and games for children to play scattered around the churchyard. The day will finish with a **Concert** inside the church. Again, more details to follow.

Advance notices:

'This is my Theatre' will be performing 'Pride and Prejudice' on Wednesday 17th September at 7pm in the churchyard.

The date for the Little Bromley Carol Service will be Tuesday the 23rd December at 3pm.

Please save these dates in your diary. We are hoping there will also be some other events this year.

Events (except Theatre) are free, just donations, and we would love to see you.

Carol Cordwell
Friends of Little Bromley Church

Table Top Sale

Sunday 25th May 2025
11am - 3pm
Great Bromley Village Hall




Craft Stalls
Tombola Raffle
Refreshments will be available to purchase




Tables are £10 Each
Limited tables will be available
Please book your table in advance
Email: annie@dawnsupport.co.uk






Fundraising for DAWN and
Brightlingsea Hedgehog
Highways Rescue



Hello Great Bromley,

I hope everyone is well, let me start by apologising for my absence from last month's issue. My excuse is a good one, I was off sick. I'm now feeling a lot better and things are back to normal.

There really wasn't much to report over February, but I am sad to report that two of our residents have moved on and are now looking down at us all with a smile, knowing just how much they were adored by us all. A famous writer once said, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give". If that is true, then ML and AW made a great life, not just for themselves and their families, but for everybody that got to know them on a personal level, especially everyone here at Seven Rivers. The one thing to take away from all this, is the fond memories of them both and the joy they brought to us all, which will endure.

As I'm writing this article It's fast approaching Easter, I know it's weeks away but, in our business, that's fast. We've come up with the usual ideas, Easter egg hunt, Easter raffle and of course some entertainment, this year it's going to be the lovely Annika who always goes down well and is very much liked by us all here at Seven Rivers.

We've also been very lucky this year and have had a great bunch of speech and language students from the Uni. They've been coming in once a week and interacting with the residents, getting to know what a great bunch

everybody here is. It's great watching these students develop from the initial apprehension and not knowing what to expect, to simply having fun doing a job they love. That's just the way we like things to be here, fun for everyone and I can assure you all our residents appreciate it. Last week was Emmanuel's last visit and he kindly arranged to entertain us with a medley of old and new songs. It turns out he's an accomplished pianist with a natural gift, his ability to play anything we threw at him was astonishing, he only had to hear it once and that's a sign of



a true talent. Let's not forget the young ladies who accompanied him with backing vocals. A thoroughly entertaining afternoon was enjoyed by all.

From everybody here at Seven Rivers, we hope you all have a wonderful Easter, and don't hold back on the chocolate:)

***Good health to you all,
until the next time. Lee***

April 13th 2025

The Deanery Choir will be singing at
St George's Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS at the 11am

Communion service. The choir will sing 'God so loved the world' by Bob Chilcott. Chilcott was born in Plymouth, Devon, in 1955. While still young, he relocated with his family to a new home near Watford, Hertfordshire. Although his family was not musical, he joined the local church choir, where the assistant organist was Andrew Davis. Chilcott sang in the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, both as a boy and as a university student, when he conducted the voluntary Choral Society, which included many singers from other colleges. He performed the Pie Jesu of Fauré's Requiem on the 1967 King's College recording.

April 18th 2025 Good Friday

The Deanery Choir will be singing at **St Mary's Church, Ardleigh CO7 7LD**.

Performing
'Wondrous
Cross', the
work of local
composer



**THE
DEANERY
CHOIR**



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

Alan Bullard. He was born in Norwood, South London on 4 August 1947, son of artists Paul Bullard and Jeanne Bullard, and lived as a child in Blackheath, South-East London. He attended St. Olave's Grammar School, where he learnt music with Desmond Swinburn, while studying piano with Geoffrey Flowers and John Allen at the Blackheath Conservatoire of Music. He then studied with Herbert Howells, Ruth Gipps and Antony Hopkins at the Royal College of Music, and took postgraduate study with Arnold Whittall at the University of Nottingham. For the next few years he taught music part-time in several art schools and at the London College of Music (from 1970 to 1975). The choir will also sing 'Song for Athene' by John Tavener.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
25/00197/ FULHH	Householder Planning Application - Single storey front extension, single storey rear extension, new porch, replacement cladding, and revised windows. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection.	Michaelmas House, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley
25/00173/ FULHH Mr Roberts and Miss Eagle	Householder Planning Application - two storey side extension, and first floor and single storey rear extensions (following demolition of existing side and rear extensions). Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application due to the size and the scale of the additional buildings, and was concerned about overdevelopment, loss of light to neighbouring property, and impact on the next-door neighbour.	Lynton, Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TL
25/00108/ FULHH Mr R Cobb	Householder Planning Application - Erection of porch. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection.	1 Field Mews, Great Bromley CO7 7JX
25/00247/ FULHH Mr David Snazell	Householder Planning Application - Oak framed cartlodge/gym/store with home office over. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection.	Mousetraps, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7JA

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 CO7 6TP. Guests are welcome for a charge of £4. Our speaker on 9th April will be Sally Sibley who will tell us about the latest happenings at Sutton Hoo, on 14th May we have Sally Hattingh from Right at Home advising about safety issues so that seniors can remain in their own homes as long as possible and on 11th June Andy Moore from Colchester Zoological Society will tell us about caring for their animals.

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

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

Lots of things happening behind the scenes at the moment but not much to report on at this time I'm afraid.

As the weather should start improving soon, it's time to crack on in the garden, most have given their lawn the first cut of the year now, and we will start to see some much needed colour on the verges and in the hedgerows any day.

Please give some thought on ideas for improving our village, and let us know these as we are hoping to compile a list of items that could improve our village life.

All residents of Little Bromley will have received the flyer prepared by the POWER Campaign Group by now.

Your Parish Councillors and the members of POWER continue to fight for the village, and are attending meetings with all parties as well as other Parish Councils.

To keep up to date with developments join the POWER Facebook page or visit their website <https://www.savellittlebromley.co.uk/>

Enjoy the lighter evenings and we look forward to seeing more of you at the bi-monthly meets at the Haywain.

Councillor Iain Smith

TREE WARDEN VACANCY

After many enjoyable and fulfilling years as Tree Warden for Great Bromley, I intend to stand down from this volunteer/unpaid post at the Parish Assembly in May. I am therefore seeking now to identify someone to take on this interesting and rewarding role, which is of particular importance in a rural community and which can help enhance the local landscape and environment for the benefit of all.

I am most grateful to all those volunteers who have helped me during my tenure with tree planting and tree maintenance,

particularly in the period 2000-2012. I am also grateful to the Parish Council who supported me very actively in the early years of my time as tree warden, including

with grant assistance and with the establishment of the village tree nursery (which has now closed as all of the stock has been planted out). Local landowners get my special thanks for providing suitable planting sites for both new hedges and trees and in several cases for nurturing new trees in the early and vulnerable stages of life.

However, the role of tree warden is far wider than planting new trees and hedging – indeed a tree warden can successfully fill the role without lifting a spade, although almost all choose to do so at some stage. In my view, some of the main characteristics of a successful tree warden are: A love of trees, hedgerows and the natural environment. A desire to maintain and improve the local landscape for future

generations. A willingness to assist the Parish Council and members of the community with the provision of advice on trees at all stages of life, including the design of new planting schemes. The ability to monitor important trees in the village on an ongoing basis and take reporting action as necessary when they need attention or may be threatened by development or other activities.



The village tree warden works under the umbrella of the national tree warden scheme which is sponsored and managed by the Tree Council in England and which is supported by all local authorities. In Tendring, tree warden activity is monitored and supported by Clive Dawson and his team

at Tendring District Council, who also offer grant aid from time to time for projects, organise local participation in regional tree warden seminars and also organise local tree warden training and events.

Interested? Want to learn more about trees and their care and protection? Want to work with other members of the community to help improve the local landscape and environment in Great Bromley? If so, please contact me without any obligation whatsoever for a full briefing and chat about what is involved.

Martin Frostick
Great Bromley Tree Warden

01206250263
martin@frostick.net

APRIL'S SOFT WHISPERS

As Winter's cold dreary months end, April brings the promise of spring and all its wonders - a time of renewal, growth, and beauty. Nature bursts back into life.

Most UK birds start building nests between March & June. And, they have specific requirements when selecting a suitable site:

- Protection from predators & elements. Cavities, dense vegetation, crevices provide shelter.
- Concealment – Many rely on camouflage to hide their nest & only visit the nest when necessary.
- Accessibility – Able to come & go during nest building & to feed chicks during rearing.
- Comfort – The right size space for the species.
- Security – Sturdy, stable supporting structure & attachment point
- Close to reliable food/water sources.

Birds weigh up all these factors, apart from perhaps pigeons! Once the female has chosen a nest site, intricate & complex nest building skills are tested, influenced by instinct & learning. They collect materials like twigs, grasses, moss & sometimes hazardous manmade materials like strands of plastic. Many people put out dryer lint with good intentions believing the soft fluffy material will make an ideal lining for birds' nests. However, dryer lint is infused with harmful residues from detergents/soaps/ fabric softeners making it highly toxic to baby birds. Also pet hair treated with anti-flea/tick/lice remedies (waterproof by design) may also be harmful.

With great skill, using just beak & feet, birds weave & interlock materials into the nest structure. The nest is then

anchored firmly to its support with entwining, mud or saliva. Running repairs are made while in use. Some birds re-use nests for second broods or in following years. Many repair & refurbish old nests rather than build new. Their nest building ability gets better with age & experience.

UK birds construct an incredible variety of nest shapes & styles adapted to their needs:

Cup – Simple open cup nests, lined nests provide insulation, - blackbirds/thrushes

Domed – Nest with roof covering entrance - sparrows

Saucer – Wide shallow nests - waders/plovers.

Platform – Bulky treetop nests - crows

Scrape – Shallow lined depression in ground -lapwings/oystercatchers/skylarks.

Cave or crevice – rock doves/stock doves.

Borrowed nests, re-using other species old nests - owls & ducks

Birds begin laying & incubating their eggs on nest completion. Songbirds like robins, blackbirds, finches, tits, often attempt to raise 2 broods. In April there may also be fledglings around. These early nesters include blackbirds, thrushes, robins, & wrens. Their young look quite similar - little fluffy balls of brown feathers with beautifully speckled chests & light pale-coloured legs. Frequently, if conditions are right, the male bird continues feeding the growing fledglings & will also feed the female who's sitting on their next clutch of eggs.

I inadvertently arranged for my back

Cont'd...

door to be replaced without realising there was a nest of newly hatched featherless robin babies in the ivy beside it. Obviously, the disturbance & noise would've caused the nest to be abandoned & the babies perish! Only discovering this, on the actual morning the fitters were due to arrive, I rang the local Brightlingsea company & much to my relief they were most understanding. The fitter, already well on his way with the door, arrived, had a cup of tea then continued to his next job. Happily, I was able to send them a video of the robins feeding the babies. Amusingly the parents were actually using my trail camera, as a launching pad to return to the nest. The babies were successfully raised & the door replaced after they'd fledged. A happy

ending! So please check before having any work done in the garden or house exterior. **The 'Bird Nesting Season' is officially from February - August (Natural England)** & any tree or hedge cutting/ site clearance should be done **outside** these months.

Building and maintaining safe nesting spaces for garden birds is a really positive step towards supporting local wildlife. Start small by identifying the bird species already visiting your garden & find out their specific nesting requirements. Even modest efforts can have a significant impact, with patience & attention to detail, you'll soon find your garden chirping with grateful visitors.

Ruth Lindsley

SPEEDWATCH TEAM

Our dedicated CSW team recently participated in the Tendring District Vision Zero Day, monitoring vehicle speeds on Harwich Road, Hare Green. We joined forces with other CSW teams across Tendring to support the Vision Zero campaign, which aims to eliminate serious injuries and deaths on Essex roads by 2040. A big shoutout to our volunteers, Essex Police and the Safer Essex Roads Partnership for their ongoing efforts to make our roads safer for everyone. Together, we can achieve this important goal!



ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"Growing Flowers from Seed for Cutting" will be the subject of the talk by Jo Hull at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS on Thursday 10th April at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £2. Everyone is welcome.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH NOTICES

Easter Lilies

Donations are welcome for Easter Lilies in church in memory of a loved one.

Please contact

Jenny Nicholls

or church@greatbromley.org.uk



Election of Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

12.15pm on 6th April at St George's Church. Those on the local government register of electors in Gt and Lt Bromley may vote in the churchwarden elections, and those on The Bromleys Church Electoral Roll may vote in the elections for the Parochial Church Council.

Church Electoral Roll

In 2025, we have to make a new Church Electoral Roll (this happens every six years). Members of the existing roll will be sent an electoral roll form. If you qualify and are not on the existing roll, please email church@greatbromley.org.uk for a form or phone 07724 068145.

Welcome to our Lent Groups

'Living Hope' Mondays 2pm at St George's Church 10th March - 14th April.

'Learning from the Early Church' Wednesdays 8pm at Little Bentley 12th March - 16th April.

For details see notice in church porch or our website.

Welcome to St George's Great Bromley



13th April : Palm Sunday

11am Procession & Eucharist with the Deanery Choir

19th April : Easter Eve

8pm Easter Vigil at Little Bromley Church CO11 2PP

20th April : Easter Day

11am Sung Eucharist with St George's Choir

www.greatbromley.org.uk

CO7 7TS

WONDROUS CROSS

Alan Bullard

Song For Athene ~ John Tavener

Good Friday

18th April 2025

THE DEANERY CHOIR

Sally Pudney
Conductor

Peter Clayton
Organist

6pm Start

ST MARY'S CHURCH, COLCHESTER ROAD
ARDLEIGH, COLCHESTER CO7 7NS

Retiring collection towards church funds

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Amidst the advancing signs of new life emerging in Spring, Christians look forward to Easter and the promise of new and eternal life offered by Jesus, his passion, death and resurrection. As you enjoy the warmer days and a hot cross bun or piece of traditional Simnel cake, both popular Easter traditions, I challenge you to ponder afresh the gift that is at the heart of the Easter story.

As a young teenager, I could not understand the term 'Passion of Christ'. Passion or Holy week runs from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday itself. The word passion in this sense comes from a Latin word, *patior* meaning to suffer or endure. That is not what a teenager usually understands passion to be!

From the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, we know there was nothing good or peaceful about the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. In this last week after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem we remember on Palm Sunday, he was troubled by the swindling money changers at the temple and let down by his close friends, the disciples, who could not stay awake with him. Later he was betrayed by one of them to the authorities and disowned by yet another. He was put on trial, found guilty on false accusations and executed by crucifixion between two common criminals. Christ's passion was suffering and enduring pain in a very real sense. (Read Mark chapters 11 to 15).

Yet his death was not the end. On Easter morning we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Fulfilling Old Testament prophecy, on the third day after his death, the women who followed Jesus as part of the group of his disciples, went to his tomb intending to complete

the burial rituals. Instead, they found the tomb stone rolled away and the body gone: he was not dead but alive and many instances are recorded in the Gospels of people meeting with the resurrected Jesus, eating and drinking with him. This first Easter Sunday is described in Mark chapter 16.

The hope of Easter for Christians is that our troubles and fears are defeated by Jesus' resurrection. As somebody once said, 'Jesus resurrection is not the reversal of a defeat, but the triumph of a victory'. One of our greatest fears may be death, but through Jesus and the Easter story we are offered eternal life. This is not earned or gained through any merits of ourselves. It is a free gift offered through belief and faith in Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14 v 6).

This Easter I pray you may all know some of the joys of spring, of hot cross buns and simnel cake. But that you may also know the peace and security of eternal life offered through Jesus and the Easter story. Come and join us at one of our Easter services where we will celebrate this wonderful gift – you would be most welcome!

Easter Blessings
Revd John Saxon

GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We are looking forward to our April meeting when our speaker will be giving a talk on hedgehogs and their habitat. Please come along and enjoy an afternoon with delicious refreshments prepared and served by the ladies at the Cross Inn from 2pm on the third Thursday of each month.



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

April 6th	Passion Sunday	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
April 13th	Palm Sunday	Procession & Eucharist	11am
<i>See newsletter or website for group services Maundy Thursday & Good Friday</i>			
April 19th	Easter Eve	Easter Vigil at Little Bromley	8pm
April 20th	Easter Day	Easter Eucharist	11am
April 27th	2 nd of Easter	Parish Eucharist	11am
May 4th	3 rd of Easter	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
May 11th	4 th of Easter	Parish Eucharist	11am
May 18th	5 th of Easter	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
May 25th	6 th of Easter	Parish Eucharist	11am
May 29th	Ascension Day	<i>See newsletter or website for group services</i>	

St Mary's, Little Bentley

April 6th Morning Prayer 11am
April 20th Easter Holy Communion 11am
May 4th Morning Prayer 11am
May 18th Holy Communion 11am