

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

May 2025



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

We've had a few sunny days, although the temperatures haven't yet reached what I'd call warm. Today, however, it's raining—the first rain in a while.

Our garden is beginning to bloom, but unfortunately, our trusty old wisteria didn't survive the winter. A week or so ago, we noticed it wasn't showing any buds. Looking back at photos from the same time in previous years, it was clear something was wrong. On checking, we found the base of the trunk was loose, and we could remove it with very little effort. No longer will Mr. R stand and stare wistfully at it! Fortunately, the Chinese blue wisteria we planted a few years ago is almost flowering, which is some consolation.

We're also on the countdown to exam season, with my youngest deep in revision during almost every spare moment. The mock exams went very well, but the real thing feels a little daunting for her. Best of luck to everyone sitting exams in the coming weeks.

The Parish Council is looking forward to VE80 on Thursday 8th May, and we hope you can join us for this special commemoration.

In this month's edition, you'll find a

fascinating article about Great Bromley in the 1870s, information about proposed changes to benefits, and details of several events that you might like to attend. We hope you enjoy reading!

Awareness events in May include:

- 6th - Deaf Awareness Week
- 12th - National Limerick Day
- 18th - National Donut Week
- 20th - Walk to School Week
- 29th - Oak Apple Day

Have a great month, whatever you do.

***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 **JUNE 2025** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th MAY 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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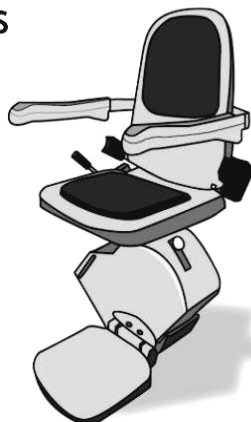
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Hello Great Bromley,

I hope everybody is well and looking forward to the warm days which are well overdue. I'm not talking about the odd day here and there; I'm referring to those never-ending weekends of gorgeousness, mornings that make you want to get up and do things you put off for months. You know, the ones that make you think, I'm finally going to finish that project, or at least that's what I tell myself, then I put it off for another week.

I wish I had the same get up and go energy that the helping hands group of local volunteers showed, when they popped in and pruned away like crazy. As much as I would like to maintain the grounds, after all first impressions count, I never seem to find the time or the weather conditions to be able to keep on top of things. So, a massive thank you to the helping hands group for their stellar effort, which is greatly appreciated by all of us, it really does make a difference and make us feel part of the community.

This month we're also getting duck eggs, something I was a little unsure of, but everybody here is looking forward to it. The

incubator and all the necessary paraphernalia will be set up by the team providing the eggs on Monday 14th of April. Apparently, it should only take a few days to a week for the ducklings to hatch, then the hard part begins. Lorraine has assured me that it's not that difficult, but I'm a simple city boy so she will have to take the lead on this one, I'll let her know on Monday.



Finally, a big thank you to the Speech & Language students, who once again arranged a wonderful afternoon of entertainment for our residents. They got together and arranged a music quiz afternoon, with a guitarist from a local band playing the intros to well-known songs that we had to guess, everybody loved the session. Jerome the guitarist was very impressed with the musical knowledge of our residents.

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





GREAT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

May Opening Hours

Due to the two Bank Holiday weekends in May, we will be closed on Monday, 5 May and Monday 26 May 2025. NHS 111 can be contacted by patients if they require urgent medical care.

Surgery News

We are very pleased to let you know that Dr Hannah Howard-Franks had a baby girl weighing in at 9lbs on 8 April 2025. Both mum and baby are doing well.

Tendring Primary Care Network Patient and Wellbeing Fair

Our Primary Care Network in collaboration with Great Bentley Surgery will be running a Patient Health and Wellbeing Event for our patients to attend. This has been organised for Tuesday 10 June 2025 from 10.00am to 1.00pm and will be held in the Great Bentley Methodist Hall.

There will be representatives from a different variety of organisations who will be able to share information with patients on the following:-

- Carers Support
- Long Term Medical Conditions
- Local Charities
- Patient Screening Services
- Mental Health Support
- Extended GP Practice Staff called the Proactive Care Team

Our Pharmacy Support Technicians will also be available on the day to take blood pressure readings for patients.

We would encourage our patients to attend this event, which we hope will be

extremely useful and informative. There will be a further update about this event in the June Newsletter.

Missed Appointments

In March we had 99 appointments that were wasted because patients didn't contact the Surgery to let us know they were unable to come in to see the doctor or nurse. We understand how frustrating it can be having to wait for a routine appointment.

Please help us by ensuring that if you are not able to attend your booked appointment, that you contact the Surgery on 01206 250691 to cancel this.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

The next meeting of the PPG will be held on Thursday, 22 May 2025 at 6.30pm in The Mitchell Room at Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager

St Mary's Church Great Bentley

C07 8QG

May Fair

Saturday 17th May 12pm – 4pm

Lots of refreshments to
include
BBQ
Tea & cakes
Chocolate fountain



Try your hand at Archery and Throwing Angels
Ariel Hoop display
Hear Great Bentley School Choir sing
Raffle and Tombola
Books for sale
White Elephant Stall
Plant Stall Cake Stall
Children's Activities



Please note some events are weather dependent as they take place outside

NEWS FROM PRIMROSE FARM

Exciting news from the Primrose farm Owl box is that after two years of non-residency of the box by any barn owls, we have had some visitations these last few evenings.

We have had some kestrels reside briefly, some noisy crows and some very dozy pigeons, who have laid an egg on one side of the box and sat in the other corner.

But suddenly, without any evening or early morning sightings, we had a pair of barn owls appear to be resting after dark during their hunting in the box. We have a live camera in the box which enables us to watch the activity on the TV in the kitchen. Owl TV is so much more exciting than real TV these days!!

The barn owls, one larger than the other, visit separately and sometimes together. They rest, clean their feathers with their beaks, snooze,

shuffle about and appear to be rearranging the twigs on the floor before settling in the corner.

One barn owl has stayed in the box in daylight hours as if trying it out but was quite disturbed whenever another bird landed on the ledge.

We have spoken to the Barn Owl expert for the area and their laying of eggs is dependent on the weather temperatures and the food source availability. We have recently planted some trees so hoping the vole population may increase to help. Prior to the gap of 2 years we have had 5 years of consecutive successful Barn Owl chicks fledging the nest, a total of 19. So fingers crossed the barn owls have returned. I will keep you updated if we are successful.

Karen Moss

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












The Friends of St. Mary's Church, Little Bromley would like to invite you to [our](#)

Open Afternoon

with Tea. Music and AGM



At St Mary's Church, Little Bromley on
Sunday 25th May 2025
Starting at 3pm until 5pm

Listen to some lovely music, attend our AGM at 3.30pm, then hear some more music, whilst enjoying free refreshments. Everyone is welcome.
Donations appreciated. **CO11 2PP**
We would love to see you there.

The Churches Conservation Trust is a charitable trust for the purpose of preserving churches of all denominations. We have opened over 340 unusual buildings which attract more than a million visitors a year. With our staff and volunteers, they are open to the public and the public. They are open to the public and the public. They are open to the public and the public.

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The Churches Conservation Trust, 1 West Street, London EC4A 3EE
Telephone: 020 7791 2662
Email: info@churches.org.uk

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



I hope that you have all had a relaxing time over Easter and are looking forward to a long warm summer.

With this edition of the Messenger is a flyer which lets you know what we, together with Frating and Little Bromley, have planned to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th of May, with the evening event kicking off at 7pm.

There will be something there for all ages, young and the not so young, and we feel that this is an ideal opportunity for residents across all three parishes to come together to experience the many organisations which operate locally for our benefit.

A comprehensive list of these organisations is on the flyer and I know that they will all appreciate the chance to interact with local Parishioners to offer the opportunity to expand the social activities that are available to us all locally.

The venue of the celebration, Seven Rivers, Leonard Cheshire Home, Great Bromley has particular relevance for this monumental occasion.

The Founder, Leonard Cheshire, played a huge part in the air conflict in World War 2. He was the most decorated pilot in RAF Bomber Command and served throughout the entire war. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for Valour, not for an individual act of bravery as was usual, but for his bravery across four years of operational flying.

The bravery of Leonard Cheshire and his colleagues in the Second World War is what allows us to maintain our way of life with the freedom to choose our social activities and continue our rural way of life.

I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend what promises to be a wonderful evening of celebration.

Ian Murch
Chairman

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Council**

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



In April members enjoyed a workshop on photographic techniques, a field trip to Arger Fen and Spouse's Vale Nature Reserve, the Granville Fulger external competition, and an internal print competition.

In May we are looking forward to;

- ♦ 1st May – Interclub competition between M&DPS and Harwich and Dovercourt Camera Club.
- ♦ 8th May – Talk by Chrissy Hart on Panels
- ♦ Field Trip, details to be confirmed
- ♦ 22nd May - Images of the year

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 Mark Rivers scored top marks in a recent open prints 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.

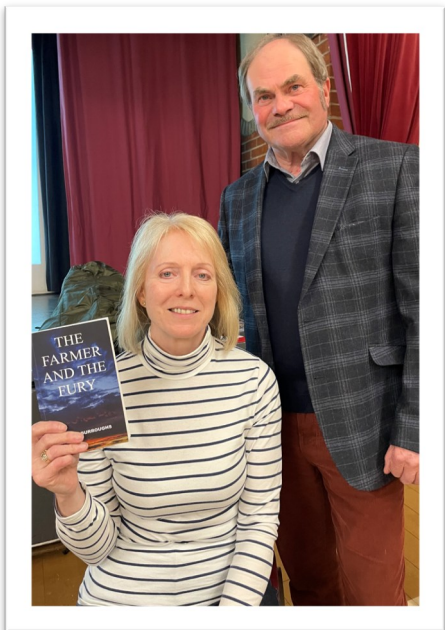
If you have an interest in photography, at whatever level, you would be most welcome at M&DPS. We meet at Mistley Village Hall, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays of the month between September and May at 7.30pm.

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

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



Our April speaker was Cherry Burroughs, who spoke about her novel 'The Farmer and the Fury,' which explores the North Sea Flood of 1953 and how it was experienced on



Foulness Island. Her husband John was 4 years old when the flood happened, and shared his recollections of the event and their family's stormy row to safety. Several of our older members had their own memories to share, so we had a thought-provoking evening.

Next month we look forward to a talk from Martin Frostick about bees and beekeeping.

Women are welcome to visit at any of the following events. Our coffee and crafting group is open to all. Our WI is a friendly and relaxed group. We enjoy interesting talks and demonstrations,

socialising, meeting new friends and sharing skills. Between us we have a foot in many areas of life, and a wide array of skills and experience.

Forthcoming Events:

Wed May 7th 7:30pm VH. Bees and Beekeeping - Martin Frostick

Tues May 27th 10am-12:30 VH Coffee and Crafting. Tutoring will be available for those who wish to learn patchwork.



Wed June 4th 7:30pm VH Hidden treasure: The Joys of Metal Detecting - Bob Kavanagh

Tues June 24th 10-12:30 VH Coffee and Crafting: A chance to have a go at making felted brooches, for those who are interested. Patchworking continues.

Wed July 2nd 7:30pm VH Life in the Slow Lane - Eileen Brown talks about her new life on the waterways of Britain.

Tues July 22nd 10-12:30 VH Coffee and Crafting

STOUR CHORAL SOCIETY NEWS



Review of 'Messiah' 29th March 2025

It was a fine spring day for Stour Choral Society's first concert of the year, and it was, indeed, a very fine performance of 'Messiah', Handel's popular oratorio of 1741.

Congratulations to Susanna Rose, musical director, for coordinating choir, soloists, organist, trumpets and timpani into a 'great afternoon of music'. All the soloists (Anna Maria Rose, soprano, Joanna Arnold, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan Cooke, tenor and Peter Grevatt, bass) delivered superb performances. Our thanks go to Jonathan Cooke for stepping in for Philip Clieve at very short notice, due to illness.

The choir were praised for their dedication to the notes, words, and drama of the work, and the trumpets (Geoff Harniess and Glyn Sweeting) and timpani (Ben Steinitz) added wonderfully to the dramatic atmosphere, with a superb rendition by first trumpet, Geoff Harniess in 'The Trumpet shall Sound'.

Our organist, Stephen Smith, deserves special applause for his wonderful playing and his endurance for performing for well over two hours, without the short breaks afforded to the choir and soloists between recits and choruses. Thanks again to Laura Allison, Stephen's page turner, for her equally long concentration on the notes.

Appreciation goes to our 'audience family' who turn out faithfully to hear us and encourage us through, and to our hosts, at Mistley Parish Church who allow us to turn the church upside down for a few days with every concert.

Acknowledgement as well to the SCS committee and friends who work tirelessly to produce concerts of such marvellous quality, and manage the choir as a whole.

We are a very friendly choir and always welcome new members. Do contact us if you would like to sing with us! Email: info@stourchoralsociety.co.uk or visit our website www.stourchoralsociety.co.uk, or our Facebook page.

Summer Singing Workshop

Following a very successful and popular singing workshop last summer, Stour Choral Society will host a similar event this year on Saturday 14th June, 10.30am-3.30pm at the 'Oak Room', Acorn Village, Mistley.

We will be learning a three part version of Antonio Vivaldi's 'Gloria', the 'Pie Jesu' from Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Requiem' and music from Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'The Sound of Music' for a short afternoon performance.

Do contact us if you would like to attend, or for more information or an application form.

Email: info@stourchoralsociety.co.uk, telephone 07511 908213

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

| REF | PROPOSAL | LOCATION |
|--|---|--|
| 25/00260 /DETAIL Elemento (Hamilton Lodge) Limited | Submission of details under Outline Planning Permission 20/00547/OUT - considering Access/Layout/Design/Scale/Landscaping for residential development (use class C3). | Hamilton Lodge, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7JB |
| <p>Cllr Fairley proposed, Cllr Nicholls seconded and all agreed that Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the application for safety reasons for vehicles accessing and exiting the village hall on just one entrance. Members also suggested that a lower speed limit on Parsons Hill be implemented.</p> <p>Cllr Wiggins abstained from the vote and discussion.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the Clerk contact the Tree Officer at TDC, as concern was made about the planned removal of 75 trees, and the fact that some could be memorial trees, including memorial plaques. Members also asked to visit the site with the Officer.</p> <p>Members also wanted to know if the issue of drainage on to a neighbouring property had been resolved. Clerk to speak with the Planning Officer.</p> | | |
| 25/00472 /FUL Mr and Mrs Volf | Planning Application - Change of use of land from agricultural to residential curtilage, and erection of barn for use incidental to the enjoyment of the existing dwellinghouse. Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment. | Morants Hall, Colchester Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TN |
| 25/00497 /FUL Mr Wayne Knowles | Planning Application - Erection of replacement detached chalet bungalow following demolition of existing bungalow (Alterations to approved planning permission 24/00001/FUL including revisions to door/window combinations, size of entrance lobby and roof including dormer windows). Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment. | Byeways, Mary Lane North, Great Bromley CO7 7TZ |

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

| REF | PROPOSAL | LOCATION | DECISION |
|---|---|--|--|
| 25/00156 /COUNO Mr S Brazier | Prior Approval Application under Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for the change of use of an agricultural building into three dwellings. | Bush Farm Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TR | Determinati on prior approval not reqred 18.03.2025 Delegated Decision |

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

With the arrival of warmer weather, the village was bursting with new life in April. Daffodils and tulips were in full bloom, adding splashes of cheerful colour along the lanes. We have been short on rain, not that we are complaining, but I am sure the plants are.

It has been a busy time for Little Bromley Parish Council keeping abreast of all the Consultations that needed to be responded to. Firstly, we had to respond to National Grid's Targeted Consultation followed shortly afterward by the Tarchon Non-Statutory Consultation. We were then presented with the task of responding to Tendring District Council's Local Plan Consultation. You can view all the

Parish Council responses on the website.

We had a record attendance at our March PC meeting which was due to all the activity proposed for the village and we will endeavor to keep you all updated via the village database. If you are not already receiving updates please email littlebromleypc@gmail.com and we will add you to the database.

We hope to see you on 15th May for the Annual Meeting, Parish Assembly and Parish Council Meeting commencing at the earlier time of 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

Little Bromley Parish Council

GREAT BROMLEY BOOK CLUB

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 20 May. It's a casual meet up for a chat,

to share books, make friends and have a drink or two. The chosen books are: The Woman on the Ledge by Ruth Mancini and The Universe Versus Alex Wood by Gavin Extence, so either/or both.

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

GREAT BROMLEY ANTIQUES FAIR SUNDAYS

19th January, 9th March, 18th May 2025

9am – 3pm

Great Bromley Village Hall,
Great Bromley CO7 7JA
For info: 07802 282193

Little Bentley Coffee & Cake

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



Great and Little Bromley villagers
are very welcome

Dates for your diary



MAY

| | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 1 | Cosy Cross - The Bromley Cross | 10am-12pm |
| 7 | WI - Bees and Bee Keeping, Village Hall | 7:30pm |
| 8 | VE Day - 80th anniversary | |
| 14 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall | 7:00pm |
| 15 | Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain | 7:00pm |
| 16 | Great Bromley Friendship Club, The Cross | 2:00pm |
| 17 | Ardleigh DHS - Plant & Cake Sale, Ardleigh VH | 9:30am-11:30am |
| 25 | Tabletop Sale - Great Bromley Village Hall | 11am-3:00pm |
| 25 | Open Afternoon - St Marys Church, Little Bromley | 3pm-5pm |
| 27 | WI - Coffee & Crafting, Village Hall | 10am-12pm |
| 27 | Village Hall AGM, Millenium Lounge, Village Hall | 7:00pm |

JUNE

| | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 4 | WI - Hidden Treasure, Village Hall | 7:30pm |
| 5 | Cosy Cross - The Bromley Cross | 10am-12pm |
| 11 | Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall | 7:00pm |
| 24 | WI - Coffee & Crafting, Village Hall | 10am-12pm |

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE MESSENGER

The Messenger is an invaluable source of information and connection for our community, keeping everyone informed, engaged, and united. To continue delivering this essential service, we're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team in the following roles:

Delivery Person Help ensure The Messenger reaches every doorstep! We need a reliable individual to deliver the publication for Robinson Close. This role requires just 30 minutes per month and is a fantastic opportunity to get out and about while supporting your neighbours.

Admin/Treasurer Behind the scenes, the wheels of The Messenger turn smoothly thanks to careful administration. We're seeking an

organized individual to handle light administrative and treasurer duties. Expect to dedicate only 1-2 hours per month. This role is ideal for someone who enjoys numbers and bringing order to processes.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, make a difference in the community, and contribute to the legacy of The Messenger. No prior experience is necessary—just a willingness to lend a hand and be part of something meaningful.

If you're interested in volunteering for either role, or would like more details, please contact the1986messenger@gmail.com.

Let's keep The Messenger thriving together!

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

- 8 May
- 29 May
- 19 June
- 10 July

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.

GREAT BROMLEY IN THE 1870s (PART 1)

Arthur Sturgeon wrote a memoir that was published in the Standard 70 years ago. Edited excerpts from this article will be published in two parts.

Hugh Frostick.

In the year 1878, at 12 years of age, I started as a baker's boy with Mr. Brookes of Great Bromley. I helped a man to make bread in the morning and in the afternoon we served customers in five different villages. We only called once a week as bread made with stone ground flour would eat better stale than new.

A common sight was women picking stones into hods and making heaps in the fields. Once a week each farmer would send a man, horse and tumbril to cart those stones to the side of the main roadway, where men with long handled hammers would break the large stones into smaller pieces and put them on the roadway where they would be ground down by the traffic. The women folk looked upon that as a necessary job of work, as they wanted their highway to be high, dry and hard, so that the rain would run off into ditches by the side of the road, allowing them to walk from farm to farm or village to village and go shopping or to church with clean boots.

As Colchester with its seven different regiments was only five miles away, about twice a year one of those regiments would march onto the village green opposite the Black Boy inn and the Colonel would buy each man a pint. While the men were refreshing themselves the band was playing all the popular tunes of the day, such as "Champagne Charlie is my name" or "Little Polly Perkins of Paddington Green" and the Sergeant with a hat of coloured ribbons would be walking around trying to persuade the young chaps to take the Queen's shilling.

Everybody in the village went to church on Sunday. When my mother came out, she would walk home with the women in our part of the village, and hear all the news. She would say to father, "So and so has joined the red coats" or "Mister so and so's son has joined the horse soldiers" and my father would say "Whatever is the country coming to. What with the rich folk taking all the monthers* out of the village to go and work in their town houses as servants and the government taking all the young chaps as soldiers just to catch old Cetshwayo**, there will be no one left to work the land."

In the big white house in the park lived a gentleman who was connected with steamship companies, which were booming in the 1870s. He had visitors in the summer from the towns who stayed for a fortnight or more. When the girls left school at 13 they went to work in the big house and as soon as they got a little experience as house or nursemaid they would be asked "Would you like to come and live in my town house as a maid?" That left no young women for the young chaps to court, and that is how my two young sisters went to London and worked in West End houses.

During the two years I was in the village there was only one maid and she worked at a farm. Every Sunday she would come out of the white gate at 2p.m. and there would be about 20 young chaps waiting for her. She would have a chat with them, then pick out the one she was going to court for that afternoon. We younger boys watched at a distance and as soon as they dispersed in

different directions we would run to church as fast as we could. We did not want to meet the disappointed ones, as they had used their boots on us once or twice.

The parson and the farmers would cooperate to get enough labourers to work the land. The parson would advertise that he wanted a groom or gardener for his rectory and if anyone applied for the job he would engage them on a month's trial. They would live in a two-roomed cottage that belonged to the rectory and if they suited they were engaged, and their wife and children moved in with them. That is how my father was lured into Essex.

When my mother and two sisters arrived they found the cottage a tight fit, but soon the parson said to father, "I have got a better place for you at Cold Hall Farm - they want a stockman and you are just the man. It is 1 shilling more money and a nice cottage rent free at the entrance gate." My father was delighted because he loved horses and was also given a cob to look after.

The gentleman farmer at Cold Hall used to drive about north Essex and buy bullocks and sheep for the cattle markets, and my father would fetch them the next day and put them in the straw yard. On the Saturday my father and another man would drive two lots to Colchester cattle market, and if not sold there they would be taken to the railway station and put in trucks for Caledonian market, London.

That farmer was a good one to his men. If the land was not fit to till he would say "Hedging and ditching today" and the men would sharpen their tools and go and cut the hedges and clear out the ditches. Another day he would say "Cut all the low branches of the trees around the fields." That was necessary as they stopped a lot of the corn getting ripe. All that wood was equally divided amongst his eight men who worked for him, also a good stack at the farm. I know my mother had plenty of wood to heat her oven. Another concession was a tumbril load of good manure shot in each man's garden for his vegetables. That put several extra shillings into the workers pockets.

* "Monthers" is a Suffolk word for a single woman. ** Cetshwayo was the Zulu king.



May 11th 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 'Ave Verum' by Camille Saint Saens.

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns (9 October 1835 – 16 December 1921) was a French composer, organist, conductor and pianist of the Romantic era. Saint-Saëns was a musical prodigy; he made his concert debut at the age of ten. After studying at the Paris Conservatoire he followed a conventional career as a church organist, first at Saint-Merri, Paris and, from 1858, La Madeleine, the official church of the French Empire. After leaving the post twenty years later, he was a successful freelance pianist and composer, in demand in Europe and the Americas.

May 25th 2025

Some Deanery Choir members will be supporting the Choral evensong at the **Frinton Festival** at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm. One of the anthems that

they will sing will be 'Arise in Us' by **Martin**



THE DEANERY CHOIR



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

Edward Fallas Shaw OBE FRCM (9 March 1875 – 24 October 1958). Shaw was an English composer, conductor, and in his early life, theatre producer. His over 300 published works include songs, hymns, carols, oratorios, several instrumental works, a congregational mass setting (the *Anglican Folk Mass*), and four operas including a ballad opera. He studied under Charles Villiers Stanford at the Royal College of Music, together with a generation of composers that included Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and John Ireland. He then embarked upon a career as a theatrical producer, composer and conductor, however, he began his career as an organist, serving at Emmanuel Church, West Hampstead, from 1895 to 1903.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir
grahambell493@gmail.com

Announcement from the Trustees of the Great Bromley Poorlands Charity

The Trustees of the Great Bromley Poorlands Charity wish to inform the community of an important decision regarding the future of the charity.

After careful consideration and consultation with the Charity Commission, the Trustees have resolved to close the charity. This decision has not been made lightly, as the charity has long been dedicated to serving the most vulnerable and in need in the community.

As part of the closure process, the remaining funds held by the charity will be allocated to support local initiatives that benefit the community. To ensure these funds are distributed effectively and responsibly, we invite applications from local charities which serve Great Bromley for grants between **£250 and £2500**.

Application Guidelines

Local charities wishing to apply for funding must meet the following criteria:

- ♦ Provide the names of two trustees who represent the applying charity.
- ♦ Submit a detailed plan outlining how the funds will be used to benefit the community. This plan should include specific objectives, the timeline for implementation, and the anticipated impact of the project.

Applications will be reviewed by the Trustees to ensure that the funds are allocated in a manner consistent with the charity's original mission and values.

Submission Deadline

Applications must be submitted by 30th June 2025 to clerk@gbpc.org.uk. Late submissions will not be considered.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported the Great Bromley Poorlands Charity over the years. Although this marks the end of our journey as an organisation, we are confident that the remaining funds will continue to make a positive difference through the work of local charities.

Signed,

The Trustees of the Great Bromley Poorlands Charity

Mr F Nicholls, Mr A Fairley,
Mr O Blowers & Dr H Frostick


DAWN SUPPORT

We (DAWN) have put together a synopsis of the governments proposed benefit changes. If you have any worries, please email me at annie@dawnsupport.co.uk

- PIP Eligibility Criteria is going to be tightened up from November 2026, this will make it harder to qualify for the daily living component. People who are applying for the first time or renewing their PIP daily living component (as the mobility component is unaffected by these changes) will need to score at least four or more points in at least one of the categories in the PIP daily living section. This means that if someone scores 3 or less in all of the activity categories, they'll no longer be eligible for the daily living component. The government will expect more people to attend a face to face assessment, however those with the most severe, long-term conditions including life-long and those which are known to deteriorate, will no longer face any reassessments.
- Work Capability Assessment that decides eligibility for New Style ESA or the Health Element under Universal Credit is being scrapped but this will not be until 2028. Instead, people applying for such benefits will only need to have one assessment which will be modelled on the current PIP System.
- The Health Elements paid through Universal Credit are being frozen for existing claimants, meaning they will no longer increase, this is from April 2026. They will not be increase in line with inflation until the 2029-30 Tax year will be frozen in cash terms for existing claimants at £97 per week from April next year - this means they will not be increased again, in line with inflation, until 2029/30. Any new claimant from 2026, will only receive £50 per week. However, people who qualify after April 2026 that have severe, life-long health conditions that are judged as never being able to work will be protected and receive an additional premium, again they will not face reassessment. There will additionally be an above inflation increase to the standard rate of UC for people actively seeking employment which could add up to £775 a year by 2029.
- Going forward, claimants under the age of 22, will not be able to claim a Health Element. Apparently, the money saved from this will be put into improving work support, training and employment opportunities.
- A consultation is happening regarding the age children move on to PIP, currently this is 16, when they are technically still children this is potentially going to be moved to 18 which would in fact make more sense.
- There will be the introduction of a new benefit called 'Unemployment Insurance' as part of the reform in contributory work-age benefits. This will be replacing New style Jobseeker's Allowance and New style ESA with a new single entitlement. This will be a non-means-tested benefit, and it is thought the amount payable will be determined by a person's previous national insurance contributions. This is how New state pension currently works.

Cont'd...

- There are plans to introduce a “right to try” policy which will see disabled benefit claimants able to retain their entitlement should they attempt to return to employment. This policy is designed to incentivise people to seek employment without fearing that their benefit entitlement will be stripped if the employment does not work out.
- People claiming Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) have already started to move onto UC but now the plan is to complete the migration of ESA on to UC by December 2025, with the final migration notices being sent out by September 2025 now, rather than December 2025.
- The administration of Pension Credit and Housing Benefit is to be brought together for new claimants from 2026, which is two years earlier than previously announced.
- The weekly earnings limit for Carer's Allowance will be increased to the amount earned by someone working 16 hours at the National Living Wage, rising from £151 to £196 a week.
- Deductions of debt repayments from Universal Credit are to be capped at 15% of the standard allowance instead of the current maximum deduction rate of 25%.
- The government will amend the Severe Disability Premium (SDP) transitional protection regulations to better support claimants who move from supported or temporary accommodation into rented housing. The regulations will be amended from April 2025 but it will be possible for payments to be backdated to February 2024. This will mean that affected claimants who move from supported or temporary accommodation, where their housing costs were/are paid via Housing Benefit, into rented housing, where their housing costs become part of their Universal Credit (UC) claim, should not have any transitional protection in their UC award eroded due to rent changes.
- The transition from Housing Benefit to Universal Credit (UC) is underway. However, this process isn't automatic - affected individuals will need to apply for Universal Credit. Claimants have a three-month window to do this, after which their previous benefits will cease. If people only get Housing Benefit and live in supported accommodation they will not be migrated onto Universal Credit. If people live in supported accommodation their housing costs will still be met by Housing Benefit, even though they may themselves claim Universal Credit.



Disability Advice & Welfare Network

Cosy Cross is back!

The first Thursday of the month
10.00pm – 12.00pm
£3.00 includes unlimited refreshments and a raffle

The Bromley Cross Pub in Great Bromley

Whether you're here for warmth,
a warm drink, or a friendly face.
You will find a welcoming space waiting

Any enquires please email: annie@dawnsupport.co.uk

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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

How wonderful it is to enjoy brighter, longer, warmer days, not one but two bank holiday long weekends and the effulgence and vitality of spring! I hope this finds you in good heart for any or all of those reasons.

Followers of Jesus are also in good heart, for in this season of the church year we remember Jesus' resurrection – His victory over death. We also remember His ascension, which was (initially at least) an unsettling time for His first followers. They had only just adjusted to the shock of His miraculous resurrection when they had to say goodbye to Him again on the Mount of Olives as He ascended to heaven. But why? In John's Gospel we are reminded by Jesus, speaking to His disciples, that "it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). Jesus ascends back to the right hand of the Father so that He might send His Holy Spirit on His Church. That's what we celebrate at Pentecost, but that's next month! – for now all we need to know is that the risen Jesus didn't stay here on earth, where He was bound by space and time, but went back to heaven so that He could be with us whenever and wherever we are in the person of the Holy Spirit.

The presence of the living God in the life of a follower of Jesus is one of the greatest privileges of faith and it is His ascension back to the Father that enables it – that's why it's good news and

that's why His people continue to remember the further miracle of His ascension after His resurrection. Jesus is incredibly special. He is human, but He is also God and that's why His miraculous ministry, far from presenting a stumbling block to the modern scientific mind, should be a pointer to the truth that while He is human, He is much more than just a human. And His presence by the Spirit is a promise to any and all who choose to follow Him.

May you know His presence and power in Your life in this brighter, longer, warmer month of May and beyond!

**Best wishes,
Phillip**

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT & CAKE SALE



Sat 17th May 2025
9.30 – 11.30
(CASH SALES ONLY)

Ardleigh Village Hall,
Station Road, Ardleigh

www.e-voice.org.uk/ardleigh-horticultural-society



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

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| May 4th | 3 rd of Easter | Parish Eucharist BCP | 11 am |
| May 11th | 4 th of Easter | Parish Eucharist | 11 am |
| May 18th | 5 th of Easter | Evensong BCP | 6.30pm |
| May 25th | Rogation | Parish Eucharist | 11 am |
| May 29th | Ascension Day | Dedham 8am Gt Oakley | 7.30pm |
| June 1st | Sun after Ascension | Parish Eucharist BCP | 11 am |
| June 8th | Pentecost | Parish Eucharist | 11 am |
| June 15th | Trinity Sunday | Evensong BCP | 6.30pm |
| June 22nd | Trinity 1 | Parish Eucharist | 11 am |
| June 29th | Trinity 2 | Service at Little Bentley | 10.30am |

St Mary's, Little Bentley

May 4th Morning Prayer 11 am
May 18th Holy Communion 11 am
June 1st Morning Prayer 11 am
June 15th Holy Communion 11 am
June 29th Praise in the Garden 10.30 am