

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

June 2025



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

May flew by in a flash! It's a busy time of year - year-end finances for councils and businesses, endless exams, and gardens growing vigorously as summer approaches.

This month's cover features five adorable chicks, hatched under the watchful eyes of the residents at Seven Rivers Home. You can read their full story and find out their names on page seven.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the VE80 commemorations, whether at the War Memorial in the morning or the beacon lighting event in the evening. It was truly a wonderful celebration of community spirit, and we hope you enjoyed marking this special occasion with us. If you weren't able to attend, you can still catch a glimpse of the highlights! Take a look at the photos on pages 22-23, or view the colour version online at www.greatbromley.org.uk/magazine.

Elsewhere in this month's edition, there are funding opportunities for local groups on page 25, but don't delay, applications close on 30th June.

Awareness Days in June include:

- 1st – National Salad Week
- 6th – Fish and Chip Day
- 13th – Sewing Machine Day
- 15th – Father's Day
- 21st – National Ice Cube Day
- 27th – National Bingo Day

I'm pleased to welcome Imogen as an additional proofreader, whose keen eye for detail will help ensure clarity and accuracy in our publications. Mr R remains on standby!

Enjoy this month, and here's hoping for plenty of warm, sunny days ahead.

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

Help needed to set up Hobby groups at Seven Rivers

Seven Rivers is part of the Leonard Cheshire Disability Group of Homes, based in Great Bromley. We're a specialist provider delivering person-centred care. Our residents have a wide range of physical disabilities, sensory impairments and/or long-term health conditions, such as: Multiple Sclerosis, acquired brain injury, Stroke, Spinal injury and Parkinsons Disease.

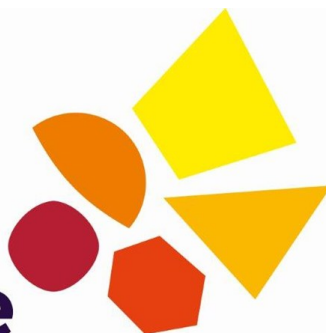
At Seven Rivers, it is our aim to ensure that all our residents have the best experience at our home, and we are happy to support those whose goal is to regain skills to be able to return to live in the community. Everyone that visits Seven Rivers compliments us on the beautiful location, homely atmosphere and positive relationships between the staff and residents.

Our mission is to ensure disabled people have the freedom to live their lives the way they choose. If you have a particular skill set that you think would interest us here, we'd like to hear from you.

Do you have IT skills and can help me maintain our PCs, are you musical and would be willing to entertain, gardening skills and are willing to help set up groups. The list is endless, your only limit is your imagination. We're open to all suggestions that will enrich the lives of our residents, so if you can spare a little time then please contact Lee or Lorraine in activities, on 01206 230 345.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Leonard
Cheshire**



GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



Chairman's report 2024/25

Hi All

It's been a bit of a roller coaster year, after a slow start. I think that I am now beginning to find my feet!

I would like to thank Lizzie and Andrew in particular for their advice and support and the rest of the Councillors for their efforts on behalf of Great Bromley over the last 12 months.

Being two Council members down, I feel that we must increase our efforts to return to a full complement of Councillors in order to build upon the successes achieved this year.

I should like to thank Owen for his organisation of the litter pick at which over 30 bags of rubbish were collected.

I should like to thank Graham for his tireless contribution to the Speedwatch - continuing to ensure that our village roads are as safe as possible.

I should like to thank Carole for her dedication to maintaining Great Bromley as a truly rural environment for our Parishioners, ensuring a close watch on our footpaths and bridleways, monitoring the trees in the Parish and keeping a close eye on litter and the ever present threat of fly tipping.

I should like to thank Fred for his "dogged" persistence in obtaining a new dog waste bin for Church Meadows and for giving me the benefit of his vast local knowledge of our Parish.

The year has not been without its lows. The sad and sudden passing of our colleague Ros Tovell last October and the passing of Henry Fairley, a former Chairman of this Council.

On a lighter note, we were able to add Chris to the Village maintenance team, and he has already shown his worth with his innovative idea of constructing a mould and casting a replacement post for the War Memorial (with a spare - just in case!)

I am sure that everyone is happy to see children's sport return to the Hare Green Playing Fields after an absence of many years. Hopefully this will encourage the young people of our village to participate in outside recreation.

The year finished on a real high with our 80th VE Day celebration on 8th May. The raising of the flag and proclamation was well attended and the rendition of "We'll meet again" by the children of St George's Primary School was brilliant and thanks must go to the teachers at the school for their excellent singing.

The evening celebration, held at Seven Rivers was excellent with support from St George's Church, the Friendship Club, the Village Hall, Little Bromley Parish Council, Frating Parish Council, the Cross Inn, Bromley Brook Winery, POWER, the Women's Institute and the staff of Seven Rivers and The Icenii Choir who were able to meet and speak with local residents about their own particular organisations. A real community event!

I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank the Plymouth Brethren Rapid Relief Team who provided a barbecue of gourmet burgers and sausages , Doritos, fruit and soft drinks for 200 people, completely free of charge for all the celebration attendees - delicious.

The icing on the cake was that

between the raffle and donations we were able to present Seven Rivers Leonard Cheshire Homes with £528.62 and the residents of the home were able to participate in this momentous occasion complete with live rock band and a vocalist entertaining them with the songs of World War Two and to witness the lighting of the beacon.

Let us hope that this is a blueprint for future community events in Great Bromley.

Thank you all, once again, for your support and contributions over the last twelve months.

Ian Murch
Chairman

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS		
REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
25/00614 /FUL Mr Vijay Ponnusamy	Change to approved opening times (from 7:30am until 10:00pm to 6:00am until 10:00pm – 7 Days a week) and installation of security gates. Great Bromley Parish Council was in favour of the proposal.	Costcutters, Little Paddocks, Frating Road, Great Bromley
25/00578 /WTPO Mr Ross Chadwick	Works related to Tree Preservation Order (95/00032/TPO) – Pollarding of Oak tree to the front of the property. Great Bromley Parish Council had no comment.	4 Peace Cottages, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley

LITTLE BROMLEY VILLAGE FUND

We’ve had a request that the Village Fund should offer their remaining monies to The Little Bromley Church Bell repairs. This money would go some way to helping the Church meet their target and we will once again hear the bells ringing across the fields.

If anyone has an objection to this proposal then please email Lbvillagefund@gmail.com with your reasons by 30th June 2025.

Little Bromley Village Fund Trustees

Hello Great Bromley,

It's been a busier month than usual, we started with nurturing duck eggs which was a great success, 5 out of 5. We got to see them emerge from their shells which everybody found fascinating, and to my shock they were not all yellow, we had three brown ones. I always thought ducklings were meant to be yellow. Everybody had a chance to suggest names for our little fellows which were then placed in a hat for a draw. The five winners were Trevor, Daffy, Annabelle, Tabatha and finally Lorraine.

Now I'm not going to say it was fixed, but what a coincidence that Lorraine, my activities partner got chosen, and not Lee! Luck of the draw or was it?

Anyway, we had them for a week before we had to give them back, everyone was sad, especially Lorraine who fought tooth and nail to keep them, her dedication was humbling. It was only when she started to chase the van down the path shouting "No!!!" that I finally understood how attached she got to them.

There may be a little artistic licence in that description of the events, but as I am writing this and not Lorraine, it's my interpretation.

The Parish Council chose Seven Rivers for the 80th VE Day commemorations which were held on our grounds as you all know. I'd like to thank them all for a fabulous evening, in particular Ian Murch, the Parish Council Chairman,

SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

who made every effort to keep us informed throughout the preparations.

I'd also like to thank our local community for making it the success that it was; the feedback that we got on the evening was very good and everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves. We hope this will be the first of many events to take place here at Seven Rivers.

The residents thought it was fabulous



that so many of you turned up for this very special day, which made it special for them too. They enjoyed the interaction with all those that came over and said hello, which made them feel part of the Great Bromley Community; you can't get better praise than that.

So let me end by saying we are open to hosting more events in the future, we're here for you if you need us, just ask.

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

ANNETTE MARGARET WENDEN

12 FEB 1954 – 30 JAN 2025

Annette was the eldest child of Eileen Russell. Her first years were in Monkwick, Colchester then from 1962 at the new Greenstead estate with her siblings Shelagh and Steven. She went to St Anne's Primary School, Harwich Road, then on to the new Sir Charles Lucas Comprehensive. She had a Saturday job on a sweet counter – challenging for a life-long chocolate lover – and particularly painful when she sat on a sweet jar, where also there was a wasp.

At 16 Annette got work at Co-op Insurance with her friend Chris before going to Nig Banda in Cowdray Avenue and then, in 1975, crossing the road to start clerical work at the Divisional HQ of Essex Fire and Rescue Service. It was the start of a long and successful career providing support to the Fire Prevention Officers and herself becoming very knowledgeable in fire prevention. In 2000 she was proud to receive a 25-year certificate for her long service, which only ended when her health declined and she took early retirement in 2004.

Annette had met David Wenden at a wedding where he had the groom's car keys and she had the keys to the newly-weds' house, resulting in them both doing a secret dash to apple-pie the bed.

David hadn't yet asked for a date before they next met at another wedding in 1982 and the opportunity arose. Their relationship grew and they became engaged the following summer and were married on 17th September 1983 at St James the Less church in Priory Street, Colchester – exiting under a Guard of Honour of Firefighters' Axes and heading off for a perfect wedding night in London which did not quite go to plan: a broken lift at London's deepest underground station and a hotel that claimed not to have their booking, leading eventually to a room with two single beds. A bottle of pink champagne meant a muzzy head in the morning.

However, the belated honeymoon on the Greek island of Rhodes was memorable for the right reasons and they returned to begin life as a married couple. Annette was delighted, as just a few years before she had remarked to her friend Chris that she thought that she would never find her 'Mr Right'.

The couple first lived at Park Farm Bungalow until "Girlings" was completed, and in May 1985 they moved to what was to be their marital home for the rest of their lives together. It was not long before their marriage was blessed with the arrival of two children – Robert in 1987 and Nicholas (Nick) in 1991. As the boys grew and attended play group and then school, Annette became much involved with village life whilst also finding time for other things. When the Colchester Fire Swim fundraiser came into being Annette was there from the start, involving herself with admin and organisation, and involving St George's primary school, so it became a whole family effort with the two boys swimming and David lane-marking. At home she was accomplished at baking, cooking, sewing and crochet and she enjoyed holidaying in warm places with her family.

Annette, however, had not been feeling well, and at the age of 44 she was diagnosed with young onset Parkinson's – a treatable but incurable condition –

and so began the slow decline in her health over the following 27 years. Annette wanted to be positive – joining the young Parkinson Network and Colchester Parkinson's group, as well as the local Women's Institute who benefitted much from her designs and posters as she was a whizz on the computer. She was also an enthusiastic and knowledgeable quizzer, helping the Gt Bromley team reach the final of the Essex WI competition one year.

Annette's health took another serious turn when she was also diagnosed with Charcot Marie Tothé – a hereditary neurological condition both incurable and untreatable - further devastating news for all the family. She underwent numerous hospital appointments in order to make her life as comfortable as possible. A spinal operation was successful but the recovery was difficult with Annette finding herself at the time of Covid on a ventilator in intensive care at the National Neurological Hospital in London with no possibility of even family visits. She returned home with David & carers looking after her but then received the news that no further medical treatment was possible, so care from then on would be palliative.

A place was found at Seven Rivers where she terrorised staff and residents with her electric wheelchair and joined in with the events she could - even being serenaded by Elvis! David, Robert and Nick and the grandchildren were able to visit – she was immensely proud of them and of being wife, mother, Nana.

By Christmas 2024 her health was rapidly declining and she slipped peacefully away on 30th January, her long battle finally over. Annette will be very much missed but she will live on in our memories, as her caring, trusting, loyal nature and her lovely sense of humour had been very much part of our village life.



HGF, from the family eulogy





GREAT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Tendring Primary Care Network Patient and Wellbeing Fair

As promised in the May Surgery Newsletter, here's the poster advertising our Community Health and Wellbeing Fair. We would encourage as many patients as possible to attend this event, which we hope you will find to be informative and of benefit to you.

Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be closed from 12 noon on Thursday 26 June 2025 for staff training. If patients require urgent medical care on this afternoon, then this is available by contacting NHS 111 for assistance.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING FAIR

Tuesday 10th June 2025

10am - 1pm

**Great Bentley Methodist Church Hall Forge Lane
Great Bentley Colchester CO7 8PQ**

Screening Services
Mental Health Support
Extended GP Practice Staff

Family & Carers Support
Long Term Conditions
Local Charities

Tendring Primary Care Network Ltd

Come along and join us!
Hosted by Tendring PCN in collaboration with Great Bentley Surgery
Refreshments will be available!

Patient Participation Group Meetings
There will be no Patient Participation Group meeting in June.



GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

INSPIRING WOMEN In May we explored the world of bees and beekeeping, with a fascinating and engaging talk from Martin Frostick. We plunged into the mysterious world of honey making, swarm gathering and the astonishing number of bee types and their crucial role in pollination of flowers and crops.

Questions came buzzing from all directions as we attempted to find out if that really was a solitary bee home that

we spotted in the garden last year, and what to do when a swarm suddenly appears in our apple tree.

We also held our AGM, electing a strong and vibrant committee and re-electing Dorothy O'Grady as our president for another year.

Next month is a social night. Let us know if you'd like to join us or just come along on the night.

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. If we don't have a group you are interested in, you are welcome to start one up. 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 11th June is Andy Moore from Colchester Zoological Society who will tell us how they care for their animals and on 9th July we have Eleanor Jenkins giving a talk on "The Life of a Tudor Housekeeper". There is no talk in August as we have a Summer lunch instead.

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



JUNE
SUNDAY 29 AT 11 AM
2025

With an address from Bishop Roger Morris, Area Bishop of Colchester, music by Colchester Salvation Army Band, a barbecue lunch and thanks to Christopher and Virginia Palmer-Tomkinson for graciously hosting



RSVP: Nigel Dyson
with numbers for
barbecue and dietary
requirements
nigel@garden-shows.com
07802 282193

Little Bentley Hall
Church Road, CO7 8SD



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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PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
<u>24/0123</u> <u>5/OUT</u> Mr D Rapson – Privo Land Ltd	Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered) – Outline planning application for the erection of up to 48 dwellings with associated infrastructure, open space, parking, drainage and landscaping.	Paddocks, Land North of Harwich Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UH	Application Withdrawn Delegated Decision
<u>25/0024</u> <u>7/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Mr David Snazell	Householder Planning Application – Oak framed cartlodge/gym/store with home office over.	Mousetraps, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7JA	Approval – Full 01.04.2025 Delegated Decision
<u>25/0010</u> <u>8/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Mr Robert Cobb	Householder Planning Application – Erection of porch.	1 Field Mews, Great Bromley, CO7 7JX	Approval – Full 17.04.2025 Delegated Decision
<u>25/0019</u> <u>7/</u> <u>FULHH</u> Mr and Mrs Williams	Householder Planning Application – Single storey front extension, single storey rear extension, new porch and revised windows.	Michaelmas House, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7JA	Approval – Full 24.04.2025 Delegated Decision
<u>25/0053</u> <u>2/NMA</u> Mr Justyn French – Rose Builders	Non Material Amendment to 22/01010/FUL – Alteration to the approved siting of Plots 31/32 to avoid any potential issues with the adjacent trees and hedges.	Park 2 Land at Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7HU	Approval Non Material Amendment 23.04.2025 Delegated Decision

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. 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.

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

As usual, we have been working on the substation issues, most recently we took part in a meeting about community benefits.

In short, this is about possible community projects to offset the upheaval of the proposed developments around us and our neighbouring villages affected by this construction.

It is by no means a submission, it is preparation in case this goes ahead.

It is independent of our objections to any development of this kind, but, moving forward we would like to be prepared for the worst.

Most importantly, we would appreciate any suggestions for improvements to the village, we have been guided to

"Think Big" so if you have any thoughts on this, please contact us via email at littlebromleypc@gmail.com or approach us directly with your ideas.

On a more positive note, we were invited by Great Bromley PC to join in with their VE80 Day celebration event at Leonard Cheshire Seven Rivers on 8th May.

It was a lovely evening for it though it did turn chilly once the sun had set, with live music, a BBQ and plenty of people attending, it was a great first event and I believe something they are keen to repeat.

Little Bromley Parish Council

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"The Plant Hunters: The Adventurers who brought us garden colour" will be the subject of the talk by Maggie Piper at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS on Thursday 12th June at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £2. Everyone is welcome.

Schedules for this year's Annual Flower & Produce Show (Saturday 16th August) will be available at the meeting and are now also available at Ardleigh Convenience Store & Craft Nurseries.



Looking for a New Hobby – why not Golf?

Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club ladies are desperate for more ladies to come and join them. We are a small, friendly section and would be happy to chat with any ladies who are new to golf, have some experience or, have a lot of experience and are considering joining a local club.

If you are interested, please come and see us on a Tuesday or Thursday lunchtime at about 1.00 pm. The Harwich and Dovercourt Golf Club can be found at Parkeston Roundabout, Station Road, Dovercourt CO12 4NZ or for further information email us at: ladiesgolfharwich@gmail.com

Dates for your diary



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
12	Ardleigh & Dist. Horticultural Society	7:45pm
21	Summer Solstice	3:42am
24	WI - Coffee & Crafting, Village Hall	10am-12:30pm

JULY

2	WI - Eileen Brown: Life in the Slow Lane, Village Hall	7.30pm
9	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
17	Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain	7:30pm
22	WI - Coffee & Crafting, Village Hall	10am-12:30pm

AUGUST

6	WI - Garden Party	
13	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
16	Ardleigh & Dist. Horticultural Society Annual Show	

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

- 19 June
- 10 July
- 31 July
- 21 Aug

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 2)

My father was a Suffolk farmer. Free trade got him down and he went bankrupt. He found work as a gardener in Ipswich but said "I must find a place where there is a horse." That is how he left Suffolk to go to Great Bromley.

I remember Joseph Arch coming along and holding some big meetings, which got the men a shilling a week more wages, but when my father drew his wages on the Friday, he was waiting for his malt and hops for sweet wurt making. The farmer said "It is against the law now. We must pay by the coin of the realm." The new Truck Act had been passed, a Liberal measure.

That upset my father. Being a bankrupt farmer through Free Trade he was Conservative but the head foreman was a Liberal and a preacher in the village Chapel. My father called him a "damned old ranter" and they had a first-class row, so the farmer had to part them. Father had to leave his nice cottage, and the parson had to find him another job. That was soon arranged, minding old sheep at 1s. a week less wage, and a cottage costing 1s. a week rent. When I had my annual holiday I would go with father onto a field of turnips, and help him shift the hurdles to make a fresh bite. If the sheep's feet were sore he had lotions and rags and tied some sacking on. If it did not get well, he would fetch the cart from the farm and take it to the butchers to be killed for mutton.

That farmer liked all his men to keep a pig in the sty. The farmer provided the pig, the miller provided the barley meal, and mother did all the work. She had always got the pot boiling with spare vegetables for the pig. When she brewed her sweet wurt from malt and hops the grains put a bit of flavour in his dinner. When father's turn came to kill his pig it was split up into 10 portions, one leg for the farmer, the other for the miller, then eight portions for the men, two rib spears, that two loins cut into four, the pluck and the other portions equally divided. I know my mother had plenty of fat bacon hanging up the chimney getting smoke-dried, which I was fond of.

Now I want to point out the benefit of going to church. The farmer said to father "Why did not your wife come to church yesterday?" Father said, "She is very queer worrying about our eldest son. He is working in London near where that gunpowder explosion took place at Regents park."

That news was telegraphed to the Mayor of Colchester; he passed it on to the town crier who passes it onto the carriers where they meet in the town; the carriers tell all the grocers and as they go home through the villages the grocers tell their customers. That was how the news went round.

So the farmer's wife told the parson's wife, and they both went round to our cottage and found mother very ill. They sent for the doctor, who ordered beef from the butcher to make beef tea and some chops, also a pint of full cream milk a day. That was a luxury for a farm labourer's wife, as practically all full cream milk was turned into butter or cheese, and taken to the market in town and sold to the public by the farmer's wife.

It works like this. The half-man took the milk to the dairy after the cows had been milked. The farmer's wife strained the milk through muslin into flat milk pans and

there they stood for 24 hours. At the 12th hour she would skim the cream into a wooden pail, at the 24th hour the farmer's daughter would skim the cream off that. That was then called skim milk, and sold to the farm labourers' children at ½d. per quart. The half-man would be waiting to take what was left, to mix with some barley meal for his pigs. My mother used to boil that skim milk and pour on stone ground wheaten flour bread, and the bread used to swell to double its size. It was a nourishing breakfast food for children.

Now I want to explain the wages. A boy at 13 would get 4s. a week until 15, then he became a half-man at 6s per week, at 17 a three-quarter man at 9s. per week, at 21 a man at 12s. per week. When that man got older and not so active and could not hump a sack of corn or lift a sheep into a farm cart for the butcher, he would revert back to the three-quarter man at 9s. per week.

My father came under that category when he reached 65. That 9s. a week business upset my father and mother, so they made-up their minds to end their days in Suffolk, and went back to Ipswich in 1893. Father found a light job at a windmill with some horses to care for. He used to say, "looking after horses there is muck for the garden".

In 1908 they were both 80 years of age, and retired on the old age pension of 5s. a week. They found that 10s. was not enough to live on so they asked five of us to send them a shilling a week each, until a supplementary pension of 2s. 6d. was given. Then mother sent the 1s. back to us saying that 15s. was ample for their requirements. A few years after that they passed on.

Edited by Hugh Frostick hugh@greatbromley.org.uk

Notes: **Joseph Arch** (1826 -1919) was a trade unionist and politician who played a key role in creating unions for agricultural workers and in championing their welfare.

The Truck Amendment Act (1887) meant that workers could no longer be paid in kind or produce, and had to receive actual pay. This was good for many but clearly not for Mr Sturgeon.

Cold Hall about 100 years after Sturgeons worked here.





Photo credit: Pat Ainger



MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



In May members enjoyed some interclub competitions, a talk by Chrissy Hart on panels, a field trip to London, and our Picture of the Year competition.

On 21st June we will be taking part in the Mysteries of Mistley Trail. You will be able to find us at the Studio on the Quay. Why not stop and chat if you have an interest in photography. Apart from this, we now have a little break over the summer with no meetings. Club members have been given a challenge to use various photographic techniques over the break, and will share their images when they return in September.

Our club website has information about membership and activities together with competition results, photo albums and further club information. Our 2025/2026 programme should be on the website when club resumes in September. Our public Manningtree Photographic Club Facebook page also features various club news and activities.

This month's featured image by Pat Ainger was the winner of a recent phone photography competition.

We are a small group of photography enthusiasts with a wide range of

photographic experience and knowledge. The club aims to provide a friendly environment for members to enjoy the development of their photographic skills through a variety of activities in the company of like-minded individuals.

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

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

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



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



ST. GEORGE'S (C OF E) SCHOOL, GT. BROMLEY

Telephone: 01206 230305

Could you make a difference in our school?

St George's School in Great Bromley is looking for passionate, dedicated people in our community to join us as school governors. This is your chance to shape the future of our young people, and bring your experience to a role that truly matters.

If you think you could spare approx. 6 hours a term to attend meetings with other like minded people to support the leadership team and ensure the schools strategic vision, then we would love to hear from you.

By joining our board, you'll develop new skills and have a direct impact on the success of our students.

Reach out to us on lsarp@st-georges-pri.essex.sch.uk if you're interested in applying or would like more information about the role.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE BROMLEY

On Saturday 19th April at 8pm we held our Easter Vigil Service. It was a cold, windy evening and for the 30 who attended, we were very pleased when Gavin lit the fire outside the back of the church.

This was used to light the Paschal Candle which led everyone through the darkness of the church before their candles were lit inside, whilst Graeme sang the 'Exsultet'. Canon Stephen Carter and Reverend Debbie Hore led the service amidst the candles gleaming in the brass candle holders.

The choir sang beautifully.

After the service, there were wine and nibbles which most stayed to enjoy. Once again, a lovely service.

POSTPONEMENT:

Last month we gave some dates of events for the year. Unfortunately, our **Midsummer Tea Party to be held in June** has had to be **postponed**. We are hoping it will take place in a few months. Please watch this space.

Carol Cordwell

June 8th 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 'The call of wisdom' by Will Todd.

Will Todd (b1970) is an English musician and composer. He is a pianist, who performs regularly with others in his own works. Todd was born in County Durham, attended Durham School and joined the choir of St_Oswald's Church, Durham under its choirmaster David Higgins. He went on to study music at the University of Bristol. He is a pianist and regularly performs with his trio, and this played a large role in one of his best-known works, his *Mass in Blue*.

June 22nd 2025

The Deanery choir will be singing at **St Edmund Church Tendring, CO16 0BN** at the 6.30pm Choral Evensong. The organist at this service will be Peter Clayton and he

has composed a new Preces &



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area



Responses setting especially for the Deanery Choir. They will also sing his anthem 'Walking in a Garden'. Peter played the organ when he was a young chorister at Waltham Abbey, but it was only after his retirement from teaching that he switched his allegiance from flute playing to playing the organ as his main musical focus. He has been organist and choirmaster at St Mary Magdalene church in Thorrington for 16 years. Peter also plays as a freelance organist in many churches in N.E. Essex and Suffolk and frequently supports the Deanery Choir at church services. He also plays harpsichord in the Wollaston Consort.

Graham Bell
Deanery Choir
grahambell493@gmail.com

CHURCH JOTTINGS

Every day/week is a busy one at St G's – but there seems, in recent weeks, to have been extra activity, jobs to do, people to meet and greet, the month of May is flying along at great speed!

I hope you have had time to pop by and look at the renovation work of the northern side of St. Georges. The workmanship – the skill – is phenomenal! It is so fascinating to listen and talk to the stonemason, Nick Gunn, Nick and his apprentice are slowly restoring the stonework around the very high windows on the northern side of the Church. Using the same limestone from Richmonte in France which is being used on the Notre Dame in Paris! Wow!!

A huge project costing in excess of £75,000. The money is raised through grants, fundraising – (our flower festival and coffee morning last year) and the generosity of our congregation.

Come into the church and read the information board which will give you more of an idea about the tremendous projects we have to undertake on this Grade 1 listed building.

On April 27th we had our first visitors from America visiting our church this year.

The story of the Stone family is absolutely amazing. In 1635 Gregory Stone, his brother Simon and their families walked to Ipswich and boarded the ship "The Increase" and sailed to

Massachusetts in America over six hundred years ago. Gregory and Simon were foreman farmers in Great Bromley and Ardleigh, Boxted and refused to obey new rules in church and looked towards a new life in America, following in the footsteps of those who went on the "Mayflower" in 1620.

The descendants of Simon and Gregory who now live all over America regularly visit Great Bromley and the surrounding villages. We really enjoy their visits and we entertain them, showing them how beautiful this part of the UK is and how interesting their story is, often sharing lunch or supper at a local hospitality.

There is a window dedicated to their family in the church, telling their story and departure from Great Bromley. There is now a "Stone Association" which regularly financially supports projects in the church i.e. the toilet, the servery and now the restoration of the clerestory windows.

Diane and Scott were met at Manningtree Station, in time to enjoy our church service here at 11am. Afterwards a group of us took them to

The Thorn at Mistley for a traditional English Sunday Lunch.

V.E. Day May 8th 2025

A wonderful day in Great Bromley remembering and celebrating this day 80 years ago.

Great Bromley Parish Council invited the church family to join with the village and the Parishes of Frating and Little

Bromley. As you know from the posters the day begun with a gathering at the War Memorial at 9am – the school children sang "We'll Meet Again." We raised the flag and Rev. John led us in prayer.

Later the same day everyone was invited to gather at Seven Rivers from 6.30pm, and arrange a display telling folk about our church and organisation.

We readily accepted and I think our



display looked rather splendid – (thank you Carol) and generated quite a lot of interest.

The evening was brilliant, with so many groups from the village represented. It was so good to spend time with many residents (wrapped up warmly) of Cheshire Home brought into the garden by their wonderful carers.

Well done Ian and his team for organising such a memorable event!!

We are now looking forward and planning for our next events to which you are warmly invited - please put the dates in your diary.

Friday July 18th – "A Musical Extravaganza" Church and school working together.



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

We have had a generally warm and dry spring and as you read this, the summer days are nearing their maximum length at the summer solstice – June 21. I rejoice in these long warm days especially, as my birthday is very close to this date. My daughter is born very near to the winter solstice with the coldest and darkest days and this is often a topic of conversation that comes up in our birthday celebrations, whether a summer BBQ or a celebratory tea huddled around a cosy fire indoors.

It is mistaken to think the solstice is a whole day. According to the Royal Museums Greenwich website, where the Royal Observatory is (rmg.co.uk) the solstice is an actual moment in time. They say the Summer Solstice is

'in reality an exact moment in time that falls upon that day. This moment comes when whichever hemisphere you're in is most tilted towards the Sun.'

In 2025, the summer solstice will occur on Saturday 21 June at 03.42 BST (02.42 GMT).

Pentecost, or 'Whitsun' as it used to be known as, falls this year on Sunday 8 June. It is always 50 days after Easter Sunday and is recognised by many to be the birthday of the church. But just like the Solstice the birth of the church was not a day but a moment.

In chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament, the first day of Pentecost is described with the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. It was the moment the fearful and somewhat confused followers of Jesus became emboldened and empowered in living life in a new way. Despite the threats

and dangers of persecution, these first followers of Christ – who were soon to be called Christians – changed their outlook and values to live in the light of God's radical love for every person. In Acts 2 verse 42 it says they lived 'devoted to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.'

The church has been seeking to do this in the best way they can for some 2000 years now. It has not always succeeded. But then the church is made up from people who recognise they are sinners and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3 verse 23). At Pentecost this year, in church we will celebrate again the gift of the Holy Spirit as God's presence with us. The Spirit who convicts us where we fall short; brings forgiveness through Christ's death and resurrection; and empowers us to live better and more faithful lives.

You are warmly welcome to join us in church for Pentecost. Come and learn with us about the amazing grace of God and his Spirit. Details of our services can be found as usual elsewhere in the magazine.

Best wishes
Rev'd John Saxon

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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

June 1 st	Sun after Ascension	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
June 8 th	Pentecost-Whitsun	Parish Eucharist	11am
June 15 th	Trinity Sunday	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
June 22 nd	Trinity 1	Parish Eucharist	11am
June 29 th	Trinity 2	Service at Little Bentley	10.30am
July 6 th	Trinity 3	Parish Eucharist BCP	11am
July 13 th	Trinity 4	Parish Eucharist	11am
July 20 th	Trinity 5	Evensong BCP	6.30pm
July 27 th	Trinity 6	Parish Eucharist	11am

St Mary's, Little Bentley

June 1st Morning Prayer 11am
June 15th Holy Communion 11am
June 29th Praise in the Garden 10.30am
July 6th Morning Prayer 11am
June 20th Holy Communion 11am