

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

March 2026



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all

It feels as though it has rained most days this year, and today has been especially wet, with surface water causing various issues. The drains at Hare Green playing field were recently backing up as they struggled to cope with the volume. The sun came out yesterday for a couple of hours though, the daffodils are poking through and the snowdrops look so pretty, particularly at St George's, as you can see on this month's cover, kindly supplied by Jenny.

We're thanking volunteers this month, and it feels especially fitting for a village like ours, where so much of what we value is powered by people who freely give their time, energy, and care. From those who organise events, support neighbours, maintain community spaces, run local groups, or simply step in when help is needed, our village is shaped every day by acts of generosity that often go unseen. These volunteers are the quiet heartbeat of our community, and their contribution makes this a place we are proud to call home.

If you've ever thought about getting involved yourself, even in a small way, there's always a place for you. Every

contribution, however modest, makes a real difference to make our village such a welcoming and supportive place.

Awareness days in March include:

- 1st - Zero Discrimination Day
- 3rd - World Wildlife Day
- 8th - International Women's Day
- 15th - Mothering Sunday
- 21st - World Down Syndrome Day
- 24th - Deputy Editor's birthday (17!)

I hope you enjoy this month's edition.

**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 **APRIL 2026** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th MARCH 2026** 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.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR VILLAGE MAGAZINE HEROES

As we look back on another year of The Messenger, we are filled with immense gratitude for the wonderful team of contributors, advertisers, sponsors, delivery volunteers, and everyone who plays a part in bringing our village magazine to life. Your dedication keeps our community informed, connected, and celebrated.

To Our Contributors

Your creativity and passion shine through every article, story, update, and photograph. Whether you are sharing local news, personal reflections, or capturing village life through your lens, your work gives the magazine its heart. Thank you for your time, talent, and commitment to producing thoughtful, engaging content.

To Our Advertisers

Your support is vital to the sustainability of the magazine. By choosing to advertise with us, you not only promote your businesses but also invest directly in the life of our community. Your partnership enables us to keep the magazine free and widely distributed. We are truly grateful for your continued trust.

To Our Sponsors

Your generosity strengthens everything we do. Your contributions help us improve the magazine, support its production, and ensure it reaches every household. Thank you for believing in the value of local communication and for supporting our mission.

To Our Delivery Team

Whatever the weather, you ensure the magazine reaches every doorstep. Your reliability and community spirit are deeply appreciated. You are the final, essential link between the magazine and our readers.

To the Deputy Editor and Proof-reader

Thank you for the steady support, careful attention, and behind-the-scenes work that keep each issue accurate, polished, and running smoothly. The Editor couldn't manage without you both!

Together, you have all played a crucial role in the continued success of our village magazine. We look forward to another year of collaboration, creativity, and community spirit. Thank you for being the heart and soul of The Messenger.

With heartfelt gratitude,
The Messenger Committee



GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Mrs Lizzie Ridout cILCA

Email: clerk@greatbromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk



As we come out of winter, it's lovely to see signs of spring emerging, with snowdrops out and daffodils bursting into life.

I want to start by thanking residents for taking the time to pick up litter and take pride in the village. Your efforts make a real difference to the place we all share.

Tendring District Council's Local Plan is now out for consultation. Please take the time to view it at

www.tendringdc.gov.uk/consultations/local-plan-review-preferred-options, as it directly affects our village. Comments must be submitted by 23rd March 2026. The proposals include 4,500 new homes adjacent to us, referred to as Hare Green Garden Village, and a further 6,000 homes at Horsley Cross, to be known as Horsley Cross Garden Village. These are in addition to the developments already approved across the district and reflect the new targets set by Government.

The Parish Council has also been approached by a developer wishing to present at our next meeting on 11th March 2026 at 7.00pm, subject to confirmation. Details will be posted on the Community Facebook page. The proposed site is currently outside the

existing Local Plan.

Tendring District Council has issued a new contract to Veolia, starting in April 2026, which will introduce kerb-side collection of glass bottles. As a result, the bottle banks in Church Meadow will be removed over the next six months. We will update you once we have a confirmed date.

A reminder that if you have a hedge bordering a public path or highway, it is your responsibility to ensure it does not obstruct safe and free use of the route. Please trim it back to your boundary where needed.

We have collected nine large nitrous oxide canisters along a 750m stretch of Hilliards Road. We have previously highlighted the serious risks associated with using this gas for recreational purposes, including the potential for injury, long-term health effects, and the impact on local residents and wildlife. Raising awareness helps reinforce the dangers and may encourage people to reconsider this harmful practice. If you notice further canisters or related activity, please let us know so we can continue to monitor and help keep our community safe.

Cllr Andrew Fairley

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"From mighty acorns: the story of the British Oak" will be the subject of the talk by Jim Paine at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7

7RS on Thursday 9th April at 7:45pm. Free admission to members, non-members £2. Everyone is welcome.

Do you like being outdoors?

Enjoy meeting people?

Fancy doing some volunteering?

Then The River Stour Trust would like to hear from you!

We welcome new members, volunteers and potential skippers, anyone with a love of the countryside and the great outdoors. If you like the idea of training to become an Inland Waterways accredited skipper, taking people out on trips, or being a banksider at Flatford, liaising with visitors and selling trip tickets, we'd like to hear from you.

Our skipper training programme begins in the spring each year and is open to both men and women.

After training you are free to give as much or as little time as you would like between Easter and October and would join a friendly group of people dedicated to conservation and the health of the River Stour and



River Stour Trust

Registered charity number 257806

its wildlife. But it's also fun, and enjoyable to be doing good in such a beautiful and historic area.

For more information and contact details, visit the Trust's website: www.riverstourtrust.org, or ring Kevin Taylor on 01206 322122.



A passenger trip on the Stour Trusty II and Maria Constable moored for trips at Flatford



ARDLEIGH SURGERY

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your continued support.

Weight loss injections

If you are considering weight loss injections privately, please check this will not affect any other medication you are taking, in particular contraception and HRT. This can have a decreased effect with using these injections and should be advised about this.

Social Prescriber

Unfortunately, we no longer have a social prescriber here at the surgery. Please complete a medical request via Anima or contact reception and we can navigate you to the appropriate service if available.

Please Keep Medical Queries Separate from Prescription Requests

Please do not include medical queries within your medication request. Prescription requests are processed by our prescription clerks, who are not medically trained and cannot assess clinical concerns.

Any medical issues added to a medication request may not be reviewed until after the prescription has been processed, which could delay appropriate care.

We have previously experienced a significant event as a result of this, so we kindly ask for your cooperation in helping us keep patients safe.

Thank you for your understanding.

Over the next few months, we'll be running an **Empowerment Series** from **A to Z**, focusing on common health topics and how you can take charge of your own care. For those who can't wait, the full list is on our website.

D- Dyslexia

The diagnosis of dyslexia in its pure and isolated form is not a GP service. In children, the school should make the referral. In adults, the referral can be made by yourself to an educational psychologist.

Cont.d...

Contact the British Dyslexia Association (BDA):

- Offers both in-person and remote dyslexia assessments conducted by qualified assessors.
- Cost: £882 for an assessment with a psychologist.
- Process: Apply directly through their website.

E - Eye problems – Primary Care Eye Services

There is a fantastic service called the Primary Care Eye Services open to all NHS patients.

A qualified optometrist will see you, usually on the same day, and can:

- Thoroughly examine your eye.
- Prescribe medication if needed.
- Refer you directly to the hospital eye team if required. This service is free and accessible to all.

F- Fit notes

Fit note not given until 7 days of self-certification. Patients can complete an SC2 form themselves. NHS GPs do not provide 'fitness to return to work' certificates. These are provided by occupational health specialists through the employer.

MMR Vaccine

As from 01.01.26 all children will be offered the combined MMRV (Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella). Parents will be contacted when their child is eligible. For those who do not fall in the 12 months to 18 months in the routine schedule these will also be contacted.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and for being such a vital part of our community. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the months ahead.

*Kind regards,
The Team at Ardleigh Surgery*

Sunday 8th March

The Deanery Choir will be singing at **St Georges Church, Great Bromley CO7 7TS** at the 11am communion service. The choir will sing 'Locus Iste' by William Byrd. **William Byrd** was an English Renaissance composer. Considered among the greatest composers of the Renaissance, he had a profound influence on composers both from his native country and on the Continent. He is often considered along with John Dunstaple and Henry Purcell as one of England's most important composers of early music. Byrd's first known professional employment was his appointment in 1563 as organist and master of the choristers at Lincoln Cathedral. Residing at what is now 6 Minster Yard Lincoln, he remained in post until 1572. His period at Lincoln was not entirely trouble-free, for on 19 November 1569 the Dean and

Chapter cited him for



Supporting Church music in the Tendring area

'certain matters alleged against him' as the result of which his salary was suspended. Since Puritanism was influential at Lincoln, it is possible that the allegations were connected with over-elaborate choral polyphony or organ playing.

Good Friday - 3rd April Advanced notice

The Deanery choir will be performing 'Requiem' by Cherubini at **St Edmund Church, Tendring CO16 0BN** and also 'The Reproaches' by Healey Willan, a traditional prayer for Good Friday. This service starts at 7pm.

*Graham Bell
Deanery Choir*

BEWARE - Telephone and text message scams appear to be on the increase

Never disclose the following details over the phone:

four-digit card PIN to anyone, including the bank or police

full password or online banking codes

personal details, unless you are sure who you are talking to

Call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 to report incidents

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Interim Clerk: Mrs Lizzie Ridout cILCA

Email: clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

As we welcome the fresh breath of spring this March, we would like share our latest updates with you.

February was a whirlwind of activity as members of the Parish Council attended all the National Grid Planning Inspectorate hearings. These hearings are critical in shaping the energy landscape in Little Bromley, and we have been working hard to ensure that our village's voice is heard in this ongoing fight. You can read more about the Infrastructure Projects Update on page 27 Local Plan.

The Parish Council met with Tendring District Council (TDC) to discuss the proposed 17 new dwellings for Little Bromley and the Garden Villages proposed for Horsley Cross (6,000 houses) and Hare Green (4,500 houses). Negotiations are ongoing and we will continue to oppose these proposals. TDC have launched a six week consultation running from Monday 9 February 2026 until 5pm on Monday 23 March 2026. This consultation sets out the TDC's preferred policy approaches and the sites proposed for future residential development. They welcome feedback both in support of and objecting to the proposals, as well as any alternative suggestions. Your involvement and feedback are crucial.

The Preferred Options consultation document and supporting information are available online at [Tendring District Council - Planning Policy Consultations](#). Responses can be submitted through their interactive consultation portal.

Local Elections - The latest update in

respect of local government re-organisation is that elections to Essex County Council will now be taking place in May this year, having been suspended last year, and despite the fact that the County Council, as well as all the district councils in Essex are being abolished and will cease to exist on 1st April 2028. Local Government Secretary Steve Reed was quoted by the BBC saying, "Running a series of elections for short-lived zombie councils will be costly". In the meantime, these "zombie councils" are still supposed to be working for the good of the residents, but as a Parish Council our biggest concern is that despite knowing the date that Tendring District Council and Essex County Council will cease to exist, we currently have no idea what will replace them or what local government will look like in Essex going forward.

Speedwatch - At our January meeting, the Parish Council discussed growing concerns from residents about cars speeding through the village, exceeding the 30mph limit, and large lorries ignoring the 7.5T weight restriction. These issues are compounded in Little Bromley by the lack of pavements, forcing pedestrians - especially children walking to the school bus stop - to use the road, putting them at risk from speeding drivers.

Additionally, the heavy lorries not only endanger pedestrians but also cause damaging vibrations to older, foundation-less properties near the road. The Parish Council has written to the local Police requesting a visit from officers to conduct a risk assessment

and to work with the Parish Council on a plan of action.

Our next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 19th March at 7:30pm at The Haywain. We look

forward to seeing you there, but in the meantime feel free to reach out to us with any questions or to share your thoughts. You can email us at clerk@littlebromleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

KNIT AND KNATTER

The W.I. group called Knit and Knatter was formed several years ago before Covid. We meet on every 2nd Wednesday of every month - 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Our venue is Seven Rivers Cheshire Home, Great Bromley. All are welcome to join us villagers, friends and residents meeting together in a warm environment, sharing cake and a cuppa.

Knitting and crocheting making articles made with love for worthy charities, causes and our dear friends at Seven Rivers. Over the years we have supported our local Maternity Hospital , the R.B.L

with
Homemade Poppies, two charities in the Ukraine and many good causes, for example, hats for Fishermen and also promoted crafts in our own Primary School by providing a "Pins and Needles"

after school club. In the autumn of 2025 we discussed and decided to make a scarf for every resident at Seven Rivers and to give them a little present for Christmas. Unfortunately because of illness and respiratory problems at Seven Rivers, Knit and Knatter could not give out our beautiful scarves made in the colours of the Leonard Cheshire Organisation. We are planning perhaps to prepare a display at the upcoming Flower Festival at the church to promote the work we do. All are welcome to join us in the Tranquillity Room at Seven Rivers to share in this very sociable monthly event.



STOUR VALLEY U3A

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 500 members and 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, bridge, Sunday Singles lunch 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 of the month at 2.15pm in the Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt, CO7 6TP.

Guests are welcome for a charge of £4.

On 11th March Andrew Baker, acclaimed cruise ship lecturer, will return to talk on "The Anatomy of the NHS" and on 8th April Bernard Lockett's subject will be "The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan".

Please take a look at our website <https://stourvalley.u3asite.uk/welcome/> for more information and contact details.



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.

MANNINGTREE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Last month club members enjoyed a field trip, a talk by Kevin Pigney on Seascapes, Landscapes and Long Exposure Photography, and an open colour print competition.

Our programme for March is as follows;

Saturday 7th March – Photography Marathon (5 hours to take 10 images on themes given on the day)

Thursday 12th March – Club workshop – Table Top

Thursday 26th March – PDI Competition - Abstract and/or Minimalism

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

This month's featured image by Nigel Humphries was the winning image from

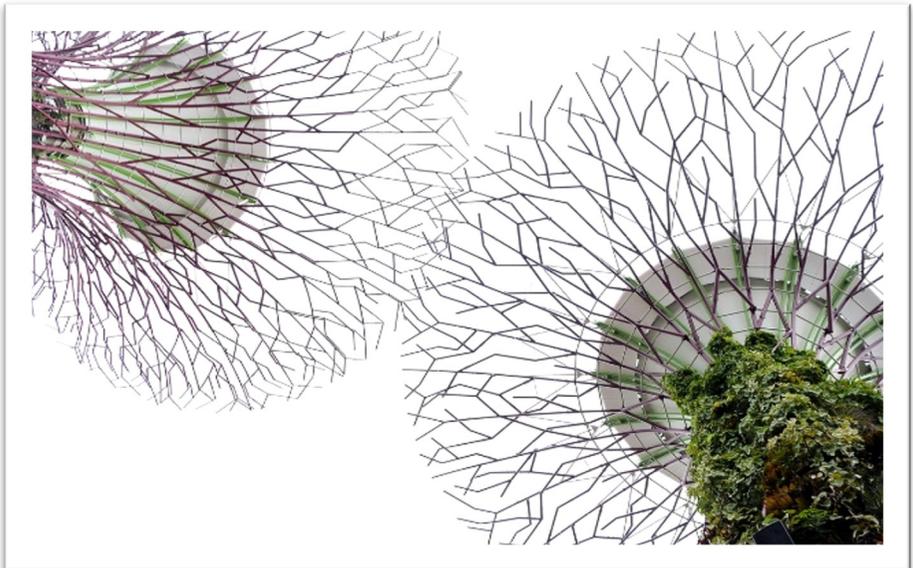
our recent print competition – The Built Environment.

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/>



THE REVERENDS WILLIAM & ARTHUR GRAHAM (PART 1)

I recently had correspondence from Zoe Couacaud in the USA who is researching her great-grandmother Phyllis Ponton, who was brought up by the Graham family at Great Bromley Rectory. This set me off on a path of discovery about the Graham family who provided Great Bromley with two rectors for almost 80 years.

First, a simplified note about the clergy “in the old days” as I understand it. Each parish had a priest, and by law the local landowners had to fund the church by paying a tithe,

being a tenth of anything they produced. First this was the physical goods (hence Tithe barns in which to store the produce) and later it was paid in monetary value. The tithes were in two parts: greater tithe was from everything grown (wheat, mangolds etc) and lesser tithe was from livestock and their produce. Some rectories also had a farm known as Glebe land – there are still many farms in England retaining the name of “Glebe Farm”. The entire income, often with a parsonage house (rectory) to inhabit, was known as the “living”.

An advowson is the right of a patron to appoint a priest to a parish. This patron was often the descendant of a landowner who many centuries ago founded the church. Or the patron could be a body such as a university college. In the case where an individual rector was the patron, having bought or inherited the advowson, he had access to this “living”, and sometimes had more than one parish. However, he was not necessarily doing the work! A vicar could be appointed to do the day-to-day work in the parish, and he would usually receive only the lesser tithe as his stipend (income). Sometimes a rector or vicar might employ another minister as his assistant, known as a curate, to help run the parish for them.

William Hall Graham was rector from 1837, following the death of Revd Henry Vernon, but in fact he was already living at the rectory in 1833 as assistant curate under Vernon who had moved to the south coast in his old age.

In May 1855 the curacy was advertised (stipend £100 per annum). By the time Revd W.H. Graham died at Malvern in 1857 (aged only 50) his curate was H. G. Evans, soon followed by Revd Francis Arnold who became rector in March 1858, with the living valued at £698 per annum. In October 1858 Arnold became curate elsewhere, and in June 1860 William’s son Arthur became rector, the



patron being named as W. Graham, who I assume was Arthur's older brother. More research is needed to unravel the reasons for the arrival and departure of the various rectors and their curates, whether through family links or for other reasons.

To be continued...

Scams are nothing new!

In early 1847 the newspapers reported an attempted scam on the Revd William Graham that was foiled. *[Edited transcript of news article below.]*

“A young man named Francis Bennett was charged with attempting to defraud the Rev. W. Graham, of Great Bromley, of £1 as follows:

A merchant of the City of London said he received from the Rev. Graham the following letter with a request to make inquiries about it;

To: The Rev Mr. Grayham (*sic*), Great Bromley Jan 27, 1847.

Rev. Sir, We have to inform you that we have a case of wine from France lying at our wharf. It is addressed to you, to be left till called for. You will oblige by forwarding 20s per Post Office order for freight and wharfage, when we will forward it per Eastern Counties Railway. We do not like to keep goods long, in case of fire. An early reply will oblige.

We are, Sir, yours, &c., for James & Henry Wharf.

Will. George, 22 St. Martin's-le-Grand, London.

Suspecting that a trick was intended, the witness went with the son of the clergyman to No. 22, St. Martin's-le-Grand, which they found to be a coffee-shop, but the owner knew nothing of the matter and volunteered to help bring the schemer to justice.

At the time at which the writer of the letter intimated that he should receive the money, the witness, a policeman, and the boy, who had a pound's worth of marked money in his pocket, went to the coffee-shop and sat apart from each other.

Presently the prisoner entered, and stated that he wrote the letter, and that he had the case of wine, believed to be champagne. The money was given to him, he pocketed it, and upon giving his receipt for the amount, signed George Williams, he was taken into custody.

The prisoner stated that he committed the offence because he was much distressed. 'I have nothing to say, but confess I have done what I am charged with, and you may as well commit me for trial.' It transpired that another clergyman in the neighbourhood had received a similar letter.”

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

Dates for your diary



MARCH

4	WI - Historical Costume, Village Hall	7:30pm
11	Knit and Knatter, Seven Rivers Cheshire Home	2:00-4:00pm
11	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
18	WI - Afternoon Art Class	1:30pm
19	Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain	7:30pm
23	Dementia Café, Methodist Hall, Forge Lane, Gt Bentley	11:00-1:00pm

APRIL

1	WI - Pamela Larkins: My Art Journey, Village Hall	7:30pm
8	Knit and Knatter, Seven Rivers Cheshire Home	2:00-4:00pm
8	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall	7:00pm
15	WI - Afternoon Art Class	1:30pm
28	WI - Crafting Social, Village Hall	10:00am-12:30pm

MAY

13	Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall (Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting)	7:00pm
21	Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain (Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting)	7:30pm

THE PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER

If you are not aware of the Priority Services Register, this may be of interest to you or someone you know.

The Priority Services Register (PSR) is a free UK-wide service offering extra help during electricity, gas, or water supply interruptions.

You may be eligible if you or someone in your household relies on medical equipment, has a disability, long-term illness, dementia, mental health difficulties, refrigerated medicines, is of pensionable age, or has children under five.

Support during a power cut can include:

- A 24/7 priority contact number

- Text and voice alerts about local outages and severe weather

- Tailored support such as home visits, hot meals, welfare checks, and updates for family or friends

- In some cases, hotel accommodation and transport

- On-site community support with hot food, drinks, Wi-Fi, and charging points during major outages

To join the PSR, contact your local electricity network operator, gas distributor, and water supplier, as each runs its own register. You can find your providers using your postcode on the Energy Networks Association and Water UK websites, then apply online, by phone, or by post.

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

- 19 March
- 9 April
-

9.45am to 10.15am



Post Office & Community Library
The Great Bromley Cross Pub



Wednesdays
10.00am - 12 noon



Did you know? Our local area has three Automated External Defibrillators. You can access these at:

- The Courthouse, Harwich Road, CO7 7JG
- The Great Bromley Cross Pub, Ardleigh Road, CO7 7TL
- The Haywain, Bentley Road, CO11 2PL

Also at The Great Bromley Cross Pub 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 BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Surgery News

We are very sorry to announce that after over 40 years working in the NHS, Dr Sean O'Reilly, our Senior Partner, will be retiring from the Practice on 31 March 2026.

Dr O'Reilly initially trained at The Royal Free in London and then worked in hospitals in both Hertfordshire and Essex.

He was a trainee at Great Bentley surgery in 1999 with Dr Hunt and then worked as a Partner at Mersea Island Surgery until 2006. Dr O'Reilly then returned to Great Bentley Surgery as a Partner to take over from Dr Steiner and he became the Lead Trainer for prospective GPs. During his time at Great Bentley he has trained over 30 GPs, some of whom are still working at the Practice today. He also developed an interest in patients with learning disabilities and has known some of these patients longer than anyone else at the Surgery.

Dr O'Reilly is looking forward to his retirement and spending more time with his wife. He also plans to spend more time watching live sport, particularly Colchester United and Arsenal football teams.

The whole team at Great Bentley will miss working with him and wish him a very happy and well deserved retirement.

Dementia Café

The next Great Bentley Dementia Café will be held on Monday, 23 March 2026 from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm at The

Methodist Hall, Forge Lane, Great Bentley. If you are a patient, carer or a family member, you are welcome to attend.

AskmyGP Requests

We have noticed that we are receiving multiple requests on AskmyGP for either the same medical problem, or requests for the same medication. This not only causes confusion but also additional work for our very busy Practice team. Please remember that only urgent requests are dealt with within 24 hours. For all routine requests and medication requests, you need to allow three working days for us to complete these for you.

Dogs being left tied up outside the Surgery

There have been a couple of occasions recently where patients have left their dogs tied up by the entrance to the Surgery door whilst they are attending an appointment. In order to ensure that dogs are kept safe and that patients who are frightened of dogs are not put off coming into the Surgery, could you please not bring your dog to the Surgery when you have an appointment. Your help with this is appreciated.

Patient Participation Group Meetings

The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group will be held on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 6.30pm at Great Bentley Village Hall in the Mitchell Room.

Sue Mitson
Operations Manager

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UPDATE

National Grid

National Grid's application for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on 26 September. The initial examination hearings commenced on 10th February. Little Bromley and Ardleigh were represented by Barrister Simon Bell. Both Parish Councils attended all the Hearings and await the next steps. In particular, Simon Bell has requested a specific hearing focused on the damage that the National Grid project will have on both villages and surrounding area. You can read Simon Bell's Letter to the Planning Inspectorate and Additional Submission on behalf of both Parish Councils on the Ardleigh Parish Council website - <https://ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substations>.

National Grid carried out a Targeted Consultation relating to the proposed changes to the alignment of the access route to the East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) off Bentley Road in Little Bromley. This Targeted Consultation closed on 23 February. The proposed changes were

made as a result of comments from land owners.

Five Estuaries Windfarm

Five Estuaries DCO was granted development consent by the Secretary of State on 17 December.

North Falls Windfarm

North Falls DCO examination has been completed by the Planning Inspectorate and a three-month extension decision stage has been granted until 28 April 2026.

Five Estuaries and North Falls have released the second draft of their Joint Substation Design Guide. They are inviting comments on this consultation until 17 March. Details and comments on this engagement can be found here - www.fiveestuaries.co.uk/designguide/

Tarchon

We are expecting to hear from Tarchon with their plans for building their Interconnector soon. The latest news is that they are considering new areas for their proposed site within the 5km radius of the EACN.

CLACTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Clacton Choral Society welcomes you to enjoy their Easter concert, chosen this year as Mozart Requiem Mass.

Under the direction of Carol Newnham with organist Duncan Archard, the choir will include four guest soloists.

Also to be sung are 'King of Glory, King of Peace' by J.S.Bach and 'Come Down O Love Divine', by William Harris.

St. James' Church, Tower Road,

Clacton on Sea, CO15 1LE will host the concert at 4pm on Saturday 28 March 2026.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the concert.

Tickets in advance at £15 from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/clacton-choral-society

Or from Roger Broomfield
on 07949 127216
rogerbroomfield@hotmail.com

YELLOW-LEGGED ASIAN HORNET

Do you know what it looks like and do you know what to do if you spot one? And why it matters to us all?

You may have read about the non-native invasive species Yellow legged Asian hornet last summer when a nest was spotted in Frinton. The nest, like all others discovered in our country, was destroyed and analysed as part of an ongoing campaign to stop this insect becoming established in our country.

This insect poses a significant threat to our honeybees and many other pollinators. It is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and if allowed to become established in Britain, will cause a major concern to our soft fruit growers, vineyards, outdoor markets, and outdoor catering events such as festivals, not to mention beekeepers and bee farmers.

It's sting is also more powerful than the European hornet, wasps, or bees. The Yellow-legged Asian hornet varies their diet throughout the year and will hunt our native insects as well as fruit and

meat/protein. Where they are already established in Europe, they are a public nuisance and have impacted honey production and other food sectors.

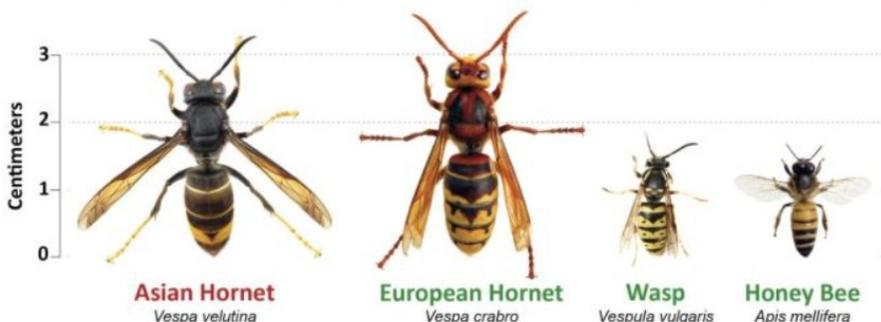
The Yellow-legged Asian hornet is not easily confused with any other species. They have a dark brown or black velvety body. Characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs (hence the name).

They are very slightly smaller than the native European Hornet. Introduced to France in 2004 where it has spread rapidly.

Hundreds of sightings have been recorded in the UK since it was first spotted in 2016, but only really regarded as a threat in the last couple of years. High possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, plant pots), freight containers, in vehicles, or in/on untreated timber.

The possibility that it could fly across the Channel has not been ruled out.

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport



Animal & Plant Health Agency

We all need to keep a look out. Overwintered queens will start to come out of hibernation from February, weather dependent, and will look for somewhere to build a primary nest and start laying eggs -this may be in a shed or similar. They will then usually move to a higher location, such as trees, and build a larger secondary nest. In the autumn more queens will be produced who will leave the nest to mate and look for a suitable place to hibernate over the winter. It is only the queens that survive into the winter – the other



YELLOW-LEGGED ASIAN HORNET

- **FEATURES:** Dark black/brown body with a broad orange/yellow stripe near the tail, yellow-tipped legs.
- **SIZE:** Up to 3cm
- **WHEN WILL I SEE IT?** April - November
- **WILL IT STING?** One hornet unlikely to sting, but will become aggressive if it perceives a threat to its nest.
- **YELLOW-LEGGED HORNETS ARE AN INVASIVE SPECIES AND SHOULD BE REPORTED IF SEEN.**

hornets die and the nest is abandoned.

Further information can be found on the National Bee Unit's website <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/asian-hornet>.

It is vital that we all play our part in spotting, photographing and reporting any sightings.

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: Asian Hornet Watch

- online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet

- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk

Colchester Beekeepers' Association are happy to give talks to clubs, groups, schools, or other organisations.

Please contact
yiah.colchester@gmail.com

BADMINTON CLUB

Great Bromley Badminton Club welcomes new members!

We are a mixed age, gender and ability club who concentrate on the *fun* aspect of this inclusive sport.

We meet every Monday evening (except Bank Holidays, August, and Christmas) between 1800-1900hrs at Great Bromley Village Hall. We work on a very flexible 'pay and play' basis; subs are £2 per session for U18 and £3 per session for adults.

Our members past and present have all had different motivations, but everyone can expect to:

Build Friendships

Forge friendships in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Improve Fitness

Encourage physical exercise that improves overall health and fitness levels.

Enjoying the Sport
Experience fun and enjoyment through playing badminton in a friendly, relaxed

and encouraging atmosphere.

Whether by yourself or with a friend, come along on a Monday session for a free taster and see how you get on. What do you have to lose?!



CHURCH JOTTINGS

The Bells Ring Out!

How many of you heard the lovely bells of St George's Church ringing out for three hours on the afternoon of Saturday 24th January and wondered what it was all about? They were rung as a tribute to Philip Erith, an experienced local ringer for over sixty years in the parishes of Ardleigh and Great Bromley. He was taught by his father, Felix, when he was Tower Captain at Ardleigh, and more recently Philip was associated with the band at Great Bromley.

Six members of the Essex Association of Change Ringers, all of whom knew Philip well, took part in the peal: Don Walters, Gavin Edwards, Simon Rudd, Colin Chapman, David Sparling and Ian Culham. They rang 5040 consecutive changes in seven methods — Ipswich Surprise, Oxford Treble Bob, Bourne Surprise, Norwich Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor. It was a notable achievement and a fitting tribute to Philip, who died last November.

If anyone is interested in this ancient art of campanology, please get in touch with either the local Captain of the Bells or the Churchwardens (contact details are at the back of this magazine). We need to keep these bells ringing!

Helping Hands

We are so blessed to have many willing hands helping us maintain the graveyard, surrounding hedges, and the intensive cleaning inside the church. Helping Hands was formed several years ago and has continued to flourish — especially in friendship — ever since.

Our group meets on the first Saturday of every month, either working in the graveyard or cleaning the church. They also find time to support other church activities, including coffee mornings, flower festivals, and tidying sheds and

compost heaps. The group regularly meets for lunch together at the Court House, and I've included a picture of us enjoying our New Year 2026 lunch.

Thank you, dear friends, for all that you do and for the time you give to keeping the church and churchyard looking spectacular — very fitting for the "Cathedral of the Tending Hundred", as it is described in many guidebooks to historic churches.

Hobbies in Bloom – Flower Festival 2026 - June 26th, 27th and 28th

After two exciting meetings in December and January, great plans are already underway for what promises to be our most exciting Flower Festival yet at St George's Church. The title has been chosen: "Hobbies in Bloom."

Here is the programme so far:

Friday 26th June – 10.00am–5.00pm

- Music Day for St George's School – morning and afternoon performances
- 3.00pm – Vicar's Tea Party
- Hobby Café open all day

Saturday 27th June – 10.00am–8.00pm

- Hobby Café open all day
- 10.00am – Pizza Caravan arrives
- 6.00pm – Black Cactus Choir Concert

Sunday 28th June – from 10.00am

- Hobby Café open all day
- 12 noon – Hog Roast
- Ice Cream Van in the afternoon
- 2.00–3.30pm – Boxted Silver Band, outdoor concert on the green
- 4.30–5.00pm – Community Songs of Praise
- Grand Raffle Draw

Wow — what a weekend it will be! If you would like to help, that would be wonderful.

Many thanks in advance.

Love Jenny

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

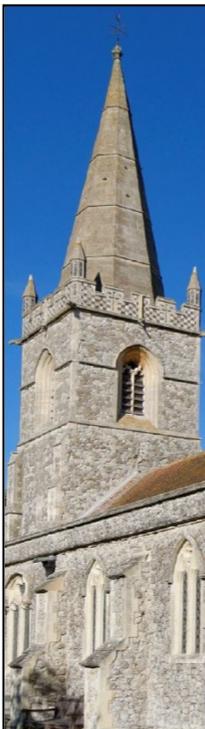
I wonder how many of us experienced a bit of 'Royal mania' last month around the visit of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Dedham was transformed from a relatively peaceful village to a highly secure public stage for their visit. People came from far and wide to get a glimpse of the couple (notwithstanding the chilly and wet climes that prevailed on the day!). People prepared cakes, dance moves, songs and speeches for the occasion and some went to great lengths to get a happy snap or a handshake with either or both of them. And then, shortly after they departed, life as normal resumed. But the event left its impression upon us all through photographs, memories and the inevitable flurry of press

coverage of the visit.

Only a few months ago at Christmas time, we remembered the coming of another royal. Not in a peaceful English village, but in a fairly modest home in a small city in the Middle East. His arrival attracted some attention (both at home and abroad), but was otherwise fairly unremarkable. But his legacy and what He came to teach and to do for humanity was unimaginably profound. He came to rescue us from the difficulties and darkness that sap us of the fullness of life to which many of us aspire. He came to deal with the spiritual isolation we face because many of us find ourselves in dark and hopeless paths in life we never thought we'd end up. And He came to demonstrate the sin-forgiving, death-defeating victory He won from us through His sacrifice once for all upon the cross.

The Church is currently in the season of Lent. At this time Christians often try and slow down and pause or take time out to examine themselves, to turn away from what seems to rob them of life and hope, to give up something so that they might seek God more intentionally. Do you ever feel life goes at such a pace that it seems to just pass you by? Why not take some time to slow down, to 'unplug from the matrix' and to reconnect with your Maker? We'd be delighted to help you to do that. Just head to our group website www.tendringdedhamparishes.org.uk and find a service near you.

*Best wishes,
Phillip*



Luigi
CHERUBINI
REQUIEM
&
THE REPROACHES
Healey Willan
THE DEANERY
CHOIR
April 3rd 2026
(Good Friday)
Peter Clayton ~ Organist
Sally Pudney ~ Conductor
7pm start
St Edmund King & Martyr
1 The Street Tendring
CO16 0BN
Retiring collection for Church funds



St George's Church, Great Bromley

For St George's contacts, information, or to receive our email newsletter, please visit www.greatbromley.org.uk or email us at church@greatbromley.org.uk

Mar 1st	Lent 2	Parish Eucharist BCP with choir	11am
Mar 8th	Lent 3	Parish Eucharist with choir	11am
Mar 15th	Lent 4	<i>Mothering Sunday service - Little Bentley</i>	<i>11am</i>
		Evensong BCP with choir	6.30pm
Mar 22nd	Passion Sunday	Parish Eucharist	11am
Mar 29th	Palm Sunday	Procession & Eucharist with choir	11am
Apr 2-3rd	Maundy Thursday / Good Friday - <i>see website / poster</i>		
Apr 4th	Easter Eve	<i>Easter Vigil - Little Bromley</i>	<i>8pm</i>
Apr 5th	Easter Day	Easter Eucharist (CW) with choir	11am
Apr 12th	Easter 2	Parish Eucharist with choir	11am
Apr 19th	Easter 3	Evensong BCP with choir	6.30pm
Apr 23rd	St George's Day	<i>see website / poster</i>	
Apr 26th	Easter 4	Parish Eucharist	11am

St Mary's Church, Little Bentley

Mar 1 st	Holy Communion	11am
Mar 15 th	Mothering Sunday family service	11am
Mar 29 th	<i>Palm Sunday at Great Bromley</i>	<i>11am</i>
Apr 5 th	Easter Communion	11am
Apr 19 th	Morning Prayer	11am

Tendring and Dedham Parishes (TADP) - for the group bulletin and news see www.tendringdedhamparishes.org.uk