

The

Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

June 2020



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

For most of us the way we used to live feels like a very distant memory now, although I guess for some, maybe not that much has changed. It's heartening, but not surprising, that communities have rallied to support those who need assistance in these changed times, and help is out there for anyone who needs it, whether it be support in the form of shopping, or maybe even a lesson on going online. We are a community of many talents and sharing is very much caring, however you do it.

Many events are still being cancelled or postponed so please do check beforehand. Great Bromley Parish Council continues, and the June meeting may be held outside at the Village Hall, subject to good weather, maintaining social distancing, and good strong voices!

In this month's issue there is a Broadband update, useful information about footpaths and how to report problems, and also two residents share their wartime memories with us - thank you Beryl and Gerald for sending them in. It made me wonder if readers would like to share their earliest memories of the Bromleys - see below for how to contribute.

June brings us the longest day (20th), already! I wonder how things will be in six months' time?! Also in June - National Volunteers' week is from the 1st to the 7th, Fathers' Day is on the 21st, and Armed Forces Day is on the 27th.

For those of you who are home-schooling children, we have a welcome half-term week off coming up. I think a well-deserved pat on the back is in order, particularly for those who are also holding down full-time jobs at the same time - it's not easy juggling both, and some of the homework is quite tricky! I've learnt a number of things from my youngest that I'm sure we never did when I was at school.

My cats (Monty and Bella) are wondering why we rarely leave the house now. Their daily ritual of peace and quiet and not a lot else has been well and truly invaded!

Take care, Lizzie



MATERIAL for the **JULY 2020** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th JUNE 2020** please.

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LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

We hope you are all keeping well and the 'Village Bags' were helpful (and enjoyable!)

The repairs to the war memorial are now in hand and we are planning on marking the VE anniversary by having the new post carved with a commemoration. Discussions are underway at present to agree the wording.

Regarding the 30mph proposed speed limit along Bentley Road, we have heard back from our MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, that Essex County Council is unwilling to reconsider the current 40 mph limit. We have requested a site visit by Council representatives to discuss, and we will of course keep you updated. In the meantime we are

asking all residents who see any accidents or incidents along this stretch of the road to please report these to the police 'NO MATTER HOW MINOR' as we need to support our case for a speed reduction to 30 mph.

The Council is continuing to hold meetings via video conferencing - any Parishioners with any queries should send them via email (littlebromleypc@gmail.com) and these will be addressed during the public participation section of the agenda.

The next meeting of the Council will be on the 16th July - at present it is intended to hold this via Zoom - but if this changes we will announce this on the website.



STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Recent Meetings

At our last meeting on Wednesday 4 March Maureen Clarke talked to us about "The plight of street orphans in India". At our recent AGM Dave Carman was voted in again as President and Speaker Secretary, Graeme Forsyth as Secretary and Val Pretty as Treasurer.

Future Meetings

The committee and those present at the AGM agreed that in the light of the Coronavirus outbreak all Club meetings would be cancelled for the next few months. We always take a break in August and we therefore plan to meet again on 2 September 2020 when Jan Derbyshire will speak on the good work of "The Shelley Centre For Therapeutic Riding".

Meeting Venue

We meet at the convenient St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB. Our Club endeavours to be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, and involve members to a minimal cost.

New Members are always very welcome at all meetings of the Stour Valley Men's Probus Club, just join us at 10am on a meeting date. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and provide the opportunity for development of acquaintances. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10 for 10.30am. Please contact President Dave Carman on 01255 880202 for further details.

There has for many years been a "Telephone Tree" in Great Bromley Women's Institute. It is a very efficient, and rather basic (some might say), mode of communication between members. Easy to organise, easy to operate and inclusive of all members. Each week for seven weeks, each member has received a telephone call chat from a committee member during this period of lockdown.

During one particular conversation five or six weeks ago, a member suggested that in some way would it be possible for our W.I. to help the NHS (bearing in mind that all our members here in Great Bromley have so many talents). From little acorns etc. we had to act quickly so, after many emails and telephone calls we settled upon making "Bags for Scrubs."

Many members and friends set about making these bags (rather like a large P.E. Bag) which the Critical Care Unit at Colchester and the Oaks Hospital were delighted with. Scrub Bags enable the Nurses and Care Workers to take off their scrubs at work and put them straight into the bag, take home and put straight into the washing machine - the bags had to be washable to a temperature of 60c.



In total our "Sewing Bees" made a magnificent 100 Scrubs Bags which

were either collected by Critical Care or delivered to the Oaks by my grandchildren Lucy and William. I cannot thank enough our members who made all those Laundry/Scrubs Bags. The NHS were so very grateful to the "Sewing Bees", great job! Well done, we have had some wonderful letters of thanks.

Talking about little acorns, I was inspired by the success with the bags to telephone a former member of our W.I. who is a Sister in Charge of the Neo-Natal unit at Colchester Maternity Hospital. "What can we do to help you Karen? Would you like some Scrubs? Laundry Bags? What can we do?" "We are fine," said Karen, "for all those things but a W.I. cake now and again would be brilliant!" So, our wonderful Bakers leapt into action - and for the last few weeks whenever Karen goes into work, we organise a cake to take with her. Karen has a young team who, under present working conditions, may at times need a cuppa and a piece of cake to keep them smiling. We have made Victoria Sandwich, chocolate cakes, Guinness cake, chocolate brownies and a special rainbow cake, to name but a few - as you can see in the pictures. Well done Bakers, a tremendous effort bringing much pleasure and joy to our hardworking and wonderful NHS Staff (especially Karen).

In comparison with many, we are a relatively small W.I. but in our case its 'quality not quantity', as they say.

Our ladies are wonderful, working together as a team and we are such good friends too. A really super bunch/wiggle? of ladies. It is such a privilege to be part of Great Bromley W.I. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

A THANK YOU TO GREAT BROMLEY WI

I was approached by Jenny Nicholls at the start of the lockdown for COVID 19 with a very kind offering of "is there anything the WI can do to help the Neonatal Unit in this turbulent time?" My initial response was "well not really, we are beginning to understand what we are dealing with and at present we have what we think all we need." I did say the staff were as worried as the rest of the nation and we found that talking and reassurance within the day to day shift team was helping and building up our support networks, it was amazing how reassuring a good strong cup of tea was doing to help this. We realised we were all feeling the same anxieties as the next nurse and health care professional.

Jenny offered to make a cake for me to take in to show the village's support to this team in appreciation of what we were doing. This was the beginning of a regular supply of cakes for the Neonatal team three to four times a week through the network of WI members that we so greatly appreciated.

During this time we used the variety of Victoria sponges, chocolate brownies, Guinness cake and rainbow cake to get through some happy and stressful times. The chocolate cake was a birthday cake for the ward clerk who could not celebrate her birthday with her family, only her work family this year.

The minute's silence for key workers had us all in tears; the cake was out at coffee time, and happier times and forward plans were talked about to get us all going again. The beautiful cakes were shared with day and night staff and also the lovely lady who was chasing around to stock us up on gowns had the last slice one day.

Everyone was hugely appreciated and never a crumb was left. A very big thank you to all the fantastic bakers of Great Bromley WI from the Colchester Hospital Neonatal team, you have helped to make this very stressful time just a bit more bearable. Thank you.

***Karen Moss, Lead Senior Nurse
Colchester Neonatal Unit***



IMPORTANT - COVID-19

Message from the Chairman of Great Bromley Parish Council

I urge you all to keep up to date with and follow the latest advice issued by the Government in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. I would also ask that we all be aware of our neighbours, and be on hand to provide support to those who might need it, particularly the elderly and those who are vulnerable.

For anyone who is struggling to find support, please call me on 01206 230688.

Cllr Fred Nicholls

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home decontamination services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods and services from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressure you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend,
help to protect
your family, friends
and neighbours
from scams.

Read It.
Share It.
Prevent It.

#Coronavirus
#ScamAware



Contact

For advice on scams call the
Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

I thought it would be useful to update you with some changes we have made at the Surgery due to the current situation with the Coronavirus.

For the protection of our patients and staff the main Surgery door is now kept closed and we are only asking patients to attend the Surgery if they have a pre-booked appointment which has been agreed by a doctor or nurse. If you come to the surgery without an appointment you will be asked by a member of the reception team to contact us by telephone.

The Surgery can still be contacted on the main telephone number 01206 250691 and we continue to operate our triage system for patients who need help or advice on the day from a doctor or nurse. A face to face consultation can be arranged after speaking to a doctor if it is needed. We have also introduced video consultations and an increased number of telephone appointments to ensure patients can

still speak to a doctor or nurse if needed.

If you have a prescription enquiry then this can be dealt with by contacting our dedicated prescription line on telephone number 01206 257557.

Please remember not to come to the Surgery to speak to someone about your prescription as you will be asked to phone the above number.

Prescription requests are not taken over the telephone in order to avoid errors. They can be requested by either dropping a request through the surgery door/prescription box, by sending an email to holliesprescriptions@nhs.net or by making a request via the Great Bentley Surgery website.

For all the latest guidance and advice regarding the Coronavirus patients can visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus). We are also trying to keep our patients up-to-date with any changes via the Great Bentley Surgery facebook page or our Surgery Website.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager

BROADBAND UPDATE

The implementation of a hyperfast broadband network in Great Bromley by County Broadband (CB) appears to be well underway. This will provide fast broadband connectivity to the 80% of the village who do not have access to the existing (BT) Openreach fibre network and will place Great Bromley in the top 6% in the UK with regards to the speeds available.

The implementation is being carried out under the OFCOM Electronic Communications Code. (CB) has been granted *Code Powers* by OFCOM which enables them to roll out fibre broadband projects in agreed locations, but CB must adhere strictly to the conditions contained within the code. A key element of the Code (and one which comes as a surprise to many observers) is that proposals for systems outside AONBs, conservation areas and other designated landscapes do not have to go through the normal planning process and as such neither the District Council or Parish Council are required to be consulted. At a high level the government has effectively given approved suppliers planning permission in order to get broadband rolled out as quickly as possible. However, as part of the Code, CB are working closely with local authorities especially regarding the impact of installing infrastructure in a rural location. For example, utilising tree surgeons with local knowledge and recommended by TDC.

New telegraph poles have been installed in the village and ducting is being instated where existing infrastructure either doesn't exist or is at capacity. As part of the aforementioned Code CB are able to utilise existing Openreach telegraph poles and ducting where appropriate.

Traditionally BT, now Openreach, has enjoyed a gentlemen's agreement with UK Power Networks (UKPN) enabling them to hang telecoms wires from

electricity poles (and vice versa). The only stipulation being a 1m separation between the wires. However, it is understood that this agreement ceased when Openreach was formally split from BT and a new arrangement regarding co-use of existing infrastructure by UKPN, Openreach and smaller communications companies (such as CB) has yet to be negotiated and signed off. Accordingly, CB has permission to use *only* exiting Openreach poles and ducting for the fibre installation in Great Bromley until the new arrangement is in place. This explains why some new telegraph poles are close to existing poles carrying power lines.

Getting fibre to individual households will either be via underground ducting from the street, or overhead wires depending on location. Obviously, any underground solution will require some digging to the property but CB will discuss this with individual property owners. Regarding overhead wires, there is a limit of 55m between the pole and property and poles have been erected with this in mind. (The limit between poles is 68m).

At the time of writing fibre has been hung on the poles leading from the A120 along the Harwich Road and also down Parson's Hill. It is unclear as to whether any fibre is underground yet. However, work continues and is not subject to the current lockdown as broadband provision is considered an essential service.

Once fibre has been installed throughout the village, either between poles or underground and it is connected to the main network, installation to individual properties can commence. Current estimates for this are Q3 this year.

Note: This is not an endorsement of County Broadband or Openreach.

**Neil Skinner - Great Bromley Parish
Council Broadband Representative**

IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

It's great news for gardeners that we can access plant nurseries and garden centres again. There will be plenty of fruit, vegetable and bedding plants available for those who have been unable to grow from seed or for those who wish to supplement their own efforts. Just the motivation we all need to do more in our gardens.

It is clear that we are in a period of global warming and the seasons are changing. April, reputed to be the month of showers, decided to store up all the rain for a deluge at the end of the month following reported record hours of sunshine. May brought some dreaded cold night temperatures and more high winds to catch out gardeners tempted to put frost tender plants out early. As we adapt to less rainfall, more sunshine and more strong winds, harvesting rainwater and recycling some household waste water becomes so important.

The establishment of more local wine producers is visual evidence that the Mediterranean weather patterns are moving further north and for examples of dry gardening you need look no further than Beth Chatto's garden at Elmstead Market.

In our garden, lawn mowing appears to have slowed down through a dry and windy May. Now is the time you can mow the foliage of any naturalised spring bulbs that flowered over 6 weeks ago. You will need repeat sowings of lettuce to keep a steady supply through the summer. It's not too late for repeat sowings of French beans, courgettes and cucumbers and you can still sow beetroot and other seeds in the ground for later crops.

Winter greens should already be sown but if you act quickly it's still worth sowing, or buying in some plants. We have great success with various varieties of sprouting broccoli. Sow in small pots, potting up when necessary until you have ground ready to plant out. Traditionally greens can follow early potatoes as the ground is cleared and is a great crop to look forward to in March/April/May next year.

We have been eating our own asparagus, remaining leeks, chard and lettuce, and are looking forward to the first new potatoes this month. Peas and broad beans will also be ready but perhaps the best part of June is the onset of strawberries, a favourite indulgence for many. Fresh picked, warmed by the sun, nothing tastes better. The produce you grow can be the freshest food you ever eat, harvested, prepared and on your plate within the hour. Don't forget, as gardeners you are entitled to eat some of the peas fresh from the pods as you harvest those destined for the table. The same applies to strawberries and anything else that helps in your 5 a day regime. Just the encouragement some children need.

The roses should be in full flush this month with a riot of colour and an abundance of perfume in many cases. Remember to dead head regularly as many varieties will have second and third flushes of blooms throughout the summer if you do. We had some blooms until November last year.

June should be a great time in the garden, so we hope you are able to find time to enjoy the sights, sounds and fragrances of nature that can really lift our spirits.

GET INVOLVED ONLINE WITH GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY

The Great Bromley and Little Bromley village websites have been refreshed in April 2020, so I thought this a good time to share a list of websites and main social media pages for our villages.

Great Bromley village website

www.greatbromley.org.uk with links to most village media pages including:

- ◆ Parish Council website www.gbpc.org.uk
- ◆ Village Hall website www.greatbromleyvillagehall.org.uk

Little Bromley village website

www.littlebromley.org.uk incorporating the Parish Council pages and with links to most village media pages.

Some other village organisations, pubs, and businesses have a website or social media; you can find links to many of them in the village websites and in The Messenger.

Social Media

You can pick up links to these via the village websites or your search engine.

Facebook

Great Bromley Community
Little Bromley Community
Great Bromley Village Hall
Great Bromley Church
Friends of Little Bromley Church

Twitter

Great Bromley Parish Council
Great Bromley Church
Friends of Little Bromley Church

Next Door

www.nextdoor.co.uk is a free neighbourhood website which allows members to sign up by postcode to share information about their local communities. Several locals use this, and Little Bromley Parish Council use it for their community messaging.

Mailing Lists

e-Mailing lists exist for *Friends of Little Bromley Church* and *Great Bromley Church*. You can refer to the websites and sign up to hear about news and events.

Hugh Frostick

IN CASE YOU WONDERED....

The Parish Council received complaints by parishioners regarding an unpleasant smell in Great Bromley, similar to sewerage. From enquiries that Cllr Nicholls made with the people applying the product, the smell is as a result of 'Liquid digestate', an agriculture fertiliser, being spread over fields between Hall Road and Boudge Hill. We are informed that this fertiliser is a by-product of anaerobic digestion which produces bio gas. It is not harmful to humans.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



On Sunday 10th May, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a slight easing of the lockdown. However, we are still unable to have our normal monthly Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council has been looking at ways to hold virtual meetings. We did have a preliminary virtual meeting using the Zoom platform, however it was regarded as being unsafe to use with security issues around it. I can fully understand that nobody would like to have their computer compromised. We are continuing to look at other platforms.

Although we are in a very different position, all councillors are invited to comment on planning applications and financial matters by email. All parishioners can send in their comments on planning applications to TDC and to the Parish Council. Comments are welcomed on any matters within the village, please email the Clerk.

Our Vice Chairman, Rob Lord, who is also Chairman of Little Dragons, announced that with great reluctance Little Dragons will be forced to close its doors on July 24th. The numbers of children attending has greatly reduced and increasing cost of rent, other financial factors and the Coronavirus situation have left the management with no alternative but to close. Little Dragons has been at their present location for 10 years and previously under the guise of Great Bromley and Frating Playgroup, had been at the Village Hall for approximately 33 years. Whilst at the Village Hall the playgroup enjoyed a generous subsidy from the

Village Hall management committee. Our County Councillor, Carlo and I have explored various means of grants to enable them to continue but we have not been successful.

As I am sure everybody is aware the VE Day celebrations were cancelled. The Parish Council acknowledged the day with a banner, a soldier and the flag was flown at the War Memorial. Thanks to the school for making and erecting bunting on the school fence. A big thank you to Carole Mander for replanting the two tubs at the War Memorial with fresh plants. We will have to wait until we can plan another day to celebrate.

I attended the War Memorial for the two minutes silence at 11am on Friday 8th May. There were a few people present, all kept to the social distancing rules. I am very grateful to those people.



In the afternoon Jenny and I had afternoon tea in our driveway. There were several neighbours who all did the same. I am sure other residents did the same in their neighbourhood.

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It has been agreed that the Parish Council will purchase two benches for Church Meadow to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Cllr David Hardy and family are still doing a fantastic job helping people in the village with shopping and collection of prescriptions. I am aware that other people in the village are also helping and our most sincere thanks go to everybody who has and is helping.

I would like to thank our village maintenance team, Bill Kempster and Lewis Mander, for the sterling work they are doing in making sure our village looks so good during this difficult time. The refuse collectors for our village have also been fantastic and I thank them.

I have a limited supply of recycling bins - please contact me if you need one. I have been in contact with Daniel Rapson the Project Director for Hamilton Lodge. During our conversation we discussed the

consultation procedure. He agreed there needs to be a fully inclusive consultation, something that is not possible without members of the public being present. Daniel intends to hold such a consultation once the current restrictions are lifted.

Cllr Fred Nicholls, Chairman



Planning Determinations

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
20/00249/FUL Mr and Mrs Brown	Proposed two storey rear extension (including demolition of existing single storey previous extension).	Risbys Cottage Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JW	Approval - Full 14.04.2020 Delegated Decision
20/00056/ DETAIL Mr and Mrs Owens	Approval of reserved matters for outline application 19/01353/OUT for the construction of a self-build/custom build bungalow with associated single garage, driveway and garden area.	Wisteria House Back Lane East Great Bromley CO7 7UE	Approval - Reserved Matters/ Detailed 27.04.2020 Delegated Decision
CC/TEN/30/20	The provision of an external access lift to the school buildings	St Georges C Of E Primary School, Brook Street, Great Bromley, CO7 7HX	Granted – 01.05.2020

Little Dragons Pre-School - Great Bromley & Frating

Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR

Ofsted Inspected

Website: www.littledragonspreschool.org

Email: littledragonspreschool@gmail.com



OFSTED INSPECTED -GOOD

Tel: 01206 231823/ 07857 503103

Breakfast Club for preschool children – places available

We are flexible and happy to take children for the occasional session and times to suit your situation.

If you require further information please call us on the numbers above or pop in to see us.

Within this extraordinary time we have had to learn different ways of supporting our children and parents learning from home.

We have continued to send home activities for our children – these include ‘people that help us’, colouring rainbows, Easter activities, celebrating VE Day and lots more.

We have enjoyed virtual story reading and song times via tapestry and have enjoyed seeing videos and pictures of children enjoying their learning.

This month, the Committee and members (the parents) of Little Dragons have taken the sad and serious decision to close the Pre-school after our last day of Summer Term on Wednesday 22nd July 2020. As this is a significant decision by community standards and not one taken lightly, we wanted to expand on the circumstances around this decision.

Background

Those closer to the Pre-school will know that the commercial environment

for Little Dragons has always been challenging. Costs have continued to rise over the years and despite significant effort by all, this has typically not been offset proportionately by opportunities in private fees and fundraising. Whilst Little Dragons is a charity and only has to ‘break even’ to continue, that outcome is dependent on income from three sources; those being Government funding, private fees and fundraising. It is critical that income flows from all three sources for Little Dragons to even reach ‘break even’ and be sustainable. If any one income aspect fails, then Little Dragons fails; the situation is that fragile.

Coronavirus situation

The Coronavirus situation has exacerbated our previous position. It has done this by:

- Forcing closure of the setting from Friday 20th March 2020;
- Removing opportunity of income through private fees;
- Removing opportunity of income through fundraising;
- Removing opportunity of incremental income through sales notably with ‘one eye’ on our starting position in September; and
- Introduced risk to additional funding opportunities from multiple sources.

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Business look forward

That background and coronavirus situation is further compounded when we look forward to our September start position. Children numbers will fall significantly then as many make the transition up to Primary school at the end of July. This means that our Government funding will drop proportionately. Unfortunately many of our costs remain fixed and/ or cannot be reduced proportionate to reduction in income. Any chance of increasing our start state numbers in the context of Coronavirus is highly unlikely. Based on all these factors, we have not been left with any credible option other than to close. Our aim is to continue to operate until last day of Summer Term (22nd July 2020) in order to best support the transition of our children to Primary school and other Pre-school settings. We would ask all our Parents, friends and supporters to get behind us

for this last chapter in our service. We want to finish on a high, upholding the standards that have always defined us.

We would like to thank all of those who have given their support to Little Dragons since its formation in 2009. Our hope is that we can organise an event to properly celebrate the life and contribution of Little Dragons when the situation permits. We look forward to seeing you there.

Why not check out our facebook page for all the latest news. Follow the link below

<https://www.facebook.com/littledragonspreschoolgreatbromley/>

Wishing everyone well and stay safe.

Please note:

OUR RECYCLING STATION For crisps and biscuit packets has been temporarily suspended.



STOUR VALLEY U3A

STOUR VALLEY U3A 30th ANNIVERSARY

STOUR VALLEY U3A has set up a number of support systems for its members during the coronavirus pandemic.

These include dedicated helplines for those self isolating in East Bergholt and Manningtree/Mistley/Lawford to help with basic needs such as food shopping and prescription collections.

A general support group for members is also available for those living in East Bergholt.

Lectures for April, May and June have been postponed until July, August and September, pending government advice.

A weekly newsletter is being circulated to all 400 members to keep them informed with news and updates.

For further information visit: <https://u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley/home> or contact chairman Graham Manuel gandamauel@gmail.com or secretary Sue Basted susanbasted10@gmail.com

SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME



I hope you are all keeping well and safe. We, at Seven Rivers, are all keeping as well as possible. Like us, all our residents are longing to go out to do some shopping.

Just to go out and walk around the shops without the need to shop seems like a luxury at the moment, and one that we have always taken for granted. At the time of writing there is no end in sight to the lockdown, we wait to hear at the end of the week to see if we have another three weeks or if we are going to start the slow and gentle process for getting back to a more normal state.

I am also pleased to report that we have a full home with no serious incidents among the residents.

I would like to thank those villages who have been able to donate seedlings to our vegetable garden; this helps our residents and they enjoy watching things growing, and just being able to eat something straight out of the ground improves wellbeing.

Leonard Cheshire has launched an appeal to raise funds for the extra PPE that we require. If you wish to donate, please go to the website www.leonardcheshire.org

This appeal will continue after the worst of this virus has gone due to all the extra thousands of pounds that have had to be found to keep staff and our

residents safe. Money spent on PPE means less money available for our residents, and with less funds being raised, I'm sure you all get the picture.

Talking about fund raising makes me think of what I would normally be trying to get sorted at this time. The whole Christmas programme would be booked by now and I would be giving Gary, the man behind the fireworks, an ear bashing for not letting me know what fireworks he wanted for this year's display. I'm sure that it will all come good in the end, but with the weeks rolling into one, you suddenly realise that we are halfway through the year. So it looks like I'd best stop my ramblings and set to and see if there are any entertainers out there who are willing to take a booking for Christmas.

Take care and keep safe until next time. Liz x

SUDOKU CORNER

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ARDLEIGH SURGERY

Dear Patients,

All of you will be aware of the current Covid-19 situation. This is an unprecedented situation for local GPs and hospital services, as well as nationally for the NHS and globally. This is a time we need our community to come together, support each other and show acts of kindness.

APPOINTMENTS:

At the surgery we are doing our very best in difficult circumstances to continue to provide support and care to all who need it, but we need your help. The clinical, nursing, dispensary and administration teams are under increasing pressure, and this will only increase in the coming weeks. We have all had to work in a totally new and different way and make changes on a daily basis; please be patient with us as we make these changes.

To reduce footfall into the surgery, **all appointments are now telephone triaged** with GPs and nurses. If we cannot deal with your issue over the phone, we will be able to bring you into a designated clinic at Ardleigh. Many issues can be dealt with over the phone; help the staff by keeping your phone on loud and close to you, so they do not have to make repeated calls to you.

Please be considerate for the reason you are calling us. We need to ensure we have enough free clinical time for those who need us most at the moment. If you come into the surgery, we will check your temperature on arrival. The surgery seems eerily quiet inside, but it doesn't mean we are "quiet", in fact all the doctors and nurses are providing more appointments than ever over the phone and keeping you safe by dealing with issues over the phone where appropriate.

Anyone with respiratory symptoms is being telephone triaged and, if we need to see them face to face, are being seen in a designated area at the back of the surgery with a separate entrance. This is to help us keep any potentially unwell patients separate to anyone else. If you are asked to come to this part of the surgery, you will have instructions when you call us. Please wait in your car until you are called in by the clinician.

Nursing pre-booked appointments will still be running at Dedham.

Please ring Ardleigh to book an appointment.

If you are unwell with symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, high temperature, flu like illness etc) please DO NOT come to the surgery. Follow the government advice to self-isolate and if your condition worsens contact 111 or visit 111.nhs.uk for online advice. Please do not arrive at Ardleigh or Dedham surgery as a "walk in". If you are unsure what to do, or need further advice, then call the GP. If you have suspected symptoms, please also ensure you and your family self-isolate as the current guidelines dictate.

DISPENSARY:

This dispensary is open and the staff are running at 200% to keep up with demand. Like the supermarkets, many people have ordered early or requested things they have not used for many years, this is making the turnaround time for prescriptions longer. The dispensary team has been working overtime and at the weekend to catch up with the work load. Please be thankful for their dedication. **The current turnaround time for a routine prescription is 5 days.**

SUPPORT:

Almost all our patients have been very supportive of our staff, who are as anxious as the general population, and working in the most difficult situation NHS workers have dealt with in a generation. We thank the people who have dropped in cards, cakes and supplies for us to boost morale, and we would like to thank the local businesses who have supported us already. Every small act of kindness helps boost our staff. We understand that some people are frustrated and worried by the situation, but now more than ever, we will not tolerate any inappropriate behaviour towards the staff. Please look after us.

SOCIAL ISOLATION:

Whilst the government begins plans to support those in social isolation, your first port of call should be your well relatives, family and friends for food and medication collections. There is also a Dedham and Ardleigh support group of volunteers helping those in isolation. Their number is below.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Every day social media puts another story online; be careful to read correct information from government and NHS websites. Many stories are “fake news” and are stoking unnecessary upset and anxiety as well as increasing workload to the GP with patients asking for clarification. Your first port of call is the appropriate websites or 111 for accurate information.

www.nhs.uk

[111.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)

<https://www.ardleighsurgery.nhs.uk/>

Dedham and Ardleigh Volunteer help line: 01206 322025

We thank you in advance for helping the surgery through the next difficult few months.

Kind regards,

Ardleigh Management Team

INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Great Bromley has a network of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways) within the parish. Since the lockdown due to Covid-19 there has been an increased use of these paths as people follow the guidelines regarding daily exercise. However there have been reports of some problems, both from those using the paths and also from landowners where these rights of way cross their land. To help both landowners and users of these paths the following information may be useful.

Essex County Council is responsible for the overall maintenance of public rights of way and problems can be reported to them on

www.essexhighways.org/tellus/report-

[all-issues](#). You will then be guided on how to report the specific issue (i.e. damaged or missing way markers, blocked paths etc.). Problems with rights of way within the village can also be reported to the Parish Council by email (Clerk@gbpc.org.uk) who will decide whether to report on to ECC or to the Great Bromley Footpath Warden, Graham Smith.

Another website that has very good information for both users and landowners is the Ramblers Association www.ramblers.org.uk, click on Coronavirus update, COVID-19 public access and footpath guidance.

Carole Mander

WARTIME MEMORIES

I was eight when the war started. I remember well how I walked to Ardleigh School, with friends from Burnt Heath, Gt Bromley. We had to have our gas masks on our shoulders, complete with ear plugs, sick bags and other things inside. When the siren went we had to get under a hedge.

There was a land mine dropped on the footpath between Carringtons Road and Cross Inn pond. At my home Evelyn Villa, which is in Briar Road, we lost all our doors and windows etc. Some people will remember the Collis Brothers, Arthur and Wally, who worked for Bakers of Alresford. They did all our repairs and I spent a lot of time with them. I forgot to say we had a table shelter, I think they were called a Morrison Shelter. Before that, we got in the cupboard under the stairs for protection.

Both our neighbours had evacuee boys and we asked for girls but were never given any evacuees. My In-laws at Bluegates bungalow also had two evacuee boys.

I remember the doodlebugs coming from the Harwich area and if their

sound cut out you knew they would land somewhere close. They used to follow the railway line. At Ardleigh, a doodlebug dropped near (I think) Redbury Farm. A Mr Jaggard, and a mother and her two children were killed. I remember their name was Cheeseman. The girl was Rosemary and I believe she was at Ardleigh School when I was there.

Several bombs were dropped nearby, some behind Carringtons Farm and several craters you could see on the road going to Colchester. They seemed to be aiming at the Pylons, which was our Airbase. There was also a search light at White House Lane at Crockleford.

In the village I remember soldiers in Brook House and in the village hall. Also there was a military camp behind Hamilton Lodge. Local people lived in these wooden bungalows after the war.

I have a vague memory of a large bonfire at Park Farm, Ardleigh and roasting potatoes in the fire to celebrate V E Day.

Beryl Hurst

I am, like Bill Pirie, (writing in May) an Essex boy but also a Bromley boy as I was born in the Rectory (now Copley Dene) in 1931 when my father was Rector of the parish from 1929-1944.

I remember Bill's family very well as I, and two or three brothers and sisters, worked on Hall Farm for his father. I have rather grim recollections of taking the chaff into a sack off the threshing machine in the sweltering heat.

I well recall the "mock" airfield; this, with a government grant, led us to sleep in our own cellar for protection -

with a new ramp and an exit to the garden in case of a direct hit.

I also recall walking along the footpath from Hall Road towards Boudge Hill Wood to see where the explosive fell.

It was fortunate indeed that the parachute mine which fell by the church did not explode but it did cause distress. Mother arrived on the scene unaware that it had been decommissioned and was horrified to see my brother Tony, not quite sitting on it but playing nearby. ...cont'd

My father was (unofficial) Chaplain to "Bromley Camp" where, as Julian Foynes in his book *The Pylons at Great Bromley* (2009), recounts, there was secure accommodation for the staff of the pylons. We arrived by tricycle, with me standing behind the saddle and first we had to report to the guardroom, now a garage for Westward House.

I have, sometime ago, told the story of Douglas Jardine, the notorious former England cricket captain. He was billeted in the Rectory. I asked him for his autograph but he refused to give it, only to offer it a few days later.

Gerald Gurney



1941

This ↑ is a

fault in my copy of *Where the Broom Grows* by John Appleby (1992). Might one of the Wendens have a copy?



Planning applications

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
20/00426/FUL Mr William Scarlett	Proposed extension to side and rear. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to this application.	2 Peace Cottages, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UX
20/00470/FUL Mr A Fairley - Henry Fairley and Son Limited	Proposed agricultural building and construction of a farm track. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to this application.	Woods Barn, Land to North of A120, Great Bromley CO7 7US
20/00259/FUL	Proposed erection of 5no. detached single storey dwellings with detached garages served by new shared private drive off of Frating Road. AMENDED PLANS Great Bromley Parish Council objected to the plans for the following reasons: Over development; Highways safety - vehicles exiting and entering on bend; No turning circle; Footpath has been removed; Traffic movements likely to be high; History of drainage issues which should be explored further; and History of extreme flooding in road.	Land between Fieldside and Eltone, Frating Road, Great Bromley

SUDOKU ANSWERS

7	1	8	5	3	4	2	9	6
9	2	4	6	7	8	1	3	5
6	5	3	9	2	1	4	7	8
4	9	1	8	6	7	3	5	2
5	6	7	3	1	2	8	4	9
3	8	2	4	5	9	7	6	1
1	4	9	7	8	6	5	2	3
8	7	5	2	9	3	6	1	4
2	3	6	1	4	5	9	8	7



Victim Support is looking for reliable volunteers with great listening skills to join their local team, providing emotional and practical support to people affected by crime.

Help people in your local community and learn new skills.

Call 01277 357557 or email:

essexvolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk

District Statistics for Tendring – April 2020

District Commander: Chief Inspector Lily Benbow



Your Priorities

You Said:

- Cars exceeding speed limits in built up areas due to decrease in vehicular traffic from Covid-19
- There are off road/unlicensed bikes riding on the public highways
- Cars parked on pavements in villages

We Did:

- Tour of Tendring which included safety camera checks
- Attended areas, identified and seized the bikes
- Attended area and gave guidance to drivers



Bereavement support for everyone in north Essex

St Helena offers support to all those who have been bereaved in north and mid Essex, regardless of the cause of death or when or where the individual has died.

During the global coronavirus pandemic, we are facing a tragic loss of life, often under very difficult circumstances including social isolation.

Because of pressures on frontline services, and restrictions on visiting to hospitals etc, we understand that the death of your loved one may feel particularly traumatic.

At St Helena, we provide bereavement support to all, no matter the cause of death.

The death of your loved one does not have to be related to coronavirus, or have taken place during the pandemic or lockdown, and you do not need to have had support from St Helena prior to your referral for bereavement support.

Each person is affected differently by bereavement and we aim to support you by helping your life to go on in the face of bereavement.

The support we offer to you is dependent, on and tailored to, your needs, which we identify in your

Bereavement support for everyone



If you have been bereaved, either from the coronavirus, or any other illness, accident, or suicide, St Helena's bereavement service is here to support you.

St Helena can help you right now

To refer yourself for bereavement support visit:
sthelena.org.uk/referrals
or call:
01206 984 274

Bereavement support is currently available to anyone over the age of 18 living in north east Essex. All bereavement support is currently being offered over the phone, or via video call.

sthelena.org.uk [StHelenaHospice](https://www.sthelenahospice.org.uk) [@sthelenahospice](https://twitter.com/sthelenahospice)

assessment based on the answers you give in your referral.

If you are bereaved at this time, you can refer yourself online at sthelena.org.uk/referrals or call 01206 984 274 for further information and support.

You can also find further information about St Helena's bereavement service on their website, as well as useful resources and documents.

Visit sthelena.org.uk/bereavement



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

GREAT BROMLEY



www.greatbromley.ork.uk

Giving to St George's Church

Giving has reduced significantly since the lockdown because without services in church we do not have the usual collections. Also we can't hold the lunches and fund raising events. Our biggest monthly outgoings (Parish Share and Insurance) remain the same so we are currently trying to raise additional funds. Please help, either by regular support or by a donation. There is now a donation page on the website with online giving, or you can send a cheque for 'PCC of The Bromleys' to the Treasurer (address on inside cover). Thank you.

Church Services June 2020

Public church services (as at mid-May) are still suspended and churches are not allowed to be open. There are many online services available from cathedrals and parishes. See below for online services and resources. In this benefice (Lawford, Little Bentley, Gt and Lt Bromley) Simon is currently streaming facebook services from the Rectory:

Daily at 9pm (Compline) & Sunday 10am (Morning Worship).

These can be viewed as videos at any time afterwards as well.

The Rev'd Canon Simon Heron

Simon's move to Cheltenham has been postponed and his leaving date has been extended from 30th April to whenever the Bishop advises that he can make the move. So we still have a Vicar! Our thanks to Simon for his support during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Prayers for the Community

Church members are praying regularly for our community and those in difficulty. If you would like to request a prayer for yourself or someone you are thinking of please email church@greatbromley.org.uk or contact a churchwarden.

Online Resources

Those of you with access to the internet can find information, online prayers, and services at home and live-streamed services via Facebook and YouTube.

www.facebook.com/stmaryslawford

www.churchofengland.org

www.chelmsford.anglican.org

The church tab on the village website has more links and contact information.

www.greatbromley.org.uk (links to Church and Parish Council)

www.littlebromley.org.uk (links to Church and Parish Council)

If you don't have internet access please contact a churchwarden to request printed materials for prayers and services at home.

Community support for the isolated

The Parish Councils are organising contacts and help for those who are self isolating. Please don't hesitate to use the contact if you need it.