

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

May 2022



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear all,

The long weekend has given us some beautiful weather, although a cool breeze has not been far away. The daffodils have gone and the tulips have taken over, along with the start of the wisteria which is due to be scrutinized on a daily basis by Mr R. The warmer nights are enticing my cats outside and evidence of successful hunting missions is left in various places for us the next morning, followed by a day of mostly snoozing, and stretching session in the late afternoon sunshine.

The children are back at school and university tomorrow, which means back at work for me. The next holidays will be June half term where the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be taking place across the country. Details of events in Great Bromley are on the next page. The Parish Council has been fortunate to obtain a grant to cover the cost of the celebrations, and a further grant has been given to the PC from TDC Cllr Scott and Cllr Wiggins to cover the cost of the Beacon.

There are lots more events in general coming up, after what has been an extraordinary two years of barely anything. It's great to have the dates filling up and things to look forward to

again. If you have an event coming up that you'd like included in the magazine please send it to me by the 14th of the month.

I'd like to start including a recipe section so if any budding bakers, or Michelin starred chefs are out there, please send me your favourites, along with any pictures.

Thank you to all of our contributors for their articles and to our sponsors and advertisers who keep the magazine going for our residents.

And a very special thank you to the person(s) who creates the post box toppers!

Awareness days for May include:

- 4th - Firefighters' Memorial Day
- 8th - World Donkey Day
- 12th - World Topiary Day
- 16th - 22nd - National Vegetarian Week
- 31st - Melanoma BRAF Awareness Day

There's also 'No Mow May' if you fancy a break from grass cutting.

*Take care,
Lizzie*

MATERIAL for the **JUNE 2022** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th MAY 2022** please.

Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc. this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

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For details of availability and costs for **ADVERTISING** in the 'The Messenger' please contact the Treasurer on 01206 230537

Please support the sponsors of our magazine.



Great Bromley Parish Council

To celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, Great Bromley Parish Council is holding two events to which everyone in the village is invited.

Thursday 2nd June at 7.30pm

in St George's Church Meadow:

A BBQ, Piper and the lighting of our beacon

Sunday 5th June at 11.30am

A service at St George's Church led by Rev'd Stephen Carter. The preacher is Canon Ann Easter, Chaplain to HM The Queen.

Hog Roast and entertainment from 1pm.

Everyone is invited to attend either or both events

Donations will be made to Seven Rivers

Please email Clerk@gbpc.org.uk to confirm your attendance for catering purposes



What a treat we had for our April WI meeting! Our speaker was Susan Daldry who talked about the Art of the Judge. Susan is a tribunal judge who converted to the role after being a solicitor who became interested in litigation when dealing with road traffic accidents and tripping accidents. She completed a conversion course and went into the judiciary in 1999.

She currently works in two chambers: the social entitlement chamber (SEC) and the immigrant chamber. The SEC's role is to look at disability benefits and assess claims that have been rejected. For example, a claimant may have been filmed running when they were supposedly unable to walk. She also covers child support and maintenance disputes.

The job uses several interpersonal skills that are difficult to get right. For example, although we think that we know when someone is lying even if you know the other person, it is often difficult to tell if they are telling the truth or not.

But what is the truth? The truth is the true facts – rather than what has been inferred or guessed. And although we swear to tell the truth in court, the truth is not the issue. Rather it is the burden of proof to secure a conviction.



In a criminal court, the burden of proof is always on the prosecution. However, in a civil court, the burden of proof falls on the person that made the claim. Furthermore, it is not only the burden of proof - but the standard to show "beyond reasonable doubt" if the person is telling the truth or not.

A judge may give directions to the jury before deliberating that they are 'really sure', 'certain', or 'virtually certain'. If there is any reasonable doubt, then the accused is not guilty. The accused's liberty is at stake here, and the correct judgement is vital.

In the civil courts, the standard to aim for is the 'balance of probabilities' which must exceed 51 percent. Even if there is significant doubt about the case, providing that the balance of probabilities is more than 51 percent. A judge does not have to be completely convinced – but that 51 percent is the number that must be reached.

Unfortunately, people lie in criminal courts. This is known as the 'perjured alibi'. Unfortunately for them, when the

lie is uncovered, then perception changes about the person and they are unlikely to be believed about anything else they say – even when it is the truth. They have lost credibility – even though the initial alibi may have been a very high risk to take or admit where they actually were at the time questioned.

We all see truth in different ways; consistency of evidence, internal consistency, the demeanour of the witness which includes a variety of factors such as their conduct and manner. We do not tend to see the truth solely by what is said in court. So how do we work out when someone lies?

There are two types of lies: withholding information, and falsifying information. And some of us are rather good at this.

Fortunately, most people exhibit physical signs such as emotions, sweating, becoming red in the face. But this could also show their anxiety at being in court. Some liars are well rehearsed, have prepared their lies, so it takes a talented questioner to identify gaps in their crafted story.

But all is not lost. We can improve our lie detection abilities by keeping an open mind and not jumping to conclusions as soon as we see the person. We can also ask more open questions. In fact the more open the questions are, the more likelihood there is of being caught out. And justice, hopefully, will prevail.



SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

Hi Everyone,

I do hope you all had a nice Easter, while writing this at home this month as I am off work this week, so my random thoughts are going to be even more random.

In the last month we have said hello and goodbyes to staff. We celebrated Jo Auger's 30 years working at Seven Rivers and said a sad goodbye all on the same day. We celebrated the way we do best with musical entertainment from Care Home entertainer Brian Shaw. We all enjoyed an afternoon of fun music and sing-a-longs, everything from the Beatles to Lady Gaga. It was a good but sad day. Our new manager Anne has now taken over and I will tell you more next month. Jane, one of our nurses, also left to get married. She is

moving to Kent, and for whatever reason did not want the drive to Great Bromley 3 times a week.

We decorated our Easter Tree with eggs we had decorated, and bunnies. Soon we will be starting our bunting for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. So our craft days are full at the moment.

We have been getting out and about going ten pin bowling and we have also be able to take residents out to lunch, so things are slowly moving forwards. We are hoping the weather keeps fine as this will enable us to go out more. We hope to visit Brightlingsea and Harwich in the coming weeks, so we do need the nice sunny days, and Summer.

Take care till next time

Liz x

Come and join us for Bluebell Service in Little Bentley Woods

Sunday 1st May at 3pm

Meet at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Little Bentley CO7 8SE at 2.30pm for short walk to the Wood. Transport available for the less able.

Ponies, dogs etc are all welcome.



This wonderful annual gathering is a short open air informal service for all denominations in the middle of a private 100 acre Bluebell Wood. Afterwards you are all welcome to walk around the Bluebell wood, and then meet back at the Church Hall for tea and refreshments.

We look forward to welcoming you all.

ANGLIAN ARTS PROJECT EXHIBITION

At St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Little Bentley CO7 8SE.

An Exhibition of work by nine invited professional artists and artist craftsmen, including painting, prints, Jewellery, pottery, fused glass, textile art, and wood craft.

Saturday 14th May until Tuesday 17th May

Open daily 10.30am – 4.30pm

All work is for sale

No charge for admission

Ample free parking

www.anglianartsproject.co.uk

Tending Village Open Gardens and Wildlife Day

Saturday 11th June
10.30am - 4.30pm

£5 per person - U16's free

Tickets on sale on the day at the Village Hall, The Street, Tending, CO16 0BG



At St Edmund's Church:
Filled with floral arrangements
Observation bee hive
Plant sale
Seed swap
Wildlife photography display

Open Gardens throughout the village

At the Village Hall:

TICKET SALES (CASH/CARD)

Tea/coffee/homemade cakes

Cubs/Guides wildlife displays

Toilets

Free Parking



Raising funds for Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, MIND and St Edmund's
Contact Rachel on 01255 888094 for more details

PLANNING DETERMINATIONS

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
21/02065/FUL Terry Spong - Sunnyside House	Replacement of an agricultural building with a 3 bed bungalow (To amend approval 20/00552/FUL)	Willow Farm Hilliards Road Great Bromley	Approval - Full 25.03.2022 Delegated Decision
22/00031/FULHH Mr and Mrs Bell	Proposed two storey side extension.	2 Firtree Cottages Stone Road Great Bromley	Approval - Full 21.03.2022

PLANNING APPLICATION

REF	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
22/00476/TPO Robinson Close	1 No. Horse Chestnut - reduce all face overhanging road to reduce risk of failure onto the road. GBPC had no objection.	Land adjacent 24 Robinson Close
22/00489/FUL	Proposed erection on one 3 bedroom dwelling (in lieu of Prior Approval for two 2 bedroom dwellings, subject of application 22/01675/COUNOT). GBPC had no objection.	Land Adj Police Mast, Hilliards Road
22/00598/ FULHH	Proposed single storey rear extension. GBPC had no objection.	3 Fairfield Close,
22/00541/FUL	Proposed full planning permission for B2 commercial building. GBPC had no objection.	Park Farm, Hilliards Road

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full time work and explore new ideas, skills and interests. Across the UK, u3a members are learning, staying active and having fun in later life. It's local, social, friendly, low-cost and open to all.

Monthly meetings and lectures in Constable Hall East Bergholt on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm. On 11th May, Ralph Jackman's

STOUR VALLEY U3A

lecture - "How to become a Roman Emperor".

Many interest groups are now active such as walking, garden visits, sports, dining and regular quiz evenings are always popular. Coffee mornings on the first Friday of the month at 10am in the Lambe School East Bergholt.

Please visit our website for more information and contact details u3asites.org.uk/stourvalley

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

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



Our county Councillor Carlo Guglielmi has confirmed the long awaited speed limit reduction in Harwich Road is imminent, also the 30mph limit will extend from the A120 bridge through to the end of the existing speed limit, past the Court House crossroad. New hazard lines will be painted at the Court House junction and hazard bend signs will also be installed where the speed limit enters the village from the direction of Harwich. These road safety measures are as a result of several years campaigning by both Carlo and myself. Our thanks go to Carlo for all his efforts.

Our speed watch team has continued to be out and about in the village.

Bat boxes have been purchased for Church Meadow and Hare Green, they will be erected soon .

Jubilee Celebrations are progressing well. We have booked two marquees for both Thursday 2nd and Sunday 5th for Church. On Thursday the new Great Bromley choir, Black Cactus, will be performing songs from the Musicals from 8.15pm, followed by our Piper to celebrate the lighting of the beacon at 9.45 pm. A BBQ supplied and donated by the Parish Council will be available to all persons present. We do ask that you bring your own drinks. Car parking will be available in the grounds of Seven Rivers and will be clearly signposted.

On Sunday 5th June there will be a celebratory church service commencing at 11.30am. I am very pleased to inform you that the Rev. Canon Ann Easter will be taking part in

the service. Ann was born and brought up in London, she is a priest in the Church of England and Chaplain to HM Queen. She is an elected member of Newham Council, is a proud mother and grandmother, enjoys reading and all types of music apart from modern jazz. Following the Church Service a Hog Roast, again supplied and donated by the Parish Council, will be available to all commencing at 1pm. A bar will be available and chairs and tables will be in the marquees. Entertainment will be supplied by the Brightlingsea "Motley Crew". Parking will be available in the grounds of Seven Rivers and will again be signposted. A children's entertainer has been booked for the afternoon.

The Parish Council hopes that you will support these two free events, and again please register your interest, to ensure sufficient food is available, by contacting our Parish Clerk - email clerk@gbpc.org.uk or myself at fryerning23@gmail.com or 01206 230688.

The Hare Green Recreation Field sub committee is continuing to work on a conclusion to suit as many residents as possible.

Cllr Fred Nicholls

**Please ensure your oil tanks are
secure - thefts are on the rise**



TWO YEARS ON...

Two years of covid restrictions and things are finally easing though my adult children and a couple of their young have all caught the bug and been, more or less, ill at home followed by the almost inevitable fatigue which they have found hard to shake off. I am still a mask wearer in crowded places but even that is becoming more lax as learning to live with the virus is now inevitable.

And Life is now a great deal more busy yet I find I don't want to be 'busy busy' all the time any more. I no longer say 'yes' to everything and am becoming selective doing more of what I want to do. Currently I am grandchild minding in Telford. My son completed a Master's degree during lockdown, which was hard around the home schooling, working from home and cooking etc, with distinction so a very proud mum accompanied his wife to his graduation ceremony at Aston University. It took me by surprise how emotional I felt – no different to the days when they took their first steps to school and achievements beyond.

I am staying on at their home with the 12 and 9 year old while they go off camping for a few days' walking in the Lake District where, at time of writing, the wind, rain and cold are making it challenging. I have my own challenges. I have to get up stupidly early to make sure the children are breakfasted, have their lunch boxes and with everything for the day in their bags ready for school (they still have another week at school round here). The 12 year old walks himself to school but I trudge back and forth with the 9 year old so I tell myself if keeps me young, it keeps me fit! I have been left with a 3 page printout of where, when

and what they do after school which is everyday multiplied by two. Between them I thank goodness for satnav and google as I navigate my way through scouts, cubs, drama club, tennis, a piano lesson, a cheer leading club on school nights plus swimming and a scout camp at the weekend and, of course, the meals for the ever hungry stomachs. Phew!

My daughter too has gone camping with her family (but in the luxury of a rented camper van) in Wales. They also are finding the present weather challenging and have spent one day with lego in the van to keep out of the rain. The lego is probably new as they went last week, where the snow showers made it a bit different, to Legoland in Windsor which they all enjoyed.

I recently had yet another birthday and the children, grandchildren and I all met up in Stratford on Avon and went to the MAD (Mechanical Art and Design) Museum. Not big but absolutely wonderful for both adults and children alike (thoroughly recommended) followed by a trip round the butterfly place and a ride on Stratford's 'Eye' in the park where we had our picnic. All good fun and a glorious sunny day too – thank goodness.

With the world opening up again it is so lovely to be able to see friends, family and to do exciting/interesting things again. The spring is coming, the birds are calling and the flowers are blossoming; there is much to look forward and to be grateful for – peace and health most of all.

Take care, have fun, you never know what adventures are round the corner.

Leonie

The Flower Festival to be held at St. George's Church asks.....

Do you have any

MEMORIES OF THE QUEEN'S REIGN?

One Great Bromley resident has vivid memories of Wednesday 6th February 1952. She writes: *'I was 7 when the Queen came to the throne. I remember it so clearly. We lived in a small village in Suffolk and on Wednesday mornings we had 'Music and Movement' listening to a programme on the 'wireless' (as it was called then) The desks had been pushed to the sides of the classroom and we were skipping around, when suddenly the music stopped and a very sombre voice came over the airways, telling us that 'His Majesty King George VI had passed away in his sleep.'* (The rest can be read at the Flower Festival.)

If you were alive on February 6th 1952, what are your memories of the day? If you were born after 1952, do you have your own memories of the Queen, or stories passed down through your family?

If so, why not please write a short piece (no more than 2 sheets of A4) and tell us about it. The segment can be handwritten or typed. It can include photos or pictures. (The photos can be returned after the event.)

All pieces sent in will be included in our display or put into a folder to be kept in the church. We feel that this will be a lovely addition to the Flower Festival weekend on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of July.
(Theme: Plant a tree for the Jubilee)

There will be a collection box in the back of St. George's Church for your work. You can then place it into a supplied A4 envelope along with your details. (There will be additional information inside the church.) All entries must be in the church by Friday 24th June, so they can be included in the display.

If you have any queries please contact:
Carol Cordwell on 01206 395103 or Marion Bromfield on 01206 230089

Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society

Evening meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Ardleigh Village Hall and start at 19:45.

Admission is free for members and just £1.50 for visitors, who are always welcome.

Refreshments are available after the talk. Membership is only £5 for each season and you can join at any meeting or at the show.

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



Great and Little Bromley villagers
are very welcome

Dates for your diary



MAY

- 1 Bluebell Service, Little Bentley Woods - meet at St Mary's Church CO7 8SE at 2.30pm, service at 3pm
- 2 May Day Bank Holiday
- 4 Coffee & Cake Church Hall, Little Bentley 10am - 12 Noon
- 4 WI - Maralyn Bambridge - 'My love affair with Rwanda' - Village Hall -7.30pm
- 7 Lawford Plant sale
- 8 VE Day
- 11 Great Bromley Parish Council, Village Hall - 7.00pm
- 12 Ardleigh & Dist. Horticultural Society, Ardleigh Village Hall 7.45pm
- 14-17 Anglian Arts Project Exhibition, St Mary's Church Hall, 10.30am-4.30pm
- 17 Little Bromley Parish Council, The Haywain - 7.30pm
- 20 Gt Bromley Village Hall AGM - Village Hall - 2.30pm
- 21 Ardleigh and Dist. Horticultural Society Plant and Cake Sale - 9.30am

JUNE

- 1 WI - Jubilee fish and chip supper with a shanty band - Village Hall - 7.30pm
- 1 Coffee & Cake Church Hall, Little Bentley 10am - 12 Noon
- 2 Beacon lighting, piper and BBQ - Church Meadow - from 7.30pm
- 5 Queen's Jubilee service - St George's Church - 11.30am followed by Hog Roast and entertainment from 1pm



If anyone is in urgent need of the flood barrier or water snakes, these can be found in outside storage at The Courthouse, Harwich Road, Great Bromley.



Did you know? Great Bromley has two Automated External Defibrillators. You can access these at:

- The Cross Inn, Ardleigh Road, CO7 7TL or
- The Courthouse, Harwich Road, CO7 7JG

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.

IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

May is often a warm and welcoming month in terms of good weather and garden colour but just a word of caution about potential cold nights. The weather forecast cannot be accurate for all locations. You may live in a frost pocket and will experience temperatures several degrees lower than a short distance away. Better to spend time needlessly covering up than having plants damaged that will almost inevitably reduce the eventual crop at the least. Remember anything that has been raised with protection will need hardening off and if in doubt about the weather conditions for the weeks ahead you can always delay transplanting until early June.

From the middle of the month the majority of seeds can be sown direct outside which reduces the need for pricking out and potting on. Do not allow seedlings to become overcrowded, thin them to provide more space and allow them to achieve their potential. The thinnings from lettuce and greens can usually be transplanted if you require extra plants. Remember to water the seedling rows ahead of thinning to ensure the plants are turgid and also after thinning or transplanting to settle them in. Check whether growing plants need additional support.

We have mentioned previously the need to consistently water in new hedging, trees and roses, and to keep them watered for a period after planting. Having just planted the first five metres of mixed edible hedging and a couple of fruit trees in early April at our new bungalow, we were reminded of this having recently re-read the cultural instructions that accompanied the plants which we acquired from Ken Muirs', our local fruit nursery. It recommends that for the first couple of years in dry

weather you use at least five litres of water per metre of hedging twice a week. Ideally the hedge should be planted in a double dug trench. If double digging is too physical for you, you can single dig the trench and dig a deeper planting hole by breaking up the bottom of the trench for slightly more than the root area of the new plant. We did this and kept the trench about 50mm down below the surrounding area to ensure watering is effective. Avoid small holes in solid clay at all cost as the planting hole is likely to become an impervious pot and the roots will drown.

Once the hedge is established it should be fed annually with something like Growmore. It is a good idea to trim new hedges at least once a year as this will promote lateral growth, resulting in a denser hedge. This generally means they will need to be trimmed before they reach the intended height. Whilst this will delay the hedge reaching this height it will result in a denser and healthier hedge.

We were interested to see the Great Bromley Women's Institute page in the April Messenger supporting #NoMowMay, to promote the growth of wild flowers in your lawns for the benefit of insects and pollination. We will be supporting this project.

Don't forget to look out for local open gardens whether under the NGS banner or not. The NGS scheme makes large sums of money that are donated mostly to health charities. Many of the open gardens will have plants for sale at reasonable prices. Also, the local horticultural societies will be holding plant sales to make funds to keep the societies going. Three local ones we know of are Lawford, 7th May and both Ardleigh and East Bergholt on 21st May.

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 20th May commencing at 2.30pm in the Millennium Lounge. All parishioners are welcome to attend the AGM which reports on the past year and looks forward to the next. This is your opportunity to provide feedback in person on the facilities in our village hall and the way it is organised and managed.

The AGM is also your opportunity to volunteer to assist with the management of the village hall. There are currently 3 vacancies on the Management Committee and my colleagues and I would really welcome 'new blood' onto

the committee to help with the running of the hall. No particular skills are required, however a desire to help our fine community facility to flourish and willingness to get stuck in and take on a non-onerous responsibility would make the role more meaningful and much more enjoyable. We have fun as committee members and are proud to be responsible for the village hall and its lovely grounds. If you are interested in joining us on the committee please contact me for further information.

Martin Frostick
Secretary
01206 250263

villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk

ARDLEIGH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

"I wish I'd known that before I started" will be the subject of the talk by Sally Hephher at Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS on Thursday 12th May at 7:45pm. This is a talk about practical gardening – design, soil, mulch, compost, tools, health and safety, pots, based on her own

experience to date and in particular the things she has got wrong. It is intended to be funny while actually containing a lot of practical information. Free admission to members, non-members £1.50. Everyone welcome.

Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society

PLANT AND CAKE SALE

Saturday 21st May 9:30am until 11:30am

Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh CO7 7RS

There will be lots of plants and cakes for sale

Great Bromley Village Hall Management Committee

Would you join us?

We are a group of volunteers who work together to ensure that our fine village hall is kept in good condition and available for use by our village community. We come from a variety of backgrounds and collectively have a wide range of skills and experiences to bring to the table. Your involvement would be appreciated and need not be onerous - some minor roles on the committee take up only one hour of your time each month and some committee members have no formal role at all but contribute to discussions at meetings, bringing their knowledge and experiences to bear.

Interested?

Contact me to find out more about the management committee and what's involved.

Martin Frostick
Chairman and Secretary
Great Bromley Village Hall Management Committee
villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk
01206 250263

JAMES BARNABAS WILD

17TH AUG 1940 - 1ST DEC 2021

James was born in 1940 at Heathrow in Harmondsworth, the fourth and youngest child of David and Naomi Wild. In 1945 they were evicted from land owned by the family for 200 years due to it being compulsory purchased, the first control tower for Heathrow Airport being built where their house stood. The family moved to The Walnuts in Shrub End but only for six years, as they were again compulsory purchased to make way for a council estate. James went to school at Endsleigh, Colchester, before going to boarding school at Bishop Stortford College aged 9. In that same year, 1949, they moved to The Mill in Tendring.

James thoroughly enjoyed his time at Stortford. He was head boy in the prep school, and a multi-talented sportsman playing tennis, hockey, cricket, and rugby for the school. He was also very involved in the gardening club and often relayed stories of his work on the rock garden. James attended reunions and spoke of the school with great fondness and enthusiasm.

James went on to study agriculture at Writtle Agricultural College, where he continued to play much sport and also played hockey for Clacton. He started work to gain farming experience at Frating Abbey and Stowupland Hall, Stowmarket.

James met Ann at Young Farmers in 1958. He asked Ann to marry him some seven years later in his car at Frinton-on-sea, with Ann's golden retriever Lassie sat between them. He maintained that the only reason he asked to marry her was because of

Lassie! In June 1965 the couple were married at St Johns Church, Great Clacton, which James said was the best thing he ever did. They moved to Snape Bridge House in Iken where James was pig farm manager. Both he and Ann thoroughly enjoyed living in such close proximity to Snape Maltings, and during this time Sarah and Edward were born. In 1972 the family moved to Earls Hall Farm in St Osyth for a short time before settling at Ilex Farm in Waterhouse Lane.

James and Ann kept over 1,000 Cotswold pigs and both worked extremely hard on their farm in the early years, without any additional help until a nearby house was bought in the late 1970s for a full-time pig man and his family. James formed a friendship and working arrangement with next door farmer, Felix Erith and later James Blyth with a muck for straw exchange. In 1987 James thought it best to support his sister Elizabeth and help brother William at Pound Farm, Thorrington, and so they sadly gave up pig farming.

Whilst farming, James had little spare time, but in the 1970s and 1980s he did enjoy playing for Great Bromley Cricket Club and was their Treasurer for many years and formed the 100 Club. He also regularly attended NFU and ACT meetings. James always made time for his children. After supper they played games, in summer it was tennis with Sarah and cricket on the back lawn with Edward, and helped them both with maths (his speciality) homework before returning to work on the farm or garden later in the evening.

James and Ann gradually transformed

the lawns and gardens at Ilex Farm beyond recognition. Hedges were planted, most notably the holly (Ilex) hedge from the berries of a tree already in the garden, and two walnut trees which produced vast crops throughout the years from which many people benefitted, many being sold for church funds.

James undertook part-time work at Hamilton Lodge, making a brilliant carer to the residents. After leaving there he continued to take residents to Great Bromley Church on a Sunday. During these years James also gardened for local people and for many years he and Ann ran the vegetable stand at the Hamilton Lodge's annual fete, and Ann also used to organise an annual plant sale with proceeds going to Great Bromley or Thorpe Churches.



James was brought up as a strict Baptist, but in later life was confirmed in the Church of England. For 16 years up until 2010 James was Church warden at St George's, forming a strong friendship with Father Nicolas and doing all manner of work to help the Church. This involved climbing on the roof, putting flags up, scaling ladders, mowing the grounds and graveyards, and filling in potholes. James' faith was incredibly important to him and he took great pleasure in discussing religion with like-minded people and attending church and associated meetings. His voice could often be heard above the rest of the congregation during psalms and hymns, but more recently due to Covid he hummed very loudly instead!

James thoroughly enjoyed the few holidays he went on throughout his life:

Majorca with his family twice to visit friends; Kenya, New Zealand and Israel.

James stewarded for over 60 years at the Tendring Hundred Show beginning at the age of 17 and missing only the occasional year. He was usually head steward in the show jumping arena where the same stewards worked with him year after year so one assumes that they enjoyed his company.

One of the highlights of James' year was the Walsingham Youth Camp. Every summer he helped look after the children from Ardleigh and the Bromleys who attended the camp which was attended by thousands of children from around the world. He must have been one of the more senior helpers, but it was a role that he loved.

James' evident love of children always made for lots of fun and laughter, particularly when all his grandchildren were younger. He held them all in high affection and was always interested in their activities. James' infamous sweet tin was particularly popular with his grandchildren and was always proffered to all that he came into contact with.

He was a genuine good Samaritan to many people and was never afraid to help family, friends, neighbours and strangers in whatever way he could. Wherever James went he would meet people that knew him. In latter years due to Ann's stroke and subsequent ill health, James adapted and cared for her extremely well.

His quirky riddles and quips caused amusement and often some confusion! Unlike his jokes, which were positively awful but invariably followed up by a loud "Ah, it's a cracker!" Some will remember the "Village Alphabet" and "The Flea and the Fly in the Flue" poems which he would recite at random moments.

Family and friends would often remark how Ann could barely get a word in edge ways when 'James the Wildman', as he called himself, was in full flow. After talking incessantly to someone, he would proclaim, "Did you know I've never been known to talk?"

From the family eulogy



more than a pub...

ART COMPETITION

The Great Bromley Cross is holding an art competition for the Queen's Jubilee

Age Groups: Under 8 years old, 8 to 11 years, 12 to 16 years and adults 17+

The title of your entry is 'Jubilee' and should be A4 size

Please include your contact details on the reverse
and your age if under 16 years

Please hand your entries in by Sunday 22nd May to
The Great Bromley Cross, Ardleigh Road, CO7 7TL
or at Apple Acre, Colchester Road CO7 7TN

Results will be published at the
Summer Fair on 1st June 2022

Prizes £25 Amazon voucher for each age group

Contact vanda@credentalservices.co.uk
to register

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

The weekend of April 9th and 10th has been so exciting. Busy, happy and sad here at St Georges Church.

Our friend Stephen and his wife Sue tested positive for Covid at the beginning of the week. Stephen and Sue had worked hard to help us in planning our first Messy Church for at least two years! Hoping to encourage young families from the Bromleys to enjoy a workshop together on Saturday April 9th just at the beginning of Holy Week. Great fun was had planning Easter activities to illustrate and tell the story of Easter. But many children also had Covid from the school, (the school visit was cancelled) so with great reluctance Carol, Yvonne and I took the decision to cancel and defer our first Messy Church to later on in the year so that was rather disappointing. We wish Sue and Stephen a speedy recovery. Watch out for the next Messy Church!

But other visitors were also planned to visit on April 9th, their first visit for two years and they duly arrived around 10.30am for coffee, cake and refreshment as they started their week long Pilgrimage to Walsingham in Norfolk.

Groups of faithful Christians from all over the country make this Pilgrimage during Holy Week leading up to Good Friday and for many years the "North Essex Leg of the Student Cross" have been stopping at St. Georges on their way to Little Bentley, Great Oakley, Dovercourt and then on through Suffolk and Norfolk.

This year a fantastic group of 20 folk came to St. Georges where they were refreshed and revived before leaving for Little Bentley where hot soup was waiting for them.

This year is the 50th year of the North Essex Leg of the Student Cross - one to celebrate - a very happy occasion for St. Georges.

Sunday April 10th was Palm Sunday and a large congregation of 50 people gathered in the sunshine at the Lych Gate with the Choir, Processional Cross, the banner and of course our visiting Donkey (thank you Jane) for a service ably led by Nicky Young who is studying to be a priest (being ordained in September).

Our morning Worship was a huge success - thank you to all those who helped, especially our P.C.C. who took part in the Passion Play presentation. The Deanery Choir sang beautifully and the hot cross buns and sausage rolls were much enjoyed.

Thank you to all who came to receive their Palm Crosses in the sunshine.

We are now looking forward to the months ahead when some very exciting events are happening at the Church and in Church Meadow. Keep a close eye on our website or sign up for the newsletter.

Helping Hands

Our new group continues to grow in strength and enthusiasm.

Thank you to those who helped earlier this month. The sun shone as work was tackled inside and outside the church. All the brasses and candlesticks cleaned for Easter. All the edges along the paths tidied and leaves cleared (again) from the steps to the Rice Tomb and the Boiler. Please join us in May, Saturday 7th at 10am coffee and cake for the workers.





St George's Church Great Bromley



www.greatbromley.org.uk

Parish of The Bromleys

May Services - St George's			
May 1st	10.30am	Parish Eucharist (BCP)	Easter
May 8th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	Easter
May 15th	6.30pm	Evensong (BCP)	Easter
May 22nd	10.00am	Parish Eucharist	Rogation
May 26th	7.00pm	Sung Eucharist	Ascension Day
May 29th	10.30am	Benefice Service at Little Bentley	Sunday after Ascension

Services at St Mary's Little Bentley

May 1st Morning Prayer 10.30am
Bluebell Service 3pm
(park at church, meet Lt Bentley wood, dogs and ponies welcome)
May 15th Holy Communion 10.30am
May 29th Benefice Service 10.30am

Services at St Mary's Lawford

May 1st Holy Communion 10.30am
May 8th Holy Communion (BCP) 8am
Family Service 10.30am
May 15th Holy Communion 10.30am
May 22nd Morning Worship 10.30am
May 24th Holy Communion 9.45am
May 29th Benefice Service at Lt Bentley 10.30am

Big Thank You

The Collection for the Red Cross Appeal for the Ukraine has reached nearly £500. Thank you.

Would you like to receive our email newsletter?

All our news and events are in the full-colour, monthly newsletter. You can subscribe on the 'Welcome Page' of the church website: www.greatbromley.org.uk

New to church or new to Great or Little Bromley?

Do get in touch for more information; we'd like to welcome you.

Food Bank collection - St Georges Church continues to support our local Food Bank in Manningtree. It is a delight to find donations regularly left in the church porch as in the photo.

