# THE BROMHAM HOOT



## **NUMBERS YOU MIGHT NEED**

Devizes (01380) numbers unless otherwise shown

| Parish of Bromham, Chittoe and Sandy Lane |                     |                                     | Bromham Parish Council                    |                    |              |  |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------|--|
| Rector                                    | Revd Ruth Schofield | 850191                              | Chairman                                  | Peter Paget        | 850246       |  |
|   |                     | 07738 858909                        | Clerk                                     | Rosalind Humphries | 850874       |  |
| Email: revrschofield@gmail.com            |                     | Email: rosalindjhumphries@gmail.com |   |                    |              |  |
| Associate Priest                          | Rev Heather Smith   | 07795 822515                        | Wiltshire Council                         | All departments    | 0300 4560100 |  |
| Lay Minister                              | Caroline Culley     | 850531                              | <b>Bromham Social Centre</b>              |                    |              |  |
| Methodist Church                          | Rev Pam Stranks     | 01249 818923                        | Bookings                                  | Dave Paget         | 859492       |  |
| Email: pamstranks@gmail.com               |                     |                                     | Email: bookings@bromhamsocialcentre.co.uk |                    |              |  |
|   | Jenny Blackman      | 850580                              | Chairmen                                  | Malcolm Turner     | 850204       |  |
| Roman Catholic Church                     | Fr Paul Gonsalves   | 723572                              |   | Pete Davis         | 850792       |  |
| St. Nicholas School                       | Office              | 850391                              | Owl Manager                               | Sue Dolman         | 850671       |  |
| Village Organisations                     |                     |                                     |   |                    |              |  |
| Brownies                                  | Vicky Early         | 07702 033897                        | Royal British Legion                      | Neil Meadows       | 850360       |  |
| Busy Kids Pre-school                      | Judi McKendrick     | 859389                              | Short Mat Bowls                           | George Henderson   | 01249 815388 |  |
| Carnival Chairman                         | Pete Davis          | 850792                              | Spye Park Cricket Club                    | Tom Mornement      | 850913       |  |
| Drama Club                                | Penny Lander        | 859002                              | Stitchers                                 | Ann Hannah         | 850589       |  |
| Football Club                             | Pete Wallis         | 07917 697298                        | Tennis Court Bookings                     | Caroline Jones     | 850260       |  |
| Footpath Group                            | Dennis Powney       | 850979                              | Twinning Association                      | Janet Giles        | 850327       |  |
| Gardening Club                            | Sue Skelt           | 850601                              | W.I. President                            | Deborah White      | 07900 987221 |  |
| Monday Club Organiser                     | Caroline Culley     | 07557 983940                        | Wives Group                               | Muriel Sibun       | 850126       |  |
| Mothers' Union                            | Carole Myer         | 850706                              | Youth Club Secretary                      | Rosalind Humphries | 850874       |  |
| Phoenix Club                              | Jean Richardson     | 724210                              | Friends B & SL Churches                   | Carol Drew         | 850908       |  |

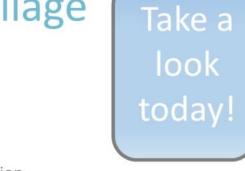
# Welcome to your new Village Website

www.bromhamwiltshire.org



Find contact details for clubs in the village

- Discover Bromham businesses
- Look up past issues of the Bromham Hoot
- Explore local walks and footpaths
- Delve into Bromham's history
- **Read** Parish Council agendas and minutes





### The Bromham Hoot is created and produced by:

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## WELCOME TO THE BROMHAM HOOT

Welcome to the March/April edition of the Bromham Hoot.

It does now look like there is light at the end of the tunnel, and that soon we will be able to emerge from more than a year of restrictions and begin to create the "new normal". All Bromham residents over the age of 65 should now have had their first vaccination, and invitations are just about to go out to the over 60s. The Carnival Committee have started to think about how and when we can get together as a village to have some fun and to thank all those who have helped in so many ways during the pandemic.

In this Hoot, you can read about thirty years of the Bromham Footpath Group, find out more about Bromham's long gone railway station and see how the Wednesday Club spent their Boxing Day bank holiday clearing the footpath along the main road.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has continued to advertise, and to all our new advertisers. Please do support them; it's our advertisers who make The Hoot possible.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed content - do keep it coming. Please keep telling us what you like, and don't like about The Hoot, and send us anything you think the village might be interested in. Any budding writers out there?

Thank you to Hannah Paget for the cover photo for this issue; Oliver's Mount on a snowy morning. If you have a photo you would like to see on the cover, please let us know. The format should be A4 portrait, and with a high enough image resolution to print well - a full photo from a recent smart phone is fine.

The next issue of The Hoot will be for May/June, and should be distributed at the end of April. The deadline for content and advertising will be Friday April 23rd.

# Bromham Parish Neighbourhood Plan ....your village ....your say ....your plan

The neighbourhood plan steering group has attacked 2021 with renewed vigour in an attempt to complete the many evidence gathering reports which are needed to back up any neighbourhood plan. With much to do before we arrive at the point where we can present a draft neighbourhood plan for consultation, by residents, we would welcome further volunteers to the group. In particular it would be great to have help from anyone with knowledge of local history, the geography of the local landscape or the ecology and biodiversity to be found in the parish. So if you like to put pen to paper or have any experience in running consultations then please get in touch.

In recent weeks we have been consulting on the shortlist of assets that we could protect by designating them as Local Green Spaces. So far we have had unanimous agreement about the Social Centre play area and the Millennium Cross and a high level of support for the other three: the triangle of land in Highfield, the verge at the bottom of Church Hill and the old allotment site off The Pound.





Meanwhile Wiltshire Council are consulting on changes to the countywide Local Plan. As part of this they are proposing an allocation of 80 new houses to be built in Bromham by 2036. However 13 of these have already been built or are being built. If you think that this number is inappropriate then please respond to the Wiltshire Council "Empowering Rural Communities" consultation before 9<sup>th</sup> March. In the end our Neighbourhood Plan will need to fit in with the allocation made by Wiltshire Council.

If you want to get in touch with us directly, about this or any other neighbourhood planning related matter, please email us at: <a href="mailto:bromhamnpsg@gmail.com">bromhamnpsg@gmail.com</a> or contact us through the web page: <a href="mailto:https://bromhamnpsg.org/contact/">https://bromhamnpsg.org/contact/</a>

Additionally, you can contact us through Bromham Parish Council Clerk: <a href="mailto:rosalindjhumphries@gmail.com">rosalindjhumphries@gmail.com</a>

John Schofield (Secretary Bromham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group)

#### **BROMHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

#### PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - January and February 2021 (Zoom Remote Meetings)

The Agenda is published on the Village Notice Board and on the Village website: **bromhamwiltshire.org** 3 days before a meeting. If parishioners wish to join the meeting for the Parishioner's 10 minutes, please contact the clerk for an invite: **rosalindjhumphries@gmail.com** 

- **Traveller's New Road Planning Application:** A decision is expected on March 5th. The court case concerning the Enforcement for the Caravan on site- date unknown due to Covid.
- Wyatt's Lake: Following a site inspection by WC and services, action is being considered.
- Flooding on the A3102 at Wyatt's is also being investigated by WC and is working with the adjacent land owner.
- Pound Footpath additional lights: On going. A Cuthbertson to investigate lack of response.
- A342 Footpath Clearance at St Edith's Marsh: Due to WC lack of response and concern regarding parishioners clearing the footpath themselves (many thanks for their efforts), the Parish Council contacted the Wednesday Club to see if they would consider clearing the remainder of the path, part of which they generously cleared during Christmas. The Wednesday Club again came to the rescue and did an excellent job on a Sunday Morning. The path is now clear for pedestrians. Many thanks again to the Wednesday Club.
- **Flooding at Durlett:** The Clerk took 8 photos and sent to WC Highways, they responded saying they would jet the drains when the jetter was in the Devizes area. The Clerk replied that jetting over the last 2 years has not solved this problem and required urgent investigation. The Clerk again took photos during the freeze and sent to WC for action, and the 'gritting' of the road was required from the New Road junction to Durlett Farm. This has led to an inspection by the Highways Officer who now agrees that action is required and is sending drainage engineers to inspect.
- Flooding throughout the village including Silver Street, Chittoe has been reported to WC.
- **A342 Ditch North of Roughmoor:** Many thanks to Mr Jim Butler for digging the ditch and moving the hedge back giving much improved visibility when exiting Highfield and for traffic on the A342 being aware of the junction.
- Church Hill Speed Limit: Unfortunately the metro count is still ongoing due to Covid.
- Parish Plan: The PC has been working with the Neighbourhood Committee.
- **Football Club:** Due to Covid restrictions the PC have agreed to give a 50% reduction in the rent and grass cutting contributions paid by the FBC.
- **The Owl:** The Owl pays the PC a monthly rent for the lease of the Owl's premises. Due to Covid the PC has suspended rent for 4 months.
- Village Bus Shelter and Kiosks: Quotations have been agreed and re-painting etc. will take place in the Spring.
- **Chittoe Heath:** Notices have been erected due to concern regarding exercising and socialising during 'Lockdown'. Fallen trees along the closed road at Chittoe Heath were reported to Spye Park, and have now been inspected.
- **BMX Track:** Notices have been erected asking users to adhere to Covid restrictions. Quotes are still being obtained for the track to be resurfaced with tarmac.
- **Community Fields Grass Cutting:** Four quotes have been obtained, it was agreed to continue with Bawdens at a cost of £2221.11 + VAT.
- VE Orchard: All trees are now sponsored and all plaques erected and any errors have been rectified.
- **Finance:** The balance of the Ordinary Account on the 31st December was £16335.21. The Investment accounts £25, 327.50 + 1324.97 TOTAL £42,987.68. Accounts are on track for approximately £12,000 to be carried forward to add to the PRECEPT of £43,000 to cover expenditure for the next financial year starting 1st April 2021.
- Parish Council Policies and the Financial Risk Assessment have been updated and were agreed for 2021 at the February PC meeting.
- The Wiltshire Local Plan and Gypsy and Travellers Plan Consultation: To have you say on the future development over the next 15 years go to the WC website for further information. Consultation ends on March 9th 2021.
- DOG FOULING: Due to the increase of dog walkers, dog fouling has continued to be a problem to residents and school children especially in the Highstreet and School Area. PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG; a penalty of £1000 if fined. Please take your 'poop bags' home or dispose of in the litter bins around the village.
   REMINDER: NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED ON THE JUBILEE FIELD. Dogs on the Millennium Field must be under control.
- PARISH COUNCILLOR ELECTIONS: To take place on 6th May. Please see separate advert if you are interested in being nominated. 13 Councillors required for Bromham Parish Council. Information available on the WC website.

#### **BROMHAM & ROWDE CHURCHES**

#### Dear Friends,

The church in Bromham must be one of the longer-lasting village institutions, and it's safe to say that there has never been a year like the last 12 months in the church's history! Our predecessors would have been amazed to think of us joining up virtually to worship God, and it's been impressive to see so many people getting to grips with zoom on Sunday mornings.

We are still able to meet in person for funerals, and it's been our privilege to honour those who have died by holding services here in the village. We intend to hold memorial services once we can all gather in larger numbers, so that we can all acknowledge the losses and grieve together. We can still hold weddings and baptisms too, but for very small gatherings, and it's always a joy to mark such important milestones in our lives.

It's still not possible to say for certain whether our worship will be online or in Church for the period covered by this issue of The Hoot. Please do keep checking for notices on Facebook (our page is Churches of Rowde and Bromham) or in the church porch. When we feel it is safe for us to gather on Sundays, that's where we will announce it. Do come and follow our Mothering Sunday trail in the churchyard in Bromham. Who knows what you might find at the end! Maybe some chocolate for your Mum! And possibly on Easter Day we might hold our Communion service outside.

In the meantime, you're very welcome to join us on zoom – see our webpage by going to "A Church Near You" and looking for Bromham Wiltshire. Please do look us up on Facebook – several of us write a "Thought for the Day", on matters of prayer, faith, and the difference God makes in our lives. Despite the difficulties of planning, and the many changes in guidelines on gatherings, we know that God's love for us is eternal and steady as a rock. Please do get in touch if we can support you in any way, and particularly if you would like prayer support through these uncertain times.

#### **Revd Ruth**

#### FROM THE METHODIST CHAPEL

Recently somebody remarked to me about how strange it must be taking on a new role and not be able to meet up with people. She wondered how things would be when we 'surfaced' from this time. I laughed and replied that yes, indeed, it did seem like swimming underwater! The image has stayed with me. Not that I have much experience of being under water! I have, in the past, tried snorkelling and my coughing and spluttering caused much hilarity. More enjoyable was a 'trip around the bay' in a glass bottomed boat to view the underwater sea life. These times all seem a world away from where we are at the moment. If I really was underwater, I would find my myself in unfamiliar territory, with things unknown and unexperienced before. The darkness of the deep would probably challenge my courage. I imagine I would find the silence equally calming and disturbing. Yet I believe I would be in wonder over the activity and the colour and the immense variety of underwater life. During these unfamiliar and challenging days all of us have given and received help, encouragement, strength, hope and peace from each other in such a variety of ways. We will 'surface' and find ourselves on a familiar, if changed, shoreline and will be thankful for the good things in which we have been able to share.

With continued thoughts and prayers for the community of Bromham as we journey through Lent and look towards the Easter Season.

**Rev Pam Stranks** 

# BROMHAM PARISH COUNCIL VACANT ALLOTMENT LAND APPROX. 9.5 ACRES

Available for rent from 1st April 2021

Applications in writing to

The Clerk: Mrs R J Humphries

3 Roughmoor Cottages Bromham SN15 2DU

Email: rosalindjhumphries@gmail.com

#### VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & ACTIVITIES

#### **Bromham Youth Club**

Bromham Youth Club continues to be busy and we have continued to meet weekly online on Wednesday evenings taking part in a variety of fun activities. Recently Lewis and Alex created a really fun quiz on Kahoot which made everyone laugh lots. They even provided chocolate prizes for first and second placed winners Lucy and Alex. We held a ready steady cook challenge where members were allowed 8 ingredients, a £5 budget and 45 minutes cooking time. Izzy won with her sausage plait which looked delicious, we dream of the days when computers have "smellavision".







In January we were funded for three Samsung tablets from Devizes Area Board to help support online sessions and members which we are very grateful for and thank them and Wiltshire Council. We held a murder mystery activity called Murder on the Dancefloor which proved popular and Private Detectives Alex and Hannah solved the crime having to come up with the killer, the motive, the weapon and the location. There have been quizzes and bingo sessions and at Christmas we took part in a Christmas cookalong where we made reindeer marshmallow rice crispy cakes.

Last week we were extremely lucky to receive a £200 donation from Calne Lions from when they raised money in the village when Santa visited so a huge thankyou to them. Members discussed the donation and have decided to use it for a trip when the pandemic ends and to give them something to look forward to.

#### **Bromham Bell Ringers: Notes from the Belfry**

Just before Christmas I had a message from Julian Parr who I taught to ring some years ago. He had something he wanted to give me - except it wasn't just for me but for the tower. We arranged to meet, socially distanced of course and he presented me with a hand crafted working model of a bell in its frame. He had commissioned two of these models, one for him and one for us from an engineer friend of his (and an acquaintance of mine as it turned out) some years ago but it was only during lockdown that they had been completed.

I was delighted. I have seen models like this in other towers and secretly coveted them. It's not something that you can buy off the shelf. Not only is it a very fine artefact but it is also a very useful tool for demonstrating how a bell works.



During the November lockdown and most of this current one, Paul and Karen Jordan have continued to mark Sundays by ringing just two bells except for a few weeks when they were away looking after their small grandson while his mum was having his little sister. In normal times this event would have been an excellent opportunity to ring a quarter peal but we will just have to wait for better times to do that.

We were given a special dispensation to ring all 6 bells over the Christmas period and this we did for Midnight Mass and would have repeated the performance on Christmas day but two of our ringers were not available so we just rang 4.

January 31st marked a sombre milestone when the number of Covid deaths reached 100,000. As requested by the bishops a single bell was tolled 100 times. This duty was also performed by Paul.

Since the start of the current lockdown we have held weekly quizzes on Zoom for any of our ringers who wish to take part. In the absence of weekly ringing practices this gives us something to look forward to. Quite a few very keen ringers have been ringing virtually using online facilities such as 'Ringing Room' and the appropriately named 'Ding'. I must confess I haven't tried either!

#### **Linda Drummond-Harris**

### St. Nicholas C of E (VC) Primary School



Hello everyone,

The signs of spring are beginning to peep through and that is not the only good news to share - we are all delighted that, following the government's recent announcement, all children will be returning to school from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Although children have been working hard at home or in school throughout this lockdown, there is no doubt that we are thrilled to be able to welcome everyone back to school to all be together again.

Thank you to all our friends and families in the community for your continued support as we all navigate our way through new challenges with hope, courage, love and friendship.

We hope that everyone in our wider community stays safe and well and is looking forward with us to brighter days ahead.

Best wishes from everyone at St. Nicholas Primary School.



# **GIVE US A CALL**



If you are finding things a bit quiet and would like to have a chat with one of our friendly volunteers, reach out and give us a call.

It doesn't matter who or how old you are – maybe you're a retired person and live alone, perhaps you're a parent of small children and are missing getting out and about – if you would like a chat, just give us a call.

We will match you with a kind and chatty volunteer who lives in the village and who would love to call and chat with you at a time which works for you.



email: bromhamgoodneighbours@outlook.com

#### COULD YOU BECOME A BROMHAM PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Elections for 13 Councillors will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

Timetable and Nomination Forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council website.

Closing Date: 4pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **Description of the role**

| Role                 | Parish Councillor                               |
|----------------------|---|
| Responsible to       | All people resident within the Parish           |
| Regular liaison with | Other councillors, local authorities, residents |
| Period of service    | Four years                                      |
| Salary               | This is a voluntary position                    |

#### Main purpose

Representing the views of all residents within your Parish.

#### Secondary purpose

- As part of a local council you will have responsibility for running local services which may include: open spaces, play areas, village halls, community car schemes and potentially much more.
- Deciding on how much to raise through the council tax in order to deliver your council's services.
- Influencing and shaping the long term development policy for the parish, and as part of the planning process, comment on planning applications in the parish.
- Improve the quality of life and the environment in their local area.
- Working to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents you represent.
- Working to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies.



This time last year we were already well into planning the Diamond Jubilee of Bromham Carnival, but sadly the pandemic put a sudden end to our plans.

The Carnival Committee started meeting again in January by Zoom to think about what, if anything, we could do in 2021. Now that the vaccination programme is well underway, and there is a planned roadmap out of the lockdowns we hope to be able to organise at least some Carnival events this year. At this stage we think we need to concentrate on events that can be run with a high level of flexibility both for dates and format. This means it is unlikely that we'll be able to organise a traditional Carnival Procession, and we think many people will still be cautious about indoor gatherings, but we do want to make sure that Bromham has the opportunity to get together and enjoy themselves again. Obviously, we also want to be able to raise some money to be able to help village organisations to get back on their feet again.

At the moment we are focussing on organising two outdoor events - the Teddy Bear trail and a big Carnival Day party, plus the traditional Carnival Raffle. We still need to be flexible on dates; ideally we would love to be able to keep to the traditional date in June, but we need to monitor the progress of the roadmap, and follow government and Wiltshire Council advice. As backup dates, we are looking at either early July, just before the school holidays, or mid September.

The Teddy Bear trail theme this year will be the same as planned for 2020 "Family and Children's Films, 1960 - 2020", so start thinking about your entry again and contact Cathy Welch on 01380 850555 or email: bromhamcarnival@gmail.com as soon as possible to reserve your place and the name of the film you would like to make. We'll also be looking for sponsors.

Let us know your ideas for the big Carnival Party. We're already looking at live music from local musicians and a silver band, BBQ and food stalls, plus hopefully the fairground and the usual stalls. We don't have a lot of budget to pay for entertainment, so we're looking to the village to help. If you have any ideas or would be prepared to help out on the day - please let us know. Bromham deserves to have some fun and celebrate.

#### THANK YOU TO THE WEDNESDAY CLUB!!

I'm sure many of you have noticed that the footpath along the main road is now full width again from Yard Lane to St Edith's Marsh. Despite continued requests to Wiltshire Council by the Parish Council to clear the footpath, over the years it had become increasingly narrow and dangerous.

To the rescue rode Bromham Wednesday Club, who with brushes, shovels, wheelbarrows, several mini diggers and a lot of hard work gave up their Boxing Day bank holiday and managed to restore the footpath to its full width again between Yard Lane and The Haveli.

Some public spirited neighbours on St Edith's Marsh took up their own shovels and cleared the footpath between the bus shelter and Netherstreet. Concerned for their safety, the Parish Council asked the Wednesday Club if they would consider clearing the remainder of the path, which they did an excellent job of one Sunday morning.

For the first time in several years the footpath is now its original width and safe for pedestrians, prams and wheelchairs. Many Bromham residents have already expressed their gratitude on Facebook. Here are just two of the many messages.









From the junction with Yard Lane, all the way to Gregory's Corner and a little further, the footpath has been cleared. This walkway was overgrown with several years of soil and grass washed off the adjoining land.

In the last few weeks the Wednesday Club and other public spirited parishioners, worked very hard to make the path passable for pedestrians, prams and wheelchairs.

We would like to say a big thank you for all their efforts. Mo Edwards

I would like to say a big thank you to Mr and Mrs Peter and Brenda Tuck and their neighbour Helen for clearing the pavement outside my mum's house in St Ediths Marsh! So she can now walk up to the post box! Thanks again Enid Tasker

#### **BROMHAM THEN & NOW: BROMHAM & ROWDE HALT**



Bromham & Rowde Halt, looking towards the Burhills Lane bridge. This picture is just before the line closed in April 1966. The 'Pagoda' type waiting room still exits, at the far end of the platform, along with a canopy over the platform and a porters hut.

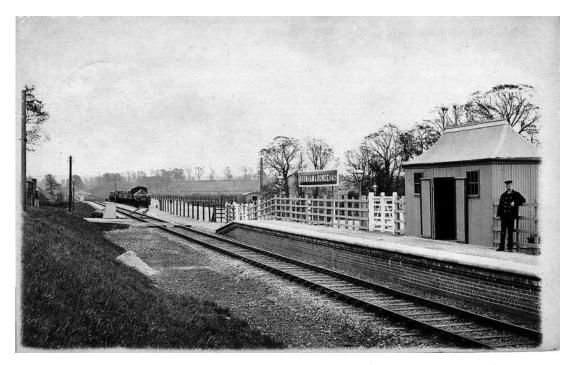
Older villagers, and anyone who has seen this photo at one of Dennis Powney's village history presentations, should already know that Bromham used to have its own railway station. Admittedly it was shared with Rowde, and was actually only a halt rather than a full station.

Having walked along part of the old trackbed recently, I thought it might be interesting to find out more about the history of Bromham & Rowde Halt.

The idea of a railway line through Devizes was first conceived in 1830, before the Great Western Railway (GWR) had begun to construct its main lines. Devizes was regularly considered by the GWR as a possible major stop on its London to Bristol Line, but finally lost out to Swindon due to the lack of potential traffic from Devizes and the practical challenge of the steep incline of Caen Hill.

In 1854 the GWR finally began to build from near Holt Junction eastward to Devizes, completing the branch in 1857. In 1862, the GWR extended its Reading-Hungerford line westward via Pewsey to Devizes, creating a direct link from London Paddington to Bristol which was shorter than any other route. This was the busiest period for the Devizes line, but long distance traffic declined from 1900 after the Stert-Westbury link was built to reduce journey time by avoiding the steep inclines into Devizes. Local traffic on the Devizes branch thrived during the early part of the twentieth century with stations being built at Semington and Seend as well as at Bromham & Rowde.

Opened in 1909, Bromham & Rowde Halt should probably more accurately have been named Martinslade & Sells Green Halt as Bromham is nearly three miles away. Today, the site of the station itself has almost completely disappeared, and the bridge taking the line under Berhills Lane has long been demolished. Much of the railway line can still be traced both on satellite images and on foot (Yellow dashed line in the satellite photo).



Bromham and Rowde Halt in 1910 looking towards Devizes (Copyright Guy Vincent)

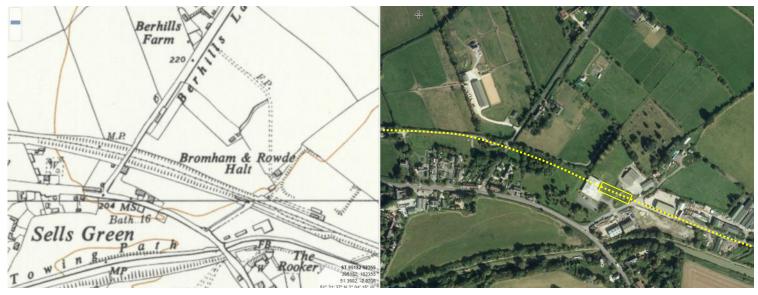
Although Bromham & Rowde was always a halt, it did have freight facilities, withdrawn from 10 June 1963. Vegetable and sugar beet traffic was brought in by lorry from Bromham (perhaps this was why the name of this village - some three miles to the north - was adopted for the halt). Additionally, from 1941 to 1962 there was timber traffic to and from a sawmill (the buildings visible in the right background of the colour photograph). The Devizes branch finally closed in 1966 as part of the Beeching cuts.



Bromham & Rowde Halt looking West towards Berhill's Lane bridge (Copyright RCTS)



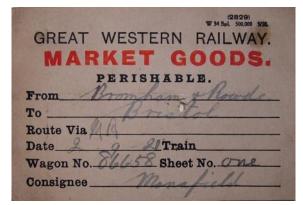
Return ticket to Devizes (Copyright Guy Vincent)



Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland



Bromham & Rowde Halt viewed from a train circa August 1963 (Copyright RCTS)



GWR Produce label 1921 (Copyright Guy Vincent)

Many thanks to Guy Vincent and Keith Jenkins of the Cornwall Railway Society, for background information and permission to use their photographs. A lot more information on the history of the Devizes branch line can be found on their website: <a href="http://www.cornwallrailwaysociety.org.uk/devizes-branch.html">http://www.cornwallrailwaysociety.org.uk/devizes-branch.html</a>

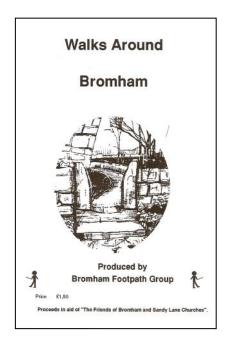
Thanks also to the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society (RCTS) for permission to reproduce their photos.

#### 30 YEARS OF THE BROMHAM FOOTPATH GROUP

The Bromham Footpath Group was formed in the spring of 1991 by the recently retired Kay and Dennis Powney, and Anne and Fred Parmenter. At first our objective was to walk all the footpaths in the parish and to log the condition of each. As Kay was still working part time Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays we decided to meet each Thursday, at 9.0 am. We were soon joined by several others including Arthur Blackman, Molly Paget, Jean Cary, Molly Griffiths, Norah Cooney, and the group grew rapidly. Some of the paths were overgrown and so we started to clear the undergrowth and open them up. Wiltshire County Council gave us way-marking signs to attach to stiles etc.



23<sup>rd</sup> Aug. Thursday. Members of the Footpath Group walk in Spye Park. In the woods is this gazebo or summerhouse, it is known as the Gorgon's Head, as it used to contain a fountainhead carved in this shape. The carving has now disappeared, but the water still flows.



After we had completed our survey of the paths we produced a booklet of walks of varying lengths. Wiltshire County Council paid for 300 copies to be printed and these were sold in aid of the Friends of Bromham Churches. These walks are now available to download (free) from the Bromham Parish Council website.

Once the group had become established it was decided to go further afield for the walk on the first Thursday of each month, these 'days out' were later changed to the fourth Thursday of the month. This later developed into starting, and ending at a pub for lunch. More adventurous days out for the group were then undertaken. By now the work party was well established, usually meeting on a Tuesday morning, building stiles and erecting footbridges, WCC provided parts of motorway barriers to build the bridges.

Once the free bus passes for the over sixties came into force we made great use of them to travel all over the place for our day out walks. More than once we travelled to Bournemouth, getting off the bus at Boscombe and walking along the seafront to Bournemouth, fish and chips at Harry Ramsden's then back on the bus for the ride home. Another time it was bus to Swindon and then on to Oxford, a walk along the River Isis, beside the colleges. The river was very swollen after heavy rain, I remember. On another occasion we travelled by mini-coach to the Brecon Beacons area of South Wales to the Sgwd Clun-Gwyn Waterfall near Ystradfellte. The public footpath here passes behind the waterfall and is very impressive.

Two mini-coaches were once used to access the Jurassic coast in Dorset. The coaches were parked ten miles apart and the two groups walked along the coast path towards each other, meeting in the middle for a picnic lunch and exchanging the coach keys; then continuing on along the path and returning home in the other coach.

In the late 1990s Busy Kids preschool group held a fund raising coffee morning in the Social Centre on a Thursday and we took advantage of this after our walk. This was enjoyed by all and so we decided to have a coffee & cake morning on the second Thursday of each month, in aid of Busy Kids. This was held in the Social Centre committee room; the kids' Mums providing the cakes. Having outgrown the Busy Kids site we now hold this in the Parish Church.

It's good to know that 30 years after it started the Bromham Footpath Group is still going strong, and still meeting on Thursday mornings.

#### **Dennis Powney**

Six years ago Dennis had an accident and ended up in the spinal unit at Salisbury hospital for many months. Suddenly we were leaderless. As our leader we had relied on him not only to guide the walks but also to organise the social side of things. For some time we had been enjoying monthly 'out of village' walks where we would drive to a different location, park at the local pub and, after the walk, enjoy a pub lunch. Several of us were very familiar with the network of paths in the surrounding countryside, so it was business as usual but who was going to organise the pub walks? At this point I rallied the troops and found enough volunteers to keep us going on a month by month basis. I took over the distribution list and by default (and for my sins) became the communications 'hub'.

It was soon after this that Fiona Burtenshaw had the great idea of offering a shorter walk to those who for various reasons found the regular two hour walk too strenuous. At first this was just once a month but eventually Fi was able to offer this option on a weekly basis and from there her little group of 'Amblers' grew, among them Dennis.





I am a regular visitor to Lundy (usually with a group of bell ringers) and it occurred to me that it would make an excellent destination for a walking holiday. In April 2018 a party of us spent 4 days on the island, staying at Milcombe House. We were planning another trip last year but it has had to be put on hold, as have our pub walks and other regular social activities. Then in 2019 Jane Syckelmoore organised a trip to Southern Spain where we stayed for a week at a beautiful hotel in the mountains near Malaga.





What began as a means of keeping the local footpaths open and accessible has developed into something much more. It gives us the opportunity to take exercise and enjoy our stunning countryside with a bunch of like-minded folk and enjoy a range of social activities from coffee and cake and pub lunches to group holidays.





Happy 30th anniversary BFG. Here's to the next 30 years! Linda Drummond-Harris





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# The Farm Cookery School

Adverts are quite tricky to do these days as plans need to be changed quite quickly once updates are announced.

Today is Friday 12th Feb and we know there is going to be an update in the week of 22nd Feb - so by the time this is published things may have changed!

What won't have changed is our Online Programme for March but if we can we will be opening our doors as well.

Here are the delicious dishes that we will be teaching from our Virtual Kitchen on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Adults and Children of all ages are welcome to join in and prices range from £10 - £15 per class

Week Commencing 22nd Feb Create your own Thai Curry, Burger & Slaw Burritos & Brownies







Week Commencing 1st March
Perk up your Pasta Dishes
Tricolore & Parmigiana
Toad in the Hole & Apple Crumble







Week Commencing 8th March Create your own Chilli Biryani & Chapatti Little Chefs Zoo Party







Week Commencing 15th March Perk up your Lunches Steak with Bearnaise & Diane Cottage Pie & Sticky Toffee Pud







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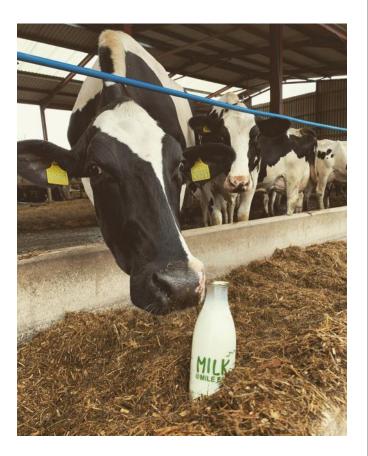




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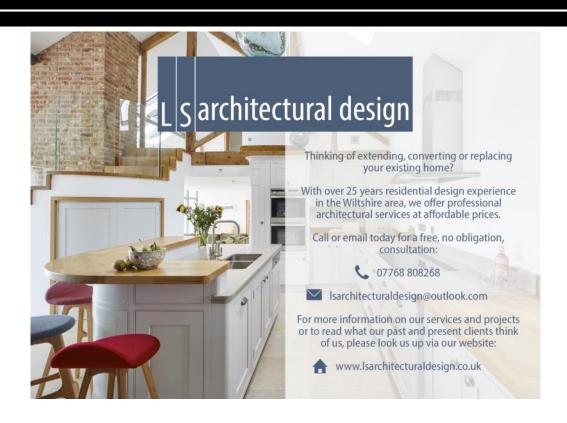
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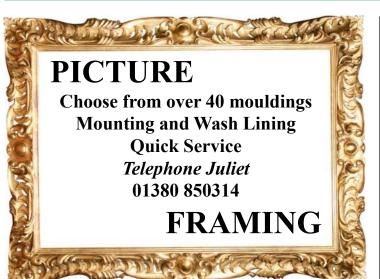
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