

# THE BROMHAM HOOT

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



# NUMBERS YOU MIGHT NEED

Devizes (01380) numbers unless otherwise shown

<b>Parish of Rowde, Bromham and Sandy Lane</b>			<b>Bromham Parish Council</b>		
Rector	Vacancy		Chairman	Peter Paget	850246
Associate Priest	Rev Heather Smith	07702 113544	Parish Clerk	Valerie Fergus	
Church Warden	Vacancy		Email:	<a href="mailto:clerk@bromhamwiltshire.org">clerk@bromhamwiltshire.org</a>	
Bromham Contacts	John Drew	850908	<b>Wiltshire Council</b>	All departments	0300 4560100
	Cynthia Wilkinson	859720	<b>The Bromham Clubhouse</b>		
<b>Methodist Church</b>	Rev Craig Manley	01249 818923	Bookings	Dave Paget	859492
	Jenny Blackman	850580	Email:	<a href="mailto:clubhouse@bromhamsocialcentre.co.uk">clubhouse@bromhamsocialcentre.co.uk</a>	
<b>Roman Catholic Church</b>	Fr Paul Gonsalves	723572	Chairman	Pete Davis	850792
<b>St. Nicholas School</b>	Office	850391	Clubhouse Cafe	Den Fillis	850473
PTA Chair	tbc		<b>Bromham Community Hub</b>		
			Email:	<a href="mailto:contact@bromhamhub.org">contact@bromhamhub.org</a>	

## Contacts for Village Organisations

Bell Ringers	Linda Drummond-Harris	07905 188030	Bromham Ladies	Muriel Sibun	850126
Bromham Amblers	Fiona Burtenshaw	07929 995093	Royal British Legion	Neil Meadows	850360
Busy Kids Pre-school	Kelly York	859389	Short Mat Bowls	George Henderson	01249 815388
Carnival Chairman	Peter Hindle	850925	Spye Park Cricket Club	Tom Mornement	850913
Football Club	Neil Davison	07860 557125	Stitchers	Ann Hannah	850589
Footpath Group	Linda Drummond-Harris	07905 188030	Tennis Court Bookings	Caroline Jones	850260
Friends B & SL Churches	Carol Drew	850908	Twinning Association	Janet Giles	850327
Gardening Club	Judi McKendrick	850611	W.I. President	Lesley Eacopo	850967
Little Angels	Carole Myer	850706			
Monday Club	Carol Hindle	850925	Youth Club Secretary	Claire Smart	
Organisers	Cathy Welch	850555	Email:	<a href="mailto:bromhamyouthy@gmail.com">bromhamyouthy@gmail.com</a>	
Mothers' Union	Carole Myer	850706	Drama Group	Penny Lander	859002

Village Website: [www.bromhamwiltshire.org](http://www.bromhamwiltshire.org)

## BROMHAM PARISH COUNCILLORS 2023 - 2024

Name	Address	Tel. No.
Vacancy		
Jim BUTLER	Bromham House Farm, 40 Devizes Road, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2DX	850230
Jean COLLENS	17 Church Hill, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2JQ	850675
Adam COLLINS	81 Devizes Road, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2DZ	078255 686584
Phil COLLINS	81 Devizes Road, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2DZ	850228 / 07971 120601
Peter HINDLE	85 Netherstreet, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2DW	850925 / 07711 423549
Keith MAHONEY	43 The Pound, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2HF	850441
Sam PAGET	28 Greystones, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2JT	850246
Peter PAGET (CHAIRMAN)	28 Greystones, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2JT	850246
Jonathon SEED	Wayside, 12 Chittoe Heath, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2EH	07770 774463
Adam SLUSARCZYK	40 New Road, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2JB	07834 451728
Cary THOMPSON	44 Yard Lane, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2DT	850388 / 07770 846442
Kate WHITE	30 Brick Hill, Bromham, Chippenham, SN15 2JL	850395 / 07709 181280

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*If you don't get your copy of The Hoot at the usual time or know someone who hasn't, do please let us know by emailing [bromham.hoot@outlook.com](mailto:bromham.hoot@outlook.com) and we'll try to sort it out.*

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### Welcome to the January - February 2024 edition of The Bromham Hoot.

Apologies to everyone that spotted the deliberate error in the last issue! For those of you that didn't notice - I managed to forget to change the month on the cover, so there were two September/October Hoots in 2023.

The front cover is a photo taken a couple of years ago at the back of Netherstreet. I was out taking pictures of the hill in the snow when the four deer ran across the field just in front of me and I managed to grab an in-focus image.

As always if you have a photo that you think will make a good front cover for the Hoot, please email it to us at [bromham.hoot@outlook.com](mailto:bromham.hoot@outlook.com). Photos should be portrait format and as high resolution as possible.

The big news in the Hoot this time is that just before Christmas the trustees of Bromham Community Hub were informed that their application to the Community Ownership Fund had been successful, and that they had been awarded a grant totalling £300,000 towards the rebuild. The planning application has been submitted to Wiltshire Council, so hopefully we can soon start to make visible progress on a new building. More details on page 14.

**The next issue of The Hoot will be for March / April 2024, and will be distributed in early March.**

**The deadline for content and advertising is Friday February 16th.**

### Welcome to our new Parish Clerk

Bromham Parish Council is pleased to announce that it has appointed Valerie Fergus as our new Parish Clerk. Valerie started work on December 4th.

We asked Valerie to introduce herself:

*I moved to the Village just over two and half years ago but I am no stranger to village life having lived in Box for over 25 years.*

*An avid dog walker, I enjoy the wonderful walks available in and around the village and you will see me walking my two dogs Zola and Gordon daily.*

*In the brief time I have lived in Bromham I have found it to be a friendly and welcoming village and I'm delighted to say I have made many really good friends.*

*I am looking forward to taking up the position of Parish Clerk and getting to grips with the many facets of the role. Part of my job is working closely with councillors and local groups to promote the interests and well being of our community and helping people.*

*I hope you will find me approachable and, despite being new to the job, I will always find the answer to any questions you may have, please don't hesitate to ask.*



Valerie Fergus | [clerk@bromhamwiltshire.org](mailto:clerk@bromhamwiltshire.org)

### First Aid Course

Several people have asked about the possibility of running a First Aid course for the village in the New Year.

Ian Tuckett has agreed to run a two hour training session covering basic first aid and how to use one of the defibrillators. The training will be free, unless you would like a certificate - in which case there will be a small charge.

**If you are interested, please could you let Ian know by email at [info@tuckett-training.co.uk](mailto:info@tuckett-training.co.uk).**

Once we have an idea of numbers then a firm date and venue can be arranged.



# Report of Bromham Parish Council Meeting held on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2023

## Parishioners' 10 minutes:

Den Fillis acknowledged the donation of a Christmas Tree from Moors Wood Farm.

## Laura Mayes update:

- **Flooding in Hawkstreet** - This has been particularly bad recently and it is highly recommended that a Village Flood Plan should be put in place as a matter of urgency. With such a plan in place Wiltshire Council will be better able to provide practical help. A meeting with the new Highways Manager, Andy Cadwalladar, has been arranged and the flooding in Hawkstreet will be discussed.
- **Planning Permission for 64 Hawkstreet** - It has been noted that much of the work carried out at this property has not followed the agreed planning permission. This has been passed to the planning enforcement officer who will be monitoring both the planning permission for the 5 bar gate and also for a garage, both of which have contravened planning permission.
- **Travellers site** - Since the case was heard in February and there is still no decision made by the judge, the barristers are now pushing for the long overdue judgment.
- **Wyatts Lake** - a short term improvement with the installation of a pump but a drain needs to be put in and this has been agreed by the owner.

## Minutes Update:

- Hedge cutting/brambles - no update as yet but this will be done
- High St. Trees - no update
- Dog bins - new one to be installed in Hawkstreet, checking if new bin has been ordered.
- Clerk's laptop - new laptop has been purchased
- Chittoe Heath - no update. Fallen trees were removed promptly and two further trees were felled as they were deemed to be unsafe
- First Aid Course - Ian Tuckett will be running a First Aid Course for anyone interested which will take place in the new year. Cost will be dependent on numbers but could be free unless a certificate is required. Please contact Ian to register interest.
- Pavilion Clock - Work ongoing, wiring needs to be replaced as it is currently unsafe.
- Accident Book - HSE compliant accident book now in Clubhouse and any accidents to be recorded and stored safely
- Parish Website - Possible refresh required for better provision of Parish Council documents and also dedicated email addresses for all councillors.

## Neighbourhood Plan.

Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan committee took place on 9th December. The aim is to meet the government requirement to provide 65 new houses by 2036. Good progress has been made to date with small sites having been proposed.

Concerns raised around preventing a developer coming which could result in a large housing development. The village needs to have a plan in place to help prevent this from happening and will still need to go to a village vote.

## Community Hub.

- The planning application has been submitted as agreed at previous parish council meeting and is awaiting approval.
- Still looking into a possible claim against the Trustees Indemnity Insurance. It is unclear if a claim can be made, all available documentation needs to be examined and then legal advice to be sought to give clarity on the viability of a claim being possible.
- Lottery Grant - Waiting for Planning Application to be approved.

## Allotments/Crown Lease.

New rental agreement with the Crown to be signed on the 25/03/24 which will result in an increase in rental charges for allotments.

## Play Area Inspections.

Checked and all good.

## Skatepark.

No issues reported.

## Defibrillator Inspection.

Five defibrillators in the Village, one in Hawkstreet requires a new battery at a cost of £285

### **RABY/Oldest Serviceman/Donations.**

The list of recipients has been updated, cards written and will be distributed by councillors and members of the public in attendance. Total Raby Cash £310.

Oldest Serviceman - Ivor Gardner

Donations agreed:

*Monday Club - £150*

*Air Ambulance - £100*

*Dorothy House - £100*

*Youth Club - £150*

*Devizes Link - £100*

*Julia's House - £100*

*Bromham Hoot - £300*

*St. Nicholas PCC - £200*

*Busy Kids - £250*

### **Football Club.**

- Request for the gate at the side to be opened as had been agreed at a meeting held a year ago.
- No issues with dogs reported
- Funding needed and grant to be applied for, cutoff date for submission to Devizes Area Board - March 2024

### **Finance Meeting**

- Meeting held on 11/12/23 Calculations for precept discussed and proposed figure £52k agreed.
- Concerns that proposed figure will not be enough to cover the rise in expenses and costs.
- The lower figure was agreed by the majority of Parish Councillors as it kept the cost to villagers below £10

### **Complaints/Petition/FOI request.**

Concerns were raised about an increase in the requirement to seek legal advice and the costs incurred depleting funds.

Wiltshire Council Monitoring Officer - Maria Dougherty has received all complaints:

- Luke Humphries against Jim Butler - Found - No further action.
- Luke Humphries against Peter Paget - Found - No further action.
- Catherine Reed against Jonathan Seed - Found - No further action.

Freedom of Information Request (FOI)

- Request made originally from Social Centre Management Committee and then D. Fillis.
- Advice given by Tim Prees (Wansboroughs) in response to request. "The Parish Council has been advised that all communications between members of the Parish Council and the Parish Council's legal advisors created for the purpose of seeking or receiving legal advice are covered by legal and professional privilege and therefore do not have to be discussed in response to a FOI request."

### **Emails/Letters**

- Email received from Richard Dyke reference attending Social Centre Management Meeting with Greg Woods as representatives of the Wednesday club. They had previously been denied access to the meeting.
  - It was confirmed that two representatives of each organisation in the Village have a right to attend SCMC meetings and this should be encouraged.
  - It was also confirmed that members of the public are welcome to attend the Annual General Meetings.
- Letter received from Land Registry requesting confirmation and proof that Bromham Parish Council are still in possession of the Social Centre Site and Football Field and they are in use.
  - Advice to be sought from Wansborough's for clarity of this request as it's unclear who initiated it.
- Letter from Zoe Perry.
  - Parish Council response to be drafted and agreed at next meeting. Zoe Perry to receive written response.

### **Parish Councillor Vacancy:**

- The vacancy will be advertised once confirmed by Electoral Services.

### **Urgent Parish Business:**

Parish Council to extend their thanks and appreciation to the School and PTA for their excellent organisation of the 2023 Pudding Run.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE ON JANUARY 8TH 2024**  
**All Parish Council minutes are available on the Village website when approved.**  
**Valerie Fergus, Parish Clerk - Email: [clerk@bromhamwiltshire.org](mailto:clerk@bromhamwiltshire.org)**

# BROMHAM & ROWDE CHURCHES

What are you hoping for in this New Year? Peace across the world would be high on my list, but I'm not sure what I can do personally to achieve it.

I've been reading a Canadian philosopher who talks about insight as a way to reaching agreement when we find ourselves in conflict. He means that we should listen to the other person and try to get insight into their point of view. That's the way we can reach compromise. It seems obvious, but it's very hard to do in the midst of an argument.

My New Year's resolution is to listen harder. I can't solve the problems in the Holy Land, Ukraine or Yemen, but I can work to resolve conflicts that arise in my own life. That's what Jesus meant when he talked about the Kingdom of God, which will bring peace.



Heather

## Church Services in January & February in Bromham, Sandy Lane and Rowde

Any changes to service times will be put on our Facebook page – Churches of Rowde and Bromham.

	8.00 am Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)	10.00 am Eucharist
Sunday 7th January	Rowde	Bromham
Sunday 14th January	Sandy Lane	Rowde
Sunday 21st January	<i>No Service</i>	Bromham
Sunday 28th January	Sandy Lane	Rowde
Sunday 4th February	Rowde	Bromham
Sunday 11th February	Sandy Lane	Rowde
Sunday 18th February	<i>No Service</i>	Bromham
Sunday 25th February	Sandy Lane	Rowde
Sunday 3rd March	Rowde	Bromham
Sunday 10th March	Sandy Lane	Rowde

### Contacts during the interregnum:

Revd Heather Smith      07702 113544 / [revheathersmith@gmail.com](mailto:revheathersmith@gmail.com)

John Drew                      01380 850908

Sarah Bowler, Administrator    [sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com)

Web page :                      [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9620/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9620/)



### Recycle your used ink cartridges

A box from Recycle4Charity [www.recycle4charity.co.uk/](http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/) has been placed in the Clubhouse entrance. All used ink cartridges are welcome. Recycling ink cartridges stops them going to landfill or being incinerated.

When the box contains at least 15 it can be free-posted to the charity, who will then provide us with a new one.



## Letter from the Parochial Church Council

First and foremost, we wish you all a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year. Let us hope that we can all continue to work together for the good of the parish as we face new challenges.

We continue to be thankful for all of the retired and full-time priests who lead us in worship in the continued absence of a new Rector. The post of Rector continues to be advertised, but it may be some time into the New Year before any one is appointed.

Well done and thank you to everyone who attended, performed and brought refreshments to November's Bromham Bash. What a great and enjoyable evening that was, raising a healthy profit for our Churches. And again, thank you to everyone who worked so hard and creatively in making such a wonderful Christmas atmosphere inside the Parish Church during the Christmas Tree Festival.

The annual Service of 9 Lessons and Carols was well attended and thanks to our choir, organist John and to Paul for creating the mood lighting.

We had a successful day in Devizes Shambles on December 7th during which we sold nearly all our stock of homemade jams and preserves making another very worthwhile contribution to our Church funds. There are a few jars for sale at £2.50 each or £10 for five jars inside both Churches. Thank you to everyone who helped at the stall.

We are so fortunate that we have such good links between our Church and our Primary School and although Christmas is for children of every age, (think on that), it was lovely to see so many excited youngsters viewing and judging the Christmas trees and pulling out sweets from the lucky dip. And who can fail to share in their excitement at the Crib Service as it grew dark on Christmas Eve - Magic! and memories created to last a lifetime, despite the drizzle!

Thank you to Tara from the Greyhound who hosted the start of the Service, thank you to our "actors", thank you to Chris who brought his sheep, to Craig and Serena who brought their donkeys and thank you to Annica for bringing her pony and finally, thank you to dear old St. Nich himself and his "flying sweets" who made a fleeting visit.

The PCC does not seek any reward or thanks for our efforts in arranging all of the different Services and running events throughout the year, but what would help us ENORMOUSLY is for more of you to come forward with your ideas and suggestions on anything at all, which will enable our Churches to remain open and viable long after your PCC members have gone. Without that continuity, our Churches will close and then what will happen to baptisms, weddings and funerals? We are only seven in number with a total age of over 500 yrs. old! We need some young blood to help what is after all, the focal point of the wonderful Bromham community. As Lord Kitchener said "your Country needs you" - substitute country for community.

In the last letter, we mentioned the fact that Bromham had seen the passing of too many stalwarts, we'll not dwell on that again, but we have seen two people leave our community for pastures new, both of whom served our Church and community with huge commitment and service over many years. We sincerely thank Michael and Heather Armstrong for their service to our community and wish them both every good fortune for their future.

A reminder that if you or anyone that you know, is unable to attend our Church Services of Holy Communion, we are able to bring the consecrated elements to you in your own home. Please ring either Cynthia on 859720 or John on 850908.

Finally ..... A group of schoolchildren were lined up in a queue at the cafeteria of a Religious Order. At the head of the table was a tray of apples with a note placed on top of the apples which said, "Take only ONE, the Good Lord is watching". Moving along the lunch line at the other end, was a large tray of chocolate biscuits. A child wrote a note saying, "Take all you want, the Good Lord is watching the apples!"

**Best Wishes,**

**Cynthia Wilkinson, John Drew, Anne Smith, Linda Drummond Harris, Dennis Powney, Phil Bayley, Ernest Escott.**

## Charity events

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent charity event in aid of EVS Bloodbikes. A cheque for £460 was handed to them.

**Dates for your diary:**

**Saturday March 16th** - Crofton Stoker's in the church.

**Friday June 14th** - Mangled Wurzels in the marquee on the Jubilee field.

More details to follow.

**Cath, Den, Denise and Tracy (Collins)**



## FROM THE METHODIST CHAPEL

Services in January and February (all at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated). Everyone welcome.

**Sunday 7th Jan** Mr John Williams

**Sunday 4th Feb** Mr Derek Gard

**Sunday 14th Jan** Covenant Service to include Holy Communion led by Rev Craig Manley

**Sunday 11th Feb** Holy Communion - Rev Craig Manley

**Sunday 21st Jan** Mrs Michelle Gard

**Sunday 18th Feb** Mr Derek Gard

**Sunday 28th Jan** Local Arrangement

**Sunday 25th Feb** Mrs Margaret White

Special thanks to Tracy and Phil Collins for their generous donation of vegetables for our bazaar and to Anne and Ivor Powney for their help transporting tables etc to and from the Clubhouse. Also, thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes, cakes, those who served refreshments on the day and to everyone who come along and supported us. Without your help we could not have raised £715 for Chapel funds.

We were privileged to welcome the staff and pupils from St Nicholas school for their Advent Trail on Tuesday 5th December.

In December we welcomed Rob, Amara and baby Elias with all their family and friends for the Baptism of Elias. This was a very special occasion, and we are delighted that they are now part of our Chapel family.

This year we changed the time of our Carol Service to 4pm in the afternoon, this proved to be a very successful decision. We had a lovely afternoon of Carols and readings, and it was lovely to see so many new and familiar faces enjoying the singing and staying for refreshments and chat. A wonderful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

The next coffee morning will be held on Saturday 6th January 10 00am – 12.00 noon. The coffee morning in February will be held on Saturday 3rd at 10 00am. All the usual fellowship and chat, plus delicious cakes.

**Jenny Blackman - Bromham Methodist Chapel**

### Notes from the Belfry

At the end of November we held a training morning for members of the Calne Branch using our simulator. This is a device connected to light sensors on the bell frame which generate an electrical pulse when reflectors on the bell wheels pass in front of them. The electrical pulse produces a simulated bell sound very like the real thing in the ringing chamber. (We immobilise the clappers so that no sound can be heard outside).

The first ringing simulator was invented back in the 1970s by a retired electronic engineer called Peter Cummins using discrete logic. His invention was modified several times before it was produced commercially. Ours is one of very few of these still in use countrywide having been superseded by the PC and the development of ringing software.

It was a bright sunny morning when we gathered for our training session which was going very well until strange things started to happen. The tenor bell was making extra dongs. We tried pressing various buttons to no avail until it dawned on me what was causing the problem. The winter sun, being low in the sky, was shining onto the sensors sending extra pulses to the simulator! So we switched off the sound and continued 'ringing' until the sun had moved on. Problem solved!

This year it was our turn to host the joint Calne and Devizes branches' Carol Service on the second Saturday in December. Last year it was hosted by South Wraxall in the Devizes branch, a newly rehung ring of six bells which had been silent for many years. The bells there are rung from the ground floor so ringers could hang about in the church waiting for their turn. Our ringing chamber can hold about twenty at a push so it was a tight squeeze. However, all those who wanted to ring did so in the 90 minutes before the service. This was a lovely occasion attended by more than fifty ringers who filled the church with their singing and the afternoon was rounded off with a 'bring and share' tea.

**Linda Drummond-Harris**

### Clubhouse Café

The cafe continues to be really well supported. September, October and November figures totalled £3193.

Donations of £100 each was made to: Busy Kids, Monday Club, Youth club and Mothers Union. Balance of £2793 will be divided equally ( £698 each) to Dorothy House Hospice, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, EVS Bloodbikes and Julia's House.

December's takings will be divided between local Bromham charities.

From the Cafe team we would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Cath, Denise, Tracey (H) and Den, plus all our helpers.**



## VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & ACTIVITIES

### Bromham W I

At the November meeting of Bromham W I we enjoyed an interesting and informative talk by Joan Harrington on the tradition of well dressing in Derbyshire. The tradition of well dressing takes place between May and July around the villages in Derbyshire, and has been a tradition that was started in the middle ages when it was thought that dressing the wells in villages would protect the population in that area from any disaster, such as the Black Death. It takes quite a few people to dress the wells and it takes about a week to finish the well. The wells are surrounded by wooden structures which are filled with a deep layer of clay and the design is then made in the clay. Any natural material is used to make the design, such as flowers, fir cones, pebbles or vegetables. Joan showed us a lot of pictures of the finished wells over the years, and the designs were really beautiful.

For our December meeting we were entertained by Brian and Kelly Tilley. Brian plays French bagpipes and the hurdy-gurdy and Kelly the hurdy-gurdy. Brian and Kelly play mostly as a twosome, and have played all over the county in various venues. They play mostly French music but sometimes Scandinavian. The hurdy-gurdy is a stringed instrument and the single notes played on the instrument sound similar to those of a violin. It is a French instrument and originated in the monasteries hundreds of years ago. Marie Antoinette played the hurdy-gurdy and bagpipes so consequently all the nobility in the French court at the time learnt to play these instruments. In France the bagpipe remains an important instrument in French traditional music. The instruments were beautiful to look at and took enormous skill to play. After our musical entertainment we enjoyed mulled wine and delicious festive food provided by the members. It was a lovely evening, and as the Clubhouse was beautifully decorated for Christmas there was a real festive spirit around.

Our first meeting in the New Year is on Wednesday January 10th, when Sue Roberts will be our speaker with a talk entitled "A bird's eye view of an investiture". Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Clubhouse and visitors are always welcome.

To learn more about Bromham W I please contact Lesley Eacopo (850967). New members are always welcome.

**Sheila Sims**

### Monday Club

November and December were very musical months for Monday Club members. We were entertained by Sian and Rob, a lovely singing duo who sang songs from the shows and we enjoyed hearing the school choir singing a selection of Christmas songs that they'd learnt this year. We also did some singing ourselves - Cathy led a session of action songs



which was great fun, as was Ann's version of The Days of Christmas, also accompanied by actions.

Our Christmas lunch was amazing - thank you Serena, and we were pleased that some volunteers were able to join us. A big thank you to everyone who gives up their time to help us in some way, we really do appreciate your support. We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Monday Club would like to thank the Phoenix Club for donating their curling set to us - we look forward to trying it out in the new Community Hub.

We're always looking for new members so why not come along and join us. For more information contact:

**Carol - 01380 850925 or Cathy - 01380 850555**

## Bromham Youth Group

We recently held a Halloween party in October where teams had to turn each other into human mummies, we had a ghost pinata that members had to hit down and other ghostly games on offer. Some members dressed up for the party and Frankie and Liana won best costume.



Members have been on a trip to the Arc Climbing Centre in Chippenham. We were really impressed with the members confidence and willingness to give everything a go. Members also enjoyed a game of Shark Attack using the bouldering wall. Lot's of teamwork, resilience and communication were on display.

We held our Christmas party and bring and share supper at the last session of 2023. Christmas jumpers were worn, Christmas music played and lots of silly but fun games were on offer.

We wish everyone a fantastic 2024.

Darren Barber

## Bromham Christmas Tree Festival and the Crib Service



## Bromham Footpath Group

Despite the wet weather our Thursday walks have been relatively rain free though in places the footpaths turned into rivers with water almost up to the top of our wellies.



For our October pub walk we stayed local. Setting off from the Lansdowne Derry Hill where we were booked in for lunch, we crossed the main road and followed a circular route through a part of the Bowood Estate returning via Nocketts Hill. We were accompanied by three well-behaved dogs on leads: Holly, Chester and Cuthbert who enjoyed the walk as much as we did. It was a fine clear day so we could see for miles from the top.

On Thursday 30th November we were joined by the Amblers for our Christmas lunch at the North Wilts Golf Club. It was bitterly cold day with a keen wind as a select group of hardy souls set off on our pre-lunch walk around Morgan's Hill. The Downs were shrouded in mist but by the time we approached the Smallgrain Plantation the mist had cleared sufficiently to give a glimpse of the view towards Calne and Cherhill. We were only too pleased when the golf club came into sight and we were able to join our friends in the warmth of the bar.

Our next pub walk will be at the end of January when we will be lunching at the Bell on the Common at Broughton Gifford.

If you would like to join us we meet every Thursday at 09.00 by the Clubhouse for a two hour local walk, except the fourth Thursday in the month when we venture out of the village. If you would like details of our next pub walk please contact me on **07905 188030**. We will be happy to welcome you to the group.

**Linda Drummond-Harris**

## Bromham Amblers Walking Group

We meet every Thursday at 10.00 am in the village car park by The Greyhound. The friendly group walk gently - with no stiles - locally. About once a month we share lifts to amble somewhere else. We arrange to have coffee somewhere every week at 11 o'clock. We generally have between 8-20 people weekly walking and it's a lovely supportive and fun group.

**Fiona Burtenshaw, 07929 995093, email: [fiona@aps.ltd](mailto:fiona@aps.ltd)**

## Bromham Bash

The Bromham Bash in November was a great success and nearly £500 was raised on the evening. Many thanks to everyone who helped on the evening or provided food for the event. But mostly many thanks to all the people who provided the entertainment on the evening. We certainly have a lot of talented people in our village ! Hopefully the Bash will be on again next year. Once again many thanks to you all.

**Sheila Sims.**

## The Wednesday Afternoon Friendly Club

Following on from the recent demise of the Phoenix Club the above named club will commence on Wednesday 10th January 2024 from 2pm until 4pm, and then continuing on every other alternate Wednesday afternoon.

The club will meet in the Social Centre Clubhouse, and will be open to persons of all ages. The club will have very little formality, no officers or committees, just friendship and chatter. It will be free of cost, tea/coffee will be available, bring your own biscuits or cake if you wish.

The whole idea of this club is to promote friendships and to counteract loneliness.

“There is no such thing as strangers, they're just friends that have yet to meet “.

**Dennis Powney, 01380 850979 | [dennis.powney@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.powney@gmail.com)**



# BUSY KIDS NURSERY

Bromham, Wiltshire

01380 859389 [busykidsbromham@outlook.com](mailto:busykidsbromham@outlook.com)



At the beginning of the term we created a fabulous, colourful firework display using the children's handprint paintings.

We supported Children in Need by dressing up in spots and Pudsey clothes and baked cakes to sell to raise money.

We have had lots of fun exploring the changing colours outside using our lovely outdoor areas and going on lots of walks. We have collected leaves to paint and print on to paper, we have been hunting for bugs and found a grasshopper and lots of worms and we enjoyed going on a bear hunt!



We have been focusing on Christmas for the last few weeks and have set up our home corner as a cosy area with a log fire burning. The children loved painting the flames for the fire.

We have also created stockings to hang on the fireplace. We have been enjoying lots of Christmas crafting in the lead up to the holidays which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

We ended the term with a Christmas party and were lucky enough to have a visit from Father Christmas himself!





# BUSY KIDS NURSERY

Bromham, Wiltshire

01380 859389 busykidsbromham@outlook.com

## Fundraising

We have had a very busy time fundraising over the last few months. We would like to say thank you for the support we have received from local businesses and the community. A huge thank you to St Nicholas Primary School PTA for allowing Busy Kids Committee to provide the refreshments for the Pudding Run. Thank you to Kate King and Jackie Sims for helping the committee on the day, thank you to everyone who baked a cake for us to sell and thank you, of course, to everyone who came in for refreshments.

We had a wonderful day at our Christmas Fayre and would like to thank Craig Dalby, Brenda Pearson, Jackie Sims, Sue Napier, Dominika Paget, Bev Plumb, Laurence Plumb, Jade Williams, Louise James, Hannah and Simon Agar and our committee for all their hard work in preparing and running the event. We would also like to thank everyone who generously donated a raffle prize and everyone who baked a cake for us to sell.

We received a lot of support for both of these fundraising events from local supermarkets and shops who donated food, drinks and equipment for us to use and sell. Thank you so much to Tesco Express in Pewsham, Sainsburys Melksham, Poundstretcher Melksham, Costa in Melksham, Chippenham Town Centre and Chippenham Drive Through and Asda in Bristol.

## OFSTED

On 9th October we had a visit from Ofsted. The inspector spent the day with the staff and children and we were able to showcase our lovely nursery. The feedback we received was really good. The inspector highlighted how caring and nurturing our staff are and how well the staff know the children and the good bonds they have with them. She saw that the setting is a safe, secure and welcoming environment for the children and recognised how staff provide exciting learning opportunities based on the children's interests and their learning aims. We received a GOOD rating in all areas.



## Welcome to our new Nursery Manager

Our Nursery Manager Kelly is due to start maternity leave very soon. We have been very fortunate to find a new manager who has lots of experience working in early years settings. We would like to introduce Lynne.

Hello - I'm Lynne and I can't wait to get to know you and your children better when I start at Busy Kids in January. I have been teaching since 2004, and working in Management since 2012. Before moving to Bromham last year, I spent many years living in London where I led two maintained nursery schools.

I know a little bit about agriculture having worked for the Agricultural Training Board as a training adviser and video producer, back in the last century! I also have a bit of experience in the construction industry as I spent a number of years working for the Centre for Educational Resources in the Construction Industry. But since having my own children my greatest passion has been the importance and availability of Early Years Education. I have been lucky enough to observe early education and childcare in many European Countries which enabled me to introduce the best aspects of this learning into my own practice and cascade the outcomes of these experiences to other practitioners.

People often ask me if I miss London to which I reply "no". I miss the friends we had there but I really wanted to come here. My first grandchild lives nearby and I can claim descentance from the Salter's of Kington Langley, whom I have traced back there 500 years. I love getting involved in village events and have enjoyed being a part of the Thursday ramblers group.

In London I was lucky enough to work a 5 minute push scooter ride away from my schools, here, if I follow the footpaths across the fields, it's about a 15 minute walk, but that might be more of a summer activity.

I have been looking for the right position since I moved to Bromham, whilst carrying out supply work in local primary schools, I have found my new home at Busy Kids.



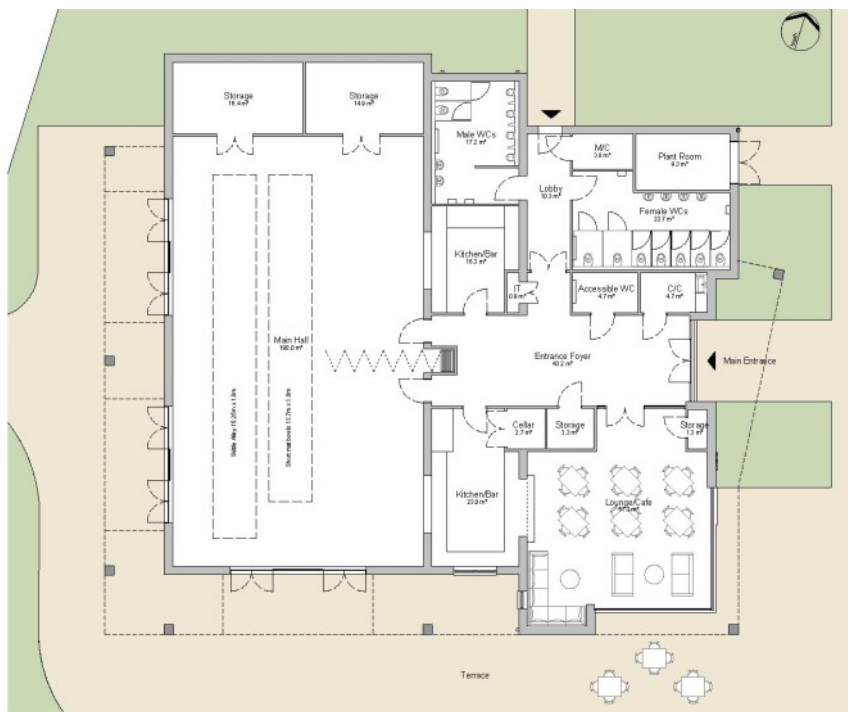


The Trustees of Bromham Community Hub are delighted to announce that on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 we were notified that our application for funding support has been successful and we have been awarded a £300,000 grant from the Government 'Community Ownership Fund'.

This funding will provide much needed support for rebuilding the Bromham Community Hub and gives a huge boost to our fundraising efforts. £50,000 of this grant is to provide support for the administrative and technical support we need for a project of this size and the remaining £250,000 is allocated to the construction costs of the building.

We believe we still need to raise up to a further £250,000 towards the costs of completing and fitting out the building, but we have also had a positive response to our initial enquiry for £100,000 from the Lottery Fund. Lottery applications require the actual cost of the project confirmed, not just an estimate. We are currently starting to prepare documents to tender the design and build contract, identify the full costs, and to be able to appoint our construction company partner.

As we will have been given a Government grant we will be subject to their continual scrutiny throughout the procurement and development processes and on into the operational phase of the new Hub, so we will be expected to follow the business plan we submitted with our bid for funding.



Meanwhile in December, we made further progress in two other important areas:

1) The formal planning application for the new Bromham Community Hub has been successfully submitted to Wiltshire Council along with all the supporting documents and surveys that are required. Copies of two of the drawings are on this page, more details and the full set of documents can be found on the Community Hub and the Bromham village websites. The link to the full planning application will be posted on social media and on the websites as soon as it is received from Wiltshire Council.

2) HMRC has confirmed that as a registered Charity, Bromham Community Hub can claim "Gift Aid". This means that we can claim the income tax paid by you back from HMRC on all donations made to BCH. So for every £50 donated by individuals, gift aid will be claimed and HMRC will pay £12.50 directly into the Hub account.

Now that Gift Aid registration has been confirmed, Mel Watt formally launched the Buy-a-Brick campaign just before Christmas to support the fundraising for the Hub. We have asked the architects to design in a feature wall built from the bricks donated through the scheme and would like to encourage everybody to support this effort. The bricks have a minimum price of £50 but there is no maximum price, that choice is yours; every donation big and small (along with 25% claimed back from HMRC) is an important step toward the total. Please go to [justgiving.com/campaign/buyabrickforbromham](https://justgiving.com/campaign/buyabrickforbromham) to find out more.

# St Nicholas School



## Remembrance Poppy Project

St Nicholas Primary School were delighted to be offered 83 wooden crosses by Neil Meadows, each inscribed with the name of one of the Bromham village 'fallen'. Whilst learning about the meaning of Remembrance, every child made their own poppies for each cross before being assembled into nine individual wreaths.

The School Ambassadors, Ethan and Megan, represented the school with Mrs Kitts at the Remembrance Service led by Reverend Craig Manley. After the service and the Last Post was played, two of the wreaths were laid by Ethan and Megan with dignity and pride along with those of the Royal British Legion. The wreaths will be kept carefully for future ceremonies.



## Netherstreet Plant Sale - 2024

Save the date for the 2024 Netherstreet Plant Sale on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

Last May's event was the most successful yet, thanks particularly to those who helped make it happen. Marquees, gazebos, tables and chairs all had to be loaned, fetched and assembled beforehand and returned afterwards. And then there were all the villagers who brought plants, made cakes and came along to support it on the day. And the weather was on our side, thank goodness!

£1,800 was raised, enabling us to make donations of £400 to St Nicks School, Bromham Youth Club and to this wonderful village magazine, £350 to the Monday Club, £150 to the Mother's Union to give a local family struggling with the cost of living a holiday, and £100 to our local branch of the Royal British Legion.

We were delighted to receive an appreciative letter addressed to "all at Netherstreet" from Kelly, Georgie and the St Nick's PTA team telling us that the school's donation will be used "for the development of the school library", which "had not been updated for approximately ten years". So good to know. Here's to another successful Plant Sale in 2024.

**Carolyn White and Liz Durant**

## **LAURA MAYES - Wiltshire Councillor for Bromham, Rowde & Roundway**

I hope you had a good Christmas and New Year and are looking forward to lighter mornings. I am certainly getting fed up of walking the dogs in the dark!

I was kept very busy in November and December with work and activities in Bromham. On the positive side, I had a great time at the Busy Kids Christmas Fayre. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting this wonderful village nursery, and I was able to stock up on lots of Christmas presents. I also enjoyed running in the annual Bromham Pudding Run which was brilliantly organised as ever. My time never seems to improve but I always enjoy it!



Less positively, excessive rain caused flooding - mainly at Hawk Street and Durlitt Lane. I have been working with the newly appointed Wiltshire Council Highways Officer to sort the immediate issue, but it is clear we need a proper Flood Plan for the village to try to avoid it in the future. I will work with the Parish Council, Wiltshire Council and landowners to see what can be done.

I was contacted by several residents due to concerns about a neighbour who had breached their planning permission. This has caused considerable distress and disruption to their lives. It is essential applicants MUST abide by planning conditions, and not make variations without consulting Wiltshire Council.

If you are concerned about any building activity, or any other Council business, then please contact me at:

**Laura Mayes**

**Mobile 07855819343**

**Email: [laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk)**

## **BROMHAM'S TWIN IN FRANCE**

Do you love France? Perhaps it's your favourite holiday destination or you have fond memories of a special time there?

Is someone in your household learning French at school, adult education or with an app like Duolingo or Coffee Break Languages [both of which I highly recommend by the way!]? Or perhaps you just love the thought of warm croissants for breakfast, a picnic with ripe Brie and a glass of red, or flaming Crepes Suzettes in a French bistro?

If you're nodding to any of the above questions, read on.

As you may well be aware from the signage, Bromham is twinned with Ingrandes-le-Fresne sur Loire (the signage uses its former name Ingrandes sur Loire, which it was called until 2016).

If you're like me a few years ago, I had no idea what twinning really meant. The concept originated after WW2 with the aim of building links and exchanges between towns to bring reconciliation and prosperity after years of conflict. Thankfully since then many metaphorical bridges have been built and twin towns all around Europe continue their ties of friendship, through exchange visits and simply keeping in touch virtually.



Through the Bromham Twinning Association several exchange visits took place, a team of villagers who did a fundraising cycle from Bromham to Barcelona were welcomed warmly in Ingrandes and when Chris and I drove through France on holiday we stopped over and were treated like royalty with a champagne tea at the Mayor's residence!

The Ingrandes Twinning Association kindly sent a wreath for the recent funeral of Janet Giles who was the very able and active Chair of BTA for many years, and having been in touch with their president I know they are keen to keep up the connection, as am I!

There are many ways in which we could benefit from our twinning and I'd love to see who else in the village is interested. It doesn't need to involve actual visits (although that's the real fun bit!) any activity on a French theme could benefit from our friends in Ingrandes.

Watch out on Spotted in Bromham as well as future Hoot issues, for a suggested rendezvous soon!

**Caroline Palmer**



## Bromham Carnival: Totes on Tour - The Winners

Congratulations to everyone who entered the competition. It's been amazing to see how many of you took part and not only managed to remember to take your I ❤️ Bromham tote bags with you on holiday, but also to take a photo! As well as having some fun, the tote bags raised nearly £400 for Bromham Carnival.

The winners for the furthest distance are Sue Riley and Lesley Ulrich, who both took their totes nearly 11,500 miles to New Zealand. We aren't going to quibble over who actually went the furthest! We're also awarding a prize to Clare Smart for setting the bar so high at the start of the competition, and for taking her tote to the highest and definitely the most inaccessible spot! They will all be receiving a bottle of prosecco.



## Save the Date for the 2024 Bromham Carnival

Bromham Carnival will run from Saturday June 15th starting with the Teddy Bear Trail on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th, a full programme of events during the week and Carnival Day itself on Saturday June 22nd. More details to come in the next issue of The Hoot.



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## THANK YOU FROM THE PUDDING RUN TEAM AND THE PTA

Friends of St Nicholas School (PTA) would like to extend an enormous and heartfelt thank you to the school, the wider community and the many sponsors for the incredible support and generous contributions that have made this year's Pudding Run just as successful as previous years.

The Pudding Run is a 10k running event, held annually on the first Sunday in December. Friends of St Nicholas, which is the official name of the PTA charity, holds on to this race, and therefore every penny raised through entries and fundraising, by working with an enormously committed group of local volunteers to provide a fun and rewarding event for the running community and locals.



This year, Bath Athletics Club runner Bethan Francis came in as fastest female at 36:59. Michael Towler, also from Bath Athletics Club made 32:36 as fastest male. Fastest local female was former Pudding Run Race Director Catherine Body with 48:19, and fastest local male was Adrian Hoban with 41:47.

As in years past, school staff, parents, grandparents, friends, and lodgers (probably) turned out to help organise and support the race in the run up and on the day. If you were running, cheering, baking, making tea, emailing, moving railings, on the water station, helping with childcare, sponsoring, cleaning up – thank you so very much!

**The full amount raised was £11,357.24.**

**The Pudding Run Raffle made an additional  
£1,020.00**

This awesome total couldn't have been achieved by the race alone. The entire Pudding Run Event Team, our school staff, the parents and all the children at St. Nicholas School want to thank those that have made very generous donations along with our fantastic sponsors and runners.



All funds go directly to the school. The vast proportion of the sum is spent on essentials. Last year's Pudding Run has gone to renew all outdated or broken Early Years equipment, refurbish the library including books, building maintenance, science, and technology resources.

Volunteers for varying roles are needed to secure the 2024 race so if you can spare any time to assist us that would be hugely appreciated; if the race is lost the school loses all of the funds. Many of our volunteers no longer have children at school so it is time for new parents and carers to step forward. If you can help in any way, please email the Race Director, Chris Warren: [puddingrunrd@gmail.com](mailto:puddingrunrd@gmail.com). It is undoubtedly an immensely rewarding and enriching event to be a part of.

**The Pudding Run event team this year were:**

**Race Director** – Christopher Warren

**Race Secretary** – Jon Morrell

**Operations** - Jackie Tuckett

**Head Marshal** – Luci Hiscock

**Fundraising** – Sophie McCartan, Jen Brightmore, Naomi Paviour



Photos: Christopher Warren



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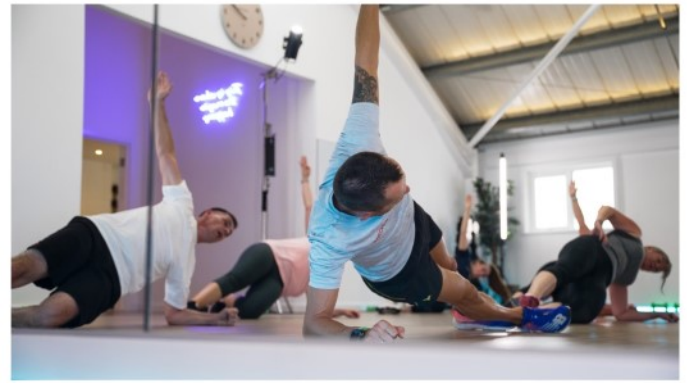


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15th Jan	Introduction to Chicken or Vegetable Biryani with Bhajis & Roti (16+ yrs)
1st March	Thali 1: Aloo Curry, Dahl, Tikka, Roti, Pickle, Raita & Salad
20th Feb	Introduction to Chicken or Vegetable Balti with Samosas & Chapattis

### THAILAND

12th Jan	Thai Feast 2: Spring Rolls, Sweet Chilli Sauce, Pad Thai & Tom Yum Soup
27th March	Introduction to Thai Dishes - Red & Green Curry
7th Feb	Thai Curries 2: Massaman & Panang Curries with Jasmine Rice

### MOROCCO

2nd Feb	Moroccan Feast 2: Tagine, Pastilla, Chermoula, Tabbouleh & Batbouts
12th March	Moroccan Feast: Batbout, Bessara, Zaalouk, Tabbouleh, Briouats & Keftas

### ITALY

6th March	Italian Feast: Gnocchi, Arancini, Parmigiana, Garlic Dough Bites & Ragu
18th Jan & 9th Feb	Italian Feast 2: Pasta - Ravioli & Spaghetti + Pesto, Ragu & Dough Bites
20th March	Introduction to Classic Italian dishes - Cannelloni & Tiramisu (16+ yrs)

### MEXICO

19th March	Introduction to Mexican dishes - Enchiladas & Margarita Cheesecake
3rd Jan & 28th Feb	Mexican Feast 2: Quesdaillas, Fajitas, Churros & Chocolate Sauce
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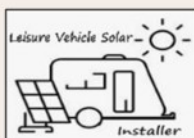
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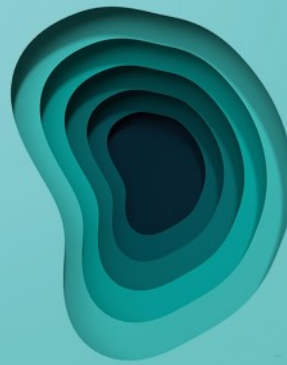
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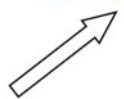
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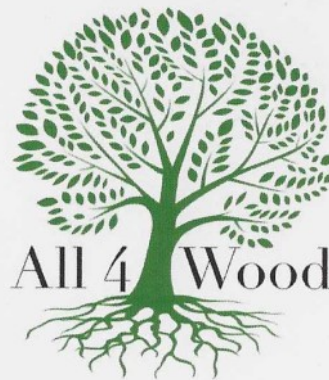
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