

THE BROMHAM HOOT

MARCH/APRIL 2024



NUMBERS YOU MIGHT NEED

Devizes (01380) numbers unless otherwise shown

Parish of Rowde, Bromham and Sandy Lane			Bromham Parish Council		
Rector	Vacancy		Chairman	Peter Paget	850246
Associate Priest	Rev Heather Smith	07702 113544	Parish Clerk	Valerie Fergus	07368 251532
Church Warden	Vacancy		Email:	clerk@bromhamwiltshire.org	
Bromham Contacts	John Drew	850908	Wiltshire Council	All departments	0300 4560100
	Cynthia Wilkinson	859720	The Bromham Clubhouse		
Methodist Church	Rev Craig Manley	01249 818923	Bookings	Dave Paget	859492
	Jenny Blackman	850580	Email:	clubhouse@bromhamsocialcentre.co.uk	
Roman Catholic Church	Fr Paul Gonsalves	723572	Chairman	Pete Davis	850792
St. Nicholas School	Office	850391	Clubhouse Cafe	Den Fillis	850473
PTA Chair	tbc		Bromham Community Hub		
			Email:	contact@bromhamhub.org	

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	W.I. President	Lesley Eacopo	850967
Gardening Club	Judi McKendrick	850611	Youth Club Secretary	Claire Smart	
Little Angels	Carole Myer	850706	Email:	bromhamyouthy@gmail.com	
Monday Club	Carol Hindle	850925	Mothers' Union	Carole Myer	850706
Organisers	Cathy Welch	850555	Drama Group	Penny Lander	859002

Village Website: 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 and we'll try to sort it out.

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Welcome to the March - April 2024 edition of The Bromham Hoot

As you will see, this is a very full issue of The Hoot. There is a comprehensive update from Bromham Community Hub on progress towards the new building, details of the events and dates for the 2024 Carnival plus news from a range of village clubs and organisations. The front cover this issue is a photo of snowdrops in Yard Lane, taken by Paul Jordan during a recent Footpath Group walk.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the Parish Council and to the Clubhouse Café for their generous donations.

The next issue of The Hoot will be for May / June 2024, and will be distributed in early May.

The deadline for content and advertising is Friday April 12th.

Clubhouse Café

The cafe is still really well supported for which we thank you all. December's money was donated locally to Busy Kids, Monday Club, the Methodist Chapel, St Nicholas Church, Mother's Union, St Nicholas School, Bromham Youth Club, and The Hoot. Each received £100.

Thank you all for your continued support. The Clubhouse Cafe Team.

Upcoming Charity Events

- Saturday 16th March, Crofton Stokers, in the church.
- Thursday 4th April, Andrew Hurst, in the church.
- One for your diary, Friday June 14th, The Mangled Wurzels in the marquee on the Jubilee field. More details to follow.

Our recent Burns night in the Clubhouse was a really good night and raised £624 for Julia's House. Once again thank you to everyone who supports our events raising so much for these amazing charities. More information on any of these events from: **Den/Cath 850473, Tracy Collins 850228/850186, or in the Clubhouse Cafe on Thursdays and Fridays.**

FIRST AID COURSE

A big thank you to Ian Tuckett of **Tuckett Training** who gave a free 2 hour First Aid Skills training session on February 8th. Everyone who attended found it informative and well worth doing.

We learnt how to assess a casualty, recognise the symptoms of a heart attack, how to deal with an unconscious casualty and how to resuscitate a casualty using a defibrillator. As so many people were interested, Ian is planning a second session in the near future. If you are interested please email Ian at: info@tuckett-training.co.uk

Thank you too to the Parish Council who covered the cost of hiring the clubhouse making the entire session free of charge.



FROM THE METHODIST CHAPEL

Services in March and April (all at 10.30 am unless otherwise stated). Everyone welcome.

Sunday 3rd March	Mrs Elizabeth Manley	Sunday 7th April	Local Arrangement
Sunday 10th March	Holy Communion led by Rev Craig Manley	Sunday 14th April	Rev Craig Manley
Sunday 17th March	Local Arrangement	Sunday 21st April	Rev Tom MacMeekin
Sunday 24th March	Mr David Asselbrough	Sunday 28th April	Local Arrangement
Sunday 31st March	Easter Sunday Holy Communion [Service at 11.00 am] led by Rev Craig Manley		

Coffee and Chat from 10 am – 12 noon on Saturday 2nd March; Saturday 6th April; Saturday 4th May

A BIG thank you to the Club House café for their generous donation, which was very much appreciated.

As always we say thank you for all the support and help, we receive, and extend a warm welcome friendly welcome to everyone at all our services, coffee mornings and other events.

Jenny Blackman - Bromham Methodist Chapel

Report of Bromham Parish Council Meetings held in January and February

(This is a 'summing up' of the minutes – full minutes can be seen on notice boards around the village and on the website)

Flooding

The village has had a few issues to deal with in the first couple of months of 2024 not least of which was the inclement weather which resulted in some of the worst flooding the village has experienced in recent years.

Floodwater reached the homes of a few residents in St. Edith's Marsh, there were abandoned cars in Hawkstreet, part of the High Street opposite Greystones seemed to disappear underwater at the slightest drop of rain, sections of Yard Lane were badly flooded, Durllett Road and New Road fared badly as well.

Wiltshire Council and Bromham Parish Council are taking action – in December, January and again this month gullies are being jetted by Wiltshire Council and there is a working group of parish councillors putting together a Village Flood Plan.

A map of the Village has been produced with flooding 'hot spots' highlighted, gullies have been inspected, landowners will be contacted, and an ongoing plan of action will be produced to try and prevent a repeat of the extent of recent flooding. Many villagers have also been involved with the flood plan drawing on their years of experience in the village and invaluable local knowledge.

Once the Village Flood Plan has been completed it will be posted on the website. However, this will be an ongoing plan which will evolve over time, contact names, numbers and emails will be available for any parishioners who wish to offer help.

Potholes

Another issue in the Village, which has been exacerbated by the flooding, is potholes. These can be reported to Wiltshire Council via the MyWilts app on their website. All reports made using this app have to be investigated by Wiltshire Council, and whilst their action may not be immediate, (there are even worse potholes in other areas of the county) they will be repaired.

Wiltshire Council have completed setting their budget for the year and unlike many counties in the UK they are financially healthy. With the issue of flooding and potholes in mind they have made an additional £10 million investment in pothole repairs and bought a new gully jetting machine.

Regular Agenda Items

- **Wyatts Lake:** The flooding in the dip of the road by the entrance has improved with the installation of a pump, the council still plan to run a pipe under the road which will be better as a long-term solution to the flooding. There have also been reports of a lot of dumping of topsoil on the site and the banks are very high on the roadside. Laura Mayes is following this up along with other ongoing issues with this site.
- **High Street Trees:** Concern around the trees at Battle House obscuring the streetlights, also if any of the trees came down it would take the wall with it which could have a devastating outcome. Laura Mayes is meeting with the owner to discuss a solution.
- **Dog bins:** A new bin has been installed next to the telephone box in Hawkstreet, this replaces the underused bin in the Chantry. The bin just off the Pound has been replaced with a much larger one as the previous post mounted bin was frequently overflowing.

Updates

- **First Aid Course:** This was very well attended, in fact fully booked and already a waiting list for the next one, many thanks to Ian Tuckett who ran the course. A second course is to be arranged.
- **Best Kept Village:** Bromham will again be entering, and the first round of judging will be between the 13th of May and the 9th of June.
- **Tree planting:** There has been a request to plant fruit trees at the back of Pond Field behind the tennis court. This has been agreed in principle with the proviso that enough space is left for the carnival floats to gather.
- **Village Website:** It was agreed that the website could be updated/refreshed. A working group will look at various options. The content will stay the same to start with but will be easier to navigate and visually more appealing.
- **Electric Vehicle charging station in the Village:** It is likely that the Community Hub may need to have at least two EV charging stations. There are many options for rural EV charging stations and more information/advice is needed to explore which may be the best option for Bromham. A presentation to be arranged for the next PC meeting.
- **Policy and Procedure Updates:** All policies and procedures are required to be updated annually. It was agreed that rather than taking up time in the PC meetings that a working group would carry out the reviews and all changes or updates to be presented at the meetings for approval.
- **Clerk's phone:** There is now a contact number for the parish clerk - 07368 251 532

Community Hub

- The offer of a £300,000 was great news for the whole village and both the Parish Council and Community Hub CIO are working towards meeting the conditions of the grant set in place by the Community Ownership Fund (COF). Only once these conditions have been complied with and confirmation of such received, will the grant be signed off and funds released.
- The conditions the COF are seeking confirmation of from the Parish Council are:
 1. Bromham Community Hub CIO is to assume all responsibility for the procurement of construction partners, the Client role in relation to the management of the construction contract and the ongoing responsibility for day-to-day management of the new Community Hub following construction completion and handover.
 2. All monies currently held by the PC for the rebuilding project, will be wholly transferred to Bromham Community Hub CIO and that these funds have been fully cleared of any residual encumbrances. We seek assurances that no future challenge can be made by any third parties against the monies transferred to us. Also, we request that the relevant project accounts of income and expenditure to date are made available to us for the completeness of our project records.
 3. That an Agreement to lease and an accompanying 125-year lease will be drawn up by the PC and granted to Bromham Community Hub CIO for the parcel of land required to build and operate the Bromham Community Hub. Also, please can you confirm that this will be agreed at the earliest opportunity and no later than 31st March 2024, to allow Bromham Community Hub CIO to enter into the construction contract at the end of the procurement process.
- The Parish Council can confirm points 1 and 3 but point 2 is still ongoing.
- In order to move forwards with point two the following proposal was resolved unanimously at the January Parish Council meeting:
 - The Parish Council recommends that the Social Centre Charity Trustees give instruction to a solicitor to write to the Charity Commission to dissolve the Social Centre Charity and to transfer all assets to Bromham Community Hub.
 - The 'SCMC' will continue as a Subcommittee of the Parish Council with the same structure – 4 elected members, 9 representatives of specific Village organisations and no more than 3 co-opted members. Funding will be organised through the Parish Council. They will hold an AGM every March.
 - The Parish Council will transfer £375,000 in an initial tranche with a commitment to provide further funds when requested by the Community Hub CIO. Proposed JB, Seconded CT. RESOLVED by unanimous vote.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday the 11th of March.

All Parish Council minutes are available on the Village website when approved.

Valerie Fergus, Parish Clerk - Email: clerk@bromhamwiltshire.org

Notice of Road Closure - Bromham Carnival, June 22nd 2024

Temporary road closure application (Town and Police Clauses Act 1847)

Please be advised that Bromham Carnival Committee have applied to Wiltshire Council for a Temporary Road Closure Order under the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847 to enable the annual Bromham Carnival procession to take place, affecting the following road(s):

Highfield, The Pound, Horsepool, High Street, New Road, Church Hill

Access to and from the following will also be affected:

Minty's Top, Breach Close, Greystones, Jockey Lane, School Lane

It is anticipated that the above road(s) will be closed to all vehicular traffic (save in all cases of emergency) between the hours of 13.30 and 15.30 on Saturday 22nd June 2024.

If anyone has any objection, please inform Wiltshire Council by Friday 26th April 2024

By post: Sustainable Transport Group, Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

By email: TrafficOrders@wiltshire.gov.uk

All Objections must include the name and address of the Objector or they cannot be considered. Objectors have the right to request under the Data Protection Act 1998 that their names and address be withheld from public inspection or inclusion in any published report.

Please feel free to contact Peter Hindle on 01380 850925 or email bromhamcarnival@gmail.com with any enquiries.

ROWDE, BROMHAM & SANDY LANE BENEFICE



As I write, we have just begun Lent – the six weeks before we reach the great Christian festival of Easter. You probably know it as a period of abstinence. The often-asked question is: what are you giving up for Lent? But Lent is also a period of waiting and quiet reflection.

As many of you will know, we are still waiting for the post of Rector to be filled. In the meantime the two parishes of Bromham and Rowde rely on me as Associate Priest (I also do other, paid, work so have limited time) and retired and part-time priests from elsewhere to keep things going. Members of the congregation, of course, do huge amounts of work to maintain a sense of community, working with the school and others.

Waiting is never easy, is it? It's full of uncertainty and no little frustration. It can make us bad-tempered and anxious. But we have a role model in Jesus, who dealt with all the frustrations of life with calmness. He saw the best in some of the most difficult of people, who others dismissed. Even his dealings with those in power, who would eventually be responsible for his death, seem tinged with regret and sadness at their lack of understanding, rather than anger. Christians believe that Jesus was God, but there is no sense of entitlement in anything he did. These are the qualities that made people want to follow him and learn from him.

As you read this, you are probably looking forward to Easter eggs. At Easter the Church celebrates the risen Christ and remembers that all our waiting and our patient reflection is rewarded by joy.

Heather

Church Services in March & April in Bromham, Sandy Lane and Rowde

<u>MARCH</u>					
Sunday 3rd	(Lent 3)		Wednesday 27th		
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rowde	6pm	Compline	Bromham
10am	Holy Communion	Bromham	Thursday 28th (Maundy Thursday)		
Sunday 10th	(Mothering Sunday)		6pm	Holy Communion	Bromham
8am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Sandy Lane	7pm	Informal Eucharist	Rowde
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde	Friday 29th (Good Friday)		
Sunday 17th	(Lent 5)		10:30am	Children's Easter Service	Bromham
10am	Holy Communion	Bromham	2pm	Last Hour Service	Rowde
Sunday 24th	(Palm Sunday)		Sunday 31st (Easter Day)		
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde	8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Sandy Lane
Monday 25th			10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
6pm	Compline	Bromham	10am	Holy Communion	Bromham
Tuesday 26th					
6pm	Compline	Bromham			
<u>APRIL</u>					
Sunday 7th	(Easter 2)		Sunday 21st (Easter 4)		
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Rowde	10am	Holy Communion	Bromham
10am	Holy Communion	Bromham	Sunday 28th (Easter 5)		
Sunday 14th	(Easter 3)		8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Sandy Lane
8am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Sandy Lane	10am	Holy Communion	Rowde
10am	Holy Communion	Rowde			

Contacts during the interregnum:

Revd Heather Smith 07702 113544 / revheathersmith@gmail.com

John Drew 01380 850908

Sarah Leckie, Administrator sarahbromhamandrowde@gmail.com

Web page : www.achurchnearyou.com/church/9620/

Letter from the Parochial Church Council

It is at this time of the year when acquaintances from outside of our village, always remark that they know that they are in Bromham owing to the smell of the stuff that our farmers and growers spread on the land to feed the soil which in turn feeds us. How lucky and proud are we that the food grown here is so well known.

How uplifting for our souls at this time to see Snowdrops in full bloom, ditto Aconites, Crocus and Celandines and the first Primrose too, and have you heard some species of songbirds practising their repertoire at dusk of late? The overwintering Lapwings will soon be heading back to the near continent, as will the Scandinavian thrushes, see you next Winter, God willing.

Spring is coming, so get the mower tuned up, clean off your gardening tools if you haven't already done so and don't forget the balm for the sore back!

We have some really good and positive news to report at last. Our Benefice of Bromham, Rowde and Sandy Lane will now be having a full-time priest and not a part time one. The post will be advertised very soon, and our new priest will live in the Rectory once appointed.

In the meantime, it continues to be a challenge to continue our Services as normal and we continue to be extremely grateful to those retired priests and full-time visiting priests who lead us in worship. Looking to the future to maintain and enhance our worship patterns, sees our own Ruth Bray being trained as a Lay (non-ordained) Worship Leader (LWL), to take or assist in Services that do not involve Holy Communion. Once qualified, Ruth will be an additional resource to expand our range of Services both to the traditionally minded and to young people and families.

Forthcoming Events:

On Monday the 11th of March from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m, a Continental breakfast will be served in the Parish Church. No charge, but donations would be greatly appreciated for the Devizes Food Bank.

On Good Friday, the 29th of March, there is an event for the village children, A Caterpillar and Butterfly Hunt, craft and story time and chocolate eggs.

A lot of work is entailed beforehand by dedicated volunteers who organise these events, so do please come along have a catch up with family and friends. You will be very welcome.

We are delighted to announce that on Thursday the 25th of April we will see the return of the very talented brother and sister duo, Gregory and Ellen Steward, who entertained us with aplomb last July. See the poster elsewhere for details of this concert.

Now an urgent appeal. We desperately need someone to help Eileen, our solitary cleaner of the Parish Church. Please do consider coming forward, as your assistance will be of great help in maintaining a caring and loved appearance inside our Church. Thank you Eileen for your continued dedication.

A reminder that if you are unable to attend Services for health reasons, we can bring the the Holy Sacraments to you in your home. In both instances, please contact John Drew on 850908.

Now what you've all been waiting for, here are some bloomers that were spotted on the noticeboard of the Church at Upper Spongeditch:

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale next Saturday. It's a chance to disperse of all those things that are not worth keeping around the home, don't forget your husbands.

Next Sunday, the Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break forth into joy".

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind and they can be seen in the vestry next Friday.

Best Wishes,

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



**Good Friday
Fun**

You are invited to come and take part in a Caterpillars & Butterflies hunt, craft and story time, making the Easter Garden, plus chocolate eggs.

At St.Nicholas, Bromham
10.00 am on Good Friday (29th March).

RENDEZVOUS – a new club for anyone who loves France!

Following my article in the last issue of The Hoot, a 'petit' but perfectly formed group of us met up recently to talk all things France. The five of us shared why we would be interested in getting together socially each month 'to do something French or France-related'.



Our reasons spanned: simply loving the country from our childhood; learning the language currently for work reasons; almost having bought a second home in France; having studied and worked with the language decades ago; love of French cheese and wine.

We had a great brain-dump on all things French, leading to the kind of activities which might take place in our monthly gatherings. These included: playing boules/pétanque (French bowls); lace-making; cooking something French; cheese tasting; talks related to France experiences; celebrating the Olympic Games (Paris 2024); wine tasting; a cycling Tour de Bromham; water-colour painting; mime.

Each gathering would include a little bit of learning French too. Nothing formal, just useful phrases for holidays or whatever people would like to know.

The first Rendezvous will take place on Wednesday 27th March at 19h00 (7pm!).

Planning for it to be purely social, with a little music, wine and cheese to kick things off in French style. We'll also outline membership arrangements. Watch out for posters around the village and on Facebook...

Caroline Palmer 07753 677432

Coffee Morning

To raise funds for Bromham & Rowde Monday Club

Saturday May 18th

10.00 - 12.00 am

in The Clubhouse

Tea | Coffee | Cake | Bottle Tombola



IN ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, BROMHAM

Thursday 4th April 2024

Door open 7:00pm -- Performance between 7:45 to 10:30

Andrew Hurst

Solo Performance

Guitarist - Modern and Classical trained at the Royal School of Music



Andrew's varied musicality includes composing and performing music for theatre, presenting solo recitals in a variety of venues – with music including mediaeval and renaissance lutes, archlute, classical guitar, and steel-strung 12 string guitar, piano, sitar, reaching out to wide audiences

Part of Evening Music will reflect the changes in music composition through the Church's History.

Funds after expenses Donated to Church funds for it upkeep and improvements and other.

Front Centre, North and Choir pews	Gold [about 80+]	£10 per ticket
Limited view areas	Silver	on day

Refreshments and stacks will be provided and a voluntary contribution [drinks] will be appreciated. [Donations of Raffle Prizes, Wine or Soft drinks are always welcomed.]

Tickets or request to reserve Seats	Text Hans Shell	07957 882304	Payment Cash on issue of Ticket.
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Request of interest and Tickets can be made at the Community Café on Thursday and Friday.

Next event 15 May "Patsy Gamble" a Saxophonist, vocalist, composer, performer and British Blues Award finalist in 2011 and 2012. With Guitar and Bass Jazz Trio

Please support local events and have a good time. Good causes appreciate it.

GREGORY and ELLEN STEWARD return to St. Nicholas

featuring songs from

Phantom of the Opera
West Side Story
The Sound of Music

Also 'The Prayer' Duet



Thursday 25th April 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £15 in advance- to include wine refreshment

To book tickets please contact

Ernest on 01380 850405 Or

Linda on 07905188030

Or Pay On The Door Under 18s Free

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Phoenix Club

The Phoenix Club held its last ever meeting on the 12 December 2023 with a Christmas Event held at The Lansdowne Hall, Derry Hill. We had a very enjoyable time with a delicious Christmas themed buffet delivered to each table, which was ordered from Serena Dalby. Each person was provided with a small bottle of wine, either to drink with their meal or to take home, plus a free raffle ticket for the raffle prizes provided from club funds. We had entertainment afterwards from some members of CLOGS Musical Theatre from Chippenham, who performed a programme of Christmas songs and some songs from shows.

Phoenix Club Financial Information

The club started the year in September with £2,126.20. No charge was made for membership as the club was closing at Christmas 2023. Subsidies from club funds for club activities and donations of remaining funds are as follows:

- Club Meetings subsidy £91.94
- Christmas Event subsidy £585.63
- 3 Coach Trips subsidy £678.00

From the remaining funds a donation for the new Wednesday Friendly Club started by Dennis Powney in January of £200.00 was made. This was for prepaid Clubhouse Hire of 10 x 2 hour sessions to enable this new start up to begin, knowing that many Phoenix Club members would be attending.

The remaining balance £570.63 was donated to The Bromham and Rowde Monday Club at their meeting on 15/01/2024.

The above donations were made as per votes by our members wishes when we announced closure and comply with the Phoenix Club Constitution on the winding up of the club. The donations will also benefit previous Phoenix members who attend these events.

Brenda Tuck (Phoenix Club Treasurer)

Bromham W I

Sue Roberts from Hilperton was our first speaker in 2024 and her talk was entitled "A bird's eye view of a Royal Investiture ". Sue's talk was fascinating and gave us a real insight in to what happened at these events. There are about 14 investitures held every year, and they are carried out with almost military precision and detail. Sue herself had participated in an investiture having received the MBE in the New Years Honours in 1994. She had been in the WRENS for 22 years and received her honour for her naval work, her sporting achievements and charity work. While she was in the navy, Sue had taken up rifle shooting and eventually became the English team captain in official competitions. When she retired from the navy she helped take disabled children to Lourdes. She ended by showing us a film of a Royal Investiture, which was doubly interesting as it was the event in which Sue had received her honour.

Unfortunately our speaker for our February meeting was unable to attend due to illness, so we had a really nice social evening with a picture quiz and competition organised by Anne Smith, lots of chat, and of course lots of cake! Also in February 22 of our members enjoyed a super meal at the Westbrook. This was our delayed Christmas meal and was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to Kevin and Louise at the Westbrook for making it such an enjoyable event.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13th of March when Helen Inglis will be talking about Alabare, which is a charity for homeless people. 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

Monday Club has had a busy couple of months. Keith gave us a fantastic, illustrated talk about converting his garden to Prairie planting and we enjoyed Georgie coming along to lead a movement to music session – we're looking forward to her second visit next Monday.

We've also had a Bromham wordsearch, a Famous Couples quiz and a Guess Who? morning based on old photos. Brian wanted more singing and suggested several songs which we add to our programme whenever we can – its great when members suggest things they'd like to do during the morning. Raffles, bingo and Move it Monday have also happened so all in all, lots happening!!

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**



RBL Bromham Branch 1922-2022

Welcome to the first Insight of 2024 from Bromham Veterans,

The Bromham Branch of the Royal British Legion held its Annual Lunch and 102nd Anniversary celebration at The Greyhound on Saturday 17 February. The event was well attended by Branch members, local veterans and their spouses and friends, who all enjoyed the delicious lunch expertly prepared and served by Tara, Jack and the Greyhound staff.

Following the meal, the Branch Chairman, Neil Meadows, summarised what had been another successful year for the Branch, including the wonderful Remembrance Poppy Project undertaken by the children of St Nicholas School, who had assembled 9 wreaths from 83 individual hand-made poppy crosses inscribed with the names of the village fallen.

A highlight of 2023 was the Branch's visit on Saturday 15 April to Bletchley Park, where Alan Turing and his colleagues 'broke' the German Enigma Code in WWII. This had been extremely enjoyable and educational and, thanks to the generosity of a local business, had been free to all of the members and Bromham village veterans who had attended. Sadly, the Branch had lost 2 members in the preceding year: Bryan Reeves in April and Janet Giles in October. The Branch had been very proud to parade the Standard at their funerals, and they were remembered with a toast to 'Absent Friends'. The Branch had, however, been very pleased to gain 3 new members, who were warmly welcomed.

Don't forget that we have a 3rd Wednesday each month at the Greyhound, so please pop along for a chat.

Upcoming Calendar of events

Wednesday 20 March - Bromham RBL Quarterly Meeting at the Clubhouse - 19:30 hrs followed by Veterans' 3rd Wednesday Social at the Greyhound

Wednesday 17 April - Veterans' 3rd Wednesday Social at the Greyhound - 19:30 hrs.

Wednesday 15 May - Veterans' 3rd Wednesday Social at the Greyhound - 19:30 hrs.

Saturday 15 June - Sunday 16 June - Bromham Village Teddy Bear Trail.

Wednesday 19 June - Bromham RBL Quarterly Meeting at the Clubhouse - 19:30 hrs followed by Veterans' 3rd Wednesday Social at the Greyhound

Saturday 22 June - Bromham Carnival

Please let us know if you would be prepared to help in whatever way you can by emailing us at bromhamveterans@gmail.com

Whatever support you can give will be most welcome.

LAURA MAYES - Wiltshire Councillor for Bromham, Rowde & Roundway

By the time you read this article, Wiltshire Council will have agreed its budget for 2024/25 at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 20 February. You will have heard about other Councils across the country who are struggling to balance their books, and in some cases going bust. I am pleased that Wiltshire Council continues with its prudent and preventative approach, putting it in a strong position to deliver on its Business Plan priorities to ensure high quality services for Wiltshire's residents, businesses, and communities.



The most significant spending in 2024/25 will be:

Adult services - £179.4m; Families and children - £70.8m; Environment - £49.5m; Highways and transport - £43m; Education and skills - £35.1m

Despite the challenging financial climate nationally, Wiltshire Council will still be investing in key services and programmes. It has allocated an extra £10m over the next two years for filling potholes, road resurfacing and verge repairs. This funding is in addition to the £25.9m the council receives from the Government for Highways Maintenance. Also included in the budget is an additional £1 million investment into extra gully cleaning work and reactive pothole filling. This is on top of the £1 million that was invested into improving drainage in 2022 and will effectively treble drain-clearing work since 2021.

Flooding has been the top issue for the Bromham area in the last few months. I have been inundated with calls from residents who have been affected by the excessive rain. I am pleased Bromham Parish Council have agreed to create a Flood Plan for the area. I will work with the Parish Council, residents, landowners and Wiltshire Council to make this happen. It will take a few months to identify the key sites and the best action to take but I urge everyone affected to get involved with the process. This includes seeing if you can do anything to your own property and its surroundings to alleviate the problem.

If you would like to be involved in creating the Flood Plan or have any other issues where you need support then please contact me – **Councillor Laura Mayes, Wiltshire Councillor for Bromham**

Mobile 07855 819343 | Email: laura.mayes@wiltshire.gov.uk

Bromham Footpath Group

On January 25th twenty-one hardy members of the Footpath Group led by Robin Mortimer set off across the fields from the Bell on the Common at Broughton Gifford towards Great Chalfield Manor.

After encountering heavy clay conditions, Robin decided to take a diversion avoiding a recently ploughed field and followed a gushing brook swelled by the recent rain. As a child, Robin used to come with friends to paddle in this brook on a hot summer's day bringing a picnic tea.

15th century Great Chalfield Manor fell into disrepair over the years but was bought and restored to its present condition in the early 1900s by the Fuller family of Neston Park and eventually handed over to the National Trust in 1943. It has often been used as a filming location since the end of the 20th century.



From there to Little Chalfield manor via a byway then on along the road to Stonar School. Having passed through the very scenic school grounds it was decided, as time was running out, to cut short the walk and head back to the Bell where twenty three hungry walkers enjoyed a really delicious lunch.

Sadly, this will be the last time that we can enjoy the hospitality of the current landlord at the Bell who is a French Chef as he and his partner are giving up the tenancy at the end of February. The new Landlord will have a tough act to follow.

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

The Wednesday Afternoon Friendly Club

The Wednesday Afternoon Friendly Club is now well established - it is open to everyone and is free of any charges.

The Club meets on alternate Wednesdays; the dates for March are the 6th and 20th and for April, the 3rd and 17th.

Do come along to the Clubhouse for tea, coffee and chatter from 2.00 to 4.00 pm.

Dennis Powney, 01380 850979 | dennis.powney@gmail.com

Bromham Youth Group

Bromham Youth Club continues to be a busy, lively and fun environment and we are now at full capacity with memberships.

Since starting back again in the New Year we have welcomed two Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers Lukas and Ethan who have been helping us to run weekly activities. Tournaments have included netball, tennis, football and badminton. Dodgeball has also been as popular as ever. Thankyou to Jean for purchasing some new foam dodgeballs.

The members would like to say a big thankyou to the Clubhouse Cafe Team (Den, Cath, Denise and Tracey H) and the patrons for the recent donation of £100. This has enabled us to be able to book the Seend Shuttle and organise an Easter trip ice skating and bowling and to be able to subsidise the trip by £2 per child.

Darren Barber



BUSY KIDS
NURSERY

BUSY KIDS NURSERY

Bromham, Wiltshire

01380 859389 busykidsbromham@outlook.com



This term at Busy Kids we have, as always, spent lots of time outdoors. We have been on walks talking about the wildlife and discussing the work the farmers do throughout the year.

We even saw some horses!

We have spent lots of time playing in our own woodland area making potions, playing with the leaves and shouting through tubes! We used chalks to create happy and sad faces and talked about how we were feeling.



We celebrated Chinese New Year this term. We discussed the traditions and practices of the celebration and then developed our fine motor skills by using chopsticks to eat our stir fry at snack time and making traditional Chinese lanterns.

We have had lots of dressing up clothes donated recently which the children have had so much fun with in our home corner.

We have continued our 'All About Me' topic creating some fantastic self portraits.





BUSY KIDS NURSERY

Bromham, Wiltshire

01380 859389 busykidsbromham@outlook.com

CHARITY CAR WASH

Following our hugely successful charity car wash in September, we will be holding another in March. Please come along and enjoy a coffee and some cake while we make your car sparkle!

**CHARITY CAR WASH
AND COFFEE MORNING**

**Bromham Social centre
car park and Clubhouse
Sunday 24 March
10-2**

JOIN OUR COMMITTEE

We are looking for people to join our Committee to help drive Busy Kids forward and continue to provide affordable childcare for the community. So, calling all parents, carers, grandparents, friends and community minded individuals!

If you would like more information, please get in touch.



SPACES AVAILABLE

We have limited spaces available for children to join Busy Kids. We are a vibrant and exciting nursery who have a dedicated and professional team of experienced staff who are on hand to make sure your child learns, develops and has fun. At Busy Kids we encourage children to be unique, creative, confident and independent.

We currently offer childcare places for children aged 2 to school age, as well as running a breakfast and afterschool club and a holiday club during the school holidays.

Please contact us for more information.



THANK YOU

We came into the nursery one cold January morning to the realisation that our boiler was on its way out. We were fortunate enough to have a wonderful plumber, Danny Witts of **H&M Contracts**, come to our rescue. He managed to get the boiler working for us temporarily and provided a quote to replace with a new one. John and Fiona of **Active Plumbing** in Calne heard of our plight and managed to secure us a brand new boiler free of charge. Our plumber then agreed to fit the boiler without charge with the help of our local electrician Ashley Oliver of **Oliver's Electrical** who, again, did not charge us.

We really cannot thank you all enough for this generosity. You all went above and beyond and we are so grateful.





BROMHAM CARNIVAL 2024

Planning is already well underway for the 2024 Bromham Carnival. A marquee has been arranged, the Cricklade Silver Band are booked to lead the procession and the popular Ministry of Samba Band are making a return.

SAVE THE DATES - TIMETABLE OF EVENTS:

Saturday June 15th	Teddy Bear Trail
Sunday June 16th	Teddy Bear Trail
Tuesday June 18th	Tea Dance
Wednesday June 19th	General Knowledge Quiz
Thursday June 20th	Bingo evening
Saturday June 22nd	Bromham Carnival Procession, stalls, BBQ, fun fair etc In the evening - Live Music on the Jubilee Field

Other events are being planned, so see the next Hoot and our Facebook page for full details.

Start thinking about your floats and fancy dress for the procession as June will be here before you know it!

TEDDY BEAR TRAIL 2024 “FAMOUS PAIRS”

The Theme: After our amazingly successful Teddy Bear Trail last year we are hoping that 2024 will be even bigger and better. As always it will run over a weekend, Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th June, and this year the theme will be ‘Famous Pairs’. So, get your thinking caps on and start planning your Teddy soon – spaces are limited to 50 bears throughout the centre of the village. Remember the trail is for all the family so it’s fine if they are easy to guess, we only need a few real teasers. There is no entry fee for the creators of the bears. All you need to do is get in touch with Cathy Welch on 01380 850555 or email Cathy at cathywelchyoga@gmail.com to get your name down and to check your idea to ensure that we can avoid duplicates.

The Locations: We are hoping to be able to use most of the usual locations for the Trail, and are happy to have offers of new places to put the bears as well.

The Prizes: If you are able to offer a great prize for the winners of the Teddy Bear Trail please get in touch. It’s fantastic if we can get these donated rather than having to spend money to earn money!

The Sponsors: With 50 bears we will need at least 50 sponsors, one for each bear. Your name will be displayed by the bear as well as being put in the programme. £10 per sponsorship.

The Advertisers: As always local businesses are encouraged to place an advert in the Teddy Bear Trail programme as a great way to support the event. Advertisers will be contacted by email nearer the time but feel free to put yourself forward, especially if you haven’t placed an advert before.

The Participants: It’s never too early to share the date with family, friends and colleagues so that we can get even more people to enjoy this fabulous event and spend time in our lovely village.

HELP!!

As always, it takes an army of volunteers to make Carnival successful. We especially need: marshals to keep the procession route safe; volunteers to erect marquees and gazebos on the Jubilee field, and to take them all down and clean up afterwards; help to man the Barbeque. If you think you could help, or would be interested in joining the Carnival Committee, please contact us via our Facebook page or talk to any of the Committee:

Peter Hindle, Cathy Welch, Joanna Williams, Jane Fowler, Megan Hazell, Louise James, Jenny Coles, Bridget Barber

Carnival Flower Festival - The Joy of flowers 22-23 June

We are planning to have a Carnival Flower Festival again this year and would like to invite all the groups/clubs within Bromham to take part. We would really appreciate your involvement. The theme will be “The Joy of Flowers”. Arrangements can be small or large, in vases or baskets, formal or informal. No experience required!

It would be so lovely to include our historic Church in the Carnival Week and what a wonderful opportunity to advertise your club or organisation.

Linda, Lesley and Anne are coordinating this event and look forward to hearing from you.

Please can you contact either Linda on L.hitchcox@btinternet.com or Lesley on MEacopo@btinternet.com



We have pressed the Go button! While it may not look as if much is happening, a lot of work is now going on in the background.

Read on to find out more about what is going on, what the timeline is, how we are doing with funding, and how you can help. If you are a business interested in becoming a sub-contractor, there are details on how to register your interest.

1. Design and Construction

Oxford Architects were originally engaged by the Parish Council to take the design up to the planning submission stage. The formal planning application was submitted at the start of January and put out for consultation. We now await a decision from Wiltshire Council. A number of compulsory survey reports were submitted as part of the application but we have now been informed that we need to commission and submit a further Flood Risk Report. Organising this work is now underway.

The lease of the parcel of land required to build and operate the Bromham Community Hub is being drawn up by the Parish Council's solicitors. The lease covers the approximate footprint of the old Social Centre from the western edge of the car park up to the boundary hedge at the rear.

With the welcome news of the £300,000 Community Ownership Fund (COF) grant also came the realisation that the grant needs to be fully spent by 22nd December 2024. That meant we had to rethink our approach to ensure that we could move forward as quickly as possible and ensure that the grant money could be spent by the deadline.

We intend to engage a contractor for a 'Design and Build' contract, but with only the planning drawings to go on there would be a lot of unknowns for the contractors to try and price. The contractor would be guessing the best design solutions and would be cautious about providing a low fixed price.

While we wait for the planning permission decision, we will work up more basic detail for a cost-effective design solution with the architects and structural engineers before we ask contractors to price. This will save design time later, the contractors will all be pricing accurately for the same design solution and they will have more knowledge of how they need to run the project. This means we have avoided these early design costs being included within the main construction contract and ensured that we can start spending the grant funds immediately. It is hoped that the appointed contractor will agree to 'novate' the architects and engineers for the Design phase in the Design and Build contract so that we have continuity until the end of the project.

We have made all appointment decisions following our Trust Procedure Rules and with the approval of the COF. Bromham Community Hub (BCH) has now engaged Oxford Architects to continue the overall design and co-ordinate the information from other disciplines. We have engaged Giraffe Engineering (Chippenham) to provide structural engineering design services, and Envirotas Consultancy (Melksham) to produce a specification for mechanical and electrical installations. We are about to appoint the specialist construction legal services needed to assist with the contractual arrangement and our other legal duties, and we will shortly be looking to engage a Quantity Surveyor to work with us through to the end of the project. Needless to say we have negotiated hard for charity rates and for that we thank all our partners.

Forming this design team group means that they are now working up the initial design of the building. The structural engineers will design the frame and the size and shape of the frame will in turn influence other design details in the building for the architects. The Mechanical and Electrical requirements also need to be co-ordinated into the architectural and structural design at this stage.

We are now moving on to consulting with other specialists to start off specifying all the other aspects that must be included, for example Wifi, Lighting, Audio, Screens, Heating, Cooling, Kitchens the list goes on. When we have some initial ideas to put forward, we will be asking those with expertise in the village to help refine them.

2. Timeline

The timeline we are now following has the following key target dates.

Architects, Structural Engineers and M&E consultants appointed	February 2024
Planning Permission granted	March 2024
Issue Invitation to Tender	April 2024
Identify preferred contractor	June 2024
Formal appointment of contractor	July 2024
Start on site for advance works (drainage, electricity, water, telecoms etc)	September 2024
Start on site for main contract	October 2024
Main contract completion	May 2025
Client Fit out	May/June 2025
Opening Events	Carnival week 2025

Clearly we are dependent on weather and a lot of other factors to make this happen but we will try our best to be open for Carnival 2025.

3. Grants

We have had valuable assistance from our Wiltshire councillor Laura Mayes who provided links to the Climate Change team in Wiltshire Council. We have now identified that BCH is eligible to apply for community grants from the National Grid, who have two major projects impacting on the Bromham area: one is the pylon removal project on Roundway and the second is a pylon refurbishment programme running from Berkshire to Melksham.

We are in the process of applying for a grant to help pay for efficient air source heat pumps for the building. We are also exploring funding for solar panels and may have found a grant source to help - we will know more next week.

We need to install electric vehicle charge points in conjunction with the Parish Council (as it is their carpark) as part of the planning requirements and again we have identified a small grant. The PC is looking at other funding sources for EV charge points.

We are constantly looking for opportunities to apply for grants so if you hear of anything please let us know at:

contact@bromhamhub.org

4. Funding the project

Bromham Parish Council has now transferred the first portion of the insurance funds into the BCH account. We will request the remaining portion shortly. All the Community Hub building funds are being held in a deposit account gaining interest.

We have £300,000 from the Community Ownership Fund of which £50,000 of the grant is specified to be used for running the charity and for project expenses before the construction contract is in place, so we will use this for professional fees incurred and other revenue expenses we have to meet.

The anticipated target funding needed for the construction project (to be confirmed once tenders are back in) is £1,200,000 + £50,000 COF revenue. Taking into account current and anticipated grant funding, and the fantastic total of £74,500 that the village has already raised, we now have a target of £89,000 that we need to raise. In time we will need additional funds to put furniture and equipment in the building after it is handed over to us, as well as to landscape the exterior.



Anticipated total funds required £1,250,000

Village fundraising to date £74,500

REMAINING VILLAGE FUNDRAISING TARGET £89,000

+ contingency fund (by June 2024)

Secured Funds	Amount	Notes
Transferred from Bromham Parish Council	£375,000	Included in the amount are donations already received from the village of £74,500
Community Ownership Fund Grant	£300,000	
Remaining amount to be transferred by the Parish Council	£356,000	Subject to any expenses incurred by the Parish Council on behalf of the Community Hub from 1st February 2024 to the date of transfer
Donated plumbing materials	£10,000	We have also had a large number of engineering bricks donated
Subtotal of Secured Funds	£1,041,000	
Grants under Application		
Lottery Grant Application	£100,000	Expression of Interest accepted. Full application to be made after tenders returned when project cost is known
Other Grant Applications	£20,000	
Subtotal of possible grant funding	£120,000	
Overall Identified Total for Construction Project	£1,161,000	
Grant application for Furniture	£10,000	This grant is not available until 2025
Ceramic Hob	£600	Donated by Bromham resident - still in box unused

5. Donations and Fundraising

We now know we have a target of £89,000 to be raised by as many different ways as we can think of. A steady stream of donations are coming in including business and personal donations, donations through salary sacrifice schemes as well as our Buy a Brick donations. The tea towel, Carnival, Teddy Bear Trail and many other initiatives are all helping us along the way and we are so grateful. There are building materials 'at cost' pledges, 8000 engineering bricks for below ground and a donation of £10,000 of plumbing supplies. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. It is really welcome. Keep it coming.

Ways to Donate

- **Building Materials:** Please use contact@bromhamhub.org to let us know if you are able to contribute materials as a donation, or at cost, as we need to have certainty about your gifts now so that we can include the details in the tender documents.
- **Individual donations:** If you are a taxpayer, please donate using the Buy-a-Brick route as we gain 25% extra from each £1 because of the registration with Gift Aid. www.Justgiving.com/campaign/buyabrickforbromham . If you don't want to buy a brick you can still contribute any amount you would like.
- **Bank Transfer:** If you do wish to donate directly via bank transfer, please will you get in touch directly with kate.white@bromhamhub.org who will provide bank transfer details
- **Business Donations:** You can reduce your corporation tax liability by gifting to the charity using the direct route via Kate.

We do need to really make a push over the next 3 months as we must have all the money in the bank to be able to sign the construction contract and have an extra contingency fund for just in case!

After the contract is signed we will need to continue fundraising, for furniture, audio visual equipment, stage equipment, kitchens to be fitted out and for the landscaping but we will tackle this one step at a time.

6. Sub Contractor Opportunities

Once BCH has awarded the main construction contract, BCH will have no involvement at all over who the contractor appoints to take on smaller work packages such as plastering, glazing, plumbing etc. as they alone will tender these. However, we are going to stipulate in the contract that all businesses linked to the community of Bromham are to be given the opportunity to quote for works packages. It may be that the business is actually based in Bromham or that employees live in Bromham. We will provide this list of information to the winning contractor.

Therefore, all businesses wishing to be on the sub-contractors list that we send to the main contractor, need to let us know now. It will be up to you to tender/quote in the normal way directly with whichever main contractor BCH appoints, but if you are on the “**Bromham Community Hub Subcontractor List**” we provide, then the contractor should invite tenders/quotes from you. The lower you can quote the better - this way Bromham businesses can donate their skills and expertise and help keep our costs down.

To be added to the list you will need to email: contact@bromhamhub.org with the following information

- a) the name and address of your business
- b) what type of business you are and details of the type of sub contract work you would like to offer the project/ receive request to quote
- c) an example of a previous sub-contract and the name of the main contractor in that example
- d) the best email contact address that should be used by the main contractor to get in touch for a quote/tender price.
- e) a phone number
- f) how you are linked to Bromham (eg home address or business address)

Obviously we hope that Bromham quotes are the lowest and give the Hub good quality products and service.

7. Expanding our team

We have drawn in extra expertise from the village to help the five Trustees in key areas. Some of these people have businesses as well as expertise. In order that we are above board with everything, all Trustees and all these ‘Registered Volunteers’ are expected to declare *Conflicts of Interest*. This means that where an individual or indeed a close relative, has a business interest or personal interest that could benefit from any of the work going on for BCH, their declaration means they must step away from any meeting, discussion or the process buying of goods and services and leave those decisions to others. It does not mean those businesses cannot be included or considered, but someone with a conflict of interest cannot be involved in making those appointments or purchasing decisions in any way. The Charity Commission is clear on this process, as is the Community Ownership Fund, and it is stated within the BCH constitution.

Currently we have called on the technical expertise of village residents to form the ‘Hub Tech’ team as well as for the Buy A Brick scheme. We thank them all for their time and commitment to the project. We intend that this is just the start of involving more people from the village who can contribute time and expertise to making this project successful.

8. Membership

Bromham Community Hub (the CIO) has a governing document called a constitution which sets out how the charity will operate – much like the Articles of Association for a company. Ultimate responsibility rests with the charity trustees, who are effectively the board of the charitable company.

Bromham Community Hub was set up with a wider voting membership who will vote on important decisions (usually at AGMs). Members are responsible for decisions such as amending the constitution and winding up of the CIO, and appointing the trustees who will run the charity. The functions of the members of a CIO are like those of shareholders of a private company. Following our constitution, the first AGM of Bromham Community Hub must be held in October 2024.

We plan to start the process of recruiting members soon. Details and an application form will be in the next Hoot and online. We also plan to hold a kickoff meeting to introduce the trustees, to update the village on progress towards the new building and to answer questions as well as for membership applications to be submitted.

Membership of Bromham Community Hub is automatically open to any individual who is resident in, and registered on the electoral register of, the Parish of Bromham. The trustees also have discretion to approve applications for membership of BCH from individuals who are resident outside the Parish who have strong links with the village or village organisations.

Sue Wilkinson - Chair, Trustees of Bromham Community Hub



Our teams

This year, our children have been very excited to be involved in more sporting opportunities with multi-skills, cricket workshop, sports leader training and girls' football last term. We try to take a range of children to sports events rather than just picking the fastest or most experienced in an activity but we are always proud of the team work, fair play and effort children from St Nicholas demonstrate. The close friendships that children develop in our school become apparent at these events and the fun they have together can be seen on their faces.

All of the Year 6 children who opted to participate were taken to a cricket tournament at the Chippenham Sports Dome and we were delighted to come third in the Year 3/4 age category in the Kingsbury Green Cross Country event with one of our boys coming a resounding first place overall – well done to Billy.



“The best day ever” – Number Day

On Number Day, St Nicholas' children and adults demonstrated their ability to think outside the box and imagine as everyone brought a potato to school and classes came up with a range of practical maths activities. Whilst there was some healthy competition about who had the largest or funniest shaped potato, the day reminded the children of the agricultural character of our village and enabled some practical maths learning.

The youngest children reached across the curriculum with cooking and tasting potatoes, potato printing and hunt the potato. Guess whose potato was challenging for the adults whereas the children had become quite attached to their humble vegetables, making them coats and writing them notes.

In Maths, potatoes were useful for counting, addition, estimation, comparison, ordering, timing (potato and spoon races) and measuring adapted to each class.



Save the Date to come and support
THE NETHERSTREET PLANT SALE

Raising money for many of Bromham's well deserving organisations and groups



SATURDAY 11TH MAY, 1.00 - 4.00 PM
AT NETHERFIELD, 93 NETHERSTREET

- * **Plenty of homegrown plants: perennials, summer colour, vegetables and herbs**
- * **Garden ephemera**
- * **Children's activities**
- * **And of course, the Raffle**
- * **Sit down and enjoy tea, coffee and delicious cakes**

If you would like to donate a raffle prize or can offer help in any way, please contact Carolyn on 07484 255797

'BROMHAM'

by Alexander R. Cargill Esq.

Music inspired by the village of Bromham.

Featuring the voices of Pete Paget and Ivor Gardner.

Out on CD (limited copies) and digital download from 27th January 2024.

Any artist profit from album sales will be donated to the funding of the new Bromham Social Centre.

<https://woodfordhalse.bandcamp.com/music>

**HEDDINGTON
PLANT SALE**

**Village Hall and
Playing Field
SN11 OPJ**

Raising funds to improve facilities

in St. Andrew's Church

**Saturday 20th April
10.30am - 4.00pm**

Parking and Admission Free

Refreshments all day

For more information:

standrewsheddington@gmail.com

Bromham Gardening Club

Bromham Gardening Club meets on the third Thursday every month in the Clubhouse from 7.30 – 9.00pm

Programme for next 3 months:

March 21st 2024 Our AGM followed by a talk by Keith Fowler on Prairie-style planting. Meeting to start at 7.30pm in the clubhouse. Tea, coffee and cake will be available. We really need some new committee members as we will be down to 3 in March. If you feel you might be able to help please have a chat with Judi, Sue or Kathy. We will definitely be looking for a new treasurer and an additional committee member.

April 18th An interesting evening all about 'Foxgloves, salvias and more' by Terry and Mary Baker from the botanic nursery in Atworth. They will also be bringing some plants for sale. Refreshments available. 7.30pm in the Clubhouse.

May 16th We have a visit to the Bromham Cider Farm at St Edith's Marsh hosted by Roger Blake. 6.30pm meet at the Cider Farm.

Annual memberships will be up for renewal from March this year - £25 for the year. Visitors are always welcome at £3 per meeting.

SUTTONS SEEDS DISCOUNT OF 50%

Anyone is welcome to use our discount code of SUGS233X – this will get you 50% off all seeds and 15% off any other live products including potatoes, garlic, onions, plants, bulbs and fruit. You can use it online at www.suttons.co.uk or if you prefer we can provide you with an order form to put in the post.

Community Allotment

The community allotment started with a really good turnout last year but we were a little late in starting, so this year we are going to give it another go. If you would like to be involved in any way please read on:

Anyone can get involved – you don't need to be a garden club member or have any gardening experience and it doesn't matter how old you are. At the end of it all there will be rewards of fresh fruit, vegetables and hopefully some flowers too as well as a huge sense of achievement. Our first meeting will be on Friday 1st March from 2pm. If you have a fork or spade please bring it but it's not essential. The allotment is next to the school playing field and the wall of the cemetery. Hope to see you there.

We would like people to save any brown cardboard that they have as we'd like to cover as much of the allotment as possible to try to reduce weed regrowth. Collection can be arranged.

Please look for updates and reminders on FaceBook (Spotted in Bromham) and on the village notice boards. We also have email notifications if you'd like to be added.

For any information please contact Judi on 850611 or 07789 537775 (preferably by text or WhatsApp).

Notes from the Belfry

At 11.40 pm on 31st December a group of us converged on the church and climbed the stairs to the ringing chamber to carry out a centuries old tradition of bidding farewell to the old year and welcoming in the new.

Some churches half muffle their bells (as we do for Remembrance) as a symbol of mourning the passing of the old year, then remove the muffles just before midnight to ring the bells open in celebration of the start of the new year.

Some churches 'fire' the bells in celebration. That means all the bells are rung simultaneously creating a loud clashing sound. It takes some practice to do this accurately, especially on the lighter bells, since they must be held on the balance and the rope pulled fractionally later than the tenor rope to allow for the different size wheels,

We don't do either of these, but five minutes before the hour we start ringing 'diminishing rounds' where all six bells ring in turn then, one by one, starting with the treble, the lighter bells drop out until only the tenor is left to sound the twelve blows at midnight. At the final blow, all the other bells join in with rounds on all six. This is trickier than it sounds as the tenor has to maintain a steady beat throughout so there is enough of a gap for the other five bells to fit in.

And when the ringing finally stops? We hang up the ropes, set up a table and bring out the mulled wine and nibbles for a midnight feast.

On 27th April a visiting band from Salisbury will be coming to ring the bells from 10.00 - 10.45am. We are always pleased to welcome visitors either to ring or to observe. If you would like to find out more about bell ringing just come up any Tuesday between 19.45 and 21.00 when we hold our weekly practice.

Linda Drummond-Harris



07974 773401
kate@shunique.com

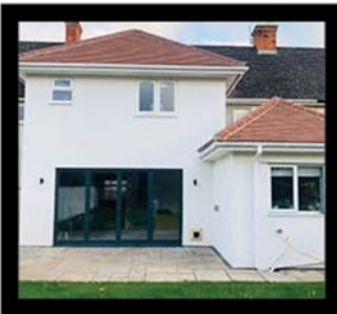
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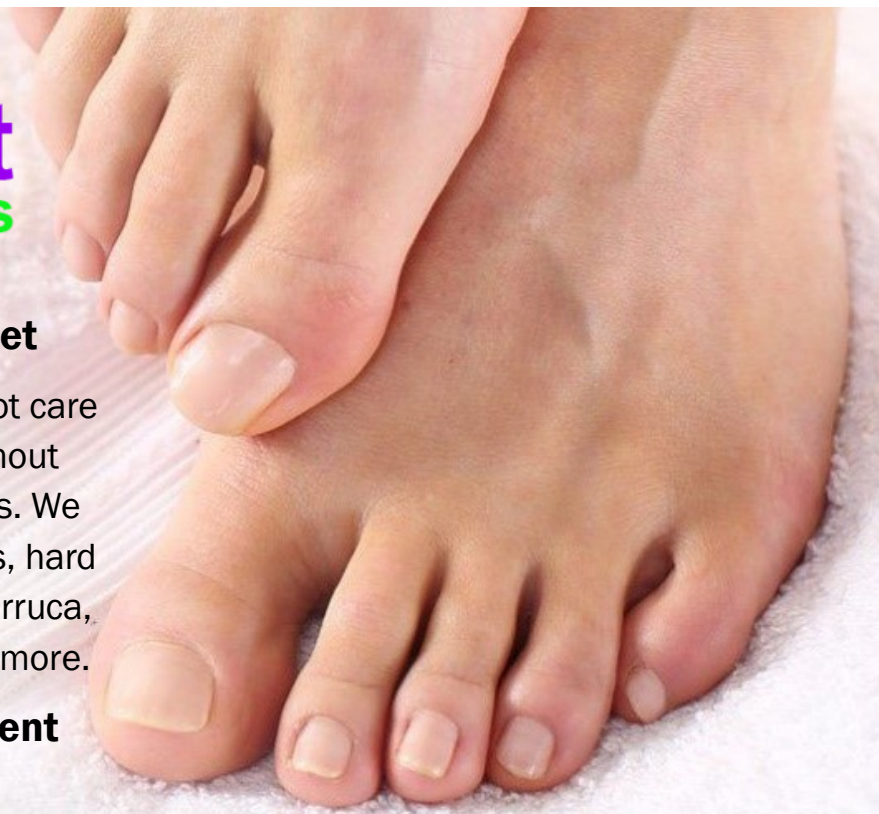
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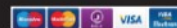
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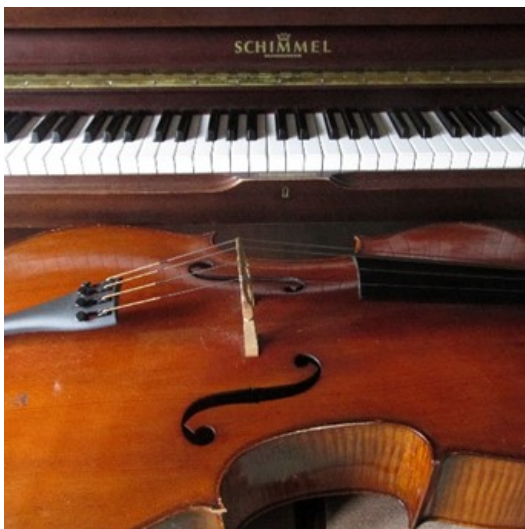
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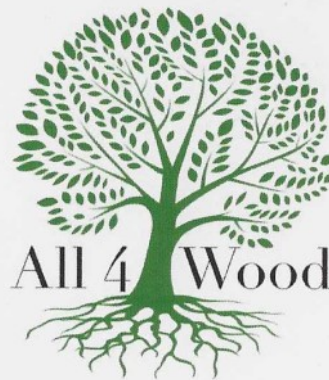
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