

# *Broomfield* **TIMES**

Issue 56 | Winter 2018

*News & events from your Parish Council*





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# Broomfield TIMES

Welcome to this winter edition of the Broomfield Times. Councillor Tim Tranquada has recently resigned from the Parish Council and on pages 10 and 11 we have a collage of photos in recognition of the enormous contribution he has made.

Having recently marked the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War we include a personal account from Paul Hayward (on page 28) of his visit to the battlefields in August of this year.

As the Festive season approaches there are details of various events taking place plus all the other news and regular updates from our community groups. The Parish Council would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

**Selina Matthews**

Front cover:  
*Gutters Lane taken by Wendy Daden*

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## Broomfield Contacts

### Parish Councillors

**John Barnes** *Chairman*

**Ros Mercer** *Vice Chairman*

**John Blake** *Planning Committee*

**Trevor Jones** *Finance & General Purposes,  
Village Hall Charity*

**David Howell | Angela Thomson | Sue Hubble**

**Wendy Daden | Geof Garwood | Selina**

**Matthews | Karen Fletcher | Les Steed**

**Mike Letch** *Clerk*

**Karen Hurrell** *Assistant Cleck (Planning)*

**Wendy Martin** *Assistant Clerk (Village Amenities)*

Parish Office, 158 Main Road, Broomfield, CM1 7AH

☎ 01245 441660 ✉ clerk@broomfieldessex.co.uk

*Parish Councillors can be contacted through the  
Parish Office Mon, Weds & Fri 10.30am - 12.30pm  
(answer machine available out of office hours)*

### City Councillors

**Barry Knight** ☎ 01245 420045

✉ gbr.knight@chelmsford.gov.uk

**Sandra Pontin** ☎ 01245 440447

✉ sandra.pontin@chelmsford.gov.uk

**James Raven** ☎ 07889 650339

✉ james.raven@chelmsford.gov.uk

### County Councillors

**John Aldridge** 33 East View, Writtle, CM1 3NN

☎ 01245 421524

✉ cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk

### MP

**Kemi Badenoch, Conservative**

[www.kemibadenoch.org.uk](http://www.kemibadenoch.org.uk)

Many problems can be dealt with over the phone or by email. Due to the size of the constituency, the next surgery appointment may not be at a convenient location. If you have an urgent issue, or do not need a face-to-face appointment please contact my office immediately so we can start working on your case as soon as possible.

To book a private surgery appointment, please ring my office on **020 7219 1943** or visit my website where you can request one electronically.

### Police

Contact for PCSOs:

Non-emergency number 101

Or via website [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

### Editorial Committee

**Cllr. Selina Matthews** *Editor*

**Cllr. John Barnes**

**Cllr. Daden**

**Cllr. Mercer**

Whilst Broomfield Times is supported by the Broomfield Parish Council, the views expressed within it are not necessarily those of the council. Please note that the Parish Council do not recommend or vet advertisers.

### Contributions

Contributions to future editions are welcome, please email:

[selina.matthews@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:selina.matthews@tiscali.co.uk)

or send a hard copy to:

The Editor c/o

The Parish Office

158 Main Road

Broomfield, CM1 7AH

☎ 01245 441660

Articles accompanied by photographs are particularly welcome. Please send either professional prints or email full-size JPG files.

### Copy Dates

- Copy for the Spring issue to be sent by 18th January.

### General Notes

- Free dog waste bags, graffiti removal kits plus further supplies of plastic bottle bags and cardboard and paper sacks are available from the Parish Office.
- Please refer any play area problems or incidents to the Parish Office.



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## Your Council

**Here is an update on events in Broomfield over the last few months. Please remember that we have a regular 10 minute slot at the beginning of Parish Council meetings for public questions. You can find details about all the Council meetings on our website and in the Village Diary section of this publication.**

### Councillor Tranquada

Councillor Tim Tranquada has recently resigned from the council and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the hard work and dedicated service he has given to the community over the past seven years.

His willingness to undertake numerous tasks around the village to improve and maintain it for the benefit of the whole community has saved Broomfield parishioners valuable funds. He has also been behind a number of ideas such as the Centenary Wood, Centenary Cup (see page \*) and improving our sports facilities. Most importantly though he has been generous in offering his time voluntarily to carry out work on behalf of the Council.

Tim has taken a firm view on some matters and I understand that can be unpopular, but we should all be prepared to respect the views of others.

A councillor is there to serve the community and Mr Tranquada has gone beyond the hours and commitment expected. He is a great loss to the Council and we wish him well. We now need one of you to step forward to replace him!

### Broomfield Place

A working group met on 19th September and reported that there was a clear signal from Essex County Council that the land would be used for a socially beneficial purpose rather than housing development for profit. As the land belonged to the County Council, it was not unreasonable that they would wish to extend the benefit to the county, rather than the Parish.

There are no plans to start work in the foreseeable future, and the Parish Councillors have been assured that they will be invited to help shape the development when the time comes. It was agreed that there was no benefit to starting a consultation that would raise unnecessary expectations until the County Council has developed its thinking.

In conclusion the Parish Council will write to Cllr Aldridge making a proposal to work with the County Council in the short term. Areas for consideration would be use of the car park and clearing the site for public access and the scouting movement in particular. It would be understood that any use would be temporary, with no expectation of permanent use but could be used to test the principles of collaborative use.

### Innovation Award

It doesn't always do to blow your own trumpet, but it is always helpful to learn how you are doing. This year, the Parish Council entered the County Association's Parish of the Year Award and I am really pleased to say that we won the award for innovative work.

The judges liked the range of projects that the council supports; from equipment like a new all-weather play area and the new outdoor ping pong table, to events like the village games and the seniors Christmas lunch. They also liked the enthusiasm for planning, with your council taking a very active part in developing the local plan and working with the residents to produce a practical neighbourhood plan. Not only did they notice what had been done, they liked the fact that there were more projects to come; a new defibrillator and the adventure cycleway to name but two.

Some of my fellow councillors were surprised at the award, saying 'but that is just what we do', assuming that every parish council worked as hard. The judges took a different view and reminded us that the award is not for having bright ideas, it is there for having them and then turning them into practical things.

What has made this award even more important is that it has caught the eye of Essex County Council. Their representative visited the awards ceremony and told us afterwards that she had no idea how much work the Parishes did, and wouldn't it be good to work together. Now all we have to do is tap-into some of the money that the County Council has.....



*Councillor Ros Mercer receiving the EALC Innovative Work Award sponsored by A & J Lighting from Andrew Bouttel of A & J Lighting with Councillor Peter Davey, Chairman of EALC*

## Centenary Cup

The Centenary Cup was donated by Broomfield Parish Council to be awarded each year to a pupil of the schools choosing.



This year the cup was awarded to Freddie Norman for displaying a "thirst for learning". Councillor Tranquada presented the trophy at a school assembly on 21st September.

## Local Plan

At the time of going to press, the Parish Council is preparing for the 'Examination in Public', which is scheduled to begin on 20th November.

This involves an independent inspector (appointed by the Government) examining Chelmsford's draft Local Plan - the document that decides where new development will go over the next 15 years or so. As well as reading masses of documents, the Inspector holds public hearings and invites interested parties to discuss the Plan in front of her.

We are working with our colleagues in the North and West Chelmsford Parishes Group - Broomfield, Chignal, Little Waltham and Writtle Parish Councils. We are aiming to get the best deal we can for our parishes, by highlighting the acute pressure on local infrastructure (especially roads) and the need to limit new development to avoid things becoming even worse. We have asked to be invited to the public hearings, so that we can back up the detailed representations that we have made during the 3 years of deliberation so far.

The Examination is expected to go on for several weeks - possibly up to 20th December. After that, the Inspector will go away to consider all the arguments and decide whether Chelmsford's Local Plan is 'sound' or not. Her report is expected to be published in February or March 2019.

You can find further details about the examination in public, including a time table of the hearing sessions by going to: [www.chelmsford.gov.uk](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk), clicking on the 'planning and building control' heading then following the links to 'new local plan' and then 'local plan examination'

*Councillor John Barnes*

## Keep Broomfield Beautiful

Thanks to all of you who turned out for our September Litter Pick, with a special thank you to Angela who once again didn't disappoint with her home-made apple cake!



*Rubbish collected from Centenary Wood*

An even bigger thank you goes to Freddie, Fabian and Poppy. It is heart-warming to see young children helping to pick up litter and they all received a Certificate, which they thoroughly deserved.

In just one hour 20 sacks of litter were collected. Whilst this was a great achievement, it is also very disappointing that some people choose to chuck their rubbish, sometimes inches away from a litter bin.

We plan to increase the Spring litter pick to one and a half hours. The date will be advertised in the spring edition of the Broomfield Times and on the Broomfield and Waltham Facebook page.

If there are any areas that you feel require particular attention, contact Broomfield Parish Clerk and let him know...and we will do our best.



If you notice litter outside your property, it would be helpful if you could pick it up. Everyone wants to live in a clean and tidy environment and if everybody did this it would go a long way to achieve it.

Look forward to seeing you at our spring litter-pick!

*Sue Hubble*

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# The many faces of Tim

There are many ways to contribute to local life – our thanks to Cllr Tim Tranquada for demonstrating so many of them!



Cent. Wood working party  
2012



Crocus planting on Church  
Green



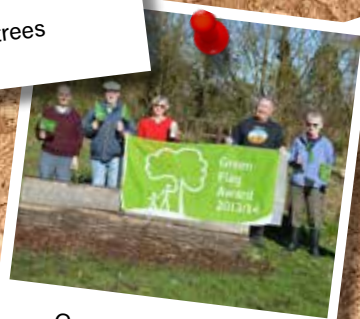
Pruning trees



After the litter pick



Painting play equipment



Green Flag Award for  
Centenary Wood

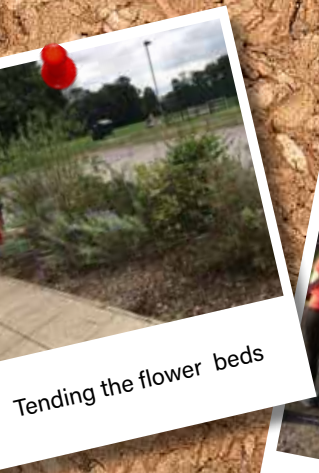


Mai



Le





Tending the flower beds



With Goodgym Volunteers at the allotments



Father Christmas



giving a hand



Working in Centenary Wood



Master of ceremonies



Maintaining footpaths



Running a stall at the Village Games



Clearing snow

## From the County Council



### Essex surface dressing programme complete for this year

This summer 250 miles of Essex roads have been covered in 3,652 tons of binder and then 38,000 tons of stone chippings, which have been rolled in to form a new top layer to prevent

potholes forming.

The technique, known as surface dressing can be viewed at [www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing](http://www.essex.gov.uk/surfacing) Surface dressing techniques future-proof the road surface to prevent potholes, but can only be done in warm, dry weather.

Since the spring the pothole-fixing crews have patched over 1,000 potholes every month in Essex.

The County Council is currently working with the Essex Association of Local Councils to identify volunteer parish councils which could assist in working with Highways in delivering a range of highway services to their communities. Highways will also be discussing with the City Council how they can work together on improving our roads and how to take advantage of the £1.2million of match funding announced by the County Council in May this year.

### Task force to define future for the Army and Navy

What happens at the Army & Navy junction affects all of us who use Chelmsford's roads!

As you know following the discovery of damage to the base of one of the supporting pillars of the flyover, it was closed for safety reasons in September. Engineers have been commissioned to conduct a full and detailed inspection of the structure to enable its safe reopening at the earliest opportunity.

Meanwhile a special task force, made up of key partners and agencies, including Chelmsford City Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership, local councilors and the MP for Chelmsford are working to explore the future options for the junction, local road infrastructure, planning and finance issues.

### More than 3,000 school places created in Essex in time for the new term

Thousands of pupils returned to new and improved schools this September as part of the County Council's plans to meet growing demand for school places across the county. It is investing £315million in creating new school places, with £75 million having been spent on completing new schools and expansion projects in time for the start of the 2018/19 academic year. That means 2,325 additional primary places and 1,110 secondary places have been created across several sites in Essex in the last year.

Locally, the Beaulieu Park School opened its doors on 12th September welcoming its first cohort of 60 reception aged children in two classes. In September 2019, 180 Year 7 students will be admitted. Year on year the school will grow, providing 420 places for local children between four and eleven years old by 2024 and 900 places for local children between 11 and 16 years old by 2023

For more information please visit Meeting the demand for school places in Essex 2018 - 2027 which provides the background to school place planning, including the anticipated demand for places in each district of the County, as well as likely solutions.

If you have any problems about County Council matters please let me know on:

T: [01245 421524](tel:01245421524)

M: [07827 976997](tel:07827976997) or email:

[cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk).

*John Aldridge CC - October 2018*



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## Broomfield Village Hall

Ho ho ho the season of good will approaches!



It is at this time of year that we would like to thank all of our hirers, supporters and of course our office staff and committee members who contribute so much to the success of your village hall. Whilst on the theme of Christmas don't forget the grand appearance of Santa at our ever popular Stay n Play on Monday 17th December which will bring great excitement and fun for the children.

We are delighted to report that the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) have awarded Broomfield the Innovative work award which recognises the facilities that we have provided. This includes the MUGA (astro-turf), outdoor fitness centre, table tennis, kickwall, playground as well as our future plans for the adventure cycleway.

On these occasions, although not done for that reason, recognition is always greatly appreciated. Thanks to all those involved.

We offer a warm welcome to all our new hirers that have joined us during this past year and thank them for contributing to the ongoing success of your village hall.

You can keep up to date with all our new groups and the timetable on our website, Facebook page and notice boards.

Over the Christmas period we will be refurbishing the flooring of the foyer.

We have recently carried out similar work on our fascia's for which we owe thanks to Stuart Jones and Cllr Tim Tranquada for doing a great job. We also have plans to repaint the hall to give it a freshen up and brighten up the decor.

At the time of writing our long planned adventure cycleway has not yet commenced because of delays caused by the overrun of the contractors' previous works. Be assured though that the funding has been secured and work will start as soon as possible.

All of us the village hall would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a bright, happy and healthy New Year.

*Trevor Jones*

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## Broomfield U3A

**U3A is a nation-wide movement which brings together people in their 'third age' (after retirement or when you are no longer involved in raising your family) to develop their interests and continue learning in a friendly and informal environment.**

Members of local U3A's draw upon their knowledge and experience to teach and learn from each other. It's all voluntary and is run in informal sessions covering a wide range of different subjects.

Our Broomfield branch is thriving, and currently offers 26 different groups and activities across the areas of leisure/sports/recreation, craft, skills and educational interest (for a detailed breakdown visit our website at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/broomfield>).

Monthly meetings are held in the village hall at which we briefly discuss 'business' items before enjoying presentations from guest speakers on a wealth of topics.

In September Jim Jenkins gave a highly informative illustrated talk on the Abberton reservoir scheme, which covered the creation of the scheme in the pre-World War 2 years, including its role as a training ground for the 617 Dambuster squadron preparing for the raids on the Eder dam, through to the more recent expansion needed to secure our water supplies for the next few decades.

It was fascinating to hear of the tremendous complexities involved in the planning and creation of the scheme, and to hear examples of the kind of problems encountered, and the methods used to overcome them, and especially to hear of the care taken to protect the wildlife and ecology of the site.

In the October meeting, Tony Tuckwell gave a talk entitled 'Chelmsford, a Diocese', which dealt with the history and background regarding the creation of an Essex and Chelmsford diocese, and the story of how Chelmsford came to have a cathedral. The speaker's relaxed, and amusing anecdotal style held the audience's attention throughout.

To illustrate the diverse themes covered by our speakers, our November guest is a retired Major who will talk of her work in bomb disposal!

If you are retired or semi-retired, or no longer having to care for family and are looking for opportunities to help keep mind and/or body active, and to enjoy doing so in good company, you're very welcome to join us. If you have skills, interests or particular areas of knowledge you'd like to share, we are always interested in adding new groups and activities too!

For contact and membership details or for further information on the Broomfield U3A, please visit our website.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/broomfield>

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## Village Diary

Various activities including Karate, Bingo, Bridge Club, Aerobics, Women's Institute, Carpet Bowls, slimming clubs and children's activities take place in the Broomfield Village Hall on a weekly basis - please telephone the Village Hall **01245 443902**, email **hall@broomfieldessex.co.uk** or have a look on the website **<http://www.broomfieldessex.co.uk>** where the village diary is also published, for more information.

### December

**3** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Baby and toddler group for under 5's,  
parents and carers

**5** Coffee morning 10.00 - 12.00  
Broomfield Village Hall  
  
Orchard Springs W.I. 7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Christmas Celebrations with entertainment  
from Rita & Lee

Property & Planning Committee 7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Parish Office

**10** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall

**12** U3A 1.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Steve's Christmas Cracker – Steve Galler  
  
Village Amenities Committee meeting  
7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Parish Office

**17** Stay N Play \* Christmas party \* 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall

Parish Council meeting 7.30p.m.  
Broomfield Village Hall

### January

**2** There will be **NO** Coffee morning in January  
  
Orchard Springs W.I. 7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Talk on Tripe & Trotters with Brian Carline

Property & Planning Committee 7.30p.m.  
Broomfield Parish Office

**7** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall

**9** U3A 1.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Skeletons in their cupboards/ Two Victorian  
novelists - Margaret Mills

Village Amenities Committee meeting  
7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Parish Office

**14** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall

**16** Finance Committee meeting  
7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Parish Office

**21** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall

**23** Broomfield Cottage Gardeners  
7.15 for 7.30 start  
Broomfield Village Hall  
The Human Lemming – Population and  
Global Resources - John Taylor

**28** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall

### February

**4** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall

**6** Coffee morning - Tickets for the Seniors  
Lunch will be sold in the main hall during  
the coffee morning 10.00 - 12.00  
Broomfield Village Hall

Orchard Springs W.I. 7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Talk on Darling Daisy with Margaret Mills

Property & Planning Committee 7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Parish Office

**11** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall





**13** U3A 1.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Village Hall  
History of Chocolate and the beliefs factual and nonsensical - Tony Diamond

Village Amenities Committee meeting  
7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Parish Office

**16** "Church Pole - Stories in Monuments"  
by Ros Mercer and Alun Powell with Dr Ruth Siddall, 2 p.m. St Mary's Church

**18** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall

**20** Parish Council meeting 7.30 p.m.  
Broomfield Village Hall

Seniors Lunch 12.00 noon for 12.30 lunch  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Tickets will need to be purchased in advance from 6th February from the Parish Office

**23 & 24** 1st Broomfield Scout Group Book Sale  
10.00 – 4.00 p.m.  
1st Broomfield Scout HQ, off School Lane

**25** Stay N Play 09.15-11.15  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Baby and toddler group for under 5's, parents and carers

**27** Broomfield Cottage Gardeners  
7.15 for 7.30 start  
Broomfield Village Hall  
Organic Gardening - Patrick Hughes. The Talk follows the Annual General Meeting.



## Susan Keeble Art Classes

**The Art Class meets on Thursday afternoons each week during term time, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, in the Small Hall.**



The class is open to students of all abilities, so everyone is welcome - those with some previous experience paint alongside those who haven't picked up a paintbrush since they left school. There is always plenty of help and

encouragement available from the tutor, and the atmosphere in the class is friendly and supportive.

Each term we chose four different projects to work on. In the Autumn term we worked in 'Mixed Media', painted 'Skies', 'Weather' and 'Night Scenes' - quite a varied range. Students enjoy trying out different techniques and mediums, so as to learn new skills or brush up on old ones. Slide shows and demonstrations were provided along the way to help give inspiration.

This always seems to be a popular class, but there is room for newcomers, so if you are interested in joining the class, or would like to ask any questions about it, please do not hesitate to contact me, or drop in to the class and have a chat and a look around.

You can call me on [01277 353973](tel:01277353973), or email: [susankeeble2@gmail.com](mailto:susankeeble2@gmail.com).

Also, have a look at my website: [www.susankeeble-artist.com](http://www.susankeeble-artist.com).

Here you can find more information, and also see some of the recent work produced by the students.

**Wishing you a happy holiday  
Season and prosperous New Year  
From all at Broomfield Village Hall**



**Please note: the hall will be  
Closed Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January inclusive**

## Shimmy 'n' Groove fitness winter update.

We are thrilled to have extended the timetable of classes at Broomfield Village Hall and are now in your community 5 days a week offering a variety of community fitness sessions.



Groove aerobics on a Tuesday morning is to our own choreography. It's a throwback to the 80s with fun music, easy to follow routines and lots of laughs. Sculpt on Friday lunchtime offers a toning and strength session alongside a wonderful stretch. Simply circuits is our indoor "bootcamp" style bodyweight session. These sessions are family friendly, so bring the little ones along too!

We were honoured to be awarded Blockfit instructor of the year 2018 at the recent charity gala dinner hosted by Chico himself alongside other celebrities. These 4 classes in 1 offer aerobics, combat, HIIT and a mindful stretch. You can take part at Broomfield on Thursday and Saturday mornings.

All classes are pay as you go, no need to book.

We are launching Saturday morning Shimmy 'n' Step in January.

(Booking essential for this "bring your own step" session).

Any questions are welcomed, please call or message Lindsey Abbott [07886 721411](tel:07886721411).

"Bring your sense of fun!" *Lindsey Abbott*

## Broomfield Carpet Bowls

For those that do not know us yet, Broomfield Carpet Bowls get together on Mondays from 1.30 – 4.30 pm and also on Thursdays from 7.00 – 10.00 p.m. (good car parking is available).

We play other carpet bowls clubs from around the area in either home or away friendly matches which take place regularly during the year. During the period October 2017 to September 2018 the club played 29 friendly matches of which we won about a third.

We invite anyone who is fed up doing the same old stuff to learn new skills, get some exercise, make new friends and have fun. If you are retired, and at a loose end, or if you just have free time come along and try your hand at carpet bowls. The first two sessions are free in order to give you time to try it out and get acquainted with the Club. It will cost £3 per session when you have fully joined.

There are four games in each session with a refreshment break in the middle with free coffee/tea and biscuits provided.

The Club has invested in new equipment over the last year with brand new mats and modern score boards. We play with either blue or yellow bowls which helps those whose eyesight is less good than it used to be. A Club mentor is on hand to help new joiners with general guidance and practical advice on how to play.

Don't worry if it takes a little while to pick up – new skills and abilities are assimilated in time, often surprisingly quickly. Soon you could be bowling with the best of them.....

SO – if you are interested then please come along and give it a try, you are very welcome. We are on Facebook from time to time where you can see photos of matches (or the Christmas Dinner!)

*Roland Frazer*

## Bobbin Lace Classes.

**Bobbin Lace classes are taught by Pat Hoath and Barbara Brooks on Thursday mornings from 9.30 – 12.30. in Broomfield Village Hall. We teach all 3 English Laces and several of the Continental ones, including Torchon, Cluny, Brugge and Milanese.**

Pat started learning in 1977 and was taught by Alexandra Stillwell in Chelmsford. Barbara began 10 years later with Valerie Holmes in Southend on Sea. Barbara was still working as a Police Officer but somehow managed to fit in the classes with shift work. Pat was a stay at home Mum with 2 young children.

Pat started her teaching career when some ladies from the Church in Moulsham Lodge asked her if she would give them a few lessons. This then grew into an almost full time occupation as more and more ladies wanted to learn.

Barbara didn't start teaching until much later and then went on to achieve City and Guild part 1 and 2 and became a City and Guild Assessor for the whole of East Anglia. Sadly the City and Guild qualification is no longer available.

At the moment we have about 20 ladies in the class, some coming every week and some alternate weeks. We can usually accommodate most situations. We have just 4 vacancies for alternate weeks at the moment so if you are interested get in touch.

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01702 306381 or e.mail [enquiries@mainlylace.uk](mailto:enquiries@mainlylace.uk).



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**Monday  
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From 9.15-11.15**



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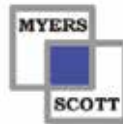
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## Petanque at Broomfield Football Club

**Over the past year, a group of players has produced a Petanque terrain on the football club car park.**

A couple of years ago, the Onley Arms club based at Stisted for 40 years, lost their pitch when the new landlord paved it over as part of a restaurant refurbishment. While playing in exile at Bocking, former BFC player and committee member, Trevor Blows, visited the new football club facilities and immediately saw the potential for Petanque. In 2017, the team used the car park for league matches and held a taster session, trying to attract new playing members. On the day, a few club members had a go and an invited group of Broomfield U3A members also tried their hand at the game. The game is proving very popular with U3A groups across the county.

In 2018, the members are using a different area of the car park and hours of raking and stone picking have produced a very challenging playing surface. In July, 60 players from across the county played a triples event which proved a great success. Wethersfield were the winners with Epping finishing second after 6 hours play in very hot weather.

Currently, the team, playing under the BFC banner, are mid table in the summer league with games in hand. They have reached the Essex cup final for the second year running and hope to defend their title in September. They have also entered the UK KO cup and host Debden Sports at the end of September looking for a place in the last 32 of the competition. A winter league starts in October.

Individual members play in various regional and national competitions. In 2018, Trevor played with daughter Nikki Parrish and won the East of England pairs. They qualify for the national champion of champions event at Oxshott in October. They were joined by Daniel Blows to finish third in the regional triples and qualify for the national team event in mid-September.

In 2016, the triple won a national gold, the first regional success in 20 years.

The club is always looking for new members and can also host family, corporate and group get togethers. They hope to hold an open day after the busy early autumn schedule of games.

As well as Daniel, Nikki and Trevor, Broomfield folk will know fellow players Denise Blows and Tracy Chambers. Their parents Derek and Joan Cox were stalwart members of the Broomfield Scout Group and served the village well for decades in many capacities.

If you would like to know more, email: [trevorblows@btinternet.com](mailto:trevorblows@btinternet.com)



*Trevor Blows, Nikki Parrish, Daniel Blows, Tracy Chambers, Denise Blows, Yvonne Game, Dave Bird. Wearing new BFC Petanque shirts at Thorley in their successful EPA cup tie.*



*The July BFC triples action. Teams from Blackwater (who play on the promenade at Maldon), Billericay, Toppesfield and Bardfield.*

## Cricket Club News

**Success at last to report for the Club's 2nd XI who comfortably won promotion as champions of their Division, winning 16 of their 18 league fixtures, and can now look forward to competing next season at a higher level.**

Pictured below are most of the Squad with Scorer, Georgia Pyne.



As you can see we have a mixture of Juniors and Seniors and all contributed during the season. Batting highlights included Captain, John O'Riordan with 1,188 runs at an average of 108 including 6 centuries. Andy Pyne and Scott Reilly led the way with the bowling taking 31 and 25 wickets respectively.

The 1st XI meanwhile just missed out on a promotion, finishing 4th in their division with 10 wins from their 18 fixtures.

Looking ahead to next season, Junior indoor net coaching sessions will start in January and in early Spring for the seniors. We are continually looking to improve so if you are

interested in joining then let me know. We're a social Club with an emphasis on Junior cricket and have many off field events going on throughout the year. Why not give us a try! Tony Cowell, Chairman [tony.cowell1@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.cowell1@btinternet.com)

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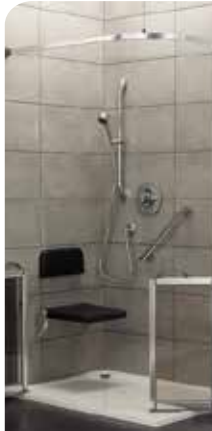
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## Flower & Produce Show Report

Despite the wet weather we had a reasonable turnout at our autumn show on 23rd September, with just over 250 exhibits across 82 classes. The number of entries was down by almost a 100 compared to last year - probably a reflection of the difficult growing season. Our thanks to everyone who helped or contributed to the Autumn Show, particularly the people that ran the teas and raffle as well as those who helped set up and clear away at the end. We welcome any comments you may have about the shows as we are always looking to improve them. They are hard work but enjoyable and it would be good to have more members entering the classes.

Those of you who listen to BBC Essex on a Sunday morning may have heard us featured on their Quest show – Roy and Christine did an excellent job of promoting the show and the society and we definitely had a few extra visitors as a result.



Roy and Christine being interviewed by BBC Essex

Trophies were presented to the following exhibitors by David Jay our previous show secretary:

**Malcolm Deacon:** R W Petch cup for gaining the highest points in Dahlias; the NDS Silver Medal and Certificate for the best vase of Dahlias in Classes 101-114; The Nick Turner Cup for winner of Class 101 (one single Dahlia bloom from a cutting provided); £5 voucher for

winning Class 232 (a tray of 3 vegetables); The Master Gardeners Trophy for winning Class 301; the Ken Searles cup for the member gaining the highest aggregate in the Show.

**Roger Hardy:** £5 voucher for winning Class 221 (3 chillies grown from a plant provided);

**Ron Marlow:** Harry Jones Memorial Trophy for winning Class 117 (a single spray of Chrysanthemums from a cutting provided).

**Hugh Walker:** Bill Hayden Challenge Cup for the highest aggregate in Section 2 (Fruit and Vegetables); the Trading Centre Cup for the highest aggregate in Section 5 (Cookery and Preserves).

**Christine Welch:** Walter Harris Challenge Cup for the highest aggregate in Section 1 (Flowers, excluding Dahlias); £5 voucher for winning Class 231 (a collection of vegetables)

**Les Steed:** The Society Challenge Cup for the best floral/vegetable arrangement.

**Jean Turrall:** The Chairman's Challenge Trophy for the highest aggregate in Section 6.



Malcolm Deacon (left) being presented one of his awards by David Jay



A tallest Sunflower challenge was introduced last year, purely for fun, and grown on from a plant provided. We opened the competition up to all members this year although the majority were grown on the

allotment site at Broomfield. The sunflowers were measured on Friday 14 September and first prize went to David Flutter, whose plant reached an amazing 3.13 metres.

## Committee Update

Annette Swift is taking on the role of Talks Manager and Nick Welch has agreed to take over the role of Treasurer from Ron Marlow when he retires from the Committee next February. We now have all the major roles filled and are confident that the Society will be continuing for the foreseeable future. However we would welcome a few more committee members if anyone out there is willing to donate some of their time to help spread the load.

## Membership

We are now on Facebook, so please check us out to keep up to date with our activities. If you are interested in joining Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society, please visit our website ([www.broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk](http://www.broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk)) for information on the Society or contact our Membership Secretary, Angie Wild on: [01245 441412](tel:01245441412).

## Evening talks

On October 24th we had an interesting talk from Richard Whiting and David Tebby about the Chelmsford City Council Parks and the work they do. The talk was very well attended and the presentation started with a short video showing a variety of sites that are covered by Chelmsford City. This was followed by a more detailed explanation about the maintenance and future planning of the City's parks and greenspaces. There were lots of questions and answers throughout the talk and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended – even though we ran out of cake!

The next talk will be on 28th November when Bill Butcher will be talking to us about "Garden people, places, plants, poisons and pirates with a little bit of Harry Potter".

## Broomfield Footpath Society

### Our programme of walks for 2018 has now come to an end.

The last walk was on October 14th when there were 19 on the walk, despite the damp conditions. We also held our end of season celebratory lunch on November 4th

when 32 of us enjoyed Sunday lunch at Channels. Look out for our 2019 programme in the spring edition of Broomfield Times and at:

[www.facebook.com/broomfieldfootpathsociety](https://www.facebook.com/broomfieldfootpathsociety) or [www.broomfieldessex.org](http://www.broomfieldessex.org)

*Selina Matthews*



# Armistice Day

As mentioned in the summer edition of *Broomfield Times*, at the beginning of August 2018 the Royal British Legion re-enacted the Great Pilgrimage of 1928 when those who lost loved ones or comrades returned to the battlefields of the First World War to remember them. This year the Great Pilgrimage 90 (GP90) took place with members of Royal British Legion branches throughout the UK and overseas visiting those same First World War battlegrounds and cemeteries.



The culmination of the week was a parade at the Menin Gate in Ypres marking the start of the last 100 days of that war. Broomfield Branch sent two members to GP90, both veterans of current and past conflicts. Michael Priest laid a wreath carrying a message written by the Children of Broomfield School; whilst Paul Hayward carried the Branch Standard in the massed parade.

This is Paul's account of their week in Belgium.

## Introduction

After serving 25 years in the British Army, it is an honour to be a part of the Royal British Legion and a privilege to be part of the Great Pilgrimage 90, the largest membership event the Royal British Legion has been part of in modern history.

## Sunday 5th August 2018.

I sit in my living room, bags packed, shoes polished and Standard ready. I watch the clock, a little nervous but extremely excited about the events to follow. As I sit here, I wonder what I would have felt as a 19 year old lad between 1914 and 1918, going to war in a country that I had never visited and knew very little about.

My last tour was in Afghanistan, having served in Bosnia, Iraq, Northern Ireland and other countries around the world. I am an SNCO in the Royal Signals and work in the Quartermaster department.

Apart from the possibility of being mortared, which did happen, I was never going to be on the front line unless things went horribly wrong.

In WW1 I would be going to war to fight on the front line. With no BBC or Sky news, my only information would be coming from the radio that sat on Mum's mantel piece.







But just how accurate was it back then and what information was being shared.

Would I have been listening to it, or would I have been too scared or too nervous to listen?



Going to Afghanistan I knew from all the media what I was heading for. In the 1st World War I would have been going into something completely unknown.

On the P&O ferry journey to Calais I sit with my friends from Essex. We are relaxed and excited with hundreds of fellow RBL members in their own small groups, laughing and drinking. In 1914–1918 I would have travelled by either a battle or P&O ship. The MOD claimed 83 P&O ships in WW1 to transport servicemen and women, mail, stores, and casualties to and from Europe.

The first visit of GP90 was the Memorial Museum at Zonnebeke which is a municipality located in Belgium. The municipality includes Passchendaele which in 1917 was the

location of the most devastating and dramatic battle the region would ever witness.

This battle was also known as ‘The third battle of Ypres’ and lasted 3 months over a piece of land that spread just 8 kilometers. Today is a hot sunny day, the skies are blue and the sun shines on a beautiful green landscape.

It is hard to believe that what I look at now would have been a mass of broken buildings, fallen trees, thick sludgy mud, barb wire, casualties, and dead bodies.

This would have been a horrific sight, especially at 19 years old and so far away from family and friends. I cannot imagine how I would have felt looking at all this.

In Afghanistan I saw destroyed buildings and dead animals by the side of the road, I saw young children asking for food and water on the streets, but I never saw the kind of sights seen in Passchendaele in 1917. It brings a tear to your eyes to think about the horrors and the losses endured during that battle.

### **Monday 6th August 2018.**

I wake up early today, excited and overwhelmed by what I had seen the day before. It is a warm sunny day with blue skies and the sound of birds in the sky. On my first morning in Afghanistan I woke up in an air conditioned tent.

In WW1 I would probably have woken up next to a tree, or in a hole or a trench, but definitely dirty, thick with mud and wet, probably with very little sleep and wondering how long I would survive.

My tours of Afghanistan and other places lasted 6 months, WW1 lasted just over 4 years, but it could have ended up lasting longer. Unlike my tours, once you were part of WW1 there was no going home until it ended unless you got leave and you would have been expected to return or be charged for desertion.

Today we travel to Ypres to the Flanders field Museum at the cloth hall. We are also visiting Tyne Cot Cemetery, Hill 60 and Caterpillar mine

# Armistice Day

crater. As I sit on the coach, the tour guide talks us through the journey to Belgium from France and through Belgium to Ypres. I look at the views and how picturesque the landscape and buildings are.

The Flanders Field Museum is a large building in the middle of Ypres with an overwhelming amount of information and history about WW1.

Some of us decide to climb the 231 steps to the top of the museum to see Ypres in its full glory. The day is sunny and hot and the sight at the top is stunning. It is hard to believe that Ypres was completely flattened and all that we see has been rebuilt since the First World War.

From the top of the building we can see the Menin Gate, which is to be the location of our final day and the Remembrance parade that follows. It bears the names of more than 54,000 Commonwealth servicemen killed during WW1 who have no known grave. I begin to feel a little emotional and sad, I take a deep breath and decide to go back down to the museum.

Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world with over 12,000 servicemen laid to rest. We are given information about a number of servicemen by the tour guide and then we walk around the memorial ourselves. As I walk around, I look for my surname - Hayward.

I find a few but not many and I know they are not related to me. My great grandad Hayward served in WW1 but returned. I look at the graves of people from all over the world, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa.

It is hard to understand why someone so far away would volunteer for the bloodiest war in history in a country they had never been to and probably knew very little about, to assist a

country they had also probably never visited.

It is deadly silent in the Memorial with only the tour guides' voices. It is hot, and with fellow RBL friends, we sit in the shade and take some time out to try and understand.

The next location is Hill 60 and Caterpillar mine crater. It is the location of a Battle that took place south of Ypres on the Western Front. It was captured by the Germans during the first battle of Ypres. Over a period of time, Hill 60 would see many battles with many casualties.

The ground is a lush green and trees grow high into the sky and hard to believe that this was once a location of heavy bombardments from the Germans.

In Afghanistan I experienced what it was like to be mortared on base, but it was one or two shells. On Hill 60 some bombardments lasted for up to two hours.

At 19 years old, hugging a tree or sitting in a muddy ditch, the only feeling I could imagine is complete fear and wondering if I was ever going to make it out alive.

## Tuesday 7th August 2018.

Today we travel to Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Ulster tower and trenches in Thiepval Wood, Thiepval Memorial, Vimy Ridge and Arras Memorial. Another hot sunny day with blue skies.

Thiepval woods is a place that was part of the battle of the Somme. It has been untouched for over 100 years since the bombardment suffered by the Allied Forces and is actually a mass war grave of hundreds of missing men who lie under the green blanket woodland floor.



Thiepval memorial commemorates and lists the names of 72,000 missing soldiers. I looked for Hayward again and found many. It is extremely impressive and a huge testament to those lives lost. I am saddened that so many soldiers died in a country they knew little about and whose bodies were never found in the bloody battlefields of France.

Vimy Ridge is the memorial site in France dedicated to the Canadian soldiers who were killed in WW1. It is an extremely large white Memorial which contains many stylized features, including 20 human figures. It stands 24ft high and can be seen from afar. Out of all the memorials we visited I was most impressed by the sheer size and the beauty of Vimy Ridge.

The last and final visit of the tour was the Arras Memorial in France. It is a large WW1 memorial in the western part of Arras. It remembers the 34,785 Allied soldiers who died with no known grave. On our visit we remembered a fellow RBL member and fellow veteran's great great uncle whose name is stenciled on the memorial wall. We also paid our respects to the 34,785 by laying a bouquet of poppies on the large Arras Memorial and held a minute's silence. I felt overwhelmed and very proud to have been the person to lay the bouquet.

After a very long and emotional week, we travel back to our Hotel to prepare for the Remembrance parade at Menin Gate. The week has been a mixture of both sadness and pride for what the Allied forces went through.

I simply cannot imagine how anyone got through the days emotionally. People talk about how individuals survived the battles, but I believe the personal battles would have been the toughest, once the guns stopped and the land went silent. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

(PTSD) is a common aftermath of many soldiers serving in the Armed forces across the world today. In 1918 it was probably seen as weak to show the emotional effects of such a long and bloody war.

I am saddened that so many survived the war but were brought back home as if nothing had happened.

We remember the fallen in the battles but who remembers the survivors fighting their own battles at home?

### Wednesday 8th August 2018

Menin Gate GP90 Memorial Day. I look at myself in the mirror proudly wearing my black RBL suit and the medals awarded in recognition of what I have done and achieved within the Armed Forces. The week has been extremely moving and today will bring it all together.



# Armistice Day

We arrive early in Ypres and all the Standard Bearers congregate together. It is a sight I will probably never see again with over 1000 Standards on show. I wonder what it would have looked like with the thousands of Allied Troops who survived WW1.

We form up ready for the parade, everyone in high spirits, telling jokes and sharing stories. The band begins and the parade moves forward towards Menin Gate.

As I march proudly forward I remember the week I have just had and the thoughts and feelings I have experienced.

We march through the Menin Gate and complete a U-Turn to stand in front of the Menin Gate. I'm standing at the back of the parade so cannot hear or see much of what is happening inside.

Instead I look around at all the other Standard Bearers who have come to remember all the Allied Service men and women who died during WW1 and find myself thinking about the service people who survived and returned home to fight their own individual battles.

After the parade the town of Ypres is full of RBL members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, laughing, joking, drinking beers and listening to the music playing in the streets.

The week seems a far cry away already, but the experience and emotions that I have felt will never leave me.

I am sure on Remembrance Sunday, all that attended GP90 will remember this week as if it was yesterday and all the memories of the week will come flooding back. Remembrance Sunday will be hard this year.

I normally find myself raising a glass to a dear friend of mine who lost his life in Afghanistan. This year not only will I remember my dear friend Baz, but also all those Allied soldiers who survived WW1 and returned home along with those who lost their lives.

I have found myself very emotional since coming back from GP90. I would like to thank the Royal British Legion and my tour guide Mick Mills for making this a week that I will never forget.

*Paul Hayward*  
Broomfield Branch Royal British Legion  
Standard Bearer.



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## Broomfield Library

**Our Library's Murderers Group – officially known as Coffee and Crime Book Group so no need to call the police - provokes lots of exchanges and discussion about good crime writers. Join us on the first Thursday of the month at 3.30pm.**

Our plant and produce swaps have been very popular this year – a customer told us “we have had a lot of fun growing food from your plant exchange earlier this year. We grew tomatoes, a courgette and a small watermelon from plants and tomatoes from SEEDS!” A big thank you to Broomfield Cottage Gardeners Society for their support and donations.

Lego lovers enjoy our Block Builders Construction Club which now runs after school on a Monday afternoon as well as the second and fourth Saturday morning of each month.

As well as our Wednesday morning weekly Baby and Toddler Rhymetime, we invite our

younger customers and their grown-ups to a drop in Stay and Play session on Thursday afternoons at 1.15pm – do come along and join us. Our Christmas Rhymetime on 12th December has a particularly special guest.



Spiderman, Ninja Turtle and other superheroes including Peppa Pig came to visit the library for Superhero fun at half term. Captain Wackypants and Kid Flash were newly designed superheros and everyone had lots of gluey fun.

*Pippa Cranshaw*



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## Become involved with the future of your local hospitals.

How our local hospitals in mid and south Essex are managed is changing as plans are finalised for the hospitals at Broomfield (which covers Maldon and Braintree too), Basildon and Southend to join together in a new Foundation Trust. This follows an enormous amount of work looking at how we can provide the very best health care and services to our population.

Following an extensive public consultation we are moving towards this merger which will allow us to provide more specialist services and will improve outcomes for our patients. All the core services – including maternity and A&E – will remain at all three sites.

When we do merge, we want to make sure we are well represented on the Governing body, which is why it's so important to increase our membership of Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust (MEHT). Nick Alston, the Chairman of MEHT recently invited all parish and town councils in mid Essex to send a representative to a meeting at Broomfield hospital to encourage all residents in mid-Essex to sign up as 'Members' of the MEHT. Within months it is likely that all Members of the Trust will be invited to elect, from its members, Governors of the new Trust.

Basildon and Southend Hospitals, which are both Foundation Trusts, currently each have more than 10000 members from whom Governors have been elected. Being a Governor is an unpaid, but rewarding role as the Governors influence the strategic direction of the Hospitals.

You can read more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trust-governors-a-brief-guide-to-your-duties>

MEHT does not have Governors as it remains an 'NHS Trust'. If the merger of the three hospitals goes ahead, as the Board at Broomfield hopes will happen, a new Foundation Trust covering all three hospitals will be formed. It will be important for mid Essex residents to be represented and so we are all being encouraged to join now as a 'Member' of MEHT. You can read more here: <http://www.meht.nhs.uk/foundation-trust/> and if you want to register interest in becoming a member please email [ft@meht.nhs.uk](mailto:ft@meht.nhs.uk)

Until Governors are elected, Nick Alston has invited representatives from each parish and town council to attend further meetings at the hospital to hear about and discuss the forthcoming changes. If you have views about these changes do please join as a member of MEHT, consider standing as a Governor when the time comes, and until then do let any of your local councillors know you views or let Nick Alston know directly email at: [nick.alston@meht.nhs.uk](mailto:nick.alston@meht.nhs.uk)

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## Broomfield Parish Church

**Broomfield Parish Church has had a mixed autumn. In early September we had eight candidates from this parish Confirmed**



They are shown here with the new Bishop of Bradwell, Bishop John Perumbalath.

Later in September we celebrated the Ordination of Diana Garfield and Philip Howlett, both local residents. Rev. Diana will remain as a curate here, Rev. Philip Howlett is serving as a curate in Rayne whilst Rev. Sue Howlett has become a team vicar in Colchester. So we began the autumn in celebratory mode!

However, during one of the autumn storms this huge branch fell from the Cedar tree which sits in the front of the church grounds.



This happened sometime between 3.15 and 4pm when many young children would have been walking home through the churchyard and across Church Green from school. We give thanks to God that no one was hurt.

The tree is strictly out of bounds whilst the Essex tree advisers and the Diocesan Tree Consultant decide what we should do to make the whole tree safe. The wall is very badly damaged and I must request that people stay away from this area, which is taped and coned off, for the time being.

We are arranging for tree surgeons to remove the fallen branch whilst talking to the insurance company about a claim for both that and the damaged wall. In the meantime, the church has been granted a faculty to remove the limes from either side of the path to the church. This type of tree is not suitable for the place where they were planted. Many people complain that they damage the gravestones, create a dark canopy and make a mess on the path. Hopefully once they have been removed the area will be much more aesthetically pleasing.

We are also removing four thuja trees from the back end of the churchyard. These trees have become too big and are stunting the growth of other trees. We also need to make way for a new water catchment structure we hope to introduce as part of the work on the churchyard extension. This should make life much easier for those who need to carry watering cans to graves at the far end.

As we continue through this season we have had our Bereavement Service and on the 11th of November Armistice day and Remembrance Sunday Services came together. The Church was resplendent with poppies, some of which were knitted by members of the village.

I hope that you had an opportunity to visit the Art Exhibition in response to the 'Thank you' Campaign of the Royal British Legion which is seeking to inspire a new generation of people to remember the sacrifice members of their





*The Lych gate on Armistice day*

communities made in the First World War. The exhibition was staged by pupils from Chelmer Valley High and those attending the new Art Group which runs at St. Mary's Church.

As autumn comes to a close we look forward to the winter months, bringing the church seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. We do hope that you will be able to join us in your



parish church. Details of all our services are listed in this magazine or can be found on our website [stmarybroomfield.org](http://stmarybroomfield.org).

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## Obituaries

### John Woodward Frederick Hughes MBE 3rd May 1936 - 8th October 2018



Born in Chelmsford and educated at King Edward VI Grammar School (KEGS), John was known for always attending the Old Chelmsfordians AGM with a chicken or turkey tucked under his arm as a raffle prize. He had lived in Broomfield since 1975 and was known to many villagers but for a variety of different reasons.

He had been in the meat trade all his life, starting at Green's Butchers in Moulsham Street (in the abattoir and then the shop) and it was as the village butcher that many remember him from his shop at the corner of Main Road and Erick Avenue. Such was the popularity of the shop with cars parking outside, that some years ago double yellow lines were introduced to remove the "problem"!

John undertook his National Service with the Royal Army Service Corps in Aldershot. This gave him a lifelong connection with the Chelmsford Branch of the Royal Army Service Corps/Royal Corps of Transport Association of which he was Chairman from 1992 until 2010; at which time he was appointed President.

Indeed John gave the School Room at the side of Roselawn Farm to the Association as their Branch Headquarters and many were the friendly meetings and gatherings held there surrounded by service memorabilia.

John was a member of the Parish Council serving from 1991 until 2010 on a variety of Committees. He was Parish Council Chairman from 2004 until 2010 and was also well known for "keeping his light under a bushel". For many years the Parish Council prepared and cooked a Christmas meal for the pensioners of the Village. Cooked by members of the Community Services Committee it was John who provided the beef joints for the meal. Excellent beef cooked to perfection will be remembered by all those who partook.

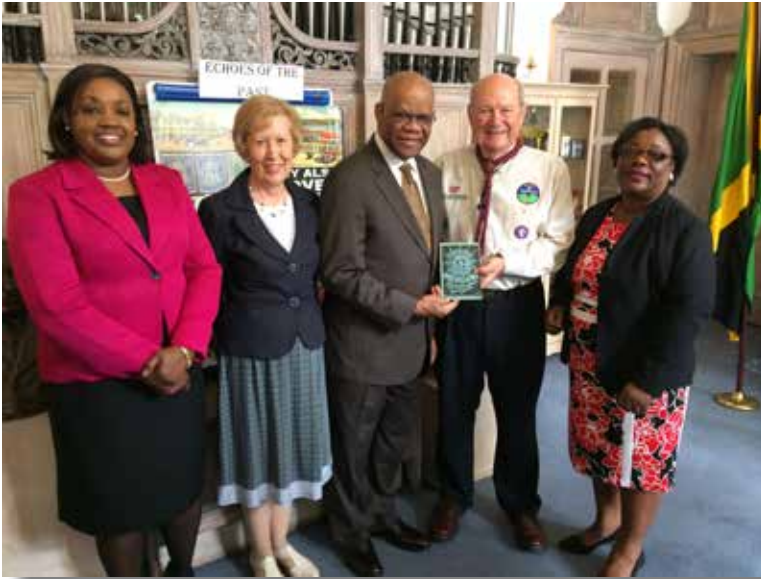
John was also active in the League of Friends of Broomfield Hospital; first serving as Parish Council representative and subsequently serving as their Chairman from 1999 until 2010 – at which point he was elected President. One of John's bugbears as Chairman were the regular requests from the Hospital for funds to replace ward curtains. Indeed John was quite vocal in response to such requests. However on one occasion he had to spend a few days in hospital and, when seated upon a commode, saw exactly how much the curtains had shrunk and the lack of privacy provided. He was never heard to object to the requests again. Sadly John suffered a stroke in 2010 which robbed him of much of the ability to move and talk and thus ended his participation in much of village life.

John was active on behalf of all the organisations with which he was connected. Often working away behind the scenes to get things done quietly and once the task was completed walking away without fuss or plaudits. He will be missed by many who will retain fond memories of his humour and the various activities he undertook for the benefit of others.

*Malcolm Taylor*

## Who's Gwen?

### Broomfield Scouts discover rare book in their Book Sale.



Every year for the past 30 years the 1st Broomfield Scout Group has held a fundraising book sale. The books are donated throughout the year by local residents and prior to the sale, volunteers sort more than 10,000 books into categories in the scout headquarters.

One of the book sale organisers, Sue Cole, is always on the lookout for old, interesting and what she calls “quirky” books such as first editions or books signed by the author.

So when a 1944 book by Jamaican poet and storyteller Louise Bennett written in patois (Creole) and signed by the author was discovered, this was put to one side for further investigation.

Follow-up research found there were none mentioned on the usual book websites. Contact was made with McMaster University in

Canada who hold an archive of Louise Bennett’s papers, but they didn’t have a copy of the book.

However, they suggested approaching the National Library of Jamaica who confirmed it to be a very rare, privately printed limited first edition of Louise’s poems and stories.

Even the National Library didn’t have a copy – only a photocopy. In May, Sue and scout leader husband Roger were invited to the Jamaican High Commission in London where they presented the book to the High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Setvh Ramocan and the CEO of the National Library of Jamaica, Miss Beverley Lashley.

Sue said “it turns out that Louise (known throughout Jamaica as “Miss Lou”), was a highly revered poet writing and performing her poems in patois. She could almost be described as an equivalent to Shakespeare in Jamaica! Who donated the book and how it ended up in our book sale in Broomfield is a mystery.

There is a dedication inside the book from Louise “To Gwen...” and we’d love to know who Gwen was, but we may never know. However, we are delighted that the 1st Broomfield Scout Group has played a part in returning one of Miss Lou’s iconic works back home to Jamaica.”

The 2019 book sale will take place on 23 and 24th February between 10 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. at the Broomfield Scout Headquarters off School Lane.

*Roger Cole*

## St. Mary's Church Spire – Fundraiser

### Buon Camino – The Way Of Saint James



Those who know me will know that I enjoy a little walk. I have walked Hadrian's Wall in the footsteps of the Legions. I have walked the Great Glen following the Redcoat Generals and their armies as they sought to smash the various Highland Rebellions. I am now about to do something that I promised myself, in a fit of madness (possibly), some thirty years ago.

At that time I said that I would walk the Pilgrim Trail through France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain when I retired.

I retired some years ago and have still not fulfilled that ambition. Perhaps now older and wiser I have decided to walk the final 120 miles of that path – Camino de Santiago (The Way of St.James).

#### Who was St.James?

He was the son of Zebedee who according to tradition travelled to Spain as a missionary. Subsequently returning to Jerusalem where he was executed by King Herod Agrippa in 42AD. James' body was, according to tradition again, transported on a stone boat to Spain where it beached but the nature of it's cargo remained hidden.

We move on to 813AD when a hermit, by the name of Paio saw a star shining over a field and it was here that James body was discovered.

The King Alfonso II declared the site "a field of stars" (campus stellae – in Latin) and built a church to the saint over his remains.

St.James (or San't Iago) became the patron saint of Spain and a place of pilgrimage during the Middle Ages when it was too dangerous for pilgrims to travel to Jerusalem on account of the Crusades.

So I'm going on a pilgrimage of sorts across northern Spain to the town of St.James in the field of stars (Santiago de Compostela) in April 2019.

What can you do? You can support me by helping me raise money to repair the Church Tower. Just visit my fundraising site - [www.justgiving.com/macscamino](http://www.justgiving.com/macscamino) - every little helps and it all goes to the fund to repair the tower. I walk for you – you donate to the Spire. "Simples" as someone once said.

*Malcolm Taylor*

**Broomfield Parish Church**

# PEOPLE & STONE

## The Life of Broomfield Church

A Series of Talks & Tours to raise funds  
to restore the Spire

**Saturday 27th October** Church Building - "The Ancient Newness of Broomfield Church" by Neil Wiffen.

**Saturday 16th February** Church People - "Stories in Monuments" by Ros Mercer & Alun Powell with Dr. Ruth Siddall, UCL.

**Saturday 27th April** Church Material - "A Deep History in Walls" by Ian & Ros Mercer, GeoEssex.

Tickets £5 from the Church or email [Trudy](mailto:Trudy.stevens@outlook.com)  
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**2pm**

Broomfield Church Hall

More to follow including:  
Broomfield Artists and Historians  
Saxon Princes

**Raffle & Refreshments**  
**Spire Fund**



## Broomfield Royal British Legion

The 72nd AGM of the RBL Broomfield Branch was recently held at HQ in Saxon Way. Reasonably attended, the meeting followed a well established format.

Reports and addresses were given and election of committee members took place. Our long standing Chairman Malcom Taylor retired gracefully but will still be in the wings helping as will Kath our retiring Membership Secretary, thank you to you both for your commitment.

David Judd resumes at the helm to guide us onwards and upward, welcome back. The Branch are still looking for a replacement Poppy Appeal organiser plus volunteer committee members to help with the day to day running of the Branch.

I probably won't be here in 100 years time so any scribes willing to help would be appreciated.

All information and contacts can be found on the notice board at HQ/Social Club in Saxon Way.



Elsewhere in this publication is a wonderfully written contribution from our Standard Bearer and well worth the read describing his visit to First WW battle sights as seen through the eyes of a young soldier 100 years ago and today taking part in a huge march past of Legion Standards.

Don't sit at home on your own this winter when you could be widening your circle of friends and social activities at The Royal British Legion (Broomfield Branch). A really warm welcome awaits everyone wishing to learn more about the RBL; come down to see us at Saxon Way and enjoy the company.

*Dougal Clifford*

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## Giving Individuals a Future Today

For some people Christmas can be the most wonderful time of the year, but for others it can be the loneliest time of the year.

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This Christmas be part of our campaign, however big or small your donation is by giving a gift you will provide a brighter future to someone less fortunate.

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## Beware 'Tis The Season For Holiday Scams

Christmas is fast approaching, Royal Mail and The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (parcel delivery service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (premium rate number).

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive card with these details please contact Royal mail fraud on [020 7239 6655](tel:02072396655).

For more information see the crimestoppers website [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam). Short and punchy!!

Please be aware the premium rate number or name of the company may change but nevertheless please do not call any number stated on a card from PDS.

Can you please make your family, friends and neighbours aware of the above and stay safe this season.



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## 2018 Christmas Worship at Broomfield Parish Church

**Thursday 13th December ~ 7.15pm** Ladies Group Christmas Celebration in St. Leonard's Hall

**Tuesday 11th December ~ 10am** Edward Bear Christmas Party with Nativity in St. Leonard's Hall

**Saturday 15th December ~ 4.30pm** Churches Together in Broomfield Christmas Torchlight

### Procession

**Sunday 16th December ~ 3pm** Royal British Legion 'D' Group Carol Service in St. Mary's Church

**Saturday 22nd December ~ 5.30pm** Blue Christmas service for those who have been bereaved this year

**Sunday 23rd December ~ 5.30pm** Traditional Carol Service in St. Mary's Church

**Christmas Eve: Monday 24th December ~** Our Crib services have proved so popular that we are now having to run them twice! The first will begin at 3pm (front doors will open at 2.45pm) and we will ask you to leave through the doors to St. Leonard's hall.

The second service will begin at 4pm (front doors will open at 3.50pm). For health and safety reasons we will have to count people as they enter and you will not be able to reserve seats.

The Crib Services are for families, children please come along dressed as a character from the Christmas story and be prepared to join in with a Nativity Tableau, we want everyone to join in this year. There will be traditional carols, lighting of the Christmas Tree and the Puppet Crew will be performing.

**Christmas Eve: Monday 24th December ~ 11.30pm** Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day: Tuesday 25th December ~ 10.30am** Family Service ... If Santa has brought you a gift bring it along to show us. We will be singing traditional carols including Away in a Manger at the Crib.

**11am** Eucharist for those who wish to receive Communion on Christmas day. There will be an opportunity for you to leave at 11am if you wish to do so, or you may stay for communion or blessing. The service will be finished by 11.45am.

## Recycling



The following can be collected from your Parish Office  
(inside Broomfield Village Hall)

- Plastic Recycling Bags
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## Brave supporters take on Big Battle Mud Run and raise £5,000 for Helen Rollason Cancer Charity!

Forty eight brave supporters tackled the charities first ever Big Battle event on Saturday 29th September, which took place at The Event Village opposite the Secret Nuclear Bunker in Kelvedon Hatch. Over £5,000 has been raised for the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity with more sponsorship money still coming in!



The 5km course tested their endurance, speed and strength, all in the name of charity. Personal trainers escorted participants around the course which saw them take on the famous Nuclear Races obstacles including the 15 lane Zip-wire into water and 20' free-fall Deathslide.



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# South Hanningfield Tree Surgeons

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