

Broomfield **TIMES**

Issue 62 | Summer 2020

News & events from your Parish Council

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Broomfield TIMES

Welcome to the Summer issue of Broomfield Times. Hopefully this issue finds you well as we are returning to more 'normal' lives and beginning to emerge from our houses. Please peruse the Useful Contact Pages which you may need to refer to – but if in doubt who to contact please ring the Parish Council on (01245) 441660 who will help to point you in the right direction. Work has been carrying on around the Village to keep it looking clean and tidy and Broomfield Village Hall has had a new lick of paint and a deep clean – for more information – keep reading!

Thank you to Neil Wiffen who has provided the image below – WHERE IS THIS LANE? please keep reading for further photos and answer on Page 33.



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Editor Karen Hurrell – Please send contributions to editor@broomfieldessex.co.uk

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Broomfield CONTACTS

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Tel: 01245 441660	Assistant Clerk: Karen Hurrell (Planning/Neighbourhood Plan/Editor Broomfield Times) Village Attendant: Stuart Jones	planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk editor@broomfieldessex.co.uk Broomfield-attendant@outlook.com
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Chelmsford City Councillors	Cllr Barry Knight Cllr Wendy Daden Cllr Mike Steel	Gbr.knight@chelmsford.gov.uk 01245 420045 Wendy.daden@chelmsford.gov.uk Mike.steel@chelmsford.gov.uk
Essex County Councillors	Cllr John Aldridge	Cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk 01245 421524
MP	Kemi Badenoch	Kemi.badenoch@mp@parliament.uk 020 7219 1943
Broomfield Village Hall	Bookings Clerk: Steff Smith Caretaker: Fitzroy Grant	bookings@broomfieldessex.co.uk 01245 443902 07919 0402862
Chelmsford City Council	Customer Service Centre	01245 606606
Essex County Council	Customer Service Centre	0345 743 0430
Essex Police	Emergency Non-emergency Report a crime on line Chelmsford Crime Prevention Team	999 101 or 01245 491 491 www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime chelmsfordcpt@essex.pnn.uk

Useful Contacts

UK Government:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>

Essex County Council:

www.essex.gov.uk/topic/coronavirus

Chelmsford City Council:

01245 606606

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/coronavirus/

Essex Police:

www.essex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/c19/coronavirus-covid-19/

Broomfield Hospital:

www.meht.nhs.uk/promotion/coronavirus-covid-19-health-advice/

Farleigh Hospice:

www.farleighhospice.org/about-us/news/coronavirus-update

Citizens Advice:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/

Essex Dementia Care:

1245 363789

www.essexdementiacare.org.uk/

Alzheimer's Society: Helpline:

0333 150 3456

www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/coronavirus-covid-19

Chelmsford Centre for supporting Voluntary Action:

<https://chelmsfordcvs.org.uk/>

Broomfield Primary School:

www.broomfield.essex.sch.uk/coronavirus/

Chelmer Valley High School:

www.chelmervalleyhighschool.co.uk/



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Chairman's Chat



The last few months have not been easy for anybody, if you have lost a friend or loved one then everybody at Broomfield Parish Council sends you their deepest condolences.

The Village Hall and the children's play park has been closed but is now starting to reopen. Our Staff have continued to work throughout lockdown. The Office Staff have worked from home and come in on a strict rota. The Village Hall Caretaker and Village Attendant have worked on decorating and maintaining the Hall, allotments and public areas under our responsibility.

On behalf of the Village I would like to thank them all for their diligent contribution. We must also recognise that we have a major hospital facility, two schools, 3 care facilities and a hospice in the village. The staff of which have all continued to work treating patients, teaching our children and caring for those that need care.

We would like to thank them all for their efforts which we all greatly appreciate. I know there are many others who have continued to work in the village and beyond who I have not mentioned, they too should be thanked.

As a Council we are considering how we might permanently recognise the efforts of so many during this pandemic. I have written to the hospital, schools, care homes and hospice asking them if they have any ideas of how we might record our thanks, I hope we will receive some positive ideas. I have also asked the schools if the children themselves might like to be involved in designing or building some form of tribute.

Ideas from villagers would be very welcome so please do get in touch if you can think of anything suitable.

Work in the Parish does go on, as I mentioned above, we have thoroughly cleaned the Village Hall and maintenance and decoration has been carried out where appropriate.

We want to refurbish the children's play park by the Village Hall and probably introduce some new items of equipment. A budget for the work was agreed at our June meeting. Bringing in advisors during lockdown has not been easy but we are at last gathering together proposals to complete this work which we hope will be done very soon.

At the allotment site we have cleared away some rubbish that had accumulated and two old plots have been cleared ready for letting, if you are interested please contact Wendy Martin at the office.

Sadly, we have had to give some allotment holders notice because they are not tending their plots. These will be cleared ready to be let.

We were very lucky to have been able to secure advice from Mark Lane the BBC Gardeners World presenter on how we might set up raised beds to be used by allotment holders who can no longer tend a full plot and might also be used by less mobile people. He has given us a great deal of help with ideas of how we would make such a plot full accessible.

We do not want to something that will not be used, so while we carry out some more market research, we are going ahead with building two plots as a pilot scheme. We already have people lined up to use these. We are also investigating building a compost toilet block and introducing water harvesting. If you know of anybody who would be interested in using a raised bed, or a charitable organisation that may have beneficiaries who could use such a facility please do get in touch with us.

At our June Council meeting we approved a grant to the Broomfield Scout Group to go towards their hut redevelopment and building of a climbing wall.

We also agreed an exciting new scheme to recognise babies born to Broomfield Villagers. Cllr Angie Faulds has been working on this scheme and I am very pleased that the Council has supported her.

The basic idea is that we will offer the parents of babies born in Broomfield the option of having a fruit tree planted in their garden or in a public space around the village to mark their child's birth.

We still need to formulate the details but to get the scheme off the ground we are looking for parents of children born this year to come forward to put together an initial batch of trees that we can plant. If you have had a child, or know of somebody who has, who you think would be interested in having their child's birth marked in this way can you please get in touch with the Village Hall office, details below.

Finally, to keep everybody up to date we are looking at whether it would be possible to extend the Village Hall to accommodate more space for you to use, and to cope with greater social distancing in the future. We are looking at what we might do to improve the conservation area around Church Green and finally, some residents have had an idea about building a facility for a Youth Club in the Village. It is only an idea at the moment, and it is in the very early stages of development but it could be possible.

Councillor John Barnes



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Introducing our new Councillor Wendy McGuinness:



I have lived in Broomfield for much of the last 35 years and as such have strong ties here

My two sons went to Broomfield Primary and CVHS before spreading their wings - they are currently travelling the other side of the

globe. My career was firmly embedded in HR Management and I have worked with both Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service before retiring early in 2015.

I enjoy gardening (although I haven't a clue what I'm doing!), walking and home crafts.

My Mum died last year after a long and progressive decline to dementia; being her main carer, I developed a level of patience I never knew I had along with an understanding of some of the issues faced by people that are living alone and are dependent on others.

I have a strong interest in health and wellbeing and am looking forward to working as part of the Parish Council to support our Community.

Councillor McGuinness

Tree for Life Scheme

The Parish Council would like to make a gift of a local fruit tree to every new baby resident in the Parish.

On production of a birth certificate for a child born since January 1st 2020, and proof of residence, your child's name will be entered on the scheme and you will be delivered a sapling fruit tree for the garden. These documents should be brought to the Parish Office in Broomfield Village Hall 158 Main Road Broomfield CM1 7AH (behind The Angel Public House) hours open Mon Weds Friday 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Then you will be able to watch tree and baby grow together! The delivery will be probably during the following winter.

If you are unable to accommodate the tree at home, we are hoping to establish some public space in the village where it can be planted in your child's name.

Here is a tree planted for babies in the Tree for Life Scheme in mid Suffolk



Councillor Angie Faulds



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The Channels Development Scheme

The Channels development is rapidly growing and is currently split across two Parish Councils, Broomfield and Little Waltham.

The Bellway Homes development (Eagle Rise & Aqua Verde) comprising Brassie Wood, Fairway Drive, Jigger Gardens, Mashie Link and Niblick Green all fall within the Parish of Broomfield. A small number of properties in Birdie Close on the Croudace part of the development also fall within the Parish of Broomfield.

The part of the Channels development that sits within the Broomfield Parish is now very well established although it will grow over the next 12 months as Marden Homes continues with Phase 4 ('The Lakes') which will see properties built around the large lake bordering Essex Regiment Way and Channels Drive.

The Channels Residents Community Group now covers and represents the entire Channels development and there is no doubt it gives us a strong voice. We worked hard to have the bridleway that runs alongside the Southern border of Eagle Rise (down to Essex Regiment Way and on to Broomfield) improved as it was almost impassable by foot when wet and as a result a new 'self-bind' surface was laid during March so as to avoid any excessive surface water build up. In addition, and after the issue being raised many times, we received confirmation that the much needed crossing at the bottom of the same bridleway, to facilitate safe passage across Essex Regiment Way and into Broomfield, was to be completed during the 2020/21 financial year. This may now slip due to the impact of COVID19.

The focus for the residents that sit within the Broomfield Parish has now shifted towards community building and finding ways to enhance and enrich the development.



The Community Group Mission Statement is: "To develop and maintain an all-inclusive, healthy and vibrant community through involvement with residents who want to address local issues or common concerns and to make a positive difference to where they live."

We have worked with Broomfield Parish Council over the last year to begin the process of turning what was merely houses on a plot of land into a neighbourhood with a community feel. Simple things can make a huge difference and Broomfield Parish Council assisted with the installation of a combined refuse & cigarette bin at the bus shelter together with noticeboards in the bus shelter to give residents an insight into what is happening across the parish. More recently, the Parish Council has assisted with funding two new dog waste bins in areas that border Bridleway 18 (which will be of benefit to everyone) and also with funding for a large community notice board that will be used by the Community Group to pass on information specific to the Channels development.

Work is also progressing well on development of communal open spaces (required as part of planning consent) which will see parkland areas made accessible including facilities such as a skate park and children's play area. These will of course be open to all!

The Community Group looks forward to working with Broomfield Parish Council over the coming months to progress its core aims with a specific focus on social unity and safety.

Andrew Wright
www.Channels.community

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Now & Then.....

In Broomfield the village blacksmith plied his trade where business was likely to be most brisk, alongside Main Road.

This photograph can be confidently dated to 1910 for one of the posters advertises the County Sports which were to be held in Chelmsford on 16th July of that year. Mr Chandler, on the left was then the blacksmith assisted by Mr Sewell. The shop still stands, though now hardly recognizable; for a long time, it was Barnard's hardware shop and since then has had several changes of business'. (taken from 'Broomfield in old picture postcards' by Ken Searles)



His garage until recently flourished on the same site although it now looks very different to this photograph taken in the 1930s.

Another lost feature of Broomfield can be seen between the garage and the houses on the right – the header tank at the pumping station which then supplied Broomfield's water; it was closed and dismantled in the 1940's to the dismay of many Broomfieldians who preferred their local water to 'furrin stuff' pumped in from outside the Village'. taken from 'Broomfield in old pictures postcards' by Ken Searles.

Thanks to our Village Attendant Stuart Jones for his work on these images.



'The dawn of a new era; the arrival of the motor car changed the appearance of Broomfield. Roads were coated with tarred chippings, a welcome change from mud and potholes (!!) and the village got its first garage, A directory of 1927-28 lists Joseph Day as a motor engineer in Broomfield.

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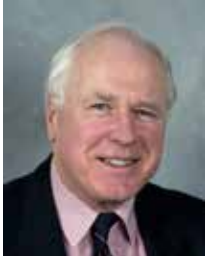
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From the County Council



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In the few weeks since I last wrote for parish magazines there continue to be enormous changes to the way we lead our lives. Covid-19 has changed the world and will sadly carry on doing so. Many of us though, have so many others to be

grateful to from the NHS, to the carers in all our homes, the postmen and women, the refuse collectors, the supermarket staff and all volunteers; indeed, the list is almost endless. Closer to home we also owe so much to those in our respective communities who have given of their time and at some risk to themselves to help others live from day to day. To all I would like to say thank you and well done!

But if you or someone you know still needs help do go to the Essex Welfare Service www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk/support-request?

However, if the internet is not available to you, it is also possible to call **0300 303 9988**

Changes to Essex County Council Services in response to easing of lockdown

1. The County Council has been allocated £57 million funding for track and trace support which will develop outbreak control plans, working with local hospital trusts and other partners. This provision is additional to the national activity and is specifically to respond to identifying and containing potential outbreaks in, for example, workplaces, housing complexes, care homes and schools. www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-county-council-underlines-importance-of-social-distancing-and-regular

2. The County's Parks are back to normal opening hours. All parks will be open from 8am to dusk and the car parks and toilets will be open to the public. See more on: www.explore-essex.com/covid-19-updates-may-2020

3. A phased approach to re-open libraries, in line with government guidelines, started from Monday 6th July with sixteen libraries and then rolling out to all libraries in the County. See further on:

www.essex.gov.uk/news/phased-approach-to-reopening-essex-libraries?

4. The new "Family Innovation Support Fund-Xtra" offers a range of early support services. These are available to help children and young people aged between 0 and 19 years (up to 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) and families during the pandemic. They are aimed at those who are not already receiving specialist or statutory support. See www.essex.gov.uk/news/new-support-services-launched-for-children-and-families?

5. Work is taking place in Chelmsford and other towns in Essex to provide bigger, safer spaces in key locations for city centre shoppers, residents, workers and visitors to social distance. Current cycle lanes and pavements have been enhanced as well as new lanes and pavements created. See further on: www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/safer-greener-healthier.aspx

6. Recycling Centres are open for restricted use - but there are still long queues as I have seen for myself. See more at <https://www.loveessex.org/news-and-ideas/recycling-centre-temporary-restrictions/>

7. Registration services have resumed see www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-registration-services-resume

Meanwhile, if you have any problems about these and any other County Council matters please let me know on **01245 421524** or email cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk.

Councillor John Aldridge



Report from City Councillor Wendy Daden July 2020

All council meetings are now online via Microsoft teams and can be joined via the City Council website

The Local Plan was adopted in May – Chelmsford planners will now be obliged to

grant permission to all sites included in that document. The City Council has prioritised cycling, walking over cars - they have an accreditation scheme to improve new developments in line with nature and good design. Master planning for 450 Bloor Homes on Blasford Hill is in progress - with building expected early next year.

Chelmsford City Council have a Movement Around the City working group (MAC) with County Council and City Council Members and Officers working together – their focus being to reduce pollution and traffic congestion. MAC Officers have calculated that if everybody works from home just two days a week we could remove 160,000 cars from Chelmsford roads

Essex County Council are also looking to encourage people to work locally by offering sound proof workspaces in soundproof pods in libraries. This will help to resolve problems where multiple adults are working from the same house and avoid distraction from noisy dogs and children

A Park and Peddle scheme (with parking at the Park & Ride car parks) to encourage cycling is being considered - I have obviously pushed for the scheme to include Broomfield Hospital with safe cycle paths to link the two sites. There is also improvement for the cycling and walkways around the City, you will see more secure cycle storage introduced into the City Centre. Riverside Leisure Centre Petition – this was reviewed but sadly there is no change for 14-15year olds not being chaperoned in the gym after 5.30pm. However, I have made the suggestion teenagers are allowed to apply for this and under special circumstances this will be allowed. It will be reviewed next time. Chelmsford High street has reopened with a stay left policy and Street Ambassadors to answer questions

Cllr Wendy Daden



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Member of Parliament Report

I've received many letters from parents across the constituency, including Broomfield about schools opening.

The past few months have been a challenge for all of us who have children of school age and I'm particularly concerned about children and young people falling behind in their studies.

I had a meeting with Heather Shelley, Headteacher at Broomfield Primary School to raise this issue and to learn more about how teachers and pupils locally have been managing since the partial reopening of schools with social distancing.

Given the school has been undergoing construction work, this, on top of the limited classroom space available, understandably has proved challenging for the school as they've tried to maintain social distancing measures amongst the children.

Mrs Shelley explained how pleased they were to have some of their pupils back with them whilst recognising the difficulties for those parents who have been unable to send their children back and how difficult it has been not seeing them all return. We discussed how well prepared the children were, ensuring they maintained their distance from their friends and stay within their 'bubbles'.

I share the view of many of you, that it is critical to get schools open and as close to normal as soon as possible. I also understand the representations made by teaching staff about the many factors that must be considered prior to the Government's decision to re-open schools to all year groups, including the health and safety of children, the effects associated with the closures and whether schools have the capacity to ask all pupils to return while maintaining social distancing.

I would like to thank Mrs Shelley and her colleagues for the time and effort that has been put in to ensure the pupils that could return could do so safely, as well as the parent's body and parents locally that have

been so supportive of the school during these difficult times.

I will be raising her concerns, and those of other local Headteachers and parents with the Government as we continue to work on the further easing of restrictions. If residents would like to highlight any further matters, you can email me at:

kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk



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Planning news

Planning Applications:

The Parish Council is consulted about every Broomfield planning application. The Planning Committee responds on behalf of the Parish. Though the Committee hasn't been able to meet physically during the lockdown, they have been viewing planning applications electronically and passing on their comments to the Clerk. So please rest assured we're continuing this important work despite the lockdown! A local parish perspective is still being given to the City Council about every Broomfield planning application it receives.

So far this year, the Planning Committee considered over 50 planning applications. If you want to tell us your views about any planning application or indeed any other planning matter in the Village, please either email: planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk or phone (01245) 441660 (answer machine which is checked regularly). Any comments or concerns will be passed onto the Planning Committee for their consideration. Also, don't forget you can comment directly to the City Council as well – please go to their website for further details:

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-or-comment-on-planning-applications

Once we get back to 'normal', you'll be able to attend a Planning Committee Meeting if you'd like to tell the Committee your concerns face-to-face. Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month in the Parish Office, Broomfield Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Village Gateway:

You'll be familiar with the Village Gateway as you enter Broomfield from Chelmsford. The aim of village gateways is raise awareness of village identity. This is nice for our community anyway, but specifically the aim is to encourage drivers to moderate their speed as they go through the village (any maybe, possibly, to even think about using the A130 bypass instead of coming through the village!).

We have been liaising with Essex Highways about installing a northern Gateway to the Village (near the Hospital Approach roundabout). We now have both the funding (from Highways) and a mutually agreeable location. We're now just waiting for it to be installed.

Neighbourhood Plan Update:

Meanwhile, work is continuing on the Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan. Once it is finished, examined by an Inspector and approved by local residents in a referendum, this will be like a local plan for Broomfield. Inevitably, the lockdown has slowed things down as we can't, for instance, hold meetings or consultation events. However, we are able to do some work behind the scenes. So, we are starting to draft the policies that will go into the Plan. These are based on what local residents have told us about what they want to protect and what they would like to change. All these policies have to broadly conform with the Chelmsford Local Plan (see above) and national planning regulations. Once the lockdown is over, we'll be able to publish the draft policies and consult local residents about them. How we do this will partly depend on social distancing rules at the time.

So, watch this space for further updates. We've also had to move our website on to the Parish Council website – see:

www.broomfieldessex.co.uk/np.

We're still working on the transfer at the moment, so please bear with us for a couple more weeks until it is fully operational.

Proposed Cycle Path through Broomfield:

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has put a lot of work into new cycle routes, which we hope will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. That's because residents told us (in the Questionnaire) that they would like to see safe cycle paths and would use them if they felt secure. That's one way of reducing the impact of traffic, which residents say is their only major dislike about living in Broomfield.

Essex Highways has already approved a cycle path from Great Waltham, past the Hospital and Chelmer Valley High School, down to School Lane. So, the Group's main focus has been how to link this path with the existing cycle path behind the Avenues, so that Broomfield residents, Hospital staff and others can cycle safely into the City Centre.

It's far from simple, as there isn't enough land along the full length of Main Road for a completely separate cycle path; and other possible routes involve crossing private land. However, we've persuaded Essex Highways to complete the second stage of a feasibility study. This should show exactly what the specific problems are, so that we can look for ways of overcoming them.

If you have any questions about any of these issues, please don't hesitate to contact the Planning Committee or the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group via the Parish Office: **planning@broomfieldessex.co.uk** or phone **(01245) 441660**
Councillor John Blake



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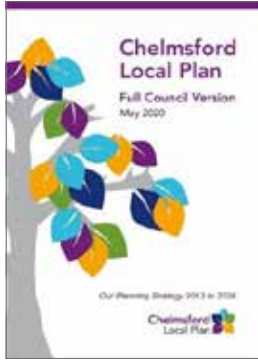
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Unit 6, Montpeliers Farm, Margaretting Road, Writtle, Chelmsford CM1 3PJ

Chelmsford's New Local Plan



In May, the City Council finally adopted its new Local Plan.

This controls where new development – houses, roads, shops and other facilities – will go between now and 2036. It's taken 6 years to get there!

For most of that time, the threat of

mass development has been hanging over Broomfield. At times, it looked like our village would be completely swallowed up into 'Greater Chelmsford'. Fortunately, that hasn't happened. So, here's a quick summary of the last 5 years, where we've ended up – and where we might have been.

Act One – The Threat

Rewind to October 2015. The first stage of the Local Plan looked like a disaster for Broomfield. The City Council's first option would have built 1,500 more houses to the north-west of the village (one of the most valued areas of the surrounding countryside), plus another 200 (already planned) around Broomfield Place, opposite the Angel pub. And a new road from Writtle to Little Waltham.

A new road – that's good, isn't it? Well, not really. Major roads take 30 – 50 years to materialise. But once a line is drawn on a map, developers pour in to 'help'. Major road schemes need massive funding. Developers will contribute to the cost of the road, but only if they get permission to 'infill' on land up to the new road line. Sadly, new infrastructure usually lags a long way behind associated development, so problems often get worse in the meantime. Plus, in this case, a new road to the north-west of Broomfield would have caused massive environmental damage without doing much to help the existing traffic problems. They're mainly caused by cars queuing to get into Chelmsford city centre.

Act Two – Broomfield Fights Back!

Act Two was the most dramatic part of the whole story. Led by the Planning Committee guerilla fighters, the Parish Council fought back!

Remember these?



And this queue? January 9th 2016, but it's not a queue for the January Sales. It's Broomfield folk queuing in the cold and damp to get into the 'Save Broomfield' Open Day.



It's vital to let local people know what's heading their way. Once yellow planning notices appear on lampposts, it's too late. If the planners think that local people aren't too bothered, you don't stand a chance.

But making people aware is just one part of the fight. No one wants lots of development in their village and, as the planners will remind you, 'development has to go somewhere and they can't please everyone.'

So, we decided to take other measures as well, including:

- Getting advice from planning and traffic experts so that we could put forward a high-quality, professional case
- Identifying alternative sites for development – mainly along the A12 corridor or the former Boreham Airfield, where the new North-East Bypass was already planned

- Building alliances with neighbouring parish councils. The City Council can afford to upset one parish, but crossing swords with six is a bit harder
 - Starting our own Neighbourhood Plan. A neighbourhood plan can't stop development, but it gives a local community more control about where development goes and provides a bit more 'clout' in negotiations with the powers-that-be.
- With a combination of all of the above, we got the housing numbers down from 1,700 to 1,000 – and no new road line to infill.

Act Three

More boring by comparison. Using our new status as an 'emerging neighbourhood plan' area, we got a seat at the high table, where we could ask searching questions. Such as 'So where are all these kids going to school then?' (plans for a new primary school in Broomfield had just fallen through). This led to the planned new estate 'north of Broomfield' being reduced from 800 to 450 dwellings. And the existing commitment to build 200 houses opposite the Angel being dropped altogether.

Act Four – the Finale

Lots more boring stuff. Late night writing of documents in planning speak, to present to the Planning Inspector. Liaising with our friends in neighbouring parishes. Feeling a bit stupid in front of the assembled ranks of planners and developers at the Public Examination – fortunately, we still had our expert professionals in tow.

The area shaded red is the 'north of Broomfield' development site, now reduced to 450 dwellings. The area shaded blue, around Broomfield Place, was going to be 200+ dwellings, but has now been saved.

The Reviews

So, what was the final verdict – rave reviews or flop? Well, Broomfield has to accommodate about half of the 450 new dwellings in the new estate 'north of Broomfield', between Blasford Hill and the Hospital. But to offset some of this, we have been spared the 200 new dwellings opposite the Angel which were already in the pipeline. Overall, perhaps not a bad result compared to the threat we faced back in 2015.

Plus, rather to our surprise, the City and County Councils have got significant



government investment towards the cost of the new North-East Bypass and the new rail station near Boreham. These should move some traffic away from Main Road and could help to point future development towards the east rather than the north of Chelmsford.

And what did we learn?

Always try to be ahead of the curve if you can. Try to get in there and negotiate to avoid or mitigate threats before they come hurtling down the track towards you. The first Review of the Local Plan will begin soon, even as the ink is drying on the original. This Review may well mean finding more land for development across Chelmsford, so we can't afford to take our eye off the ball.

We've also learned you must have a tough group of astute, wily old parish councillors to lead the fight, people who are prepared to do lots of boring stuff behind the scenes, for which they probably won't get much credit. And you need a strong group of residents, who care deeply about the environment, their village and the beautiful countryside that surrounds it. Fortunately, in Broomfield we have both.

Councillor John Blake
Chair of Planning Committee

For more information on the Chelmsford Plan, go to:
www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-new-local-plan/new-local-plan/

For more information about the masterplan for the 'North of Broomfield' development site, go to:
www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/masterplans-for-new-developments-in-chelmsford/masterplan-submission-for-strategic-growth-site-policy-8-north-of-broomfield/

North East Bypass and Beaulieu Station plans launched

Plans for a Chelmsford North East Bypass and Beaulieu Station have been launched to the public this week (13th July 2020) in a specially created 'virtual village hall' event.



Welcoming the engagement launch, Cllr Kevin Bentley, Essex County Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, said: "The new bypass and station are important pieces of the jigsaw in how we support and manage the growth of the city and the surrounding areas over the coming years.

"The bypass will help better our strategic road network between Chelmsford, Braintree, London Stansted Airport and the wider area, while the new station will provide a transport hub for people travelling on the Great Eastern

mainline and into London, with key public transport, walking and cycling networks to it.

How can you find out more: -

More details can be found via our 'virtual village hall' this is a web-based exhibition created specifically for the scheme which will run until Friday 21 August 2020.

Please click the following link into a Chrome Browser <https://chelmsford.pureweb.io/> and it can be accessed on any device.

We would like to know what your thoughts on the exhibition space, please submit your feedback in the virtual exhibition.



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Village Amenities

Around the Village:

The grass cutting season has commenced and thanks to JCM Services for doing such a good job. Essex Place Services have carried out a Tree Survey to ensure all the trees growing on land either owned or registered to Broomfield Parish Council are healthy and in safe condition.

The Angel Meadow Play Area and fitness equipment opened recently in line with Government advice. The areas have been sanitised but the Parish Council will not be doing any daily cleaning or disinfecting and request that visitors observe the 2m social distancing rule and hygiene practices are observed - please bring your own wipes etc. We have removed some swings & request only ONE FAMILY MEMBER accompanies a child.

From the Allotment Site:

On reflection, providing a skip two weeks after the all the recycling centres closed, was inviting problems. But it was booked in February and the good weather promised an ideal time for the allotment holders to have a tidy-up before the growing season got going. Unfortunately, the skip filled up on the first day, and by the second day, the allotment holders came in to see this.....



However, with more time on their hands, the tenants have been making the best of the good weather and the allotments are looking better than ever.

One part of the allotments will be getting a serious tidy up, and it looks like the council will have enough new space for some smaller allotments that would suit someone of limited mobility. The final design has still to be agreed, but raised beds, with firm, level ground around for ease of access. Right by the car park and with a nearby tap it would be the perfect place for someone who wants to garden but cannot bend to work the soil.

Vandalism hits Angel Meadow & Centenary Wood

Many of you will have seen first-hand, or on social media, the serious damage that has been done to some of the trees in Centenary Wood. This is not the first example of vandalism in recent weeks, two other recently planted trees were snapped off and some young men used a picnic table as a place to use their disposable barbeques causing considerable damage. The netball post has been irreparably damaged – this has now been replaced at a cost to all parishioners. We have reported these incidents to Chelmsford Police but they are unable to help. ... There is very little we can do about this other than issue a plea for information.

In the first example mentioned above, people were stripping the bark from some trees and carving their initials into another. However, a letter of apology has been received from two individuals expressing deep regret for the damage that they had caused and enclosing a contribution towards the cost of the damage. The next time you visit the nature reserve, you will see a sturdy new bridge over the brook. A much-needed improvement which was partly paid-for by this money.



Trees broken at the bottom of David Smith Memorial Field:



Damage to picnic bench by disposable BBQs – the picnic bench has been removed.



...and its replacement



Broken netball post...

Village Amenities Committee

Thank you to David Thomas, our Parish Paths Co-ordinator for providing the pull out Public Rights of Way Map overleaf

****JOIN BROOMFIED LITTER PICK****



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View over Tuffnell Mere, from FP2



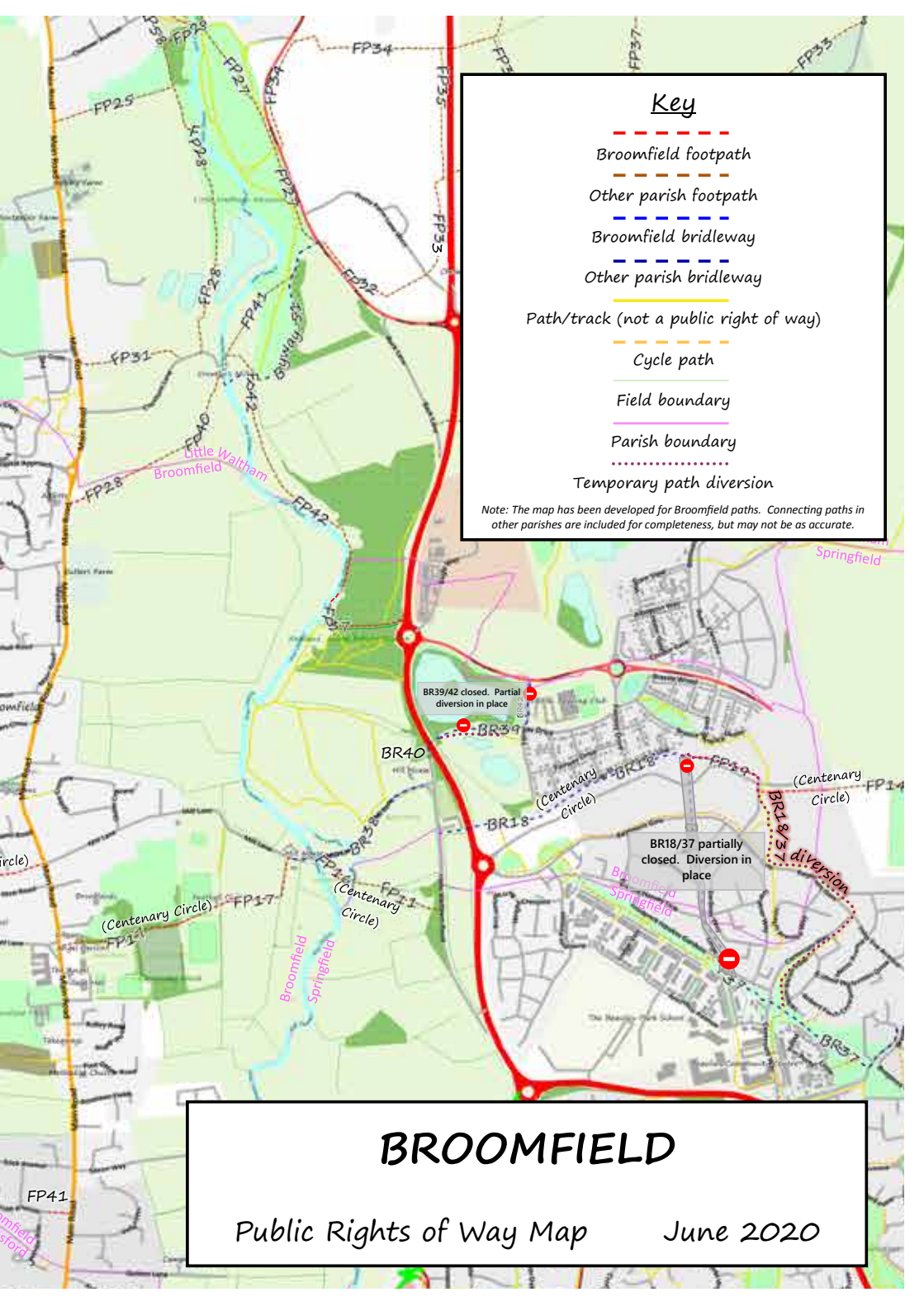
FP37, at the boundary with Newland Grove

BROOMFIELD

*Public Rights of Way
Map*

June 2020





Key

--- Broomfield footpath

--- Other parish footpath

--- Broomfield brideway

--- Other parish brideway

— Path/track (not a public right of way)

— Cycle path

— Field boundary

— Parish boundary

... Temporary path diversion

Note: The map has been developed for Broomfield paths. Connecting paths in other parishes are included for completeness, but may not be as accurate.

BR39/42 closed. Partial diversion in place

BR40

BR39

(Centenary Circle)

BR18

BR18/37 partially closed. Diversion in place

(Centenary Circle)

(Centenary Circle)

(Centenary Circle)

(Centenary Circle)

BR18/37 diversion

BROOMFIELD

Public Rights of Way Map

June 2020

Using the Broomfield paths



Public Rights of Way in Broomfield are mostly well-signed (although signage is poorer to the east and around new housing). Look out for yellow arrows for footpaths, or blue arrows for bridleways. Where a path joins a road, concrete, wooden or metal signs often indicate “Public Footpath” or “Bridleway”. Many footpaths in Broomfield have the path number carved into, or painted on, the sign. Path numbers are only unique to the parish, not between parishes.

Two longer-distance paths, the **Chelmsford Centenary Circle** and the **Saffron Trail**, pass through Broomfield and have their own waymarkers.



Footpaths are allowed to be used for walking, running, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs. **Bridleways** are allowed to be used for walking, horse riding, bicycles, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs. **Restricted byways** are allowed to be used for any transport without a motor and mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs. **Byways open to all traffic** are open to any kind of transport, including cars.

Please follow the Countryside Code, keep strictly to the paths, and take care when crossing roads.



This map provides a general indication of the approximate locations of public rights of way in Broomfield and surrounding parishes. It is not the statutory Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. Public rights of way are occasionally diverted and may even be extinguished. If you are in doubt as to the exact route of a Public Right of Way ask your local council for advice. Every attempt has been made to make sure the information in this map is accurate at the time of drawing (May 2020) but some errors may still be present. No liability or responsibility of any kind is accepted from your use of this map for any purpose. For errors, improvements or further information, or if you'd like to volunteer to help maintain the rights of way in Broomfield, please contact the Parish Pathways Partnership Representative on: broomfieldp3@gmail.com
Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>

Down Memory Lane.....Village Summer Fete

Here are some lovely photos provided by Steve Barrett and memories of Angel Meadow.

The photos were taken around 1948/49 and Angel Meadow was truly a meadow with skylarks rising from the long grass. The grass was cut to host the Village Fete with the cut grass being baled to form seating for the Fete (and before the event used as building blocks by many local children!) For

the Flower Show two large marquees would go up a few days before the show and again the local children enjoyed playing in and out of those too.



What to do if you need urgent police help through the 999 service, but can't speak



If you're in an emergency situation and need police help, but can't speak, Make Yourself Heard and let the 999 operator know your call is genuine.



WHEN YOU CALL 999

All 999 calls are directed to call centres and will be answered by BT operators. They will ask which service you need. If no service is requested but anything suspicious is heard throughout the process, BT operators will connect you to a police call handler.

IF YOU CALL 999 FROM A MOBILE

It is always best to speak to the operator if you can, even by whispering. You may also be asked to cough or tap the keys on your phone in response to questions.

If making a sound would put you or someone else in danger and the BT operator cannot decide whether an emergency service is needed, your call will be transferred to the Silent Solution system.

The Silent Solution is a police system used to filter out large numbers of accidental or hoax 999 calls. It also exists to help people who are unable to speak, but who genuinely need police assistance. You will hear an automated police message, which lasts for 20

seconds and begins with 'you are through to the police'. It will ask you to press 55 to be put through to police call management. The BT operator will remain on the line and listen. If you press 55, they will be notified and transfer the call to the police. If you don't press 55, the call will be terminated. Pressing 55 does not allow police to track your location.

WHAT THEY

When transferred to your local police force, the police call handler will attempt to communicate with you by asking simple yes or no questions. If you are not able to speak, listen carefully to the questions and instructions from the call handler so they can assess your call and arrange help if needed.

IF YOU CALL 999 FROM A LANDLINE

Because it's less likely that 999 calls are made by accident from landlines, the Silent Solution system is not used.

If, when an emergency call on a landline is received, - there is no request for an emergency - the caller does not answer questions - only background noise can be heard and BT operators cannot decide whether an emergency service is needed, then you will be connected to a police call handler as doubt exists.

If you replace the handset, the landline may remain connected for 45 seconds in case you pick it up again.

If you pick up again during this 45 seconds and the BT operator is concerned for your safety, the call will be connected to police.

When 999 calls are made from landlines, information about where you're calling from should be automatically available to the call handlers to help provide a response.



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Broomfield Village Hall Report July 2020

We have been working towards meeting the Government requirements to make the Village Hall a “Covid Secure” building and hope to welcome some of our regular hirers back from 12th July.

Our hall capacities have had to be drastically reduced to maintain social distancing and we are not yet able to hire to any fitness or sports groups. We are also not able to open toilet facilities to the public at this time so please do not enter the Village Hall unless attending a booked group. Please also note that both the Village Hall office and the Parish Council office remain closed to the public so please don't call in at the Hall, please email us or the Parish Council instead – clerk@broomfieldsex.co.uk or ring (01245) 441660.

A small number of our hall hirers have been able to relocate outside and run groups of limited numbers on the MUGA and on the

field. Hopefully the weather will allow them to continue to do so until they are able to move back inside.

We are starting to take bookings for events later in the year, subject to Covid 19 regulations, please contact bookings@broomfieldsex.co.uk for further information or to make a booking.

Village Hall Committee



Broomfield & District U3A - towards a 'new normal'

Gradually, the Broomfield & District U3A is emerging into a 'new normal'.

Thanks to creative use of modern communication technologies, the committee has met several times since the lock-down began in late March, and our monthly newsletters have continued to keep members informed throughout. Some of our special interest groups have also managed to get together -- albeit virtually. More recently, other groups have taken advantage of the easing of restrictions, as well as the unusually good weather, to meet in members' gardens. The walking group has also had at least one successful outing, maintaining appropriate social distancing. More good news is that Broomfield Village Hall has been allowed to re-open, and we are hoping we can soon resume our popular monthly speaker meetings, normally the second Wednesday of each month.

This includes that regular feature of the U3A's year -- the Annual General Meeting! To keep our U3A branch

on the right side of charity law, this short but essential meeting will enable members to elect (or re-elect) committee members, review finances, and discuss other issues. We are hoping to hold it in September, all being well. Committee members will visit the Hall beforehand to determine how best we can conduct this, and future meetings, as safely as possible while enjoying each other's company.

The situation, along with the government's safety advice, is continually changing, so please look out for announcements in our monthly newsletters. These are sent direct to members, and can also be seen on our website:

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

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



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Message from Sing and Sign Club

We are very much missing you at our Broomfield classes and are just relieved that we have been able to delivery our @ Home programme into your living rooms throughout lockdown. Phew!

Your support has been phenomenal, and the Sing and Sign love is still very much alive and kicking. Sadly, we do not know where we are at in terms of returning to "real life" classes. Rest assured, we are keeping our ears to the ground and working hard behind the scenes to ensure that we keep you singing and signing with us.4

We have heard from so many of you – pictures and videos of your little ones signing for the first time and getting involved with the @ Home programme too. It has been humbling to receive so many messages of support; I cannot thank you enough.

If you are new to Sing and Sign, you do not need to wait for us to return to the hall after

the Summer break. We have a fabulous Sing and Sign @Home programme which is streamed any time of any day that is suitable to you. Let us help you to begin your Sing and Sign journey; get in touch about Sing and Sign @Home today.

For any teeny tinies, we are running live Zoom Babes courses throughout the Summer break suitable for babes 0-6months. Get in touch for more information.

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If you would like to donate towards the work of Essex Dementia Care, please go to www.virginmoneygiving.com/essexdementiacare. You can also set up your own page where you can ask your friends to sponsor you to achieve a personal challenge.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Come and try a FREE taster session at one of our Activity Days!

If you would like some more information please contact us:
 Tel: 01245 363789
info@essexdementiacare.org.uk
www.essexdementiacare.org.uk



Message from Broomfield Carpet Bowls

We normally meet at Broomfield Village Hall on Monday afternoons at 13.30 until 16.30 & on Thursday evenings 19.00 to 22.00 (£3 per session) and are hoping to return later in the year.

As a club we have been in existence for over 25 years. We play mostly amongst ourselves (called roll ups) but do play other clubs occasionally in friendly matches home & away (we are not in the league).

We do need more members as numbers have dwindled over recent years & we are struggling to pay our rent. So come along and give it a go. It is not always easy to begin with if you're new to the game but most of us are patient as we were all new at one time! So if you are looking to try something new & need an excuse to get out of the house and meet some other locals. you now know where we are - Just ask

for Gill, Steve, Joy or Diane. Unfortunately, we have to end with some sad news as two of our members have recently passed. Rita Hawkes who has lived in Patching Hall Lane for several years and long term member Muriel Stevens who was in her 90's and lived in Skerry Rise was a member for a long time.



Re-Cycle your Bycycle

Was a great success! Around 50 bikes and bits were donated to this very worthy cause.

Well done Broomfield – look out for information on their next visit!



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Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society

CORONAVIRUS AND IMPACT ON THE SOCIETY

As I write this report, on Sunday 5th July, we should have been holding our Summer Flower and Produce Show. It is the first time since the Second World War that a Summer Show has not been held in Broomfield. While this is a big hole in our year, the safety of our members is the most important factor. With the Plant Sale and the Open Gardens also being cancelled, it does seem a very quiet time. The Committee will continue to review, on a monthly basis, what events we can run and we will update you as soon as there is any change. In the meantime, we hope you are all staying safe and staying healthy.

SUMMER VIRTUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW; SHARE YOUR LOCKDOWN TRIUMPHS WITH OUR MEMBERS

Although we can't hold a Summer Show, we recognise that members have had more time at home in their gardens or on their allotments. The weather has generally been good and the extra time at home has been a good opportunity to try growing things that you haven't grown before. Also, the extra time at home has meant that people are baking and doing more handicrafts that they normally would.

In the absence of a Summer Show, we would encourage members to share their "Lockdown Triumphs" – details of how to submit photographs and a short description of why you are so pleased with your Lockdown Triumph will be circulated to members in the BCGS Summer Newsletter 2020. Unfortunately, there won't be any cups or prizes, but it is still an excellent opportunity to share your Lockdown Triumphs with the rest of our members.

BARN UPDATE

As a result of the Coronavirus outbreak, we have had to close the Trading Centre on the allotment. This was in line with the government guidance for all non-essential shops to be closed. Although the lockdown has subsequently been eased we are not able to install the type of protection (plastic screens and only taking payment by debit card) that would make it safer to re-open.

Also, our volunteers that run the Trading Centre are currently shielding. We are sorry for any inconvenience, but for the safety of our volunteer staff and our members, the Trading Centre will remain closed. The position will be reviewed by the Committee each month and we will be in contact with you when we feel we are able to re-open.



COMMITTEE VACANCIES

There are currently two vacancies on the Committee which need to be filled from the next AGM in February 2021 - Secretary and Evening Talks Manager. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in one or more of these roles, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Committee.

FACEBOOK SITE

We have a Facebook page where regular updates are issued. Please search in Facebook under "Broomfield Cottage Gardeners Society" or use or type the following link into your browser: www.facebook.com/groups/355859514864259/

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join the Society, please contact Selina Matthews (Membership Secretary) on **01245 443108** or email BCGSshowsecretary@gmail.com. Please also look at our website: www.broomfieldcottagegardenerssociety.co.uk for more information about the society and how to join.

Message from Broomfield Library

We hope everyone has been keeping safe and well over the last few months. The decision to close libraries across the county was made very quickly in March, so we were not able to update our customers at that time!

However, 12 weeks later and Adrian and I are back onsite preparing the library for reopening to customers. Our hope currently is to open Broomfield Library on Monday 20th July. We will be open for our usual hours of Monday 1-5pm, Wednesday 9am-1pm, Thursday 1-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. We are working hard to ensure safe social distancing can be observed inside and outside of the building; there will be some minor layout changes inside and for the time being we will be able to offer only a very basic book borrowing and returning service. Of course, things seem to be changing at pace and we will be updating our procedures as we need to, and all plans may change!

We will be asking customers to queue safely outside the building, to wait patiently for others to finish inside to allow for social distancing, and to observe a one-way system through the library. We will be happy to welcome families with children – a household 'bubble', but will only be able to allow one family into the library at a time.

Any customer who had made a reservation or had an item on the reservation shelf before we closed will have been contacted by myself or Adrian in the last few weeks. If you have not heard from us or had not arranged collection or delivery of your items, please do contact us at Broomfield.library@essex.gov.uk.

We are very much looking forward to opening to the public again and welcoming our customers back into the library. We hope that you will feel safe and confident to visit in July; we will be here to assist as much as we can, and we hope to see you soon.

Michelle and Adrian - Broomfield Library

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What a rural scene

As readers to the Broomfield Times will know I keep a close eye on online auction sites for unusual images of Broomfield.

We are already lucky to have those collected by Ken Searles and published in Broomfield in old picture postcards and fortunate that at the Essex Record Office (ERO) in Chelmsford are preserved the surviving images from the three generations of Fred Spaldings photographers.

Now and again a postcard or image appears that is not known to me and I always try and purchase it not only for my own research into the parish but also to share through the pages of this magazine as well as for deposit at the ERO. Earlier on this year several stereoscopic images of mid-Essex were put up for sale.

These types of images were an early attempt to improve on 2D photographs whereby two similar but slightly offset images were taken of the same subject and when looked at through a special viewer one saw a 3D effect. For sale were some images of Chelmsford, Broomfield, Little Waltham and Felsted with a suggested date of them having been taken around 1860.

The Broomfield ones comprised a view from inside the church, 'The road to the mill near Broomfield', 'Bridge over the Chelmer', a 'Road in Broomfield' and, finally a fairly standard image of Broomfield Mill (pictured - in future issues I'll share the other images with you). I successfully won them all apart from the latter which didn't concern me as this is a building that has had many images taken of it over the years.



The most intriguing image was 'A road in Broomfield' as I couldn't place it to begin with. My first thought was that it might have been Scots Green but that didn't seem right, the road layout didn't match. Having slept on it, it suddenly occurred to me that it was the cottage at the top of Mill Lane, part of Hill Farm, looking north along Back Lane towards Little Waltham



What an interesting image to take but why? It tied in with some of the other images (Broomfield Mill, bridge over the Chelmer and one which I didn't purchase of Little Waltham church, so you can imagine the photographer having a day in the Chelmer valley taking snaps) and perhaps it was a scene that tickled the unknown photographer – a piece of rural life with the ploughman on a muddy, winter road. And it is this that makes it interesting. Normally the village church would always be photographed along with any prominent local buildings but generally not a country road.

And when was it taken? Not the advertised 1860 which is too early. My best guess is about 1890 before Hill Farm buildings extended right up to Back Lane – the lane heading off to the right leads to the farmyard. The ploughman is unknown but it is interesting that Ken Searles does have in Broomfield in old picture postcards an image (37) from the 1890s of a ploughman Fred Watts who was believed to have worked at Hill Farm. Is this just coincidence? And who was the photographer?

Neil Wiffen

Surgical robots are back in action for patients



Patients are now being welcomed back into surgery across mid and south Essex with the return of state-of-the-art robots.

The Da Vinci X robots at Broomfield and Southend hospitals, which are used to perform life-changing operations in specialties including urology, gastro-intestinal, and ear, nose and throat (ENT), are now back in use for the first time since March.

Southend's robot had only been in place for a matter of weeks before coronavirus hit. Consultant urologist and robotic surgeon Mohamed Abdalazeez is pleased to get the service back underway for patients and praised the theatres' team for their hard work.



He said: "It's great to be able to get back to our regular patients again. To get here has taken a lot of teamwork and effort from everyone - the theatres' manager, our matron, staff nurses, surgical care practitioner, the robot team and our anaesthetists. It's collaborative work between all of us."

The robot in Southend is mainly used for prostate cancer operations. Mr Abdalazeez explained how some things have had to change working in the 'new normal' world of Covid. "We used to send the patient home the next day if everything had gone well, but since Covid we try to send them home the same day. After the operation we wait for around six hours then have a discussion with the anaesthetists and the patient if we have no concerns. I'm pleased to say that so far there have been no complications."

At Broomfield, Covid meant many theatre staff were temporarily working in intensive care and Theatre 17, where the robot operates from, which became the part of the hospital's critical care unit. Marielle Huddleston, robotic lead nurse, explained how the robot and staff returned to normal duties after helping in the fight with Covid. She said: "We've restarted colorectal cancer cases, urology, adrenalectomies, and head and neck ENT cases. We're looking forward to increasing the number of cases and growing the robotic service"

Thank you NHS & Key Workers

It is with some sadness the Thursday clap has finished; like many of you I live near the Main Road and continued banging my saucepan until 8:15 to enjoy the changeover of NHS staff at Broomfield, the beeps and waves from workers, the blue lights from the ambulances and occasional sirens from the fire engines that were drafted in to support paramedics. The mutual appreciation was warming.

The love for the workers of the NHS continues, I spotted several nurses, being touched by a Thank You tree, in the wood next to Broomfield Hospital - it is beautifully decorated with rainbow fir cones and a thank you bracelet.

What a lovely idea - much appreciated.

Councillor Wendy Daden



Hospital Hands by Kim Brunning

(I am a Yoga Teacher who works both in Broomfield Village Hall offering gentle Yoga classes there for the Village community and I also work at Broomfield Hospital in the Pain Service as a Yoga Teacher there as well. I wrote this Poem 'Hospital Hands' whilst visiting the hospital a few years ago but the sentiments apply then and even more now – much appreciation to ALL the staff at Broomfield Hospital & all working for the NHS).

I saw so much love today, in fact it was amazing,
It quite blew me away,
It was at the hospital.

I saw an old lady dressed all in black,
A raggedy fur coat hanging on her back,
Her gnarled cold hands gripping a walking
frame,
Her husband at her side, guiding her arm with a
gentle aim,
Their hands spoke of years of caring and
sharing,
Old gold and worn patterned wedding rings
they were wearing.

I saw a teenager sitting in a wheel chair,
Head hung low, shoulders full of care,
His hands busy with his phone, off in a world of
his own.
Mum by his side head buried in a book,
His name is called and they both take an
upwards look,
She touches his chin with her thumb and her
fingers,
A glance of hopefulness between them briefly
lingers.

A young man sits and rubs his wife's sore back,
Her belly full of Baby about to give birth,
A new life coming into this world we know as
Earth.
Their faces are tense, it all feels so strange,
Their lives about to take such a big, dramatic
change,
But that soft and tender rub, that loving, caring
touch,
Hands convey his love for her so very, very
much.

A little Boy sits sadly on a seat all curled up,
His face normally carefree but now full of pain,
Arm in a sling, playing a waiting game.
His teddy is nearby and has a bandage too,
Cuddled tight with the other hand making
everything all right,
Taking away the fear and the fright.

Somewhere in the hospital there's knock on the
door,
It's opened by a Surgeon and a patient walks
across the floor,
A few steps forward and a firm handshake,
A time for trust and placing our care in
someone when we must.
Somewhere in another place a Nurse holds the
hand of a patient standing on legs that are now
strong,
Encouraging this Lady to walk confidently
along.
Somewhere else a Midwife cradles a Baby's
head so gently into the world,
Into the arms of its parents soon to be held.
Somewhere in another place the last tender,
hand holding touch full of love,
As the last breaths are taken and the soul slips
away like the beating wings of a dove.

There are hands that makes beds, clean loos,
give out meds,
There are hands making food that arrives at
patients beds.
There are hands that clean and carry and fetch,
The lines and the calluses tell a story that is
etched.
There are hands that answer phones, work in IT
And all these hands offer service to you and me.
There are hands that offer comfort, a soft touch
that can heal,
These many hands have an impact on how we
all feel.

I saw so much love today,
In fact, it was amazing,
It quite blew me away,
I saw all those loving hands.

Namaste.

Rainbow Bears raise £885 for Farleigh Hospice

Two extraordinary families have come together to create Rainbow Bears, also known as Bears in Scrubs, raising a staggering £885 for Farleigh Hospice.

Sue Gowers from Maldon and Lesley Grover from Broomfield Chelmsford were the creatives behind the project, knitting and crocheting the bears. Lesley's son Rob, a manager at the Nightingale Hospital in London, came up with the initiative and set about organising the logistics from launching the Just giving page to posting out the bears to their new homes.

Both families have a strong connection to the hospice. Lesley's husband John was cared for by Farleigh, and Sue was a nurse on the Inpatient Unit at the old Farleigh site. Sue's husband Trevor was also cared for by Farleigh and was an instrumental figure in helping to set up the new hospice on the Broomfield site.

To celebrate his achievements, Trevor was invited to lay the first brick of Farleigh's new home.

Sue talked about her husband and said: "Trevor was diagnosed with a brain tumour, and Farleigh was there to help care and support us all. I think helping to set up the new Farleigh and being part of the development of the new building helped him live longer."

Lesley and Sue have continued their connection with Farleigh and are part of the Chelmsford Farleigh Craft Group. During the lockdown, the friends have kept in touch and are looking forward to meeting up in the future. For more information on Bears in Scrubs please visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lesleyandsue



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Wildlife & Monitoring in lockdown – We can all be involved

From a small garden to the Lake District nature can be found anywhere.

Living in a two storey flat behind central park, the lockdown has at least allowed me to explore the Chelmsford landscape and it hasn't failed to impress.

You can walk all the way to Writtle without crossing a single road. The endless fields, hedgerows and hidden water courses rippling across the landscape, the city has a lot to offer. A variety of birds, butterflies, damselflies and bees have all been seen.

Lockdown has created a greater appreciation of the nature, the relaxing benefits it can bring and how with reduced road traffic the sounds are rekindling perhaps lost connections to wildlife.

With the help of Owen Ward and Broomfield Hospital Radio we brought local sounds inside to the wards of Broomfield Hospital. If you haven't been able to visit the outside, it can be brought inside. www.mixcloud.com/owenontheradio/the-sounds-of-nature-on-hospital-radio-chelmsford/

Monitoring is great for getting even closer to nature. Recording what you see helps local

and regional population trends of wildlife species, that can improve conservation efforts. There are plenty of resources to help. From my personal experience I've made use of the following:

- The Field Studies Council hardcopy guides www.field-studies-council.org/product-category/publications/
- British Trees – phone app for identifying trees
- BirdNET – phone app to auto ID birdsong
- iRecord Butterflies – phone app butterfly ID
- Mammal mapper – phone app mammals ID

I use iRecord (www.brc.ac.uk) to record all my sightings. This is a place where projects can access your data to improve their local knowledge.

What will you find on your next walk?

David Jackson

Sustainability AIEEMA, working at University of Greenwich



Chelmsford Community Transport

Do you have any friends / relatives / neighbours who wouldn't mind offering a few hours to be a Volunteer Car Driver?

Journeys include visits to hospitals around Essex, shopping, social clubs and more! Many of our passengers are elderly & love a good natter on their journey so excellent company is guaranteed!

Volunteers can come on board as ad-hoc drivers, where we call on them if we need a driver OR they can give a day/afternoon/ morning a week – whatever suits them!

Volunteers would use their own car and can reclaim 40p per mile door-to-door and any

other out of pocket expenses.

All training and DBS police checks are provided and the person should ideally live in Chelmsford & South Woodham but not essential. Volunteers would be joining a fabulous team of existing volunteers – we have annual meet-ups such as afternoon teas, carol concerts and our Christmas Party!

Please forward or pass this email onto everyone you know! Even if they can't help – someone they know might! Thanks so much!

Clair Dade Chief Executive

01245 477789 (Lines open 9am – 2.30pm)
Chelmsford Community Transport Suite 9a
Rochester House Business Centre
275 Baddow Road Chelmsford CM2 7QA

Broomfield Footpath Society, update

The Broomfield Footpath Society was compelled to suspect its programme of walks earlier in the year.

Keen walkers may recall that the nationwide lock-down began just as our walks were about to begin. We've been lucky to have such fantastic walking weather during the lock-down so far, and restrictions on social gatherings are at last beginning to ease. However, it's not yet clear how, or even when, potentially large groups such as the

Broomfield Footpath Society will be allowed to meet and socialise while also keeping each other safe and well. Indeed, many of our footpaths aren't wide enough to allow side-by-side walking (and chatting!) while observing social distancing guidelines. Taking into account that the progress of the pandemic, as well as government guidance, is continually changing, we have – with great regret – decided to cancel our remaining scheduled walks. Hopefully we will be in a position to carry out a full year's programme from next Spring 2021. In the meantime, we also hope you will continue to enjoy – safely, of course! – Broomfield's lovely way-marked footpaths.



VE Day Wreath Laying on 8th May 2020

VE Day Wreath Laying on 8th May 2020
Mick Barnard Vice Chairman of Broomfield RBL and Malcolm Taylor representing the Broomfield Scouts laid wreaths at the war memorial to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Although many celebrations were cancelled throughout the village due to covid-19 The Fallen Were Not Forgotten



Broomfield RBL Social Club

Many people think you must have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces to become a member of the Broomfield RBL Social Club – not true!

At Broomfield RBL Social Club we are a welcoming family friendly social club based in the heart of Broomfield providing a place for local people of all ages to enjoy themselves and meet new friends, we are always on the lookout for new members - young and old. All non-members are welcome to try us out and if you like what you see you can become a member for a small fee.

We have a very active social committee always busy looking to put on events at the club including live local bands, tribute acts which include Freddie Mercury, Robbie Williams and Michael Bublé to name a few. In addition to these popular music nights we also hold Family Discos, New Year's Eve Parties, Live Mic Nights, Race Nights etc throughout the year. We always have a busy social calendar for you to enjoy.

In addition to our events, we hold weekly Bingo Nights and our Cribbage team are always looking for new members, we regularly host coffee mornings to meet and make friends within your local community, whilst raising money for the Poppy Appeal.

We have 2 snooker tables for members and the snooker team meet regularly if you wish to join them, we take our darts seriously at our

club and have 3 dart boards all with digital score boards. The Darts team are always busy playing home and away against local sides in the league.



Whilst we have been locked down over the past few months a small number of members have been refurbishing many of the facilities within the Clubhouse (whilst maintaining social distancing). The lounge area has undergone a total refresh and new LED lighting has been installed, the new lighting offers scene setting whilst reducing our CO2 footprint and saving us energy. The toilet facilities have been updated, repainted and smartened up in readiness for reopening. New soap dispensers in the entrance and toilet facilities will ensure our members can wash their hands thoroughly in line with Covid 19 government guidelines.

Adding to our existing 2 large screen TV's we have fitted a High Definition Projector which we project onto a 120" Mega screen (Probably the biggest screen in Broomfield)



where you can watch all the live sports and events provided by Sky Sports, BT Sports and Terrestrial TV.

When we open our new look bar will also be offering a wider range of beverages all at incredibly competitive prices, with a selection of lagers and real ales starting at just £3.00 for a pint. If you like to enjoy a drink in the sun, we have a small beer garden with tables and chairs where you can catch some rays whilst having a casual drink.

To make sure everyone within our community and village of Broomfield know what is going on at the club we have recently launched a new website – www.broomfieldrblsocialclub.com where you can keep up to date with latest news, reopening date and events at the club.

Further to the recent news we are working towards opening the club mid/late June, but there is a lot of work to do to ensure we provide a safe and enjoyable experience, this includes writing risk assessments and purchasing equipment to make the club compliant in line with current government guidelines. We actively need volunteers to help out whilst we are open, to show members and guests to their table and keeping our

club clean and safe. These new guidelines will mean that the experience at the club will be different from when we last saw you, but by taking great care and applying some common sense the future for the club will be enjoyable and bright.

Our Social Media Manager – Lucy will be keeping our Facebook page up to date, so check in, keep in touch and we will let you know when we are reopening – see you soon.



Broomfield RBL Social Club

where community starts – Join Us & Enjoy

Butlers Close VE Day Celebrations

Some Butlers Close residents decided to celebrate in style even though the lockdown meant they were unable to hold a Street Party. It was a sort of 'mini street party' as neighbours could pull up a chair and bring their own 'refreshments'.



A very special painting

Some Broomfield residents may not be aware that the tower of our St Mary's church in Broomfield conceals an artistic treasure – a wall painting that is possibly the only true fresco in an English church.



In case you are not sure what the difference is between a wall painting and a fresco, then I will explain – a “buon fresco” is painted directly on to wet, fresh plaster. A wall painting may be painted on to a dry wall.

The story of our fresco at St Mary's is a fascinating one. It was painted during the Second World War in 1941 by Rosemary Rutherford, daughter of the Revd John Rutherford, Vicar of Broomfield from 1930-1957. Rosemary was a recognised artist of her time. She had become interested in fresco painting before the war when there had been a resurgence of interest in it. At the end of the nineteenth century frescos had been attempted in the new Houses of Parliament

building but these had been unsuccessful. The difficulty with frescos is getting the paint to stick to the wall as it dries. Even the famous Leonardo Da Vinci fresco of the Last Supper in the monastery in Milan started to peel off the wall almost as soon as he had finished it.

Rosemary was determined to create a successful fresco and somehow obtained permission from her father to paint on the inside wall of the tower. No permission was sought from the Diocese of Chelmsford authorities for the work. It seems to have been carried out in a rather clandestine fashion. Revd Rutherford apparently believed that he had sole authority over what went on in the tower of his church.

Rosemary's brother, John Alton Rutherford assisted her with the work, as preparing a wall for fresco painting is fairly hard manual labour. Later, John wrote about their work in the Broomfield magazine 1975. Here is his account of the proceedings.

“Day after day we locked ourselves in and quietly chipped off the plaster down to the flint wall over an area of approximately seven feet by five feet. Each evening after dark I carried out buckets of rubble and hid them at the top of the churchyard! Once down to the foundation we layered four layers of lime mortar, allowing each one to dry before adding the next. The fifth layer was of mortar made with lime and ground white marble, giving a beautiful white surface, and each day we layed only as much as could be painted while it was still wet. The earth colours then sank in and could not peel off. The blues have faded a bit, as the paint should have been mixed with egg, and there were no fresh eggs.”

Rosemary and John's hard work paid off and the fresco has survived in our tower remarkably well. It is a large, powerful painting showing Jesus Christ stilling the storm on Lake Galilee (Luke 8:22-25), surrounded by his frightened disciples. In 2003 restoration work was carried out on it and again this year, during May, we have had a conservation expert in to check its condition. Fortunately,

the fresco seems to be in reasonable condition although some cleaning and preservation work is now necessary. The humidity in the tower is a problem and this is caused by the holes made by the woodpeckers in the spire and the fact that the tower walls need repointing. We urgently need to seek funding to repair this historic part of our church and preserve this unique work of art.

The PCC and the Grant Application group are preparing a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the £150,000 needed to do this essential repair work. We are hoping that the unique nature of the fresco will provide the key that unlocks the necessary grant aid. Rosemary Rutherford also created our stained glass windows in the chancel and the big East window over the altar, so we have a special Rutherford interest in the church. We also have the Rutherford graves in the churchyard beside the tower. Our thinking is that we can offer our community and the artistic community a special insight into the post-war

style of art that Rosemary's work exemplifies. We want too to increase access to the fresco and encourage all kinds of experimental church art in people of all ages.

We very much want to involve the whole Broomfield community in this project. Our ancient church building stands at the heart of the village and is one of our most precious assets. Do get in touch with the Vicar Revd Carolyn (revcat@outlook.com) or myself Revd Diana (dianagarfield@hotmail.com) if you are interested in taking part or you can offer us expertise or support.

As soon as our church is open again we will be welcoming visitors to come and look at the fresco and share their impressions of it. We want to create an ongoing tribute to our own Broomfield artist, Rosemary Rutherford.

Revd Diana St Mary's Church

Helen Rollason Charity News:

We need your support now more than ever!

Message from our CEO Kate Alden:

"The Helen Rollason Cancer Charity is determined to continue supporting those living with cancer during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Trustees and I are looking at the implications this is having on the Charity and the potential long terms effects. We will endeavour, for as long as it is permissible and safe to do so, to operate all functions of the Charity to the best of our ability.

Our income for the next 12 weeks is budgeted at £160,000. Our shops, where possible, are trading but who knows for how long. Community fundraising events are being cancelled and our flagship events are being postponed.

However, I am pleased to say where possible our counsellors are still keeping appointments with clients via telephone calls or online video calling and my colleagues and I have been reaching out to isolated clients unable to leave

their homes to offer reassurance and a friendly ear.

I am asking you, our fantastic supporters to help us get through these unprecedented times. Of course Covid-19 is at the forefront of all of our minds, but even once it has calmed down, cancer will still be there. On average 1,000 people in the UK will face a cancer diagnosis every day and 450 others will die. Please help us support them, both now during this time of unrest, and in the months and years to come.

At a time where the future is uncertain I would like to thank you for your continued support and I hope you and your family are safe and well."



Broomfield Parish Church Opening Information

Over the past few weeks, the PCC has been working hard to meet all the risk assessment criteria for re-opening the parish church building for the people of Broomfield.

We are now at the stage where we can tentatively do that, although, at least for now, we will not be able to do so with the freedoms which we previously enjoyed. The church has been deep cleaned and aired in accordance with Government guidelines and in order to keep within the Covid 19 safety requirements, only limited numbers of people may be in the building at any one time. A record of those who attend each time the church is open is required in case people need to be contacted, if someone later shows symptoms of Covid 19. Therefore, if you wish to attend church you will need to make an appointment by calling (text or WhatsApp messages are fine too) the duty phone 07464 321616 or by emailing stmarybroomfield@gmail.com. Whichever way you contact us, you will receive a response. If you do not hear back, please try again!

We have also had to put some rules in place, in order to be Covid 19 safe and in order to open at all:

- The maximum numbers allowed in this church are 29, which includes the ministers.
- There is yellow tape on the carpet to indicate a 2m distance, please use this wisely.
- Some pews are roped off. Please only sit where there is a numbered seat. You will be told when you contact us which number to look for.
- As you enter the building you will need to sanitise your hands with the alcohol wash that we are providing.
- All the pew cushions and kneelers have been removed, for your comfort please bring a cushion of your own.
- You will not be allowed to light candles.
- Although the toilets will be open, we will not be encouraging use of the facilities!
- Please enter through the main church door and exit through the hall doors (in the link).
- When you leave please do not gather to chat in groups in the grounds or in the car park.
- There is to be no shaking of hands, hugging

or other physical contact.

- PLEASE DO NOT COME INTO THE CHURCH BUILDING IF YOU SHOW ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19 EVEN IF YOU HAVE BOOKED TO COME! (new continuous cough, high temperature, loss of taste and/or smell)
- IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS AFTER ATTENDING THE CHURCH PLEASE LET ONE OF THE MINISTERS KNOW.

All of the above are necessary in order for us to open at all! But here is the good news... We will be opening at 10am - 12noon on Wednesday's for private prayer and at 9am on Sunday mornings for Morning Worship which will also be live streamed via Facebook. We will continue with our online worship on our website www.stmarybroomfield.org for the foreseeable future. We look forward to welcoming you back into your Parish Church

Rev. Carolyn Tibbott

**Vicar of Broomfield and North Chelmsford
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revcat@outlook.com (usual rest day Friday)**

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or visit: www.cph.uk.net



Neighbourhood Watch - Scam Phone Calls

Please look out for SCAM PHONE CALLS (see example below)

And so it begins:

'Good morning, I'm calling from the NHS track and trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test.'

'OK. Can you tell me who that person was?'

'I'm not able to tell you that. That is confidential information.'

'Right. Um... so...'

'But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?'

'Ok (gives address)'

'Thank you - and I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalise this and send the kit to you.'

'Sorry - a payment card? I thought this was all free?' (IT IS!!)

'No - I'm afraid not. There is a one-off fee of £50 for the kit, and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you're ready.'

'No - that's not right. This is part of the NHS so there's no charge.'

'I'm afraid there is. Can you give me the card number please - this is very important, and there are penalties for not complying'

Puts phone down.

This is how scammers work. Please DO NOT fall for it.

IF IN DOUBT SPEAK TO A FRIEND/ NEIGHBOUR/COUNCIL/POLICE. !REMEMBER! NEVER GIVE OUT YOUR BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS TO ANYONE!

News from Neighbourhood Watch:

Introduction to single online home (soh) for anti-social behaviour

Single Online Home is a national web service that offers forces in England and Wales various digital opportunities around online reporting and Live chat (7am-11pm), enabling members of the public to 'self-serve'.

In July 2019, Essex Police launched the Single Online Home (SOH) portal on our website for the recording of crime online and members of the public have been successfully using this service to report crimes to us (the Resolution Centre).

A decision has been made to extend the reporting options of SOH to now include the reporting of Antisocial behaviour (ASB) in Essex. This will bring Essex Police in line with other forces such as The Metropolitan Police, Northamptonshire, Sussex, Merseyside and Greater Manchester who are already live and using this additional functionality.

The current Essex Police website reporting page already has an icon to select for reporting ASB but up until now this has simply

been a tool to provide simple advice and has a default position of advice to the public to call us on 101.

From 19th May this icon will provide direct online reports for the ASB service and is built around a set of 5 core forms:

1. Report the behaviour of someone
2. Report a problem with your neighbour
3. Report a problem with an animal
4. Report a vehicle causing an obstruction
5. Report an abandoned vehicle

The new system will triage reports, providing advice to members of the public at each step, it looks for opportunities at each stage of the reporting process to signpost to other agencies where appropriate and where necessary will guide the reporting person to the online reporting tool that will enable them to report the matter to us online, channel shifting members of the public away from dialling 101.

www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-b/report-antisocial-behaviour/

John Buckberry (NHW)

nhw@channelsresidents.org.uk

Channels Residents Community Group

www.Channels.Community

Favourite recipes

Here are some favourite recipes from Councillors Angela Thomson & Sue Hubble for you to try:

Apple and Ginger Squares

11b (450g) Cooking Apples
8 oz (225g) SR Flour whole wheat flour
6 oz (175g) Butter or Marg
1 ½ tsps. Ground ginger
6 oz (175g) light muscavado sugar
½ tsps. Cinnamon
3 eggs
¼ pint (140 ml) Double cream (optional)
1 tbsp. Honey
¼ tsps. Cinnamon (if using cream)

Grease an 8 in (20 cm) tin. Peel, core & chop the apples. Cream the fat & sugar until light. Add the eggs, then the honey. Sift the flour & spices into the mixture & stir well; continue adding the apples. Turn the mixture into the tin & bake for 1 ½ hours at 180 c 350 F Gas Mark 4.

Cut into six or more slices – when cool, whip the cream, add the cinnamon & pipe onto the squares (optional)

Rhubarb and Ginger Jam Recipe

Makes 4 jars

30 mins plus 2 hours to soak

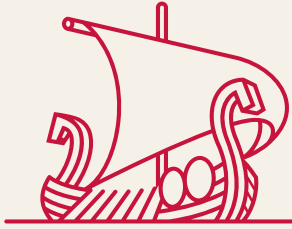
Since taking an allotment plot four years ago, left over from the previous occupant, is an abundance of Rhubarb, which pops up every year without fail. I have given it away, made numerous rhubarb crumbles and frozen it but by far my favourite thing is to make this really simple recipe. Why don't you try it too?

1 kg rhubarb
1 kg sugar (which has added pectin)
4cm piece of ginger peeled
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
50g stem or crystallised ginger finely chopped

Method

1. Wash the rhubarb under cold running water and slice into 2cm pieces. Tip into a large glass or plastic bowl and add the jam sugar, lemon zest and juice, and chopped stem ginger. Finely grate the peeled ginger directly over the rhubarb.
2. Stir the mixture thoroughly, cover loosely with cling film and leave to one side for about 2 hrs to allow the sugar to dissolve into the rhubarb juices. You may need to stir the mixture occasionally to encourage this process along.
3. Pop a few saucers in the freezer. Scoop the fruit and all the sugary juices into a preserving pan and set over a medium heat. Stir until the sugar has completely dissolved and bring to the boil. Continue to cook at a swift pace until the rhubarb is tender and the conserve has reached setting point – this should take about 12 to 15 mins.
4. To test for a set, drop ½ tsp of the jam onto a cold saucer, leave it for 30 secs, then gently push it with the tip of your finger. If the jam wrinkles the setting point has been reached. If not, continue to cook for a further couple of minutes and test again.
5. Remove the pan from the heat and leave to one side for 2-3 mins before pouring into sterilised jars. Seal immediately and label with the date once completely cold.





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