

Broomfield **TIMES**

Issue 64 | Spring 2021

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Broomfield TIMES

Welcome to the Spring issue of Broomfield Times. Well who'd have thought at this time last year we were about to experience the year we have just had! At the time of writing, things look much more positive with the vaccination roll out and plans to come out of lockdown and resume a 'normal' life again – it has been a long time coming!

The Parish Office staff have mainly been working from home apart from our Clerk Mike who has been manning the Office part time and Stuart our Village Attendant and Health & Safety Officer – who has carried on making sure all areas of the Village are maintained and safe. We have all got used to 'zoom' meetings and conversing by 'slack' and on the whole it seems to have been successful!

And what a contrast in weather we have been having too – floods, snow & now the sun! There are lots of interesting articles in this edition to keep you updated as to what's happened and what is coming next, these include: **Broomfield in Bloom; Revamp of Angel Meadow Play Area (near Broomfield Village Hall); Tree for Life Scheme; update to Broomfield's Neighbourhood Plan; Report from the Village Hall re opening; Planning items including the 570 new houses planned for north of Woodhouse Lane; news from Farleigh Hospice & Broomfield Hospital; P3 Volunteers & details of new Pegasus crossing over Regiment Way to Beaulieu; Neighbourhood Watch and some lovely scenes from around the Village and much more...**

Keep safe!

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

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Thank you to Robin Marchal for the cover photo – Spring has arrived! (Hollow Lane Feb 2021)

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Essex Police:

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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:

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Chairman's Chat



In July last year, we were approached by a very dedicated and successful Youth Group in Springfield about opening a facility in Broomfield.

They had already explored all options in the Village and were at a loss. What they really want is something exclusively their own so that they can open whenever they want to open and carry out whatever events they want to run. We know from hard experience that youth clubs often struggle to survive when they are dependent on sharing busy premises with other groups, so we felt this was a unique opportunity worth exploring.

The solution seemed to be a demountable building. A solid extension to the Village Hall would be far more expensive and take much longer to deliver. Back in the summer of last year when we first started looking at this project we were very conscious of the impact of lockdown and had hoped to have something up and running by the time clubs could reopen.

The project was developed over several months by a Working Group that we set up for the purpose. Reports were given to the Full Council every month so that Councillors could comment – which they did -for instance on the budget for a feasibility study. No Councillors challenged the basic idea or disagreed with the principle of the Council creating premises for a Youth Club. In November there was a formal vote and all Councillors voted to go ahead with a specification for a six-bay demountable building, approximately 175 sq metres.

The main issues left were to finally decide the contractors we would use, the exact location and the budget. A Special Meeting was called for February, so that Councillors meet the proposed contractors and think through these remaining issues together and reach a joint decision.

Just before the Meeting the matter was brought up on social media - not just the location and final cost. The whole point of the Special Meeting was to think through the location and final cost.

Councillors are supposed to consider things as a group and try to reach the best decision for the community. Putting limited or inaccurate information on social media tends to divide the community into factions instead of bringing people together. That is exactly what happened on this occasion - with comments becoming so bitter that the website administrators had to close down the 'conversations' on more than one occasion.

Social media has so much potential for good and we have received some very valuable and positive input from some parties, however, it is so often a platform for ill-informed misinformation and abuse. For instance, it has been suggested that the building will be built in the middle of the David Smith Field; it will cost 50% more than its maximum budget; alternatives have not been considered; the build has not been put out to tender; even potential corruption and hardworking unpaid Parish Councillors have been personally abused.

The truth of course is completely different. The project is simply being progressed step by step in the normal way of publicly funded activities; debated and discussed at each Council meeting and reported in minutes of the meetings. Of course it is not going to be in the middle of the David Smith Field and of course the tender invitation went out publicly.

Of course, all these important details get lost in the heat that social media tends to create. However, we are continuing to refine the options through evidence and discussion, in order to get the best possible solution for our community. There is still much for us to think through. There will be more news in due course.

Angel Meadow Play Area:

More positive news is that the refurbishment of the children's playground is now underway hampered of course by the poor run of weather, there is more information on page 25. Sadly, again the project has received ill-informed misinformation on social media but it will be finished soon and I know it will be enjoyed by the children of the Village.

Continued >

044

Trees for Life:

This is a fantastic project that we are very proud of. The idea was to plant a fruit tree in the Village for babies born and resident here in 2020. The trees were either planted in a private garden or in David Smith Memorial Field. A total of 20 trees have just been planted – more details on page 17.

Allotment Site:

I am very pleased that the very first step of a project to harvest rainwater at the allotment site has now started. We have installed two sets of tanks against the Barn to take rain water off the roofs. We can collect up to 4,000 litres which can serve a small group of plots at the entrance to the site. It is not a lot but it is a start. If successful we hope to be able to set up other ways of collecting water around the site. I would stress that this is not a project expected to save money but to make a contribution towards protecting our environment.

We still have our two raised beds, one is let and should come into use in the Spring. The other is still available if anybody is interested. We hope that a Nursery in the village will also be taking another lower bed to give the young children an opportunity to learn growing skills. The site is looking really good, the trees either side have recently been trimmed back, all plots are looking good and starting to show very early signs of life and we have a waiting list of potential tenants.

Grants to local organisations This year we have already agreed to make a grant to St Mary's Church to fund a water harvesting project to make life easier for users of the newly extended Cemetery.

Last year we agreed to make a grant to Mid & South Essex Hospitals Charity to put a bench in the COVID-19 Memorial Garden at Broomfield Hospital this is now in the process of being installed. We have also agreed to make a contribution to a very substantial project at Chelmer Village High School to develop an all-weather sports pitch.

Angel Pavilion:

The refurbishment of the former Football Club Pavilion has now been completed and is set to open properly when lockdown is eventually lifted. There is no denying that during development relationships have been

strained but now the work is completed there is no reason why that should not settle down. The Pavilion will offer welcome refreshments to people using the parks and we are assured is not intended to compete with the facilities offered by the Village Hall Charity. We all hope it works out well for the business owner and proves to be a successful business venture.

Broomfield's Neighbourhood Plan:

Work on the Plan is now moving forward at pace and the Parish Council will be working with Chelmsford City Council to bring it to you for final approval in due course. The Neighbourhood Plan helps shape future development of our Village by advising the City Council Planners what the people of our Village would like to see and would be willing to support. In return we get a greater say in all future planning applications and a share of Community Infrastructure Levy to spend on projects in the Village. One thing to note about the Neighbourhood Plan is that it requires the agreement of landowners if development of their property is to be incorporated in the Plan.

Broomfield Place:

In the past several years much interest has been shown in the future use by Essex County Council of its land to the south of Broomfield Place. There had been consideration of residential development, which was opposed by the Parish Council and we know that it was not favoured by Chelmsford City Council.

However, the Parish Council set up a Working Group to investigate options for the site that the Village would be able to support.

I am very pleased to say that Essex County Council welcomed our suggestions and after reviewing the ideas that we put forward, they have revised their input to the Neighbourhood Plan to propose a very modest development for an adult training centre on the land, leaving the rest of the site as public open space. Plans are in their very early stage but we should all be supportive of a much lower level of development than we initially feared and instead the availability of a new green space for the community.

Councillor John Barnes

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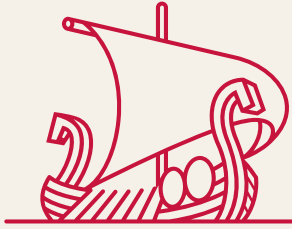
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Broomfield Now & Then

Thank you again to our Village Attendant Stuart Jones for composing these lovely photos showing the 'now & then' views looking north along Main Road from outside the King's Arms Public House to the Broomfield Coffee House and beyond.





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Broomfield says goodbye to Mike Letch & welcomes Mark Hembury & Councillor Margaret Bleet



Mike Letch our Clerk is leaving us at the end of March.

We have worked with Mike over a long period as a trainer, consultant and auditor but he joined us a Clerk in 2017.

Mike brought his long experience in the public sector to many issues over his time with us and will be greatly missed. In particular, he has been a steady and reliable figure seeing us through the considerable difficulties faced by the Parish and Village Hall during the pandemic. Mike has brought about changes to our accounting and administrative systems and overseen major projects such as the resurfacing of the car-park and refurbishment of the children's playground.

Mike is not leaving us completely as he will remain on hand to work with our new Clerk Mark Hembury as he settles into the role. Here is a short biography from Mark and we look forward to working with him in his new role:

I am married with three adult daughters and have lived in the Chigwell area since leaving University, where I met my wife, Carol.

I spent the majority of my working career in the Metropolitan Police service, until my retirement as a Police Inspector six years ago. I have been working for Chigwell Parish Council since then, dealing with finance and having additional responsibility for the delivery of a wide range of services including a cemetery, allotments, grounds management, CCTV and a village hall. I am an enthusiastic golfer and a member of my local club in Chigwell. Additional daily exercise comes from walking our lovable family dog, a Cockerpoo called Poppy. I enjoy listening to classical music which will always be on in the background. Finally, my Christian faith is central to who I am and how I try and live my life.



Councillor Margaret Bleet

I am a mum, wife and grandma who loves living in Broomfield. I spent all of my career in public or voluntary service and

in retirement want to carry on supporting wellbeing in our village community.

For much of my working life I worked with children and schools, improving chances for children who were disadvantaged by health, poverty or lack of opportunity. I'd like to bring that experience to our community to continue the drive to improve wellbeing of the whole community that has been happening for a long time.

I was also a breastfeeding counsellor and post-natal supporter for many years, believing that we all need the best possible start in life. I created a Carers organisation in Dagenham which provided respite for all carers and became Crossroads. That was very fulfilling, and I hope that experience will be helpful in our village, I support accessibility in all of its forms to aid wellbeing.

I am very aware of climate change; I would like to see how we can improve the life chances of the next generation by being a more sustainable community.

It is exciting to see the new playground being built and the planting for the Trees for Life project. I want to be part of that effort for improvement and want to add value to what is already happening in our village.

I look forward to meeting many of you as lockdown eases.



Chelmsford
City Council

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www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/postal-and-proxy-votes/

The same website states how to arrange a proxy vote.

Mike Steel, City Councillor

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BROOMFIELD IN BLOOM



Government restrictions are easing, the sun is shining, and planters full of beautiful flowers will shortly be constructed by Essex Youth Build. On your travels through the Village, look out for planters installed on the green corner of Main Road/Butlers Close and on Church Green. Other areas we are hoping the get permission from Highways to install a planter include the area adjacent to the Library, Post Office Road, Erick Avenue, Roselawn Fields and Church Avenue.

If there is an area close to your home where you would like to see a planter and you would be happy to maintain, please contact deputyclerk@broomfieldessex.co.uk



Litter Pick

Broomfield Parish Council do as much as they possibly can to arrange litter picks. Sadly, they have not been able to take place safely over the last year. A couple of Parish Councillors have been out and about picking up discarded wrappers, cans, and bottles along Main Road but if every householder in the village, just picked up the rubbish outside their own homes - we could all help to make Broomfield beautiful! Or of course it would help if everyone simply took their rubbish home with them or used the many general bins provided! It was uplifting to see these two community loving ladies, Heather Ling and Margaret Stapleton just finishing off a litter pick, they took it upon themselves to do. They walked the length of Berwick Avenue and Main Road up to The Angel and collected a mound of litter. A BIG thanks!

Councillor Sue Hubble



Tree for Life scheme

"It takes a village to raise a child," is an African proverb that means that an entire community of people must interact with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

How difficult, therefore, must it have been for new young parents to cope with the isolation of the last year without community support. But Broomfield Parish Council are determined to celebrate the arrival of our newest residents! We are pleased to advise that we have made our first delivery of 20 Tree for Life trees for new babies born in the Parish in the last year.

These have gone equally – ten to peoples' gardens and ten have been planted in David Smith Memorial Field at the request of the parents, around the children's cycleway. We thought it would be lovely for them to visit their trees in a few years' time by riding past.

I hope the families will take the opportunity to send in pictures of the children with their trees as they both grow - either at home or at the Village Hall. Here is Eesa and Kieran being shown their trees by their siblings.



The trees comprised peach, pear and apple. Hopefully the children will enjoy growing with their trees - understanding more about home grown food and how valuable trees are in the battle against climate change and just enjoy a beautiful thing of their own. We are looking forward to a nice show of blossom. We would ask that the families harvest the fruit from their trees in David Smith Memorial Field as it comes. If you would like to apply for the Tree for Life Scheme for a new baby residing in Broomfield for next year, please contact the Parish Office and we will send you an application form:

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From the County Council – Councillor John Aldridge

At the time of writing Essex, like the rest of

the UK, remains in “lockdown” and even the most optimistic forecast suggests that there will be no change in this situation until sometime in March, at the earliest.

This year and throughout the last, the County Council has sought to manage much of the impact that the pandemic has had on all our residents. This has meant direct involvement from sourcing PPE for care homes and hospitals to the provision of funding for food banks and the provision of meals (vouchers) for vulnerable children and families.

Council funding has been supplemented by £157million from Central Government to support care homes and care services as well as businesses and bus services, including “home to school” transport. I am circulating weekly data updates to Parish Councils, City Councillors and other community organisations in the Broomfield & Writtle Division. However, if you wish to view this data and for more information relating to getting tested, support for residents and businesses and what rules apply for “staying at home” please see:

www.essex.gov.uk/topic/coronavirus

From early January vaccination centres were set up in our area at Broomfield Hospital and Melbourne Medical Centre and more recently the City Racecourse was opened. The initial tranche of 15 million of the elderly, vulnerable and key workers have received their first vaccination and progress is being made to roll out the programme to the other vulnerable people and those over 60. Remember:

- The NHS will contact you when it is your turn to have the vaccine, so please do not contact the NHS or your surgery beforehand.
- Please act on your invitation when it comes, and please do make sure you attend your appointment.

Whether you have been vaccinated or not, it remains important that every one of us should observe the “lockdown” rules and be safe to yourself and others by maintaining social distancing at all times, wearing a mask when with others whilst shopping or going to work and wash your hands as often as possible.

LAPTOPS FOR SCHOOLS

In my last newsletter, I advised that the Council had introduced a scheme to provide students with laptops for home working online. To date, together with 2,000 funded by Central Government, 5,000 laptops have been delivered to schools across the County and 251 of these were in the Chelmsford area. You can still donate an old or unused laptop.

All laptops will receive a thorough clean inside and out with all data and programmes removed securely before re-issue. No data on the device will be accessed during this process. For further information relating to donating please email:

TSLaptop.Donations@essex.gov.uk

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



From the City Council

Since lock down domestic abuse has risen and Councillors have been offered training to become

aware of signs, this invite has been extended to you all via J9 on page 41.

Bloor Homes are looking to expand their site allocation from 450 to 550 homes on Blasford Hill. There have been strong objections from the public and amongst Councillors, who see these increases as jeopardising the entire Chelmsford Local Plan - the application will be reviewed at the CCC March Planning Meeting.

The City Council received a petition signed by 6,738 opposing them charging for car parking at Hylands Park. The council have decided to continue with the charges as a means of making up the shortfall of finances the pandemic has inflicted on them, along with the decision to furlough around 300 staff, mainly in the Council's Cultural or Leisure services, such as Riverside Leisure Centre and Chelmsford Museum offered some savings.

Chelmsford became the second Essex-location where Spin e-scooters are available for hire, offering free 30-minute rides for eligible NHS workers through Spin Everyday Heroes programme. The Scheme is open for use to all members of the public (aged over 18) but only for necessary permitted travel during lockdown. Riding will cost 0.20p per minute with no "unlock" fee Visit www.spin.app for more information.



The Community Governance Review is underway of the most local level of decision-making in the Chelmsford area. Boundaries of existing local councils may need to change, especially in areas which have seen a great deal of development. Broomfield is expecting to lose homes the other side of the A130 so they can form their own community.



Over £4.7 million has been paid in grants to local businesses by Chelmsford City Council to help with the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic since October 2020. If you have been unable to work consistently since March 2020 due to the varying COVID-19 restrictions, please visit: www.chelmsford.gov.uk for help.

Cllr Wendy Daden

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Blueprint For Broomfield

BROOMFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This summer, we'll publish the draft Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan: a Blueprint for Broomfield. It will start a 6-week consultation so that everyone can have their say. When it is finally agreed, the Plan will have a major influence on the future of our village over the next 15 – 20 years. So, it's worth getting involved and having your say.

WHAT IS A 'NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN'?

Every area of England has to have a 'Local Plan' to guide development over the next 15 to 20 years – for instance the Chelmsford Local Plan. A neighbourhood plan is similar, though much smaller and just applies to one parish or neighbourhood. It has to be in 'broad conformity' with the relevant Local Plan, but it can add a whole new local dimension that would be too specific and detailed for a local plan. Government guidance says:

'Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided...'

BROOMFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) – THE STORY SO FAR



The parish council started the NP in 2016. We were very worried about the scale of development facing the village and wanted our local community to have more say.

We got a group of volunteers together to form a steering group and start the process. In 2017, they carried out a major consultation – the Residents' Questionnaire. This gave us a massive amount of data about Broomfield.

Here are just some of the headlines about what residents like and dislike: You can see the full results on our website:

www.broomfieldessex.co.uk/your-neighbourhood-plan/

People Like/Like a Lot:

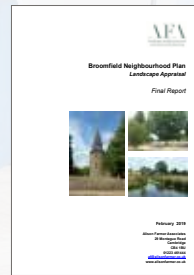
Living in a village:	93%
Closeness to Chelmsford and its facilities	99%
Closeness to open countryside	100%
Separate 'feeling' and identity from Chelmsford	84%
Community spirit/neighbourliness	89%
Closeness to London	80%
Old buildings and/or sense of heritage	86%
Friends and neighbours	91%
The buses	80%

But not:

Level of traffic	94% Dislike/Dislike a lot
------------------	---------------------------

Based on what our residents said, we came up with a 'working vision'. This has guided the NP through all the stages so far:

By and large, Broomfield is a contented place with no great demand for change, except the level of traffic. The vision should be to enhance and protect its current assets but also to propose some radical approaches to reducing traffic and the impact of traffic.

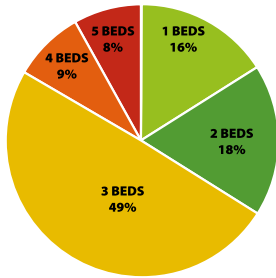


We've also done a massive amount of research and got government grants to fund various professional studies. That's because NPs have to be based on evidence. It's not just a matter of seeing which ideas get the most likes on Facebook.

Our 'Evidence Base' includes the following datasets and professional studies:

- Community Profile (Village Demographics)
- Landscape Appraisal
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Design Assessment and Guide
- Views Assessment
- Site Allocation Study.

SUGGESTED HOUSE SIZES



You can see each one on our website, as and when they are finished.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Steering Group is bringing all this evidence together with the views that local people expressed in the Residents Questionnaire. The result will be the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

It will contain about 20 policies. If the NP is finally approved, they will be legally binding and will control how new development takes place in Broomfield up to 2036. The policies will include things like:

- Preventing Broomfield village from being 'swallowed up' by Chelmsford
- Protecting important views and landscape character
- Design of new buildings
- The mix of new house types, to make sure that meeting local needs takes priority.

It will also contain a number of 'Community Aspirations'. These are ambitions for the village, but can't be made into legally-binding policies. Nonetheless they may be very important, for example reducing the impact of traffic, so it is good to give residents the chance to comment on them.

Community Aspirations will include things like:

- Getting new safe cycle paths and reducing the impact of traffic
- Working with the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to try and get a GP surgery in the village
- Creating new woodland, especially around the edge of the Bloor Homes development site (north of the Hospital)

- Improving access and creating new footpaths in the Chelmer River Valley (between the Village Hall and Petersfield)
- Designating new special character areas around Angel Green and Parsonage Green
- Working to make Broomfield carbon neutral.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan will then be presented to the Parish Council with a request to carry out a formal consultation with the local community. All the comments will be carefully considered and any necessary changes will be made.

Then, the NP is handed over to the City Council (the planning authority). They will carry out another stage of consultation and, after that, will arrange for the NP to be 'examined' by an independent planning inspector, who will consider if it meets national requirements and has followed a proper process. The inspector can also require changes to be made.

Finally, at some point next year, we expect the final draft Neighbourhood Plan to be put to the vote in a referendum of local Broomfield voters. So, you will have the final say about whether the NP should be adopted as part of the planning system for Broomfield.



WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

Producing the NP has been a huge amount of work for the Steering Group and parish councillors – and there’s still plenty left to do. So, this is what we hope it will achieve:

- NPs can’t stop all development, but we want our local community to be in the driving seat - to be able to shape and control development, decide what form it should take, what it looks like, where it should take place and where it shouldn’t
- We want Broomfield people to be able to identify the new infrastructure they need. Parishes that have a NP get a bigger share of development money (Community Infrastructure Levy), so hopefully get more of the infrastructure they need

- We want our residents’ views about Broomfield – what they want to change and what they love and want to keep – to be set out in a formal plan with legal clout. Backed up by professional studies and evidence, we hope this will also influence the planners at the City Council and other bodies, so that Broomfield will continue to be a village, surrounded by countryside and green spaces, for many years to come.

We hope you’ll agree that this is all worth achieving. If so, please watch out for the draft Neighbourhood Plan this summer and give us your thoughts and views during the consultation.

Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Planning Committee Report

Lockdown hasn’t led to any noticeable drop off in planning applications! During lockdown in 2020, we were sent 90 applications to comment on and in the first two months of this year, there have been another 20.

Although the Committee can’t meet in person, its work has continued nonetheless. Councillors have been studying the plans and other documents online and then discussing them by e-mail. The conclusions are then formally presented to the planning authority by our Assistant Clerk. So, the local community has not lost its voice on planning issues, despite COVID.

The biggest application received this year has been from Bloor Homes, for the large development site ‘North of Broomfield’. It



is due to be built between Blasford Hill and Broomfield Hospital, within the red line marked on this Google Earth map.

This development site is included in the new Chelmsford Local Plan. City councillors voted to approve this last May, so the principle of the development cannot now be challenged.

We have however objected to the scale of the development. The Local Plan allows for a development of around 450 dwellings, but the developers have applied for permission to build 550! We believe this is quite inappropriate for a development on the edge of the village, abutting open countryside. The Local Plan is clear that it should be 'landscape led', not 'housing led'.

You can read our full response by going onto the homepage at www.broomfieldessex.co.uk and following the link.

In brief, the main points of our objection are:

1. 550 dwellings is far too many for the site, which is only meant to have around 450.
2. The additional traffic will add to the existing severe traffic problems on Main Road
3. The development is supposed to include provision of a new access into Broomfield Hospital. This must be included in the

application and the Council would like it to be multi-use, not restricted to staff, deliveries etc.

4. The development should include a substantial tree belt to screen it from the higher land to the west and to act as a wildlife corridor.

We await the City Council's decision on this application.

Finally, on a happier note, we are very pleased to welcome Jason Need on to the Committee. Jason has lived in Broomfield for many years.

He recently joined the Parish Council and brings with him the experience of being a Borough Councillor and Cabinet Member in an earlier life. So we are sure he will be a great asset to the Committee, the Parish Council and to Broomfield.

Cllr John Blake Chair of Planning Committee

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Village Amenities Committee

Centenary Wood

Some large gaps have appeared in the perimeter hedge and it was agreed to seek advice from our tree contractor before replacing.

Allotments

Trees on the perimeter of the site have now been cut back. All allotment plots have been taken, including the two waist-high raised beds erected for people with mobility problems. A further low raised bed is about to be constructed for the use of Jaynes Nursery, who kindly offered to pay 50% of the costs involved.

Parish Pathway Partnerships (P3)

Repeated from winter issue - David Thomas (P3 volunteer) reported that work is required on some Broomfield footpaths and he would appreciate the help of more volunteers. Many footpaths, after weeks of constant rain, are extremely muddy. See David's full report on page 26.

Please report any fallen trees, overgrown paths etc. to the Parish Office (see details page 4) Improvements for the Village

Our Broomfield in Bloom project is at last moving ahead and very soon we should be able to see the benefit of all the hard work which has gone into the project with the help of residents.

Health & Safety Inspections

Inspections have been carried out by our Village Attendant and are always available to view if required.

Financial Matters

The committee agreed that a Tree Risk Assessment at six sites within Broomfield be carried out.

Bus Shelter by Felsted Field

Verbal permission has been received from the landowner of Felsted Field for a bus shelter to be erected and the committee are waiting to hear further regarding confirmation. In the meantime, the committee are looking at quotes for a wooden bus shelter.

Angel Meadow Playground

Although work on the refurbishment commenced on 4th February, rain once again delayed work! Hopefully by the time our next meeting takes place, the playground should be complete and The Jolly Rainbow in dock! The area around the spinning dish, close to the outdoor gym equipment has deteriorated and filled with rainwater. The Deputy Clerk is seeking quotes.

Minutes of Village Amenities meetings can be seen on the Broomfield Parish Council website: www.broomfieldessex.co.uk





Angel Meadow Playground February 2021

By the time you read this, I hope the newly refurbished playground will be opened and being enjoyed, although just before going to print a workman felt unwell, causing all of the workmen to self-isolate!

The pandemic has been the cause of us all having a dire year, but I believe that children and youths may have suffered a little more than the rest of us. Late December, the persistent rain, lifted the already damaged wetpour surface, causing tripping hazards and Health and Safety issues.

With refurbishment due to commence on 11 January, it was decided to shut the playground earlier than envisaged to prevent any nasty accidents. The rain continued well into January and it was the beginning of February before work could get on the way, only to stop again a few days later.

A slight miscalculation of the length of the slide made by the contractor, gave us another hiccup. We could either send The Jolly Rainbow climbing ship back to the manufacturers in Norway or move part of the fence.

Obviously, it was a no-brainer! We did not want to keep the playground shut for longer than absolutely necessary, so a section of the fence was moved.

You will see from the end results of the newly refurbished playground, the ship now in dock; it was well worth waiting for.

We hope you agree that it was money well worth spending and an excellent use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies (received from developers for new housing built).

Hopefully, the Summer issue of Broomfield Times will contain photographs of the grand opening of the playground – well as grand as possible in these pandemic times!

Councillor Sue Hubble

STOP PRESS!

**BROOMFIELD FUN DAY
TO TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY 11TH JULY 2021
FROM 11.30 TO 3.30 PM**

Parish Pathways Partnership (P3) Update

Tier 4 restrictions and the subsequent lockdown have led to many of us turning to the public rights of way network in Broomfield (and neighbouring parishes) for our daily exercise. And although this winter's snow has certainly been picturesque, this plus the heavy rain has meant that many paths have been quite boggy underfoot, and sometimes underwater! Whilst conditions are starting to improve with the warmer, drier weather, there are a number of paths in need of work.



Footpath 9, looking up New Barn Lane

Thank you to those of you who have offered to help with the Parish Pathways Partnership - the scheme run by Essex County Council which allows parish volunteers to help with the maintenance of the Public Rights of Way. Assuming Covid restrictions ease, we will have the opportunity for training in March or April to allow us to formally go out and work on the network, starting with some light clearance, signage and repair work. If anyone else is interested in volunteering, please e-mail broomfieldp3@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES

The large tree that had been blocking footpath 8 (on the Saffron Trail) for a number of months was cleared by Essex Highways just before Christmas.



As of February, upgrade work has started on Bridleway 18, which runs from Little Waltham Road (at the top end of Mill Lane) over Essex Regiment Way into Beaulieu Park, to install a new Pegasus (equestrian) crossing and to resurface the western section of the bridleway.





This will greatly improve accessibility between Broomfield and Beaulieu, with a much safer route across the A130. A notice has also been published to close Bridleways 39 and 42, on the neighbouring Channels development, with access between Broomfield and Channels maintained via connections from Bridleway 18.

If you spot any issues with Broomfield's footpaths or bridleways, please do report them via the Parish Office, or on the Essex Highways website at: <https://beta.essexhighways.org/tell-us>

More details on planned changes to public rights of way are published on the Essex Highways website; at [/www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/public-rights-of-way/public-path-notice.aspx](http://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/public-rights-of-way/public-path-notice.aspx)

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General activities of sports, games and
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Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

DOES YOUR TREE HAVE ONE?

A TPO is an order made by a local council to protect specific trees, groups of trees, or whole woodland areas. They can be put in place in response to a request from a member of the public and prohibit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, damage and destruction of trees without consent.

Typically, the amenity value and nature of the threat to the trees or woods are assessed using several criteria, for example whether it is visible or accessible to the public. The impact of its loss on the local environment, its size and form, rarity, cultural or historic value, contribution to landscape, and other factors such as nature conservation and climate change can also be considered.

Once a TPO is in place it is the landowner, rather than the local planning authority, that is responsible for the safety and condition of the tree and any potential damage it may cause. If a tree is protected by a TPO, an application must be submitted before it can be felled or managed. The application has a consultation period, which is the perfect time for local people to contact

CHECK IF YOUR TREE IS PROTECTED:

You can check on Chelmsford City Council website or ring **(01245) 606733** for further information:

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/trees-and-hedges/check-if-a-tree-is-protected/check-our-tpo-register/

OR ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT A TREE IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

You can find out more information below: If you have a tree enquiry, the most important thing to establish is who owns the land the tree sits on. This is because it is the land owner who is responsible for the tree.

There are a number of different potential landowners, including:

- a private land owner, if the tree is in someone's garden
- Essex County Council, if the tree is on a verge next to a footpath or road
- us, if the tree is in a park or play area
- the local parish council, if the tree is on other public land
- a private management company, if the tree is part of a complex of flats
- CHP, if the tree is part of a social housing property they own

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU COULD BE FINED IF YOU DAMAGE A TREE WITH A TPO?

Cutting down, uprooting or wilfully destroying a tree that is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), is in a conservation area, or is over 5 cubic metres in volume is an offence if permission has not been granted. It's also an offence to top, lop or wilfully damage a tree in a way that is likely to permanently damage or destroy it.

Those who damage or carry out work on a tree without permission may be fined up to £20,000. Serious offences may be committed to trial in the Crown Court where, if found guilty, an unlimited fine can be given. A prosecution may also be sought for felling without a felling licence. It's also possible for a notice to be given to replace any protected trees that have been destroyed.

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Broomfield Village Hall Report February 2021

I have just been rereading the October report, which started with “We are pleased to report the Village Hall is fully open for business again” and ended with “At time of writing it looks like we may have another lockdown this winter- who knows”.

Unfortunately, the prediction was true and we have had to lockdown again. But during our open period we were pleased to welcome previous activities back, and we are confident we will rebound again. We have sometimes had phases where some activities are on and some not, because the Government has allowed support groups to continue. But currently (at time of writing) the Hall is closed, and staff partly furloughed.

Some may have noticed that the overflow car park has been locked. This was in response to reports from the residents of Days Close of antisocial behaviour in the middle of the night that seemed to focus on that area. While the hall was open we locked it at night and opened during the day, but now with staff furloughed and the car park not in demand we have simply left it locked. That step, together with notifying the Police, seems to have solved the problem. Repairs to some lights in the car park are also in hand. And cycle racks will soon be added to the car park too - the old ones were scrapped when the car park was re-laid.



As a result of the incursion on our field last year, we will shortly be fitting height restriction barriers on the gates to further protect our field and car park- one is being fitted on the allotments too.

The promised Spring review of the cycleway surface is about to take place, we hope to have further news for the next edition or on the website soon.

Stay ‘n’ Play & Coffee Mornings – will be restarting soon (when guidelines allow) every Monday morning & 1st Wednesday of the month respectively. We were pleased to order 20 “trees for life” for new babies born this year and a few will be planted on David Smith Field for those families who are unable to plant the tree in their garden.

Centenary Wood is looking good and a welcome haven on our walks. We do quite a lot of litter picking there and would ask everyone to take their litter home with them - or at least to the bin near the Hall!

We really hope that we can welcome you back into the Hall in the very near future. We are as always very grateful to Steff and Fitz for their dedicated work and great flexibility in these difficult times.

Councillor Angie Faulds

Contact for Broomfield Village Hall –
bookings@broomfieldessex.co.uk



Broomfield & District U3A – ways forward

At the time of writing, there are signs that spring is finally on its way.

February's snow and sub-freezing weather has eased (at least temporarily), snowdrops are blooming, as are daffodils in some sheltered spots. Happily too, the vaccination programme against the dreaded Covid-19 appears to be on schedule.

Your U3A has had a series of well-attended monthly speaker meetings using Zoom, featuring such diverse and entertaining topics as the development of comic postcards to Victorian lady novelists to great hoaxes of the 18th century and beyond. In the coming few months we will be exploring a further range of subjects including wildlife photography, body language, a history of the suffragettes, and more. These talks take place on the second Wednesday of the month.

u3a

learn,
laugh,
live

If you would like to attend these, or any of the special interest groups that have also reconvened, you will need to be a U3A member. Details of how to join are on our website, which can be found at:

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

Whether or not you are already a U3A member, you can also get a flavour of what the U3A has to offer by reading our monthly newsletters, which are also on the website.

Support 4 Sight A Light in the Dark



We hope that everyone is keeping safe and well during these challenging times.

Help you to find new ways of doing things to remain independent. We offer practical and emotional support, we can demonstrate technology and equipment for daily living use at our Chelmsford Resource Centre or we can visit you at home to show different types of equipment & lighting. We are open Mon – Wed, 10am – 2pm, at Chelmsford Resource Centre, 17 Cottage Place, CM1 1NL.

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Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The BCGS Annual General Meeting will be on 24th March via Zoom this year. Invitations will be sent out nearer the time.

EVENTS FOR 2021

Although we seem to be making some progress through our Covid path we are still approaching another uncertain year and it is difficult for the Society to plan for the months to come with any great certainty.

We are hoping that it might be possible to hold our Charity Plant Sale in May, and possibly run some Open Gardens, but this is very dependent on the social distancing rules around the time and for us to be able to work out a safe way to deliver this – more information will follow. We have taken the decision to cancel our planned Summer Show

on the 4th July but are hoping that we might be able to stage some sort of Autumn Show.



In the meantime, the Committee have provided a range of seeds for members to grow as part of a challenge for either a physical show in the autumn or for sharing photographs on our Facebook and Web Pages.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have an interest in gardening and would like to join the Society, please contact Selina Matthews (Membership Secretary) by email bcgsshowsecretary@gmail.com. You can find more information on our website: www.broomfieldcottagegardenersociety.co.uk and we also have a Facebook site - search for "Broomfield Cottage Gardeners Society" or type the following link into your browser: www.facebook.com/groups/355859514864259

Line Dancing in Broomfield Village Hall

We will be resuming our classes in the Hall as soon as COVID allows. It's great fun and good exercise to some great music - please come along to one of our friendly sociable classes. It's just for fun, we walk through the dance until we are all happy and then we dance it - it's as simple as that plus a few laughs and a couple of drink breaks in between. If you would like to try it come along and watch or join in. For more details, contact Susan on **07514 086 805**.

Beginners Line Dancing Classes

Every Monday Evening 8.30 - 9.30pm | Every Tuesday Morning 11.00 to 12.00 | £5 per class

Susan Dore



Another rural scene

What will our abiding memories of the pandemic lock-down months be when we are asked about them in years to come?

Aside from the sad losses that have been suffered so widely, the cancelled celebrations and special occasions we have all missed, what is it that will stick in our minds? Quite possibly it might be the quietness of Main Road during the first lockdown or maybe the splendid spring and early summer of 2020 that allowed so many of us to escape the dire news in our gardens and public spaces. More recently the darker, wetter and colder days have caused some of us to stay inside more. However, from my own forays over the local muddy footpaths, I can tell that many of you have been taking whatever opportunities you can to get some fresh air.

One of the popular destinations is to the site of Broomfield mill where a check on the water level flowing under the bridge is an essential part of journey. And we can be safe in the knowledge that we are walking in the footsteps of so many people who have gone before us.

We know that almost 1,000 years ago, from Domesday Book, there was a mill associated with the manor of Broomfield Hall. Mills were an important feature of the rural economy as they were required by everyone so that the wheat they grew could be milled and tuned into flour. Without watermills wheat would have been ground using handmills, an exhausting job. Mills were also important as often being the only local crossing point over the river; so not only were they a focus for milling but also for being able to cross a river dry shod.



It's something we can easily overlook these days as we whizz along Chelmer Valley Road crossing two bridges from Petersfield to Rectory Road in the blink of an eye. Meanwhile the dog walkers and joggers among you might use the several footbridges that criss-cross the river between the bottom of Fifth Avenue and the University that have been built since the mid-1980s – so very easy to cross the Chelmer these days.

One of our other footbridges though, has an older heritage and I'm sure that many of you have crossed it on your walks along Mill Lane. The foot bridge diagonally opposite Broomfield Mill House is these days a very sturdy steel and concrete affair but at the end of the 19th century it was rather more rustic, as pictured. In a previous edition of Broomfield Times, I shared a stereoscopic image of Hill Farm

cottage and this is another that purchased at the same time. What a wonderful picture it is to, for again it is not a picture of the church or the Angel pub but something very ordinary.

And in the background in Springfield, for the boundary between the two parishes ran along the river here, we can see the now lost windmill that was in the possession of Robert Dixon in 1782 before William and Henry Marriage had it by 1842. The mill was dilapidated by the time of the First World War if not before. And the men in the photograph – were they the friends of the unknown photographer? So next time you take your daily lock-down exercise, cross this bridge and look up and imagine the towering windmill you would have seen over a hundred years ago.

Neil Wiffen
neilwiffen@hotmail.com

John Wood

Sadly, in October 2020 Broomfield lost another of its well known residents.



John was a Royal Navy veteran and probably known to most as a keen allotment holder and gardener; in addition to being a regular attendee to the Parish Council's Christmas Senior Citizens' Lunch along with his wife Liz.

John's pride in his allotment, and its produce were well known. A regular entrant, and winner, in the Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Summer and Autumn Shows one of John's proudest moments was the award of the Master Gardener's Trophy in Autumn 2017 (the first time he had entered that particular class). John believed his love of gardening comes from having to 'Dig for Victory' in the playing fields of his senior (technical) school.

Another of John's accomplishments were his pickled onions. The secret of their production remains secure but their consumption was highly prized – it was a "man's pickled onion!" He was a proud family man. The annual visit to Chelmsford's Christmas Pantomime with

the grandchildren continued until 2019 – even though they were in their late teens/early 20's. One year's highlight being John volunteered, by the grandchildren, to go on stage. I'm told he got his own back – but I cannot repeat how!

John was born and raised in Kent, with happy memories of hop-picking family holidays as a teenager whilst watching the dogfights of the Battle of Britain overhead. John was the eldest boy of seven children (four older sisters and two younger brothers) and said his earliest memory was of watching trainloads of soldiers, at the local station, returning from Dunkirk.

It was his skill at woodwork and metalwork at school that saw John pass the necessary entrance examinations to gain entry to the Royal Navy as a trainee Artificer in September 1953 at the age of 16. A Naval Artificer was a skilled craftsman capable of repairing or producing any of the parts required for the day-to-day running of the ship. In the Bible Tubal-Cain is described as an "instructor of artificers, workers in iron and bronze" (the International Version gives this as "forged all kinds of tools out of metal & bronze"). In the Navy an Artificer (or "Tiffy") had specialised skills - Ordnance Shipwrights (maintenance/repair of the ship's fighting equipment), Electrical Artificer, Fleet Air Arm Artificer (aircraft specialism). Alas after 141 years of usage the Artificer ceased to exist and became an Engineering Technician-ME.

John trained as an Engine Room Artificer Fitter & Turner and indeed, on occasion, had to produce his own tools to undertake a particular job, in addition to manufacturing the part concerned. After four years training completed (and a guarantee of promotion to Chief petty Officer by age 23) he joined his first ship (the one he loved most) HMS Protector (the Royal Navy's Antarctic patrol vessel and guardship for the Falkland Islands). The tales and journeys undertaken can only be imagined in those first cruises – the lingering smell of whaling ships, visits to exotic ports, celebrating his 21st birthday in Port Stanley.

On returning to Portsmouth John was drafted to HMS Tenby, a Whitby Class Frigate and so followed further ships until retirement in 1977 as a Fleet Chief Petty Officer – the highest non-commissioned rank in the Royal Navy (another lost term, now a Warrant Officer Class 1).

After retirement John spent the next 20 years as an Engineer Surveyor in the insurance industry, inspecting boilers in the London and Essex areas.

John will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

“For tho’ from out our bourne of Time and Place

The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar”

(Alfred Lord Tennyson)

Malcolm Taylor (with thanks to Jon Wood for access to ‘The Engine Room Artificer’)

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Bookings full, the struggle and desperation that is highlighted through the poster. I will not be involved seeing the huge 'no' or others singing on screen with the other night there are also 10 times and I might have to share one day! - Linda R

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Broomfield Scouts

What do you do with your waste paper and card? Save the planet and aid local young people.

Long-time residents of the village will be aware that Broomfield Scouts have been collecting waste paper and cardboard for well over 40 years.

In the early days this was undertaken by a small team of volunteers using the Scout bus and then van. As age crept upon these vehicles their use ceased and they were replaced by a skip adjacent to the Scout Headquarters in School Lane.

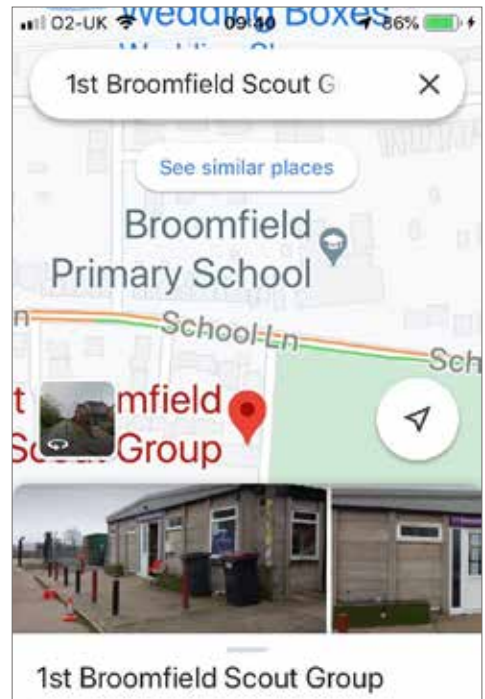
Since those early days the paper and card has raised over £200,000 to support Broomfield Scouts. These funds have enabled the Group to subsidise a wide range of activities for all members (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) over the years – whether overseas trips, day visits, weekend or week long camps. Many of these activities have been reported within the pages of Broomfield Times and its predecessors.

Collectively the Group has 97 young people in its two Beaver Colonies, single Cub Pack and Scout Troop, in addition to the Scout Troop that operates from Columbus School. These young people are supported by a team of 22 leaders, all volunteers, who give their unpaid time freely.

We have been able to calculate that since 1993 we have recycled in excess of 3,370 tonnes of paper/card. Saved, on average, 60,620 trees (planted a further 1,000) and by so doing saving 30 acres of woodland.

By continuing to support our recycling efforts Villagers are not only helping save the planet but also support the members of one of the world's oldest youth organisations – we celebrated our centenary in 2018 and Scouting it's centenary in 2007 (when the World Jamboree came to Hylands Park in Chelmsford).

Help reduce waste and support your local Scout Group by putting your waste paper and cardboard (please fold flat all boxes please) in the skip next to our Headquarters in School Lane (adjacent to the telephone exchange and opposite Broomfield Primary School).



We welcome applications to join our waiting list (ages 6 – 14) at broomfieldcubs@live.co.uk however to enable more young people to enjoy Scouting we need more volunteers to assist in running the Group. If you have time to spare and would like to help us (and have fun) please contact me for a chat on email walkingmac49@gmail.com

Malcolm Taylor Group Chairman

BOOK SALE in February 2021.

At the current time we hope to be able to hold it later in the year. WATCH THIS SPACE! We are still grateful for donations of books, please email broomfieldcubs@live.co.uk to arrange a convenient time/day to make a socially distanced drop-off – Many Thanks!

Broomfield Community Speed Watch

There has recently been some interest in resurrecting the Village Speed Watch.

This activity has been comatose for several years due to a lack of interest from those in the Village. The requirement for undertaking this activity is that there must be a minimum of two people present so I have been unable to do this alone. In practice three people is a more sensible number, particularly with the setting out of the equipment.

We are lucky in Broomfield that we have negotiated with the Police for two monitoring sites in the Village, most Villages only have one. These are on Main Road opposite the entrance to the Village Hall and on School Lane opposite the Primary School. The criteria that the Police apply before authorising a monitoring site are quite strict and there is no chance that any other roads could have a speed watch mainly because they do not have a long enough straight section generally free of parked vehicles.

There is minimum training required for this activity, instruction on how to use the speed gun and an awareness of the 24-page Guidance Manual although most of this is basic common sense.

A speed watch session normally lasts from 40 minutes to an hour and can be at any time of day during daylight. We would normally have sessions when the weather is fine. It is quite usual to have no reports of vehicles exceeding the speed limit during a session; most drivers see the team and slow down but it does remind them that there is a speed limit on the road and they should look at their speedometer.

If anyone is interested in joining speed watch sessions would they please contact the Parish Council Office – email Clerk@broomfieldessex.co.uk or leave a message on (01245) 441660 and more information can be found here: <https://saferessexroads.org/policecommunity/community-speed-watch/>

Chris Gardiner



047



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Farleigh Hospice Heroes adapt to meet new challenges

It's been a year since our lives changed forever. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected how community services like hospice care can be delivered.

Farleigh's heroic team adapted quickly to ensure it continues to deliver its vital services. In its latest appeal, Farleigh Hospice Heroes, Farleigh is asking people to nominate their Farleigh Hospice Hero along with a donation to the campaign.

The appeal letter hit doorsteps on the 17th March and asked people to consider donating to the campaign if one of the Farleigh team has made a difference to someone they love. It asks supporters to send a message of thanks to their Farleigh Hospice Hero along with their donation on the nomination card provided or via the website:

www.farleighhospice.org/hospicehero

The thank you cards will be displayed at the sites in Chelmsford and Maldon as a special tribute to all of the Farleigh Hospice Heroes' hard work during the pandemic. Everyone who donates will receive a Farleigh Hospice Heroes magnet to remember their nominee's heroic efforts during the past year.

With referral rates increasing by more than 18%, Farleigh Hospice Heroes' have worked around the clock to pandemic-proof its services.

Farleigh would like to use this appeal as an opportunity to share just what its amazing Farleigh Hospice Heroes have achieved. From April to December 2020, on average the team made 1,000 home visits every month.

From April to December 2020 your Farleigh Hospice Heroes':

- On average undertook 1,000 home visits every month
- Provided 1,718 hours of bereavement support across both Circle adult and YoYo children's bereavement services
- Cared for 1,367 patients in just eight months!



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Broomfield Neighbourhood Watch

Keyless car theft (aka Relay Theft) is on the increase.

It is where the signal from a key for a so-called "Keyless entry" car is captured by somebody standing outside the victim's house using a device.

Step 1 – The device transmits the signal to somebody else standing by the victim's car.

Step 2– This then fools the car into thinking the key is near it, and so it allows the doors to be opened and ignition to be started.

Police are advising residents to keep your keys away from windows and doors. Please keep your car key (including spare sets) in a screened box/tin/bag so that the signal can't be 'grabbed' from the outside and used to open your car – many are using a Signal Blocking Pouch or some keys have the ability to turn off the signal, please consult your manual.

Concerns over speed in the village has been prominent on social media. Members of the Neighbourhood Watch have volunteered to be trained for the Community Speedwatch and welcome other volunteers to join them. Please make contact for more information.

Always report it

If you see someone acting suspiciously or suspicious vehicle the police want you to report the matter. They may not be able to get back to you but all reports do feed their intelligence systems. It also provides accurate data, giving greater strength to counsellors requesting greater police numbers.

For emergencies always dial **999**

For non-emergencies.

- Do it online www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online

- Call **101**

- Email: ChelmsfordCPT@ESSEX.pnn.police

- Let your neighbourhood watch group know

If you would like to be a member, a street co-ordinator please E-mail me at wendy.daden@chelmsford.gov.uk or call me **0771 555 3 222**

Cllr Wendy Daden City Councillor for Broomfield & The Walthams

John Harris's Walking in England

Walking in Essex. All the information you need to get walking in beautiful Essex.

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Essex www.walkinginengland.co.uk/essex is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Essex (part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.'

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/essex

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk



News from Broomfield Parish Church

Once again the Parish Church finds itself closed for worship, something I never expected to happen during my ministry!



This last year will definitely be one which we will never forget, with such restrictions on our freedoms. At the time of writing we are still closed for worship, yet we are finding new and innovative ways of ensuring that people are supported spiritually, can still worship God and

know where they can turn to for pastoral care.

Unfortunately, Christmas did not go as we had planned, firstly because the technology failed us and as we moved nearer to Christmas, we were plunged into tighter restrictions. However, the feedback I received from those who took part in, or visited the Advent Window Trail seemed to enjoy and, and although we were not able to celebrate with carol singing and present exchanges on Christmas Eve as planned, we did, at least feel that the Christmas story had been shared around the village. For those who did not take part, or did not follow the trail around here is the completed trail card.

At the time of writing this letter, both the Church of England and the Local Authorities are requiring the Church to remain closed for worship and social activities. Although we are still posting worship online and we have taken to holding coffee mornings, Sunday School and worship on Zoom. Yet, we do not know whether we will be able to open for worship.

As we move through Lent, a period of fasting and self-examination, towards the significant events of Holy Week and the wonderful celebration of Easter, we will provide as much worship as we can, and invite anyone who wishes to join us to check our website. All will be made welcome, and we really are very good at talking people through the process of how



we work online. If you are nervous of using Zoom or Facebook, do be in touch... we are all fumbling along and getting to grips with the technology together!

If you have been taking your walks occasionally through the churchyard, you will have noticed that some work has continued. We now have our water catchment feature, which should allow those who need to water plants on graves or fill up vases to do so from the water butts, rather than walking the whole length of the churchyard from the tap next to the Vestry door.

.This work was completed at the end of last year, once finished, we then had a whole week of rain which means that the water butts are full... God is good!

We have also installed 2 new benches in the newly consecrated area of the churchyard and the posts indicate where the new, nature burial of ashes area is situated. At the direction of a public health official, we are attempting to leave our gates open at the front of the church and at the end of the churchyard on the footpath, to ensure the virus isn't passed on by people touching them. If you do find them closed, please do leave them open once you walk through. Of course, it remains the case that people should not ride bikes through the churchyard and we would appreciate you keeping your dogs on a lead as you walk through. There is a doggy play area, where dogs can play off lead further up the churchyard near to Chelmer Valley High School.

We have also been continuing our work to restore our Organ, repair and re-shingle the round tower, which is such a prominent landmark in the Village.

This work will also include restoring and replacing the wind-vane which has not been in place for many years now. We also need to repair the Lych Gate which is suffering terribly at the moment. Although reports have been drawn up, and we are gradually getting the information we need to apply for grants and faculties to have this work done, we have not been able to undertake any fundraising for over a year now. This has a significant impact on our plans to undertake this necessary work. We do hope to be able to undertake fundraising activities later in the year, however, if in the meantime you would like to make a donation towards any of our planned works, please do get in touch. Although the people who regularly worship at the church take responsibility for the regular funding of the church, these significant structure repairs require the support of all people in the village in order that our wonderful, historic building is passed on, in good repair to future generations.

We continue to pray daily for the people of Broomfield. We know that we are living through strange and unpredictable times, but God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He will provide for us and the church seeks to care for all in need and share the love of Christ with you all. Please do not hesitate to call either Rev'd. Diana or I if you fancy a chat, need a prayer or just want to find out more about the way the Church is seeking to support people at this time. You can contact us anytime at stmarybroomfield@gmail.com or find out more about our work and worship at www.stmarybroomfield.org.

Keep safe, stay well, and I hope to see you sometime over the Easter season, even if it is just a quick wave and a smile from behind a mask.

With every blessing
Rev'd. Carolyn Vicar of Broomfield

The J9 Project

The J9 initiative is named in memory of Janine Mundy, who was killed by her estranged husband whilst he was on Police bail.

It was started by her family to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist victims to access help and support. Coronavirus has prompted a huge surge in domestic abuse, yet victims of abuse are reporting difficulty in accessing help and support. Many of us are spending more time at home and may be concerned about neighbours or friends. We might be volunteering and visiting people in their homes, where we are the only people they see., but would we know how to recognise and respond to domestic abuse?

Abusers isolate their victims making it difficult, if not impossible, to seek help. By empowering members of the community to know how to react we can ensure that more people have access to the help they need.



Environmental Resolutions - The Time is Now

The thing to remember about environmental resolutions and trying to make a change is that no one is perfect.

It will take millions of people living an imperfect sustainable life, rather than a few living it perfectly'. A paraphrased quote that always helps me when trying to make a sustainable change, or when realising that I sometimes cannot make a change.

As we are considering what a 'new normal' may look like, now is the time for us all to take stock and think about what we can do differently. You will be surprised at how easy some switches are, and how the doors open to future changes. Below are some topic starters, all of which can help reduce carbon emissions, some on budgets too.

- **Are you certain of your bins?**

The UK's recycling rate is under 50% - check your posters or ask your council www.gov.uk/recycling-collections.

- **Can you reduce your food packaging?**

Remember your bags and buy loose fruit and veg. Is there a refill shop close by, where you can take your own containers (in Chelmsford check out the end of Bond Street).

- **Can you reduce your energy consumption?**

LED lightbulbs, turning off lights and unplugging all appliances could save £45 a year alongside 100kg of CO2. Turning heating down by 1 degree can save another 10% on bills.

- **Can you reduce your meat consumption?**

By reducing 1 meat meal per week for a year can save 198kg of CO2 emissions. That's 330 car miles! I do still meat myself, but have cut back and will be going pescatarian over lent.

- **Do you need that item?**

Can you go that bit extra an organic alternative? Organic cotton uses 91% less water and avoids use of chemicals. A conventional t-shirt uses 2,000 litres of water or more to make.

- **Can you reduce your car usage?**

60% of 1–2-mile journeys are by car, producing more pollution as catalytic converters are less efficient during these journeys. Are there alternative options to take?

- **Can you reduce the single-use items?**

Whether its coffee cups, water bottles, cotton buds, cotton pads or making lunch, it all helps and in the long-run will save money too.

- **Can you start the discussion?**

Whether it is at school, work or with family or friends, ask a question and see what happens.

Plenty more options, and some may not be possible for you immediately, but there will be something to take you a few steps further along the greener and wilder road. We all have the power to make positive difference, no matter how small the action, and the time is now.

David Jackson – Sustainability AIEMA, working at the University of Greenwich



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Staff hard work pays off with apprenticeship degree success

When Pete Looseley started working as a Healthcare Assistant on Lister Ward ten years ago at Broomfield Hospital, he never imagined he would have a degree, but now he has thanks to completing a nursing apprenticeship.

The 30-year-old, from Chelmsford, started his apprenticeship in April 2018, completed his nursing degree in April 2020, and is now a falls practitioner.

The apprenticeship gives individuals like Pete the opportunity to earn and learn on the job while getting support from the course leaders, hospital staff and the University of Essex. He explained how his ward manager, Gemma Hughes, encouraged him to apply for the scheme. Pete said: "Gemma saw my potential. Truthfully, I would not be where I am if I hadn't had her support. I thought I would have to leave the Trust to better myself but thankfully I could stay and improve myself and my nursing."

There are currently 381 members of staff across the Trust, both clinical and non-clinical, on apprenticeship programmes. Rachel Gray, work based learning and apprenticeship lead, explained how the Nursing Career Pathway has been a particular success.

"There have been many successes in relation to the Trust's Nursing Career Pathway work stream in particular, which gives Healthcare Support Workers the opportunity to train to become fully qualified Registered Nurses, whilst continuing to work.

"We were delighted that, in March last year, 23 learners across our hospitals completed their nurse degree apprenticeship training on schedule, which meant they were promoted to Registered Nurse."

Since then, another 19 nursing career pathway apprentices have qualified as Registered Nurses. This is a huge achievement, particularly at a time where there is a national shortage of nurses, with the additional pressure of a global pandemic.

Another 24 learners on the nursing degree apprenticeship across the Trust are due to qualify later this year.



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Mid and
South Essex
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STEPS for Helen

Are you doing more walking during lockdown to keep yourself busy and improve your fitness?

Why not do it in aid of Helen Rollason Cancer Charity and support local people living with cancer! It's free to take part; challenge yourself to walk to some or all of our Cancer Support Centres in and around Essex; simply set your target, then get your family and friends to

Helen Rollason
Cancer Charity

STEPS FOR HELEN

Aiming to walk, jog or run
10,000 steps per day?

sponsor you as you aim to achieve your goal. For more information and to register to take part see below.

www.helenrollason.org.uk/event/steps-for-helen/

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A to B = 16 miles (32,000 steps)

HARLOW TO HATFIELD PEVEREL

B to C = 26 miles (52,000 steps)

HATFIELD PEVEREL TO COLCHESTER

C to D = 18 miles (36,000 steps)

COLCHESTER TO SOUTHEND ON SEA

D to E = 40 miles (80,000 steps)

SOUTHEND ON SEA TO LONDON

E to A = 39 miles (78,000 steps)



**Ride for Helen – Save the date!
Sunday 16th May 2021!**

Social distancing measures have been put in place to ensure riders can take

Social distancing measures have been put in place to ensure riders can take part with confidence and guidelines set out by British Cycling have been followed.

See www.helenrollason.org.uk/event/ride-for-helen/ to register

Out and About in Broomfield

What contrasting weather we have had over the last few weeks! Here are some lovely photos taken – enjoy! If you have any photos to share with us, please email: editor@broomfieldessex.co.uk



A different approach to family law

Louise Buttery is our specialist family law solicitor in Essex and advises clients in Essex, London and nationwide.



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