

Bromham Broadsheet

Bromham Parish Council - 96th Edition - March 2021

Salem Thrift, Ancient Woodland

Please be careful and stay on the footpaths in Salem Thrift. Because of the increased footfall during COVID 19 Lockdowns the paths are very muddy and visitors are making new tracks which will damage the Thrift's important flora and fauna.

Snowdrops are the first flowers to show in the year and bluebells, primroses and dogs mercury feature in the spring along with the less common spotted orchids and herb paris later in the year. Please stay of the path and be careful not to damage the ancient woodland.



The Promise of Springtime

As many of you will no doubt have seen around the village, signs of Spring are starting to show through and although a touch early this year, a welcome sight for all of us nonetheless. Here's a photo of some Snowdrops at Salem Thrift and the Daffodils are already on their way across the village.

If you're out getting your exercise in the local area and see sights of nature that you'd like to share with the village, please feel free to share with everyone on Facebook .

Thank you to John Kelly for his continued support providing daffodil bulbs for Bromham.



FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the first broadsheet of 2021. It would have been wonderful to start the year with the events of last year firmly behind us, but we need to continue to do everything we can to minimise the spread of the virus. We need to keep the community safe and well, and we all must play our part in making this happen. I know it has been tough for everyone, but we need to continue to follow "Hands, Face, Space" Some residents have also been affected by the local flooding, making it an even more challenging time for some of our residents.

Thank you to everyone who so kindly donated to our FACES charity campaign as we were unable to raise money at Carols on the Green. We had so many gifts we were able to gift to FACES, and the Parish Council donated an additional £350 from the funds we didn't use putting the event on. It was great to see the photos of those who dressed up in Christmas hats and jumpers to sing Carols at the virtual Carols on the Green.

We are so lucky to have such great areas of green space in the Village, and these are being more explored than ever. It is exciting to see the flowers springing up – snowdrops, primroses in the woods, to the daffodils on the Village Green. Thank you so much to John Kelly for continuing to donate and plant. This year it was almost a single-handed effort because of the pandemic.

It has been exciting to see so many developments and additions at the Woodland Walk at Bromham Mill, and we are hopeful during March to see the arrival of the Fairy Bridge. All this has been made possible by the community fundraising, and the dedicated volunteers and Conservation Group. We still need to protect this area from vandalism. We are delighted to be able to say that the Parish Council have now started the negotiation process with Bedford Borough Council to take over the management of the Mill, Mill House, Barns and Mill Grounds. It will be wonderful if in 2021, we are able to start being able to use the Mill as a hub for the benefit of the community. We are actively looking for volunteers who may wish to become involved in the project, particularly anyone who has a property or surveying background.

I do hope that by the next Broadsheet, we will all be enjoying more opportunities to see our friends and families, and until then please stay safe and well, and continue to do your part to help protect our community.

Sian Woodfine



Bromham Christmas Lights

There were numerous issues with Christmas Lighting in December 2020. First the tree on Northampton Road was dressed and the lights subsequently failed. This, resulted in Parish Council purchasing a new set at a cost of £800 and the re-dressing of the tree.

It then followed that the lights on the tree on the Green failed during the lead up to Christmas and were also found to be unrepairable and unfortunately we were not able to get replacements before Christmas. This was very disappointing as we know how much residents appreciate the lovely trees at Christmastime.

Parish Council will be purchasing two new sets of lights for use on The Green and Swan Green.

Our Committees will also be considering the possibility of dressing the existing tree to the north of Molivers Lane instead of buying in a Christmas Tree. This has been considered numerous times before but there are problems with accessing an electricity supply and our Contractor deems the tree too large to dress as their machines cannot reach the top. There will be an update as soon as a decision is made.



Traffic Updates for Bromham

- Loading Bay at Stephen Eagell has been installed for safety reasons
 - Stagsden Road additional street lighting work is now complete
 - Yellow lines outside the school - work to be carried out imminently
 - 20mph limit on Bromham Bridge - agreed and will be changed asap
 - Speeding on Village Road - Bedford Borough Council have reported
- December 2020 there were 12 tickets issued 11 for speeding 40mph and under and 1 ticket for 44mph
January 2021 there were 4 tickets issued, 3 for 39mph and under and 1 for 40mph.

Parish Council News

We would like to introduce you to Gianluca Guerriero.

Gianluca has lived in Bromham since 2006 and has spent time lecturing and teaching in Leeds. His main teaching areas are 20th Century Literature and Critical Theory. He has been actively involved in community teaching initiatives, organising and chairing seminars on anti-racism and counter-fascist philosophy and is currently involved in exam board moderation for A-level assessments of English Literature.

Gianluca has been an editorial assistant at *Stand* literary magazine for several years and maintains a keen interest in poetry and short stories. Hobbies include judo, swimming and playing chess.

Gianluca is looking forward to helping Bromham continue to be an exceptional place to call home.

Parish Council welcome Gianluca and look forward to working with him.



Bromham Mill

Bromham Parish Council are currently negotiating a lease for Bromham Mill with Bedford Borough Council. After many years of negotiations and the establishment of Bromham Mill Trust, the management and promotion of the Mill site by the Parish Council in the very near future is a real prospect and there is lots to do!

Could you be a Bromham Mill Trustee?

Bromham Mill Trust will be overseeing this important community facility. The Trust is already established but desperately needs another independent Trustee. Whilst existing Trustees offer a very good range of skills, an independent Trustee with a property/surveying related background would be really helpful. The Mill is a large complex that requires effective asset management and the lease of various building at the complex to relevant organisations that will add to the leisure and cultural destination.

If you can offer time for this popular community project, please contact the Parish Council. The commitment would ordinarily be for 1 meeting per month (currently via Zoom) and could involve a small number of other tasks over the year. If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk at julie@bromhamparish.co.uk.

Litter - Avoca House

Over the last few months we have noticed an increase in litter around the Avoca House Shopping Centre. Parish Council have been in contact with the Agent who acts on behalf of the owner of the complex, requesting that additional litter bins are provided in order to resolve this issue.

Parish Council have received complaints from residents and we want to make you aware that we are doing all we can to get this area tidied up!



This is private land and it remains the responsibility of the land owner and a duty of the tenants to make sure that litter from their shops is disposed of in a proper and correct manner. We have asked that the shops provide their own litter bins for their patrons.

Bulky Waste Collection Update

It is unlikely there will be a Bulky Waste Collection Service in April this year due to government COVID restrictions. Bedford Borough Council are currently discussing if this is something which could be completed safely later in the year.

Updates will be provided once we receive further information on Website, Social Media and Noticeboards.

Browning Close Play Area Refurbishment

The refurbishment of Browning Close Play Area will soon begin. Parish Council are in the process of securing additional funding, once this is in place, the equipment will be ordered and the installation booked.

This equipment is inclusive, which will allow children with or without disabilities to play together in one space.



Make an Impact Challenge

Sam Barnes has been taking part in a school challenge to 'Make an Impact' during this latest lockdown - this follows on from the last big lockdown when they were challenged to do 100 'somethings' on the back of the late Captain Tom Moore's example. Sam has been tidying up a small area of copse near the Parklands Lake, Chestnut Avenue.

Well done Sam and thank you for the excellent work you are doing for the community of Bromham.

Help! Working Party Needed!!!

Inspection work on the ditch between the Parklands pitches and the riding school land has shown that we need to carry out some clearance work as soon as possible.

It is critical that ditches, streams and waterways are kept clear of debris to ensure a smooth flow of water to help minimise flooding.

Carrying on in the spirit of Sam Barnes' community work! Would there be anyone interested in joining a working party to do this task? Our Conservation Group are already overloaded with projects in Bromham so we wondered whether any residents would like to volunteer some time to help?

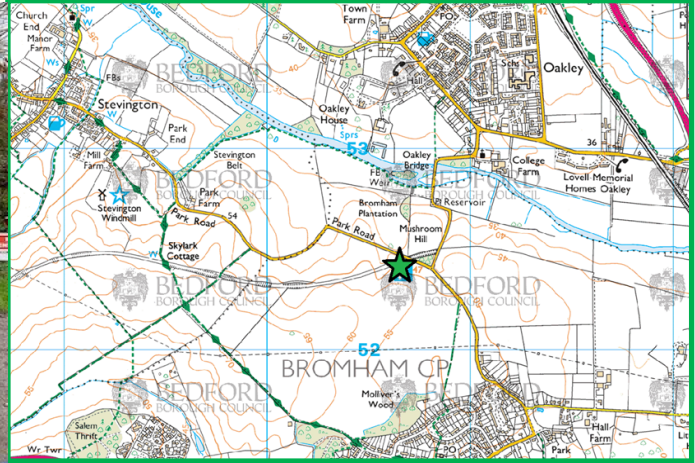
We already have 2 volunteers and we hope to start work very soon. If you could donate a few hours to help let us know,

email: julie@bromhamparish.co.uk, tel 01234 828851



Good News! BOTTLEBANK!

Bedford Borough Council have provided a Bottlebank for Bromham Residents at the entrance to the Stevington Walk on Park Road. This was initially for a 3 months trial due to finish shortly, there were concerns the site may become a fly tipping hotspot, hopefully not and this would become a permanent facility.



A few photos from 'Carols Not On The Green'.

Thank you to those who took part and for the donations to **FACES Bedford**.



Borough Councillors Report

Our first contribution to the Broadsheet for 2021, like our last one for 2020, is written under the shadow of COVID-19. The good news is that by the time you read this, written in early February, so many more people will have been vaccinated, the second wave of infections will be significantly down and we will be starting to plan to do many more of the things we enjoy.



The Borough's employees have been doing a very fine job, this last lockdown has been the most difficult for them but services have been maintained, not just the bins emptied but highways, the care teams, children's services have given their all. They should all have our thanks.

This 21/22 Council budget came at a time of unprecedented financial uncertainty due to the COVID pandemic. The political parties worked together to ensure the best outcome for the people of the Borough. The Borough should start from a sound financial position with the current year ending forecast to break even following government support with substantial COVID grants. All the parties cooperated to deliver the budget, with services protected and funding increases including the need to support people's home-based health and support issues. Economies will come through more restructuring but there will be some job losses. The increases are 1.99% on the core council tax and a 1.75 % Adult Social Care Precept making 3.74% in total. There will be the additional precept charges for Parish, Police and Fire which are not known at time of writing.

Locally, the Average Speed Cameras in Village Road went live in December, the first batch of 12 tickets were issued, 11 were for speeding under 40mph, 1 at 44 mph. We look forward to residents suffering less speeding issues, with less noise and safer access to the driveways and children and parents having safer crossing to the school.

The New 20mph Speed limit for Bromham Bridge is on order but implementation is delayed like a number of highway projects. We do not have a new date but it will be an important road safety measure, with more pedestrians using the bridge now there are more houses on the Biddenham side of the River. We expect to see that increase when the Mill reopens and people find it a great place to walk to meet friends, whichever side of the River they are from.

Finally, we will have a ward fund but although the amount is not known yet, we have agreed to contribute to the Parish Council project to refurbish Browning Close play area. We hope to contribute to refreshing Bromham Mill when the Parish Council and Friends of the Mill agree a lease with the Borough Council later this year.

Stay Safe, Roger Rigby & Jon Gambold

The Woodland Walk, Bromham Mill Grounds

Unfortunately our Woodland Walk experienced further vandalism at the end of 2020 and again our wonderful residents rallied (Thank you to Sam Sparkes for helping organise this!) raising more money to repair and improve our Fairy Walk! To date residents have raised £1591.96! We have spent £651.92 on repairs and new attractions leaving a balance of £940.04.

Our amazing volunteers have been busy in the Woodland Walk, producing a balance walkway and a pebble stream.

If your child would like to paint a pebble and varnish it or layer it with PVA glue to protect it from the weather and place it in the stream in the Woodland Walk it could be admired by all our visitors.

Soon to be added will be a Fairy Bridge, Thank you, particularly to Phil & Sue Grabham, Anne & Colin Baker and all the Conservation Volunteers.

Please visit the Woodland Walk and admire their handywork!



Planning applications considered by Bromham Parish Council

No objection to the following:

20/02719/FUL	16 Mayhew Close	First floor side extension, front porch extension and garage conversion
20/02748/TPO	3 Salem Cottages, Northampton Road	T1 Beech tree in front garden, reduce by 15-20% approx 2-3m
20/02780/FUL	13 Wingfield Road	Single storey side and rear extension and front porch
20/02772/S73	16 Partridge Lane	Extensions to existing garage, including removal of condition 3 and variation of approved plans condition 2 attached to 18/02697/FUL to make amendments to site plan to remove the dropped curb which is no longer required
20/02736/FUL	110 Village Road	Two storey rear extension
20/02765/FUL & 20/02766/LBC	Kerry House, 15 The Green	Internal and external alterations including replacement conservatory and garage and installation of roof lantern
20/02805/TPO	5 Red Cedar Road	Norway Spruce - Reduce by 3-4m and reduce lower canopy by 1-2m
20/02837/FUL	26 Rosemary Drive	Garage Conversion and single store side and rear extension
20/02902/TPO	South Lodge, 6 Village Road	T1 Oak - reduce to main fork as shown in tree picture of south lodge. T2 Horse Chestnut - reduce to previous points
20/02956/TPO	65 Land Adj Springfield Drive	T2, T3 & T5 - Removal. T1 & T4 - 3m overhang to be removed
20/02941/FUL	Woodside, 8 Grange Lane	Front extension to form entrance porch and undercroft and alterations to external elevations
20/03017/S73	100 Village Road	Two storey rear extension, including variation of approved plans condition attached to 20/01992/FUL to reduce size of the extension
20/02815/S73A	20 Springfield Drive	Single storey front extension (development already carried out)
20/03031/FUL	18 Tulip Tree Close	Erection of double garage/store to front
20/03030/TPO	The Spinney, 112A Village Road	T1, T2, T4-T6 - 5 Limes - Reduce back overhang to public footpath by 2.0-3.0m back to side lateral and remove deadwood, general maintenance for compliance with legal duty of care. T8-1x Hornbeam - Remove due to Kretschmaria deusta. T9-1 Hornbeam - Reduce canopy by up to 2.0m following removal of T8 to re-balance where required
21/00029/FUL	5 Stone Pine Road	Single storey rear extension

Objection to the following:

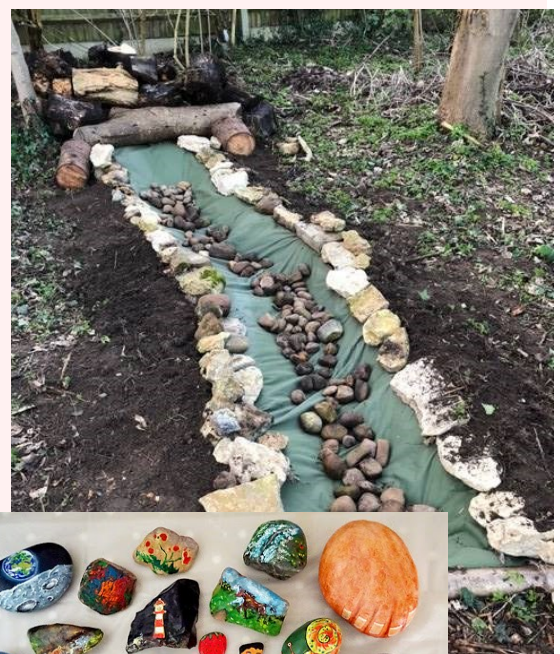
20/02843/FUL	48 Leyside	First floor front and side extensions and garage conversion
--------------	------------	---

Woodland Walk Pebble Stream

Let's fill our pebble stream with beautiful pebbles!

Children Paint a Pebble and add to Bromham's pebble stream

You can paint your pebble and protect with PVA glue for everyone to see!



Bromham WI

We have been very shocked recently by the death of Mrs Lorene Camy, our President for several years who died at home in January. She was a lively, welcoming lady with a keen community spirit so she will be much missed.

We continue to hope that our WI will be up and running again before too long, as we are missing our friends in a social situation. While we have been able to keep in contact by phone, a monthly newsletter and house calls, not all of us are able to meet virtually, so things have not been the same.

Last year we were able to have a summer picnic, but these new regulations have meant that this is impossible and the weather has kept some of us confined to our homes recently, but we continue to have a positive attitude now that many of us have had our vaccinations. These have been organised in such an efficient manner that we can only be amazed at the local planning which has gone in to it and our thanks go out to all those involved.

Our members have been walking in the village and nearby in Bedford, meeting others who are also exercising themselves and their dogs. Although this seems a bit strange with social distancing (a new and alarming phrase, I feel), it is lovely to meet other humans and feel surrounded by fresh air, chatter and laughter. Coffee and biscuits have never been so desirable in the open air even if it doesn't make a picnic and therefore banned!

Hopefully, we will all be back to a more normal existence very soon, but until then the evenings are drawing out and summer is coming, so take care until then and don't work too hard in your garden.

Diane Bell



our church
services are
now available
free online



www.bromham.org

Obituary

Many residents will remember Anne Legg. She taught at Rice Trevor School for over twenty years, retiring in 1989. Anne lived in Neville Crescent before moving to Bushmead Court in Bedford.

Anne passed away in Bedford hospital on 8 January 2021 after suffering from Parkinson's Disease for many years.

News from Elisabeth Curtis Centre, Riding for the Disabled

Hello Bromham Residents

Here, at the Elisabeth Curtis Centre, Riding for the Disabled, life is quiet but our nine special horses are being well-cared for by our hard working and committed grooms and Pony Welfare Officer. We suspect the horses have quite enjoyed their extended holiday, but hope they have missed us as much as we have missed them!

Occasionally, a volunteer needs to go to the Centre for essential maintenance or to complete administration tasks, but our priority is safeguarding our volunteers, riders and employees, whilst ensuring the care of our ponies. Therefore, access to the Centre is limited. As with so many charities, we have lost our regular income. With no riding fees coming in, we are relying on grants, generous donations and a number of digital fundraising initiatives.

To help support us through this time, we have introduced new opportunities, including our 'Muck Market.' For a small donation you can get bagged manure for the garden from our stall outside our gates. Our Amazon Wishlist includes our ponies' feeds and supplements. We are extremely grateful for everyone's generous support for the Wishlist. Finally, we have a number of ways to support for free, recently signing up with 'Recycle4Charity' so you can Freepost your used ink cartridges and raise money for us.

If you can help us at all, with providing fundraising ideas, giving a donation or by signing up to some of our FREE fundraising initiatives, this would be greatly appreciated. For more information check our website: www.elisabethcurtiscentre.co.uk/fundraising or email us at fundraising@elisabethcurtiscentre.co.uk Alternatively, you can contact us by post:

Elisabeth Curtis Centre- Riding for the Disabled, Chestnut Avenue, Bromham, MK43 8HP

Hopefully, it won't be too long now, before we can safely invite our riders back to the Centre again and bring back the SMILES!



Please scan this QR code to
make a donation today!

Thank you for your support.

Thank you

Bromham Village Hall Playing Fields

No dogs allowed



No dogs



Parklands Playing Fields

Used for Youth Football

Please pick up after your dog!

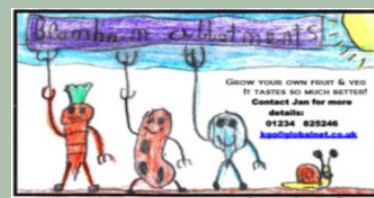
Dog fouling fine £75 anywhere in Bedford Borough

Thank you for your cooperation.

Bromham Allotments Association

SPRING is on it's way! Despite the hardships of the last few months, it has been good to visit the Allotment site, gather the winter veg and prepare the ground for the next growing season. All plots are currently being worked and to get out in the fresh air for an hour or so, tidying and picking, is very therapeutic. It's a good time to clear out the shed, think about what seeds you may want to set, maybe try some new varieties, and generally look forward to better days ahead. The days are getting longer and we look forward with anticipation to the SPRING!

Contact:- Jan Oliver 01234 825246 or Judy Hammond 07745569044.



News from St Owen's Church



St Owen's Church Spring 2021



A very **Happy Easter**

From everyone at St Owen's Church

Please visit our website for up to date

Information on Easter Services and Events

www.bromhambenefice.org

Or follow us on Facebook at CofE Benefice for Bromham, Oakley & Stagsden



Contacts

Rev Catherine Wilson 01234 825665

vicar@bromhambenefice.org

Sarah Smale, Administrator 07957 126145

administrator@bromhambenefice.org

Website: www.bromhambenefice.org

Please visit our brand new website!

Still located at

www.bromhambenefice.org

Full of up to date information about our Churches, Services and Events

We Hope you like it!

Almonds Pre-School

The Almonds Pre-School continues to remain open for all children during these uncertain times. We have had to change a few things and alter our drop-off and pick-up regime in order for the children to remain as safe as possible. It works well and parents have been very supportive in respect of Social Distancing whilst waiting outside - sometimes in the rain.



**The
Almonds
Pre-School**

If you are interested in a place for your young child, we are currently taking names for the summer term which starts on Tuesday 13 April 2021. If you would like some more information then please have a look on our Website www.thealmondspreschool.co.uk or on our Facebook page which will give you an insight into what we can offer you and your child or alternatively email Mrs Janis Russell at janis.russell@btinternet.com and I will happily send you some information and answer any questions you may have. At this difficult time we are not encouraging visitors but we would be happy to let you have a quick look around if necessary. I can also be contacted on 07729 583 331 during school hours or 01234 857196 at any other time. We operate from 9 -12 noon with the option of staying till 1pm with a packed lunch - Term time only. We are in the very spacious Village Hall which is situated in the centre of the Village and within easy walking distance for most parents.

We look forward to hearing from any prospective parents.

Janis Russell

Bedford Town Youth FC Development

We are a Grassroots Youth Football Club with Charter Standard Development status, affiliated to the Bedfordshire FA. We currently have 18 teams from under-8 to under-18, run by volunteer coaches and assistants, and play in various local and regional Leagues on a Saturday and a Sunday during the season.

I am delighted to let you know that, after some months of negotiation, we have secured the lease for the Biddenham Country Park Sports Centre, more commonly known as Kings Field.

From our current arrangement which sees us playing on numerous facilities in and around Bedford, Kings Field provides us with a wonderful facility which will be the home and hub for our teams, and enables us to grow as a Club. We also look forward to providing opportunities for the local community and beyond to engage with us and get involved. Being a part of the local community is something we are very much looking forward to.

For more information see our website www.bedfordtownfc-youthdevelopment.com.



The Prince of Wales



Eamon and his Team look forward to welcoming you to the Prince of Wales once open again

Covid Safe

Fantastic home-made food and selection of drinks.

Friendly village pub where our customers are important to us.

Keep an eye on our facebook at
www.facebook.com/theprincebromham or
 website at www.theprinceofwalesbromhamco.uk.

ODELL & SON

Plumbing & Heating
 Local Family Run Business



227164

Install, Maintenance, Service

For all gas appliances inc. boilers, cookers, gas fires, diagnostic work, gas leaks and landlord safety checks.

All aspects of plumbing work undertaken from dripping taps, bathroom suites, outside taps, leaks, to full heating systems.

All work guaranteed
 o.a.p. discounts
 No job too small
 Tel: 01234 855007
 Mob: 07795 821595

Special Offer
 for Bromham and
 Surrounding Areas
 Boilers Serviced
 £60

37 Ridge Road, Kempston, Beds MK43 9BS

OKC

Call Ken Computers

PC / Mac / Tablet Repair & Service

Internet & Wi-Fi - Crashing & Freezing Issues –
 Software Errors – Data Loss & Retrieval –
 Hardware Faults & Upgrades – Virus & Spyware
 Removal – Speed Up Your System!

Looking after Bromham for Over 10 Years

Tel: 01234 404322 Mob: 07763 124169

To advertise in the Broadsheet
 contact Jeanne on
 01234 828851 or email
jeanne@bromhamparish.co.uk



💧 No Hot Water or Heating?

💧 Dripping Tap?

💧 Radiators not Working?



ALL ASPECTS OF PLUMBING UNDERTAKEN

Fully Insured | Fully Qualified

info@blissplumbing.co.uk
www.blissplumbing.co.uk
 07805 540432

City & Guilds
 Qualified



BRYAN'S AUTOCARE



YOU DRIVE IT WE FIX IT

FOR ALL YOUR GARAGE SERVICES
 MOT' S, REPAIRS, SERVICE, CLUTCHES,
 TYRES AND MORE

VISIT OR CALL YOUR LOCAL FAMILY RUN,
 FRIENDLY GARAGE

COLLECT AND DROP OFF SERVICE AVAILABLE

CALL US ON **01234 855580 or 07723917376**

UNIT 6 & 7 SWAN WORKS, BOX END ROAD,
 BROMHAM, BEDFORD, MK43 8LT

Bromham Conservation Group - You can be a local volunteer

Bromham Conservation Group and Friends of Bromham Mill are voluntary groups working with the borough and parish councils, and the new Bromham Mill Trust to maintain and develop the Mill and the extensive meadows, water courses and woodland behind. Conservation Group volunteers also work at other sites around the village including the Bromham Lake Local Nature Reserve in Lower Farm Road, in Salem Thrift, the ancient woodland off Northampton Road, the Community Orchard at Parklands and the wildlife pond at Paddock Green off Oakley Road.

Volunteers have improved the woodland behind Bromham Mill, created new flower beds and opened up new walks and trails. The work we do makes maintenance easier, as well as improving visitor experience. We have created new planters from old decking recovered from the brook and cleared rubbish washed by winter floodwater down to the mill sluices. Our volunteers also support events at the Mill and have helped create the woodland fairy trail that has become so popular with local families.



We also work closely with the Bromham Nature Club, which offers local children the opportunity to learn about nature, plant bulbs and spring flowers and study wildlife at the Mill and other open sites.

For much of the past year we have had to operate differently, paying close attention to social distancing and cleaning of equipment. During periods of lockdown we have been unable to work together in teams, but small jobs have still been done by individual volunteers or by couples in household bubbles. Despite the difficulties we managed to put in over 900 volunteer hours at our various local sites during 2020. We also have a lot of fun working together on our different projects.

With spring on its way and vaccination showing a way to the end of the crisis, we look forward to more relaxed rules and greater opportunity to work together to help make Bromham an attractive place to live or visit. If you are interested in what we do, like working outdoors and would like to give local volunteering a try, please get in touch with us. We issue a regular email newsletter summarising what we have achieved and details of what we plan to do next.

All volunteers welcome. For further details of our programme and regular activities, visit the parish website, phone Peter Argyle on 01234 822698 or email bcg@peterargyle.plus.com.

