

December 2025

115th Edition

BROMHAM BROADSHEET

£15.00 per Child
£2.00 under 1s
£2.00 per adult



Saturday 20 & Sunday 21
December 2025

*Santa's coming to
Bromham Mill!*

Book at Bromham Parish Council, Bromham Village Hall
email molly@bromhamparish.co.uk
01234 828851



FROM THE CHAIR

Despite the weather forecast, it was wonderful to welcome so many visitors to this year's Apple Day! We hope you enjoyed all the entertainment, and demonstrations during the day. So happy that the weather cleared up to allow the falconry display, and the brief spells of rain did not dampen the spirits of the "little nippers", Morris Men and Ukelele Band. We are extremely grateful to all the wonderful volunteers who worked tirelessly to make sure Apple Day was such a well organised event. We are looking forward to seeing the Christmas lights go up on our recently planted Christmas Tree on the Village Green. We will be nurturing the tree, and if anyone living nearby wants to join the watering rota, do let us know.

As we approach Christmas, we are delighted that Santa Claus has found time in his busy schedule to join us at the Mill on the 20th and 21st. Please do buy your tickets in advance by emailing molly@bromhamparish.co.uk to avoid disappointment!

We will then have our popular "Carols at the Mill" from approximately 3pm. We will be joined by Bedford Brass and are hoping that Santa Claus may join us briefly before he sets off for the North Pole again! Looking forward to hearing some great singing!

And keeping in the festive tradition, Bromham Village Hall will be hosting the pantomime Dick Whittington on Saturday 3rd January 2026 at 2pm. This year the pantomime has been sponsored by Steven Eagell. Do put the date in your diary and buy your tickets in advance.

We do also have to mention that the Duck Race will be back in 2026, so Save the Date! Monday 25th May.

Whilst it has been a challenging year for Bromham Parish Council, we are proud of the events, activities and projects that we deliver through the year. Our dedicated Councillors, Parish Clerk and Support Officer continue to work tirelessly for the community they serve.

All that remains is to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, and joy for the festive season.

Bromham Mill Engagement Event



On August 21 and 22, Bromham Parish Council held our Bromham Mill Community Engagement Event at Village Hall. Village people were able to view our displayed planning application for the Mill, including the proposed visuals and ask our Parish Councillors questions about the application. We had a fantastic turn out and gained some insight into the views of the village using our survey and planning application comments. The feedback painted a clear picture that Bromham residents are excited to see what the future holds for our beloved Mill.

Application update: We are still awaiting planning decision, with the application being decided on at the December Planning Committee Bedford Borough Council meeting. After it being initially deferred in September by the planning officers.

You can still view the information and visuals from the event at the Mill coffee shop upstairs.

Flood Group

A draft Flood Plan will be issued shortly, and an initial meeting for interested parties will be held in January. If you'd like to be involved or contribute to the development of the plan, please email:

molly@bromhamparish.co.uk

Your input could help shape a more resilient future for the village.

Follow **@bromham_parish_council** on Instagram or Facebook to see updates as soon as they come in!

Bromham Parish Council
Remember this? Brook Way Flooding?
Join our Flood Group



The Flood Group will be trained, have access to information on flooding and be equipped to help if our village is flooded again. If you are interested email: support@bromhamparish.co.uk



Conservation Group and Mill Volunteers

A busy autumn blessed with good weather and thankfully some rain recently. Conservation Group volunteers work on several green sites in the village under Parish Council control, following an agreed work plan which is available on the Parish website.

At the Nature Reserve we worked closely with Bedford Park Guardians and volunteers from Harrold to complete the annual cut and raking of the wildflower meadow. Despite the very dry weather the variety of wildflowers increased this year. At the Millenium Pond in the late autumn, we cut back the hedge to let light in and try to reduce its height. We will cut it back further in the winter.

In Salem Thrift we have made a good start on our annual cut back of the paths and rides to encourage spring flower growth as well as some preparatory work on the ditches to help improve drainage. We are now in our third year of hazel coppicing led by Barry Clarke and the regrowth is looking very good. Thanks to the Woodland Trust we have 90 hedging saplings to plant which will help to keep visitors to the designated paths through this beautiful spring flower area. We have also cut back bramble growth in the Community Orchard and hope to do more in the early New Year with more support.

At Bromham Mill our focus was preparation for Apple Day with the garden areas looking lovely and many of the features in the Woodland Fairy Walk repaired and repainted including the lower trellis entrance. At Apple Day the water wheel was fully operational thanks to the detailed hard work of David Butler and Nick White in conjunction with Peter Wissom. Of the 32 paddles, 14 have been replaced and the rest have had the supporting castings repaired, cleaned and painted. Given that a year ago operating the machinery had to stop because of the state of the wheel, we are very grateful for their hard work and the active support of the parish and borough councillors.

The volunteers enjoyed decorating the Mill for Easter and Spooky Times and once again look forward to helping the parish decorate the Mill for Christmas.

Bromham Mill Volunteers meet every Monday afternoon at the Mill from 13:30 to 15:30, followed by a chat over coffee and biscuits. We offer a wide variety of activities, including cleaning and repairing machinery, gardening, mending gates, painting, decorating the premises for special events and maintaining the fairy walk. If you are interested, come along one Monday and we'll gladly show you what we do. New volunteers are always welcome.

Volunteers give their time for free, but we also accept donation of spare tools or materials to support our work. To receive our monthly email newsletter with details of forthcoming activities by both volunteer groups, please contact secretary Peter Argyle on 01234 822698 or email bcg@peterargyle.plus.com.

From Your Ward Councillors

Dear Bromham Residents,

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you, Robert and I hope that you enjoy the blessings of the season at this most wonderful time of year.

The planning application for land south of Northampton Road is not what any of us have wanted for our village. Let's be honest – Bromham is being forced to accommodate significant development that will fundamentally change our community. Our village has approximately 1,900 homes. Our Neighbourhood Plan has then accepted 500 additional homes. Now we're facing potentially 315 more on top of that – increasing our village by a third over the next few years.

This isn't about NIMBYism. It's about fairness. If Bromham must absorb this transformational growth under the threat of it forced through anyway, then our residents deserve something meaningful in return.

That's why we've fought tooth and nail to secure 0.2 hectares for a new GP surgery owned by Bromham Parish Council. This isn't a consolation prize – it's essential protection for our community's future.

For five years, we were promised a GP surgery at Biddenham (and the closure of our own GPs to add insult to injury) that never materialised. We are refusing to let that happen. This surgery would, if accepted by the NHS, be owned by the Parish Council meaning that residents control the rent, protect our healthcare services, and aren't dependent on broken developer promises. We've negotiated hard with developers and the Borough to deliver the best possible deal. If growth must come, it must come with genuine benefits that serve Bromham residents first and foremost. This GP surgery represents our community taking control of its own destiny.

In much better tidings we have some great news for recycling! From April 2026, all Bromham households will receive weekly food waste collection, and kerbside glass collection in your orange-lidded bins will cover the whole village by the end of this year.

Many Bromham residents took part in the highly successful glass collection trial, which demonstrated strong community support for more convenient recycling. The new service will make it easier to recycle while helping us increase recycling rates and reduce waste across the Borough. Thank you to everyone who participated in the trial – your feedback helped shape this improvement.

Finally, like councils across the country, Bedford Borough faces significant financial pressures, particularly in statutory services we must provide by law. Adult Social Care, Children's Services, and Homelessness Temporary Accommodation are all experiencing substantial overspending. This has necessitated difficult temporary measures including suspending some discretionary services. However, these measures are temporary and will be reversed as soon as economic conditions allow. Our priority remains protecting the most vulnerable while ensuring long-term financial stability.

Thank you one and all for continuing to allow us to have the pleasure and privilege of serving as your Bedford Borough Councillors. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you have any problems, then do please contact us using the information below.

King Regards,

CLlr Dylan Simmons (dylan.simmons@bedford.gov.uk)

CLlr Robert Rigby (robert.rigby@bedford.gov.uk)



Sue Ryder Christmas Treecycling Bedfordshire and borders

National healthcare charity Sue Ryder is inviting residents to participate in their Christmas Treecycling scheme to help raise much-needed money for families in need of palliative and bereavement care.

With an optional donation to Sue Ryder, a team of friendly, reliable volunteers will collect your real Christmas tree directly from your front door, garden, or driveway and recycle them. As part of Christmas Treecycling, residents in and around Bedfordshire in MK40, MK41, MK42, MK43, MK44, MK45, PE19, SG15, SG16, SG17, SG18 and SG19 postcodes can have their trees collected between 8 - 16 January 2026.

Your real Christmas tree will be recycled into compost or wood chippings which will be used in local parks and woodlands or to generate green energy.

To learn more about this eco-friendly fundraising initiative in and around Bedfordshire, and to reserve a collection by midnight on 4 January 2026, visit www.sueryder.org/treebedfordshire

Registrations to reserve your tree collection open on 1 November. Contact the fundraising team at Sue Ryder St John's Hospice with any queries on 01767 642412 or email: stjohns.events@sueryder.org



Conservation Volunteers



We are disheartened to report that our ancient woodland, Salem Thrift, has been experiencing ongoing damage by individuals within the village.

Camp building, tree damage, makeshift BMX tracks and dumping are harming our wildlife and environment in Bromham.

Please can we ask that visitors to Salem Thrift are considerate to the land and the wonderful volunteers that continue to upkeep this beautiful historic wood.



The Almonds Pre-School

A Great Start for Your Child

Are you looking for a warm, nurturing environment for your young child?

The Almonds Pre-School is located in the spacious, well-equipped village hall at the heart of the community. We are open from 9:00am to 1:00pm during term time, offering up to 20 hours of childcare per week for children aged 2 years and over.

We provide a safe, stimulating place to play and learn, delivered by long-serving, experienced staff who are passionate about early childhood education.

We believe that early education lays the foundation for a child's future, and at The Almonds Pre-School, we focus on "Learning Through Play" to make sure every child is happy, supported, and ready for school.

Interested?

Visit our website or call us during opening hours (9am-1pm) on 07729 583331 to arrange a visit — we'd love to show you around and answer any questions.

Alternatively, you can contact Mrs Russell at any other time on 01234 857196.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our friendly and caring pre-school community!





Villager Bus



Route VL5

VL5 - Sharnbrook - Felmersham - Odell - Harrold -
Carlton - Stevington - Bromham - Turvey - Lavendon -

Olney Market

When: Every Thursday

Riders Request

Where you see RR in the timetable, this means the bus calls
to set down passengers on riders request only.

Outbound

Return

Bromham (Grange Lane)	946	Bromham (Grange Lane)	1226RR
Bromham (Bedford Rd)	949	Bromham (B	1223RR

Route VL5

VL5 - Sharnbrook - Felmersham - Odell - Harrold -
Carlton - Stevington - Bromham - Turvey - Lavendon -

Olney Market

When: Every Thursday

Bromham (Grange Lane)	946	Bedford Rd	1233RR
Bromham (Bedford Lane)	949	Grange Lane	1226RR

To book go to:

<https://www.villagerbus.uk/route-vl5b-carlton-stevington-bromham-turvey-cold-brayfield-olney-market/>

Or call 07438 870658



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Bromham Allotments



By the time you are reading this, most of us on the allotments have tidied and prepared our plots for the winter. Some will have set onions, garlic, broad beans & a variety of greens, ready for a good start in the spring. Thank you if you attend our Open Day at the end of August, you would have seen some nice fruit, veg and flowers growing.

Towards the end of our season, we were able to offer 6 plots to those who have been waiting and we are pleased to welcome them all. Sure they are designing and planning their plots ready for 2026.

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Fireworks in the village

As the holidays approach, we ask that residents thinking of having fireworks in their gardens please consider the potential distress to neighbours living in thatched cottages.

JOY

St Owen's Church

Christmas 2025

Sun 7th Dec	2.00pm	Christmas Craft Afternoon	Christmas Craft Afternoon Lots of crafts to enjoy Sun 7th Dec 2-4pm in St Owen's. Everyone welcome to join in the fun! £3 per child U2 free. Refreshments available All children accompanied please
Sat 13th Dec	3.00pm	Light in the Darkness- a Quiet Space at Christmas	
Wed 17th Dec	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	Light in the Darkness A Quiet Space at Christmas 3pm Sat 13th Dec at St Owen's If the thought of a traditional joy-filled Christmas isn't for you this year, come and join us for a short, peaceful service which shares the hope & light of Christmas in a gentle way.
Christmas Eve 24th Dec	3.00 pm	Crib Service for young children	
	4.30pm	Crib Service	
	11pm	Midnight Holy Communion	
Christmas Day 25th Dec	10.00am	Family Holy Communion with carols	

Contacts and more information from:

Rev Catherine Wilson 01234 825665
vicar@bromhambenefice.org

Sarah Smale, Administrator 07987 126145
administrator@bromhambenefice.org

Website: www.bromhambenefice.org



Apple Day Success!



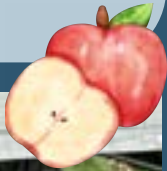
The Parish Council would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Apple Day such a wonderful success.

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the fantastic turnout from the community, the event raised an impressive £3,200 in profit.

Proceeds will go towards the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Mill, ensuring it continues to be a treasured part of our village for years to come.

We're already looking forward to next year's celebrations - Apple Day will return on Sunday, 18 October 2026. Before then, don't forget to mark your calendars for another favourite village event: the Duck Race on 25 May 2026.

Thank you, once again, to everyone who took part and supported our community!





Bromham Good Neighbours



Mince Pies & Melodies



Bromham Good Neighbours are delighted to announce a special festive event for our registered village residents.

This heart-warming afternoon will bring together friends and neighbours to celebrate the festive season with songs, carols, and poetry performed by Bromham Primary School and a wonderful "Festive Singalong" with Tibbs Music 4 Memory group. There'll be plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and of course – delicious mince pies!

This event is open to all Bromham Good Neighbours members. Places are limited so attendance is by registration. If you want to reserve your place or join the group please call or email to register your interest.

07475 764322 or email: bgns.committee@gmail.com

Our phoneline will be closed from Sat 20th December until Mon 5th Jan 2026

Join Our Team of Good Neighbours Volunteers

If you'd like to get involved or learn more, please get in touch.

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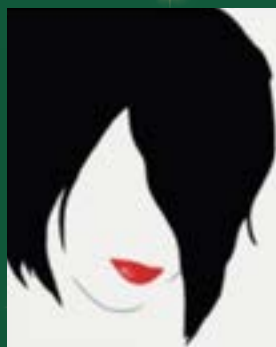


BROMHAM TODDLERS (& TIDDLERS)

Charity No: 1031617

We meet in the Baptist Church Hall on a Tuesday morning (during term time) from 9.30 - 11.30 am. We have toys/activities suitable for new born up until 4 years. Cost is £2.50 for the first adult/child and 50p per subsequent adult/child (over 6 months). There is tea/coffee for carers and a drink/biscuit for the little ones.

We finish with a song time, when adults and children sit together in a circle and choose their favourite action song. There is a lovely sense of community within the group and we hope to see you there with your little ones!



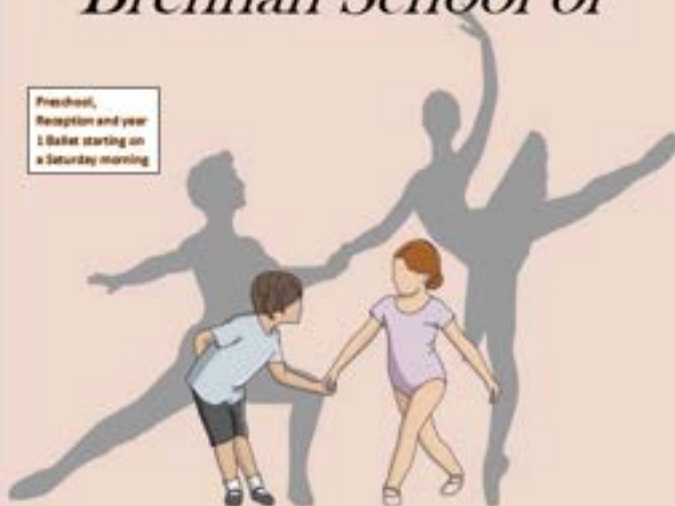
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Tuesdays 7pm - 9.30pm

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Ron Chapman 01234 822795 for more information



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A New Christmas Tradition for the Village Green

This year, the Parish Council has planted a beautiful 5-metre permanent Christmas tree on the Village Green — a wonderful new addition that will grow with our community and shine brightly for many festive seasons to come.

By investing in a living tree, we're not only saving money in the years ahead but also helping to make our village greener and more sustainable.

To keep our new tree healthy and happy, we'll be setting up a watering rota in the spring. If you'd like to join in and help care for it, please email molly@bromhamparish.co.uk - all green-fingered volunteers (and enthusiastic beginners!) are welcome.



A big thank you to **Bromham Electrical** for installing our new Defibrillator and cabinet free of charge to give back to the community!

Keeping Our Village Heart-Healthy

As part of our ongoing commitment to community safety, the Parish Council has recently invested in replacing one of the village's older defibrillators and its cabinet. We're proud to have several defibrillators located around Bromham, ensuring that lifesaving equipment is always close at hand should it ever be needed. To locate your nearest site please visit the Parish Council website, and we'll continue to maintain and update this vital equipment for the wellbeing of everyone in our village.



Santa at the Mill

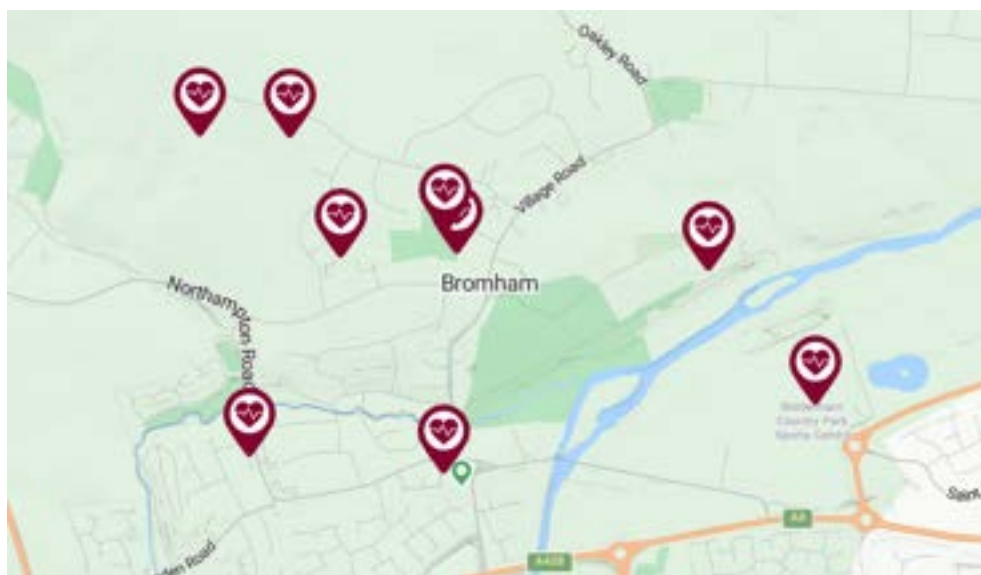
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Bromham

Friday 5th December 2025

10.30am to 2pm

Tea, coffee, cake &
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In aid of St Owen's Church



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2pm
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bromhamvillagehall@gmail.com

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Christmas Carols at Bromham Mill

**Join us for carols 3pm
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Santa & Sax

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- DBS Certified

£35.00 per visit

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Scan here to call!