

# Bromham Broadsheet

December 2024

111th Edition

## Visit Santa@Bromham Mill



**£12.00 per Child**  
**£2.00 under 1s**  
**£2.00 per adult**  
**Advance booking only**

Book at Bromham Parish Council,  
Bromham Village Hall,  
email [support@bromhamparish.co.uk](mailto:support@bromhamparish.co.uk)

**Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 December 24**



### BROMHAM MILL REGENERATION

Bromham Parish Council continues to move forward the proposals to regenerate Bromham Mill in a sensitive and sympathetic manner. We have now received costings for the project from our Consultants. The Parish Council need to understand this work and agree the phasing of this long term project to fit our existing budget.

The new play equipment has been installed at Bromham Mill the additional equipment has provided a trim trail and jolly roger boat, we hope all our visitors enjoy this new addition. We have ordered a new net for the existing equipment to replace the damaged net, this will be replaced as soon as possible.

Whilst our Consultants were surveying the barns for the project they found a fault with the front barn roof. As a temporary measure the Parish Council have had to install Acrow Props to support the roof until further work can be carried out.

Any further updates will be available on the Parish Council website and will be included in the next Broadsheet.

If you have any concerns or questions please contact Bromham Parish Council either in the office at Bromham Village Hall,  
tel: 01234 828851 or email: [julie@bromhamparish.co.uk](mailto:julie@bromhamparish.co.uk).

## CHRISTMAS EVE

AT THE MILL



## DEC 24TH | 4-9PM

### LIVE MUSIC | FOOD TRUCKS | BAR

Walk-ins only | The Mill Coffee shop, Bridge End, Bromham, MK43 8LP  
[@themillcoffeeshop](mailto:@themillcoffeeshop) | [www.themillcoffeeshop.co.uk](http://www.themillcoffeeshop.co.uk)



# FROM THE CHAIR, Bromham Parish Council

Welcome to our final Broadsheet of 2024.

Thank you to those of you who came to Apple Day in October. We were so fortunate to have been able to host this event after the flooding around the Mill. Despite some challenging last-minute changes to the layout of the site, we hope that you all enjoyed the day and the dry weather!

We continue to look at residents' issues and projects around the Village. We are working hard on improvements to existing and additions of new bus shelters. With the help of Bedford Borough Council and our Cllrs Dylan Simmonds and Robert Rigby we continue to find solutions to the parking issues around Steven Eagell and some new features have recently been added to the play area at the Mill, we hope they will be enjoyed by many.

Our next event will be Christmas at The Mill on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December, when we will be welcoming Father Christmas to meet you. Do book your slot to visit.

We will be finishing off on 22<sup>nd</sup> with our Carols at the Mill. We hope many of you will join us for this annual event. The money we raise will be donated to REACT, the volunteer disaster team who helped during the worst of the flooding around the Mill. Finally I would like welcome Norman Hughes as a new Councillor, he has provided some background below. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Sian.

## New Parish Councillor Norman Hughes



I initially worked in the Telecommunications Industry before switching to business management consultancy. Over the past 25 years I have worked with a wide range of client companies in the UK, US, Europe and the Middle East.

Now semi-retired, I have several interests and projects, mostly around DIY or motor vehicles, and not forgetting the six grandchildren. My latest challenge was rescuing a very rusty classic Mini! If the weather is fine I still find time to ride a motorcycle.

I hope I am able to offer some of my experiences and insights to assist the deliberations and decisions of Bromham Parish Council.



## Bromham Nature Club

The children made bee habitats to hang in their own gardens. For more information please contact Anne Baker on 07900810937



**Be safe and careful with  
Fireworks in the Village.  
Please be aware of our  
Thatched Cottages.  
Thank you.**



**The  
Almonds  
Pre-School**

*The Almonds Pre-School*

*Are you looking for a place for your young child?*

*The Almonds Pre-School operates from the spacious well-appointed Village hall, which is central to the village. We are open from 9am through to 1pm during term time and can offer up to 20 hours of childcare per week for children over the age of 2 years. We can offer your child a safe and stimulating place to play and learn. Long serving members of staff - who have a wealth of experience with young children - deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which ultimately ensures your child is as 'Ready for School' as possible, by the time they leave us. This means that children should have strong social skills, can cope emotionally with being separated from parents, are relatively independent in their own personal care and have a curiosity about the world and a desire to learn. Early education forms the basis of your child's future and is delivered by 'Learning Through Play' Have a look on our Website or indeed give us a call on 07729 583331 between 9am and 1pm to arrange a visit, when we will be only too happy to show you around and answer any questions.*

*Call Mrs Russell on 01234 857196 at any other time. We look forward to welcoming you to our group*

**theWI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

Bromham W I meets at 7.30 pm, on the 2 Monday of each month, at the Village Hall.

Our forthcoming meetings are:

**9<sup>th</sup> December:** Richard Start – A Musical Evening

**13<sup>th</sup> January:** Debate over WI Resolutions, and Bring and Buy Sale

**10<sup>th</sup> February:** Deborah Evans – Green, Clean and Toxin-Free

**10<sup>th</sup> March:** AGM plus charity speaker Nicola Avery – Riding for the Disabled

**New members and Visitors are always welcome.** (Visitor fee £5 per meeting)

**Bromham Good Neighbours phone line will be closed from 20 December until 6 January 2025**



**Bromham Good  
Neighbours Scheme**



*Merry Christmas to all our Clients & Volunteers*

**We are here if you need us for:**



Transport—to a social event, doctors, dentist, shopping.



Light Gardening—weeding, mowing your lawn



Form Filling, Letter Writing, Collecting Prescriptions etc



Small Household Jobs—changing lightbulbs putting out bins



Befriending—have a cuppa & a chat with a volunteer with similar interests.



**Please, don't forget if you need help, call us:**

**07475 764322**

**Telephone line is open Monday-Friday (10am-4pm)**

**Or email us on: [bgns.committee@gmail.com](mailto:bgns.committee@gmail.com)**



**Our phone line will be closed from 20<sup>th</sup> December until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**





**Website: - [Bromhamunitedafc.co.uk](http://Bromhamunitedafc.co.uk)**

**Email: - [bromhamunitedafc@gmail.com](mailto:bromhamunitedafc@gmail.com)**

Bromham United AFC are looking forward to the start of the new season and are proud to provide football for over 430 youth players this season, 100 of which are girls. Our girl's section is growing yearly and this season will see us provide Girls only football at U6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14. We have also started two new Sunday youth teams at U8 & U10 to join our current U11 team.

The Committee would like to thank all our Volunteers who give time each week to assist with the provision of football within the Community.

As a club we are always looking for sponsors to assist us with keeping our registration fees low and to replace/provide necessary equipment to enable the provision of football to the local community, therefore if you are a local business and would like to support our non-profit organisation please contact us on the above email for further information, all support is greatly appreciated.

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Two new classes for adults!  
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& Seated Dance**

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Contact Charlotte: 07812 121995  
[charlotte@balletfitness.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@balletfitness.co.uk)  
[brennandanceschool@gmail.com](mailto:brennandanceschool@gmail.com)

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## Bromham Conservation Group & Bromham Mill Volunteers

The very wet summer and autumn that led to the recent flooding has presented significant challenges as we help to maintain the green spaces and areas of special scientific interest in our village. The wildflower area in the Nature Reserve at the time of writing has been only partially cut, but we are grateful for the ongoing support of Harrold Country Park volunteers led by the Park Rangers. Keeping pathways open has been a particular focus, especially in Salem Thrift, the Millennium Green area and at Bromham Mill.

In the Woodland Fairy Walk we have created an animal footprint activity for young children featuring animals in the Country Park (pictured). We have started a medium-term project to replace all the gates at the front of the Mill. The first phase was refurbishing the overflow car park gates, which we have used to replace the rotten gates at the Mill entrance (pictured).

Our thanks to everyone who helped run the Mill wheel and information stall on Apple Day as well as everyone involved in looking after the Mill grounds. Also thanks to Margaret Harvey for donating a fairy and a mermaid for our raffle.

Our programme of meetings is available on the Parish website. Mill Volunteers meet every Monday afternoon at Bromham Mill from 13:30 to 15:30 followed by a chat over coffee and biscuits. Once again we are looking to decorate the Mill and grounds for Spooky Times and Christmas.

The Conservation Group programme :

**Bromham Community Orchard** (near Chestnut Avenue) Pruning the apple and pear trees and clearing brambles to maintain paths for riders and walkers.

**Salem Thrift** (off Northampton Road) Clearing woodland rides and footpath to encourage snowdrops, bluebells, primroses and other spring flowers. Also coppicing ageing hazel to promote young growth.

**Bromham Lake Local Nature Reserve** (bottom of Lower Farm Road) Clearing brambles and other vegetation obstructing footpaths and removing thorn bushes from the wildflower meadow to make mowing easier. Work on this site may have to be postponed when there are floods.

**Paddock pond** (Millennium Green, top of Lower Farm Road) Trimming hedges and cutting back overgrown vegetation to allow light into the pond.

If you are interested in volunteering your help at the Mill or any of our other sites in the village, or would like to donate tools, materials or funds please contact secretary Peter Argyle at [bcg@peterargyle.plus.com](mailto:bcg@peterargyle.plus.com).



### YOU CAN REPORT HIGHWAYS ISSUES

If you see a fault or problem in Bromham—

Potholes, Lamp Columns etc . Please report direct to Bedford Borough Council highways at: <https://highwaysreporting.bedford.gov.uk>

If there is one please, quote the number on the lamp column.



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD QUESTIONNAIRE : BROMHAM RESIDENTS' OPINIONS

The previous edition of the Broadsheet outlined the views of the 369 responses to the 2024 Village Questionnaire on key aspects of housing development and village green spaces. Highlights of residents' opinions on two other themes of the questionnaire, getting around Bromham more safely and village facilities, are discussed below. An update on what is happening with the preferred new housing sites that were allocated in the current Bromham Neighbourhood Plan 2035 is also provided in this article.



### RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON IMPROVING SAFETY

Traffic speed, parking related issues, school traffic and Bromham Bridge were residents' most frequently mentioned concerns. Speeding traffic was an issue for 50% of respondents, but there has been a change in emphasis since the existing neighbourhood plan was published. Fewer concerns are now raised about Village Road traffic but more comments were received about speeding on Stagsden Road and Oakley Road. A number of residents also commented on the excessive speed of some motorcycles on by passes adjacent to the village. About 12% of respondents favoured more use of average speed cameras. For many it was a general proposal but specific locations mentioned were Bromham Bridge, Stagsden Road, Northampton Road and Oakley Road at the gated entrance. It was also suggested that the existing camera at the eastern end of Village Road should be moved to the gated village entrance on Oakley Road because cars are speeding there in both directions, and drivers appear to know when they are outside the existing camera's coverage and so speed up. Another proposal was that there should be an additional camera in the vicinity of the Village Road/Molivers Lane junction to catch those speeding who do not pass a current second camera. New 20mph zones attracted limited support from only 4% of residents, their suggestions included 'throughout the village residential areas', Village Road, Stagsden Road and Oakley Road. The possibility of having more speed bumps throughout the village was mentioned by a small minority, and some residents suggested roundabouts or mini roundabouts as a means of slowing down traffic at a number of locations including Northampton Road junctions with Grange Lane and Stagsden Road.

### PARKING PROBLEMS

Questions about whether there was sufficient parking in the village for residents and visitors delivered the majority view that parking provision was not adequate. Poor parking for visitors was the most significant concern with 49% of residents believing it was inadequate and only 20% answering that it was adequate. Concerns were expressed about the limited parking around Avoca House, the difficulties this causes for the elderly and the 'overspill' parking in Molivers lane resulting in sightline problems. Solutions suggested were time limitations in the car park and double yellow lines in Molivers Lane from the Green to Springfield Drive.

### SCHOOL TRAFFIC

There were concerns about inconsiderate school related parking in Grange Lane, Springfield Drive (from the Library to the roundabout on Grange Lane) and in Mowbray Close. In Grange Lane parking was blocking visibility for parents and children and parked cars were frequently idling. It was suggested that there should be signs about engine idling as there are in De Parys Avenue, Springfield Drive concerns were about school-time parking too close to the roundabout junction with Grange Lane and on bends. Many residents asked for greater use of (enforced) double yellow lines, road humps or permit-only parking for residents near the school. Other requests were for more parking space for people dropping off and picking up children (but no suggestion as to where) and for a crossing in Grange Lane near the entrance to the alleyway from Neville Crescent.

### WHAT FACILITIES IN BROMHAM ARE IMPORTANT TO RESIDENTS?

When asked to choose from a list of 18 village facilities, the top three rated "very important" were broadband (by 90% of residents), Bromham Park (86%) and Bromham Pharmacy (85%). At the other end of the scale, the lowest ranked facilities were food outlets (40%), local garage (39%) and sports clubs (34%). Local shops and the post office both scored highly and were just outside the top three "very important" facilities. However a separate question on whether more shops are required in Bromham had 51% voting "no", with 49% voting "yes or don't mind". Bromham Mill was rated very important by 78% of respondents. Two key village resources are the village hall and the library and residents were asked about their use of these two facilities. The village hall received a very strong response with 75% of residents confirming that they or their family used it for events or activities. The library is enjoyed by a smaller majority with 56% of households using it. Poor bus services for residents were widely acknowledged, with 69% of respondents agreeing that Bromham bus services are not frequent enough for a rural location. Residents were asked for their ideas on what new public sports facilities they would like to see in Bromham. A range of ideas emerged from the 17% who responded, many of which were similar to those originally envisaged in the development of the neighbourhood plan. Suggestions included hardcourt tennis, cricket pitch and nets, rugby pitch, indoor facilities for badminton/squash/table tennis, an open-air swimming pool, a skate park and more football pitches. Other ideas included the development of the Elizabeth Curtis Centre as an activity park for disabled and people with special needs and to provide a community MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area). Having a GP presence in Bromham is seen as a widespread aim by current residents, either by retaining the current surgeries, or building a new one. Although it is not within the control of Bromham Parish Council, this should be essential given Bromham's status as a Key Service Centre.



## BROMHAM BRIDGE

For Bromham bridge there was support from around 10% of respondents for changing to one-way vehicular traffic (with pedestrian and cycle paths allowing two-way travel). This proposal was frequently paired with creating a new roundabout on the A428 where it joins Box End Road via the slip road. Traffic would then exit the village via the bridge (and Box End Road to the A428) but could only enter the village via the new Box End Road/A428 configuration. There was also some support for making the junction of Bromham Road and the A428 a roundabout to speed up getting into and out of the village. The suggestion of closing the bridge to vehicular traffic was less well supported than for making it one-way. The main reason suggested by residents for this proposal was that the current 20mph limit is not adhered to and not enforced, and the bridge remains dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. A new roundabout at the Junction of the A428 and Box End Road (slip road) was again seen as the main alternative route into and out of Bromham in relation to this scenario.

## BROMHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2035 – ALLOCATED SITES

The current Neighbourhood Plan for Bromham was approved by residents in 2021 with an 83% vote in favour in a village referendum. Bromham at that time was designated by Bedford Borough Council as a “Rural Key Service Centre”. Clapham, Sharnbrook and Great Barford were similarly designated and the four designated villages were each required to accommodate 500 new homes in the period up to 2030 to meet the Borough Council's Local Plan 2030. Three sites were proposed in Bromham's Neighbourhood Plan for our 500 new homes. The Hayfield site (called Stagsden Rise in the plan) on Stagsden Road was the first to be developed and is nearing completion with 80 houses. The other Bromham allocated sites in the neighbourhood plan are Beauchamp Park (Stagsden Road/A428) and the Old Stable Yard (south of Lower Farm Road). Earlier this year Martin Grant Homes were granted outline planning permission by Bedford Borough Council for 390 homes at Beauchamp Park. As is normal with any approval for a new housing development, planning conditions imposed by the Borough Council will have to be met by the developers before work can start on the Beauchamp Park site. Full details of these conditions can be found on the Borough Council's planning website, reference application no 19/01904/MAO. The Old Stable Yard site has a plan allocation of 30 homes and the developers are preparing a planning application for this site. This will be submitted to Bedford Borough Council who decide if planning permission is to be granted and list any conditions if the application is approved. The application will also be available on the Borough Council's planning website which will allow residents to submit their comments on the proposal before the Borough Council decision is made.

## Recent Planning Applications considered by Bromham Parish Council

| Ref No       | Address                                | Application                                                                                                                                                                                       | PC Decision           |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 24/01467/TPO | 10 Tulip Tree Close                    | Reduce tall lime trees                                                                                                                                                                            | Refer to Tree Officer |
| 23/02267/FUL | Sewage Pumping Station<br>Bromham Road | Erection of detached two-store Eco Dwelling and associated works                                                                                                                                  | Objection             |
| 24/01523/ADV | 52-56 Stagsden Road                    | Removal of existing signage and installation of new internally illuminated Toyota Brand signage                                                                                                   | Objection             |
| 24/01685/TPO | 8 Red Cedar                            | Raise canopy Mature Oak Tree                                                                                                                                                                      | Refer to Tree Officer |
| 24/01419/TPO | 86 Village Road                        | G1 & G2 Avenue of Lime trees require crown lifting by approx 1.5-2m above the confire hedgeling                                                                                                   | Refer to Tree Officer |
| 24/01129/FUL | 3 Mayhew Close                         | Two storey rear extension, resubmssion                                                                                                                                                            | Objection             |
| 24/01873/s73 | Land Adjacent 97 Village Road          | Erection of one dwelling and detached garage, including variation of approved plans condition 1 of 24/00422/FUL to allw for design changes to the dwelling and relocation of garage               | No objections         |
| 24/01931/FUL | 12 Springfield Drive                   | Single Storey side and rear extensions including new attached garage, rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion, front canopy roof and external alterations                                       | No objections         |
| 24/00913/MAF | The Mansion House,<br>Northampton Road | Proposed Change of use of dwelling C3 to hotel C1                                                                                                                                                 | No objections         |
| 24/01946/FUL | 47 Wingfield Road                      | Demolition of single storey rear extension and detached garage. Replacement single storey wrap-around extension incorporating integral garage, porch with part two storey extension to side/rear. | Objection             |

## OAKLEY RURAL DAY CENTRE

### FOR THE ELDERLY

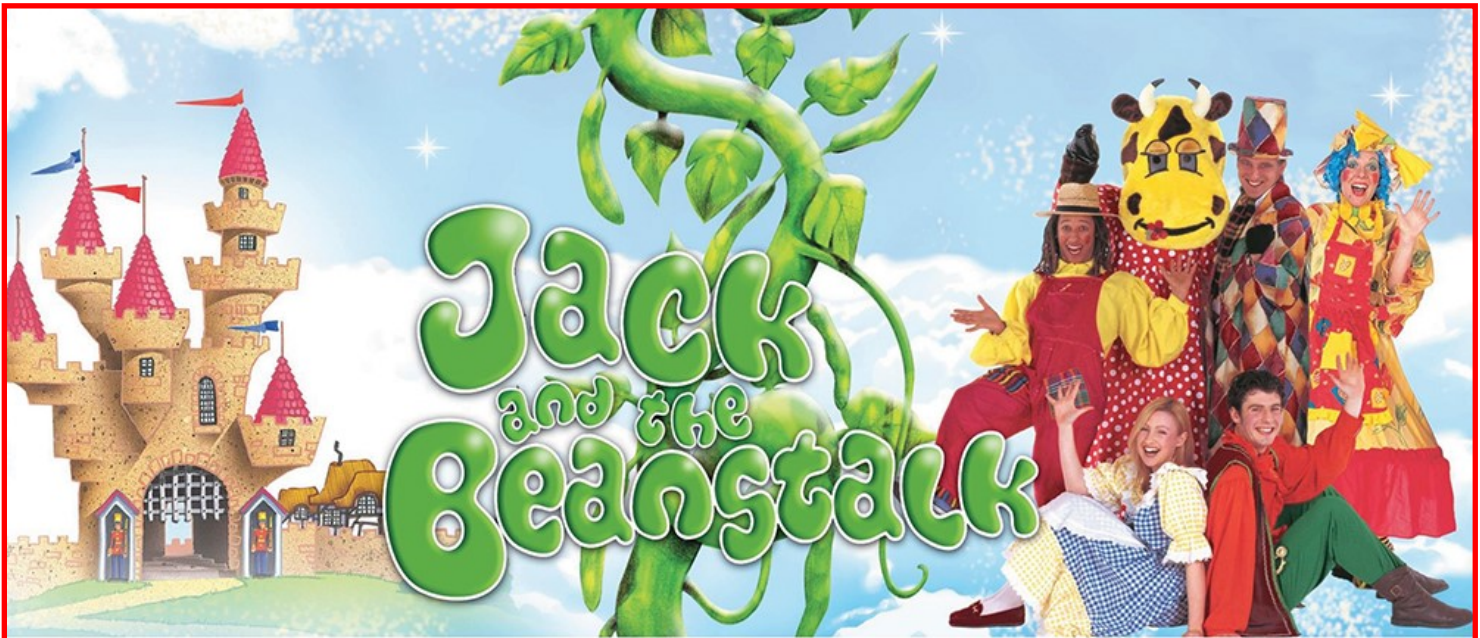
*The Old School, Lovell Road, Oakley, Beds, MK43 7RX*

**Charity Number:** 1060283

We provide a fun filled day of activities, games and good old conversation. Day includes refreshments and a two course lunch.  
We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Opening times 10.00am to 2.30pm.

For details of costs and information contact Lynne, Tuesday to Thursday on 01234 824935 or **Mobile:** 07733 227374

**Website:** [www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com](http://www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com) **Email:** [oakleyruraldaycentre@yahoo.com](mailto:oakleyruraldaycentre@yahoo.com)



# Tickets Available Here

## Bromham Village Hall

Saturday 4th January 2025 @ 2pm    [✉ bromhamvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:bromhamvillagehall@gmail.com)

### BROMHAM TODDLERS (& TIDDLERS)

**Charity No: 1031617**

We meet in the Baptist Church 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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## St Owen's Church Christmas 2024



|                        |         |                                      |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Sun 1st Dec            | 10.30am | All Age Christingle Service          |
| Sun 8th Dec            | 2.00pm  | Christmas Craft Afternoon            |
| Sat 14th Dec           | 3.00pm  | A Quiet Christmas Space              |
| Wed 18th Dec           | 6.30pm  | Carols by Candlelight                |
| Christmas Eve 24th Dec | 3.00 pm | Crib Service for young children      |
|                        | 4.30pm  | Crib Service                         |
|                        | 11pm    | Midnight Communion                   |
| Christmas Day 25th Dec | 10.00am | Family Communion Service<br>& Carols |



Contacts and more information from:  
Rev Catherine Wilson 01234 825665  
vicar@bromhambenefice.org  
Sarah Smale, Administrator 07957 126145  
administrator@bromhambenefice.org  
Website: www.bromhambenefice.org

## Christmas Crafts

Christmas Craft workshop on  
Sun 8th Dec 2-4pm in St Owen's.  
Everyone welcome to join in the fun!  
£3 per child U2 free.  
Refreshments available

## It's Christingle time!

...at St Owen's at 10.30am on Sunday  
1st Dec in our all-age service  
...or at Bromham Primary School  
(Village Rd Hall) 3.30 – 4.15pm  
on Tuesday 3rd Dec  
Come and make a  
Christingle.  
All ages welcome children  
must bring an adult.



## A Quiet Christmas Space 3pm Sat 14th 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.

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A warm welcome awaits you at  
Bromham Baptist Church this December

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> – 7:30pm

Kings Chamber Orchestra Christmas Concert\*

\*Tickets must be purchased in advance at [www.bromham.org](http://www.bromham.org)

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am

Family Nativity Service

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5:00pm

Carols in the Café

Christmas Eve – 4:30pm

Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day – 10:00am

Family Service

Bromham  
Baptist Church

## Bromham Short Mat Bowling Club

Mondays 2pm - 4.30pm

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Village Hall  
Village Road  
MK43 8JP

Tuesdays 7pm - 9.30pm

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Grange Lane, Bromham, MK43 8NR

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# Bromham Parish Council

Carols 3pm Sunday 22 Dec  
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open all day with delicious  
Food & Drink

*Please Walk to  
this event our car  
park will be closed*

Sing-a-long to  
carols with Bedford  
Brass!

*Santa will be  
here!*



## Bromham Parish Council recent projects

### NEW BIN

We are pleased to advise that a  
new bin has been installed at the  
shops Molivers Lane



**New play  
equipment** has  
been installed at the  
Mill to enhance the  
existing adventure  
items.



### Experience the Magic of Private Dining

Celebrate this holiday season with a curated, gourmet dining  
experience in the comfort of your own home.

Custom Menus | Chef-Prepared Excellence | Unforgettable Moments  
Prices start from £40 per person for 3 course meal

 **Book Now** to reserve your holiday dining experience!  
Visit us [andrewskitchenandcatering.com](http://andrewskitchenandcatering.com) or call 07583 976 345.



**Bromham Broadsheet**  
Bromham Parish Council  
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Bromham, Bedford, MK43 8JP  
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Web: [www.bromham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bromham-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/  
bromhamparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bromhamparishcouncil)

**Thank you to our hardworking Parish Councillors!**