

Bromham Broadsheet

September 23

106th Edition

Attractions

DANGEROUS STEVE!

THE DOG & DUCK

APPLE PRESSING

HERITAGE CIDER

FOOD, PRODUCE & CRAFT STALLS

APPLE IDENTIFICATION

CHILDRENS ENTERTAINMENT

PONY RIDES

ADULT

TICKET PRICE

£6

CONCESSIONS

£3

BROMHAM MILL Apple Day

**Free
Parking in
Bromham
Park**

Bromham Mill, Bridge End, Bromham MK43 8LP

SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2023

11:00 UNTIL 16:00

Adults £6 Concessions £3 Children Under 16 FREE

Tickets available from Bromham Village Hall, Village Road, Bromham, MK43 8JP

Free car parking available in Bromham Park, entrance off Village Rd, Bromham.



FROM THE CHAIR

The year is rushing by. Here we are in September already!

Thank you to those who braved the elements and joined us at the Mill to watch the Coronation on the big screen. It was lovely to share such a historic moment with the community, and despite the rain it didn't spoil the spirit of the occasion.

It was great to see so many families join us for the Fairy Tales event. I am sure everyone had a fun day, making crafts, exploring the decorated fairy trail and doing the competition, and listening to some magical storytelling.



I hope you have had a good summer break and enjoyed with the family some of the craft activities we arranged at the Mill, and the competition to design an addition to our Fairy Walk. These are just a flavour of the type of events we will be looking at during school holidays in the coming years. So if you enjoyed them, we would love some feedback. I am sure many of you have sampled the Friday Nights at the Mill too, which are proving popular with live acoustic music, street food trucks and a bar.

Since the last Broadsheet, I would also like to welcome two new Parish Councillors, Bill Willgress and William Armitage, and our new support officer for Bromham Mill Jane Mongay. I am looking forward to working with you all. If any of you would like to be co-opted on to the Parish Council, and help with both the projects we have in the Village, and the issues that affect residents, there are still vacancies. We would be delighted to hear from you. The next event to plan for (and save the date!) is Apple Day on Sunday 15 October. We have taken on board your comments from last year, and we are reducing the ticket price this year with children still free. Unfortunately, we can't promise good weather, although we managed to arrange about 4 hours of sunshine last year! Looking forward to seeing you there. Sian Woodfine.

Neighbourhood Planning

Thank you to those who responded to our article giving your views on Neighbourhood Planning. Our team are now working on a Review Questionnaire and we are hopeful to get this out to everyone over the next few months.



BROMHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME



CAN YOU HELP? Volunteer in Bromham?

Bromham Good Neighbour Scheme was launched in February this year under the guidance of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) and with help from Bromham Parish Council. We currently have twenty volunteers helping to improve the lives of residents with occasional day to day jobs such as shopping, popping in for a cup of tea, collecting prescriptions or giving them a lift to hospital and dental appointments.

To date, our volunteers have completed **over one hundred "jobs"** helping twenty-six residents with a variety of tasks.

From small beginnings the demand for our help is growing. We are keen to recruit more volunteers to enable the scheme to grow, particularly if you are happy to drive residents to appointments (car use is reimbursed). But we would love to hear from anyone who would like to join our friendly team.

For more information, or if you are a resident requiring our help please contact us on ... Tel: 07475 764322

Email: bgns.committee@gmail.com

The amount of time you volunteer is up to you – a few hours a week or month can make such a difference to someone in need. If you would like more information about joining our friendly team please call.

BROMHAM ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

A positive growing season for most, we think, with a good variety of fruit & veg being harvested. The photo's show a very productive plot and lovely red berries & wild poppies.

The waiting list continues to grow with many enquiries from neighbouring communities and developments, it's a shame that Biddenham/Gt. Denham haven't established an allotment site yet.

OPEN DAY SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2023, 11am - 3pm

If you wish to visit our site, then a good time will be on our OPEN DAY- Saturday 2nd September 2023, 11am - 3pm, it's at the far end of Lower Farm Road. Please come and support us, refreshments available & following last year's plot competition of 'scarecrows', we are hoping there will be entries for 'The most unusual container planted up with flowers/veg'. Looking forward to meeting many bromham residents.



AGM Saturday 18th November 11am at the Allotments

Bromham Councillors Report

We are writing today, via the Bromham Broadsheet, to provide you with something of an update regarding the last couple of months in the Borough. Since last we wrote there have been two full meetings of the Council and we thought it would be beneficial for us to provide an overview of a few of the biggest stories coming out of these meetings.

We think many will agree that a simple walk through the Town Centre shows that times have been tough in recent years. The rise of internet shopping, disappearance of prominent high-street brands combined the fatal blow that was the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, has hit our Town hard. Footfall has been falling year on year, even post-COVID with a combined 88% fall during November/December 2022 when compared with 2017. Even a majority of our Multi Story Car Parks are struggling to reach 50% capacity.

While not all of these problems are the fault of our political leaders, it is clear there have been a lack of solutions in areas we can influence such as parking. Compared to Milton Keynes and Rushden Lakes, that latter of whom offers 5 hours free parking, many residents felt we had a less competitive parking offer.

While car parking charges are only one of a number of factors at play in influencing footfall and Town Centre vitality, it is still something shoppers consider when deciding to visit our Town. The newly elected Administration has launched a trial scheme to support local businesses in Bedford Town Centre by offering up to four hours of free parking at Allhallows car park. The scheme will help many local small and new business attract new customers as it eases restrictive car parking – it even opens up more time for visitors to explore the independent shops, attend appointments, watch a film and even take part in an Escape Room.

The free car parking trial will take place between the 1st August 2023 and 1st February 2024.

But there are many reasons why some choose not to go to Bedford Town Centre for their shopping. As part of the new Administration's promise to build back Bedford's Town Centre better, there has been a concerted effort to be far more thorough in our clean-up efforts.

Like parking, keeping our Town Centre neat and tidy is one of the many factors the Council has direct influence over that can positively impact footfall and Town Centre Vitality. The recently elected administration has organised "tidy-up" days with volunteers and a number of the Council's new portfolio holders to help keep our Town Centre looking smart, alongside more thorough cleansing efforts by the Councils cleansing team.

We all want a Town Centre we can be proud of and keeping our Town looking tidy is a point of civic pride.

Unfortunately, these measures come against a difficult backdrop. The Borough has been facing a £2.3 million black hole for the financial year 2022/23. This black hole occurred prior to the election under the previous administration and has been the subject of much debate at Borough Hall. The deficit comes as result of a historic operational net overspend of £14.922 million in a number of service areas, including:

£284k on Adults Social Services

£7.025m on Childrens Social Services

£2.419m on Environmental Services

£4.073m on Corporate Services

This is obviously very concerns and these financial burdens add to the national financial picture that could have serious implications on Council services. The new administration has begun working to balance the books and keep the Council financially resilient, utilising our Council reserves to plug the most immediate hole, as they look to mitigate financial risks. A range of measures are now being programmed to respond to these difficult challenges and set a balanced budget for 2024/25.

Cllrs Dylan Simmons and Robert Rigby

Bromham Nature Club

At this session of Nature Club we found in the river a water scorpion, snails, shrimps, water boatman and alderfly larvae.

Contact Anne Baker 07900810937



Unisong Choir



Bromham's community choir is recruiting in September! We are a fun singing group who meets at the village hall on Wednesday evenings. We are now in our 11th year and we would love you to come and join us. You don't need to have sung in a choir before, you don't need to audition and you don't need to be able to read music. We sing all sorts of song styles and give two informal charity concerts per year. Rehearsal nights see us learning new songs, laughing and sharing a cuppa and chat at half time. Check out our website at unisong.weebly.com or contact Evelyn Sutherland at evsutherlandmusic@hotmail.co.uk or on 07974742552 and we hope to see you on 27th September at 7.30pm

Bromham Conservation Group - Volunteering in Bromham

If you are interest in joining us Contact: Peter Argyle 01234 822698, Email bcg@peterargyle.plus.com

This year we have been fortunate in the village to see great snowdrop displays at Bromham Mill. A wonderful carpet of bluebell and Spring flowers in Salem Thrift alongside the newly coppiced hazel stands. The return of nesting and breeding terns at the Nature Reserve using the repaired and relaunched tern raft and a magnificent wildflower display in the meadow (see photo). We are delighted that our efforts in these areas have assisted in producing these displays which are available to be enjoyed by all.

We will continue to help develop these and other areas. However we need, like so many volunteer organisations, additional volunteers. We do not ask for a regular commitment and any time you can give us is greatly appreciated.



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...!

You Can Report Highways Issues!

If you see a fault or problem in Bromham please report it direct to highways at : <https://highwaysreporting.bedford.gov.uk>

You may need to quote the number on the lamp column.

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bromhamvillagehall@gmail.com

For more information or to enquire about booking the hall go to our website at www.bromhamvillagehall.com



The Almonds Pre-School

The Almonds Pre-School continues to thrive. We are accepting children at the moment who were born after September 2021 for our Ladybird Class.

We operate from the very spacious Village Hall in the centre of the community. We are open from 9am through till 12 noon or until 1pm with a packed lunch.

We are a term time only setting. If you are interested in a place for your young child, then please have a look at our website (thealmondspreschool.co.uk) or contact Mrs Janis Russell on janis.russell@btinternet.com or 01234 857196 outside school hours or 07729 583 331 during term time we will be happy to send you some more information or arrange a short visit. We look forward to welcoming you!



Bedfordshire Rural Community Charities launches
"You Can Do IT!" at Bromham Village Hall



Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity



You Can Do IT is a **FREE** digital inclusion project aimed at improving people's lives by getting them online and accessing services to help with their health and wellbeing.

Our Digital Health Champions are volunteers who deliver one-to-one sessions to learners. Sessions are learner-centred, focusing on individual needs and conducted at a pace to suit the learner.

During the sessions, learners are shown how to use their smartphones, tablets, or laptops and begin to build up their confidence, skills and knowledge over a period of time. We also look at aspects such as online safety and why it is important.

Individuals may wish to carry out tasks such as joining an online activity group, shopping, ordering a prescription or even making video calls and being able to connect with their family and friends.

Whatever the goal, our Digital Health Champions will offer support and guidance all the way.

If you are interested in finding out more for either yourself, a friend or a family member or wish to receive more information on how to become a Digital Health Volunteer and help enable others in your community:

Please call: 01234 838771 and a member of our "You Can Do IT!" Team will get back to you or **visit:** ywb.org.uk/IT

Bromham Parish Council - What we've been up to!

Bromham PC have helped start the Good Neighbour Scheme, see page 2 for more info

Bromham PC have recently repaired potholes in Bromham park on the road to St Owens

Bromham PC have provided free events at Bromham Mill including King Charles' Coronation and free kids arts & crafts workshops

Bromham PC provided defibrillator training on 6 July 2023
After advice from the trainers Paediatric defibrillator pads have been added to the defibrillator cabinet at Bromham Village Hall

Village Hall Car Park

Parish Councillors were pleased to support a contribution of £500 towards the re-lining of the village hall car park. The Village Hall car park is a busy car park used by many in the village particularly in term time for Bromham Lower School and the pre-school.

Steven Eagell parking problems

After several resident complaints about parking and safety problems around the Steven Eagell site Bromham PC, Bedford Borough Council and neighbours had a meeting with one of the business' Directors in June 2023. Residents concerns were discussed: parking close to junctions, parking on the highway and pavement, garage staff anti-social parking and driving and car transporters parking dangerously on the road.

Steven Eagell are an established business in Bromham and do not want to aggravate their neighbours they have agreed to park considerably and a follow up meeting has been arranged.

OUR TEAM

Bromham has capacity for 14 Councillors, currently we have 8 Councillors see their details and photos below! - Thank you to them for their time and commitment to the village.

Welcome to new Councillors Bill Willgress & William Armitage



Sian Woodfine
Chair
(Events)



Liz Luder
Vice Chair
(Assets)



Trevor Roff
(Finance)



Anne Baker
(Amenities)



Jane Shields
(Village Hall)



Gianluca Guerriero
(Planning)



William Armitage
(Highways)



Bill Willgress

We have vacancies

Would you like to get involved in making decisions for our village? If you are passionate about Bromham come and join us! No qualifications needed! If you have lived in Bromham for more than 12 months, are over 18, are a British, or a Citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, you can be a Councillor. contact - julie@bromhamparish.co.uk

Bromham Mill Updates

Work to retile the barn roof started but unfortunately the contractors found a problem with one of the trusses. This means that the Bedford Borough Council Team will have to apply for planning permission to work on the barn as it is listed. The bad news is we could be waiting a few months for this work to be



Play Areas

Bromham Parish Council will be considering play area improvements. Email us any ideas on equipment that you would like to see in Bromham Play Areas?
julie@bromhamparish.co.uk



BROMHAM BUSINESS NETWORK

NETWORKING GROUP

Would you be interested in joining a network for local businesses meeting in Bromham?



Bromham is a village rich in small businesses and we got to thinking!! that it would be great to get them together by meeting up to share thoughts, ideas and generally offer support to each other.

If you are interested email us and let us know!

- What is your preferred day & time to meet?
- How often would you like to meet?

julie@bromhamparish.co.uk
Bromham Parish Council

Bromham Mill Planning Application

The application for planning permission was varied to take into account neighbours and the Conservation Officer's comments.

We expect the result from Bedford Borough Council by the end of September/October 2023. Updates will be posted on social media and the Parish Council Website. www.bromham-pc.gov.uk.

BROMHAM PARISH COUNCIL Meet the team

JANE
MONGAY



Jane joined the Bromham Parish Team in April this year as the Support Officer for Bromham Mill and is your contact for any enquiries to do with the Bromham Mill site

Tel: 01234 828851 jane@bromhamparish.co.uk



BROMHAM PARISH COUNCIL Meet the team

JULIE
BETTS



Julie is the Bromham Parish Council Clerk and your point of contact for all Bromham village issues

Tel: 01234 828851 julie@bromhamparish.co.uk



Bromham Mill Socials

You can keep up to date on all things Bromham Mill on Social Media! Follow these QR Codes to Facebook & Instagram



@THEMILL_BROMHAM

Instagram/themill_bromham



Facebook/The Mill Bromham

	St Owen's Church News for Autumn 2023	
SERVICES of REMEMBERING Opportunities in October to remember and give thanks for loved ones who have died. Everyone is welcome to any service: St Leonard's Stagsden Sun 1st St Mary's Oakley Sun 8th St Owen's Bromham Sun 29th all at 3pm and followed by refreshments	HARVEST St Owen's Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 1st October at 10.30am and will be followed by a special Harvest lunch. All are welcome to give thanks as we remember God's goodness to us!  Contacts Rev Catherine Wilson 01234 825665 vicar@bromhambenefice.org Sarah Smale, Administrator 07494 069540 administrator@bromhambenefice.org Website: www.bromhambenefice.org	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12th November 10.30am 'Lest we forget'  Got questions about faith? Ask at Alpha; course at St Owen's this Autumn, see our web-site for more details. 

Saturday 30th September, 7pm



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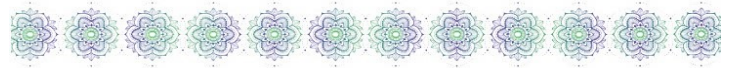
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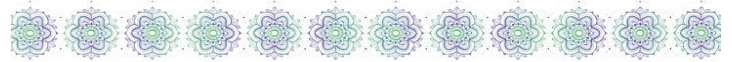
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BROMHAM SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Monday Afternoons

2pm—4.30pm

(starts 18.9.23)

Tuesday Evenings

7pm – 9.30pm



Please come along and try your hand at short mat bowling in Bromham Village Hall

Bowls available and all abilities welcome. Training will be given if you are a beginner. First two sessions are free with a cup of tea/coffee, biscuits and chat at half time.

Tel: Ron Chapman 01234 822755 or

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Website:

www.oakleyruraldaycentre.weebly.com

Email: oakleyruraldaycentre@yahoo.com

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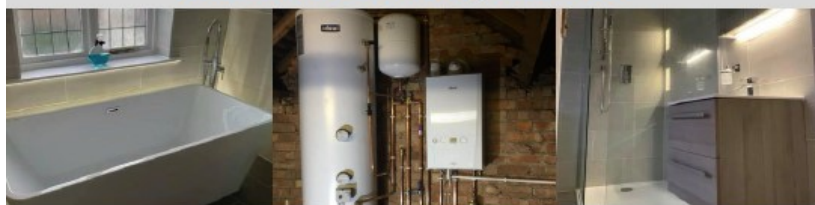


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