Broomfield TIMES

Issue 87 | Winter 2026

News & events from your Parish Council



036 - Somewhere2Sing

Broomfield TIMES

Introduction from Editor	4
Woodland Wellbeing –A Place to Connect	4
How to recycle Locally	6
Broomfield Contacts	8
Welcome from BPC Chair	10
Report from City & County Cllr Mike Steel	12
Broomfield Events	16
Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society	18
u3a Broomfield & District	18
Al-anon local meetings	19
Helen Rollason Cancer Charity	21
The Last Broom in Broomfield?	22
Sleigh route	24
Nature Reserve	25
A 'favourite recipe'	26
Broomfield's £250,000 appeal	27
Chelmsford Silver Band	29
Book sale	29
News from Broomfield Hospital	30
News from Farleigh Hospice	32
Broomfield Community Care volunteers	33
RBL Macmillan report	33
St Mary with St Leonard Church	34
Little Waltham & Great Notley Surgery	35
News from Broomfield Village Care Home	36
Broomfield Library	37
Jack Petchey Awards	37
1st Broomfield Scout Group	38



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Welcome to the latest edition of Broomfield Times

A nice wintery scene adorns our front cover for this edition (thanks to Steve Barrett for his photography skills).

The clocks have gone back, and the shorter, cold wintry days await us but please take a look inside this edition for inspiration of many events which regularly take place in Broomfield and beyond, some regular and some one-offs for Christmas.
I have received many articles again and it is lovely to hear about all the activities that have been taking place in and around the village by all age groups.

If you have any news, memories, photos, events etc you would like to share with Broomfield please email **editor@broomfield-pc.gov.uk**, or leave for me at the Parish Office (inside Broomfield Village Hall).

The next copy date is 1st January 2027.

Thank you

***Karen Hurrell**, Editor*

Woodland Wellbeing – A Place to Connect

In 2018 I experienced a crisis in my life that had a significant impact on my mental wellbeing.



Thankfully, I was fortunate enough to receive support through occupational therapy, which helped me through a difficult time. Unfortunately, not everyone has access to free support and long waiting lists can add to the anxiety and uncertainty people already face when struggling with their mental health.

With this in mind, the team at Broomfield Village Hall with the support of Broomfield Parish Council, has started a Woodland Wellbeing Group for Men, offering a relaxed and welcoming space to meet others, enjoy the outdoors and have a chat in a friendly, informal setting.

The Group will start on **17th November 2026** and will meet monthly on **Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8.30 pm at Centenary Wood, CM1 7AH**.

Everyone is welcome and there is no pressure to talk about anything you don't feel comfortable sharing. Sometimes, simply getting outdoors, meeting people and enjoying a bit of company can make a real difference. Why not come along? Bring something to cook on the fire pit and enjoy an evening in the woodland. Whether you want to talk, listen, share a bite to eat or simply enjoy being outside, you'll be made welcome. There is a small contribution of £2 per session to help cover the ongoing running costs of the Group.

You don't have to face life's challenges alone. Sometimes a little time outdoors and a friendly conversation can be a good place to start. We look forward to welcoming you.
***Stuart Jones**, BVH Premises Manager*



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- Used stamps
- Foreign Currency
- Small home printer cartridges

Please leave on front door in a sealed bag tied up (no need to knock). Or leave at Broomfield Village Hall for onward transmission

Scout HQ School Lane (place in large skip)
- Wastepaper & Cardboard

Farleigh Hospice Shop Broomfield Parade
- Small printer cartridges

Sainsbury's White Hart Lane/ Tesco Springfield Rd & Princes Rd/ Co-op Aldi/ Morrisons:
- Flexible plastics
- Vapes
- Water Filters
- Batteries
- Electrical goods (check with store)

Aldi:
- Batteries
- Soft plastics

Morrisons:
- Bread bags; carrier bags; batteries

Argos:
- Large electrical (non-cooling) appliances; TVs & Displays; small electrical appliances; portable batteries

Boots High Chelmer:
- Pill blister packs

John Lewis
- Gives members a £5 voucher to recycle 5 empty beauty products

Dunelm: (bin by exit):
- Tea Towels, towels, sheets & pillowcases
- Fabric aprons
- Curtains
- Throws, blankets, duvets & cushion covers
- Fabric tablecloths; runners & placements

B & Q (box by exit):
- Small electrical items
- Light bulbs
- Portable Batteries

Chelmer Village Opticians & Boots High Street Chelmer:
- Contact lenses

Most Opticians:
- Unwanted glasses & old frames

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- Large electrical items
- DIY & garden waste/wood & timber/paint
- Tyres (on or off rim)/car batteries/oil
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Broomfield Parish Councillors:	**BPC Chair:** Margaret Bleet **BPC Vice Chair:** Geoff Garfield **Environment Chair:** Angie Faulds **Finance & Personnel Chair:** Margaret Bleet **Planning Chair:** Geoff Garfield **Village Hall Charity Chair:** Shirley Perera-Morris **Councillors:** Gloria Scott, Angela Thomson, Carol Taylor, Nevil Kiddier, Sharon Boreham, David Howell, Adewole Odelana, Glynn Wadeson, Dal Grewal	Contact via Clerk: clerk@broomfield-pc.gov.uk
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011 - Able Ceilings



Welcome from BPC Chair

Hello everyone and welcome to our Autumn update from Broomfield Parish Council.

We are currently working on the Action Plan; we are using information that many of you shared with us by completing the annual survey, thank you.

Here are some of the results of the survey we carried out in the Village Hall and the park in May and June. You shared a lot of information with us. It was an absolute pleasure to meet 54 of you and have wonderful conversations. The largest percentage of you live in the village, all others having close ties through work or having parents living here. I think that it is fair to say that we are a close-knit community. 77% of people have lived here more than five years and 40% longer than 15 years.

We value green spaces, fields and the countryside most of all and then the sense of community and neighbours. We also value highly the wildlife and natural surroundings. As a Parish Council we do put huge efforts into encouraging wildlife and nature and have done for several years.

The majority of respondents feel connected to the local community, mainly through the village hall and the schools. We are very fortunate to have both a primary and a secondary school in the village which adds to our feeling of connection.

We asked you, 'Which of the following would make Broomfield a better place to live:

1. 34 out of 54 of you chose safer roads and slower traffic. We are actively working on this, with regular Community Speed Watches and an action group working on making School Lane safer.

We are currently activating some of the Neighbourhood Plan and will continue to do so. The Neighbourhood Plan is here: **www.broomfield-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/broomfield-neighbourhood-plan-march-2025.pdf**.

2. The second choice is improved walking and cycling routes. This is also an aim in our Neighbourhood Plan. Currently our hands are tied on this - we do not have the vast sums of money which both of these will cost. We are waiting for Local Government Reorganisation to settle, when the new Highways Authority will be created. The Parish Council holds this aim securely, however. On a smaller scale we are providing more benches. Allowing people, perhaps recovering from an illness to rest, or just to have a chat.

3. Your third choice is more activities and spaces for young people. I am delighted to report that we have worked in close co-operation with Chelmsford City Council, Chelmer Valley High School and Make Space for Girls and have a wonderful pagoda, designed by the girls themselves. Make Space for Girls are a charity who campaign for public space with girls in mind. Also on Monday 24th August, following requests from young people, we provided a display of stunt bikes.

So, we are listening to you and are providing, as much as we can, we intend to carry on listening and doing as much as we can to make the village a better place.

Best wishes,

***Cllr Margaret Bleet**, Chairman.*

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Report from City & County
Cllr Mike Steel
Essex County Council Highways Winter Service.

As the clocks go back and temperatures begin to fall, many residents will be wondering what preparations are in place to keep roads safe during periods of frost, ice and snow.

While recent winters have generally been milder, severe weather can return at any time. The harsh winters experienced between 2009 and 2013 demonstrated the importance of maintaining adequate salt stocks, resilient gritting networks and strong community partnerships. Lessons learned from those years continue to influence winter planning across Essex today.

The county's precautionary salting network focuses on the most important roads, covering around 2,000 miles and carrying approximately 80% of all traffic. These routes include access to hospitals, fire and ambulance stations, strategic sites and major bus routes with four or more services per day. In addition, the Winter Access Rural Network (WARN) helps ensure rural communities remain within a reasonable distance of treated roads. Last year, I successfully requested that one of my local rural routes be considered under the WARN scheme after it failed to meet the normal bus frequency criteria.



Modern route optimisation allows every gritting route to be completed within three hours, ensuring the network can be treated efficiently when required. As gritting often takes place overnight, many residents may never see the vehicles in operation even though roads have already been treated before the morning rush hour. All gritting vehicles are GPS tracked, enabling Essex Highways to monitor operations in real time.

Although the winter of 2025/26 was relatively mild overall, periods of freezing weather still required sustained action, including two weeks of continuous gritting during January. Decisions on whether to grit are not based solely on air temperature forecasts. Highway engineers focus on road surface temperatures, which can differ significantly from the air temperature. Essex is divided into several weather domains and benefits from specialist forecasting services, with frost predictions typically accurate to within 1°C. However, forecasts are never perfect, which is why experienced winter service managers remain central to operational decision-making.

Many villages and parishes rely on salt bins during icy conditions. These are intended to help residents deal with localised icy patches on roads and pavements, rather than for use on private driveways. Not all salt bins belong to Essex County Council; parish councils, district councils, businesses and residents may also own and maintain their own bins.

Keeping the county's salt bins stocked is a significant undertaking. The annual replenishment programme takes around 350 hours, requires approximately 1,000 tonnes of salt and can take up to three weeks to complete. Bins are stocked before winter begins, with additional refills generally considered only following significant snowfall and where resources permit.

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Community volunteers also play an important role through the Salt Bag Partnership Scheme. This year, 37 parishes and county members are participating, helping to clear snow and treat important community locations. Essex Highways provides up to one tonne of salt, delivery and supporting materials. These local partnerships are particularly valuable in helping vulnerable residents and maintaining access to community facilities during severe weather.

Some residents worry about liability when clearing snow and ice. However, the Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Act 2015, often known as the "Good Samaritan" law, provides reassurance to those acting responsibly for the benefit of others. There is no law preventing residents from clearing snow and ice from pavements outside their homes.

When clearing snow, Essex Highways recommends clearing during daylight where possible, piling snow safely out of the way, avoiding water that could refreeze, using salt, sand or ash where available, taking extra care on slopes and steps, and never working in live traffic lanes.

For further information visit:

- **www.essexhighways.org/winter-travel**
- **www.essexhighways.org/winter-travel/salting-routes**
- **www.essexhighways.org/winter-travel/salt-bins**
- **www.essexhighways.org/winter-travel/track-the-gritting-lorries**

To report a highway emergency, call Essex Highways' 24-hour emergency line on **0345 603 7631**.

Winter weather will always present challenges, but the combination of careful planning, dedicated highways teams and strong community partnerships helps keep disruption to a minimum. A little preparation and community spirit can go a long way in helping everyone stay safe this winter.

What else is going on? Lots, but anything I submit for publication, will likely have changed in the intervening time to publication.

Local Govt Reorganisation has been postponed or cancelled. So there will be Chelmsford City Council elections in May 2027 (as well as Parish Council elections). Whilst LGR seems to be on the back burner, I am informed that Devolution is still on the cards, but we don't know when. This is the creation of a Greater Essex and a Mayor of Essex (including Southend and Thurrock).

National Grid have submitted 7 Planning Applications for temporary compounds, in advance of the decision on the Norwich to Tilbury pylon run. I have "called these in" so they are given full scrutiny by committee and I am opposing them on the grounds that we should not allow damaging environmental work, that might not be necessary, just so NG can meet their timescales (which should not be a planning consideration).

My inbox continues to be filled with mostly Highways issues – potholes, the state of the pavements, and traffic levels. The current ECC administration appears to be focused mainly on road defects, but I continue to push for pavement, signs and lighting repairs.



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Broomfield Events

As the leaves turn golden and the evenings grow darker, the Village Hall has been hosting its Children's disco, craft groups and spooky coffee morning and Lunches, these have been busy and fun packed.





This is my favourite time of year, we are now busy planning our Christmas events along with the rest of the Village. The Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall is on the 22nd November 12pm -4pm and our Tree Festival collaboration week begins on the 15th December, see the posters for more details. Along with these events we have our Christmas disco, story times, seniors' lunch and sheep trail. Look out for posters around the Village.



Away from the Christmas fun, Councillors and I are working to bring a Youth Council to Broomfield, we are working alongside Broomfield Primary and Chelmer Valley Schools; and the families in our community to help us plan for the future, offering the chance for the young peoples voices to be heard – this is an exciting time for us so please keep watch in the New Year of how to sign your young people up.

If any of you have suggestions for events or would like to volunteer with us here at the Village Hall, we would love to have you onboard just pop in or send an email in to **eventsandfunding@broomfield-pc.gov.uk**.





Little Litter Picker

Thank you to James (3) the 'Little Litter Picker' who collected a large bag of rubbish from the park at Broomfield Village Hall with his Grandad - well done.





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Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Society

Despite the tricky growing conditions, we had a very successful autumn show.

There were around 400 entries from fifty exhibitors, several of whom were entering for the first time. The dahlias, as always were stunning, and the standard of entries across all the classes was high. Planning has already started for our shows in 2027!

If you would like further information on membership or anything else garden related, please contact us either by email (**bcgsshowsecretary@gmail.com**) or in person at the Barn.



Autumn Prize-winners 2026
From left to right – Pam Moore, Christina Whitby, Les Steed, Dawn Hoyle, Malcolm Farrington, Chris Whiting, Ron Marlow, Ken Hoyle, John Cullen

u3a Broomfield & District

The U3a (previously known as the University of the third age) is a UK-wide, volunteer led membership organisation that provides lifelong learning, social activities and community friendship for people who have retired.

It is one of the largest in the UK with over 435,000 active members. Broomfield & District u3a was launched in June 2012 following a public meeting three months earlier which established a steering group to lay our firm foundations. We currently have over 150 members.The core of our activities is the monthly speaker meetings. These take place on the second Wednesday afternoon of each month in Broomfield Village Hall, 158 Main Road, Broomfield CM1 7AH starting at 1:45pm. They usually comprise an update on branch activities, with refreshments and then a guest speaker. We also have a number of special interest groups which meet at various intervals in members' homes and at a variety of other venues. An example of these groups is beer appreciation, ten pin bowling, bus pass outings, book club or board games and many more. All are doing well and have several members.As well as local groups and learning opportunities, membership of the u3a gives members access to a range of learning/educational/interest resources online on a national basis. Our aim is to promote learning and the enjoyment of all things new to us through coming together and sharing within the ethos of the u3a's self-learning environment where we can all help each other. Membership fees are currently £15.00 for the annual membership period ending 30th September 2027.
Website: **broomfield.u3asite.uk/**
Contact: Roger Warner/Heather Bourdon

AD



Al-anon local meetings

Al-Anon Family Groups UK & Eire is there for anyone whose life is or has been affected by someone else's drinking.

Local support meetings held at:
Chelmsford Monday
In person meeting
Meeting day: Monday
Meeting time: 19:30 - 21:00
Springfield Parish Centre, St. Augustine's Way
Springfield, Chelmsford CM1 6GX
Accessibility Wheelchair access

Braintree Tuesday
In person meeting
Meeting day: Tuesday
Meeting time: 20:00 - 21:30
Braintree Community Centre,
19-21 Bocking End, Braintree CM7 9AE

Minimum age requirement for attending Al-Anon meetings is 18.
Helpline **0800 0086 811**
www.al-anonuk.org.uk

Alateen is for teenage relatives and friends of alcoholics. Alateen is part of Al-Anon.

We believe alcoholism is a family disease that affects everyone in the family. Alateen meetings are for 12–17-year-olds. They meet to share their experiences of having, or having had, a problem drinker in their lives. They help and support each other.

For information about Alateen meetings in England, contact the General Service Office on – **0207 593 2070** (10am-5pm Mon-Fri).

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Helen Rollason Cancer Charity

At Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, we are becoming very festive

Father Christmas Experience

Places are filling up for the Father Christmas Experience at Layer Marney Tower on Friday 18th December. It's the third year for this event which has previously sold out so don't delay in reserving your places. Tickets include activities, crafts, entertainment, storytelling, face painting, meeting with Father Christmas and a gift for each child. Plus, mince pies and mulled wine for grown-ups. Tickets must be pre-booked.

Christmas Tree Collection and Recycling

Are you having a real fir tree this year? If so, let us take the hassle out of having to dispose of it. We will be collecting and recycling real Christmas trees in January. By having your tree collected and recycled, you will help the environment and make a difference to families affected by cancer. You need to register on-line before 5th January so that we can include your tree in the collection.

Do you have a van?

We are looking for vans and drivers to help with tree collecting between 9th and 13th January. Could you help by driving your van for a day to help collect trees. You will find it very rewarding, knowing that you are supporting local people with cancer. If you can help, please contact us at **volunteer.fundraising@helenrollason.org.uk**.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 28th November – Look out for us in Chelmsford High Street. We will have a stall, choir and our lovely donkeys.

Helen Rollason
Cancer Charity





The Last Broom in Broomfield?

Thank you for the interest that this question has aroused.

Various responses have ben received from people spotting broom plants. Here they are:-

From Christine Harvey:



This broom in my garden was grown from seed taken from wild specimens which grew (and may still grow) along the northern edge of the old gravel pit which is now the field almost adjacent to me to the east end of Saxon Way. I understand from John Peters that they also have some still growing on their land at the adjacent Campion Farm. My plant gave a beautiful display of flowers this spring and then suffered badly in the summer drought. If it survives to flower next year you would be very welcome to have as much seed as it produces. The plants are fairly short-lived and seed usually germinates close to the old plant. They like gravelly scrubland and "know where they want to grow" which is not always where you want them. They are notoriously difficult to transplant.

From Jedda Perry:

Hello, reading your search for the Broom plant. The last of the wildflower variety that the Saxons named Broomfield after is by the old blue and white land rover along Broomfield road. Some years ago, the gentleman living at that address contacted me and conversation mentioned this plant. As you can see from the photo it is exceptionally tall.



Also, someone kindly pointed out that the location of the broom – or gorse – bush to which I was alerted was actually along the boundary of the field adjacent to Night Pasture called, appropriately, Broom Pightle.

A portion of the 1846 Field Names map is shown below.



John Blake gave a talk about Field Names in Broomfield at the Brumfelda meeting in October. He said that in medieval times 'broom' had a wider meaning, basically wild scrub not just broom in the modern sense. This does reflect the nature of the poor sandy soil at this point on the valley side, where this sort of vegetation would grow.

Trawling the internet I have found that the name 'broom' derives from the Old English bróm from a common West Germanic bráma- (Old High German brâmo, "bramble") - essentially a thorny shrub. The use of the branches of these plants for sweeping gave rise to the term 'broom' for sweeping tools in the 15th century, gradually replacing Old English besem, which survives as the name for the twiggy broom or besom as ridden on by witches.

But do still keep a look out for Broom growing in Broomfield, whether true Broom in the botanical sense Cytisus scoparius, or Genista sp., or Ulex europaeus which we usually call 'gorse' or 'furze', but which comes under the umbrella term 'Broom'. They are all thorny shrubs. There are also many ornamental varieties that are popular garden plants, and which should grow well in gardens in Broomfield.

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Sleigh route

Once more this Christmas, Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary Club has included our local routes in Santa's worldwide journey.

Santa will tour the following areas with his troupe of elves accompanying the Sleigh's jolly music and lights on its merry journey. They all hope to bring good cheer and the Christmas spirit to all the families and children along the way and ensure all money raised will be donated to The Children's Society East and other charities supported by Rotary.

Santa Sleigh: Dates and Destinations - look out for Santa in your area between 5:30pm and 8pm.

29th SUNDAY, NOVEMBER
Beaulieu Community Centre Xmas Fayre (to visit Santa book direct) 11am – 4pm

December

1st TUESDAY, DECEMBER
Armistice Ave/Wright Cres/Ben Wilson Link

4th FRIDAY, DECEMBER
Centenary Way/Linge Ave/Frederick Hawkins Gdns/Edward Harvey Link/Henry Shuttlewood Dr/Walter Whybrow Cres

5th SATURDAY, DECEMBER
Ford End

8th TUESDAY, DECEMBER
Charles Jeffrey Pl/Warner Dr/Frank Praill Rd/ Harold Teager Cres/George Crowfoot Dr

11th FRIDAY, DECEMBER
Boreham

12th SATURDAY, DECEMBER
Sainsbury's Superstore White Hart Ln 8am – 6pm

14th MONDAY, DECEMBER
Lt Waltham/Broads Gn/Gt Waltham/Howe Street

15th TUESDAY, DECEMBER
Channels – Albatross Way/Woburn View/Royal Birkdale Gdns/St Andrews Dr/Brassie Wood/ Mashie Link/Fairway Dr

16th WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER
Beaulieu Centenary Way/Wilfred Waterman Dr/ Robert Finch Cres/ Minns Ave

18th FRIDAY, DECEMBER
North Springfield – Goldenacres/Stablecroft/ Paddock Dr/Trenchard Cres/Mountbatten Way/ Daffodil Way/Hunters Way/Martingale

19th SATURDAY, DECEMBER
Morrisons Superstore, Regiment Business Park, Eagle Way 9am – 6pm

Track Santa during December at **www.glympse.com/!mildmaysleightracker**.

Routes may change depending on weather and other unforeseen circumstances so please check daily updates during December on our Facebook Page: **www.facebook.com/mildmayrotary/** Website: **www.mildmayrotary.org.uk**



Newland Grove and Little Waltham Nature Reserve

We are very lucky here in Broomfield and Little Waltham to have some beautiful green spaces to enjoy.



Ringlet Butterfly



White Legged Damselflies

In these stressful times going for a walk can be a huge advantage in reducing this and to walk any distance is a bonus. A short walk from Broomfield Village Hall there is Angel Meadow, David Smith Field, the small Centenary Wood, the community garden and the wildflower patch to enjoy. If you fancy a longer walk, make your way to Newland Grove and Little Waltham nature reserves, these are both managed by Essex Wildlife Trust. Every season there is something to look at and enjoy; use Merlin App to listen and identify different bird songs on your phone and listen out for the distinctive sound of the Cetti's Warbler along the banks of the River Chelmer or maybe observe a small tree creeper bird climbing up the trunk of trees looking for insects tucked within the bark. In Summer you can observe dragonflies, damselflies & day-flying moths & insects.

You might see a 'not commonly found' white-legged damselfly who prefers slow flowing rivers – it has made its home in the reserves & meadows. (look at a short video on You Tube of Dragonfly Tour Episode 12 – white legged damselfly platycnemis pennipes -filmed at Little Waltham Meadow).



Tawny owls hoot every now and then and you can observe marbled white butterflies, brown argus butterflies and common blue butterflies along with the small copper's, purple hairstreaks – so much to enjoy!

During Autumn the trees change colour and leaves fall – there is a lot to discover - acorns, varieties of toadstools, fungi, mushrooms and lichens. Winter brings the animals out and they are more visible; muntjac, badgers, foxes and lots of rabbits.

This year, as part of the Love your Park events – the Reserve Manager along with Broomfield Village Hall Events Manager arranged a walk to the Reserves – 25 people joined the walk and 4 or 5 have expressed interest in joining the Essex Wildlife Trust working parties to help keep the Reserves going for future generations to enjoy. Without this valuable input from volunteers Reserves and natural spaces would fall into decline. I am happy to volunteer my spare time with this enjoyable working party and it is a healthy way to spend your Winter Tuesdays! Please visit **www.essexwt.org.uk**.

Cllr Sharon Boreham

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AD

A 'favourite recipe' from an Orchard Springs WI Member

Overnight Tea Loaf Recipe.

- 12ozs (340 g) dried fruit mixture
- 4ozs (113g) Demerara sugar
- 3/4 cup (177ml) of strong cold tea
- 8ozs (226ml) self-raising flour
- 1 egg

Method:
Put the fruit and sugar into a bowl. Pour the tea over and leave to stand overnight.

Next day add the beaten egg and flour and mix well. Put into a greased and floured loaf tin and bake at gas mark 5, 375F or 180C for about 1 hour.

Allow to cool and cut into thin slices with butter. Enjoy!



theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Celebrating the launch of Broomfield's £250,000 appeal to help specialist burns and plastics centre

Mid and South Essex Hospitals Charity has launched a major new fundraising appeal to raise £250,000 for patients receiving life-changing care at Broomfield Hospital's St Andrews Centre.



The St Andrew's Burns and Plastics Appeal aims to enhance the recovery, comfort and wellbeing of children and adults treated at the specialist regional centre, which provides specialised burns, plastic and reconstructive surgery and hand therapy services to patients across Essex and beyond.

For many patients, a devastating burn, traumatic injury or cancer diagnosis can change life in an instant. The specialist teams at the St Andrew's Centre deliver expert treatment when it matters most, helping people through some of the most challenging and frightening moments of their lives.

Funds raised through the appeal will help create a more supportive and comforting environment for patients and their loved ones. Planned improvements include enhanced waiting and treatment areas, overnight beds for relatives, sensory items and artwork for children and investment in specialist facilities and training.

The St Andrew's Centre has been a centre of excellence in burns, plastics and dermatology care for more than 50 years and serves as a major regional hub for specialist treatment. From emergency interventions and reconstructive surgery to long-term rehabilitation and psychological support, the centre helps patients rebuild confidence, independence and hope for the future.

One patient whose life has been transformed by the centre is Maizie Stockwell. The burns team has cared for Maizie since she suffered a severe burn injury aged just eight months.

Her mum, Jodie Stockwell, from Terling, near Chelmsford, said: "When Maizie was airlifted to Broomfield Hospital, it was the burns team that saved my daughter's life. As a family we see the children's ward as our second home and the team as an extension of our family.

"Maizie has had 57 operations in total and many of those have been at Broomfield. When she's been unable to leave the ward due to infection risk, it's been the themed rooms, toys, sensory lights and games that have made all the difference. The beds mean we can stay close to her too. When it comes to clinical care, emotional support and friendship, we couldn't ask for more."

The charity is encouraging individuals, community groups and businesses to support the appeal through donations, fundraising events and sponsored challenges.
If you'd like to support the St Andrew's Burns and Plastics Appeal, donations can be made via our website, here: Donate to St Andrews Burns and Plastics Appeal

If your organisation, community group or school would like for a member of our team to visit you to present on this appeal, please contact us at **mse.charity@nhs.net**.



015 - The Beauty Yard



News from Little Waltham & Great Notley Surgery Patient Participation Group

Autumn with its shortening daylight hours and chillier days is now upon us, and Winter is on its way, so we hope everyone is feeling prepared.

If you are eligible and have not yet had a Flu vaccination, then please contact the Surgery

In August we held a very successful cake sale across the two surgeries in aid of Breast Cancer Now, raising more than £1734.00! Thank you to everyone who participated – from cake makers to cake sellers to cake buyers – a brilliant effort all round! We are planning on holding more such events, so keep your eye on the website and Facebook page.

The PPG is currently investigating how we might be able to offer social gatherings such as coffee mornings, art and crafts, card games etc to patients to help promote general well-being and companionship. and once set-up, will post details on the website and in the surgeries. Little Waltham Parish Council hold a coffee and cake morning on the first Wednesday of every month between 10am and 12 noon and all are welcome. There is also a Book Club meeting on the last Monday of each month at 5pm, so, if you enjoy reading, then go along and join in! Broomfield Village Hall also hold many events including Art & Crafts; Coffee morning; Lunch Club; Book Club; Women's Wellbeing; Men Shed; Art Class; Stay & Play & Forest School – details from Donna **01245 443902**.

The number of people not attending appointments continues to be an issue. In August the number was 125 and in September 153 which resulted in 47 hours of lost appointment times! As said previously, it is understood that we all have busy lives and that unexpected things happen, but, please, if you are unable to attend your appointment then just take a moment to call the surgery, select option 1 and cancel your appointment.

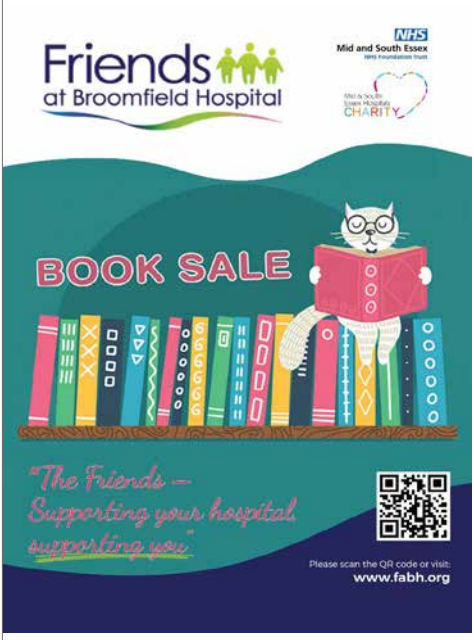
Finally, if you have any suggestions or concerns, then please email us on **lw.gn.ppg@hotmail.com**.

Thank you.

Chelmsford Silver Band

On Wednesday 16th December 2026 the Chelmsford Silver Band are holding their annual carol concert in the Methodist Church, Main Rd Broomfield starting at 19.30 hours.

As always this is a free concert... and we also provide a free cuppa and mince pies! Everyone welcome! Please note though that parking is limited.



COMING SOON!!
Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 November 2026

The Friends will be holding a BOOK SALE & TOMBOLA in the main atrium at Broomfield Hospital. Our trusty volunteers will be on hand to sell you Tombola tickets at £1 and find winners for our many prizes!! You may even be lucky enough to win the STAR PRIZE … someone has to win! Hopefully we'll be able to sell you a book or two at 50p (per paperback) or £1 (per hardback) as well!

Come and see us in the Main Atrium0

News from Broomfield Hospital

Friends at Broomfield Hospital

End of Life rooms: DANDELION APPEAL: today we had the pleasure of meeting Debbie Boulden who is the End-of-Life Lead Nurse for Broomfield, Basildon and Southend Hospitals. Debbie is passionate about creating the best possible experience for our patients who are at this stage of their life, for their families, and loved ones to be able to remember such an important time with kindness and positive memories. The idea for an APPEAL to fund a series of End-of-Life rooms came via a presentation given by Debbie to the Trust Board recalling the story of one of her patients and giving examples of how Debbie and the Palliative Care team work with patients and families. Members of the Board engaged with Debbie and asked "What do you need, how can we make this better"... and after a lot of hard work, the DANDELION APPEAL was launched.



At £5,000 per room, **The Friends are delighted to have donated £20,000 plus a further £5,000, donated by Chelmsford Round Table** to fund the first five End-of-Life rooms for our Care of the Elderly and Stroke wards at Broomfield Hospital. The rooms have been styled sympathetically to allow maximum comfort for all... creating a 'home from home' atmosphere with soft furnishings, relatives' beds, recliner chairs, DAB radios, battery operated tea light candles and diffusers – all of which help to distract from the clinical environment outside the door – but are still infection control compliant. The DANDELION theme is present in each room and is a recognised end-of-life symbol to staff across all three hospitals.



Debbie told us that although the primary focus is their patient, care extends to the family and friends who are 'living this grief day to day'. The ability for them to spend quality time with their loved one is essential. Small details are what is remembered; the kindness of the nurse; the time and individual support given to a family member; the offer of chaplaincy or just a cup of tea every now and then. Debbie and the team offer relatives and friends a 'care pack' made up of basic toiletry items if they suddenly need to stay overnight... the aim being, in some small way, to reduce the stress of having to go out and shop for essentials.

When asked how the staff have reacted to a finished room... Debbie said, "They love it... it makes a real difference... they feel they can give more quality of care to the patient and family... each room should be made as

'homely as homely can be' to personalise it for the patient's comfort". Our aim is to leave the family with a good memory... and, over time, the ambition, through the APPEAL is to create an End-of Life room on every ward.

When the family leaves the hospital for the final time, they are given a tote bag, bearing a dandelion motif for their loved one's belongings... again the motif reminds any passing staff member that we have a family in grief... so they may offer an additional act of kindness or support to help them on their journey.

AMU: stacking chairs & bariatric chairs: Charlotte Rolfe is a Receptionist for the AMU/SDEC departments. Charlotte spared some time to show us how our donation of **£5,950.80** to fund 80 stacking chairs and 5 bariatric chairs is helping patients and visitors. There are approximately 60 beds across these two departments... and the majority of the patients are 'short stay'... being transferred from A&E and staying until they move to a



specific ward or are directly discharged. Often a patient may have multiple family members waiting with them – with limited seating available. The nature of the department's work means that the team see a huge number and variety of patients and visitors in any one day... all with very different requirements. The one thing they all need, though, is to be made as comfortable as possible... and we are delighted we have been able to help AMU/SDEC achieve that. The new chairs are stylish, lightweight to move, wipeable and infection control compliant. It was amazing to see many of them already in use on our visit to the area yesterday!

Friends at Broomfield Hospital



New volunteers needed
... it could be YOU



Do you have a little time on your hands? A few hours a week can make a real difference

Could you help with a very worthwhile charity?

Do you love meeting new people?

Our volunteers are a valued & well recognised part of the Broomfield Hospital scene

We are dedicated to improving facilities for patients, visitors & staff at Broomfield Hospital

We have various roles & opportunities so you can make a real difference



Find out more about what we do by viewing our website
www.fabh.org

Want to help? Contact Ali at friends.fabh@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNING



With homemade cakes
EVERYONE WELCOME

Broomfield British Legion
Saxon Way, Broomfield. CM1 7YA
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Serving between 10am-11:30am
Always on 3rd Tuesday of the Month
Tuesday 17th Nov 2026
Tuesday 15th Dec 2026
Tuesday 19th Jan 2027
Tuesday 16th Feb 2027

Broomfield Primary School choir will be singing carols on 15th December



News from Farleigh Hospice

Double your donation to Farleigh.

Farleigh Hospice will be taking part in Big Give's Christmas Challenge again this year, from 1st to 8th December.

During this campaign, your gift to Farleigh can be doubled - so a £10 donation becomes £20 and a £25 donation becomes £50, at no extra cost to you. It only runs for one week, so every donation made during that time really counts. For more information, please go to **www.farleighhospice.org/big-give**.

CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY: FESTIVE FUN FOR FARLEIGH

Farleigh Hospice is teaming up with Chelmsford For You for this brand-new fundraising event in Chelmsford city centre on Saturday 5th December!

Expect plenty of Christmas cheer with free activities for everyone to enjoy, including live street entertainment, character meet-and-greets, choirs and festive music, Christmas market stalls, face painting, seasonal surprises and family fun.

Enjoy the free entertainment and look out for volunteers collecting donations for Farleigh Hospice. To find out more, including how to volunteer on the day, go to www.farleighhospice.org/christmas-in-the-city

SANTA FUN RUN

Join hundreds of Santas and elves in Chelmsford's Central Park on Sunday 6th December as they run, jog or walk the 5km route, which is accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Well-behaved dogs are welcome too, with optional festive fancy dress for four-legged participants.

Looking for a bigger challenge? This year, you can double the fun by completing the circuit twice and running nearly 10km!

Every adult participant will receive a Santa sports top, while children will get a fun elf hat.



You can sign up now at **www.farleighhospice.org/santa**.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Farleigh Hospice's convenient Christmas Tree Recycling Service will be collecting real trees from homes and businesses across mid Essex from Friday 8th to Monday 11th January 2027.



Instead of going to waste or landfill, they will be shredded into wood chippings for biomass fuel and pathways in local parks, which is better for the environment.

To register your real Christmas tree and give a donation, please go to **www.farleighhospice.org/trees** before 4pm on Tuesday 5th January.

Broomfield Community Care volunteers needed – **no fixed commitment**

Can you drive? Will you join the team at Broomfield Community Care?



The Broomfield Community Care Group has been ACTIVE for 18 months, helping numerous residents to medical appointments and enabling those with limited transport options to attend social events.

We are looking for ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS who live in Broomfield.

Our volunteers, supported by a co-ordinator, fulfil the requests received wherever possible.

A volunteer's commitment is limited to the time one has available but rarely exceeds one hour per week. When a client makes a request, the co-ordinator will contact a volunteer with the job details to ask if they are available and they are then free to either accept or decline the request. The service is free to users, though donations are accepted. Costs incurred by drivers are reimbursed as requested.

Contact Tony Liversedge, co-ordinator, on **07879 427743**. Information is also available from Donna **01245 443902** at Broomfield Village Hall.

RBL Macmillan report



A Tremendous Community Effort for Macmillan

on Friday 25th September at 10am, the doors of the Royal British Legion Social Club officially opened for our joint charity venture with the Broomfield Village Hall, Broomfield FC, St. Mary's Church and Broomfield Methodist Church.

While the doors opened that morning, countless hours of meticulous planning went into bringing this event to life, and we at the Legion were absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to host and be part of such a fantastic fundraiser on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support.

To make the day extra special, we welcomed back a familiar favourite talented singer and former The Bill actor Suzanne Maddock who helped set a wonderful tone for the afternoon. The generosity of our community truly shone through. We were overwhelmed by the incredible volume of donated cakes and hampers which contained items donated, together with other items that served as stunning raffle prizes. The Legion buzzed with energy at almost full capacity as residents and members came together to support this deeply worthy cause. Overall, the day was a resounding success and provided a fantastic opportunity for us at the Legion to showcase our club to the wider community.

Most importantly, thanks to everyone's generosity, an estimated total in excess of £1000 was raised for the Macmillan charity.

***Gary Wildman**, RBL Social Secretary*

What's on this Christmas...

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CHURCHES ACROSS BROOMFIELD TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

ST MARY'S WITH ST LEONARD'S

November
28th - 11am - 2pm Christmas Fayre
29th - Advent Sunday
5.30pm Blue Christmas

December
6th - 9.30am Christmas Lego Church
13th - 6pm Village Carol Service
20th - 4pm Christingle Service
24th - Christmas Eve
4pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Communion
25th - Christmas Day
10am Family Communion

BROOMFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

November
1st - Celebration of saints
29th - 10.30am Advent Carol Service

December
15th - 17th - 2pm - 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
16th - 8pm Silver Band Carols
19th - 1pm - 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
20th - 10.30am Carol Service
4pm - Family Candlelight Procession

25th - Christmas Day
10am All Age Service

PLEASE SEE OUR WEB SITES FOR DETAILS

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH – YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED .....

Please (if you can) any donations to the QR Code would be greatly received.
THANK YOU & GOD BLESS X

www.stmarybroomfield.org
www.facebook.com/stmary.broomfield

St. Mary with St. Leonard
The Parish church of Broomfield



Bell Ringing every Wednesday. Get in touch if you would like to join the team!

Everyone is welcome at St Mary's for Christian worship and prayer.

The main Sunday Services are always at 9.30am and are open to all. Children enjoy Lego church on the first Sunday of the month and families are particularly welcome for our informal services on the third Sunday of the month.
Prayers are said for 20 minutes at 9am every weekday morning in term time, so if you are looking for a time of peace after the school run, do join us.





News from Broomfield Village Care Home

Ten-Year-Old Samuel Uses Special Wish to Give Back to Cancer Research UK



A Chelmsford schoolboy has shown that sometimes the most special wish is one made for somebody else, after choosing to donate his wish to Cancer Research UK.

10-year-old Samuel, a pupil at Beaulieu Park School, was selected as this year's winner of Broomfield Village Care Home's Wish Upon a Tree initiative, which invites local schoolchildren to share a special wish they would love to see granted.

While wishes can come in all shapes and sizes, Samuel's immediately stood out. Rather than choosing something for himself, his wish was simply to donate £100 to Cancer Research UK. It was an act of kindness that the team at Broomfield Village knew deserved to be made extra special. With the help of Samuel's dad, Daniel, and the team at the Cancer Research UK shop on Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, the wish became a memorable day for Samuel and his younger brother.

Samuel visited the store in person to hand over his £100 donation, which went towards Stand Up To Cancer, Cancer Research UK's joint national fundraising campaign with Channel 4, helping to fund research that can turn breakthroughs in the laboratory into new tests and treatments for people affected by cancer. Samuel's generosity didn't stop there. He and his little brother arrived with a bag of their own teddies to donate to the charity shop too, giving their pre-loved toys the chance to raise even more money for a cause Samuel had already chosen to support.

When Daniel first heard that his son's wish had been selected, he said: "This sounds amazing, I can't wait to tell him later!" Of course, a wish as selfless as Samuel's couldn't go completely unrewarded.

Although he had chosen to give his £100 away rather than spend it on himself, the team at Broomfield Village felt his incredible kindness deserved a surprise of its own. Samuel was treated to a £100 Amazon voucher, while both brothers received Broomfield Village goodie bags filled with treats to take home and enjoy.

The Wish Upon a Tree initiative was created by Broomfield Village Care Home to build meaningful connections with younger generations in the local community and bring a little magic to one child by making their wish a reality.

This year, however, Samuel turned that idea on its head. Given the opportunity to have a wish granted for himself, he chose to use it to help others instead.

Holly Claydon, Customer Relationship Manager at Broomfield Village Care Home, commented: "When we read Samuel's wish, we knew straight away how special it was. At just ten years old, to be given the opportunity to wish for something and choose to give that gift to somebody else is incredibly thoughtful. Meeting Samuel and his little brother made it even more special, they even brought their own teddies along to donate! We hope Samuel knows just how proud he should be of the kindness he has shown."

For Broomfield Village, Wish Upon a Tree is about far more than granting a prize. It is about celebrating kindness, bringing generations together and creating moments that make people feel special. This year, one very special 10 year old reminded everyone involved exactly what that looks like.

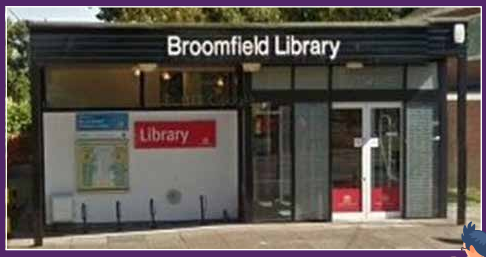
Broomfield **Library**

Essex Libraries celebrates its centenary this year, and from November each library will offer its own commemoration.

Broomfield will have a display of photographs from the 1990s. It's no Bayeux Tapestry, but we hope the pictures will inspire some memories; so do have a look next time you visit.

A new term has heralded the arrival of the classes from Broomfield Primary who spend 45 minutes here each Monday and Wednesday studying the books that we request for them. Jo and I were pleased to be offered the opportunity to go into the school recently to speak to the parents of this year's Reception classes and highlight all that the library has to offer.

And what is that offer? Well, books, of course. But also access to computers and printing; photocopying; book groups; baby and toddler rhyme time; visits from the Neighbourhood



Police team; the loan of blood pressure monitors, and much more besides.



Finally, a reminder please to not leave books outside the library. If they are not library books, then they have to go straight in the recycling bin. If they are library books, then they risk damage. Please return the library books to another library (Chelmsford, North Melbourne, for example) if we are not open. And I would ask that books not be posted in our letter box either, since it is not weatherproof. Thank you for your consideration.

Jack Petchey Awards

Broomfield FC Celebrates Young Achievers at the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards.

Broomfield Football Club was proud to attend the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards for Essex, held at Chelmsford's Civic Theatre on Tuesday 6 October 2026.

Broomfield FC is delighted to be a recipient of the Jack Petchey Foundation's award programmes, which recognise and celebrate the achievements of young people aged 11–25. The awards provide an opportunity to recognise young people who make a positive difference to their teams, clubs and communities.

This year, Broomfield FC was excited to present 18 Achievement Awards and two Leader Awards, celebrating the commitment, contributions and leadership of young people across the club.

Our award winners thoroughly enjoyed the energy and excitement of the celebration ceremony, which brought together young achievers from numerous schools, cadet groups, sports clubs and social organisations across Essex. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to come together, recognise one another's accomplishments and celebrate the positive impact young people have within their communities.

Broomfield FC is incredibly proud of all our award winners and grateful to the Jack Petchey Foundation for helping us recognise and encourage the next generation. These awards reflect the values we champion as a club: teamwork, leadership, personal development and celebrating the achievements of our young people, both on and off the pitch.

1st Broomfield Scout Group

Kantankye Cub Pack: The new term started with Cub Top Trumps, a hobbies night & also the cubs worked on the First Aid Badge. Also, another camp at Thriftwood for a pirate themed weekend – many activities took place & lots of fun was had by all!





Looking ahead to the rest of the term, Cubs will be brushing up on their map reading skills and preparing for a night hike, we'll be taking part in Parliament week, practising fire lighting, playing games outside in the dark, doing some Christmas craft and games, and holding a Christmas sleepover. As ever, a busy term. We would also like to congratulate Andrea Robertson who was awarded the Medal of Merit for outstanding service

Riverside Beavers and Dinizulu Cubs: A Busy Start to the New Term: The new term has got off to a fantastic start for both Riverside Beaver Scouts and Dinizulu Cub Scouts. We were delighted to welcome several new members to the group, as well as several Beavers who have now moved up to Cubs. A hike along the River Chelmer, a visit to Gt Baddow Recreation Ground, Space Week, a look at healthy living & a visit to St Martin's Church in Lt Waltham. Alongside all of the pack activities, we would like to offer special congratulations to two of our Cub Scouts, Henry and Riley, who went above and beyond by taking part in the final Farleigh Ride for Life.





Taking on the challenging 50km route, both showed remarkable determination and resilience to complete the ride. Not only did they achieve this fantastic personal challenge, but they also raised over £1,500 for the charity. Everyone at Dinizulu Cubs is incredibly proud of their achievement and the difference they have made.

The book sale is fast approaching so please put the 20th and 21st February in your diaries. More information will come out via social media nearer the time. If you have any books you would like to donate, please email **broomfieldcubs@live.co.uk** for more information.

It is only possible to provide an exciting and engaging programme by the efforts of our volunteer leader teams, and we always need more adult volunteers to continue to do this. New members of the team are always welcome, contact **broomfieldcubs@live.co.uk** for details on how to get involved.

Broomfield Cricket Club Autumn Update

Just because the season has finished and the kit bags have been tucked away in the loft for another year, it doesn't mean things have gone quiet at Broomfield Cricket Club.

Several of our colts are heading into District trials, with some progressing even further to County level. We wish them every success as they continue their development and represent the club in pursuit of higher honours. They may well be the stars of the future.

While outdoor cricket is largely behind us for another year, our boys and girls continue to enjoy the game through a variety of indoor leagues, keeping their skills sharp and their competitive spirit alive ahead of winter nets and, before we know it, the return of outdoor cricket next spring.

Our women's section also continues to go from strength to strength, taking on local opposition and demonstrating that cricket really is a game for everyone. We're looking forward to building on that success, with a recruitment drive planned early in the new year to welcome more women and girls to the club.

Away from the field, the committee remains focused on the future of BCC. Ambitious plans are being explored to extend and improve the clubhouse, ensuring our facilities continue to match the needs of our growing membership and thriving cricket community.

Of course, cricket isn't the only thing that brings people together at Broomfield. Our clubhouse bar opens on the third Saturday of every month, providing a great opportunity for members, friends and local residents to catch up and keep community spirits high throughout the winter.

There may be less cricket being played at this time of year, but there's always plenty happening at BCC.

Whether you're an experienced player, a complete beginner, or simply looking to become part of a friendly local community, we'd love to welcome you. Come down and join the fun. New members are always welcome.



AD

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