



Broomfield **TIMES**

Issue 83 | Winter 2025

News & events from your Parish Council

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST – P10



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Broomfield TIMES

WELCOME TO THE 83rd EDITION OF BROOMFIELD TIMES!

It's getting very festive in and around the Village Hall, brightening up some very gloomy days... there are many events taking place in Broomfield over the next few weeks and beyond for you to enjoy - please read on! The Parish Council have said goodbye to Mark Hembury and welcomed Abi Wood as our new Parish Clerk - I'm sure you will enjoy working in Broomfield Abi.

Thank you to everyone for the overwhelming response to our pill blister pack recycling scheme at the village hall, however, we can no longer accept pill blister packs for recycling as the amount received has been too much for us to process and we ask you now to take them to Boots the Chemist yourselves and not to us. We do still however recycle old pens (all sorts), spectacles and stamps, as well as clothing in the Village Hall car park.

Thank you to again to all our contributors to our lovely village magazine. Please send me any pictures, memories, articles you would like to share with Broomfield - good or bad for our next edition! Please email editor@broomfield-pc.org.uk or drop into the Parish Office (inside Broomfield Village Hall). Thanks again to all our volunteers who venture out every quarter to make sure a copy is delivered through every door in the village.

Our front cover photo is of our lovely Centenary Wood in its autumnal glory - thank you Glynn Wadeson.

The next copy date is **20/2/2026**

Karen Hurrell - Editor



To view our T&C's, please visit our website
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Broomfield Contacts



Broomfield Parish Council - 158 Main Road Broomfield CM1 7AH Telephone **(01245) 441660**

Website: www.Broomfield-pc.gov.uk

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Clerk's Assistant:	Karen Hurrell Planning/Neighbourhood Plan: Editor Broomfield Times:	planning@broomfield-pc.gov.uk editor@broomfield-pc.gov.uk
Community Events and Grant Funding Officer:	Donna Hance	eventsandFunding@broomfield-pc.gov.uk
Village Attendant:	Steve Earley	broomfield.attendant@broomfield-pc.gov.uk
Broomfield Parish Councillors:	BPC Chair: Margaret Bleet BPC Vice Chair: Geoff Garfield Finance & Personnel Chair: John Barnes Planning Chair: Peter Travis Environment Chair: Angie Faulds Communications Chair: Margaret Bleet Village Hall Chair: Shirley Perera-Morris Councillors: Gloria Scott, Angela Thomson, Carol Taylor, Sharon Boreham, David Howell, Adewole Odelana	Contact via Clerk: clerk@broomfield-pc.gov.uk

Broomfield Village Hall - 158 Main Road Broomfield CM1 7AH. Telephone: **(01245) 443902**

Website: www.broomfieldvillagehall.com

Village Hall Premises Manager:	Stuart Jones	07365 107015 premises.Manager@broomfield-pc.gov.uk
Administration Officer:	Donna Hance	07365 107042 bookings@broomfield-pc.gov.uk
Caretakers:	Fitzroy Grant Amy Hance	07365 110649 caretaker@broomfield-pc.gov.uk 07365 0110876 eventssupport@broomfield-pc.gov.uk

Other useful contacts:

Chelmsford City Councillors:	Mike Steel Nicola Bugbee Philip Wilson	Mike.steel@chelmsford.gov.uk Nicola.BUGBEE@chelmsford.gov.uk Phillip.WILSON@chelmsford.gov.uk
Essex County Councillors:	Mike Steel	cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk
Member of Parliament:	Kemi Badenoch	Kemi.badenoch@mp@parliament.uk 020 7219 1943
Chelmsford City Council:	Customer Service Centre	01245 606606
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- Small batteries/Glasses/Pens/stamps
- Clothes (charity bin outside)
- NO PILL BLISTER PACKS (take to Boots advantage card points can be earned)

Paper & Cardboard Sacks are available from Broomfield Village Hall

Guide Dogs for the Blind Glynis & Brian Worboys - 5 Butlers Close Broomfield

- 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

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
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- Fabric tablecloths; runners & placements

B & Q (box by exit):

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Vice Chair's News

Santa's bag is full to the brim with council events and news!

Difficult to believe it is 40 years since Canadian singer-songwriter Bryan Adams released his hit record Christmas Time.

Well, Christmas is almost upon us once again and your Village Hall will be the venue for many festive activities including the Craft Fayre, Tree Festival and the Seniors Lunch (dancing to the sound of the ever-popular Fleeting Shadows).

But normal Parish Council work must go on, initiating new projects for the benefit of Broomfield residents, liaising with local organisations and seeking answers to often controversial issues.

One very important topic at the moment is whether the Parish Council should seize the opportunity of assuming management of various open spaces within the parish, some already used as children's playgrounds, and other green areas like the land adjoining Broomfield Place.

Recently, a group of Councillors from the Environment Committee, along with Council staff members, toured various sites to assess their potential if local government reorganization presents such opportunities.

Two senior figures from Chelmsford City Council spoke at the last full Parish Council meeting on the subject and further discussions will take place. Nothing is decided and many things have to be considered, including ongoing maintenance costs.

But safeguarding our green areas has become a hot topic of discussion recently, including complaints from local residents of vehicles parking on Church Green, especially since the Kings Arms public house was refurbished and the granting of an extended licence.

Residents voiced their concerns at a previous meeting of the Parish Council and were given another opportunity when more than 20 people attended a public gathering in St Mary's Church Hall on October 23rd. Hopefully, the repainting of the double yellow lines on Church Green will help ease the situation but further steps may be necessary. A solution that satisfies local residents, while also preserving a local facility is the aim.

The Parish Council is also considering a request from St Mary's Church for financial support in maintaining trees, many of them very old but also very special, within the graveyard. The Council is to seek clarity from the church on its request.

Meanwhile, we often hear that young people's voices are not heard. In response, the Parish Council is not only working on a project to provide an area in the park which is safe for girls but is also supporting the setting up of Youth Councils where young people can meet to voice what they would like to happen in the village.

Happy Christmas Everyone!

Vice Chair Cllr Geoff Garfield



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New Open Space and Affordable Community Housing for Broomfield People

We need a group of volunteers to help us with this exciting new project to create:

- 4 hectares of green open space with public access
- Up to 1.3 hectares of genuinely affordable housing for existing Broomfield people
- A charitable Community Land Trust to own the land.

THE STORY SO FAR...

The Broomfield Neighbourhood Plan was approved earlier this year, with a 93.4% 'yes' vote. The Plan includes provision for a 5.3-hectare site at the east end of Saxon Way for new public open space with some affordable community housing.

The land is currently privately owned, with no public access. It was used for gravel extraction, but since the 1980s, it hasn't been used for anything. It contains the site of the Broomfield Anglo-Saxon Burial, but there's currently nothing to indicate the presence of this significant heritage site.

THE OPEN SPACE

Creating 4 hectares of open green space would protect it from future development. Possible ideas for use include:

- informal open space with paths for dog walkers etc
- areas for biodiversity and wildlife, e.g. pockets of woodland and ponds
- a feature to mark the site of the Anglo-Saxon Burial
- foot and cycle path from Valley Bridge.

There will be more consultation with the local community as ideas evolve, so there's plenty of scope for other ideas to come in.

THE COMMUNITY HOUSING

In the Neighbourhood Plan consultation feedback, the lack of affordable housing showed up as one thing that local people don't like about Broomfield (the only other one being traffic levels).



So, we carried out an Affordable Housing Needs Survey which showed (surprise, surprise!) that there isn't enough of it. New housing estates may be springing up all round, but they are beyond the reach of most local people – even the so-called 'affordable housing' that developers have to provide within larger estates. As a result:

- young people raised in Broomfield will likely have to leave the village if they want their own place
- families with young children can't get affordable homes
- older people whose children have left home may stay in large family homes rather than downsizing, as they can't find smaller suitable homes in Broomfield that they can afford.

A SOLUTION – A COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (OR CLT)

A CLT is usually set up by local people to create and look after assets on behalf of the community. Often these assets are affordable homes but they can also include land, community buildings, heritage sites, pubs and more.

Once set-up, a CLT will normally appoint a registered housing association to design, build and manage the homes. These 'registered providers' generally specialise in small developments on the edge of villages, so design tends to be high quality to blend in with the rural landscape.

The key thing about housing provided by a CLT is that it's genuinely affordable. Rents are related to the average income of people in that community, not to the commercial market.

Continued on page 12 >

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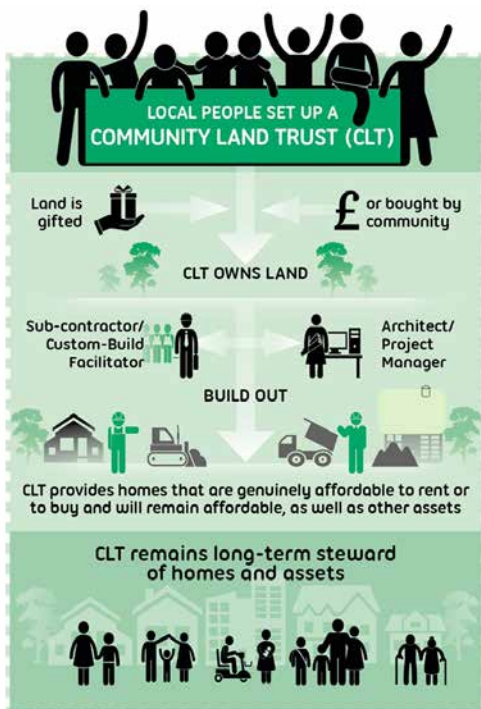
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Also, priority is given to people who already live in or have an established link with Broomfield. That's to prevent local people from being squeezed out by more affluent people from outside the parish. Finally, there is no 'right to buy', so the housing provided will stay with the community for ever.

This diagram shows how the process works:



CLTs can apply for government housing grants to acquire land. That's another reason for including community housing in this project, as we will need to tap into a number of funding sources to buy the land (even though we anticipate paying well below a market price for this particular site).

Sometimes, CLTs need to include a few private houses to raise enough money to make the whole project happen. If that proves to be necessary, our intention is that older Broomfield residents who want to downsize would get the first bite of the cherry, as consultation feedback also showed a need for this type of privately-owned properties.

1.3 hectares could accommodate around 20 to 25 dwellings of different sizes, within perhaps 5 or 6 buildings. A 'farmhouse design style' has been suggested, so the buildings fit naturally into the landscape.

CAN YOU HELP?

We need people to join our steering group and help shape the project as it develops. Eventually, we will need people to be on the Board of the CLT, but that is some way off and joining the steering group doesn't mean you have to be on the Board.

Please get in touch if you're interested in any aspect of the project - such as:

- affordable housing for the local community
- creating a new open green space
- biodiversity and wildlife mini-projects
- heritage and archaeology.

Please email johnblakeclt@gmail.com or leave a message for us at the Parish Office. In the New Year, we'll hold a meeting for everyone who is interested in becoming involved and answer as many questions as we can.

There'll be plenty of work to do. This will include things like running surveys and other community events, looking into funding opportunities and preparing bids, as well as more practical jobs. Don't worry if you don't have lots of experience. The main thing we need is enthusiasm, the willingness to work as a team and to get stuck in!

Thanks for reading this – we hope to hear from you soon.

The CLT Steering Group (currently John Blake, Angie Faulds, Donna hance and Carol Taylor)

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New clerk Abi praises Council's focus on community

Broomfield welcomes Abi Wood who has joined us as the new Clerk to the Parish Council.

Abi has been a Parish Clerk for a total of 12 years, the last 10 with Ingatestone and Fryerning Parish Council. She has taken over from Mark Hembury for whom a farewell reception was held in the village hall. And we seem to have made an immediate impression on our new clerk.

"The Councillors that I have met so far are very active, with a love for the community, which should be appreciated," says Abi.

"My initial view of the council is one of strong environmental awareness and a focus on community. One of the deciding factors for me accepting this position was the village hall, the services it provides, and how well it is used and appreciated by residents."

Broomfield, despite being attached to Chelmsford, has its own identity "which should be celebrated," says Abi who has been a recognized CiLCA trainer for the Society of Local Council Clerks. CiLCA is the Certificate in Local Council Administration and a key qualification for a clerk so a council can obtain the General Power of Competence. She has also been a trainer for the Essex Association of Local Councils on Law and Procedures and is Essex branch secretary of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

"So, you can see I am all about personal development and providing my councils with up-to-date advice, policies and procedures," says Abi. "I am also keen that my fellow clerks train to a high standard so that professionalism of the role is recognized and maintained."

Cycle path

This beautiful photo was taken by Joanne Topliffe who regularly cycles along the cycle path that runs from Goulton Road to Broomfield Hospital to work.



"My email is to thank Broomfield council for supporting the installation of the cycle path. It makes such a difference to my commute to work. I probably would have to drive in the winter if the path wasn't there because Broomfield Road is hazardous for cyclists, particularly in the dark, but now I can continue to cycle all year."



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038 - Terry James Waste Solutions

Environment Committee Report

We are pleased to report the accessible path around Centenary Wood has now been completed.



We have asked that dogs are kept on a lead going through the wood to avoid disruption to children playing, to preserve the pond planting and to be safe as an unidentified

snake was seen in the perimeter ditch.

During the summer nightingales and a kingfisher's song were recorded amongst other birds in the wood. I would strongly recommend the use of the free Merlin App to record and identify bird song. The birds are keeping me busy topping up their feeders.

We would still like to carry out a bat survey if anyone has any contacts that could do this for us?

We have now filled the field with Trees for Life and will in future be giving new babies a small fruit tree for a garden at home. If you already have a named tree in the field and have another baby, we would be happy to add their name to the same tree.

We will soon be doing winter planting in the garden and in the wall planters. We will be planting a new nursery hedge between David Smith Field and Angel Meadow to replace a couple of trees which have been killed by ivy. Let's hope the spring will herald another family moving into our nest box which will be captured on our camera system!

A very Happy Christmas to everyone.

Cllr Angie Faulds

Jamaica Hurricane Appeal

Thank you to all who came along and donated essential items for our Jamaica Hurricane appeal recently held in Broomfield Village Hall.

And thanks to Herman (Chef) and Helpers who cooked up some delicious Jamaican food - the kitchen raised £848 which has now been paid into the Red Cross Jamaica appeal. We love how our community comes together when people are in need, thank you all!



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Report from City & County

Cllr Mike Steel

Consultation, Consultation, Consultation...

There are going to be a few consultations over the next few months and it could get a bit confusing – Devolution, LGR, CGR. Local Plan and Pylons. I hope the following short summaries help:

DEVOLUTION IN ESSEX

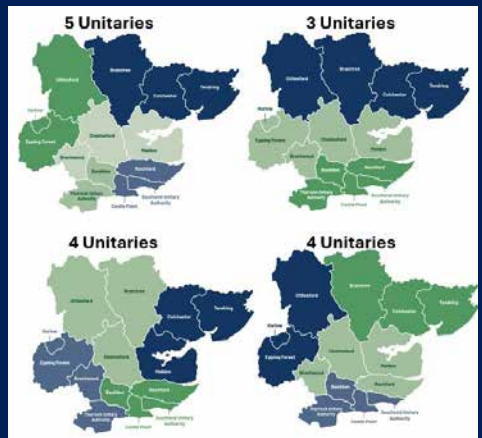
This is the transfer of powers and funding from UK government to local authority level. The Government has confirmed that Greater Essex will be a Mayoral Combined County Authority. The first Mayoral election will take place in May 2026. The key functions of the new authority will include transport, such as awarding bus franchises, trains and concessionary fares, as well as skills and economic growth. The Mayor will cover the whole of the Essex County, including Thurrock and Southend (not currently part of ECC!) The Mayor that you vote for in May 2026, will be a Mayor who has real power (like the Mayor of London) as opposed to City Council Mayor which is more of a figurehead.

www.essex.gov.uk/about-council/plans-and-strategies/our-vision-essex/devolution

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

The existing county council (ECC), 2 Unitaries (Thurrock and Southend) and 12 district local authorities in Essex (including Chelmsford City Council), will be abolished in March 2028 and replaced with several single tier authorities.

Proposals have been submitted to the Govt for 3, 4 (2 different versions) or 5 unitary councils. See diagram. The Govt will consider these and go out to consultation from November 2025. I have to say that this is extremely complex. I have sat through hours and hours of presentations, read 100s of pages on the subject, and listened to several well-respected consultants who have different opinions.



Quite how the public are meant to form a view, I am not sure. Perhaps the main consideration is which of our neighbours do we naturally align with? Elections for the Unitary Councils will take place in May 2027 and the elected Cllrs will spend the first year overlapping the current councils, whilst they set up the new Unitary councils ready to take over in March 2028.

www.essexlgrhub.org/stronger-greater-essex

CHELMSFORD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (CGR)

LGR will see the abolition of Chelmsford City Council, and there will be fewer, larger Unitary Councils. Whilst the rural areas have Parish Council representation for more local services, the centre of Chelmsford is “unparished” (about 56,000 electorate). CGR is asking those residents if they want a Parish Council. It is also asking adjacent Parishes if they want to change their boundaries and encompass some of the unparished areas. This consultation runs until 4th January 2026.

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/community-governance-review-2025/

CHELMSFORD LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

Central Govt have demanded that Chelmsford review their Local Plan to show a build rate of 1400 dwellings per year (around 60% higher than the current plan). This is the result of the Govt target of an extra 1.5 million homes. Unfortunately, there have also been shortfalls in the current plan. It is a condition of the Beaulieu expansion that the A12 widening scheme goes ahead (funded by Central Govt). This includes changes to the Boreham interchange to ease traffic onto the A12, as well as a footbridge from Boreham to the new station. However, Govt have withdrawn the funding and that has stalled the Beaulieu extension. In addition, plans for redevelopment of the Meadows (which included new dwellings) have been shelved. The net result is that City Council is having to look at new sites that can be readily delivered within the next 5 years. Affected in my area is:

- Broomfield – New – 200 homes Land West of Patching Hall Lane
- Great Waltham – increase from 20 to 75 homes Land South of Ford End Primary School
- Chignal – New – 100 homes Land North of Hollow Lane

Anyone can respond to the consultation which will run until 8th January 2026.

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-local-plan/local-plan-review/

PYLONS

The Planning Inspector has now accepted the NGET Pylons proposal for examination and anyone wanting to have their say needs to have registered by 27th November 2025 - everyone who commented on the previous 4 consultations should have received notification. This pre-examination stage usually takes 3 months and then those that have registered will be invited to comment during the Examination stage. The final decision is made by the Secretary of State. I have registered as a Chelmsford City Cllr, an Essex County Cllr and as an individual. I have registered as an objector – with opposition to the whole concept of overhead lines, but specifically strong objections to the last most recent changes that were made to the plans that replaced larger pylons in the Waltham Gap (between GW and LW) with shorter wider ones, but with an extra one right next to Chelmsford Road, which is the main thoroughfare between GW and LW.

national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027

I hope this all makes sense and you don't all suffer from "Consultation Fatigue"!

Cllr Mike Steel

Chelmsford City Cllr & Great Waltham Parish Cllr & Essex County Cllr

01245 360918

mike.steel@chelmsford.gov.uk

Local support for people living with sight loss



Registered Charity No. 1169324

Support 4 Sight is a local charity dedicated to helping people with sight loss, as well as their carers and families.

We provide advice, information, equipment demonstrations and a friendly community where everyone can connect.

Join us at our Coffee Club and Roaming Resource Centre, held on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 10:30 am to 1:45pm at Broomfield Village Hall.

Enjoy a warm welcome, friendly conversation, and access to useful resources and information.

Upcoming Dates: December 3rd & 17th; January 7th & 21st; February 4th & 18th.

For more information about Support 4 Sight and our services, please visit our website or contact us directly on **01245 933572**.



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Broomfield & District u3a

u3a is for people who are no longer working and who want to keep mind and/or body active in friendly, sociable company. We are your local branch and are a charity, part of a national network, run entirely by volunteer members.

What's currently available at the branch?

Well, if you like the idea of stretching your legs and exploring the Essex countryside, there are regular guided walks, finished off with a tasty pub lunch! Not too keen on walking?

There's a 'bus-pass' group making visits to places of interest across the county via public transport. If you're interested in topics such as geology, photography, table tennis, board games ten-pin bowling, art appreciation or tai chi, to name just a few, there are opportunities to take part in volunteer-led special interest groups covering all those.

To find out more about those groups and all the others currently on offer, just search our website www.broomfield.u3asite.uk where

you can also look at our regular newsletters, get contact details and obtain application forms.

Along with the interest groups, we hold monthly meetings at Broomfield Village Hall (second Wednesday of the month 1:30pm-4pm) which provide an opportunity for members to come together to share information, socialise, and enjoy presentations by invited guest speakers on a very wide range of topics.

You're welcome to come along to one of these as a 'taster' where any member of committee will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Annual Membership is only £15.00 For information on u3a at a national level, go to u3a.org.uk.

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Broomfield Events and fundraising chatter

Christmas is in full swing at the Village Hall, we started the celebrations with our Xmas Fayre, 20 stall holders, 100 mince pies and many cups of tea were drunk, the community purchased gifts, and we had jolly good fun!



It wasn't long before our next large event and that was the Seniors Christmas Lunch, this welcomed people from the Village and surrounding areas and was cooked by the Lunch Club Team so no external caterers, this kept the costs to a minimum, but everyone still had a delicious 2 course lunch and an afternoon of dancing. Our staff at the Village Hall do love a little dance and sing along.

Alongside our larger events, we have had busy coffee mornings, stay and play, forest stay and play, lunch clubs, book club, community art classes, carers group and our new arts and craft Mondays, you really can fill your week up here at the Village Hall.



SANTA FUN RUN

Fun for all the family. Why not come dressed up in your favourite xmas outfit and join Santa and his elves as they dash and walk around the field. Just £2 entry per person - all money raised will go to farleighs hospice.

SATURDAY DEC 13TH

Sign up from 9.30am run starts at 10am



In conjunction with
Farleighs Hospice

As you are reading this, we will be preparing for our tree festival which this year the Methodist church are hosting (see poster for dates and times). Why not join our sheep trail? run in the reindeer fun run? and join us at our children's Christmas disco so much has been planned for our wonderful community – please check our website for more details www.broomfieldvillagehall.com.

The Village Hall is a thriving hub for our community, we love welcoming you all in to join us and our hirers at our groups and events, we are looking forward to another fun packed year ahead. If there is something you would like to see happening at the Village Hall please pop in and see us and share your ideas, if we think it will work, we will make it happen.

Tree festival week

16-18th DEC BROOMFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
Come and visit the trees between 2 - 4.30pm each day refreshments available

19 DEC BROOMFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
Church is open in from 6.30pm for reflection run by Broomfield 3BS

BROOMFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
1 - 4pm Tree festival, arts and crafts, Brass band from 3pm

20 DEC

21 DEC BROOMFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
Evening service and Story time



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Village is film set for Essex comedian Ellie Taylor

Broomfield was selected recently as the setting for a nationwide promotional "Car Time" Campaign by motoring and cycling products retailer Halfords.

It was not quite Hollywood or Elstree Studios, but Goulton Road provided an acceptable backdrop as the Essex comedian and actress Ellie Taylor demonstrated on camera how cars can provide a place of solitude for many people.



Henry Lawes of Halford's advertising and media agency VCCP told Broomfield Times: "The campaign surrounds new research from Halfords which reveals that the average Brit spends nearly 12 hours a year sitting in their car, simply to find some peace and quiet."

Chelmsford was chosen because it was convenient for some of those involved in the filming, including Taylor who was born in Brentwood and has also appeared in various television shows, among them Strictly Come Dancing. A team from Redditch-based Halfords travelled well over 100 miles to Broomfield.

In Goulton Road, Taylor's car was seen being sprayed with fake snow to mirror winter conditions. Other locations in Chelmsford were also used, with the filming finishing in Chelmer Village. According to Halford's research, some 77% of Brits admit to the secret habit of sitting alone in their car, whether escaping the chaos of home life, sneaking a moment away from work or for a break from social interactions.



Sitting in peace (39%) is the main reason, scrolling social media (28%) and eating snacks (26%) are the key activities. Some (4%) even use the time for a "deep conversation" with their pets. People's favourite "hiding" spots are their work car park, outside their home or just around the corner to delay going inside.

Halfords says that as the habit is particularly common in winter, it was decided to launch its new "Car Time" campaign to "encourage the nation to embrace the wellbeing benefits of this private time." Of course, there is a commercial side to the campaign, notably a Halfords Car Time accessory kit. According to Taylor: "Like millions of parents, my day is one long, beautiful, chaotic relay race, and sometimes you just need a moment to quietly take a breath, eat a snack or mentally prepare yourself for the next round of getting someone to put on their shoes."

As for Broomfield-Halfords today, maybe Harry Potter tomorrow?

Cllr Geoff Garfield



Alan Read - a career in the Motor Industry

Alan has retired after many years of providing a unique service for local people.



Alan was born and bred in Church Avenue, Broomfield.

On leaving school he was apprenticed at Lex Motors on the Widford Industrial estate. At that time Lex were the main agents for the British Leyland group of cars and he gained experience working on the range of cars from Minis and Morris Minors to E Type Jaguars.

While working for Lex he met Mick Radley and together they hired a large double garage in Victoria Crescent in Chelmsford and began their independent garage business.

Initially they remained in full time employment and ran their business at weekends but the business soon grew, and they decided to commit to working full time. Before long they had outgrown the double garage and rented a workshop in the Christy factory, then on the corner of Kings Road and Broomfield Road. Many Christy employees used their services as well as residents in Kings Road and the Avenues.

The next move was to unit 3 North on the Rivermead Industrial Estate.

They again traded successfully from their new premises and decided to apply for a license to do MOT tests. After a few years they were faced with a large rent increase and decided to try to buy their own premises. It took a phone call followed by a visit from the bank manager to inspect the property for them to obtain a loan to buy the freehold of the nearby unit 4A on the estate. The loan repayments came to less than the proposed new rent.

They traded on the same site until Mick Radley's retirement when a part of the premises was sold to the next-door body shop to provide a pension. Alan continued to trade at Rivermead eventually selling the remainder of the premises with the intention of retiring...

However, in 2009 he moved to a smaller premises in Great Leighs together with his son Luke (who already worked in the business) and Nick, an apprentice, who, when qualified obtained a job with Rolls Royce. Instead of retiring Alan continued to work for a further 16 years before his retirement!

His customers arranged a surprise party for him on the 7th September with a selection of interesting and sometimes troublesome cars that he had cared for over this period, exchanging anecdotes and eating his retirement cake – enjoy your well-earned retirement Alan!

Peter Marriage

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Santa is coming your way!

Santa will ride his sleigh around our streets in North Springfield, Beaulieu and Channels, Boreham, Ford End, Little Waltham, Broads Green, Great Waltham and Howe Street before Christmas.

Chelmsford Mildmay Rotary will be assisting Santa's visits to as many boys and girls as possible.

We are raising money for charity and bringing seasonal greetings and cheer to everyone.

Raising money for The Children's Society East and other local charities.

Ways to give: Cash in buckets and card readers

www.mildmayrotary.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/mildmayrotary/>
 Charity number 1027110

Rotary
Chelmsford Mildmay

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Latest News from Little Waltham & Great Notley Surgery Patient Participation Group

Although the surgeries are not in Broomfield, the geographical area covered by them encompasses a number of outlying villages, including Pleshey, Great Waltham and Broomfield.

The Practice has a full patient list of about 21,000 patients, many of whom live in Broomfield but find that the surgery in Little Waltham is convenient for them. There is pressure upon the Practice to take more patients, but at the same time there is pressure upon the existing space. This is not an issue confined to the surgery, and there will be pressure from more planned residential developments, which do not always make provision for more medical facilities. Hopefully the long-awaited opening of the new surgery in Beaulieu Park will provide additional resources

Since the last issue of the Broomfield Times, the Patient Participation Group has met once to receive staffing updates from the Practice, which has taken on several more receptionists to help with the smooth running of Face-to-Face appointments, as well as using the telephone to both receive calls from and make calls to patients. The new system appears to be settling down, and while some people still find the completion of the referral form to be a hindrance, the Medical Staff find that patients have more time to outline symptoms than they would have in front of a doctor or nurse.

Representatives of the PPG have joined members of staff in online meetings of the PCN (Primary Care Network) regarding cancer provision and the ICB (Integrated Care Board) regarding regional rearrangements.

The Practice has used the four Saturdays in October to provide vaccinations for flu and also Covid boosters to those patients who are eligible. Each surgery experienced long queues of people waiting good-humouredly. Members of the PPG took the opportunity to carry out short surveys, speaking to approximately 2250 patients in total. Perhaps not surprisingly a substantial number expressed concerns about the new system while at the same time expressing satisfaction with the surgery and the staff. There was confusion over the interface with the NHS app, which we are all encouraged to use. There were many positive suggestions made, and the survey results have been passed on to the Partners for consideration.

The PPG will meet again on 10th December for a part business/ part social get together, with the next full business meeting to be held on 14 January 2026.

If you have any queries or concerns, then please email us on lw.gn.ppg@hotmail.com.





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A year in the life of... Brumfelda

Broomfield's local history group, Brumfelda, has enjoyed a full year of meetings as well as a number of projects researching different aspects of our village's long history.

At our January 2025 meeting, a constitution was adopted and officers elected. Our mailing list continues to grow, with over 65 on it so far, as has our list of 'paid-up' members. We have also joined two organisations as institutional members: the Essex Society for Archaeology and History, and the British Association for Local History.

Our guest speakers have included

- Simon Coxall, landscape archaeologist, speaking about what happens when human skeletal remains are found in the course of their work;
- Ros Mercer, speaking about the qualities of flint as a building material, and its origins;
- Neil Wiffen, our chair, explaining what Broomfield might have been like at the time of the Domesday book; and
- Emily Abrehart from Oxford Archaeology, providing an initial report and displaying finds from the excavations at Blasford Hill, just into Little Waltham

We also had short talks from members Sue Browning who is leading on a project to document Broomfield's ancient woodlands; and Helen Walker, who had researched the history of her house (and neighbouring houses) on School Lane. Other on-going projects include Broomfield's street names, being led by Lyndall Colliins.

Our meeting dates for 2026 are: 22nd January, 23rd April, 16th July, and 8th October. Meetings take place in the church hall of St Mary with St Leonard, Church Green, Broomfield, beginning at 7:30pm.

If you would like to join the mailing list, or – even better – become a full member of Brumfelda for the modest subscription price of £20.00 per year, do get in contact with us via email to brumfeldahistory@gmail.com.

Halloween horror treat in Longshots Close

Broomfield youngsters celebrated Halloween in style once again this year – especially in Longshots Close.

The home of Alan and Irene Zeller became a Halloween hub for scores of children keen to see the electronically controlled figures (animatronics) and plethora of other gizmos designed to add a little chill to a dark October evening. Alan and Irene dressed for the occasion as they entertained scores of children eager to join the mini celebration of horror.



It began around eight years ago and “just got bigger,” says Alan. “We started with just one electronic gizmo using the hallway and expanded to the garage and front garden.” Today the Halloween show features a lighting system, two smoke generators, a couple of sound systems and around a dozen moving Halloween monsters. “It’s got bigger and bigger over the years,” says Alan. “We do it just for fun.”

Irene shows the children around the garage, with its sinister lighting for the evening, while Alan looks after the front-of-house action.



A horror film clown and a spider that drops on your head if you clap. “The kids must love it,” adds Alan. “This year we used a voice synthesizer. It is all high-tech.”

“At one point I looked up and there were about 20 people waiting to go into the garage,” says Alan. Although you may not recognize Alan in his Halloween attire, he is well known in the area for his interest in military history. Alan is a trustee of the Essex Historic Military Vehicle Association, which has over 250 members and organizes a big annual fund-raising event at Rettendon.

He even owns a couple of Willys Jeeps, an American utility vehicle used extensively during World War II. The first he acquired in 2008 and the second in 2019. Many of you will have seen Alan with the Jeeps at Broomfield’s Village Hall Summer Fayre and St Mary’s church fete.

Cllr Geoff Garfield

Making a Green Festive Season

The leaves are falling, the nights are drawing in and for a lot of us, we're commuting home after work in the dark.

Those are shore signs that Christmas, the festive season, is creeping into view.

Whether it's for religious or family reasons, the festive season often brings an opportunity to reflect, pulls us together and there's a certain twinkle in the air. This period is associated with increased awareness and has the highest charitable donations of the year.

But, with all the festive cheers, should we be thinking about the period's environment?

2 million turkeys and 5 million mince pies are thrown away each year. 1/3 more food waste is produced and what about all those gifts, bought in kindness, but never get used again.

There are some simple, but effective ways for a greener Christmas whilst still enjoying all that festive cheer we know and love:

- Do not over-gift & give wish lists so what you get, is what you want.
- Try adding in a second-hand present or two into the pile. Vinted, eBay etc is full of quality.
- Avoid fast fashion brands & go for locally sources to support small businesses.
- Gift a membership or tree planting for a digital presence.
- Avoid glitter on paper, it cannot be recycled!
- Use reusable bags & tags to avoid wrapping paper. Use string to tie if using paper.
- Try your hand at making your own decorations! What about crackers too?

- Switch to beeswax candles, to avoid paraffin (fossil fuel) fumes.
- Always check packaging to see if it can be recycled.
- Give your local refill shop a try this Christmas.
- Make your own treats & research those leftover recipes!
- Reuse decorations, Christmas clothes and whatever you can!

We can prepare and eat better. But we can still enjoy those festive family or religious messages... just without the excess waste by choosing a little more wisely. What leftover treats or handmade decorations will you make this year?

Written by David Jackson, Sustainability Professional

Follow my socials Insta & TikTok for more [@david_ecolife](https://www.instagram.com/david_ecolife).



News from Helen Rollason Cancer Charity

Helen Rollason
Cancer Charity

News & Events - All things Festive

At this time of the year, we would like to say a massive thank you to those that have supported us throughout 2025. Whether you have attended our events, taken part in one of our challenges, raised money for us or volunteered for us – We are so grateful for all that you do to enable us to support local people living with cancer.

For those living with cancer it can be a difficult time. We see the courage it takes to carry on and keep smiling for family and friends. The demand for our services increases and we are looking for £5,000 to ensure there is support over the festive season for everyone who needs it. Every penny helps and you can donate here:

www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2025.

As well as donating, you could support our activities, such as:

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING IN JANUARY



We will be collecting real Christmas trees from doorsteps across CM and CO postcodes again this year in January. All trees will be sustainably recycled, and all donations will help Helen Rollason Cancer Charity to continue giving support to local people living with cancer. Prebooking only - you can book online now via www.helenrollason.org.uk/event/christmas-tree-collection-2026.

FATHER CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE 19TH DECEMBER



We have a limited number of tickets available for our Father Christmas Experience at Layer Marney Tower on Friday

19th December. Tickets must be prebooked and they are selling quickly. Tickets include a private meeting with Father Christmas, a gift for each child, live festive entertainment, craft activities, storytelling, our donkeys, a ride on a London red bus, mince pies and mulled wine (for the grown-ups). There will be food and drink vendors too. Last year, this was a huge success enjoyed by children and adults alike.



CHELMSFORD SILVER BAND PRESENTS

Christmas Concert

DATE : WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2025
TIME : 8-9PM
PLACE : BROOMFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
124 MAIN RD. BROOMFIELD,
CHELMSFORD CM1 7AG

ADMISSION FREE

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Small actions, big impact for nature recovery

Nature recovery begins with all of us.

The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has now launched and outlines how everyone in Essex can play a role in reversing biodiversity decline. Whether it's creating a wild patch in your garden, volunteering at a local habitat project or contributing your ideas to your town council, the LNRS makes it easy to get involved.

At the heart of the LNRS is an interactive map that shows opportunities for wildlife enhancement across the county. Even small changes in your neighbourhood can add up to big gains for nature. You can explore actions, get involved, and find your local area's priorities on the Essex Nature Partnership website.

Start your journey to support nature recovery:
www.essexnaturepartnership.com.



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Christmas at Broomfield Churches



Christmas Tree Festival at the Methodist Church
 16th - 21st December

Candlelight Procession & Carols
 from Village Hall to Methodist Church
 4pm 21st December

Village Carol Service at St Mary's Church
 6pm 21st December

Crib Service at St Mary's Church
 3.30pm 24th December

Midnight Communion at St Mary's Church
 11.30pm 24th December

Family Service at the Methodist Church
 10.30am Christmas Day

Christmas Celebration at St Mary's Church
 10.30am Christmas Day



News from Broomfield Hospital

FALLS PREVENTION TEAM

Carrie Tyler from the Falls Prevention Team and two of her colleagues from the Physiotherapy Team met with the Friends to demonstrate the purpose and the value of the items we have recently funded for them. Carrie explained

BED BUMPERS



Designed to help prevent patient impact injury and bruising, they fit our Hillrom and Baxter beds (the newest beds in the hospital) and

are primarily used for the comfort and safety of patients with neurological disorders. Securing snugly to the bed rails, the wipe clean surfaces are not only practical but as the material is also breathable and 'breathe through' it means they are equally safe to use to comfort patients who suffer from seizures, fitting or delirium.

WALKING BELTS



These washable belts are safeguarding approved, non-slip, soft and comfortable to wear. When fitted to a patient the belts allow staff to

use the external hand holds on the belt to support the patient instead of having direct contact with their body. Carrie explained that there are many patients with a wide range of neurological challenges ... some may suffer from hallucinations or Parkinsons disease ... or may be brain cancer patients, for example. Whatever the reason, where a patient finds it uncomfortable, frightening or impossible to have contact with another person whilst walking, the belt enables a staff member to still join them on their walk, walking behind them (instead of beside them) with the confidence to still be able to steady their mobility from behind as required, without causing additional stress to the patient.

LISTENING DEVICES



Many patients arrive at hospital, perhaps in an emergency via A&E, either without their hearing aids or with hearing impairment that may mean they can't fully comprehend what is happening or what

may be being explained to them. The listening device is a simple 'earphones and microphone' set that is an amazing way to be able to make sure that patient and doctor, for instance, can communicate effectively. At such a stressful time, it is so important that staff can establish good communication to comfort patients.

The Friends are delighted to have been able to fund 12 sets of bed bumpers, 18 x walking belts and 100 x listening devices.

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at Broomfield Hospital

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Farleigh Hospice

News from Farleigh Hospice

Farleigh Hospice has many exciting events for you to enjoy over the next few months.

THE BIG GIVE: 2ND-9TH DECEMBER



You can double any donation that you make to Farleigh Hospice at no extra cost to you during the Big Give's Christmas Challenge campaign, by donating through the campaign's

website. For example, a £10 donation will be worth £20, or £22.50 if you are a UK tax payer who has agreed to Gift Aid.

Farleigh hopes to raise £65,000 to help fund its Clinical Nurse Specialists who give expert care and support to patients being cared for at home. For more information and to donate, go to www.farleighhospice.org/big-give.

SANTA FUN RUN



Walk, jog or run 5km around Central Park in Chelmsford at Farleigh's festive fun run! This jolly, family-friendly event is accessible for pushchairs and wheelchairs, so

everyone can take part.

Every adult entry includes an exclusive new Santa top and children get a free elf hat. There is also a prize for the best-dressed dog! To find out more, visit

www.farleighhospice.org/santa.

LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICES



Everyone is welcome at Farleigh Hospice's Light Up A Life services. They are a thoughtful way to remember and celebrate the lives of those special people who are no longer here with us. The

service at Chelmsford Cathedral is on Sunday 7 December at 6.00pm and will also be live streamed. There is a service at St Andrew's Church in Boreham too on Thursday 11th December at 6pm.

You can also remember loved ones by donating to Farleigh's Light Up A Life appeal.

Their name can be added to the charity's Book of Remembrance.

For information on the services and appeal, please visit

www.farleighhospice.org/lightupalife or call 01245 457351.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING



9th-12th January 2026 Farleigh Hospice's team can collect your real tree from outside your home and recycle it for you. This is great for the environment and saves you the bother of disposing of it. To

register your tree now, go to www.farleighhospice.org/trees.

News from Broomfield Library

This summer was a record-breaker, and it was not all about the sunshine. Broomfield Library recorded a new high for Summer Reading Challenge numbers, with 223 children joining in the fun.

Well done to all those who took part, and especially to the 106 children who collected all six stickers and completed the challenge.

But we're not the sorts to bask in glory. It will soon be time for our next reading challenge: the Pawfessionals will be arriving on 10th January 2026 to herald the start of the Winter Reading Challenge, which will run until February half term.

And before then, we will be holding a seasonal story time and crafting session on the afternoon of Saturday 20th December – it is free to join, so please come along and enjoy some pre-Christmas fun.

Adults continue to be well catered for. Every second Monday of the month we have a board games afternoon from 2:30pm – just turn up with some friends and play (we supply a



selection of games or bring your own).

If reading is more your thing, why not give the Common Readers a try? They are a friendly group who meet in the library once a month on a Saturday morning to discuss the book they have that read that month. Books are chosen in turn by each member, and all books are supplied by the library staff.



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1st Broomfield Scout Group

KANTANKYE CUB PACK



Two Cub parents ran a really enjoyable evening for us, covering all the requirements for the Athletics Badge, thanks Simon and Rob! We visited Skreens Park for Cubs to take part in high ropes, climbing and paddleboarding.



Back at the Scout HQ they did archery, pioneering, den building and we finished the term with our traditional water games, making sure all Cubs went home very wet!

The highlight of the term was Mega Camp, a County Camp with thousands of Cubs attending. The theme was Jurassic Park, which the leaders, as ever, embraced wholeheartedly...



Cubs had the opportunity to try out loads of different activities such as climbing, air rifles, tomahawk throwing, laser tag, fencing, go karts, cave bus, obstacle course and inflatables.



Plus craft activities, fossil digging, backwoods cooking, rope making and more... and although the weather wasn't the greatest it didn't stop the fun. They also had the experience of attending a really big event, Mega Camp is like a Jamboree for Cubs!



The Autumn term began with an evening of team building as we welcomed some new Cubs to the pack, we delivered the Broomfield Times and reviewed the pack code of conduct, Cubs got

creative with Lego bridges, some real feats of engineering and design this time! We held a Camp prep evening and then it was off to Belchamps in Hockley for Wild West Camp. A brilliant weekend, despite the gale force winds at the start of the weekend – none of our tents (or Cubs) blew away! Cubs made hobby horses, did some leather stamping, panned for gold, hunted for "wanted" posters of themselves and the Leaders and played a wide game in the dark. They had a go at archery, discovered gold and other items in the caving simulator, made hobo stew (enjoyed by most of them), and tackled the assault course and the high ropes. They looked great in their cowboy hats too!

Back at the Scout HQ we had evenings of fencing, bouldering, making bird feeders, and fire lighting and campfire cooking. Still to come we have a money skills evening, Parliament week, and Cubs will also work on their astronomy badge. Residents of Longshots Close may also hear us delivering this issue of the Broomfield Times! We'll finish the term with a Christmas Sleepover; can't believe it's only a few weeks away!

BEAVERS, 2ND COLONY



So far this term we have been really busy at Beavers. We started the term with a visitor from Essex County Council to talk about our teeth and how we look after them. As the weather has been good so far this term we have been out and about quite a lot, we took a walk down to Centenary Woods and investigated what we could find there in a Scavenger Hunt, we have tried to improve our Archery and Climbing skills, plus we have been over to Hylands Park trying to learn how to read and use a compass and map to enable us to explore more.

We took a night to compare our Hobbies and Interests, it was really nice to see such a wide range of Hobbies that our Colony enjoy from Football and Lego to Drawing and Crafting.

Still to come this term we have several different activities, from cooking to a "Beavers Have Talent" night, plus our annual Christmas Lights and Chip Hike where we will go and see the lights in the City Centre and stop for some chips along the way. We also have a sleepover coming up for the Beavers to see how much they can fit into 24 hours away from home!

DINIZULU CUB PACK

Wow the Dinizulu Cubs have been so super busy, we started the term on a sad note as we had one of our volunteers (Mowgli) leave and head off to Uni, however he has sent us many little video updates on some of the fun activities he has been doing and we look forward to seeing him again when he comes back on holiday.

We have tried our hands at Stop Motion Animation with some of the Lego that Bagheera owns which turned out far better than we predicted.



We have had a few visitors in this term, one of our Parents came in and did some British Sign Language with us which was great fun and we had a lovely lady from the Food Bank come and test our knowledge about what they do and who they help, the Cubs out did themselves with bringing in some donations and brought with them a whopping 52 KG of it!

We also braced the elements and Storm Amy for our weekend Minecraft themed camp at Thorrington Scout site up in Colchester, we explored the woods, we worked our way round a 3D maze and we even tried "Steve's Lava Chicken" for dinner which was delicious!

Still to come this term we have an international week to explore and expand our knowledge of other faiths and cultures, we have Parliament week where we will take a closer look at how the whole system works. Like the Beavers we plan to go and admire the City's Christmas lights with some chips too.

We have also been able to award one Chief Scout Silver Award this term with several more Cubs estimated to complete this before the term concludes at Christmas.

The book sale is fast approaching so please put the 21st and 22nd 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.



A Celebration of Essex': Grassroots Football's Social and Health Value

Our Chairman, Mark Stafford, was invited to a special reception at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, hosted by Andrew Rosindell MP and Julia Lopez MP on behalf of the Essex County Football Association.



The reception showcased and shared the social and health value grassroots football has within local communities across Essex, with more than 80,000 participants, 6,000 teams and a volunteer workforce of over 8,000 engaging weekly. The event welcomed MPs from across Essex, local leaders, councillors, volunteers, clubs and professional partners.



Mark spent some time speaking to EFA on the 3G pitch situation (Chelmsford has been identified as one of the areas in Essex with the biggest shortage!) It was agreed that next year we are to pre-engage with the council on feasibility... Watch this space!

REMEMBRANCE DAY 9TH NOV



Representatives from Broomfield FC attended the Church Remembrance Service in honour of the fallen. Young players from the Girls Wildcats team laid crosses at the war memorial graves and paid their respects.



Broomfield FC also laid a wreath at the Memorial Cenotaph on the church green on Armistice day. It was lovely for BFC to be present and be part of a very important time of the year.

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