



The Braxted Bulletin

March 2025

VILLAGE INFORMATION

Clerks to the Parish Councils:

Great Braxted Lynda Townend Tel 07307 891134

parishclerk@greatbraxtedparishcouncil.gov.uk

Little Braxted Gordon Musset Tel 01376 520103

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator:

Great and Little Braxted Mandy Chapman

Email: thebraxtedsneighbourhoodwatch@yahoo.com

Non-urgent contact for Police: 101

Online: <https://www.essexpolice.uk/.../af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Non-urgent contact for medical concerns: 111

Water: 0345 7820 999 **Electricity:** 0800 029 4285

Responsibility for Essex Highways:

Essex County Council 0845 6037 631

Library Information: Wickham Bishops Library

Wickham Bishops Library Opening hours:

Monday 2-5:30pm; Weds 2—5:30pm; Sat 9am—5pm

Contact 0345 6037 628

The library is a collection point for Maldon District Council recycling sacks

Braxted Facebook Groups:

For local updates and issues please feel free to join the following Facebook groups:

Search 'Great Braxted Residents' or use the link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1637978482902828>

Search 'Little Braxted' or request to join via Facebook message to Ali Aldis

Parish information

The below referenced website is updated by our parish clerk and includes local information, including planned road closures, as well as news from Maldon District Council, such as campaigns, new and bulletins

<https://e-voice.org.uk/greatbraxtedparishcouncil/>

Bulletin details

Advertising prices (per monthly edition)

Full page £30; Half page £15; Quarter page £10.

Enquiries: braxtedbulletin@yahoo.com (Editor: Michelle Davis)

All copy to be submitted by approx. 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's Bulletin.

NB. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor, nor can the editor guarantee the credentials or performance of any of the advertisers within.

St Nicholas' Church, Little Braxted

In the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wickham Bishops with Little Braxted

Rector / Priest-in-charge: Vacant

Parish contact phone 07544 973705

Churchwardens: Vacant

Deputy Churchwarden Graham Wingrove

WEBSITE: churchinwickhambishops.org.uk

St Nicholas' is normally open daily, if closed borrow the key from the Estate Office.

For Group guided tour contact: stnicholas@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk

At St Nicholas'

MARCH

Sunday 16th

9.00 am

2nd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion BCP at St Nicholas'

APRIL

Friday 18th

2.00pm

Good Friday

Last Hour at the Cross – a time for reflection

Sunday 20th

9.00am

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion – we light the Pascal Candle

At St Bartholomew's

Services continue as usual...

8.00am Holy Communion on 1st, 2nd 4th and 5th Sundays

10.30am Holy Communion each Sunday except 4th Sunday which is

Morning Praise. In addition:-

5th March 10.00am– Ash Wednesday -Holy Communion with Ashing

17th April – Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion at 8.00pm

and of course 20th April – Easter Eucharist

+ Planning ahead– with Easter and some extra services we've included some April dates above.

+ Plans to fill our vacancy for an Incumbent are moving forward with Deanery proposals having been submitted to the Bishop. We hope to see job Adverts by Easter.

+ Services at St Nicholas' are based on the old Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 1662 version.

+ Look out for copies of the Parish Magazine – there should be copies in the Green Man, Braxted Bakery and St Nicholas' church

Update from Maldon District Council

We have listened to our residents and we are reintroducing green bags for food recycling. This will help residents, to work with us in delivering the highest recycling rates in Essex and to continue to be one of the best councils in the country for our waste services.

We have initiated several projects to enhance community facilities and accessibility. These include upgrading play areas at Prom Park, improving the BMX track, and adding a new accessible play site at Riverside Park. A new pontoon has been installed in Burnham on Crouch. New skateparks are being developed in Maldon and Burnham on Crouch.

Over the past 2 years we have invested more in our assets than the previous 12 years. As part of our new corporate plan, we will be developing a culture and heritage strategy. We will invest in our assets, updating and installing leisure equipment, and improving open spaces and parks.

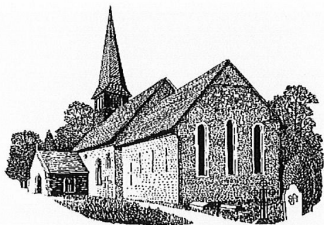
The Chancellor's autumn budget confirmed another one-year allocation of prosperity. We look forward to investing the £327K in more projects across the district. To maximise this funding by using reserves to match fund the investment in our district. The intention is to ensure that we allocate funding to community projects across the district. This will enable groups and community organisations to bid for funding.

The local government landscape however is a completely different situation to last year. Local Government reorganisation and Devolution changes some of our priorities and our focus. We need to ensure that we leave the Maldon District in a good place and that we have plans in place to ensure that we are focused upon what we can do for the long-term benefit of the district. I will update about the changes as they develop.

We will be conducting a parish review between Great Totham and Heybridge, to ensure that the new houses that have been built, are in the right Parish for their location.

Kind regards

Richard



All Saints' Church, Gt Braxted, CM8 3EN

You are welcome to join us for our services at any time.

Services for 2025:

20th April 11.15 am Easter Day Parish Communion
1st Sunday of each month at 11.15 am, Family Service:
4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August, 7th September &
5th October

Our usual pattern of services continues until October, with Family Service suitable for all ages on the first Sunday of the month.

Sunday 21st December 11.15 am Carol Service

Wedding couples establishing a qualifying connection are also able to attend St Luke's Tiptree, CO5 0SU any Sunday of the month at 9.30 am.

For any enquiries please telephone Revd Anne-Marie Renshaw, 01621 815260 [**amlrenshaw@btinternet.com**](mailto:amlrenshaw@btinternet.com)

or, contact our Team Administrator, Christine Hall
[**thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com**](mailto:thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com)

All Saints Church, Great Braxted

Church News March 2025



Some news this year for our church! We are one of several churches to be joined together to create a new Team Ministry in the centre of the Witham Deanery. We will be joining with the Blackwater Benefice, Wickham Bishops, Kelvedon & Feering to form a new benefice with four full-time stipendiary clergy.

Next we will be able to begin the process of recruiting to the two vacant clergy posts we have at the moment. We pray that God will call clergy to come and be part of this exciting new stage in our life together. *Revd Anne-Marie Renshaw*

We are not currently holding regular Sunday services due to very small attendance figures. We are here for you for booking weddings, baptisms and funerals.

If you would like to arrange to visit when there is not a service, please do contact us.

Easter 2025 - Join us as we re-open for services and celebrate Easter

Sunday 20th April at 11.15 am.
We hope you can join us for our Parish Communion service,
Everyone is invited

Contact us:

Team Rector: Revd Anne-Marie Renshaw
01621 815260 amlrenshaw@btinternet.com

Team Administrator, Christine Hall 07421 078981
thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com

Tuesday, 11 am to 1.30 pm; Wednesday &

Thursday 10 am to 12.30 pm (in the office, St Luke's Tiptree).

See our webpage, on our team website, for more information:

thurstablewinstreechurches.org/all-saints-great-braxted



Year 5 Art

As part of their Mayan studies, Year 5 enjoyed exploring Frescos – a mural painting technique that involves painting on a large scale. They experimented with the effects of different medium, brushes and strokes for the background and how to add detail to their work before working collaboratively as a class to create these wonderful Mayan-inspired frescos.



Year 6 Art

Year 6 worked hard to create these amazing volcano inspired prints. They researched and planned their designs, then etched their design onto a polystyrene tile before applying the colours, one at a time, and printing.

World Book Day 2025

The children celebrated World Book Day and enjoyed many exciting activities, including visits from two authors.



Gardening Club's Plant Sale

The gardening club's recent plant sale was a huge success and made a record £123. All the profits will go towards purchasing new supplies and equipment. The children have already been sowing their next batch of seeds this week which includes tomatoes and cosmos.

Sports News – Netball

In February, we were invited to Wentworth Primary School where we played High 5 Netball against Wentworth and All Saints Primary Schools.

We enjoyed the afternoon and as a new team we hope to build on the experience and develop to compete over the next two years.



Congratulations to Richard Collins!



Councillor Richard Collins, of Great Braxted Parish Council, was named "Councillor of the Year" at the Star Council Awards 2024.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) awarded him the title for his "exceptional leadership and community-driven vision".

Councillor Collins led the £130,000 refurbishment of the Great Braxted Pavilion, securing £69,000 from the government's Community Ownership Fund.

This made Great Braxted the only parish or town council in Essex to receive this grant last year.

The funding allowed for major upgrades, including insulation cladding, new windows, furnishings, and interior renovations.

Solar panels and a new roof are also planned to enhance sustainability.

Councillor Collins kept residents informed through regular updates at parish meetings and detailed articles in the Braxted Bulletin.

He navigated logistical challenges, contractor coordination, and supply chain disruptions to keep the project on track.

The NALC said his "forward-thinking leadership" ensures the Pavilion will serve as a "thriving, sustainable hub for future generations".

The award recognises his dedication and impact on Great Braxted, setting a high standard for local governance.

(Taken from the Maldon and Burnham Standard)

Ex-police dog hit by car wins Crufts hero award

A retired Essex Police dog who was hit by a car has won an award at Crufts 2025.

Baloo was given The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award after almost 120,000 votes were cast by the public.

The Belgian Malinois had to have one of her legs amputated after being hit by a suspect's car fleeing a crime scene in 2018.

Her story later inspired the launch of an animal trauma support service for police officers.

Baloo and owner Mandy Chapman visit schools, care homes and community groups to help with mental health issues.

"She is an amazing dog through and through," Ms Chapman said.

"Despite her disability and the terrible injuries she sustained, she has come through it all so well and finds joy in life, as well as giving joy in life, every single day."

Ms Chapman described how the eight-year-old dog would often "fix on" a particular person, such as a school pupil, who she would later find out had recently been experiencing a "terrible time".

"She's only got one paw, but she gives it to people and looks deep into their eyes - it's amazing."

The award was announced at the bp pulse LIVE arena, at the NEC in Birmingham, on the final day of Crufts, by campaigner Josephine Hamilton OBE and Paralympian Ellie Simmonds OBE.

The pair were presented with their award and a cheque for £5,000 for their dog charity of choice – Essex Retired Police Dog Fund.

Baloo received surgery at Dick White Referrals in Newmarket, Suffolk, and has had hydrotherapy and other treatments at Anglia Ruskin University's Writtle campus near Chelmsford.

Ms Chapman said this had made her strong: "Up until recently she was doing canine cross running in Essex and she'd be the first dog to finish, even though she'd be put at the back of the race."



Image source, Mandy Chapman

Baloo broke her pelvis and leg when she was hit by the car

The pair worked with the College of Policing team to set up Oscar Kilo wellbeing and trauma support service. Now there are more than 250 canines involved with the scheme.

"She proves that however hard things get, you can get through it. She is super sappy and sharing her is so rewarding, I love every second of it," added Ms Chapman.

"Thank you to each and every person who has voted for her [for the award]."

Helen Kerfoot, Crufts show manager, said: "What Baloo has achieved, the courage she has shown, and the support she now gives others is extraordinary.

"Mandy and Baloo's incredible bond and the work they do together is inspiring."

(Taken from BBC News online)

Annual Village Litter Pick
Saturday 22nd March 2025
Meet at the Village Pavilion (10am – 12pm)
Refreshments Provided



Please bring gloves, your own little pickers & hi-vis jackets if you have them, as we only have a limited numbers to borrow. Bags will be provided

Any help would be greatly received – Great Braxted Parish Council

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES IN BRAXTED PAVILION & GROUNDS

Lettings Officer & Key Holder: Sarah Mann, 892821, email sarahm66@btinternet.com

NOTE: The pavilion itself is subject to regular checks for such things as maintenance, cleaning and decorating, etc.

The pavilion can be booked by Braxted residents for private hire.

The cost is £20

Monday	U3A Bridge Group 9:30am—12:30pm (Ken Hornett 01621 891424) Metafit [keep fit] - 6-7pm (Lisa Brand, 01621 893720)
Tuesday	Pilates Class—9-10am – Mixed group of all ages. £8.50 a session . 07761 634996 for more info
Wednesday	Home Schooling—All Day—Fortnightly Band Rehearsal 7pm
Thursday	Braxted Barkers Dog Club Thursday 11:30am—1:30pm Diane Sawford, 07840 778042 Band Rehearsal 2pm PC Meeting Bi-monthly
Friday	Braxted Art Club from 11:00am. David Joyce, 01621 891241
Saturday	Summer Cricket matches May to September 1pm
Sunday	Braxted Barkers Dog Club, first Sunday each month. Diane Sawford, 07840 778042

Hire costs

Village clubs and societies £10

Other village hires £20

Outside GB and LB hires £50

Sarah Mann Secretary

Ken Hornett Chairman

Bunny Search

Z T T F N Y D I C A B B A G E B Y
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X R R L T O O F Y K C U L V N N I
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hippity hoppity
lucky foot
whiskers
garden
Spring
hare

rabbit presents
Bugs Bunny
bunnies
rabbit
furry

floppy ears
Cottontail
cabbage
nibble
Peter

bunny ears
chocolate
Thumper
carrot
jump

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Little Braxted Community and Educational Fund



This fund benefits people living in Little Braxted, neighbouring villages and the surrounding rural areas. It also supports educational opportunities in Wickham Bishops and Little Braxted.

To apply for a grant please call the friendly Essex Community Foundation team on 01245 355947 or visit: essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk




Essex
Community
Foundation

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1052061