

OUR Bromley

LONDON'S BEST BOROUGH

DECEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 2



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Support your
high street

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**Bromley
Lettings**

Landlords...

Do you want a cash incentive
and stress-free lettings?

Bromley Council's lettings service takes the stress out of finding you tenants while saving you money.

We are looking for properties across London and surrounding areas.

We have a range of attractive lettings services to tailor to your needs. Join the scheme and you'll receive a cash incentive alongside access to a range of other benefits.*

Benefits include:

- free support throughout the duration of the tenancy from highly experienced staff
- no fees
- free photographic inventory
- free tenancy agreement

*Subject to terms and conditions

Find out more and register your interest online:
www.bromley.gov.uk/PrivateLandlords

or contact our dedicated lettings team:
t: 07738 752 580 e: landlords@bromley.gov.uk



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Dear Resident,

Since writing to you last, we have had a busy autumn locally, with more street trees planted, the street lighting upgrade completed, continued improvements in our parks and libraries, as well as hosting Met Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley who shared his future policing plans. All of this and more is covered in this edition.

'Environment Matters', including your all-important waste calendar, takes pride of place in the centre, packed with information to help cut waste, recycle more and retain our number one position in London.

The festive season is a vital time to support our local businesses by staying local as we wind down to enjoy ourselves with loved ones and friends but, please, do spare a thought for those less fortunate. Homelessness is always awful, and it is warming to see so many organisations rising to that challenge at this time of year. But loneliness is awful too, so please, try to reach out to neighbours living alone, particularly if bad weather strikes, and offer help whenever you can.

I wish each and every one of you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Cllr Colin P. Smith
Bromley Council Leader

Follow us at: /lbbromley @LBofBromley /LBBromley

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Homes for

Ukraine

Supporting our neighbours fleeing from war



- The Ukraine war started on 24 February 2022.
- Since the Homes for Ukraine Scheme launched on 14 March 2022, Bromley has welcomed **840** Ukrainian guests across **454** residents who have opened their homes.



To find out more about Bromley's Homes For Ukraine Scheme and how you can support those fleeing from war:

Scan the QR code or call our team on 020 8313 4698
or email ukrainesupport@bromley.gov.uk



News round-up

The latest on our Borough - find out more at www.bromley.gov.uk/news
You can also sign up for Our Bromley e-newsletter - straight to your email inbox

Perfect Panto

You shall go to the ball this December as Cinderella takes to the stage at the Churchill Theatre. The Mayor attended the unveiling of the star-studded line-up, which includes TV personality and theatre personality Brenda Edwards as The Fairy Godmother. Matt Powder, the Churchill's General Manager said: "This panto is spellbinding - you'll remember the occasion for Christmases to come!"

Housing changes considered

We're currently consulting on proposed updates to our housing allocations scheme, the process through which we allocate and let social housing. Share your views before 18 December at www.bromley.gov.uk/consultations

Main image by Danny Kaan

The show must go on

Proposals for a major upgrade of the Churchill Theatre are being explored as part of wider plans to enhance Bromley's town centre.

The aim is to preserve this much loved theatre for generations to come.



Christmas sparkle

Exciting Christmas light switch-ons drew crowds to our high streets.

Popular comedian Rob Beckett lit the lights for Your Bromley BID, whilst a stunning firework display delighted all at Orpington 1st BID's event. Many events across the Borough are lifting spirits in the run up to Christmas - perfect for picking up last minute gifts.





Friends of South Hill Wood and Kingswood Glen with their newly-awarded Green Flag Award

Flying the flag

Nine of the borough's parks and green spaces have been awarded Green Flag status, a testament to the ongoing partnership of Friends of Parks groups, idverde and Bromley Council. The Green Flag Award Scheme is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces. Why not become a Friend of your local park. Find out more at www.bromley.gov.uk/parkfriends



Sew Good

An eye-catching quilt commissioned by Bromley Council to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II was unveiled by Deputy Mayor Cllr Keith Onslow, at a Beckenham Quilters exhibition. Talented local stitchers created the work which will soon be on show during its tour of the Borough's libraries.



Saying it with flowers

Forty volunteers from 'Bulgarians in Bromley' have come together to plant a beautiful bed of roses in Queens Garden. As the national flower of Bulgaria and England, the roses serve as a heartfelt gift to the Borough from its Bulgarian community. The project will be celebrated next spring, as the first annual pruning takes place.



Not on the verge

Motorists, please remember that parking on grass verges and pavements, even momentarily, is forbidden and risks a penalty charge notice. It causes damage and obstructs those walking past. Tell us about incorrect parking at www.bromley.gov.uk/report

Park Life Historic handover

A key milestone has been reached in the £52m regeneration of Crystal Place Park as the Mayor presented Crystal Palace Park Trust with the keys to the park. The Trust will now handle the day-to-day management of the park.





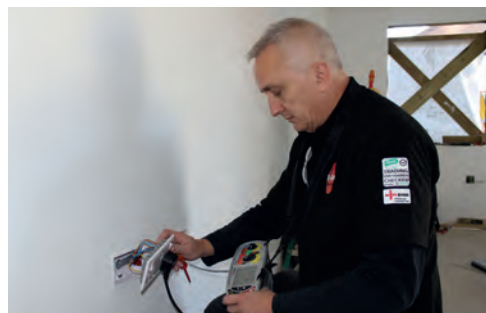
Snow Friends

Our gritting crews have been hard at work gearing up for winter, stockpiling an impressive 7,000 tonnes of salt to battle frost, snow or ice. The Council clears 500 miles of roads and 800 miles of pavements when it snows but cannot get everywhere and so Snow Friends offer great support. Interested in helping to clear residential roads when it snows? Sign up to become a Snow Friend.

www.bromley.gov.uk/snowfriends

Page turned

Plans are underway to move the Central Library to the heart of Bromley High Street - to the former Top Shop building - which would be redeveloped. Refurbishment is also taking place at libraries across the Borough with St Paul's Cray Library already completed.



Safe Local Traders

Sprucing up your home could be on the new year's resolution list and it can be hard to find a trader you trust. It's worth taking a look at Trading Standards Checked, the only fair trader directory vetted by Bromley Trading Standards. The scheme aims to protect residents, prevent financial abuse and stop doorstep criminals. Search a trade or apply as a trader at www.bromley.gov.uk/TradingStandardsChecked



Warm Welcome

There's a warm welcome in Bromley's libraries, which are all being refurbished to make them even more welcoming! As well as information signposting, library staff support residents to study, conduct business, join in library activities, borrow books and generally enjoy the wonderful facilities on offer, all in warm, comfortable surroundings. Find your local library www.bromley.gov.uk/libraries and more warm places at: www.bromleywell.org.uk



Christmas Cheer

The festive season is a joyful time with family and friends, but for some it can be a challenging period. Imagine the delight for around two thousand residents receiving care when they get a card especially made for them by children from across the Borough. The Christmas Card project, coordinated by the Council was hugely popular last year and should prove bigger and better each year.

www.bromley.gov.uk/loneliness

Wake up 2 care

Do you want a career where
no two days are the same?



For a vocation that really makes a difference to people's lives, find out more about adult social care worker roles

- ✓ Free training and development
- ✓ Previous experience not necessary
- ✓ Mentoring
- ✓ Working as part of a dedicated team
- ✓ Making a real difference

Nadia applied and never looked back



 Watch Nadia's story

Register your interest online or email
wakeup2care@bromley.gov.uk

www.bromley.gov.uk/wakeup2care



High Street Entertainment: your views

Tens of thousands visited Bromley High Street this year for BR1 Lates events. If you were at Library Lates, High Street Lates or the Winter Lights Spectacular, tell us what you thought online by 24 December to help guide future entertainment in the town centre. www.bromley.gov.uk/BR1Lates



Electric Car Charging

Bromley is the first London Borough to conduct a trial of the new Gul-e on-street electric car charging initiative that brings convenient home charging to residents despite lack of access to a driveway. Those taking part are benefitting from charging their electric cars at home and electricity that is cheaper than public charging. This trial will be assessed next year.

Image by Danny Kaan

More Treemendous trees

More than 3000 trees have been planted around the Borough since the start of the ambitious Treemendous planting programme two years ago, when the Council committed to plant 5000 trees over four years. Now the planting season is under way again. Not only do they look 'treemendous' but they also help air quality and promote general wellbeing. www.bromley.gov.uk/treemendous



Tribute

Councillor Andrew Lee, Ward Councillor for Hayes and Coney Hall, passed away in October. The Council is grateful for his contribution and he will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

Moving forward

Proposed improvements to The Walnuts and West Wickham leisure centres are moving ahead to the next stage of design. Works to modernise facilities at both centres is planned to start in 2024, subject to tendering and further approval, including upgrades to gyms, swimming pools, changing rooms and cafes. The progress follows extensive engagement with residents and service users in West Wickham and Orpington earlier this year.

Laced with history

A beautiful large panel of lace produced in the 1940s to commemorate the Battle of Britain was unveiled in the presence of the Mayor during this year's Open House Festival. Produced by Nottingham firm Dobson, Browne and Co., the design took two years to perfect. Only 38 were made and you can see Bromley's displayed at the Central Library. There's always more on offer in your local library than just lending books! Find out more at: www.bromley.gov.uk/libraries





Shop Local

Walk down your local high street and you'll instantly feel at home. Bromley's Charter Market is open every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and more in the run up to Christmas

Our high streets are more than somewhere to shop. They are communities in their own right where familiar faces rub shoulders with those who have travelled miles to a particular shop or stall. The atmosphere is warm, even on the coldest of days.

Take Bromley High Street, home to the historic Charter Market. Just stand still for a few moments, soak up the vibe and feel the love.

Passers by call out to Denis - he knows them all, but then he should do, he has run his popular haberdashery business in Bromley for no fewer than 50 years.

Next door, stallholder Maxine has all the up-to-date fashion on offer and positively exudes enthusiasm. "I love it here in Bromley," she says. "I moved from Elephant and Castle eight years ago - never looked back."

Further down, Don offers

Bromley Charter Market:

Regulars come to Bromley High Street for interesting market stalls, from fashion and fabric to food and drink and great shops and restaurants.

Open: Thurs, Fri, Sat 9am - 5pm and every day 7-24 December.
www.bromley.gov.uk/markets



Bromley Charter Market was established in 1205 when King John granted a Charter allowing a market. This was revised with a day change in 1447 by King Henry VI. The Royal Charter meant no other market could be held within 6 miles on the same day. Moving to Market Square in 1933 and then to Bromley North it finally relocated to the High Street in 2012.

wonderfully fragrant incense. He greets you with a grin from ear to ear. The smiles are contagious. You feel welcome, you're buying something special and you're laughing. Who'd have thought shopping was so fun and that you'd make friends at the same time! Then there's the colours and smells of the fresh fruit and veg, plants and street foods, a heady onslaught on the senses. Now you don't get any of that online, do you?

Shop Local

There's a warm welcome awaiting you all over the Borough

Bromley Christmas Market

An extra attraction in Bromley High Street is the annual Christmas Market packed with seasonal fun and featuring Bavarian style cabins, outdoor bar and food stalls, children's rides and a traditional Nativity Scene courtesy of Churches Together.

Open every day until
2 January - except 25 December.



Orpington Market

A great local shopping experience in the centre of town for family and friends to meet, eat and relax.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 9am-4pm.
info@walnutsshopping.co.uk



Chislehurst Farmers' Market

Running for 10 years, this market offers a wide variety of speciality foods and local produce.

Open 3rd Sunday of each month. 10am-2pm.
www.myfarmersmarket.co.uk



Penge Maple Road Market

Once the festivities have subsided, what better than a visit to the next Maple Road Market on the last Saturday of February onwards.

Open winter - Feb, March, Nov (no market in Jan)
10am-3pm at Anerley Town Hall and summer 11am-4pm,
St John's School, Maple Rd, SE20 8HU.
www.mapleroadmarket.co.uk

Don't be a victim of fly-tippers


You have a duty of care for your waste



- Always be suspicious of cold callers offering to remove your waste.
 - Whether you are a resident or a business, do not give any waste to someone who is unable to prove they are a legitimate waste carrier.
 - Registered waste removal companies and officials will always openly offer you proof of identification and evidence of right to removal.
 - Check with the Environment Agency that your waste carrier is registered.
 - Always obtain a waste transfer note as proof of the transfer to an authorised person. Failure to do so could make you liable to a Fixed Penalty Notice and/or prosecution.
-
-  **Where evidence exists, we will always prosecute fly-tippers.**

Keep our borough clean and green
Take responsibility for your waste

Find and check registered waste carriers at environment.data.gov.uk/public-register or call the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506



Mission: Possible

Meet Dean Laws and his team – he has ‘accepted the challenge’ to keep our Borough clean, green and safe

Dean is a man with a mission. He and his investigation team go to extraordinary lengths to keep our Borough beautiful and safe.

“When we’re investigating a serious fly-tip we use cameras,” he explains, “but we also talk to people on site, knock on doors, visit businesses and even fingertip search rubbish sacks looking for any clues.”

No stone is unturned and their forensic focus means they will use just the smallest piece of evidence

to locate flytippers in the Borough.

The team covers misdemeanours from sacks left in alleyways and bulky items on the highway to fully fledged organised crime. They thrive on tip-offs, with an emphasis on known hotspots.

Dean talks animatedly about his latest fly-tipping court case: “We viewed hundreds of hours of CCTV and conducted many interviews, building a strong case resulting in fines, a seized vehicle and a Criminal Behaviour Order which, if breached, carries a prison sentence - a first for Bromley.”

“We need support from residents and businesses too,” says Dean. “Please check waste carriers have the legitimate paperwork before using them.”

If you care about our Borough and want to make a report, head to the Council’s website at www.bromley.gov.uk/report

Actions since 2022

8
Vehicles seized

13
Verbal warnings

14
Formal notices

15
Warning letters

22
Successful prosecutions

83
Community protection warnings

88
Fixed penalty notices



Parks Progress

Bromley Council's £1million Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund is being used to enhance parks and open spaces across the Borough

Thirty-three projects have been given the green light so far, with more than £468,000 awarded to Friends of Parks and community groups who have applied to the Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund. In partnership with the Council's green spaces contractor, idverde, improvements are being made to many play areas, with public gardens becoming even more beautiful to visit, whilst natural biodiversity is conserved and facilities are upgraded.

Here are just some of the amazing projects that are under way or have already been completed.

Pratts Bottom Common

New play equipment was unveiled this autumn by Friends of Pratts Bottom Common. A new climbing frame with slide, two springers and new surrounding surfacing were installed using the award to the Friends Group. Pupils from Pratts Bottom Primary school and other guests attended the unveiling. In conjunction with the school and idverde, the Friends plan to use part of their £500 contribution to establish a wildflower meadow at the playground entrance.



Petts Wood Recreation Ground

The Friends of Crofton and Sparrow Woods designed and delivered an upgraded and accessible children's play area, which includes a new basket swing and 'Me to You' swing, a toddler train, a hen and horse springer, and new wet pour surfacing to help prevent injuries and improve park drainage.

Bromley's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Keith Onslow, and Deputy Mayoress, Sara Onslow, were proud to open the newly improved children's play area.



Pictures

Top: Launch of new play equipment in Pratts Bottom

Above: Bromley's Deputy Mayor opened the improved play area in Petts Wood

Below: New wheelchair accessible trampoline in Penge



Penge Recreation Ground

Improvements to Penge Recreation Ground include a wheelchair trampoline and logged seating within the children's play area, refurbishment of play equipment and introduction of an outdoor trim trail which is permanently accessible.



You can find out more about all our Platinum Jubilee Parks Funded projects by visiting www.bromley.gov.uk/jubileeparksfund



In partnership with



Week one

WINTER 2023

Environment Matters

even more than ever

Working Together In All Weather

Our Veolia teams are out in all weathers, making sure that the roads and pavements of the borough are swept and kept tidy as part of their regular service.

In recent months, additional teams have been out on the streets, removing fallen leaves from our **800 miles of pavement** and the borough's **500 miles of roads**. In the last year, over **2,000 tonnes of leaves** have been collected, which is the equivalent of **182 double-decker London buses!**

We understand that frost, ice, and snow create issues and delays for our residents, which is why we have again stocked up with **7,000 tonnes of salt** for the coming season. With a bigger stockpile than any other London borough, we will look to ensure that our dedicated gritting and clearance crews are on hand to clear snow from roads and pavements in town centres, schools and transport interchanges across the borough.

For more information, or to report any issues on streets, leafing, or snow, please visit bromley.gov.uk/neatstreets



Welcome

I am extremely passionate about our local environment, recognising the positive impact this has on our own wellbeing as well. Our Environment Matters to me and we have made good progress. We are doing even more, planting more trees for instance as part of our Tremendous initiative and investing in our parks.

Much of this good work is as a direct result of partnership working with residents across the borough. A brilliant example of this is our recycling record, where we are London's leading borough, recycling around half our waste and sending virtually zero waste to landfill. Thank you for what you do in support of the environment. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the enclosed Christmas waste collection schedules and the latest calendar as well, in this pull-out edition of Environment Matters.

It was a huge honour to be recently appointed as the new Environment Portfolio holder. As I reflect, I am struck by the thought that we need to do more, ever mindful of our finances.

Thank you so much for your support in big ways and small, by reporting problems via the website and by recycling. Special thanks goes to our brilliant Friends of Parks, our Street

and Tree Friends and of course our Snow Friends.

Happy Christmas.

Councillor Will Rowlands

Executive Councillor for Environment



Street Friends Better Together



We are proud that Bromley has such an amazing support network of Friends that work alongside the Council and our contractors to keep the borough clean, green, and safe for everyone.

Our Street Friends are out all year round, helping clear litter and reporting street issues on Fix My Street, as well as improving the environment and helping bring residents together and supporting nature. You can become a Street Friend today by visiting bromley.gov.uk/streetfriends

We also really appreciate the efforts of our Snow Friends, who are ready to help clear residential roads and keep our streets safe and accessible, with training, supplies and guidance from our Veolia street teams. If you would like to sign up, or for more information, please visit bromley.gov.uk/snowfriends

To find out more about Bromley's Friends groups visit bromley.gov.uk/neatstreets



GREEN FESTIVE TIPS



Bank and public holidays mean that waste and recycling will be collected on a different day than usual. Please refer to the Collection Calendar overleaf for your festive and new year collection dates, or visit bromley.gov.uk/bankholiday



Save your leftovers from your festive and everyday meals to turn into tasty post-Christmas meals. Visit lovefoodhatewaste.org.uk to find out more.



Consider donating unwanted gifts to your local charity shop. Don't forget to check opening times of local stores and please do not leave items outside any shop.



Please use the correct recycling containers. We can only collect recycling from the boxes provided by Bromley Council. Using other types of containers or bins can cause safety problems to collection crews when they empty them.



Planning a Christmas or New Year get together? Consider how you might be able to reduce single use items, by using cloth napkins instead of paper, and providing reusable and washable cutlery instead of disposable plastic.



Made your New Years Resolutions yet? If you are thinking of starting a DIY project or beginning a new hobby, you may be able to borrow the equipment you need from the Library of Things. Visit libraryofthings.co.uk/bromley



Please remember to break down cardboard boxes from gifts, decorations and everyday household waste to fit inside your recycling containers.



Please remember to present your bins at the front of your property within arm's reach of the pavement. Once they are empty, please return them to your usual storage area.

A GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE ALL YEAR AROUND

For only £1.15 a week (£60 for 12 months), you can join over 42,000 garden waste subscribers and receive a large 240 litre green bin.

Your bin will be collected every other week during gardening season (March to November), and monthly during the remaining winter months.

Your cuttings, trimmings and prunings will be turned into nutrient-rich compost, providing vital soil improvements to farms across the UK. A win-win for your garden and the environment! Let's work together to make our gardens clean, green and truly sustainable.

Sustainable Planting Trial for the Borough

Beginning in November 2023 and running for an initial three-year period, our new Sustainable Planting Trial sees ten carefully selected locations being planted with a range of regenerative and sustainable plants, perennials, and shrubs.

In partnership with our green spaces contractor idverde, the aim of the trial is to reduce seasonal planting costs, diversify the flora in the borough, and create biodiverse habitats and food sources for insects, birds and other animal life.

Find out more at bromley.gov.uk/SustainablePlanting

Sky Lanterns



Marking an occasion with a sky lantern? Lanterns may look pretty and come in all colours, shapes and sizes but what seems like a good idea, could be extremely dangerous.

Sky lanterns have naked flames which might be harmless floating around in the sky but where they land at random, they could have unintended disastrous consequences.

Sky lanterns, balloons or similar airborne goods could not only harm wildlife, people or the environment, the residue left behind is actually a form of littering, so you could technically be issued with an £100 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

Holiday Recycling and Waste Collection Days

Your recycling and waste collection timetable will be affected over the Christmas holiday. Please check the revised collection schedule to find out more.

| My usual collection day | My holiday collection day |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday 25 December | Wednesday 27 December |
| Tuesday 26 December | Thursday 28 December |
| Wednesday 27 December | Friday 29 December |
| Thursday 28 December | Saturday 30 December |
| Friday 29 December | Tuesday 2 January |
| Monday 1 January | Wednesday 3 January |
| Tuesday 2 January | Thursday 4 January |
| Wednesday 3 January | Friday 5 January |
| Thursday 4 January | Saturday 6 January |
| Friday 5 January | Monday 8 January |
| Monday 8 January | Tuesday 9 January |
| Tuesday 9 January | Wednesday 10 January |
| Wednesday 10 January | Thursday 11 January |
| Thursday 11 January | Friday 12 January |
| Friday 12 January | Saturday 13 January |
| Friday 29 March | Collection as usual |

Green Garden Waste subscribers:



If you are a **Green Garden Waste subscriber**, your bin will be collected on your usual collection day. Please remember you can cut up your Christmas tree and place it in your garden waste bin.

Christmas Tree Recycling Sites

To recycle your Christmas trees and other garden waste, we will open temporary green garden waste sites.

Saturday 6 January, 11am to 4pm

- Bromley: Norman Park, Hook Farm Road (off Bromley Common)
- Salt Depot: Shire Lane Spur (off Sevenoaks Road)
- St Paul's Cray: Cotmandene Crescent car park

Sunday 7 January, 8am to 12pm

- Biggin Hill: Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane
- Beckenham: Unicorn Primary School car park, Creswell Drive (off South Eden Park Road)

Please remember:



Christmas trees and garden waste must not be left outside of the hours and dates above.



Remove all decorations from your tree before you take it to the site.

Holiday Parking and Traffic Enforcement Arrangements

If you are driving or looking for a place to park over the festive period, please be aware of the restrictions/arrangements that apply on the dates below:

| Date | Parking restrictions | Bus lane and moving traffic restrictions | On-street paid for parking bays and permit bays | All Council operated car parks |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Christmas Day - Monday 25 December | No restrictions, please drive safely | No restrictions, please drive safely | Free | Free |
| Boxing Day - Tuesday 26 December | Normal Tuesday restrictions apply | Normal Tuesday restrictions apply | Free | Charges apply |
| New Year's Day Monday 1 January | Normal Monday restrictions apply | Normal Monday restrictions apply | Free | Charges apply |

Council operated car parks will be open throughout Christmas and the New Year as normal, and parking is free on Christmas Day.

On-street paid for parking bays and permit bays are free on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Bus lane and moving traffic restrictions will apply throughout the festive period, except on Christmas Day, please drive safely.



Collection Calendar

This is your recycling and waste collection calendar starting from December 2023. This is for residents living in houses only as there are different arrangements for residents in flats.


- 1** All waste and recycling **must** be correctly presented for collection by **7am on collection day**.
- 2** All waste must be contained securely and placed within arm's reach of the pavement, **but not on it**.
- 3** Small electrical items, batteries and textiles **must** be placed in a separate loosely-tied bag.
- 4** Leave your recycling and waste out for collection until **5pm** before you report a missed collection.

| December 2023 | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|------|--------|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25** | 26** | 27** | 28** | 29**** | 30 | 31 |

| January 2024 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 1** | 2** | 3** | 4** | 5*** | 6 | 7 |
| 8* | 9* | 10* | 11* | 12* | 13 | 14 |
| 15^ | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| February 2024 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |

| March 2024 | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29^ | 30 | 31 |

-  Saturday collections as advised
- * Collections are made one day later than usual
- ** Collections are made two days later than usual
- ^ Collection day as usual
- *** Collections are made three days later than usual
- **** Collections are made four days later than usual

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Shaded week - Green box Green box: tins, cans, glass and plastic containers Food waste Clothes and textiles Small electrical items Batteries</p> |
|  | <p>Unshaded week - Black box Non-recyclable refuse Black box: paper and cardboard Food waste Clothes and textiles Small electrical items Batteries</p> |

Keeping the Community Clean and Safe

Bromley Council and its contractor, Veolia, are working together to tackle litter and fly-tips and keep communities clean and safe.

The “**Your Waste is Your Responsibility**” anti fly-tipping campaign was launched in 2021 and communications have reached thousands of households in the borough.

The team is also working closely with **Street Friends**, the largest volunteer group in Bromley, to encourage residents to join up and inspire others to dispose of their waste responsibly.

If you have any large unwanted items, please:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Visit your local Reuse and Recycling centre at Waldo Road or Churchfields Road . | Book a Bulky Items collection service via bromley.gov.uk/bulkyitems | Donate or sell items in good condition. |
|--|--|--|

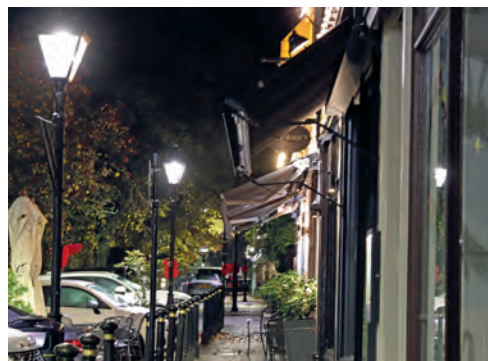
Avoid Wrapping Paper

Let's try to avoid glossy or metallic gift wraps that are coated in plastic as these cannot be recycled.

Home Composting

Composting your food waste, such as potato, sprout and carrot peelings, protects the environment and produces quality garden soil. Visit getcomposting.com to purchase your half-price compost bin and buy a second one for 75% off!





Bright Future

£1million is being saved a year by converting Bromley's streetlamps to LED, as well as providing better lighting

We've come a long way since the first organised street lighting in 1417, when

Londoners were required to hang lanterns outside their homes at dusk!

Now, all 28,000 streetlamps in the Borough have been converted to today's most energy-efficient

“An average saving of £1m a year will be made”

technology. Light-emitting diode, LED for short, uses less power than the old low pressure sodium lanterns.

A saving of £1million a year at current costs is being made following

the programme which also replaced 8,000 of the oldest concrete lamp columns.

Residents, pedestrians and motorists alike will benefit from more reliable energy efficient lighting that's easier to maintain and cheaper to run.

LED lighting also allows for better directional output that puts light where it's needed, minimising unnecessary light pollution.



Report a fault

You can easily report a street light or road sign problem at www.bromley.gov.uk/report

Investing to save

28,000

Streetlamps converted

709

Heritage lanterns converted

8,000

Concrete lamppost replacements

Savings of

£1million

a year



“The street lighting changeover brightens our streets, makes financial savings, reduces light pollution and leads the way towards a more carbon-neutral future for Bromley.”

Councillor Nicholas Bennett, Executive Councillor for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

KEEP YOUR CHILD WELL THIS WINTER

Parents often dread winter as it's the season for runny noses, fevers, and germs everywhere. It is a time when babies and children get sick more often.

Although cold weather doesn't cause colds, flu and wheezing, these viruses are more common in winter as we are in closer contact with each other due to staying indoors.

But help is at hand! A new Bromley guide for parents has been published. 'Keep your child well this winter' has lots of useful tips and advice on caring for your child. It explains when you can manage symptoms at home and when you should seek medical advice. You can find it online at www.selondonics.org/OneBromleyCYP or pick up a copy from your health visitor or GP practice.



SCAN ME



Simple tips to help keep your children well:

- make sure they are up to date with their routine immunisations and have their flu jab
- teach them the importance of good hygiene – especially handwashing
- cough or sneeze into a tissue, put it in the bin and always wash hands
- wrap up warm
- eat healthily and drink plenty of water.

Dr Bhumika Mittal, Bromley GP advises,

"You know your child best so trust your instincts. If they are unwell and don't have any worrying symptoms, please treat them at home. If you are worried, speak to your local pharmacist or go online to www.nhs.uk If they are not improving, speak to your GP practice.

"During the winter months we see many more families and children with minor conditions that can be managed at home. Please help your NHS, and use the right service when you need to".





Healthy Living

Public Health aims to reduce the causes of ill-health to improve health and wellbeing in the Borough. There are plenty of ways you can help

What to do when you feel unwell

If you're not feeling well, choosing the right place to go for help can save time and effort. Please treat minor conditions and symptoms at home using over the counter medicines, drink plenty of water and rest. If your symptoms don't go away, seek advice rather than waiting until you are very poorly. Please help your NHS this winter and use the right service. www.selondonics.org/ **OneBromleyKeepWell**

Get your Jabs this winter

For more information on seasonal vaccinations, such as Covid and Flu, visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

Vaping in young people

The number of young people using vapes is rising, despite unknown health effects and the risk of nicotine addiction. They can help adults to quit smoking, but it is illegal to sell vapes to under-18s or make purchases on their behalf. The Council is working hard to deter young people and will enforce the law so please report any sales of vapes to children by emailing trading.standards@bromley.gov.uk or call Citizens Advice on **0808 223 1133**.



Images by AdobeStock and Freepix

One Bromley Health Hub

The One Bromley Health Hub will offer a broader range of health and wellbeing support early next year.

Located in The Glades Shopping Centre, the focus will be on reducing the five leading causes of poor health, preventing them becoming long-term conditions. The 'Vital 5' are high blood pressure, obesity, smoking, alcohol and mental health. More at: www.selondonics.org/ **OneBromleyHealthHub**

Sexual Health support

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust offers a free, confidential one-stop shop for sexual health and contraception advice. www.sexualhealthbromley.co.uk

Having difficulty making ends meet?

As a Bromley resident, you could be eligible this winter for £200 of additional support to help pay for essentials



Apply to the Household Support Fund

To apply you must be 16 or over, a Bromley resident and:

- a family with school age children
- a care leaver
- a household including someone with a disability such as dementia or mental health
- a domestic abuse survivor
- a carer

- a large family
- a single income family; or
- a vulnerable household experiencing exceptional financial hardship

In addition, you must provide evidence of:

- energy arrears of more than 3 months
- rent arrears of more than 3 months
- mortgage arrears of more than 3 months
- council tax arrears; or
- evidence of other significant financial hardship

Find out more and complete the online form:
www.bromley.gov.uk/householdsupportfund
or call the helpline 9am – 12pm,
Monday to Friday on **020 8461 7999**.



Applications close on 31 March 2024 or earlier if funds are exhausted.
Funded by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Stars in our eyes

Celebrating young people with special educational needs and disabilities



The excitement was palpable at the very first SEND Stars Awards. They were the finale to a month of activities to recognise the accomplishments of Bromley’s children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and the people who make a difference to their lives.

Other events included webinars to share experiences, a display of the artistic talents at the Pavilion Leisure Centre, information stations in Children and Family Centres and a market place to enable families and carers to meet professionals face-to-face and learn more about the support and services in Bromley.

For more information visit:
www.bromley.gov.uk/localoffer

Winning ways

As well as recognising children, parents and carers, local organisations were also singled out for praise. Among them were:

CASPA: charity supporting autistic/neurodivergent children and their families.

caspabromley.org.uk

The Engine Shed: a group for autistic children with an interest in trains. www.theengineshed.org.uk

Need2change: Bromley mums whose children have complex needs.

www.facebook.com/Need2Change/

Petts Wood Playgroup: support and care for children with special needs www.pwpg.org.uk

Find more organisations at
bromley.simplyconnect.uk



Top: Bromley’s Mayor with award winners from charity CASPA.

Main picture: The first Bromley SEND Stars Awards



“We are ambitious for all children and young people to thrive in our Borough. I am so incredibly proud of our very special young people and families, friends, professionals and organisations who support them. Well done everyone!”

Councillor Kate Lymer, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Children, Education and Families



Safer Bromley

Trading Standards joined the National Trading Standards Scams Team to warn residents: scams come in many different forms and often when least expected

Be Scam Aware

Bromley's Trading Standards came together with the National Team and representatives from Barclays Bank to warn passers-by how easy it is to get caught out with fake lotteries, computer scams, flashy websites and convincing patter on the telephone or at the door.

It was surprising, and concerning, that many people approached in Bromley high street claimed they knew all about scams, but there are nearly four million frauds each year in Britain, which means that many people are becoming victims of sophisticated scams.



The message is clear:

be vigilant and if something seems 'too good to be true' – then it probably is!

Spot the Scam - look out for:

- being asked for personal or financial information
- pressure to act quickly
- encouragement to be secretive
- being told to send money to someone else's bank account
- encouragement to click on links in emails
- unexpected calls from unknown phone numbers



Take Five to Stop Fraud



Stop: Take a moment to think before parting with money or information.



Challenge: Could it be fake? It's OK to reject or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.



Protect: Contact your bank immediately if you think you are the victim of a scam and report it to **Action Fraud** on **0300 123 2040**.
www.bromley.gov.uk/roguetraders



Keep the noise down!

Most people are considerate, but excessive noise can get out of hand. Bromley's Noise Nuisance Service is there for you.

Now, the launch of a new enhanced Out-of-Hours service brings an immediate response to stop the noise there and then. The aim is to resolve things informally but more stringent action can be taken if necessary.

This welcomed new out-of-hours service is a perfect complement to the standard daytime service, bringing peace of mind to residents that excessive noise at night can be dealt with efficiently and effectively.



Standard Daytime Service

- Try to agree a solution calmly
 - Be prepared to compromise
- If the issue persists report at www.bromley.gov.uk/report



New enhanced Out of Hours Noise Nuisance Service

Fri, Sat, Sun and Bank Holidays, 7pm to 2am.
Call for immediate response
0300 303 8671



A New Met for London

Bromley was the first Borough to welcome Met Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley to present 'A New Met for London'. This two-year Police plan aims to deliver more trust, less crime and higher standards. Communities will know local officers, help shape priorities and work together to reduce crime and ASB.

Bromley's Superintendent Luke Baldock said, "We will put the public first, listen to concerns and work together to solve problems to give residents the policing they rightly expect. Priorities will be set locally and worked on by local teams. Bromley has a strong approach under the Safer Bromley Partnership and I am confident we can deliver."

www.met.police.uk/notices/met/a-new-met-for-london/

Contacts

Police non-emergency enquiries:
101
Emergency:
999

Trading Standards Rapid Response:
07903 852090

Trading Standards Alerts:
www.bromley.gov.uk/trading-standards

Neighbourhood Watch
www.bnwa.co.uk

Don't suffer in silence, visit:
www.bromley.gov.uk/domestic-abuse



BROMLEY
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS
BOARD

Safeguarding is everyone's business



Making sure
vulnerable
adults are kept
safe from harm
and abuse



Scan to
learn more

Worried about an adult?
CALL 020 8461 7777

or in an emergency
CALL 999

www.bromleysafeguardingadults.org



Remembering

World War II veteran Peter, 102, reminisces with Bromley's Mayor - including escaping death twice in just one week!

Peter Lemon took part in more than fifty flying missions during WWII with Royal Air Force No.8 Squadron. Recounting two close shaves with death, he thought someone must have been looking out for him.

As part of the Mayor's quest to share people's stories, Peter told of flying over Ethiopia and into Aden where the runway was little more than a dusty path flanked by flares at night.

Take off and landing in the Wellington bomber had been straightforward for the seven-man crew over a number of daytime reconnaissance missions, until one pitch black night in January 1943. The plane rolled over one of the lit flares and, covered in fabric, easily caught fire.

"Other crew members got out quickly, but when I looked around,

the flames were engulfing the plane. I was trapped!" Peter remembered. Realising in a split second it was 20 January, with the following day his mother's birthday, he imagined her receiving a telegram with news of his death. "The next thing I knew," said

"The angels were with me that week"

Peter, "I was outside the plane, and to this day, I don't know how!" Peter and his crew members were grounded for a few days pending an inquiry. Another crew took a mission they would otherwise have flown. Peter takes up the story, "Sad to say the plane blew up and all the crew were killed. I thought to myself, twice in one week – the angels were most definitely with me."

Watch the interview at
www.bromley.gov.uk/mayor

No need to feel lonely

- During the conversation, Peter mentioned he sometimes feels lonely, a cause close to the Mayor's heart, as **Loneliness Champion** for the Borough. He advises: "No one has to suffer alone."
- **Simply Connect Bromley** links residents to community services, activities and support. **bromley.simplyconnect.uk**
- If you're a veteran, like Peter, **Bromley FC Community Sports Trust** hosts get-togethers for veterans from across the Borough. Find out more about events for the armed forces community at: **www.bromley.gov.uk/armedforces**



Financial storm

A renewed call to Government for additional funding to address acute council financial pressures was unanimously approved by Full Council

Concern is yet again being raised at the highest level following the Chancellor's recent Autumn Statement, that there simply isn't enough money left within Local Government for councils to continue providing the services their residents expect.

An increasing number of councils are struggling financially, with a growing number already effectively declaring themselves bankrupt by issuing 'Section 114' notices. Senior Local Government officials are concerned that many more are set to follow even if they can set budgets next year, due to the worsening crisis facing the sector after that.

Although not immediately threatened with the same fate, given Bromley's higher level of reserves than many, the Council is not immune from this

unhealthy trend due to ever growing demand and inflationary pressures outstripping the necessary increase in income required to support vital services supporting Adults and Children.

Bromley Council has a long-held reputation for sound financial management, alongside delivering responsive services for residents. There are increasing concerns that this cannot continue for much longer locally, prompting a renewed call to Government, unanimously approved at a council meeting in October, for additional funding to address the acute financial pressures resulting from over 20 years of reduced funding from successive Governments since the turn of the Millennium. The Council is also asking for a multi-year settlement from Government, which would help councils plan better for the future.

Fairer Funding

Bromley's call for 'fairer funding' over many years can no longer wait. If Bromley received even the average settlement for other London Boroughs, it would equate to an additional £51million per annum for local services and that money is needed now.



“We will always manage the Council's finances as carefully as possible but we are now seeing every council in the country, ourselves included, slipping further and further towards the danger zone, with only very stark and unpalatable choices sitting in front of us as we plan ahead. Some other councils have already failed, due to their own poor decision making, but the situation is now fast becoming untenable for all. The current funding system is broken, not fit for purpose, grossly unfair across outer London in particular and is now in dire need of an urgent overhaul.”

Councillor Colin Smith, Leader of Bromley Council



Smart

Transformation

Finding sustainable ways to preserve our heritage buildings for future generations to enjoy

From Georgian architecture in Chislehurst to Victorian buildings in Bromley High Street, our Borough has evolved over time.

Whilst a measure of change is inevitable, it is important to preserve the heritage embodied in the buildings around us to maintain the character of our Borough for future generations. Sometimes this is best served through 'smart transformation', whereby the Council purchases or disposes of buildings to deliver public services in the most efficient way possible.

The newly opened boutique hotel, restaurant and stylish workspaces at Bromley Old Town Hall demonstrate how the beauty of an ageing building can be sensitively restored.

Once home to the Borough's Council Chambers, the building was no longer large enough for the Council's needs. The Old Town Hall's new owner preserved and enhanced the traditional features which make this building so attractive and historically significant.

Now, as the Council moves its headquarters to a purpose-built office at Churchill Court, the Civic Centre will also undergo redevelopment by a new owner, while preserving the Grade II listed former Bishop of Rochester's Palace on the site.

As the Council continues to review its property holdings, making decisions to deliver a balanced council budget, it is reassuring to know that there is a bright future for our Borough's landmark buildings beyond their initial use in Council or private ownership.

Pictures show:

Left:

The new Civic Centre site currently being refurbished. Residents needing to visit the Council in person should still visit the current Council site at Stockwell Close for any Council services

Above:

The Old Town Hall in Tweedy Road and its beautifully restored interior

More on the history:
www.bromleyoldtownhall.com



“By making prudent decisions now on the long-term future of our properties, we can release those no longer required by the Council to the private sector and continue to invest in those needed to provide important public services.”

Cllr Christopher Marlow, Executive Councillor for Resources



Spotlight on

Leaving Care

Succeeding against the odds, Lola's a role model as she forges her career and reflects on her foster family's help

Lola radiates modesty, despite being a remarkable young woman whose selfless dedication to others earned her a Mayor's Award for voluntary service. She was just 18.

“I've lost count of the ways my Foster Family have helped me.”

Now 20, she's living her dream as a chef at a Bromley restaurant following passing three levels of training at catering college. At the tender age of 12, Lola became an active member of the Living in Care Council that 'LinCCs' young people with

their 'corporate parents'. She's brought lived experience to interviews for Bromley social care staff and further afield became the youngest of 24 ambassadors across the UK for fostering charity CORAM. “It's been challenging,” said Lola, “but something drove me on to succeed.” Few people give back as much in their entire life as Lola has already.

Lola pictured at a bake sale in support of care leavers.

There are more than 300 Bromley children in care at any one time and we always need more wonderful Foster Carers to give them a good start in life.

One setback for Lola when she was younger was bullying. Reflecting on this she offers advice:

- For parents...**
Tell young people to accept differences and be kind.
- ...and for young people.**
Don't let bullies see you care and talk to someone you trust about what is happening.

If you think you have what it takes to support a young person like Lola to succeed, contact the Fostering Team on **020 8461 7701** or email **fostering@bromley.gov.uk**

Foster for Bromley

YOU could be the foster carer she needs



**To find out more, join one of our
free online information sessions:**

Wednesday 10 January 2024: 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Tuesday 20 February 2024: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

**Can't make
those dates?**

Contact the team to arrange
a one to one session with a
fostering team member.



Visit www.bromley.gov.uk/fostering
or call our team on 020 8461 7701

BOOKS AND MORE TO YOUR DOOR



If you or someone you know is unable to visit the library due to mobility, age or health related issues then our Access Service can arrange for books to be delivered straight to your door.

For more information, please speak to a member of staff at your local library or either:

- Ring **07929 742252**
- Email bromley.hls@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
- Visit better.org.uk/library/bromley



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