Crossrail is coming
Keeping Bexley clean, green and safe
Our vision for Growth special feature

Abbey Wood is changing

Bexley
Latest news and information from your Council

BUDGET
Extra spending on priority services

HEALTH
Great Weight Debate

LEISURE
Danson watersports

ENVIRONMENT
Litter enforcement success
Welcome

Spring is just around the corner, with later nights and daffodils starting to bloom. So it is good timing for a special feature on growth in this edition of the Magazine.

The start of Crossrail services next year has already led to welcome regeneration in Abbey Wood. This will be even more evident when work starts on Peabody Homes’ landmark redevelopment of South Thamesmead.

Our feature sets out how a similar investment in transport across the north of the borough would stimulate regeneration on a wider scale. We have nine kilometres of underdeveloped land along the river. We would like to see it used for much-needed homes in quality new neighbourhoods, and to create a range of new employment opportunities. We will work with our partners to ensure that local people have the skills and experience to benefit from them.

Growth will happen whether we have a strategy or not, but it is essential to managing the process. We want regeneration that benefits local people and delivers benefits across the borough. We want growth to ensure that the borough remains a great place to live, work and raise a family and we believe that means protecting the things that make it special.

We will publish the draft Growth Strategy in May. Please take the time to find out what it will mean for you and your family and tell us what you think.

Cllr Teresa O’Neill OBE
Leader of the Council
Erith’s iconic Carnegie building to reopen

A local company, The Exchange Ltd, is set to be the new occupier of the landmark Carnegie Building in Erith, under a lease and partnership agreement. It will work with the Council on a project involving substantial investment to develop the building as a high quality centre for innovation, enterprise, creativity, learning and production.

It means that the building will remain in public ownership, to benefit other organisations and the wider community, in line with the principles of the Andrew Carnegie Trust. The Exchange Ltd plans to offer cultural, artist and designer studios, space for exhibitions, workshop space for creative businesses to make and sell their products, plus a café that will provide courses and food fairs, plus an exciting daytime and evening menu. They hope that some initial programmes may begin by the autumn.

“We are very pleased to have found three experienced local entrepreneurs to work with us to prepare the building for the next exciting phase in its history. We will co-finance the refurbishment with the Mayor of London and the new operator.”

www.greatererith.com

Cllr Linda Bailey, Cabinet member for Regeneration and Growth

CCG move to Civic

Staff from NHS Bexley CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) moved into the Civic Offices building in Bexleyheath in February.

Council staff have made moves within the building and are working more flexibly to free up space, allowing the CCG to have its own dedicated area.

The new arrangements mean that the CCG will benefit from modern, affordable, accommodation in a central location and the Council will benefit from a valuable new source of income.

Sharing accommodation will also help both organisations to work more closely together to deliver improved and more integrated health services for the borough’s residents.

Parliamentary boundary review

At the end of last year the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published and consulted on the initial proposals for new constituency boundaries.

The BCE is now asking for feedback on the consultation results. The results will be available at www.bce2018.org.uk from 28 February for four weeks until 27 March 2017.

If the proposals are further revised there will be additional consultation.
Councillors approved a 3.99% Council Tax increase for 2017/18. This includes 2% which will be earmarked to help towards the increasing cost of providing adult social care.

With the Mayor of London increasing his share of the Council Tax by 1.5%, residents in a typical Band D property will see their Council Tax Bill increase by £51.76 a year.

The Council's budget balances spending and income, with some savings and extra investment in services that local people value, or that will reduce costs over the longer-term. The success of a range of transformation projects has made it possible to increase spending to –

- improve the cleanliness of public spaces, particularly town centres
- ensure Bexley remains one of the safest places in London
- monitor food hygiene
- reduce social care and other costs through preventative work.

Over the next 12 months, the Council expects to spend more than £340m on local services in the borough. Much will fund day-to-day services, but over £103m will fund longer-term investment in the environment, transport network, leisure facilities and housing and development.

A tough new pilot scheme to deter people from littering has resulted in over 1,900 fixed penalty notices being issued in its first four months of operation.

Five uniformed enforcement officers have been patrolling areas in the Borough which are hotspots for litter offenders, issuing on the spot fines to those seen committing the offence of littering, allowing their dog to foul and fly tipping.

The level of fines is £80 for littering, £50 for dog fouling and £400 for fly tipping. Full payment of the fine is required in all cases - with no reduction for early payment. Young offenders have their details recorded and a warning letter is sent to their parents or school.

The above issues are all criminal offences and can result in receiving a criminal record if the individual is prosecuted for non-payment of fines.

A decision will be made this summer on whether the enforcement service should be made permanent.

"Keeping our Council Tax as low as possible remains our aim, but we have to balance this against the need to ensure the borough remains a green, clean and safe place and safeguarding our most vulnerable residents."

Council Leader Cllr Teresa O’Neill OBE

Follow us

Twitter @LBofBexley
Facebook @LBBexley
Instagram lb-bexley

New parking service providers for Bexley

From 3 April, phone parking in the London Borough of Bexley will change to RingGo - a service which is already available in 20 other London boroughs, including Bromley.

Motorists who are not already registered with RingGo can provide their details at any time before this date at www.myringo.co.uk or through the RingGo smartphone app.

The Shared Parking Service (Bexley and Bromley) has also jointly awarded APCOA Parking (UK) with a new 10-year parking contract. The new arrangements, which begin on the same date, will include parking enforcement and other related duties.
New website to launch

In the next few weeks, the London Borough of Bexley will be launching its new website. The new design has been agreed after careful consultation with residents and, as a result, it will be much easier for you to carry out tasks and find the information you need.

There are two main changes taking place: changes to the design and changes to the content.

The new homepage will make it easy for residents to find the services you are looking for, while also promoting the borough as a place of which we can all be proud.

Alongside the new design, our web content will also be changing and information will only be on the website if it meets a clear need.

We are looking forward to launching the website and hope you will love using it!

www.bexley.gov.uk

Change to the Council’s complaints procedure

From Monday 3 April, the Council’s Corporate Complaints procedure is changing from a three-stage to a two-stage procedure.

This change is being introduced to provide a quicker and more efficient complaints process for our residents. We are able to make this change because of improvements the Council has made to how it deals with complaints. The two-stage process will provide a detailed investigation of the complaint at Stage 1, and if appropriate, a thorough review at Stage 2.

The Council will accept Stage 3 complaints up to Friday 31 March. From Monday 3 April, if a complainant is dissatisfied with the Council’s Stage 2 response to their complaint, they will be advised of their right to approach the Local Government Ombudsman.

Please note that these changes exclude our statutory complaints processes that cover some (but not all) complaints about Adults’ Social Care and Children’s Social Care. Our statutory complaints processes will remain the same.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact the Complaints Team at complaints@bexley.gov.uk.

GoodGym in Bexley

You can do good and get fit at the same time with Bexley’s newest fitness programme, GoodGym.

GoodGym launched in Bexley at the end of February. The new programme has a unique approach to building communities, promoting fitness and reducing social isolation.

GoodGym members stop off on their runs to do physical tasks for community organisations and to support isolated older people with one-off tasks they can’t do on their own. The weekly runs are free and open to all abilities, combining a short run with a physical task for a local community organisation.

GoodGym Bexley is supported by the London Borough of Bexley in partnership with Parkwood Leisure. It is the 21st GoodGym location in London.

Find out more at www.goodgym.org
Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance in Sidcup is celebrating being given the power to award its own degrees.

Principal and Chief Executive of the College, Professor Michael Earley, said: “This is a significant milestone in the College's 66 year history and means we can develop our own degrees which respond quickly to the needs of our students, existing partners and other organisations within the performing arts and creative industries sectors.”

Rose Bruford is a truly international drama school, with students from more than 40 different countries studying 15 different vocational and professional degree courses. Its many talented former students include Gary Oldman, Pam St Clement, Rosalie Craig and Hayley Squires.

Students at the College will be able to graduate with Rose Bruford College degrees from September 2018. Work has already begun on an enhanced curriculum, with the development of a package of new postgraduate and undergraduate degrees. A number of new taught postgraduate programmes and partnership degrees are due to be considered for validation in the months ahead and should be available from September 2017.

“Rose Bruford College has a well-deserved global reputation and is a popular choice for students. We look forward to working with the College and helping it to continue to thrive.”

Cllr Linda Bailey, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth

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**New director of Adult Social Care and Health**

Stuart Rowbotham is the Council’s new Director of Social Care and Health. His role includes responsibility for the leadership of public health policy and the delivery and management of the statutory Director of Public Health.

As the statutory Director for Adult Social Services, Stuart leads the Council’s work to ensure that our older and vulnerable residents receive the very highest standards of both social care and health care.

**Focus on improved public health**

The Council will have a reshaped focus on public health following a recent review with partners and engagement with residents and local voluntary groups.

A new full-time Director of Public Health will provide leadership and support to the Council, the NHS and other local partners in developing the health and wellbeing agenda across Bexley. Together with improved analytical support and insight, the new approach will actively engage health partners, volunteers, residents and all parts of the Council in the future health planning and commissioning of services, and help make public health everyone’s business.
Making a difference to

What we spend
Over the next 12 months, the Council will spend over £340m on local services in the borough. Much is on day-to-day services, but over £103m is on longer term investment in the borough’s environment, transport network, leisure facilities and housing and development.

Environment
- £19m on refuse collection, recycling and disposal, including around 445,000 waste and recycling collections each week, and the borough's two reuse and recycling centres. Bexley is the number 1 borough in London for recycling.
- Almost £6m on a planning and building control service which deals with around 2,800 planning applications a year.
- £1.3m on keeping the borough safe and maintaining Bexley's record as one of London's safest boroughs.
- £2m on environmental health and licensing, including monitoring more than 1,600 food premises for safety and hygiene, seizing counterfeit items and dealing with complaints ranging from fly tipping to noise pollution.
- £3m will be invested in green infrastructure, the environment and leisure. This will provide £40,000 to support community organisations or individuals to form ‘friends of’ groups, or to support community garden groups to look after specific areas. There will be £90,000 for more frequent cutting of grass, verges and hedges plus £70,000 every year (increasing from an initial £30,000 in 2017/18) to plant and maintain new trees. £100,000 will be used on a new heavy duty street cleaning vehicle and £70,000 a year to give the borough’s four main town centres a deep clean every week and a regular deep clean to other town centres – the first time this has been done.

Housing
- £8.5m to support vulnerable households, including around 900 in temporary accommodation.
- £62m of investment over the next three years to purchase properties for temporary accommodation.

Transport
- £17m on the day-to-day maintenance and improvement of Bexley’s 331 miles of road network, 662 miles of footways, almost 20,000 street lights and the cleaning of streets and town centres.
- Almost £10m of capital investment next year in the borough's transport infrastructure, including £3m to replace all the borough's street lights, £1.9m in highways maintenance and £4.1m on improvements around Abbey Wood Station.

Leisure, arts and culture
- More than £4.3m on the borough's libraries, which average over 1 million visits a year.
- More than £5.5m on indoor and outdoor recreation, including £2.5m on the borough’s leisure centres which see an average of 2 million visits a year.
- £1.2m on culture and heritage, including Danson House, Hall Place and Lesnes Abbey.
- Around £2.5m maintaining the borough's 106 parks and open spaces and 31 children's playgrounds – including nearly £1.5 million on improvements and the new Belvedere Beach project.

Adult Social Care
- £63m on social care support for around 6,000 vulnerable adults, including helping 2,500 to live independently at home.
Making a difference to people’s lives

The future

Local Government Funding is changing. Over the next three years, the Council will be moving towards self-sufficiency. This will mean less reliance on Government grants and much more on local sources of income, including local taxes, plus fees and charges. Our challenge is to continue to provide good quality and affordable public services, while balancing our income and spending.

To do this, we will -

• Ensure that we spend your money where it has the biggest impact on the quality of life of local people.
• Adopt a more commercial and innovative approach to maximise our opportunities to generate income.
• Work closely with partners, communities and the voluntary sector to support our residents.
• Support more people to live independently, with less reliance on care services.

How is it paid for?

This chart shows where the Council’s income comes from for day-to-day spending. Government grants now make up a much smaller proportion and 73p in every £1 is from local sources such as Council Tax, Business Rates and fees and charges.

Corporate Services

• Delivering public services requires strong corporate support, including customer services which last year dealt with 350,000 calls and 84,000 face-to-face visitors, finance, human resources and local democracy. Spending on these corporate services will be around £35m next year.

Children’s Services

• £29m on services to support vulnerable children to stay at home with their families or in suitable local provision.
• £3.5m for universal services and help to prevent issues escalating through early years services, children’s centres and youth services.

Education

• £19.6m to educate 43,000 pupils in the 78 schools in the borough, including £2m on transport for children with disabilities.
• £5.5m on adult education and skills.
• A further £34m will be invested over the next three years to provide extra school places and maintain the borough’s schools.

An extra £800,000 will be invested to keep the borough clean, green and safe.

£6.6m on concessionary fares to support disabled and older people to travel around the borough.
£9.9m on Public Health Services.

Council Tax
Business Rates
Fees, Charges and Rent
Government Grant
Other Grants and Contributions
Other

Sources of funding per £1 of income

16p
16p
41p
15p
6p
7p

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Burglars not welcome

Burglarity is not just about the financial impact: it causes emotional misery to anyone affected by it. Burglary has reduced in Bexley and this has been helped by residents taking sensible precautions.

What you can do to reduce the risk of burglary -

• Fit good deadlocks or deadbolts on doors, windows, garages and sheds.
• Fit motion sensor lights or a visible alarm.
• Use timer switches or lights.
• Keep valuables safe and out of view.
• Never leave door or car keys within easy reach of the letterbox.

• Mark property with your postcode in UV ink.
• Register valuables on www.immobilise.com.
• Look for distinctive stolen property on websites such as Shpock, ebay etc.
• Join Neighbourhood Watch or become a coordinator.

If you see something or someone suspicious call 999. Make a note of their description and what they look like. If it is safe to do so, take a photo on a camera phone.

Information can also be provided anonymously on Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Follow your local police on Facebook - Bexley Police or Twitter @MPSBexley to keep up-to-date.

SUPPORTED LODGINGS

Bexley is looking for households to become Supported Lodgings Providers (SLPs). SLPs offer a safe and supportive home to young people on the brink of leaving care, helping them to make the move to independence.

A spare room and the desire and skills to help a young person are all that is needed. Bexley provide excellent trading, support and payments for the right people.

To find out more visit www.bexley.gov.uk/supportedlodgings

BEXLEY'S LOCAL OFFER

Did you know that there is a website for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disability full of information, contact details and support groups in the borough?

The www.bexleylocaloffer.uk is the ideal place to link into groups or services that can provide help when needed or information on activities in Bexley.

Tesco bags of help

The money raised from the 5p bag charge in Tesco stores is being used to support community participation in the development and use of open spaces.

Applications are open now. Funding can be sought for up to £4,000. Projects will be shortlisted and then go out to public vote across all Tesco stores in Bexley.

Administration of the funding in Bexley is managed by the charity Groundwork. ‘The types of projects funded will be very broad and will cover the direct costs needed to deliver the project, this could range from community events, improving outdoor spaces, purchasing items to benefit local community groups, improvements to community buildings.

Find out more at www.groundwork.org.uk/tesco communitiescheme
Great Weight Debate

The Great Weight Debate has come to Bexley. The London-wide programme is designed to raise awareness of obesity and engage with our communities to help them live healthier lives.

Along with partners from health, volunteer groups, schools and businesses, Bexley’s Health and Wellbeing Board have organised a day-long event for interested parties to get involved in the debate and share their ideas on how Bexley can tackle obesity.

The event at the Angelus Centre, Erith on Wednesday 26 April will include talks from clinical psychologists about how to change the way we think about food and our eating behaviours, experts on healthy cooking, representatives from BexleySugarSmart, a chance to talk to weight management groups and share your ideas in the debate.

To find out more about the event or the Great Weight Debate visit www.bexley.gov.uk/greatweightdebate

Sugar Smart comes to Bexley

The national Sugar Smart campaign came to Bexley earlier this year. Its arrival was marked by a special launch event that included schools, voluntary organisations, food businesses and a talk from Jo Ralling, Campaign Director for the Jamie Oliver Food Foundation.

Sugar Smart has been designed to encourage us all to reduce the intake of sugar and tackle rising levels of obesity. The Sugar Smart activities will be showcased at the Great Weight Debate on Wednesday 26 April.

Make a splash at Danson

Danson watersports centre offers a range of exciting outdoor activities through courses, taster sessions, casual hire, one-to-one tuition, birthday parties, one-off bookings and much more.

Our school holiday programmes provide a great way for children to stay active throughout the school holidays.

Row boats - our traditional row boats are fun for all the family. Each seats a maximum of five adults.

Mini ships - these fun electric miniature ships are hired out in a mini harbour. Each ship can hold up to two adults and three children with a choice of fire boat, ferry or police boat to hire. We also offer a range of activities for adults to take part in, either through courses, one-to-one tuition or evening sessions.

For more information call 020 8303 2828 email watersports@bexley.gov.uk or visit www.bexley.gov.uk/watersports

To advertise in this Magazine please contact Bob Gray on 07788 191306
social care

Care Hub recognised

A project to provide improved information and support to residents and their carers has been shortlisted for a major award. Bexley’s online Care Hub has made the finals of the 2016 Local Government Chronicle awards in the ‘Delivering Efficiency through Technology’ category.

The Care Hub is a website that provides a wide range of support and information around the clock, as part of the Council’s aim of helping people to remain independent for as long as possible. It was launched in March 2016.

Among other features, the Hub enables residents to complete an online self-assessment of their needs. This provides them with a personalised needs summary that links to information on relevant services and support.

The winners of the award were due to be announced as the Bexley Magazine went to print. Find out more at https://carehub.bexley.gov.uk

Does your GP know you are a Carer?

If you have caring responsibilities for someone who could not manage without you, it is important to let your GP know.

Most GPs keep a Carers Register – a list of people who are Carers. If you are listed on this register, you could get access to things like flexible appointments (to fit in with your caring role), a free flu vaccination and a health check to ensure that you are looking after your own health as well as the person you care for.

Also, if your GP knows you are a Carer they can ask the person you care for if they agree to their medical information being shared with you, so you can effectively manage their health and social care needs at home.

Look after your own Wellbeing

The Carers Wellbeing Hub is a partnership between four charities in Bexley (Carers’ Support, Crossroads, Age UK and The Alzheimer’s Society), who can offer support to Carers. Most of the services they offer are free. Why not get in touch to see if there is anything they can do to help you in your caring role?

Contact Carers’ Support (Bexley) initially on 020 8302 8011 or email info@carerssupport.org

Telecare

Providing reassurance at the touch of a button

A range of sensors, alarms and a 24 hour response service to keep Bexley residents safe at home

Call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Telecare

For the magazine on tape or CD call 020 3045 3605
Success for project supporting patients to return home

More patients are being supported to return home from hospital sooner thanks to a successful partnership between the Council and the local NHS, which has been described by NHS England as doing “brilliant work”.

The ‘discharge to assess’ project supports people who have progressed to the point where they no longer require an acute hospital bed, but still need care services. They remain under the care of their consultant, but go home with additional care. An assessment of their long-term needs is made within their own home and care is transferred to the community.

Discharge to assess started on a trial basis in Queen Elizabeth Hospital in September and was extended across the hospital in November. A similar approach has been adopted in other parts of the country, but the Bexley work has focused on integrated working across the services to provide for people with more complex needs.

The success of the project is the result of a real team effort involving the Council and local NHS bodies. All were keen to participate in the trial and to build on the success of the project.

“This project has made a real difference to the lives of patients, because it supports them to leave hospital as soon as possible and return to their own home.”

Cllr Brad Smith, Cabinet Member for Adults’ Services

Young Carers project

Bexley Young Carers project is a service managed by Imago. Their aim is to reduce the negative and highlight the positive impact of being a young carer, such as increased resilience, empathy, a non-judgmental attitude and caring nature.

Imago Young Carers delivers a support service to anyone aged 8-18 living in Bexley who is taking on caring responsibilities for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issue.

They provide social groups for Young Carers called Chill Clubs, as well as school drop-in sessions, one-to-one work, information, advice and guidance.

For further information, please contact the Imago Young Carers Hub.
Phone: 0300 111 1110
Email hello@bexleyyoungcarers.org.uk
Follow @ImagoBexleyYC on Twitter.

Bexley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

“Our 2016 Annual Report is now available on the London Borough of Bexley website, where you can see how despite all of the challenges of implementing the Care Act, the Safeguarding Board has improved how it keeps adults safe in Bexley.

“Our focus for 2017-2018 is to improve how partner agencies work together to respond to abuse or neglect. The Board will be launching an independent website in April 2017 where both the public and professionals can access information on ‘helping adults to live a life free from abuse or neglect,’ as well as engaging in service user groups in Bexley.”

Annie Callanan, Independent Chair
Work has begun on improvements to the streets and public areas in and around Abbey Wood Station and the Harrow Manorway Flyover.

The aim of these public realm improvements is to upgrade the areas in and around the new Elizabeth Line station, being built as part of the Crossrail project, so that local people benefit.

London Borough of Bexley, Royal Borough of Greenwich, Crossrail, Network Rail and Transport for London are working together to fund the improvements.

This work will be co-ordinated with the ongoing work already taking place on the new station. There will be no extra impact on traffic and the traffic management arrangements already in place around the new station will continue. Bus routes will not be affected, but bus stops may be relocated nearby where necessary.

The existing pedestrian crossing will be available throughout the work but, at the end of the works, it will be replaced by a new wider pedestrian crossing with signals.

When the new station, partially opens in October 2017, for the North Kent line service, further improvement work will begin, starting in Felixstowe Road in November 2017 and then in Gayton Road in January 2018. These works will finish in June 2018. The Elizabeth Line station will be fully operational in December 2018.

Felixstowe Road will continue to provide vehicle access to the station and will have a new taxi rank, drop-off bays and short stay parking bays along the kerb sides. A new informal public space will also be created in front of the parade of shops on Chantry Close. The public space in Gayton Road will be opened up and a new open area will be created.

For more information on these exciting improvements go to www.yourabbeywood.co.uk

Key improvements –

- Redesigning the public space to create better pedestrian, cycling and vehicle access to the new station.
- Creating a new main entrance to the station with lifts installed to provide step-free access from the Harrow Manorway flyover to every platform.
- Opening up the streets leading to the station, creating new village-style areas, which residents can enjoy.
- Refurbishing the existing bus shelter and turning it into a large cycle shelter for cycle commuters.
- Building new bus shelters, designed to match the station building, on both sides of the road.
- Providing a new wider pedestrian crossing and cycle lanes.
Recycling craft workshops

Sign up for one of our three recycling craft workshops and have fun reusing and improving old items from around your home.

Find out how you can update your old clothes and get a new look for nothing. If you prefer, learn how simple techniques such as painting and stencilling can be used to update furniture.

Or why not go to one of our healthy cookery workshops and discover how you could save up to £700 on your annual shopping bill?

Workshops last 2–3 hours and cost £5 each. Residents must be over 16. For more information or to book visit www.tlcbexley.ac.uk or call 020 3045 5176.

A free family Easter event where all of the family can have fun and learn new skills will be held on 3 April from 10am-2pm at Danson Children’s Centre.

The Wombler Pickers of the Pom Pom are we!

The Council is delighted to welcome the recently formed Pom Pom Womblers to its growing list of voluntary litter picking groups and individuals.

The Erith-based group is helping to keep the roads around the Pom Pom area clean - joining 150 other voluntary Community Litter Pickers across the borough.

We’d like to thank all our voluntary Community Litter Pickers for the fantastic, supportive work they do in helping us achieve cleaner Bexley.

Anyone wanting to join the Pom Pom Womblers or become a litter picker in their own area should email jennie.beckett@bexley.gov.uk or telephone the Council on 020 8303 7777 and ask for Jennie Beckett.

Community Litter Pickers Brenda, Ryan and Nicola are among the new volunteers keeping the Pom Pom clean.

Road up

Bexley’s Street Works Team assess over 25,000 permit applications each year from utility companies who want to carry out highway works. Each assessment involves over 40 checks and any applications approved must comply with stringent safety legislation.

The main priorities for the team are to ensure that the public are protected, that utility companies collaborate to minimise disruption and that the highway is restored to the correct standard.

In 2015/16 the team avoided over 200 days of disruption by insisting that utility companies worked together. Residents should always contact the utility company in the first instance to discuss any works they are undertaking as they will have the most up-to-date information.
Community

Improving communications

Neighbourhood Watch’s aim for 2017 is to improve communication with their growing band of members.

Our new weekly update bulletins for each of the 21 wards in the borough will briefly outline the cross section of criminal activity in Bexley. This will allow coordinators and residents to be aware of what is going on in their areas.

The bulletin is created using information from Bexley Police, Local Bexley Police Teams, NW Coordinators and their residents.

Our website is also being updated and we regularly update our Facebook and Twitter accounts. We use our Shopwatch scheme to inform shops of crime in their area and we recently expanded this to Erith and Albany Park shops.

Visit www.bexleywatch.org.uk click on “Check my street” to see if you are in an active watch. If not, why not fill in the on line form and join us?

Follow Bexley Neighbourhood Watch on Twitter: www.twitter/bexleywatch

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bexley.watch

Bexley Business and investment guide

A new business guide to help local companies grow is now available from Bexley libraries. It provides details of support available from the Council and a variety of local and national contacts. There is also an online business directory at www.itslocalbexley.co.uk which is free for customers to use and for companies to advertise.

Carers’ corner

Safety circle

Circle is the free, must-have safety app for Londoners. It’s the easiest way to stay safe and connected to your nearest and dearest in and around the city. Simply check-in with friends at the touch of a button, letting them know you’re okay or that you need a little help.

This handy app is packed with other useful resources too, like emergency contact numbers and directions to your closest Safety Spot. So whether you’re out dating, dancing or dining in this great city, you can always be connected with your Circle of friends.

Download now for free

Winning respect

Some of the members of Bexley Mencap’s self-advocacy group, Respect in Bexley, managed to secure a positive result after sharing the difficulties they were having with the Bexleyheath branch of Barclays Bank.

The branch had undergone a refit with new assisted counters. Using the ATM machines in the branch proved very difficult for some members, both because of the physical challenges of operating the machines and the risk to security and independence of having to reveal PIN numbers to support and care staff.

Following a meeting with the Branch Manager, members of the group provided training to staff. They explained the issues they faced in the bank and more generally. The feedback was extremely positive, with many staff admitting they had little or no understanding of the difficulties faced by people with learning disabilities. Respect members report that the service provided by the branch has been significantly better since the training.

Barclays Bexleyheath Branch Manager, Danielle Jersz, commented: “I was delighted that my team and I could connect with members of Respect to gain a better understanding of their needs to ensure we deliver the best service we can, that caters to their needs.”

Visit www.bexleywatch.org.uk click on “Check my street” to see if you are in an active watch. If not, why not fill in the on line form and join us?

Follow Bexley Neighbourhood Watch on Twitter: www.twitter/bexleywatch

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bexley.watch

Improving communications

Neighbourhood Watch’s aim for 2017 is to improve communication with their growing band of members.

Our new weekly update bulletins for each of the 21 wards in the borough will briefly outline the cross section of criminal activity in Bexley. This will allow coordinators and residents to be aware of what is going on in their areas.

The bulletin is created using information from Bexley Police, Local Bexley Police Teams, NW Coordinators and their residents.

Our website is also being updated and we regularly update our Facebook and Twitter accounts. We use our Shopwatch scheme to inform shops of crime in their area and we recently expanded this to Erith and Albany Park shops.

Visit www.bexleywatch.org.uk click on “Check my street” to see if you are in an active watch. If not, why not fill in the on line form and join us?

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Update on our plan for growth

Bexley, like all of London and the southeast of England, is growing. We can either deal with growth as it happens, or we can proactively plan for it to make sure that we get the right kind of growth that provides benefits to all of our residents.

We need to control our own destiny to ensure that the growth we get is right for the borough as a whole.

That is why the Council is producing a draft Bexley Growth Strategy.
growth in Bexley

What is growth?

Growth is about providing the homes and jobs needed by those who live and/or work in the borough already, or who might want to come here in the future.

Our population is growing for a variety of reasons: more children being born in the area, migration from other parts of the country or abroad, and because business investment in Bexley is creating new jobs. Such change can be good, bringing money into the borough to be spent in local shops and services and helping local businesses. It can also make a place more diverse, dynamic and vibrant.

But, if growth is not properly planned, it can create pressures on our services and facilities.

Good growth is about seeing the bigger picture and securing growth that meets people’s broader needs. It is about making sure we get not only the housing and jobs, but also securing the things needed to support those new residents and workers, like schools, green and open spaces, and transport infrastructure.

Denser developments: more homes and jobs on less land

Higher density lets us put things closer together so people don’t need to travel as far to reach local goods and services. But higher density does not mean tall towers: mansion blocks of four to eight storeys in height are the borough’s tall buildings of choice, and other high-density development types include stacked maisonettes surrounding courtyards or terraced houses punctuated with short blocks at the end of the rows.

Our vision for Growth

Bexley will play a key part in helping London grow sustainably, while respecting the borough’s overall character and identity. New and existing communities will be strong, sustainable, cohesive and prosperous. People across the borough will have a better quality of life and improved wellbeing, supported by effective local services and facilities.

To achieve this vision, we will:

- Secure some of the highest economic growth in London and create more prosperity in Bexley, including the reintroduction of more diverse manufacturing activity as part of a resurgent Maker Movement and new engineering.
- Provide high-quality and sufficient housing that offers a genuine choice of living styles for all life stages and tenures, including co-living.
- Achieve a step change in connectivity and accessibility, with improved public transport and facilities for walking and cycling.
- Provide social and community infrastructure.
- Improve health and wellbeing by supporting healthy activities such as recreation and social interaction and access to good quality health and social care facilities.
- Protect the natural environment as an essential characteristic of the borough.
High levels of growth are impossible without the right infrastructure. Growth is also an opportunity to secure additional infrastructure across Bexley, by requiring developers to provide the services and facilities we need.

What will we need?

• Step change in transport connectivity including the C2G Crossrail extension, river crossings, a rapid transit system, highway improvements, and more
• State of the art digital infrastructure including both ultrafast broadband and wireless networks
• Education, including 8 three form entry primary schools and more secondary school places
• Health including 50 additional GPs and 20 additional dentists
• Green infrastructure including 16 hectares of open space and 20 children’s play facilities
• Community and cultural facilities, including up to 20 multi-use facilities such as leisure centres and community halls
• Other utilities including gas, electricity, water and waste.
• Additional Council services, for example, social care

What is C2G?

C2G stands for Crossrail towards Gravesend. The new Crossrail line is currently being built and will provide a much improved rail service east-west across London. The one station in Bexley, at Abbey Wood, will open in 2018. The C2G scheme proposes to extend this service eastwards through the borough, stopping at all the existing stations in north Bexley and out into Kent.

Although this proposal was part of the original Crossrail scheme, it was not taken forward in the current building project. The Council has joined up with the Mayor of London, Kent County Council, Dartford, Gravesham, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership to make the case for the extension.

This involves putting a business case together which sets out all the benefits of the scheme, as well as how it will work and who will pay for it.

Our work so far suggests that the transport improvements offered by the project will:
• Help bring forward large amounts of new housing and jobs across the area
• Link up places much better so people can get to jobs and services more quickly and easily
• Increase public transport use, getting people out of their cars and helping road congestion and the environment

The C2G partnership has produced a leaflet which provides more information on the scheme. You can find this at www.bexley.gov.uk/growth

Liveable Neighbourhoods with healthy streets in which local services and goods are accessible by walking and cycling, reducing car use, improving the environment, and promoting health.
Next steps

Consultation

The draft Bexley Growth Strategy will be published for public consultation this May. This will be another chance for residents and other stakeholders to inform the strategy. Please take the opportunity to share your views with us.

Delivering Growth

When the Bexley Growth Strategy is adopted it will inform new planning policies for the borough. Detailed planning guidance, including opportunity area planning frameworks and town centre master plans, will also be produced.

We intend to publish an early draft of the Bexley Local Plan setting out new planning policies for growth for consultation following the adoption of the Bexley Growth Strategy. In this way we can make sure that new developments help us meet our growth objectives.

The Council will play an active role in securing and managing growth in other ways. We are planning to invest directly in development, where appropriate, either on our own or in partnership with others.

We are also working hard to promote Bexley to businesses looking to develop and grow. The borough has a rich history of engineering and invention and we believe that, with a little help, it can become a centre for making things once more.

The borough has huge potential to attract and nurture a whole new range of high technology and creative industries, taking advantage of our historic industrial buildings, transport connections, river front location and world renowned performing arts colleges.

We hope you have found this update useful. If you want to find out more about the work the Council is doing on growth please visit www.bexley.gov.uk/growth or email us at spandtteam@bexley.gov.uk
Say ‘I do’ in Bexley

**Hall Place**

Hall Place is set for another busy year of weddings. The popular venue is the ideal alternative to a Church or registry office service. It offers a two hour hire with a choice of beautiful rooms licenced for civil ceremonies and the use of the gardens to capture your special memories.

At Hall Place you can take away the stress of moving your guests from ceremony to reception venue and spend that time making the most of being surrounded by your friends and family. You and your guests can relax in the beautiful gardens, while sipping a celebratory drink, before moving back to the historic house to dine.

Visit [www.hallplace.org.uk](http://www.hallplace.org.uk)
email functions@hallplace.org.uk
or phone 01322 526574

**Danson House**

Danson House is a stunning Grade 1 listed Georgian villa designed by Sir Robert Taylor, the architect of the Bank of England, and built in 1766.

It is the perfect location for your wedding or ceremony. Rooms include –

- **The Dining Room** - decorated in romantic golds and with paintings telling stories of love (65 guests)
- **Sir John Boyd’s Room** - located on the top floor, with stunning views over Danson Park (25 guests)
- **The Library** - also known as the music room, hosting the magnificent Danson organ and overlooking the green lawns (65 guests)
- **The Salon** - an octagonal room with sumptuous wall coverings (45 guests)
- **The Queen’s Room** - an informal room with stunning views, located on the top floor of Danson House for smaller wedding parties (12 guests).

Call 03000 411103 or email registerofficebexley@kent.gov.uk
**Sidcup staff save a life!**

Parkwood Community Leisure staff at Sidcup Leisure Centre have been praised for taking quick action that saved a customer’s life.

Mr Bowers, a regular swimmer at the centre, suffered a heart attack during a routine swim. With the help of some swimmers, staff quickly rescued him from the water.

The team administered CPR with the assistance of a defibrillator. He was taken to hospital by ambulance and has since returned to the centre to thank staff.

**Free year’s allotment rent for our survey winner**

Well done to Ms Okenyi, winner of the Allotment Survey 2016 draw, which entitles her to one year’s free allotment rent.

Ms Okenyi has been an allotment holder at Cray Road for nearly six years.

She says: “I have made many new friends and love the camaraderie of plot holders. Our site holds BBQs and we even held a summer party, making it a really friendly site.”

Interested in allotment gardening or taking up a new hobby? Contact us on 020 3045 3693 quoting reference BMSP17 by Friday 28 April 2017 to receive a year’s free rent for 2018.

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**Safety in the Broadway, Bexleyheath**

A Public Spaces Protection Order has been introduced in the Broadway Bexleyheath after complaints from the public and local traders.

In the designated area people must not:

- Behave in a manner which causes, or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to another person.
- Ride pedal cycles, skateboards, roller blades, hoverboards or other similar devices within the restricted area in a manner which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to another person.
- Play any type of ball games.

Failure to comply with the PSPO without a reasonable reason for doing so is a breach of the order and a criminal offence. Significant and/or persistent breaches of the order could lead to a fixed penalty notice being issued or a summons to court.
Queen Mary’s Village

Newly refurbished homes are now on sale next to Queen Mary’s Hospital in Sidcup. Known as Queen Mary’s Village, the development will provide two and three bedroom apartments for shared ownership and three bedroom homes for discounted market rent, conveniently located for Sidcup High Street.

Local health employees and key workers will have priority, to help them get their foot on the housing ladder.

Contact Hyde New Homes on 0345 606 1221 or email info@hydenewhomes.co.uk to register your interest, or visit www.hydenewhomes.co.uk

Bexleyheath improvements

In late March further work will begin on the realignment of the carriageways along the whole of Albion Road. There will be improved crossing facilities and footways.

Work will be undertaken in sections and phased to minimise disruption. Each section of road will be closed in turn with traffic diversions in place. It will begin on the southern side of Albion Road at the Oaklands roundabout and will advance in sections towards Gravel Hill. Work will then begin on the northern side, again at Oaklands roundabout, and will follow the same sequence. Access to the car parks will be maintained.

The improvement works are part of the Bexleyheath Town Centre Revitalisation scheme, which aims to ensure that Bexleyheath remains a vibrant town centre.

For more information on the scheme go to www.bexley.gov.uk/BTCR2 or email BTCR@bexley.gov.uk

New park opens in Thamesmead

Gallions Reach Park, which was recently brought back into use for the community, features 800 trees and a wildflower meadow that connects Thamesmead’s five kilometres of river path and Gallions Hill – a man-made viewing point which offers spectacular views across Thamesmead and other areas of London.

The park has been created from land that was left vacant from the former Royal Arsenal.

Thamesmead is rich in both history and green open space – double the amount per person compared to anywhere else in London. This, together with its 30,000 trees, two nature reserves, five lakes, 7 kilometres of canal and 5 kilometres of the river path are just one of a number of reasons to visit the area.

This is the second of a number of parks being created by Peabody across Thamesmead. The first, Southmere Park, is a beautiful park and play area that offers stunning views across Southmere Lake. It also provides a scenic route connecting two of Bexley’s leading tourist attractions, Crossness Engines Pumping Station and Lesnes Abbey ruins.

Thamesmead is home to around 45,000 people and is set to change over the next ten years, with Peabody making improvements to homes and the spaces between them. More than £40m investment from the Greater London Authority to build around 3,000 new homes in the area will also make a big difference, helping to provide much needed new homes. It will also attract more businesses to the area and create thousands of new jobs, all of which will help to make Thamesmead London’s new town.
SHARED OWNERSHIP
2 & 3 BED APARTMENTS
FROM £76,250*
INTERMEDIATE MARKET RENT
3 BED APARTMENTS
FROM £1040/MONTH**

LAUNCHING SOON

- Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances to include oven, ceramic hob and extractor fan
- Underfloor electric heating to bathrooms and en-suites
- Parking to all apartments
- Balconies to selected apartments

Book your viewing
0345 606 1221
info@hydenewhomes.co.uk
www.hydenewhomes.co.uk

* Price shown is based on a 25% share of a three-bedroom apartment valued at £305,000.
** Monthly rental on a three-bedroom apartment. Information correct at time of issue March 2017. Terms and conditions including eligibility criteria apply. Priority will be given to NHS Osteos, NHS workers and key workers who live or work in the London Borough of Bexley.

Hyde New Homes
Making a lasting difference

OPEN SPRING 2017

COMING SOON
TO BEXLEY-HEATH!

Find out more at morleysbexleyheath.co.uk

morleys
DEPARTMENT STORE
Bexley is again taking part in ‘Cityread London’, the annual celebration of the power of reading.

The 2017 Cityread book is ‘Prophecy’ by SJ Parris, a gripping Tudor spy thriller set in London in 1583. To mark their involvement, Bexley Local Studies and Archives will be revealing some of their Tudor treasures from the Archives at a special event on Monday 10 April at 2pm.

These treasures include a parish register from St James, North Cray dated 1538, Caxton’s Map of Kent 1576 and a signed receipt by the Bishop of Rochester, John Fisher, who was later venerated by Roman Catholics as St John Fisher.

The Tudor era saw the end of the monasteries and the creation of the Church of England. This led to an increase in the power and authority of the Crown and a massive transfer of wealth from the clergy to the gentry, while the invention of the printing press stimulated the spread of literacy.

These developments are reflected in the history of Bexley. In Erith Henry VIII established a royal dockyard, while Elizabeth I sponsored schemes to drain the marshes. In Crayford the first factory was built manufacturing armour. Hall Place in Bexley Village is a Grade I listed Tudor mansion, built for a former Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Champneys in 1537.

The Tudor Treasures event is free and takes place at Central Library, Bexleyheath. Visit www.bexley.gov.uk/archives
Following the news that Danson House played a starring role in the BBC drama Taboo, we thought it was time to highlight some of the other Bexley locations that have also been used for filming and photo shoots. These six locations are popular for filming, or have been used by film makers in recent years.

**1. Danson Park**
Film makers love Danson’s idyllic grounds and boating lake in particular. Along with the recent Tom Hardy drama, Taboo, we’ve had many photo shoots here and a recent Hovis advert.

**2. Foots Cray Meadows**
Film makers seem to love the wild and unspoilt nature of the meadows and the Five Arches. Several TV programmes have been filmed here, including Paul O’Grady’s ‘For the love of dogs’, ‘Pride of Britain Awards’ and the ‘Lorraine Show’

**3. Thamesmead**
Along with scenes in ‘A Clockwork Orange’ and some scenes in the Harry Potter films, the architecture around Thamesmead has made a great backdrop for fashion shoots. Recent photos from here include a Selfridge’s photo spread and a Lucozade advert. The lovely Ikea christmas advert, showing a mum walking home through the estate lit with lanterns placed by her son, was filmed in the area.

**4. Hall Place**
A new ITV legal thriller called Fearless was shot in the grounds of Hall Place in October 2016. It has also been the backdrop for many fashion photo shoots. The West End musical ‘Singing in the Rain’ also filmed their visuals here.

**5. Lesnes Abbey**
You would be hard-pressed to find medieval ruins like this anywhere else in London! Lesnes has been host to photo shoots and smaller TV productions in the past.

**6. Sutherland Road, Belvedere**
Between March and May 2014 residents on Sutherland Road, Belvedere had a great experience with the filming of the National Theatre musical ‘London Road’. Residents were involved in the filming and had the opportunity to star as extras. They were also treated to their own special screening of the film.

*Keep up-to-date with filming in the borough at [www.bexleyfilmoffice.co.uk](http://www.bexleyfilmoffice.co.uk)*

Why not choose a film location as the venue for your wedding? See page 17 for more information.
Click to checkout your health

Health Help Now Bexley is a website and free app enabling residents to get age-specific help and advice for their health or wellbeing problem, including information on the best locally available services to approach for help. The ages covered by Health Help Now include babies and older children, teenagers and adults, including older people. The information it provides is regularly updated by GPs and other clinical staff. Health Help Now is already in use in 17 locations across London and the home counties, and the app version of the service has already been downloaded more than 314,000 times.

To get the best out of Health Help Now, save the website, www.healthhelpnow.nhs.uk, or download the app from the Google Play or Apple app stores.

NHS Bexley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is running a campaign to help patients get the best out of their medicines. The campaign aims to help prevent people being ill because they are not using their medicines properly and, reduce the amount of unused medicines that are thrown away.

Across the UK, unused medicines that are thrown away cost the NHS £300 million of taxpayers’ money every year. In Bexley, it is estimated that the total cost of medicines that were thrown away during 2016 was £17,244.

Local GP and chair of NHS Bexley CCG’s quality and safety sub-committee, Dr Sonia Khanna-Deshmukh, said: “We really want to make an impact in reducing the amount of unused medicines we waste. It is an issue where patients, GPs, GP practice pharmacists, community pharmacy and hospital teams can all contribute.

“We know some patients do like to have a spare stock of medicines ‘just in case’ but we recommend only having a maximum of one month’s supply at home. We really want patients to order only those medicines that they need.

“Unwanted dispensed medicines returned to the pharmacy cannot be reissued to other patients – even if they are new – due to safety issues. The only way pharmacies can re-use medicines is if you check your prescription bag before you leave the pharmacy, and return any unwanted medicines there and then.

“If any patient is unsure about their medicines they should talk to their pharmacist or GP practice.”

Broadway Pharmacy pharmacist, Bipin Patel, is encouraging patients to seek the advice of their local pharmacist: “If you have any concerns about the medicines you are taking, pop into your usual pharmacy. We can arrange a medicines use review and focus on how you are getting on with your medicines. It takes place in a private consultation area in your local pharmacy, where you regularly collect your repeat prescriptions. It’s an NHS service available to patients who have a regular pharmacy and take certain medicines – you don’t need to pay and it is offered in most pharmacies in Bexley.”

To find out more about how patients can get the best out of their medicines, please visit the CCG website www.bexleyccg.nhs.uk

Why register for GP online services?

- Logging online to book an appointment takes just a minute and prevents patients from having to call the GP practice.
- It’s easier to order repeat prescriptions — patients don’t need to journey to the practice or wait around on the phone, they can see which repeat prescriptions need to be ordered and only order the ones they need.
- It’s more convenient — online services are available 24/7, every day of the year so patients don’t need to wait until the GP practice is open.
- Patients can also update their demographic details — including telephone numbers and email addresses to make sure that they receive reminders and information from the GP practice.

For more information about GP online services, please visit www.nhs.uk/gponlineservices

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Get health help now

GP practices across Bexley are implementing online services so that patients can book and cancel appointments, order repeat prescriptions online and look at part of their GP records online.

GP online services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year, so it can often be easier and more convenient than a phone call or making a special journey to the practice.

To start using GP online services, simply visit one of the websites listed below:

- Patients registered with Lakeside Medical Practice in Thamesmead, Northumberland Heath Medical Centre in Erith, or the Albion Surgery in Bexleyheath should visit: https://patient.emisaccess.co.uk
- Patients registered with any other Bexley GP practice should visit: www.patient-services.co.uk

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Health Help Now Bexley is a website and free app enabling residents to get age-specific help and advice for their health or wellbeing problem, including information on the best locally available services to approach for help. The ages covered by Health Help Now include babies and older children, teenagers and adults, including older people. The information it provides is regularly updated by GPs and other clinical staff. Health Help Now is already in use in 17 locations across London and the home counties, and the app version of the service has already been downloaded more than 314,000 times.

To get the best out of Health Help Now, save the website, www.healthhelpnow.nhs.uk, or download the app from the Google Play or Apple app stores.
become a
#supporter

The Bexley Skills Charter is now live and looking for employers, learning / education providers and support services to help the Charter achieve its four objectives:

- A learning offer fit for the future
- A skilled workforce for strong and sustainable growth
- A thriving business and enterprise environment
- A culture of continuous learning and development

Visit our site, become a supporter and we’ll be in touch about how you can support the Bexley Skills Charter and how the Bexley Skills Charter can support you.

2017 Charter Champions

www.bexleyskillscharter.org.uk
@bexleyskills

avanté

care & support

Avante Care & Support provides residential, dementia, day and respite care services.

We pride ourselves on delivering the best care, tailored to each persons individual needs, personality, hobbies and interests. Our homes provide a safe and welcoming environment for residents living with dementia or using our day and respite care services.

Experienced and skilled staff make sure each resident is supported and helped to overcome the daily challenges of living with dementia. If you are looking for care for either a respite break or long term care, Avante Care & Support can help.

To arrange a visit or find out more please call us on 01795 597400 or email us at enquiry@avantecare.org.uk

avantecare.org.uk /AvanteCareandsupport
The London Borough of Bexley is divided into 21 wards, each of which is represented by three local ward Councillors. To find out which ward you live in, or for up-to-date details of how to contact your local Councillors or members of the Council’s Cabinet, please visit www.bexley.gov.uk or call 020 8303 7777.
March to July 2017

For a list of regular events throughout the borough, visit the Council’s website at www.bexley.gov.uk/whatson

Online updates visit www.bexley.gov.uk/whatson

Butterfly Jungle Experience & Plant Shop
Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley DA5 1PQ
Walk among flying butterflies from around the world in a rainforest environment full of exotic flowers.

Farmers Market
Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley DA5 1PQ
First Sunday of every month. Buy the best local produce, meet the farmers and producers, buy fresh samples and buy everything from home-grown fruit and vegetables, to delicious cakes and bread. 01322 621238 www.hallplace.org.uk

Danson House
Danson House, Danson Park, Bexleyheath DA6 8HH
Danson House is open to the public as a heritage attraction every Sunday from 10am – 4pm. Visitors are able to view the grand rooms on the principal floor as well as the Victorian basement kitchen equipped with historic kitchen items. The tea rooms are open every day, 7 days a week run by local business ‘Fleur De Thé’

Admission: £2.50 per tray, pay on the day 01322 621238 www.hallplace.org.uk

Saturday 4 April – 10am – 3pm
Art and Music Appreciation: Anniversaries and Exhibitions 2017
Adult Education Centre, 5 Brampton Avenue
The course for adults explores the work of artists and composers, with visual and audio presentations, linked to exhibitions in London and significant anniversaries. It provides opportunity for participation in stimulating discussion in a friendly atmosphere.
Admission: £57.40 020 8319 1845 webadm@thewoodlandsfarmtrust.org

Saturday 2 April – 10am – 11.30am
Bird Walk
The Woodland Farm Trust, 331 Shooters Hill, WELLING DA16 3RP
An early spring bird watching walk to see which birds are the early risers at Shooters Hill. Wear sturdy footwear and suitable outdoor clothing. Booking essential.
Admission: Free – donations welcome

Thursday 6 April – 2pm
Floral Demonstration – The Magic of Spring
St Mary’s Church Hall, Manor Road, Bexley DA5 3LX
A floral demonstration by Eleanor Braden organised by Old Bexley Floral Arrangement Society.
Admission: £4 (non-members) 020 8302 9984

Tuesday 11 April - Saturday 15 April
The Snow Queen
Erith Playhouse, 38-40 High Street, Erith DA8 1QY
From the story by Hans Christian Andersen 01322 350945

Wednesday 19 April – Saturday 22 April 2017
Floral Demonstration – The Magic of Spring
St Mary’s Church Hall, Manor Road
Admission: £4 (non-members) 01322 350945

Saturday 22 April 10am – 1pm
Coffee morning
Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice, 185 Bostall Hill, Abbey Wood SE2 0GB
Enjoy a cup of coffee and a slice to raise funds for the hospice. 020 8319 9230 info@gch.org.uk

Sunday 23 April – 10am – 3pm
Plant Fair Roadshow
Hall Place and Gardens Bourne Road, Bexley DA15 1PQ
Join a collection of small specialist nurseries for a spring plant fair with a difference! Find interesting perennial plants, shrubs and grasses. Ask the Plant Doctor your gardening questions and chat to the growers for expert advice.
Admission: Free – donations welcomed

Tuesday 25 April – 10am – 4pm
Daisy the Bunny
Rusley Manor Garden Centre, Maidstone Road, Sidcup DA14 5BQ
Create your own Daisy the bunny with soft felt and fuzzy floppy ears. Price per child £9.95 020 8330 0500

Thursday 27 April – 5.30am – 7am
Dawn Chorus Bird Walk
The Woodlands Farm Trust, 331 Shooters Hill, WELLING DA16 3RP
Find out which birds are the early risers at Woodlands Farm. Bring along binoculars to improve your experience. Meet in the farmyard and ensure you wear suitable footwear and outdoor clothing. In the event of bad weather the walk will be cancelled. Admission: £2 per person, £1 for under 16 020 8319 9200

Wednesday 26 April 10am – 1pm
Fish and chip quiz night
Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice, 185 Bostall Hill, Abbey Wood SE2 0GB
Bring your own drinks and enjoy a fish and chips supper 020 8319 9230 info@gch.org.uk

Saturday 29 April 9.45am – 1pm
Grand Spring Fair
United Reformed Church, Geilles Place, Bexley DA6 7DJ
The Association of Charter’s 78 will be holding a spring fair selling a variety of items including gifts and cards, homemade jam, pickles and cakes, children’s toys and much more. Hot and cold refreshments will be available.
Admission: 50p, accompanied children free.

Thursday 4 May – 2pm
Floral Demonstration
St Mary’s Church Hall, Manor Road, Bexley DA5 1LW
A floral demonstration by Gill McJcgon organised by Old Bexley Floral Arrangement Society.
Admission: £4 (non-members) 020 8302 9984

Thursday 4 May – Saturday 6 May – 5pm – 11pm
Bexley Beer Festival
Old Dartfordians Sports Club, War Memorial Club House, Bourne Road, Bexley DA11 1UL
The 12th Bexley Beer Festival will host 85+ beers and ales. Visitors will receive a souvenir glass. Hot and cold refreshments will be available. Admission: 25% off CAMRA members £1.50 under 16 – free admission with ID (proof of age) All nights of admission reserved

Sunday 7 May 10am – 11.30am
Late Spring Bird Walk
The Woodlands Farm Trust, 331 Shooters Hill, WELLING DA16 3RP
Find out what birds have arrived at the farm for the summer. Bring along binoculars to improve the experience.
Meet in the farmyard and wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. In the event of bad weather the walk will be cancelled. Admission: £2 per person, £1 for under 18s. 020 8319 9230 - info@gbch.org.uk.

Thursday 1 June – 2pm
Floral Demonstration – A Night at the Movies
St Mary’s Church Hall, Manor Road, Bexley DA5 3LX

Tuesday 13 June – 3pm
Hanging baskets and containers
Ruxley Manor Garden Centre, Maidstone Road, Sidcup DA14 5SB
Deb Hart has worked in horticulture for 26 years and trained and taught as a professional florist. Come and listen to her talk on how to create the perfect hanging basket. 020 8303 0084.

Saturday 17 June – 12pm – 4pm
St Mary’s Community Fun Day
St Mary’s Church, Witcham Street, Welting DA16 2QJ
A family day out with a variety of stalls and arena events including birds of prey flying display and dog displays. Refreshments and lots more! There will also be an art exhibition by Headsway SEED Visit for brain injuries. Admission: Free. tonycoles@hotmail.com.

Sunday 25 June – 11.30am – 1pm
Annual Civic Parade
Broadway, Bexleyheath

Tuesday 23 May - 7pm (doors open 6.30pm)
Golden Moments at Chelsea Flower Show
Hall Place and Gardens Bourne Road, Bexley DA5 1PQ
Join Chelsea Flower Show award winner Mag Kington for a floral design demonstration like no other. Watch him create floral designs from fresh flowers, while he shares personal anecdotes from his life in the theatre, plus a chance to win one of his designs. Admission: £12 per person (price includes a glass of fruit punch). 020 3217 5138 www.hallplace.org.uk.

Monday 29 May - 2pm
Paint a bird box
Ruxley Manor Garden Centre, Maidstone Road, Sidcup DA14 5SB
Have fun painting your very own bird house then take it home to watch the birds nest. Admission: £5.99 adults free £3.99 children. 020 8300 0084.

Tuesday 30 May – 10am & 2pm (1 hr session).
The Dog and the Dinosaur
Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley DA5 1PQ
Have fun hearing the hilarious story and make your very own dinosaur to wear home. Find out in our hilarious story and make your own dinosaur! 020 3267 2138.

Saturday 1 July – 7.30pm
Sidcup Symphony Orchestra
St John’s Church, Church Road, Sidcup DA14 6BX
Sidcup Symphony Orchestra will be performing music by Debussy, Vaughan Williams and Haydn. Admission: £4 (non-members) 020 8300 0084.

Sunday 25 June
Colour Run
Danson Park, Danson Road, Bedseyheath DA
Your chance to walk, jog, run, or dance your way around the 5km route in Danson Park to raise funds for the Greenwich and Bedseyheath Community Hospice. 020 8319 9230 – info@gbch.org.uk.

Sunday 25 June
Plant Fair Summer Roadshow
Hall Place and Gardens Bourne Road, Bexley DA5 1PQ
Another chance to track down specialist varieties and something different for your garden this year from a collection of specialist nurseries. The ‘Plant Doctor’ will also be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Admission: Free. 01322 621238 www.hallplace.org.uk.

Saturday 1 July – 7 – 3.30pm
Sidcup Symphony Orchestra
St John’s Church, Church Road, Sidcup DA14 6BX
Sidcup Symphony Orchestra will be performing music by Debussy, Vaughan Williams and Haydn. Admission: £4 (non-members) 020 8300 0084.

Friday 14 July - Saturday 15 July - 10am - 5pm
Floralmania
Hall Place, Bourne Road, Bexley DA5 1PQ
A flower arranging show with stalls and demonstrations that will be opened by Simon Lysett on the first day at 10am. Admission: £5 020 8300 0084.

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Bexley Local Offer - Special Educational Needs and Disability Support for 0-25 year olds - 020 3045 5677
Bexley Magazine - 020 3045 3605
Births, deaths and marriages - 03000 415252
registerofficebexley@kent.gov.uk
Council Tax & Housing Benefits – 0345 302 2317
Emergency Out of Hours Service - 020 8303 7777 / 020 8303 7171
Home Library Service – 020 3045 4566
Housing advice - 020 3045 3400
Temporary Accommodation – 020 3045 3155/ 020 3045 3156
Parking Services - 020 3045 3000
Adults Social Services - Residential care – 020 3045 4900

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Report a leak or burst pipe to Thames Water - 0800 714 614 (24 hour leakline) or #tweetaleak to @thameswater

Other useful contacts

Domestic Violence – 0808 2000 247
Job centre plus – 0345 604 3719
Resources Plus - 020 3045 3800
Citizens Advice Bureaux – 01322 517150
Age UK information and advice – 020 8300 0883
Bexley Voluntary Service Council – 01322 524682
Bexley Foodbank - 07932 431350

For all other Council services please call our automated switchboard on 020 8303 7777 to request the department you require.

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*Samaritans are a registered charity.

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