

# *The Messenger*

The Magazine of the  
villages of Great &  
Little Bromley

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**February 2020**



**Snowdrops at Great Bromley church**

*Photo Leonie Henderson*

# KATISHA'S KOLUM

Mistress woke this mawning with – yet another – cowl and saw throte and woz feeling sorry 4 hursel. She felt eeven maw fed up wen she returned from taking the dog 4 a wawk in the cowl, the damp and the fog. Sinse I havent ritten enything 4 ages and hav nuthing 2 do excet sit and snooz (no mise or burds to ither chase or catch) I offered to tayk over so she cood hav hur cup of tee in peese.

I hope u awl had a good Chrissmas and Nu Yeer. I woz stuk in kennels wile Mistress went to enjoy hursel in Shropsher ware it woz very muddy. She brawt a lot of the mud bak with hur and the kar had 2 be woshed wich is not sumthing that happens very offen.

In the gawjus frosty yet sunny day that woz yesterday Mistress went owt armed with hur camra to fotograf the snodrops at the church wich, she sez, the site of gladdens hur hart and mayks hur feel Spring is on the way. Wot about maw fotos from u awl? 4 sum wile we hav had a diffrent cuver picher eech munth but, Mistress sez, u havnt been sending so meny in resently and we dont wont to go bak to the dayz of a singel picher the entyre yeer. So lets

see sum shots of seens and activitis in and arowd the to villagis. Pleeese send them in and thay cood get on the cuvver.

Sum of u in the parst hav mayd rood remarks about my spelling. It tayks me a long tym to rite like this and I think I hav improved.

Now ware is my favrit spot on the chair or mayb jus cuddle up to Dog bi the fyre?



*Katisha*

**MATERIAL** for the **MARCH 2020** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by

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For details of availability and costs for **ADVERTISING** in the 'The Bromley Messenger' please contact the Treasurer on 01206 230537

***Please support the sponsors of our magazine.***

## THE 'MESSENGER'

is very grateful and thanks all those who by their donations have sponsored this month's magazine through

### PERSONAL AND CLUB DONATIONS

## HELP!

### DISTRIBUTOR FOR 'THE MESSENGER' NEEDED

After 17 years as distributor of 'The Messenger' along Chase Road West, Tracy Bird is retiring after delivering this February issue.

We offer a huge **'Thank you'** to Tracey on behalf of the residents in Chase Road West – past and present.

Consequently, we are needing a successor to Tracey as soon as possible. There are 35 issues to deliver. It doesn't take long –

unless you keep meeting people to have a chat with! They will be dropped off to you as soon as they are ready for delivery; generally the end of the month preceding the month of the issue.

If you are interested, or would like to ask any questions before making a decision, please contact Susan Scott on 251107.

She looks forward to hearing from you!

## THANKS AND WELCOMES

**Suzanne Abbott** is taking a break from writing her Nutrition page and I would like, on behalf of you all, to thank her for all the interesting and useful information she has shared, and advised us on, over time and look forward to welcoming her back when she feels able.

**Kate**, as you know, has retired as our gardening tipster but I would like to welcome **Andy and Judy** who are taking over the Garden Spot. You can see their first thoughts and advice inside.

# GREAT BROMLEY CRICKET CLUB

Great Bromley Cricket Club is looking for new Male and Female players at Colt and Adult level for the forthcoming season. The Club is extremely welcoming and would love to see those new to the game or seasoned players attend some pre-season training.



We have Colts' teams from U11 to U14 and would welcome School Year 5 through to Year 10 at Holmwood House, Chitts Hill, Stanway Colchester on

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March from 1-3pm

Our Adult Sessions which also includes young adults from age 15+ will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 7-9pm again at Holmwood House.

We would be very interested to hear from anyone keen to play cricket and who would like to attend these sessions.

Please Contact Adam Cuthbert, Club Captain on 07795 320304 or Tom Dodd Club Secretary on 07496 042651 for more details and to register your interest.

# FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Another new decade begins and hopefully our Club will continue to meet with new members joining us for our monthly get-togethers at the Cross Inn every third Thursday at 2pm.

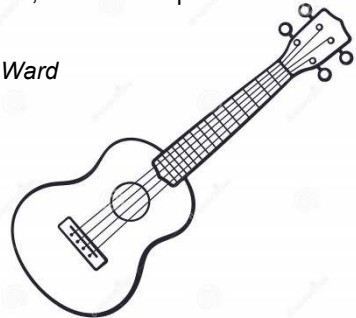
Our Christmas meal was excellent, with delicious festive fare eaten in front of a roaring log fire. What could have been better! A toast was made to Ray, one of our late members, whose generous bequest to the club provided the funds. After the raffle a vote of thanks was made to Brenda who has provided the delicious refreshments at our monthly meetings for many years. We do appreciate her generosity.

Sadly we begin our new year without Ron Field, a very long time member of the club. Members joined with Rose and her family to bid farewell to Ron at Weeley

Crematorium on the 9<sup>th</sup> January. He will be greatly missed but we do hope Rose will continue to join us each month for our meetings.

Our February meeting will be a musical afternoon, and the competition a romantic CD.

*Sylvia Ward*



# GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

[www.gbpc.org.uk](http://www.gbpc.org.uk)

Clerk: Lizzie Ridout Email: [clerk@gbpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@gbpc.org.uk)



## Budget 2019-2020

Cllr Lord presented the following statement to Members:

*It has reached the time in the year when GBPC reviews expenditure and budget management performance for the year preceding. This is done for purposes of good financial control and assurance as well as signposting the budget needed to be set for the new year (FY20-21).*

*The Budget for 2019/20 was set at £21,855 and the projected outturn for FY19-20 is £23,714. This shows an overspend of £1859 and a variation of 8.5% between what was forecast and what was actually spent. This variation was explained by 'one off' purchase of a tractor mower for Parish Ground maintenance and larger than anticipated expense on tree surgery needed for purposes of good maintenance and public safety. All expense is well within the affordable envelope as drawdowns can be made against our healthy reserves. There was some fluctuation at a line item level in our budget performance but nothing significant at a net level and these minor variations have been factored in the new budget.*

*Informed by the actual figures for 2019 and taking into account some exceptional events like the 2020 VE Day celebrations, the projected budget for 2020/21 has been set at £26,400.*

*The retention of the Parish Precept at £21,829 (the Local Council Tax Support Scheme Grant is no longer applicable) which when the taxable base was considered, would represent a reduction of £0.47 based on an average Band D property. Whilst we know that actual spend is likely to be approximately £4,400 higher than the precept (£26,400 Vs £21,829), this can be offset by anticipated drawdowns against our reserves. This removes the need for tax increase to residents and still leaves a healthy contingency in our reserves for future years.*

As part of the proposed budget, the Clerk's salary would increase to spinal column point 20 in line with the NALC National Salary Award.

Following the proposal Members unanimously agreed the budget setting for 2020/21.

Cllr Kate Strowbridge announced her resignation from the Parish Council as Chairman and Councillor. Kate thanked everyone for their hard work for the village and said she would miss everyone.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.30pm in Great Bromley Village Hall. Everyone is welcome.

*Lizzie Ridout  
Parish Clerk*

## Planning Determination

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
19/01529/FUL Mr and Mrs Taylor	Proposed two storey and single storey rear extension.	10 Harwich Road, Great Bromley CO7 7UH	Approval - Full 09.12.2019 Delegated Decision

# Planning Applications

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
19/01844/FUL Mr Michael Cotton	Garage conversion with external alterations.  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to this application.	Meron Ash, Colchester Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TN
19/01879/OUT	Proposed dwellings.  Cllrs Strowbridge and Mander declared themselves predetermined as they had both commented on the application prior to the meeting of the Parish Council.  Great Bromley Parish Council highlights this application due to incorrect jurisdiction. The land adjacent to Shaftesbury is in Ardleigh. The Parish Council objects for the same reasons as submitted on the previous application for this site (15/01935/OUT).	Land adjacent Shaftesbury, Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TL
19/01880/ COUNOT	Proposed change of use of 5 former agricultural buildings to residential dwellings accessed via the existing former farm access drive to the rear of New House Farm buildings.  <b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY</b>	Newhouse Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TP

## LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

It's that time of year when the Council Tax and precepts are being set and we are pleased to say that the precept for Little Bromley will be frozen again this year - meaning there will be no increases for the Parish part of the Council Tax.

We have been contacted by the organisers of the Corbeau Rally as they are putting in place an organiser who will act as a Liaison between the Rally and the Villages affected. Any issues should be reported to Councillor Iain Smith who has offered to act as the representative from Little Bromley. Please email him on the Council email address ([littlebromleypc@gmail.com](mailto:littlebromleypc@gmail.com)).

Pot holes continue to be an issue around the Village and again, please email

us with details and, if possible, pictures, and these will be reported on our behalf by Councillor Smith.

Can we remind people that the Village bottle bank is situated in the Car Park of the Haywain. We have become aware that some Villagers are unaware that this bottle bank is also for their use.

The next meeting of the Council will be on the 19th March at 7.30 pm at The Haywain.

*Little Bromley Parish Council*



# GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

## Surgery Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Karen Hoy our new Practice Nurse to the Surgery. Karen started with us on the 6 January and has many years' experience of working in General Practice.

### Prescriptions

We have noticed that we are receiving more and more requests for prescriptions to be done urgently. In order to deal with the high demand we receive for prescriptions to be issued we ask that patients allow 3 working days for us to process their requests. The other thing to mention is that we cannot take prescription requests over the telephone as it is unsafe, so please do not ask as we will be unable to do this. Please also be aware that we have a dedicated prescription query line on 01206 257557. You must use this number for all prescription queries rather than the main number. If you do not immediately get through to speak to the Prescription Clerk, leave a message with your name and contact number and as long as it's before 3.00pm, you will get a call back the same day. If you send in your prescription request by email to [holliesprescriptions@nhs.net](mailto:holliesprescriptions@nhs.net) you will receive an automatic response confirming receipt of your email, so there is no need to contact us to check if it has been received. Once your request has been received at the Surgery then the prescription will be ready for collection in 3 working days. Please do not contact the Surgery to check if the prescription has been issued. If you have allowed 3 working days then you will need to check with your nominated Pharmacy that your medication is ready to collect.

### Urgent Treatment Centres

Your local Walk-in Centre and Minor Injuries Units have now been replaced by Urgent Treatment Centres. These Centres are located at:-

Clacton Hospital, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea – open from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm  
Colchester General Hospital, Turner Road, Colchester – open 24 hours a day  
Fryatt Hospital, Harwich – open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

The Urgent Treatment Centres at Clacton and Colchester deal with both minor ailments and minor injuries. The Urgent Treatment Centre at Harwich is only able to deal with minor injuries.

### Surgery Training Afternoon

Along with all other surgeries in the area we will be shut from 12 noon on Wednesday, 12 February 2020 for staff training.

### Patient Participation Group Meetings

As the PPG have agreed that they will now hold bi-monthly meetings, there will not be a meeting in February.

**Please note The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday, 19 March 2020 at the Great Bentley Village Hall.**

*Sue Mitson – Operations Manager*



# ST. GEORGE'S (C OF E) SCHOOL, GT. BROMLEY

Telephone: 01206 230305

## PTA Christmas Fair

A HUGE thank you from the PTA for all of your support. We are delighted to let you know that the Christmas Fair raised £1600. This is a fabulous achievement and we are so pleased to be able to part fund the re-launch of the Read, Write, Inc scheme next term.

## Mission to Mars

On Wednesday 8th January, Class 4 went into the hall to start an exciting project which we are sure they will never forget.

Matt was running the project with his partner Kim. They explained to us the basic structure of what we were going to do. We picked different jobs that would be useful on a journey to Mars, such as: Medical Officer, Engineers, Analyst and Commander.

All the students began to listen closely as Matt started to tell us the first task. We had to build circuits on a circuit board, 4 different circuits gave us a percentage of landing on Mars. The first one was 30% if we got a buzzer working, 60% if we got an LED working with the buzzer and 90% if we got a light sensor working the LED and buzzer. For an extra 1000 points we had to add a light bulb that kept on shining when the LED wasn't.

Next was the medical task. We had to drip type A-blood and B-

blood into a blood tray. Then we had to drip antibodies into the blood, then we had to check it down on a chart to figure out what type of blood it was.



Finally we had a quiz consisting of all the tasks we had done earlier that morning

Each group was given the name of a country. Out of all the countries (including Europe, Russia, Japan, China and the USA) Russia came first beating a world record from a school in Singapore.

Team Russia received medals and a box of chocolates to share. Alice H also received a medal for being the top hard working person who, in an interview, would have been hired!

Thanks to our parents for enabling us to take part in this fantastic workshop and to Mrs Brincklow for organising it.

By Emily T and Jess B



# Little Dragons Pre-School - Great Bromley & Frating

Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR

Ofsted Inspected

Website: [www.littledragonspreschool.org](http://www.littledragonspreschool.org)

Email: [littledragonspreschool@gmail.com](mailto:littledragonspreschool@gmail.com)



OFSTED INSPECTED - GOOD

## BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - PLACES AVAILABLE

Tel: 01206 231823/ 07857 503103

We are flexible and happy to take children for the occasional session and times to suit your situation.

If you require further information please call us on the numbers above or pop in to see us.

**30 Hours funding** for eligible parents came into effect from September 2017 - give us a call for more details.

HAPPY NEW YEAR. Christmas seems a long time ago now; on the last day of term we visited Leonard Cheshire Disability with the children and their parents and performed some Christmas songs for the residents. We had a lovely time, a warm thank you to them for inviting us and making us feel so welcome.

All the children have now settled back in after the holiday and we are looking forward to another exciting term.

Please keep an eye out for our new Facebook and Google pages where we will be revealing plans for our holiday clubs in 2020

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January we had an unannounced visit from the Food Standards Agency. On completion of the inspection we were once again delighted to score a maximum '5'.

## FUNDRAISING:

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our 'Big Christmas Party' on 14<sup>th</sup> December including the local businesses that donated prizes – a fantastic total of over £700 was raised.

## Upcoming Events:-

Save this date in your diary - **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Race Night** –Details to follow

**Co-op COMMUNITY TOKEN SCHEME**  
*Help us to fundraise while you shop – please tell friends and family too. Thank*

*you.*

Co-op 'Green tokens'

Please help us to fund new equipment for our SEN children as well as our everyday attendees, look out for the Little Dragons Preschool box in the foyer of **Co-op, Manningtree** branch and pop in your green token.

Thank you for supporting our project.

## CLOTHES COLLECTION – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Do you have any unwanted clothes? Please drop off any unwanted clothes to preschool by 10<sup>th</sup> February and help us raise funds for the preschool. Many thanks.

### Please help us to collect:

We accept **CRISP PACKETS** – reduce landfill waste and help us raise money too! Any brand of crisp packets accepted including multi-pack outer packaging. We are still collecting biscuit wrappers (sweet and savoury).

We accept plastic air fresheners and plastic cartridges/ refills and flexible wipe packaging, *but no longer accept trigger heads, lids and tops.*

Posters are displayed at preschool with full details of what waste is accepted.

## OUR RECYCLING STATION now makes it easier to drop off items

We have set up an area – across the car park to the right of gate, with boxes for you to drop off collected items. Thank you.

We take children from the age of two years and offer a 'home visit' to families of children prior to them starting Pre-school. This gives the child the opportunity to meet their key-person in their own home, aiding the transition stage to pre-school. It also enables us to collect and share information in a confidential environment.

For further information or to arrange a visit to the setting please contact us on the 9 above number.

Continued on next page .../ Collection Only - Contact us: Tel: 07857

503103 Email:

[littledragonspreschool@gmail.com](mailto:littledragonspreschool@gmail.com)

### Party Table and Chair Hire

**Having a party for Pre-School children?**

We can offer 4 perfectly sized tables & 20 chairs.

Deposit only £10 Tables only £5.00 each

Chairs Only £1.00 each

### Dates for diary:

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Preschool re-opens

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Race night

**theWI**

## GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

### The WI Christmas

### Party at The Courthouse

Our Christmas meeting was held in the pub – a fine place to celebrate the festive season. One of our WI members owns the Courthouse pub and restaurant at Great Bromley and we combined our December meeting with lunch in the restaurant. A good turnout of over 27 WI stalwarts attended to enjoy a three course Christmas lunch, wine, and brain teaser games. Do you know how difficult it is to guess a Christmas song when all of the vowels have been removed from the clue?



Once again, one of our members Dorothy brought her singing son Hoey to perform with us. This time he brought along his brother Jonny to perform a range of duets from West end shows and classics like Bing Crosby and David Bowies rendition of Little Drummer boy.



Our charity donation went towards the Colchester night shelter, raising well over £100, and it seems like almost everyone won a secret Santa prize at the raffle.



Yet again, a superb event to start off the festive season for the Great Bromley WI ladies. Roll on 2020.



# 2020 EVENTS



## FEBRUARY

- 5 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 ~~Willow & Rush Weaving Day, Village Hall, 10.00am~~
- 12 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society meeting, Ardleigh Methodist Hall, 7.45pm
- 14-16 Snowdrops at Beth Chatto Gardens
- 20 Friendship Club meeting, Cross Inn, 2.00pm  
Probus February meetings (see item)  
Stour Valley U3A February meetings (see item)

## MARCH

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 7 Lt Dragons Race Night - time and place tbc
- 8 St George's church APCM
- 11 Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society meeting, Ardleigh Methodist Hall, 7.45pm
- 19 Friendship Club meeting, Cross Inn, 2.00pm  
Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm  
Patient Participation Group, Gt Bentley Village Hall, 6.30pm

## APRIL

- 1 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society meeting, Ardleigh Methodist Hall, 7.45pm
- 10-13 Easter weekend
- 16 Friendship Club meeting, Cross Inn, 2.00pm
- 25 2020 Tendring & Corbeau Rally

## MAY

- 8 VE Day
- 9 Seven Rivers Cheshire Home Dog Show
- 13 Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society meeting, Ardleigh Methodist Hall, 7.45pm
- 16 Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society Plant Sale, Ardleigh Village Hall, 9.30am
- 21 Friendship Club meeting, Cross Inn, 2.00pm

## JUNE

- 3 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 18 Friendship Club meeting, Cross Inn, 2.00pm

## JULY

- 1 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 2020 Tendring Hundred Show
- 16 Friendship Club meeting, Cross Inn, 2.00pm

## AUGUST

- 5 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 15 Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society Annual Show, Ardleigh Village Hall,
- 20 Friendship Club meeting, Cross Inn, 2.00pm

### St Valentine's Day quote

Loving is not just looking at each other, it's looking in the same directions

*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Poet*

Little Dragons Pre-School

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March

## Race Night

Watch this space for more details!



Charity No. 1136018  
Company No. 709946



## GREAT BROMLEY ANTIQUES & COLLECTORS FAIR

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
9.30am – 3.30pm  
at Great Bromley

Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley  
Post Code - CO7 7JA

Lots of local stalls.

ENTRY - £1. ( Before  
9.30am £2 ) No  
Concessions.

Food and Drinks available.

Free Parking

E Mail [nigel@garden-shows.com](mailto:nigel@garden-shows.com)  
or Tel: 07802 282193



## Stour Valley Arts & Music

Sunday 10 November 2019  
at 4.00 pm

**Trio con Brio Copenhagen**  
St Mary's Church, East Bergholt  
CO7 6TG

Sunday 09 February 2020 at 4.00 pm  
**Young Musicians' Concert**  
Constable Hall, East Bergholt CO7 6TP

Sunday 08 March 2020 at 4.00 pm  
**Carducci String Quartet**  
St Mary's Church, East Bergholt CO7 6TG

Sunday 29 March 2020 at 4.00 pm  
**Kammerphilharmonie Europa**  
St Mary's Church, East Bergholt CO7 6TG

*Details for booking etc see  
[www.svam.org.uk](http://www.svam.org.uk)*

## ADVANCE NOTICE

The Seven Rivers Cheshire Home

## Dog Show

this year is being  
held on  
Saturday 9th May



More details to follow

## Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society

Evening meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at Ardleigh Methodist Church Hall, Colchester Road, Ardleigh and start at 19:45. Admission is free for members and just £1.50 for visitors, who are always welcome. Refreshments are available after the talk.

Membership is only £5 for each season and you can join at any meeting or at the show

### Wednesday February 12th

Tom Willmot and Stuart Gough – Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm - Farm, Food & People

### Wednesday March 11th 2020

Jane Bastow- Creating my garden from a field

CLACTON  
**choral**  
SOCIETY  
over 100 years of singing

# Handel's Messiah

(Parts II & III)


accompanied by: The Kingfisher Sinfonietta  
Leader: Beth Spendlove

Soprano: Bev Lockyer  
Alto: Sarah Stephens  
Tenor: Michael Bell  
Baritone: Peter Grevatt


Musical Director: Gilli Dulieu

SATURDAY 4 APRIL 2020 at 7.30pm  
Doors open 6.45pm  
St Paul's Church, Church Road, Clacton on Sea CO15 6AU

Tickets £10 in advance only  
from 01255 424568 or  
[johnkedge@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:johnkedge@tiscali.co.uk)

supported by  Berkel Long IPA LLP

The Clacton Choral Society is a UK registered charity No. 298403  
[www.clactonchoral.org.uk](http://www.clactonchoral.org.uk)

 making music

## Willow and Rush

12  
**CANCELLED due to lack of interest**

**Weaving Day**

# IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

We suspect that many gardeners will have been affected by the recent excessive rainfall and been unable to complete the usual seasonal tasks, especially the digging of open ground.

Our garden is so wet all tasks have to



be carried out on boards to prevent structural damage to the soil. We are starting to contemplate that some areas may need to be cultivated by the No-Dig Gardening regime. Charles Dowding and others have advocated this for many years and promoted its benefits to the soil structure, the micro-organisms and also to gardeners as there is less heavy work to do.

We prefer to dig in compost in the Autumn/Winter and fully remove perennial weeds. However we cannot in the current circumstances see any sense in raising wet 'claggy' soil to the surface knowing it will require disproportionate effort to produce a tilth in the spring suitable for seed sowing/transplanting. Additionally we think the excessive rain will have leached out a lot of the nutrients and base dressings

will be needed to replace them. The soil will need to be in a suitable condition to incorporate them.

Later once the surface dries out and an acceptable tilth is achieved seed sowing and transplanting can commence subject to suitable weather conditions and available protection. Remember that no seed or transplant likes to be in cold wet soil. If in doubt wait.

If stuck indoors and looking through the seed and plant catalogues, remember a degree of scepticism is useful with regard to items marked 'new' or 'exclusive'. Just because it is new and usually more expensive it does not follow it will be better than your existing choice.

If you only need to harvest small quantities at a time there is an argument to avoid the F1 seeds as they will tend to crop at the same time which can produce gluts unless you sow very sparingly and in succession to spread the crop.

Traditionally in February you can sow a wide range of seeds from Aubergines to Tomatoes but it is best to be cautious. If you start too early in a propagator or heated greenhouse you will often finish up with 'leggy' plants, caused by the low light levels. These usually produce an inferior harvest than seeds started later that can be grown without a check caused by cold spells, and are better plants less likely to succumb to disease.

Hi Everyone,

I'm sure you will be pleased to know that I made it back to work to celebrate Christmas with all our wonderful residents, staff and visitors.

We all had a wonderful time with a very varied entertainment programme from Dick Whittington panto brought into the home by the Carousel Theatre Company. Also singers who sung some lovely Christmas music, to our resident. One of our best afternoons is when one of our own volunteers comes in to play music and we all sing Carols. This is our Jenny who this year brought two lovely male vocalists with her and another piano / keyboard player, we all sung our hearts out. This was followed by some lovely mince pies and cream. We were also very lucky and had 2 visits from Santa who distributed gifts to all our residents, so thank you all. All this fun and laughter brought smiles and tears as we remembered those who are no longer with us and those we miss most. With so many families living away from where they were brought up or parents who move on retirement, those of us that can, and are able, move around try and fit in seeing those we love, but for others it's not so easy. With facetime and other video calling available it is not always easy.

Like every year the New Year comes and we start thinking about what we want or need to achieve this year. One of our main needs this year is to build the Gazebo that we have raised funds for over the last 2 years. We had all the monies later last year then I was taken poorly and that put a delay on this project. So now it is full steam ahead,

so if anyone has any recommendations please let me know.

Our new fund raising project is a new tranquillity room. This is going to take time to build up funds so apologies in



advance as I will be going on about it for some time.

Events that are held yearly such as the dog show are well in the planning stages with the judges booked and date set. The Dog Show this year is being held on Saturday 9th May, and we hope we have improved on the timings this year as they will be timed for breed dogs and set time for mixed breeds. Plus best in show rosettes in both full breed and mixed breeds will be handed out. This weekend also sees the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the VE Day.

When you get to read this Valentine's day will only be a few days away, but at this time I'm not sure what we will be doing in the home, I have just looked and the 14<sup>th</sup> is on a Friday so maybe a nice romantic film will be on the cards.

Take care till next time

14 Liz x



# STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

## Recent Meetings

We didn't hold a meeting on New Year's Day and so our first meeting in the New Year was on Wednesday 15 January when our Member Michael Hole gave a most interesting talk on "Second World War Prisoner of War Camps".

## Future Meetings

Following on from last month's talk on Prisoner Of War Camps in WW2 on 5 February Carole Wheatley will enlighten us on "Internment in Guernsey during the Second World War" and two weeks later on 19 February Colin Hopper will present "The Story of London Bridge".

On Wednesday 4 March Maureen Clarke will talk to us about "The plight of street orphans in India" and we will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 18 March.

## Meeting Venue

We meet at the convenient St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB

## New members are welcomed

Our Club endeavours to be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, and involve members to a minimal cost. New Members are always very welcome at all meetings of the Stour Valley Men's Probus Club, just join us at 10am on a meeting date. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and provide the opportunity for development of acquaintances. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10 for 10.30am. Please contact President Dave Carman on 01255



**St Helena Hospice**  
your time...your hospice  
Registered Charity Number 280919

also have the option to write a message for their loved one on remembrance boards which will be proudly displayed throughout the weekend at Beth Chatto Gardens.

Celebrate and remember the life of a loved one this February with a Snowdrop.

St Helena Hospice has commissioned 1,500 commemorative snowdrop flowers which have been hand-crafted in metal by the British Ironwork Centre. The Snowdrops will create a display at the beautiful Beth Chatto Gardens from 14th- 16th February 2020. St Helena Hospice is giving people the chance to dedicate a Snowdrop in memory of a loved one in return for a donation to support local hospice care, and after the display your Snowdrop is yours to keep, or give as a gift. This is not limited to just those who have used hospice services; anyone who wishes to remember and celebrate someone special is welcome to dedicate a Snowdrop.

Following the display, the boards will be moved to St Helena Hospice's Learning & Development Centre, where people have the chance to view the boards again and share in a moment of reflection.

Essex based solicitors, Fisher Jones Greenwood is the headline sponsor for St Helena Hospice's Snowdrops. The appeal is also being supported by sponsors Perrywood Sudbury and East of England Co-op Funeral Services.

Snowdrops are available now for a suggested donation of £30 to St Helena Hospice, which could help a child dealing with the death of a parent to work with the Children and Families Bereavement team to channel their feelings with activities such as decorating a flowerpot and planting their own snowdrops.

The display will be open to the public from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th February, giving visitors the opportunity to reflect on the life and memories of a loved one. Visitors will also have the option to write a message for their loved one on remembrance boards which will be proudly displayed throughout the weekend at Beth Chatto Gardens. Following the display, the boards will be moved to St Helena Hospice's Learning & Development Centre, where people have the chance to view the boards again and share in a moment of reflection. Essex based solicitors, Fisher Jones Greenwood is the headline sponsor for St Helena Hospice's Snowdrops. The appeal is also being supported by sponsors Perrywood Sudbury and East of England Co-op Funeral Services. Snowdrops are available now for a suggested donation of £30 to St Helena Hospice, which could help a child dealing with the death of a parent to work with the Children and Families Bereavement team to channel their feelings with activities such as decorating a flowerpot and planting their own snowdrops.

St Helena Hospice's Snowdrops are very limited so to guarantee yours please visit [www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/snowdrops](http://www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/snowdrops).

# OBITUARY

## ANNE GERALDINE GREY CLAPHAM

Anne Geraldine Grey Clapham

9<sup>th</sup> December 1934 - 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Anne was born in Wales but soon returned with her mother to a Dr Graham's Homes charitable school in Kalimpong in the foothills of the Himalayas, where her parents had met as teachers and her father became headmaster. She shared with her children memories of her exotic childhood: from the Aya who taught her Hindi, to elephants and giant hailstones, sneaking out onto the roof to read, picnics by the raging Teesta river and sliding down the hillside on a rusty corrugated metal sheet. Returning to North Wales at the age of 12, Anne attended Dr Williams School in Dolgellau, where she excelled academically and won a place to study English at St Hugh's College, Oxford. She embraced university life with enthusiasm, and it was here she met her soul-mate, John Clapham, and was warmly welcomed into his larger-than-life family. They were married in Ruthin, North Wales, in a service held partly in Welsh as so many of Anne's family spoke Welsh as their first language. After graduating and during the early years of her marriage she became an inspirational English teacher.

Anne and John settled down in half of a large Victorian house called Copley Dene South, in Bromley, Kent, with every intention of staying put. However, with a large amount of development beginning in the area they decided to look for somewhere new. Guided by a map shaded according to commuting distance from London, they alighted on the former rectory in Great Bromley, Essex. The coincidence in name was a sign and they also renamed the house Copley Dene when lovely Mr Ransom, the rector, said he was concerned that having a Rectory and an Old Rectory in the village might cause confusion! They loved this perfect house which along with the village of Great Bromley became a part of the family.

The Claphams were renowned party givers and revelled in offering their warm hospitality in dinners and lunches, garden parties, Christmas carol parties, birthdays, weddings, fetes and village events. Their combined skills in bringing people and events together were put to good use in the community and artistic events they became involved in including the art tent at the Tendring show, Cheshire Home fetes, and many fundraisers for St George's church. Anne's formative years in India and the ethos of Dr Graham's homes remained a strong part of her identity, instilling in her principles of loving duty, service, community and hard work, and a strong belief in the power of education to improve lives. With John away working long hours in London, Anne devoted herself for many years to her children, her community and to her garden which, when we first arrived, was a largely impenetrable jungle of self-seeded trees and brambles.

When the children were older, Anne toyed with the idea of helping Dad in his work as a solicitor and achieved an A grade in A-Level Law. This became useful when she joined the Colchester Citizen's Advice Bureau, first as an advisor and then as a debt counsellor.

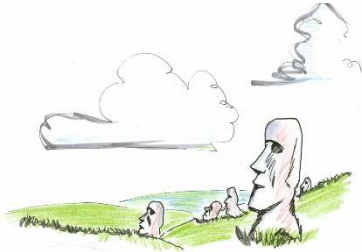
Although she became less mobile after various hip and back operations she was staunchly uncomplaining, and the children sometimes found it difficult to help her. They were close to helping her to make a move near Nesta, but it seems it was meant to be that she should see out her final days in the house, garden and area she loved so very much.

Edited from the eulogy given by  
*Nesta, Catherine & Jenny*



## Past Meetings

A speaker meeting took place on **Wednesday 8th January 2020 - The Mysteries of Easter Island** by Chris Parfitt, retired teacher, looked at life on this remote island today and explored its unique history revolving mainly around the famous statues and some of the theories surrounding them.



## Future Meetings & Diary Dates

### 12 February - The Life and Times of an Essex Bad Girl

From prison to a successful Brand by Tracy from the Giggly Pig Co and just how did she manage to change the direction of her life into being a pig farmer and successful sausage producer.

### 11 March - Bees and Flowers

Master Beekeeper Jeremy Quinlan will talk on the contest between them to gain benefits from the relationship explained.

### 8 April - Colchester Roman Circus & The Fenwick Treasure

Philip Crummy, Director & Principal Archaeologist, Colchester Archaeological Trust, speaks about the two most interesting archaeological discoveries in Colchester in recent years.

**Coffee Grinders** meet on the last Friday of each month from 10 - 12 noon at the Lambe School Gaston Street East Bergholt. This meeting especially welcomes new members but gives all members the opportunity of meeting activity group leaders and committee members whilst enjoying a cup of coffee. Please see our website for

updates [www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk](http://www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk)

## Membership

Our main purpose is to encourage lifelong learning for those who are no longer in full time employment and emphasis is always placed on making learning active and fun as well as helping in developing friendships. We have a wide range of groups including language study, country walking, computer studies and gardens, churches and historic buildings visits. In the main, membership is drawn from communities in the lower Stour Valley and adjacent areas including Brantham, Capel St Mary, Dedham, East Bergholt, Holbrook, Lawford, Manningtree, Raydon, & Stratford St Mary. We are affiliated to the ThirdAge Trust, have over 400 members and 40 active groups. For further information please

visit [www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk](http://www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk) where our membership secretary Val Pretty may be contacted.

## Meeting Venue

The Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP at 2 for 2.15pm. Annual membership costs £12 and this entitles members to attend the meetings that take place on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. Whilst Visitors are welcome to join us on a limited number of occasions, paying a donation each time, Members are given priority, for safety reasons, due the halls limited capacity.

***Remember it's never too late to learn! Join over 400,000 members across over 1,000 U3As throughout the UK today!***

# CHILDREN AT CHURCH

## Colouring Competition at Great Bromley

At the beginning the Children's Committee for St. George's Church sent cardboard Christmas baubles into St. George's School, Great Bromley and into the Little Dragons Preschool. They were all asked to decorate or colour the baubles and return them by the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

After gathering them up, on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December we had the difficult job of choosing our favourite baubles from those entered.

St. George's school returned 33 baubles. The favourite baubles chosen were: Megan in Class 1, Maddie in Class 2, Tulip in Class 3 and Charlie S in Class 4. Little Dragons Pre-school returned 16 baubles. The favourite bauble was done by Annabelle and the second favourite was done by Ella.

All the baubles have been hung behind the organ in St. George's Church and look lovely. They have been on display over all of Christmas and will stay up for a little longer.

Everyone who took part received prizes. Those who were named winners were

presented with their prizes in Church just before school and the pre-school broke up. Thank you to all who took part in our competition.

## Christmas Eve Crib Service at Great Bromley

The church looked lovely, a large Christmas tree in the corner, decorations around and a nativity scene by the pulpit.

Over 50 adults and 26 children came to join in our service with Simon Heron presiding. With much baaing, shouts and laughter the nativity story was told to all present.

A collection of the Children's Society Candles was made and over £70 was raised for the Children's Society. It was a lovely service and we would like to thank all those who came or helped.

The Children's Committee would like to wish everyone a belated **Happy New Year.**

*Carol Cordwell*

# Candles by Candlelight at Little Bromley

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 at 7.30pm, St. Marys Church in Little Bromley was packed. With standing room only it was wonderful to see around 130 people gather to enjoy our Carol Service.

With lovely Christmas arrangements and ivy covering any spare space the church looked grand. After topping the poles off with the shiny brass candlesticks holding lit candles the church looked wonderful. A Christmas tree for the memory of loved ones finished the scene and we were ready to begin.

Gregory as normal had arranged a lovely selection of readings, carols and groups, including a performance by 'Rococo' who sang wonderfully for us. With all of this and

a beautiful 'Candlelight Carol' sung by the O'Grady boys we had a wonderful evening. A very nice vicar from Ipswich took the service and completed our line up.

Afterwards Jane and William provided a welcome glass of mulled wine for everyone accompanied by homemade cakes and snacks.

We raised over £500 for the Churches Conservation Trust which helps to show the CCT how much we love our church.

We would like to thank all those who came and all of those who helped for making this such an enjoyable evening.

*Carol Cordwell*

# FROM THE RECTORY

The days when every child could tell you about the heroes of the bible are long gone, but the story of Jonah is one that is often recalled. It's because the tale of a man who tries to run away from God is totally unforgettable. And these are the highlights.

God tells Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and tell the citizens that God is going to destroy every last one of them because of their wickedness. Jonah doesn't much fancy acting on God's request, so he boards a boat going in the opposite direction. While aboard, a violent storm batters the ship, and Jonah realises that the only way that the ship can be saved is if he is thrown overboard. The reluctant crew do as Jonah asks and the storm subsides. Jonah meanwhile is swallowed by a giant fish where he spends three days coming to his senses. The fish spews him on to dry land, Jonah goes to Nineveh to deliver the message from God, the people of Nineveh repent, and God decides that having turned from their evil ways he will not bring the destruction he had threatened.

Which would be a great place to end the story. But in the book of Jonah we find a final chapter where the title character is sitting despondently at a distance from the city waiting to see God's wrath poured out onto the evil people.

Why is Jonah so downcast?

'Because you are a gracious and compassionate God' says Jonah, 'slow to anger and abounding in love. I knew that you would relent. I've wasted my time and risked my life telling them that the fire of God would be spent upon them. But it hasn't come.'

But God asks Jonah if it's right for him to angry? 'Get your priorities right' says God. 'If you're more worried about yourself than the thousands of people living in the city,

then you need to look at the kind of God I am.'

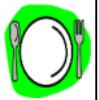
Some see God as an angry deity who sits at a distance, occasionally lobbing a thunderbolt and indulging in a bit of smiting. But that doesn't reflect his true nature. Jonah got it right. Our God is gracious and compassionate. Mostly though he is the God of love, ready to forgive the repentant and welcome them into his kingdom. And there's no better place to be.

*Simon*

Rev Canon Simon Heron  
Lawford, The Bromleys & Little Bentley  
Area Dean of Harwich  
01206 392659  
[www.lawfordchurch.co.uk](http://www.lawfordchurch.co.uk)  
'Loving God. Living Life.'

## Church Lunch

at 12 noon



- **7<sup>th</sup> February**
- 6<sup>th</sup> March
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- 1<sup>st</sup> May

All are very welcome to enjoy together home made tasty soup. Donations only

## J.A.M. DROP-IN

Every Friday in St George's church  
After school club for families. All welcome  
Drop in for fun, games and laughter  
3.00pm to 3.45pm  
Refreshments, activities

# ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY



## February 2020 *Welcome to our services*

February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Candlemas</b> 9.15am Holy Communion with hymns
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Septuagesima (3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent)</b> 10.30am Parish Eucharist
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sexagesima (2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent)</b> <b>9.15am Family Service</b> 6.30pm Evensong with choir
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Quinquagesima (Sunday before Lent)</b> 10.30am Parish Eucharist
February 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7.30pm Holy Communion at St Mary's Lawford
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Lent 1</b> 9.15am Holy Communion with hymns
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lent 2</b> 10.30am Parish Eucharist
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lent 3</b> 9.15am Family Service 6.30pm Evensong (BCP) with choir
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> 10.30am Parish Eucharist
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lent 5</b> 10.30am Benefice Eucharist

<b>Vicar:</b>	Revd Canon Simon Heron	01206 392659
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Mrs Jenny Nicholls	01206 230688
	Mrs Yvonne Cobbold	01206 230360

***The church is open daily and you are welcome to visit.  
More details and information at [www.greatbromley.org.uk](http://www.greatbromley.org.uk)  
Facebook or Twitter @StGeorgesGtBrom***

### **St Mary's Church, Lawford**

Every Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
1st Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday	10.30am	Family Service 6.30pm Evensong
3rd Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion 6.30pm Café Church
4th Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship
Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion

### **St Mary's Church, Little Bentley**

1st Sunday	10.30am	Morning Prayer
3rd Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion

### **St Mary's Church, Ardleigh**

1st Sunday	10.3am	Parish Eucharist
2nd Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	10.30am	Parish Eucharist
4th Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion