

The Messenger

The Magazine of the
villages of Great &
Little Bromley

April 2020



THE FIRST PAGE

Dear Readers

Firstly, a big thank you for your kind messages of welcome; they are very much appreciated. Secondly, I'd like to echo the thoughts of the entire population of our villages in saying just how grateful we are for Leonie's enormous contribution to the Messenger over the years. Also a personal thank you from me for showing me the ropes!

As I write, we are currently experiencing uncertain times with regard to COVID-19. I'm sure that lots of you are keeping an eye on any changes and monitoring the news regularly, but it also serves as a reminder that there are vulnerable people within our communities that will need help. Please do keep an eye on neighbours who might need additional support. Please be aware that many events will be cancelled or postponed. I would ask all groups and organisations to make use of social media and good old fashioned word-of-mouth if you need to cancel or postpone any events or meetings.

More positively, the clocks will have gone forward by the time you read this; one of my favourite times of the year.

I love being in my garden and I like nothing better than to inspect it every evening after work, as there is so much happening within it. I've got my fingers crossed for a better year for fruit, as it was slim pickings last year. We've experienced a number of wet weekends recently but as Andy & Judy say in their article, the grass has certainly benefitted. Today has been drier and sunnier and so I have got three loads of washing dried - happy days...and the benefit of working from home.

I'm also a fan of puzzles and so I have included a Sudoku puzzle for you in this edition - I have been kind and popped the answers in near the back of the magazine!

Awareness days in April include World Parkinson's Day, Earth Day, and ironically, World Health Day. It is also the month of National Autism Awareness. And of course there's going to be chocolate:)

Wishing you all a very happy Easter.

Lizzie

PS. I challenge you to find all the eggs

MATERIAL for the **MAY 2020** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Lizzie Ridout, by **14th APRIL 2020** please.

Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc. this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

Copy can be delivered by hand, sent by post or e-mail (see inside back cover) or via the link on the websites www.greatbromley.org.uk or www.littlebromley.org.uk

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.

STOUR VALLEY U3A 30th ANNIVERSARY

A speaker meeting took place on Wednesday 11th March when Master Beekeeper, Jeremy Quinlan, talked about the contest between bees and flowers to gain benefit from the relationship.

Events and diary dates

- Monster Walk on 3rd June as part of U3A National Volunteer Day
- 30th birthday party on 5th August - Constable Hall East Bergholt

Interest Groups

- Our 3 mile and 5 mile walking groups set off each month to keep fit using local footpaths. A 10 mile walking group is coming soon.
- Members of our European travel group are going to Dubrovnik, Puglia and India during the next twelve months.

The very popular garden visits group has organised coach outings to many parts of the eastern region over the summer months.

There are 40 learning and activity groups for members to join.

Coffee Grinders meets on the last Friday of each month from 10 - 12noon at the Lambe School Gaston Street East Bergholt and 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 update 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. Our members are 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 have 400 members with room for more! Only £12 per annum.

For further information please visit www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk where our membership secretary Val Pretty may be contacted.

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

Learn Laugh Live



SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

Hi All, Happy Easter Time to you all. New beginnings, new adventures, new tax year, and for some looking for something new and different to do, now they have free time.

I have spoken about my volunteers within the home many times, but not always the impact that they have on our residents in the home.

To volunteer at Seven Rivers you have to be aged between 16 and 99 years, and have an interest in people. At the time of writing, my volunteers age range from 17 to 78, we all get on so very well when have a catch up meeting. Because our aim is the same, we want to enhance the lives of the residents, and in turn, they enrich ours.

My volunteers do varied things within the home; I will give you a bit of a list: Making music, playing board games, reading, crafts, helping on outings, talking, helping to organise fund raising events, help in the office, help in the garden, taking residents to church, and the one person who gets the biggest cheer from the other volunteers is the lady who comes in to do the ironing! All this is done by 11 people!

We also have groups of people who come in, like the Great Bromley WI ladies once a month for their Knit and Knatter meeting, allowing our ladies and gents to join them. I am never sure how much knitting they do but a lot of nattering goes on and tea and cake all disappear very quickly. Both the Pre School and Primary School visit through the year. All this helps to involve our residents in the community.

All my volunteers will be at the Dog Show, because without them to help put up and take down the things that are needed there would not be a dog show.

This year our dog show will be held on Saturday 9th May with registration opening at 9.30am. This event is part of the bigger events being held to celebrate the 75th commemorations of V.E Day. I'm sure there will be more about this event in this magazine, but please look out for our posters.

If you feel you can help as a volunteer, why not pop into Seven Rivers, phone me on 01206 230345, or e-mail me elizabeth.barrenger@leonardcheshire.org

The minimum requirement is two hours per month, and together we achieve so much to improve not only the lives of the residents at Seven Rivers, but also our own.

Take care
Liz x



SUDOKU CORNER

9		5		6	7		4	
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4	8					6		
		2					9	4
5		4	6					9
8		1	5	7	3			
	2		9	4		3		5



GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

EASTER SURGERY OPENING HOURS

The normal Surgery opening times are from 8.00am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Over the Easter holiday the Surgery will be closed on Friday 10 April and Monday 13 April 2020.

SATURDAY MORNING OPENING

From April we will be opening on a Saturday morning for pre-booked appointments only with both a Doctor and a Nurse. Saturday appointments can be booked in the normal way by either contacting the Surgery on tel. 01206 250691 or online if you have signed up for EMIS access.

Please note that the Saturday morning surgeries will only be for pre-booked appointments and we will be unable to deal with anything urgent. Our telephone lines will still go through to the Out Of Hours Service on a Saturday and all urgent requests will be dealt with by them. We will not be able to deal with prescription requests or general enquiries.

CORONAVIRUS

At the time of writing this Newsletter the most important advice to protect yourself and others against this is to wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.

For the most up-to-date information on areas affected by the Coronavirus please go to [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

Please do not come into the Surgery if you have travelled to one of these areas recently, or you have been in contact with someone with confirmed Coronavirus. In this case you should stay at home and contact NHS 111 for advice.

RESEARCH

Great Bentley Surgery is a research practice. From time to time you may be invited to take part in a study which of course is completely voluntary. As research is very important we do appreciate when patients are able to participate in this.

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

We have noticed a recent increase in the number of appointments not being attended. If you have an appointment booked that you find you are unable to keep, can you please contact the Surgery to let us know so that the appointment isn't wasted. To assist with this we have a dedicated appointment cancellation line on tel. 01206 255071 which you can call 24/7 to leave a message on with your name and details of the appointment.

The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 21st May 2020 at the Great Bentley Village Hall.

Sue Mitson – Operations Manager



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Opening our meeting Beryl read a "thank you" letter from the Hospice for our latest donation.

Club business was dealt with swiftly and we were then entertained by a group of excellent local musicians who sang and played a wide range of music for our entertainment. The group very kindly declined any fee, but we were able to send a donation to the Samaritans, their chosen charity.

After delicious refreshments in front of

the roaring log fire, the raffle was called.

Members were reminded to bring items for the monthly Bring and Buy stall and to enter the monthly competition – you never know, you could be a prize winner!

The April meeting will feature Marilyn Bainbridge who will be speaking on her trips to Rwanda. The competition, a colouring book.

Sylvia Ward



STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Recent Meetings

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

Future Meetings

Francis Sparrow will speak about "The Black Death" on 1st April and on 15th April Mike Rines will tell us why "The English Language Is Under Attack".

At our first meeting in May on 6th David Lilley will introduce "The Mitford Sisters" and Chris Parfitt will take us on "A Circuit Of Central India" on Wednesday 20th May.

Norman Jacobs will tell us of "Clown Bertram - Clacton's Greatest Ever Entertainer" on Wednesday 3 June and two weeks later on 17 June Sheila Harrison will introduce us to the "Diary Of A Norfolk Parson".

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 880202 for further details.



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

Telephone: 01206 230305

Pancake Flip

The PTA organised a sponsored Pancake Flip. The children had great fun and showed impressive pancake-flipping skills! We have already received well over £500 in sponsorship money which will go towards our ICT fund. Thank you to Loretta Brown for running the event.

Multi-Schools Council Talent Show

The whole school gathered in the Hall for the St George's Talent Show. Children of all ages performed their acts - we were treated to dances, songs, magic tricks, football skills and stand-up comedy. It was such a wonderful, uplifting afternoon. It was lovely to see the children showcasing their talents. They watched each other respectfully and gave each other encouragement throughout.

The event was organised by Amelie and Beatrix from the AOK Committee who demonstrated great leadership skills. They were joined on the judging panel by Mrs Keitch and Mrs Cullum.



It was a very tricky decision. Huge congratulations to Imogen C who was the winner and will represent St George's at the Multi-Schools Council Talent Show at Market Field School in May.

World Book Day 2020

For this year's World Book Day all children and staff dressed as their favourite book character. As part of the day all children were able to choose to listen to stories read by all staff.



IN THE GARDEN WITH ANDY & JUDY

As ever, once I have drafted this article, it is submitted to the 'boss' (Judy) like homework to be approved, (or not!). Unfortunately, this time the first draft was considered too downbeat and I was advised that readers want something amusing, witty and informative rather than the bemoaning machinations of a grumpy old gardener, fed up with the storms, the everlasting wet weather and how far behind we are with everything garden wise. Not to mention the 'other' issue dominating all our lives at the moment. It's either be dragged to the doctor's for anti-depressants or see the glass half full instead. So here I am, the new me – looking on the bright side of life!! Here goes.

I was delighted to see that the grass is growing so well, the lawns are so lush and green they are a wonder to behold, and in places are about 10 inches high. So maybe this is the new look for 2020, I'll set a trend and recreate the Serengeti plains, playing 'hunt the lions' with the grandchildren in the summer! Isn't nature wonderful, that despite the awful weather, the grass is growing, spring bulbs flowering, camellias in full bloom, hedgerows and trees in blossom and as yet, very little frost or snow to cause damage.



So, if you have a bit of outside space, this will be the year where you have no excuse for not trying your hand at growing something. Especially for the children, growing from seed can be an

amazing adventure, so have a go with them.

Things to do first are those to catch up after the excessively wet conditions. For me, apart from grass cutting, that's getting the borders finally cleaned up, vegetable and dahlia grounds ready for planting. I am pleased to report that most dahlia tubers are shooting and cuttings are now a weekly task to create this year's plants.

Other tasks include succession sowing of salad crops comprising lettuce, radish, beetroot, rocket and spring onions. Second early and Main crop potatoes can now be planted; if you managed to get any early potatoes planted in March they will need earthing up as the foliage shows above the ground, to protect from frost damage.

April is usually a busy month in the greenhouse as it will need ventilation on sunny days and warm nights, whilst if temperatures close to a frost are forecast any tender plants will need the extra protection of some background heating or a fleece covering. If you are growing tomatoes, they are particularly sensitive to cold conditions and will develop a blue tint and will not become good productive plants, so keep them warm.

Hopefully we are now seeing the signs of Spring. Warmer, longer and drier days will soon be with us, so plan now and look forward to whatever gardening you choose to do.

Andy & Judy



Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society

All monthly meetings start at 7:45pm at the Methodist Church Hall

~~Wednesday April 8th 2020 Peter Taylor – Thames Sailing Barges~~

~~Wednesday May 13th 2020 Sally Hopher – “I wish I’d known that before I started”~~

May 16th 2020 - **Plant Sale** at the Village Hall 9:30-11:30

Saturday 15th August 2020 - **Annual Show** at the Village Hall

Why not join the Society?

You can become a member at the show or at any of our meetings.

Membership is only £5 per individual a year.

This entitles you to free admission to our evening meetings and the Annual Show.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings and admission is only £1.50

You can contact the Society via email on ArdleighHorticultural@gmail.com

Check out our website <http://www.essexinfo.net/ardleigh-horticultural-society/>

Or follow us on Facebook - just search for Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

Village Sign

As previously reported, the Village sign is in need of repair to the Oak Post. Quotes have been received for these repairs and are being discussed at the moment. We expect repairs to begin on this soon.

Memorial Gardens

Offers of help were received for the maintenance of the War Memorial gardens so it looks as though these will be maintained by the residents going forward. Thanks to those residents who responded and are going to keep the Memorial gardens weed free!

Speed Limit

The Chairman has written to our MP to ask for his support for the 30mph speed limit request along Bentley Road. We will update on this when we have a reply.

The next meeting of the Council is at The Haywain on 21st May. This meeting will start at 7pm as it's the AGM and Parish Assembly as well as the normal Parish Council meeting.

2020 EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm **CANCELLED**
- 4 Student Cross en route to Walsingham arrives Great Bromley, St George's, 10.00am
- 8 Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society meeting, Ardleigh Methodist Hall, 7.45pm
- 10-13 Easter weekend
- 16 Friendship Club meeting, Cross Inn, 2.00pm
- 19 Running into the Graveyard - **POSTPONED UNTIL 28 MARCH 2021**
- 23 St George's Day
- 26 2020 Tendring & Corbeau Rally - **CANCELLED**

MAY

- 4 Village Hall AGM and Annual Meeting 8.15pm in the Millennium Lounge
- 6 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 75th Anniversary of VE Day. Gt Bromley Parish Council event. Details tba
- 9 Seven Rivers Cheshire Home Dog Show
- 10 Gt Bromley Parish Council VE event. Details tba
- 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
- 24 Litter Pick, Cross Inn 10.00am

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

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

- 8 Remembrance Sunday

DECEMBER

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Seven Rivers Cheshire Home

Dog Show

this year is being held on
Saturday 9th May



More details to follow



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 Dulcie

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@fiscall.co.uk



Supported by Birkett Long JFA LLP

The Clacton Choral Society is a UK registered charity No. 298425
www.clactonchoral.org.uk



DO YOU HAVE MEMORIES OF VE DAY 1945?

St. George's Church needs you!!
May 8th, 9th & 10th

There will be an exhibition of
memories, memorabilia, paintings
and artefacts in the Church all
weekend.

If you can help, please phone
Jenny
on 01206 230688



Ardleigh & District Horticultural Society

Evening meetings are the 2nd 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 April 8th 2020
Peter Taylor - Thames Sailing Barges

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 and activities

Tips for working from home...

- Prepare a working space, ensure your chair is a comfortable height.
- Don't turn on the TV!
- Stay in touch with colleagues.
- Stick to your working hours .
- Take breaks.
- Plan your time.
- Have a blanket for warmth and save on heating.

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Management Committee met on 6th February to review activities and performance at the hall in recent months and to look at priorities and aspirations for the current year. It was delighted to note that a net total of £1245 was raised for village hall funds at the 2019 Christmas Market and Grand Christmas Draw. It was also pleased to note that the volume of bookings was holding up well, although total turnover for the current financial year was likely to be a little lower than last year. The Committee was advised that County Broadband would be providing the village hall with a free broadband service as part of the village-wide fibre broadband roll out later this year. This would most likely be in the form of free WiFi to all users of the hall.

Recent visitors to the village hall will probably have noticed the new teak bench which has been installed on the patio, overlooking the cricket field. This high quality bench was donated to the hall by the Fawcett family in memory of the late Glen Fawcett and is a welcome additional facility for users of the hall as well as for cricket club spectators.

The next major event at the hall is the Village Hall AGM which this year will be held on Monday 4th May commencing at 8.15pm in the Millennium Lounge. All parishioners are welcome to attend the AGM which reports on the past year and looks forward to the next. This is your opportunity to provide feedback in person on the facilities in our village hall and the way the hall is organised and managed.

The AGM is also your opportunity to volunteer to assist with the management of the village hall, either as an elected trustee, co-opted trustee or as a 'friend' of the hall. There are currently several vacancies on the Management Committee (the Trustees) and my colleagues and I would really welcome 'new blood' onto the committee to help with the strategic and day-to-day running of the hall. No particular skills are required, however a desire to help our fine community facility to flourish and willingness to get stuck in and take on a non-onerous management responsibility would make the role more meaningful and much more enjoyable. We have fun as trustees and are proud to be responsible for the village hall and its lovely grounds. If you are interested in joining us please contact me for further information.

Kate Stowbridge stood down as a trustee at the February meeting, pending her move from the village later this year. Tribute was paid to her for her enthusiastic support of the hall over the last 6 years and for all of the hard work that she put into the many fundraising events that she had organised. The support given to the hall by Kate and husband Nick will be greatly missed.

Martin Frostick
Secretary

Tel: 01206 250263

Email
villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Clerk: Lizzie Ridout Email: clerk@gbpc.org.uk



In our March meeting Members voted to co-opt Andrew Fairley to the Parish Council. This leaves one remaining vacancy that we are able to co-opt to. If anyone is interested please contact either the Chairman, Cllr Fred Nicholls, (01206 230688) or the Clerk via clerk@gbpc.org.uk.

The flooding in Hall Road at the time of writing remains an issue. EC Cllr Guglielmi has requested a site visit from Essex Highways engineers, and we have asked for more visible signage highlighting the danger. Please continue to take care when driving through this area.

A representative of Chelmsford Motor Club attended to update on the plans for this year's Tendring Car Rally. However since the meeting took place, this year's event has been cancelled.

A number of fly tipping incidents have been reported in and around Great Bromley. If your bin collection has been missed by TDC, please contact them to report it. If anyone is caught fly tipping, they will be issued with a fixed penalty notice and/or be prosecuted. Essex County Council provides four Household Recycling Centres across

the Tendring district where you can dispose of bulky items and household waste free of charge. Further details can be found at www.tendringdc.gov.uk.

The next litter pick has been scheduled for Sunday 24th May, meeting at 10am in the Car Park of the Bromley Cross Inn. Volunteers (the more the merrier, but over 18's only please) should bring appropriate footwear and gloves. Hi-visibility clothing, bin bags and litter grabbers will be provided, and refreshments will be available afterwards at The Cross Inn. More details can be obtained from Owen Blowers on 01206 231010 or 07879 433716.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the next meeting on Wednesday 8th April has been cancelled at this time. Further information will be circulated as and when we are aware. Please do contact us if you need help, and follow the guidance issued by the Government and the NHS.

Lizzie Ridout
Parish Clerk



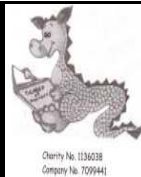
Planning Determination – for information only

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	DECISION
19/01476/FUL Mr and Mrs David and Teresa Taylor	Proposed two storey and first floor extensions, front porch and detached garage/ cartlodge.	Cannston, Frating Road, Great Bromley CO7 7JW	Approval – Full 19.02.2020 Delegated Decision

...Cont'd

Planning Applications		
REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
20/00129/FUL Mary Fawcett	Proposed two storey side extension with alterations over existing utility. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	Oak Lodge, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TY
20/00130/AGRIC	Proposed construction of extended irrigation reservoir for agricultural purposes to include revocation of previous approval 18/00571/AGRIC if approved. FOR INFORMATION ONLY	Land South of Carringtons Road, Great Bromley
20/00056/DETAIL Mr and Mrs Owens	Approval of reserved matters for outline application 19/01353/OUT for the construction of a self-build/custom build bungalow with associated single garage, driveway and garden area. Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	Wisteria House, Back Lane East, Great Bromley CO7 7UE
20/00249/FUL	Proposed two storey rear extension (including demolition of existing single storey previous extension) Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to the application.	Risbys Cottage, Frating Road, Great Bromley

Planning Appeal notification	
Site Address:	Land North of Harwich Road Harwich Road Great Bromley
Description of development:	Construction of 7 no. Bungalows.
Application reference:	18/01634/OUT
Appellant's name:	Mrs Stennett
Appeal reference:	APP/P1560/W/20/3244452
Appeal start date:	12 February 2020
	The planning appeal was noted.



OFSTED INSPECTED - GOOD

Tel: 01206 231823/ 07857 503103

Breakfast Club for preschool children – places available. 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.

On Thursday March 5th we celebrated 'World Book Day' by dressing up as our favourite characters; children and staff all looked great. We had lots of book related activities which included providing props for the children to retell stories and going for a walk 'on a dragon hunt'.

With Spring on the horizon we have been looking at new growth and the changes happening around us, creating some lovely artwork for our displays. We continue to watch the birds visit our garden for food and to use the nesting materials we have put out.

The children have been very busy and creative making Mother's Day cards and gifts which they presented at a 'Mother's Day Concert and Tea Party' which we held in the Church on 19th March.

We have also been getting ready for Easter. On Saturday 11th April we are holding an 'Easter Egg Hunt' - see details in events.

We currently have spaces available and would be pleased to offer a free taster session for your 2-5 year old, please give us a call and we will happily book a convenient date and time.

Why not check out our new Facebook page for all the latest news and events. Follow the link below

<https://www.facebook.com/littledragonspreschoolgreatbromley/>

FUNDRAISING:

Thank you to everyone who supported the Race Night held on 7th March in association with St Georges School. A fantastic £1116.30 was raised which will be split between the two charities.

...cont'd on p.27

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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3	7	8	4	1	5	9	2	6
2	4	6	3	9	8	5	7	1
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7	5	2	8	3	6	1	9	4
5	3	4	6	8	2	7	1	9
8	9	1	5	7	3	4	6	2
6	2	7	9	4	1	3	8	5

...cont'd from p.25

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.

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.

Dates for diary:

- Friday 3rd April - Last day of term
- Saturday 11th April – Easter Egg Hunt
- Monday 20th April – Re-open after Easter Holiday

LITTLE DRAGONS PRESCHOOL
EASTER EGG HUNT
SAT 11TH APRIL
12PM - 3PM
ACTIVITY STALLS • BOUNCY CASTLE • FACE PAINTING • FOOD • DRINK • CAKES & MUCH MORE
£5 PER CHILD
SPECIAL GUEST - EASTER BUNNY
CHURCH MEADOW BUNGALOW
- GREAT BROMLEY -
COLCHESTER - CO7 7TR
COME & JOIN IN THE FUN WITH ALL THE FAMILY
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:
LITTLE DRAGONS PRESCHOOL GREAT BROMLEY AND TRADING



If children are stuck for creative ideas, then why not get ready for VE Day! This year, TDC and the Royal British Legion are encouraging the entire district to hang bunting in their front windows—shops, offices, homes, public buildings, everywhere! Making your own bunting is fun and easy, with string and paper.

- Show your support for our Armed Services.
- Be as creative and colourful as you want!
- Why not make some for your neighbours?
- Please try to use recyclable materials.



We had a real treat – in more than one way – for our March meeting. Sarah Curtis from the English Spirit company came along to tell us the history of the brand – and brought along samples of the range of drinks for us to try. English Spirit is not just a gin distillery. It is unique in that it was established by Dr John Walters – a bio chemist who left a career in big pharmaceutical brands to start the company in 2011.

As a child, John loved chemistry, taking chemicals home from school to experiment at home. Studying at Oxford university he honed his passion, creating and distilling his own version of eau de vie from fruit – now an illegal practice for home experimenters.

The company has grown dramatically over the last decade. In 2018 it produced one million bottles, rising to 2.7 million bottles in 2019. Not all of this is for the company, however. Seventy percent of its output is made for the Wilkins company in Tiptree – especially its fruit liqueurs.

The base spirit is made from sugar beet – not grain. It takes sugar beet from the British sugar factory in Bury St Edmunds once the sugar has been extracted. The beets are boiled in tap water to remove the starch and distilled.

It seems a waste, but the first part of the distillation is not used for consumption. This first 15% - the 'heads' is almost pure methanol - poison - which would give you a huge headache. The last 15% - the 'tails' – is too oily to be used and is discarded. Only the central part of the distillation is used in the spirit. Once the liquid has been cooled it is flavoured with



botanicals to make the gin – or fruit is added to make the spirit liqueurs. And there are some superb liqueurs too. Sarah started to hand round some samples for us to try.

There was Limongino – Sicilian lemons added to the gin – tasting like grown-up squash. These lemons are imported obviously, but raspberries, rhubarb and plums are all sourced locally across the region. We tasted English toffee vodka – which we agreed would have been perfect poured over ice cream – and special edition strawberry rum. We also tried chocolate chilli liqueur and the rum.

There was also a selection of bottles to purchase after the talk – in a range of sizes to suit all budgets. We certainly were far more voluble during our tea break at this meeting and bought a lot of early Christmas presents too. A great speaker and a very interesting session indeed.

Eileen

FROM THE RECTORY

With more than 250 episodes over a ten year period, the Korean War comedy-drama television series M*A*S*H can claim to be among the most successful TV programmes of all time. The final episode, 'Goodbye, Farewell and Amen' was not just the longest episode broadcast - coming in at two and a half hours long - but also had an astonishing 125 million people watch it. There is an urban legend that the sanitation department in New York noted the highest water usage at one time in the City's history shortly after the final episode ended its broadcast, as viewers waited until the end to use their bathrooms.

As each character made a final appearance, they explained where they were off to next, what job they would be doing, what their future plans were. Sergeant Klinger, who had tried to so hard to escape the army and leave Korea, was staying to marry a Korean girl. Colonel Sherman Potter was retiring back to his home town and returning to his wife. Major Margaret Houlihan was staying in the army, but moving to a different unit in a different part of the world.

Although this chapter of their joint story was closing, for each of them there was a new chapter beginning which presented new challenges and fresh opportunities.

As I leave the Benefice of Lawford, the Bromleys and Little Bentley, I do so wondering if a comedy-drama TV show could have been made of our time together.

We have had times of great joy and of great sadness. There has been laughter and tears. Some of the things we have been through together would be impossible to try to explain as they seem unbelievable. But each and every day, I have been aware that God has walked with us, as the reason and focus for our faith.

Yes I will miss being your vicar, but I am also excited at what God has in mind for this Benefice.

So may the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you, may He make Himself known to you, and give you His peace.

Simon

Rev Canon Simon Heron
Lawford, The Bromleys & Little Bentley
Area Dean of Harwich
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www.lawfordchurch.co.uk
'Loving God. Living Life.'

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY



C of E Church Services

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have instructed that public church services are suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Churches Open

Your churches (Gt Bromley, Lt Bromley, Lt Bentley, Lawford) will be open as usual each day for individuals to visit for calm and prayer.

Please follow the latest HM Government health and social distancing guidelines.

Prayers for the Community

Church members will be praying regularly for our community and those in difficulty.

If you would like to request a prayer for yourself or someone you are thinking of please email church@greatbromley.org.uk or telephone a churchwarden.

Online Resources

Those of you with access to the internet can find information, online prayers, and services for personal use at home via www.churchofengland.org

If you don't have internet access please telephone a churchwarden to request some printed materials.

The church tab via the village website has a link to the C of E website and we will soon add more links for prayer and support during this difficult time.

www.greatbromley.org.uk (links to Church and Parish Council)

www.littlebromley.org.uk (links to Church and Parish Council)

Community support for the isolated

The Parish Councils are organising contacts and help for those who are self isolating. This will be in place by the end of March.

Please don't hesitate to use the contact if you need it.

Vicar: (up to 12th April)

Churchwardens:

Revd Canon Simon Heron

Jenny Nicholls

Gregory Frostick

Yvonne Cobbold (asst)

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