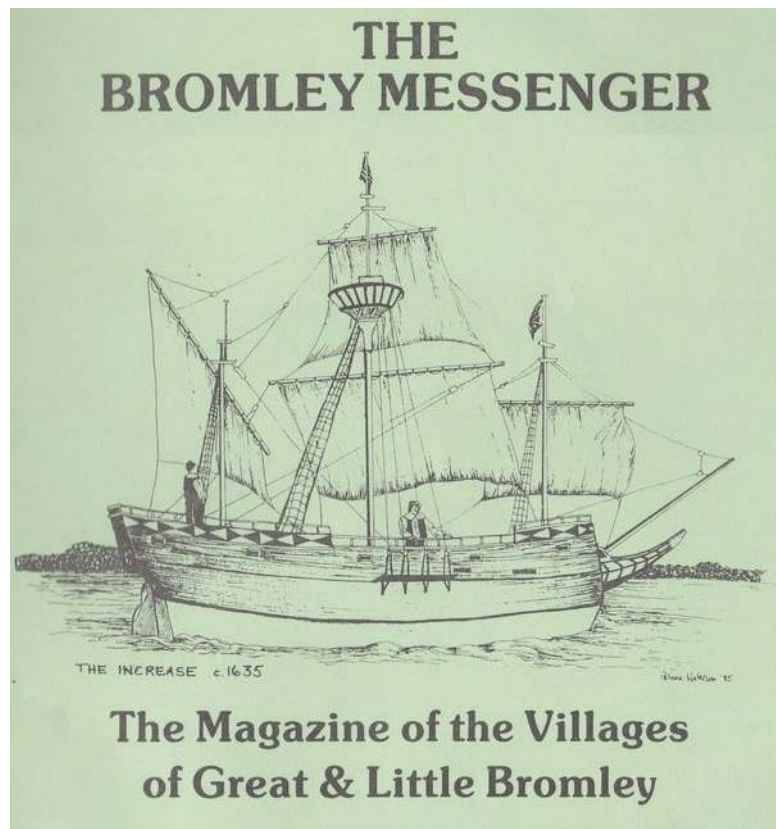


THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

The Magazine of the Villages of Great & Little Bromley
February to December 1987



These old magazines have been scanned and converted to text for historical reference
by Dr Hugh Frostick, Historian for Great and Little Bromley.

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December 2021

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ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS IN THE VILLAGES

Village Hall Committee	Mrs A. Rowe, Harris Farm	230398
Badminton Club	Mr R. Robinson, 4 Boulton Cottages	250313
Cricket Club	Mrs L. Allam, Bluegates Farm	230375
Men's Club	Mr G. Hurst, Arethusa, Ardleigh Rd.	230578
Women's Institute	Mrs S. Ward, Tyrone, Back Lane	250674
Friendship Club	Mrs Hatt, de Hatt, Back Lane	251455
Pantomime Group	Mrs B. Rowe, 2 Hall Cottages	231067
Carnival	Mrs J. Wright, 1 S. Georges Close	230663
Ladies Circle	Mrs S. Ward, Tyrone, Back Lane	250674
Manningtree School PTA	Mr R. Knott, Paynes Cottage, Paynes Lane, Little Bromley	393787
	Mrs C. McGuinness, 3 S. Georges Close	230671
S. George's School	Headmistress Mrs P. Fitzgerald	230305
Hamilton Lodge Vol. Ass.	Mrs M. Hart, Pondfield, Parsons Hill	230419
Playgroup	Mrs C. Simons, 5 Meadow Close	250163
Gt. Bromley PCC	Mrs P. Greenfield, 7 Springhill Close	230888
Lt. Bromley PCC	Mrs J. Fairley, Normans Farm, Lt. Br.	230237
Gt. Bromley Guides	Mrs J. Landon, Gt. Bromley House	230385
Gt. Bromley Brownies	Mrs J. Terry, The Nook, Colchester Road	230490
Garden Club	Mrs J. Wright, 1 S. Georges Close	230663
Essex Co. Standard Corr.	Mrs V. Biddis, Berriedale	230506
Burnt Heath Methodist Ch.	Mrs G. Newman, 6 S. Georges Close	230421
Balls Green Methodist Ch.	Mr P. Howard, Ballaleg, Haggars Lane, Frating	250047
Lt. Bromley Methodist Ch.	Mr J. Osborn, Cirrus, Lt. Bromley	392656
Bromley Buskers	Mr P. Wenden, The Pippins, Burnt Heath	230613
Lt. Bromley Restoration Comm.	Mr R. Knott, Paynes Cottage, Lt. Bromley	393787
Gt. Bromley Church Repair Comm.	Mr R. Harding, The Hollies, Colchester Rd	230425
Gt. Bromley Parish Council	Mr H.P. Booty, Church Cottage	230473
Lt. Bromley Parish Council	Mr J. Osborn, Cirrus, Lt. Bromley	392656
East Anglian Daily Times Corr.	Mr S West, Fryerning, Hall Road	230584
Civil Protection Contact Point	Mr I.D. Anderson, 8 Meadow Close	251091
Treasurer, Bromley Messenger	Mr L. Christodoulides, Plot 9, Bromley Road, Frating	
Local History Scheme Recorder	Mrs I. Wilkinson, 11 Meadow Close-	250287

S. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

S. MARY THE VIRGIN, LITTLE BROMLEY

RECTOR: The Revd. Paul Davies, The Rectory, Great Bromley. Tel. Colchester 230344

READER: Mr John Appleby Little Pitchbury, Brick Kiln Lane, Great Horkesley.

CHURCH WARDENS: Great Bromley;

Mr J.R.L. Clapham, Copley Dene, Great Bromley. Tel. Colchester 230790

Mr R.L. Harding, The Hollies, Great Bromley. Tel. Colchester 230425

Little Bromley;

Mr G.H. Kent, Crabtrees, Paynes Lane, Little Bromley. Tel. Colchester 392674

P.C.C. SECRETARIES:

Great Bromley; Mrs P. Greenfield, 7 Springhill Close, Great Bromley. Tel. Colchester 230888

Little Bromley; Mrs T.M.H. Fairley, Normans Farm, Little Bromley. Tel. Colchester 230237

SERVICES:

See Monthly List.

HOLY BAPTISM and MARRIAGES:

To be arranged with the Rector.

The SICK and HOUSEBOUND:

Please inform the Rector of any who are sick, in hospital or housebound. The Blessed Sacrament is always available to be taken to any person who wishes it.

Editor; to whom all contributions should be sent - the Rector.

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- March: GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL.
- April. RESIDENTS & ORGANISATIONS IN THE VILLAGES.

Advertisements can also be accepted for individual issues.
Please contact for details and rates: Mr Len
Christodoulides, Magnolia House, Bromley Road, Frating.
Telephone: 251264.

The Bromley Messenger FEBRUARY 1987

EDITORIAL

It is good to know how well received this magazine is: the variety of information published in it depends entirely on contributions being received from the organisations within the village. Our thanks go to all who send in information for publication.

For the first year of issue six editions were planned; the issue to be published on 1st April will be the last one of this our first year.

Our plan is that, starting on 1st May, 1987, this will become a monthly publication thus enabling us to double the information we try to give. Unfortunately in the year our costs have risen and it now costs £90 for each issue. We are most grateful to generous sponsors who have provided the finance for this our first year ~ we need at least five more sponsors to cover our costs for our second year. If any of our readers know of any firm or organisation who can help us, the Editor would be pleased to hear of them.

One person in the village has suggested that if twenty people in the village could contribute £5 each this would cover the cost of one issue. He has started the ball rolling by sending his £5 donation. Would anyone like to join him? Any such help would be greatly appreciated. This issue of the Messenger includes a diary of events for 1987 notified by organisations in the village. It would be helpful to have further dates of other events as and when they are arranged.

Our sponsor this month, whose generosity enables this magazine to be delivered free to you is William Cory and Sons, Ltd., Fuel Merchants.

WANTED.

A Carnival Queen and Princesses are sought for the Great Bromley Carnival Day, Saturday 6th June, 1987. Will anyone interested in being selected please telephone Mrs. Jean Wright (230663). The Queen and Princesses will be representing the village in our own carnival procession and other local carnivals.

CHURCH FEES.

The fees which have to be paid for marriages and funerals in church are laid down by the Church Commissioners - and like so many other things, increase in price each year.

The statutory fees for a wedding (excluding bell, choir and organ) are now £43.50. On putting up the new notice I uncovered an old one dated 1962. Then the charge was £1 17s. 6d. - but that was before decimalisation!

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL.

On the resignation of Mrs. Mary Hart, Mr. H. Booty, Church Cottage, Badley Hall Road (240743) has been appointed Clerk to the Council. We welcome him to this office and wish him success in this work.

LENT 1987.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 4th March, when there will be a service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes in S. Georges Church at 7.30pm. This year the weekly lenten meetings will not take place in church but in various homes in the parish. A leaflet with details of venue, times and subjects to be considered will be available from the church towards the end of February. I am most grateful to those who have already volunteered the use of their homes for this purpose.

S. MARY'S CHURCH LITTLE BROMLEY.

It is sad to report that it was finally decided that, because of the small amount of support which made it impossible to carry on, there was no alternative but to close S. Mary's church. The last service was held on Sunday, 28th December 1986. A somewhat lengthy legal process now commences to declare the church redundant and to join the two parishes of Little and Great Bromley into one parish. Although the church is closed, the churchyard remains, and will remain, open. Residents of the village retain their right of claiming burial in the churchyard. Any marriages which would be solemnised in S. Mary's church will now be held at S. Georges, Great Bromley, which will become the Parish Church of both villages. The regular services at S. George's church become now the services of both parishes which we hope members of both villages will support.

The funds which have been collected by the S. Mary's Church Repair Committee have been frozen (a sum of approximately £400) until a final decision about the use of the church is made. If not used for the church they will be used for the benefit of the village of Little Bromley. They will NOT be used for the repair of Great Bromley church.

GREAT BROMLEY JUBILEE CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION.

A sponsored knit-in to help raise funds for our 1987 Carnival on the 6th June is to be held at Broadlands, S. Georges Close on 9th February, at 8pm. Anyone who would like to participate, forms are available from Mrs. J. Wright. Call or ring 230663.

GREAT AND LITTLE BROMLEY WARD LABOUR PARTY.

We helped to arrange the bake, pie and bread stall at the Christmas bazaar at Colchester Labour Hall in November which played its part in an enjoyable fund-raising bazaar.

Our members attended three political meetings in the constituency during November and December. Tom Dalyell made an incisive indictment of you know who; Austin Mitchell developed the Labour Party's 'Investing in Jobs' policy; Joan Lester on the 'One World Project' seeking to promote peace through development.

Our Christmas Social was held in the 'Red Lion', Manningtree. Rod Green and Ralph Knight, Labour's prospective parliamentary candidates in Colchester North and Harwich Constituencies were present and joined us in a programme of not too serious quizzes and competitions, followed by a Christmas buffet.

A programme of political meetings is being arranged for 1987 with speakers, including Nigel Spearman, MP Newham South; Nick Raynsford of Fulham and Gerald Kaufman, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary.

THE BROMLEY BUSKERS.

The Bromley Buskers present their Annual Buffet Supper with Cabaret at the Village Hall, Great Bromley at 7.30pm on Friday and Saturday, 4th and 5th April. A completely new cabaret programme, not to be missed. Please book early from P. Wendon (230613) or G. Nicholls (251254).

GREAT BROMLEY GARDEN CLUB.

The Club was formed in 1985 after a garden open day had been held in order to raise funds for the church restoration. The atmosphere in the village on that day was so friendly it was decided that the club be formed for the purpose of creating an organisation where people who were interested in gardens and gardening could meet, listen to and ask questions of speakers in gardening and allied topics, and enjoy a sociable evening. It is to be stressed that by and large, the members are not 'experts'.

Meetings are, with few exceptions, held at members homes or at a nursery or similar business. The reason why the meeting place is not the village hall is that one of the aims of the club is to be able to subsidise various events and/or trips for the members from funds collected and by using members homes, no 'rental' is payable. If such a rental were payable the club would make a loss on every meeting. The meetings also being held where they are, provide a friendly and cosy atmosphere for the members present.

Any person within the parish who is interested in seeing a sample of the programme is cordially invited on the following terms:

50 pence for the first visit, 75 pence for subsequent two visits.

After three casual visits a prospective member is then asked if he or she would like to join, the membership fee being £4 per annum plus 50 pence for each meeting.

The forthcoming meetings all at 8.00pm, are as follows:

22nd January Mr. Colevill of T.D.C. Mrs. Jean Wright, Broadland, S. Georges Close

26th February Major H. Varney - bees Cheshire Home Chapel

25th March Peggy Cole of 'Akenfield' Cheshire Home Chapel

23rd April .Pat Potter - flower Cheshire Home Chapel arranging .

May Mr. Cowan Poplar Nurseries

June Ann Lennox Boxted

July Alison Smith Cottage Gardens, Boxted

On behalf of the club I would like to apologise for any embarrassment or inconvenience caused to Mr. and Mrs. Frostick for the entry in the last edition of the Bromley Messenger.

Lastly I should like to point out that the 'Garden Day' for 1987 is not being run by the Garden Club, but by members of various organisations throughout the parish.

Any queries you may wish to raise regarding the Garden Club, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Pam Wright, Fenn House, Great Bromley Mrs. Jean Wright, Broadlands, S. George's Close or Mr. H. Booty, Church Cottage, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

An outing to Frogmore Gardens, The Queens Gardens at Windsor, is being arranged for 7th May starting at 9am. For tickets ring Colchester 230663. Ticket cost estimated at approximately £6, including coach and entry.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE.

On behalf of Great Bromley Women's Institute and Village Hall Associations, I would like to thank all who donated, manned stalls, attended or helped in any way to make this a success and also thank you to Mr. R. Warboys for kindly being Father Christmas once again. £238 was raised for each organisations funds.

A Carnival Charity for 1987 for funds for further refurbishing of the village hall and towards the cost of a new roof on the kitchen. A Crazy Sports Day and Car Boot Sale are being held at Hare Green Playing Field on 4th May at 2.30pm. An Over Sixties Afternoon Tea combined with fund raising event at the village hall on 1st March at 2.30pm. Mrs. L. Pinhey is to train for a sponsored parachute jump - the proposed date is 4th April. We hope to be able to acquire sponsors for this.

Jean Wright

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

After enjoying our December meeting with its Christmas flavour and the very interesting slides shown with snippets of information by Mr. and Mrs. Redgroves in January, we are looking forward to being entertained by Mrs. Susan Palmer and friends in February.

In March we have none other than a gamekeeper. I am sure Mr. Bendall will have, if not dastardly deeds, some interesting and informative things to tell us of a gamekeepers "lot".

We had lots of entrants in our Christmas Cracker Competition, a number from male members, one of whom was a winner.

GREAT BROMLEY WOMENS INSTITUTE.

Since the last 'Messenger' we have had our Annual Meeting and the new Committee comprises: President - Mrs. Susan Orris (251949), Secretary - Mrs. Sylvia Ward (250074), Treasurer ~ Mrs. Dawn Taylor, Mesdames Margaret Aldous, Paula Bradshaw, Beryl Hurst, Betty Knight, Doreen Petchey, June Willgress and Jean Wright.

Would you like to know about microwave cookery, ribboncraft, Christmas flower arranging (so soon?), S. Helena's Hospice, houseplants or what a Judge gets up to? Well come and join us, we meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The garden in front of the village hall is now completed. Many thanks to Jill Frostick for masterminding this and also the Dean nurseries for their generous donation of fertilisers, compost and peat. As the year progresses there should be an attractive display. We now have our eyes on a border at the rear of the Hall, but more of that another time. Several members braved a very stormy night to attend the Constable Group (nine local W.I.'s) Carol Service at Great Oakley. The service in this lovely nine hundred year old church was much enjoyed.

Diary Dates for Women's Institute.

4th February -- Talk on S. Helena Hospice.

4th March - About Ruaton Gardens.

1st April - Microwave cookery.

6th May - Resolution Meeting.

1st July - Ribboncraft demonstration.

2nd September - Judge Haines.

7th October - Flower arrangements for Christmas.

4th November - Annual Meeting.

2nd December - Christmas meeting.

HORTICULTURAL SHOW SCHEDULE.

Saturday, 6th June, 1987. Entry closing date 23rd May, 1987.

Entries to be sent to Mrs. B. Rowe, 2 Hall Cottages, Great Bromley, (231067) or Mrs. J. Wright, Broadlands, S. George's Close, Great Bromley (230663).

Entry Fee: Adults 20 pence, Children 10 pence.

Prizes: 1st prize 50 pence, 2nd prize 30 pence, 3rd prize 20 pence.

Entries must be at the village hall before 10am on Saturday, 6th June.

Judging between 10am and 12 noon.

NO entry to be removed before 5pm.

Any exhibits remaining after 5.30pm will be disposed of.

Please bring your schedule with you when entering.

ENTRY FORM.

Write entries below as follows:

(Example - light fruit cake)

CLASS A Section 1.

No entries after 23rd May.

NAME

ADDRESS .

TEL:

PLEASE DETACH THIS AND USE IT FOR YOUR ENTRY.

HORTICULTURAL SCHEDULE.

(Great Bromley Carnival Association).

CARNIVAL - 6th JUNE 1987.

CLASS A 14 AND OVER

- 1 Light fruit cake
- 2 6 Butterfly cakes
- 3 Chocolate swiss roll (un-iced)
- 4 Victoria sponge (jam filling)
- 5 Novelty cake (iced)
- 6 6 Scotch pancakes
- 7 Fatless sponge (any filling)
- 8 1lb jar of marmalade
- 9 1lb jar of strawberry jam
- 10 1lb jar of Piccalli

CLASS B OPEN

- 1 Adult knitted garment
 - 2 Knitted matinee coat
 - 3 Bought doll dressed
- HOMEMADE clothes NEEDLEWORK
- 4 Soft toy
 - 5 Piece of canework (not exceeding 12"x12")
 - 6 Homemade greetings card -

CLASS C UNDER 14

- 1 Gingerbread men (decorated)
- 2 Dish of 6 homemade sweets
- 3 Kit model (not exceeding 12"x12")
- 4 Tie and dye article
- 5 Mini garden (not exceeding 6"x6")
- 6 Wild flower arrangement in a MUG.

CLASS D

- 1 Pot plant
- 2 1 single rose
- 3 Arrangement in a candlestick
- 4 Miniature (maximum 4" overall)
- D 5 Arrangement in a kitchen utensil (foliage or flowers).

CLASS E OPEN

- 1 One bottle of homemade Red wine
- 2 One bottle of homemade White wine
- 3 1 Cos lettuce
- 4 1 Cabbage lettuce
- 5 4 vegetables of any kind (display)

THE BROMLEY BUSKERS.

Saturday, 21st February in the village hall at 7.30pm. An entertaining evening with cabaret, buffet supper, raffle and licensed bar. In aid of Turner Village Children's Association for the mentally handicapped. Tickets are limited, £4 each, available from Mr. G. Nichols (251254) and Mrs. P. Stennett (250236).

S. GEORGE'S SCHOOL.

The spring term commenced on 6th January with Mrs. Tilbrook as acting head for the term. It is hoped that a new head will be appointed in time for the beginning of their summer term.

There are two events to announce for this term. On Saturday, 14th March in the school hall, the PTA are arranging their annual wine, cheese and quiz evening. Tickets can be obtained from Mrs. Stokes at the school. On Thursday, 9th April, the children will be holding their Easter Fair, starting at 2.00pm. All sorts of goods made and supplied by the children will be on sale. Please do support this if you possibly can.

PARISH COUNCIL.

Parish Councillor, Mr. Stanley Cooper, has sent a letter which unfortunately is too long to reproduce in full. In it he refers to the meeting of the Parish Council on 2nd October when Essex County Councillor, Mr. Pallett attended, and asked for the Parish Council's views on caning in schools. The members present agreed that this should be retained.

Mr. Cooper makes it clear that neither was he present at this meeting, nor was this controversial matter placed on the agenda of the meeting. At the next meeting, held in November, he expressed his strong opposition to caning and corporal punishment of any kind, and has asked that his views should be published in the Messenger, namely, that caning is both humiliating and brutal and should, in the name of humanity, be immediately abolished.

PLANT SALE.

In aid of S. George's Repair Fund, a GIANT PLANT SALE will be held in the village hall on SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER from 12 noon until 6.00pm. Please mark the date in your diaries. We hope to sell plants of every description and will be grateful for all contributions. Please remember the sale when you are dividing herbaceous plants this spring, layering or taking cuttings. If you are short of pots please apply to Anne Clapham (230790).

DIARY DATES - 1987.

Saturday 1st February Bromley Buskers, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Wednesday 4th March Ash Wednesday Service, S. George's Church 7.30pm
Saturday 14th March PTA Quiz Evening, School Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 1st March Over Sixties Afternoon Tea, Village Hall, 2.30pm
Sunday 29th March Mothering Sunday
Friday 3rd April & Saturday 4th April: Bromley Buskers, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Thursday 9th April School Easter Fair, School Hall, 2.00pm
Friday 18th April Good Friday
Thursday 23rd April S. George's Day, Parish Eucharist, 7.30pm
Saturday 25th April Friendship Club Spring Sale, Village Hall, 2.30pm
Thursday 7th May Garden Club Outing to Frogmore
Sunday 17th May Garden Open and Sherry Morning, Grove House, 12 noon to 2.00pm
Sunday 24th May Rogation Sunday, Blessing of Crops, 10.45am
Thursday 28th May Ascension Day, Parish Eucharist, 7.30pm
Saturday 6th June Great Bromley Carnival
Saturday 13th June Seven Rivers Fete
Sunday 5th July Garden Day in aid of the Village Hall
Saturday 11th July Tending Show
Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th September S. George's Church Flower Festival
Thursday 24th September S. George's Church, Harvest Thanksgiving 7.30pm
Sunday 27th September S. George's Church, Harvest Sunday
Saturday 3rd October Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 18th October Plant Sale in aid of Church Repair Fund Village Hall, 12 noon to 6.00pm
Sunday 8th November Remembrance Day
Saturday 6th December S. Nicholas Fayre, Village Hall
Sunday 20th December Parish Carol Service, 6.30pm

Fuller details of these events will be announced in the appropriate issue of the 'Bromley Messenger'.

REGISTERS .

Holy Matrimony

13th December, 1986 - David Edward Harding and Deborah Michelle Aldous

S. GEORGE'S REPAIR FUND.

The total so far received has now reached the sum of £21,770.

It is still hoped that work will commence in 1987.

SERVICES - FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

Sunday 1st EPIPHANY 4 10.00am Family Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Monday 2nd CANDLEMASS 7.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th EPIPHANY 5 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School

10.45am Mattins and sermon

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 15th SEPTUAGESIMA 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School

10.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 22nd SEXAGESIMA 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School

10.45am Mattins and sermon

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 1st QUINGAGESIMA 10.00am Family Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Wednesday 4th ASH WEDNESDAY 7.30pm Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Sunday 8th LENT I 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School
10.45am Mattins and Sermon
6.30pm Evensong
Sunday 15th LENT II 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sunday School
10.45am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Evensong
Sunday 22nd LENT III 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sunday School
10.45am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Evensong .
Wednesday 25th ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 7.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 29th LENT IV 8.00am Holy Communion
MOTHERING 10.45am Service for Mothering Sunday
SUNDAY 6.30pm Evensong

FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY.

No flowers in March during Lent.

February 1st Mrs. M. Hart February 8th Mrs. E. Rowe
February 15th Mrs. V. Biddis February 22nd Mrs. P. Stennett

SERVERS.

February 1st Robert Harding. March 1st Robert Harding
February 8th James Heaney March 8th James Heaney
February 15th John Clapham March 15th John Clapham
February 22nd Bill Kempster March 22nd Bill Kempster

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The Bromley Messenger MARCH 1987

Editorial

We have now reached the last edition of the Messenger for this first year and are looking forward to the next twelve months issues. It is hoped that this is seen to be a real village magazine reflecting the many facets of life in the Bromleys. I was taken to task by one reader who felt that two items in the last edition were not suitable for publication in a parish magazine. Although this is very much the Successor to the old S. George's Church Magazine, it is not a church magazine and it will continue to include as much village information, as well as specifically church news as possible. The continuing flow of information and news is essential to its existence and I trust that this will continue.

The next issue will have a different colour cover and, as in the first year, in the interest of economy, we had to produce all the covers for the whole year at one printing, there is now the opportunity to revise the names and information about the organisations and associations in the villages. If there is any change to the list I will be pleased if any alteration could be sent to me in writing before 5th April, and of course if there are any additions to the list I would like them also. Our plan now is to produce this magazine monthly as from the 1st May but this still depends on our obtaining sufficient sponsorship. So far we have funds promised to enable us to publish eight editions – so we are very close to the target. I am most grateful to twelve readers who have given £5 each in response to the suggestion in the last issue that a whole edition could be sponsored privately. If anyone else could help in this way it would be much appreciated. Would any of the organisations whose news we report in the Messenger like to help us in this way by sponsoring us for £5?

This month the Messenger comes to you through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard of Hiskeys Poultry Farm. Our thanks go to them for their help: we hope that you will support them.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH REPAIRS.

We are still struggling with the planning for the repairs to the church. Delays which are beyond our control have meant that the starting date we had hoped for, for the work on the Tower could not be met, but the very extensive and detailed preparatory work which has to be Undertaken by the Architect is now almost ready to hand and should be available to the PCC early in April. It is hoped to be able to give an Outline of the work to be done and a possible starting date in next month's issue.

The matter of the replacement of the lead on the roof of the South Aisle is another story. Early in December work was due to commence on this project but on commencing the work it was discovered, to our horror, that in parts of the beam that runs the length of the aisle, immediately below the lead, (the wall plate), there is fungal decay and active death watch beetle infestation. It is suggested that this problem dates long before the loss of the lead work and is probably due to very long standing leaks in the parapet gutter. Further inspection has confirmed this and in order to prevent further damage, the roof has been temporarily covered with roofing felt. Before the lead can be replaced the Architect informs us that the wall plate must be removed and replaced by an alternative support, wood affected by death watch beetle must be replaced and all exposed and hidden timbers must be treated to eradicate any further infestation.

We have no idea yet of the cost of this repair, but it is likely to be a very considerable sum. I hope to be able to give more information in the next issue of the Messenger.

The latest information from the repair fund is now that we have over £23,000 in this account, and this, together with grants already promised means we have £46,000 available for the Tower; This is splendid news and is due entirely to the many people who supported our appeal over the past two years. Thank you all for your help and interest which we hope will continue.

The PCC has been asked why, when we are running the repair fund, monies have been spent on projects in the church, such as repainting the flag pole and the provision of hymn books. Can I explain that we have two separate accounts, one the PCC General Account into which all monies received by the church are paid, and the other, the Repair Fund into which all monies for the repairs are paid. From the General Fund all the outgoings for the running and upkeep of the church are paid and this includes the two items above. No monies have been, or will be taken from the Repair Fund except for the repairs when they are put in hand.

Not a penny of the Repair Funds are used for the general day-to-day running of the church. Should anyone wish, certified audited accounts of the Repair Fund can be seen on application to the Recorder, Mr. Dick Hayward, who will gladly explain them.

EASTER AT S. GEORGES

Later this month we celebrate Easter giving us all the opportunity to thank God for the resurrection from the dead of his son Jesus, a fact which is one of the main beliefs of the Christian church. Without Easter there would be no Christian faith - and no knowledge of God. In the week before Easter, Holy Week, we keep in mind the solemn events which lead up to the crucifixion on the first Good Friday ~ details of the services will be seen in the diary portion of this magazine.

Easter Day is a day of obligation which means that it is expected that every confirmed member of the Church of England will receive Holy Communion on that date. There will be two celebrations of the Eucharist on Easter Day, at 8.00am and 10.45am. In addition I will arrange to take the Sacrament to the homes of any who, because of illness, age or any other reason, cannot get to church on that day. Please let me know if you would like me to do this.

On Good Friday evening at 7.00pm there will be a devotional service of readings, hymns and choir anthems, the 'Cross of Christ'. At this service the newly formed Junior Choir will take part with the Church Choir for the first time.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL - S. GEORGE'S DAY - THURSDAY 23rd APRIL.

There will be a Festival Eucharist at 7.30pm on S. George's Day when the preacher will be Canon Neil Munt, recently retired as Vicar of Ely. He was the Rector's first Vicar when he was ordained in 1954. At this service we would like to receive any talents that were taken at the Harvest Supper: all the monies raised by this are going to the Repair Fund. After the service it is hoped to be able to offer coffee to the congregation.

THE BISHOP OF COLCHESTER - THE RT. REVD. RODERICK COOTE.

Bishop Roderick paid his last official visit to the parish on the 25th January when he came to administer confirmation to sixteen candidates. He leaves at the end of April for retirement but there will be an opportunity to bid him farewell at a meeting to be held on Friday, the 1st May at S. Botolph's Church, Colchester, at 7.30pm. I do hope many of us will be able to attend.

S. GEORGE'S SCHOOL.

On 18th March pupils from the senior class travelled to S. Osyth to join pupils of other church schools in the area to say their farewell to the Bishop. It is pleasing to announce that Mrs. P. A. Fitzgerald, who is teaching on the staff of West Mersea County Primary School, has been appointed as Head Teacher of our school. She takes up her appointment in April at the beginning of the Summer Term when, I am sure, she will warmly be welcomed. We wish her happiness and success in her new appointment.

The School Annual Easter Fair will be held on Thursday, 9th April, at 2.30pm. Please support this, the children's own effort at money raising.

ZOO TRIP.

A day trip to visit Colchester Zoo has been arranged for Friday, 29th May during the school half-term holiday. Anyone who would like to go will be most welcome; please contact Sally Aldous for details. The cost will be adults £3.00, children over three £2.00 and children under three are free.

THE CLOSURE OF THE 'SPREAD' JANUARY 1987.

(It is expected that this old Inn will become a private house).

The Spread Eagle's wings are folded, over four hundred years they were spread,
Once the hub of the village; tis now all shuttered and dead.

The last 'time please' has been called, the final bell has been rung;

Oh, if only the walls of the Spread could come to life and give tongue!

The Public becomes now Private - somehow it doesn't seem right,

But maybe the ghosts of its ancestors will continue to prowl at night.

Times and fashions must alter - but call it what you may,

The memory of the Spread in our village will remain for ever and aye.

Betty Rowe.

NEWS OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH.

Another year has flown by and on Saturday, 31st January, twenty-seven children and young people gathered in the village hall for their annual party held for the Sunday School who were joined by members of the Bible Study Group.

We thank Mr. Robert Fisher and Claire who organised the games before tea and also thank the generosity of all the families who contributed goodies which were consumed in record time and enjoyed by everybody. Later the children were entertained by Penny's Puppets who kept both young and not so young well entertained. After her show Penny allowed each Child to go behind the stage and manipulate the strings of the puppets: this caused much laughter as the puppets performed hitherto unseen antics.

What happens to the young people once they go to Secondary School? Even the keenest members of the Sunday School appear to drift from us and from church activities. Is it the pressure of all that homework? perhaps we could encourage some of our youngsters to form a Youth Group. Are there any interested adults who would be willing to help on a rota basis? We already have five-a-side football team, helped by Mr. McGuinness, who played against S. Cedds of Shrub End recently and enjoyed a win on that occasion. We hope to meet again when the field is dry enough. Several of the boys have asked about cricket and are keenly practising at weekends but they do need some adult help. Again, any offers? All they need is a little encouragement. Also there is interest in drama in church.

Recently Mr. John Clapham offered to take the over-eleven group of the Sunday School for some more detailed study at the same time as Sunday School at 10am on Sunday mornings. From remarks from the boys this promises to be a popular group - any others interested please do drop in at 10am in the church on each Sunday morning. You will be warmly welcomed.

Our best wishes go to Sarah Lockhart and her parents; they have moved to Dedham. Sarah has been a regular and popular member of the Sunday School and we shall miss her smiling face.

Olive Sparling.

1st GREAT BROMLEY GUIDES.

We had a special evening before Christmas in the Guide Hut. Mrs. Chapman, District Commissioner and Mrs. Terry, Division Young Leader Link, (yes, Brown Owl too!) both came and presented Hazel Swinscoe with her Young Leader Certificate and as it was also Hazel's eighteenth birthday, we celebrated with a birthday cake, a present for Hazel, games and party food and Christmas tree gifts all round. Hazel played the accordion to lead us in carols to close the evening. We really miss her help on Friday evenings and her accordion playing to keep us in tune. We wish her luck in her forthcoming A Level exams.

This term we have all been working towards Artist's Badge and in half-term week we went to a County International Fun Day at Halstead, learning games, songs and crafts from many different countries.

Great Bromley Guides were first registered as a Company in 1922 and ran for fifteen years before being closed in 1937. After the war it was re-registered in 1947 so this year is our 40th Anniversary and we plan to celebrate this event in some way. Please would anyone who has ever been a member of Great Bromley Guides, and would like to be at this celebration event. get in touch with me and give me their names and addresses and those of any other ex-members that they know. -

Joan Landon.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL.

Summary of a meeting of the Great Bromley Parish Council held on 22nd January, 1987.

1. Resignation of Mr. S. Cooper was received as he has now moved from the district.
2. Brook Farm Buildings. The Environmental Officer is to be advised regarding the unsatisfactory condition of various businesses being carried out on that site.
3. The Chairman of the Playing Field Committee was present to express his concern over the future of the playing field. The matter will be discussed at the AGM of the Playing Field Committee in March, 1987, and if necessary, will be referred back to the Parish Council.
4. A formal Statutory Notice was received regarding the transfer of a licence for Peter Sauvary from The Spread Eagle to The Black Boy.
5. An election is to be held on 7th May, 1987, to elect representatives of the parish to sit on the Parish Council. Anybody interested should apply for a nomination paper from the Clerk - Mr. H. Booty, Church Cottage, Great Bromley.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

First and foremost may I remind you that our annual Spring Sale will be held on Saturday, 25th April at 2.30pm in the village hall. Please come along, we shall have lots of bargains - fancy goods, cakes, handicrafts, plants, white elephant and jumble. We shall also be most grateful for any goods offered to help us. Contact Mrs. Vera Biddis for collection if necessary.

In the Age Concern Essex Competition we are happy to announce that Mrs. Ruth Lungley won first prize for her essay on 'Easter Memories' and Mrs. Mildred Purkis gained a Commended Certificate for her entry 'Aunts, Uncles, Cousins' in the Literary Competition.

The Wyvenaires will be entertaining us at our monthly meeting on the 16th April. A mystery tour has been arranged for our first outing this year in May, with fine weather we hope!

Vera Biddis.

GREAT BROMLEY BROWNIES.

Having missed the last issue I will start by saying we had a lovely Christmas party. Everyone bought a guest to share the fun; what a long time ago that was! Since then we have had an exciting trip to London culminating in a show 'The Voyage of the Dawn Treader'. The weather was glorious for all our walking from place to place. This ran us rather short of money so we decided to hold a Brownie Coffee Morning combined with a Bring-and-Buy Blue Peter Sight Savers Appeal effort. Our grand total after a lot of work, was a profit of £137, of which £60 was sent to Blue Peter, £48 paid our capitation fees, £20 went to the Church Tower Restoration Fund. Well done Brownies! Thank you too, to all the mums and kind friends who helped man the stalls and especially to those of you who supported us. Without you we would not have made it. Next time will be better. We also attended Divisional Thinking Day Service at Ardleigh where the church was overflowing with Guides, Brownies, Rangers and Youth Leaders from Brightlingsea to Bradfield.

Badges gained: agility - Julie, Emma. Pathfinder - Clare, Susannah.

Booklover - Clare. Roadway - Hannah. Footpath - Emma, Sarah.

Future dates: Division Handicraft at Great Bentley, 11th April.

(Brownies already have the schedules), revels at the Hewitt Hall, Dedham,

13th June. Pack Holiday at Alresford, 23-28th August where all Brownies who have made their promise will be welcome.

WHY THE FLOODS CAME.

And the Lord said to Noah: 'Where is the Ark which I have commanded thee to build?' and Noah said unto the Lord: 'Verily I have had three carpenters off sick. The gopher wood supplier hath let me down and the damp-course specialist hath not turned up. What can I do O Lord?'

And God said unto Noah: 'I want that Ark finished after seven days and seven nights'. And Noah said 'It will be so'. And so it was not so.

And the Lord said unto Noah: 'What seemeth to be the trouble this time?'

And Noah said unto the Lord: 'My sub-contractor hath gone bankrupt, the plumber hath gone on strike and the glazier departeth on holiday to Majorca - yes, even though I offered him double time. Shem, my son who helpeth me on the Ark side of the business hath formed a pop-group with his brothers Ham and Japeth. 'Lord I am undone'.

And the Lord grew angry and said: 'What about the animals? two of every sort have I ordered to come unto thee to keep them alive. Where for example are the giraffes?' And Noah said: 'the van cometh on Tuesday, yea, it will be so'.

And the Lord said unto Noah: 'How about the unicorns?' and Noah wrung his hands and wept saying: 'Lord, they are a discontinued line. Thou canst not get unicorns for love nor money'.

And God said: 'Where are the monkeys and bears, and the hippotomi and the elephants, and the zebras and the hartebeests, two of every kind, and the fowls of the air by sevens?'

And Noah said unto the Lord: 'They have been delivered unto the wrong address, but should arrive on Friday. All save the fowls of the air by sevens, for it hath just been told me that they are sold only in half-dozens'.

And Noah said: 'Lord, Lord, thou knowest what it is like with delivery dates'. And the Lord in his wisdom said: 'Noah, my son, I know, I know. Why else dost thou think I have caused a flood to descend upon the earth?'

Sent in by Major Harold Varney.

GREAT BROMLEY PLAYGROUPE.

We meet every Monday and Wednesday (in school term time) from 9.30 until 12.00 in the village hall, Great Bromley, and would be pleased to see any children aged three years and over on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Toddlers with their mums on Wednesdays only. If you have any queries please contact Carol Simons, S Meadow Close (250163) or Yvonne Cobbold (230360).

GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

This year is the 70th birthday of our Essex Federation. Our own Institute, a mere youngster of thirty-nine, hopefully will still be going strong in its seventieth birthday year which will be 2018! Essex WI members have diverse tastes. A look through County events for 1987 reveals tennis, badminton and bowls tournaments, a scrabble day, music master class, drama festivals, a literary lunch, speech training, fun runs and a host of other activities - never a dull moment. The village hall took on a tropical look in March when the speaker from Ruaton Gardens brought along many fine specimens of their house plants, some of which had only recently arrived from the Caribbean.

Unfortunately Bejams regret they are unable to give us a Microwave demonstration in April; however we will have the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Betty Moles who will give an illustrated talk on Malawi and tell us the latest on Denham College.

Monthly Meetings: 6th May - resolutions. 3rd June - Members meeting.

OBITUARY.

On the 6th February, the Reverend Paul Richmond, Rector of the parishes from 1977-1980, died very suddenly. On Sunday, 22nd February, the church bells were rung muffled as a tribute and a memorial service was held. Mrs. Olive Sparling sends the following tribute to him and his wife Ruth.

"Shortly after we heard the sad news of Paul Richmond's sudden death, our Rector spoke from the pulpit of how a person's good works are like a pebble dropped into a pool, the resultant ripples can be compared with how actions reach out and touch others. Another comparison was of how sparks move on to ignite other areas. Paul Richmond arrived in the parishes some time after the death of the Revd. James Ransom, almost as a step-parent, with a very difficult task to perform, to follow a well loved and devoted priest. However, undaunted, the new Rector called upon all and sundry happily sharing tea in the warmth of the kitchen and enjoying the smell and taste of home cooking. He and his wife Ruth always encouraged and assisted whenever they could. I believe few of us realised how ill Mrs. Richmond had become after overworking for the people in a busy parish some years before. How sad he was to leave us all. Well I remember his last sermon when he took as his text 'be prepared'.

Hopefully he was prepared for his unexpected departure from this world. The children always refer to him as 'the big one' - how apt. I feel that I was personally touched by his actions and pray that now he is reunited with his beloved Ruth, that his spark goes on."

News came also of the death at an advanced age of Mrs. Wood, widow of the Revd. Charles Wood, Rector of Little Bromley from 1926 until his death in 1948. Mrs. Wood's cremated remains are to be interred in her husband's grave in Little Bromley Churchyard.

CHURCH REGISTER.

Holy Baptism.

22nd February, 1987 ... Kizzy Marie Coppin

Luke Kevin Coppin

Dale Kevin Coppin ,

19th March, 1987 ... Oliver Keep Gaffney '

Confirmation.

25th January. 1987 ... Helen Louise Costello, Claire Louise Twilley, Julie Marie Twilley, Michael John Groom, Anna Louise Groom, Gillian Elizabeth Croft, Douglas Robert Rogerson, George Barrett, Paul Jones, Robert le Marie, Stuart McCulloch, Reginald Ernest Wheatley.

Burial.

Mabel Lilian Shiers, age 90, at Little Bromley churchyard.

CHURCH FLOWERS.

19th April ... Easter Decorating

25th April ... Mrs. M. West

Contributions to the cost of Easter lilies in memory of departed family and friends will be gratefully received by Mrs. Margery West.

SERVERS.

Sunday 5th April 10.00am Robert Harding

Sunday 12th April 8.00am James Heaney

Thurs. 16th April 7.30pm John Groom

Sunday 19th April 8.00am

10.45am John Clapham

Sunday 26th April 8.00am Bill Kempster

GREAT BROMLEY JUBILEE CARNIVAL.

The 1987 Queen, Samantha Twiss, the Princesses Clair Coppin and Claire Twilley and the Deputy, Tammy Fulcher, were chosen at the Valentine Disco arranged by the Pantomime Group. Linda Pinhey is making a sponsored parachute jump on Saturday, 4th April, in aid of Carnival Funds - sponsorship would be much appreciated. Once again a Crazy Sports and Car Boot Sale are being held on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May at Hare Green playing field. Car boots will be charged at £4 if booked with Jean Wright beforehand and £5 on the day.

GARDEN DAY - 5th JULY IN AID OF VILLAGE HALL FUNDS.

Tickets for the Garden Day will be £1 each with children admitted free. Gifts of food for afternoon teas to be served at the village hall where there is to be an Arts and Crafts Exhibition and an Art Competition from S. George's School, will be gratefully received. It is hoped that the Garden Day will attract as much support as the day held two years ago for the Church Repair Fund. -

In addition to a coffee and bingo evening which raised £22 towards the expenses of the day, an Afternoon Tea Dance is to be held on Easter Monday, 20th April, in the village hall. Get out your favourite dress and Easter bonnet for the occasion!

GREAT BROMLEY GARDEN CLUB.

On 22nd January Mr. W. Colvill, Leisure Works Manager for Tendring District Council, gave a demonstration and talk on pruning and invited members to visit the Council Nurseries. June has been suggested for this trip.

As there is some difficulty in Thursday meeting, as from May they will take place on the last TUESDAY in each month. Details of meetings are as follows:

23rd April - Pat Potter

28th April - Outing to Poplar Nurseries - meet at village hall at 6.30

26th May - To be arranged

9th June - Visit to Clacton Nurseries - Village hall at 6.30

30th June - Anne Lunne

21st July - Great Bentley Garden Club at Old Village Hall Fuchsia Show Time

28th July - Alison Smith

27th August - Olivers Orchard - buffet supper

Tickets for the Day Visit to the Queens Garden at Frogmore, Windsor, are still available. Please contact Jean Wright (230663).

SERVICES AND EVENTS - APRIL 1987.

Friday 3rd Bromley Buskers-Village Hall at 7.30pm

Saturday 4th Bromley Buskers

Sunday 5th PASSION SUNDAY 10.00am Family Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Wednesday 8th 7.30pm Lent House Group

Thursday 9th 2.30pm S. George's School Easter Fair

Sunday 12th PALM SUNDAY 8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Procession of Palms and Mattins

6.30pm Evensong

Tuesday 14th 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 15th 7.30pm Holy Communion

Thursday 16th MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.30pm The Liturgy of the Last Supper

Friday 17th GOOD FRIDAY 10.00am The Liturgy and Holy Communion

7.00pm Devotional Service - The Cross of Christ

Saturday 18th EASTER EVE 8.00pm Preparation for Easter. The Service of Light and Blessing of the Paschal Candle

Sunday 19th EASTER DAY 8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Festal Evensong

Thursday 23rd S. GEORGES DAY PATRONAL FESTIVAL 7.30pm Parish Eucharist - preacher
Canon Neil Hunt

Saturday 25th 2.30pm Friendship Club Spring Sale

Sunday 26th EASTER I 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School

10.45am Mattins and sermon

6.30pm Evensong

GREAT BROMLEY PANTOMIME GROUP.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 11th March when it was agreed to produce the annual pantomime again in January, 1988.

Mr. David Underdown agreed to be Director for performances with Mr. Nigel Rowe as Producer. It is hoped that a summer play may be produced in June. The Committee wish to thank the children of S. George's School for taking part in the Aladdin painting competition.

HISKEYS FARM FRESH EGGS
Top QUALITY FARM FRESH BROWN EGGS
LAID, GRADED, PACKED, DELIVERED
WHOLESALE - RETAIL
CALL IN OR RING
TRY US FOR QUALITY CHEESE
T. J & G. E. HUBBARD
HISKEYS POULTRY FARM, LITTLE BROMLEY
Colchester 393274

Editorial

We commence our second year of the 'Messenger' with a different colour jacket and a monthly edition. For the first year your help by supplying contributions was invaluable. Please keep this up as this can only truly be a village magazine if the village supports it by supplying information to print. Without the help of the various sponsors we could not have published our first six editions - we look to sponsors to support us for the next twelve issues. We are most grateful for all the financial support we receive, especially to those who have sent individual contributions to sponsor one edition. So far £90 has been given in this way, but other contributions will be received most gladly. A full list of those who have helped in this way will be published in the issue which they sponsor. In the June edition a full list of the sponsors will again be printed on the back cover. This month we are being sponsored by the Colchester Co-operative Society Fuel Department, and our grateful thanks go to them for this help.

Copy for the JUNE edition to the Rector by SUNDAY 10th MAY please.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL.

This is the year when we have the opportunity to elect a new Parish Council for the village. The following persons have been nominated for election: Mr. H. Fairley, Mr. G. Kempster, Major H. Varney, Mr. P. Rowe, Mrs. A. Prior, Mr. L. Christodoulides and Mr. T. Smith. As was announced last month, Mr. H. Booty is the Clerk to the Council.

At the meeting held on 26th March the following business was discussed. Two Council representatives will attend a meeting run by Essex County Council Highways Department to assess a scheme started some two years ago to oversee the public rights of way within the Parish.

An Officer of the Health and Housing Department of Tendring District Council attended the Brook Farm estate regarding nuisances and annoyance caused by various units. The owner of the vehicle business has given an undertaking to do his utmost to avoid causing annoyance and intends to screen his premises from nearby properties. It has not been possible to contact the owner of the pet food processing business but this matter is to be followed up.

Approval was given for the new estate in Chase Lane to be known as Fairfield Close.

A request was received from a resident urging the Council to attempt to obtain recognition for all the work and effort put into Hamilton Lodge by Mrs. K. J. Palmer. The Council will put this matter forward to the appropriate authorities.

CHURCH NEWS.

S. Georges Church Annual Meeting.

This was held on 1st April. Mr. John Clapham and Mr. Robert Harding were again re-elected as Church Wardens for the ensuing year. Mrs. Olive Sparling and Mr. John Groom were elected as representatives to the Deanery Synod and the following were elected as members of the Parochial Church Council: Mrs. P. Greenfield, Mrs. B. Rowe, Mrs. A. Fairley, Mrs. L. Brown, Mrs. M. Bush, Mrs. M. Davis, Miss F. Orman, Mr. D. Rogerson, Mr. P. Rowe, Major J. Heaney, Mr. R. Gurney, Mr. J. Watts and Mrs. J. Terry. Mr. R. Harding was re-elected as Vice Chairman of the Council and Mrs. P. Greenfield was appointed as Secretary.

Mr. J. Appleby who has acted as Treasurer for the past eighteen months decided that, as he will have to have further prolonged surgical treatment in hospital, he ought not to be re-elected as Treasurer. He was thanked for his excellent help in matters of finance and Mr. Douglas Rogerson of Apple Lodge, Frating Road, was elected in his place.

REPAIRS.

We still await details of the specifications to the proposed work on the Tower. However, a report has been received on the probable cost of the repairs to the roof of the South Aisle which will be in the region of £10,000. This is most urgent and must be put in hand in the next few months - certainly before next winter sets in.

S. MARY'S. LITTLE BROMLEY.

The necessary procedure for the redundancy of S. Mary's Church are now underway. It has been suggested by the Parochial Church Councils of both parishes that, when the re-organisation and redundancy order is made, the new parish of Great and Little Bromley be known officially as

'the Parish of The Bromleys'.

Various officials have visited Little Bromley Church and, following advice received, it is hoped that the Redundant Churches Fund will eventually take over the church. This is a body funded by the State and the Church Commissioners. They would, if it is agreed, put the church in very good order by a Complete restoration, and when this is done the church would always be open for visitors, it would be available for suitable use, i.e. concerts, flower festivals etc and it would also be able to be used four times a year for church services. If at some future time the population grows to such an extent that it is needed again as a parish church it could be returned for parochial use.

HARWICH DEANERY.

On the completion of his term of office as Rural Dean of Harwich, the Reverend Charles Wood has been succeeded as Rural Dean by the Reverend Gordon Stinson, Rector of Dovercourt. A service of commissioning of the new Rural Dean will take place at All Saints Church, Dovercourt, on Thursday, 21st May at 7.30pm.

LENT HOUSE MEETINGS.

The weekly House Meetings in Lent have been very much appreciated by all who attended them. With the theme 'Moving On', informal discussion ranged widely but resulted in positive and constructive thought. We examined faith both outside and within the church, took a hard look at our understanding and knowledge - or lack of it - and discussed ways of widening both our own perception of what the church is and ways of opening wider the doors of our parish church so that more of us can share in the worship, enjoyment and challenges that it can offer. The seed sown at these meetings will hopefully develop further as it is planned to continue with monthly house meetings which, conducted in an informal way, help us to break down any barriers and make questioning, discussion and - yes - prayer more accessible. We want our church to be a parish church for ALL parishioners, young and old, newly arrived and long established. Anyone who would like to come to the next meeting will be warmly welcomed. It will be held on Wednesday, 20th May at 7.30pm at Apple Lodge, Frating Road, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rogerson. If anyone needs transport please contact the Rector who can arrange this. Do join us if you can, as it is only with a combined effort that we can Move On!

Jean Harding

THE VILLAGE POLICEMAN.

At the end of March P.C. Woolnough, who has been our village policeman for a number of years, retired and left the village. Our best wishes go to him in his retirement. His successor, who has now moved into the Police House, is P.C. Ken Woodham. We welcome him and his family to the village and wish him well in his new capacity - and no doubt will get to know him as well as his predecessors.

CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Strawberry Tea will take place on Sunday, 28th June at 3.00pm at Brundells Farm, Frating Road.

GREAT BROMLEY JUBILEE CARNIVAL.

Do not forget the Great Bromley Carnival. The date is SATURDAY 6th JUNE. As usual the procession will move off from the Cheshire Home in the afternoon to the village hall where the customary stalls and amusements will be found. Please do support this. All the proceeds are being given to the village hall to help pay for the necessary repairs, and to enable us to enjoy the benefits of having such a meeting place always available to us. Mrs. Jean Wright (230663) will give any information or help to anyone who needs it.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

We are having our first outing of the year on 14th May, this will be a Mystery Tour with tea arranged by the club. The coach will leave Elmstead at 1.30pm. At the monthly meeting on 21st May Mrs. Evans will give a talk on decorated eggs. The competition, appropriately, an egg-cup! The members of the Club thank the Carnival Committee for the very nice tea, entertainment and bingo session which they provided; thank you, we all enjoyed it.

Mildred Purkis

A BIT OF HISTORY

This is not a parish magazine, but the parish church is the focal point of the village because it is our largest, best and most interesting building. I have often wondered why Little Bromley with its partly Norman church and older dedication, became the lesser village. Saint George was unknown in this country until returning crusaders brought back tales of a soldier - martyr of Lydda in Palestine, whilst S. Mary (and the several saints of that name) had been used in dedication for centuries. Did the Lord of the Manor grant a patch of his back-yard for this lovely 14th century building, or was there an earlier church on the site? Were guild members concerned in the building and its decoration? (hence the name Guildhall in Mary Lane), and does anyone remember the cottages?

I am an incomer and have known the district for only fifty years. Could we not record in this magazine some of the memories of those with greater knowledge than mine?

Mrs. I. Wilkinson

GREAT BROMLEY BROWNIES.

On 31st January the brownies went to London to see The Voyage of the Dawn Treader at the Sadlers Wells theatre. From Liverpool Street station we went on the underground to S. Pauls. Even though we were running late we had time to take all those who wanted to on a climb up to the whispering gallery; we were a bit disappointed because it was too noisy to ear the whispers although we enjoyed the view and looking down to the Cathedral floor. .

Then we visited the Museum of London where we saw the Lord Mayor's coach and a collection of dolls that spanned about three hundred years. From the museum we went to the Barbican-Centre. Here we stopped and had our lunch.

When we got to the theatre we sat in the upper circle and great fun was had by all playing with the binoculars. The play was based on the original story of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and is the third in a series of three books and is about a magical land called Nardia. The story being about sailing across seas in search of Seven Lords that were missing and the adventures that they had.

On 1st April we held our sponsored Kim's Game to raise money for Great Hautbois House (this is a new Training House for use by all Guides and Brownies in East Anglia, the Kim's Game being played by all members in the region). I am pleased to say that brownies have very good memories:

Hannah scoring top marks of 70/100. Angela has made her promise and now proudly wears her uniform. Sarah has gained her swimming badge. Julie, Sarah, Lynn, Emma, Elizabeth, Hannah and Zoe the Pathfinders Badge.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM, WHERE IT GOES AND WHY.

Visitors to cathedrals and other prominent churches in the United Kingdom are usually made aware, by large notices, of the huge cost to maintain buildings and services. It is estimated that in 1987 it will cost £24 a day to run S. George's church and parish. Major repairs are being dealt with by the Tower or Repair Fund.

At the recent Annual Church Meeting at S. Georges church the following budget was presented for 1987. It will be kept under constant review by the PCC.

Estimated expenses for 1987:

1. For the Ministry's expenses £1,000
 2. For the church and its services, including heating, lighting, insurance, minor repairs, upkeep of the services, choir, organ, altar requisites, churchyard £2,950
 3. Other ordinary expenses including Sunday School, Village magazine, adverts, printing etc 240
 4. Payments outside the parish including Diocesan and Deanery quotas £4,574
- Total estimated expenses for 1987 £8,764

This means we need an estimated £108.54 pence a week for expenses.

Estimated Income for 1987:

1. Planned giving by covenant scheme, free-will offerings, Income Tax recovered from Inland Revenue, collections, fund raising, donations £4,750
 2. Other income from fees, interest etc 850
 3. Social events etc 700
- £6,300

4. To be raised by other means or from other sources £2,464
£8,764

You are invited to assist in 1987. Can you covenant to give a fixed amount and allow the church to recoup the income tax you have paid? Much cash is lost to charity each year because the taxpayer does not complete a covenant form. Ask the Treasurer for details. Why not join the Freewill Offering scheme? Give a set amount each week or month or year in envelopes supplied by the Treasurer. Planned giving is a good habit.

THANK YOU - all who have helped in 1986 to meet our obligations. We invite you to do so again in 1987. We are confident that you will support the work of the church in the parish.

GRAND PLANT SALE.

Have you a plant to spare for the Grand Plant Sale on 18th October at the village hall in aid of the Church Repair Fund? Any quantity, any variety will be gratefully accepted.

NOW IS THE TIME ... for sowing those seeds, separating herbaceous clumps etc. Pots are available: please contact Anne Clapham (230790).

A MEDIEVAL MIRACLE.

A 'Medieval Miracle' is to be performed in our medieval church. The Eastern Angles Theatre Company hope to perform their modern musical adaptation of a medieval miracle play in S. George's church during the evening of Saturday, 25th July. The company has been touring in East Anglia for the last few years and is widely acclaimed. This should be an interesting and enjoyable evening so do mark the date in your diaries. More details later.

Anne Clapham

ROGATION SUNDAY.

On Rogation Sunday, 24th May, instead of the usual service in S. George's church there will be a service of Blessing of the crops and fields. This year it will take place at Hare Green Recreation Ground commencing at 10.43am. All are, of course, welcome. .

ASCENSION DAY.

Thursday, 28th May, is Ascension Day when we remember the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven and the close of His earthly ministry. On this day, one of the three main festivals of the Church's year, there will be a Parish Eucharist in S. George's church at 7.30pm.

RIGHTS OF WAY AND THE LAW - A REMINDER.

A highway is a way over which the public at large have a right to pass and repass. There are three categories of highway:

1. A Footpath where the right is for walkers only (with any natural accompaniment, e.g., a pram or a dog).
2. A Bridleway where the right is for walkers and for those riding or leading a horse. There is a statutory right to ride a pedal cycle on a bridleway.
3. A Carriageway where the right is for walkers, riders and vehicles.

A Public Path means a footpath or a bridleway. A Road used as a Public Path (RUPP) is a highway, not being a public path used mainly for the purposes for which public paths are used. It may carry vehicular rights of way over it. A Byway Open to All Traffic is the same as a RUPP except that it always includes a right of way for vehicles.

A Right of Way in this article means a Public Path, a RUPP or Byway.

Paul Clayden, Deputy Secretary Of NALC, formerly Secretary of Open Spaces Society.

FIRST ARDLEIGH SCOUT GROUP.

I have been asked on numerous occasions to start a Scout Group in Great Bromley to give the boys of the village something to go to. After a long consideration, I have decided that this is not a viable proposition as it is better to have one strong Group rather than several weak ones. I have therefore, decided to become Group Scout Leader of the 1st Ardleigh Group. Many of the boys in Great Bromley already attend the Cubs in Ardleigh and, as from the beginning of June we are starting a Scout Troop for the 10-15 year olds. My son Andrew will be

running this section and this is an appeal for boys of that age range to join. If you are interested, please contact me in the first place at The Nook, Colchester Road, Great Bromley.

Colchester 230490.

The Group has Beavers and Cubs which cater for the 6-10 year olds but at present these sections are full. If you have a son of this age or coming up to six, who wants to become a member, please contact me and I will do my best to try and find him a place.

John Terry,

Group Scout Leader.

SERVICES AND MEETINGS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - MAY 1987.

Sunday 3rd EASTER 2 10.00am Family Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 10th EASTER 3 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School

10.45am Mattins and Sermon

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 17th EASTER 4 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School

10.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Wednesday 20th 7.30pm House Group - Apple Lodge Frating Road

Saturday 23rd 2.30pm Holy Matrimony

Sunday 24th ROGATION 8.00am Holy Communion .

SUNDAY 10.45am Blessing of Fields - Hare Green Recreation Ground

6.30pm Evensong

Thursday 28th ASCENSION DAY 7.30pm Parish Eucharist

Saturday 30th 11.00am Holy Matrimony

Sunday 31st AFTER ASCENSION 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School

10.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES.

Sunday 3rd 10.45 Burnt Heath 11.00am Balls Green

Sunday 10th 10.45 Burnt Heath 11.00am Balls Green

Sunday 17th 10.45 Burnt Heath 11.00am Balls Green

Holy Communion

Sunday 24th 10.45 Burnt Heath 11.00am Balls Green

Sunday 31st 10.45 Burnt Heath 11.00am Balls Green

CHURCH FLOWERS - S. GEORGE'S.

Sunday 3rd Mrs. I. Rudd Sunday 24th Mrs. E. Walker

Sunday 10th Mrs. J. Thornton Sunday 31st Mrs. L. Brown .

Sunday 17th Mrs. J. Rowe

SERVERS - S. GEORGE'S.

Sunday 3rd 10.00am John Clapham

Sunday 10th 8.00am James Heaney

Sunday 17th 10.45am John Groom

Sunday 24th 8.00am Bill Kempster

Sunday 31st 10.45am John Clapham

STOP PRESS - GREAT BROMLEY PANTOMIME GROUP. .

Summer plays on Thursday and Friday, 19th and 20th June. More details next month.

Pantomime casting meeting Tuesday, 29th Sept.

EDITORIAL

Apologies. Please accept our apologies for the late appearance of the May issue of the 'Messenger'. A series of problems caused the delay. We sincerely hope that in future, the magazine will arrive promptly. It would help if contributions for the July issue could be sent to the Editor (the Rector) by Wednesday, 10th June - or earlier if possible! The edition this month is being sponsored by Seven Rivers Cheshire Home. We thank them for their help and hope that by our support at their Fete they will be amply rewarded.

Elections. Once more we are being given our democratic right to help in choosing a government for the next five years. Over the next few weeks we will not be able to escape this, in newspapers, TV and candidates literature delivered to our houses. Having absorbed all this information which will come our way, we are all called to make a thoughtful decision and then to mark our ballot paper on the 11th June. To take part in the election is not just a privilege, but a duty. Democracy stands or falls on whether citizens take this responsibility seriously. See you in the polling station!

Those nominated for the Parish Council (listed in last month's 'Messenger') were all elected unopposed, and in the District Council Election, Mr. Sam Pound was elected as our representative.

WHITSUN 1987 - SUNDAY 7th JUNE.

Whitsun, now frequently known by its more ancient name of The Feast of the Pentecost, is one of the very important Feast Days of the church, reminding us of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. It is this power, the Holy Spirit, that God still gives without reserve to us to enable us to live our lives in joy and hope. On that day we pray 'Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire'. We, and the whole world need the power of the Holy Spirit. Like petrol in a car, electricity in our homes, it gives us the God given power to live and live well.

In former times Whitsun was clearly one of the important times of the year by having with it its own holiday, Whitmonday. Since the last Bank Holiday on 4th May, there have been many letters in national newspapers asking for the whole subject of Bank Holidays to be reviewed, and in particular, for the Whit Monday Bank Holiday to be restored.

Perhaps this is one of the topics that we ought to be asking our new government shortly to be elected, to be considering.

THEY CAN'T KEEP HIM OUT.

George Bush, the Vice-President of the United States of America launched into one of his favourite stories: "During the first years in this office, it seemed the Russian leaders were always dying. and they always seemed to die in winter, and I was the one who always got assigned to go to the funeral! Well, a Marxist funeral in Russia is quite an experience - meticulously staged with marching soldiers, steel bayonets, everything sombre and grey - no prayers, no mention of eternity, no God.

At the Brezhnev funeral I will never forget how the Communist leaders took their places on the Kremlin wall as the family silently escorted the casket around to its final resting place. I happened to be standing in the right place to watch Mrs. Brezhnev. She walked up, took her last look at her husband, and then - in full view of all the Politburo members - made the sign of the Cross.

I was amazed. In her silent way she was reaching out to God no matter what anybody else thought. I said to myself: 'All the barbed wire and indoctrination classes in the world cannot keep Him out, can they?'

(From the 'Anglican Digest' Easter 1987).

ANOTHER HISTORY QUESTION.

Mr. George Sparrow used to help me in the garden at Bay Trees, and one Michaelmas Day. taking up windfall apples he said, 'when I was a lad we used to run through here scrumping 'em, used to hide round the Court House eating 'em'. The Court House? That little barn-like building with the bricked up doorway on the road side, a few yards from the Black Boy? It could have

been a handy meeting place standing at the cross-roads, within a mile of Cold Hall (one time Manor) close by the inn for refreshment.

Did the lord of the manor hold his court here, meet his copy-holders, collect his rents, celebrate later with them over a Michaelmas goose and pints maybe at the Black Boy?

Irene Wilkinson.

HOUSE GROUP - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH

A House Group has been set up to meet fortnightly at Apple Lodge Frating Road. In June the meetings will be on Tuesday June 9th and Tuesday June 23rd at 8 00pm. Anyone is welcome to attend. Details of the aims of the meetings can be obtained from Douglas Rogerson at Apple Lodge, or from the Rector.

GREAT BROMLEY JUBILEE CARNIVAL - SATURDAY 6th JUNE 1987.

The final total of the sponsorship raised by Mrs. Linda Pinhey from her recent Parachute Jump is £530. The money all goes to the Carnival appeal for support for the Village Hall. Our most grateful thanks go to Linda for undertaking this hair-raising adventure on behalf of the Hall. There is to be a Disco and Dance in the Village Hall in the evening of Carnival day. Tickets, which cost £2.50, can be obtained from Committee members, from the Post Office or from Jean Wright (230663).

The Krazy Sports and Car Boot Sale on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May, raised £128.29. Another Car Boot Sale will be held on Carnival Day at the Village Hall Field for which the charge will be £4 pre-booked, and £5 on the day. There will also be Country Fayre Stalls available, 20% of the profits being payable to the Carnival funds.

Celebrity Graham Pass from BBC Essex Radio will be attending the Carnival, and is to help judge the floats and the visiting Queens. The procession will move off from the Seven Rivers Field at 2.00pm and make its way to the Village Hall.

Do please come along and support the Carnival and help to raise funds for the Village Hall.

GREAT BROMLEY GARDEN CLUB.

On 23rd April, Pat Potter the florist from Brightlingsea demonstrated flower arranging, and on 28th April twelve members visited Mr. M. Cowan's Poplar Nurseries at Marks Tey. Mr. Cowan took the visitors on a tour of his greenhouses explaining the procedures used in supplying hanging baskets, of which they are the largest supplier.

Future meetings:

Tuesday, 30th June - visit to Anne Lunne at Langham. Meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Tuesday, 14th July - visit to Alison Smith's Nursery at Boxted. Meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Tuesday, 21st July - meeting at Great Bentley Garden Club, the Old Village Hall, Great Bentley at 8.00pm for a Fuchsia Showtime.

Tuesday, 27th July - outing to P. Cole's Akenfield Garden, Charlesfield. Meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

The August meeting will be a visit to Oliver's Orchards, Colchester, combined with a Barn Supper. The cost will be £2.20 and the minimum number needed to make this visit possible will be twenty-five. The September meeting has yet to be arranged. In October the Annual General Meeting and Dinner will be held at a restaurant in Manningtree. Non-members are always welcome at any of the meetings and visits.

On 7th May thirty members and friends travelled to Windsor to visit the Queen's Gardens at Frogmore. It was a very pleasurable outing with perfect weather.

GARDEN DAY - SUNDAY 5th JULY from 12 noon to 6.00pm.

Nine gardens will be open for visitors as well as Mr. Simon's Vineyard at Michaelmas House. Both Burnt Heath Methodist Church and S. George's church will be decorated with flowers. There is to be a Stationary Engine Exhibition in S. George's Close and a Car Boot Sale in Church Meadow from 2.00pm until 5.30pm. At this event cars are asked not to arrive before 1.00pm.

The charge will be £4 pre-booked and £5 on the day. In the Village Hall there is to be an Art and Craft Exhibition with a Children's Painting Competition from S. George's School. A Bar-b-q will be held at the Village Hall from 12 noon to 2.00pm, where teas will also be served from 2.00pm to 5.20pm. There will also be stalls in the drive of Copley Dene. It is hoped to be able to arrange for organ music to be played in S. George's Church during the afternoon and for the church bells to be rung. The day will end with a service of Songs of Praise in S. George's church at 6.30pm.

A great deal of help will be required to make this day a success, in particular help is needed for car parks, stalls, tea helpers and stewards. If you can help in this way, or by providing food for refreshments, please contact Jean Wright (230663).

The Garden Day is being held to raise funds for important costly repair work which must be done to the Village Hall. Please support the day and help us to ensure that our Village Hall remains available to all of us for our use.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCHYARD.

In order to help Mr. Bantick, who cuts the grass regularly for us, and to keep the Churchyard tidy, the FCC has arranged two evenings, Tuesday, 9th June and Friday, 12th June, when it is hoped to have working parties to do all the extra jobs that will make our churchyard tidier than it is. We will welcome anyone who can come and lend a hand for an hour or two on either, or both, of these evenings. Please bring along any equipment that you would find useful. We hope in particular to clear the grass from around the old tombstones, to tidy up the edges of the paths, to cut back the hedges and to clean up some of the untended graves.

BELL RINGING.

It is a great delight and pleasure to hear the church bells being rung. Bell ringing is an ancient and traditional English skill. Now that we have a small band of ringers, we need more people to join in this most interesting and enjoyable craft. Complete learners can learn to ring, persons of any age will be welcome. We would especially like to welcome into the band any experienced ringers. If you would like to come and find out more, please come up to the tower on any Wednesday night at 7.30pm, or contact the Tower Captain, Mr. John Groom, 8 Chaffinch Gardens, Colchester. (Tel: 867205).

GREAT BROMLEY PANTOMIME GROUP.

Don't forget the Pantomime Group Summer Presentation. Three plays are to be presented at the Village Hall on Friday, 19th June, and on Saturday 20th June. Doors open at 7.30pm. The Plays, all three are comedies, are: 1. The Bathroom Door. 2. Pastiche and 3. The Do It Yourself Frankenstein Kit. This promises to be a very enjoyable evening's entertainment. Tickets, £1.50 each, are obtainable from Betty Rowe, telephone 251067.

The Pantomime Group were saddened by the sudden recent death of Tony Aldous. His enthusiasm and skill on stage will be sorely missed. The example he set to the members will be his best memorial.

THANK YOU.

I would like to say thank you to the members of the Carnival Committee and their families for the invitation to the Senior Citizens Tea in the Village Hall on 21st March. The tea was tastefully presented and much welcomed after the Bingo concentration. It was nice to be with the young Carnival Princesses. Congratulations to the pianist who made us all sing with such gladness, to be together and to enjoy ourselves. Thank you. *Grace Gould.*

PALM SUNDAY 1987.

(This contribution was sent by a visitor from the United States who was spending a few days with her parents who have recently moved into the village).

I must admit it's been a while since I was in church, especially for a 'special service', so it was with some anticipation that I woke on Palm Sunday (12th April). I had arrived the day before to stay with my family and decided to join them at church.

Imagine my surprise as we walked up the church driveway when I saw two young people and a horse: This was indeed going to be a special service. I had expected a large church, cold and impersonal, but to my delight I found a warm and welcoming feeling. How lucky you all are to be part of such a lovely place. Then the procession started and I could hardly hold back my emotions when I saw the children, the young people and of course the horse! We sang my favourite hymns to those 'oh so familiar' tunes and heard once more the story of Palm Sunday. It was so beautifully done and must have made everyone reflect a little on the first Palm Sunday. As I head back to my home in Pennsylvania, USA, I write these words as a thank you to my parents and newfound friends for letting me be part of Palm Sunday 1987 and I promise to come back again to S. George's, Great Bromley.' *Lynne M. Marshall.*

May we, Lynne's parents, take this opportunity to say how happy we are to be part of Great Bromley where the friendliness of the people has been overwhelming, in spite of some trepidation on our part when we moved here.

*Vicky and Frank Griffiths,
'Trevelyan' Mary Lane North.*

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH REPAIRS.

The Parochial Church Council agreed to instruct Barron and Company of Colchester, to undertake the urgent work to be undertaken on the roof of the South Aisle of S. George's Church. This entails removing and making good some of the timber work in the roof which has become infected with fungal decay, repairing the roof and the de-infestation of death watch beetle in the roof timbers. The work should commence within a very short time.

The preparatory work for the tower project is now well under way. Although we were unable to keep to our original time schedule for the commencement of this work, we now have sufficient funds to make a start on the preliminary and essential paper work. We are awaiting the detailed specifications from the architect. With these we will be able to apply to the Diocesan authorities for a faculty and to seek approval for the work from English Heritage who are supplying 40% of the cost of the work. With these two approvals we will be able to invite tenders from contractors and make a contract for the work. As soon as these activities have been gone through, we will at last see scaffolding and the work beginning. Readers will appreciate that all this will take time, consequently it will still be some months before we can hope to see any real activity. In the meantime, the Repair Fund Committee is continuing their labour of fund raising. They, the Rector and the Parochial Church Council are most grateful for all the willing support received from the village and hope that all those many people who have, and are helping to raise the total sum will understand why there is an apparent delay in the commencement of the restoration.

SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME FETE - SATURDAY 13th JUNE.

The very popular annual Seven Rivers Fete takes place once again – this year on Saturday, 13th June. All the usual attractions will be there, stalls, games, refreshments and of course, the boys of the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook. This year the fete is to be opened by the well-known personality from Anglia TV - Michael Speake. This year there is to be a Beautiful Baby Competition. There will be two age groups: 1. up to twelve months and 2. twelve to 24 months. Entrance to the competition will be 50 pence. Any information about the Fete can be supplied by Mrs. Pippa Hardy, Chancery Farm, Ardleigh. Tel: 230341.

GREAT BROMLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Members who went on an outing to the Spring Group Meeting at Bradfield on 30th April had a most enjoyable evening having the chance to see friends from neighbouring Women's Institutes and learning about 17th and 18th century porcelain from the speaker Mr. Stacey. Our flower arrangement 'Congratulations' came third - well done June, it was beautiful. We are to be the hosts for the Group activities Autumn Show in October. More details about this later, and we are running stalls at the carnival on 6th June and the Seven Rivers Fete on 13th June.

The meeting on 1st July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall is a demonstration of Ribboncraft. If you would like to know more about this craft, do come along, visitors are always made most welcome.

1st GREAT BROMLEY GUIDES.

In March the guides took part in the World's Biggest Kim's Game, sponsored in aid of the Anglia region Girl Guides' new training and activities centre, Hautbois House in Norfolk, and raised over £28 for this. Some of the Stour Valley trefoil Guild and the District Rangers joined us for a most enjoyable evening.

We entered the Elmstead Division Handicraft Show on 11th April and Sophie won a second place certificate, and Tracey a Highly Commended for their pressed flower bookmarks. The following week Sophie, Tracey and Claire gained their Artists Badges.

On 1st May we planted a standard rose bush, variety 'Superstar', by the church path in memory of Mrs. M. Pirie and of her kindness and support to the Guide Company over many years.

We are collecting the names of past members for our forty years celebration party which will probably take place in September. We should like more names please, and ideas for the event. In the Spring Bank Holiday week we will be camping at Bentley, Suffolk, with Walton-on-the-Naze Guides.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

Once again our Spring Sale was a great success. We would like to say a big thank-you to everyone who helped us to achieve this. On 11th June we have an outing to Felixstowe with tea arranged for us at Stowmarket. The coach leaves Elmstead at 11.00am. At our June meeting Anglia TV will be talking to, and entertaining us. The competition is to be a single rose. The Friendship Club are happy to donate £10 to the Bromley Messenger which we find very informative and readable. *Mrs. M. Perkis.*

THEATRE IN CHURCH.

Eastern Angles Theatre Company will be visiting the village with their musical show 'MEDIAEVAL MIRACLE' for a performance in S. George's church at 7.30pm on Saturday 25th July.

'Mediaeval Miracle' is a modern adaptation of four pageant plays from the Middle Ages telling the story of the world from the Creation to the exodus of the Israelites. The show features the very human stories of Adam and Eve and their expulsion from the Garden of Eden, Noah and his nagging wife, the testing of Abraham and finally, Moses as he stages the 'great escape' of all time through the Red Sea.

With music written specially for the production, striking lighting effects, a performance that happens all around the audience and the church setting, 'Mediaeval Miracle' promises to be an event rich in spectacle and atmosphere - an enthralling entertainment for all the family.

You can obtain tickets from:

Ann Clapham, Copley Dene, Great Bromley (230790).

The Rector, The Rectory, Great Bromley (230344)

Great Bromley Post Office.

Price: Adults £2.00 Children £1.00

GREAT BROMLEY LADIES CIRCLE.

Coming attractions:

17th June - Visit to main GPO sorting office in Colchester.

15th July - Talk by Mr. Barry Wood of Manningtree Delicatessen about English cheese.

August - No meeting. .

29th September - Visit to Hatfields, Peartree Road, Colchester.

We are a friendly and informal group of ladies who meet on the third Wednesday in the month.

We would welcome any new members who wish to join. If you are interested please phone Mrs. Rogers (252354).

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK.

A house-to-house collection took place in Great Bromley during Christian Aid Week, 11th - 16th May, when the sum of £168.23 pence was raised. Many thanks to all who contributed, and especially to Mrs. Marion Bromfield who organised the collection, and to those who delivered and collected the envelopes.

S. MARY'S CHURCH, LITTLE BROMLEY.

In April 1986 a restoration committee was set up to endeavour to raise funds for the repair of S. Mary's church. Now that the future of the church is in some doubt, the funds of the committee have been frozen while we await the decision of the Diocese and the Redundant Churches Fund concerning the future of the Church. Below you will see a synopsis of the funds raised in 1986.

Income.	
From sponsorship of Mrs. Knott in the London Marathon 1986	420.92
Strawberry Tea	17.85
Mr. Murray sponsorship for North Road time trial	109.57
Barn Dance	201.01
Sale of Christmas cards	3.66
Donations received	<u>66.40</u>
Net income	819.41
Expenditure.	
Bird-proofing church tower	291.33
Cement for coping stones on tower	3.29
Sundries, stationery etc.	<u>5.69</u>
Total expenditure	<u>300.31</u>
Excess of income over expenditure	£519.10

Warmest thanks are extended to all who planned the raising of this money and those who contributed to it. Especially our thanks are due to the Chairman, Mr. R. Knott, the Treasurer, Mr. P. Oliphant and to Mrs. Knott for her efforts in the London Marathon. Our thanks too, to Mr. Hurray for taking part in, and offering his sponsorship in the North Road Cycle Time Trials.

GROVE HOUSE - 17th MAY 1987.

Thanks to all who supported the Open Garden arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Frostick at their home, Grove House, on Sunday 17th May when the sum of £220 was raised. It was a lovely day in a beautiful garden. We are all most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Frostick for all the thought and effort they put into this event, and for inviting us to share in their delightful garden. The money raised has been given to the S. George's Church Repair Fund.

OBITUARIES

TONY ALDOUS. The very sudden death at the early age of forty-four of Tony Aldous came as a very great shock to his very many friends and neighbours in the village. Only a few weeks before he had played a memorable part in The Phantom of the Opera in the Bromley Buskers April Cabaret, a performance which will long be remembered by those who had the privilege of hearing it. His performances in recent pantomime productions will equally be remembered for the effort and enthusiasm he put into them. Apart from his stage performances, Tony was well known as a really excellent craftsman in his business as a painter and decorator. What is not quite as well known was his abiding interest in, and love for children. This was shown very clearly in the quiet behind the scenes work he put in as Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee. He is one of those of the village who will really be missed. Our deepest sympathy go to his wife Margaret and all the members of his family. The esteem in which he was held was demonstrated by the very large congregation at his funeral service at Weeley Crematorium.

ARTHUR BARRELL. After a long illness of over six years, Arthur Barrell died on Easter Day in hospital in Colchester. He was very much a Bromley man, well known to a very wide circle of fellow villagers. A large number of family and friends paid their last respects to him at his funeral at Weeley Crematorium.

REGINALD WHEATLEY. Reg Wheatley had been a resident at Seven Rivers Home for over six years when he died on 24th April. Confined to a wheelchair for these years, he retained his cheerfulness and interest in life to the very end. Only a few months before his death he was confirmed as a member of the church by the Bishop of Colchester in S. George's church. At his own wish the funeral service was held in the Chapel of Seven Rivers Home, the first time the Chapel has been used for a funeral.

VIOLET HILDA BANTICK. On Thursday, 7th May, the body of Violet Bantick was laid to rest in Great Bromley Churchyard after a service at Balls Green Methodist church, conducted by the minister, the Revd. John Robinson. She was the widow of Ivan Bantick who died in 1960, and was a member of a family with very long associations with the village where she herself had lived for a great number of years. The last years of her life she spent in a home in Frinton suffering from a serious lack of eyesight.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY.

SERVICES AND EVENTS - JUNE 1987 - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 7th WHITSUNDAY 10.00am Family Eucharist
11.00am Sidesmen's meeting in church
6.30pm Evensong and sermon
Tuesday 9th 7.00pm Working party in churchyard
Thursday 11th S.BARNABAS Ap. 7.30am Holy Communion
Friday 12th 7.00pm Working party in churchyard
Saturday 13th Seven Rivers Fete – Flowers in church
Sunday 14th TRINITY SUNDAY 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sunday School
10.45am Mattins and sermon
6.30pm Evensong and sermon
Thursday 18th CORPUS CHRISTI 7.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 21st TRINITY 1 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sunday School
10.45am Parish Eucharist
Wednesday 24th S. JOHN BAPTIST 7.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 28th TRINITY 2 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Sunday School
10.45am Mattins and sermon
3.00pm Evensong attended by Tendring Hundred Masonic Lodge
Monday 29th S. PETER 7.30am Holy Communion

METHODIST SERVICES.

Sunday 7th Burnt Heath 10.45am Mr. R. D. G. Banyard
Whitsunday Balls Green 10.00am The Revd. C. Moore-Crispin
Sunday 13th Burnt Heath 10.45am Mrs. S. Pratt
Balls Green 11.00am The Revd. J. Robinson Holy Communion
Sunday 20th Burnt Heath 10.45am The Revd. J. Robinson Holy Communion
Balls Green 11.00am Mr. R. Ford
Sunday 28th Burnt Heath 10.45am Chief F. Olufolabi
Balls Green 11.00am Mr. D. Green

FLOWERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

7th Whitsun Sunday 14th Cheshire Home Fete
Sunday 21st Mrs. E. Sutherland Sunday 28th Mrs J. Jolley

SERVERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 7th 10.00am Robert Harding
Sunday 14th 8.00am James Heaney
Sunday 21st 8.00am
10.45am John Clapham
Sunday 28th 8.00am Bill Kempster

SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

* ANNUAL FETE *

Saturday 13th June, 11.00am.

Official Opening At 12 Noon by MICHAEL SPEAKE OF ANGLIA TV.

Punch & Judy Show * Tug of War

Holmewood House School Jazz Band * Morris Men

Bouncy Castle * Fire Engine

Film Show Of 1986 Pete * Crafts

Beautiful Baby Contest * Stalls

Sideshowes * Refreshments

The Royal Hospital School Band

And Many Other Attractions

Entrance 50p - Children Free

Free Parking

See The Flowers in S. George's Church

Coffee Morning and Sale of Work, Thursday November 19th

CHESHIRE HOMES ARE ALL ABOUT CARING - IN SO MANY WAYS

PLEASE HELP US TO GO ON CARING - AND EXPANDING CARE

Editorial.

Already this summer we have welcomed to Great Bromley a number of visitors from the United States, all being descended from Gregory and Simon Stone who, in 1635, sailed to, and settled in, the State of Massachusetts.

They are all interested to see the church where their ancestors were baptised, married, worshipped and were buried, and also the village where they all lived so very many years ago. One recent visitor sent, on returning home, a photograph of the headstone and grave in a cemetery at Watertown, Massachusetts, of Simon Stone; a most interesting picture to add to the growing amount of information I have about the Stone family.

We try to keep in touch with as many of our visitors as possible – one way is via the 'Messenger'. Each month I send several copies to addresses in the United States. Our sponsors and advertisers will be interested to learn that one of our sponsors has received from Florida an enquiry by telephone, concerning the business advertised in last years sponsor list! I know from information that I have received that the 'Messengers' sent to America are passed from hand to hand and read by a very large number of people. As 4th July is American Independence Day it is most appropriate in this July edition to send our greetings especially to our American readers - and also to thank them for their interest in, and their support for what goes on in the village. Perhaps one of our American friends might like to send an article for inclusion in a future edition of our magazine. Our thanks go this month to the residents and organisations who between them have sponsored this issue. Their names are listed on the back page. As they are to sponsor another issue in April, 1988, if anyone would like to join in the sponsorship, the Treasurer, Len Christodoulides, would be pleased to hear from them.

Please can items for inclusion in the August edition be sent or given to the Rector by Sunday, 12th July.

JOHN WATTS.

After living in the Cheshire Home for many years, John Watts has now moved into a flat of his own in Ipswich. For the past fifteen years he has sung as a tenor in S. George's Church Choir and has been a very effective and helpful member of the Parochial Church Council. We will miss him very much but wish him joy and happiness in his new home.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 21st MAY.

All the Councillors signed the acceptance of office. Mr. Henry Fairley was again elected as Chairman with Mr. George Kempster as Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Angela Prior was elected as Councillor with particular responsibility for footpaths, and Mr. Len Christodoulides accepted responsibility for the Playing Field. The Council representative with the Tendring Association of Local Councils is Mr. George Kempster.

An enforcement order has been placed on Brook Farm buildings requiring them to comply strictly with the conditions placed on them when planning permission was given.

The War Memorial is to be cleaned by Mr. John Sergeant who offered to carry out the work free of labour charge if the Parish Council would pay for the materials, costing between £15 and £30.

A letter was received from Tendring District Council regarding the proposed closure of Weeley Fire Station and inviting comment. The Parish Council were completely in favour of the retention of the Station.

The Parish Council is to sponsor the 'Bromley Messenger' to the sum of £90. it was reported that £155 has been received in donations from residents and organisations of the village. A copy of the magazine has been forwarded to the Essex Association of Local Councils for inclusion in a Parish Magazine Competition.

A letter has been sent to R. West and East Coast Disposal regarding lorries passing through the village with their loads not being properly secured resulting in waste being scattered on the roads.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Thursday, 9th July, at 7.30pm.

HARE GREEN PLAYING FIELD.

For over seventeen years there has been a Playing Field Committee. Its job was to look after the Playing Field so that the local residents could enjoy its amenities. Once Great Bromley had a football team which regularly played on the pitch, with Miss Eileen Blumson making the teas. Later on Ken Lovett with meticulous attention kept the Committee on its toes, finally Tony Aldous tried to keep the enthusiasm going. but alas, with his sad death, the Committee has collapsed. In the meantime, as the land belongs to the Parish, the Parish Council will take care of it. We must however, ask several questions about the Playing Field.

1. Who uses it?
2. What does it need to be used more?
3. is the £500 per annum spent on it worth it?
4. Should the land be sold and the money spent on other amenities?

The future of the Playing Field is in your hands, and if you feel that you would like to become a member of a new committee, please contact me -
Len Christodoulides, Magnolia House, Bromley Road, Frating. (251264).

ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH {ARC}.

A new branch of ARC for The Bromleys has been formed with Mrs. H. Varney as Chairman, Mrs. J. London as Secretary, and Mrs. Pam Wright as Treasurer. Mrs. Carol Eugster and Mrs. Joyce Fairley are Committee members.

The House-to-House collection in May, organised by Mrs. Hattersley and Mrs. Landon, raised £159.32 pence. Many thanks to all for their support. It is hoped to have a stall at forthcoming village events and to hold some other functions during the year.

GREAT BROMLEY GARDEN CLUB.

Members spent an interesting evening visiting four members gardens on 26th May, starting at Mr. and Mrs. A. Chilvers, on to Mr. and Mrs. S. West, then to Mr. and Mrs. D. Wright, and ending at Mr. and Mrs. B. Booty's garden.

On 14th July there is a visit to Alison Smith's Nursery; meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm. On 21st July there is a visit to Great Bentley Garden Club at the Old Village Hall, Great Bentley at 8.00pm for the Fuchsia Show Time. On 27th July there is a visit to P. Coles Akenfield Garden, Churlesworth, meeting at the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Non-members are always welcome at any of the meetings and visits.

OPEN GARDEN DAY - SUNDAY 5th July, 12 noon to 6.00pm.

Tickets for the Open Garden Day are now available from the Village Post Office, Committee members or order by telephone - Colchester 230663.

A car boot sale will be held in Church Meadow and stalls will be set up in Copley Dene drive.

These can be pre-booked by telephone (230663)

An Art and Craft Exhibition and a Children's Painting Competition will be held in the Village Hall where Bar-B-Q lunches will be available from 12 noon until 2.00pm, and teas from 2.00pm to 5.30pm. It is hoped that music will be played on the church organ during the afternoon. The day will end with a service of Songs of Praise in S. George's church at 6.30pm.

Please help to make this day a success. If you can help with car parking, stalls, tea helpers, stewarding or by helping to provide food for refreshments, please contact Jean Wright (230663). This event is being held to help raise funds for important and urgent repairs to the Village Hall.

GREAT BROMLEY OF OLD.

Concerning the piece in the 'Messenger' about The Guildhall, I do not think that many people know it as Guildhall as it was always called the Workhouse. I spent many happy hours there with a little friend who lived in one of the houses. There were seven lets and there was our place called the Washhouse - this was also used as a brewhouse for brewing of beer and as a slaughterhouse for killing of pigs.

At that time my family lived at the Firs where Mrs. Grace Gould lives now, so that the workhouse people were our nearest neighbours.

Lilia Cole.

I remember the cottages at Guildhall because I lived there about seventy-three years ago. It was known then as the workhouseyard. How I came to live there was that my mother died and the family got split up for a time and I went there. Some of the other people who lived there were Ted and Jim Frain, Sam Bloyce, George Hansom, Jim Skeet. Some of them got water from a well and some from a pump. At the back was a lot of ground with big gardens.

Jim Sparrow.

GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

On Wednesday, 29th July, we go to Blickling Hall, the coach leaving Elmstead with the first pick-up at 10.00am. We hope the outing will be as enjoyable as our mystery tour around Belchamps which was delightful with tea in a beautifully thatched house.

Joan Furlong and friends will be entertaining us at the July monthly meeting on Thursday, 16th. The competition will in fact, be two competitions! a foliage pot plant and a flowering pot plant. Members can enter both competitions if they wish.

Mildred Purkis.

GREAT BROMLEY JUBILEE CARNIVAL. DAY, 6th JUNE 1987.

Once again for our 11th Carnival we were lucky with fine weather for the occasion. The Committee would like to thank all who helped in any way to make the day such a success. Thirteen floats took part in the procession, headed by the Wickford Youth Band and Majorettes. The winner of the Adult Float was the Women's Institute with the Pantomime Group second. In the Junior class the Playgroup won the first prize with S. George's School and the Brownies being awarded an equal second prize. The entries were judged by Graham Pass of BBC Radio Essex and the Rector and Mrs. Davis.

At the Horticultural Show the overall Junior prize went to S. Golding and the Senior prize was won by Mrs. J. Wright. A very interesting display of old farm implements was provided by Mr. James Wilde. In the evening a very successful Disco and Dance was held to round off a very happy and successful day.

Jean Wright.

THE BROMLEY BUSKERS.

At the Annual General Meeting of The Buskers held recently, all members were saddened by the recent sudden death of one of its most popular members, Tony Aldous. He will be remembered, not only for his great talent displayed on the stage, but also for his expertise behind the stage both before and after the show. His wife Margaret, and all his family will no doubt take great comfort in the fact that almost every member of The Buskers, along with many other friends, were present at his funeral service.

It was decided at the meeting to give a donation of £1,000 to the Village Hall Committee towards the restoration of the floor. Arrangements were made for our Christmas Party Show to be held on Saturday, 12th December, and also for a completely new show, our Annual Offering, on Friday and Saturday, 8th and 9th April, 1988. Early booking for these shows is advised. Further details will be published in later editions of the Bromley Messenger.

GREAT BROMLEY GIRL GUIDES.

During May the guides spent an evening of cooking, and another for camp practise. However, the latter evening was far too wet for tents and we had to be content with talking about them in the Hut. Thankfully this was not an omen of things to come and, although we arrived to a wet site at Bentley Grove, Suffolk at Spring Bunk Holiday weekend, the sun soon came out and, apart from a few showers overnight, we had lovely weather throughout the four days camping with Walton-on-the-Naze Guides and Guiders. Miss Canzoni, our hostess, assured us that they always pray in church for good weather when there is a camp coming in. After setting up camp on Saturday the Guides had a village quiz and in the evening at Camp Fire, we practiced the Guide 75th Anniversary song, 'Join Hands' as we had been asked to sing something at Bentley Church Morning Service. This went very well and for the last chorus, some of the choir 'joined hands' too.

This was our first sunny walk and for the second, on Monday, we walked on the Essex side of the Stour from Cattawade to Flatford for a picnic, and then back on the Suffolk side, naming the wild flowers as we went, and, taking a half mile detour to avoid a bull in the field where the

public footpath goes. We finished camp at 5.00pm on Tuesday which left time for challenges and patrol cooking as well as striking camp and tidying up - Guides leave nothing behind but their thanks! Cooking was done in foil so there were no pots and pans to be cleaned at the last moment. Camp must surely be the highlight of the year. We made lots of friends in a very happy camp, and we wish good luck to Walton Guider, Mrs. Hilary Russell, when she holds her Camp Licensee test camp in July.

In June we will have a stall at the village carnival and Guides of Tendring and Elmstead will be supporting once again the County Stall at the Cheshire Fete.

GREAT BROMLEY BROWNIES.

In the half-term holiday the Brownies had a picnic at Park Farm. They really enjoyed seeing the day-old ducklings and all the pigs. We walked there from the Hut in lovely weather, and practised our flower spotting. Seventeen varieties were seen before time dictated that we travelled at a faster pace!

On 12th June there is the 'Brownie Revels' - this year 'Red Indians' at the Hewitt Hall in Dedham. This is the event when all the Brownies in the District have a chance to 'mix and match'.

We are starting to prepare for our Pack Holiday at the end of August; things like laying tables and packing suitcases are being tried. Brownie badges gained are:

Conservation: Clare, Elizabeth, Susannah, Emma, Zoe, Julie, Sarah, Lynn.

Swimmers: Susannah and Sarah. Roadway: Elizabeth. Footpath: Lynn.

S. GEORGE'S (CHURCH OF ENGLAND) SCHOOL NEWS.

The children enjoyed taking part in the Carnival Parade. This year they dressed as animals from Regents Park Zoo. The crocodile had a nasty moment when her head blew over the hedge and one or two of the animals had trouble with their feet ~ but it was all good fun. Many thanks to all the mums and dads who had been tearing their hair out over the costumes.

Our school rounders team was very successful on the 10th June at Manningtree Area Rounders Tournament. After a very exciting afternoon it was found that Great Bromley and Mistley Schools were equal at the top with six points. The number of rounders scored during the four matches were then counted and Mistley won the cup having scored fifteen rounders to our nine. Great Bromley won the Runners-Up Shield. Congratulations therefore, to Brian Sutton. Stuart Simons. Angus Rae, Nicholas Thompson, Eleanor Terry, Julie Twilley, Wendy Riches, Andrew Golding, Helen Costello and Jamie Abbott.

Congratulations are also due to all the children who painted or drew pictures of Colchester for the Cheshire Fete Competition, for their combined efforts won us the Torch Cup for yet another year. Some children won individual prizes for their pictures and are as follows:

7 years old and under:

1st prize Leanne Elliott.

2nd prize Kevin Long .

3rd prize Charlotte Knappett.

(Christopher Fryer, Kate Fisher and Helen Foot were Highly Commended for their pictures in this class.)

8-10 years old:

Joint 2nd Prize Nicole Abbott.

(Jonathan Haste and Adam Ardleigh were Highly Commended).

11-13 years old 3rd Prize Claire Twilley.

Sports Day was abandoned on Tuesday, 3rd June, due to the bad weather, but we hope to hold it on 14th July - with the added attraction of tea and scones for gallant supporters, and ice-cream for those under eleven years old. Could someone please tell Michael Fish??

The poet Mike Guivar will be visiting the school on Monday, 15th June - so look out in the next 'Messenger' for inspired contributions by S. George's School pupils!

Finally, the PTA have, by popular request, arranged another Barn Dance to take place on Saturday, 18th July. Mr. Henry Fairley is kindly allowing us to use his spacious barn at Park Farm again. The caller is Ron Cox; the magnificent supper will be prepared by the PTA Committee, and there will be a bar. What more could you ask? It is an evening not to be missed. Tickets are available from the school at £2.50 each.

THE TENDRING SHOW 1987.

This year's show date is Saturday, 11th July, and once again Lawford is the venue. Twelve months have gone by since the last show and at one stage, time seemed plentiful - now it is the other way about and much needs to be done, not least the lay-out of the ground, marking the sites of tents and rings, and also the tidying-up jobs which are ever necessary. This was something that Arthur Pearce used to do, but he has now decided, on being eighty, that it is time somebody else had a chance to show what they can do. If anyone in the villages is looking for a casual job at this time of the year, give Robert Harding a ring on Colchester 230425 - there could be something for you.

For the first time this year the club arranged two Open Days, one for secondary schools of the district and the other for the public, both at Stacies Farm, Little Bromley, where the Club's President, Lindsay Lennox farms and has his home. The public day was not a great success if numbers are the criterion, but there was a restricted invitation list. The day was overcast and people were few, but as always when numbers are short, there was an air of adventure and interest, not only to the visitors, but to the club members who took part. The School's Day by contrast, was bright and soft; the attendance a full one and much appreciated by the pupils and teachers with GCSE examinations ahead.

In this test there is a rural option and this Open Day was directed to the passing on of factual information about farming, water resources, the land, livestock and conservation aspects of a farmer's business.

On the Show Ground this year the schools exhibition will be larger than it has ever been, reflecting the enthusiastic approach of Mrs. Annabel Glover and the schools taking part. There will be one or two innovations in the Grand Ring programme, and not before time some will say(!) but they are all directed to what goes on in the Tendring Hundred, which is the show's aim, to demonstrate in a traditional fashion at an Agricultural Show.

There is an imaginative outlook in the Poultry Club's exhibition tent where conducted tours will be available to explain points of breeding and poultry husbandry - an idea put forward by Len Frost who lived for many years at Burnt Heath before moving to Alresford.

BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems) will be providing a baby minding service for two hours during the morning and another two hours after lunch, but the two sessions will be separated by lunch time. BLISS will be found near the Art Tent where there will be four exhibitions in all. The Art Show; a retrospective exhibition of Ceramics of the late John Dan; an exhibition of canvasses and paintings by John F. Keeble and paintings by Richard Hull.

A full day's entertainment, entry £3.00 per adult, £2.00 for children and OAPs - but tickets bought before the day from the Secretary, at 74 Oaklands Avenue, Colchester, will cost adults £2.00 each and children and OAPs £1.00 each. Car parking is free and no long walks are entailed.

Robert Harding.

1st ARDLEIGH SCOUT GROUP (YOUR LOCAL SCOUTS).

The Scout, Troop started on 2nd June when seven boys attended the first meeting. With another three boys available from the Cubs and another older boy joining in the second week we have the basis of a very successful troop. Meetings are on Tuesday evenings in the Vicar's Room, Ardleigh, from 7.15 to 9.00pm. If you are interested and you are between the ages of 10 and 15, you are very welcome. We have had four older boys come along, two fourteen and two thirteen, and with the seven 10-11 year olds from the Cubs we have the complete age range, so why not come and see what it is all about. The activities are varied, and we are aiming to run it as Scouts should be run, with the boys organising most of the activities, many of which will be outside events. The Cubs have had an interesting month, and they have visited Minsmere and Sizewell, and will be going to Gillwell Open Day in the near future. "

At present the Beavers and Cubs are full, but hopefully, as boys go up over the next few months to the Cub and Scout sections, boys on the waiting lists will be invited to come in.

If you have a son interested please contact me in the first instance and I will put you in touch with the leader of the appropriate section. If there are any adults willing to help with any section, either as a Leader, or in any other capacity, please contact me at The Nook, Colchester Road, Great Bromley. Colchester 230490.

John Terry.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH NEWS.

What a joy it is to know that at last, a start has been made on the repairs to the church. The problems which were discovered in the roof of the South Aisle are being dealt with at this very moment. This involves the replacing of some of the roofing, cutting out and replacement of some of the interior wooden beams on the inside of the roof, and a de-infestation of the timber by injection and spraying of chemicals.

On looking at the timbers by climbing the scaffolding it is interesting to reflect that the wood which is being replaced has been in position since the church was built over six hundred years ago! This part of the repairs is costing something in the region of £9,000. Having dealt with that problem we are now looking forward to commencing work on the tower.

Because of the work going on in the church it has been necessary this year to curtail to a degree, the Flower Festival which customarily is held in the church to coincide with the Cheshire Home Fete. We apologise to anyone who was disappointed by their visit this year. However, we will be holding a Flower Festival over the weekend of 5th and 6th September when we hope to welcome many visitors.

JUST FOUR PEOPLE.

They were named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about it because it was Everybody's job, Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody would not do it.

In the end Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Anon.

CARNIVAL.

Much hard work goes into Carnival Day.

Thoughts too, will it rain? will it pay?

A celebrity is booked to open it all.

Queens and floats, forms and fixing of stalls,

Horticultural Show to get under way.

Field to peg out, insurance for day,

Dance at night to be catered for.

Satisfying to say 'It went quite well',

Thanks for the helping hands what tell

'We'd surely welcome many more',

For at the end of the day were on our knees,

So give it serious thought PLEASE.

B. Rowe.

SERVICES AT S. CHURCH'S CHURCH - AND EVENTS - JULY 1987.

Sunday 5th TRINITY 3 10.00am Family Eucharist

& VILLAGE GARDEN DAY 6.30pm Songs of Praise

Monday 6th 8.00pm Flower Festival Meeting

Saturday 11th Tendring Show

Sunday 12th TRINITY 4 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School

10.45am Mattins and sermon

6.30pm Evensong

Tuesday 14th S. George's School Sports Day

Sunday 19th TRINITY 5 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School .

10.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Friday 24th End of Summer Term at S. George's School

Saturday 25th S. JAMES THE APOSTLE 7.30am Holy Communion

7.30pm Mediaeval Mystery - Church

Sunday 26th TRINITY 6 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Sunday School
10.45am Mattins and sermon
6.30pm Evensong

METHODIST SERVICES.

Sunday 5th Burnt Heath 10.45am The Revd. J. Robinson
Balls Green 11.00am Mr. A. Mounteney
Sunday 12th Burnt Heath 10.45am Miss R. Lord
Balls Green 11.00am Miss D. Webb
Sunday 19th Burnt Heath 10.45am Mr. B. Clow
Balls Green 11.00am The Revd. J. Robinson
Sunday 26th Burnt Heath 10.45am Mr. M. Clegg
Balls Green 11.00am Mrs. L. Fisher

FLOWERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 5th Mrs. H. Hall Sunday 19th Mrs. P. Greenfield
Sunday 12th Mrs. R. Heaney Sunday 26th Mrs. G. Hines .

SERVERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 5th 10.00am Robert Harding
Sunday 12th 8.00am James Heaney
Sunday 19th 10.45am John Clapham
Sunday 20th 8.00am Bill Kempster

SIDESMEN - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

8.00am 10.45am 6.30pm
10am

Sunday 5th Mrs. J. Harding Mr. J. Clapham
Sunday 12th Mrs. M. West Mr. D. Rogerson Mr. H. Fairley
Sunday 19th Mr. Grainger Brown Major J. Heaney Mr. G. Kempster
Sunday 20th Miss F. Orman Mr. Lock Mr. D. Sparling

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Growmore £1.20 per 10 lb.

Forest Bark £2.50 per 65 l. .

Moss Killer £2.00 per 10 lb. '

Lawn Sand £3.30 per 25 kg. Heathers 55p

Conifers, Fuchsias, Geraniums, Hanging Baskets, etc.

just a few of the items on sale - IN THE VILLAGE

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ROLINE NURSERY HARWICH ROAD, GREAT BROMLEY

Ring for Free Estimates – COLCHESTER 251479

SPONSOR'S PAGE

We gratefully acknowledge donations from the following Residents, Friends, and Village organisations who have made the publication of this issue of 'The Messenger' possible.

Mrs. Landon	Great Bromley Women's Institute
Mrs I . Wilkinson	Great Bromley Carnival Committee
Mr and Mrs. Appleby	Great Bromley Friendship Club
Mr Francis	Great Bromley Garden Club
Mr and Mrs F. Erith	The Rector and Mrs M . Davis
Mr & Mrs S. Cooper	Mr & Mrs Griffiths
Mrs Marshall	Miss Skeet
Mrs Gordon	Mr and Mrs L. Christodoulides
Mr and Mrs C. Frostick	Mr P. Oliphant
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A total of £165 has been donated

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH, GREAT BROMLEY

Don't Miss Our Church Drama

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TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

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Great Bromley Post Office

ADULTS: £2.00

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EDITORIAL.

As I write this I have before me a rather battered and dog-eared copy of the Great Bromley S. George's parish magazine for August 1917!! in which is recorded activities which happened seventy years ago, towards the end of a horrifying war. On the front are listed the Rector, the Revd. J. W. Wardle, the Churchwardens, Sidesmen, the Church Clerk, the Organist and the sixteen members of the church choir. Inside is another list of all the men from the village serving in the Forces - a very long list for such a small village - and a smaller list, but a very poignant one, of men from the village killed in action, men whose names are inscribed on our war memorial. Perhaps the most interesting section is that of the advertisements. Did you know (some of you will remember I know) that at Mr. Stephenson's shop, 1 High Street, you could buy drapery, grocery, hardware, furnishings, boots and shoes, suits ready-made and made to measure, new and second-hand furniture, carpets and linoleum. home cured hams, chaps, coke, coal and corn? Who needed a Supermarket in those days? The magazine is a fascinating record of the social history of seventy years ago. I wonder what a future reader of this issue in the year 2057 will make of the variety of contributions in this issue. (PS - where is Great Bromley High Street?).

Our thanks this month go to the 1st Ardleigh Scout Group, the 1st Great Bromley Brownies and Guides and Oddbods Disco for sponsoring this issue of the magazine and enabling us to deliver it free to your home. Contributions for the August edition should be sent to the Rector by Monday, 10th August, at the latest please.

GEORGE'S CHURCH REPAIRS.

The good news is that the external and internal repairs on the South Chapel of S. George's church have now been completed. The rotted and decayed timbers in the roof have been replaced, the problem of death watch beetle in this part of the church has been dealt with, and the roof is now completely water-tight.

Whilst removing some of the damaged plaster on the South wall, the contractors uncovered a small portion of wall painting. This is part of a decorated frieze which in all probability surrounds a major painting, almost certainly mediaeval. The record of a Will made in 1454 states that an image of Christopher was to be painted on that wall. It may be that the frieze uncovered may be part of this painting. We hope, at some time, to investigate further to find out whether or not this is so. On the advice of a Fine Art Specialist, this small portion of painting was left exposed when the plaster was replaced.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH NEWS.

At the last meeting of the Parochial Church Council, a great deal of thought was given to the arrangements made for Sunday School meeting and Morning Service. In order that it might be possible for parents to attend morning services and for their children to attend Sunday School meetings, it was decided that, commencing on Sunday, 6th September, the services on Sunday mornings will commence each Sunday at 10.30am.

The Sunday School meetings will commence at the same time, 10.30am, and they will meet, not in the church, but in S. George's School. On the first Sunday in each month we will continue with the Sunday School coming to church to join in the Family Eucharist. I am sure that it will make sense to have the service each Sunday morning at the same time. The service on that Sunday is to be simplified so that the children can understand it better and take a real and active part in it.

The FCC is seeking permission to remove three pews from the North aisle of the church to clear the Stone window and to provide more display space, and also to install on the East wall of the Lady Chapel, an Aumbry with a bracket lamp. An Aumbry is a small safe designed to keep the Blessed Sacrament after it has been consecrated at the Holy Eucharist so that it may readily be available to be taken out to anyone, especially the sick, in their homes who may ask to receive Holy Communion. A notice of the application has been affixed to the door of the parish church, and anyone who objects to this is asked to write to the Diocesan Registrar, Guy Harlings, New Street, Chelmsford, no later than Saturday, 8th August, 1987.

PARISH FESTIVAL 1987 - SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 5th and 6th SEPTEMBER.

On this flower festival weekend, with the theme 'A Musical Extravaganza', there will be a concert in church on Saturday evening at 7.00pm. This will include works for the organ played by Mr. Conrad Cole, songs by Miss Belinda Pedder and a recital of mixed works from the Colchester Classical Guitar Group. Programmes giving entry will be on sale at £1.50 each, available from Jean Harding, Betty Rowe or the Rector. During Saturday afternoon stalls and teas will be available in Church Meadow - any help for these will be welcome. Please contact Mrs. Lorna Brown (250260).

On sale will be a new colour post card of the church and packets of notelets with a line drawing of the church. On Sunday, 6th September, the Family Eucharist will be at the new time of 10.30am, and at Evensong at 6.30pm, the preacher will be the Revd. John Robinson, Minister of the Methodist church. A warm welcome and invitation is given to the members of the Methodist chapels in the village to this service.

At this weekend we hope to raise extra funds to enable us to commence the repair work on the tower early in 1988.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL THURSDAY 9th JULY.

Twelve members of the public were present at this meeting, together with Parish Councillors. Arising from the last meeting it was reported that the gross and hedgecutting of the Playing Field, and the cleaning of the War Memorial were in hand. Tendring District Council have issued an enforcement order on Brook Farm buildings, requiring them to observe the terms of hours of work, access, storage and landscaping.

The members of the public raised two points. First, that damage has been caused to road surfaces and verges in Chase Road by building contractor's vehicles. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the contractor and to Essex County Council asking that something be done to rectify this matter. Second, acute anxiety was suffered by many residents who thought that the Playing Field might be sold for development. They were assured that this is not so. The majority feeling was that there was no need for a committee to be formed to run the Playing Field, and it was categorically stated that all the local residents required was for the green to be cut on a regular basis and to keep the Playing Field as an open space amenity. This the Parish Council agreed to do.

Trees have again been offered by Tendring District Council for planting in rural aspects where they will be able to be seen by the public. The offer was accepted by the Parish Council and the Chairman, Mr. H. Fairley, will keep in close contact with the District Council on this matter. Notification has been received that K. F. Avis and P. G. Field were applying, on 27th July, for a transfer of the license to them in respect of the Cross Inn.

Essex County Council Highways Department has agreed to investigate complaints regarding a ditch running between Red Cottage and Spinney House Farm.

OPEN GARDEN DAY - SUNDAY 5th JULY.

The report of this very successful occasion will be one of thanks which the committee would like to pass on to everyone who helped in any way. Especially thanked are the residents who opened their gardens for the event; those who decorated Burnt Heath Chapel and S. George's church, Mr. and Mrs. Simons for opening their vineyard. Without refreshment no function can be a success, so thanks go to those who provided cakes for teas; those ladies who served teas at the Village Hall, and to Alison and Derek for cooking the lunchtime barbeque. Thanks go also to those who supplied goods for the stalls, and to the Friendship Club and Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hayward who donated all their takings to the Garden Day Funds.

We are most grateful to Paul Simons and Keith Fletcher for playing the organ in S. George's church during the afternoon. Very much appreciated were the art and craft show by the Post Office Art and Craft Club, the exhibitions by Kit Leese and G. van der Bijl, and the knitting exhibition by Mrs. Wilkinson. The total raised by this day for the Village Hall Funds was approximately £450. Thank you everybody who helped, took part in. or supported this venture.
Jean Wright.

S. GEORGE'S SCHOOL.

Since the last report we have been very busy. We sent a team of children to take part in the Manningtree Area Primary Schools Sports Day on the 17th June, and although black clouds threatened, it actually stayed dry. We enjoyed the afternoon and had some successes ~ but no cup for us this year! This term we were lucky enough to have help and expert advice from John Griffin from the Computer Department at Brentwood College, and Jane, an amazingly slim and enthusiastic keep-fit instructress. PC Ken Woodhams, our village policeman, has visited the school twice now to introduce himself to all the children, and to show them his uniform and police car. The children were allowed to try on his helmet and handcuffs, and they swarmed over his patrol car while he requested a check on all the staff's cars over the police radio! His colleagues from the Crime Prevention Office offered to come and stamp the post code on the children's bicycles as a way of identifying bikes that are stolen. We agreed readily but pointed out that only about half-a-dozen of the children cycle to school. However, on the appointed day, thirty-eight bikes turned up at school, which kept the team busy all morning.

The Garden Day had us busily painting and drawing gardens for the exhibition in the Village Hall and we chose 'Flowers' as our theme for the Tendring Hundred Show exhibition.

The children enjoyed the visit by Mike Cowar, the poet, and as promised in the last magazine, here is one of the children's poems:

Colours. .

I think of blue sky
When people say blue.
White makes me think
Of paper, clean and new.
Green makes me think
of the colour of peas
And grass and Moss,
And hedges and trees.
Black makes me think
of the sky at night.
Pink makes me think
Of my house, painted bright.
Yellow is the sand
Where we play on the beach,
Yellow is the skin of a juicy peach.
Purple makes me think
Of lupins, near our school.
Red makes me think of poppies
In the field of corn, so tall.
David Rogerson {aged 7}.

Our first Governor's meeting for parents took place on 7th July. The turnout of eight parents was disappointing, but we hope to do better next year.

On 9th July Mrs. Tucker's class (5 and 6 years old) enjoyed a visit to Colchester Castle, and on 14th July, Mrs. Fitzgerald's class (10 and 11 years old) visited Mersea Island and the swimming pool at Mersea Youth Camp. On 16th July Mrs. Tilbrook's class (8 and 9 years old) visited the Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket, and on 1st July, Mrs. Stokes' class (6 and 7 years old) spent a day at Castle Park. Sports Day was held on 14th July, the championship shield being won by Drake House.

At the end of this term we will say goodbye to our fourth years: Helen Costello, Eleanor Terry, Claire Twilley, Wendy Riches, Helen Jeffries, Michael Doyle, Robin Haste, Brian Sutton, Angus Rae, Nicholas Thompson and Jamie Abbott. We have arranged a Disco and Barbeque for them (and the second and third years) on the evening of the last Thursday of term. The Rector and S. George's church have kindly presented each child who is leaving to go to a secondary school with a copy of the New Testament. We wish them all every success in the future.

We are now looking forward to the summer holidays before resuming again on Tuesday, 8th September. Happy holidays to you all!

THANK YOU RECTOR.

Thank you Rector, for being such a good sport and joining in the egg-and-spoon race at our school sports.

Julie Twilley Class 12.

GREAT BROMLEY AND DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB.

Another season is well and truly upon us with the weather being the winner at the beginning as several matches had to be abandoned, or cancelled, due to rain!

On 20th June our Annual Chairman's Day was held and a most enjoyable day was had by all, meeting Life VP's, VP's past, cricket players and friends. The only disappointment during the latter part of the afternoon was the weather and eventually the match had to be abandoned with the Great Bromley XI still holding the 'Pirie Trophy' as they were last season's winner.

A Disco and Bar-b-que will be held on Saturday, 12th September, from 8-12pm at Ilex Farm, Burnt Heath, by kind permission of Mr. James Wild. Tickets, £2.50, available from Cricket Club members, or telephone 230375.

We hope to hold a Car Boot Sale on the cricket pitch on Sunday, 20th September from 10-12am.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMENS INSTITUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

It was with mounting curiosity that I travelled to the Albert Hall on 4th June as delegate for the Great Bromley and Erdelega Womens Institutes. Along with 6,000 others from all over England and Wales I enjoyed a stimulating and varied programme ably presided over by Mrs. Agnes Salter, the National Chairman. Essex being one of the largest County Federations was seated in the main body of the hall in a good position to hear and see.

1987 is the European Year of the Environment and this became the theme of the whole meeting. The guest speaker, Mr. Gordon Bedingfield, the well-known artist and naturalist, took up the theme in the afternoon and suggested that we need listed fragments of countryside just as we have listed buildings.

Perhaps his most telling statement was 'fly over England and you still see a lot of green countryside, but the picture is different if you walk in that countryside. It is too green - so many of our wild flowers have disappeared. If you look at a traditional hay meadow it is not bright green, it is a creamy yellow because of the flowers and grasses in it'.

The resolutions were well debated and showed that the WI is not all 'jam and Jerusalem'. They covered such topics as consumer credit, the proposed irradiation of food and earning and benefits, as well as an internal matter relating to subscriptions and affiliation fees. With 347,000 members, the WI is an influential voluntary body, so follow-up work both at national and at local level is important to make Members of Parliament and the relevant organisation aware of our concerns. Altogether a fascinating and interesting day.

Sue Orris.

Forthcoming Meetings. 5th August - summer Outing to Frinton Summer Theatre to see 'The Deep Blue Sea' by Terrence Rattigan. 2nd September - the Revd. J. Robinson, auction for funds. 17th September - visit to Bejams, Colchester.

THE REVEREND ARNOLD WARNOCK.

We were very sorry to hear of the death at the age of eighty-four years, of the Reverend Arnold Waldock in June. His ashes were buried in our churchyard.

For many years he had worked as a Priest in Central America, becoming Archdeacon of Nicaragua, before returning to this country in 1962. He was a great help to the parish, particularly in acting as Priest-in-Charge during two periods of interregnum.

THE BLACK BOY.

Kath Doyle kindly sent me a booklet about Essex inns which mentions the Black Boy's court association, and states also that there was a gallows here at the cross-roads. Two roads, each from useful creeks, meeting here may have provided fodder for it in the shape of smugglers, or a highwayman on the watch for a well-found merchant Colchester bound from Harwich.

I wonder, were their horses catered for where the garage is now? I know that some years ago an anvil was found there in a forgotten corner. Have you noticed that the Black Boy pond has been changed from a rubbish dump into an attractive garden feature? I have often wondered about this pond. There is no spring, it is filled only in a wet season. Some years ago, when alterations

were made at Bay Trees, I noticed that the exposed walls were of lath and plaster, the plaster being a yellow clay mixed with straw. The subsoil there is yellow (London?) clay, so was the hollow, now the pond, formed when clay was dug out for the building of the cottage and possibly the older (eastern) end of the inn?

I. Wilkinson.

GREAT BROMLEY OF OLD.

Following last month's recollections of The Guildhall, readers may be interested to know that it was demolished about 1950. Some of the oak beams were used in the construction of out-buildings for the present Guild-hall Orchard.

Guildhall Cottage, with the original chimney stack preserved, now stands precisely on the site of the northernmost wing of the workhouse, and water was still drawn from the well until a few years ago. The story runs that many years ago when one of the inhabitants died, the staircase proved too narrow for the coffin which had to be raised and lowered on ropes from a window.

Gerald Gurney.

SPONSORED DIOCESAN CYCLE RIDE. SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 1987.

Cyclists, young and old, are invited PLEASE to take part in the sponsored cycle ride arranged by the Friends of Essex Churches on Saturday, 5th September. You can choose your own route through the towns or villages, in country lanes in Essex or even Suffolk, calling at churches and chapels, where you will find architectural gems hidden away in quiet parts of the countryside, and friendly people manning them who sometimes even offer refreshment!

It makes a wonderful day out even for people who cycle only once a year! and by the end of the day it is surprising how many friends one has made either cycling or manning the churches. Go solo or go with others, but do get out your ancient or your modern machine and join us and help the church of your choice. For all the money that is raised is shared between one's chosen church or chapel and the Friends of Essex Churches Fund which has in fact, contributed towards the beautiful parish church of Great Bromley. All the cyclists will need sponsors so please, if you feel unable to take an active part, do offer to sponsor those who can. The ride takes place on our Flower Festival weekend, so let us all take part in one way or another. All enquiries please to Jean Harding (230425) or to the Rector (230344). .

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

The outing to Felixstowe on Election Day was a success; needless to say we all voted either before our departure or on our return! Although the sun was reluctant to shine we enjoyed our lunches on the sea front. Some of us visited the shops, some even dipped their toes in the briny, then off we went to Stowmarket where the ladies of the Reform Church had a delicious tea ready for us.

Mr. and Mrs. Redgrave will be transporting us to old Colchester with slides (a pleasure we were deprived of by the snow in January) at our August monthly meeting.

We shall be visiting the West Cliff Theatre on 13th August to see 'The Cascade Revue'. The coach will leave Elmstead with first pick-up at 6.30pm.

Mildred Purkis.

COLCHESTER CAT RESCUE ~ PENSOOMIS PET'OTEL.

A Garden Fete will be held at: Rosewood House, Ardleigh Road, Little Bromley on Saturday, 19th September, between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. All proceeds go to the Colchester Cat Rescue. Last year over two hundred people came and we raised over £400. There will be bric-a-brac, craft, home-made cakes and jam, clothes and many more stalls. Vintage car rides, pedigree cats on show and rabbits and guinea pigs and much more. There will be refreshments and free parking. This year we hope to have pony rides and one or two other different items in addition to those of last year. If anyone can help to provide pony rides, please contact Mrs. Peachey, tel 393527.

One new item will be a display of photographs of peoples cats, we are asking people to send us photographs of their kittens or cats, with their names and addresses on the reverse, together with a stamped and addressed envelope. These will be on display and people will be asked to vote for their favourite photograph by putting money in the cup accompanying the photo. At the end of the Fete the donations will be counted and the photos returned telling how much their photograph has raised and a little present for the one who raised the most money.

The raffle of course, is always popular and donations for that, and all the other stalls will be most welcome. If people want to donate and have no transport, then I will be pleased to collect donations from them.

Last year we had a beautiful day, the sun shone for us and everyone commented on how much they enjoyed themselves. We hope this year will be the same and we raise even more money for Colchester's unwanted cats. If you need any more information, please telephone me.

Mrs. P. A. Peachey.

BROWNIES.

The summer holidays are here and for us, that means Pack Holiday. We have been packing suitcases, folding clothes, laying tables and sewing sitters at our meetings in readiness. Please note Mums, all the Brownies are now very capable! Brown Owl even tried the un-laying trick with the loss of only two items - luckily they were plastic! Our new District Commissioner, Mrs. Marion Livermore, joined us for a meeting and spent her time happily helping to thread needles and joining in the games. She presented Dormouse (Madeline) with her Young Leader's Certificate. Our Pack Holiday theme this year is 'Up the Faraway Tree' where I am sure we will find many exciting 'lands'. These you will be able to read about in later magazines.

On Wednesday, 15th July, Eleanor Henderson now has a Brownie Birthday as that is the day on which she made her Promise. We then packed into cars to visit the Bradfield Brownies and to join in an evening of fun and games. Several names were learnt in readiness for Pack Holiday, Such as Silky, Whiskers, Washalot, Saucepan, Moonface. Our first meeting in September will be on Wednesday, 9th. New faces will be welcome, and just to remind you, we start at 5.15pm and end at 7.00pm.

Jacqui Terry.

1st ARDLEIGH SCOUT GROUP.

The Group has had a very active month. A barbecue was held in my garden on the 3rd July and we were blessed with perfect weather for the occasion. The evening was a success and we believe we made over £100 profit. As well as the barbecue there was a prize draw with many exciting prizes, and many sideshows. May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their help. The Beavers had a District Day where the theme was cowboys and Indians and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It has now come to the end of this session and ten of the Beavers will be joining the Cub section when we recommence in September. This will mean that boys in the village who are of the right age and on the waiting list will be taken into the Colony.

Last Thursday, 9th July, I attended a Cub meeting where the boys were cooking beefburgers, sausages, beans etc., and again a perfect evening. At the end of this meeting I took part in a Going Up Ceremony of Cubs to Scouts. Before the actual ceremony a lot of Cub badges were presented.

The Pack has been doing a project on conservation and a lot of boys had gained this badge. Four boys then went up to the Scout Section, all of them had gained their Link badge and therefore made their promise on the Scout flag and became full members of the Troop.

One boy was on holiday and will be invested on his return. It was great to see ten boys all in Scout uniform so soon after the opening of the Scout section. With two more starting this week we have seven boys from Great Bromley in the Troop, so again. may I appeal for boys in this age range (10-15) to come along and join us.

John Terry.

GARDEN CLUB.

Members spent an interesting evening at Anne Lunn's polyanthus and primula garden, The Fens, Langham, set in a very picturesque setting on 30th June. .

Future Dates:

27th July - Outing Peggy Coles Garden, Charlesfield. Meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

27th August - Outing and Barn Supper at Olivers Nursery, Colchester. Meet at the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

New members welcome and non-members always welcome at meetings and visits.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - AUGUST 1987.

Sunday 2nd TRINITY 7 10.00am Family Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Thursday 6th TRANSFIGURATION 11.00am Holy Communion - Seven Rivers

Sunday 9th TRINITY 8 8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Mattins and Sermon

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Sunday 16th TRINITY 9 8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Sunday 23rd TRINITY 10 S. BARTHOLOMEW 8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Mattins and Sermon

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

Sunday 30th TRINITY 11 8.00am Holy Communion

10.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong and Sermon

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING AUGUST.

METHODIST SERVICES.

Sunday 2nd Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 9th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 16th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 23rd Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 30th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

FLOWERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 2nd Mrs. J. Wright

Sunday 9th Mrs. J. Willgress

Sunday 16th Mrs. P. Wright

Sunday 23rd Mrs. Y. Cobbold

Sunday 30th Mrs. G. Gould

SERVERS - S GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 2nd 10.00am R. Harding

Sunday 9th 8.00am J. Heaney

Sunday 16th 10.45am J. Clapham

Sunday 23rd 8.00am W. Kempster

Sunday 30th 10.45am R. Harding

SIDESMEN - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

8.00am 10.00/10.45am 6.30pm

Sunday 2nd Mrs. J. Harding Mr. P. Walker

Sunday 9th Mrs. M. West Mr. D. Rogerson Mr. H. Fairley

Sunday 16th Mr. P. Brown Major Heaney Mr. G. Kempster

Sunday 23rd Miss F. Orman Mr. Lock Mr. D. Sparling

Sunday 30th Mr. J. Clapham

1ST ARDLEIGH SCOUT GROUP

(your local Scout Group)

Meetings Scouts Tuesday 7.15-9.00 pm. 10 ½ -15½ years

Cubs Thursday 6.30-8.00 pm. 8-10 ½ years

Beavers Wednesday 5.30-6.30 pm. 6-8 years

All held in the Vicars Room, Ardleigh

For further details contact:

John Terry, The Nook, Colchester Road, Great Bromley, Essex

Telephone Colchester 230 490

ODDBODS

for your local discos and PA Systems

DISCOS suitable for any event

For further details contact: '

Robert Terry, 6 Mulberry Avenue, Colchester, Essex

Telephone Colchester 4 1 32 1

Andrew Terry, 27 Malthouse Road, Manningtree, Essex

Telephone Colchester 395 395

1st Great Bromley Brownies and Guides

Meetings Brownies Wednesday 5.15-7.00 pm. 7-10 years

Guides Friday 6.00-8.00 pm. 10-15 years

For further details contact: .

Joan Landon, Gt Bromley House, Great Bromley, Essex

Telephone Colchester 230 385

Jacque Terry, The Nook, Colchester Road, Great Bromley, Essex

Telephone Colchester 230 490

EDITORIAL.

Being prepared during the month of August when the very many activities in the villages slow down somewhat. this edition of the Messenger is a little slimmer than usual. No doubt the reports and contributions for the next issue in October will continue to come rolling in as a start is made on the Autumn and Winter events. Please continue all your contributions: we will be especially pleased to hear from any organisations who have not yet supplied us with information. It will help in the production of the next issue if contributions could be received at the Rectory by the end of August please.

Our thanks go this month to R. G. Gwinnell and Sons, Funeral Directors of Manningtree, who have sponsored this issue and enabled it to be delivered free to every household in the two villages. Without the support of our sponsors, it would be impossible to publish this magazine, so we are most grateful to all who have helped us in this way.

Some time ago I came across this delightful old prayer which originated in New York:

Give us Lord, a bit o'sun, a bit of work. and a bit o'fun.

Give us in all the struggle and splutter

Our daily bread and a bit o' butter.

Give us health our keep to make, and a bit to spare for other's sake.

Give us too, a bit o' song, and a tale and a book to help us along.

Give us Lord, a chance to be our goodly best, brave, wise, and free.

Our goodly best for ourselves and others

Till all men learn to live as brothers.

EXPLORERS!

Recently two hedgehogs were found at the bottom of the steep steps leading to a family vault in the churchyard. How they arrived at the bottom of the steps is a mystery. After keeping observation it was obvious that they were not able to climb the steps from the vault. With some assistance they made their escape and toddled off to a nearby hedge apparently most grateful!

Stan West.

THE JOY OF MY JOB.

At a church the Rector addressed his congregation. 'Everyone at some time or other wonders why he chose a particular profession. Such a mood came over me this morning as I walked up the aisle. I was feeling thoroughly depressed until I stood and faced you all, with my wife and children sitting there. Then I realised the joy of my job. Just think: I am about to speak, uninterrupted, on any subject I choose, for as long as I like - and my wife and children have to sit there and just listen'.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH PARISH FESTIVAL - 5th and 6th SEPTEMBER.

Over the weekend of 5th and 6th September, a Parish Festival is to be held in S. George's Church. On Saturday the Church is open to visitors with a Flower Festival with the theme 'A Musical Extravaganza'. Refreshments and a variety of stalls will be available on Church Meadow. The Flower Festival continues on Sunday, 6th September, also with refreshments available.

On Saturday, 5th September at 7.30pm, there is to be a Concert in the Church which will reflect the theme of the Flower Festival. Music will be provided by the Colchester Classical Guitar Group directed by Valerie James. There will be duets and ensembles ranging from the well loved old to the modern, including works by Purcell through to the romantic period of Jeremy Sparkes, Granados, Carelli and Cavatina.

An organ recital including classical and light music will be given by Conrad Cole A.L.C.M. There will be a recital of songs by Belinda Pedder, to include such well known favourites as 'Pie Jesu', 'Morning has Broken' and 'The Holy City'.

Entrance is by programme, £1.50 each with children and OAP's £1.00

On Sunday, 6th September, the Family Eucharist will be at the new time of 10.30am, and families with children are particularly welcomed at this service. In the evening at 6.30pm, there will be a United Service at which the Reverend John Robinson, Minister of the Methodist Church, will be the preacher. Members of other churches, particularly of the two Methodist Churches in the village, are warmly invited to join us at this service.

The Diocesan Sponsored Cycle Ride also takes place on Saturday, the 5th September. The money riders obtain from their sponsors is divided between the church and the Friends of Essex Churches. We hope that there will be some people riding on behalf of our village church. If you wish to take part and have no details about it, Jean Harding (Colchester 230425) will be able to provide you with all the information you will need.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - FUTURE EVENTS.

Please remember the Plant Sale to be held on Sunday, 18th October, at the Village Hall from 12 noon until 5.00pm. this event is in aid of the Repair Fund. Anne Clapham (Colchester 230790) will be pleased to receive any offers of plants and/or help.

On Sunday, 18th October at 6.00pm, (please note change of time for this occasion only). the Suffolk Occasional Singers will be coming to S. George's Church to sing Evensong. This is a repeat visit; the last time these talented singers came was during the incumbency of Canon Picton, and it was very much appreciated by those who were present.

THE DEDHAM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.

Exhibitions and Maintenance Grants for educational purposes are offered to young people resident in Ardleigh, Bradfield. Great Bromley, Dedham and Stratford S. Mary. Application forms and further details may be obtained from Dennis R. Cockram, Clerk to the Governors, 13 Harvest End, Stanway, Colchester CO3 SYX. The closing date for applications is Thursday, 15th October, 1987.

GREAT BROMLEY GARDEN CLUB.

Twelve Garden Club members paid a visit to Peggy Coles Akenfield Garden on 27th July. It has to be seen to be believed, the amount of produce, flowers, trees and plants, that one can put into a fairly small area of a Council House garden. The garden, featured some time ago on the television, is open to the public. Several members recently visited the Great Bentley Garden Club for an exhibition of fuchsias. Very many varieties were there to be seen, and many tips for future reference were picked up by those who attended.

Future Meetings: Tuesday. 29th September - visit to Major and Mrs. Varney's garden. October - Annual General Meeting and Dinner of the Garden Club.

S. NICHOLAS FAYRE - SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER, 1987.

The Fayre, this year to be held in aid of the Church Repair Fund, will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, 5th December at 2.30pm. Sewing evenings to make craft items for this will commence on Monday, 5th October at 'Broadlands', S. George's Close, at 8.00pm. Please come along if you are interested in participating.

Jean Wright.

CHURCH REPAIR FUND.

The Recorder reports that the total now standing in the Repair Fund is £25,375. The recent report in the Essex County Standard that the fund had reached nearly £2,600 was a printer's error - a nought was left off the figure!

Since the last report, the Fund has been boosted by an anonymous donation of £1,000 and the profit from the Mediaeval Plays in July which, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Anne Clapham, produced just over £250.

Work is well in progress on the preliminary paper-work which will enable the actual repair of the tower to commence early next Spring.

VILLAGE HALL.

In order to raise funds for the replacement of the floor in the Village Hall, the Committee has arranged to hold an 'Auction of Promises' in the Hall on Saturday, 18th September at 8.00pm. Entry is by catalogue, price £1.00, and there will be a bar and refreshments. At an Auction of Promises, promises of goods and services are auctioned to the highest bidder. Do please support this event which will be interesting, enjoyable and helpful, both to the Village Hall, and also to the fortunate highest bidders. Any further information, especially promises to be auctioned, will be given and welcomed by Peter Rowe (Col. 231067).

THE CHURCHYARD.

For many years there has been a portion of the churchyard fenced off and carefully tended by Mr. Jim Sparrow, which contains the graves of three members of the Crossman family. Sir Peter Crossman, the son of Mr. Percy Crossman who was a great benefactor of the church before the war, has let us know that the family do not wish to use the portion of the churchyard for any further burials, and he suggests that the fence and hedge be removed to incorporate this area into the churchyard, thus giving us a little further space. The PCC has welcomed this suggestion and it is expected that the work involved will be put in-hand by the end of the year. As well as providing some extra grave space, it is proposed that some of this area be set aside for the burial of cremated remains.

In the far corner of the Churchyard, close to the Rectory fence it is hoped to be able to erect a shed which is urgently needed in which to store the gardening equipment for the churchyard and the flower stands, which at present, have to be kept by the West door of the church. We would be pleased to hear of anyone who has a moderately sized shed in reasonable condition which they could give for this purpose. It may be that someone is moving or has a shed which is no longer required. If anyone can help, could they please contact Mr. Robert Harding (Col. 230425). Thank you.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thursday. 24th September at 7.30pm, when the preacher will be Canon Richmond Gurney, son of the Reverend A. G. H. Gurney, Rector of Great Bromley from 1929 until 1944.

Canon Gurney is Vicar of Crosby Ravensworth, Cambria. On Sunday, 27th September, there will be a Eucharist of Thanksgiving at 10.30am, and Evensong of the Harvest at 6.30pm.

The Harvest Supper will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday, the 3rd October at 7.30pm. The tickets, at £2.50 each, include the price of a really excellent meal, a glass of wine, and some old fashioned and enjoyable entertainment.

CARPET BOWLS.

A number of people have enquired about the possibility of playing Carpet Bowls in the Village Hall. This game has proved very popular around the neighbouring villages, and can be played by persons of any age. If there is sufficient interest, Weeley Carpet Bowls Club are willing to bring their Carpet and Woods (bowls) over to Great Bromley for a demonstration evening. Would anyone interested in forming, and taking part in a club, please contact George Kempster, New House Farm (230378).

TRAVELLING PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Not everyone in the Villages knows that the Essex County Council have a Travelling Library service that visits the villages weekly with a wide selection of books for the use of borrowers. The Library vehicle, and librarian, visits Great Bromley each Wednesday at Burnt Heath at 11.40am and at Back Lane layby from 11.50am to 12.30pm. It also stops at the Bricklayers Arms, Little Bentley, from 12.45pm to 1.00pm. More borrowers are always welcome to use this service which provides a range of reading suitable for all ages, from children upwards. and for all tastes.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

Mr. Peter Savary of The Black Boy, plans to maintain the water level in his pond, mentioned in last month's notes, by pumping water from the ancient well still extant in the garden.

Mr. Gerald Gurney's notes about bringing coffins out of the Guildhall Cottages reminds me of an incident when, in the early twenties, my family rented a cottage near Havering-atte-Bower. Our arrival there one weekend was greeted by the lady who minded it for us with the words: 'She's gorn, dear, 'er up the 'ill. Brought 'er dahn through the winder they did. Weren't 'alf a job! She were a bit 'eavy like'.

I. Wilkinson.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

We had a very nice day at Blickling Hall despite the rain. After viewing the interesting Hall and watching dedicated ladies restoring antique furnishing, we went to Diss Reform Church where the church ladies had a delicious tea waiting for us.

Our next outing will be on Wednesday, 9th September, when we are having a fish and chip tea. For our September meeting, Thursday 17th September, the Reverend John Robinson will be entertaining us. The competition will be for the longest runner bean. This meeting will be our 'Harvest', and members are bringing gifts for sale, the proceeds of which will be sent to the S. Helena Hospice.

M. Purkis.

GREAT BROMLEY AND FRATING PLAYGROUP.

The new term begins on Monday, 14th September, and the Playgroup is open on each Monday and Wednesday from 9.30 until 12 noon, with a meeting for under threes on Wednesdays from 10.00am until 12 noon.

On Wednesday, 16th September, we are to be visited by a professional children's photographer who will be prepared to photograph the children of any who care to bring them. The photographs are very good and they make marvellous Christmas presents.

Last term we were visited by PC Ken Woodhams. He chatted to the children about not going with strangers and he showed them his handcuffs, truncheon and radio. We also had a trip to the Colne Valley Railway. The day was damp but everyone enjoyed it, riding up and down the line. meeting Goldilocks and the three bears and trying to find somewhere dry to eat lunch; the guard's van was quite cosy!

E Oliver

PLAYGROUP - FAREWELL AND THANKS.

Thank you to all the mums, past and present, plus the dads, nanny Joan and great aunt Amy (72), who arrived on my last day at the playgroup after five years. and surprised me with a small party and some beautiful gifts.

It was one of the days never to be forgotten. Best wishes go to Toni, Shelley, Laurie and Adam, my last group to go off to school, and to Eve Oliver the new supervisor, and to Sally. Thank you to all the people who have supported the Playgroup over the years.

Kath Doyle.

GREAT BROMLEY PANTOMIME GROUP.

The casting meeting for the 1988 production 'Mother Goose', will be held in the Village hall on Tuesday 29th September at 7.30pm. All are welcome at this meeting. Your support means that we will have a very successful show. Betty Rowe (Col. 231067) will be able to answer any queries.
Betty Rowe.

OVER SIXTIES PARTY.

The Great Bromley Women's Institute warmly invite all over 60's, and members of the Friendship Club, to a party on Wednesday, 30th September, at the Village Hall at 4.30pm for 5.00pm tea. The party should finish at about 7.30pm. If anyone needs transport, please contact Mrs. Sylvia Ward on 250674.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - SEPTEMBER, 1987

Saturday, 5th Flower Festival and Concert at 7.30pm

Sunday, 6th TRINITY 12 10.30am Family Eucharist
6.30pm United Service

Sunday, 13th TRINITY 13 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Sunday School Village School
10.30am Mattins and Sermon

3.00pm Evensong

Sunday 20th TRINITY 14 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Sunday School-Village School
10.30am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Thursday 24th HARVEST FESTIVAL 7.30pm Harvest Thanksgiving service

Sunday 27th 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Sunday School-Village School

10.30am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Tuesday 29th S. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS 7.30am Holy Communion

METHODIST SERVICES.

Sunday 6th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am (Holy Communion)

Sunday 13th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 20th Burnt Heath Harvest Festival 10.55am and 6.30pm.

Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 27th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - FLOWERS.

Sunday 6th Flower Festival

Sunday 13th Mrs. J. Frostick

Sunday 20th Mrs. M. Bush

Sunday 27th Mrs. P. Deere

SERVERS.

Sunday 6th 10.30am Mr. Robert Harding

Sunday 13th 8.00am Major J. Heaney

Sunday 20th 10.30am Mr. J. Clapham

Sunday 27th 8.00am Mr. W. Kempster

10.30am Mr. J. Groom

SIDESMEN. 8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm

Sunday 5th Mrs. J. Harding Mr. R. Harding

Sunday 13th Mrs. H. West Mr. D. Rogerson Mr. H. Fairley

Sunday 20th Mr. J. Brown Major Heaney Mr. G. Kempster

Thursday 24th Mr. P. Rowe (7.30pm)

Sunday 27th Miss F. Orman Mr. J. Clapham

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Nook, Colchester Road, Great Bromley. Colchester 230490.

Dear Editor,

Guide and Brownie Hut

For many years the Brownies and Guides have met in the village in the hut given to them to use by the Pirie family. Recently this hut has deteriorated to such an extent that it is felt that it is no longer a safe or healthy place to meet.

After the Carnival last year, the Carnival Committee donated some money, and actually did the work, to repair the roof in order to stop it leaking. However, since then the problem has moved to the floor which gets wet whenever it rains, the water rising up through the flagstones on the floor.

With the lack of other basic facilities, such as a toilet, it is with very much sadness that we propose to close the Brownies at Christmas unless this appeal can arouse enough interest to get a group of people together to spend time and money in putting the hut back into good order. We complain that the youngsters of today grow up to be unruly, and stand on street corners, but in our village we supply no facilities for them.

The Village Hall is far too expensive for them to hire and use regularly, and there is the problem of being blamed for damage to it. Are we now going to allow the Brownies to go because of our apathy?

John Terry.

This letter raises a very important issue concerning the provision of facilities for young people. In particular, it questions our responsibility to the Brownie Group. This organisation has been in existence in Great Bromley for very many years, and has provided enjoyment and training for several generations of little girls. It will be a sad day for the village if the Pack has to close and the girls of today and tomorrow are denied the chance of belonging to this organisation.

It is hoped that response will be made to Mr. Terry's letter. Will anyone who can help, or suggest a way of helping, please contact Mrs. Terry at Colchester 230490 or the Rector, at the Rectory. Telephone Colchester 230344.

FROM RECENT REGISTERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Holy Baptism.

21st June Emily Clare Johnston. .

16th August . Lisa Jane Skinner. Rebecca Yvonne Elmes.

Holy Matrimony.

23rd May Gary John Benneworth and Penelope Mary Stennett.

30th May Martin Waldbauer and Gillian Granger Brown.

18th July Ian Jones and Jane Anne Sims.

15th August Richard Jack McGroggan and Kelly Kim Shea.

Interments.

May they rest in peace.

4th July Arnold Cecil Waldock (Priest).

17th August David Harrell.

20th August Harry Belshaw.

SERVICE TIMES - GEORGE'S CHURCH. .

Please note that commencing on SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER, the time of the morning services at S. George's Church will be at 10.30am each Sunday. The Sunday School will resume its weekly meetings on Sunday, 13th September at the new time of 10.30am, meeting in S. George's School and not the Church. It is hoped that parents will find it convenient to leave their children in the school and attend the service in Church before taking the children home again.

Evensong is at 6.30pm each Sunday evening, except that on Sunday, 13th September, the service will be at 3.00pm to enable the members of the Tendring Hundred Masonic Lodge to attend the Service.

EDITORIAL.

In order to try to make 'The Messenger' more interesting, in future months some regular features are to be included. Mr. Wickham has agreed to provide a monthly 'Gardener's Corner', Mrs. Wilkinson is to continue her 'Historical Jottings' and in addition, it is hoped to be able to include a 'Kitchen Shelf'. Any ideas for other features will be gladly received!

We are always prepared to include any 'letters' or other contributions from our readers; if you have a concern that you would like to share with the village, please do not hesitate to send in your contribution. Reports and contributions for the November issue must be received by the Editor by Saturday, 10th October, please.

This month our sponsor is again the Colchester Co-operative Society Fuel Department. Our thanks go to them and indeed, all our sponsors. It is our hope that, in return for their interest and help, we will try to support them as much as we can.

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL.

The Village Hall Committee were delighted to receive from the Garden Club, a cheque for £383, the proceeds of the highly successful Garden Day held on 5th July. In addition to this donation, the Garden Club has also bought for the Village Hall, ten new card tables. In all, the Garden Day raised £463, the donation to the hall and the cost of the tables. This is a really splendid effort and the Committee wish to thank the Garden Club, and all the residents and visitors to the village who supported this function.

Although the Carnival Committee has not yet met in order to review the Carnival held in June, it is expected that the total monies from the event which was held to provide funds for the Village Hall, will be between £500 and £600. The Hall Committee is extremely grateful for this magnificent help.

The biggest problem concerning the Hall is the replacing of the floor. Some of the timbers which bear the floor are suffering from rot, and the surface of the floor itself is in a very poor condition. Because of this, the whole floor in the main hall will have to be replaced. Although, as a result of marvellous efforts in the village, the Committee has a sum in the region of £4,000 for this repair, estimates from contractors are very much in excess of this sum.

Efforts are being made to obtain grant help from various sources, but the onus on raising money for this venture must come from the village itself. If we are to retain the hall for the use of the community, the village must support any events that are arranged to raise money for this purpose.

GREAT BROMLEY GARDEN CLUB.

The Garden Club is very pleased to be able to give to the Village Hall the sum of £383, aid ten new card tables; the proceeds of the Garden Day. Thank you to all who supported this venture. The Annual General Meeting of the Club is to be held on Tuesday, the 27th October, 1987, combined with a dinner at the Goodman's Restaurant in Manningtree. Tickets for the dinner can be obtained from the Chairman, Mr. J. Booty, Church Cottage, Badley Hall Road (Tel:230473).

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH HARVEST SUPPER.

Please support the Annual Harvest Supper to be held on Saturday, the 3rd October, at the Village Hall, commencing at 7.00pm. Tickets, £2.50 each, can be obtained from Mrs. Lorna Brown (250360) and Mrs. Meriel Davis (230344). The entertainment this year is to be provided by members of the Pantomime Group.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE.

In the September issue of 'The Messenger' one of our readers high-lighted the most glaring omission in the activities of the village.

A glance inside the cover shows a long list of organisations and activities - yet - apart from provision for Guides and Brownies, nothing is available for the younger members of our community. It is most satisfactory that the future of S. George's School, our Primary School appears to be assured by the number of children in the village who attend. However, at eleven years of age they separate to go to secondary education, most going to Manningtree School, but others going to various schools in Colchester. They then have no common meeting ground in the

village; no organisations or associations in which they can take part. Because there is no common ground for them, we look in vain for them in village activities, and in the churches.

Several parents have spoken to me in recent months about this lack of opportunity for the young people. We are all aware of it and we must all be made aware of our responsibility as a community to provide for all our residents, the elderly, the middle-ages and the young. This is leading up to a plea to consider whether or not we can provide some facilities in a youth club.

Oh yes, some will say; 'we have tried that before and it hasn't worked'. But really we must try again. It should be possible to arrange regular youth meetings in the Village Hall. Hopefully the Parish Council might be able, as in the past, to help by subsidising the costs, but what is absolutely necessary is a leader who can take responsibility for organising such a venture, and in addition, a group of people who will give regular support and assistance in running and arranging meetings. It is not sufficient merely to open the hall and say 'come along, here is a club for you', there must be planning and leadership. We ought to be able to provide simple facilities - if we do not, we are completely ignoring a surprisingly large number of our residents who cannot provide for themselves without interested and sympathetic adult help. I hope that the Parish Council will be able to consider this, but, in the meantime, would anyone who feels that they could, and would, be able to help in anyway please contact me (the Rector) at the Rectory so that, with a group of interested and potential helpers, a meeting can be set up to consider how best we can go forward in this very important and urgent matter.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH CHOIR.

On Sunday, 6th September, Clare Twilley, Julie Twilley, Tristan Twilley, Jennifer Rogerson and Helen Jeffries were admitted as full members of the choir and received their RSCM medals. We would love to hear from any adults who would be able to help in the singing of the services. Voices of any range would be welcomed, but we have a particular need for gentlemen who can sing tenor.

The Rector or Mrs. Sutherland would be pleased to hear from anyone who could offer their services.

THE SUFFOLK OCCASIONAL CHOIR.

On Sunday, 18th October, the Suffolk Occasional Choir will be visiting S. George's Church to sing Evensong. For this occasion the service will be at 6.00pm. This is a return visit, the choir having visited us some years ago. I hope that many people will want to come and join us for this service.

GRAND PLANT SALE.

In the Village Hall on Sunday, 18th October, commencing at 12 noon, the Grand Plant Sale will take place. It will be a great opportunity to stock up and fill in all those places in your gardens that you have always been meaning to fill. A very wide variety of plants will be on sale. If you have any plants that you can offer for sale, please contact Mrs. Anne Clapham (230790). The proceeds of this event will all be given to the S. George's Church Repair Fund.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Three car loads of boys and girls set out in high spirits recently for All Saints Church, Shrub End, to attempt to score goals against one of Colchester United's footballers. The aim was to raise money for LEPRO week. The girls did as well as the boys, and scores numbered from forty to one hundred and seventy three! The money so far collected amounts to £47.78 pence, and this has already been handed over to Pam Cordiner of S. Cedd's Sunday School, Colchester, who organised the evening. Thank you to all who encouraged the children by sponsoring them, and a big thank you to the ladies who gave up their time to drive cars and safely deliver the children home. Pam Cordiner has received the following letter of thanks from LEPRO.

'Dear Pam, please convey the sincere gratitude and appreciation of LEPRO to the children and families who helped raise £193 for the work of treating leprosy patients. Could you notify them of our message of thanks. The greatest joy in leprosy treatment is that magic moment when you tell a young child that he is now cured of leprosy and that the disease has gone. At first they do not believe you, but as you reassure them they smile and give thanks. The money

you have raised will cure sixteen children of this crippling disease and give them a new happier lease of life. On their behalf I thank you. Yours faithfully, Peter Melay, Regional Organiser.

In addition to this activity, the Sunday School children have saved pennies to help children of Mozambique. We received an appeal which listed how much could be provided by set amounts of money. We aimed to raise £2, but managed the grand amount of £3.49 pence. This we understand, will provide life saving dehydration sachets for sixty children. It is amazing how a little can help.

The Sunday School re-opened for the Autumn term on Sunday, 13th September. Although the classes are held in S. George's School, we meet in the church at 10.30am for the opening hymn and prayers of the morning service (which takes place at the same time as Sunday School) and then we move over to the school for lessons and activities. On Sunday, 4th October, the children are to take part in the Family Service by presenting a dramatic interlude to explain why our beautiful church was built so many years ago.

The Sunday School has a lively group of young people from four years of age to thirteen, with five most willing helpers under the guidance of Mrs. Olive Sparling. New members are always welcome – we especially welcome any new residents who have moved into the village. Please contact Mrs. Sparling (230436), or the Rector (230344) for more information.

Towards the end of January we are planning to have a party for the children, and an outing in June of next year.

THE CHURCH ARMY.

Many appeals come our way from a number of charities, and one recently received comes from the Church Army which the PCC of S. George's Church would like to support. Each year, a house-to-house collection is authorised in the Tendring area, and it is felt right for us to take part in it. An envelope is included in this edition of 'The Messenger', and if you feel you would like to contribute, it can be returned to your magazine deliverer when the November edition is published. Before deciding to contribute you will probably like to know something of the work of this organisation.

It was founded in 1882 by an Anglican priest, Prebendary Wilson Carlile, as an organisation to present the Christian faith to people of all ages and backgrounds. Today Church Army Captains and Sisters work in many parishes in the country and throughout the world, to support and reinforce the day-to-day work of the church. It also undertakes social work, coordinated with local authorities and other voluntary organisations to provide residential establishments for unemployed young people, the single homeless and the elderly.

The Society is also concerned with the rehabilitation of those addicted to drugs and alcohol. It runs youth centres, canteens and meeting places [or the Forces, and has officers serving in the Chaplains Departments of the three Services, the prison service and in hospitals. The Church Army believes in imaginative and sound training, and, only after the completion of a three year long training course, are officers commissioned to work in the very many areas of need they are called upon to meet.

It is only by voluntary giving that the Church Army can continue their valuable contribution to society and the church. By our efforts here in the Bromleys we can help them to maintain their activities.

HARVEST.

Maybe it was twenty years ago, maybe a little more, that returning from a ramble by field paths round Little Bromley, I stopped to gather blackberries from the hedge at the corner of Mary Lane where Springfield Close is now, one early September evening. The sun had just set and a sickle harvest moon shone silver in the afterglow. The elms along the bank were black against the crimson sky, but in that long field, perhaps a million years ago the flood plain of the river that is now the Bromley Brook, sheaves of corn were stooked in long golden rows which followed the carve of the brook. I was told that this lovely sight, even then an anachronism, was due to Margaret Pirie's inspiration. Sad it is to see today on the other side of my hedge, the blackened ears still lying in the sodden ground, after the worst summer weather for years, and I can only hope it helps our farmers to remember the golden days. *I. Wilkinson.*

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

A happy evening was spent at the West Cliff Theatre in August, where members saw 'The Cascade Revue' which was a very good show. On 14th October we have two entrants for the Talent Contest at the Princes Theatre, Clacton. We had a cup winner last year, so here's hoping both members will be successful this year. A representative from Sainsburys will be coming to our October monthly meeting, perhaps to tell us some of the secrets of this very successful firm of chain stores. The competition ~ a milk Jug, so bring along your pretty. Attractive or unusual jug to the meeting.

Mildred Purkis.

PARISH FESTIVAL - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

We were very disappointed that the weather was so bleak on the first week-end in September, but it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the many helpers and those who attended. The Flower arrangements were exquisite. In looking at them one was 'lost in wonder, love and praise'. I hope that all who helped will accept my warmest thanks - the flower arrangers, those who sat in the church, and the stalwart band of stall holders and tea providers who braved the elements on Church Meadow.

The week-end was rounded off by a very well attended United Service at which we were pleased to welcome many visitors from the Methodist Chapels. The money raised from the event, to be shared between the General Church Fund and the Repair Fund will be in the region of £530, Thank you all who helped.

The Rector.

Mrs. Ann Fairley much appreciates the help and support given to her over the Flower Festival weekend and would like to thank everyone for their very generous contributions towards the stalls, and the brave folks who manned the stalls during the inclement weather, which produced the following results:

Books	£24.75
Vegetables	£57.62
Bring and Buy etc	£38.75
Cakes	£112.90
Teas	<u>£36.08</u>
	<u>£270.16</u>

GIRL GUIDES.

I go to Ardleigh Guides and we went camping at Claverings, Greenstead Green. The first day was the boring day getting things ready for the week ahead and pitching our big tents. Ours was the biggest and we only had four in our patrol because one person did not turn up. We were called Pooh Bears and there were Care Bears, Rupert, Paddington and some others. There were three companies camping together and we all made friends in the end. The second day we were cooks and that meant getting up at 7 o'clock, the rest got up at 8 o'clock. At tea time we had to cook our own meals on our own fire. We collected our food on a tray from the QM and we had to wash up every meal time. During each day there were challenges which we collected beads for. The PL wore them as a necklace. The third and fourth days we went walking. Elizabeth and I were quicker than our patrol, when we had gone round the corner and up the hill the others were still coming round the corner. There were ducks, peacocks and all sorts of wild fowl on the farm and I collected two peacock feathers.

One of the days in camp stray horses came in and galloped round our field. The farmer called the police who managed to corner them in the field and luckily the person who owned the horses came just then and led them away.

Eleanor Terry.

BROWNIES.

August might have been a poor month weatherwise, but it did not stop the Brownies from have one of their best Pack Holidays. Eight Bromley Brownies and ten Bradfield Brownies stayed in Alresford Village Hall the wettest week in August. According to the girls, the most enjoyable events were:

1. shopping each day. They were given a list, money and bags (and an adult who kept outside the shops) and it was up to them to write everything down and agree the money at the end,

which was not always easy. A big thank-you goes to the patient shopkeepers, should any read this magazine.

2. The Youth Service in Alresford church on Sunday night. No hymn books were needed because all the songs were shown on a screen. The first lesson was Elisha in modern English and the second lesson was Elisha in cartoon strips and the 'sermon' was on the same theme. Did you know Elisha played a banjo and rode on a donkey?

3. The visit to the Creek in wellies and anoraks. There they discovered for themselves the Faraway Tree and the Slippery Slip. Our picnic was eaten on the hall floor and there was no washing up!

4. Two guitarists, Tim and Mike, who came one evening to lead us in a singsong. They were coming for half-an-hour but it lasted over an hour.

5. The party, with the Guiders 'waitressing' instead of the Brownies. There were caterpillar sandwiches and an Enchanted Wood cake with a tree for everyone and of course, ice cream monsters with Silky Sauce. We had a lovely 'Cecil' with cheese and pineapple all down his back. Ask a Brownie to tell you the story of 'Cecil'.

6. The concert when we all entertained each other on a stage with lights and curtains. Thanks to the weather a very high standard was achieved by the Brownies. The train ride to Clacton on the last day and the sun shone. What an event; some of us had to buy gifts as some had been a little slow in the making. Then there were the amusements and ice creams. We had fish and chips or hot potatoes for dinner and we paddled in the sea. Then home to pack, have tea and clear the hall. The end of a lovely Pack Holiday. Thank you to everyone.

Jaqui Terry.

SCOUTS.

On Sunday, 16th August, the 1st Ardleigh Scout Troop spent the day at Thorrington training ground. We had a backwoods day - this does not mean that we did everything back to front, just that we did without the basic cooking utensils - we only used knives and foil and a match or three! We also managed to make shelters from natural materials. We did not have time to test these with a bucket of water but will try again in the Autumn and actually sleep in them.

As the weather was warm and sunny we had a splash in the pond followed by a necessary cold shower to wash off the mud. The troop's Patrol Leaders' Council has planned a range of future activities. Dates as follows:

Sunday, 4th October Day Hike - compass work.

24th-26th October The first camp at Thorrington.

31st October Group Halloween Disco.

5th December Nite Hike.

Just a Moment

The Reverend Paul Davis has gone away on holiday and asked me to fill in a few pages of this month's magazine. He carries out the job of Editor very well but all the typing is done by his wife who makes a first class job of it. I have had no response for advertising by those self-employed members of the parish nor indeed from those of you who have something of value you may wish to sell. I wish to buy a second hand two stroke petrol mower - if you have one to sell, let me know.

As far as features go, remember we can often reproduce photographs, drawings etc. so do not hesitate to send something in.

European Year of the Environment 1987

- EYE -

As a contribution to this venture the Tree Council is promoting National Tree Week 28th November - 6th December and as stated in the August Messenger our Parish Council will be looking for places to plant some trees - any ideas?

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - OCTOBER 1987.

Saturday 3rd 7.30pm HARVEST SUPPER-Village Hall

Sunday 4th TRINITY 16 10.30am Family Eucharist
6.30pm Evensong

Tuesday 6th 7.30pm PCC Meeting - Rectory

Sunday 11th TRINITY 17 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Sunday School - School

10.30am Mattins and Sermon

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 18th S. LUKE Ap. 8.00am Holy Communion

. 10.30am Sunday School - School

10.30am Parish Eucharist

12 noon PLANT SALE - VILLAGE HALL

6.00pm Evensong - Suffolk Occasional Singers

Sunday 25th TRINITY 19 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Sunday School - School

10.30am Mattins and Sermon

6.30pm Evensong

Wednesday 28th SS SIMON & JUDE 7.30am Holy Communion

METHODIST SERVICES.

Sunday 4th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 11th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 18th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

Sunday 25th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

FLOWERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 4th Mrs. S. Orris

Sunday 11th Miss F. Orman

Sunday 18th Mrs. E. Lennox

Sunday 25th Mrs. O. Sparling

SERVERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 4th 10.30am Robert Harding

Sunday 11th 8.00am James Heaney

Sunday 18th 10.30am John Groom

Sunday 25th 8.30am Bill Kempster

SIDESMEN - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm

Sunday 4th Mr. J. Harding Mr. H. Fairley

Sunday 11th Mr. F. Brown Mr. D. Rogerson Mr. G. Kempster

Sunday 18th Mrs. M. West Mr. A. Lock Mr. R. Harding

Sunday 25th Mr. J. Clapham Mr. P. Rowe Mr. D. Sparling

The Bromley Messenger NOVEMBER 1987 VOLUME 2 NUMBER 7

November is never the most popular month: it is time to get out thick winter clothes, nights are long and cold: the end of the year is well in sight. It is very much a month of remembrance. At the beginning, on the 1st, we think of All Saints, that countless number of godly men and women who laid the foundation of Christianity in this and other lands and who left us a rich heritage of faith which we are privileged to share. On the 2nd we recall with thanksgiving in our hearts all those our families, our friends and our acquaintances who live now on another shore, having passed from death to life. The remembrance of the way in which our freedom has been assured by those who gave their lives in great wars. still remembered by many of us, come to mind on Remembrance Sunday. In remembering we give thanks to God for all these great examples from the past. However, it is important to realise that remembrance must not be wholly solemn; it must not be nostalgia - longing for the 'good old days' -- it must, and can be, a positive looking forward to the future with a determination to do what we can to build upon the labours and successes of those who have gone before us. In the official service used by members of all churches throughout our land, the final part, entitled 'The Commitment'. is probably the most important. We will remember them.

DECEMBER 1987 AND JANUARY 1988.

Can contributors please let me have any items for the December issue of The Messenger not later than Tuesday 10th November, but earlier than that if possible. In order to produce the January edition before Christmas, I will have to submit the copy to the printer much earlier than usual. May I have all contributions for it not later than Sunday 6th December. If you can let me have them before that. it will help a great deal. Sometimes it is difficult to produce the magazine in time for distribution before the beginning of the month. To overcome any difficulties this may cause. it would help if contributors could include news of events to be held in the first week of the month in the previous month's edition.

OUR SPONSOR.

Our thanks this month go to Carless Petroleum. Halstead, who traded for many years from Great Bromley under the name, Torch Petroleum. Thank you for sponsoring the publication of this issue.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 8th NOVEMBER, 1987.

This year the local branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding their annual parade service at S. George's Church, Great Bromley, on Remembrance Sunday. It is hoped that they will be joined by Guides, Scouts, members of the S. John Ambulance Brigade and the Brightlingsea Church Lads Brigade Band. The parade will form up at the Village Hall and move off at 10.40am, to arrive at the War Memorial at 10.55. There the Act of Remembrance and the two-minute silence will be held. The service in the church will follow commencing at 11.10am.

Please support the Poppy Appeal when poppy sellers come to your door; the funds are still urgently needed to give aid and to provide, in some cases, hospital accommodation and housing for ex-servicemen and women who still suffer the effects of war, most recently in Northern Ireland and the Falklands, and of course, during the Great Wars and the hostilities which have occurred in many parts of the world since 1945 in which British personnel have been called upon to take part.

THE BISHOP OF COLCHESTER.

We will shortly be able to welcome a new Bishop of Colchester: the Venerable Michael Edwin Vickers, Archdeacon of the East Riding of Yorkshire, has been appointed to succeed Bishop Roderick Coote who retired earlier this year. Archdeacon Vickers is to be consecrated Bishop on 2nd February and, like his predecessors as Bishop of Colchester, he and his family are to live in Colchester. We look forward to his first visit to the parish.

THE CHURCHYARD.

The Chancellor for the Diocese, the Bishops Legal Officer who has control over all the churchyards in the diocese, makes regulations concerning the erection or removal of any monument, memorial or inscription. She, the Honourable Sheila Cameron Q.C., has ruled that

memorial tablets over the place of interment of cremated remains in an area set aside for this purpose will not in future be allowed except in exceptional circumstances, when a faculty, costing £69, must be sought by the petitioner.

General concern for the appearance of churchyards demands that such tablets should not be authorised in future. This means that in future, I as Rector, cannot allow the erection of tablets in the area west of the main porch which we have set aside for cremated remains.

It is suggested by the Chancellor that a book of remembrance be placed in the church to record such burials. However, if a memorial stone is requested, and this request must be made at the time of interment, the cremated remains may be buried in an ordinary grave space where a headstone can be allowed. I regret that this regulation must be adhered to. I will be happy to show the regulations to anyone who would like to see them.

EAST WINDOW.

This month sees the publication of a new Diocesan Magazine, the East Window, to take the place of the Essex Churchman which has been produced monthly for many years. This new monthly will continue to bring news, views and opinions on matters of church interest in the Diocese of Chelmsford. It hopes to reflect the wide range of things happening in a Diocese which is one of the largest in the country, stretching from London to the leafy corners of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. The Editor (The Revd. Michael Ballard, The Vicarage, Eastwoodbury Lane, Southend-on-Sea 882 6UH) is always happy to receive news and articles about matters of interest to readers. If you wish to contribute to East Window, please write direct to him, or the Rector. Copies are available in the parish church each month - please take one. I will reserve a copy for anyone who would like to make a regular order.

S. GEORGE'S SCHOOL.

School re-opened on 8th September after a none too summery holiday! The first week back saw the staff room looking like a scene from 'The Rag Trade' while costumes were made for a team of country dancers who represented the school at the Frinton and Walton Festival on Saturday, 12th September. Lucy and Jessica Locking, Emma Riches, Sarah Simons, Paul McGuinness, Tristan Twilley, Jonathan Haste and David Mann danced, while Elizabeth Pinhey, Tammy Fulcher and Jennifer Rogerson played the recorders. The children performed their dance at various street venues and were transported from place to place on an open topped bus.

The PTA Committee met and has arranged a 'Silly B Games Night' (all the games begin with B), for Saturday, 14th November, in the School Hall. Tickets are £2.50 which includes a delicious cheese supper and wine will be available. Tickets now available from school.

The PTA AGM was held on 1st October. Only thirteen people attended .which was disappointing. Mrs. Simons, Mrs. Davy and Mrs. Nightman were elected onto the Committee to join Mr. and Mrs. Lucking, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Foot, Mrs. Pinhey, Mrs. Barker and Mrs. McGuinness, who were all re-elected.

The school held their Harvest Festival Service in the church on Friday, 25th September, and were joined by many parents, friends and relations. Several of the children read their own harvest thoughts. On the following Monday the children in Mrs. Fitzgerald's class distributed the harvest baskets to senior citizens around the village. The children enjoyed the visits and were warmly received.

We had a visit from Janet Humphrey (Dental Health Educator) on the 1st October. She spoke to all the classes and encouraged the children to look after their teeth.

We are fortunate that the PTA has funded the visits of two children's authors to the school. Peter Firmin, creator of Basil Brush, The Clangers, Bagpuss and Scragtag, and author of many favourite stories came to show the children the many puppets that he has made for the television programmes, and to talk about his work. Mrs. Jean Harding from the Wivenhoe Book Shop made a selection of his books available for sale to the children and Peter Firmin signed them. We are now looking forward to a visit from Leila Berg, another children's author.

Mrs. Stokes class walked up to Blue Gates Farm on 6th October, where Mr. and Mrs. Allam kindly showed them the pigs, turkeys and chickens. The class is learning all about 'food' this term and several other outings have been planned. Some brave Mums are coming into school to make bread this week too.

On 9th October Mrs. Fitzgerald's class met Liz Mullen, the Entertainments Editor of the Essex County Standard newspaper, in connection with their work on communication, and had the opportunity to ask her about her work.

S. NICHOLAS FAIR - SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER AT 2.30pm.

Make a date in your diary for the Christmas Sale with the Difference on Saturday. 5th December, in the Village Hall. Including the lovely cakes, produce and handwork stalls and tombola we have come to expect, there will be a new crafts area including exciting hand-made jewellery and masks (from magic to fierce!) There is also to be a collection of hand-made pottery and someone demonstrating and selling quilling - now guess what this is! Prices will range from amounts easy on the purse and will all be good ideas for Christmas. All proceeds are to be put to the Great Bromley Church Repair Fund.

SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME.

The Annual Coffee Morning and Sale of Goods will take place on Thursday, 14th November, from 10.30am until 12 noon. Admission, including coffee, 35 pence. Any support you can give will be much appreciated and will enable the Home to continue and develop its work of caring.

BROWNIES.

November already, where does the time go? So saying, we are planning a Brownie Bazaar and Entertainments Evening on 11th November. Everybody will be welcome. The Mercury Youth Theatre Group is performing The Wizard of Oz at the Institute and we hope to get seats for the 25th November. Now to past events: we took advantage of a beautiful evening and played games in the meadow at Michaelmas House, thank you Mr. and Mrs. Simons. Dormouse now works on Wednesday evenings so she has moved to helping Ardleigh Guides on a Monday. We welcome Clare Fisher 'Bee' as our Young Leader. Our numbers are creeping back up so we have restarted the Gnome Six. Susannah and Elizabeth are the new Sixer and Second and, along with Clare and Emma have received their badges. We welcome into the Pack three Brownies who have now made their Promise, Susan, Isabel and Jennifer. Zoe has completed her Roadway Journey Badge and Clare has gained her Craft Badge.

GREAT BROMLEY GUIDES.

We are still meeting in the Guide Hut and hopeful for its future. The summer was a busy one. At the end of term we held a garden party with games and a barbecue and invited the Brownies. Having camped, as reported, at Whitsun, we camped again locally for three days in August and were lucky yet again with the weather.

In September Sophie and Tracy went to a Division Camper Badge testing day and both have now gained the badge. Helen C has passed Challenge Badge too. Both Helens have made their Promise in the last few months and Sophie and Tracy renewed theirs when they received their Green (2nd year) Trefoil badges.

Once again we enjoyed decorating the rood steps in S. George's church for the Flower Festival. In October we are making the most of any autumn sun to be out of doors.

Joan Landon.

1st ARDLEIGH SCOUT GROUP.

A very interesting news letter concerning the activities of the Scout Group which welcomes boys from both Little and Great Bromley, has been received. The Beavers have reached their number of sixteen members and there is a waiting list of fifteen; the Cubs have a full pack of thirty and there are now twelve invested boys in the Scout Troop. Like all organisations, the Scouts suffer from a shortage of money and they would be grateful if, instead of throwing away any of the following items, they could be given to them for their use.

Washing up liquid bottles, tin openers, potato peelers, knives and cutlery, plastic plates, cups etc., cooking utensils, washing up bowls, cooker grids, footballs, pegs, torches, squash containers, buttons, marbles, tobacco tins, old suitcases, small sealable containers and treacle tins. The Scout Leader, Andrew Terry, will gladly welcome any gifts which will be put to good use.

A Halloween Disco is being held on Friday, 30th October, at Ardleigh Village Hall, tickets £1 each. There will be some games and a fancy dress competition, hopefully for adults as well as youngsters, so please come in suitable dress! Tickets can be obtained from the section leaders.

Section Leaders: .

Group Scout Leader John C. Terry, The Nook, Colchester Road, Great Bromley - 230490.

Beaver Leader Judy Rodwell, Caprice, Coggeshall Road, Dedham. 322567.

Cub Leader Pat Newton, 53 Harwich Road, Lawford - 230437.

Scout Leader Andy Terry, 27 Malthouse Road, Manningtree 395395.

GREAT BROMLEY BADMINTON CLUB.

The club's new season is now well under way. It has two mixed teams and one men's team in the Colchester Federations League, and one mixed team in the Clacton League. The club nights are held in the Village Hall on Monday evenings at 8.00pm. There are two levels of membership, full members, intermediate members and children to whom tuition and coaching is offered. The club is always looking for new members; a warm welcome will be given to any who are interested. Please contact the Secretary, Mrs. Joy Golding, Meadowcroft, Kings Farm, Chase Road, Great Bromley (251027).

CARPET BOWLS.

Weeley Carpet Bowls Club will be coming to the Village Hall on Wednesday, 11th November at 7.30pm for a demonstration of Carpet Bowls. Anyone interested in seeing the demonstration and finding out more about this sport will be very welcome. Any queries to George Kempster (230378).

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB,

We spent a pleasant day in September on our last outing of the year at Burnham-on-Crouch. After our fish and chip tea we strolled along the waterfront watching the boats sailing on the tranquil waters.

Our own harvest celebrations at our September meeting with the Revd. John Robinson to accompany our happy hymn singing, was most successful. A marvellous display of gifts were brought by members, proceeds from which the sum of £50 was raised for S. Helena's Hospice. Mrs. Biddis with some of our members, helped with teas at Heath Hospital on 9th September, taking with them six capes and eight blankets knitted by members; they were gratefully received. We would like to thank the WI for the party they gave us on Wednesday, 30th September. We all enjoyed it very much - thank you!

Our friend, the Revd. W. Dodd, Vicar of Harwich, will be entertaining us at our November meeting; the competition will be a 'wall plate'.

Advance Notice. The Spring Sale, our yearly fund raiser, will be held on 23rd April, 1988; other organisers please note.

M. Purkis.

HISTORICAL JOTTINGS - A GOOD READ.

More than thirty years ago I bought a book which gave me many hours of happy, puzzled reading. It was *The Oaken Heart* by Margery Allingham. Now this lady was noted as the author of thrillers employing a gentlemanly detective, a Mr. Campion, not at that time my favourite reading, though I recognised their setting, the lowlands of Essex and Suffolk.

This book was different, an autobiographical account of the years 1938-42 and assuredly set in an Essex village, but where? For security reasons village and personal names were disguised in the first edition which was published in America. We were still guessing on the publication of the first English edition in 1952, though the war was long over (something to do with the Official Secrets Act of recent notoriety). But now all is revealed in a new edition (paper back £5.95, The Sarsen Press, Ingatestone).

No, the setting is not Great Bromley, but many of you will know Tolleshunt D'Arcy, and especially you who are of my generation will find this story of absorbing interest. Like to borrow it? Twenty-five pence per week for church funds. You know where I live (it is in nice big clear print).

I. Wilkinson.

GARDENERS CORNER

Things to do this month:

Gather in all the apples and pears for storing, store cool and check for rot and mice, discard any attacks.

Sow in frames some hardy annual seeds, i.e., sweet peas, stocks etc., also take cuttings of pansies, placing them in pots of peat and sand.

In the garden it is a spade job, dig in plenty of humus and let the winter do the rest.

Fred.

KITCHEN CORNER.

'Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat!' I do not know about you, but I haven't got a goose! However, I do like to make my puddings and cake well before Christmas. A pudding made now will have time to mature to a fuller flavour. This recipe is our family favourite, and is rich and moist, but not sticky. The quantities will make one large. Or two medium sized puddings.

Ingredients:

8oz each of the following:

fresh breadcrumbs

suet (chopped or grated)

currants

sultanas

raisins

4 oz of:

candied peel

glace cherries

soft brown sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon mixed spice

½ teaspoon salt

2 oz of:

large raisins .

chopped almonds

3 oz. ground almonds

2 grated apples

2 grated carrots

Rind and juice of 1 large lemon

3 eggs (beaten)

1 heaped tbs. Golden Syrup

1 heaped tbs. treacle

3 fluid ounces sherry or brandy

5 fluid ounces brown ale or milk

Mix and stir well, not forgetting to wish! Put in a greased basin, cover with greased greaseproof paper and Foil, tie down well, steam for at least six hours. Remember to top up the water from the kettle to keep it boiling.

When cold, remove covers and replace with fresh greaseproof: store in the cupboard until Christmas Day when it will need another two hours steaming. Flame it with brandy and serve with cream and brandy butter! Happy eating!

Jill Frostick.

CROSSWORD.

The solution to the crossword set by Len Christodoulides in the October issue, together with the name of the winner(s), will be published in the December edition.

BIBLE RESOURCE EXHIBITION.

On Tuesday, 10th November, the Bible Society is arranging a resources exhibition and seminar at All Saints Church Family Room, Main Road, Dovercourt, with a full display of bible centred materials produced by them. There will be three meetings. one in the morning for clergy, one in

the afternoon for teachers and one in the evening from 7.00 to 9.00pm for members of all congregations. The materials can also be seen by anyone between 2.00 to 3.00pm.

The Bible Society works with all churches and members of any denomination and all will be made very welcome at this event.

GREAT BROMLEY PANTOMIME GROUP.

Great Bromley Pantomime Group will present 'Mother Goose' at the Village Hall on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th January. The evening performances start at 7.30pm with a matinee at 2.30pm on the Saturday. Tickets cost £1.75 on the Wednesday, £2 on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with children at £1.00. Tickets now available from Betty Rowe (231067).

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Please note the following changes of address for those listed on the cover.

Burnt Heath Methodist Church - Secretary and Steward.
Mrs. G. Newman, The Old House, West Street, Wivenhoe. (22-6178).

Great Bromley Badminton Club.
Mrs. Joy Golding, Meadowcroft, Kings Farm, Chase Road, Great Bromley. (251027).

Great Bromley Parish Council.
The telephone number of the Clerk to the Council, Mr. H. P. Booty, is Colchester 230743 and not as noted in the list on the front cover.

CANON HUGH PICTON.

'You've a jolly Welsh Vicar' so Hugh Picton, then Rector of Great and Little Bromley was once described by a visiting chorister of the Suffolk Occasional Choir. Hugh came to the parish in October, 1981, complete with a green left-hand drive Maxi, after the second of Arnold Waldock's interregna at the Bromleys; each a priest who had returned to finish his ministry at home after a long service abroad. Hugh had hardly started in the parish when Chris, his wife, fell ill; it was a long time before she was better and then he too became burdened by his asthma. By June, 1984, Hugh was no better; the Spring and advent of Summer had brought no relief, and so he retired, finishing his ministry at the Bromleys with an entry in the service register, noting his resignation and retirement with the words 'Laus Deo' - Praise be to God.

He and Chris went to Wales to live near her mother and sister, and the 'jolly Welsh vicar' returned to the hills and valleys and took up, so he always said in his letters, cooking. As much as his heart was in Wales, there was always a very large portion of it in Great and Little Bromley. We will remember him with sadness and love, a happy man, a devoted husband, a caring priest. The Rural Dean, Hugh's requiem held in Great Bromley Church, emphasized three aspects of the priestly life, 'harmony, humanity and civility', all virtues in Hugh's ministry in the Bromleys, and we can write as he did, 'Laus Deo' - Praise be to God.
Robert Harding.

Mrs. Picton asks me to thank all those many people who sent her letters, messages of sympathy and donations to the British Heart Foundation in memory of Hugh. She hopes to reply to them as soon as she is able.
The Rector.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Pensoomis Petotel.

'I would like to thank, through the Bromley Messenger, everyone who Contributed to our fete on 19th September. Despite the absolutely awful weather we took £342.44 pence, of which £220.04 pence was profit. We would also like to thank all those people who braved our 'summer' and came to the fete enabling us to take the £342.44 pence.

The photographic competition was very popular raising £38.04 pence, there were sixty-two entries. Also very popular were the refreshments and Barbecue, raising approximately £65 together. The raffle which is always popular, raised a further £54.50. Thank you for allowing me to use the magazine to publicise the event.

P. A. Peachey.

Idea

I would like to put forward a few ideas I have for the parish magazine. How about a page advertising jobs. As I am a teenager and still at school I would like to work out of school hours to earn some extra pocket money.

If you put this idea across to the readers, they might have some odd jobs they want doing which could be advertised in the magazine. Also, like I said, I am a teenager in the village and there are many more who find that there is not much to do in the village. I am sure that if someone was willing to organise a youth club, with the right advertising, there would be a response from young people willing to pay a fee so that there was somewhere to go and things to do; outings, games, badminton, swimming at Hamilton Lodge etc.

I would be very grateful if you could put these ideas forward in the magazine. I am sure that there would be a response. Thank you very much.

A hopeful, Sarah Cameron (age 14).

BROWNIE HUT

Further to my recent letter in the 'Messenger' regarding the state of the Brownie Hut, a meeting was held on 12th October to discuss the problem. It was decided to have a working party on Saturday and Sunday, 14th and 15th November to make the hut habitable for this winter. This will involve laying a polythene membrane under the existing flagstones to stop the damp rising. It is hoped that other facilities can be provided such as a toilet and dry access.

To achieve this we are asking for donations, and we would hope that the money required can be raised in this way as we are looking for only a relatively small sum, in the region of £150-£200. If you can find time to help on the weekend we would much appreciate it, as many hands make light work. Mrs. Anderson, 11 Meadow Close, has agreed to act as Treasurer for this appeal for the hut improvement. Please, if you can, send any contributions to her.

John Terry.

GREAT BROMLEY GARDEN CLUB.

The September meeting took place at the home of Major and Mrs. Varney, where, after viewing the garden, future events were discussed and arrangements for the Dinner and AGM at Goodman's Restaurant, on 27th October, were made. The Club will be meeting in the Cheshire Home on 24th November for a talk by a representative of Mistley Environmental Centre, and on 1st December, also at the Cheshire Home, Peggy Cole will be talking about pickles, wine and dried flowers.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - NOVEMBER 1987.

Sunday 1st ALL SAINTS DAY 10.30 am Family Eucharist

6.30 pm Evensong

Monday 2nd ALL SOULS DAY 7.30 pm Requiem for all the departed

Sunday 8th TRINITY 21 8.00 am Holy Communion

REMEMBRANCE 10.30 am Sunday School

SUNDAY 11.10 am Service of Remembrance

6.30 pm Evensong

Sunday 15th TRINITY 22 8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Sunday School

10.30 am Parish Eucharist

6.30 pm Evensong

Sunday 22nd NEXT BEFORE ADVENT 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30 am Sunday School

10.30 am Mattins

6.30 pm Evensong

Sunday 29th ADVENT SUNDAY 8.00 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Sunday School

10.30 am Parish Eucharist
6.30 pm Evensong
Monday 30th St. ANDREW 7.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 5th 2.30 pm Fair - Village Hall
Sunday 6th ADVENT 2 10.30 am Family Eucharist
6.30 pm Evensong

METHODIST SERVICES.

Sunday 1st Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am
Sunday 8th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am (Holy Communion)
Sunday 15th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am
Sunday 22nd Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am
Sunday 20th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am (Holy Communion)
December 6th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH FLOWERS.

1st November Mrs. L. Brown
8th November Mrs. L. Brown
15th November Mrs. H. Brown
22nd November Mrs. H. Brown

SERVERS.

1st November 10.30am John Clapham
8th November 8.00am James Heaney
15th November 10.30am Robert Harding
22nd November 8.00am Bill Kempster
29th November 10.30am John Groom
6th December 10.30am Robert Harding

Well, here we are again with the lovely season of Christmass fast approaching. All of us somehow are caught up in the hectic preparation for this season which has a double focus, the home and the church. In readiness for the home celebrations there is a flurry of effort, cards to post, presents to buy, decorations to put up, food and goodies to prepare - and all this takes up a great deal of time, thought and effort in early December. When the great day comes, the rejoicings begin, families come together and festivities commence. In all these activities we need to remind ourselves that all this happens because of a spiritual event - the birth in Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago of a child Jesus, the son of God. Without this fact there would be no celebration at all; the name of the festival, Christmass, means the festival of Christ. How important it is therefore, to make sure that there is a spiritual element in our festivities; that we do really 'come and adore Him, Christ the new-born King'. An awareness of God's gift to us of His son at this holy season will enable us all the more to rejoice in the festivities in our homes. Can we all try to put Christ back into Christmass?

In S. George's church there will be a service of lessons and carols on Sunday, 20th December at 6.30pm. The Midnight Mass of the Nativity will be at 11.30pm on 24th December, Christmass Eve. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8.00am and a Family Service with Holy Communion to follow will be at 10.30am. My wife and I extend our best wishes for joy and happiness to you all at this joyful season.

Rector.

This month the 'Messenger' is sponsored by the Great Bromley Pantomime Group: please support them at their presentation of 'Mother Goose' in January by your attendance - and by encouraging many people outside the village to come and see what entertainment the village can provide, and what talent it can call upon.

The January edition will have to go to the printer earlier than usual. Please can I have contributions not later than Sunday, 6th December. For the following edition, the latest date will be Sunday, 10th January, 1988.

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH NEWS.

Luckily the church escaped any serious damage during the great storm apart from part of the west window being blown out. We were so grateful to have our electricity supply reconnected at mid-day on Sunday, 18th October, just in time for us to be able to go ahead with the visit of the Suffolk Occasional Choir who provided us with a service of outstanding beauty.

It was a great joy and privilege to welcome Dr. Christopher Dearnley, the Master of Music at S. Paul's Cathedral, as conductor. He was most impressed with the church and organ and hopes, with the choir, to make a return visit.

At last we are making real progress in the long planned and hoped for repair of the tower. The architect's specifications are now in the hands of the Diocesan Authorities and English Heritage, and tenders are being invited from suitable contractors. We are aiming to start the work in early spring and the project will take about nine months to complete. With the money in the Repair Fund and the promised grant from English Heritage, we have just over £50,000 available towards the cost which will be in the region of £60,000. The proceeds from the S. Nicholas Fair on 5th December will go to the Repair Fund to boost it even further.

S. George's Sunday School completes its first term in S. George's School this month, and the new arrangements seem to be working well.

The Sunday School will close on Sunday, 13th December, and re-open on Sunday, 3rd January, with the Family Eucharist in church. On the 10th, January, the meetings in the school commence. On the first Sunday in December the children will provide a dramatic presentation, S. Nicholas, at the Family Eucharist. The children will also take part in the Parish Carol Service on Sunday, 20th December at 6.30pm. The Children's Party will take place on Saturday, 23rd January in the village hall. Mrs. Olive Sparling (230436), the Sunday School Superintendent, will be pleased to give any information and to welcome children to the meetings.

PAROCHIAL RE-ORGANISATION - GREAT AND LITTLE BROMLEY.

The Church Commissioners have now published the draft scheme for the creation of the new parish of The Bromleys and for the redundancy of S. Mary's Church. If no representations to the scheme are made by 4th December, the order will be signed by the Bishop and sealed by Her Majesty's Privy Council. Copies of the draft scheme are posted on the boards inside S. George's and S. Mary's church. When the order is issued, elections will be held for Churchwardens and a Parochial Church Council for the new parish, and plans for the future use of S. Mary's church will be decided upon. Our hope is that it will be taken over by the Redundant Churches Fund to whom application will be made. If this is successful, the fund will repair and restore the church, which will remain open for visitors, will be available for suitable use and will be able to be used for worship on several occasions each year. It will also be available for the solemnisation of marriages, provided the legal requirements are met by the persons concerned. Although we are not certain that this plan will be accepted, it is one that I hope all parishioners will feel able to support when the time comes to make application.

GREAT BROMLEY PANTOMIME GROUP.

Once again it is pantomime time! The presentation this year is to be a superb presentation of 'Mother Goose' on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th January in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. On Saturday there will be a matinee performance at 2.30pm. Make sure of your seats by ordering your tickets now. Prices: Wednesday evening £1.75. Thursday to Saturday £2.00 and children £1.00 at all performances. Betty Rowe. 2 Hall Cottages (231067) will take your orders and supply the tickets.

The Pantomime Group is also arranging a Christmas Disco on Saturday, 19th December at the Village Hall with music by 'Oddbods', a buffet and raffle. Tickets at £2.50 each from Betty Rowe.

CARNIVAL MEETING.

The Carnival Association had its AGM at Broadlands on Thursday evening. The Officers elected were: Chairman O. Phelps, Treasurer N. Rowe, Secretary J. Wright. Committee: J. Terry. A. Terry, D. Rowe, L. Pinhey. N. Thompson. The Carnival Day 1988 format will be changed to Country Fayre (1863) and prizes will be awarded for the best decorated stall. The theme will be Village Life for the past 125 years and stall holders will be asked to dress in costume of the chosen period. In the evening an Old Tyme Ball will take place in the village hall. The charity is S. George's School which celebrates its 125th anniversary. The Fayre will be on 4th June 1988. Fund raising ideas were put forward and the association will be hoping for support from the whole of the village.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

The annual box opening this year produced the sum of £152.28 pence for the society. Thank you all who contributed to this worthy cause, and thank you to Mrs. Nancy Kempster for once more organising the distribution and collection of boxes.

GREAT BROMLEY GARDEN CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the club held in October. Mr. H. Booty was re-elected as Chairman, Treasurer Mrs. Pam Wright and Mrs. V. Booty as secretary. The dates of the meetings for the next six months have been fixed and they are all Tuesdays. 1st December, 26th January, 23rd February, 22nd March, 26th April, 31st May and 28th June. At the January meeting Mr. Arnold of Sepads, Tollgate, Colchester, will talk about the construction and maintenance of garden pools. Details of the other meetings will be published monthly in the 'Messenger'.

REMINDER.

S. NICHOLAS FAIR on Saturday, 5th December, in the village hall, in aid of S. George's Church Repair Fund. Do come along and make this a happy and successful afternoon.

MEN'S SOCIAL CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of the Men's Social Club was held recently. Mr. Norman Skeet, Chairman since the club was reformed in 1971, regretfully had to resign due to moving house and leaving the district.

Mr. Bill Knights was elected as the new Chairman. In the club's recent Knock-Out Competition, Mr. Ivan Arthey defeated Mr. Mick Marney in the final.

1st GREAT BROMLEY GUIDES.

We have started on badgework for the winter months and practised camp-fire songs for the District Camp-Fire on 23rd October, which took place at Cherry Gardens, Mistley Heath. The meeting on the 16th was cancelled due to weather conditions - no, the hut has not blown away! We are looking forward to having new windows soon and keeping the hut going. On the Tuesday of half-term week, Helen J and Claire came with me to the County International Fun Day at Terling. We enjoyed our day out, learning crafts and games from all round the world, and an International lunch too.

J. Landon.

BROWNIES.

This is written immediately after our Open Evening, 11th November. I enjoyed it and I am sure that all the parents and friends did too. The atmosphere was very friendly, the Brownies worked really hard and the weather added its contribution. Incidentally, our profit was £44.20 pence, thank you everyone. The evening was not meant to be a fund raising event. The Brownies entertained us with recorders, a poem, a puppet play with hand made puppets of course, a story and mime and singing. These items they have been practising for the last three weeks. Our Young Lender, Clare, has renewed her Promise, Susannah has gained her Roadway and Julie her Jester badge. Well done both of you, and we welcome a new Brownie, Amy. Our numbers are now sixteen and our last meeting this term will be on 16th December.

J. Terry.

VILLAGE HALL - URGENT.

We urgently require a part-time cleaner for the village hall. Approximately three mornings per week. Please contact Mrs. N. Rowe (230398) or Mr. P. Rowe (231067) or any member of the Committee.

THE BROMLEY BUSKERS.

The annual Christmas Show has been arranged for Saturday, 12th December, at 7.10pm. Tickets are very limited (one night only) and early booking is advised. Remember - Bingo, Christmas fare Buffet, Cabaret etc.

Also a completely new show for the annual cabaret has been arranged for Friday and Saturday, 8th and 9th April, 1988. Booking and information from P. Wenden or G. Nicholls (230613) or (251254) or from any member.

PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup now has eighteen registered children with a regular ten to fourteen attending the Monday morning session, 9.30 to 12.00. Wednesday morning is swelled by the mums and toddlers when the main hall is put to good use. This also generates a lot more noise - children and mums!

We recently held a clothes and toy sale in the hall in aid of funds which, although not well attended, raised a few needed pounds. A book sale which takes place on 11th November is our next fund raising effort.

Arrangements are already under way for the Christmas party which will be held Wednesday, 16th December. Entertainment, food and Father Christmas will all be provided over the next few weeks. The children will be having great fun and busy helping Sally and Eve make the decorations and no doubt, posting all their Christmas cards in the special Playgroup Post Box. We always welcome any new children from the age of 2½ years on Mondays and of course, any mums and toddlers, or babies, if you just want to meet and chat on Wednesday mornings.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

Our visit to the Age Concern Talent Contest at the Princes Theatre, Clacton, along with some friends from Elmstead Over 60's, was enjoyed by all. Our entrants to the competition, Mr. Stan West and Mrs. Newman, did us proud. Stan once again winning first prize in his class. The show was excellent with the added pleasure of the famous Ivy Benson leading the community singing.

Sainsbury's representative at our October meeting was a very good, interesting speaker, giving us the history and progress of this famous family and their super stores.

On 17th December we are to have our Christmas lunch with the Claytones to entertain us. This date is our usual monthly meeting day but the bus will be picking up earlier, leaving Elmstead at 12 noon. The competition - an ashtray (now unused we hope!)

M. Purkis.

PLANT SALE - 18th OCTOBER.

The organisers of the slant Sale on 18th October would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to it with a wonderful variety of plants. Even though we managed to choose the worst possible weekend for a plant sale, immediately after the hurricane, the quality and quantity of plants brought to the village hall were overwhelming. Very many thanks to all contributors, to all helpers and to those who supported the sale enabling us to give nearly £400 to the Church Repair Fund.

THE OLD FORGE - BROMLEY CROSS.

I have been requested by a friend in the village to tell what I remember of the earlier days of the Old Forge at Bromley Cross when my grandfather, Walter Bruce and his sons were the blacksmith and wheelwrights there.

I don't know when my grandfather came to live there but all his children were born there. My mother Ada, was born there and she was the youngest of eight children. She died in 1959 at the age of 73 years. My grandmother died when I was only a month or two old, so my Aunt Kitty, who was single and working as a Head Laundress in a mansion in Berkshire, left her position and came home to look after the men of the family. She lived there, the last of the family to survive until she died in 1965 at the age of 85 years.

My memories as a child were of blowing the bellows to keep the furnace going, turning the handle of the grindstone whilst the sharpening of scythes, haycutting tools, etc. were sharpened, or pouring on the water to keep it wet, smelling the horses hooves burning whilst being shod with new shoes and the cutting off the pieces of hooves called 'frog' which dogs liked to chew.

I didn't go too near the anvil the day for shoe making as the iron was very hot, had to be bent round and holes were knocked in, four one side and three the other, I believe to make the shoes. I shall always remember the days that hell was let loose - the day when the cartwheels were made. Extra men were employed on this day. First the iron bands were made, then dropped into a pit in the meadow where there was a large fire burning. Once the bands were red hot, you had to watch out because all the men would shout as they lifted the iron bands from the fire to where the carpenter had made wooden wheels.

These were waiting on a round iron platform with an iron bar through the centre of the wheel. Once they had the hot bar over the wooden wheel on the base, those who were not hanging with sledge hammers were fetching water from the well, buckets of it, and pouring it on to the wood to make a tight fit, with steam and heat flying everywhere, as well as honest sweat. Once the wheels were cold they would be painted lovely greens and reds, what a lovely picture they made when the farmer brought along his cart horse and harnessed it up and took the cart away. I think one of my nicest memories of my grandfather was when we all went to the forge for Christmas and he would sit from early morning until lunchtime cooking a huge joint of beef in front of the front room fire. The joint was hung from the beams on worsted so it kept turning round all the time and we would sit and taste it all the morning until it was cooked. Many people used to come and watch him and have a mince pie and a glass of home-made wine. It really was a lovely way we used to spend Christmasses there. The Burnt Heath Silver Band would come round on Christmas morning playing carols and everyone had so much more time in those days to find simple things in life.

Going back to the forge. The main doors for many years faced down the Colchester Road, but why they were altered I don't know, but were re-built and faced down the Ardleigh Road for the last years of its life as a forge. By this time the Essex County Council bought the forge and cottage when they bought all the farms around that area. My aunt was allowed to stay there until she died, then the Poplar Tree and the forge was no longer. The house was modernised and attached to Pond Farm.

Mrs. V. Biddis.

GARDENERS CORNER.

Lawns: make a final cut and use fertiliser. Roses: prune climbing roses and plant new ones on arrival. Keep planting and dividing perennials. Finish planting tulips and wallflowers etc. Give house plants plenty of light but remove them from window ledges at night. Prune fruit trees and bushes and keep digging the soil for the winter frosts.

Fred Wickham.

KITCHEN CORNER.

A few hints to help ease the extra work in the kitchen at Christmas time! Prepare as much as you can in advance. Fresh breadcrumbs in bags in the freezer ready for sauce and stuffing (no need to thaw before using.) Apple pies and flan cases (uncooked) are a useful standby and go straight from freezer to oven. I always try to make a few batches of mince pies to freeze uncooked. Let them thaw a little while the oven is heating, brush with water, sprinkle with sugar for a crispy finish. Brandy butter will keep several days in the fridge if well covered. Meringue cases keep well in an airtight tin and make up into an easy and delicious sweet with fresh or tinned fruit and whipped cream. Merry Christmas!

Jill Frostick.

NOTICE.

Jacobs and Poorlands charities will be distributed on Friday, the 1st January, 1988, at S. George's Church, Great Bromley, at 10.00am to all those elderly people who are eligible to apply.

J. E. Biddis.

Honorary Charity Secretary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

In reply to Sarah Cameron's letter in the November issue of the 'Messenger', I thought Sarah would like to know that the following items take place in the village during the winter months.

Monday - badminton with tuition at the village hall and choir practice in the church.

Tuesday - pantomime rehearsal.

Wednesday - Brownies and bell ringing for learners (practice for those who can!)

Thursday - pantomime rehearsal.

Friday - Girl Guides and badminton.

Stan West.

As most people living around Hare Green will have noticed, 5th November came and went this year without fireworks, bonfire, sparklers for the children and customary hot dogs - but stand by for a rocket now! Because this event, which has been held for fifteen years or more, is just one aspect of traditional village life threatened by the complacency, disinterest and selfish attitude which appears to be prevalent in our midst. The Guy Fawkes celebrations were organised by the Great Bromley Playing Field Committee which exists primarily to raise money for Hare Green Playing Field.

The organisation of events by the few for the many is a fact of committee life and that is how it has to be, but right now the Committee itself is threatened with extinction through lack of support. We are so few in number that we are restrained by law from spending the money we have raised in recent times.

That sum now stands at £600. Do we really want to disband the Committee and hand that sum over to the Parish Council to use as they see fit?

That would be a great pity after the hard work put in over the years by members. I am hoping that the loss of this bonfire and fireworks, normally a very well attended event, may force a number of people to ask themselves about their local responsibilities and ambitions.

Nobody is asked to give up much time; perhaps six one-hour meetings a year and two or three days active service on the events themselves. In return there is an enormous amount of satisfaction from knowing that you are contributing to the pleasure and wellbeing of your own community. So come on, make a decision for action before it is too late. This is the ideal opportunity for you village newcomers to shame the rest of us and for those of us who have enjoyed life in the community for many years, to put a little back into it. Help me resurrect a meaningful committee now ... before somebody else lights the blue touch paper.

Peter Mylam,

Harewood, Mary Lane South, Great Bromley. Tel: 251169.

S. GEORGE'S SCHOOL APPEAL

The school was relatively unscathed by the recent hurricane, but we have lost two of the huge willow trees at the bottom of the school field. School was closed for one day because we had no power, nor heat, and perhaps more important to the children, no school dinners! We have been lucky enough to benefit from a regular Monday visit from the Tendring Mobile Sports Team. They bring all the equipment and staff necessary for the children to have the opportunity to play netball, football, hockey, table tennis, indoor croquet or carpet bowls.

This after school club has proved to be very popular, even though it is after school hours!

The school netball team has played two friendly matches recently. Our first was against Dedham Primary School, which we lost by 12 goals to 2. However our team of 2nd, 3rd and 4th years was playing against 4th year children from the other school, so we arranged another match against a fixed age range team from Lawford. This time we were the victors, the score being 10-0!

Congratulations to Sam Lucking, Stuart Simons, Paul McGuinness, Nicole Abbott, Julie Twilley, Emma Riches, Emma Peck and Lucy and Jessica Locking. We are still looking for a keen and responsible football trainer who could come into school any day between 1pm and 3pm for an hour a week. Any volunteers?

Mrs. Fitzgerald's class has met Mrs. Browning recently. She is a registered blind person and she came in with her guide-dog to answer the children's questions and explain to them how she copes without visual communication. Again in connection with class 1's topic on Communications, the Post Office brought their exhibition bus to school to show the children how the mail is sorted and delivered. All the children wrote their name and address on a postcard and one card was pulled out to see who had won a writing set provided by the Post Office. David Mann was the lucky recipient.

Mrs. Stokes' class were shown behind the scenes in Sainsbury's store in Colchester as part of the food topic. They also visited Mr. and Hrs. Golding's farm to see the cows being milked. Brave volunteer mums acted as chauffeurs on both occasions.

Rehearsals are in full swing for our Christmas production 'The King's Magician' which will be performed at the village hall at the beginning of December. As a reward for all their hard work and effort the children will be going to the Mercury Theatre during the last week of term to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

Our carol service will take place in church at 2.00pm on Tuesday. The 15th December and we welcome all visitors who would like to join us. This term ends on Friday, 18th December, so parents will have a whole week of ... helpers? before Christmass Day. Start making your list of jobs now! P.S. School re-opens on Tuesday. 5th January. 1988.

May we wish you all a very Happy Christmass.

LITTLE BROMLEY METHODIST CHURCH.

In the list of organisations on the front cover, the name of the Steward of Little Bromley Methodist Church should be Mr. R. Whitman, Wheatfields. Shop Roaf, Little Bromley. (392927).

MR. AND MRS. STANLEY COOPER.

Mr. Cooper has recently written to say that he has now moved into his permanent new home. The address is The Old Coach House, Nursery Lane, Fairwarp, Uckfield. E. Sussex. (Tel: Nutley 3187).

He regularly receives the 'Messenger' and sends greetings to all his old friends. He is interested to hear of the attempt to start an indoor bowls club - a game he has just taken up - as well as outdoor bowls.

CROSSWORD COMPETITION -OCTOBER.

Only one correct entry was received by Len Christodoulides from Mrs. Meriel Davis who received the prize!

S. GEORGE'S CHURCH - DECEMBER.

Saturday 5th 2.30pm 8. Nicholas Fair-Village Hall

Sunday 6th ADVENT 2 10.30am Family Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong

Monday 7th 7.30pm PCC meeting - Rectory

Saturday 12th 6.30pm Carol Service - Bellringers

Sunday 13th ADVENT 3 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Mattins and Sunday School
6.30pm Evensong
Tuesday 15th 2.00pm School Carol Service
Sunday 20th ADVENT 4 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Eucharist
. 6.30pm Parish Carol Service
Thursday 24th CHRISTMASS EVE 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Friday 25th CHRISTMASS DAY 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30pm Family Service and Holy Communion
Sunday 27th CHRISTMASS 1 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Mattins
Sunday 3rd CHRISTMASS 2 10.30am Family Eucharist
6.30pm Evensong

METHODIST SERVICES

Sunday 6th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am
Sunday 13th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am
Sunday 20th Burnt Heath 10.45am. Balls Green 11.00am
Sunday 27th Burnt Heath 10.45am Balls Green 11.00am

SERVERS - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Sunday 6th 10.30am Robert Harding 13th 8.00am James Heaney
Sunday 20th 10.30am John Groom 24th 11.30pm John Clapham
Sunday 27th 8.00am Bill Kempster 3rd 10.30am Robert Harding

SIDESMEN - S. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

8.00am 10.30am 6.30am
Sunday 6th Mrs. J. Harding Mr. G. Kempster
Sunday 13th Mrs. M. West Mr. D. Rogerson Mr. H. Fairley
Sunday 20th Miss F. Orman Major J. Heaney Churchwardens
Thursday 24th 11.30pm Mr. Robert Harding
Sunday 27th Mr. J. Brown Mr. A. Lock
Sunday 3rd Mr. P. Rowe Mr. D. Sparling

CHURCH REGISTERS.

Burial of Ashes.

October 22nd David Hugh Thomas Picton, Priest. Rector of Great and Little Bromley 1981-1984.