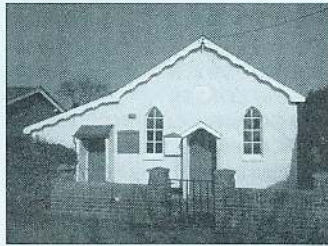
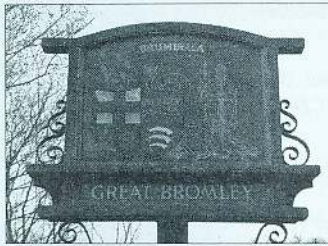
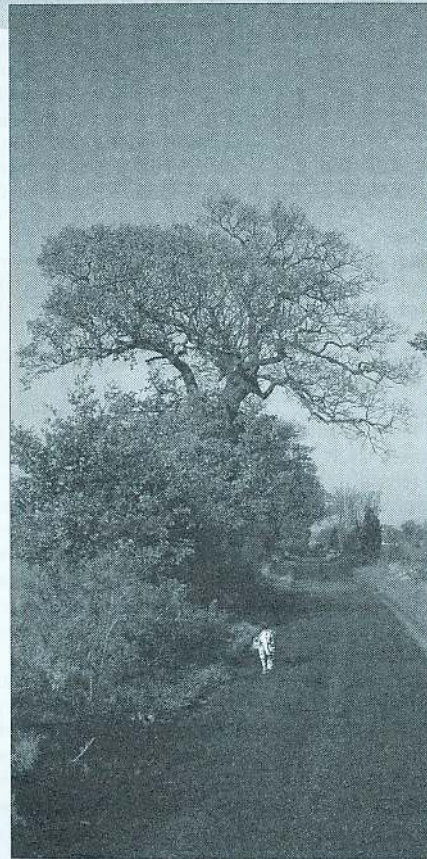


THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

The Magazine of the Villages of Great & Little Bromley
January to May 2004



The Bromley Messenger



The Magazine
of the Villages of
Great & Little Bromley

Edited and produced by Mrs Leonie Henderson

These old magazines have been scanned and converted to text for historical reference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

Tel: 07722 253962 Email: hugh@greatbromley.org.uk

July 2024

Note – this is not intending to be verbatim; some typos corrected, some phone numbers &
contact details removed, and repeat adverts truncated.

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ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS CONTACTS *[most phone no's removed]*

Police - PC Christopher Phillips Mistley Police Station, CO11 2AQ
Medical Practitioners - The Surgery, The Street, Ardleigh CO7 7LD
- The Hollies Surgery, The Green, Great Bentley CO7 8PJ
Gt. Bromley Parish Council - Mr Ken Bromfield, 4 St George's Close, Gt Bromley CO7 7HZ
Lt. Bromley Parish Council - Major A. Downes, 3 Bentley Road, Lt Bromley CO11 2PL
Tendring District Council (Thorrington, Frating & Gt Bromley) - Clr. Gordon Jessop,
Portlands, Harwich Rd, Great Bromley
Tendring District Council (Ardleigh & Lt Bromley) - Clr. Neil Stock,
Wisteria Cottage, Shop Road, Lt Bromley CO11 2OL
Essex County Council (Tendring Rural West) - Cllr. Sarah Candy,
Wisteria Cottage, Shop Road, Lt Bromley CO11 2OL
Parish Church Revd - Fr. Nicholas Spicer, The Rectory, Hall Rd, CO7 7TS
Trinity Methodist Church - Mrs Gill Bucke, 3 Lilac Court. Chaney Rd, Wivenhoe CO7 9RY
Methodist Minister - The Revd. Andrew Bell, 4A Ladysmith Avenue, Brightlingsea
Manningtree School - Mrs D E Hollister, Headteacher
S. George's School - Mrs Pat Fitzgerald, Headteacher
S. George's School P.T.A. - Mrs A Rowe, Lilleys Farm, Carrington Road, Great Bromley, CO7 7XA
Air Cadets - Flt Lt G Cheeseman. Fleece Hse. Harwich Rd, Gt Bromley CO7 7UH
1st Ardleigh Scouts, Cubs & Beavers - Mr R. Talbot, 30 Gurnon Road, Ardleigh
Badminton Club - Mrs J. Golding, Meadowcroft, Kings Farm, Gt Bromley CO7 7UN
Bromley Messenger Treasurer - Mr L Christodoulides, Magnolia House, Bromley Road, Frating
Bromley Messenger Editor - Mrs L. Henderson, Badley Hall, Gt. Bromley
Carpet Bowls Club - Mrs J. Bates Dolphins, Colchester Road, Gt Bromley
Cheshire Home Homes Manager 230345
Cricket Club - Mrs K Foley. Pussywillow. Mary Lane South. Gt Bromley CO7 7UD
Essex County Standard - Mrs Ann Jones, Wayside, Hall Road Gt Bromley CO7 7TS
Friendship Club - Mrs V Griffiths, Oak Cottage, Mary Lane North. Gt Bromley
Hamilton Lodge Vol. Association - Mrs M. Hart, Pondfield, Parsons Hill
Huntingdon's Disease Assn. - Lorina Lumsden, 154 Stanley Rd Clacton
Men's Club - Mr John Smith. The White House, Green Lane. Ardleigh
Playgroup - Miss C Wheatstone, Playgroup Supervisor 252034
Rambler's Assn. (Tendring) - Mrs Ann Jones, Wayside, Hall Road, Gt. Bromley
Recreation Field - Great Bromley Parish Council
St. George's Repair Fund - Mrs A Clapham, Copley Dene, Parsons Hill., CO7 7JA
Village Hall Committee - Mr B Willgress, Lee Cottage, Great Bromley
Treasurer & Bookings - Mrs L Allam, Bluegates Farm, Carrington Road CO7 7UZ
Women's Institute - Mrs M. Clarke, 15 Meadow Close, Gt Bromley

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Mrs Barbara Hall, 19 Chapel Croft, Ardleigh CO7 7TQ

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Mrs Marion Bromfield, 4 St George's Close, Gt Bromley CO7 7HZ

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Mrs Hilary Powell, 1 Ash Grove, Great Bromley

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Mr David Wenden, Girlings, Stone Road, Great Bromley

SACRISTAN & VERGER

Mrs Ann Wild, Ilex Farm, Waterhouse Lane, Ardleigh

PLEASE CONTACT the Rector with requests for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. The Rector is pleased to hear of anyone who would like to receive a Visit and for Holy Communion at home.

MEETING VENUES & TIMES

1st Ardleigh Beavers - Wednesdays(term time only) Village Hall, Ardleigh, 6.00-7.00pm
1st Ardleigh Cubs - Tuesdays (term time only) Village Hall. Ardleigh, 6.15-7.30pm
1st Ardleigh Scouts - Wednesdays (term time only)Vicars Room, Ardleigh. 7.15-9.00pm
Badminton Club - Mondays (match nights only) Village Hall
Bell Practise - Fridays St. George the Martyr Church 7.30pm
Carpet Bowls - Wednesdays (except 1st Wed in Month) Village Hall. 7.30pm
Friendship Club - 3rd Thursday in month Village Hall Doors open 2.00pm
Gt Bromley Parish Council - 3rd Thursday in month Village Hall. 7.30pm
Mens Club - Tuesdays Village Hall, 7.00pm
Women's Institute - 1st Wednesday in month Village Hall. 7.30pm

All contributions should be sent to the Editor Mrs Leonie Henderson, Badley Hall, Badley Hall Road, Gt. Bromley.. Published by Great Bromley Parish Council. Printed by Hot-Line Printers.

BROMLEY MESSENGER SPONSORS 2003 - 2004

APRIL	Your name could be here
MAY	COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL 01206 573389 Wellesley Road, Colchester
JUNE	THE OLD COURTHOUSE INN 01206 250322 Harwich Road, Great Bromley
JULY	SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME 01206 230345 Great Bromley, Colchester. Essex CO7 7TT
AUGUST	HOT-LINE PRINTERS 24 Priors Way, Coggeshall 01376 561001
SEPTEMBER	GREENACRE CATTERY, Briar Road, Great Bromley PAUL CROSBY PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES
OCTOBER	GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER	R G GWINNELL & SON (Funeral Directors) Manningtree
DECEMBER	PARISH CHURCH OF ARDLEIGH & THE BROMLEYS
JANUARY	LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL ROTARY CLUB of BRIGHTLINGSEA & DISTRICT <i>Centenary Year</i>
FEBRUARY	PERSONAL AND CLUB DONATIONS
MARCH	PLEASS THOMSON & CO - SOLICITORS Clacton 01255 221133

WHITHER THE WEATHER!

There was a programme on the television recently remarking on the climate changes that would occur if we lost the warmth of the Gulf Stream. This, it was said, could occur as a result of the melting of ice at the Pole diluting the salinity of the polar water and causing the Gulf Stream to cease to flow. Even on the East Coast we still benefit from it (just compare our winter temperatures with those across the North Sea) though we may not always feel that we do. The programme went on to demonstrate that if it was "turned off" we would return to the state of being in an ice age which although it happens every so often naturally, would this time have been accelerated by our own environmental misdeeds. Scary stuff. The programme made salutary thinking both as to how we are treating our planet despite our cleverness and what have we done for our future and that of our children? This programme came hard on the heels of a conversation with a friend during which we agreed we were both hoping for some snow this winter. We enjoy it both aesthetically and for the fun which can be had although we do appreciate it makes travelling and walking about, especially for the elderly, more difficult. Because of the unusually long, dry weather we have had this year we are apparently facing drought conditions next year and, if recent years are anything to go by, I doubt if we will see much snow this year, if any and certainly not a white Christmas as immortalised in song with Father Christmas dashing through the snow in his sleigh! Not of the proportions of the winter of 1963 when my childhood village under the South Downs in Sussex was cut off for well over a week. The blizzard conditions arriving shortly after Christmas made it the best ever winter from our point of view for tobogganing down the Downs, for the tremendous adventure to walk, pulling the sledge through thick snow, to the shops three miles away, for snuggling up to the fire after dark but best of all for missing the first few days of the return to school ...! And probably not of 1st January, 1979 when we were visiting relations in Sussex for New Year, having turned off the heating at home due to the mildness before we left. The weather turned cold swiftly, ferociously and unexpectedly overnight bringing snow. We dragged the children away from their snow games with their cousins and endured a tortuous journey home to Essex before things got worse. Our pipes had frozen with the subsequent mess of water coming through the ceiling in the children's bedroom as they thawed when the house warmed up. We battened down the hatches, kept ourselves warm and played in the snow.

So, quite apart from the fact that I believe a good hard winter kills a lot of germs, I once again look forward, not to an ice age which is a bit OTT even for me, but to some 'proper' snow that will 'properly' cover the land, make a 'proper' snowman and 'proper' snowballs that disintegrate softly on hitting their target and maybe just cut us off from modern haste for a little while. If it does come, you all now know who to blame and I won't dare to grumble! WISHING YOU ALL A WARM AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR. *Leonie Henderson, Editor*

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER : is very grateful and thanks all those who by their donations have sponsored this month's magazine through Personal and Club donations.

MATERIAL for the February 2004 edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by Tuesday, 20th January, 2004 please. Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Copy can either be delivered by hand or sent by post, fax or e-mail. Please support the sponsors of our magazine.

WEA - A CENTURY OF JAZZ MUSIC - A HISTORY

Members of Ardleigh branch of the WEA are looking forward to exploring the wealth of jazz music in their Spring Term course, which begins on Thursday, 22nd January, 2004. Tutor. Roger Bawden, will take us through examples of all forms of jazz, ranging from New Orleans "traditional" jazz, through swing and bebop, to more modern jazz- rock fashion. This course is not intended for musicians but for people who would like to find out more about jazz and about the way its changing forms reflect social changes over 100 years. We shall listen to a wide range of music from each period, with examples from each era right up to the present day.

We meet in Ardleigh Village Hall, Thursday afternoons from 2.30-4.15pm, 22nd January - 25th March 2004. We have room for a few more students. For further information or to book a place contact Jill Frostick on 01206 250263. Fees for the 10 week course are £26 (concessions £22, no charge for unwaged). The first lecture is free, so come and try!

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Great Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 4 December 2003

Planning applications The Council considered and agreed no objections to the following:
Meyrick, Colchester Road, Great Bromley - proposed extension and conservatory.
Field House, Parson's Hill, Great Bromley - proposed stables and conservatory.

The Poorlands Charity exists to assist the needy of Great Bromley. It is an amalgamation of parish trusts, including the Guild Hall which was founded over 500 years ago. The trust presently has investments valued at about £4000 and an annual income of approximately £180. At a recent meeting the trustees agreed to make grants of £40 each to four needy people. If you know someone who could benefit from the trust's assistance then please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

Highways and footpaths The County highways department has been busy recently surveying roads which need repairing. The defects have been marked and we are assured that work will start shortly. A number of footpaths have also been cleared and signposts and bridges etc renewed. Speeding continues to be a problem and a recent survey of the Harwich Road's 40 mph section reported that the average speed is 42 mph with some vehicles travelling at 60 mph. The police have been asked to take the necessary action. A temporary 40 mph limit has been introduced along the length of Parson's Hill (B1029) while repairs to the bridge over A120 are carried out.

Future meetings The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 8 January 2004 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL!

The Chairman and Councillors send good wishes for a peaceful and prosperous 2004 to all Great Bromley residents. The Council exists to represent your interests. Residents are therefore always welcome to attend and contribute to council meetings. These provide an opportunity, for example, to scrutinise and comment on planning applications. The Council also considers matters concerning highways, footpaths, the environment and recreation facilities. If you have any requests, suggestions or complaints then please do get in touch with any councillor or the Parish Clerk.

KB 10/12/03

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Management Committee last met on Tuesday, 18th November with Peter Wenden as Chairman. We were pleased to welcome to the meeting, Pat Swanston as a co-opted member of the committee. Insurance cover for the Hall has been renewed, the cost of which has increased by some 10% this past year to nearly £2000. We also had outline information on the new Licensing Bill going through Parliament and its effect of the running of events at the Hall from 2005. The emergency lighting system at the Hall has been replaced and brought up to the current standard. Our old system was failing and was not worthy of any further repairs. We would like to thank our local contractor who carried out the work and also the contribution made by the Parish Council towards the cost involved.

On Saturday, 29th November we held the Christmas Fayre at the hall. Many people came along to support the event which had a slightly different format than in previous years, in aid of St Georges Church and the Village Hall. Some concerns were expressed, as several other local villages were also staging similar events on the day and our local school, the evening before. A big thank you to all the helpers and to Beryl Hurst who co-ordinated their efforts with £955.08p being raised to be divided equally between the Church and Hall. The next committee meeting is on Tuesday, 20th January at 7.30pm in the Hall. May I, on behalf of the committee, wish you all a Happy and Prosperous year in 2004.

Bevan Willgress

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NEWS FROM GREAT BENTLEY SURGERY

By the time this sees the light of day, Christmas will be all over bar the credit card bills. I hope you had a wonderful time and that Father Christmas delivered all that you had hoped for. I wonder who got the most useless present. We ought to have a competition for that.

We have had a busy spell here at the surgery over the last few weeks. There seem to be a lot of coughs, colds and odd viruses around, some of them causing really unpleasant "flu" like symptoms. Sadly, there is usually absolutely nothing that the doctors can do to speed these illnesses on their way. I remember reading once that an untreated cold lasts two weeks whereas one that a doctor tries to cure goes in a fortnight!

Unfortunately, antibiotics simply don't work on viruses so there's no real point in coming in to see the doctor. The best things you can do if you have a cold or flu are to keep warm, take plenty of fluids and use over the counter pain killers if you need them. Your local pharmacist will give good advice on these. Oh, and try not to pass your germs on to other people! This is also the time of year when it's a good idea to keep a discreet eye on elderly neighbours and friends, especially those who live alone. If you do spot signs that someone is poorly or not coping well with the cold it's worth offering help. A lot of elderly people are very independent and try to manage on their own, so you have to be prepared to take "no" for an answer. You need to remember too, that the doctors have no right generally to go barging in to see anyone unless they or their carer request a visit, which is sometimes hard to explain to a well-meaning neighbour.


We have just learned that we will have an extra doctor around for six months from February to help us cope with Dr Steiner's absence. He is Dr Tobias Kaufmann, who is an experienced GP at present working at a practice in Colchester. He will be full time, so many of you will get to know him. We will also have an extra GP Registrar working here for six months in the New Year. More of her next month, but all in all, it does seem that our regular GPs might be under a little less pressure for the first half of next year, which will be a relief for them.

As a last thought for 2003, all of us here at the surgery wish all of you - patients or not - a very happy and healthy 2004. Let's hope that the weather is gentle with us, that post-Christmas credit card bills are bearable and that the bugs and germs keep their distance.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our Christmas party turned out to be a very successful and pleasant evening, with members contributing to a tasty buffet which was enjoyed by all afterwards, Mrs Barbara Faulkener entertained us with Christmas anecdotes, poems and told how many of the very old customs and stories that we all know, came about. Also, how the Christmas Pudding started off hundreds of years ago as porridge and that ingredients gradually were added until the pudding we know evolved. Mrs Faulkener then showed us lots of ideas for Christmas decorations and had some inexpensive kits for us to buy. I would like to thank Mrs Ann Jones and the committee for all their hard work which went into making the evening so enjoyable. Our first meeting of 2004 is going to be given by our Treasurer, Mrs Sue Orriss, on the subject "Now what can you see?" If you would like to come along you will be most welcome, it is in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 7th January at 7.30pm. A Happy New Year to everyone from the Great Bromley W.I. *June Willgress*

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CARPET BOWLS

An update on the recent matches: We have played Walton away losing heavily 8-0. Away to Alresford we lost by 6-2, managed to win 6-2 over Thorpe at home and a 5-3 win over Little Clacton at home. Some of the games close-run up the last end which often just swayed the result, but we had very enjoyable evenings anyway. We have missed Bevan for his ability and his regular support over the past few months due to his being unwell and wish him better health in the months ahead. Good wishes from all club members also go to Pauline and her husband, Eric, who having retired from farming have moved to Hare Green, all the best to them too. A happy and healthy New Year to everyone. *Nancy Kempster*

GREAT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

The Annual Dinner at the Snooty Fox was enjoyed by about forty members and their friends. Thank you to the landlord and his helpers for their hospitality and superb meal which was enjoyed by all. The President's wife, Lynda Allam presented the trophies to: BEST FIELDER Richard Lawson BEST BOWLER Neil Garnham BEST BATSMAN Peter Brinkley PLAYERS PLAYER Peter Brinkley CLUBPERSON OF THE YEAR Katherine Foley Shields were presented to Peter Brinkley and Neil Garnham for each scoring 100 during the season.

Remember our A.G.M. on February 24th at Copley Dene at 8.p.m.

100 CLUB WINNERS for NOVEMBER. 1st. Mr. J. Taylor. 2nd. Mr. J. Boulton. 3rd. Mr. T. Lyon.



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KITCHEN CORNER

Another regional recipe this month, which you might like to try.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CHEESECAKES

8 oz prepared shortcrust pastry ; 6 oz curd or cream cheese

2 oz butter; 2 eggs ; 3 oz caster sugar ; 4 oz currants


Finely grated rind of 1 lemon; A few drops of almond essence; Ground nutmeg

Roll pastry on floured board and use to line 14-16 greased patty tins. Set oven 350F, 180C.


In a bowl, beat cheese smooth. Put butter, eggs and sugar in a saucepan and heat gently, stirring till thickened but do not let boil. Remove from heat and stir in cheese, add currants, essence and lemon rind. Mix well, fill the pastry cases, sprinkle with a little nutmeg and bake 20-25 minutes till well risen and golden. Serve hot or cold. *Jill Frostick*

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LITTLE BROMLEY A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The village population has increased over the last two hundred years since the first Census was taken in 1801. It was the brain child of Charles Abbot, son of Dr Abbot, Rector of All Saints Parish, Colchester. Charles later became Lord Colchester, having been Speaker of The House of Commons. etc. The population figures are -

1801 - 395; 1811 - 350; 1821 - 349; 1831 - 383; 1841 - 426; 1851 - 405; 1881 - 371; 1871- 400; 1881 - 374; 1891 - 341; 1901- 304

The Census taken on 1st April, 1911 is still not available on our computers but these details from it are interesting.

Inhabited houses 78

Empty houses 12

Total 90

Houses with less than two rooms 57

Males in the village 161

Females 143

Total 304

In 1891 the total population was 341, therefore the decrease in numbers was 37.

John Appleby

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2004

7 WI. meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm

14 PCC meeting, The Rectory, 7.30pm .

15 Friendship Club A.G.M., Village Hall 2.30pm

20 Gt Bromley Village Hall Committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm


22 WEA course A Century of Jazz Music, Ardleigh Village Hall, 2.30pm

FEBRUARY 24 Cricket Club A.G.M., Copley Dene. 8.00pm; tba Race Night, School

MARCH 13 Ian Ray & Colchester Institute Chamber Choir, St George's Church

MAY 1 Eastern Angles Theatre Company "The Edge of the Land", Village Hall

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 Happy New Year to You All

**EVENTS for January**

- NEW YEAR'S EVE "WALT DISNEY PRESENTS" an EVENING of MUSIC and DANCING to bring in the New Year, and welcomes his favourite cartoon characters to join the fun. 8 till late. Light supper provided
- 22nd CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT 8.30 pm start  
in aid of the Tommy appeal.
- 28th MUSIC NIGHT 8.00 start  
Come and sing, play or just listen and enjoy. This is a very relaxed evening for you to be entertained by all types of traditional music and poetry.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU**  
 £5,500 is the amount raised for various charities in 2003 - FANTASTIC, GREAT, A HUGE THANK YOU - and well done to everyone who has contributed in cash, kind and/or labour.  
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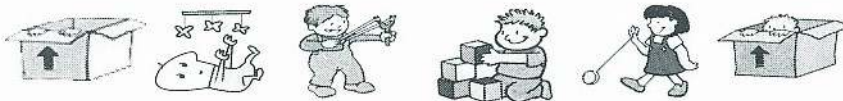
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ST. GEORGES SCHOOL GT. BROMLEY Headteacher: Pat Fitzgerald

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PUPILS, STAFF AND GOVERNORS OF THE SCHOOL. What an exciting end of the year the school had. The Christmas season started with the annual Festive Fayre. The new hall was packed with stalls. games and refreshments being enjoyed by parents. children and many past pupils from the school. The teachers are always thrilled to see old faces returning to the school. Next came the annual School Play, held at the Village Hall. Again so much work goes on for weeks to organise these performances. Due to unforeseen illnesses a few younger pupils had to fill the roles of older pupils - and what a great job they all did. Being my child's last year at the school it is hard to imagine him and his mates up on stage, remembering many lines and actions, but they did us proud. 'The Lemonade Kid' production which involved the whole school in singing, dancing and acting is such a great opportunity for the children to be on stage. At the end of term there was the school disco and a trip to the Mercury Theatre to see Cinderella. The football team was out in action in November with matches with Dedham, Langham and Ardleigh. Well done to all the team - keep up the training!  
SCHOOL REOPENS ON MONDAY, 5TH JANUARY 2004.

### ST GEORGES SCHOOL P.T.A.

The Christmas Fayre was held at the school on 28th November. It was very well attended and approximately £1,400 was raised. Thank you to everyone who came along. The children's Christmas Disco is being held at the school on 12th December. RACE NIGHT - To be held in February on a date to be arranged.



## **SCALLYWAGS**

**FRIDAY MORNINGS 9.30am - 11.30am**

**AT GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL**

£2 for 1 adult 1 child & 50p for each child thereafter

Come along play, sing and make things.

Adults must stay and supervise their children at all times.

Come and join in the fun!

Contact Tracey 01206 230625 or Kelly 07880 965809

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

By the time you read this we will have had our Christmas lunch served to us by "SWEET SUCCESS" - many thanks to Linda and her staff. We have been fortunate to enrol 10 new members during 2003. Membership is open to all aged 50 and over and are resident in Great Bromley and neighbourhood. Subscriptions are due in January - £5 - which includes tea and biscuits, also coach for those who wish to use it. Your first visit is free when you are classed as a "GUEST", - when we hope you enjoy the meeting and join us permanently and become a full member on payment of your subs. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month in the Village Hall and begin at 2.30pm. There are stalls with cakes. clothes, cards (birthday and anniversary etc.) Speakers and entertainers are booked every month. We look forward to seeing YOU.

Our hope is that 2004 will bring a more peaceful time and for everyone good health, and to anyone who is not feeling well just now, keep your chin up and keep smiling. Competition for January: A Calendar Picture with dates attached. Be seeing you. *Vicky Griffiths*

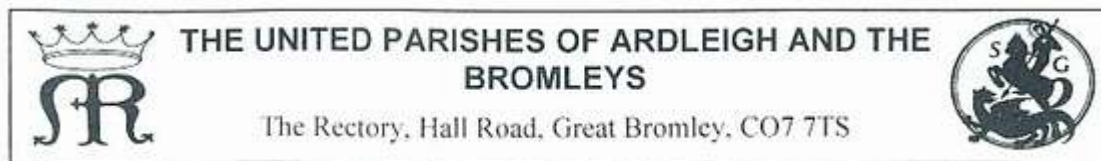
### ST GEORGES CHURCH ROOF REPAIR

The Repair Committee started 2003 full of hope that by the end of the year the repairs to the Hammerbeam Roof and the North Parapet would be completed. Alas, now that we are involved with English Heritage. English Nature (and the nesting season of the bats!). specialists and builders, the wheels seem to turn ever more and more slowly. At the beginning of the year English Heritage offered us a grant of £35,000. This, added to the sums collected through nine years of fund-raising and the sums promised to us by other grant-making bodies, meant there was enough (just enough) money in the Fund to GO AHEAD. A condition of our accepting the grant from English Heritage was that further investigatory work should first be done on the stonework of the north parapet, towards which we have been offered a possible £16,000. You

will have noticed the scaffolding which appeared in the church in July of this year to enable the stone conservator to investigate the condition of the north parapet. His report and recommendations have been accepted by English Heritage: unfortunately, one recommendation is that all outside repairs should be delayed until April 2004, because some of the materials to be used are vulnerable to frost. We still hoped that the interior work might be done this autumn but the cost of erecting and removing scaffolding twice and the spreading out of the work makes this much more expensive than having all the work delayed until the spring of 2004, so sadly the committee has agreed to the latter.

We very much hope that English Heritage will increase our grant to meet the extra costs of the delayed work. We have also arranged two fund raising events to try to ensure that we will be able to pay all our costs when repairs eventually begin.

Please note the dates in your diaries. On Saturday, 13th March, 2004 Ian Ray and the Colchester institute Chamber Choir have agreed to give a concert in St George's Church. If it is as beautiful as the Christmas Concert they gave us two years ago, you should not miss it! On Saturday, 1st May, 2004 the Eastern Angles Theatre Company is bringing its new play "The Edge of the Land" to Great Bromley Village Hall. Supper as usual beforehand! We look forward to your support for these very enjoyable and worthwhile evenings. *Anne Clapham*



Dear Parishioner, The Christian Church is growing in numbers! That's the good news. The bad news is that in the West and in this country, the number of people in Church on a Sunday morning is declining. Wonderfully in these parishes over the past six years we have seen an increase in commitment. More adults have made public commitment to God and Jesus Christ than have died, but only just. To be open and honest too. we have seen less people coming to Church Sunday by Sunday because of the recent changes in service times and venues. Basically people who used to come every week now come once a fortnight. Yet we are a thriving Church even if we are only treading water numerically. Both Church buildings will see considerable investment in money terms for the present and future generations to worship in during this year. It will be a struggle but we will pay our way again to the wider Church and to the Charities we choose to support. Our teenage group, the MAGI, and youngsters in the Sunday Church Club grow in numbers, involvement and commitment which is a source of great encouragement and blessing. Our adult groups, the Housechurches, continue to meet for fellowship and study in Christian living. Sunday by Sunday, day by day, praise is given to God here and people are attempting to live out their lives in His service. I say attempting quite deliberately, because as Christians we do not claim to have all the answers and be the ones who are good and holy. Indeed, most people come to Church because of an awareness of their shortcomings and failings and a desire to learn more about self; to try and do something about it in the context of something greater than humanity, the one we call God. Over the next few months I shall be holding fast track courses on being a Christian. If you feel you'd like to know more, without making any commitment, or could do with a refresher course to bring you up to speed and help you find a way back in. please get in touch with me. May God bless us all. *Fr Nicolas.*

**ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY**

*united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh*



ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh

Services for JANUARY

|             |         |                                  |                       |
|-------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st         |         | <b>Mary, Mother of God</b>       |                       |
|             | 10.00am | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
| 2nd         | 11.00am | Holy Communion                   | Seven Rivers          |
| 3rd         | 9.00am  | The Eucharist & Rosary           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| Sunday 4th  |         | <b>Christmass 2</b>              |                       |
|             | 7.30am  | Morning Prayer                   | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist             | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                   | St. George the Martyr |
| 6th         |         | <b>Epiphany of our Lord</b>      |                       |
|             | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
| 7th         | 6.00pm  | The Eucharist                    | Hamilton Lodge        |
| 8th         | 10.00am | The Eucharist                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 9th         | 11.00am | The Eucharist                    | Seven Rivers          |
| 10th        | 9.00am  | The Eucharist & Rosary           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| Sunday 11th |         | <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>   |                       |
|             | 7.30am  | Morning Prayer                   | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist             | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                   | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 12th        | 10.00am | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
| 14th        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
| 15th        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 16th        | 11.00am | The Eucharist                    | Seven Rivers          |
| 17th        | 9.00am  | The Eucharist & Rosary           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| Sunday 18th |         | <b>Epiphany 2</b>                |                       |
|             | 7.30am  | Morning Prayer                   | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist             | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                   | St. George the Martyr |
| 19th        | 10.00am | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
| 21st        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
| 22nd        | 10.00am | The Eucharist                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 23rd        | 11.00am | The Eucharist                    | Seven Rivers          |
| 24th        | 9.00am  | The Eucharist & Rosary           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 25th        |         | <b>Epiphany 3</b>                |                       |
|             | 7.30am  | Morning Prayer                   | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist             | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 3.30pm  | Christian Unity Week Celebration | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 26th        |         | <b>SS Timothy &amp; Titus</b>    |                       |
|             | 10.00am | The Eucharist                    | St. George the Martyr |
| 29th        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 30th        | 11.00am | Holy Communion                   | Seven Rivers          |

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Over the years I have written upon how fortunate we are in Great Bromley to have so many amenities of which so many other communities are deprived. To enjoy such amenities they need to be used. Although we are still lucky enough to retain the library service, the time it remains in the village is dependant upon the amount it is used - which is little. We also have a bus service and pubs. We have various clubs and organisations as well as sporting clubs. We have a school, a playgroup, a toddler group. We have a church.

However, in recent times the village has lost the youth groups that used to be run and also the pantomime has gone the way of the carnival. These have mainly ceased through lack of committee members, leaders or general support. Various one-off events were sadly cancelled last year for much the same reasons.

The latest and most disturbing loss comes next month when we sadly lose our Post Office Stores which Michael has run so efficiently the last few years. What does this say for our village and its future? The loss of any one organisation or amenity may of itself not appear significant but taken together they can radically change, or significantly erode, the glorious sense of community which we are privileged to share.

There are a number of interesting and exciting events advertised this month. Don't forget to mark their dates in your diary.

The sense of community can, of course, spread wider than one's village. Two recent national examples are the Golden Jubilee celebrations and the Rugby World Cup. There are other celebrations which are organised at a local level but which occur on a worldwide basis. George and I have just attended our second Burns evening. The most wonderful excuse for dressing up to spend an evening of laughter and conversation with friends. Also to enjoy the traditional sound of the bagpipes which begin the evening by piping everyone to their tables before the piper processes in front of the important people of the evening to the top table. There is the piping in of the haggis and the whisky before the eating of same followed finally by the speeches. There is "The Immortal Memory" about Burns with quotes from his poetry, some of which is incomprehensible to me but just the sound of the words is enough beauty. There are his songs to be heard and various toasts to be drunk. It is a wonderful way to spend an evening and a marvellous annual celebration.

The Welsh celebrate St David's Day on 1st March and the Irish, famously in New York but also elsewhere, St Patricks Day on 17th March. St Georges Day on 23rd April, which is also Shakespeare's birthday, passes almost unnoticed except in Stratford-upon-Avon. Although we have the May Bank Holiday about 10 days later why is it that in England we do not have a day of celebration of our national identity which in turn would strengthen local communities. The trouble is, being English myself, I am not sure whether I am allowed to ask whether the English are losing their sense of identity. *Leonie Henderson*

**GREENACRE BOARDING CATTERY**

**30th ANNIVERSARY**

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### CLOSURE OF GREAT BROMLEY POST OFFICE AND STORES

It is with sadness and regret that I have to announce that the Great Bromley Post Office will close at 1.00pm on 19th March, 2004 and the Shop at 5.00pm on 22nd March, 2004. This has become necessary for several reasons:

1. The Shop has been up for sale for two years but with no buyer.
2. Trade has declined because not enough local people have been using it. Buying the occasional paper or milk is not enough to keep a shop open.
3. Some staff have recently left and it has not been viable to take on new employees because of the downturn in trade. This has resulted in me working even longer hours and having no time for my family, or a life in general.
4. Many of our Post Office customers who used to have their benefits paid at the Post Office have now decided to have it paid into a bank account. This has resulted in less business for the Post Office and as a result less use of the Shop.

I would like to thank most sincerely those customers who have supported the Shop over the years. I am sorry it has become necessary to close the business. I have given my all and unfortunately if a lot of the village do not use the shop I cannot force them to. The message you hear in rural communities is USE IT OR LOSE IT, and GREAT BROMLEY is no different from elsewhere. *Michael* 5th January, 2004

### GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Management Committee were scheduled to meet on Tuesday, 20th January, just too late for the deadline for the Bromley Messenger. Several small items have been sorted out at the Hall recently such as broken toilet seats, door latches that won't latch, stop taps that don't turn off and satisfying the people who want to see whether their tie etc. is properly positioned. All these things take time and funds, but nevertheless have to be seen to.

The new Licensing Bill, which has just been through Parliament, will mean changes to the way we obtain entertainment and alcohol licences. In future, to be handled by the local District Council with different provision on the number of occasions certain functions may be held. Also, being effective from this year is the Disabled Discrimination Act (1995). Hence the ramped access and exits provided at the Hall in 2001. There is also a new Charities Act and Oil Storage Regulations in the pipeline not too far away! *Bevan Willgress*

### KITCHEN CORNER

**SOMERSET CHICKEN** - another old country recipe. Severs [*sic!*] 4

4 chicken portions, 2 oz butter, 1 medium onion peeled and diced, 1 oz flour, ¾pt milk, ¼ pt dry cider, 4 oz cheddar cheese grated, 1 tblsp English mustard, salt & pepper  
Set oven at 350 F, 180 C. Melt half butter in frying pan and lightly brown the chicken. Transfer to casserole dish and roast 1 hour till cooked through.

Sauce - Melt rest of butter and cook onion gently till soft and transparent but not browned. Stir in flour and cook 2 mins, then stir in milk and cider, bring to boil and stir till thickened. Remove from heat, add ¾ of the cheese, the mustard, salt and pepper. Pour over cooked chicken, sprinkle with rest of cheese and brown under a hot grill or in a hot oven. Serve with jacket potatoes and a green vegetable. *Jill Frostick*

### GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Great Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 8 January 2004

**PLANNING** The Council considered and agreed no objections to the following planning applications: Greenacre Cattery, Carrington Road 12 additional cat units & reception office. 2 Chase Cottages, Stone Road change to external wall finish.

The Council considered but could not support the following planning applications:

1 Chase Cottages, Stone Road front extension and new porch. A front extension would be inappropriate for this semi-detached house and would obstruct the View from the adjoining property.

Elm Bungalow, Harwich Road, demolition and building three replacement houses. Three bungalows would be an over-development of the site with inadequate off-road car parking spaces.

Tendring District Council has approved the following planning applications:

Bay Cottage, Chase Road East replacement porch.

Field House, Parson's Hill conservatory and stables (conditional on domestic/non-commercial use only).

**Planning appeal** The District Council has refused permission for a house to be built on a field at Primrose Farm, Hall Road. The Planning Inspectorate will hear the owners appeal in Great Bromley at 10.00 am on 15 June 2004. The Council will speak against the proposal and members of the public will be able to make representations either way.

**Great Bromley Post Office** The council noted with regret that the post office and shop would be closing in March 2004. This will be a great loss to the community and the Council acknowledges with thanks the significant contribution to village life made by the present sub-postmaster and his predecessors. The council is seeking advice, from the Post Office, the Rural Community Council and other agencies, on possible options for maintaining these services. These will be discussed by the council at its February meeting, to which residents are invited.

**Poorlands Charity** Further to the report in last month's magazine the Trustees now confirm that they were in fact able to make only two grants in January. Funds are therefore still available to assist needy residents of Great Bromley - of any age or circumstances. Suggestions of potential applicants can be made at any time to the Parish Clerk.

**Council's 2004/5 budget and precept** The Council has set a precept of £12,500 that will be collected through the Council Tax. This is unchanged since 2001/2. Expenditure will be approximately £18,000 drawing partly on the Council's reserves, which presently stand at £13,000. The principal costs will be: general administration - £4250; running costs, including grass and hedge cutting - £3700 ; recreation equipment for young people - £5000, grants to community groups - £1300; a contribution towards the village hall's essential capital works and repairs - £2500.

Applications for community grants should be made to the Clerk. Contractors wishing to tender for grass and hedge cutting should also make themselves known to the Clerk.

**Future meetings** The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12 February 2004 at the Village Hall Great Bromley. As always local residents are invited to attend.

Ken Bromfield 10/1/04

#### GREAT BROMLEY HOUSING NEEDS

Last October the parish council, with the Rural Housing Trust, carried out a survey of Great Bromley's housing needs. Questionnaires were distributed to all of the village's households with over a third responding. Statistically this is a good result and provides sound evidence of housing need. 81% of those who responded wanted to see additional housing in village. Most felt that housing for young people was a priority, although there was support for both older people and families. The majority of these respondents preferred rented accommodation as opposed to housing for sale or shared ownership. 19% of respondents felt that no more houses should be built, as this would increase the size of the village. There are presently 12 council-owned and six housing association properties in Great Bromley. Turn-over has been low with only four of these becoming available in the past three years. In each case there has been considerable demand with typically a dozen applicants. 21 households in the survey indicated that they had either current or future housing needs - particularly for young people. Most of these required subsidised and rented housing, as the private market could not meet their needs. The report concluded that there is a need for 10 new affordable properties in Great Bromley - and the Rural Housing Trust is willing in principle to provide these. The parish council at its next meeting will decide whether or not to support this development. If it does the next step will be to determine the precise number, type and location of the new properties. The ratio of rented to shared ownership will also have to be decided. A copy of the survey can be obtained through the Clerk. Residents are welcome to attend the parish council's discussion on 12 February.

#### PARISH COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

Under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003 parish councillors are entitled to attendance and travel allowances. Information on these allowances, which are set by an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), can be obtained from the Clerk or Tendring District Council. Great Bromley Parish Council has received the IRP's recommendations and has decided that its councillors, as community servants, should not receive attendance allowances. However, councillors may claim travel expenses for official duty visits to council approved meetings outside the parish, at the recommended rates of 40/24/20p per mile by car/motorcycle/cycle respectively. Records of the actual expenses paid to individual councillors can be obtained from the Clerk. The total amount of expenses paid will be published annually on 31 March. The above notice has been placed as a requirement of the 2003 Regulations etc  
Ken Bromfield, Clerk to Great Bromley Parish Council 1 February 2004.

## GREAT BROMLEY & FRATING PLAYGROUP

Mondays Wednesdays & Thursdays 9.30am-12 Midday £4.50 per session

2 years 6 months to 5 years at Great Bromley Village Hall. Contact Gayle (Secretary).

We would like to welcome you all back to playgroup and hope that you had a good Christmas, There are some new children who have joined us this term and they are Amber, Christian, Gillian, Molly, Morgan and Samuel. We hope you all enjoy your time with us at playgroup. The theme for this term is colours. the children being encouraged to bring in something for 'show and tell' this giving them the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the topic by participating in show and tell with the other children.

We have a fund raising event coming up soon, also another night out for the Adults, so keep your eyes peeled for more information to follow. *Kelly Searl*

## SCALLYWAGS

Welcome back to all our children, Mums/Nan/Carers and all those who attend Scally Wags. We hope you all enjoyed your festive break. We have lots of activities planned for this term so we do hope that you all come along and join in the fun with us. We are really pleased with how well Scally Wags has taken off and we are grateful for everybody's support. Please do keep it up. Anyone who is thinking of coming along, please do so. We are a really friendly group and the children thoroughly enjoy the mornings with us! Our next night out as an ADULTS ONLY evening will be joined with Great Bromley & Frating Playgroup so we will let you know as soon as dates have been finalised. We look forward to seeing you all and even some new faces?

*Kelly Searl*

## ST. GEORGES SCHOOL, GT. BROMLEY Headteacher: Pat Fitzgerald

**The PTA** met on 13th January. The meeting was well attended. The School disco held at the School in December raised £112; thank you to all who helped out and attended.

**FUTURE EVENTS Quiz Night** is being held at the School on Saturday, 7th February starting at 7.30pm, tickets are £5 which includes a cheese platter. Teams of around 8 people. A fun evening.

**Ladies Indulgences** On 16th March (date to be confirmed) at the School. "Chocoholics" come and taste the chocolates before you buy. Virgin Vie body products and cosmetics and silverware. The tickets are £2.50 which include a glass of wine. **Bingo** This year the Beetle Drive has been replaced with Children's Bingo. it will be held at the School on Thursday 29th April (date to be confirmed) 5-6.30pm. Tickets from the School office.

**Race Night** This has been postponed until 15th May (date to be confirmed). We are looking for businesses to sponsor our eight races at £20 a race and people to sponsor a horse for just £3. So if you would like to see your name on the screen contact Debbie Wright. Tickets for the night are £2.50. There will be a bar and it is sure to be great fun

**Car Treasure Hunt and Bar-B-Q** is on Saturday 10th July. The Car Treasure Hunt starts at 3.00pm and is always good fun for all the family. The Bar-B-Q is from 5.00pm so if you are unable to make the Treasure Hunt you are very welcome to join in the fun afterwards. Soft drinks will be on sale but bring your own bottle! Times and date are to be confirmed.

For tickets or information for all the above contact Debbie Wright or the School office.

**The Christmas Fayre** will be held as usual on the last Friday in November - 26th.

St George's School P.T.A.  
**RACE NIGHT**



Saturday, 15th May at 7.30pm

Tickets £2.50 including a cheese platter

more details from  
Debbie Wright (01206 250962)  
or the School Office



EASTERN ANGLES  
THEATRE COMPANY

brings you

**"THE EDGE OF THE  
LAND"**

on  
Saturday, 1st May  
in  
Great Bromley Village Hall



with  
Supper beforehand

In aid of St George's Church Roof  
Repair Fund



## NEWS FROM THE DOCTORS' SURGERY

### **ARDLEIGH SURGERY THE SURGERY, DEDHAM ROAD, ARDLEIGH**

If all goes well, Dr Vernon Bettle will be working full time from the beginning of January having worked a few surgery sessions during December. He has made good progress and everybody is pleased to see him back at the surgery. Owing to his medical history he is unable to drive for twelve months and therefore will have to rely upon taxis for home gets visits.

Our GP Registrar, Dr L Sayomi Gunawardena, wishes to thank all those patients that sponsored her on her Inca Trail Trek in Peru last September. She was able to raise £2500 in total for the St Helena Hospice and enjoyed the experience, Sayomi completes her general practice training year and leaves the surgery in February. She will then return to Colchester General Hospital to take up a post in paediatrics for six months before seeking a position in general practice.

A new GP Registrar, Dr Sajid Rahman will be joining the practice in February to start his training year. *Fred Merrin, Practice Manager*

### **GREAT BENTLEY SURGERY THE HOLLIES, THE GREEN, GT BENTLEY**

We are having a busy time at the moment but help is at hand in the shape of our new Registrar. Dr Melanie Carter, who joins us in February. Dr Carter was born and bred locally, so we won't have to explain the oddities of the Tendring Peninsula to her! She's already an experienced doctor who has decided to spend an extra six months as a Registrar to pursue "Specific Skills Training". She will be with us two days each week, the rest of her time being spent at Colchester Hospital working on her special interests (believed to be Accident & Emergency and anaesthetics).

I've had a request this month to include more thumbnail sketches of our staff. There hasn't been room for a while but I'm told that some of you like to read them. I'm sure you know that there are people working here who never really get seen by the public or have their essential work properly recognised. A good example of this is our Medical Secretaries who spend their days producing hospital referral letters, adding documents or information to patients' notes and generally helping to make the doctors' lives bearable. The three ladies in question, Molly Starling, Joy Hymas and Carol Addison can boast an amazing 39 years service between them. Just imagine how many letters, forms and telephone calls that represents. Molly who has been with us longest is very much a family person despite being a golf-widow! She loves domestic things like gardening, flower arranging and cooking, so how she finds time to work here, I don't know. Joy lists her hobbies as boating, birding and walking. She and husband, Dave, have just upgraded their boat so you can guess what their holiday will be this year. Our newest secretary, Carol has two young children and a dog, so quite how she manages to describe herself as a party animal, I don't know. She's also into cooking and reading. One strange thing that all three have in common is that they consume vast quantities of herbal teas. So if ever you notice a strange aroma lingering around the surgery, it's probably one of their exotic concoctions such as Lupin with Mint, or Raspberry with Willow Bark. My own experience is that these smell great but taste like something drawn from Brightlingsea Creek. The girls love them though. and if that's what keeps them happy...

On a health note, we are at present setting some special asthma clinics when our resident expert, Jayne Brown, will be helping our newest nurse, Bonnie Beard. to get going on patient reviews. They'll be starting with patients with mild asthma. and if you are called in, please come along and get checked over, even if you haven't had an attack lately. It's always worth having a quick check, even if your asthma seems to be dormant. *Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager*

## BROMLEY CROSS INN EVENTS

Saturday, 14th VALENTINE'S DAY Treat your sweetheart to a 3 course evening meal, including a glass of wine - £12.50

Thursday, 19th CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT 8.30 pm in aid of the Gateway Club.

Wednesday, 25th MUSIC NIGHT 8.00 start Come and sing, play or just listen and enjoy. This is a very relaxed evening for you to be entertained by all types of traditional music and poetry.



Janina Morris (BAJLMS)  
2 Bentley Rd, Lt Bromley, Manningtree, Essex CO1 2PL  
Clarinet and Saxophone Tuition  
From Beginners to Advanced  
Tel/Fax: 01206 391345  
Mobile: 07759 48854  
Email: janinamorris@hotmail.com

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **FEBRUARY**

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 7 PTA. Quiz Night, St George's School, 7.30pm
- 12 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 19 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 24 Cricket Club A.G.M., Copley Dene, 8.00pm
- 26 Farmers' Market, Brightlingsea 9.00am

### **MARCH**

- 13 Carpet Bowls Brumbella Cup tournament
- 13 Ian Ray & Colchester institute Chamber Choir, St George's Church, 7.30pm
- 16 PTA. Ladies Indulgences', St George's School

### **APRIL**

- 3 Cricket Club Quiz Night, Village Hall, 8.00pm
- 29 PTA. Children's Beetle Drive, St. George's School, 5.00pm

### **MAY**

- 1 Eastern Angles Theatre Company "The Edge of the Land", Village Hall

- 15 PTA Race Night, St George's School

- JULY 10 PTA. Car Treasure Hunt & Bar-B-Q Tending Hundred Show

- NOVEMBER 26 PTA Christmas Fayre

### **St George's School P.T.A.**

#### **QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday, 7th February at 7.30pm

Teams of 8

For  
Tickets £5 including a  
cheese platter  
please apply  
Debbie Wright (01206  
250962)



### **IAN RAY**

and the

#### **COLCHESTER INSTITUTE CHAMBER CHOIR**



Saturday, 13th March  
in  
St George's Church  
at  
7.30pm

Tickets, to include wine and home-  
made refreshments, £10  
from:

Anne Clapham 01206 230790  
Caro McShane 01206 323188  
or at the church

In aid of St George's Church Roof  
Repair Fund

### **BRIGHTLINGSEA**

#### **FARMERS' MARKET**

26th February  
9am - 1pm

Brightlingsea Community Centre, Lower  
Park Road



For further details  
contact:  
Bob Shotton 01206  
302669

### **St George's School P.T.A.**

#### **LADIES' INDULGENCES**

16th March  
Chocolates  
Virgin Vie Body Products  
Cosmetics Silverware

**COME AND SPOIL YOUR-  
SELF!**

For  
Tickets £2.50 including a glass  
of wine  
please apply  
Debbie Wright (01206 250962)



### **CRICKET**

#### **CLUB**

#### **QUIZ**

#### **NIGHT**



Saturday, 3rd April  
in the Village Hall  
at 8.00pm

Tickets £3 per person  
Bring your own food and nibbles.

To reserve a table ring:  
Phil Allam 01206 230375

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mrs Sue Orriss, our Treasurer, took us down "memory lane" for our first meeting of 2004. She shared with us some of her experiences and memories of her days as a Geography and Environmental Studies student and eventually as a lecturer to sixth form students in the subject, also, in later years, a teacher of primary school children. Sue called her talk "What do you see?" because when on a field trip the tutor invariably started with that phrase after they had stopped to assess a place or situation. They looked carefully, made notes and sketched what they saw i.e. rock formations, contours, scenery. Their travels were to forests, coastlines, cliffs, beaches, coal mines and much more. Sue remembers Port Talbot, in South Wales, looking very derelict, also Lower Swansea. The coloured sandstone cliffs on the Isle of Wight, lots of limestone in the Peak District and Edale's limestone and shale. The East Coast has lots of chalk, parts of Kent also chalk and some shingle.

More recently, Sue visited many of the same sites with her students and saw many changes, especially in South Wales where a vast improvement had taken place. She also took her primary school pupils to see sand banks on the Norfolk coast and pond dipping at Fingringhoe.

Apparently looking for fossils at Walton on the Naze is not allowed any more because of erosion. I was sorry when Sue's talk came to an end; I am sure that I was not alone in feeling that.

A party of our Members are planning to visit the Mercury Theatre on 31st January to see the Colchester Operatic Society's production of 'Oliver'. Susan Long is our speaker on the first Wednesday in February, her talk has the intriguing title "I've started so I'll finish"! If you feel you would like to join us, please do, at 7.30pm on 4th February in the village hall. *June Willgress*

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We had a Musical Afternoon at our meeting on 15th January when Dr Knight took us through the life of Jim Reeves with tapes of his songs - being able to hear every word he sang was great. Mrs Knight also sang a couple of the songs. If you weren't at the last meeting, we hope to see you on 19th February. The competition: an item referring to the National Trust. *Vicky Griffiths*

## RECTOR EJECTED FROM OFFICE

John Candler, MA. (Jesus College, Cambridge), became Rector of Little Bromley on 28th November, 1656. Candler was ordained by Mr John Fairfax, who was a close friend of the foremost divine in London, Matthew Newcomen, Rector of Dedham. Newcomen was a scholar at Colchester Royal Grammar School. He was ejected from Dedham by the Act of Uniformity on St Bartholomew's Day, 1662, and went on to the English Church at Leyden. John Fairfax delivered Newcomen's funeral oration in 1669. Candler appears to have been in this circle.

Candler "Would not yield to anything that might be capable of being interpreted as casting a Reflection on is former Ordination" but was also ejected from Little Bromley in 1662 and his successor, Isaac Smithies, MA, was installed on 1st May, 1663.

Bishop Reynolds took notice that John Candler was "as good a Minister as he could make him" and told him he could go to preach the Gospel at Petto, (Pettaugh, Suffolk). John "read some of the Common Prayer and now and then wore the surplice but did not use all the ceremonies". He took up the Living of Pettaugh on 25th July, 1664. This suggests that he was quietly found another Living and was persuaded by Bishop Reynolds to conform. He was buried at Pettaugh on 29th December, 1676. Most ejected ministers preached a Fairwell Sermon but to the present there has not been found one given by John at Little Bromley. It is interesting to note that John's father, Matthias Candler, Vicar of Coddendam, Suffolk, was also ejected from that parish in 1652. *John Appleby*

## CARPET BOWLS

Since the Christmas break, attendance at club evenings has been close on 100% making it a busy time for the games' organisers who were running the singles competition as well. The semi-finals of this ran out to matches between Brian Francis and Andrew Childs and between Nan Percival and Derek Frostick. Both matches were well contested over 7 ends. With Brian and Andrew at 5 all after 7 ends, an extra end had to be played resulting in a measure which gave the match to Brian by a whisker. Nan and Derek also had a close game but Nan managed to edge forward to win 6-4.

In the final played over 9 ends, Brian started well. Then, into her stride, Nan went ahead and it was a see-saw match till the scores levelled at 6 all after 8 ends. By this time the hall was silent and the watching members totally absorbed. Brian sent his first two bowls too hard and his opponent was able to steadily build up round the jack, two more rather loose woods from him

and Nan took the match by 3 shots 9-6. Well done to her, considering that she had a knee operation last August and was out of action for several weeks. The Chairman presented the cup to Nan the following week along with a personal one for her to keep.

Welcome back to Pat who comes each week to support us although not able to play since his illness. Our charity tournament for the Brumbella Cup is in aid of the Parkinson's disease Society on 13th March, so if anyone feels that they can donate a raffle prize we would be grateful. Thank you. *Nancy Kempster*

#### GARDENER'S CORNER FOR FEBRUARY

**Shrubs:** Rooted suckers from cornus, philadelphus and lilac may be severed and planted out.

**Roses:** Start to prune bush roses this month **Perennials:** Remove all dead stems before the young shoots begin to grow. New plants can still be planted. Older clumps can be divided and replanted. **Iris:** Dutch irises planted for cut flowers can be covered with cloches. Ventilate on sunny days. *Frank Griffiths*

#### GREAT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

##### 100 CLUB WINNERS

DECEMBER 1st. Mr. E. Daniels. 2nd. Julie Garnham. 3rd. Mrs M. West.

JANUARY 1st. Mr. A. Pirie. 2nd. Mrs. L. Oakley. 3rd. Mrs. M. Wright.

We are holding a Quiz night on April 3rd at the Village Hall starting at 8pm. Tickets £3 per person, bring your own drink and nibbles. Please contact me to reserve your table. A BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! (I forgot to put it in last month's news). *Phil Allam*

#### ST GEORGES HAMMERBEAM ROOF REPAIR FUND APPEAL

On Saturday 13th March at 7.30pm, St Georges Church is host to Ian Ray's superb Colchester institute Chamber Choir with a miscellany of wonderful ecclesiastical treats from around the world, both classical and contemporary. The programme includes: Four Choruses Op.29 by Dvorak, Brazilian Psalm by Jean Berger, Viva la Musica by Ivan Erod, Gospel songs, and a marvellous Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by the internationally famous Head of Composition, Alan Bullard. Also included will be cello music with the well-known solo player, Oliver Ray, Ian's son. Ian's Chamber Choir always contains the most lively and enthusiastic young people. Two years ago we were privileged to hear the acclaimed young Danish singer, Mathilde Kirknea with Aaron Copeland's In the Beginning, and this year's concert promises pieces every bit as thrilling. Imagine being able to say that you first heard the Charlotte Church or Aled Jones of the future in 2004 in Gt Bromley church! Tickets, to include wine and home-made refreshments, £10 from: Anne Clapham or Caro McShane or at forthcoming services in church.

#### GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

I read with concern the report of the Bromleys PCC meeting in the December magazine that a member of the congregation (yes, it was me - guilty!) had suggested that the PCC "stop giving money to charities". Now I certainly didn't suggest that we stop our normal fund raising efforts for charities. Throughout the year we have specific fund raisers for the Jerusalem Eye Hospital, Christian Aid, St Francis Hospital Katate, the Sisters of Mercy and many other activities, all of which I wholeheartedly support.

My simple suggestion was that since St George's is in such dire financial straits, the policy of automatically passing on 10% of the church's income - from the collection bag; covenanted income, donations in the box, coffee mornings, fetes, festivals and any other money coming in - should be temporarily under review until the situation improves. An enormous amount of time, effort and love goes into raising money both for the upkeep of the church itself and for the outside charities we support. If, in the end, we cannot afford to run our own church, how can we be there for others? Are we too much of a credit-based society to realise that we must meet our own housekeeping bills, first, before we can afford the luxury of giving our basic income away?

I am considerably confused to find my suggestions so woefully misunderstood; with an evangelistic priest like Father Nicolas the recent Mission to the Benefice, our housechurches, Outreach, the Magi, the Shoe Box appeal, Churches Together, the mobile phone collections - the list is endless - how can we possibly be misinterpreted as being "self-centred and inward looking"? I think our neighbouring sister churches who have not adopted this policy would be much grieved to find themselves described in such harsh terms! Support outside charities most certainly - enthusiastically and generously - but keep our own house in order first!

*Caroline McShane*

## THE UNITED PARISHES OF ARDLEIGH AND THE BROMLEYS

*The Rectory: Hall Road, Great Bromley, CO7 7TS*

Dear Parishioner, Just last week, 16 days in to January, I finished and sent off, like the good nephew I am, the last Christmass thank-you letter to the aunts and uncles who still spoil me each year with chocolate bars and gift tokens. It's what I have always done although every year it seems to get harder to know what to write without resorting to one of those ghastly round robin things!

So as late as I was, I was delighted to hear that a parishioner has just received a thank-you note for a gift sent in 2002! What makes this thank you special though, and its lateness excusable, is that it came from a family in Serbia who had received one of our Christmass shoeboxes. In case you don't know about these for the past few years the Churches here have co-ordinated the sending of over 600 boxes filled with simple toys or pens or clothes like a scarf or gloves. Wrapped up in Christmas paper they are given to a child of any faith or none who would not be receiving anything that Christmass. A simple expression of human love across the miles. None of the donors I'm sure do it expecting anything else in return apart from knowing that their celebrating of Christmass by giving has made a difference to a child in need somewhere. The card expressing gratitude is truly the icing on the cake.

For Christians the beginning of February is celebrated with the feast of Mary and Joseph presenting their 40 day old baby in the temple, as was the custom. The journey would have been costly in time and energy, risky too for the new born and his fragile post birth mother, but it was what you did. You went to the temple in Jerusalem and said thank you for the birth of a child to the Creator God. Whilst they were in the temple Simeon, an elderly man, comes up, takes the child from them and proclaims him as the "light of the world".

For Mary and Joseph Simeon's words would have been the icing on the cake. To Christians throughout the world they are a simple expression of divine love across the miles for which we try to say thank-you with our prayers and actions. May God bless you, *Fr Nicolas*

### CAROLS ST MARY'S, LITTLE BROMLEY

What a lovely carol service. Thank you for all the hard work cleaning, decorating and heating the church! for the Singers and for the mulled wine and delicious mince pies. it was so good to see the old church full to overflowing. *Bill Walker*

### ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

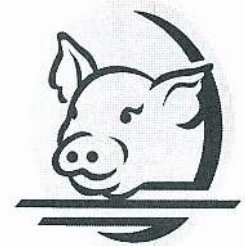
Last month I picked up a bag full of fish pate "returns" dishes from the pew by the door in St Georges. At the bottom of the bag was a Cadbury's Roses tin in which there was a large blue and white Spode cup and saucer from the Blue Room Collection. There was also a china trinket box from the V & A shop. Somebody must be missing these! Please give me a ring to arrange for their return. *Caroline McShane*

### Services for February

|                                                                        |                                                  |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                          |                                                          |                                       |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 1st</b>                                                      | 8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm                      | <b>Presentation of the Lord</b><br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>Evening Prayer                 | <i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>St. George the Martyr</i>                                               | <b>16th</b><br><b>19th</b><br><b>20th</b><br><b>21st</b> | 9.00am<br>7.00pm<br>11.00am<br>9.00am | The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist & Rosary                                  | <i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>Seven Rivers</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>        |
| <b>4th</b><br><b>5th</b><br><b>6th</b><br><b>7th</b>                   | 9.00am<br>10.00am<br>11.00am<br>9.00am           | The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist & Rosary                                  | <i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>Seven Rivers</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>                          | <b>Sunday 22nd</b>                                       | 7.30am<br>8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm | <b>Nest Sunday before Len</b><br>Morning Prayer<br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>Evening Prayer | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> |
| <b>Sunday 8th</b>                                                      | 7.30am<br>8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm            | <b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b><br>Morning Praer<br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>Evening Prayer  | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>                   | <b>23rd</b><br><b>25th</b>                               | 9.00pm<br>7.00pm                      | The Eucharist<br><b>Ash Wednesday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                     | <i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>Seven Rivers</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>        |
| <b>9th</b><br><b>11th</b><br><b>12th</b><br><b>13th</b><br><b>14th</b> | 10.00am<br>6.00pm<br>7.00pm<br>11.00am<br>9.00am | The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist & Rosary                 | <i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>Hamilton Lodge</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>Seven Rivers</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> | <b>26th</b><br><b>27th</b><br><b>28th</b>                | 10.00am<br>11.00am<br>9.00am          | The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist & Rosary                                                   | <i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>Seven Rivers</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>        |
| <b>Sunday 15th</b>                                                     | 7.30am<br>8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm            | <b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b><br>Morning Prayer<br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>Evening Prayer | <i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i><br><i>St. George the Martyr</i>               | <b>Sunday 29th</b>                                       | 7.30am<br>8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm | <b>Lent 1</b><br>Morning Prayer<br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>Worship for all at Lawfor.     | <i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. George the Martyr</i><br><i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>                             |

RODNEY TROTTER - RIP - 4th February, 2004

Rodney arrived at The Cross Inn on 30th August, 1999. He was a gift from the regulars at The Flag, Wivenhoe, who had decided that my passion for pigs should extend beyond the china/pottery collectables. On 31st August, 1999, Richard and I arrived at our new permanent residence here and were greeted by a little snout whiffing around the exit to a sty, closely followed by the rest of the stout little body, all adorned in pink bows. Much love at first sight, rolling around in the mud and tickling of tummy ensued. In all honesty, Richard was not quite as captivated as I was, but Rodney's strength of character soon won him over. The first year of our relationship with Rodney involved several escapes (one at 3.00am on Christmas morning!), major growth and arguments with sundry vets about whether or not his tusks had been removed at birth. I discovered I was right when he threw an out-of-character strop over the delay in my handing over a bunch of grapes and he took a swipe at my leg! As he matured, Rodney developed a repertoire of party tricks, which included dove-scaring, footballing, raspberry-stealing, log-rolling and, best of all, log-bonking - which he practised with great energy and tenacity, all the while with an expression of sublime satisfaction! Tusks notwithstanding, Rodney was sweet-natured, gentle, people-friendly and extremely chatty. Visitors were enchanted to be able to hold a "conversation" with him and I eventually learned to make a double batch of Yorkshire puddings for my Sunday lunchers - 2 for them, 2 for Rodney. His impeccable manners were displayed when accepting polos, ginger biscuits or other delicacies with the edge of his lips, never once injuring tiny fingers proffering goodies through the mesh of his pen. His happiest moments were spent lying in his wallow, with the sunshine washing over his huge pot belly; if some kindly soul would give him a good going over with the scrubbing brush - well, ecstasy!



Rodney died this morning, as peacefully and serenely as he had lived. He was a big old boy and his heart was weak, so he just went to sleep last night and didn't wake up again. The best way to go - especially for an animal classified as "livestock". His last meal comprised all the titbits he loved best, and when we found him, he was tucked up in his straw, no sign of distress or pain. His head resting on a straw pillow. So why am I writing an obituary for a pig? Quite simply because I loved him and I miss him and I am sad beyond telling. Rodney brought much happiness and tremendous pleasure not only into our lives, but also to those of his many visitors - especially the children who regularly came after school and during the holidays to give him treats. Rodney was therapeutic - so many times I've glanced from the kitchen window to see someone leaning over his pen to scratch his ears and have a word with him. or just lean on the fence to watch him and take time out of their busy day to enjoy his company. Yes, he was only a pig, but a pig of great character and personality. Rodney belonged to a "lesser" species but he asked for precious little and gave so much in return - there's a lesson there, somewhere - isn't there? *Brenda Perry*

*We thank the BROMLEY REFRIGERATION SERVICE LTD for sponsoring this month's magazine.*

WHAT GOINGS ON

Among the Quarter Session records are details of a long drawn out case which seems never to have ended. At Easter Sessions, 25th March 1713 William Prime of Great Bentley, butcher, William Syday of Frating, brickmaker and John Dore of Great Bentley, labourer, were called since Prime was suspected of stealing a sheep out of the grounds of Thomas Mannock, Lord of the Manor of Great Bromley. They did not appear!

Again on 25th March, 1713, Ann Vicar of Great Bromley, spinster, was called as a witness against William Prime. Also added to the charge was that of taking away several parcels of hay from the haystack of Thomas Paisey of Great Bentley. Also at court was Thomas Parsey (before it was Paisey), the yeoman of Great Bentley. Thomas Mannock, Lord of the Manor, was not only on the Bench but also appeared as a witness. What happened? There was a sheep - it needed feeding - there was hay available and the sheep had it. Maybe! *John Appleby*

GARDENER'S CORNER FOR MARCH

It has been a very mild winter so far and everything is well advanced in growth. I have clematis which has four inch long shoots and buds on, so I hope we don't get a frost to kill them off.

**LAWNS:** Cutting will be in full swing this month should we get a dry spell. Save the cuttings in a

black plastic bag to mulch your rose bushes and soft fruit i.e. gooseberries. blackcurrants and raspberries. **SHRUBS:** Prune hardy fuchsia to two inches from ground level. Shorten Buddleia main growth by half, back to a pair of new shoots. **ROSES:** Finish pruning by the end of the month **CHRYSANTHEMUMS:** Take cuttings of summer flowering types from new shoots on stools **DAHLIAS:** Start tubers into growth. Sow seeds late in the month in trays of compost - keep damp - cover with a sheet of newspaper and a piece of glass. *Frank Griffiths*

#### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Mrs Eileen Whiteman on Friday, 13th February at Colchester General Hospital She will be very much missed after being such a staunch member of the Club for many years. Our March meeting is on 18th when the OUTINGS will be discussed - your suggestions would be appreciated. The competition is a WILDLIFE ORNAMENT. *Vicky Griffiths*

#### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Susan Long, the speaker at our February meeting, told us the title of her talk was "I've started so I'll finish"! She gave a very interesting account of the history of the television show "Mastermind" and her experiences as a contestant in 1997. "Mastermind" was first presented on television in September 1972 with Magnus Magnusson as the Quiz Master for 25 years until his retirement in 1997. At the end of the final programme, Magnus was presented with a glass bowl and a black chair! There were 447 programmes in all; Susan was lucky enough to take part in the final year. An engraved glass bowl was presented each year to the winning contender and was made in Caithness, the work being done by the same man over all those years. Apparently, there can be as many as 4,000 applicants for a show and some had 12 auditions before being accepted. Susan travelled to Cambridge University to meet Magnus, one of his tasks being to hand out coffee and sandwiches! Observations have been made on the results of the winners, regarding the type of questions more easily answered by male or female contenders, i.e. How many letters of the alphabet have the tee sound? The answer is 8 (women best) and how many capital letters of the alphabet have a curve to them? - 11 (men quickest).

Susan was also successful in taking part, and winning, one week on the BBC radio version. The presenter was Peter Snow and her chosen subject being The life of (the late) Lady Baden-Powell. Afterwards, a relative of Lady Baden-Powell phoned in to say how thrilled she would have been had she known. Incidentally, the famous black chair was stolen on one occasion by students, who demanded a ransom for it. The BBC refused to pay and the chair was returned. After the incident a spare "black chair" was always on hand.

Mr Ted Bennett, a wood engraver, will be our speaker in March. Do join us if you feel interested. we will be pleased to see you on 3rd March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. *June Willgress*

#### ST. GEORGES SCHOOL, GT. BROMLEY P.T.A.

The Quiz Night held at the School on 7th February raised £145. It was a very good evening and all the teams had much fun. Thank you to everyone who came.

#### FUTURE EVENTS

**Ladies Indulgences** On 16th March (to be confirmed) at the school. "Chocoholics", Virgin Vie and silverware. The tickets are £2.50 includes a glass of wine. Contact Debbie Wright for tickets.

**Bingo** The children's bingo will replace the Beetle Drive this year. To be held at the School on Thursday, 29th April (to be confirmed) 5.00 - 6.30pm. Tickets from the School office.

**Race Night** On 15th May (to be confirmed) we are looking for businesses to sponsor our eight races at (£20 a race and people to sponsor a horse for just £3. if you would like to see your name on the screen please contact Debbie Wright. Tickets for the night are £2.50. There will be a bar and it is sure to be a great evening.

**Car Treasure Hunt and Bar-BBQ** Saturday, 10th July. The car treasure hunt starts at 3.00pm and is always good fun for all the family. The Bar-B-Q is from 5.00pm so if you are unable to make the treasure hunt you are very welcome to join in the fun afterwards. Soft drinks will be on sale but bring your own bottle. For tickets contact Debbie Wright.

**Christmas Fayre** The Christmas Fayre will be held as usual on Friday 26th November.

*Michelle*

## GREAT BROMLEY & FRATING PLAYGROUP

Our setting has trained staff, is friendly and welcoming. It is fully committed to early years learning. We accept nursery education vouchers funded by the State for three and four year olds, and are regularly inspected by OFSTED to ensure that our educational provision is of an acceptable quality. Our last inspection (December 2003) had good results, copies of which will be available soon. The new children are settling in well and enjoying their time here at playgroup. We are in the process of organising a Sponsored Colour Collect. The children really enjoy these sorts of activities, and it is a great way to raise money for the playgroup, so keep your eyes open for their sponsor forms!

A night out for the adults of playgroup children is being held on Friday, 12th March at the Wooden Fender in Ardleigh. so please do come, it's a great night out for all.

At the end of last year our Playgroup had their OFSTED inspection and I am pleased to say that all went extremely well. So I would like to thank Claire, Jane, Kaye and Jo for all their hard work in making it possible, with whose hard work and dedication the results would not have been so good! WELL DONE. Dates Break up for Easter - Thursday, 1st April Return - Monday, 19th April  
*Kelly Searl*

## KITCHEN CORNER

**CHEWY DATE BARS** This recipe comes from Nantucket Island off the shore of Massachusetts, near Cape Cod. Children might enjoy this in their lunch boxes.

¼ cup butter, 1 cup granulated sugar, 2 eggs, 1 teasp vanilla, 1 cup chopped dates, ½ cup flour. Grease and flour a baking tin 11" x 7" (ie Swiss roll tin) Beat together first four ingredients, add dates and flour alternately. Spread in tin, bake 350F, 180C for 20 minutes. Cool before cutting into bars. *Jill Frostick*

## GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Tuesday, 20th January. The meeting closed some half hour later than normal as many important items were discussed and acted upon. The Hall's financial situation was reviewed and was deemed to be satisfactory considering the large amount that has been spent on essential repairs, upgrading and maintenance of the Hall recently. We have been grateful for the assistance given us over the past three years by the Parish Council in these matters. Protective Multiple Earthing (PME) has been provided at the Hall, bringing our electrical system up to a good current standard- Also, our emergency lighting system is of the latest requirements, having been renewed last year. We are looking at the provision of an outdoor play area for Playgroup use in the summer months, also further work to improve the car parking area following up the project carried out last year. The stage area needs to be examined and improved.

Fund raising must, however, continue and we are looking at a musical evening organised by Beryl Hurst probably in May: more details next month. Our Christmas Fayre, which last November raised £955 to be shared between the Hall and the Church was well supported. This year we hope to hold another, probably in November, in aid of the Hall and the Women's Institute. However, we appreciate that several organisations in the village are trying to raise fund i.e. the Church, School, Playgroup, Cricket Club, Cheshire Home, Hamilton Lodge etc. and should all take care in positioning the date of our events.

The Rural Community Council of Essex, through their Village Halls Forum, have also been raising a petition to Downing Street to try and have more Lottery money earmarked for village halls, which currently are at a disadvantage.

The committee next meet on Tuesday, 9th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. *Bevan Willgress*

## LETTERS

Some of the Editor's remarks in her editorials are meant to give rise to or promote comment, but we seldom have letters to the editor (though we had one in the last edition from Caroline). There are still people in and around the village who will get involved in keeping the community alive. These manifest themselves in such areas as cricket, WI, PTA, Parish Council to name but a few. Changes will happen all the time; they will be aligned to society's needs and how they perceive the benefits. Let us not moan about these changes. If they are important then stand up and be counted, if not then let us concentrate on those things that can bring pleasure to us all, whether we are giving or receiving. We must not have change for changes sake "let us manage change" Let's do something on St. George's Day? *Len Christodoulides*



## LITTLE BENTLEY HALL WATERWAYS & GARDEN SHOW

Friday 11th - Sunday, 13th June 2004

### **New Garden Show to link town and country.**

This exciting garden event will again take place at Little Bentley Hall, Little Bentley from Friday 11th until Sunday 13th June. These beautifully restored ancient waterways and gardens, owned by Mr and Mrs C D Palmer-Tomkinson, will again be the setting of East Anglia's Biggest Charity Gardening Event this year. The highlight of the show will be 10 designer gardens to be created at Little Bentley Hall as the centrepiece of this Show. The theme will be "My Back Yard" with two sections "Town Garden" and "Country Garden". The Gardens are to be judged by local garden experts, including Lady Xa Tollemache, previous Chelsea Gold Medal and also a winner of a Silver Gilt Medal. The winners will receive trophies. Writtle, Otley College and local garden designers are taking part.

This year the show has been extended over 3 days with a Gala Evening on the Friday night (ticket only, call the Ticket Hotline to be sent an invitation). and then open from 10.00am - 6.00pm on Saturday, 12 and Sunday 13th June.

The Show will be even larger than before this year with 10 show gardens, 100 trade stands and again the secret gardens of Little Bentley Hall and Waterways will be open for all to see. There will also be an Art Show with Bands and Jazz Bands playing. All proceeds will go to charity including the Seven Rivers Cheshire Homes. Advance tickets have now gone on sale to clubs (i.e. OAPs, WI, Rotary Clubs etc) who bring groups of over 20 people at only £3 per person. or £6 per person including a salad lunch. The normal entry price will be £5. Apply to Nigel Dyson, Show Director, for details on 01206 251790.

## READING GROUP

The next meeting of the reading group is on Monday 1st March at 2pm at the Bromley Cross pub. The meetings are roughly monthly and the members take it in turn to host the venues. This is not a high powered reading group. We all like reading and talk about the books we have read. We are currently reading a book by Helen Fielding, and authors on the list include Bill Bryson, Dick Francis and Monica Ali. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us. Details of further meetings from Brenda at the Bromley Cross pub or Kate on 230211.

## ST GEORGES CHURCH & ROOF REPAIR FUND

Eastern Angles Theatre Company in Great Bromley Village Hall Eastern Angles is once again including us in the Spring Tour of churches and village halls throughout East Anglia. Each year, they commission a new play with some East Anglian connection, very often looking back to past events which still reverberate and intertwine with life today.



On Saturday, 1st May at 7.30pm they will be performing "The Edge of the Land" by Alan Franks. The start of the play takes us back to the devastating floods of 1953: "Miriam is from a town recently hit by the '53 floods but it is not just the sea that has invaded people's homes: a spirit of cold post-war austerity stalks the land and has a grip on their hearts. Moving through the 50s, 60s and 70s, Alan Franks' tale of a woman trying to trace the daughter she was forced to give up for adoption is guaranteed to pierce the hardest heart. With an atmospheric music score and a quarter of scorching performances, The Edge of the Land will have you on the edge of tears and of your seat." Don't miss it!

We have not once been disappointed by Eastern Angles. The production, the acting and the stage-effects are always of the highest quality. As usual we will be providing supper beforehand at 6.00pm with a licensed bar selling wine and fruit juice. The number of supper places is limited, so book your tickets early! Play only £8. Play & Supper £15. available from: Anne Clapham, Trish Hughes or Caro McShane.

## BRIGHTLINGSEA ROTARY CLUB

We went to the Cheshire Home before Christmas to give our now annual carol concert, with our sleigh and Father Christmas with his bag of presents. You may have seen the sleigh, which we refurbished last year, though it does not come to Bromley as usually the Church do the carol singing around the roads. It does, however, go to Frating, Thorrington, Alresford, Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea where it gathered just over £3,000 most of which will go to Make-a-Wish and the Children's Hospice. If you are interested in joining a Service Club (male or female) contact *Len Christodoulides*

## GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Great Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 12 February 2004

**Planning** *The Council considered and agreed no objections to the following planning applications:*

Land adjacent to Old Police House, Chase Road West - new house and garage, (subject to the views of neighbours being taken into account). Arcan, Colchester Road - two-storey extension and garage. Sunnyside, Ardleigh Road - new bungalow.

*The Council considered but objected to the following planning applications:* Marks Farm, Frating Road - extension (objection on the grounds of over-development) Southview, Frating Road - extension and garage (objection on the grounds of over-development) Land between Fieldside and Ettone, Frating Road - three new properties (objection on the grounds of over-development).

*Tendring District Council has approved the following planning applications:* Meyrick, Colchester Road - extension and conservatory. 2 Chase Cottages, Stone Road - change to external wall finish. Greenacre Cattery, Carrington Road - 12 additional cat units & office.

*Tendring District Council has refused the following planning application:* 1 Chase Cottages, Stone Road - front extension and new porch.

**Highways, footpaths and parking** We understand that the B1029 bridge over the A120 will not be repaired until August 2004. Until then the one-way traffic and temporary lights will continue to operate. The bridge is not expected to close whilst repairs are carried out. The application to have Footpath 25 diverted has been withdrawn. The Church Meadow car park is inevitably a little slippery after prolonged rain so drivers are encouraged to exercise caution and manoeuvre on the limited gravelled surface where possible.

**Environmental matters** Following a suggestion by a resident the council is buying some mechanical "litter pickers" for volunteers who wish to collect litter from roadside verges. Please let the Clerk know if you would like to have one! Concern has been expressed at dog fouling at various locations in the village. We do have three dog bins and the council is placing collection bags at each of these to assist owners in clearing-up the mess. Otherwise be prepared to contemplate a fine of up to £1000!

**Great Bromley Post Office** The council was pleased to hear that new people will be taking over the post office and store from late-March. It wishes them every success with this important service to the community. The council encourages everyone to use these facilities where they can. Without adequate public support they will not survive.

**Community grants** The council has awarded community grants totalling £1180 to the following organisations: the Bromley Messenger, the Royal British Legion, St Georges church (for grass cutting), Tendring Citizens Advice Bureau, Hamilton Lodge and Foundry Court, Manningtree.

**Affordable housing for Great Bromley** In February's magazine we reported on the outcome of the Rural Housing Trust's survey of Great Bromley's housing needs. The council has considered this report and supports its recommendations that up to ten new affordable homes should be built in the village. These properties will need to be located on one or more sites outside but abutting the present housing settlement limits and near to existing amenities such as the school, shop, post office, pub, church etc. The council considered alternative locations in Great Bromley and agreed to recommend that these should be either near the existing Lakewood development or/and near the Meadow Close estate. When the Trust has identified suitable sites it will commission a further more detailed survey to determine the precise number and types of properties needed by the potential occupants. It will also agree the balance between rented and shared ownership homes.

**Next meeting** The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 11 March 2004 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

### CRICKET CLUB QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday, 3rd April  
in the Village Hall  
at 8.00pm

Tickets £3 per person  
Bring your own food and nibbles.

To reserve a table ring:  
Phil Allam 01206 230375

### REMINDER PLANT & GARAGE SALE

This year the sale will be held at  
**Ilex Farm on 15th May**  
In addition the **MAGI** are having a stall  
for their own funds (details later on!)

If anyone is **dividing perennials** at  
this time of the year, we are willing to  
collect bare rooted plants.

We would also appreciate help for  
two hours on Friday, 14th and at the  
sale.

James and Ann (01206 230679)

### St George's School P.T.A.

#### RACE NIGHT



Saturday, 15th May  
at 7.30pm

Tickets £2.50  
including a cheese  
platter

More details from  
Debbie Wright (01206 250962)  
or the School Office

## LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The date of the next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council is Thursday, 11th March. For the venue please contact the Parish Clerk.

## NEWS FROM GREAT BENTLEY SURGERY THE HOLLIES, THE GREEN, GT BENTLEY

The main news this month is that, after a lot of thought and listening to comments from a number of patients. we have decided to adjust our "rules" for booking appointments. From 1st March, whilst keeping to our promise to offer everyone an appointment within 48 hours, we are going to be a bit more relaxed about allowing bookings further in advance. There will be a very limited number of slots that can be booked up to two weeks before the date. This should enable people who have a lot of other commitments to plan things more easily. Staff will also be allowed to book most of our other routine appointments up to 72 hours beforehand. We understand that the 48 hour rule had made things a bit complicated sometimes, especially for people who rely upon lifts from friends or community transport to get to the surgery. This relaxation of restrictions should make life easier for them. Many thanks, incidentally, to everyone who offers constructive criticism or new ideas to help improve our systems. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, even if sometimes it isn't practical to act on them. Talking of criticism, we have heard recently that it is often difficult to get through to the surgery on the telephone on Monday mornings. Our capacity for taking telephone calls is limited, so it would help if patients would avoid ringing about non-urgent matters on Mondays. Mid-week is a lot quieter and you would get much quicker service. We still get a few people wanting to order prescriptions over the telephone, which also makes it harder to get through to make an appointment. Just a reminder that we don't take requests over the 'phone. We need them in writing or, of course you can put them through our door or in the box in the Waiting Room. The surgery is a brighter and more colourful place now, thanks to a few very kind people. You might have noticed the marvellous paintings on the corridor walls in the new part of the surgery They are all by members of the Great Bentley Art Club and to my untutored eye, they look remarkably good. It is amazing to find out that there are so many artistically talented people around the village. As will be seen from the notices in our Waiting Room, all the paintings are actually for sale. We no idea if any of them would constitute a good investment, but they would certainly make a terrific addition to anyone's wall. We also now have two superb tapestries in the building, both done by Brenda Burton. She has given them to the surgery in memory of her late husband, Bob, who died last year. Again, the talent and a remarkable degree of patience are obvious for all to see. The tapestries aren't for sale by the way. They are going to grace our walls permanently.

*Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager*

## NEWS FROM ARDLEIGH SURGERY THE SURGERY, DEDHAM ROAD, ARDLEIGH

**New GP Registrar** Dr Sajid Rahman, started work at the surgery at the beginning of February as our new GP Registrar. Sajid has been a doctor in Colchester General Hospital since 1999 and has worked in various departments including a year as a Specialist Registrar in Diabetes and Endocrine. He is married with one child. His wife is also a doctor and works as a Paediatrician in Colchester General Hospital. Dr Rahman will be with the Ardleigh practice for a year.

**New GP Contract** The government has negotiated a new NHS contract with GPs which is being implemented as from 1 April 2004. The new contract will be with the practice rather than an individual GP. It will introduce a completely new way of funding general practice in that it will be practice based rather than dependent upon the number of GPs in a practice. The funding system will still be based on the list size of the practice, but, will be simpler and more flexible. The new contract will also reward practices for providing a quality service in terms of the monitoring of patients with chronic diseases and other 'good practice' indicators. The organisation of the 'out of hours' service will become the responsibility of the local Primary Care Trust rather than the practice. The PCT will be providing more information about these changes in the media in the coming months.

**Reviewing the appointment system** Ardleigh Surgery is reviewing the efficiency of its appointment system to see if the practice can improve access for patients. It is carrying out audits during March to investigate if the practice is consistently meeting the Government target of being able to offer an appointment to see a GP within 48 hours. It will also be carrying out a survey in the surgery to obtain patient views on their experience of the appointment system. The practice will also be carrying out a more general patient survey about the quality of its services later on in the year.

*Fred Merrin, Practice Manager*

## TOE NAILS

Age Concern Essex offers a simple toe-nail cutting service from its mobile unit which attends Great Bentley Village Hall every 12 weeks. The cost of the service is £7. The next visit will be on the 12th of March. The service cannot help people with diabetes or those who have circulation problems to their feet.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

- 1 Reading Group meeting, The Bromley Cross inn, 2.00pm
- 3 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm -
- 9 Village Hall Committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, for venue contact Parish Clerk
- 13 Lt Bromley Community Family Afternoon, Fox & Hounds, 2.00pm
- 13 Carpet Bowls Brumbeia Cup tournament
- 13 Ian Ray & Colchester Institute Chamber Choir. St George's Church, 7.30pm
- 16 P.T.A. 'Ladies Indulgences', St George's School
- 18 Friendship Club, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 20 Dance to NOSTALGIA, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 26 Holy Beetle Drive  
*(have they been collected from the church roof? Ed)*

### APRIL

- 3 Cricket Club Quiz Night, Village Hall, 8.00pm
- 15 Friendship Club Open Day Talk, Village Hall, 2.30pm
- 23 St George's Day Thanksgiving, St George's Church, 7.00pm
- 24 Pie & Punch Evening, Ardleigh Methodist Hall
- 29 P.T.A. Children's Beetle Drive, St. Georges School, 5.00pm

### MAY

- 1 Eastern Angles Theatre Company "The Edge of the Land", Village Hall
- 15 Plant & Garage Sale, Ilex Farm
- 15 PTA Race Night, St Georges School
- 29-31 Flower Festival, St Marys Church, Ardleigh
- JUNE 11-13 Waterways & Garden Show, Little Bentley Hall
- 26 Church Bar-B- at The Rectory, Gt Bromley

## Bromley Cross Inn Events for March

Thursday, 18th CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT In aid of the Village Hall. Book your table and do your bit for the village! £2.50 per head includes a light supper. 8.30pm prompt start.

Sunday, 21st MOTHERING SUNDAY Bookings now being taken for lunch

Wednesday, 24th MUSIC NIGHT 8.00 start Come and sing, play or just listen to traditional music and rhyme.

## EASTER LILIES

For those who would like to donate towards lilies in memory of a loved one would you please let me know by 1st April. Thank you. Ann (01206 230679)

## GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE  
OPEN DAY

15th April, 2004  
2.00 - 5.00pm

You are invited to the Village Hall at 2.30pm to hear a talk by Mr Roger Clarke, who is a Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and a member of its examinations board, on his work with Heavy Horses. He is shortly to attend the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine near Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., to lecture at a conference on heavy horses - Footcare.



This should be a very interesting talk, especially if you have worked with these beautiful horses during your lifetime, or are working with horses now.

We look forward to seeing you and any



EASTERN ANGLES  
THEATRE COMPANY

brings you

## "THE EDGE OF THE LAND"

on  
Saturday, 1st May  
in

Great Bromley Village Hall

Tickets:

Play only £8

Play & Supper £15

available from

Anne Clapham - 01206 230790

Trish Hughes - 01255 553885

Caro McShane - 01206 323188

In aid of St George's Church Roof Repair Fund



**THE UNITED PARISHES OF ARDLEIGH AND THE BROMLEYS**

Dear Parishioner,

All the major faiths have times during the year when their followers seek to learn more about God, their neighbours and themselves. For Christians it is the six weeks of Lent which we are now in. For most of us this conjures up the image of giving something up, going without, and generally feeling miserable! Well, it is a time to look at what we consume and if we are fit enough, seeing if we can forgo, the chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes or whatever. Partly we do this to prove to ourselves that we can do it, and can be in control of our bodily desires; partly it is to clear away some of the excess. That in itself is positive and will help us learn more of the self we are to love. Knowing our strengths and our weaknesses, what makes us happy and sad, tired and motivated, secure and vulnerable is an important part of the Christian journey.

To make it more positive, any money saved from going without is donated to a charity. For years the congregation in Ardleigh have supported a hospital in Katete, Zambia. This year all our Lent savings will be used by the English supporters of Katete to buy basic medical supplies to fill a container to be shipped out in May. Using Lent to be more self aware and to reach out to others will draw us closer to the God we seek to know and serve. At the end of Lent comes Good Friday when we celebrate the ultimate sacrifice made on the cross to draw all people closer to God. Then three days later we celebrate Easter day, in the Resurrection. a sign that God was not to be bound by anything, not even death. It is in this hope that Christians keep a joyful Lent, knowing that our "sacrifices" are nothing in comparison, yet bring joy and peace to the world. Have a blessed and love filled Lent. *Fr Nicolas.*

**Services for MARCH**



|                    |         |                                                      |                              |
|--------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b>         | 10.00am | <b>S David</b><br>The Eucharist                      | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>3rd</b>         | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>4th</b>         | 10.00am | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>5th</b>         | 11.00am | The Eucharist                                        | <i>Seven Rivers</i>          |
| <b>6th</b>         | 9.00am  | The Eucharist & Rosary                               | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>Sunday 7th</b>  | 7.30am  | <b>Lent 2</b><br>Morning Prayer                      | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
|                    | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
|                    | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist                                 | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
|                    | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                                       | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>8th</b>         | 9.00am  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>10th</b>        | 6.00pm  | Holy Communion                                       | <i>Hamilton Lodge</i>        |
| <b>11th</b>        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>12th</b>        | 11.00am | The Eucharist                                        | <i>Seven Rivers</i>          |
| <b>13th</b>        | 9.00am  | The Eucharist & Rosary                               | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>Sunday 14th</b> | 7.30am  | <b>Lent 3</b><br>Morning Prayer                      | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
|                    | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
|                    | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist                                 | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
|                    | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                                       | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>15th</b>        | 10.00pm | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>17th</b>        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>18th</b>        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>19th</b>        | 11.00am | The Eucharist                                        | <i>Seven Rivers</i>          |
| <b>20th</b>        | 9.00am  | The Eucharist & Rosary                               | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>Sunday 21st</b> | 7.30am  | <b>Lent 4</b><br>Morning Prayer                      | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
|                    | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
|                    | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist                                 | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
|                    | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                                       | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>22nd</b>        | 9.00am  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>24th</b>        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>25th</b>        | 7.00pm  | <b>The Annunciation of our Lord</b><br>The Eucharist | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>26th</b>        | 11.00am | The Eucharist                                        | <i>Seven Rivers</i>          |
| <b>27th</b>        | 9.00am  | The Eucharist & Rosary                               | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
| <b>Sunday 28th</b> | 7.30am  | <b>Lent 5</b><br>Morning Prayer                      | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
|                    | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
|                    | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist                                 | <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>   |
|                    | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                                       | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>29th</b>        | 10.00am | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |
| <b>31st</b>        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                        | <i>St. George the Martyr</i> |

**DANCE TO LIVE**  
**MUSIC BY THE BIG**  
**BIG BAND**

**NOSTALGIA**

7.30pm till 11.30pm  
Saturday 20th March  
at Great Bromley Village Hall  
Tickets £6 per person  
Contact: Beryl Hurst 01206 230578  
Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles

Little Bromley Amenities Committee invites you to ...

**A COMMUNITY FAMILY AFTERNOON**

On **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March**  
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm  
To be held at  
The Fox & Hounds (Function Room)

- Meet your neighbours
- Chat about the future of Little Bromley
- Enjoy free refreshments (or the bar will be open!)
- Raffle to raise funds for village amenities
- Bring the children along - games will be provided or bring your own toys along with you

PLENTY OF PARKING. ACCESS VIA FUNCTION ROOM – SEE YOU THERE!

**IAN RAY**  
and the  
**COLCHESTER**  
**INSTITUTE CHAMBER**  
**CHOIR**

Saturday, 13th March  
in  
St George's Church  
at  
7.30pm  
Tickets, to include wine and home-made refreshments, £10  
from:  
Anne Clapham 01206 230790  
Caro McShane 01206 323188  
or at the church  
In aid of St George's Church Roof Repair Fund

**St George's School P.T.A.**  
**LADIES' INDULGENCES**

16th March  
Chocolates  
Vigin Vie Body Products  
Cosmetics Silverware

**COME AND SPOIL YOURSELF!**

For  
Tickets £2.50 including a glass of wine  
please apply  
Debbie Wright (01206 250962)

**BRIGHTLINGSEA FARMERS' MARKET**

25th March 9am - 1pm  
Brightlingsea Community Centre, Lower Park Road

## The Bromley Messenger April 2004

### THE PERFECT LAWN?

Frank Griffiths last month told us that lawns should be mowed more regularly but an article in the newspaper reported recently on the subject of immaculate lawns. It seems that thanks to GM and the golf industry gardens are to have a GM makeover to make them easier to run - grass in lawns will grow slower and will only need mowing maybe twice a month, hedges and shrubs too will be slower growing making for easier maintenance, roses will bloom longer, other plants will be pollen free easing hay fever sufferers. There has even been advice as to how to rid lawns of worm casts. But how will this affect the delicate balance? Insects, especially bees, need pollen as indeed do birds and birds and animals feed on insects and worms and other parts of plants. Also where will that leave the amusement I have watching the goings-on in the garden?

The muscovies at this time of year like nothing better than to patrol the garden for hidden insects and grubs. They spend ages kneading one spot in a sort of stamping dance before suddenly pouncing with their beaks and extracting, with a pleased waggle of their tail, some juicy item of livestock. The mossy areas of the lawn are most favoured and whilst removing the insects they remove quantities of moss at the same time which is a great help to us.

Another aerator of the lawn throughout the winter is *Talpa europaea* (the mole) who, over the past three mild winters, has managed to tunnel through every square inch of garden. This winter they have concentrated their activities close to the kitchen, the bird table which is in danger of being dug up and around the sitting room. Our "lawn" rather resembles a bomb site than a smooth luxuriant grassy swathe. We have over the years tried various methods of mole prevention the latest being a sonic probe which is quite successful but since its range is limited to a 30' diameter we really need a large number to keep the entire garden clear; I have caught two moles in the past with gloved hands when they foolishly surfaced near where I have been working (or not as the case may be) before walking them some distance away to new territories although I am sure that were they tagged I should find them back in the garden at a later date. There was an occasion when a duck spotted a mole above ground and gave chase. Duck followed mole (both run fast!) across the garden until the mole dived underground leaving a bemused duck in its wake.


Green woodpeckers are a frequent visitor to the garden all year round probing the ground with their long beaks in search of ants etc. I am always pleased to see them although also wary for during the winter they are liable to bore into beehives depriving the bees of their winter stores. Starlings are a noisy visitor descending in flocks in search of leatherjackets - a gardener's friend indeed.

The biggest spring aerator spotted as the weather improves and the grass begins to grow is the last of the lawn wanderers. He is to be seen with shovel in hand wandering in a haphazard fashion across the green removing as he goes excess earth from the molehills to other areas of the garden before hammering the remains of the hills using the shovel before doing his own furious stamping dance just like the ducks, but which undoes their good works in the aerating line, in an attempt to level the ground in readiness for the lawn mower to be brought of its winter retirement. *Leonie Henderson*

### YOUR HOUSE - MAYBE

From time to time I receive an enquiry about a house in Great Bromley. There are several ways of finding out about your house but there may not be much or any history attached to it. The deeds of the place may be useful although sometimes the older documents have been destroyed and only a short resume exists. I use the Census Returns from 1801 to 1901. The Electoral Register and Roll books also help. Estate maps, Land Tax returns, Wills and Auction and Sale Catalogues may be available and Essex Record Office either at Chelmsford or Colchester may have one concerning your property. Essex Record Office also has an internet site called SEAX.

Ordnance Survey maps, 1844-1895, should clearly record every property in the parish. Farm buildings were returned in The National Farm Survey, 1941-1943, and are at The Public Record Office. Crops and livestock are all listed. Local newspapers can have a wealth of information and are on microfiche and take hours of searching. Maybe there will be a nil result! If you want a text book I recommend "Tracing the history of your house - a guide to sources", published 1901 by the Public Record Office, author Nick Barrett. There are many others. *John Appleby*

|                                                                                                          |                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                     | <b>PLANT &amp; GARAGE SALE</b> |
| This year the sale will be held at<br><b>Ilex Farm on 15th May</b>                                       |                                |
| In addition the MAGI are having a stall for their own funds (details later on!)                          |                                |
| If anyone is dividing perennials at this time of the year, we are willing to collect bare rooted plants. |                                |
| We would also appreciate help for two hours on Friday, 14th and at the sale.                             |                                |
| <i>James and Ann (01206 230679)</i>                                                                      |                                |

## GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Great Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 11 March 2004

**PLANNING** *The Council considered and agreed no objections to the following planning*

*applications:* Park Farm, Hilliards Road - conversion of former agricultural building into food production centre. 4 Park Cottages, Mary Lane North - replacement extension roof.

*Tendring District Council has approved the following planning application:* Marks Farm, Frating Road - single storey extension

*Tendring District Council has refused the following planning application:* Elm Bungalow, Harwich Road - three replacement houses.

**Environmental matters** The District Council has been asked to supply 10 flower tubs for the period June- September 2004, to be placed at the same locations as last year. The council has appointed contractors to undertake grass and hedge-cutting at the following sites: Church Meadow, Hare Green recreation ground, the closed cemetery and land adjacent to Brook Street. The council has also contributed towards the cost of maintaining St George's churchyard. Following complaints by local residents the county highways department is investigating the use of footpath 17 (between the Cheshire Home and the A120) by motorcycles.

**Recreation Ground** The council has been awarded a £1,000 grant under the Rural Activity Scheme. This will go towards the cost of a youth shelter and seats, which the council is purchasing for the recreation ground. The council has also arranged for more trees to be planted. Ruts have appeared in the field. Until these have been filled in care should be taken when walking on the uneven surface.

**Community grants** The council has awarded a community grant to the Tendring Local History Recorders.

**Audit** The external auditors report of the councils 2002/3 accounts has been received and considered satisfactory. A copy can be obtained from the clerk.

**Next meeting** The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 15 April 2004 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

**Mobile Police Station** A mobile police office will be stationed at Mary Lane South. Hare Green between 9.00 and 10.00 am on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Callers are welcome.

KB 16/3/04

## LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH NEWS

On 15th April Little Bromley Parish Council will be holding the annual Parish Assembly. For the time and venue please contact the Parish Clerk on 01206 391015.

## CARPET BOWLS

We have now completed all our matches for the winter league and fared poorly in the last six of them. As a result of this our position is such that we will be relegated next winter. One consolation about this is that we will meet teams that we haven't played for a few seasons and will be renewing friendships. On Saturday, 13th March we hosted our annual charity tournament, this year being the turn of the Parkinson's Society to benefit. and thanks to the generosity of the visiting teams, and food and prizes being donated, £320 was raised. As always 16 invited teams from this area started, each playing 3 matches and the 4 teams with the highest number of points (2 for a win or 1 each for a draw) go through to the semi-finals. In these Thorpe beat Silver Dawn 7-2 which wasn't as runaway as the score suggests and Wix 2 beat Weeley 8-2 who just could not get the run of the carpet. The Thorpe versus Wix 2 final was a very close game till Wix needing 3 shots to win on the last end could not find the right jack length to achieve this and Thorpe gained the cup by 8-5. Jayne Bates presented the prizes and the chairman, Pat Petchey. thanked everyone for their support and hard work. This was the 10th year of this competition and strangely enough it was Thorpe that won it on the first occasion. A good day all round. *Nancy Kempster*

## **STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

AS we go to print we have heard that Great Bromley Post Office and Stores will close on Wednesday, 24th March. It is hoped that other arrangements for the Post Office will be made.

## **STOP PRESS STOP PRESS**

### GREAT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

The A.G.M. was held on 24th February, 2004, at Copley Dene by kind permission of Mrs. Anne Clapham. The following were elected:-

PRESIDENT P. P. Allam Esq.

CHAIRMAN T. Biscoe Esq.

HON. SECRETARY Mrs. K. Foley.

HON. TREASURER M. Foley Esq.

FIXTURE SECRETARY M. Blinman Esq.

MATCH MANAGER D. Hardy, Esq.

CLUB CAPTAIN P. Brinkley Esq.

CLUB VICE-CAPTAIN M. Foley Esq.

COLTS MANAGER S. Wright Esq.

All the Vice-presidents were re-elected with the addition of B. Hitchcock. W. Kempster, C. Livermore, I. Lawson, A. Perrin, C. Pirie, and P.J. Wright.

100 CLUB WINNERS for FEBRUARY.

1st. Mrs Marion Britton 2nd. Mr Justin Whittaker 3rd. Miss Julie Herring

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our March meeting we had a talk by Ted Bennett on woodcarving . His love and interest of working with wood was apparent from the start, what began as a hobby was developed by attending night-school to learn more and ended up teaching others. He also spoke about the work of master carver, Grinlin Gibbons, Mr Bennett has about 200 Chisels of various sizes to carry out his work. He believes that every piece of wood has a use and on show was a vase with a large knot at the front illustrating how its presence was all that is needed at times for decoration. Several other examples of his work were also on display including intricately carved leaves, flowers. fruits, shells and beading. Various types of woods are used including mahogany, lime, boxwood and oak and drift wood produces some interesting shapes formed by nature and can make unusual ornaments. Over the years Mr Bennett has made rocking horses for sale in Harrods store, wood panels decorated with musical instruments and decorated mirror frames. Other projects include carvings for chair backs and inglenook fireplaces. His most prestigious job was probably restoration work on furniture at Windsor Castle. Mr Robert Tutt will be at our April meeting to talk about Antiques. If anyone feels they would like to come along, please do. We will be meeting on Wednesday, 7th April at 7.340pm in the Village Hall. *June Willgress*

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It has been decided not to hold the Spring Sale this year. In order to organise a fund raising we will have an OPEN DAY at the Village Hall on 15th April for the general public as well as our members. We are to have a special speaker. Mr Roger Clarke, who lectures on his work with heavy horses. He is a judge for the Shire, Percheron and Suffolk (Punch) Horse Societies and has just recently been to America lecturing on heavy horse footcare. Our Sale Friends have always been so generous in the past and we are appealing to them once again to help us with prizes for our BUMPER DRAW RAFFLE. To all our members: Please make a special effort to attend.

*Vicky Griffiths*

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, GT. BROMLEY *Headteacher: Pat Fitzgerald Telephone: 01206 230305*

P.T.A. The Quiz Night held at the school on Saturday, 7th February raised £245 and not £145 as stated last month.

**Future Events** The Children's Bingo is at the school on Monday, 26th April, 4.30pm - 6.00pm. The children are sure to really enjoy this. Tickets available from the school office.

**The Race Night** is to be held on 15th May. A big thank you to Hiskeys Boarding Kennels for sponsoring one of our races and also for the donation of books for us to sell.

The date for the **Car Treasure Hunt and Bar-B-Q** is to be changed from 10th July as previously noted and a new date will be announced in the future.

**The Christmas Fayre** will be held as usual on the last Friday in November - the 26th.

### GREAT BROMLEY & FRATING PLAYGROUPO

Our evening out to the Wooden Fender was a great success and all enjoyed themselves! We will be organising another soon so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

We have our **Charity WINE & CHEESE** evening on Friday, 23rd April from 8.00-11.00pm. There will be many great wines and cheese to try and buy as well as an auction and raffle. Please do come along and support your local playgroup. Tickets to be bought in advance only - call Tracey 01206 230624 or Lisa on 01206 255292. Dates: Break up for Easter - Thursday, 1st April

Return on Monday, 19th April. *Kelly Searl*



## KITCHEN CORNER

A recipe for creamy soup which is simple to make and colourful to look at. Take care not to overcook it after adding the milk, as this spoils the flavour. 4 - 6 servings

### **PENNSYLVANIA CHOWDER**

1 pint (570ml) vegetable stock  
1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped  
4 sticks of celery, washed and finely chopped  
2 medium potatoes, scrubbed and diced.  
8oz (225g) sweetcorn, tinned or frozen  
¼ teasp paprika  
1 oz (25g) fresh parsley, finely chopped  
1 pint (570ml) milk  
Salt and pepper  
Garnish: paprika

Bring stock to boil in large pan. add onion, celery and potato. Simmer 10 minutes. Add corn and paprika, cook further 10 minutes on gentle heat. Stir in the parsley. In separate pan bring milk to the boil. Pour this into the soup. Liquidise half of the mixture and stir back into remaining mixture. Then reheat gently, season generously with salt and black pepper. Pour into bowls and garnish with a dusting of paprika.

*Jill Frostick*

## Forthcoming Events

### APRIL

3 Cricket Club Quiz Night, Village Hall, 8.00pm  
7 WI. meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
15 Friendship Club Open Day Talk, Village Hall, 2.30pm  
23 St George's Day Thanksgiving, St Georges Church, 7.00pm  
23 Cheese & Wine Tasting, Village Hall, 8.00pm  
24 Pie & Punch Evening, Ardleigh Methodist Hall  
27 Village Hall committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
29 P.T.A. Children's Bingo, St. George's School, 4.30pm

### MAY

1 Eastern Angles Theatre Company "The Edge of the Land" Village Hall  
12 AGM. Village Hall committee, Village Hall, 8.00pm  
15 Plant a Garage Sale, Ilex Farm  
15 PTA Race Night, St George's School  
29-31 Flower Festival, St Marys Church, Ardleigh

### JUNE

11-13 Waterways & Garden Show, Little Bentley Hall  
26 Church Bar-B-Q at The Rectory, Gt Bromley

JULY 3 Coffee morning, Village Hall

10 Tendring Hundred Show

tba P.T.A. Car Treasure Hunt & Bar-B-Q

## **GREAT BROMLEY FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

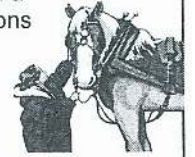
TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE

OPEN DAY

15th April, 2004

2.00 - 5.00pm

You are invited to the Village Hall at 2.30pm to hear a talk by Mr Roger Clarke, who is a Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Farriers and a member of its examinations board, on his work with Heavy Horses. He is shortly to attend the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine



near Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., to lecture at a conference on heavy horses - Footcare.

This should be a very interesting talk, especially if you have worked with these beautiful horses during your lifetime, or are working with horses now.

We look forward to seeing you and any guests you might like to bring.

### **LITTLE BENTLEY HALL**

#### **WATERWAYS & GARDEN SHOW**

Saturday, 12th & Sunday, 13th June

10.00am - 6.00pm

East Anglia's Biggest Charity Garden Show  
Art Show - 10 Show Gardens - 100 Trade Stands - Gardens of Lt Bentley Hall open  
Entry: Adults - £5 / Children - Free.  
At Little Bentley Hall, off A133 between Colchester & Clacton

All proceeds will go to charity including the Seven Rivers

### **BRIGHTLINGSEA FARMERS' MARKET**

22nd April 9am - 1pm  
Brightlingsea Community Centre, Lower Park Road



### **WINE & CHEESE TASTING**

Great Bromley & Frating Playgroup invite you to an evening of fun and fund raising on Friday, 23rd April 8.00 - 11.00 pm at Great Bromley Village Hall

Great wines and cheeses from the Manningree Delicatessen to try and buy. Auction and raffle

All proceeds to the Playgroup. Please come and join in the fun.

Tickets £10 each in advance only from Tracey 01206 230625 or Lisa 01206 255292

### BROMLEY CROSS INN EVENTS

GOOD FRIDAY LIVE MUSIC from DOUBLE TROUBLE

EASTER SUNDAY - 10th A reminder to book your Sunday Lunch now

Thursday, 22nd CHARITY QUIZ In aid of Ardleigh Pre-school £2.50 per head includes a light supper

Wednesday, 28th MUSIC NIGHT 8.00 start

Thursday, 29th STARTERS & PUDS

NIGHT £11.95 per head - bookings only.

### GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Management Committee met on Tuesday, 9th March. The appearance of the stage has been discussed and we hope to make some improvements to both its appearance and decoration. A working party will set about cleaning down the paint work shortly when people are available and the hall is free. The Committee Room appears to have dried out quite well after a tap was left running and water escaped onto the carpeted floor area; this caused great concern and much extra effort to try and limit the damage. Unfortunately, the main boiler for the heating and hot water system is leaking and has worn out. We hope the existing system will last until the Easter school holiday period when we expect to undertake a boiler change with minimum disturbance to the regular users of the hall building. If it fails before then, we will have to cancel some bookings until it can be replaced. We are also looking to improve the ladies' toilet area by replacing the mirrors there thus allowing the girls to have a fresh look. A new mirror was provided in the Mens' room a couple of months back after it was pointed out that they could not see to straighten their tie! We are very grateful to Richard and Brenda, at the Cross Inn, for running a Quiz evening on 18th March in aid of the Hall and on 20th March, the young group "Nostalgia" from Dovercourt played big band music for listening to or dancing at the Hall, organised by Beryl Hurst. In July we plan to have a coffee morning at the Hall on Saturday, 3rd and in November, our Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 20th, the proceeds being divided between the Hall and the Women's Institute. The Committee next meet on Tuesday, 27th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will be on Wednesday, 12th May at 8.00pm, we will be pleased if you are able to come along and support your committee. *Bevan Willgress*

### GARDENER'S CORNER FOR APRIL

By the end of the month all roses should be pruned and fertilizer sprinkled around. Plant **GLADIOLI** corms in groups. Keep **CLEMATIS** shoots tied into their supports until they can cling on themselves. Where **SPRING BULBS** have become congested - as soon as the flowers have died down - dig up and separate and replant. DO NOT cut off the leaves. **ANNUAL FLOWER SEEDS** can be sown this month - sow in trays and prick out when they have two leaves. Sow **SWEET PEAS** as soon as they have three pairs of leaves pinch out - the growing tip, they will then produce side shoots. Take the strongest shoot and pinch out any other that has formed. For best results with show blooms grow up a single cane, pinching out all side shoots and cutting off tendrils. NOTE: be careful not to pinch out the flower buds as these grow out from a leaf axil the same as the side shoot. *Frank Griffiths*

### ST GEORGES CHURCH ROOF REPAIR FUND

Even though a virulent bug is sweeping through the students at Colchester Institute and their soprano line was halved in number, the Institute Chamber Choir gave a wonderful concert in the church on the evening of 13th March. The singing was very beautiful: the programme included music from as far afield as Brazil and the southern States and as close to home as Colchester, where the composer, Alan Bullard, works. We are very grateful to Ian Ray and his choir for a memorable musical evening and to Oliver Ray, Ian's son, for his fine performance on the 'cello, accompanied on the piano by his father. Very many thanks also to all those who so generously supplied plates of sandwiches and other goodies to refresh the audience during the interval. They were very much appreciated. The evening has made a clear profit of £1,185 towards the Roof Repair Fund. Thank you all very much for your splendid support.

Almost upon us is our next event. the performance by Eastern Angles of their new play, "The Edge of the Land", on Saturday, 1st May in the Village Hall. The play begins at 7.30pm and will be preceded by supper at 6.00pm. The bookings list for combined tickets, i.e. supper and play, is growing daily so make sure of your tickets! Play tickets cost £8. Combined tickets cost £15. If you would like to know more about the play before committing yourself to a ticket. here is a review of the play by James Hayward, theatre critic of the East Anglian Daily Times.

"What the sea takes away from one part of the land, it returns to another. So trawlerman Isaac has told his niece Miriam. But sometimes the sea is greedy, as it was on the night of 31 January. 1953, mercilessly flooding the east coast of England. claiming over 300 lives and leaving 21,000 people homeless. In one of those eastern towns on the edge of the land, Miriam 's grandmother was swept away in her bed.

The sea figures prominently in Alan Franks' new play, its relentless, implacable pounding of the shores mirrored by the restlessness of the central figure Miriam. Her sad story is told in flashback and we begin as the older Miriam struggles to come to terms with her past. It is 1953,

and Miriam gets pregnant. The father gets a scholarship to Cambridge, disappearing from her life, to be seen again years later as a successful TV historian. She is shunted off to relatives in Kent for her confinement. Within days of the birth, Miriam's daughter, Miranda, is adopted by a couple from two villages away. Unable to cope, Miriam is caught in a downward spiral. Miriam is fictional, but Alan Franks has clearly been affected by the true stories he has unearthed of the many hundreds of "Miriams" who gave up their babies for adoption in the decades after the Second World War.

The production has sensitive direction from Ivan Cutting, a clever set by Rachel Downey, and a wonderful score by Roger Eno. There are faultless performances from Eleanor Harley and Anstey Thomas as the younger and older Miriam, Simon Bubb as the feckless father Billy and Patrick Knox as Billy's father. Highly recommended."

#### THE UNITED PARISHES OF ARDLEIGH AND THE BROMLEYS

Dear Parishioner, Here at S Mary's and S George's we have a thriving teenage group who meet regularly in the Rectory for discussions on what it is to be a Christian. Recently the leaders and I chatted about taking them to see the new Mel Gibson film, based on the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Having read many reviews and how it is creating a media storm in the States it seems sensible to go as a group of Christians because it is going to have an impact here. My concerns were for the apparent levels of violence during the two hours, not for the youngsters, as most of them experience worse on the television, but for me! So it was with a sense of relief that I discovered it has an 18 certificate so they are all too young to take. Maybe I'll see it when it comes out on video and I can control my viewing of it! Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to hide in a fairy tale picture of a blond haired, blue eyed Jesus suffering a rather antiseptic death. I have no illusions of what scourging was like, what having thorns forced onto one's head, carrying a cross bar through narrow busy streets. being nailed to a tree and left to die, probably from suffocation, must be like. It was brutal, it was violent. Death must have been longed for and come as a relief for Jesus himself and his loved ones who watched on. Yet we Christians call it "Good Friday"? Indeed we do because we look back on the events and see the ghastly violent experience of man's cruelty in the context of Jesus rising from the dead three days later. In the knowledge that it transformed ordinary people's lives to the extent that many of them were prepared to die themselves rather than say "no, it didn't happen". We look on the day and see our God making the ultimate sacrifice rather than fighting back, being extremely powerful in saying love is the only answer to humanity's problems. anything else or less will not do. I know this world can be cruel. I don't need to be reminded of that in a cinema, because Sunday by Sunday, day by day, my faith calls me to face it, accept it and in the strength of the Holy Spirit try as is humanly possible to rise above it and live, just as Jesus did. May God bless you this Holy Week and Easter and give you his loving presence to live life to the full in this world of ours. *Fr Nicolas.*

#### COMEDY CORNER

An English cat and a French cat decide to have a race across the English Channel. The name of the English cat. is '1,2,3', while the French cat is called 'Un, Deux, Trois'. Which cat won?

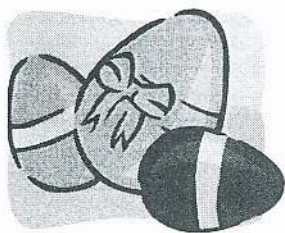
*(Answer: The English cat. The un, deux trois cat sank).*

A man asked his wife what she'd like for her birthday. "I'd love to be six again", she replied. On the morning of her birthday, he arose early, made her a nice big bowl of Coco Pops and then took her off to the local theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: the Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Monster Roller Coaster, everything there was. Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside-down. Right away, they journeyed to a McDonald's where her loving husband ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a refreshing chocolate shake. Then it was off to a movie, the latest Star Wars epic, a hotdog, popcorn, a soda pop, and her favourite candy, M&M's. What a fabulous adventure! Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed exhausted. He leaned I over his precious wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well, dear, what was it like being six again?" Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed. "You idiot, I meant my dress . size!"

The moral of the story: Even when a man is listening, he's going to get it wrong!

FUNKY FOOD

EASTER EGGS



Ingredients (makes 10 eggs)

- 175g (6oz) ground almonds
- 100g (4oz) honey
- 225g (8oz) icing sugar
- 1 egg white
- yellow food colouring
- chocolate vermicelli

Put the almonds into a bowl and add the honey. Mix them together so that you have a sticky paste. Divide it into ten pieces. Leave them to one side. Put the icing sugar into another bowl. Beat the egg white so it begins to get frothy. Add it to the icing sugar, together with a few drops of yellow food colouring. Mix well and divide it into ten pieces. Take a piece of the almond paste and flatten it in the palm of your hand. Put some of the icing sugar mixture on top and carefully mould the paste round it so that it covers the icing sugar. Make the paste into an egg shape and roll it in the chocolate vermicelli. When all the eggs are done wrap them separately in clingfilm.



Fig A



Fig B

16

CHOCOLATE FISH

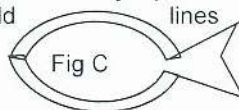
In France it is traditional to exchange chocolate fish instead of eggs. Before making these fish you must make a mould.

**Mould**

You will need a strip of stiff drawing paper, about 2cm - 30cm. (Fig A) Fold the paper in half and then make two more folds in the doubled ends. (Fig B)

Holding the strip in the middle, run the two halves in turn between a pencil and your thumb so that each half of paper is curved. (Fig C)

Fasten the two ends with sticky tape and push against the fold lines to make a fish shape.



**Fish**

**Ingredients**

- Small bar of chocolate, about 50g (2oz) per fish

Vegetable oil or butter  
Brush the inside of the fish mould with vegetable oil or butter so that the chocolate doesn't stick to it.  
Heat a saucepan of water. When it is hot, put an overproof plate on top of the saucepan. Put a piece of kitchen foil on the plate and then the mould on top of that.  
Break the chocolate into pieces and put them inside the mould. The chocolate will melt and start to spread. Make sure the whole base of the mould is covered. Remove the plate from the saucepan and let the chocolate cool. Take away the mould and your fish is complete.



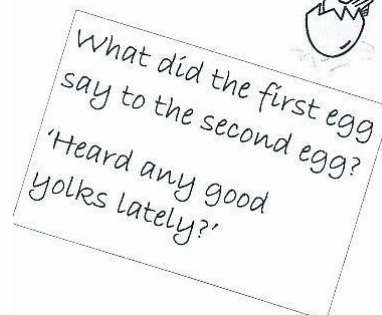
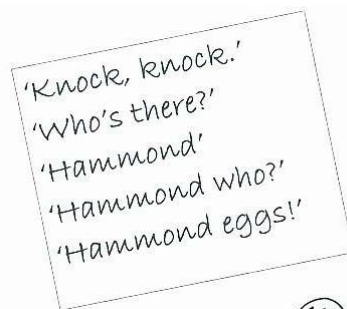
CRACKING CRAFT MOSAICS

Coloured eggshell create a mosaic effect to decorate things and pictures.

Boil an egg and leave it to cool. Then put it in an eggcup and dab paint in bright colours all over it. When it is dry, turn it upside down and paint the other end. Leave to dry. Then gently crack the shell all over by tapping the egg on a hard surface. Peel off the pieces and get sticking!



AN EGGSTRA PAGE!

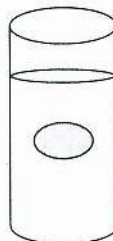


EGGSPERIMENTS!

Tell a friend you have a magic floating egg!

(Prepare this trick beforehand)

Mix four dessertspoons of salt in half a glass of water. Carefully put an egg in, and it should float on top. Then VERY GENTLY fill the rest of the glass with fresh water. The egg looks like it is floating in the middle!



**ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY**  
 united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



**Services for APRIL**

|             |         |                                                                                         |                       |
|-------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st         | 10.00am | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 2nd         | 11.00am | The Eucharist                                                                           | Seven Rivers          |
| 3rd         | 9.00am  | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| Sunday 4th  | 7.30am  | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>Morning Prayer                                                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist                                                                    | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 6.30pm  | Palm Sunday Celebration                                                                 | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 5th         | 12 noon | <b>Holy Monday</b><br>Chrism Mass                                                       | Cathedral             |
|             | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. George the Martyr |
| 6th         | 7.00pm  | <b>Holy Tuesday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 7th         | 7.00pm  | <b>Holy Wednesday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                  | St. George the Martyr |
| 8th         | 7.00pm  | <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>Eucharist of the Last Supper & Silent<br>Watch until Midnight | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 9th         | 11.00am | <b>Good Friday</b><br>Stations of the Cross                                             | St Mary's School      |
|             | 3.00pm  | Celebration of the Lord's Passion                                                       | St. George the Martyr |
| 10th        | 8.30am  | <b>Holy Saturday</b><br>Morning Prayer                                                  | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 6.00pm  | Evening Prayer                                                                          | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| Sunday 11th | 5.00am  | <b>Easter Day</b><br>The Easter Vigil                                                   | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 9.30am  | Morning Prayer                                                                          | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist                                                                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 12th        | 11.00am | <b>Easter Monday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                   | St. George the        |
| Martyr      |         |                                                                                         |                       |
| 13th        | 7.00pm  | <b>Easter Tuesday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                  | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 14th        | 6.00pm  | <b>Easter Wednesday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                | Hamilton Lodge        |
| 15th        | 7.00pm  | <b>Easter Thursday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                 | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 16th        | 11.00am | <b>Easter Friday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                   | Seven Rivers          |
| 17th        | 9.00am  | <b>Easter Saturday</b><br>The Eucharist                                                 | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| Sunday 18th | 7.30am  | <b>Easter 2</b><br>Morning Prayer                                                       | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 8.00am  | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist                                                                    | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                                                                          | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 19th        | 9.00am  | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. George the Martyr |
| 21st        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. George the Martyr |
| 22nd        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. Mary the Virgin   |
| 23rd        | 8.30am  | <b>S George's Day</b><br>Morning Prayer                                                 | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 9.00pm  | School Celebration                                                                      | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 7.00pm  | The Parish Eucharist                                                                    | St. George the Martyr |
| Sunday 25th | 8.00am  | <b>Easter 3</b><br>The Eucharist                                                        | St. George the Martyr |
|             | 10.30am | The Parish Eucharist                                                                    | St. Mary the Virgin   |
|             | 6.30pm  | Evening Prayer                                                                          | St. George the Martyr |
| 29th        | 7.00pm  | The Eucharist                                                                           | St. Mary the Virgin   |



IS PATIENCE ALWAYS A VIRTUE?

Although they tell us that patience is a virtue there are times when even the most patient of us become impatient. Some of us have infinite patience with children and the old and others are able to carry out what some consider are intricate, involved and time consuming tasks for which they have not the patience. I enjoy various crafts including glass engraving, needlework and lacemaking yet become impatient quickly with musak and when indecision by those in front holds me up. I can also be impatient with computers when they do not perform my requests instantly in the way I expect! I am informed that if we had Broadband my impatience with slow web pages would disappear. However, ignoring the additional cost and the fact that the Ardleigh Exchange is so enabled, I understand that it is still not possible because the length of the wire to the exchange must not exceed 6km and nor should there be a DACS (a device for numbers to share a pair of wires) on our line. In order to overcome these problems Steve Clark was looking into setting up a wireless Broadband system. However it would appear that Tendring are already working on this and those interested should look at [www.tendringbroadband.org.uk](http://www.tendringbroadband.org.uk). Also there are reports that BT are exploring the possibility of making the service available to lines up to 10km long. My patience might be rewarded yet!

George exercises what I regard as great patience in undoing knots in sewing threads for me and persists long after I would have reached for the scissors, determined not to be beaten. On the other hand he has little patience with queues, going halfway round the world to avoid them and probably in common with many others, including me, detests having to key in numbers on the telephone in order to reach the service that is not always the one you want. He therefore had very little time for a phone call he received the other day informing him that he had won a prize and that he was to hold on and follow the instructions that were to be given. I believe he hung up before the instructions had even finished let alone take any action. We were therefore very interested when Frank Griffiths drew to our attention a piece in April's Saga magazine by Val Hennessy which I set out below.

Poor Reginald has become a victim of those 21st century con men, phone scammers. He answered his phone to a recorded voice announcing: "Congratulations! You could be the lucky winner of a fantastic holiday! Press number nine on your keypad?" At this point Reginald should have shouted: "I'm not an idiot!" and slammed down the phone. But he pressed nine and hung on for 10 minutes until a recorded voice asked him to key in his postcode and house number. After two more minutes it said: "Sorry you are not one of the lucky Winners" and disconnected. So did Reginald when his phone bill arrived. The call had cost him £260. Guy Shackle, ace hack at the Torquay Herald Express, did some investigating and discovered that by pressing nine, victims are connected to a premium line charging £20 a minute. Even if they ring off immediately they'll stay connected for a minimum of five minutes. That's £100. And so it clocks up. Bang went Reginald's winter fuel allowance.

Maybe patience is not always a virtue. *Leonie Henderson*

**ROGATION SUNDAY (May 16<sup>th</sup>)**

is an ancient day of the Church asking for God's blessing on village life. After the Eucharist in S



George's and the prayers for blessings on the Churchyard and village, we will make our way up to Little Bromley Hall for the blessings on the animals and land and then we shall finish with a picnic. Everyone is welcome to join some or all of this lovely celebration.



DOG RULES

1. The dog is not allowed in the house.
2. Okay, the dog is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.
3. The dog is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.
4. The dog can get on the old furniture only.
5. Fine, the dog is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.
6. Okay, the dog is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.
7. The dog can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.
8. The dog can sleep under the covers by invitation only.
9. The dog can sleep under the covers every night.
10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the dog.

## THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

### Statement of Accounts

| INCOME          | 2002/2003        | 2003/2004        |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                 | £                | £                |
| Carried Forward | 254.22           | 320.50           |
| Creditors       | 0.00             | 125.00           |
| Donations       | 49.00            | 149.00           |
| Advertisements  | 810.20           | 489.00           |
| Sponsorship     | 1,108.00         | 1,051.50         |
| Interest        | <u>2.10</u>      | <u>0.00</u>      |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>£2,223.52</b> | <b>£2,135.00</b> |
| <br>            |                  |                  |
| EXPENDITURE     |                  |                  |
| Printing        | 1,726.05         | 2,020.45         |
| Postage         | 19.00            | 21.48            |
| Expenses        | 32.97            | 47.00            |
| Debtors         | 125.00           | 0.00             |
| (Loss) /Gain    | <u>320.50</u>    | <u>46.07</u>     |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>£2,223.52</b> | <b>£2,135.00</b> |

### **Report**

We increased the number of pages in the magazine this year by 4, raising costs by some £35 per edition and we made a loss, though we are still in credit as we started off with cash in hand. We had no interest as Banks get meaner on this aspect but the banking is free. Income from advertisements has gone down considerably, though different outside companies are joining the ranks. We lost a major sponsor with the loss of the pantomime group. Leonie went on a course to get some tips on how to improve the magazine, but I think in a lot of cases we are better than most, especially with the budget we have. She does a great job in the production of the magazine, for which I know we are all grateful. Delivering The Messenger still works like clockwork (more so now I do Frating Road), due to Ann's diligence and all the helpers. If there are any questions on the figures above please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Honorary Treasurer L.B.Christodoulides MBE*

### GREAT BROMLEY'S POST OFFICE

Having been asked for some details of the Great Bromley Post Office I am pleased to give these details.

William White's Directory of Essex, dated 1848 relates that Letters to the village come from Colchester which must mean there was a Post Office here. There were three Shopkeepers listed, Cornelius Byham, John Eagle and Daniel Sargent. It would appear that John Carrington, a farmer, was postmaster.

The Post Office Essex Directory of 1859 says, "Postal Orders are issued but not paid at the following - Great Bromley; Little Bromley." This was the same in 1901 when the Essex Almanac was printed.

John Carrington, Farmer, is definitely Postmaster in the 1855 and 1859 Kelly's Directory of Essex and this name is repeated in the 1863 edition of William Whites Directory. George Young, Senior, took over as Kelly records in the 1870 and 1878 volumes. Mrs Mary Young, his wife, took over in 1881 and was in command until 1912. Husband George became the postman. In 1882 George Young is registered as "Receiver of Post and letters arrive from Manningtree at 8.30 am; dispatched thereto at 5.45 pm. On Sundays, letters are dispatched at 10.30 am. The nearest Money Order Office is at Manningtree".

Her son George Young, Shopkeeper, was Sub-Postmaster from 1913 to 1939. Charles Deere, General Stores, was George's successor and served the community until \_\_.

The Pillar Boxes at Hare Green, Balls Green and Bromley Cross were installed in 1912 and are still there today. The 1922 Kelly's Directory tells us "Post Office - George Young Sub-Postmaster. Letters arrive from Colchester via Ardleigh. The nearest Money Order and Telegraph Offices are at Little Bromley and Elmstead, nearly 3 miles distant."

In 1937 Letters ex Colchester came via Ardleigh and the nearest Money Order Office was at Little Bromley.

Charles and Peggy Deere took over business in 1949 and were in office until 1981. The new Post Office and Stores was opened and serviced by Charles Pirie who has continued as postman.

In 1986 Barbara and the late Michael Hall became Sub- postmasters and Michael was renowned for his butchery department in the Stores. The last holder of the office of Sub- postmaster was Michael Beckett who began work in 1997. Unluckily this Post Office was scheduled, like several others in the district for closure and it finally closed at 5pm. on Wednesday, 24th March, 2004. It will be a great loss to the village and customers will have to either use that at Elmstead or Ardleigh. The old Post Office building, once occupied by Charles and Peggy Deere, is over 350 years old. The unusually shaped front door suggests its connections with the church and may have been the original rectory. Mrs Vera Newton was village post women for almost 20 years and retired 29th September, 1975 aged 63. She only asked for one day's leave in all her service and cycled some 5 miles per day. She had nine children and 18 grand-children. Photographs of some of the Post Office Staff are included in "Where the Broom Grows, Great Bromley in Old Photographs" by the writer. *John Appleby*

#### CLOSURE OF GREAT BROMLEY POST OFFICE & STORES

It was with much sadness and a few tears when the Post Office & Stores closed on Wednesday, 24th March. Unfortunately, the proposed sale of the business fell through at the final stage, leaving no time to find another buyer. On the newspaper front, none of the local newsagents was prepared to buy the home delivery rounds from me. This meant that you had to find a supplier yourself or wait for them to tout for your business. If you are having papers delivered to your home please make sure you are not being overcharged on the cost of delivery. The going rate is about £1 per week but I have heard rumours of much higher delivery charges.

I would like to thank most sincerely everyone who supported the Post Office and Shop and wish you all the best for the future. There will be a Garage Sale on 1st May for the sale of the surplus shop stock at discounted prices. Tea and coffee will be on sale in aid of the Church Roof Fund.

*Michael Beckett*

**GARAGE SALE**



Saturday, 1st May  
10.00am - 2.00pm

Come to the sale of surplus shop stock and find yourself some bargains.

To be held at:  
**OAK LODGE**  
Church Corner  
Hall Road  
Great Bromley

Good reductions on most items.  
Tea and coffee will be on sale in aid of the Church Roof Fund.

*Michael Beckett*

#### KITCHEN CORNER

**Fish Lasagne** This recipe makes enough to serve 6-8 people so halve the quantities for 3-4 persons.

| <b>Ingredients</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Method</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 lb smoked haddock<br>1 bay leaf, sprig of parsley<br>1 pint milk<br>Freshly ground black pepper<br>½ oz butter or marg<br>1 lb carrots, cut & diced small<br>½ lb celery, cut & diced small<br>¾ pt water<br>2 oz margarine<br>4 level tbsp flour<br>salt if needed<br>4 oz lasagne<br>(verdi for preference) | Put fish, herbs and milk in shallow pan and sprinkle with pepper. Bake in moderate oven 180F for 20 minutes.<br>Melt ½ Oz butter in pan, add diced vegetables and water and cook until tender.<br>Strain and reserve the milk from the fish; then remove any skin or bones and flake the haddock. Strain the vegetables, adding this liquid to the milk.<br>Make the sauce with marg, flour and strained liquids.<br>Using a lasagne dish or meat tin, layer fish and vegetable mixture then uncooked lasagne, moisten this with some sauce, repeat the layer, finally adding any more fish, vegetable mixture. Coat with remaining sauce and bake 190F for half an hour.<br>(If assembled previously and cold, it will need about 1 hour.) |

*Jill Frostick*

#### CARPET BOWLS

Four matches into the summer programme and so far we have maintained a reasonable standard of play. We lost 5-4 away to Gt Bentley in the first match and in the same week lost 3-6 away to Walton. They are league leaders, but that is no excuse. We managed to beat Lawford 7-2 at home also at home beat Clacton-on-Sea 7-2. All matches in this league must be completed by 31st July which leaves little margin for fitting in club nights or friendlies. Although the holiday and gardening seasons are already upon us, with everyone extra busy, we



still manage to field a full team each match and over the league timetable all members get to play the same number of games. It means a fair amount of juggling with dates and availability etc. but our worthy captain, Andrew, and his "friendly?" computer seem to get it right. We wish a good season to our outdoor bowlers, both in and outside the village. Good luck.

*Nancy Kempster*

#### GREAT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

The Quiz Night on Saturday 3rd April was to raise funds for new equipment for the Colts teams. Thanks to your generosity we made a profit of £435. Thank you to Tim Biscoe for being Question Master and a big thank you to Matt Foley for preparing the questions. This year we are running three teams. The Under 12's and Under 13's who practise on Tuesday evenings and the Under 15's who will practise on Thursday evenings. In addition to this we will have the Kwik Cricket who will be practising on Monday evenings. Let's hope we have good weather and all the lads enjoy their cricket. 100 CLUB WINNERS FOR MARCH. 1st. Mr. Mike Raper 2nd. Mr. Alistair Robinson 3rd. Mr. Dave Scarlett

#### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mr Putt came along to our April meeting to tell us about his career in the antiques business. His current job is with the auctioneers, Reeman and Dansie, who recently vacated their saleroom in Butt Road and are now relocated in Wyncolls Road, Colchester. Over his 36 year career, Mr Putt says he has seen many highs and lows in the world of antiques, especially in the last 15- 20 years. He has also become a Fine Arts Consultant and he brought along a selection of his own antiques collection, describing and valuing each item for us. My own favourite was a beautiful, hand made Victorian wedding dress which he dated as 1880.

This month (May) will be our "Resolutions Evening", when we consider the short listed final choices to be put forward for discussion and voting upon at our National Annual General Meeting in June. This year they are "Trafficking of Women and Children"; the "Growing of GM Crops in the UK" and "Air-Ambulance Funding". *June Willgress*

#### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Country Folk do like to chat, and listen, to tales of other activities of other country folk and that was the case when Mr Roger Clark came to our Open Day on 15th April. He was introduced to horses by his father at an early age and they become his working life". His talk was very interesting and humorous and we thank him most sincerely for coming along as we do all the people who supported us. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our full day Spring Sale this year but to see all the people in the Hall gave us a real boost and we hope you enjoyed your day with us. The next meeting is on 20th May. The competition - a Penknife. *Vicky Griffiths*

#### LOWTIDE DAY IN BRIGHTLINGSEA - IT'S FREE, IT'S FUN!

8th May, 2004 LowTide Day is a free annual festival offering people the opportunity to explore and celebrate inter-tidal sites and other aspects of the coastal environment. LowTide celebrations will be held on the same day at sites along the coast of England, Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands and Northern France to coincide with the lowest astronomical tide. This year it will take place on 8th May. All are welcome to come along to Brightlingsea Hard waterfront area and join in the fun!

The day will start at 11.00am with the launch of the ferry between Brightlingsea and Colne Point and activities will run throughout the day until 4.00pm.

There will be much to see and do, and not just for children! Attractions include:

- the launch of the reinstated Brightlingsea - Point Clear ferry
- a smuggling re-enactment
- the chance to step onboard the restored smack Pioneer
- children's activities organised by the Essex Marine Conservation Society
- story walks by a local Essex storyteller
- face painting
- boat trips around the harbour

For more information please call Rebecca Whitfield, Colne Estuary Partnership, on 01206 282480.

**ROTARY NEWS**

Next year Rotary will be 100 years old and, over the next 12 months, I will be telling you about some of the things it has done internationally and locally. Rotary is going to produce the Rotary Rondel - the biggest advertisement ever - (to get in the Guinness Book of Records) using old CDs or DVDs. Please collect any that you have of these or receive in the post from internet providers or the like, which I expect, like me, you otherwise throw away. I will pick them up in due course. As a reminder I would mention that I still collect old computer ink cartridges and get a donation to Child Line for our efforts. *Len Christodoulides*

**Forthcoming Events**

**MAY**

- 1 Garage Sale, Oak Lodge, Gt Bromley, 10.00am
- 1 Eastern Angles Theatre "The Edge of the Land", Village Hall
- 5 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 LowTide Day, Brightlingsea, 11.00am onwards
- 12 A.G.M. Village Hall committee, Village Hall, 8.00pm
- 13 Gt Bromley Parish Council AGM  
 & Annual Parish Assembly, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 15 Plant & Garage Sale, Ilex Farm
- 15 PTA Race Night, St Georges School
- 18 Preening & Pampering Evening, Cross Inn, 8.00pm
- 20 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 20 Charity Quiz, Cross Inn
- 27 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting
- 27 The Bromleys PCC meeting, St George's church, 7.00pm
- 29-31 Flower Festival, St Marys Church, Ardleigh

**JUNE**

- 11-13 Waterways & Garden Show, Little Bentley Hall
- 12-13 Music & Flowers, St Mary's Church, Lt Bromley
- 26 Church Bar-B-Q at The Rectory, Gt Bromley

**JULY**

- 3 Coffee morning, Village Hall
- 10 Tendring Hundred Show
- 18 Country Fair, Cross Inn

**CROSS INN EVENTS FOR MAY**

Tuesday, 18th **PREENING & PAMPERING EVENING** Treat yourself to a night off and come to an evening of Beauty product demonstration and testing hosted by Virgin Vie. 8.00pm  
 Thursday, 20th **CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT** In aid of the Church Repair Fund.  
 Wednesday, 26th **MUSIC NIGHT** 8.00 start Come and sing, play or just listen.

**"CELEBRATING LIFE IN ARDLEIGH"**



**Flower Festival**  
 in S Mary's Church  
 29th - 31st May

|                           |          |              |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> | 10am-5pm | Stalls & BBQ |
| Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>   | noon-5pm | BBQ          |
| Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>   | 9-5pm    |              |

Refreshments all weekend.



**PLANT & GARAGE SALE**

This year the sale will be held at  
**Ilex Farm on 15th May**  
 In addition the **MAGI** are having a stall for their own funds (details later on!)

If anyone is **dividing perennials** at this time of the year, we are willing to collect bare rooted plants.  
 We would also appreciate help for two hours on Friday, 14th and at the sale.

*James and Ann (01206 230679)*

**LITTLE BENTLEY HALL WATERWAYS & GARDEN SHOW**

Saturday, 12th & Sunday, 13th June  
 10.00am - 6.00pm

East Anglia's Biggest Charity Garden Show  
 Art Show - 10 Show Gardens - 100 Trade Stands - Gardens of Lt Bentley Hall open  
 Entry: Adults - £5 / Children - Free.  
 At Little Bentley Hall, off A133 between Colchester & Clacton

All proceeds will go to charity including the Seven Rivers

**MUSIC AND FLOWERS**

IN  
 St Mary's Church, Little Bromley

The Church will be open for visitors on **Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June**

There will be music programmes, and evensong will be celebrated.

Further details in the June magazine

## GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Great Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 15 April 2004

**Planning** *The Council considered and agreed no objections to the following planning application:*  
Southview: Frating Road - extension and garage (resubmission following refusal of earlier application - see below)

*Tendring District Council has approved the following planning applications:* Land adjacent to Old Police House, Chase Road - new house and garage (approved with conditions). Spring Farm, Frating Road - Orange mobile phone pylon.

*Tendring District Council has refused the following planning applications:* Southview, Frating Road - extension and garage (earlier application). Arcan, Colchester Road - two storey extension and garage.

### **Annual Great Bromley Assembly**

The parish council's Annual General Meeting will be held at the village Hall at 7.00pm on Thursday, 13th May. This will be followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Parish Assembly. Residents are welcome to attend either of these meetings. This is your opportunity to hear what the parish council has been doing on your behalf during the past 12 months and how it spent £12,500 of council taxpayers' money. The council will also be pleased to respond to any questions, complaints or suggestions from residents.

**Hare Green Recreation Ground** The council appreciates that the village has only limited facilities for young people. Therefore, with the help of external grants, it is installing further recreation equipment at the Hare Green playing field. There is now a ball wall and youth shelter, and a hard surface for skate boarding and ball games is planned. Trees have been planted and the grass and hedges are cut regularly. The play equipment for younger children is being enhanced so that it meets current safety standards. The council hopes that these new facilities for young people will help reduce the current incidents of vandalism at the playing field. These include damage to the existing equipment and the regular depositing of broken glass, (please contact Chris Phillips if you can assist with the identifying the culprits). The council would welcome any further ideas and offers of assistance with youth activities.

**Motorcycles:** the owner of the land being used as a motor cycle track has been warned that pedestrians must be given safe and easy access to Footpath 17 at all times. Anyone experiencing difficulty in using this footpath is asked to report the matter to the Highways' Footpath Officer, Sally Battrum (tel: 01206 573353).

**Mobile police station:** the police now say that demand does not justify a mobile police station visiting Great Bromley. The station will however visit the following nearby sites:

Near Tokely Road, Frating: 1300-1400, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays monthly.

Village Hall, Ardleigh: 0900-1000, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays monthly.

**Tendring District Local Plan:** a new local plan will be published for consultation on 28 May and where comments must be received by 23 July. This plan will indicate those areas where development is permitted. *KB 15/4/04*

## LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on 27th May.

## GARDENER'S CORNER FOR MAY

**Tomatoes:** Why not plant some tomatoes in hanging baskets. The best type to grow are "Gardener's Delight", "Tumbler F1" and "Red Pendulina". TWO plants to a basket.

**Beans:** If you are growing Runner Beans up the canes try planting sweet peas here and there among them. The colourful flowers and scent will attract the bees which will then go on to the beans to give extra pollination. **Pruning:** Forsythia and ornamental currants should be pruned as the flowers have faded. You can use the prunings as cuttings. **Fuchsias:** Take cuttings - cut just below a leaf node, remove the bottom pair of leaves, fill a 3" pot with a gritty free-draining compost, insert cuttings around the edge of the pot, firm in and water. Place in a greenhouse or cold frame or failing that a kitchen window sill will do nicely. *Frank Griffiths*

## GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Management Committee were scheduled to meet on Tuesday, 27th April. The appearance of the stage has been under discussion and a working party has set about cleaning down the walls and ceiling. Traps in the ceiling used for scenery during live shows have been closed over to stop draughts and some additional curtains hung to improve the appearance. Thanks to Peter, Pat and Henry for their efforts on our behalf, but some further work remains to be done.

Fortunately, the main boiler for the heating and hot water system lasted until the Easter break period, but it was in a poor condition. We were able to execute a boiler change swiftly with thanks to All-Ways Heating Ltd of Brightlingsea and no disturbance to the users of the hall. We are very grateful to Richard and Brenda, at the Cross Inn, for running a Quiz evening on 18th March, raising £187.50 in aid of the Hall. Also on 20th March, to Beryl Hurst, who brought the young group "Nostalgia" from Dovercourt to play big band music for listening to or dancing at the Hall which raised £488.50. Quite an eventful night as the stormy weather raged outside regularly cutting the electricity supply to the Hall (and surrounding area), proving beyond doubt the new emergency lighting was a worthwhile investment.

We plan to have a coffee morning at the Hall on Saturday, 3rd July and our Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday, 20th November. The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will be on Wednesday, 12th May at 8.00pm. We will be pleased if you are able to come along and support your committee. *Bevan Willgress*

### THE UNITED PARISHES OF ARDLEIGH AND THE BROMLEYS

Dear Parishioner, When Patience Lyampali, 37, looks at her youngest daughter Gertrude, it is with something close to longing. Patience tested HIV positive two years ago and knows that her time with her six children is limited. She has no access to life prolonging anti-retroviral drugs. Patience lives in Chombela village, close to Zambia's capital, Lusaka. "We are short of food" she says, explaining that her husband died six years ago. "I cannot grow enough maize for my family. we struggle with such a tiny amount of food. School fees are a real problem for me. Because I am sick, I cannot go out to work." Life is a struggle but Vincent Mulenga, a volunteer who visits regularly with provisions and basic medicines provided by the Catholic Archdiocese of Lusaka, has made the time that she has left a little more bearable. He helps with housework and collects firewood. He also takes the time to sit down and talk. "We talk quite openly and freely" he says. "When Patience was first diagnosed, there was some separation from her neighbours. Now the stigma and fear are a little less, as people are more educated. Patience still needs to feel that she can speak to someone who understands without feeling bad. I am a peasant farmer myself. but i do this because I am a Christian and feel called to help."

An estimated 21 percent of adults are HIV-positive in Zambia where the healthcare system has deteriorated rapidly over the past few years. Volunteers like Vincent play a vital role in filling the gaps left by the lack of basic primary healthcare services. Supported by Christian Aid, the Catholic Association of Lusaka provides training for volunteers. They are unpaid but given support from qualified staff, free medical schemes and clothing to protect themselves during visit. If you feel you can support this work with a financial donation please use the Christian Aid envelope and return it to Church, Chapel, or Ardleigh Post Office, or visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk). God bless you, *Fr Nicolas*

Work is due to begin at S George's on 25th April for the next eight months. During this time unfortunately the Church will be closed during the week for Health and Safety reasons. Sunday and Evening worship will continue as normal and the Church will still be available for Funerals.

### Services for May

|             |                                       |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                |             |                                       |                                                                                        |                                                                                            |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st         | 9.00am                                | SS Philip & James<br>The Eucharist & Rosary                                                                                                    | St. Mary the Virgin                                                                            | 17th        | 10.00am                               | The Eucharist                                                                          | St. George the Martyr                                                                      |
| Sunday 2nd  | 7.30am<br>8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm | Easter 4<br>Morning Prayer<br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>Evening Prayer                                                          | St. Mary the Virgin<br>St. Mary the Virgin<br>St. George the Martyr<br>St. Mary the Virgin     | 20th        | 7.00pm<br>11.00am<br>9.00am           | Ascension Day<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist<br>The Eucharist & Rosary              | St. George the Martyr<br>Seven Rivers<br>St. Mary the Virgin                               |
| 3rd         | 10.00am                               | The Eucharist                                                                                                                                  | St. George the Martyr                                                                          | Sunday 23rd | 7.30am                                | Easter 7<br>Morning Prayer                                                             | St. George the Martyr                                                                      |
| 5th         | 7.00pm                                | The Eucharist                                                                                                                                  | St. George the Martyr                                                                          |             | 8.00am                                | The Eucharist                                                                          | St. George the Martyr                                                                      |
| 6th         | 10.00am                               | The Eucharist                                                                                                                                  | St. Mary the Virgin                                                                            |             | 10.30am                               | The Parish Eucharist                                                                   | St. Mary the Virgin                                                                        |
| 7th         | 11.00am                               | The Eucharist                                                                                                                                  | Seven Rivers                                                                                   |             | 6.30pm                                | Evening Prayer                                                                         | St. George the Martyr                                                                      |
| 8th         | 9.30am                                | The Rosary                                                                                                                                     | St. Mary the Virgin                                                                            | 24th        | 10.00am                               | The Eucharist                                                                          | St. George the Martyr                                                                      |
| Sunday 9th  | 7.30am<br>8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm | Easter 5<br>Morning Prayer<br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>Evening Prayer                                                          | St. George the Martyr<br>St. George the Martyr<br>St. Mary the Virgin<br>St. George the Martyr | 26th        | 7.00pm                                | The Eucharist                                                                          | St. Mary the Virgin                                                                        |
|             |                                       |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                | 27th        | 7.00pm                                | S Augustine of Canterbury<br>The Eucharist                                             | St. George the Martyr                                                                      |
| 12th        | 6.00pm                                | The Eucharist                                                                                                                                  | Hamilton Lodge                                                                                 | 28th        | 11.00am                               | The Eucharist                                                                          | St. George the Martyr                                                                      |
| 13th        | 7.00pm                                | The Eucharist                                                                                                                                  | St. Mary the Virgin                                                                            | 29th        | 9.00am                                | The Eucharist & Rosary                                                                 | St. Mary the Virgin                                                                        |
| 14th        |                                       | S Matthias<br>The Eucharist                                                                                                                    | Seven Rivers                                                                                   | Sunday 30th | 7.30am<br>8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm | Pentecost<br>Morning Prayer<br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>Evening Prayer | St. Mary the Virgin<br>St. Mary the Virgin<br>St. George the Martyr<br>St. Mary the Virgin |
| 15th        | 11.00am<br>9.00am                     | The Eucharist & Rosary                                                                                                                         | St. Mary the Virgin                                                                            |             |                                       |                                                                                        |                                                                                            |
| Sunday 16th | 7.30am<br>8.00am<br>10.30am<br>6.30pm | Easter 6<br>Morning Prayer<br>The Eucharist<br>The Parish Eucharist<br>followed by Rogation Blessings at Little Bromley Hall<br>Evening Prayer | St. Mary the Virgin<br>St. Mary the Virgin<br>St. George the Martyr<br>St. Mary the Virgin     | 31st        | 12 noon                               | The Visitation of Our Lady<br>Pilgrimage Mass at                                       | Walsingham                                                                                 |

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This is the last of the old “Bromley Messenger” magazines digitised from the printed copy. In June 2004 the magazine was added in digital form to the village website which I built and have managed since April 2002.

***Hugh Frostick. 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024***