

# The Bromley Messenger

MARCH 2012

Volume 26 No 11



Photographs by L. Hench

# THE FIRST PAGE

The snow has gone and my feet have thawed but it was beautiful when it first fell. How wonderfully quiet - and safer! - our road was while the snow lay crisp and even as the conditions prevented the motorised 'rat runners' venturing down past us, and certainly not at their usual, sometimes dangerous, speed.

Speed is not the word I would use to describe broadband round here - ours is less than 0.2 mbs - and there are still some homes with no broadband at all. With a view to improving speeds Neil Skinner has been working hard for months with the result that County Broadband are coming to outline their plans for bringing high speed broadband to Great Bromley. The meeting will take place in the village hall on 27th March and to be successful the venture needs YOUR support to go forward so do attend the meeting.

Your support - and time - is also wanted to go round Great Bromley picking up litter on a Litter Pick Day. Volunteers please meet at the venues stated on page 3. A mucky but worthwhile job and, surprisingly, fun when doing it in the company of others.

Volunteers are also needed to join the Village Hall committee. We have an excellent village hall but it does require a team to run it so if you have some time to give do consider offering your services.

St George's P.C.C., as well, is looking for new members to come forward to join the church council.

In addition a vacancy has arisen for a new Clerk to Little Bromley Parish Council upon the retirement of Major Downes in March. Perhaps this is you? Details of how to proceed can be found inside.

Lastly, our congratulations go to Grace Smith for her commendation at the Colchester Sports Personality Awards for 2011. She is gaining renown in equestrian driving championships and will be a name, I have no doubt, to look out for in future years. Inside there is a photograph of Grace driving a carriage.

*Leonie Henderson*

**MATERIAL** for the **MARCH 2012** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th February, 2012** please.

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

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

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

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

**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**

### KITCHEN CORNER

A meatless supper dish for Lent.

#### PASTA PARMIGIANA

Serves 4

12 oz(350g) pasta shells or spirals  
preferably wholewheat.

½ teasp salt

1 teasp oil

1lb mushrooms, wiped and chopped

1 green and 1 red pepper, de-seeded  
and chopped

2 tbsp olive oil

Juice of 1 lemon

¼ pt single cream

Salt and black pepper

2 oz(50g) Parmesan cheese grated.

#### Method

Bring a large pan water to the boil. Add the pasta, salt and oil and cook for 12-15 minutes till tender.

Chop vegetables into bite size pieces.

Heat the oil in a frying pan, add vegetables and cook quickly for 5-7 minutes, turning frequently so that they don't brown.

Add the cooked drained pasta, lemon juice, cream, salt and pepper. Stir well, pour quickly into a gratin dish. Cover with a thick layer of grated parmesan.

Grill until the cheese is golden brown and serve immediately.

*Jill Frostick*

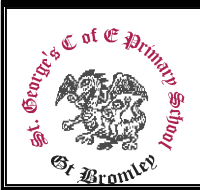
### LITTER PICKING GROUP

**Saturday, 31st March**

The **Spring Litter Pick** will be held on the above date. If you can spare some time between the hours of 10.00am and midday to help tidy up our village, please be at the car park of either the Cross Inn, The Old Courthouse or the Snooty Fox at approximately 9.50am, grab a litter pick and a plastic bag and follow your team leader. It's a mucky job, but you may be surprised how much fun you can have whilst getting involved in a community activity.

**PLEASE NOTE-** to comply with insurance regulations, you must be fit, be between the ages of 15 and 70 and be wearing protective, high visibility clothing. Some high vis jackets are available and will be on site, but if you have your own, please do wear them. You may also wish to bring along any garden tools that may be helpful to you for litter collection. Look forward to seeing you.





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

Head teacher: Julie O'Mara  
Telephone: 01206 230305

We are writing to update you on all the exciting things that are happening at St George's School.

Our school has joined the Colchester Children's University. This is an exciting national project that supports out-of-school learning experiences for all children aged from 7 – 14 years. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Ellie Cooper and Brandon Redgen will be our first pupils to graduate. The graduation ceremony will be taking place at Ivor Crewe Lecture Hall at the University of Essex. We are looking forward to many more graduations to come!

We have drawn up plans to develop 3 garden areas

(wildlife area, pond and spiritual gardens) in the school grounds.

The purpose of these areas is to develop the children's awareness and experience of the natural world and their Christian links with it. Work has already begun on the wildlife area and the pond garden.

We are extremely grateful to all those who have kindly volunteered their time and expertise to help. When finished, these areas will include, a weather station, a bird feeding centre, insect homes and seating. The children had enormous fun constructing bird and bat boxes.

The spiritual garden is still at the planning stage and we are consulting with the

children to see what they would like to be incorporated. They will be busy raising funds to help pay for resources needed. Monies already raised from pupils' enterprise activities so far this year have been ear-marked for this project. The garden will include many wonderful features for example a prayer pool, a dragon weather vane, a mini-fruit tree orchard and lots more.

A huge thank you to our governor, Martin Frostick, who has worked tirelessly, planning and implementing our garden projects.

Our Eco-Council has been very busy

recently auditing the school's energy use, waste management and our school's community and global links. We are currently working towards the very prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award.

Mrs O'Mara will be visiting our partner

school, Sabronum DA, a Primary School in Ghana, from 2 March to 12 March. This will be an opportunity for her to meet with Mr Thomas Addai, the Headteacher, and to build on the strong links already established between our two schools. She will report on her trip in the next newsletter.





Charity No. 1136038  
Company No. 7099441

# Little Dragons Pre-School

Great Bromley & Frating

Ofsted Inspected

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

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

## Great Bromley Village Hall

Monday & Wednesday 9.15-11.45am & 12.15-2.45pm Tuesday & Thursday 9.15-11.45am

Children 2-5 years

Lunch club available every day

For more details/visits please contact us on 0785 7503103

Just a reminder that lunch club is now also available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call the above number for any further information.

It hardly seems possible that we are halfway through the Spring Term. The snow last month was greeted with much excitement by the children and they enjoyed playing in the garden and exploring ice and snow we also took indoors.

We have also been celebrating the 'Chinese New Year' at pre-school with lots of fun activities including making lanterns and dragon puppets. The children made a large dragon from cardboard boxes and lots of colourful decorations and used it to perform a 'Chinese Dragon Dance'. Thank you to Linda for helping the children make a lovely Chinese stir fry. They really enjoyed chopping the vegetables up and eating them. This inspired some lovely role play in our 'Chinese Restaurant' using a wok, chop sticks and paper 'pancakes'.

'Cash for schools'. Having a Spring Clean? If you have any clothes, bedding

etc. for recycling please collect a yellow bag from us to fill and return on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. For each bag collected pre-school earns cash! A great way to help us raise funds. Just to let you know that we are now collecting the Sainsbury's Vouchers and 'Nestle box tops' so please tell family and friends.

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

### Dates for your diary:

World Book Day	1 <sup>st</sup> March
Dad's Week	19 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Holiday begins	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Return to preschool	16 <sup>th</sup> April
'Cash for Schools' collection	23 <sup>rd</sup> April

## THANKS

### Charity Quiz Night at the Haywain – 21<sup>st</sup> January

Please may I say a big 'thank you' to everyone who attended the quiz at the Haywain pub in Lt Bromley on 21/1/12 in aid of The Dogs Trust. And massive thanks of course to Dawn, Andy and Ernie at the Haywain for the venue, hospitality, gorgeous buffet and generous raffle prizes, and to Brian and Anita for superlative quiz-mastering!

It was a superb evening and the place was packed, leading to a whopping **£350** raised for the charity!!

Thank you all again for your generosity.

*Claire Quilter (Lt Bromley)*

# GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

## 100 Club Winners for January

- 1st. Judith Knappett
- 2nd Helen Fairley
- 3rd. D. Fuller

Great Bromley and District Cricket Club held its AGM on 25th January at the Bromley Cross Inn.

The following officers of the club were elected.

<b>President</b>	Mrs Lynda Allam
Chairman	Mr Lance Grainger
Hon. Secretary	Mr David Hardy
Hon. Treasurer	Mr Matt Foley
Club Captain	Mr Richard Lawson
Saturday 2 Counties Vice Captain	Mr Matt Wareing
Sunday (Piri-piri league) Captain	Mr Craig Perrin
Sunday (Piri-piri league) Vice-Captain	Mr Liam Holyman
Fixture Secretary	Mrs Tracey Wareing
Membership Secretary	Mrs Trudie Dodd
Child Welfare Officer	Mrs Kaye Mitchell
Colts manager	Mr Pip Allam

In addition three ordinary committee posts were created and the following were elected to the committee.

- Mr Steve Wright
- Mr Nick Holyman
- Mr Matt Wareing

*David Hardy, Hon. Secretary*



# FRIENDSHIP CLUB

At our last meeting we had Lt Commander Cobbold to talk to us about his time in the Royal Navy and his retirement.



The Treasurer gave her account of the financial situation of the Club and appealed for us to think of

ways for us to boost the funds.

It is nearly time for us to think of outings - I have made enquiries as to the availability of coaches as more people will be trying to avoid the aggro of going abroad.

One firm will only have a 21-seater, another only a 34-seater. Those are the ones I know, but I'm sure there will be others. Further discussion later.

We now have a 'Donation' Stall for small items for sale, so if you can contribute it would be appreciated.

Beryl: We want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

Members who have not yet paid their subs please do so as soon as possible - no change from last year.

The March meeting is on the 15th. I hope to see you then, weather permitting!

*Vicky Griffiths*

## HELP!

St George's Church is looking to expand the representation of the congregation of Great Bromley on the Parochial Church Council. Members of the P.C.C. not only represent the congregation but also help to promote the Church in the village. The Secretary of the P.C.C. would therefore like to hear from anyone who might be interested in being elected. Elections to the P.C.C. will take place on 25th March at the A.P.C.M. in St George's Church at 11.45am.

*Mary Fawcett (07957 962788)*

Birds of the Stour Estuary was to be a very informative evening. Rick Vonk spoke so very well about one of our local treasures and began by explaining that in 1705 it used to be called the River Stower, but had become Stour over the years. The mud flats had been bought from The Marquis of Bristol, but the Queen owned 60% of the total coastline in the country.

In 2005 the Cattawade Marshes were bought by the R.S.P.B. and they immediately faced the challenge of erosion of the mud flats which had been happening for the last 40 years. Some of the rarest plants in the UK are found here in the Stour Estuary, and we can also see upwards of 30,000 birds in any one year. Rick also told us that the records of over 20,000 birds give the estuary special protection status, therefore it is very important to count regularly and accurately.



We get Godwits from Iceland, Greenshank that have been ringed in Scotland, and we also have Peregrine

Falcons in the estuary for the winter. The most famous birds, of course, are the Mistle swans!! which have caused quite a

debate over the last few years. Egyptian Geese are also breeding at Cattawade.

This is the first estuary that Rick has selected and managed, and what a selection of birds we have here: Lapwing,

Redshank, Shelduck, Reed Bunting, Sedge and Reed Warblers from Africa and Barn Owls. Ringed Plovers have been seen but are not common, and also Marsh Harriers.

Predators can be a problem, such as foxes, mink and, of course, the human species especially if their dogs are not controlled on leads.

Most recently a crane was seen and a green sandpiper.

Now when out walking down by the Stour, why not take some binoculars with you and see what you can observe, record and let Rick know. I think if we are local to a beauty spot we are not always aware of what is on our doorstep.

*Joy Rolfe*



## WI KNIT AND KNATTER UPDATE

We started our group two years ago with the aim to make things to sell at the Christmas Fair later that year. We enjoyed it so much that we decided to carry on for another year and agreed to make jackets, hats, bootees, gloves and blankets for the babies in the Special Care Unit at the General Hospital. We also enjoy the social aspect of these afternoons and have now branched out into making greeting cards;

how clever and artistic some are.

There is always room for more ideas as well as more members, please come and join us. We meet at Fryerning on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm until 4pm.

Please feel free to join us.



# LT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

At the council meeting held on Thursday, 9th February the following matters were discussed. There were 6 members of the public present.

There were no items introduced by the public on this occasion.

The main topic was the Jubilee Celebrations. The following items being discussed were organised by the Amenities Committee and more details will be published in the Bromley Messenger separately.

- 2nd June Flower Festival, St Mary's Church
- 3rd June Jubilee Garden Party - open 10.00am-4.00pm
- Service at 11.00am - Picnic in the Church grounds with tea and cake etc. Cream teas will be available at £1 per head. Music presented from 1.00pm.
- There will be a Scarecrow competition over the period, the theme being Royal attire or Red, White and Blue. More details to follow.
- Concern has been expressed about the Beacon. At that time of year sparks from a large fire could possibly set light to nearby crops. Regrettably it may have to be re-considered.
- Tree Planting. Also to commemorate the occasion Anita will be arranging for the purchase of a quality sapling which is to

be planted on the corner of Church Road opposite the Old Rectory. The owners have generously given permission for this to take place. A suitably inscribed plaque will be sited with the tree.

- All councillors are now in possession of the proposed Standing Orders for Little Bromley. At the discretion of the Chairman a separate meeting is to be called to discuss any alterations or additions before they are activated. A copy has been sent to EALC for their input.
- The PCC are asking for more money for grass-cutting. The council agreed this in principle but before deciding the actual amount decided it was best to await the result of tenders submitted to a new contractor.
- Concern was expressed by the council as a whole about the time it now takes for action to be taken by Tendring District Council to deal with some requests.
- Major Tony Downes, the Clerk, notified the council he would be retiring at the end of the financial year, 31st March, 2012. A suitable notice will be published in the Bromley Messenger.

## **Dates for the next council meetings are as follows:**

Annual Council Meeting and Public Assembly 10th May, 2012

# LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL - VACANCY

## **Parish Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer**

A vacancy, with the retirement of the present Clerk, has arisen for a Clerk/RFO with effect from 31st March, 2012. The responsibilities will include:

Preparation and servicing Parish Council Meetings, advising councillors on matters relating to council business, preparing and receiving correspondence of council Business, handling queries from members of the parish and financial management.

Successful candidate should be able to

demonstrate they hold the CILCA qualifications or to take training to that level, clerical experience and the ability to take responsibility for the council's financial affairs. You must be able to operate from home for which you will receive a small remuneration. Other payments may be considered.

Interested persons should submit their application in writing to the Chairman:- Councillor K Hatch, 4 Bentley Road, Little Bromley, Manningtree, Essex CO11 2PL.

Closing date is 16th March 2012.



# THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

## Ardleigh Surgery

### **Kate Strowbridge retiring**

Nurse Practitioner Kate Strowbridge is retiring at the end of March after 13 years service at the practice. The practice and patients will be most sorry to see Kate leave but wish her the very best for the future. Her husband has also recently retired as a Army doctor.

### **Patient Reference Group**

As mentioned in an earlier article, to help us improve our service to our patients and to find out how patients perceive our surgery and staff we have set up a virtual Patient Reference Group so that patients can have their say. We will ask the members of this representative group some questions from time to time, such as what you think the quality of the care or service they received. Members of the PRG can also raise questions or issues for sharing with other members of the Group. Patients may register by completing a form available in the surgery reception or on our website. At the time of writing this article, 54 patients have registered. We would encourage more patients to register particularly in the younger age group.

We had a good response to our first PRG email survey with 33 members responding out of 48.

The majority of members supported a proposal that we should have fewer pre-bookable appointments on a Monday morning and, therefore, have more appointments available to see a doctor or Nurse Practitioner to meet the demand to be on a 'same-day' basis.

A similar number supported the idea of a trial for the practice to set up telephone consultation sessions.

The practice in response to the results of the survey is, therefore, creating more same day slots on a Monday morning and introducing telephone consultation slots.

Patients requesting for a same day appointment will be asked if their problem could be dealt with over the telephone either by a GP or Nurse Practitioner. If they are agreeable to a telephone consultation they will be advised that a GP will telephone back between 11.40 and 1.00 pm. A similar system will operate in the afternoon. Patients wishing to speak to a specific GP or Nurse about an ongoing problem will have a telephone consultation slot booked at the end of the normal consultation session.

### **GP Trainee and other doctor changes**

The practice now has two GP trainees with both Dr Owens and Dr Cole as Trainers. Dr Claire Cooper, one of our recent GP Trainees has left and has been replaced by a Dr George Pontikis. Dr James Howard has been replaced by Dr Hannah Roberts.

We also have an ongoing arrangement for a Locum GP to cover a Wednesday morning surgery. Dr Geoff Marcoolyn has recently replaced Dr Ayisha Sajid.

*Fred Merrin, Practice Manager*



**GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

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

## Gt Bentley Surgery

Since the arrangements for GP training were changed a year or two ago, our Registrars seem to come and go very rapidly. Sadly, we have just said a fond farewell to Dr Subha Nambi, who finished her six month stint with us on 31st January and has now moved on to do her final year of training at the Castle Gardens practice in Colchester. She had made a big impact here and we shall miss her, but we wish her the very best of luck in her new post. She is obviously going to be an excellent GP.

The positive side to losing Dr Nambi is that we have a new Registrar to welcome this month. She is Dr Corinne Vine who will also be doing six months in total with us. I say "in total" because she is expecting her first child in April, so will soon disappear on maternity leave for a few months, hopefully returning to us in time for the summer holiday rush. She has got off to a flying start and is already impressing everyone here, so she too will be missed during her absence. Unlike any of our previous Registrars Dr Vine took an unusual route to qualification as a doctor. She first became a nurse, then having decided she wanted to be a doctor, resumed studying for a few more years. She qualified at Nottingham, and most recently worked at Clacton Hospital, so she already knows the area well.

On a very different subject, our reception staff have instructed me to remind everyone that we need their mobile 'phone numbers if possible. The system which enables us to send text reminders the day before appointments is working well and has certainly reduced the number of patients who forget that they are due to see us. However, we still have mobile numbers for less than 40% of you. Please do give us your number if you have one – and tell us if you have young children for whom texted reminders would be useful too.

We have been carrying out yet another paper-based Patient Satisfaction Survey recently. Thank you to those of you who have helped out with it, even anyone who hasn't been totally complimentary about us. (We prefer to know if there are problems with what we do as this gives us the chance to put things right.) We are still recruiting patients who are prepared to answer short surveys sent out by e-mail, so if you would be willing to spend a few minutes four or five times a year helping us review performance or shape the future of our services, please let me know. We don't plan to hold meetings – everything will be done by e-mail, so the commitment is very limited. Please contact me at [postmaster.gp-f81021@nhs.net](mailto:postmaster.gp-f81021@nhs.net) if you feel you can help.

Don't forget incidentally, that you don't have to wait to be asked to make suggestions about how we could improve things here at the surgery. I am always delighted to receive constructive ideas. They may not always be practical, but we'll always consider them.

Finally, apologies to anyone who has been the victim of the intermittent fault on our telephone lines over the last few weeks. The problem hasn't, we understand, been with the equipment here in the surgery, but lay in the local exchange. It led to many calls being suddenly cut off at apparently random intervals, which I know has been frustrating and sometimes infuriating for patients and staff alike. We are told that the fault has now been rectified, but having heard that more than once previously all I can do is keep my fingers crossed.

*Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager, Great Bentley Surgery*

## WITH FOND MEMORIES

It has been a sad winter with the deaths of three more popular local folk, which makes me feel too far away at times like this, missing the “send offs” celebrating their lives.

**John Osborne** died aged 87, on Christmas Eve. John’s father ran the shop



in Shop Road, Little Bromley. John was also well known for buying and restoring Reverend Ransome’s Rolls Royce to a marvellous standard. His son Martin pays tribute on page 15. Here is a picture of John with one of his earlier cars! Note the slightly different bonnet ornament – John managed a bit of an upgrade over the years from a cat’s bottom to the Flying Lady!

*(Courtesy of Joyce Osborne.)*

**Gwen Barrell** died just after her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday in January. She often told me her mother lived to be 94, and I feel sure she had been aiming for that same age herself! Her grandson



Jeremy, who was a primary school friend of mine, made me chuckle with his and his mother Jane’s memories (see page 17) and I have many of my own. Gwen had more than a few troubles of various sorts in her long life, but always put them behind her and just got on with it in cheerful fashion, which I always found most admirable. *(Picture courtesy of Jane Eadie)*

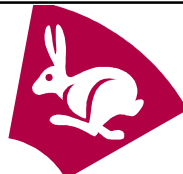
In February, **Geoffrey Hurst** passed away after a lengthy illness. Geoff, I am told, used to get up to mischief at Hiskey’s farm, with his mate Edward Barrett who was evacuated from Shoreditch during the war. Geoff & his son Paul used to sit near to my uncle Harry and his son Stephen (and later the grandchildren) at the Colchester United matches for many years. Geoff of course had a famous namesake in football. I remember, around 1970, visiting my friend David Filer in Upminster where most of the locals were West Ham fans (as was I) and not so long after the World Cup win. I was telling how “I was speaking to Geoff Hurst just the other day”, which got a lot of attention, and then very nearly earned a thump for being cheeky! Here is a picture of Geoffrey in his early Navy days *(courtesy of Beryl Hurst)*. His tribute is on page 16.



Our condolences to all the families of these great local characters.

*Hugh Frostick*

# 2012 EVENTS



## MARCH

- 6 Gt Bromley Village Hall Trustees meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 7 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 14 Knit and Knatter, Fryerning, Hall Road, 2.00pm
- 15 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 17 Jubilee Planting Project, St Mary's church, 10.00am
- 24 Farmers' Market, Village Hall, 10.00am
- 25 A.P.C.M. St George's church, 11.45am
- 27 High Speed Broadband meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 31 Spring Litter Pick in Great Bromley

## APRIL

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10 Gt Bromley Parish APCM Council meeting, Village Hall, from 7.00pm
- 19 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- Lt Bromley Parish APCM Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm

## MAY

- 2 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Bat talk, St George's church
- 10 Lt Bromley Annual Council Meeting and Public Assembly, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 12 Friends of Lt Bromley Church A.G.M., St Mary's church, 10.30am
- 17 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 20-27 Red, white & blue Jubilee Scarecrow Festival

## JUNE

- 2 Flower Festival, St Mary's church
- 3 Lt Bromley Jubilee Garden Party, St Mary's church, 10.00am
- 30 Southend Festival Chorus - Jubilee Concert

### Lawford Venture Centre Events

3rd March, 7.00pm **Who wants to be a Millionaire Quiz** Fish & Chip supper  
£10.50 in aid of Cancer Research UK  
Contact: Jean 01206 322320

15th April, 10 - 4pm

#### **Wellbeing Craft & Gift Fayre**

Admission £2.00 under 12 free  
Further information phone Julie 07809 600313

29th April, 10 - 4pm **Spring Market**

For more info and booking forms call Jess on 07966171056  
Free entrance and parking

### The Friends of Little Bromley Church

are having a

#### **Jubilee Planting Project.**

The first tranche is planned for Saturday 17 March at 10.00am.

Volunteers are most welcome to join us. We will be planting 1000 snowdrops and 1000 bluebells.

The **AGM** will take place on Saturday 12 May.

Refreshments will be served from 10.30am with the AGM commencing at 11.00am.

*See page 35 for more information on these events*



## Annual Parish meeting

for the election of Churchwardens followed by the

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting

in St George's church, Great Bromley  
Sunday, 25th March  
at 11.45am

Eligible for Parish members

## Watch out for the Scarecrows!



20th-27th May  
Little and Great  
Bromley are  
preparing for our  
second Scarecrow  
Festival. We are  
planning a Royal  
red, white and blue  
theme to coincide  
with the Diamond  
Jubilee.

The Village Hall committee has decided to hold a

## Farmers Market

on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
from 10am to 1pm  
in the Village Hall.

It is hoped that all the usual stall holders will be there.

If the village supports the market they will continue, however failure to support the stallholders will mean that we will no longer be able to hold any future markets.

To all those people who have not attended one of the markets, you will be amazed at the quality, freshness and price of the products on offer.

Do come and support it.



## HIGH SPEED BROADBAND FOR GT BROMLEY

There will be a presentation by  
County Broadband  
in the Village Hall on  
Tuesday 27th March at 7:30pm  
in which they will outline their plans for  
bringing High Speed Broadband to Great  
Bromley.

**Please note that such a scheme will only be possible if a sufficient number of people show an interest so your attendance is encouraged.**

Further information will be displayed on the Parish Council website - [www.gbpc.org.uk](http://www.gbpc.org.uk) - as it becomes available.

Neil Skinner

## Little Bromley's Jubilee Garden Party

To be held at  
St. Mary's Church  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 10.00am – 4pm

Please put this date  
in your diary now:  
Church service at  
11am



Tea and cakes,  
cream teas  
Activities for the  
children.

Bring your own picnic and eat it whilst  
music plays in the church.

More details next month, or  
phone Carol on 01206 395103.

# IN THE GARDEN IN MARCH

Although the weather has been very bad, the snowdrops are through and in full bloom. As soon as they have finished blooming they can be split up if they are overcrowded and replanted.



At the end of the month if you have a greenhouse or cold frame, sow cauliflower and brussel sprout seeds in seed trays of fine compost ½" deep.

Outdoors sow parsnip, shallot and broad

bean seeds and early potatoes. Harvest brussel sprouts that were planted last year and hang upside down in a shed or greenhouse.

The weather may have held back the completion of the pruning of climbing roses but no need to worry, do it at the first chance you get. Cut back to a bud facing outwards.

Pot grown fruit trees can be planted this month.

*Frank Griffiths*

## - AND NATURE

March is the month of daffodils and the garden filled with glorious yellow. However, for the emerging insects (which birds in turn need to feed on and also give to their nestlings) there are many important plants that are essential to feed such creatures. As insects travel from flower to flower, they may also pollinate them, thus ensuring they set seed or bear fruit. There are also other benefits i.e. hoverfly larvae which are voracious eaters of aphids (as are ladybirds). Birds and bats may also be attracted to your garden if you have insects.

So to set up an insect restaurant of nectar in your garden you will need to:

**Choose** a sheltered sunny spot as even the best nectar plants cannot compete against cold and wind. If necessary, set up a windbreak – whether artificial or natural.

**Place** each plant in groups or drifts so that the colour and scent are easy to detect.

**Prolong** the flowering season – select plants so that you have a show of flowers from early spring to late autumn. This will help early-emerging insects and those preparing for hibernation. Flowers with a simple (often flat) structure, like old cottage varieties, are easiest for insects to feed from. Some bees, in particular, are not able to access nectar in long tubular flowers.

### **Beware**

highly cultivated double-flowered forms of flowers, as these often have no nectar or pollen.

**Remember** to provide a night-time feast for moths. Plant some night-scented flowers. Moths will, in turn, provide food for bats. Many herbs are highly attractive to insects, so add them into the mix, or design a dedicated herb garden.

### **Some early-season nectar plants are:**

Aubretia (*Aubretia*), English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), Grape hyacinth (*Muscari botryoides*), Lungwort (*Pulmonaria spp.*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Sweet violet (*Viola odorata*), Winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*), Wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Yellow alyssum (*Alyssum saxatile*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)  
Alder, blackthorn, hazel and willow trees are an example of early flowering trees which are a good and important source of nectar.

*LMH*



# JOHN LEONARD OSBORNE 1924-2011

Dad lived the last 18 years of his life in Mistley, but he grew up in Little Bromley. He was born in the village; his parents ran the Little Bromley Post Office and General Stores. He attended the village school and then won a scholarship to attend the Colchester Grammar School. He left school in 1940, at age 16, and took a job at BX Plastics as a lab assistant. At the same time he joined the Home Guard. Soon afterwards he volunteered for the Reconnaissance Corps in the army, but BX Plastics reserved him for a year because he was involved in developing a plastic to be used in radar equipment. Subsequently he volunteered for the Air Force, from which he could not be reserved. Though he suffered from motion sickness, he was determined to be a pilot, and was selected for the training program. As part of his medical checkup, he was seen by a Harley Street specialist, who oddly passed him *only* to be a pilot!

He trained in the UK and then in Alberta and elsewhere in Canada. He returned to Little Bromley after being demobilized and found, to his surprise, that his parents no longer ran the village shop. His father's talents didn't lie in the field of business, and he had sold the shop and moved to Wix. Not keen to return to his job at BX he applied for other work. One job for which he passed the first round of interviews was as a cattle buyer in Argentina. However, in the end he did return to BX, where he gradually rose to the position of manager of the polystyrene plant. When the factory changed hands and polystyrene production moved elsewhere, he became transport manager of the Brantham factory. Having left school at 16 and started out as a lab assistant, he was rightly proud of his achievement in rising to the rank of manager.

Dad met Mum at BX—she was working in the Factory Technical Service lab and Dad was working in the Physics lab. They married in 1951 and had a house built in Little Bromley; they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last September. My brother Robin and I grew up there, following Dad's path from the village school to the Colchester Grammar School.

Dad's work involved one of the major innovations of the early 20th century—plastic—and his hobbies involved two of the other major innovations—cars and planes. He spent many weekends fixing a succession of cars—cars in the 1960s seemed always to need fixing. In 1962 he purchased, for £45, a badly-neglected 1928 Rolls Royce from the Rector of the parish. During his working years, he didn't have much time to devote to it, but after he retired he lovingly restored the car to its former glory, putting his handiwork skills to full use on every part of the vehicle, from the engine to the upholstery.

When I was young he took up gliding, and spent many Sunday mornings with his flying friends. At first they operated from the Boxted airfield, towing a glider into the air with a car. They then graduated to using a Tiger Moth. Whenever I went with him to the airfield, it seemed that at least as much time was spent fixing the equipment as was spent actually flying!

Dad was always generous with his time and never avoided positions of responsibility. He served on the Little Bromley Parish Council for many years, including a long stint as the Chair. He was also Secretary of the Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club for many years. After his retirement, he co-founded the Manningtree branch of Probus, and was a member of the Air Crew Association. He was also an active member of the River Stour Trust, running boat tours from Flatford until, at age 80, he could no longer get insurance coverage. And he was always willing to help friends and neighbours with tasks they couldn't manage by themselves.

Dad also spent a lot of time gardening at which he was an expert, providing us with luxury of a constant supply of garden-fresh fruit and vegetables.





In all his endeavors Dad worked hard, but he always made time to take us on wonderful holidays. One of the holidays I recall was at a farmhouse in Clun, near the border with Wales, at which Dad characteristically

and rarely raised his voice. He disliked pretense, and looked down on no one. As several people wrote in sympathy cards they sent Mum, he was a "real gentleman". I'm not sure how many of those traits I have inherited. He nurtured a love of the outdoors and instilled in us the need for honesty and straightforwardness when dealing with others. He was a great friend to many, a great husband to Mum, a great Dad to Robin and me, and a wonderful grandfather to Elizabeth, Annie, Helen, and Vivian. He was dearly loved and will be sorely missed.

spent time helping the farmer with some baling.

Dad was modest and didn't like the limelight; he never complained about his misfortunes

*Abridged from the eulogy by  
Martin J. Osborne (John Osborne's son)*

## GEOFF HURST

1 MAY 1928 - 6 FEBRUARY 2012

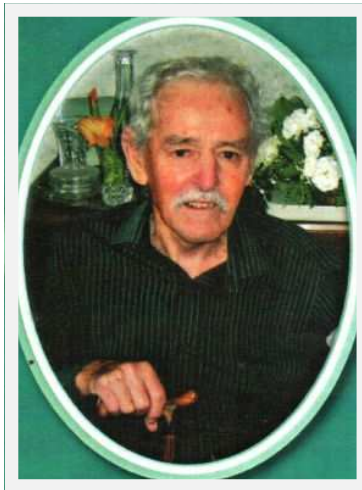
After a long illness, Geoff Hurst passed away peacefully, at his home on Monday, 6th February 2012.

Born in Cambridgeshire, Geoff came to live in Great Bromley when he was 10 years old, having lived for a time in Suffolk. After leaving school, he went to work for Mr E W Spencer at Hiskeys Poultry Farm, Little Bromley.

At 18 years of age, he joined the Royal Navy and travelled the world for 8½ years. Whilst in the Navy, he married Beryl, a born and bred Great Bromley girl. They married in the village church - St George's - in 1951, later having two children, Glenda and Paul.

After retiring from the Navy, Geoff worked for a short time at Abbots Nursery before joining his brother-in-law's family firm, D W Sparrow & Son.

Geoff was a true home-loving family man, quiet, known for a very dry sense of humour. He was a founder member, and secretary, of the Great Bromley Men's Snooker & Social Club for over 30 years. He was a social member of the Arleigh Bowls Club; also an active Colchester United supporter for over 70 years.



Geoff's main pleasure was to be at home in his garden with his family.

Geoff will be much missed, not only by Beryl and his family, but also by his friends and wider acquaintances. His kindly, gentle and generous nature ensure that he was held in, and will be remembered with,

the highest regard. Geoff Hurst - a gentleman in every sense of the word.



# GWEN BARRELL (NÉE ARTHEY)

## 1918 - 2012



Granny was born in Park Road Ardleigh, the youngest of 6 children. She always said that although they were poor she was always happy and her earliest memory was of sharing a single soft-boiled egg sandwich, cut into 3 to share with her brother and sister.

At 14 she left school and went into service, starting as nursemaid and ending up as cook – a prestigious position in the household. Following the birth of Jane (my mum), Gwen took on a milk round encompassing Bromley and Ardleigh which necessitated the use of a pony and trap. Grandmother had a pathological fear of all equines no matter how small; and the evil tempered pony soon sensed this. Such was the mutual dislike of Granny and the beast that the dairy-man, compelled to do something, dug deep into his pocket and bought a motorised delivery van. Granny learnt to drive by sitting next to him and watching for just one week, then she was on her own. No one is sure what became of the pony.

This was how she got her first driving license which went on to include a motorcycle, car and pretty much everything except a track laying vehicle, which meant she could not drive a tank - good news for the Nazis when war was declared shortly afterwards. Granny's considerable efforts were employed on the home front when, with her 2 week old son, she went to work at Ardleigh Station. Here her duties included manning the level crossing, ticket collecting etc. Other work, such as loading trains could be very physically demanding but she nevertheless found time to cook for all the other workers on a tiny stove in the gate hut. Despite there being a war on, they ate quite well as her workmates included an old fellow called Harry who had a running dog and snares set in every hedge between Ardleigh and Mistley. Despite the hard work Granny said this was her favourite job and it was with great sadness that she reluctantly left the railways to make way for the men returning home from the war.

Several jobs then followed including hard agricultural work in the cold winters following the war. She married Arthur and moved to Gt. Bromley and became mother to a new family running the household with vigour and energy. Everything had to be prepared with nothing but

one cold tap and a primitive cooker and on cold mornings there was an outside loo to be contended with.

Another family entered Granny's life when she went to work for Jill Frostick whilst her children were small. Granny was very proud of the Frostick children and very fond of them all. Our family would like to thank the Frostick family for their continued visits and kindness to Granny in her retired years. I would also thank Doreen as well for her devotion and care towards Granny. Each of these visits meant a lot to her, invigorated her and made her latter days a good deal happier.

Whilst working at the Frosticks, Granny joined the Women's Institute. As well as baking her renowned cakes, making items for raffles and knitting furiously for bring and buys, she was also the undisputed champion of the rummage-sale raiders. Later she joined Bromley Friendship Cub where her cakes were again in demand. Her other great passion was for gardening – a skill she inherited from her father. The front garden was formal with manicured lawn with central and quarter beds abundant with exhibition class roses. The rear garden was less formal yet still immaculate with a variety of beds, shrubs and specimen trees.

Granny's first love was for her family, all of whom she was very proud. Her grandchildren also benefitted from her knitting – scarves, gloves, jumpers, cardigans, toys and blankets (many of which went to the hospice) all came off the continual production line. Later in life, when too old to follow patterns, she still knitted squares for patch blankets which she used right till her last days in the home in Brightlingsea.

All of these memories and many, many more will stay with us all forever and in some way keep her with us. Despite this, all who knew her will never stop missing her.

*Abridged from the eulogy given by Jeremy Eldridge, her grandson*

# VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

## YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU.....

Sadly in April the Village Hall Committee will be looking to fill several vacancies. Fred Nicholls is standing down as Chairman, Dean Dasely is standing down as Treasurer, Neil Skinner is standing down as Minutes Secretary and Tracy Griffiths is standing down as Booking Manager. We need to have people to volunteer to help run the Hall, On a positive note Jacquie Terry has agreed to stand as minute secretary as from April and I believe that we have a volunteer on the booking position . Thank you both.

A happy, constructive and enlightening meeting was held early in the New Year between the Playgroup Sub-Committee and the Village Hall Sub-Committee. Both groups expressed appreciation and we look forward to working together in the future

I had personal experience of programming the controls for the heating controls for the Village Hall. Compared to what we had they are fantastic, with separate controls for different areas and automatic heat reset after the programme has run its slot. All this is done from inside the Hall no longer in the boiler room. These controls, with the freshly installed loft insulation, should help the heating. All we need now is an oil gauge that works and we might be laughing.

The decorating is happening as I am writing this and the inside of the Hall will be brighter, crisper and fresher. We have also applied for a grant from the Parish Council so as to purchase new curtains for the main Hall

We are still looking to upgrade the security on the oil tank with Martin coming up with some new ideas. We will keep you posted.



### Future Events to look forward to:

\* **Farmers Market** before Easter and possible future events such as a

\* **Bingo Night**

\* a **Quiz Night**

\* **Essex on Tour Cabaret Night**

\* a **Murder Mystery Night**

as well as the usual favourites. More details soon.

When booking the Hall the booking form will now ask if you agree with the Terms and Conditions, instead of sending an eight page document. It will also say that the Terms and Conditions can be found on the web site

That's all for now, as always thank you for your support and please put the forth coming event dates in your diary. Let's all make the most of our Village Hall in 2012.

Next Committee meeting Tuesday 6th March at 7:30pm. The AGM will be held in April, date to be advised. As always all welcome.

*David Beech`*

## Help shape future health services

THE group which from next year will be running NHS services across north east Essex is seeking volunteers to join its Residents' Panel.

The GP-led North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (NEECCG) will take over the role of NHS North Essex in April 2013 and wants to involve local people in shaping future health services.

Dr Shane Gordon, Chairman of NEECCG, said; "We are seeking volunteers of all ages and backgrounds with an interest in the NHS – people who want to do something meaningful to improve health services and make change happen.

"As a member of our Residents' Panel,

people will have opportunities to get involved at different levels according to what suits them and the time they have available. They might simply want to be sent information with the option to make comments on health service decisions in their early proposal stages, they may wish to take part in workshop sessions to help redesign local health services or they may decide to become a local agent to communicate health information and gather feedback from local communities. The choice is theirs."

For further information, please telephone 01245 459395, email [public.involvement@nhs.net](mailto:public.involvement@nhs.net) or go to [www.northeastessex.nhs.uk/Listening%20to%20you/be-involved-in-your-healthcare\\_2.htm](http://www.northeastessex.nhs.uk/Listening%20to%20you/be-involved-in-your-healthcare_2.htm)

review  
innovate  
**transform** for a better NHS



NHS North Essex

## Have Your Say - Join our Residents' Panel

Your local Clinical Commissioning Group is seeking volunteers of all ages and backgrounds with an interest in the NHS - people who want to do something meaningful to improve health services and make change happen

As a member of our Residents' Panel you will have opportunities to get involved at different levels according to what suits you and the time you have available:

- **Level 1** – We will send you information and invite your comments on health service decisions in their early proposal stages
- **Level 2** – Take part in workshop sessions to help redesign local health services.
- **Level 3** – Become a local agent to communicate health information and gather feedback from local communities.



To join or for further information please contact:  
Telephone: 01245 459395  
E-mail: [public.involvement@nhs.net](mailto:public.involvement@nhs.net)  
Web: <http://www.northeastessex.nhs.uk>  
Write to us at Swift House, Hedgerows Business Park, Colchester Road, Chelmsford CM2 5PF.

There is no deadline for applications.  
Please feel free to encourage your friends and family to join as well!



## ST HELENA HOSPICE

### St Helena Hospice Fundraising Casino Night

On Friday 16 March 2012, St Helena Hospice is looking forward to holding their second Casino Night at the Weston Homes Community Stadium, the home of Colchester United.

This black tie event will include an exciting evening of games such as Black Jack, Roulette, Poker and Dice, as well as a buffet for guests.

The fun will start at 7.30pm and tickets cost £25 each, which will include £10 of gambling chips per person, with additional chips available to purchase on the night. The event will also include a play-off for the top six winners on the night, to win some fabulous prizes

For more information and to buy tickets, please contact the Fundraising Office on 01206 791740.



St Helena Hospice  
your time...your hospice

## 2011 SPORT COLCHESTER SPORTS PERSONALITY AWARDS

Sport Colchester held their 2011 Sports Personality Awards ceremony, sponsored by Colchester Institute and The University of Essex, at the Weston Homes Community Stadium on 6th February. The awards are aimed at the amateur sportsmen and women of the borough and were presented by the Mayor of Colchester, Cllr Helen Chuah. Twenty different sports are represented and boast people who are preparing for the 2012 games, European and world champions and those who have given years of dedication to their various sports.

Amongst the men and women receiving awards was **Grace Smith** of Little Bromley in the Under-14 Female category who was awarded a Commendation for her equestrian skills.

Very well done, Grace.

Pictured below is Grace (driving) with father Chris (behind) and mother, Natalie, holding the pony.



Natalie proofreads the Messenger every month for which I am very grateful, thus preventing any typos creeping in by me and, as you can see, Chris is holding the proofread magazine ready to return to me. Surely not many magazines get returned, proofread, ready for final preparation for printing by horse and carriage!



## January Incidents in Great Bromley

**Criminal Damage** - (Hamilton Lodge)

**Obstruction** - Harwich Road - (Outside Selecta Cars)

**Nuisance Youth** - Ransom Court

**Nuisance Neighbour** - Harwich Road - (Neighbour dispute)

**Suspicious Circumstances** - Frating Road - (Male knocking on doors asking for work)

**Tree Down** - Harwich Road

**Animal** - Honey Pot Lane - (Horse Loose in road)

**Theft Other** - Hall Road - (Tools taken from the church)

**RTC** - Frating Road

## February Newsletter

Please read the following regarding an energy scam.

Trading Standards Institute warned that more than 200 complaints about phone calls from fraudsters fooling people into buying dangerous energy saving devices are probably only "the tip of the iceberg". The victims are called by the fraudsters who claim to be their energy supplier or working in partnership with them. Victims are offered a £99 plug in device which the caller's claims can save people 40 per cent on their energy bills. However, according to tests run by trading standards, a number of the items sold not only failed to satisfy electrical safety standards but do not deliver any tangible energy savings. The calls, which have much in common with the bogus PC security cold call scam, show how as consumers get more savvy about online crimes, fraudsters are initially using new and cheaper phone technologies to approach their victims.

Trading Standards say: "Consumers are warned not to use the product as they pose a risk of fire and electrocution and a safety recall has been issued for the items traced so far. ..."

The energy saving cold call scam, like the PC security calls, often appear to have a lot of information about their victim; in these cases who the person's energy supplier is and, of even more concern, some or all the digits of the debit or credit card of the victim. So far four different suppliers have been named: 1 Stop Marketing Solutions, ITC Development Corp, Power Saver and Athico Ltd, but it is warned that the fraudsters could be operating under other names too. Some of these names could be very similar to genuine companies - e.g. Power Saver Ltd, based in Tonbridge, Kent is not involved in this fraud and trading standards said that "the director of Athico Ltd appears to have been a victim of the scam himself" and has closed down the company.

So far trading standards has no idea how the fraudsters have got hold of victim's personal details although lists of some personal data can be bought but not of credit cards. Westminster trading standards have been investigating the scam as a London W1 Oxford Street address for the scam is given.

If consumers have responded to one of these cold calls they should report the matter to Action Fraud on or Consumer Direct and their bank to stop their debit/ credit card. Trading standards warned that if a device has been received they should not use it and dispose of it carefully.

Les Barnes PCSO 71909  
Thorpe Le Soken NPT Eastern  
Mobile 07967466876  
Tel 03003334444 Ext 487603  
Email : [leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police](mailto:leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police)  
website : [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

# ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

## FUNDING OF THE REPAIRS TO THE CLERESTORY WINDOWS AND NORTH AISLE



Those of you passing by, or visiting, St George's over the last few months will have noticed that something major is happening. You will have seen the boarding up of the windows and the scaffolding both inside and outside the church. Yes, major repairs are being carried out. You may well have said to yourself or to a companion; 'I

*wonder how much all that is costing?'*



Although English Heritage has given us a generous grant, the

work could not have gone ahead without the support of a number of other charities or trusts.

One of these is the **National Churches Trust** which has offered a grant of £10,000.

The National Churches Trust (or NCT) was established in 2007. It is an independent, non-profit making body dedicated to

supporting church buildings which are of particular historic, architectural or community interest. Its predecessor was the Historic Churches Preservation Society which was set up in 1953 to try to tackle, not only the damage inflicted on churches as a result of the bombing in World War 2, but also the deterioration to buildings that arose from neglect related to socio-economic changes in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

In addition to assisting with the cost of building repairs, NCT encourages churches to become centres of social, cultural and educational activity as well as religious worship. Its aim is to make maximum use of these wonderful buildings as well as to preserve them for the benefit of future generations.

NCT has helped nearly every church in Simon Jenkins' book, *Britain's 1000 Best Churches!* One of these churches is, of course, St George's and the Parochial Church Council and Fabric Committee are extremely grateful for the Trust's generous support. Five people in Great Bromley have become Friends of NCT. This involves making a modest donation of £20

a year. If anyone else is interested in finding out more about the work of NCT or becoming a Friend then go to



[www.nationalchurchestrust.org](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org).  
Alternatively 'phone me on 230089.

A brief article in the April *Messenger* will focus on other bodies who have helped fund the repair work.

*Marion Bromfield*

## THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

Dear Friends,

I continue this month with the story of my final path to Ordination. I had already fulfilled most of my academic requirements for Ordination as an Oxford graduate in Theology, but there was still some pastoral training to be completed at a theological college.

I knew that many theological colleges were party institutions and that people went to them in order to be with like minded people be they evangelical, catholic, central churchmanship or whatever. This did not really appeal to me. I talked this through with the Bishop and he suggested that I try The Queen's College Birmingham, which was an ecumenical college. I also had an interview at Lincoln Theological College which was in the Catholic tradition. I was offered a place in both colleges and I decided on my first choice.

Queen's College was quite an experience. There were many tensions there as anyone who has been in an ecumenical college will testify. It was not all harmony – some students almost came to blows! This I found rather amusing because I have always been able to listen to, to tolerate, and to understand the other person's point of view even if I disagree with it.

Queen's college confirmed in me the conviction that there are many types of spirituality and that what appeals to one person does not necessarily appeal to another. But if anything it strengthened my convictions about my own theological position and understanding.

This is a good point to stop – Ordination – next month!

*Fr. Robert*

## FRIENDS OF LITTLE BROMLEY CHURCH



The Friends of Little Bromley Church are having a **Jubilee Planting Project**. The first tranch is planned for Saturday 17 March at 10.00am. Volunteers are most welcome to join us. We will be planting 1000 snowdrops and

1000 bluebells. Next spring should see the churchyard looking very attractive.

There will be further planting in the autumn of bulbs and shrubs, so watch this space!

If you would like to make a donation

towards the costs of this project, please contact Anita Spall on 01206 392727.

The AGM will take place on Saturday 12 May. Refreshments will be served from 10.30am with the AGM commencing at 11.00am.

If you live in the villages of Little Bromley, Great Bromley and Ardleigh; and are intrigued by this beautiful redundant church, please come along to meet us at one or the other - or both - of these events. You will be assured of a warm welcome. It is open daily - please sign the visitors' book as we keep a tally of numbers for the Churches Conservation Trust.

Details of further events will be published in due course.

*Susan Scott*

# ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



## Church of England Services March

<b>Sunday 4th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i>
<b>Sunday 11th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm 7.45pm	<b>3rd Sunday of Lent</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong <i>St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting</i>	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
<b>Sunday 18th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	<b>4th Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
<b>Sunday 25th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 11.45am 6.30pm	<b>5th Sunday of Lent - Passion Sunday</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist <i>St George's Annual Parochial Church Meeting</i> Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
<b>Sunday 1st April</b>	8.00am 10.30am  6.30pm	<b>Holy Week - Palm Sunday</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist with Procession of Palms & The Reading of The Passion <i>Incense will be used at this service</i> Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>  <i>St. George the Martyr</i>

**Holy Communion** every Friday at 11.00am at Seven Rivers, Hall Road, Great Bromley.