

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

March 2015



See inside for Class 3's account of the day at the O2.

St. George's (C of E) School, Gt. Bromley



Snowdrops and aconites,
Beth Chatto Gardens

KATISHA'S KOLUM

Mistress haz been having maw computa problems again. Mr Wizard Electronics, hoo advertises in the magazeen, came swiftly to her resceew larst munth and restawed it to full working awder. It was fine until she tryd to do this ishew of the Messenger wen the masheen suddenly woodn't turn on. This tym it woz a masheen called a UPS or sumthing so wen she had finished crawling arownd under the desk and isolated it with help over the fone it worked again. Mistress breethed a si of releef and got on with getting this ishew owt.

I just watched all this grumpiness from mi chair bi the fire. After orl I am only a kat and no nothing about wires. I only no how to catch myce and rabbits. I wosn't hungri today as I cort a very big rabbit and ate most of it. I then had a rest by the fire and went to sleep. Hunting is hard work and I am neerly 9!

There is a great deal going on in the village this month wot with murder mysteries, quizzes, sales, tree planting,

litterpicking - u r orl going to b very busy indeed. I think Mistress is playing with willow soon in the Village Hall.

I hav been heering sum kat jokes wich I wil share with u:

- Why don't cats play poker in the jungle?
Too many cheetahs.
- What is a cat's favourite song?
Three Blind Mice
- Did you hear about the cat who swallowed a ball of wool?
She had mittens.
- What does a cat like to eat on a hot day?
A mice cream cone
- How do cats end a fight?
They hiss and make up



MATERIAL for the **APRIL** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the

Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th MARCH 2015** please. Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

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

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

Please support the sponsors of our magazine.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Our February meeting was attended by members of the public concerned about the parking of commercial vehicles in the village. Whilst the Parish Council is limited in terms of its powers to control such inconsiderate parking, this matter has been reported to the police and other external agencies will be advised in an attempt to control the programme.

Thank you to everyone so far who has responded expressing an interest in Affordable Housing. This register will continue until the Spring so any further expressions of interest are still welcomed. Please keep an eye out on the Minutes and the Messenger for further information as and when it arises.

The A120 remains a topic of conversation at our meetings. Many agree that the speed reduction has had a positive effect in reducing collisions. It has now been determined that a roundabout WILL be built in the future as a permanent fixture to deal with the problem and the funds have been made available to do this. This will come as welcome news to many who have been pushing for a roundabout for some time. On the topic of Highways, the problem of the waste transfer lorries undertaking extremely dangerous u-turns at the Hare Green junction of the A120 remains unresolved. It is believed that the drivers have been told not to do this but continue regardless, instead of travelling up to the Frating roundabout and turning there. The Parish Council this month are doing everything possible to highlight this problem, and would ask for your help. If you see any lorry doing this perhaps you would let me know the date, rough time and registration number of the vehicle (in confidence!) and it

will be reported. We are also hoping for a permanent no u-turn sign to be fixed at the location.

March will see the start of the new village maintenance programme, starting with the placing of new screens in the recycling area at Church Meadow car park. Thanks to Cllr. Blowers and Cllr. Perry for agreeing to undertake this work, obviating the need to employ a contractor. I finally also received some news regards the "vandalism" of the signs in the village. It turns out that the red paint sprayed onto some of the signs in the village had in fact been left there by workman conducting their own maintenance on the signs - and if their work remain unfinished the paint would be sprayed so that future workman would know which signs to work upon, which would later be cleaned! This would be comical apart from the fact that police resources were wasted in establishing these facts! Despite this, this cannot account for other incidents of damage within the village (e.g. the letters "M" and "G" sprayed on the village sign) and therefore we would ask residents to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

Lastly, a member of the public contacted me with regards the problem of fouling in Chapel Lane. I am pleased to report that TDC will place a no fouling sign at Chapel Lane and we will also be placing dog bins at the public footpath at this location and also at the public bridle path at Harwich Road.

Laura Austin, Clerk

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Candidates

On May 7th May there will elections for the Parish Council, this is a great opportunity for you to join the Parish Council as a councillor and help with the village community. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor but you are not sure what is involved or how to go about it then do please give me a call on 250539 or pop along to the next council meeting which will be held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th March. The meeting agendas and minutes are displayed on the notice boards and our website www.gbpc.org.uk. If there are nine or less candidates then there will not be an election, so why not step forward as a candidate? Once on the council you can do as much or little as you wish. You will be particularly welcome if you are a woman, disabled or a minority, an area where we are under represented.

Parish Council Grants to Local Organisations (S137 grants)

The Parish Council has a fund that we can distribute to local organisations, you need to be providing a service or activity for some of the community. These grants are made at our April meeting, but the applications must all be in by our meeting on 11th March, the application form is available on the website www.gbpc.org.uk or the clerk at clerk@gbpc.org.uk. So if you run a club, meetings or activities which support or serve a part of the community then please do seek a grant from your parish council to help with your costs and expenses, the application process is very straightforward

Alan Thomas
Chairman Great Bromley Parish Council

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE REGISTER

The Parish council intends to start a register of maintenance projects that need to be undertaken in the village and to publish this list in the Messenger, the aim being to improve the Village environment.

In the past many of these projects have been undertaken by volunteers, however, the number of people willing to give of their time to undertake such tasks has reduced, an inevitability of everyone's work life-balance.

We are still looking for volunteers as this will save the council and indirectly the tax payers money. However, the maintenance must be carried out regardless.

If anyone has noticed areas of the village that need some looking after or general

repair could you please contact the council via the usual channels and we will endeavour to act as soon as possible. It is our intention to publish the list and to then act upon each item so that everyone will be able to see what needs to be done and a time scale for its action.

The first project to be undertaken is the repair of the screens around the recycling area in Church Meadow which is to be carried out by volunteers from the council.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr David Hardy

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Rosemary Heaney and I sit on various TDC committees. Rosemary is chair of the Planning Committee, and a member of the Standards Committee and Human Resources Committee. I sit on the Planning Committee, Standards Committee, Corporate Management Committee, Council Tax Committee, Regulatory Committee, Service Development and Delivery Committee, Appeals Sub Committee and chair the Rural Projects Panel. I am also vice chairman of TDC.

We, Rosemary and I, try to attend the monthly meetings of Elmstead, Frating, Great Bromley and Thorrington Parish Councils. We support various parish council's initiatives whenever possible and support their views on planning matters. (These are reported elsewhere in your village magazines.)

As you can appreciate we are kept busy attending various meetings apart from the four Parish Councils' monthly meetings.

We both try to help with advice, and whenever possible assist residents with problems and are always available by phone or email

We have been very involved in a major project to try to ensure the A120 at the junctions with Harwich Road/Little Bromley and Little Bentley Roads are made safer. We are very pleased to report that 50mph average speed cameras have been erected, they are operational and we have noticed a significant speed reduction.

Following a meeting on 30th January with members of the Highways Agency, our M.P. Bernard Jenkin, Local County, District and Parish Councillors the Highways

THE GREAT BROMLEY SPRING LITTERPICK

The Great Bromley Spring Litterpick will take place on Saturday 28th March, meeting at 10am in the Cross Inn car park or at 10.20 at the Old Courthouse Inn. Volunteers (the more the merrier) should bring appropriate footwear and gloves. Hi-visibility waistcoats, refuse sacks and litter grabbers will be provided.

More details can be obtained from Richard Perry on 01206 230537 or Owen Blowers on 07879 433716.



Agency announced that a roundabout will be built at the Harwich Road junction with the A120. Funding is now available and a public consultation will be held in the spring. We have also requested the 50mph average speed cameras remain in operation. We do acknowledge that some may be personally inconvenienced by this decision, but we have to measure that (inconvenience) against the risk of death or serious injury for the majority.

You have probably read elsewhere the TDC Council Tax element will remain unchanged from previous years, the free residents parking will also remain. We have been asked many times why the residents parking were changed from 10am to 11am. The reasoning behind this was to try to stop commuters clogging up space for residents who wished to go shopping or attend activities within the towns.

At the full council meeting on 10th February it was agreed that a sum of £160,000 be included in 2015/16 budget for switching on the street lights, this is however dependent upon a consultation that is taking place involving Police, Fire, Ambulance and residents. Rosemary & I are against spending money on street lights that are

not required by residents. Some villages do not have Essex County Council lights

In my role as vice chairman of TDC I have been very fortunate to have been invited to represent TDC at a number of events both within Tendring and at other locations in the country. My wife usually accompanies me. We attended six carol/Christmas celebrations, St Paul's Cathedral for the inauguration of the new Bishop of Colchester, Plymouth to celebrate the start of the 400 years anniversary of the Mayflower sailing to America with the Pilgrim Fathers on board. I have also been to a meeting in Greenwich as part of the Mayflower project. We have attended a number of Civic Services in Essex, various services to commemorate the 1914-18 World War, Remembrance Day service and most recently a service to remember victims of the Holocaust where there is a special place in the sunken rose garden in Clacton.. I will, along with my wife, be

attending the Colchester Synagogue in April for a further service of remembrance for the Holocaust victims.

On Friday 6th February Jenny and I attended Tendring District Councils "Pride of Tendring" awards evening. The event was attended by almost 200 people. One of the recipients of a "Pride of Tendring" award was Mike Brown, chairman of Frating Parish Council for his involvement in the community.

Hopefully I will be able to update you on the Local Plan in the months ahead.

More information next month – remember if you want to talk please phone 01206230688 or email fred@fryerning.net

Fred Nicholls
District Councillor
Vice Chairman Tendring District Council

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

littlebromleypc@gmail.com

In setting the 2015/2016 precept, Parish Councillors reflected that they had made a significant reduction last year of 45.7% and, whilst that could not be matched this year, they are mindful of the tough economic climate facing residents. On that basis, it has been agreed to reduce the precept notionally, by approximately 4%, which Councillors hope will send a strong signal to residents that they will continue to reduce costs where possible.

We are delighted that PC Paul Teague will be joining us at the March Parish Council meeting on Thursday 19th, 7.30pm, The Haywain, to do a presentation on setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, followed by a question and answer session. We are pleased that a resident has expressed an interest in co-ordinating the scheme and additional volunteers will be required. Please do come along to the meeting - if

you are not able to attend but would be interested in participating in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme then let me know and I will pass your details on.

The Footpath Warden advises that, as far as he is aware, all paths have been reinstated and signs have been repaired in the village. If that is not the case, let me know and I will pass the information on. Alternatively problems can be reported via the Essex County Council website.

Finally - a big thank you to Mrs Natalie Smith for kindly donating land to the rear of Little Bromley Church for tree planting. More land is still required so please contact me if you can assist. I look forward to seeing you on 19th March

Karen Tarling
Clerk to Little Bromley

LITTLE BROMLEY AMENITIES GROUP

Tree Planting at Little Bromley

The Amenities Group are meeting on 14th March to plant trees from our Tree Nursery. If anyone would like to join us and give a hand then they would be very welcome. We will be meeting outside the Church at 9.30am on the Saturday morning. Please bring spades and gloves and join us in putting some trees back in the



Countryside. Email: amenitiesgroup@gmail.com for more information.

Little Bromley Amenities Group Litter Pick

Our Spring Litter Pick will take place on **Saturday 28th March**. If you would like to join in, we will be meeting in the Village Car Park at 10.00am.

Refreshment will be provided at the Haywain at 12 noon for all participants.



KITCHEN CORNER

Pumpkin Pasta

Serves 4

Butternut squash are abundant now and work very well in this quick and easy recipe although any pumpkin can be used. It goes beautifully with fresh ribbon egg pasta.

1.5kg/3lb pumpkin, peeled, deseeded and chunked
50g/2oz butter
1 leek, washed and thinly sliced
1 stick celery, thinly sliced
vegetable/chicken stock
salt & pepper
grating nutmeg
150ml/1/4 pint double cream or 125g/4oz fromage frais
70g/3 oz Parmesan cheese (fresh grated is much the best)
500g/1 lb egg pasta

Saute leek & celery in the butter for 5

minutes or so. Add pumpkin and stir. for another 5 minutes. Add the stock to cover the vegetables and simmer covered for 20 minutes or until soft. Add stock as necessary to keep moist. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste. Process in a blender/food processor and return to the pan to keep warm.



Cook the pasta carefully (fresh takes a very short time) Stir cream through the sauce. Drain pasta and place in a heated dish. Stir in the freshly grated cheese and add the pumpkin sauce. Mix well and serve at once.

Dorothy O'Grady



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

Head teacher: Julie O'Mara Telephone: 01206 230305

On Monday 26th January, Class 3 travelled on a coach to the O2 Arena in London, with butterflies in their stomachs! Everyone was apprehensive, but excited about this amazing trip. We were going to sing with the Young Voices choir. After an eventful journey, we safely arrived at our destination, which looked like an enormous Big Top. Soaking up the atmosphere, we ate our lunch. Nervously, we took the escalators up to the top floor. Hearts beating with excitement, we entered the vast Arena which was lit up with dazzling coloured lights. Anxiously, we climbed to our seats. With an amazing view, we ran through the concert, practising all the dance moves and singing together. After tea, we carefully watched the little ants finding their seats (our parents!) We worked out where they were and all waved madly! The concert began. The lights went down.

Everyone screamed with excitement. 7,867 torches (being waved by the choir) lit the Arena, like stars in the midnight sky. The audience were stunned by the amazing atmosphere, added to by the awesome acrobats, singers and dancers. We sung our hearts out! Ecstatically, we danced and sung all night to our astonished and encouraging audience. Finally, we patiently made our way back to the coach, filing out of the Arena with thousands of other school children. Exhausted, but content, many of us fell asleep on the way home.

Class 3



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

At the January meeting Barbara gave her Treasurer's report for the year and collected subs which are now due. Beryl informed Members that birthday cards will be available to buy at each meeting at a very reasonable price, and members took advantage of this during the meeting.

Beryl once again asked for volunteers to join the Committee and also for helpers to do teas for the monthly meetings. Please do think about volunteering. We also need new members to swell our numbers, so if anyone would like to come along as a visitor to see if they would enjoy the monthly meetings, please do so. We meet on the third Thursday in the month at 2.30pm. at the Village hall.

An outing to Bury St Edmunds is being arranged for 10th June and a list is

available for members to book seats.

There will be a Table Top Sale at the Village hall on 7th March, 10am. - 12noon., entrance £2. organised by Brenda in aid of the Donkey Sanctuary in India.

At the end of business members were entertained by "The Columbines", an excellent group of musicians who sang a wide variety of songs which were enjoyed by everyone.

The Speaker for our March meeting is Roger Jennings, Musician, and the competition a musical item.

Sylvia Ward



Little Dragons Pre-School - Great Bromley & Frating

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

Website: www.littledragonspreschool.org
Email: littledragonspreschool@gmail.com



BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS- PLACES AVAILABLE

Tel: 07857 503103

Both the breakfast and after school clubs are doing well and growing in numbers- there are still places available. If you require further information please call the number above or pop in to see us.

A FUN QUIZ NIGHT - £3.00 per person.
Teams of 8 Maximum.

Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Raffle on the night

Come for a laugh and some fun and of course a local night out.

Location – Great Bromley Village Hall

Date – Friday 20th March

Time – From 7pm.

Please call Debbie on 07920 772082 to book your team and table as places are limited.

Hope you can make it.

Our conservatory has been built! It looks fantastic – see our website for photos. The children have enjoyed watching its progress and we are all very excited as this will allow us to improve the play area and learning experience for all our children.

This is all thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity through fundraising events – we very much appreciate all the support you have given us - thank you.

A very big thank you to 'Durrell Builders' - Grant and Jason worked really hard to get it finished so quickly despite the rain, snow and windy weather.

The children were very excited about the snow falling last month and have been exploring the icy puddles; we have been talking about how the weather affects the wildlife too. The children have been busy making food for the birds and have been rewarded with a variety of birds visiting our feeding station.

We celebrated the Chinese New Year with lots of fun activities; including making (and

eating) stir fry vegetables. The children enjoyed spring rolls and fortune cookies for snacks and had their own role play 'Chinese Restaurant'.

We are holding another Dad's week starting Monday 23rd March when we invite Dads into the setting. Children love showing parents around and it also gives Dads the opportunity to see their child at play and take part in some of the activities.

Fundraising

We are now collecting Sainsbury's Vouchers, so please tell friends and family and help us to collect.

We have also registered with Terracycle and we are currently collecting biscuit wrappers and plastic bottle trigger heads and caps from washing up bottles.

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

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

Party Table and Chair Hire

Having a party for Pre-School children?

We can offer 4 perfectly sized tables & 20 chairs.

Deposit only £10 Tables only £5.00 each

Chairs Only £1.00 each

Collection Only - Contact us: Tel: 07857

503103 Email:

littledragonspreschool@gmail.com

Dates for Diary:

Friday 20 March Fun quiz night

Monday 23 March Dads Week

Thursday 26 March Last Day of Spring

Term (Easter Holiday)

Monday 13 April

Start of Summer Term



VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

The year marches on apace. By the time you get this the

daffodils might well be out and it will be three weeks before the clocks change. Like the rest of the world the oil price reduction is most welcome to help one of the bigger costs in keeping our Hall running.

Future Event Dates:

21 March Murder Mystery Evening
9 May Plant and Table Top Sale
July (date TBC) Jazz Evening
22 Oct Craft and Collectables Event
21 Nov Barn Dance
12 Dec Christmas Fayre
31 Dec New Years Eve Ball

The next big event and the one I have been looking forward to ever since I moved into the village is the Murder Mystery night. The Hall had only just had one when I joined and I recall the story of one of the cast falling to the floor which caused a visitor to become very concerned about the fallen lady. The event is being run by Murder Most Foul at the Hall at 7:15 on Saturday 21st March. Ticket prices includes a three course dinner with coffee by Sweet Success . Tickets are £25 and are available from Primrose Pork, The Post Office at the Cross Inn. There will be a cash bar or you can bring your own.

As you can see there are many different things going on locally in the Village Hall where car parking is free, distances less and prices low. We have had, and still do, a wide range of events such as Cabaret Nights, Race nights, Dances, Balls, Craft events, Fayres, Farmers Markets, Carpet Bowls, Zumba, Dance Classes, Badminton, W. I, Friendship Club, Commercial Meeting Venue. We have some weddings coming up this year and, of course, its a great venue for any party.

Work has started to lay a new road surface in the Village Hall car park. Excavations

have taken place and the base course has already been laid. A fine dressing will follow, to be rolled in during March. This will hopefully solve the problem of the muddy and uneven car park in the winter months. Thanks are due to Cllr Fred Nicholls and TDC who arranged for the road surface material to be provided free of charge.

The Village Hall trustees have reviewed maintenance priorities for the coming year and are planning for the exterior of the Hall to be repaired and repainted, commencing in May. External grants towards the cost of this work will be sought.

The level of Hall hirings is holding steady although there are generally a wide choice of vacant slots available should you wish to hire a room(s) in the Hall. The feedback we get from our hirers is that we are lucky to have one of the nicest and most competitively priced Halls in the area - why not try it for yourself whether it be a child's birthday party or meeting. If you have any suggestions as to how we can make the Hall more suitable for your needs or can suggest improvements, then please let me or a Village Hall trustee know. Full details of the Hall and contact details are on the Village website

That's all for now, as always thank you for your support. Let's all make the most of Great Bromley Village Hall. Let's use it, not lose it! *David Beech*

Little Dragons Pre-School

A FUN QUIZ NIGHT

Great Bromley Village Hall

Friday 20th March from 7pm

£3.00 per person. Teams of 8 Maximum.
Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Raffle
on the night

Come for a laugh and some fun and of
course a local night out.

Places are limited so call Debbie on 07920
772082 to book your team and table

Hope you can make it.

IN THE GARDEN WITH KATE



March is a funny month- spring is here, and all the attendant hopes for the garden, but frequently, the month has a sting in it's tail. Sunny days can give way to frosts at night, and snow is certainly not rare- on average, snow falls on three days in March.

Despite all that, most of the spring blooms are flowering their socks off, birds are dashing backwards and forwards, bagging the best nesting spots and building nests. Animals start to come out of hibernation on warm days, and by the end of the month, spring is truly underway. Once we are past 21st March, the spring equinox, day length exceeds the night.

All this means, of course, that the garden is revving up, and gardening can really get underway. Many seeds can now be planted, tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and chillies in heated propagators, and many garden flowers can now be sown in the green house. Any sown last month will probably need potting on, and Dahlia tubers can be started in damp potting compost. The lawn will have undoubtedly started to grow and can be mown on a dry day on a high cut. In the vegetable garden, continue to weed winter sown vegetable beds, such as onions, shallots and garlic, and plant previously chitted potatoes around the end of the month.

Water butts need to be cleaned out, and fine netting such as an old stocking tied over the bottom of the in pipe. This will need regular checking, but it stops mice falling into the butt and polluting it, a

scenario that has occurred several times in my water butts!

The green house door can be left open on warm days to ventilate, and any insulating bubble wrap removed to increase light levels towards the end of the month. I always leave my potting compost in the greenhouse so that it is warm when I sow seeds, and leaving a can of water in there means that the initial watering of new seeds is not done with icy water straight from the butt.

March is also the last month that bare rooted fruit trees and shrubs can be planted, however pot grown ones can be planted at any time of year, but bare root are usually cheaper, and often establish better. Many plants, as they wake up from the dormant period, are in an optimal state to take cuttings. Many border perennials such as lupins and delphiniums can be propagated by basal cuttings. This involves removing the first fat basal shoots when they are 2-3 inches long with a couple of leaves.

Nets should have been removed from garden ponds by the beginning of the month so that frogs and toads don't get tied up in them. I do hope this year is more successful for frogs and toads. Last year, like in the ponds of many of my friends, the frogspawn all disappeared before developing into tadpoles.

One last plea- when you are planting or propagating this month, please grow a few extra plants. The plants sale in the Village Hall on 9th May desperately needs your contributions! An easy way to help support your village hall.

Happy gardening!

Kate Strowbridge

2015 EVENTS

MARCH

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 7 Table Top Sale, Village Hall, 10.00am
Flower Festival meeting, St George's church, 10.30am
- 8 A.P.C.M., St George's church, 11.45am
- 11 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 14 Little Bromley Tree Planting, meet Lt Bromley church, 9.30am
- 19 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 20 Little Dragons Quiz Night, Village Hall, 7.00pm
- 21 Murder Mystery Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 28 Great Bromley Spring Litterpick, 10.00am *See page 5 for more details*
Little Bromley Litterpick, 10.00am *See page 9 for more details*
- 30 Easter Journey Messy Church, Ardleigh Village Hall, 10.00am

APRIL

- 3 Little Bromley Amenities Group Easter Egg Hunt, the Haywain, 2pm

MAY

- 9 Plant & Table Top Sale, Village Hall
- 16 Little Bromley Amenities Group Quiz Night, the Haywain, 7:30pm
- 18 Little Bromley Amenities Group Meeting, at the Haywain, 7:15pm
- 30 Primrose Pork Open Day
Little Bentley Hall Garden Show

JUNE

- 13 Little Bromley Amenities Group Bingo Night, the Haywain, 7:30pm
- 26/27/28 Flower Festival, St George's church

JULY

Jazz Evening, Village Hall

AUGUST

Bank holiday—Great Bromley Marathon! Organised by Harwich Harriers
<http://marathons.ahotu.com/event/harwich-runners-24-hour>

Harpichord & Flute Concert

Saturday 16th May at 7pm

St Marys Church, Little Bentley CO7 8SE.

Julie Hamer (Flute) and Peter Clayton
(Harpichord)

Present a Baroque Repertoire for Flute and
Harpichord, including some more Modern
popular tunes.

Refreshments will be served in the
Interval.

In aid of Little Bentley Church.

Tickets £5 each Available on the Door
or call 01206 250622 to book



Donations of £1.00 per child
(Accompanying adults free)
Registration between 10 and 10.15am



Join us for an



Easter

Journey



At Messy
Church



Come and have some family time,
some messy fun and a light lunch

on

Monday 30th March

10.00am – 12.30pm,

At Ardleigh Village Hall.



All Welcome!

For more information please contact
Carol Cordwell: 01206395103

United Benefice of Ardleigh and the Bromley's

St George's Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

March 8th at 11.45am

Join the electoral roll and support your village church.

Contact 230688 for details

Flower Festival

26th, 27th 28th June

"Brolly Folly"

Flower Festival Meeting

March 7th at 10.30am

in St George's Church

All welcome. Please come



Murder Mystery evening

presented by Murder Most Foul

An evening of murder and intrigue presented by a professional company in Great Bromley Village Hall

Saturday 21st March 2015 at 7.15

Includes a 3 course dinner with coffee by Sweet Success

Tickets £25/ head available from Primrose Pork, Hall Road, The Cross Inn Post Office, The Courthouse Inn or from Kate

07592735600

Cash bar or BYO



Kate Strowbridge, Weeping Ash, Ardleigh Road, Gt Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7TL
Home: 01206230211

Great Bromley Spring Litterpick

Saturday 28th March

Volunteers please meet at The Cross Inn car park at 10am or at the Old Courthouse Inn at 10.20am.

See page 5 for more details



Little Bromley Amenities Group

Litter Pick

Saturday 28th March.

Meet in the

Village Car Park at 10am

For more details see page 9

CHARITY TABLETOP SALE & COFFEE MORNING

In aid of the ASSWIN PROJECT

Saturday 7th March 2015 10.00-12 noon
Gt Bromley Village Hall, Millennium Room
This charity in India cares for the 'Tip Flies' and their working donkeys. Tip Flies are orphaned children who try to eke out a living by sorting through the rubbish heaps around

Colcatta. The lives of both children and the donkeys they rely on are some of the saddest you will ever see so please come and help me raise some much-needed funds to send to Jean and Bob Harrison, friends of mine who set up the project and run it there.

TABLES - £6.00

ENTRY - £2.00 - includes tea/ coffee & biscuits

TO BOOK A TABLE PLEASE
CONTACT BRENDA 01206

230537 - please leave a message on ansafone if necessary, thank you.



Little Bromley Amenities Group Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Eggs have been seen again in the woods at the back of The Haywain!

Come and find them on Friday 3rd April (Good Friday) 2 pm at The Haywain - Cost £2.50 per child

Starting at 2pm at The Haywain - finishing at 4 pm.

Includes colouring masks etc and refreshments. Face painting available on the day (small extra charge for this)

Phone 01206 390004 to book or email: amenitiesgroup@gmail.com



Primrose Pork

Open Day

30th May

Watch this space!

PLANT & TABLE TOP SALE

Great Bromley Village Hall
9th May

Watch this space!



THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

Great Bentley Surgery

With effect from 1st April 2015, all GP Surgeries must allow patients' to view some of their medical records online. We have tested our secure service thoroughly and now want to promote this to all patients who have internet access. You will be able to view summary, medications, immunisations and allergy information. This can be done on any internet enabled device including smart phones. By 2018 this will be expanded further to provide access to even more of your record. As well as accessing your record, you can also order your repeat prescriptions online, book doctors' appointments very easily and even message us securely! It really is very simple to set up and use and will make managing your medications so much easier and more accurate as it's linked directly to our computers. Call us on 01206 250691 or send an email to postmaster.gp-F81021@nhs.net to request your registration details which can be posted to you. **Why not give it a try?**

We are aware of some recent problems at The Green Pharmacy. We have received many enquiries and comments from patients who still think the Green Pharmacy is connected to the surgery. This has not been the case for well over a year now and we're unable to help I'm afraid. I've even heard a suggestion that complaining about the service or using another pharmacy could result in being removed from the surgery! This of course is completely untrue. I'm sure that the staff and management there will be keen to hear about and resolve any problems you experience, most of which will hopefully be sorted out when they get their new computer system which I have been told will arrive soon.

A national pharmacy company called Pharmacy2U are currently mailing thousands of people in this area. This company have no connection with any local pharmacy and absolutely no affiliation with Great Bentley Surgery, despite having the surgery name printed on their letters. We are hearing that

many patients, particularly elderly and vulnerable ones, are returning the forms thinking that the surgery and/or local pharmacy have requested this. We do not endorse or denounce any pharmacy including Pharmacy2U, but it does concern us that patients say they feel misled into signing up. We have come across many examples where due to medication types, this is totally inappropriate. Please let your friends, family and neighbours know about this. Thank you.

Richard P Miller, Practice Manager

Are you or do you have a carer? We are keen to hear from you if you are a carer for a friend or relative. About 1 in 10 people who consult a GP will have a role caring for others. Carers can develop physical, psychological or financial problems as a result of their caring responsibilities.



If you are a carer please let the doctor or nurse know and we can record this on your medical record. We will try to offer appointments that take into account your caring role and support you where possible. We can offer you information about local services that offer support and we can also arrange an appointment with our Care Advisor who can give advice on what benefits and support you are eligible for. We would like to keep a register of carers at our practice so we can invite you to related events. People who have a carer are often (but not always) happy for us to share medical information with them. If they are, we would need written permission to do so and this can often improve communication and help the co-ordination of medical care. We are continually striving to improve the service we offer. Great Bentley Surgery has many people who rely on the care of family, friends or neighbours, so please help us by letting us know if you have a carer or you care for others. Thank you.

Dr Karen Chumbley, GP Partner

LONGEVITY IN LITTLE BROMLEY

At a Friends of Little Bromley Church event last year, Gregory Frostick and I presented a few history snippets including a story about “Longevity at Little Bromley”, as noted in the Essex (County) Standard on 24th November 1854. The story was picked up by other newsmen and appeared elsewhere across the country:

“It is rather a remarkable fact that the united ages of five out of six of the persons named in the burial register of Little Bromley, as having died within that parish, amount to 402 years, giving an average of 80 years 4 months 4 days 19 hours and 12 minutes to the life of each of the above-named individuals.

“There are also at this time living in the same parish (the population of which at the last census was 414), eighteen persons above the age of 70, more than a third of whom are several years in advance of 80 years of age.

“The incumbency of the last two rectors of the parish extended over a period of more than 100 years.”

The Rectors referred to were Henry

Crossman (rector 1736-1792, 56 years service, died aged 82) and Thomas Newman (1792-1838, 46 years, died aged 72). The rector at the time of the article was Henry Brown Newman (no apparent relation) who went on himself to serve 40 years, and died aged 79!

There was a lady in the village at that time named Sarah Frostick who went on to reach 101. This was also reported

widely, for example the Manchester Courier of 25th May 1906:

“Surrounded by her three little ones, aged 76, 73 and 67 respectively, Mrs. Sarah Frostick of Little Bromley, on Tuesday celebrated the hundred and first anniversary of her birth.”

According to the Essex Newsmen “she had 11 children – one son was a sailor who fell from the masthead into the water and was never seen again. Another son, in the artillery, was thrown from a horse and a gun went over him, killing him on the spot.”

I have done a quick trace back in Ancestry.com to find Sarah’s maiden name was Bloyce, and that she was born in Ardleigh. It also appears she was my great-great-grandmother. I need to look in the Ardleigh records to find her actual birth – it varies rather at the times of the censuses! The most common birth date mentioned is around 1908, making her “only” 98 when she died. Was the discrepancy due to a literacy or memory issue? Or was she understating her age, in earlier life, so as not to make herself slightly older than her husband James?

© Hugh G Frostick 2015





TAILS FROM PRIMROSE FARM

After a blustery winter Primrose is looking forward to Spring. We are already seeing a few buds sprouting through and also many wild birds feeding on the seeds laid out specially. We have also seen an increase in Barn Owl activity this season with extra barn owl boxes positioned in the woods with some beautiful viewings at dusk.

After a record Christmas in the butchery, January and February have been full of promotions from freezer sales to steak sales. Alex our young apprentice has now passed 2/3rds of this qualification under the teaching and guidance of Becky, Kim, Robert and Peter. At only 16 this is a great achievement and we are all very proud of him.

The Farmer's Markets are going very well with great support from local villagers. Selling fresh and frozen products on Saturday mornings at Wivenhoe, Alresford or Rowhedge and soon to be back at Primrose too! There are also many other local stalls selling local produce, this is a great way of meeting people from your own village and also supporting local businesses.

With Easter now only one month away we are taking orders for your Easter celebrations. This can be done by either popping into see us in the shop, or by phone, email or Facebook.

Our Open day for 2015 is **May 30th** save the date.

STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Recent Meetings

An interesting range of subjects have been covered at recent meetings including Pip Wright speaking on "The East Coast Floods of 1953" and Dr Jane Pearson recounting "The rise and fall of Colchester's Good Time Girls". Both events were much enjoyed by members whose numbers continue to grow as a result of the high standard of our speakers.

March Meetings

On 4 March Roger Walker will talk on "The East Coast of America by boat" and our Annual General Meeting takes place on 18 March.

New Venue – St John Ambulance HQ Manningtree

Please note, we now meet at the St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree.

New members

Our Club endeavours to be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, and involve members at a minimal cost. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and provide the opportunity for development of acquaintances. New members are welcomed by Stour Valley Men's Probus Club, we meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10.30am. Please contact Secretary Brian Rolfe on 01206 393665 for further details.

Well, this could be thought of as being quite topical, especially as 50 Shades of Grey has its premier this month.

Dr. Jane Pearson, attached to Essex University, was to enlighten us on "The Rise and Fall of Colchester's Good Time Girls" or "Ladies of the Night" 1855 - 1895.

Colchester was known to have a Lock Hospital where the ladies who had been unfortunate enough to contract Venereal Disease were locked away; the feminists of that age thought it was terrible that the men involved got off scot free!!

There were 340 women on the register. Of 25% there is not much known as to what happened to them, they possibly changed their name, got new jobs, or just moved away from the area. Of 50% of the girls there is a lot of information on the data base and of the remaining 25% Information has been found in the census and coroners' reports.

During 1856 the garrison arrived in Colchester which increased the number of

prostitutes in the town as a lot of men had their own following as well as the ones already in Colchester. It wasn't all bad news because the building of the barracks was good for the local economy as the local business men picked up the trade.



Soldiers were not paid very well so in order for them to survive their wives went out into the night to earn money to feed the family. Children started work at 12 years old and were also sexually active. They received very poor wages with the result prostitution

was an easy way out of poverty.

Prostitution was not illegal. There was no red light district in Colchester and at one time there was a pub for every thirty houses.

Who were the clients? Soldiers, Labourers, Artisans, Farmers. Soliciting took place in beer houses and they even worked from the parental or marital home.

Sounds as if it would make an excellent informative tour, but possibly the present residents would not be too keen especially as many of the properties still exist today. A fascinating talk and an excellent speaker.

The next meeting is on 4th March at 7.30pm in Great Bromley Village Hall. Speaker Jo Wray on "Abberton Reservoir"

Joy Rolfe

GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB



**100 Club
Winners**
for January

- 1st. Mr. George Kempster
- 2nd. Mrs. Beryl Hurst
- 3rd. Charlie Allam

Lynda Allam



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

ST HELENA HOSPICE

St Helena Hospice 3-2-1 Cycle – can you go the distance for local people?

St Helena Hospice has had lots of people



register for its new cycling challenge for 2015 – 3-2-1 Cycle, a five-day continental road tour. There are still some places left to join the

exclusive team of 100 riders!

3-2-1 Cycle involves cycling through three countries, on two pedals for one hospice. Cyclists interested in taking part are invited to register online as soon as possible, as

only 100 places are available. The tour will be the hospice's flagship challenge for its 30th anniversary year.



Taking place in October this year, 3-2-1 Cycle will see riders leaving from the hospice's Inpatient Unit, Myland Hall in Colchester, and cycling to Brussels via Harwich, the Hook of Holland and Amsterdam. The tour will consist of four days of cycling, plus a day's return journey by train. On the route, riders will pass through beautiful English, Dutch and Belgian countryside and villages, as well as seeing historic cities and landmarks.

To find out more or sign up to the event visit sthelenahospice.org.uk/321.

Dedham Tennis Club



Dedham Tennis Club has recently appointed an additional coach. Matthew Watson is a level 3 LTA qualified tennis coach and has much experience coaching both juniors and adults. If you would like more information about either private lessons or group sessions please contact Matthew on 07521 604717 or email acetennis84@gmail.com



GREAT BROMLEY POST OFFICE at The Cross Inn

Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TL

Telephone: 01206 231073

Mon/Tues: 9.30am-2.00pm Wed/Thurs/Fri: 10.00am - 2.00pm

Sat: 9.00am-midday

- Please note that there is now a wide selection of cards and wrapping paper available.
- A dry cleaning service is also available.

Please ask for details at the counter.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Easter Egg Hunt Ideas

The secret of a successful Easter Egg Hunt is to tailor it to the ages of the children involved.

Youngest children - Easter Egg Trail

Give each child a small basket to collect eggs. Lay out a little trail of miniature eggs for each child from a starting point - pacing the eggs at just the right distance so that they can easily find the next one. At the end of the trail, put a larger egg or a small gift. We suggest no more than 10 small eggs in the trail!

All over Easter Egg Hunt

If you have a large group of children, you may find it easiest to just hide a number of eggs and send the kids out to find them. Obviously this can end up being to the advantage of older children - and pushy children! You might want to set limits of eggs for each child, after which you assign an older child to help a younger child to find their quota.

Easter Egg Hunt Hopalong

Vary your Easter egg hunt by turning it into a three-legged race! Tie pairs of children loosely together around two ankles and send them off to find their eggs as a couple. They will need to develop some teamwork to be successful!

Scavenger Egg Hunt

Children will enjoy the excitement of trying to find a particular set of objects rather than just hunting for eggs. Give each child a list of things to look for and bring back. This could include a certain

number of blue Easter eggs, a miniature chick, a miniature Easter bonnet, a packet of jelly beans, and so on. Older children might have to hunt for less obvious articles such as a yellow pencil, a green article of clothing, a smile, etc.

Action Packed Easter Egg Hunt

Instead of hiding chocolate eggs, hide plastic eggs. Inside each egg hide a clue with some action that has to be performed by the child that finds it. You could include actions like "jump 10 times", "sing a nursery rhyme", sit down on the ground and count to 10", "dance a jig", "hop like the Easter bunny" and so on. When each child has done a certain number of actions, they can be pointed in the direction of a prize!



Gentle Yoga class

Wednesdays, 10.00am to 11.30am, Great Bromley Village Hall.

No experience necessary. All welcome.

Feel more at home and at ease in your body.

Contact Andy Butterfield for more details
on 07968 846610

CHURCH JOTTINGS

The Churchyards of The Bromleys are very beautiful and special places. The P.C.C. of The Bromleys have just produced some very necessary Guidelines for these spaces.

The churchyards are administered and managed by the churchwardens and P.C.C. and it has taken many months of careful consideration and discussion to produce this document. The P.C.C. felt it was extremely important to have guidelines to ensure the future peace, tranquillity and beauty for generations to come.

The grass cutting of the two churchyards costs over £1500 per annum, depending of course on the number of cuts throughout the year. We are grateful to the parish councils of Great and Little Bromley for the donations towards the cost of this.

Of course maintenance is made much easier and much safer for our grounds man when certain guidelines are adhered to as laid out in the document, i.e. mounds reduced/ removed and flower kept in unbreakable containers, flowers and wreaths removed regularly thus reducing the risk of injury when using strimmers and large mowers.

Guidelines are available free in the church, please help yourself. If you have any questions please ask a member of the Parochial Church Council or Church Wardens. Sometimes members of our village who have loved ones buried in the churchyards make donations towards the upkeep and care. These are always very gratefully received helping to ensure that we keep our churchyards to a high standard.

Now is the time to think about sponsoring lilies for Easter in memory of a loved one and/or a pew end in memory of a loved one during the Flower Festival in June. Please give your donations to me or a member of

the P.C.C.

Easter Services are this year shared between the three parishes of Ardleigh, The Bromleys and Elmstead, please join us and if you would like a lift please phone.

Easter Services begin with the visit of the "Student Cross Pilgrims" on Saturday 28th March and a joint Palm Sunday service on March 29th at 10.30am and we are delighted that Jane is bringing her donkeys once again to take part in this special service led by Richard Allen. Please join us at this service with a difference.

Jenny Nicholls, Churchwarden

LITTLE BENTLEY HALL GARDEN SHOW 2015

Mr & Mrs Palmer-Tompkinson are planning to open their Gardens at Little Bentley Hall again to the Public on a much lower key basis to previous shows and for one day only on
Saturday 30th May 2015

Gardens Open - 1pm-5.30pm
Gala Evening - 6pm-9pm - Jazz Band,
Wine & Canapes.

We would like to involve as many people from the Village in this event and we would invite them to join our Committee. The event this year will be in aid of the Church and the Village.

Everyone else please SAVE THE DATE as we would love as usual to invite all our Neighbouring Villages to join us to what has always been a wonderful event.

**For more information contact Nigel Dyson -
01206 250622 or visit
www.littlebentley.net or visit us on
Facebook.**

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY



ARDLEIGH and THE BROMLEYS CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Church of England Services - March

Sunday 1st	2nd Sunday of Lent	
8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
11.45am	<i>St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting</i>	
6.30pm	Evensong for the Commemoration of All Souls	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 8th	3rd Sunday of Lent	
8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
11.45am	<i>St George's Annual Parochial Church Meeting</i>	
Sunday 15th	4th Sunday of Lent	Mothering Sunday
8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 22nd	5th Sunday of Lent	Passion Sunday
8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 29th	Palm Sunday	
8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
10.30am	Sung Eucharist with Procession and Blessing of Palms -	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>

A Joint service for The Bromleys, Ardleigh, Elmstead Anglican and Methodist Churches

Holy Communion every Friday at **11.30am** at Seven Rivers, Hall Road,
Great Bromley.

Easter Lilies

If you would like to sponsor Easter lilies in memory of a loved one, please send your contribution to Jenny Nicholls at Fryerning Hall Road, Gt.Bromley 01206230688



Church Lunch.

4th March 2015
at 12 noon
No charge, just donations
St George's church
Everyone is welcome