



Services for April

1st		Easter Friday The Eucharist	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
2nd	11.00am	Easter Saturday The Eucharist & Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	9.00am	Wedding of Craig Wheatfill & Katie Dearsley	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	2.00pm		
Sunday 3rd		Easter 2 Morning Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	7.30am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	8.00am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Evening Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm		
4th		Annunciation of our Lord The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
6th	9.15am	Holy Communion	<i>Hamilton Lodge</i>
8th	6.00pm	Holy Communion	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
9th	11.00am	The Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	9.30am		
Sunday 19th		Easter 3 Morning Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	7.30am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	8.00am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Evening Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm		
15th	11.00am	Holy Communion	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
16th	9.30am	The Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 17th		Easter 4 Morning Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	7.30am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	8.00am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Evening Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm		
18th	9.15am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
20th	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
21st	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
22nd	11.00am	The Eucharist	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
23rd		S George's Day The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	11.00am		
Sunday 24th		Easter 5 Morning Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	7.30am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	8.00am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Evening Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm		
25th	9.15am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
27th	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
28th	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
29th	11.00am	The Eucharist	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
30th	9.00am	The Eucharist & Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

RURAL RUMBLINGS

When we moved into 'Dick's old house' in Great Bromley 20 years ago the village was a thriving rural community with something going on all the time, almost to the extent you never needed to leave the village for anything. The lanes criss-crossing the countryside were peaceful against the backdrop of the pleasant hum of the tractor working in the fields.

Things have changed to the extent that we now have no shop, youth club, brownies or guides, annual carnival, pantomime or Cheshire Home fete and the village itself has been divided by the A120. We still have the pubs but even they have changed their names. Before our time the Essex and Suffolk Hunt used to have its base here and the Tendring Show used to be staged in a field by Parsons Hill.

Lately we are for the second time in 10 years coming under the threat of being engulfed by thousands of new homes, an industrial park, alterations, and the forming of new roundabouts, to the A120 which will affect how we make our way about the village and also probably create new rat runs over the existing ones, one of them being the lane past us.



Whilst I am not against change *per se*, I am concerned that not enough thought is given by planners to the impact upon our community. Gentle and sympathetic expansion and building of houses in and around the village has largely been refused by Tendring District Council in the past yet plans for huge numbers of dwellings/buildings far outnumbering the existing number that have been here for at least the last century, are now possibly coming up for consideration. I am obviously not alone with these and other concerns as evidenced by the articles coming in and printed elsewhere in this magazine.

I appreciate that the days of a truly integrated village atmosphere of years past is gone. The TV, computers, mobiles and car seem to dominate our entire way of life, both social and business, and when we do go out we go to the shops or to theme parks. There seems to be almost no time or space left in our lives for what is on our doorsteps which is actually a great deal - we have quizzes, dances, flower festivals, coffee mornings, fund raising sales of various kinds, concerts and plays as well as various village organisations and individuals who organise summer and Christmas fayres and barbecues together with sporting events, to name but a few, all of which are tremendous fun in the company of good village friends. Hurray for village life.

Leonie Henderson

Come and join the fun!

We are desperately seeking anyone who has any spare time to volunteer within our organisation, to help us and our users in any way shape or form with Garden, Driving, Help out in the office, Cooking, Flower arranging, demonstratins or give a talk on a hobby or interest you have.

Leonard Cheshire Week 4th - 12th June 2005

There will be a Tea Party held at Seven Rivers during this week. Further details will be made available.

We are aiming to collect 20,000 coins during the week. Any local companies, organisations or indeed anyone who would like to take part in this project can help by having a collection box to collect as many coins as possible.

For any further information please contact Angela Marshall on 01206 230345.

Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE



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Dear Parishioner,

First of all a big "Thank You". Over the past fifteen years (at least) requests have gone out from S George's Church for money to repair and secure the fifteenth century Double Hammer Beam roof. The price for having not just a local, but nationally important, piece of architecture does not come cheap and has used up funds which would have gone into providing better facilities, such as a loo, kitchen and meeting area.

On 23rd April at 11am we will be celebrating the completion of the Roof project with a Service of thanksgiving to which everyone is invited. It is fitting that this should happen on S George's Day as it has been an important festival in our country's history for many centuries. Whilst we may play down the dragon slaying part of the story, we still celebrate

the triumph of good over evil, of justice over repression.

Our ancient Churches gave a sense of security and, at times, actual sanctuary to many people as signs of something greater than humanity, which Christians chose to call God, at work in the world. Today they have the same function for all who pass by and those who choose to escape for a while and sit in their beautiful stillness. They are signs that when man co-operates with God's Holy Spirit the beautiful things can happen, bringing peace to the troubled world.

May they be places of blessing for you, and thanks to your generosity, places of blessing for generations to come.

God bless you,

Fr Nicolas.

CHURCH NOTES

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in the chapel at Seven Rivers Cheshire Home on 23rd February. Only 12 people attended but this was no doubt due to the exceptionally cold weather and icy roads.

Barbara Hall continues as churchwarden but Ann Fairley's term of office has come to an end and James Wild was elected as her successor. The following people were elected to the Parochial Church Council: Suzette Clark, Kyle Clark, Hilary Powell (treasurer), Mike Raper, Pat Swanston, Ann Wild, Sharon Vigus, Marion Bromfield (secretary).

The repair work on the roof has been completed and thanks were recorded to members of the Repair Committee, particularly Anne Clapham and Dennis

Simons, who have worked so tirelessly on this very longstanding project. A special service of thanksgiving for the completion of the work will be held in the Church on St. George's Day, Sunday, 23rd April at 11am. Lord Braybrooke is planning to attend this service. Prior to this a barn dance is being held on Saturday, April 22nd in the village hall. Tickets are available from Pat or Carina Swanston. (Tel. 230977).

The next major project is the conversion of the vestry into toilet facilities and the installation of a meeting room at the back of the church. The plans have been approved by English Heritage and are currently on display in the Lady Chapel in the church.



CLACTON & DISTRICT STROKE ASSOCIATION STROKE PREVENTION INFORMATION HALT THE SALT

COMA (the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food) recommends that the average intake of salt should be 6g per day, which is roughly equivalent to 1 level teasp. Yet, according to recent figures, the vast majority of people are actually consuming more than 9g per day. This is a staggering ½ above the recommended daily amount (Stroke News Winter 2004)

What is the link between salt and stroke?

High blood pressure or hypertension. This affects 37% of men and 34% of women in England and is the single biggest risk factor for stroke. Of all the deaths from stroke in the UK, more than 50,000 are thought to be the result of this. Excessive salt causes increased blood pressure and this hardens arteries, which means they are more likely to become blocked by clots, that cause strokes. It also puts a strain on the blood vessel wall which increases their risk of bursting and bleeding into the brain, which is another cause of stroke. Studies show that if you reduce your salt intake then this can lower blood pressure within 4 weeks.



How can we reduce the amount of salt in our diet?

Remove salt from the table and if you can't cut salt straight away in cooking gradually cut down on the amount you add - try using garlic, herbs and spices instead - you'll be surprised how quickly you get used to having less and soon you won't need it at all.

Cut down on processed foods which are high in salt such as savoury snacks and crisps, bought soup, ketchup, pickles, smoked meats and sausages, stock cubes, ready made meals and takeaway foods. When buying tinned vegetables and fish, opt for those in water rather than those in brine. If you do however buy food in brine the added salt content of processed foods can be significantly reduced by rinsing them in running water.

Try making your own pasta sauces, make in batches and store in the freezer for a speedy meal. Look for new recipes that are full of flavour and look enticing - again make larger amounts and freeze so you don't need fast food. Start reading labels to check the salt content. Salt often appears as sodium on food labels (salt = sodium x 2.5)

Many people don't realize that staples like breakfast cereals, margarine and cheese have a high salt content. Bread is the single largest source of salt in our diet. Six average slices of bread contain around 3g of salt - half the recommended daily intake but as part of a good balanced diet whole grain bread is good for you.

WHY NOT MAKE YOUR OWN BREAD AND LOOK FOR SALT FREE CEREALS?

Please phone 01255 815916 if you would like any information booklets on Halt the Salt

Linda Eliot - Stroke Family Support

We are a local charity supporting the people of Tendring. All donations and contributions directly benefit our attendees.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mrs Maureen Seale came along to our March meeting to tell us about "Fair Trade" and how we can help the charity by purchasing their products which are grown, made and produced by some of the poorest countries in the world. The money raised is sent direct to the farmers etc giving them better prospects for the future.

Mrs Seale brought along slides showing some of the work she and a group of volunteers did in the Dominican Republic. They built a new school kitchen and some classrooms, sometimes in temperatures of 100°F, replacing the chicken shed the children had been using. It took eight years to complete the operation altogether with the help of Tearfund, another well known charity.

Fifty of the children were taken on a trip to the seaside who, although they had grown up on an island, had never seen the sea before. We also had a large stall offering many Fair Trade foods and crafts for sale at reasonable prices.



This month Barry Moulton will be showing us "Wax Moulding". If you feel tempted to find out more about this unusual craft, do come along and have a cup of tea or coffee with us on Wednesday, 6th April at 7.30pm in the village hall.

June Willgress

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

H-E-L-P!!

We need your support at our OPEN DAY on 21st April as this is our only fund raising event of the year. We are a **self-supporting club** - we do not receive any donations from other sources. It costs approximately £70 per month to run the Club which is an essential part of the village keeping people in touch. Members who do not have transport are able to use the small coach which we provide, tea and biscuits, entertainment or speakers each month and a chance to catch up on the local news. We send special thanks to Leonie who makes sure our reports are printed in the 'Messenger', the magazine which is distributed to everyone in the village, not an easy task when the snow is on the ground - thanks to all who do that job.

Come to the village hall at 3.00pm on the 21st - forget the chores and, with us, sit and listen to the **Frinton Free**



Churches Male Voice Choir. The list of stalls were in the March Messenger and don't forget our Bumper Raffle for which tickets are available at the hall or from Mrs Hurst (230578). We look forward to seeing YOU.

Competition for April - a paperweight.

Vicky Griffiths

ESSEX & SUFFOLK HUNT KENNELS IN GREAT BROMLEY

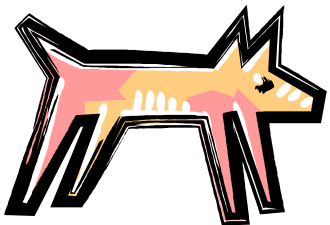
The last great squire of the old tradition in Gt Bromley must undoubtedly have been Percy Crossman. I think he was from the London brewing firm that was to become part of Mann Crossman Paulin, and later Watney Mann.

He owned Gt Bromley Hall, now the Cheshire Home, and built on to it while he was there. He also had the Hall Farm and an estate which included the farms on either side of Hall Road and Carrington Road. He planted several woods and maintained them. He built modern cottages, including the PC cottages in Badley Hall Road, for his workers. Several local families had members who worked for him, and they will have their own stories of those times.

But he was also more than generous in his interest in the village and the district. On his death it was written that no-one ever went to him in trouble without getting a helping hand. He had the Village Hall built which his family gave along with the cricket ground, to us. He was a cricketer himself and ran the cricket club.

An activity centred in the parish, because of his interest, that we no longer have was the kenneling of foxhounds off Parsons Hill where there are now business premises. He was a keen horseman and hunt member becoming joint master of the Essex and

Suffolk hunt in 1918 when the kennels were in Stratford St Mary.



However, in 1921 the hunt split in two. Mr Crossman had new kennels built for the Essex pack nearer his home. The Suffolk pack, mostly the dogs, remained at Stratford. He took Sam Stobbart, the kennel huntsman, with him and had two bungalows built for the staff.

At first he hunted hounds successfully himself, with Col. Nutting as joint master. Then, in 1925, Col. Blewitt joined him before Mr Crossman retired as master the following year.

Sadly he died in 1929 and lies in a corner of the churchyard near the Hall.

There were two further masters before his son, Peter, took over in 1938 following his return to Gt Bromley. However he was sent abroad in 1939 and the Essex pack was disbanded. Some hounds were kenneled with sympathizers in the hope that they would be needed again soon, but that was to be the end of the separate Essex pack and the Gt Bromley kennels.

The Suffolk pack had new kennels built in Layham, near Hadleigh and were able to keep going. After the war the two sides joined together again.

Peter Crossman rejoined the firm on his return from the war, although he did not come back to Gt Bromley. He rose to become a representative of the brewing industry and a respected public (and knighted) figure himself.

The hunt information is taken from "See How They Ran", a book compiled by Mary Paul and Juliet Allerton

R K Hayward

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GREAT BROMLEY & DISTRICT

Gt Bromley Cricket Club A.G.M.

was held at Copley Dene, Gt Bromley by kind permission of Mrs Anne Clapham, on 22nd February. Retiring chairman, Tim Biscoe, thanked all the Club officers for their help over the years. He thanked all those who have helped in building the

Pavilion extension, with special thanks to Peter and Roger Wright. He also thanked those who have donated or loaned moneys towards the pavilion.

The following were elected:-

President P P Allam
Chairman W Kempster
Hon. Secretary Mrs K Foley
Hon Treasurer M Foley
Fixture Secretary M Blinman
100 Club Manager P P Allam
1st XI Captain P S Allam
1st XI Vice-Captain M Foley
2nd XI Captain D Hardy
2nd XI Vice-Captain R Lawson
Match Manager D Hardy
Colts Manager S Wright
The Vice-Presidents were elected en-bloc with the addition of Mrs M Holland, C Platt Esq and D Scarlett Esq.

100 Club winners

December 2004

1st Gemma Foley
2nd Ivan Arthey
3rd Mrs Nicky Robinson

January 2005

1st Jack Allam
2nd Leo Foley
3rd Julie Garnham

February 2005

1st Mrs L Oakley
2nd Neil Garnham
3rd Harry Hitchcock

The **Quiz Night** in aid of Colts Cricket is on 2nd April, 7.30pm in the village hall. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Teams limited to eight per table. Please book your tables with Phil Allam on 01206 230375.



CARPET BOWLS

Only one item to report on this month, the annual competition for the 'Brumbella' Trophy. The 16 teams ready for the "off" at 11.30am were: Walton, Boxted 1, Silver Dawn, Lawford 2, Wix 2, Wix 1, Lawford 1, Great Bentley, Weeley, Thorpe, Little Clacton, Stratford-St-Mary, Brightlingsea, Colchester Bowls, Clacton-on-Sea and Boxted 2.

We were happy to welcome one lady parishioner who looked in for an hour or so to watch the play.

Later on after several 'might have beens' and inquests on the previous rounds played, washed down with numerous cups of tea, the afternoon ended with two very well played semi-finals between Clacton-on-Sea and Wix 2 and Boxted 1 against Brightlingsea with Wix 2 and Brightlingsea making it to the final. Unusually both results were 8-3.

After 2 ends of the final the score was 2-2, then Wix scored 9 shots from 3 ends, a lot for Brightlingsea to catch up. By the end of the 8th, with the score at 13-3, Brightlingsea conceded. It was a very sporting game. Jayne Bates presented the trophies. All the raffle prizes and refreshments (home made) are donated by members and friends making it possible to achieve such a good financial result.

After expenses - we will be sending a cheque for £395 to the Save the Children Fund. Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise this wonderful amount.

Nancy Kempster

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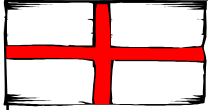
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EVENTS during APRIL

Thursday 21st CHARITY QUIZ 8.30pm PROMPT start
 In aid of Multiple Sclerosis. Teams of up to 4. £2.50 per head includes light supper

Wednesday 27th MUSIC NIGHT. 8.15pm start
 Sing, play or just come along and enjoy an evening of good music and entertaining recital.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 29th May Music Festival

Friday 27th - Monday 30th May - Annual BEER FESTIVAL
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**GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL
 CHARITY TRUSTEES**

The Village Hall Management Committee met on 8th March in the hall.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11th May at the Hall when the officers give their reports and five people are elected to serve a further year on the committee. Seven of the committee are appointed by organisations named in the Trust Deed and up to a further three may be co-opted.

The committee wishes to apologise to all those people adversely affected by bookings having to be cancelled from Wednesday 9th March for a few days due to a shortage of heating oil to heat the building. Unfortunately, we allowed the oil to run low and the oil company were unable to respond quickly to our urgent cries for help until after the boiler had burnt the last drop available.

The internal redecoration of the Main Hall was raised at the last meeting and the committee will consider doing this during the summer school holiday period. Suggestions were for it to be done by volunteers. Have we sufficient people interested and capable of carrying it out at that time?

We are always pleased when people come forward and book the Hall for their

organised event which you can do. Lynda Allam on 01206 230375, our bookings person, will help you to find a date when the Hall is vacant. However, we must ask that secretaries and organisers who have booked dates, be they regular weekly, monthly or individual events, please contact Lynda and cancel their booking if they move their function, say, to have a dinner party at the local hostelry. If you do not, a charge will be made to cover the non-event at the hall.

The Big Band sound “Nostalgia” was at the hall on 19th March. We hope you had an enjoyable time dancing and listening to their great programme. Thanks to Beryl Hurst and helpers for staging the event and to you all for supporting the evening. As I sit writing this piece for the Bromley Messenger’s deadline, five days before the event, the amount raised will be reported in the May issue.

We are planning a coffee morning with light lunches for 2nd July in the garden of the Chairman and June’s home. More information next month when the plans have been developed a little, but please note the date.

The committee next meet on Tuesday, 26th April at 7.30pm in the hall.

Bevan Willgress




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MONDAY SESSIONS

1.00am – 12.00pm Point Clear Community Hall, Durmont Avenue, Point Clear
 1.30pm – 2.30pm Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley
 6.00pm – 7.00pm Millfields School, Bowes Road, Wivenhoe

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Great Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 10 March 2005

Planning

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

Sunnyside, Ardleigh Road – dropped kerb.

Bradenham, Back Lane East – conservatory.

The East of England and Tendring District Plans

The council has made representations to both the Regional Assembly and Essex County Council on the proposed East of England Plan. The Plan's policies for focussing regeneration on urban areas appear sound although the council is worried that the district council might

ignore these with its attempts to locate some large-scale industrial and housing developments in our area. The council is also concerned at the Plan's proposals for a

large number (8,500) of new houses in the Tendring district. This could again lead to pressures to locate some estates on greenfield rural sites.

Tendring District Council is presently redrafting its new local plan, hopefully drawing on the many objections to an industrial estate in Great Bromley. The revised plan will be published in November/December this year followed by a six-week period of public consultation. Any unresolved objections will then be considered at a public enquiry in the summer of 2006 with the final plan

being decided by a government inspector. The outcome of the Bathside Bay planning enquiry should be known by April/May 2005 and this will have implications for the final Tendring Plan. Local parish council representatives have met, together with CARD, and agreed an action plan to fight the large-scale industrial and housing development proposed for our villages. A firm of expert and experienced planning consultants has been engaged to advise and help the councils in presenting their case to the public enquiry. Residents will be asked to help where they can with for example fund-raising, lobbying decision takers and displaying posters.

Highways and footpaths

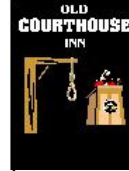
Speed surveys have been carried in the 30/40 mph sections of Hall and Harwich Roads. The police are particularly concerned at speeding on Hall Road with some vehicles travelling at over 60 mph. The police and highways department are looking at ways of deterring motorists from speeding.

Within the next 12 months the county will be installing a hard-surfaced footway along Hall Road between the Cheshire home entrance and 'Wayside'.

Motorcycles

Residents will be aware that the Sunday motorcycle racing has started-up again. The council has informed the District Council that the landowner has now exceeded the annual 14 days motorcycle racing permitted without planning approval. Our district councillors are now pressing for urgent enforcement action to be taken.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday **14 April 2005** at the Village Hall Great Bromley.



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What happened to our friend 'Common Sense'? He seems to have changed his name to The Health & Safety Executive

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend by the name of Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valued lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, and that life isn't always fair.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies.

His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash

after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Finally Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot (she spilled it in her lap) and was awarded a large settlement! Common sense was preceded in death by his parents, Trust and Trust, his wife, Discretion, his daughter, Responsibility and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers, My Rights and Ima Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

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Little Bromley Parish Council

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be the **Annual Parish Assembly** and will be held on **Thursday, 14th April, 2005 at 7.30pm in Great Bromley Village Hall.**

WHY DO WE CHOOSE TO LIVE IN GREAT BROMLEY?

If each of us was asked to answer that question I have no doubt that there would, of course, be a variety of different responses. But, for many of us, part of the reason is the opportunity to enjoy the relative peace and tranquillity that village life has to offer.

However, for me, that peace and tranquillity was shattered, last year, when for Sunday after Sunday the revving up and roaring of scramble bikes and quad bikes could be heard across a large part of the village from ten in the morning until four in the afternoon. Whether outdoors or indoors, I could not get away from this horrendous sound and I wondered how the owner of the field, where this was taking place, had obtained permission for such an activity without local people being consulted. The answer, it seems, is two fold. Firstly, I was surprised to learn that the field can be used for this purpose for up to 14 days in any calendar year. Secondly, following a letter from Tendring District Council, Mr Bacon did submit a planning application which he subsequently withdrew. There was a break over the winter period but the activity has started up again with three sessions having taken place, so far, this year. Not only has there been a total lack of consideration for people living in the local vicinity but the track used by these

bikes crosses a public footpath. I find that the noise from these machines creates an unacceptable invasion of the peace that one should expect in a rural environment and I felt somewhat frustrated, last year, wondering if I was the only person in Great Bromley who holds this view. I now know that there are others who feel the same way albeit I also recognise that there are people who do not find it objectionable.

So what is the point in writing this article? Well, if you, like me, have been wondering what on earth is happening, you might find it helpful to know that Parish Councillors are taking a very keen interest, Tendring District Council is being consulted, Bernard Jenkin is taking an interest and there are concerns in the Ramblers Association that a public footpath is being obliterated.

But you have a voice, too. If you have views about this issue, please write to the Planning Department at Tendring District Council, Council Offices, Weeley, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 9AJ (copying in the Parish Council and Bernard Jenkin). It will help councillors to know what the residents of Great Bromley feel.

Dennis Simons



CARD

Campaign Against Rural Destruction

The Quiz night held at Gt Bromley village hall was a great success.

93 people braved the cold and snow and turned out for a fun evening of putting the old grey matter to the test. Of the 14 teams who took part, the Cross Inn were the victors taking away the bottles of fizz and the Willow Wizards were the valiant losers consoling themselves with the Smarties (better luck next time). Thanks to your support a tremendous £423 was raised on the night, and with donations received from villagers who could not take part in the fun, the final total collected for the fighting fund was £643. These funds will go towards legal costs that will be incurred when the public enquiry on the Local Plan takes place which is now expected to be early in 2006.

We plan next to raise funds by manning a stand at a local table top or car boot sale. If anyone would like to donate items for us to sell (excluding furniture and electrical goods) please contact Ken Steers on 01206 250442 who will arrange collection.



Once again thank you for your continued support, and if you can help in any other way please contact our chairman, Jenny Willson, on 01206 252000 or by e-mail to card.campaign@tesco.net.

K D Steers



BELLRINGING



Campanologists from the North East District of the Essex Association of Change Ringers will be meeting at Great and Little Bromley on Saturday 16th April. Ringing will commence at Lt Bromley at 3.30 pm followed by a short Service at 4.30.

Tea for the ringers will be held at Gt Bromley Village Hall and a meeting held afterwards. Gt Bromley Bells will then be available for visiting ringers during the evening.

If anyone is interested in the hobby, which exercises both body and mind, either give me a ring on 01206-250260 or come up and see us in the church tower on a Friday (our practice night) at 8 o'clock.

David Wenden, Tower Captain

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, GT. BROMLEY

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald
Telephone: 01206 230305

The Children's Bingo held at the school was very well attended and all the children had a wonderful time. Thank you to everyone who organised and helped out.



Future Events

On Saturday, 18th June at 7.30pm there is to be a Barn Dance. This is going to be a fun evening. Tickets will be £10 and are available from the school office. There will also be a hog roast with all the trimmings.

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02	14	17	28	32	05	
	23		06	36	07	33

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GT BENTLEY SURGERY NEWS

Firstly this month, a huge "thank you" to everyone who took part in our Tsunami Relief raffle which was drawn on 28th February. We raised £767, which is fantastic. It's not just those people who bought tickets who deserve a pat on the back though. All the prizes were very generously donated, which meant that every penny spent on tickets could go to the appeal. Thanks to the donors of those prizes and thanks also to the staff here who cheerfully took on selling the tickets as yet another extra job. Next to that hairy old subject of parking outside the surgery, but I'm going to put a different slant on it for a change.

I have been asked to request people not to park with wheels on the grass, so please consider it done. It does make a bit of a muddy mess. I believe that the Parish Council is going to put up posts to try to stop it happening in future. I can't help feeling that will spoil the appearance of this bit of the Green just as much as the massed ranks of randomly parked cars do at present.



However, I just wonder where the Parish Council wants people to park! The surgery and the pharmacy are a fact of life. They are obviously wanted and needed as they are well used and they aren't going to go away. It's not the surgery's fault, nor the pharmacy's that there are parking problems.

We live in a rural area with very little public transport. Anyone wishing to use the surgery who lives beyond walking distance probably comes by car. They have to park somewhere and it's not their fault that parking facilities are dreadful.

The demand for more services and extra facilities here at the surgery is constant and we try to meet it. This, of course, is going to make the parking problem ever worse.

So, my question is - come on Parish Council, what are YOU going to do about the parking problem and when?

It's no good making parking even more

difficult for the sick, elderly and infirm. It is senseless causing even more blockages on the narrow roads around the surgery by stopping people pulling onto the grass to leave a clear passage. If that is done, it's only a matter of time before an ambulance can't get through in time, or one of the doctors can't get out to a life or death emergency call.

The need for proper and sufficient parking facilities somewhere close to the surgery is overwhelming. The fact that they are not already provided means that the fault for the parking problem lies not with the surgery or the pharmacy, not even with people parking their cars, but fairly and squarely with the Parish Council.

I promised that our featured employee this month would be our sole male receptionist, Tony Virgo, so here goes. You might have noticed that Tony has just reappeared after being missing for almost three months. He was actually enjoying the creature comforts of Colchester General and the London Chest Hospital where, never a man to do things by halves, he had a quadruple bypass

operation from which he seems to be making a splendid recovery

Tony joined us in 2002 and has a varied work background, including being a salesman and an NVQ Assessor as well as owning his own shop. He has lived with wife Fay (sorry ladies, he is spoken for!) and their three children in the same house in Thorpe-Soken for 23 years. He is a keen photographer and loves music. He has even been known to sing while he works which is why we have to turn the radio higher occasionally. Another interest is the Lady Nelson Playing Fields Association in Thorpe, of which he is chairperson.

Welcome back Tony! We missed you and it's good to have you around again, even if we do have to sit on you occasionally to stop you overdoing things!

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

ROADSIDE RUBBISH AND LITTER

In recent years I have been concerned about the amount of illegal dumping of household machines and the amount of litter that is accumulating in all the hedgerows and ditches. The situation in and around Great Bromley is really getting appalling. Exactly one year ago I contacted both Colchester Borough Council and Tendring Council and received both written and telephone replies stating that the situation was being looked into but that they were short of money. That same rubbish is still there plus more. I have neither seen anyone walking the areas I had mentioned nor has there been anyone picking up the rubbish.

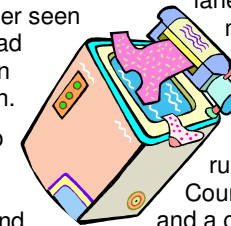
I regularly go out and walk up and down approximately 100yds either side of our property picking up rubbish and usually get a sack full every 2 or 3 months. I have been told that I am noble and that I should not have to do it BUT somebody has to do it and I do not like to see what was once a very pretty area of Essex being ruined by a few irresponsible people throwing out rubbish from their cars and just as important is the point of it being a health hazard.

I have suggested to Colchester Borough Council that perhaps just as they had a campaign to re-educate people regarding recycling that there should be one to re-

educate people about littering the countryside with rubbish. Maybe the place to start would be with the young children in schools as they copy adults, the children I know for a fact took the message home to their parents about recycling.

In the meantime could I suggest that all residents in the village and surrounding areas of Great Bromley help by going out and picking up the rubbish in the areas surrounding their homes and perhaps take a walk and tackle some of the small lanes that we have. It only needs 15 minutes every few months and our countryside would look all the better for it. Should anyone see household machines, old furniture or large sacks of rubbish please report it to the local Councils both of whom have web sites and a complaints section or you can phone them.

Doreen Mears



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Forthcoming Events



APRIL

- 2 Cricket Club Quiz Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Charity Race Night, Lovelace Hall, Wivenhoe, 7.30pm
- 6 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10 Suffolk Concert Band, St Mary's church, 2.30pm
- 14 Lt Bromley Council Parish Assembly, Gt Bromley Village Hall, 7.30pm
- Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Gt Bromley Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 16 Church Coffee morning at Criffel, Dead Lane
- 21 Friendship Club Open Day, Village Hall, 3.00pm
- 22 Barn Dance, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 23 St George's Day
- Celebration of Roof Project Service Thanksgiving, St George's, 11.00am
- 26 Village Hall Committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm

MAY

- 7 Plant & Garage Sale, Ilex Farm, Gt Bromley, 10.00am
- 18 Rotary Club Golf Day, Frinton Golf Club
- 28-30 Flower Festival, St George's church (see box opposite for times)

JUNE

- 4-12 Leonard Cheshire Week (see page 2 for more info)
- 18 P.T.A. Barn Dance, 7.30pm

JULY

- 2 BBQ, The Rectory, 5.00pm

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH BARN DANCE



Saturday, 22nd April
Gt Bromley Village Hall

Tickets available from
Pat or Carina Swanston
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NORTH EAST DISTRICT OF THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS



Saturday 16th April
Ringing at 3.30pm at
St Mary's, Lt Bromley

followed by a Service at
4.30pm

MATERIAL for the **May 2005** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **MONDAY, 18th April, 2005** please. Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Copy can either be delivered by hand or sent by post, fax or e-mail. (see inside front cover for details)

Our thanks to **Seven Rivers Cheshire Home** for sponsoring this month's magazine.

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Refreshments .▪ B.B.Q
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Refreshments	Barbara Hall 230673
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ST GEORGE'S P.T.A.

Saturday, 18th June
7.30pm

Barn Dance

Tickets £10 available from the School
Office
Hog roast with all the trimmings.

CRICKET CLUB QUIZ NIGHT



Saturday 2nd April
at the Village hall
7.30pm

Tables of up to 8
£3 per person
Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Friendship Club

21st April

OPEN DAY

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Brightlingsea Farmers' Market

28th April 9am - 1pm
Brightlingsea Community
Centre, Lower Park



For further details contact Bob Shotton
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