

The Bromley Messenger

APRIL 2012

Volume 27 No 1



Dawn Newton, landlady of The Haywain, Lt Bromley, finishing the half Marathon in Colchester on Sunday, 11th March. Dawn ran for the MS Society raising £506 single handed. She has been running only a few months and managed the 13.1 miles in under 2 hours. Well done Dawn.

Andy comments that the important thing was that Dawn was back in the kitchen at The Haywain by midday to prepare Sunday lunches for the hungry people of Little and Great Bromley!

The group shot below is of Dawn's racing partners 'Darren's Striving Striders'.

Left to right: Louise Davies, **DAWN**, Jackie Smith, Tracy McKenzie-Bell, Karen Day, Darren Horne, Glen Freeman, James Mitchell, Richard Hart



Photographs courtesy of Anita Spall and Andy Newton

THE FIRST PAGE

We are at that time of year when it is very busy if you grow anything - the lawn needs mowing, seeds need to be sown, plants transplanted once fear of frost is past - the list goes on. Except that this year is different in that we have had no proper or sustained rain for months. Already the region has a hosepipe ban ordered from April although here in Tendring, thanks to the water largely coming from boreholes, we have not had one imposed upon us - yet. Veolia East has a website with all kinds of suggestions as to how to save water, most of which are common sense, with a pie chart showing the percentages of how much water is used in the average home which is both interesting and worth a ponder. It also helps us to re-think as to how we can save and re-use water.

With a view to conserving and purifying

existing water with a cyclical system in Great and Little Bromley, 'The Bromley Messenger' understands that secret plans have been devised by the government for each household to create a bog garden and reedbed in their garden which, with its attendant benefits to plants and wildlife, will also have the added bonus of recycling and purifying our water so that it may be pumped back through our taps for further use. A meeting is being organised in early April when Mr Haveago will visit the village hall for a public presentation to show us exactly how to start making a reedbed/bog garden. Details of the meeting will be posted on the noticeboards in the villages. Within a very short space of time we should be almost self-sufficient with regards to our water requirements.

Leonie Henderson



- Bathing and showering - 25.4%
- Flushing toilets - 21.8%
- Using a hand basin - 12.2%
- Washing clothes - 11.7%
- Other household use - 11.4%
- Washing dishes - 8.3%
- Gardening - 5.6%
- Cooking and drinking - 3.6%

MATERIAL for the **MAY 2012** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th April, 2012** please. Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither

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SOS



Possibly lost, tortoise.

If you live in Chase Road West, Mary Lane South, Back Lane East or anywhere in Hare Green could you please look out for our tortoise as Henry isn't in his usual hibernating place and he may have been roaming before his long winter snooze or just after waking up. The last time he wandered off he was found in a garden at the eastern end of Chase Road West. He is a largish, European tortoise (not gigantic like the ones at the zoo), if you see him please ring us on 01206 251691 and we can come and collect him. Thank you for reading this,

Val and Ian Harris
(and all the Grandchildren).

CANCELLED

I have had to call off the Farmers Market for Saturday 24th April.

As off 2pm today I had 7 stalls. Of which 4 were foody type stalls.

I would like to thank those people on the committee that have helped and supported this venture, but I feel to have gone ahead was not fair to either the stall holders or customers who have also supported us.



GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB



2012 promises to be an exciting year for the cricket club: we are planning to continue our fundraising activities and add to the Phil Allam Memorial Fund which was set up last year in order to make improvements to the club.

We intend to completely refurbish the changing facilities to incorporate new female changing rooms and disabled access. We will also extend and refurbish the shower area and kitchen. All of this costs money and so we have been busy during the winter raising funds and are pleased to announce that we have just received a considerable grant courtesy of the Big Society fund which will go some way to getting our improvement project under way.

The cricket club have also been lucky enough to receive a grant from the Lord's Taverners towards an artificial pitch which will hopefully be installed in the spring.

This will improve training facilities and playing conditions for our youth and colt teams (this year we are entering five teams in the Northeast Essex league and regularly entertain up to 40 children every Friday for Kwik cricket).

We would like to thank everyone who has helped thus far in our fundraising efforts especially Terry Cuthbert, various friends, sponsors and members of the cricket club, Essex County Council, Tendring DC and Lord's Taverners. We still have a long way to go but we have made a promising start.

David Hardy, Cricket Club Secretary

100 Club Winners for February

- | | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 1st. | Mr. Mark Lamb(Snr) |
| 2nd. | Mrs. Louise Carver-Hardy |
| 3rd. | Jake Foley |



DONKEY WORK

for Donkey Week

For my fundraising effort for the Donkey Sanctuary this year, I am asking for sponsorship in the form of paying me to do your work! Do you need any cleaning, cooking, shopping, cake making etc. during the week of

23rd - 28th April (incl)

If so - please let me know - whatever I am paid for each job will go directly to the Elizabeth Svendsen Trust, which is the part of the Donkey Sanctuary that devotes itself to the welfare and support of children with severe learning difficulties.

You can book a slot of anything up to two hours a time (at my age, I need a little break in between!). I am happy to tackle most of those jobs you really hate - just give me a ring on **01206 230537** - you can leave your name, telephone number and a message on the ansafone if necessary.

GO ON - GISSA JOB!!!

Brenda Perry

WG 13 - TREE PLANTING



Photograph by Martin Frostick

Tree planting for 2011/12 is now complete in Great Bromley, undertaken by volunteers who turned out to help plant 330 metres of mixed native hedgerow alongside Little Bromley Road and also several new and replacement trees in various locations throughout the village. A total of 1100 trees and shrubs were planted at a cost of £673 to the parish council, approximately 40% of which was met by a grant from Tendring District Council. Other expenditure on these projects was met by landowners. Additionally, about 290 other trees and shrubs from the village tree nursery were provided to landowners for them to plant on their own land at their own expense in the interests of increasing the tree cover in the village.

My thanks go to Dean's Garden Centre for their kind donation of compost and fertiliser and to Fil Farn, Jim Farn, Bill Kempster and Sam Normanton amongst others for their help with planting the trees. I am grateful for the continuing support given to increasing the tree cover in the village from landowners and, in particular, Ken Robinson at Badley Hall Farm and Henry and Andrew Fairley at Park Farm; without their enthusiasm, time and investment our village would be a somewhat more barren place in the future. Thanks are also due to those volunteers who watered, pruned and cleared around trees planted in previous years.

Martin Frostick, Tree warden

FRIENDS OF LITTLE BROMLEY CHURCH



Photographs by Peter Scott



On Saturday, 17th March an enthusiastic group of 12 gathered in the rain to plant 2,000 bulbs in the churchyard - snowdrops, English bluebells and aconites. The results will be evident next spring. Our thanks for the donations received towards the overall costs of the Jubilee Planting Scheme. If you would like to make a contribution towards further planting this year, please contact Anita Spall on 01206 390033.



LETTERS

Speeding through Great Bromley

Dear Bromley Messenger Readers,

My name is Tommy and I have lived in the village all my life. I am 13 in August and I am sick and tired of people roaring through this peaceful village. Every day there are people breaking the speed limit and getting away with it. This is why I write this letter to try and start a community speed watch scheme. This scheme will certainly slow these speeders down, and would hopefully nip the speeding in the bud, and possibly save someone's life.

I have younger brothers and a sister who I do not want harmed by speeding traffic. Nearby is St George's school which children walk to on narrow paths and they should feel safe.

I also think the speed limit zone should continue further out side the village, as it starts too close to the houses and drivers do not slow down in time.

If you are interested in joining a community speed watch then please contact the editor of Bromley Messenger who will pass me your details.

Many Thanks

Please forward any replies to the Editor (bromleymessenger@btinternet.com) for onward transmission.

Hare Green Playing field

I just wanted to say that having not used the Hare Green Playing field for a couple of decades, I took our two granddaughters, ages 2½ and 5, there in half term holidays and we were very impressed with the play equipment for them to use, well maintained and a good variety. The whole of the field was very well kept. Do many people use it?

We should all use it more - it's a great asset to the village and presumably fairly costly to maintain.

I can remember having a village sports day on it ----- years ago. How about something for the Jubilee weekend?

Many Thanks
Linda Pinhey

THANKS

A belated "Thank you" - for all the used postage stamps that you handed in to our Post Office at The Cross Inn. We collected them after Christmas and are passing them on to "Hearing dogs for the deaf". Please continue to save them for us, if anyone would prefer them to go to another charity this year please contact me and I will investigate other options.

Thank you
Val Harris

The Storm and Flood of 1953 was to be a very interesting talk given by a very experienced Adrian Wright, an ex Geography teacher, from the Colchester Grammar School.

Adrian explained that it takes various aspects of weather to build together and cause a flood. It involves the depth of the ocean which, at its deepest, is 11,337 metres compared with the highest

mountain at 9,000 metres. There are two high and two low tides in 24 hours and the sun is 26 million times the mass of the moon. Every month there are two periods of "Spring" tides

and two periods of "Neep" tides. The shape of the seas are important, as is the inclusion of a depression, which can cause a river of air to rise up causing a vortex on the ground which in turn can cause a "hump" of water. Everything then comes together to cause a storm surge.

In 1953 overnight on Saturday and Sunday a sequence of events over 3 days culminated in the great flood. The weather forecast for the Saturday morning did not indicate the ensuing damage that was to follow. By 6.00pm on the Saturday all telephone lines

were down and the railway lines were flooded. This was recorded by signal men as they always kept a log of unusual occurrences. Sunday morning at 2.06am the high tide at London Bridge was six feet higher than expected; at 6.00am the depression had moved across to Germany and Denmark. The question must be asked could this happen again? Yes it can, and did again in 2007, but by this time



communication was much more effective and the sea defences had been greatly improved.

A very interesting topic, especially as in this area we are very aware of the happenings in Harwich and along the East Coast.

Joy Rolfe

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 14th February in the Village Hall

All were present except for DC Mrs R Heaney, Mr F Nicholls, Mrs P Williams and Mr D Hardy who gave their apologies.

- 1. Members Interests:** There were no members' interests declared.
- 2. Public Participation:** There was no public participation
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Minutes held of the Meeting on 10th January, 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 10th January, 2012**

Affordable Housing: The Clerk has made contact with Mr Price and is awaiting a reply back.

Village Hall Committee: Nothing to report

5. Reports

County Councillor: No report

Parish Councillors: Cllr Burnby advised regarding the speed gun and is waiting to hear back from the PCSO with regard to borrowing/testing the speed gun.

It was suggested that perhaps we could share with Little Bromley who own their own equipment. Clerk to write to Parish Clerk for Little Bromley.

Cllr Skinner advised that there is a broadband presentation on 27 March 2012 at the Village Hall at 19:30. Households within Great Bromley have been advised and will be in the Messenger as well. It was advised that it will be mentioned that other broadband providers are available and it was a presentation not a recommendation.

Cllr Perry advised that he may not be able to undertake the litter pick on Saturday 31 March 2012 and Cllr Blowers kindly offered to participate. Cllr Blowers suggested that it might be an idea to approach a fast food outlet i.e. McDonalds with respect to sponsoring future litter picks. The idea was well received and the Clerk is to draft an appropriate letter.

It was advised that the Churchyard is looking good.

6. HM Queen's Diamond Jubilee - 2012: The weekend of 3 June 2012. The Parish Council is to look at what it can do and will be discussed further.

7. Grant Applications Received: Clerk to provide the budget to the Chairman prior to decisions being made in respect to the grant applications.

Clerk also advised that new spreadsheets would be created in order to keep the Parish Council aware of finances on a month by month basis.

8. Payments: Approval for the following payments:

	£	£
K Bromfield: Clerk's salary and expenses for January 2012	101.20	
Less tax deducted (to HMRC)	-20.40	80.80
S Toller: Clerk's salary and expenses for January 2012	303.35	
Less tax deducted (to HMRC)	0.00	303.35
HMRC: Tax Deducted		20.40
Great Bromley Village Hall (hire of Millennium Lounge)		86.49
SLCC Publications		103.95

9. Other Competent Business: The Chairman advised of the Localism Act and advised that he will circulate to all, although some parts are not relevant there are interesting concepts. For example, an asset in the community i.e. a public house or a post office.

Date of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th March 2012, Village Hall

The meeting concluded at 21:15

The **next meeting** of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday, 10th April at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall and on **Tuesday, 8th May at 7.00 pm** there will be the **Annual Parish Council meeting**, followed by the routine monthly parish council meeting, which will be adjourned as necessary for the **Annual Parish Assembly at 7.30pm**.

THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

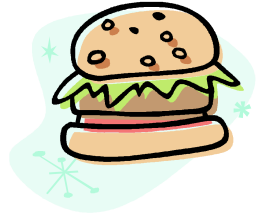
Gt Bentley Surgery

I understand that a few people have had problems recently ordering medication, making appointments etc using the EMIS Access system, and I have just learned that at least part of this is because the name and layout of the website have changed. The site is still accessed via www.patient.co.uk but this particular function is now called "Patient Access". When you get to the first page of the website, the tag which you click to sign in is coloured bright orange and can be found about a third of the way down on the right hand side. Everything else works just the same.

I am sorry that you didn't get prior warning of this change, but we didn't know about it until after the event. Apologies to anyone who experienced difficulties, and thanks to Dr Steiner (he's still going strong) for telling me about the problem.

As you know, we are always looking for ways to make your visit to the surgery as pleasant and comfortable as possible. The water cooler was installed a couple of years ago and more recently we bought some new armchairs for the waiting room to make things a little easier for our less mobile patients. Both these improvements were suggested by patients responding to our regular surveys. An interesting suggestion in the latest survey was that anyone coming for an appointment, especially around lunch time, should have somewhere to buy refreshments. This seems like a really sensible idea, especially for older patients and anyone bringing in young children, so from the beginning of the month there will be a burger van open in the surgery car park between 10.00am and 2.30pm on our busiest days – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It will normally serve burgers, hot-dogs and chips, with the option of fish and chips on Fridays. Tea and coffee will also

be available, together with fizzy drinks for the kids. The couple who own the burger van, Mr and Mrs Hale from Wivenhoe, have a really good reputation around the local car boot sales. I know from personal experience that they do brilliant doughnuts which are freshly cooked on demand. They are laying on this service for a trial period of six months and provided it doesn't lose them money, it will become a permanent feature – possibly every weekday – so please support them.

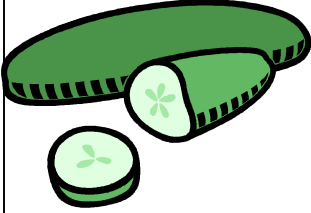


We need everyone to co-operate in making sure that litter from the new facility doesn't become a problem, so we are going to position four large litter bins on the Green around the surgery, and this is a plea for everyone to make sure that they use them properly. If the area becomes too messy, I'm sure that the Parish Council and our neighbours will be on our backs very quickly, not to mention the possibility of attracting rats and mice.

After a false start or two, the automatic blood pressure monitor and scales in the waiting room are now working. They give anyone who hasn't had their blood pressure and weight checked for a while an ideal do-it-yourself opportunity. The BP monitor produces a small printed report to hand to the clinician you are seeing and we have some slips at reception on which weight and a few other details can be written to bring your records up to date. Please make use of them, as the more information we have about you, the better we can look after you. (Perhaps it's better to weigh yourself before trying the burgers, chips and doughnuts.)

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

IN THE GARDEN IN APRIL



If you are lucky enough to have a greenhouse why not try a cucumber? First make a mound about

6" high then plant your cucumber in the top, have a cane ready, approximately 6ft, make sure it is firmly in the ground as cucumbers are very fast growers and will grow a matter of inches in a day. If you get a plant from the garden centre make sure it is an F1 hybrid, which have only female flowers: female flowers have an embryo cucumber behind them. The next thing to be careful of is that although cucumbers

like to be kept very wet do not get water near the stem as it will rot the stem and kill the plant.

Sow the following this month: dwarf beans, runner beans, all the cabbage family, also broad beans, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cauliflowers, kale (the curly type), main crop peas and potatoes. Apart from main crop peas and potatoes most of the cabbage family can be planted in trays of fine compost.

Frank Griffiths

KITCHEN CORNER

Easter Date Chocolate Truffles

6 oz icing sugar
1oz cocoa powder
a little warm water
approx ½ lb cake crumbs
¼ lb stoned dates, minced
Flavouring of your choice.
Chocolate vermicelli
coloured sugar strands
chopped walnuts



Sieve icing sugar and cocoa into a medium pan and gradually add warm water until the icing coats back of spoon. Heat slightly, adding more sugar if needed, add flavouring to taste i.e. vanilla, rum, mint etc. Stir in minced dates and sufficient cake crumbs to make a stiff paste. Scoop out rounded teaspoons of the mixture and roll in the sugar strands, some in chocolate, some in nuts Put in paper cases and leave to harden for a day or two before eating.

Jill Frostick

2012 EVENTS



APRIL

- 4 Messy Church, Gt Bromley Village Hall, 2.00pm
WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 6-8 Lawford Beer Festival, Venture Centre 2000
- 10 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, from 7.30pm
- 18 Village Hall Trustees AGM, Village Hall, 8.00pm
- 19 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
Lt Bromley Parish APCM Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 21 Charity Fun Quiz Night, 7.00pm, The Haywain
- 23 St George's Day service, St George's church, 6.00pm
- 28 Little Bromley Village Litter Pick, meet Car Park, 10.00am

MAY

- 1 Village Hall Trustees committee meeting, Village Hall, 8.00pm
- 2 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Gt Bromley Annual Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.00pm followed by
Annual Parish Assembly at 7.30pm
- 9 Bat talk, St George's church
- 10 Lt Bromley Annual Council Meeting and Public Assembly, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 12 Plant and Garage Sale, Ilex Farm, 10.00am
Friends of Lt Bromley Church A.G.M., St Mary's church, 10.30am
- 17 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 20-27 Red, white & blue Jubilee Scarecrow Festival

JUNE

- 2 Flower Festival, St Mary's church
- 3 Lt Bromley Jubilee Garden Party, St Mary's church, 10.00am
Gt Bromley Jubilee Celebrations, Village Hall & Cricket Ground
- 5 Jubilee Tea with the Friendship Club, Village Hall
- 30 Southend Festival Chorus - Jubilee Concert

Lawford Venture Centre Events

- 6-8 April **Lawford Beer Festival**
- 15th April, 10 - 4pm
Wellbeing Craft & Gift Fayre
Admission £2.00 under 12 free
Further information phone Julie 07809
600313
- 29th April, 10 - 4pm **Spring Market**
For more info and booking forms call Jess
on 07966171056
Free entrance and parking

Watch out for the Scarecrows!



20th-27th May

Little and Great Bromley are preparing for our second Scarecrow Festival, towards the end of May. We are hoping for a Royal red, white and blue theme to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee.

Next month we will let you know where you can get your entry forms to take part in the competition and it will only cost you a £1.

If you can't wait for more information, phone Carol on 01206 395103.

Saturday 21st April
Charity Fun Quiz Night



at The Haywain
7 for 7.30 start
Teams of 4
£4 per head to include buffet
raffle
All proceeds shared between the
Alzheimers Association and
Village Amenities Fund
Phone 01206 390004 to book a table

Plant and Garage Sale

at Ilex Farm, Waterhouse Lane, Ardleigh
on 12th May

10.00am - 1.00pm

Proceeds to Philip Allam
Memorial Fund and St
Michael's Church, Thorpe-
le-Soken

Donations of plants or
anything for the garage sale
(no books/clothes) gratefully received
before 12th May.



EASTER FUN

at
MESSY CHURCH
on Wednesday 4th April
2pm – 4.30pm

in Great Bromley Village Hall

Have fun with cooking, gardening, stories
and creative mess



Student Cross Visit

Saturday, 31st March
at 10.30am



Young people en route to
Walsingham will take a welcome
refreshment break at St. George's
Church. Walking from Colchester they will
arrive singing hymns and carrying a huge
wooden cross.

These young people have been visiting our
church for over 60 years. Their onward
route takes them through Harwich to
Shotley arriving at Walsingham on Good
Friday

Saturday 28th April

Little Bromley Village Litter Pick

Meet at Village Car Park
at 10 a.m.

High vis jackets provided
Please bring gloves
Refreshments provided
afterwards at The
Haywain



St. George's Day

Monday April 23rd
Celebrations in the church at
6pm, there will be

refreshments for all and Canon Pat
Prestney will preach at this Eucharist
Service.

We do hope to be able to fly our new
"Jubilee Flag" during this weekend.
Please join us to celebrate our Patron
Saint.



**Great Bromley
Jubilee
Celebrations**

Sunday June 3rd
at the Village Hall and Cricket ground
lots of fun and entertainment for all the
family



**Little Bromley's
Jubilee Garden Party**

To be held at
St. Mary's Church
Sunday 3rd June, 10.00am – 4pm
Please put this date in your diary now:
Church service at 11am

Tea and cakes, cream teas
Activities for the children.

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



If you would like to be
involved or make some
cakes please let me
know. phone Carol on
01206 395103.



Charity No. 1136038
Company No. 7029441

Little Dragons Pre-School

Great Bromley & Frating

Ofsted Inspected

Website: www.littledragonspreschool.org

Email: littledragonspreschool@gmail.com

Great Bromley Village Hall

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

Children 2-5 years

Lunch club available every day

For more details/visits please contact us on 0785 7503103

WE ARE BACK -'Baby Dragons' Parent and Toddler Group. Come and have fun with other parents and their children. Every Wednesday at the village hall in the millennium room (term time only) 9.15am-10.45am. Starts Wed 18th April. For further information or any queries please contact us on the above number.

We have been very busy this half term in preschool-

To celebrate World Book Day on 1st March, we held a 'Book Week'. Parents were invited to the setting to share books and story sacks with the children. The children enjoyed lots of story related activities and also made their own books.

The children made pancakes and had fun 'tossing' them on 'Pancake Day' and some beautiful decorated 'tiles' and cards for 'Mothers Day'. Easter activities included making cards and decorating little baskets for eggs.

We are also learning about the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. The mascots Wenlock and Mandeville have really captured the children's imagination. On 31st May we have been invited to join the children at St Georges Primary School for a tea party as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. We will also be supporting the Schools Fun Day on

Sunday 15th July. Lots to look forward to. 'Cash for schools'. Having a Spring Clean? If you have any clothes, bedding etc. for recycling please collect a yellow bag from us to fill and return on 23rd April. For each bag collected pre-school earns cash! A great way to help us raise funds.

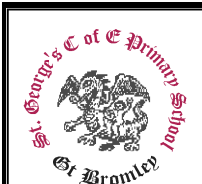
Just to let you know that we are collecting both the Tesco and Sainsbury's Vouchers so please tell friends, family etc.

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

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

Dates for your diary:

Easter Holiday begins	2 nd April
Return to preschool	16 th April
Quiz Night	21 st April
'Cash for Schools' collection	23 rd April



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

Head teacher: Julie O'Mara
Telephone: 01206 230305

LOCAL HISTORY AT RISK!

Following my brief tribute to Gwen Barrell last month, her daughter Jane asked me if she could have a copy of the photo of Gwen on the Norton motorcycle, taken some 80 years ago. I said "Well surely you have the original?" and reminded her of where it had been kept at the time when I scanned¹ Gwen's small box of old photos a few years ago. Sadly no – it seems that Gwen had a clear out before she left her house and they are no more. At least I did have a set of photo scans¹ to send Jane, although of course a copy is not quite the same as an original.



As an aside, I don't know how they managed to make those old photos stay so remarkably clear after so many years! In contrast, who remembers the "fantastic" technology of the 70s and 80s where you could get those relatively cheap colour prints, put them in an easy-peel cellophane album, which in a matter of a few years took much of the colour out of the prints before the pages all fell apart?

Unfortunately, there was considerably bigger loss to our local history two or three years back, which you may not know about. John Appleby produced the delightful book "Where the Broom Grows" utilising many old postcards of Great Bromley. He had gathered an album of postcards ready for a book on Little Bromley which my brother Gregory and I had long been urging him to produce. Sadly, he never managed to finish it. But the worse news is, and I was shocked

to find this out, he had already passed the collection 'for safe keeping' to David May, the well known collector, who himself died very shortly afterwards. David May's relatives sold the whole collection at a Reeman Dansie auction (which I unfortunately never heard about) so they are now gone, scattered who knows where!

As you will know if you have read my previous ramblings, I am striving to assemble a record of the history of our two villages for the benefit of all. I have started a local postcard collection, plus scans of local photos and negatives from all who will let me! I will gladly buy your old postcards, or simply store these on behalf of the villages, or at the very least take a good copy for my records.

In particular I would love to get hold of a copy at least, and preferably an original card, of my grandfather John Frostick standing at the entrance to Calves Lane. My Uncle Harry had one, but lent it to someone at some time and it never returned...

Once more, I urge you not to throw away your old cards, photos, negatives, artefacts and other memorabilia pertaining to the Bromleys, instead please pass them my way!

Hugh Frostick c/o Grove House, Frating Rd 250263

Footnote ¹: Possibly not everyone knows what I mean by "scanning" and "scans". I am not talking about the hospital! A scanner is like a photocopier which plugs into a computer² to make electronic copies (scans) to save on the computer. The process is quick and easy and causes no damage. Photos don't even need to be removed from their album, but it is a bit easier if they are loose. These scans can then be easily stored, shared with relatives and printed when needed. Even better, the computer can be used to improve the quality of the images. I have a portable scanner which I can take to people's houses. I also have a bigger scanner which can copy negatives and slides.



VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

Thank you The Bromleys.

We have now
four new faces
offering to

come on the Village Hall Committee. Jacquie Terry has offered to come on as the Minutes Secretary, Mary Fawcett has offered to be the Booking Secretary, Jackie Lear has offered to be the Treasurer and Kate Stourbridge has offered to come on to the Committee. Fred Nicholls has said that he will continue to be Chairman, thank you Fred!, but only for one more year. Henry Fairley is leaving the Committee - we do not know how long Henry has been on the Committee and when asked he modestly said that he did not know either. The smart money is on twenty years plus. Henry, thank you, you are a superstar and will be sorely missed.

On a much sadder note two weeks ago we had the oil guard padlocks cut off and the oil copper feed pipe removed and you have guessed it, our oil stolen. The light over the oil tank had been tampered with too. The only piece of good news was that the oil tank is kept very low for just this reason and not much oil was taken. Fred managed to call in an engineer quickly and we were back running later that day. At least I had not let the Hall run out of oil again!

While we are in sad mode we actually had a break in to the Hall on the night of Monday, 12th March. The rotters broke a window in the Billiard room and they broke into the Playgroup cupboard stealing a computer, from there they entered the old Committee room and broke into all the regular users' cupboards. The safe was ripped off the wall and taken. You might think wow, they got the safe but the only thing we keep in the safe is the microphone for the PA system and the ring of keys. At time of writing I do not know the value of the Playgroup computer but I do know that the value of the other items taken that

belong to the Committee is diddly squat. The cost of making good is not going to be so little. Disappointing, annoying and frustrating, but what can you say?

The decorating has, and is, happening as I am writing this and the inside of the Hall is looking brighter, crisper and fresher. We have applied for a grant from the Parish Council to purchase new curtains for the Main Hall but are still awaiting an outcome.

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

The next Farmers' Market has been cancelled due to lack of participating stall holders.

Future Events to look forward to.

We are hoping to run a proper afternoon TEA with the Friendship Club to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on the Bank Holiday Tuesday, 5th June. Details to be firmed up but get this one in your diary if you fancy a real proper English Tea with all the trimmings.

Other ideas that are being planned include A Bingo Night, A Quiz Night, Essex on Tour Cabaret Night, a Murder Mystery Night as well as the usual favourites. More details soon.

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

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

Next Committee meeting Tuesday 1st May at 8:00pm. **The AGM will be held on Wednesday April 18th at 8:00 pm.** As always all welcome.

David Beech

ESSEX POLICE



If you need to talk to me for any Police Community problems, you can contact me on 07967 466876, or 101 ex 487607 (free phone) or email me leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police please note if you leave a message I will try to reply to your call the day I am next on duty.
Les Barnes PCSO 71909

Incidents in Great Bromley for the month of February

Criminal Damage - Rectory Road - (Hamilton Lodge)

Disturbance - Rectory Road - (Hamilton Lodge)

Nuisance Youth - Back Lane East - (Eggs thrown at a house)

- Ransom Court - Youth being loud outside flat)

Suspicious Circumstances - Harwich Road - (Youths messing around with notice board)

Theft Other - Rectory Road - (Oil taken from heating tank)

News letter for March 2012

Residents are being reminded to check the identity of anyone calling at their home after two bogus police officers stole a four figure sum of money from an elderly couple in Waltham Abbey. Two men posing as police officers who produced, what transpired to be, false police badges which had a four-pointed silver metal star on a black background, said they were investigating a recent theft, tricked their way into the couple's flat in February. After pointing out where the couple keep their money, one of the men took the husband outside to show him security advice relating to his windows. It is then thought that the man's accomplice stole the money from inside. We would urge people to check the identification of anyone calling unexpectedly at their door to ensure they are valid by contacting their parent company, including the police force, to check to see they are who they purport to be. If they are genuine, then they will not mind being challenged.

Message from Trading Standards

Rogue Traders

Essex County Council Trading Standards

are warning all residents to be aware of doorstep / rogue traders operating in the county. These traders often will knock on your door offering to do work straight away or suggesting that you may have a problem with your house or garden which they can help with.

We would advise you never to deal with doorstep traders as the work they carry out is often unnecessary with the price rising considerably as work continues. Doorstep traders do not just offer maintenance on your property; they can also be buying or selling anything such as unwanted gold, furniture, antiques, pictures, carpets or even fish. If you live near a vulnerable neighbour or relative help them to avoid being caught out by these traders by discussing the issues raised in this advice.

If you need work carried out on your property you can ask family, friends or neighbours for recommendations or use one of our Buy with Confidence businesses that have been audited and approved by Trading Standards. You can find these businesses via www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 08454 040506.

Scams
Scams are being targeted at residents via phone, letter, email or text on a daily basis, costing UK residents around £3.5 million a year. Scams cover a wide range of topics from fake lotteries, tickets and holiday clubs to providing information that you have won a prize or if you purchase goods you will be entered in a prize draw. If you receive a cold call, letter, email, phone call or text that seems too good to be true then it is likely that it is a scam. The calls or mailings are often made to try to gain access to your

personal information. Your bank or building society will not call you asking for personal details over the telephone and you should never give these out unless you are absolutely sure of the identity of the caller. Please don't get caught out by the scammers. For advice and guidance call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 08454 040506 or you can report scams to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or log the scam online via www.actionfraud.org.uk

Anti Social Behaviour

We are asking for your assistance to tell us where young people are accessing age restricted goods, such as alcohol or

cigarettes, in the county. We are also interested where proxy sales are taking place. A proxy sale is where an older person is buying for under age young people. Please call on 08454 040506 to provide us with information to assist our officers and Essex Police in reducing anti social behaviour.

The Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline, 08454 040506, works in partnership with Trading Standards and is open from Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Les Barnes PCSO 71909

AIRSOFT GREAT BROMLEY

I thought it may be of interest to Great and Little Bromley residents to know that there is now an Airsoft Club (Airsoft is a sport in which participants shoot [round non-metallic pellets](#) launched via [replica firearms](#)) event running on average every 5 weeks in Great Bromley. It is open to anyone over the age of 16 who is interested in fun, exercise, guns and battle scenarios. Not necessarily

in that order. By the end of the day you can guarantee that you will have plenty to talk and laugh about and be exhausted. If you want to find out more please phone David Beech in the evenings on 07825 300516 or look at the website www.airsoftgb.co.uk

David Beech



St Helena Hospice
your time... your hospice

ST HELENA HOSPICE

Midnight Walk

Ladies... walk this way!

St Helena Hospice is delighted to announce that their fourth Midnight Walk will take place on Saturday 9 June 2012. The ladies-only event will commence at midnight when 2,000 ladies will start their walk through Colchester.

The Midnight Walk will start and finish at the Weston Homes Community Stadium, the home of Colchester United and walkers will follow a circular route of 12km (7.5 miles). This year, the walk will be slightly different as the route will be reversed!

Registration for the walk is just £15 and each lady will receive an official Midnight Walk t-shirt, along with an event pack containing helpful information and fundraising tips.

Whilst this is a ladies-only walk there is definitely a part for men to play. The Midnight Walk team needs lots of men to volunteer their support to come along on the night and help in as many ways as possible. There's of course no exclusion of female volunteers, so those who don't want to walk on the night but would like to volunteer are welcome too!

The event is set to be a sell out and places are limited, so we would certainly recommend getting your place reserved as soon as possible.

For more information about the Midnight Walk: Call: 01206 791740

Email:

midnightwalk@sthelenahospice.org.uk or

Visit: www.colchestermidnightwalk.co.uk

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

REPAIRS TO THE LYCHGATE



By the time the April edition of the Messenger is published the current phase of repair work at St George's should be completed; the scaffolding will have been taken

down both inside and outside the church. All we have to do now is to tidy up and pay the contractors!

In addition to the work on the clerestory windows, the lychgate also underwent major repair.

The word 'lychgate' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lich* or *lic*. It is similar to the German word *leiche*. All these words mean 'corpse'. The gates mark the division between consecrated and unconsecrated ground. In years gone by the funeral bearers would rest their load on a lych stone or trestle while the priest conducted part of the service before leading the procession into the church.

St George's lychgate is a finely decorated wooden structure handmade in the 1880s. Over the years it had slowly sunk into the ground and required urgent stabilisation. The downpost on the left hand side was rotten and you can see the skilful work that has been done to repair this. The new wood is lighter than the existing oak but it will be left to weather naturally rather than being stained or painted. The gates themselves were in such a bad state that two years ago they had to be removed for fear that they would collapsed completely. They have been re-made using the existing ironwork. The roof has also been repaired.

The work on the lychgate cost £8,000 and was made possible by two main sources of funding; one was Essex Heritage Trust and the other was through donations made in the memory of the late Vera Biddis.

Many readers will remember Vera who lived opposite the church for many years before dying in 2009 at the age of 93. Vera had been sad to see the gradual deterioration of the lychgate and following her death her friends and executors of her will generously decided to make a donation towards its repair. It is intended that a small plaque will be placed on the lychgate in memory of Vera.

The plaque will also acknowledge the help of Essex Heritage Trust. This trust was established in 1989 following Essex Heritage Year. It is dedicated to conserving the county's rich and diverse heritage and making it accessible to the people of Essex and the many visitors to the county. Its projects include the conservation of paintings, contributions to the repair of historic buildings and the purchase of items for public galleries and museums. In 2008 the Trust gave £2,000 towards the repair of the west window in St George's.

NEED A HAND?

M.A.D. Young Christians want to give you a hand this Lent season and beyond.

We want to **Make A Difference** so if there is anything you would like a hand with - Gardening, Decorating, Dog-Walking, Babysitting, Cleaning, Moving Furniture, Paperwork, Cooking, Clearance, Shopping, Petcare . . . well **ANYTHING** really!!

We will provide careful, FREE, Supervised help! Just call Mandy on 07834 323931 for all the help you need .

**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

Seven Rivers Nursing Home

**Leonard
Cheshire
Disability**

*Come and Join the Fun
- and help us Raise Funds
at Seven Rivers !*

**Quiz
Night**



Just call 01206 230345 and ask for Pauline Melton.

THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

Dear Friends,

I had already fulfilled most of my academic requirements for ordination as an Oxford graduate in Theology, but there was still some pastoral training to be completed at a theological college. I knew that many theological colleges were party institutions and that people went to them in order to be with like minded people be they evangelical, catholic, central churchmanship or whatever. This did not really appeal to me. I talked this through with my bishop and he suggested that I try the Queen's College, Birmingham, which was an ecumenical college. I also had an interview at Lincoln Theological College which was in the catholic tradition. I was offered a place in both colleges and I decided on my first choice. Queen's College was quite an experience. There were many tensions there as anyone who has been in an ecumenical college will often testify. It was not all harmony – some students almost came to blows! This I found rather amusing because I have always been able to listen to, to tolerate and to understand the other person's point of view even if I disagree with it. Queen's College confirmed in me the conviction that

there are many types of spirituality and that what appeals to one person does not necessarily appeal to another. But, if anything, it strengthened my convictions about my own theological position and understanding.

I was ordained deacon in St. Asaph Cathedral in June 1986 and priest the following year. I served my first curacy in the Parish of Llanrhos (Llandudno). There were five churches in the parish and Sundays consisted of one service after another. It was a good training parish and I also assisted the Vicar in hospital work. I established a youth group in the parish. I soon became convinced that I had made the right decision about ordination. One can never really know until one has really tried something out. It was evident to me that this is where God wanted me to be. It was here that I met Margaret, my wife to be, and it became evident that God had other plans for me. A vocation to marriage as well as the priesthood.

More next month.

With love to you all
Fr. Robert



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.
Or phone: 01206 230 688.
Or email: jenny@fryerning.net

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Church of England Services April

Sunday 1st April	8.00am	Holy Week - Palm Sunday Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist with Procession of Palms & The Reading of The Passion <i>Incense will be used at this service</i>	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Thursday 5th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper with Watch until Midnight <i>Incense will be used</i>	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Friday 6th	11.00am	Good Friday Stations of the Cross	<i>from St Mary's School</i>
	2.00pm	The Good Friday Liturgy	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Saturday 7th	7.30pm	Easter Eve The Easter Vigil <i>Incense will be used</i>	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 8th	8.00am	Easter Day Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Easter Parish Eucharist <i>Incense will be used at the Eucharist</i>	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Songs of Praise: Thanksgiving for Christian Stewardship Campaign	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 15th	8.00am	2nd Sunday of Easter Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 22nd	8.00am	3rd Sunday of Easter Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Monday 23rd	6.00pm	St George's Day Patronal Sung Eucharist <i>Incense will be used</i>	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 29th	8.00am	4th Sunday of Easter Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist with Laying-on-of-Hands and Anointing No Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>

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