

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2014



Photos courtesy of Dinah Jones & the Cradbents

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

The hall looked great with ceiling decorations and wonderful lit table decorations.

An excellent evening was had by all with Linda Pinhey's superb buffet and music by Scott Ballinger.

A terrific night with dancing until 1am.

Many thanks to our families and friends, with special thanks to Sue and Jane and the following supporters.

(For table linen) The Ashiana Tandoori
(Raffle Prizes) The Colchester Community Centre, The Haywain, Little Bromley, Hull Farm, Hype Hair design, Blenheim and Dean's Garden



Centres, The Retreat, Primrose Park, Sweet Success, Marley Makes 'Em, Tiptree Jams and Sloppy Joes

Thanks also to Kate, Jackie, Fred and Jacque for their donations

Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised £1200 for Village Hall funds.

Best Wishes for 2014

Dinah Jones and Jayne Bates

Thank you Dinah, Jane and Linda for a truly wonderful evening. It was a fabulous event. We brought along nine friends and all of them thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The evening was a credit to all who helped. The hall was beautifully decorated, the food excellent and music just right. A wonderful evening thank you.

Fred Nicholls

THE FIRST PAGE

It was lovely to see so many of you at the church before Christmas. Thank you for coming out so close to Christmas especially as you must all have been really busy. Thanks also to everyone who has sent such kind messages to me and the family recently and also for your support - really much appreciated.

Events in the two villages over the Christmas and New Year period seem to have been a huge success all thanks to the hard work of those organising them but brought to satisfactory fruition by those attending and entering into the fun. Lots more events are being planned for the coming year - see the centre pages - so why not go along and join in the fun and get to know other members of our communities at the same time.

Congratulations also to our very own John and Jenny Upson who have won a Pride of Tendring Award with their Hospice stall in Briar Road (pages 3 and 4).

As seen on pages 11, 12 and 26 the Horsley Cross development has reared its head again and any comments need to be sent to TDC by 17th February. Hope is on the horizon for better and faster broadband (see page 14) and also for an announcement for something to happen regarding the A120 junction (pages 11 and 14). I feel as though we are all holding our breath over these projects, especially the

latter two.

The weather over these past few weeks has been wet, windy and more wet. The back lanes are muddy in parts with mini lakes in places. Potholes are forming again and are invisible when full of water so take care. Also drive carefully on cold mornings as there have been one or two days of black ice on the surface and too many people rush through the lanes in their cars with no thought or care and some hardly bother to slow down or move over for oncoming traffic. In December we had about 93ml of rain and up to time of writing (19th January) we have already had 75ml this month with only two dry days. According to www.worldweatheronline.com for Chelmsford the average rainfall for January is 34.8ml falling over about 11 days with average precipitation for December being 36ml over 11 days! We have indeed been wet - no wonder there is so much standing water and soggy gardens.

Finally please note I have changed my email address for The Messenger with immediate effect. Having cancelled BT broadband I am using a Wi-Fi 3G device which gives me faster speeds than BT and which works well. I shall watch with interest the progress of MLL as 5mb would be even faster. BT, if it is not careful, is in danger of becoming a broadband dodo in rural areas - or perhaps they just don't care!

Leonie Henderson

MATERIAL for the **MARCH** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th FEBRUARY, 2014** 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.

The ‘Bromley Messenger’
is very grateful and thanks all those who by
their donations have sponsored this month’s
magazine through
PERSONAL AND CLUB DONATIONS

PRIDE OF TENDRING AWARD WINNERS

A host of unsung community heroes from right across Tendring have been honoured as part of an annual awards scheme.

The 21 recipients of the Pride of Tendring Awards – which was held for the first time two years ago - were announced on 1st January.

A special ceremony will take place at Clacton’s Princes Theatre on February 7 where all the recipients will be officially recognised and presented with their accolades.

The initiative is aimed at highlighting those stalwarts from all walks of life who make a real difference to others in the community. The awards are run by Tendring District Council (TDC), sponsored by Dong Energy and have the support of the Clacton, Frinton and Walton Gazette and the Harwich and Manningtree Standard.

Tesco in Clacton also gave £150 towards the event.

Tendring District Councillors had the opportunity to put forward their nominations which represent a wide variety of organisations throughout the area.

They include men and women of all ages who do so much good work in and for their communities and are richly deserving of these accolades.

TDC Chairman Neil Stock said that he is delighted the Pride of Tendring Awards have been staged again this year and thanked all

those who have sponsored or supported the event.

The list of recipients is as follows:

John & Jen Upson

John has lived in Great Bromley for 26 years and was employed by the London Fire Brigade, until he suffered a series of injuries and had to leave.

Following an illness within their family, John and his wife Jen decided to set up and run a stall their front driveway to raise money for the St Helena Hospice. They run the stall throughout the year selling fruit, flowers, vegetables, kindling wood, jigsaw puzzles and books. All of their produce is grown from their own garden or from donations made by neighbours and friends.

John and Jen have devoted themselves to raising money for St Helena Hospice and have been running their last stall for the last 7 years. This year to date they have raised in excess of £4,500.

Marjorie Culham

Marjorie has been a volunteer for Guide Dogs for the Blind for about the last 50 years. She is an active fundraiser organising raffles and visiting fairs, fetes and events like the Tendring Show. She has also been a puppy walker for them for the last 25 years and you always see her out walking a dog in

training. She is chairman of the local branch and often gives talks to other organisations about the work of the charity.

In addition she runs a luncheon club once a month at the local church in Lawford which provides a meal as well as a meeting place for local people. She is also on the Parochial Church Council of the local church as a deanery representative and was once a Guide Leader for the local girl guide pack.

and

- Ben Chandler
- Betty Blower
- Brenda Davy
- Clive French
- Hayley Lovett

- Jamie Robinson
- Jane Robinson
- John Dunnett
- Richard Colley
- John Wolton
- Margaret Stone
- Nicola Moss
- Norman Jacobs
- Pandora Sarson
- Peter Bareham
- Walter Bensilum
- Susan Flanagan
- Suzanne McAree
- Tracy Cooke

ST HELENA HOSPICE STALL, BRIAR ROAD

We are now in receipt of the following letter from St Helena Hospice. As part of the letter appertains to all of you who support our stall we are once again printing the complete letter.

Many thanks.

Jenny and John

Letter dated 22nd November 2013 from Mark Jarman-Howe, Chief Executive of St Helena Hospice

“Thank you for the wonderful donation of £6,015.58 which you raised from selling fruit and vegetables outside your front door again this year. You have worked so hard over many years for St Helena Hospice and each year your donation increases. Please accept this letter as a form of receipt.

Thank you so much for all your energy and enthusiasm in raising this money which will be used for the care of our patients here at the Hospice and in the wider community.

Please pass on our thanks to all your contributors for their part in this wonderful venture.”



Many congratulations to John and Jenny for winning one of the Pride of Tendring Awards. A lot of time and effort is put into making their stall a success and it is even up and running during the winter months - they don't seem to take a holiday!

I also include the write up for Marjorie

Culham who many of you will have met when she visited our Brownies and Girl Guides when we had packs in the village. I expect many of you will also have met her through other organisations.

Well done the Upsons and well done Marjorie.



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

Head teacher: Julie O'Mara Telephone: 01206 230305

On Wednesday 18th December, we were visited by Thorulf the Viking. We were all dressed up, Mrs Fairley thought we looked fantastic! Thorulf introduced himself and why the Vikings came to Britain. We then carried out a quiz and comprehension session. Thorulf then showed us artefacts from the viking era, including a nit comb that looked exactly like the ones we still use today! We then played a viking board game about foxes and geese. After lunch, we learnt some of the viking language, looked at what the Vikings would have worn into Battle. Thorulf showed us how sharp his sword was and then the best part of the day!! We finished with a battle using the



swords and shields we had made in class. It was fantastic!

Class 3

Following on from the huge success of last year's Mother's Day lunch, children will be once again inviting their mums to have school lunch with them in the school hall on 28 March.



We are delighted to have appointed Mrs Sandell as a full time MDA and also Mrs Dykes will be our relief MDA. We warmly welcome them to our school team.



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

OFSTED INSPECTED JUNE 2013 -
OUTSTANDING

HAPPY NEW YEAR. It hardly seems possible that we have been in our new premises for a year now, it has gone so quickly. There are still many things to be done and we are constantly updating and improving. In December we had a new roof put on our 'sensory shed'. We would like to say a big thank you to Travis Perkins, Colchester for donating the materials required and also to the parents and helpers who carried out the work. Through fundraising we were able to then have the electricity connected, which now provides a valuable play space with its sensory equipment.

On the last day of term we visited 'Leonard Cheshire Disability' with the children and their parents. We played party games, including pass the parcel and then performed some Christmas songs for the residents. We had a lovely time, a warm thank you to them for inviting us and making us so welcome. We then returned to preschool for a lovely surprise -the shed was finished just in time to transform it into Santa's Grotto, the children's faces were worth all the effort when they walked in and saw Santa sitting there. We finished our morning with a party lunch (with lots of lovely food supplied by parents). A great way to finish the year, we are now looking forward to 2014.

To celebrate our first anniversary on the 15th January the children and staff wore fancy dress costumes for the day and

parents and carers were invited to a celebratory drink in the evening at the Old Courthouse Inn. Great fun!

Just a reminder that we are collecting the 'Nestle box tops', so please tell family and friends.

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.

Dates for Diary:

Mon 17th Feb.

Half Term

**GT BROMLEY &
DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB**



**100 Club Winners for
December 2013**

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 1st. | Mrs. Beryl Hurst |
| 2nd | Mrs. Gill Christmas |
| 3rd | Mrs. Judith Peeling |



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.

IN THE GARDEN WITH KATE



My garden is confused. Primroses have been flowering since before Christmas, snowdrops and some daisies are out, daffodils are showing to a height of about 1", and the anemones are peeping through the mulch. Combined with the amazing show of berries on the cotoneaster and holly, I really don't think the garden knows whether it is coming or going.

The unseasonably mild weather seems to have started everything off early- this time last year there was snow and severe frosts - and as the strong winds are not affecting the bulbs, they no doubt think it is much later in the year.

I do hope that most of you did not suffer from too much damage in the recent gales. We were very lucky and lost only three fence panels (very old) and a chimneypot. None of these did any collateral damage so I think, compared to the coastal regions, we got away very lightly.

With it being so mild, it is tempting to get ahead in the garden, but it is only January as I write, February when you read this, and by then we could be under a foot of snow! Actually I adore snow as I spent several years when I was growing up in Norway, but I know other people in England do not feel the same.

Whatever the weather brings, there are jobs you can do in the garden. If possible,

try to keep off the lawn if it is frosty or waterlogged. If that is not a complete contradiction, new beds and borders that have been planned need to be dug, incorporating lots of compost. Tubs and pots with winter bedding need to be regularly deadheaded. An army of volunteers are doing this for the village tubs, and the pansies in them are flowering their socks off.

Greenhouses need to be cleaned out and on mild days, doors and windows should be opened to dry them out and the glass kept as clean as possible to maximise light levels; all pots need to be washed ready for the spring.

Some seeds can be started under cover. Early vegetables such as lettuce, carrots, beetroot, radish and spinach can be raised in the greenhouse in pots in order to have an earlier harvest. Extra early new potatoes should be chitted ready to be planted out in March. Sweet peas can be sown, but I am not sure that ultimately it makes a difference. A trial of sweet peas on "Gardeners World" concluded that it made little difference ultimately whether they were planted in autumn, early spring or early summer.

Autumn fruiting raspberries need to be pruned as well as gooseberries, currants, apples and pears. I put ash from our wood fire around the currants and gooseberries in the winter, and it seems to increase their crop.

Finally, cut off and burn all the old leaves of hellebore- this enable the flowers to be seen when they bloom.

And I nearly forgot Happy New Year!

Kate Stowbridge

KITCHEN CORNER

CHOCOLATE CUP CAKES

A really quick and easy bake that children might enjoy doing!

115g (4oz) soft margarine
115 g (4 oz) caster sugar golden if possible.

2 medium eggs
115 g (4 oz) SR flour.
1 tsp baking powder
1 tbsp cocoa powder.

METHOD Put marg. Sugar and eggs in a bowl Sift in flour,BP and cocoa and beat all together with a wooden spoon till well mixed. 2-3 mins.

Stand 18 paper cases in a bun tin and half

fill with the mixture.

Baking. 170 C 15-20 mins till risen and firm to the touch. Cool on a wire rack.

ICING. 30g (1oz) soft margarine 2tsp cold water, 1tbsp cocoa powder 115g (4oz) golden icing sugar.

Melt marg.water and cocoa in a bowl over hot water. Remove from heat and beat in icing sugar till smooth and shiny. Place a spoonful on each cake and spread evenly.

Have fun!

Jill Frostick



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We are already into the New Year and looking forward to our monthly Meetings with a variety of interesting Speakers lined up to keep us entertained. Subs are now due and these will remain the same. We would like to see some new



faces joining us this year, so if you feel you would like to give us a try, do come along. We meet the third Thursday in each month at 2.30pm at the Village Hall where you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Our Speaker for February will be Paula Short whose talk will be on the life of Coco Chanel the French couturiere. The competition - a perfume bottle.

Sylvia Ward



ESSEX POLICE

If you need to talk to me for any Police Community problems, you can contact me on 07967466876, or 101 Ext 487603 (free phone) or email me leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police.uk. Please note if you leave a message I will try to reply to your call the day I am next on duty. Website: http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood.aspx
Thorpe le Soken Police Station,
Landermere Road, Thorpe le Soken, CO16 0LQ

These are the incidents in Gt Bromley for December

Criminal Damage - Harwich Road

Burglary other - Harwich Road - (Tools taken from out buildings)

Drugs - Back Lane East - (4 males in a vehicle smoking drugs)

Theft of Motor Vehicle - Park Road

Theft from Motor Vehicle - Frating Road - (Catalytic Converter taken)

Hare Coursing - Badley Hall Road

Suspicious Circumstances - Chase Road - (4 males acting suspiciously on farm land)

PCSO Barnes 71909

Ardleigh Surgery

On-line appointment booking

For a number of years the practice has offered patients the facility to order their repeat prescriptions on-line with details about the service available on the practice website at www.ardleighsurgery.nhs.uk. A link to the secure website Patient-EMIS Access is on the practice website.

The practice is now extending its on-line access to allow patients to book and cancel appointments with GPs via the same secure website. We are aware that not all of our patients have access to the internet and, therefore, a limited number of appointments will be made available for on-line booking. This is a service aimed mainly at working people who find it difficult to access the surgery by telephone during our opening hours. The facility to book appointments with nurses and other members of the clinical team is not being offered as many of their appointments are longer than the standard ten minutes owing to the more complex reasons for the appointment.

Details about the service and how to register for it is on the practice website with a launch date of the 20 January.

Patients already registered for on-line repeat prescriptions may be able to start on-line booking from the 20 January. If you cannot see the on-line booking option, please contact the surgery reception to have it switched on in your computer record. Other patients wishing to use either facility will have to register by presenting a photo-id at the surgery reception to receive the necessary log-in details.

GP Trainee changes

Dr Mukthar Ahmad one of our GP Trainees has now left having completed his training with the practice. Dr Amudha Sachitanandam continues with us. Dr Miriam John left having started her maternity leave on the 16 December. A new trainee, Dr Suthnima Haque will be starting with the practice at the beginning of February.

Did Not Attend appointments

We do not have a particular DNA problem compared to some of the town practices, but our nurses, assistant practitioner and phlebotomist do have a higher number of DNAs than the GPs. Bearing in mind that some of these appointments are for 30 minutes, it does mean that three appointments have been wasted that could have been offered to other patients. Can patients please remember to cancel their appointments as early as possible if they are unable to attend.

Fred Merrin



THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

Great Bentley Surgery



After all the storms we've had this winter, I'm wondering if we've got away with snow this year? Of course it's only half way through January whilst writing, so please don't

blame me for tempting fate if it has by the time you read this! Remember to look in on elderly neighbours from time to time during any bad weather we get.

Firstly, I need to remind everyone that urine samples must only be brought in if they have been requested and not if you just think you have an infection. Please speak to a doctor or nurse on the phone beforehand. Also, we are getting samples in all sorts of weird and wonderful containers, some of which can contaminate a sample and some leaky! Not nice for the receptionists I'm sure you will agree. If at all possible use one of our pots that are available from reception, if not possible use a very clean container that has a secure lid.

Our practice nurse Bonnie can often be seen around the village on her bike, but you may also see her training over the next few months. She is going to be running the London Marathon and is raising money for the local Salvation Army. This is a fantastic cause and all the money raised will go directly to help less fortunately people in the local area only. You can support Bonnie by making a donation or sponsoring her at the surgery or online at www.justgiving.com/bonnie-beard (don't forget the dash!). Rather her than me – good luck Bonnie!

Don't forget that you can get involved with the surgery by joining the Patient Participation Group. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at the

Great Bentley Village Hall and you can just turn up. The group really needs more members, so whether you can attend just once or every month, you're more than welcome!

That's it for me for another month. I would now like to hand you over to this month's guest writer Tracy Mooney our Nurse Practitioner.

Richard P Miller, Practice Manager



"I feel like I am wasting your time"

As a Nurse Practitioner this is something I hear all too often - and it is something that I feel very passionate about. It

upsets me to think that someone should feel guilty about discussing their problems. No one should ever feel that they are wasting my time. If something is causing them concern, (however small), they should speak about it. If it is enough to cause a worry or a question, it is enough for them to bring to my attention.

I have not been working here for long and do not know many of you yet but I want you to be aware that I am approachable and that I am more than happy to try and help you with your health issues- however, small they may first appear.

I work full time hours at the surgery so am available for a consultation on most days. If I cannot help you with your issues I will always endeavour to find someone that can! I just want you all to know, however, that am always willing to help as much as I can and that you are "Never wasting my time"

Tracy Mooney, Nurse Practitioner

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Happy New Year from the Parish Council. A Parish update for November and December is as follows:

A120

The Parish Council continue to lobby the Highways Agency and our MP Bernard Jenkin regards the proposed average speed restrictions on this well-known trunk road.

The Parish Council were concerned to hear that there had been further accidents over the Christmas period. The speed restriction of 50mph was introduced in December but without road signage and the speed cameras, the restriction is entirely unenforceable. At the time of writing however a formal announcement - which we have been told looks promising - is due in approximately two weeks. It is hoped therefore that by the time the Messenger goes to press, we will know exactly what is happening.

Horsley Cross

This proposed development is very much on the horizon again, as a last-minute vote at District level saw its inclusion in the Local Draft Plan. The Parish Council have long had concerns about this project not least owing to the effect that the increase in traffic will have on our village roads. The matter currently is undergoing a 6 week consultation exercise, due to end in mid-February. The Parish Council have submitted a letter of objection. The next step is that the draft local plan will be considered by a Planning Inspector at County Hall. It is hoped in due course that as many members of the public will attend as possible in order to show their dissatisfaction at the proposals. You are encouraged to register your views with TDC during this consultation exercise.

Trees

The new village trees have been planted at the recreation ground and look fantastic. A large proportion of this has been possible as

a result of a grant awarded by TDC. In addition a number of trees have been cut back at the Hare Green recreational site as they were overhanging the boundary into residents' gardens. Many thanks to Martin Frostick, our tree warden, for overseeing these projects.

War Memorial

The centenary of WW1 is on the horizon, and the Parish Council have been provided with a number of ideas as to how this occasion can be commemorated. The Parish Council are looking to make a decision on this very soon and further information will be published in the Messenger shortly.

s.137 Grants

Are you a community interest group, sports group or similar? The Parish Council has a small amount of funding available to assist any relevant group, provided the group can be accessed by the community at large. Any requests, detailing the amount sought and the purpose for which it is sought to be made in writing to me at clerk@gbpc.org.uk. Successful applicants will be invited to attend a future meeting to address the Parish Council on how the funds were used.

Essex boys and girls clubs

The parish council have been approached by a representative from Essex boys and girls clubs who can offer help and support to anyone wishing to start up a club for young people or for help running an existing club. The cricket club are looking at becoming affiliated with them and if anyone wishes any further information they can contact them on their website (<http://www.essexboysandgirlsclubs.org/>) or via the parish council.

Hare Green Recreation Ground

Hare green recreation ground is one of the oldest open spaces in the village having been a public open space since 1860 and as such it is a valuable asset which needs looking after.

A sub-committee of three (responsible to the Parish council) have traditionally looked after the recreation ground and at the moment this sub-committee is in need of new members, if anyone is interested in helping out please contact the parish council clerk.

Dog Fouling at the cricket field

It has been drawn to the attention of both the Parish Council and Cricket Club that there has been a number of incidences of dog mess being left on the cricket ground.

We would like to remind dog owners that this is a playing area used by adults and children throughout the year and that dog mess is a health hazard. There is a bin for disposal of dog mess and note that there is a £50 spot fine for anyone caught allowing their dog to foul the area. The cricket club/ Parish council also reserve the right to ban anyone letting their dog foul the cricket ground. Please be responsible and clear up after your animal for everyone's benefit

Laura Austin, Clerk

PLANNING

PLANNING DECISIONS

APP REF /DECISION	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
13/1104COUNOT - prior approval not required	Bosco House Farm, Harwich Road, Great Bromley	Change of use to B1 light industrial. Vehicular entrance upgraded as approval 09/00680.FUL
13/01060/FUL - approval, full	Prinrose Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR	Installation and operation of a ground mounted Solar PV system up to 34kw
APP REF	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
13/1291/LBC	Spread Eagle, Brook Street, Great Bromley	Proposed replacement of tile hanging with render on front dormers and replacement of front doors

The Council had no comments to make on the applications this month.

January Planning Decisions and Applications

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

APP REF	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
13/01120/FUL	The Chase, Chase Road East, Great Bromley	Single storey side extension and new windows
APP REF	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
13/01452/FUL	Land East of Hall Road, Great Bromley	Erection of an agricultural dwelling to replace temporary mobile home approved under 10/00585/FUL (Re-submission of 13/00980/FUL)

The Council unanimously determined to object to the above application as the proposal is oversized for an agricultural building and too intrusive on the landscape.

Great Bromley Parish Council budget and precept for 2014/15

At the December meeting the Great Bromley Parish Council set its budget and precept for the year 2014/15. The precept is the amount added to the annual council tax bill to cover the cost of running the parish council and split across the council tax payers in Great Bromley.

The budget has been set as £15,900, which is the same as last year, about £3,200 covers overheads such as insurance, audit, hall rental, subscriptions, postage and printing, £6,500 covers the maintenance of the recreation ground, Church Meadow, trees, summer flower tubs, grass and hedge cutting and footpaths (although ECC is responsible for most footpath maintenance), £3,000 covers the costs of employing the clerk and £2,000 is allocated to support local organisations within the village, we have allocated £1,000 towards marking the centenary of the Great War, the rest goes to a variety of things such as rubbish collection .

None of the councillors receive any

allowance and none claim any expenses, all contribute their time voluntarily. Unfortunately the precept will be increasing this year because Tendring District Council has changed the way that they cover the cost of council tax benefit. Last year they passed on the full government grant to the parishes, this year they have retained £142, this has resulted in a precept increase of 1.2%. On the bright side TDC are cutting their element of the council tax by 0.5%.

The bottom line is that each band D property will be paying £42.17 a year to fund the parish council, 11p a day.

If you would like to become involved with the Parish Council everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, held at the village hall at 7:30pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Parish Council elections will be held in May 2015 so if you would like to stand as a councillor please contact us.

Alan Thomas

Chairman Great Bromley Parish Council
chairman@gbpc.org.uk

Tender and quotation opportunities for Great Bromley Parish Council

The parish council has two opportunities for works to be carried out within the parish and are keen that these opportunities are offered to local companies / craftsmen.

Village notice boards

Three of the notice boards around the village are in urgent need of being replaced, a couple of years ago two of the others were upgraded, these are functionally OK but are rather less than ideal.

We are required to provide notice boards, positioned so that official notices are easily available to the people of Great Bromley. The parish council would like to replace the

remaining notice boards using an oak construction and would like to use a local craftsman. If you would be interested in quoting for the supply of these notice boards please contact us at clerk@gbpc.org.uk

Maintenance of the parish council's grass and hedges

The grass cutting and maintenance of the hedges and ditches owned by the parish council is carried out under contract which will next run from 1st April 2014 through to 31st March 2015.

If you would like to tender for this work please contact clerk@gbpc.org.uk to

receive a tender pack which must be returned by 1st March 2014

Community Group Grants

The Parish Council makes small grants to community groups. If you run a group and would like to apply for a grant please contact clerk@gbpc.org.uk , this year we

can make grants of up to £250, the deadline for application is 31st January.

Alan Thomas

Chairman Great Bromley Parish Council.

chairman@gbpc.org.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NEWS

Broadband

TDC have contracted MLL to provide Tending with wireless Broadband. It is already up and running in Clacton and will be spreading out . They will be providing commercial properties in Clacton with up to 40mb at a cost of £100 per month. By the summer of 2014 the A120-A133 corridor will have broadband with speeds of up to 24mb. A speed of 5mb will cost about £15 per month (This includes Great & Little Bromley)

BT in conjunction with ECC intend to introduce "Better Broadband" by 2016, this will give speeds of 2mb.

Fred Nicholls

A120

Confirmation has been received from both

Bernard Jenkin and the Highways Authority that we can expect an announcement by the end of the month when the speed cameras will be in place. Also pressure is being put on the Highways Authority regarding Park Road junction which has seen a number of vehicles demolish the Park Road and other signs and finish up in the farmers field.

Andy Jobling of The Highways Authority has informed me

" I can confirm improvements to the Park Road junction will be undertaken as part of the speed reduction works. I expect an announcement regarding the programme for delivery to be made shortly."

Fred Nicholls



Donkey Caption Competition

Richard Perry on behalf of The Bromley Messenger presenting Liz and Ian together with their friends, Willow and Tia, their prize for winning November's Caption Competition.

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

littlebromleypc@gmail.com

Welcome to 2014 from Little Bromley Parish Council.

We start the new year with a new Councillor - Mrs Dawn Newton has joined the Parish Council. Dawn is the landlady of The Haywain so we feel she will be a great asset to the Council and welcome her to our team.

We also have a new footpath warden - Mr Robert Barrett. If anyone has any issues with any of the footpaths round Little Bromley then Robert can be contacted on 07767 238869 - we look forward to a new period of settled working at our Parish Council.

We heard just before Christmas that the proposed speed limit to 30 mph along Bentley Road has been turned down after one complaint - the Council have requested that this is reviewed again so we will report

back when we have heard from the Highways.

The Chairman has written to Tendring Council on our behalf to enquire why the land at Horsley Cross, despite Tendring's own Consultants recommending that this is an unsuitable site for development, has been included in the 10 year plan.

The Council would like to encourage any resident of our Village to contact the Council if they have any issues that they think we can help with - the Parish Council is here to work for you.

The next meeting will be held at The Haywain on Thursday, 13th March at 7.30pm.

Wishing you all a good 2014.
Anita Spall

theWI

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

December should be a time of celebration and enjoyment. Gt. Bromley Women's Institute certainly supplied this in abundance for its Christmas meeting. The hall was in festive mode, very well decorated



by members of the committee with superb table decorations made by Jean. We were greeted with a drink either alcoholic or a soft, plenty of time to chat and catch up before we began the evening's entertainment. What a

delight this was to be! The group "Chorus Icenii" began their selection of music. Chorus Icenii is a member of the Ladies Association of British Barber Shop Singers, so everyone will know what an excellent programme they have.

After several renditions we stopped for a festive buffet, which had been supplied by the members of the Bromley Institute group, this was readily devoured by all and thoroughly enjoyed. What a talented group they all are. We then returned to The Icenii for their second half which included some well known favourites and the assembled company were invited to join in. We all duly obliged thus completing what was a very enjoyable meeting.

There was no meeting in January as it fell on New Years Day, but we will meet as usual on the first Wednesday in February.

Joy Rolfe

2014 EVENTS



FEBRUARY

- 1 Charles Dickens Magic Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 3 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Little Bromley Amenities Group Bingo night, the Haywain, 7.30pm
- 10 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 15 Alternative Quiz Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 20 Friendship Club meeting, 2.30pm
- 22 Lt Bromley Litter Pick, Village car park, 10.00am
- tba Whist Drive, Village Hall, Watch this space

MARCH

- 2 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 9 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 Meeting of Village Hall Trustees, Village Hall, 8.00pm
- 13 Friendship Club meeting, 2.30pm
- Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 16 A.P.C.M., St Mary's church, Ardleigh
- 23 A.P.C.M., St George's church, Great Bromley, 12 noon
- tba Murder Mystery Night, Village Hall

APRIL

- 6 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 17 Friendship Club meeting, 2.30pm
- 18 Easter Egg Hunt, Little Bromley
- 19 Essex & Suffolk Point to Point, Higham

MAY

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 15 Friendship Club meeting, 2.30pm
- 17 Charity Quiz Night, Haywain, 7.30pm

JUNE

- 1 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 7 Mind, Body & Spirit, Village Hall
- 8 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 12 Friendship Club meeting, 2.30pm

Venture Centre, Lawford

Zumba Class

Monday evenings - 7.15pm to 8.00pm ,
for further information contact Debbie Millar
01206 230806 or e-mail
debbie@debbiemillar.co.uk

Vacancy at Venture Quilters

Venture Quilters run by Jenny Lankester, mixed
ability classes fortnightly during the year. A

space has become available in the Tuesday
class. For more info contact Jenny on 01473
310337 or jenlank@bopenworld.com

New Patchwork & Quilting

class to start on Monday 27th January
10.00 - 3.00pm every other Monday
Beginners welcome - friendly informal classes
£15.00 per session
For further information contact Pauline Wilson on
07921 682057 or pauline596@btinternet.com

Village Hall Events

at the Village Hall, Great Bromley

The Secret World of Charles Dickens



Mirth, Marvels and the Mysterious

Great Bromley Village Hall
Saturday 1st Feb 2014 at 8pm
suitable for over 16yrs only

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Tickets from Cross Inn Post Office
or Kate Strowbridge 07592735600

Alternative Quiz

Dust your brains off for the New Year!
Come to the quiz

Great Bromley Village Hall
15th Feb 2014 7.30pm
Tables of up to 8 people
£2 per head

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Book a table on
07592735600 Kate Strowbridge

Whist Drive

date tba

Murder Mystery Night

entitled 'Murder at St Cakes'

It is set in a school Founders Day celebration. I am really looking forward to this one!
Date tba

June 7th
provisional date for the next

Mind Body and Spirit

event in 2014
more info soon.

BINGO

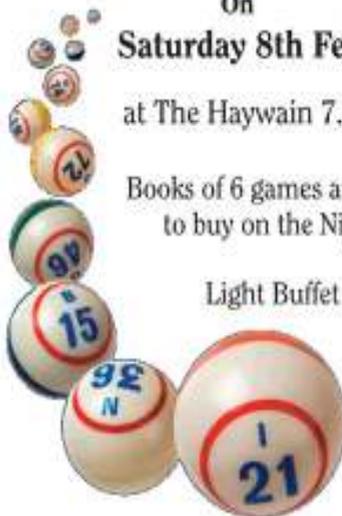
On

Saturday 8th February

at The Haywain 7.30 start

Books of 6 games at £2.50
to buy on the Night

Light Buffet



Come along and enjoy a social evening with

Little Bromley Amenities Group

Little Bromley Amenities Committee

Future Events

8th February - Fun Bingo Night at the Haywain commencing 7:30pm

22nd February - Little Bromley Litter Pick - 10am at the Village Car Park

7th April - Little Bromley Amenities Group Meeting commencing at 6pm at the Haywain

18th April - Little Bromley Amenities Group Easter Egg Hunt

17th May - Charity Quiz Night at the Haywain commencing 7:30pm.

THE LOCAL HUNT & POINT TO POINT

The fox hunt used to be an integral part of our communities. Whilst at primary school I clearly remember being allowed out of class to see the Essex & Suffolk Hunt gather around the Spread Eagle and spill into the Pirie's drive. We pressed our faces between the railings in great excitement over the sounds and smells of the hounds and horses! The fox hunting season runs from November to March, the hunt meeting at various of the local pubs three times a week, usually Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. The Boxing Day meet still draws a crowd; it was at Frinton for many years but currently at Hadleigh. The hunt is not a common sight around here nowadays thanks to the busy roads carving through and around Great Bromley.

I have a picture here of two young girls on their donkeys, watching the hunt meet



outside the Black Boy pub in winter 1935-6. Ten Points for anyone who knows who they are! Can you believe that was the main London-Harwich Road?

The hunt tended to be very sociable and alcoholic drinks were known to be rather popular! There was an annual ball held at the Colchester Garrison Officer's Club with its superb dance floor (recently destroyed by fire).

Another important side to the hunt is point to point race meets, used to raise money for hunt funds and to entertain the farmers and other hunt supporters. Apart from a members' race, where the host hunt members can run anything, all entrants

have to be thoroughbred horses that have hunted with hounds at least four times (formerly 10 times) and ridden (without pay) by a member of a hunt. The races are usually on a three mile circuit with 17 fences.

This sport is also known as steeplechasing which is said to originate from Ireland in the mid 18th Century. Two men had a race on their hunters between two points by a course of their own making, over hedges and ditches as necessary, to the church steeple used as a visual marker for the finish. This term is now used to describe horse racing with obstacles, the best known organised "steeplechases" being the Grand National & Cheltenham Gold Cup, although these big races are professional and not run under local hunt rules.

Percy Crossman of Great Bromley Hall was Essex Master of Hounds between 1921-25, at a time when there were two packs either side of the border, and the meet was held at Great Bromley in 1924, 1926 and 1928. Around that time the course and venue varied year to year, also being in Aldham, Assington, Boxford, Horsley Cross, Little Clacton and Mistley. Then from 1929-38 all the races for our hunt were held at Wick Farm, Layer-de-la-Haye. Tony Rampling recalls going to Little Clacton Lodge at Thorpe-le-Soken in 1939, perhaps the last time an official point to point was held in Tendring? After the war Goldings at Newton Green (near Sudbury) became the new venue until 1957. The current course at Higham opened in 1958.

Sue and Tony Rampling were keen participants for many years and had quite some success. Others were Bob Stennett, Marion & John Burgoyne of Little Bentley, and the Coopers in Little Bromley to name but a few. Edgar Cooper won the member's race five times in the 1950s.

Fred Nicholls recalls the race meets being a great social occasion with many of our

locals making the trip for a flutter at Higham and also at Marks Tey (the East Essex Hunt). He remembers many friends piling into "Jock" Pirie's car because the entry ticket was by way of a car parking fee, so the more in the car the merrier! These days I think they count heads...

The Point-to-Point season is under way, running December to June. This year the Essex & Suffolk meet at Higham is on Saturday 19th April.

© Hugh G Frostick 2014

Sources: "See How They Ran" (Mary Paul & Juliet Allerton); Michael Kutapan's point to point course history on <http://jumpingforfun.co.uk/> With kind thanks to Sue & Tony Rampling, Fred & Jenny Nicholls and Natalie Smith.

LITTLE BROMLEY AMENITIES GROUP

Children's Xmas party

On 7th December we held our first Children's Xmas party in the Haywain venue hall. The afternoon started with a competition where everyone had to make and decorate a Xmas hat which

was won by Charlie. Fun and games then commenced with lots of prizes being awarded for the winners of the games, this was followed by a buffet. A big thank you to Wendy who did the face painting which was very popular. The highlight of the afternoon was a visit from Father Christmas who gave all the Children a present.

Philippines Disaster Fund

Over the last couple of months the Amenities Group have been collecting donations for the Philippines Disaster. We placed a collection box on the bar at the Haywain and have collected £51.90. Thanks to everyone who donated, we will be passing this money on to the relevant organisation.

Village Litter Pick Saturday 22nd February

We will be meeting at the Village Car Park at 10am. High viz jackets will be provided but please bring gloves. Dawn will be supplying refreshments at the Haywain for all participants afterwards.



VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES



Happy New Year. The new year has started very much warmer than last year so the Hall, as everyone else, will be saving on heating costs. May the mild weather continue.

Since the last writing we have held four events, The Table Top Sale, the Christmas Fayre, the New Year's Eve Event and the Big Breakfast. Incomes first: The Table Top Sale raised £248, The Christmas Fayre raised £1411, which was split 50/50 with the Church so £705 each, the New Year's Eve Event raised £1200 and the Big Breakfast made £145.25. Well done and a big thank you to everyone involved, great effort, brilliant events, well run and enjoyed by all.

Kate was organising the Table Top Sale and reported that it went well but the foot fall was a little lower than anticipated. Filipe organised the Christmas Fayre with the Church this year. We had a much better turn out of children this time and are hoping that the new ideas we have had will continue this trend. The New Year's Eve event has received huge praise from many different people. The dynamic team of Jayne Bates and Dinah Jones work absolute magic to organise this very successful event. The Big Breakfast should have been called the Huge Breakfast with 2 big sausages, 2 pieces of bacon, 2 eggs, baked beans, tomatoes, black pudding, cereal, toast, jam, honey, tea and coffee. A very big thank you to Primrose Pork who supplied the top class meat items and to a mother daughter team of Marion and her daughter Kay Britton who cooked, Kate and Mary and all the usual suspects in the helping department. Thank you all.

Saturday February 1st 2014 at 7:30 pm sees the Hall staging a Charles Dickens Magic Night, full of mirth, marvels and mysteries. Tickets are £8 each for this cabaret style seating night. Please book your table, bring your own food and drink. It promises to be something a little different. We are holding a quiz on February 15th known as the "Alternative Quiz" which has been very popular in the past. Teams of eight max please and only £2 per head, bring your own

nibbles and drink and note that there will be a raffle. The Whist Drive that was planned for the end of February is being delayed as is the long awaited Murder Mystery Night. June 7th is a provisional date for the next Mind Body and Spirit event in 2014, more info soon. Watch out for further Big Breakfasts too.

The Film night plans are moving with committee members Jaquie Terry and David Beech doing a bit of research on how other Halls in our area run their events. It is looking like a visit to Langham and/or Polestead is being planned. If we think it is worth doing we may well run a test night so watch this space.

Thinking about holding a special event? Thought of hiring the Village Hall? Our prices are very competitive with a Village resident being able to hire the main hall for as little as £14.00 per hour.

The full prices per hour are:- Village users, Main Hall £14, Millennium Hall £8, Committee Room £6, Small Hall £5, Kitchen (in isolation, non commercial) £5, Main and Millennium Hall £20

Non Village resident Main Hall £16.50, Millennium Hall £9.50, Committee Room £7, Small Hall £6, Kitchen (in isolation, non commercial) £6, Main and Millennium Hall £23.

Over the last few years it has been upgraded to one of the better halls in the area with the exterior painting, new kitchen, new toilets, interior painting, floors sealed, new cleaning regime, new heating controls and a large de-clutter. Details of the Hall are on the web site. If you have not been down to the Hall recently why not take a look and see if we can help you? Mary Fawcett is in charge of our booking and her details are on the inside cover of The Bromley Messenger.

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!

Next meeting Tuesday March 11, 2014 at the normal time of **8:00pm**.

David Beech

TAILS FROM PRIMROSE FARM



Well Christmas is over and a Happy New Year, What a busy year we have had with Christmas orders , turkeys, 3 bird roasts, 2 bird roasts, Swedish roasts, pork bellies, loins, legs, sausages, chipolatas, pigs in blankets, gammons and hams, all went out very efficiently, took a great deal of organisation and hard work!! didn't sell my turkey!!!! Everyone worked hard producing so many sausages to compliment the Christmas dinner.

The wet and windy weather has been persistent in December causing the farm pond which is a good reflection on the water table to rapidly fill up. We now have a little covey of English partridges that stroll with grace and decorum around the farm, we are regularly feeding them with wild bird mixture. This is now one the conditions of the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

The **Grey Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*) also known as the **English Partridge**, **Hungarian Partridge**, or **Hun**, is a gamebird in the pheasant family The Grey Partridge is a rotund bird, 28–32 cm long, brown-backed, with grey flanks and chest. The belly is white, usually marked with a large chestnut-brown horse-shoe mark in males, and also in many females. Hens lay up to twenty eggs in a ground nest. The nest is usually in the margin of a cereal field, most commonly Winter wheat. The only major and constant difference between the sexes is the so-called cross of Lorraine on the tertiary coverts of females – these being marked with two transverse bars, as opposed to the one in males. These are present after around 16 weeks of age when the birds have moulted into adult plumage. Young Grey Partridges are mostly yellow-brown and lack the distinctive face and underpart markings. The song is a harsh *kieerr-ik*, and when disturbed, like most of the gamebirds, it flies a short distance on rounded wings, often calling *rick rick rick* as it rises. They are a seed-eating species, but the young in particular take insects as an essential protein supply. During the first 10 days of life, the young can only digest insects. The parents lead their chicks to the edges of cereal fields, where they can forage for insects. They are also a non-migratory terrestrial species, and form flocks outside the breeding

season.

Though common and not threatened, it appears to be declining in numbers in some areas of intensive cultivation such as Great Britain, probably due to a loss of breeding habitat and possibly food supplies. Their numbers have fallen in these areas by as much as 85% in the last 25 years.

SMOKY PORK SAUSAGE HASH

INGREDIENTS

400g (14oz) Lincolnshire sausages
5mlsp (1tsp) Oil
1 Onion, chopped
2 Garlic cloves, crushed
5mlsp (1tsp) Mild chilli powder
2 x 5mlsp (2tsp) Ground turmeric
225g (8oz) Easy-cook brown rice
450ml (16fl oz) Pork stock
1 x 400g (approx.) Can chopped tomatoes
Ground black pepper
3 Whole cloves
5 Spring onions, chopped (reserve some green tips for garnish)
½ Red pepper, seeded and chopped
100g (4oz) Button mushrooms, quartered
1 Courgette, halved lengthways then sliced diagonally
METHOD

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and cook the sausages over a medium heat until browned. Remove from the pan and keep to one side. When cool enough to handle, cut each sausage in half. Meanwhile, add the onion, garlic, chilli powder, turmeric and rice to the pan and cook until the rice is opaque. Add the stock, chopped tomatoes and pepper. Bring to the boil, cover with a lid and simmer for 20 minutes. Add the sausages and the remaining ingredients and continue to cook uncovered for a further 10 minutes or until the liquid is absorbed. Sprinkle with the green tips of the spring onions before serving.

Karen Moss



St Helena Hospice
your time...your hospice

Bookbuster Book Sale

St Helena Hospice is holding a book sale at St Helena School, Sheepen Road, Colchester, on Saturday 22nd February 2014, from 10am to 2pm.

The book sale is a perfect opportunity to find quality books at bargain prices, as there will be a wide range of books on sale including fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

Entry is just 50p per person, and a bag of books will cost you just £3, with all proceeds going to St Helena Hospice. For more information, please contact the Retail team on 01206 791740.

FRIENDS OF LT BROMLEY CHURCH

The afternoon of Saturday, 21st December found the church filled with young and old participating in the carol service. The readings, solos and choir singing and enthusiastic carol singing made for a very happy time. The refreshments aided all the conversation afterwards! The collection for the Churches Conservation Trust raised £250, with further donations being made. Our thanks to you all for your generosity. There will be various events this year, the details will be published in The Messenger. We look forward to seeing you during 2014.

Susan Scott

MESSY CHRISTINGLE

On Sunday 1st December at Ardleigh Village hall, we held our Messy Christingle. We were pleased to welcome around 35 children and their adults as we learnt about the season of Advent and why we have Christingle. We also discussed the Children's Society and how important their work is with young children.

The children all enjoyed making their Christingles with oranges, sweets and candles. At the end of the afternoon they went outside and sang holding their lit Christingles.

Many crafts had been made during the session and this was followed by a more detailed recap about the Christingle, before enjoying a light tea in the hall.

It was a lovely afternoon and we would like thank all our helpers for their help at our session, we would also like to thank all those who attended.

Keep an eye out for our next Messy Church session which should be advertised in the next magazine. Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Carol Cordwell

THANKS

English Cooked Breakfast

What a great way to start a Sunday morning in the New Year .

60 of us had a brilliant full English Cooked Breakfast in the village hall on Sunday 5th January, beautifully laid out with gingham Table Cloths, helpful people to assist with Tea and Coffee, Cereal, Toast and a very nice Cooked Breakfast (even Sunday papers) all for £6.00 , many thanks to Marion and her team for a great start to the day, keep up the good work and when is the next one please.

Linda Pinhey



PUBLIC INTEREST



North East Essex
Clinical Commissioning Group

Yellow men arrive in Colchester on Friday 10th January to help patients understand where to get treated when they need it

Colchester Hospital, along with many others, is very busy at the moment and there is pressure on the A&E department in particular.

To help people understand where to go to get the quickest advice and help for their condition a team from North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group will be out in Colchester together with a family of 12 sculptures – each suffering from a different ailment from a grazed knee to unstoppable bleeding. The ailments are colour coded to the NHS services that is best for this type of treatment.

In North East Essex people can get advice and help by ringing 111 or from the website www.getwellessex.com or from your local pharmacy, indeed there are a number of different avenues people can use to get the most appropriate medical advice they need.”

Among the local NHS services available to you are:

- **Call 111** - If you are unwell, and unsure where best to get medical help, please call 111 who will give you good advice about where you can get the most appropriate and usually the quickest and most convenient medical help. 111 operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- **Use the website www.getwellessex.com** - You can enter your postcode and symptoms on the website and get good initial advice on where to get help.
- **Use the pharmacy** - If you're ill at the weekend, you can ask your pharmacist (chemist) for advice. Many people don't realise that your local pharmacist (chemist) is qualified to give you medical advice on treatment for common illnesses.
- **Your GP** - Your GP (doctors surgery) is there for every kind of medical problem except life threatening emergencies.

There are a number of other services locally

where you can get help quickly:

The Emergency Dental Line 0845 0833 337

North Colchester Walk-in centre, Colchester Primary Care Centre, Turner Road, Colchester, telephone 01206 314015

– This is a GP-led service providing treatment for minor injuries and illnesses, no appointment is necessary. Please note that as there are no X-ray facilities on site they cannot treat suspected fractures. Open from 7am until 10pm seven days a week.

Clacton Minor Injury Unit, Clacton Hospital, Tower Road, telephone 01255 201594

– This is a nurse-led service providing treatment for minor injuries, eg cuts, sprains and fractures. Open from 9am until 9pm seven days a week.

Harwich Minor Injury Unit, Fryatt Hospital, Main Road, Dovercourt, telephone 01255 201226

- This is a nurse-led service providing treatment for minor injuries, eg cuts, sprains and fractures. Open from 9am until 5pm seven days a week.

On the web all local NHS services can be found via www.nhs.uk

Please only use the accident and emergency (A&E) department at Colchester General Hospital in Turner Road for critical or life-threatening situations requiring medical attention. That way, patients who really need to be treated there can get treated quickly.

Often waiting times at A&E for less seriously ill patients can be several hours, and we know that one out of every four people who go to A&E could have been treated elsewhere in the community, or even at home.

Colchester Hospital, the East of England Ambulance Service, the NE Essex CCG, Anglia Community Enterprise Essex County Council's social care and other partner organisations are doing everything possible to mobilise all staff and facilities to take pressure off the hospital.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Quite frequently householders don't realise that they have uninvited 'guests' in their homes until they get woken up one night to hear things moving about in their roof spaces. This quiet, undisturbed part of the house is very often where a variety of pests are to be found.

Rats, mice and squirrels will not only keep you awake at night, they will happily chew wood, plastic pipes and wires, which could have disastrous consequences. Wasps and bees often use roof spaces and chimneys to build their nests and cluster flies will return year after year to hibernate in their hundreds, sometimes thousands, in favoured properties.

A new pest to the UK, the Harlequin Ladybird, has also taken to hibernating in large numbers in lofts. Given the opportunity, some birds will also make their nests beneath your roof and a surprisingly large number of houses will have bats taking up residence at certain times of the year. So, what do you do about your unwanted guests?

Roof spaces are potentially dangerous places

Firstly, you need to find out what you've got – but a word of warning. Roof spaces are usually unpleasant and dangerous places to work in. Unless they have been fitted with retractable ladders and have been boarded out, they are often difficult and dangerous to access and investigate. Coming face to face with an angry squirrel or a swarm of wasps, in the dark, whilst balancing on rafters on all fours, is not to be recommended.

Secondly, you then need to decide what to do once you've identified the intruder – without breaking the Law. The UK has some of the oldest and most comprehensive Laws protecting wildlife of anywhere in the world.

Even pests have legal protection

Let's take squirrels for example. You cannot simply throw some rat poison in and hope for the best as it is illegal to use rat or mouse poison against squirrels. In fact, no poison available to the Public is approved for use against these animals. Not that poisoning would be such a good idea, as they have a tendency to die in inaccessible places, which can render a property uninhabitable whilst it decays.

You can buy live-catch traps in some garden centres, but if you get lucky and catch one, what do you do with it then? As the grey squirrel is classed as an 'alien invasive species', it is illegal to release them into the wild. Once caught, they have to be despatched humanely and drowning them in a water butt is not considered humane. This is not explained on the instructions for use that come with the trap when you buy it though, is it? We would not recommend 'Doing It Yourself' with this particular species.

All birds in the UK, their nests and eggs, are protected by Law – even when they become a pest. A small number of species can be controlled, but only in certain ways and for particular reasons. Being a nuisance to you in your house is not a suitable reason. What do you do then?

All bats are protected by Law. It is even an offence to *disturb* a bat roost, with a potential fine of £5000 per bat. Some roosts can contain several dozen individuals, so that could be an expensive mistake to make. Fortunately bats do no harm at all, unless they are present in very large numbers, which is very rare.

Of course, if bats are present, treating the roof space for any pest then becomes a no-no, unless you get permission from the appropriate authorities, but would you know how to go about getting this? Would you even know you had bats?

Deal with the problem quickly, safely and effectively – call out a professional

Professional pest controllers spend a lot of time, effort and money in becoming properly trained to deal with all these problems to give their customers safe and effective pest control services.

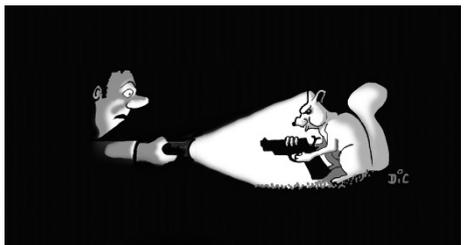
This training is checked by the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) before allowing companies or individuals to join. The NPTA also check that their members are properly insured for the work they carry out. This is particularly important when working in roof spaces. An uninsured tradesman that is injured on your property could end up suing you. The elite members of the Association, their 'Accredited Members', are also audited regularly to make sure they are operating to the highest industry standards. The NPTA can help you find a professional pest controller near you to ensure a solution to your uninvited guests. They could also save you time and money in the long run compared to Doing It Yourself.

Roof spaces are potentially dangerous places



There is lots more information on our website www.eandspestsolutions.co.uk or if you prefer to speak to a human, please feel free to contact us for further advice or assistance on 01473 328092 or 07979 301334.

Nick Collinson, Owner/Manager - Essex & Suffolk Pest Solutions Ltd



PUBLIC INTEREST

Lasting power of attorney – a brief on how it affects you

Lasting powers of attorney (LPAs) in English law were created under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and came into effect on 1 October 2007. Their purpose is to meet the needs of those who can see a time ahead when they will not be able – or in the words of the Act, will lack capacity – to look after their own personal and financial affairs. The LPA system is administered by the Office of the Public Guardian. The word attorney in this context is someone (or in some circumstances a solicitor or company) legally appointed to act for another person. The person giving the power is known as the donor.

The LPA allows you to make arrangements for family or trusted friends to be authorised to make decisions on your behalf if you ever lack the capacity to do so. There are two LPAs: one for property and financial affairs and one for Health and Welfare and any one over the age of 18 can make one as long as they have the capacity to understand the implications.

Remember it is not just relevant for older people but also younger ages as well – such as following a head injury accident, or a stroke which could be either temporary or permanent.

Your attorneys can be anyone (over 18) who can ensure your wishes and feelings are upheld if you ever lose the capacity to make those decisions. When you are appointed as an attorney, you are placed in a position of trust and you must always act in the best interests of the donor. In some cases, someone who is bankrupt can't be an attorney. If you do not have or want your immediate family then you can appoint a solicitor or company to do so for you. Professional attorneys can charge for their services.

There are a number of ways to sign and register the forms. You can download these from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/lasting-power-of-attorney-forms> and using the guidance, process them yourself.

If this is too daunting there are solicitors and other cheaper options available to either assist you or undertake the task for you.

A fee is payable at the time of registration: it is currently £110 per LPA, but exemption or reduction is allowed in some cases. An LPA must be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) before it can be used.

Once someone has lost their mental capacity, it's no longer possible to make a LPA. However, it is possible to apply to the Court of Protection (usually family or someone who knows the person well) can ask the Court of Protection to appoint them as a deputy. If there's no friend or family member who is suitable or willing to act as a deputy, the Court of Protection can appoint a professional from a panel.

I hope this has been of some use to your understanding of Lasting Power of Attorney. If you would like further clarification or information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gillian Thomas
www.gillianthomas.co.uk:
gill@gillianthomas.co.uk:
0 7 5 8 1 1 3 2 4 5 7

TENDRING DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

Tendring District Council have just published their Local Plan 'Pre-Sub mission Focussed Changes' document and have notified those 800 or so residents who responded to the first draft of the proposed new Local Plan which was published for views at the end of 2012. All residents may now inspect the full schedule of their "Pre-Submission Focussed Changes" at Clacton Town Hall, the Weeley Council Offices, any

of the district's local libraries or on the Council's website www.tendringdc.gov.uk. TDC will receive comments on their form provided, by letter, fax or e-mail until 5.00pm on Monday 17th February. One of the changes included is to allow development of land at Horsley Cross.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT

Wanted

Usable table tennis table for village hall.
Needed for badminton club for children to play when not on court.
If you have one that you could donate, please contact Kate Strowbridge
07592735600

CHURCH JOTTINGS

December 1st crept up on us before we knew it. Arch Deacon Annette led a memorable service for Advent. The choir magnificent, led by Gregory took us through a service entitled "Darkness into Light" a service most fitting to focus minds and thoughts towards the festivities to come later in the month. The readings for the evening were read most ably by representatives of organisations in The Bromleys. We thank everyone who took part and read with great clarity, conviction and confidence.

Peter Clayton was our organist and we were pleased to have him with us. Our collection of £135.74 has been donated to the Night Shelter in Colchester. The congregation stayed on to enjoy wine and nibbles which followed the service.

December 7th St. George's Church helped organise the traditional Christmas Fayre. We thank all those who helped to make this morning (from 10am to 1pm) such a success. The grand total of £1500 (after expenses) to be shared equally between the Village Hall and the Church. The raffle distributed to all our electoral roll members proved to be a good money spinner with excellent prizes.

We were pleased to welcome St George's School on December 19th for their end of term carol service, the church now looked beautiful. The wardens and the P.C.C. would like to thank those of you who worked so hard, the theme this year white and gold the flowers and the candles were lovely, thank you also to Philippe Farn for the donation of the beautiful Christmas Tree

this year, Martin who delivered and erected the tree, and two new flower arrangers who joined us for the first time.

The School Carol Service as usual was a moving occasion the prayers and the singing concluding with "O Come All Ye Faithful" set the scene for our Christmas to follow this year. The Mince Pies were tasty too.

Little Bromley Carols by candlelight on the afternoon of December 21st was magical and well supported by the community. The brass candelabras shone, the candles flickered as Gregory led us through a service of nine lessons and carols, delicious refreshments were to follow and again thank you to all who contributed. The collection that afternoon was donated to the Churches Conservation Trust.

December 22nd at 6.30pm saw singers, players taking part in the Benefice Carol Service at Ardleigh. The St George's choir in good voice and handbell players from Colchester made the evening memorable at this service led by our Rural Dean Peter Mann.

Christmas Eve, with candles twinkling along the pathway to the church, and we were all set for the Crib Service at 5.30pm Mums, Dads, grandparents, children approximately 90 in total came to St. George's for a very special service organised by Carol Cordwell and led by Laura Garnham. "Away In A Manger" sung in the candlelight was truly moving, focusing mind and thoughts to the true meaning of Christmas. The children played a large part in our service reading prayers, lessons, collecting the offering of envelopes for the Children's Society giving out programmes and sweets. Thank you to all the children and young people who came we appreciate everything you do. £134 was raised for the Childrens Society. Christmas Eve Midnight service began at

11.30pm. a huge number of congregation, thank you all for coming. The Rev. Harry Boreham led our service on this very special evening. St. Barnabas, a charity for retired priests was chosen as the recipient of this collection of £166.49. The P.C.C. of the Bromleys, so very grateful for all the retired priests who have willingly helped us during the last eight months, voted the collection to be donated to this worthy cause.

Ann Fairley is to be applauded too for all her hard work. It was not easy to find priests to lead all our services in Ardleigh and the Bromleys over the Christmas period and she did a magnificent job. Thank you Ann and well done.

We now look towards 2014. Our A.P.C.M is on March 23rd at 12 mid day (Annual Parochial Church Meeting). This is your opportunity to join us on the electoral roll, join the Parochial Church Council and become part of the team that cares deeply about the churches in The Bromleys. You will be most welcome, if you would like more information please speak to Ann or myself, we are always available.

Jenny Nicholls, Churchwarden

FROM THE REGISTER

Funeral

24th December 2013

George Robert Michael Henderson

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY



Church of England Services - February

Sunday 2nd		Presentation of Christ - Candlemas	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist with Procession	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 9th		4th Sunday Before Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	4.00pm	Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 16th		3rd Sunday Before Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 23rd		2nd Sunday Before Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 2nd March		Sunday Next Before Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Wednesday 5th		Ash Wednesday - The First Day of Lent	
	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes <i>Incense will be used</i>	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

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