

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

February 2016

Volume 30 No 10



**FUN
OVER CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR**

THE FIRST PAGE

Computers and the internet are both a blessing and a curse. So is the telephone. The combination of these technical items can turn lives upside down with people losing much money. I frequently have phone calls about boiler replacements, PPI, accident claims, solar panels and computers et al; I usually put the phone down on them.

Settling down to do The Bromley Messenger this month I had a phone call purportedly from the Technical Department in Microsoft (telephone number displayed 01000000000) and they worried me. They wanted to sort out a hacking Microsoft had discovered in my computer. They wanted various details which I didn't give them. They wanted access to my computer which I denied. They then threatened to cut off my computer ID licence (I don't even know what that is) if I wasn't sensible and do as I was told. I told them to go away and I put the phone down. However they continued to ring me telling me how foolish I was not to listen to them. I rang my son as they worried me lest I should be listening! I was told by my son I was doing the right thing and that they were scammers trying to get into my machine. They continue to ring me at periodic intervals and I now just don't answer the phone. But they have unnerved and worried me and I hate the fact that they 'got to me' and under my skin.

On page 5 you will find information about Superfast Essex, the latest government initiative regarding rural broadband as well as a piece by Graeme of Little Bromley on the same subject. Some of you have County Broadband which has good speeds but many of us (including me) get no reception from it. I now have a wi-fi receiver completely separate from the telephone and BT, sourced by my son, which means my speed goes up from 0.4 with BT to an average of 7+ which is considerably faster. He also tells me that alternative solutions are available such as purchasing a '4g router' from Amazon (prices range from £100 to £150), and a mobile data only sim card and data contract (EE's 4g sim

costs £20 per month for 15Gb). In 2014 the average UK 4g speed was 15Mbps, and the average 3g speed was 6Mbps. Each mobile operator has a 'coverage checker', according to which it would appear EE offers the best coverage and speeds in Great Bromley although it is best to check your specific postcode for each network provider. The sim cards are cheap to buy and the 4g routers allow you to use any networks sim card, so you can also try each network to see which works best for your home. Food for thought.

Some links for further information:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/TP-LINK-Archer-MR200-Wireless-Configuration/dp/B0161ACBE0/ref=pd_cp_147_1?ie=UTF8&refRID=1381M8FGT1D3FFX5N574

<http://ee.co.uk/ee-and-me/why-ee/uks-no1-network/mobile-coverage#theCoverageContainer>

<http://shop.ee.co.uk/sim-only/pay-monthly-data>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-30036057>

In some parts of the country hares are on endangered lists. One of the joys - and privileges - of our corner of countryside is that we frequently see hares in the fields and I just love to spot them. However, since before Christmas there have been hare coursers ploughing through the fields for sport – hence all the blocked entrances to try to prevent them getting in. They turn up in their 4x4s, or similar, at antisocial hours, plough (quite frequently getting bogged) through the fields destroying crops and disturbing wildlife whilst setting their dogs loose and betting large sums of money on which one catches a hare. This sport is illegal. The police have been called but so far as I know no-one has been caught. I now haven't seen a hare for weeks – how sad it is that man can only have fun at the expense of the lives of creatures and at the expense of someone's livelihood. and manage to get away with it.



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

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Congratulations to the following organisations who were awarded Section 137 grants by the Parish Council in December – Gt Bromley Village Hall, Parochial Church Council, Gt Bromley friendship Club, Tendring Local History Recorder Group, little Dragons Pre school and Gt Bromley & District Cricket Club.

Precept

Councillors debated the precept for 2016/17 and decided to increase it by a nominal 2.5% however because there are more residents in the Village, it is unlikely that the amount currently paid by Residents will increase.

Invite for Tenders

The contract for hedge, grass cutting and general maintenance in Hare Green, Church Meadow and the closed Churchyard is due for renewal from 1st April 2016 and interested parties are invited to submit tenders for undertaking the work. For further information please contact me. The last date for submitting tenders is **5pm on Tuesday 9th February 2016**. Tenders will be considered at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 10th February 2016.

Bin Bags

The Parish Council have been informed that distribution of black bin bags by TDC will be discontinued, however Residents will be provided with free caddy bag liners for the food waste bin.

Emergency Plan

Cllr Rob Lord is in the process of preparing an Emergency Plan which will set out how the village will cope in the event of severe bad weather or other emergency. As part of that work, Cllr Lord would be interested to hear from residents who own 4 x 4 vehicles (or similar) who would be able to provide assistance in the event of ice or snow. If you are able to volunteer or require further information, please contact me in the first instance and I will pass your details on.

Internal Auditor

Cllrs voted to appoint William Marshall as Internal Auditor for 2016/17 and wish to thank the current Auditor, John Turner, for all his hard work over the past few years.

Karen Tarling

Clerk to Great Bromley Parish Council

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Little Bromley Parish Council would like to wish all our residents A Happy New Year.

For 2016 the Council are putting together a list of ambitions for our Village - and would like to see some if not all of them implemented. We would like for residents to make comment via email - littlebromleypc@gmail.com - to let us know if they support these or if they would like to see anything else added to the list of ideas.

The current list of ambitions that the Council would like to see implemented include: Village Plan, Village Green, Footpaths, Rural Footpath reinstatement, Village planters and volunteers to maintain them, Village Green & Traffic Calming.

Council ambitions will be discussed in February's meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 18th February 2016.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND FOR LITTLE BROMLEY

I am disappointed to report that Superfast Essex have been unable to supply Little Bromley with at least 2mbps of internet connection, as promised by the end of December 2015.

Graeme Knott, a Little Bromley resident, has kindly taken up the gauntlet on behalf of the village, and has attended several meetings with various parties, during the past 12 months.

Superfast Essex Programme have now agreed to cover the cost of installing satellite broadband as a stop gap, until the issue of "Superfast (24mbps+)" or at least good broadband can be resolved. For more information on this please go to <http://www.superfastessex.org/satellite>

But we still need your assistance in helping us achieve "Superfast" broadband. We would like residents to complete the online survey which will support our case going forward.

Please go to: <http://www.superfastessex.org/en-us/getinvolved.aspx> go to '**make the connection**' and click on '**complete survey**' even if you have done the survey before. It is a simple registration, and will take only a couple of minutes of your time.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Graeme.

graeme@essexway.org.uk

(see page 5 for Graeme's article - Ed)

THEFT FROM WAR MEMORIAL

The Parish Council are disappointed to report that someone has been stealing items off the War Memorial. A large white stone and one of the pots planted out with daffodils have been taken. If anyone has seen anything suspicious can they please email the Clerk or inform the local police - these people are stealing from all of us as these items have been paid for from our Village funds.

Thank you

Dawn Sauka

Clerk, Little Bromley Parish Council

Vacancy - Parish Councillor

Due to a recent resignation, we have a vacancy on Lt Bromley Parish Council and in the first instance, if anyone is interested, please email the Clerk at littlebromleypc@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE

My apologies

Error in last issue regarding type of vacancy

It is now Correct!!

BROADBAND IN OUR VILLAGES

Little Bromley Internet

Hi. My name is Graeme and I live in Paynes Lane, Little Bromley. During the last 12 months I've been having conversations with various parties about the internet connections in Little Bromley. After many conversations about why we won't get "superfast" or even good broadband, I finally have some good news... But I need everyone's help! Please go to <http://www.superfastessex.org/en-us/getinvolved.aspx> and, even if you have done it before, go to 'make the connection' and click on 'complete survey'. By completing the survey you will help improve Little Bromley's case to get superfast (24mbps+) broadband. If you need assistance getting online to complete the survey then please get in touch.

As a stop gap, if your connection is currently less than 2mbps then the Superfast Essex Programme is offering to cover the costs of installing satellite broadband.

See <http://www.superfastessex.org/satellite> for more information.

If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me through my personal email address: graeme@essexway.org.uk or post a letter through my letterbox at Crabtrees, Paynes Lane.

Please note – I am not employed by Superfast Essex or connected with any internet company. I am just a resident of Little Bromley who would like better internet and have volunteered some time to see what we can achieve.



Satellite broadband to help those with slowest speeds get online

The Superfast Essex programme, while continuing its fibre broadband rollout, has launched a scheme to help those residents and businesses with no or low broadband connectivity in Essex.

The Satellite Broadband Scheme offers access to a basic satellite broadband service at a capped cost for the first year. The scheme forms part of the national Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programme, being led by UK Government, and delivers on the commitment to ensure those not currently due to benefit from a fibre upgrade can access download speeds of at least 2Mbps.

So far the Superfast Essex fibre rollout has reached 60,000 homes and businesses - the halfway milestone in the overall

programme rollout and just 5,000 away from the total set to be reached by the end of the first phase of work, this summer.

The scheme is available to Essex homes or businesses, provided that their property

- currently receives broadband speeds of less than 2Mbps,
 - is unable to access broadband speeds of 2Mbps or above from any other broadband supplier in the area, is not in the plan to be upgraded by the Superfast Essex fibre rollout within six months of the date of application.
- Residents and businesses can find out more and submit an application by completing the short online form available at: www.superfastessex.org/satellite.

Essex County Councillor Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Waste and Recycling, said: "We're doing as much as we can to increase access to superfast

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broadband in Essex but we also recognise that we need to ensure basic online access is available to all residents. This satellite scheme is not a replacement for fibre but will hopefully help to improve internet access for those with no or low connectivity in the meantime.”

Digital Economy Minister, Ed Vaizey, said: “The national rollout of superfast broadband has already reached an additional 3.5million homes and businesses who would otherwise have missed out. We are making tremendous progress, but it’s a massive engineering project and won’t happen overnight. This scheme offers immediate assistance to those homes and businesses in Essex with the slowest speeds and is all part of our transformation of the UK’s digital landscape.”

All applications will be subject to an eligibility check before a subsidy code is issued centrally by BDUK. The code can then be used to purchase a basic satellite broadband service at a capped price from one of four suppliers participating in the scheme – Avonline Broadband, Digiweb, Corsat, or Prime Tech.

The scheme will ensure a resident or business pays no more than £400 for the first year for a basic satellite broadband service (including upfront costs for equipment and installation, and monthly service charges). Customers signing up under the scheme can also choose service

packages with higher speeds or greater monthly data caps if they are happy to spend more.

The scheme aims to provide an interim solution to help significantly improve the online experience for residents and businesses currently receiving the slowest speeds. All these properties will still be considered for future fibre deployment, whether or not residents or businesses choose to take up the satellite broadband option under the UK Government scheme.

To find out if you are covered by the Superfast Essex programme’s fibre rollout visit www.superfastessex.org/maps. Properties in areas labelled on the rollout map as ‘Non-fibre upgrade (minimum 2Mbps) by 2016’ are expected to be eligible for the UK Government Satellite Broadband Scheme. Some remote or isolated properties in areas where fibre has been deployed by commercial operators or the Superfast Essex programme may also qualify if they meet the slow speed criteria. Residents should note that the fibre rollout map is not an eligibility indicator for the UK Government Satellite Broadband Scheme, each application for the scheme made at www.superfastessex.org/satellite will be checked individually.

The UK Government Satellite Broadband Scheme is currently planned to operate until December 2017.



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

Telephone: 01206 230305

Space Dome

As part of our work on Space this term, we had a Space Dome in school. All classes visited the dome and all had great fun. We would love to do it again and the teachers enjoyed it too. We liked the fact that we could sit down and have great fun watching all of the animations that lit up all of the Space Dome. The man who showed us everything was really kind and made the morning very interesting. One of



the things we learned was that the blue stars are the hottest and the red stars are the coldest. We also learned that Jupiter is the biggest planet.

By Rachel Chubb and Leilah Sutherland

Nativity - Prickly Hay

Last week we did a Christmas performance called Prickly Hay. All the children from Classes 1 and 2 joined in with characters such as shaking cowboys, dancing stars and, of course, not forgetting Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. We all really enjoyed it so much. We loved singing our songs and wearing our costumes. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and we wish you all a very merry Christmas. By Jessica Ballinger, Imogen Carr and Alice Black.

A huge thank you to all those who donated to the retiring collection and purchased the

wonderful refreshments at the end of each performance. We raised £486.45 and this



will support our School Fund and a charity supporting children with special needs in Romania.

Colchester Children's University Graduation

We joined with lots of other children from many different schools to attend the Colchester Children's University Graduation ceremony at Essex University. We went into a dressing room to collect our gowns and hats. We had to wear the tassel on the right hand side. We then went to the ceremony and we were awarded our certificates and were given a standing ovation by the audience. We could then move our tassels to the left hand side and then we threw our hats into the air. It was great fun! Following this we had lunch and then took part in a workshop of our choice either arts and crafts, Colchester Zoo learning, mad science or story telling. The arts and crafts group made festive Christmas cards, crafts and made origami stars and a 3D Christmas tree. The science group made slime out of melted PVA glue,

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Thank You and Goodbye

The whole school will be saying thank you and goodbye to Mrs O'Mara during an assembly on the last day of term. We have all benefited greatly from her leadership and from the incredible hard work and commitment that she has given to our school over the last four years. She has introduced so many new initiatives, programmes and activities which have ensured that our good school becomes an even better one! Thank you Mrs O'Mara. We wish her every success for the future as she takes up her new Headteacher position at Chase Lane Primary School.

food colouring and water. In the story telling group we learnt how to listen and communicate by acting out stories. The Colchester Zoo learning group learnt about animals, habitats, skin and fur. We had such a great day and can't wait for the next graduation.
by Ava-Violet Lovesee and Jessica Bateman

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 **OUTSTANDING**

celebrations. They were given sweets and

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS- PLACES AVAILABLE

Tel: 07857 503103

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR. In Italy the 6th January is considered the last day of the Christmas holidays. They celebrate the legend of 'La Befana' (a nice old woman) who fills children's stockings with chocolates or coal depending how good they have been. Our children and parents were invited to the 'Tutti Tuscan Grill' in Braintree to learn more about these



decorated some lovely cakes too. A big thank you for their hospitality.

continued on next page ...!

Two Little Worlds Join Together

Little Dragons has recently twinned with The KDH International School, located in Mundia Dhureki, near Delhi, India. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to learn about and interact with different cultures. We have already exchanged 'Happy New Year' cards and sent photos to



each other and we look forward to learning more about their school in the future.

Fundraising

It doesn't seem possible that we have now been in our lovely premises for three years. This time last year we were having our conservatory built, it has gone so quickly. We are constantly striving to update and improve our facilities and the next fundraising event on our calendar is:

A PAMPER AND SHOPPING EVENING.

Friday 4th March 7pm – 10pm Gt. Bromley Village Hall

Entry by ticket: £3.00 in advance or £3.50 on the night

Treatments can be pre-booked and raffle on the night

For more information email:

ldfundraising@sky.com or call Michelle on 075720614451

We hope you can join us.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR BISCUIT WRAPPERS AND BOTTLE TRIGGER HEADS

We have registered with Terracycle and are

currently collecting biscuit wrappers and plastic bottle trigger heads and caps from washing up bottles. These we send away and are then paid according to the weight. So please ask friends and family to help us collect as many as possible.

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

Party Table and Chair Hire

Having a party for Pre-School children?

We can offer 4 perfectly sized tables & 20 chairs.

Deposit only £10 Tables only £5.00 each

Chairs Only £1.00 each

Collection Only - Contact us: Tel: 07857

503103 Email:

littledragonspreschool@gmail.com

Dates for Diary:

Monday 15th February Half term week

Monday 22nd February Preschool re-opens

Friday 4th March Pamper & Shopping Evening



Cricket Club 100 Club Winners

December

1st.	Mr. Bryan Wright
2nd.	Mrs. Janet Taylor
3rd.	Mrs. Claire Gosling

BROOK HOUSE DONKEYS AT LNYDP 2016

LNYDP – London’s New Year’s Day Parade is now one of the world’s great street spectacles with up to 10,000 performers from across continents, hundreds of thousands of spectators, and a ‘live’ TV audience of several hundred million. Many people in the UK don’t know of its existence, but this year was the 30th annual parade and the theme was ‘magic’.

The first New Year’s Day Parade on January 1st 1987 was called ‘The Lord Mayor of Westminster’s Big Parade’. By 1994 the Parade had become so big and popular that the City of Westminster gave up sole ownership of the event, and it became truly ‘London’s New Year’s Day Parade and Festival’ with all of London’s Boroughs taking an active role in the event. The participants include, amongst others, large numbers of American bands and cheerleaders, stilt walkers, kite flyers, miniature steam engines, vintage cycling groups, historic vehicle groups, costume characters, caribbean steel bands and the Donkey Breed Society, which is how we came to be involved.

The DBS has been taking part in the LNYDP since 1993 and this is the third year that we have joined them. The first was in 2013. We borrowed a friend’s donkey, Patrick, who spent the entire parade dragging us along, trying to overtake the other donkeys to reach the front of our procession, where his donkey buddy was pulling a cart. Not easily put off, in 2015 we took our own Daisy after managing to persuade her to load. The intention was to take Daisy and Dolly (her daughter) but Dolly had other ideas. This year, we took our two miniature donkeys, Candy and Rusty, with Daisy again as a calming influence. The minis were nervous at first but soon settled down. The streets are busy and the noise can be deafening with cheering crowds, bands and the commentary. It takes over an hour to walk the route with frequent stops as

groups ahead pause to perform in front of the grandstands. We take the opportunity for the donkeys to meet the smiling crowds, who love to stroke them. Then it’s off again until we reach the finish at Parliament Square. After collecting our participant medals, we amble back towards the trailers along Birdcage Walk, stopping for a photo opportunity outside Buckingham Palace.

It is a great atmosphere but we are always glad to reach home, feed and tend the animals and put our feet up with a well-earned cuppa.

www.LNYDP.com

Jane Brind



COFFEE BREAK NUTRITION

with Suzanne Abbott

Where does the time go? With Christmas come and gone and New Year well on its way, Valentine's Day is almost upon us!

With spring fast approaching and the days getting longer I am sure we are all looking forward to those long summer days, full of sunshine. Why should we be talking about sunshine at this gloomy time of the year? Well, it's about that vitamin D you keep hearing about in the news.

So why is sunshine so important to us humans? It is because we get vitamin D from sunshine. The body will make all it needs with enough sunlight. That's why it is known as the 'sunshine vitamin'. It is one of the most important vitamins our body needs to function.

It helps with the absorption of calcium and phosphorus from food. Both of these nutrients are vital for strong teeth and bones, joints and muscles. It strengthens the immune system, supports intestinal health, helps to maintain healthy blood pressure and cardiovascular health, protects the brain and reproductive organs and prevents osteoporosis. Without sufficient vitamin D, the body cannot absorb calcium from food or supplements, no matter how much calcium you consume.

Its importance cannot be underestimated.

Where exactly do we get it from? Sunshine! - but how does it work?

First of all, we need to be outside in the sun! But not just any time of the year, it has to be in the hottest months of summer to get any benefit at all. Unfortunately, we in the northern hemisphere only get the 'right' kind of sunshine for a couple of months of the year. The sun rays are not at the correct angle to the earth to be of much benefit for much of the year, which means that it is likely that the majority of the population is in fact vitamin D deficient. This can include all age groups from young children to the elderly. So what should we do to correct this dilemma?

We are forever told to plaster ourselves with

sun block whenever we go outside in the summer, the higher the better to avoid being sunburnt or getting skin cancer. The messages we get are confusing, so people will avoid any exposure to the sun. This isn't very helpful because we can't harness the benefits of real sunshine if our skin is blocked with sun screen creams. There is always another way!

Of course you shouldn't leave your kids on the beach at midday in full sun with no protection whatsoever for any length of time, but 20 minutes in the sun sometime during mid to late morning or mid-afternoon with a hat and a t-shirt on, with arms and legs exposed is absolutely ideal to soak up those beneficial rays, without burning the skin. It is the sun's ultraviolet rays that convert cholesterol under your skin into vitamin D3. It is then absorbed straight into the bloodstream and then it's stored in the liver. Little bit at a time, 2 to 3 times a week and you can store up a good amount of vitamin D3 to last you for the rest of the year.

For those who don't get out in the sun, which includes office workers, elderly in nursing homes or children who are at school or nurseries most days, would benefit from eating sardines, herring, salmon, tuna or fish liver oil, liver, egg yolks or supplementing with a good quality vitamin D3 supplement.

And here comes another confusion.

Which vitamin D should we supplement with? Vitamin D2 is a synthetic version of vitamin D, added to most cereals and milk, and doesn't have the same beneficial effects of vitamin D3. If you don't get out in the sun then you should supplement with the natural vitamin D3.

For further information read this interesting article:

<http://www.drccate.com/who-should-get-vitamin-d-testing/>

If on medication talk to your doctor or pharmacy before taking supplements.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NEWS

TDC is supporting the Citizens Advice Bureau again this year with its winter warmers scheme which has successfully helped hundreds of vulnerable people in Tendring. If you have any donations of clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, shoes etc., they would be greatly appreciated and can be made at the shop in Old Road or at the CAB office in Carnarvon Road or Clacton Town Hall.

Part night street lighting, as you have probably read in the local newspapers, continues to roll on. It was agreed at the last full council meeting for TDC to ask Essex County Council again for the street lights to be turned on in mainly urban areas but kept off in the rural areas.

Cabinet have decided to stop supplying black bin bags due to the cost. Also under consideration is the free parking facility for our residents. Details of the budget should be finalised soon and could see up to 2% increase in council tax. However a funded initiative will see all households provided with free food caddy bags at no cost to TDC.

The Local Plan continues to be debated and it is hoped that an agreement can be reached very soon regarding the number of houses, which should stop the wild card applications being submitted by developers. A number of planning applications continue to be made across our ward. We support our Parish Councils in speaking for or against these applications whenever possible.

You may be aware that my fellow councillor, Rosemary Heaney, has been out of action due to a knee operation. She is making good progress and we hope to see her back to full fitness very shortly. I am sure you join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

My Civic Duties have continued to be busy. 19th & 20th November I attended the Mayflower 400 meeting in Dartmouth. 22nd Jenny & I attended Ipswich Mayors Multi Faith Civic Service. 25th we attended Ipswich Mayors Charity Supper, 27th attended Colchester Moot

Hall for presentation of medals by the Russian Embassy to veterans who served in the Arctic conveys in World War 2. 4th December we were present at my own Chairman's Charity Quiz at the Princes Theatre in Clacton which raised £785.78 for my charity. 7th December I attended official visit by the High Sheriff of Essex when he visited Jaywick and the Mayflower Project, during the same afternoon I attended a Celebration of Success event at Clacton Town Hall. 10th we attended Braintree Chairman's Celebration of Christmas at St Peters in the Field church. 11th we attended the RAD Carol Service at Chelmsford Cathedral, in the afternoon we attended Tendring Stars Awards and in the evening attended a Carol Service in Clacton in aid of St. Helena's Hospice. 13th we attended Clacton Rotary Club Celebration of Christmas at the Westcliff Theatre. 17th we attended Colchester Moot Hall for a Christmas Civic Reception hosted by the Mayor of Colchester. On 19th we attended St James Church Clacton for a Carol Service where Jenny and I read a Lesson. On 20th attended Colchester Mayor's Civic Carol Service. On 23rd we attended Chelmsford Cathedral for the Annual 9 lessons and carols. On Christmas Day we attended Clacton High School to meet and talk to the elderly and disadvantaged who attended the Rotary Club Christmas Lunch. Over 170 people were served with a sit down Turkey Roast lunch, dessert, tea and coffee and glass of wine. This was provided by Clacton Rotary Club whose fund raising at their Celebration of Christmas concert and bucket collections around the town paid for the event. On 14th January I formally opened the "Volunteer Essex" project at Clacton library, the same evening Jenny & I attended the Colne School Pantomime.

On Friday 19th February the Court House PH Great Bromley is holding a Quiz night in aid of The Harwich Mayflower project. Teams of up to 6 people, all welcome to attend. Quiz commences at 8pm and has been organised by the Harwich Society. It promises to be a great evening of fun.

Fred Nicholls

The first meeting of the new year and Irene, as stand in President, was to "give it a go" as they say. She started the evening with Jerusalem with our President, Jenny, on the piano, a really lovely start.

Sue then introduced our speaker a local lad!! Bruce Root from Ardleigh, he was to add a touch of Spring and Summer to a very damp evening, with his talk with slides "Butterflies and Birds".

Bruce is a member of the Essex Birdwatching Society, Nature Observer for the county, East Anglian Nature Guide and has over 40 years' experience worldwide.

Butterflies began the proceedings telling us that the Brimstone is the first butterfly in the year to emerge, with the Holly Blue flying during March – September. The Red Admiral is a migrant to the United Kingdom. Bruce explained during the summer season we have a really lovely selection of butterflies to be found, including The Common Blue and The Peacock.

Birds were the subject for the second half beginning with the Wax Wing from Scandanavia which feeds on berries and apples. The Hen Harrier can be seen at Bawdsey in Suffolk. He showed some superb photographs of a Short Eared owl and The Green Woodpecker. The Greater Spotted Woodpecker was another favourite nesting in trees bare holes. He finished with a most superb shot of a Barn Owl.

A taste of creatures to expect and experience in the coming months. Just remember to keep looking and listening whilst out and about.

The next meeting of the W.I is on February 3rd. Phil Bland will be talking about "Tree Management" and the competition is a "Homemade Fruit Pie"

Joy Rolfe



2nd December 2015

With the arrival of Debbie and the "Bromley Belles" our W.I Christmas Party looked as if it would be full of Party Fun!!

The Village Hall



looked so festive: Christmas Tree, decorated tables with poinsettias and everyone wearing something to fit in with our cowboy themed evening, (special mention of Michelle who looked great).

Welcomed with a glass of something to get us in the party spirit, Debbie soon had the members organised and line dancing.

About 8.15pm (so we could catch our breath) it was the turn of the "Bromley Belles" – a small group of very talented ladies who sing Acapelo.

Then we enjoyed the most delicious refreshments organised by Mary Clarke – another glass, or tea and coffee were also on offer.

More dancing (this time a "go" at tap) and singing were to follow – what a fabulous evening. Annette won the prize for the best hat and nobody wanted to go home.

A huge thank you to Debbie Millar for organising the dancing and Jill Christmas who organised the "Bromley Belles".



2016 EVENTS



FEBRUARY

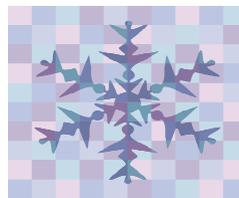
- 3 Church Lunch, 12 noon
WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10 Knit and Knatter, Cheshire Home, 2.00pm
Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 18 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
Patient Participation Group, Gt Bentley Village Hall, 6.30pm
Lt Bromley parish council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 19 Quiz Night, Courthouse Inn, 8.00pm
- 22 J.A.M. session re-starts, St George's church, 3.00pm
- 26 Pop Up Pub Curry Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm

MARCH

- 2 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 4 Pamper and Shopping evening, Little Dragons Pre-School
- 9 Knit and Knatter, Cheshire Home, 2.00pm
- 10 Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 17 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm

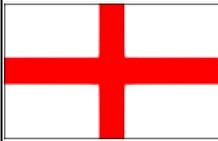
APRIL

- 6 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10 Sponsored run/walk in aid of painting St Mary's Lt Bromley fence, 10.30am
- 13 Knit and Knatter, Cheshire Home, 2.00pm
- 14 Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 17 Pier to Pier walk in aid of St Helena Hospice (see page 37)
- 21 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm



MATERIAL for the **MARCH** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th FEBRUARY 2016** 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.



**"Save The
Bromley Cross
Pop Up Pub
Curry Night"**

at Great Bromley Village Hall
on Friday 26th February
from 7:30

Tickets are £10 from
Dinah on 01206 231059
and
Primrose Pork



10th April

10K Run

starting in St Mary's church, Little
Bromley
at 10.30am

Children's 2K race (enter on day)
starting 10.00am

4K event for Walkers starting
10.40am for a donation.

Refreshments, entertainment and
displays around the church

In aid of painting the church
fence.

See page 34 for more details

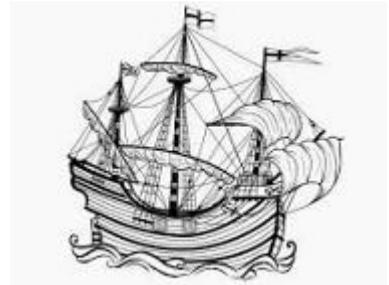
Friday 19th February
The Court House Inn

Quiz night

in aid of The Harwich Mayflower
project
at 8.00pm

Teams of up to 6 people
all welcome

Quiz commences at 8pm. and has
been organised by the Harwich
Society.



Knit and Knatter

meets in Seven Rivers Cheshire
Home 2.00pm-4.00pm

Just come along with knitting
needles or crochet hook - or
whatever ! - and create and chat

All welcome



IN THE GARDEN WITH KATE



Happy New Year to everyone, though it does seem an odd and unseasonably warm sort of new year. I have in my kitchen a vase of daffodils that were flowering in the garden - they were actually in bloom over Christmas, but I left them in the garden as they did not seem to be very seasonal. Everything seems to be cracking on at great speed but I see from the forecast that temperatures are due to dip by the end of the week, which will certainly confuse matters. As I write it remains warm, but no doubt you will be reading this in a snow drift. Friends have told me that they have seen birds building their nests, and the mice and frogs are still active in the garden. The grass is still growing, albeit slowly, but whilst it is so wet, there is no chance of getting the mower out. The wet weather has made for some interesting and rather soggy walks with the puppy, now getting on for a year old, returning as an all brown rather than a brown and white dog!

Looking at the news, I count my blessings that we live in the driest place in England, those poor people in Northern England and Scotland - gardening is certainly not on their minds at present.

Although, in theory, it is a quiet time of year in the garden, it is a good time to take a long hard look and see how you want your garden to be in the summer, and plan any structural changes now. Despite the mild weather, it is a good time to plant bare rooted shrubs (as long as the ground is not frosted), but do incorporate plenty of grit in the planting holes as

waterlogged soil kills more plants than frost.

Apart from perusing the many plant and seed catalogues that appear in the post at the moment, there are a few gardening jobs that can be undertaken. In the vegetable garden, ground can be covered with black plastic sheeting to warm the soil prior to sowing early vegetables. Extra early vegetables can be started in polythene polytunnels, but personally I start them off either in an unheated greenhouse or in the cold frame. Autumn raspberries can be pruned now, as can apple and pear trees. The greenhouse should be opened on mild days, especially if it is sunny, but plants inside should be only minimally watered.

Sweet peas can be planted up in root training tubes in the greenhouse, and many think they germinate better if the seeds are nicked before planting. Dahlias too can be potted in the greenhouse and vegetables such as French beans, baby carrots, beetroot radish and celery can be started under glass, and lettuce, leeks, onions, peas and broad beans started in pots. Very early potatoes can be planted under cover too.

Chillies can be started in a heated propagator. It is also a good time of year to wash all pots and seed trays and purchase potting compost, which can be kept in a garage or greenhouse, so that is slightly warmer when used to plant seeds.

Happy gardening!
Kate Strowbridge



THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS



Great Bentley Surgery



At the time of writing it is only just starting to feel a little chilly outside. I wonder if our mild winter has come to an end? You will know by the time you read this. Due to this mild weather, the NHS seems to have coped so far and we thank all our patients for using the NHS services responsibly. We have struggled to maintain our non-urgent appointment waiting times as is usual during December and January, but did manage to find and employ a locum GP (Dr Muckart) to try to alleviate this as much as possible. However any urgent medical needs will as always be seen the same day following the on call doctor triage system we have in place.

Having sadly lost a very close Aunt, I was going through some old items with my Mum. We came across a 102 year old book which gives an excellent insight into how children were looked after medically a century ago, well before the NHS. We were surprised just how much is still relevant today as self-care again becomes important as our NHS resources are being squeezed more and more. You will find the first article below which is copied from the beginning of the book and sets the scene. I will work through the medical conditions in alphabetical order as they appear in the book itself throughout the year. Enjoy!

This month's meeting of the Great Bentley Surgery **Patient Participation Group** will be meeting on **Thursday 18th February 2016 at 6.30pm** at the Great Bentley Village Hall.



HINTS TO MOTHERS ON THE TREATMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN 1914

Preface

In compiling this little work, the writer had

endeavoured to give, in the most simple form

possible, a few hints as to the best course to be pursued in those cases of illness and accident to which children are most liable. Whenever serious symptoms occur, a medical man should at once be called in. Children's ailments develop so quickly that no time should be lost. A few simple instructions are here given as to the proper course of action pending the doctor's arrival.

The Nursery and general instructions of the care of children

The greatest of all gifts that the Almighty can bestow upon you is your baby. It is your duty to sacrifice yourself – to give your whole thought to the well being of the charge that is entrusted to you. First and foremost – it should always be borne in mind that cleanliness of the body and of the house. Remember also that fresh air and exercise are absolutely essential to the health of your child. Make your child obedient in all things. A disobedient child can never be trusted, and so necessitates extra supervision. Always be careful that your children are properly clothed. Flannel is, in most cases, preferable to any other material for underclothing. Strict attention should be paid to the ventilation of all rooms used by the children; a high fire-guard should be placed before the fireplace. The nursery should be covered with oilcloth which can be easily cleaned. This is far preferable to carpets and rugs, which harbour dirt. Always have the name and address of your doctor fixed on the nursery wall; in case of illness, send for him at once.

I hope it goes without saying, but these days home visits are only for housebound adults as children can always be brought in to the surgery!



VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

Happy New Year from the Village Hall Trustees! As 2016

gathers pace, feedback from hirers is that they like the facilities offered at the village hall and it is pleasing to note that the good level of hall utilisation seen last year is being maintained.

Helped by a generous £10,000 grant from the Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund, the trustees have decided to invest in a major refurbishment project at the hall this year to improve the experience for all and prevent any degradation of the fabric of the building. The overall project, which will cost just under £20,000, comprises: sanding and re-sealing of the main hall and small hall floors; completion of the external repairs and redecoration started last year; partial internal redecoration; refurbishment of the stage and lighting/sound system including replacement of all curtaining; and the purchase of some new tables and upholstered chairs for use by hirers. The balance of the cost will be funded from village hall reserves. Separately, Great Bromley Parish Council has offered to donate some furniture. Other than refurbishment of the floors, which will necessitate the hall being closed for the week 25-31 July, the remaining works will not affect planned bookings at the hall. The stage works are planned to commence on 25th April and external works on 6th June.

The trustees are delighted to be able to reflect on two excellent social and fundraising events which took place at the end of last year. The Christmas Fayre on 12th December was highly successful, with a good attendance and plenty of activities to occupy people of all ages. The star attraction, as in 2014, was the music and singing by children from St George's School who gave two excellent musical performances during the morning. Many of the children wore Christmas-themed fancy dress which added to the festive feel of the occasion. Our thanks go to Mel Bridle for

organising the entertainment and to those children, mums and dads who gave up their time to come and have some fun. The children's games competition was as popular as usual whilst the Grand Christmas Draw boasted a huge selection of quality prizes to be won. Our sincere thanks go to those who supported the Draw including the businesses and organisations listed below (in no particular order) who donated prizes so generously: The Courthouse Inn; The Haywain at Little Bromley; Talisman Coachlines; Dean's Garden Centre; Beth Chatto Gardens; The East of England Co-op; Budgens of Elmstead; Blenheim Garden Centre; Waitrose; Tesco Stores; Flair Hair at Elmstead Market; Snoopy's Pet Parlour at Little Bentley; The Boathouse Restaurant at Dedham; Colchester United FC; Bill's Restaurant of Colchester; The Mercury Theatre; Simply Beautiful at Elmstead Market; Frameworks of Colchester; Henley's Restaurant at Wivenhoe; Timeless Beauty of Colchester; Tan-N-U of Colchester; and Igigi2u at Elmstead Market. The net profit made at the Fayre was £1470 which was equally divided between the village hall and St Georges Church. Our thanks go to the representatives from both these organisations and to other volunteers from the village who helped make the Fayre so enjoyable.



The New Year's Ball was another success story, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and which raised an impressive net profit of £800 for the village hall. Our thanks go to Jayne Bates and

Dinah Jones who, with their friends, organised this popular event with such style.

The fundraising and social activities for this year are being planned now and will be made known shortly. If you would like to be involved in organising an event or have some ideas for an event then the village hall trustees would be delighted to hear from you. The community events at the hall are important for the village as they encourage social interaction, provide enjoyment and also raise money to help run and maintain our fine community facility.

The village hall trustees look forward to welcoming you at one or more of our events in 2016 and also to providing hall accommodation for you, whether it is for a birthday party, meeting or musical event. As the hall is fully licensed, there is scope to undertake a wide range of activities in the accommodation - all at extremely competitive hire rates. If you want to know more about what the hall can offer or if you wish to make a booking please contact the bookings secretary Mary Fawcett on

villagehallbookings@greatbromley.org.uk
or 07957962788. A tour of the facilities can be arranged on request.

Martin Frostick
villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk
or 01206 250263



ARTHUR HOWE - DIED 2ND JANUARY 1916

Arthur Howe was born in the spring of 1891, in Little Bromley, where his parents lived on Ardleigh Road. Arthur's father, Joshua, was an agricultural labourer, and had married Annie from Colchester in 1876. Joshua and Annie already had three other children Abraham (aged 14, who was working as an agricultural labourer), Nellie (aged 12) and Charles (aged 3).

The April 1911 Census shows Arthur was a farm labourer. However, at some point after that he was able to gain employment at the British Xylonite factory in Brantham. Xylonite was a trade name for celluloid, and the Brantham site was the first purpose built plastics factory in the U.K. Arthur worked in the Acid Shop, arguably the most dangerous part of the hazardous manufacturing process, where explosions and fatalities were not uncommon.

At some point prior to August 1914, Arthur had joined the Territorial Army, as a Private. It is quite possible that Arthur was already with his Battalion – the 1/5th Essex – upon the outbreak of war, as they had started their fortnight of annual training on 27 July.

Once war was declared, the 1/5th Essex immediately moved to its designated war station, the port of Harwich, remaining there until 20 August when they moved to North Norfolk. They remained there until the spring of 1915, when they moved South - initially to West Bergholt, and then to St. Albans in Hertfordshire.

The 1/ 5th Essex left Hertfordshire on 21 July, bound for Plymouth. Two days later, the 31 officers and 655 Other Ranks of the Battalion, sailed for Gallipoli. Their ship, the S.S. Grampian, called in at Malta and Alexandria, before arriving at Mudros Harbour on the island of Lemnos, on 2 August. Lemnos, in the northern Aegean Sea, had become the main Allied advanced base for the Gallipoli campaign.

Since the initial Allied landings on the Gallipoli peninsular in April, little progress had been made, and the campaign had deteriorated into a costly stalemate. In an attempt to regain the initiative, the British planned another landing – using fresh forces – at Suvla Bay, which lay behind the Turkish lines, at Suvla Bay.

The British landings at Suvla started on 6 August, and met little opposition. Unfortunately, the British commander failed to push his advantage, and by the time the 1/ 5th Essex landed on 10 August 1915, the Turks had moved in sufficient forces to effectively block further advances. After the August fighting, the forces at Suvla were also reduced to the same static, trench warfare as their comrades elsewhere on the peninsular.

Arthur's Battalion was in action within a few days of their landing. It is a sad fact of the Gallipoli campaign, that more British casualties were caused by sickness, than by enemy action. Many became ill due to the insanitary conditions, with typhoid, dysentery and diarrhoea. Between September and November the Brigade of which the 1/ 5 Essex was a part, suffered 146 casualties due to enemy action. During the same period, 1,704 men were transferred to hospital due to sickness and disease.

The Gallipoli campaign was seen by many as a costly failure, and in November 1915, the Cabinet took the decision to evacuate the Allied forces there. Ironically, the evacuation itself was a success, and not one man was lost during the actual evacuation, which was completed in January 1916.

Arthur's Battalion – which by this time had been reduced to just 13 officers and 141 Other Ranks - left the peninsular on 3 December and were shipped to Mudros. Whether Arthur was still with them we do not know, as he would already have been

very sick, and may have been transferred to hospital on Lemnos. UK.

We do not know the exact date, but at some point between 31 December 1915 and 2 January 1916, Arthur was transferred to H.M.H.S. (His Majesty's Hospital Ship) Britannic. The Britannic was a passenger liner (and sister ship of the ill-fated Titanic), which had been requisitioned by the Admiralty. She had arrived at Mudros harbour on New Year's Eve 1915, to take on board approximately 3,300 casualties in order to transfer them to hospitals in the

On 2 January 1916, Arthur Howe died of tubercular disease on board H.M.H.S. Britannic, whilst she was still in Mudros harbour. He was 24 years old.

Arthur's body was landed on Lemnos, and he lies in Plot III, Row F, Grave 166 of the East Mudros Military Cemetery.

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER, REV'D DAVIS & MRS HENDERSON

The Rev Paul Davis sadly died a few weeks before Christmas. I am trying to prepare a tribute for him and would be grateful if anyone could contribute memories and stories.

Mrs Fairley tells me he was the last proper village rector, someone who would come around to visit local people on a regular basis, stop for a cup of tea if it was offered, and chat to find out news of parishioners. She remembers one particular time when he had been thinking about starting a bigger magazine, more than the foolscap sheet of purely Church matters they had then. Andrew Fairley used to come in on a cold day at coffee time and sit on the big Aga to warm himself up. He was perched there when the rector mentioned to Ann and Henry that he wanted to start a bigger magazine but was concerned about the cost of funding it. Andrew suggested sponsorship – get local businesses to advertise, and that was one factor that helped the impetus to get it started. The first magazine in June 1986 had a

sponsor's page from the Cheshire Home.

Paul, with the help of his wife Muriel, put the magazine together until 1993 when Leonie Henderson took over. Now, almost 23 years later, Leonie is still our editor and has been given a Pride of Tendring Award, as thanks to her thousands of hours preparing a much appreciated magazine every month. The first magazine was 12 pages; it is now usually about three times the size with many useful local adverts.

As a nice concluding touch, putting Leonie forward for the POT Award was first suggested at the Rogation Lunch, on a lovely sunny day last year ... in the Fairley's garden!

Congratulations to Leonie and thanks again for all your efforts which certainly are greatly appreciated.

Please send any info to Hugh Frostick
01206 671324/ hugh@greatbromley.org.uk

RUNNING INTO THE GRAVEYARD - APRIL 10TH 2016

Preparations for our 10K race are progressing well. A course has been chosen and measured so that it starts near to St. Mary's church and finishes at the graveyard. All the necessary approvals for the event are also in place. At the time of writing this, we have over 160 entrants and hope for many more. It is disappointing that only a few entries have come from the village. As an incentive for local people to join in, we now have prizes for the First Lady and the First Man from either Gt. or Lt. Bromley. If you are unable to enter on line www.harwichrunners.co.uk/bromley10k please telephone me (01206393787).

There will be a children's 2K race at 10.00am for which entries will be taken on the day at the church. Walkers can take part in a 4K event at 10.40am for a donation. All the funds raised will be given to St. Marys for the maintenance of the fencing etc. Refreshments, entertainment and displays will be available in and around the church. Don't miss out on this special event for the benefit of our village!

Inevitably the event needs helpers for everything to run smoothly. We need 4 car parking stewards from 9.00am till 10.30am. We need 15 race marshals, some for 10minutes and others for up to an hour. We

also need a team of 4+ to run a water station at the halfway point. Please give me a call to offer help.

Please help make this a special event for the village. It is possible to get fit enough in 8 weeks from being a complete novice, to run 10K. (See schedule below) Challenge your friends and neighbours to participate! Alternatively walk the 4K and get to know others in the village.

We are seeking sponsorship from local businesses and individuals to make the run as attractive as possible to participants and profitable to the church. If you feel able to sponsor an age group prize or a prize for the children's race or prizes for the Male and Female winners, please call me.

All the numbers refer to the time you run for. The schedule assumes that you would have most time at the weekend but it could be modified to suit your own needs. The rest days are important. Everyone finds it hard to start so the rest day gives time for recovery and helps you stick to the plan.

Roly Knott

Novice schedule to run 10K

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Wk 1	2	2	4	Rest	4	3	5
Wk 2	Rest	5	5	Rest	8	3	10
Wk 3	Rest	8	8	Rest	10	5	10
Wk 4	Rest	10	5	12	5	Rest	15
Wk 5	5	12	8	Rest	10	10	30
Wk 6	Rest	15	10	15	Rest	25	50
Wk 7	10	Rest	20	10	15	25	50
Wk 8	15	Rest	15	20	Rest	Rest	Event



STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Recent Meetings

On Wednesday 6 January Ian Rose spoke on "Kathmandu and the Jungles of Nepal" and on Wednesday 20 January Peter Gant informed us on "The Route of The Stour". Our popular New Year Lunch took place at the Venture Centre on Sunday 24 January and was enjoyed by both members and their guests.

Future Meetings

On 3 February Jessica Lewis will speak on "The History of the Cutty Sark" and two weeks later on 17 February member Dick Patterson will talk on a most interesting subject "The history of and living in Sierra Leone during its last colonial days".

Meeting Venue

We meet at the convenient St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB

New members

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

Graeme Forsyth

LITTLE BROMLEY AMENITIES GROUP

The Amenities Group Children's Christmas Party

The party was held at The Haywain on 5th December 2015 and, despite all the hard work of the Amenities Group to make the party a resounding success, the attendance was very disappointing. However, despite so few children, those that attended appeared to have a really good time and

were entertained with games and craft making. We thank Jade Anderson for her face painting skills and thanks also go to Kevin, who acted as our Father Christmas for the afternoon, much to the enjoyment of the children. Thanks also go to the Amenities Group members who supplied food and drink for the party.

Ann Clark

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our Christmas meeting with buffet tea was a great success with a good variety of food supplied by members, and excellent entertainment from Roger Jennings. The tables looked really festive decorated with Christmas arrangements made by Coral and our raffle had a wide selection of prizes donated by members.

In February our Speaker will be Hugh Frostick who will give a talk on local history and the competition is an old book.

Sylvia Ward



Beryl announced that subscriptions for 2016 will increase to £11. with a 50p entrance to help with funds.





St Helena Hospice
your time... your hospice
Specialist Streetcare Services

ST HELENA HOSPICE

Walk to support, St Helena Hospice Pier to Pier 2016!

Come together with your friends, family and work colleagues and enjoy the sea air at the St Helena Hospice Pier to Pier 2016

sponsored walk between Clacton and Walton Piers on Sunday 17th April.

This year you can start your walk at 10am from either Clacton or Walton and have a choice to walk 7 or 14 miles.

In return for a great day out, the hospice asks that each registered walker over the age of 16 raises a minimum of £30 sponsorship. This money will help people it



supports in your community who are affected by life-limiting illness.

Grab your walking shoes and register today for free to start fundraising to support people like Naomi and her dad Paul. Visit sthelenahospice.org.uk/piertopier16 or contact the fundraising team on 01206 931468.

HELENA HOSPICE STALL (BRIAR ROAD)

Jenny and John Upson thank everyone from our villages for all for your support throughout the last year. They have received a thank you letter for the fantastic amount of money (£12,236.01) they have raised through their Hospice Stall in Briar Road and would like to pass on the remarks they have received from the fundraising team at the Hospice.

On behalf of everyone here at St Helena Hospice I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you for the recent donation of £12,236.01 which you raised through the sale of flowers, fruit and vegetables outside your house. This is an absolutely amazing amount of money.

Here at the hospice we continue to grow and develop our services for the benefit of our patients and their families. Recent developments include the extension of our bereavement services to offer bereavement for all and the introduction of the Singlepoint 24/7.

In fact the money that you raised and donated to the hospice could pay for one of our registered nurses on the Inpatient Unit for four months, giving patients support with physical symptoms like nausea so that they can go home as soon as possible with the support of our community teams. So you can see just how important your donation is.

It is only with the support of our local community that these new services can be introduced and developed. It is with your help that our dedicated staff and volunteers are able to go the extra mile for those we care for.

Thank you for your support of our work.

The Bromley Messenger would like to thank, on your behalf, John and Jenny for all the hard work, time and effort that they put into the Stall without which there would be no money raised to send to the Hospice.
- Ed.



SAVE THE BROMLEY CROSS

First the bad news. We've been told

that the Cross Inn has been sold to a property developer. Contracts were exchanged on 15th December and completion is expected by the end of

January.

We believe the sale is for the pub and garden, but don't have any



even had some festive entertainment with our alternative "Guess the Weight of the Turkey Competition" (you had to be there to see it). Nearly a hundred people joined us for the night and helped raise another £200 for the campaign.

The Pop Up Pubs are proving so popular that we are organising more. On Friday 26th February, we'll be back in Great Bromley Village Hall for a Pop Up Pub Curry Night. We'll have a licenced bar and Indian buffet, with vegetarian options,



supplied by the Ashiana Tandoori in

more definite information. There is lots of speculation but precious few facts, though I'm sure we will discover more over time.

This is not the end of the Save The Bromley Cross campaign to preserve the Cross Inn as a village pub and amenity. If new owners want to keep the Cross Inn as a pub, then we will work with them. If they want to sell the pub, then we will be ready to launch our share prospectus and make an offer to turn the Cross Inn into a community pub. But we are also preparing to fight against any planning applications for change of use or demolition of the Cross Inn.

On a more positive note, thanks to everyone who came to our Xmas Eve Pop Up Pub in Great Bromley Village Hall. It was a fantastic evening, and great to see old and new friends and neighbours. We

Colchester. Tickets for the buffet are £10, available in advance from Dinah Jones on 01206 231059 or from Primrose Pork. We should have some tickets available on the night, plus we'll have our usual bar with local Sticklegs beers. If you don't fancy the curry, then please just turn up for a drink and a chat.

And in May we plan to have a live music Pop Up Pub at another venue closer to the Cross Inn.

Jim Craddock, Secretary, Save The Bromley Cross
SaveTheBromleyCross@yahoo.co.uk
<http://www.greatbromleycross.org.uk>

FRIENDS OF LITTLE BROMLEY CHURCH

Carols by Candlelight at St. Mary's Church, Lt Bromley

On Wednesday 23rd December 2015 at 6.30pm, the Friends of Little Bromley Church held their Candlelight service.

As the doors opened and the bells rang, we were pleased to welcome all those who joined us. As the pews filled up, so did the spare chairs, the empty choir seats, the altar steps and then there was standing room only. The song sheets ran out, it was all very cosy but the 140 people in attendance made the service very special.

Led by Canon Gillian Greenslade and Gregory Frostick the service began. With candles shining brightly and beautiful

music, readings and singing it was a lovely event. A collection was taken and £400 was raised for the Churches Conservation Trust.

For those who stayed, William and Jane did a splendid job of providing mulled wine for everyone to enjoy along with the delicious refreshments. It was lovely to see everyone chatting with their friends and neighbours.

We would like to thank all those who provided the tasty treats which everyone enjoyed, all those who did the beautiful Christmas arrangements in the Church and all our other helpers. It was a really nice evening.

Carol Cordwell

STOUR VALLEY U3A

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Recent Meetings

On Wednesday 13 January Bryan Thurlow, Actor in film & on TV, spoke on "Music Hall Memories". A pocket history of Music Hall featuring songs & monologues. We heard about the artistes, their songs and the many other acts that contributed to the success of British Music Halls.

Future Meetings

On Wednesday 10 February Brian Barker, of E J Barker & Sons will talk on "Farming with Wildlife in Mind". A presentation showing how a commercial farm can maximise wildlife diversity. The speaker's farm won the FWAG Silver Lapwing award in 2009 and in 2010 P and B Barker were named Countryside Farmer of the Year by Farmers Weekly.

Meeting Venue

We meet at The Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP at 2.15pm. Annual membership costs £12 a year and this entitles members to attend the meetings that take place on the second Wednesday of each month, except August and December.

Membership

Our main purpose is to encourage lifelong learning for those who are no longer in full time employment and emphasis is always placed on making learning active and fun as well as helping in developing friendships. We have a wide range of groups including language study, country walking, computer studies and gardens, churches and historic buildings visits. In the main, membership is drawn from communities in the lower Stour Valley and adjacent areas including Brantham, Capel St Mary, Dedham, East Bergholt, Holbrook, Lawford, Manningtree, Raydon, & Stratford St Mary. We are affiliated to the ThirdAge Trust, have over 200 members and 18 groups. For further information please visit www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk where membership secretary Val Pretty may be contacted.

Remember

It's never too late to learn! Join the 361,477 members in 969 U3As throughout the UK today!

Graeme Forsyth

UNITED BENEFICE OF ARDLEIGH AND THE BROMLEYS

CHILDREN COMMITTEE NEWS

Messy Christingle

On Sunday 6th December we held our Messy Christingle in St. Mary's Church, Ardleigh.

Starting at 3pm, children started arriving and then after a drink and biscuit went to sit with our special visitor, Reverend Pat Prestney. Pat introduced the Christingle to the children and then they all dispersed around the Church to do the various crafts.

Around 20 children made Christingles, advent calendars, cards, crowns and beautiful candles to hang on our Christmas tree. They then gathered again and sang some songs before playing a game and then sitting down for a shared meal.

Afterwards the children held their lit Christingles in the church while singing. They then left with their Children Society candles and lots of Christmas wishes.

We would like to thank all the families who came, Pat Prestney and all of our helpers for making it a lovely afternoon.

Christmas Competition

In early December the children of St. Mary's school, Ardleigh and St. George's school, Great Bromley were invited to take part in our Christmas competition. They were asked to colour or decorate an angel and return it to school by 11th December.

We were very pleased with the entries we received. It was so hard to choose who should win in each class as they were all really good.

St. George's school had 45 entries. Class 1 had 15 entries and the favourite picture was by Angel Parrott. Class 2 had 12 entries and the favourite picture was by Maisie Pittick. Class 3 had 14 entries and the favourite picture was by Phoebe Barford. Class 4 had 4 entries and the favourite picture was by Roxanne Lawes.

St Mary's school had 30 entries. Class 1

had 7 entries and the favourite picture was by Jude Mansfield. Class 2 had 12 entries and the favourite picture was by Daisie Crilly. Class 3 had 5 entries and the favourite picture was by Charlotte McKenna. Class 4 had 6 entries and the favourite picture was by Rosie Brook.

All the pictures have been on display in their local church over the Christmas period and they look lovely.

Everyone who entered received a prize for taking part. Every favourite picture winner received a small selection box which was given to them before the schools broke up.

Crib Services

On Christmas Eve St. Mary's Church, Ardleigh at 4pm and St. George's Church, Great Bromley at 5.30pm both held their Crib Services.

Reverend Pat Prestney took both services and with the help of Michael Mouse and a selection of other animals retold the Christmas story. Olivia Watts sang a short solo which was lovely and Gregory Frostick played the organ. Children Society candles were returned during the services.

In both churches the readings were done by the children who made a lovely job of it. There was excitement as lots of the children came up to the front and placed the nativity pieces into the stables.

Both churches were packed and we ran out of song sheets. It was great to see so many people in attendance.

We would like to thank Pat Prestney for providing such lovely services and the helpers who did a wonderful job of handing out service sheets, sweets and stickers, etc. Both churches raised money for the Children Society. Great Bromley raised £138. It was really nice to see the happy faces as everyone left in anticipation of Christmas Day.

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CHURCH JOTTINGS

With Christmas festivities now just a memory, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year from all at St George's Church.

2016 for us at St George's is going to be a very interesting year, a time of change, a time of great challenges, and an exciting time.

After a year of talking, consultation, serious thoughts, prayers and deliberation, the P.C.C. of the Bromleys have decided that the best way forward for our community in 2016 and the years to come is to join together with our neighbouring parishes of Little Bentley and Lawford. The very first meeting of the three parishes is to take place at Lawford on January 18th. The meeting will be chaired by the Venerable Annette Cooper, the Arch Deacon of Colchester.

Of course this decision is tinged with a little sadness as we will be going in a different direction to Ardleigh who have chosen to be in a team with Dedham. Elmstead have also chosen a different route and have already begun to plan as part of a team with Thorrington and Arlesford..

January 18th is just the beginning of our new adventure and journey, there is much to discuss and plan, working together with three parishes is going to be quite different and your P.C.C. will work hard to negotiate the best deal for "The Bromleys".

There will be opportunities when working with this team not only to retain some of our traditions, but also to expand, diversify, so that we can offer a broader and more varied programme for the community, supported by stipendiary and non-stipendiary staff based in Lawford who will lead us through into the future.

We are also hopeful of support with administration, finance and other areas of expertise which are very time consuming for our volunteers.

Very important to us too is the support of our School, Seven Rivers, Hamilton Lodge and last, but no means least, the pastoral care and support to all families in the community of the Bromleys.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we prepare for this, if you have any thoughts, ideas, please let me know what you and your family would like to see happening at St. George's. You and your family are the future, and we want our beautiful church to survive and thrive now and in the years to come.

Thank you to all of you who have visited the Church over the Christmas Period. I hope you enjoyed the services and it was great to see so many friends, old and new in the Church at such a special time.

Jenny Nicholls, Churchwarden

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Jam Sessions

The JAM (Jesus and Me) sessions at St. George's church on a Friday after school finishes have been going well. A regular group of parents and children have been coming into the church for crafts, toys and biscuits.

The sessions will be starting again on Friday 22nd January between 3pm and 3.40pm.

Everyone is welcome.
Carol Cordwell



**ARDLEIGH and THE BROMLEYS
CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

**Church of England Services
FEBRUARY**

Sunday 7th		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 10th		Ash Wednesday	
	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 14th		1st Sunday of Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 21st		2nd Sunday of Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 28th		3rd Sunday of Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 6th March		4th Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>

FROM THE REGISTERS

12th January Interment of Ashes - Dick Hayward
14th January Thanks giving service for Lindsey Lennox

J.A.M. DROP- IN

Every Friday in St George's church *
Term time only
Parents & children welcome
All are welcome * 3pm to 3.40pm *
Refreshments, activities

Church Lunch

3rd February at 12 noon
St George's Church
Everybody is welcome
Come for a chat, support, bring a friend