

The Bromley Messenger

February 2009

Volume 22 No 11



FORWARD

The first time I met Vera Biddis was when she offered to sell me raffle tickets at some event in the Village Hall which, I suspect, is how most people new to the village first met her. Always ready to chat with a twinkle in her eye, she ever seemed to be at the hub of most that was going on in the village. At village functions she was rarely without someone with whom to talk and express her opinions. A long time supporter of the Girl Guide movement, I used to take my brownies to sing Christmas carols at her door. She attended almost every one of our brownie events in the old brownie hut, and then later at the new one behind Brook House, with an encompassing smile. Her death coming so hard on the heels of Grace Gould brings about a sense of a passing of a generation for whom the support of village life and events was most important. Her strong belief in, and support of, the community is an example to everyone and she will be sadly missed by us all.

The second annual Handy Book is delivered with this month's magazine. I hope this continues to be of ongoing use to everyone throughout the year. Various sections have been updated but as with anything in print some parts will, no doubt, be out of date before the year is out.

Church Meadow has had extensive work done to it since Christmas with specific car park spaces now marked out. A map on page 5 shows the one way system which the Parish Council ask that you follow. The work was all done by volunteers from the community and on your behalf I would like to thank them all for their hard work.

As I write it is the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch weekend when birds seen in any one hour around the country are counted with the results submitted giving an indication of the UK birds living here during winter.

In my garden I have as regular visitors pheasants, goldfinches, greenfinches, chaffinches, blue and great tits, robins, blackbirds, sparrows, dunnocks, magpies, woodpigeon, collared doves, green and great spotted



woodpeckers and sparrowhawks. I am waiting to see the long tailed tits that usually start to visit about now who like to feed on the fat with either insects or peanuts added to them along with the visitors that arrive as the weather improves.

MATERIAL for the **MARCH 2009** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **15th February, 2009** 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 either be delivered by hand, sent by post or e-mail. (see inside back cover for details) or via the link on the websites www.greatbromley.org.uk or www.littlebromley.org.uk

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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

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

SPONSORSHIP AND NEW COVER

Sponsorship will be due in April, when we also decide on a new cover and update the information regarding the Clubs and Organisations of the villages.

Would you all let Leonie know what you want to change, or confirm not to change or add, to the inside covers.

If anyone would like to sponsor the magazine for a part or whole page advert in a month of your choice and have your information on the back cover every month then please contact me for prices.

Len Christodoulides



Sallywags

At Great Bromley Village Hall
Friday Mornings 9.30-11.30am
0-5years.Parent and child group.
Activities/themed sessions/play equipment etc.
For more details or visits please contact 01206 230625



Great Bromley & Frating Playgroup

At Great Bromley Village Hall.
Monday & Thursday 9.30-12 noon Wednesday 9.15-11.45am
& 12.15-2.45pm
Session Tel No: 0785 7503103
(Lunch time session also available)
Children: 2 - 5 years. £6 per session.
Ofsted inspected.

For more details/visits, please contact Group Secretary-Debbie on 01206 250183

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

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald
Telephone: 01206 230305

We were sorry to have missed giving you our news last month but we were even busier than normal as Ofsted decided to pay us a visit! Whilst they were visiting we had our dress rehearsal and PTA Festive Fayre. All events went extremely well and we were pleased to say that Ofsted said that we were a good school with many outstanding features. The play was once again a huge success greatly enjoyed by pupils and loved by parents as can be seen in the photographs. The Festive Fayre raised an incredible £1675 – a huge thank you to all who supported this event.

This month the pupils in Class 4 will be visiting the Zoo as part of their topic and Science work. The PTA will be holding an adult quiz night on 28 February in the school hall. If you would like to bring a team, please contact the school office – 230305. Also the whole school will be supporting the work of UNICEF by participating in their national non-uniform day. Pupils will come to school wearing 'muft' clothes and pay a fine for the pleasure! This year's UNICEF's project is the health and well-being of children in Papua New Guinea.



*Photographs by kind permission of
St George's School*

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**REVISED CAR PARKING LAYOUT IN
CHURCH MEADOW**

- with effect from 5th January 2009

Following concern regarding the deteriorating condition of the grassed areas in Church Meadow, the parish council approved a programme of works in 2008 to clearly delineate the approved car parking area and to enhance the surface of that area such that overall safety and usability of the car park was improved. Additionally, approval was given for the recycling centre to be relocated and screened such that it had less of an adverse impact on the setting of St George's Church and was located adjacent to the hard standing of the car park. Improvements to the vehicular entrance in Hall Road were also agreed.

These works are now largely complete and have resulted in a 42 space car parking area being provided for village residents, visitors to St Georges Church, visitors to St Georges's School and other occasional users. The car park is not large enough to accommodate large numbers of visitors attending major church services (such as weddings or funerals) nor is it sufficient to accommodate the cars of all parents of pupils at St George's School. Separate or additional arrangements will need to be made by organisers of large events at the church and school. It should be noted that Church Meadow is not provided specifically or solely as a school car park, although staff, teaching assistants, visitors and parents are welcome to use the car parking area up to its designed capacity. The car parking area is not a play area and is inherently hazardous, particularly for young children who should be kept under close parental control.

The layout of the car park is shown overleaf for your information. Users are requested to park only in the designated bays and to respect the one way system. The parking area in front of the recycling bins/pedestrian entrance is for use only by residents recycling their waste; vehicles should not be parked in this area and left unattended.

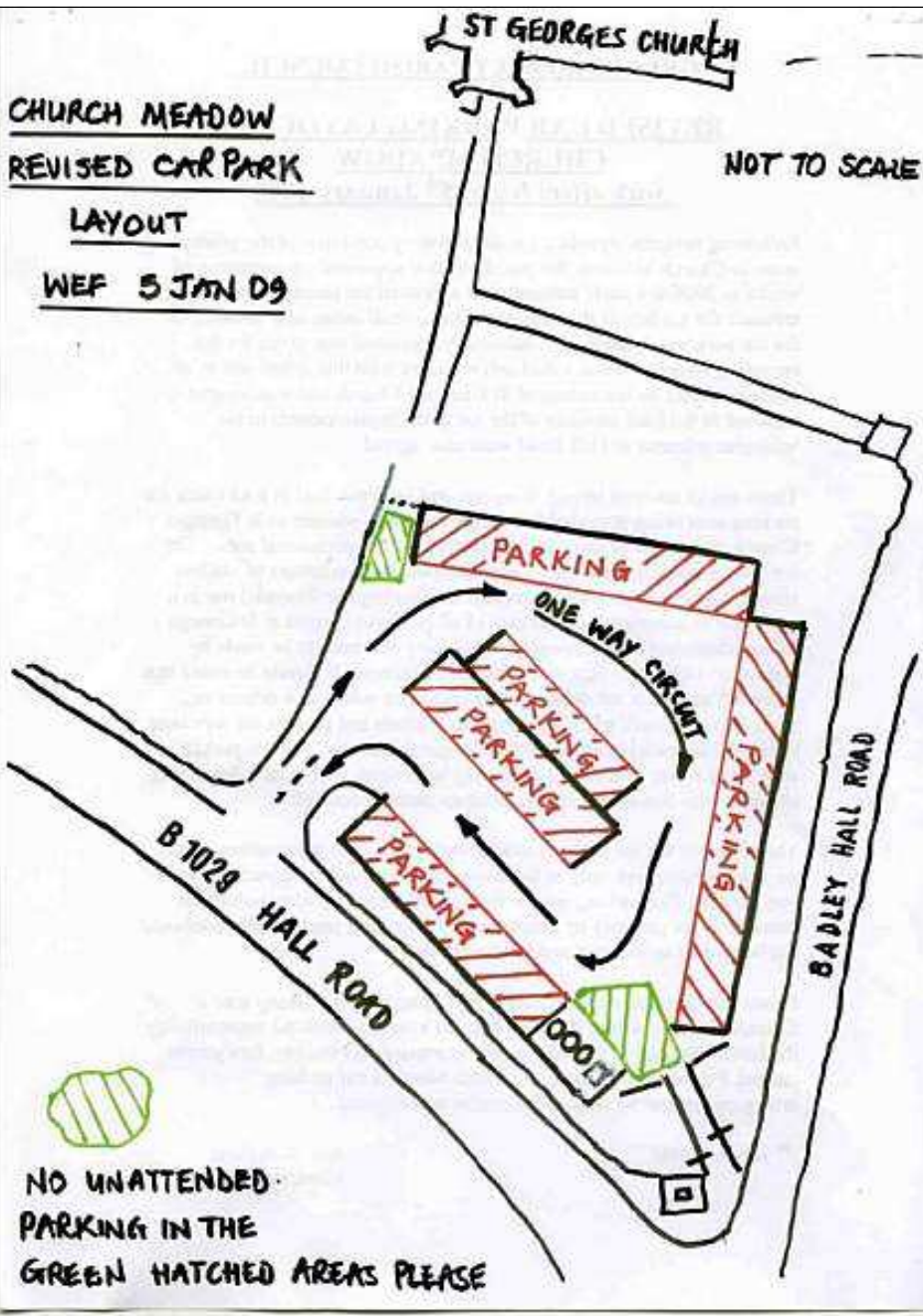
Please use care and consideration when using the car parking area in Church Meadow. Great Bromley Parish Council accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to persons or property using this facility, howsoever caused. Further information on Church Meadow car parking arrangements can be obtained from the undersigned.

5th January 2009

Ken Bromfield
Clerk to the Council

CHURCH MEADOW
REVISED CAR PARK
LAYOUT
WEF 5 JAN 09

NOT TO SCALE



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Bromley Parish Council

www.essexinfo.net/gbpc

Report of parish council meetings held on 11 December 2008 and 8 January 2009

Planning

The Council considered the following planning applications and had no objection:

2 Chase Cottages, Honeypot Lane – rear extension (conservatory).

Two Trees, Chapel Lane – single storey rear extension.

Greshams Farm, Harwich Road – continued use of redundant agricultural buildings as groundwork contractors' workshop, storage and distribution depot.

Appeal

Great Bromley Free Range Eggs Ltd has appealed against Tendring Council's refusal to allow the erection of three large barns etc on land east of Hall Road. The parish council has lodged an objection to this development with the Planning Inspectorate.

Tendring District Council has approved the following planning application:

Green Acres, Briar Road – stable block and hard standing.

Church Meadow

The improvements to the car park have now been completed and the layout plan which accompanies this report is on page 5. In order to maintain a grassed area there are fewer car parking spaces. Therefore, in order that the car parking space is used efficiently, users are asked please to keep to the following: follow the 'one way' system; park within the marked bays; do not leave vehicles unattended next to the recycling bins or at the church access point; keep children safe. Overnight parking is not allowed.

The parish council welcomes comments on the new car parking arrangements. Church Meadow is not a *public* car park as such and those who use it do so at their risk. The parish council accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage to person or property, howsoever this may be caused.

Further guidance on using the car park can be obtained from the Clerk or seen on the council's website.

Hare Green Recreation Ground

Residents are reminded that, on the grounds of health and safety, dogs are not allowed on the Hare Green Recreation Ground. Your co-operation in ensuring that dogs are exercised elsewhere is appreciated.

Financial matters

The council has agreed its budget for 2009/10 with planned expenditure of £27,260. This will be financed by £14,000 from council tax revenue, £4750 from grants and other income and the balance from the council's reserves. Expenditure will include the following: general administration – £6910, community grants – £3000, grounds' maintenance – £4600, new playground equipment – £4000, village hall roof repair fund – £5000, trees and flower tubs – £1000, village projects – £2500 and contingency – £250.

Poorlands Charity

The trustees of Great Bromley's Poorlands Charity met in December and agreed to distribute grants of £50 each to three residents. The Trust's income in 2008 was £220 and its investments are presently worth about £5000.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12 February 2009 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

Ken Bromfield, Clerk to Council

WORKING GROUP 9



Photographs taken
by Fred Nicholls and
Martin Frostick

Please see documents on pages 4 and 5 regarding parking in Church Meadow.

The works in Church Meadow were carried out between Christmas and the New Year. The hard work was carried out in the main by a small band that included Glenn Griffiths, Neil Skinner, Eddie East, Martin Frostick and Fred Nicholls assisted by a small number of other helpers. Some hedge and tree planting has still to be completed and this

will be done once the weather warms up a little. At the beginning of the school term leaflets were handed out to parents using the Church Meadow. As can be seen in the leaflet the alterations to Church Meadow is not specifically or solely designed for use as a school car park but as an amenity for the village which includes the Church, Ramblers and other visitors to our village.

Fred Nicholls

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Little Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 18th December 2008

Mainly about the coming year. As usual the proposed Annual Fete was discussed and the possibility of taking part in the "Fun Day" being held by Great Bromley. However as our amenities team were both absent with 'flu we will discuss it further at the next meeting.

Regrettably the Parcels for Heroes project cannot be pursued as public support has been so great throughout the country that the logistics support for the project has been overwhelmed.

The Chairman and all members of the Council would like to wish the parishioners of Little Bromley a Happy Prosperous and healthy New Year.

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on 12th February 2009 at 7.30pm at The Haywain, Little Bromley

Maj A C Downes MBE, Clerk

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

CONTRACTS FOR GRASS AND HEDGE CUTTING

In March the council will be awarding the contracts for the maintenance of its land during the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. There will be three separate contracts with a total value of about £4000 and covering the following work: (a) general hedge cutting; (b) general grass cutting; (c) general maintenance of the closed cemetery plus miscellaneous small-scale grass/hedge cutting work.

Organisations or individuals interested in tendering for all or any of these contracts should contact the Clerk, Ken Bromfield (01206 230089), for further information and details of the specifications.

***The closing date for the
receipt of tenders is
Monday 9th March 2009.***



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The maps with reference to the Great Bromley Pylons in the June and September 2007 editions of *The Bromley Messenger* were taken from the booklet "The Battle of the East Coast (1939-1945)" written by J P Foynes.

I acknowledge with grateful thanks his permission to have printed them.

LMH

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It is with very great sadness we announce the passing of our member, Mrs VERA BIDDIS - our Chairperson for so many years and only due to ill health she reluctantly was unable to continue but never lost contact with the Club.

Frank and I came to Great Bromley in 1987 and the first residents we saw were Mr and Mrs Biddis filling bags with cherry plums with a notice "for sale". We stopped and approached these people and mentioned we were just 'moving in' up Mary Lane. They would not accept any payment for the fruit but invited us to call in for a cuppa any time. What a lovely welcome.

This was the beginning of a long lasting friendship and one we will cherish always— WE WILL MISS THEM, especially VERA, and the village will not be the same without her.

The February meeting will be on the 19th hoping all the invalids have recovered and are free from all the coughs, colds and sniffles which has affected so many people over the Christmas period.

A happy New Year to you all.

Vicky Griffiths

GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

The year has started off cold and misty and as it is seasonable let us hope we get a nice warm spring and a hot summer; last year was a disaster. If the weather turns mild at the end of the month roses can be pruned.

Lawns: Any bare patches can be raked over and seeded, make sure that the mower is in good condition when the cutting season begins.

Any **shrubs, perennials** etc. that have been loosened by the wind and frost should be firmed in and a light dusting of general fertiliser given.

Lilies: Plant lilies towards the end of the month.

Dutch Irises: If you are planting Dutch irises for cut flowers they will need to be protected with cloches until frost has gone.

Frank Griffiths



GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Committee was scheduled to meet again on 20th January.

We welcome back in 2009 the Groups and Clubs who have regular hiring at the Village Hall. They are: Great Bromley & Frating Playgroup, The Scallywags, Great Bromley Badminton Club, Great Bromley Men's Social Club, Great Bromley Carpet Bowls Club, Great Bromley Women's Institute, Great Bromley Friendship Club, Great

Bromley Parish Council, Colchester & District Poultry Club, British Gas, Royal Air Force Association, The Church and the School. We also

welcome individuals who would like to run a group and, hopefully, I have not forgotten to mention an existing group!

To entertain you in February, we have Eastern Angles bringing 'Return to Akenfield' on Saturday, 28th at 7.30pm. Tickets are available for Play only (7.30pm) at £8 or Play with Supper beforehand (6.00pm promptly) at £18.

Tickets may be obtained from Anne Clapham 01206 230790, Paula Knappet 01206 250156 and Jenny Nicholls 01206 230688. Play only tickets are also available from the Post Office at The Cross Inn. All in aid of St George's Church Repair Fund.



We have booked the 'Nostalgia' Big Band at the Village Hall for an evening of music and dancing on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm. Now that you have picked up those dancing tips from a well publicised television programme, you must write this date in your 2009 diary! Tickets are available from Beryl Hurst on 01206 230578. In aid of Village Hall Funds.

It is with great sadness we learn of the passing of Vera Biddis on Saturday, 10th January 2009, a few days after her 93rd birthday. Vera took a great interest in village affairs and was a long time member of the Village Hall Committee (and many other organisations). Her photograph hangs in the Millennium Lounge, showing her cutting the tape at its official opening in 2001. Our condolences are extended to her family and friends.

We also learn of the passing of Dorothy Arthey on Friday 9th January, 2009, wife of Ivan for 50 years. Many of you know Ivan for his skills in carrying out the multitude of jobs in the local neighbourhood and giving a helping hand when needed. Our condolences are extended to their family and friends.

We also hear that Geoff Hurst is in hospital to undergo tests, to try and sort a problem. This is a worrying time for Beryl and our thoughts are with them both.

Bevan Willgress



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Fifteen hardy members ventured out in the cold and ice to attend our January meeting, while four others were enjoying themselves in the warmth of Denman College in Oxfordshire on a "Beaded Blackberries with Wired Leaves in Long and Short Stitch" course. This was a follow up to the course attended in January 2008.



Illness had depleted our numbers still further but those present were able to find out all about Noel Coward (1899-1973). Mr David Padwick of Great Horkesley told us all about his colourful life and sang several of his songs including 'London Pride' and 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen'.

In the absence of our President, the meeting was ably chaired by Jennifer Nicholls.

Our February meeting features Mr Bill Pirie who will speak on 'My life as a Policeman'. Those who have heard him before will know that we are in for a good time. Do come along as we would love to see you.



Sue Orriss

Recipe for Denman Blackberry Jam

Take four Great Bromley WI members, pack them carefully into a car and send them across snowy country to Marcham.

Unpack slowly, taking care to unbend stiff limbs before pouring them into warm comfy rooms.

Introduce to other ingredients mixing well, all the while keeping them well fed.

Turn them into a room well stocked with needles, threads, beads, ideas and a lovely head chef called Julie, stirring them constantly with enthusiasm.

Take care not to make too many mistakes as this will slow you down in arriving at the finished product but, it can have its advantages by teaching you a good way to hide the error.

With a few turns around the delightful gardens and more good company and food, bake for five days in a warm room to perfect a lovely piece of needlework and cement friendship.

LMH



Gt Bromley WI members & tutor, Julie Walsby at Denman College

Forthcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 12 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 19 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 28 PTA Quiz Night, School Hall,
'Return to Akenfield' (Eastern Angles), Village Hall

MARCH

- 21 'Nostalgia' Big Band, Village Hall, 7.30pm

JUNE

- 13 Great Bromley Fun Day, Village Hall/Cricket Club, 2.00pm



Return to Akenfield

Saturday 28th February
2009

at 7.30pm

in Great Bromley Village Hall

Tickets available as

Play Only	7.30pm	£8.00
Play with Supper beforehand		£18.00

Supper at 6.00pm PROMPTLY

Both ticket types available from

Ann Clapham	01206 230790
Paula Knappett	01206 250156
Jenny Nicholls	01206 230688

Play tickets only from

The Post Office at The Cross Inn

In aid of St George's Church Repair Fund

Valentine Dinner Dance

Saturday 14th February
Lawford Venture Centre
7.00pm prompt

Dancing to

'The Smokin Jackets'
(5 piece band and disco)

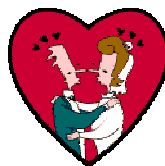
3 course dinner

Black tie (a hint of red)

Breast Cancer Charity Raffle

£28 per head

Call: Linda Pinhey,
Sweet Success
tel: 01206 230126 for
details



NOSTALGIA BIG BAND

playing at
Great Bromley Village Hall
on Saturday, 21st March
at 7.30pm



Tickets available from
Beryl Hurst (01206
230578)

In aid of Village Hall Funds

ADULT QUIZ NIGHT

St George's School Hall
on
Saturday 28th February



If you would like to
bring a team please
contact the
School Office on 01206
230305

CRICKET CLUB

100 Club Winners

December 2008

- 1st Lewis Perrin
- 2nd Oliver Wright
- 3rd Helen Fairley

January 2009

- 1st George Kempster
- 2nd Mrs R Herring
- 3rd M Hart

Phil Allam



KITCHEN CORNER

A vegetarian dish for Lent
Serves 4 people

CHEESE POTATOES with CARAWAY

900g/2lbs potatoes, scrubbed & thinly sliced

2 onions thinly sliced

2 cloves garlic, crushed

½ pint milk

1 teasp caraway seeds

1 tbsp fresh chopped parsley

Salt and pepper

110g/4oz grated cheese

Preheat oven 180°C/350°F. Put potatoes, onion, garlic, milk and caraway seeds in a saucepan and bring to the boil; simmer gently for 5 minutes. Stir in parsley and seasoning. Lightly oil a three-pint oven dish, pour in the mixture and cover with the grated cheese.

Bake for 35-40 minutes till potatoes are cooked and cheese is golden brown and bubbling.

Serve with a green vegetable or tomato salad.

Jill Frostick



CARPET BOWLS

We are setting off again after the Christmas break which seems to have passed in a flurry of coughs, sneezes and sniffles. A good attendance of 15 players on the first club evening of the year, and after the social chat was brought up to date, we surprisingly managed to fit in several ends of bowls. The foggy, frosty evening kept one or two members at home, but with a few miles to travel, a wise decision.

Our last league match in December was a drawn game against Thorpe.

On 14th December we entered a team in a charity tournament run by Walton Bowls Club at Great Bentley Village Hall, in aid of the Essex Air Ambulance. Twenty clubs took part.

Great Bromley, represented by Ron Copp, Pam and Derek Frostick and Pat Petchey lost to Engaines 9-3, a drawn game against Brantham, won the three games against Birch Tey 9-5, Silver Dawn 10-8 and Chelmer Village 8-2, finishing in fourth place in the competition. Well done to all four of them.

NEW MEMBER

We say, Welcome to Jackie Woodhouse who moved in to the village this past year with her daughter and family. With only ten-pin bowling as experience, Jackie has taken to the carpet bowls pretty good, and we all hope she will enjoy her new hobby with us.

Nancy Kempster

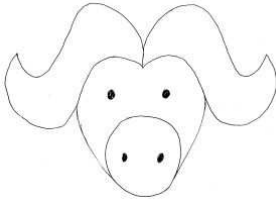


CHILDREN'S PAGES

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2009

The Chinese New Year began on 26th January and is the Year of the Ox. You could make this ox pin to wear or put a magnet on it and attach it to the fridge.

Ox head brooch pin or Fridge Magnet



You will need:

- 4 cm wide cardboard heart shape
- Beige felt
- Brown acrylic paint
- Paint brush
- Black marker
- Scissors
- Craft glue
- Pin back or magnet

How to make it:

1. Paint the heart with brown paint and set aside to dry (Fig 1)
2. Cut nose and two horns from beige felt (Figs 2 and 3)
3. Glue horns at the top of the heart and nose to the pointed end of the heart.
4. Use black marker pen to draw on eyes and nostrils
5. Glue pin back or magnet to the back of the heart.

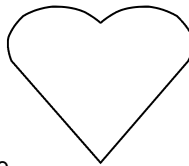


Fig 1

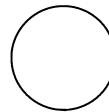


Fig 2

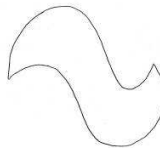


Fig 3

Chinese Egg Roll Salad

- 1 bag of coleslaw mix with carrots
- 1 cup of leftover cooked meat either chicken pork or beef
- 2 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp Teriyaki sauce
- 1 Tsp garlic powder
- 10 large egg roll wrappers cut into long strips
- 1 green onion
- Sweet and sour sauce or duck sauce
- 4 Tbsp vegetable oil

In large frying pan heat oil; slowly add egg roll wrappers, fry until crispy, set aside on paper towel to drain. Add coleslaw mixture to frying pan then add meat and soy and teriyaki sauce and garlic powder; stir until warmed through.

Place salad into serving bowl topped with crispy egg roll wrappers and chopped green onion. Serve warm with Sweet and Sour sauce or duck sauce to taste.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Sometimes it is not the actual gift but the message that it brings that is most cherished. This little box is a way to show your friends how much they mean to you.

Friendship Box

You will need:

1 small empty box, any size
Valentine wrapping paper or a pattern of any kind that you like
White paper for the poem
Craft glue
White ribbon
Scissors

How to make it:

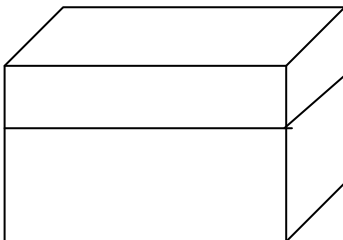
1. Wrap the empty box in the wrapping paper
2. Tie the ribbon around the box and tie into a bow on the top
3. Write out the poem below or any other friendship words you like
4. Trim the poem and glue the trimmed poem to the lid of the box

Friendship Box Poem

by Amanda Formaro

Inside this fancy little box
I placed a gift so nice
You'll probably always cherish it
Not even thinking twice

Now even though this box I give
Holds nothing you can touch
I've placed inside our friendship
It's you I like so much!



Cherry Cookies

Ingredients:

1 cup butter
2 egg yolks
Pinch salt
1/2 cup icing sugar
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
36 glace cherries plus extra for garnishing if you like
Coconut flakes
Icing made with icing sugar mixed with a few drops of water, tinted pink with pink colouring

Heat oven to 350F, 180C, Gas Mark 4
Blend together the butter, egg yolks, vanilla extract, salt, icing sugar and flour.

Take a small amount of dough in your hand, flatten it out and wrap it around a cherry. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet until golden brown (about 10 minutes).

Cool for a minute or two while you mix the icing. Dip each cookie quickly in the icing and then roll in coconut flakes. Garnish with an extra cherry cut into a heart shape, if you like.

Store in an airtight container.

ESSEX POLICE



These are the incidents in Great Bromley for the month of December

Theft From Motor Vehicle -

Back Lane East (Sat Nav)

Theft Other - Hall Road

Road Traffic Collision -

Serious Injury - Harwich Road

Damage Only - Harwich Road x 2

Les Barnes PCSO 71909

Thorpe Le Soken NPT Eastern

Internal Ext : 487603

External 01255 862843

Email : leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police

website : www.essex.police.uk

News letter for the month of January 2009

This one is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want.

Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it. This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

One of our employees was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard".

The scam works like this: Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank) did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for £497.99 from a Marketing company based in London?" When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from £297 to £497, just under the £500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "yes". The caller continues - "I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 0800 number listed on the back of your card (0800-VISA) and ask for Security.

You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works the caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card." He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers." There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say, "No," the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of £497.99 was charged to our card.

Long story - short - we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or MasterCard directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued=2 0the card! [sic] If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of MasterCard" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I

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didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily.

There have been several complaints of people being telephoned by a recorded message saying that if they do not want to receive any calls from this number then please call 07953 966066. Please do not call this number back as you may be charged a lot of money.

Please do not send any money in response to any email or letter that you may receive. The types of emails that you may receive are ones where the sender will claim that you have won a lottery or claim that they have been left lots of money and want you to help them deposit the money. This scam comes in the form of email or a letter through the post. If you receive a letter through the post then they would have obtained your details from the phone book.

Please be aware of a company called **JC Landscapes** who have contacted a resident in the Harwich area to do landscaping work. This company have not done the job properly and have over-charged. Please do not agree to have any work done without first obtaining a quote once you have agreed a price then get it in writing with signatures if in doubt about any workman then do not agree to have any work done.

**PEUGEOT AUTOMOBILES LOTTERY
London ,United Kingdom.**

=====

This is to inform you that you have been selected for a cash prize of £500,000.00 and a brand new Peugeot 407 Car, From the International online programs held on the 11th of Dec 2008 in London the United Kingdom . To begin the processing of your prize you are to contact the remittance department with the email address provided below : CLAIMS AGENT Sir Francis Edmund,
Email:
peugeot_automobilesclaims_20008@yahoo.com.hk
(Tel: 44-703-595-4209)
Contact him with your secret pin code
PGA0011234 and your

ref number PGA: 12058006/06.

You are also advised to provide him with the under listed information as soon as possible:

Claims Requirements:

1. Name in full:
2. Address:
3. Sex:
4. Nationality:
5. Age:
6. Occupation:
7. Phone/Fax:
8. Present Country:

congratulations once again!

With Best Regards
Mr. Dominic Gerard
Lottery Manager.

**Essex Police and Essex Police
Authority are sponsoring the Young
People of the Year awards to be held
in Essex on March 1.**

Do you know a young person in Essex who is a positive example to others? If so nominate them for an Essex Police Young People of the Year. The winner will receive a £1,000 prize.

To nominate a young person, aged 10-25, who gives to others and is a positive role model, log on to www.yopey.org or write to Essex Police YOPEY, PO Box 103, Hare Street, Ware SG9 0XD for an entry form.

Entries will close on January 31, 2009 and an awards ceremony will be held at the Radisson hotel, Stansted Airport, in March.

For some examples of nominees visit www.essex.police.uk and go to the news section.

Nicola Bastendorff
Public Relations Officer
Internal ext: 50611
Direct Dial: 01245452395 or 0300 3334444 ext 50611
Mobile: 07802913920
Fax: 01245 457222 or ext 50657
Email:
nicola.bastendorff@essex.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.essex.police.uk
Essex Police HQ, Springfield, Chelmsford

Minerals Matter...to YOU

How should we decide where the county's future mineral extraction sites should be located?

How can we better protect our mineral resources?

Should all new building projects use a proportion of recycled materials?

These and other questions will be raised at a series of workshops on Mineral Matters to be held early in 2009. If you have views on these issues or other mineral related questions, come and take part. Representatives from the minerals and recycling industries, statutory consultees, local interest groups and individuals will all be there.

How can you get involved?

- Take part in our public consultation from 15 January to 12 March 2009
- Read the Minerals Development Documents at your local library or council offices, or check our website: www.essexcc.gov.uk/MDD-Consultation
- Sign up today to attend the Mineral Matters workshops to share your views with industry representatives, other consultees and local interest groups by emailing mineralsandwastepolicy@essex.gov.uk or phone 01245 435555
- Respond with your views – online, by email, fax or letter – by mid-March 2009
- If you feel you need a public meeting locally - contact your parish or town council.

Be part of the big debate – Minerals Matter to all of us!



FROM THE DOCTOR'S SURGERY

I hate to start the year with a whinge, but the number of people not keeping their appointments is creeping back up again. In December, 61 people let us down by not telling us that they wouldn't be coming. (Even if they were just single appointments, which they weren't, that is the equivalent of three full morning surgery sessions.) Up to today (15th), we have had 29 so far in January.

I appreciate that sometimes an appointment will get forgotten – I've done it in the past, I know. However, we do seem to have some serial offenders who break appointments time after time, and there is simply no acceptable excuse for this. Even if it is difficult to get through on our normal telephone line, you can ring us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 01206 255071 to leave a message saying that you can't get here. If you can't get to a 'phone, please ask someone else to contact us. However we hear from you, we can then give your slot to someone else. The result is one happy (if possibly poorly) patient, a less stressed doctor and you don't get the dreaded "DNA" (Did Not Attend) label on your record.

New Year's resolutions might be becoming a bit of a struggle at this point, and if you have made one that relates to smoking or weight we just might be able to help you stay on the straight and narrow.

We now have "Stop Smoking" clinics here, run by an expert supplied by the Primary Care Trust, every Friday afternoon. Annie, our resident expert, has been amazingly successful at easing people through the pain of quitting since she started her sessions here. If you make a start by providing the will-power there are all sorts of nicotine replacement therapies (NRT) that she can prescribe to help.

Your local pharmacy could also be very helpful, especially if you have to pay for your prescriptions. They have trained "Stop Smoking" helpers and can provide NRT at a reduced rate of £10 for ten weeks' supply. (It's free of course if you don't pay for your prescriptions.)

Just imagine going for the rest of 2009 without the horrible weed. You'll certainly be richer as well as having drastically cut your chances of developing heart disease, cancer, emphysema or bronchitis. You will also be less likely to have a stroke and might not, after all join the 50% of smokers who die from their habit, half of them in middle age when their children are not even properly grown up. Worth thinking about, isn't it?

If weighing too much seems to be your problem, we now offer special weight management clinics run by Sister Woraker. Strictly speaking, these are intended for people who are technically obese, i.e. they have a BMI of 30 or more. However, as not many people will have intimate knowledge of their BMI, let's just say that if you are at the point where you feel your weight is having an adverse effect on your health, why not make an appointment and come and have a chat about getting things back under control? Your life could be transformed.

The disease of the month for February is conjunctivitis so at this point I'll hand over to Dr Hunt, who writes:

Infective (as opposed to allergic) conjunctivitis is an infection of the conjunctiva (the "front skin" of the eye). It is a very common problem that can often be managed without the need to come to the surgery. Normal symptoms are that one or both eyes become red or pink. They may become sticky or watery and can suffer surface irritation.

Marked eye pain, light hurting the eyes and reduced vision are NOT normal features of conjunctivitis, and if you get these medical advice should be sought. Likewise conjunctivitis in a newborn baby (as opposed to the common “sticky eye”) needs urgent advice from a doctor.

However, most cases – particularly in adults – are viral and will settle in a few days without treatment. Even bacterial conjunctivitis will usually settle on its own as tears contain natural chemicals that fight bacteria. Antibiotic drops or ointment may be needed if it is severe or if it’s not settling. Nowadays, these can be purchased without prescription from your pharmacy as Chloramphenicol. Chloramphenicol is suitable for adults and for children aged 2 years and over but do follow your pharmacist’s advice.

Other general advice includes not wearing contact lenses until the symptoms have completely gone, and

cleaning away secretions with cotton wool soaked in water. Although it is contagious, conjunctivitis will only be passed on if you are in very close contact with someone. This risk can be minimised by washing hands regularly, especially after touching eyes, and by not sharing towels, flannels, pillows etc.

Finally, – and this may surprise many of you – despite it being contagious, guidance from the Health Protection Agency states that it is **not** necessary to exclude a child from school or childcare if they have infective conjunctivitis unless there is an outbreak, in which case the school should seek specialist advice.

Dr Mathew Hunt, General Practitioner

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

We shall soon be approaching the Lenten season, a time for renewal in our faith and the time we begin our spiritual preparation for Easter. Traditionally at this time we also remember Our Lord's time of preparation in the wilderness prior to his ministry.

The "desert experience" is one which is essential to any growth in the spiritual life and I would like to share a few thoughts with you about its significance.

A desert is a dry and barren place. It recognises the extremes of heat by day and cold by night. It can be fruitless and lifeless; little grows there. There is little expectation of change. A desert is a lonely and seemingly endless place, infertile, inhospitable and frightening. It smells of danger and death, of hunger and thirst.

However, this is the judgement of someone whose experience is one of living on a densely populated island in the northern hemisphere. Here there are vegetables in the shops, a profusion of colourful and satisfying fruits, packets and tins of all descriptions. There is almost an infinite variety of goods and experiences at our disposal - television, theatre, cinema, music, dance and education. Existence can be rich and choice wide. The climate is moderate; the environment offers surprise, adventure, colour, excitement. Our expectation of lifestyle, diet, culture and experience knows no bounds. A visiting nomadic Bedouin would be bewildered, disorientated, frightened and lost here.

It is easy to think of our western experience as normal. For the Bedouin it is extremely abnormal. In fact such a visitor to our society might make some shrewd and unwelcome observations on what we call life in the western world. For him the desert is not an infertile and

inhospitable place to live. It is not a place of death. It is home, a place of life and culture.

If we were to go tomorrow to an African desert we would have to make a very important choice: either to run away from it, seeing it as alien, dangerous and evil, to be avoided at all costs, or to embrace the new experience, learn from it and live it. In the desert we would experience much that could not be experienced elsewhere. We would learn of a new relationship with the land and the environment. We would experience total silence and total darkness. We would learn a new appreciation of heat and cold, of the power of the sun and the moon. We would have to learn where to look for our food, although the unfamiliarity of the environment and what it offered might be off-putting. We would be able to learn about solitude and the sense of insignificance in a big universe. We would have to get used to not knowing the world news on the hour, every hour. We would be experiencing a new reality, a game played according to very different rules. If we were sent into the desert the world - our world - would look a very different place.

The desert is not alien to the world, even if it is alien to our own limited experience. It is a very real part of the real world in which we live and move and have our being. To describe our world to a visitor from another planet without mentioning the desert would be to misrepresent reality, to live in a pretend world.

It is important to remember that human experience of life is like the world we inhabit. There is the fertile jungle, there is the polar ice cap, and there is the developed urban sprawl. There is also the desert where our experience might be one of sterility, barrenness, aridity, lostness, fear, depression, frustration,

loneliness, hunger and thirst. For Christians to deny this element of our existence is to be dishonest and unbiblical.

Some people choose to enter the desert. They seek solitude or want to withdraw from the rush of a busy life. They fast and pray and keep silence. They might deprive themselves of material comfort in order to help themselves to order their priorities. Some form of retreat can be like this. There are others who perhaps ought to enter the desert, even if the prospect is a rather fearful one. We might need to learn afresh how to listen to the “still small voice” of God as the prophet Elijah did to reassure us of God’s love, mercy and guidance in our individual lives.

However, most people who enter the desert do so involuntarily. They do not wish to be there and have not chosen to

go. They have not prepared for the different climate and lifestyle. They find themselves horrified at their new environment, afraid, bewildered, and confused and feeling rejected. This is the unsought for desert. It is at times like these that we can truly see our need and our weakness, and therefore act with genuine humility and integrity.

This element of despair is a feature of the experience of many people in the Bible. Yet these experiences were never purposeless, random, accidental or outside of God’s involvement. In fact God frequently sent his people, those whom he loved above all else, into a desert.

More about the desert experience next month.

With love to you all,
Fr Robert

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY
united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Services for February

Sunday 1st		The Presentation of Christ Candlemas	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 8th		3rd Sunday before Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 15th		2nd Sunday before Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 22nd		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	Sung Evensong with Anthem	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Wednesday 25th	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 1st March		1st Sunday of Lent	
	8.00am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

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

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