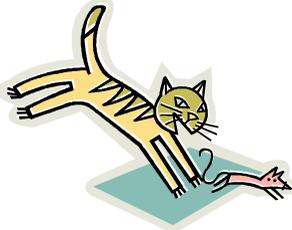


CONFUSED OF GREAT BROMLEY

I don't usually make New Year Resolutions but maybe this year perhaps I should. I should resolve not to reduce readers of the Bromley Messenger to chaos and confusion by not only putting the wrong dates to events but also in the wrong month. Another resolution would be to make the deadline dates/months clear!

Despite the mistakes made last month, for which I apologise and which have been amended in this month's magazine, I like to think that for the most part I get dates and events correct.

Personally, I blame the kitten who discovered how to get up on to the desk where the computer keyboard is and then walking all over it causing me to get distracted. In any event I probably stopped to play with her. She is becoming noticeably bigger and has even killed her first live mouse brought to the back door and abandoned by our other cat. She is practicing her hunting skills on corks, ping pong balls, the dog's tail and anything else that moves.



So bear with me. It is sometimes more fun to stop and play than to stare at the computer screen.

Leonie Henderson

A happy, healthy, peaceful

New Year to you all

St. George's (C of E) School, Gt. Bromley

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald

Telephone: 01206 230305

The School will be closed from 20th December until 3rd January 2007



All the children went to see the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" on 8th December.

The bike shed will be completed by the end of term and allows up to 16 bikes with lockers to be used.

School Play

The School play was held in the Village Hall on 5/6 December which was well attended.

The School Play this year was presented at the Village Hall - "Mr Humbug sees the

light".

The story revolves around a headmaster who wants academic attainment to prevail over such things as Christmas with its festive rituals. He is visited by Christmas "Past", "Present" and "Yet to Come" and eventually succumbs to the traditional spirit of Christmas. In the middle there was a reminder scene of what Christmas is all about - the Nativity.

The future presented some situations which, like George Orwell's 1984 had a ring of truth about it, where the children are taught by robots.

All the children did extremely well learning their lines and singing the songs with great gusto. Well done to all those involved

*Len Christodoulides
Community Governor*

Forthcoming Events

2007

JANUARY

- 3 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 18 Friendship Club A.G.M., Village Hall, 2.00pm
- WEA Lectures start, Ardleigh Village Hall, 2.30pm
- 21-28 Cookies for a Cure Week
- 23 Village Hall committee meeting, Village Hall

FEBRUARY

- 8 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm
- 28 Cricket Club A.G.M., Cricket Pavilion, 8.00pm

JUNE

- 1-3 Little Bentley Hall Waterways & Garden Show
- 23 Essex Police Band, St George's Church



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Bromley Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Thursday, 11th January 2007 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

GRANTS

Small grants are available through the parish council for both individuals and organisations under the following schemes:

Poorlands Charity

The Poorlands Charity was established over 400 years ago to assist residents of Great Bromley who are in need. The charity has an annual income of about £200 from which small cash grants can be made available at any time. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you know someone who might benefit from this scheme. All enquiries will be treated in confidence.

Community grants

The parish council currently sets aside about £2000 annually from its income to provide small grants to organisations whose activities benefit the local community. Recent recipients of council grants include the following: Great Bromley Cricket Club, Great Bromley and Frating Playgroup, Hamilton Lodge Trust, the Bromley Messenger, Tendring Citizen's Advice Bureau, Royal British Legion and St George's Church. *Applications* for this year's grants should be sent to the Parish Clerk *by the end of January 2007*.

Little Bromley Parish Council

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on 8th February 2007. For the time and venue please contact the Parish Clerk on 01206 391015.

Great Bromley & Frating Playgroup

We had a lovely Christmas party and the nativity play was very well attended.

We wish all our leavers the very best at school while we welcome some new faces! However, we still have a few spaces, so do give us a ring. We also welcome visits and hope to have an open morning in February, so watch this space for more details!

We look forward to some fun activities related to next terms topic: our senses. We will tell you all about it at our open morning!



KITCHEN CORNER

Mincemeat Cake

A good way to use up any mincemeat left from Christmas, serve for tea, or with cream for dessert.

220g plain flour
120g caster sugar
120g light muscovado sugar (soft brown)
140ml vegetable oil
½ teasp baking powder
½teasp bicarbonate of soda
1 egg
200ml full cream milk
4 heaped tablesp mincemeat



Set oven 170°C/Gas Mk 3. Line base of a round deep 20cm cake tin

Put flour in mixing bowl, add sugar and oil. In smaller bowl mix baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, egg (beaten) and milk and tip it in. Stir gently to incorporate then fold in mincemeat.

Bake in the tin 50 minutes or till skewer comes out clean. Leave 15 minutes before turning out.

Jill Frostick

WATER

Do you have any queries, problems or complaints regarding your water and sewerage service? The Consumer Council for Water was set up on 1 October 2005 to represent customers of water and sewerage companies in England and Wales. Our office (based in Cambridge) represents customers of Anglian Water, Tendring Hundred Water, Essex and Suffolk Water and Cambridge Water.

We can provide help and information on issues including: explanation of charges, the range of tariffs and rebates available, payment options, metering, responsibility for pipes, water efficiency, metering, levels of customer service, help available

to the elderly and disabled.

If you would like to know more about our work then please do not hesitate to contact us at the following address:



CCWater Eastern, Carlyle House, Carlyle Road,
Cambridge CB4 3DN.

Telephone: 08457 959369 or
01233 323889

Fax: 01233 323930
Email: eastern@ccwater.org.uk
www.ccwater.org.uk

FROM THE PAST ...

The Guildhall

The Guild Hall became the Workhouse and then was made into seven tenements. In the 1841 Census the following families lived there. They were all born in Essex.

William Lord, aged 40, Blacksmith. Wife Charlotte, aged 35, and their family of seven - William, 13; Henry, 11; John, 9; Charlotte, 7; James, 5; Samuel, 3; and Esther, 4 months.

Henry Johnson, aged 30, Agricultural Labourer, with his wife, Elizabeth, 35 and two children, William, 5; and an unnamed girl of 2 months.

In Tenement Three was Abram Blomfield, 30, Agricultural Labourer and wife, Mary, also 30 with four children, Elijah, 8; John, 6; Mary, 5; and Elisha, who was one.

Tenement Four was home to John Prior, 35, Agricultural Labourer, his wife, Sarah, 30; and Frances, 10; Samuel, 9; Harriett, 6; Mary, 4 and John, 1.

In Number Five lived John Warner, 30, Agricultural Labourer with Maria, 25, his wife who had borne two infants, John, 4; and Keziah, a girl. There was also George Warner, 30, another Agricultural Labourer.

No. 6 housed another Agricultural Labourer, Thomas Simons, 31, his wife, Maria, 30; Jane, 8; Mary, 5; Sarah, 2; Eliza, 2 months.

Samuel Cousins was in No 7. He was 25 and another "Ag. Lab". His wife, Hannah, was 21 with baby William of 9 months.

Considering there were four rooms, two up and two down, it must have been a tight fit!

John Appleby

... AND 20 YEARS AGO IN 'THE BROMLEY MESSENGER'

Registers and Records

In 1903 a new Baptismal Register with spaces for eight hundred and ten entries was purchased for the use of S. George's church. On the first page is recorded the baptism, on 9th August, of George Sutton Hall. On other pages are recorded the baptisms of his sister, later his children and finally, the very last entry on 19th October 1986, of his two grandchildren, Adam and Zara Ardley. The book which makes most interesting reading is signed by all the Rectors of the parish from Rector Graham to the present, and includes the names of very many persons who were very active in the village and church.

It is interesting to note that the 1903 book bound in calf leather cost nine shillings: a new book we now have to purchase, bound in cloth boards, will cost over £16!!

[I wonder what a new book costs now! - Ed.]

FROM THE PAST ...

YOU REPLY

Stan

Thank you to Nigel Rowe who has written to say that he thought that Stan West sang “*The Cobblers*” song (he was playing the part of the cobbler in *Ali Baba* at that time for the Pantomime group) at the Talent Contest receiving the Cup for Over-All winner at the Princes Theatre in Clacton on 8th October 1986. The Talent Contest was organised by Age Concern.



Stan, as many of you will remember, had a fine bass voice and on that same evening he also won a first prize in his class but no-one seems to be able to remember for which act that could have been.

Thanks also to Stan's daughter, Jennifer Nicholls, who thinks he sang “*If I were a Rich Man*”. According to Jennifer he could have sung both songs as he entered more than one class. As you can see from the photographs taken on the evening his costume and props have changed.

And then I heard about Grace ...

At the same Talent Contest I understand that Grace Gould recited a poem called ‘*Jemima*’ composed by her about a doll that she had made for her daughter, Mary, in Australia whom she was about to go out and visit.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CHARITY MASKED BALL

(in aid of Little Haven
Hospice)
at
Forge Cottage, Hall Road
Great Bromley CO7 7TP
(opposite the Cross Inn)



8-Late

Heated Marquee
Disco
Supper

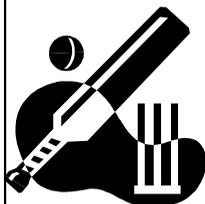
Bring your own drink (glasses
supplied)



Tickets £20 per head
from 01206 230126

CRICKET CLUB A.G.M.

To be held at the
Cricket
Pavilion
On
28th February
At 8.00pm



All are
welcome

WEA ARDLEIGH

The tutor for the spring term will be Mr Fred Boot, an experienced lecturer who has been involved with wildlife and conservation for many years. He has chaired the governing body of Essex Wildlife Trust and also the Wildlife Trust's Eastern Region co-ordinating committee. The course of lectures starts on 18th January and he will speak on Coastal Ecology and Conservation. There will be ten lectures which will: examine the natural factors shaping the East Anglian coastline from the ice ages; explore the effect man has had in living, working and trading from that coast as well as his efforts to manage it; and finally look at present-day coastal alignment techniques and agri-environment schemes as well as the possible effects of climate change and isostatic rebound on this coastline in the future. The course will include a field visit to Abbots Hall Farm, the headquarters of the Essex Wildlife Trust, to look at a major coastal alignment scheme undertaken about 5 years ago.

The course is aimed at people with no expert knowledge on this subject, but who have an open and enquiring mind and an interest in the ecology and conservation of the coastline in the local area.

Lectures are held in the Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh on Thursday afternoons. The course begins on Thursday 18th January at 2.30pm, with a tea break at 3:15pm, and finishing at 4:15pm. The fee for the course is £40, with concessions £35, free to unwaged. The first lecture will be a "freebie" so come and give it a try!



For more information
or to book a place,
contact: Jill Frostick
on 01206 250263

FROM THE DOCTORS' SURGERIES

Ardleigh Surgery

Surgery extension

Work has started on the surgery extension and will be completed next April. This will cause some disruption in terms of access to the car park which will closed at times for the delivery of building materials. Can patients please use the public car park when this happens. There is likely to be also noise during consultations.

Patient survey

This year patients were again requested to take the questionnaire form home which was handed out in the surgery during the first week of October 2006. (200 forms) Figures in brackets are the results of the October 2005 survey.

155 (159) forms were returned during the survey period amounting to a 77% (75%) response rate.

73% (81%) of responders attend the surgery three or more times a year.

97% (98%) rated the way they were treated by receptionists as good to excellent.

92% (96%) rated the hours the surgery was open as good to excellent. 15% (10%) would like extended evening surgeries and 42% (35%) access at weekends.

82% (83%) rated the time they had to wait to see a particular doctor as good to excellent. (64% (62%) within two working days)

94% (89%) rated the time they had to wait to see any doctor as good to excellent. (87% (86%) within two working days)

97% (98%) reported that they could see a doctor urgently on the same day.

80% (77%) rated the time they had to wait in the surgery to see a doctor as good to

excellent. (92% (94%) seen within 20 minutes)

88% (83%) rated the ability to get through on the telephone as good to excellent.

98% (92%) rated the ability to speak to a doctor on the phone for advice as good to excellent.

91% (92%) are able to see their usual doctor a lot to always.

On average 94% (98%) rated their consultations with their usual doctor as good to excellent. Taking into account factors such as

asking, listening, explaining, involving, caring, patience and time spent with the doctor.

97% (97%) rated their consultations with the practice nurses as good to excellent. Taking into account factors such as listening, explaining and quality of care.

(81% (85%) had seen a practice nurse within the last year)

0% (95%) of responders were completely or very satisfied with the practice overall. (Question no longer included in Version 2 of GPAQ)

Responders - male 40% (39%) and female 58% (61%). Longstanding illness or disability 58% (68%). Employed 35% (28%) and retired 46% (55%).

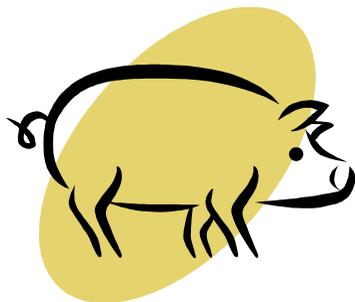
We are reviewing the written comments of which 15 requested improvements surrounding issues such as car parking, access to weekend and evening surgeries, emergency/urgent sessions, out of hours service and waiting times before consultations.

Fred Merrin, Practice Manager



CHILDREN'S PAGES

Yuan Tan



Yuan Tan is the Chinese New Year which this year starts on 18th February.

2007 is the Year of the Pig.

Chinese New Year is a very important holiday in China. It is celebrated in late January to early February (depending on the year).

Chinese New Year starts on a new moon and ends with the lantern festival on the full moon 15 days later.

In the Chinese calendar, 2007 is the year 4704.

Chinese children like to share **Fortune Cookies** at New Year. Each cookie contains a long, thin strip of paper with a motto or message on it.

To make the cookies:

350g plain flour

Pinch salt

100g sugar

3 tbsp milk

1½ teasp baking powder

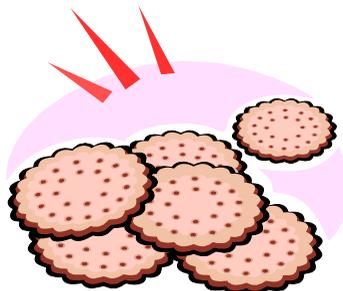
100g butter

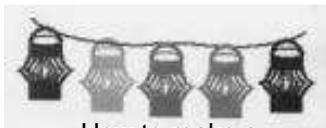
1 lightly beaten egg

½ teasp vanilla essence

Preheat the oven to Gas Mark 4, 180°.

- Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt. Put to one side.
- Cream the butter and sugar together and then beat in the egg and vanilla essence.
- Add the flour to the butter mixture, a little at a time. Add the milk gradually to make a stiff dough.
- On a floured board, roll out the dough to about ½cm thick. Cut out rounds with a large biscuit cutter (around 6-7cm diameter).
- Fold a paper fortune in each circle and fold the dough over into a half moon. Press the edges together firmly and bake on an ungreased baking tray for 5-8 minutes. When cool, store in an airtight tin.





How to make a Chinese Lantern

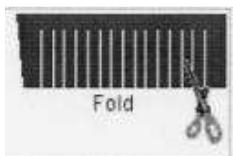
You need:

- Coloured paper (construction paper or gift wrapping)
- Scissors
- Glue, tape or a stapler

Unfold the paper. Glue or staple the short edges of the paper together.

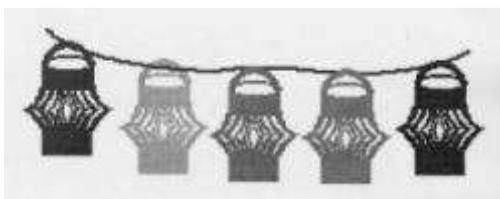


Fold a rectangular piece of paper in half, making a long thin rectangle.



Make a series of cuts along the fold line. Don't cut all the way to the edge of the paper.

Cut a strip of paper 6" long and 1/2" wide. Glue or staple this strip of paper across one end of the lantern—this will be the handle of the lantern.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In December, we abandoned the village hall for the delights of the Cross Inn where we enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal served up by Brenda and Richard. Seventeen members were treated to wonderful food in a warm, cosy atmosphere and had a really happy evening. On 3rd January we shall be back in the village hall to hear Dorothy Roberts bring us up to date on the work of the East Anglian Children's Hospices. The competition is a children's book for donation to the Hospices and members are reminded to bring soap, soap powder and toilet rolls for George Mills to take to the Ukraine. We always welcome new faces.





THE UNITED PARISHES OF ARDLEIGH AND THE
BROMLEYS



Dear Parishioner,

A happy Christmas and a peaceful and blessed 2007 to you and your family!

I write this from the heart and with confidence. As a Christian I will be celebrating what I believe to be the greatest event of world history - God coming to earth as a man - well into January as befits it. From Christmas Eve onwards in word and music, decorations and feasting, Christians in their homes and Churches especially seek to have all that is best and good to mark this time.

That this is a secular magazine, does faze me. I take assurance that the headline "From the Rector" gives a big clue to you the reader that you might come across references to God, or Jesus - you have been warned. I take strength from the friendships which I have developed since September 2001 with local Jews and Muslims. When we meet together, either in each other's homes, or places of worship, it is normal for us to spend sometime sitting in silence ending with an Amen. How each person uses the time is not specified, but it is seen to be important to everyone gathered that we do this.

Similarly it is important to the Jews and Christians that the Christian nature of our society is not

weakened. They, and most of them were born in Britain, have experienced a freedom to worship as they wish and live their lives according to their customs which they appreciate and value. " Not in my name " they say when there's talk of "seasons greetings " or Winterval celebrations". Indeed the joint Christian Muslim Council, chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, recently issued a statement to the same. People of other faiths, want Christmass to be given its proper place. There are of course fundamentalists who seek to dominate, but we must acknowledge that such a minority exists in every in every religion and culture group including Christianity.

Strong confident Christians celebrating properly their faith in a God who came to earth, lived, and died like each of us do, but rose from the dead as a sign of eternal life to all who follow; those Christians can reach out to people of other faiths and none and say let's walk together through the year. They, or really you and I, can live life to the full because of our security and riches, celebrating the diversity of man, who God loves. If I can do but that in 2007 then peace and blessing will be mine. May it be yours too.

God bless.
Fr Nicolas.

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Services for January

1st		Mary, Mother of God	
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
3rd	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
4th	9.00am	Little Footsteps	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
5th	11.00am	The Eucharist	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
6th	9.00am	The Eucharist and Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 7th		Epiphany of our Lord	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
8th		The Baptism of the Lord	
	9.00am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
10th	6.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>Hamilton Lodge</i>
11th	9.00am	Little Footsteps	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	5.00pm	The Magi (Yr 6+)	<i>Old Coal House</i>
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
12th	11.00am	The Eucharist	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
13th	9.00am	The Eucharist and Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 14th		Epiphany 2	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
18th	9.00am	Little Footsteps	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	5.00pm	The Magi (Yr 6+)	<i>Old Coal House</i>
19th	11.00am	Holy Communion	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
20th	9.30am	The Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 21st		Epiphany 3	
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
22nd	9.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
25th		Conversion of S Paul	
	7.00pm	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
26th	11.00am	The Eucharist	<i>Seven Rivers</i>
27th	9.00am	The Eucharist and Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 28th		Epiphany 4	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
29th	9.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
31st	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>