

# The Messenger

The Magazine of  
the villages of  
Great & Little  
Bromley

December 2017 &  
January 2018

Vol: 1 No: 12



The Cross Christmas Card Competition (see page 5)

by Liam Durrell

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
To all our Readers**

# THE FIRST PAGE

'Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat'. This is the only time of the year I think of this nursery rhyme and it runs round my head in a loop. I haven't eaten goose for a long time but it is a delicious meat. When I had the muscovy ducks we quite often had duck at Christmas. Last year I had a pheasant. I haven't got as far as this Christmas yet - I have the family Christmas get together this year in a couple of weeks - siblings, cousins, children, grandchildren which I always thoroughly enjoy but it will be interesting how we will all fit into my new house. Some of them can't come so I might just have enough chairs!

You may have noticed that while Henry is indisposed Richard and I (but really mostly Richard) has stepped in to cover his distribution areas and we do hope nobody was missed. Henry and Ann have the whole operation very ably and efficiently covered and Richard and I now know how much work they do each month on your behalf and how much time it all takes.. I would like to take the opportunity here to thank Anita Spall for all her work delivering for many years The Messenger in Little Bromley. She has decided to step

down with immediate effect so, please, if there is anyone in Little Bromley who could take on this task please ring Richard on 01206 230537. It doesn't have

to be one person as the more people who share the load the easier it is.



We had hoped to have a colour cover this year but we didn't realise we had to give the printers more notice to get it done in time but we are thinking of it as a possibility in the future.

It just remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful and healthy 2018.

*Leonie*

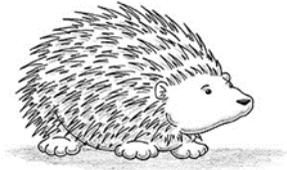
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For details of availability and costs for **ADVERTISING** in the 'The Bromley Messenger' please contact the Treasurer on 01206 230537

## IN THE GARDEN WITH KATE



We have recently been given two new residents for the garden - two young hedgehogs,

rescued by the Hardy family, and returned from the hedgehog sanctuary. Thanks to my husband's early Christmas present to himself, we have seen on our new night vision camera that they are feeding regularly at the feeding station and generally making themselves at home! Over the last couple of nights, however, they have eaten very little of the food and I suspect they are preparing to hibernate. Like most people I love hedgehogs and value the contribution they make to the reduction of slugs!

I seem to be very busy at the moment clearing up leaves, pruning and tidying the borders and generally making ready - winter is coming! It amazes me though how some plants are looking at their best despite the weather. The acers have beautiful red and orange leaves, the witch hazel the prettiest orange flowers, and the cyclamen are looking lovely. In the tubs the pansies and violas are flowering, and the primulas coming into bloom. My hellebores have been shorn of their old leaves, and soon the flowers will be unfolding despite the cold weather. There are, of course still many jobs to be done during the short winter days.

Some plants will require extra protection during frost and snow, and can be insulated with straw or, if small, deep mulch. Leaves need raking off lawns, and any diseased leaves should be burnt, but don't forget to check the bonfire for those hibernating hedgehogs! The remaining leaves can go in the leaf bin to produce mold. Any used flower pots should be scrubbed clean and left to dry and stored under cover. If the

weather is not too wet or frosty, any digging can still be done- and weeding of course!

It is worth cutting foliage for decoration early in the month and storing in a bucket of water in an unheated greenhouse before the bushes are stripped by the birds. Other foliage such as holly can be stored this way too.

Other important jobs include lagging outdoor taps, emptying and storing garden hoses, preventing your garden pond from freezing by floating a ball on the surface, and ensuring that birds are fed regularly, and that any bird baths have a regular supply of clean water.

December is also an excellent time of year to browse the seed catalogues that have no doubt been landing on your doormat, plan your garden for next year, and work out which garden tools need replacing, so when the inevitable question "what do you want for Christmas" arrives, you have a ready prepared list!

The Messenger is not produced in January, so I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year. Enjoy your garden!

*Kate Strowbridge*



**The Post Office  
at  
The Cross**

**Wednesday mornings 10 - noon**



## The Bromley Cross Great Bromley CO7 7TL

*Now re-opened as a community-owned,  
community-managed and community-run  
village pub*

### **Pub Opening Times**

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 6:30 – 11:00  
Sunday 12:00 – 3:00

**Cafe/Post Office** Wednesday 10 – noon

### **December**

- Fri 1 Dec Decorate the Cross for Xmas  
on our 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
Sat 2 Dec Fish & Chip Van 6.30 to 9ish  
Sun 3 Dec Dog walk - starts at 11am  
Sat 9 Dec Xmas Carols with Southend  
Festival Chorus from 7pm  
Thu 14 Dec Xmas Charity Quiz - 8pm  
Sat 16 Dec Live Music (loud) with The  
Red Hot Radiators - 8:30pm  
Thu 21 Dec Open Floor Music Night  
Sun 24 Dec 12-3 then 6:30 till late  
Mon 25 Dec Xmas Day 12-3  
Sun 31 Dec 12-3 then NYE 6:30 till late  
with burgers and dancing

### **January**

- Wed 3 Jan Post Office Coffee Shop  
Open 10 to noon  
Mon 8 Jan Monthly Monday Club (2<sup>nd</sup> of  
the month). Open 6:30 - 11  
Thu 11 Jan Monthly Charity Quiz - 7:30  
8pm. Booking essential  
Thu 25 Jan Open Floor Music Night. All  
welcome to sing play or listen  
from 8pm  
Sat 10 Feb Fundraising Race Night. 7:30  
for 8 pm start. Contact us to  
sponsor a race

<http://www.greatbromleycross.org.uk/>  
[info@greatbromleycross.co.uk](mailto:info@greatbromleycross.co.uk)

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Names were taken at the October meeting of those wishing to attend the Christmas meal at The Cross Inn on Tuesday 5th December.

Several members enjoyed a visit to Gt. Bromley school to be entertained by pupils singing their Harvest praise. Following this, tea and biscuits were served by the children and boxes of harvest produce distributed to our members. Many thanks to the staff and children for their hospitality.

At the Quiz night recently Brenda and Richard represented the Club and came second. Very well done to them!

Our speaker for the afternoon was retired fire officer Paul Bowers a local resident. Paul gave an excellent talk on the work of the Fire service in general and the way in which things changed during his thirty five years service. It was very reassuring to hear how rapidly a fire crew

could attend an incident, and of the various equipment in use to deal with any situation they may face. We do hope Paul will make a return visit in the future.

Next month will be our Christmas party. Please bring along a plate of sweet or savoury nibbles and a raffle prize for our bumper draw.

January meeting will basically be our AGM when subscriptions become due.

*Sylvia Ward*

### HELP PLEASE

It has been suggested that as our Committee members are all getting older perhaps someone living locally might like to offer help with some of the general running of the Club, If anyone feels they could help in any way, please do contact Beryl Hurst (01206 230578)

### The Great Bromley Cross Christmas Card Competition

The Bromley Cross invited pupils of St. George's C of E School to design their 2017 Christmas card. From 130 children we received 33 entries. The entries were roughly split between key stage 1 and 2. The winners were, key stage 1 Liam Durrell, key stage 2 Torri -Sorcha MacRae and runner up Mia McLellan. Prizes were presented to the winners at a special assembly on Friday 17th November. A collage of all entries will be displayed in the Bromley Cross for all to view. A big thank you to everyone who entered, there were some amazing designs.

*Christine Barrett*

Left: Winniner KS2 Torri Sorcha MacRae

Cover page card: KS1 Liam Durrell



# BUCKINGHAM PALACE, INVESTITURE

November 14th - I smiled all day! I smiled with pride and happiness that our son Paul was being invested with the Queens Police Medal for his work with police dogs in the Essex Police Service

I smiled as we arrived at the palace gates, I smiled at the many heavily armed police officers, I smiled at the members of the royal household who greeted us so politely and with great warmth. I smiled to see Queen Victoria and Prince Albert who looked down on us from the huge paintings which lined the entrance hall. I smiled when I heard the Queen would be presenting Paul his medal.

I smiled throughout the whole ceremony which was awesome, a once in a little time moment in our lives to be treasured and never forgotten.

From Delia Smith, Mo Farrow to our son Paul (who was the only police officer to be invested that day), the ceremony was beautifully orchestrated and ran like

clockwork.

I smiled at the Queen who looked totally amazing, she took her time with each recipient, talking shaking their hand smiling and telling them of the pleasure it gave to be there that day.

I smiled to think how lucky I was to be there and enjoy this wonderful day, thanks to the hard work, dedication and bravery of a very precious son.

Thank you Paul.

*Jenny Nicholls*



## KITCHEN CORNER

### Frostick Family Favourite CHRISTMAS PUDDING

½ lb of each:	Suet
Breadcrumbs	Sultanas
Currants	
Raisins	
¼ lb each:	Apple (chopped)
Candied peel	Brown sugar.
Plain flour	
½ teasp each of:	Nutmeg
Ginger	1 carrot grated
Cinnamon and salt	
Lemon juice	
1 tbs treacle	
3 tlb Sherry/Brandy	
2 eggs,	
¼ pt milk or ale to mix.	

Stir up well, wishing as you go!! Leave to steep overnight. Put into basins and tie down with greaseproof paper and then foil. Boil or steam 6-8 hours.

Boil again 1 hour when serving at Christmas. This quantity makes one large family size pudding or 2 smaller ones. A small circle of baking paper in the bottom of the basin when you grease it helps to turn it out neatly.

*Jill Frostick*



## COFFEE BREAK NUTRITION with Suzanne Abbott

### IT'S CHRISTMAS!

How did that happen?! The time seems to be going so fast that it's hard to keep up with it. And here we are, yet another Christmas upon us. I could go on telling you about how to curb those festive cravings for sweets, chocolate or cake, but we all need to chill out at least once a year. Instead, all I am going to say about that is to enjoy your food, make wise choices and don't go over the top and don't forget, sprouts are not just for Christmas! A great opportunity to eat loads of healthy vegetables!

But there is something even more important you could do this Christmas – and that is – get connected with your friends, and not just the elderly. Did you know that by being more socially connected you are helping your immune system? Extended research in the fields of anthropology and mental health prove that keeping in touch with friends is vitally important not just for our own wellbeing but theirs too.

Christmas is such a busy time for all of us and it's too easy to forget to look in on our neighbours or elderly relatives, or our lone friends whilst we are flying around organising presents for the family or trying to fit everything else in. Not an easy task.

The researchers tell us that the single biggest factor in determining our happiness is friendship. Friends help us get through difficult times in life. But that's not the only plus point a friendship can bring into our life. Nurturing a relationship can bring other benefits too. It can influence the way we sleep and how much energy we have. A recent study by King's College London learned that lonely people were more likely to feel tired and lack concentration during the day. This of course doesn't only apply to the elderly; this is a problem that another study by King's College London highlighted loneliness as a problem among young students. We are never too old or

too young to need friends.

Maintaining a good friendship requires time and effort. Women appear to find this task easier than men, but that doesn't go for everyone.

In this day and age, it's so easy to keep in touch via email, WhatsApp, Facebook and all the other media platforms. There really isn't an excuse not to keep in touch.

But the best way to stay in touch is face-to-face. There is nothing better than opening the door to a long-lost friend who happens to be passing.

So, bring a smile to someone's face this Christmas, but not just because you have to. Do it because you want to, with the knowledge that it's also good for your immune system. You will feel a sense of achievement; you may sleep better and feel energised.

There are plenty of people out there that need us, be it the elderly, the busy mums with too much to do, perhaps someone who'd lost a loved one and suddenly they are on their own after many years of marriage. There are many reasons, but only one answer. Make it your task this Christmas – make a new friend.



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year

**Suzanne**

Natural Health Consultant  
Specialising in Naturopathic Nutrition

# GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

[www.gbpc.org.uk](http://www.gbpc.org.uk)

Clerk: Lizzie Ridout Email: [clerk@greatbromley.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greatbromley.org.uk)

**Flytipping** continues to be a problem in the area. If you need to report an incident, you can telephone TDC on 01255 686778, by email at [recycle@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:recycle@tendringdc.gov.uk) or look on TDC website at <http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/fly-tipping>

Reports should include as many details about the incident and type/amount of waste as possible.

Some key points about if you witness such activity:

- Witnesses are vitally important in enabling action to be taken against people who fly-tip waste, so please do not hesitate to report any incident that you witness as soon as possible.
- Do not put yourself in danger by approaching anyone you see dumping waste; they are criminals, who may be involved in other criminal activities, and as such are unlikely to respond well to being challenged. If it is possible to observe them safely, the more information you are able to provide, the better the chances of an investigation.

Information that is useful includes the following:

- Time and date of incident;
- Description of person(s) dumping waste;
- Description of vehicle(s) involved, including registration numbers;
- Description of the waste dumped;
- Photographs can also be very useful, but only if it is possible to obtain them safely.

Please be reassured that any information supplied in connection to any such incident is treated in strictest confidence. If you make notes please keep them, even if they are scribbled notes on the back of an envelope. Actual notes taken at the time can be very valuable as evidence.

**Do not try to rummage through the waste yourself to look for evidence, as there may be hazardous or sharp items hidden among the waste.**

A very big thank you goes to all volunteers who took part in the Village Litter Pick on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November at both ends of the village. An amazing haul of rubbish including wheels, tyres and even a carpet cleaner....

## S137 Grants

During the Parish Council's November meeting, the S137 grant applications were considered and agreed as follows:-

Name of organisation	Amount granted
Great Bromley & District Cricket Club	£500.00
PCC of The Bromleys for St George's Churchyard	£1000.00
Great Bromley Village Hall	£200.00
Great Bromley Carpet Bowls Club	£200.00
Great Bromley Men's Social Club	£100.00
Great Bromley Friendship Club	£250.00
Great Bromley WI	£50.00
Little Dragons Pre-School Great Bromley and Frating	£720.00
St Georges School PTA	£400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3420.00</b>



## STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

### Recent Meetings

Our two November meetings took place on 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> when Ted Wheatley & Dennis & Ann Kell presented "Overland to India" & "Wildlife in the Falklands" respectively. Both presentations were much appreciated by our Members.

### Future Meetings Diary Dates

On 6 December Paul Oliver presents his popular Christmas Quiz and at the final meeting of the year on Wednesday 20 December Barbara Faulkner will tell us about "The Man in Red".

We don't have a speaker meeting in January but instead have our New Year Lunch for Members, their Spouses and Probus Widows. This will take place on Wednesday 17 January at The Haywain, Bentley Road, Little Bromley, Essex, CO112PL

### 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 for 10.30am. Please contact Speaker Secretary Dave Carman on 01255 880202 for further details.

## POOR LANDS CHARITY

*Residents of Great Bromley are reminded of the Poor Lands Charity (Charity Number: 207410). The charity seeks to provide grants for the prevention or relief of poverty to parishioners of Great Bromley. If you know of a resident who is suffering severe financial hardship, you are able to nominate them for a small financial contribution from the Charity.*

*Nominations can be forwarded to Lizzie Ridout, Parish Clerk for Great*

*Bromley Parish Council via [clerk@gbpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@gbpc.org.uk) or by writing to Great Bromley Parish Council, Great Bromley Village Hall, Parsons Hill, Great Bromley CO7 7JA.*

*Conversely, if you wish to make a donation to the charity, please contact the Parish Clerk.*

Presentations of the cheques will be made at the next meeting on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 7.30pm.

**Volunteering opportunity**

Lastly, a plea from the charity Victim Support who support victims of crime. Last year they supported over 3,000 people affected by crime in Essex, much of the support being provided by a team of trained volunteers. They currently have a shortage of volunteers in Tendring and so are looking for applicants to join their team and attend the next four-day training course in January 2018.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Janet Booth on 01277 357557 or by email on [Janet.Booth@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:Janet.Booth@victimsupport.org.uk)

<b>PLANNING DETERMINATIONS</b>			
<b>REFERENC E</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DECISION</b>
16/01927/ OUT Mrs Stennett	Construction of 7 no. dwellings	Land North of Harwich Road Harwich Road, CO7 7UH	Refusal – Outline 04.10.2017 Committee Decision
17/01252/ FUL Mr & Mrs Shaikly	Change of use of Essex barn to residential.	Lilleys Farm, Carringtons Road, CO7 7XA	Approval – Full 06.10.2017 Delegated Decision
17/01397/ FUL Mr R Moss	Variation to condition 12 of 05/02008/FUL to allow meat to be imported to the premises.	Primrose Farm, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TP	Approval – Full 09.10.2017 Delegated Decision
17/01445/ FUL Toad Hall Free Range Eggs	Alterations and improvements to existing access point, closure of existing access to the south.	Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR	Application Withdrawn 17.10.2017 Delegated Decision
<b>PLANNING APPLICATIONS</b>			
<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	
17/00629/ FUL (amended) N Lines & G White	Erection of one detached bungalow and two detached houses  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to this application.	Land adjacent to and rear of Kia, Frating Road, Great Bromley CO7 7JW	
17/01706/ FUL Mr & Mrs Richmond	Erection of detached four bedroom dwelling with single storey double garage.  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to this application.	Land adjacent Grange Hall Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TS	

Continued over .../

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS** (continued from page 13)

REFERENCE	PROPOSAL	LOCATION
17/01720/FUL Mr & Mrs Brazier	Variation and amendments to approved scheme 17/00424/FUL & improvements to an existing vehicular access.  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to this application.	Bush Farm, Hall Road Great Bromley CO7 7TR
17/01782/OUT Mr John Cressey - E+M Design Partnership	Erection of 5 No. three bedroom detached chalets with detached double garages.  Great Bromley Parish Council objected to this application as it contravenes Essex Highways development policy DM3. There was concern re drainage and flooding problems, it is outside development area. There was further concern about the oak trees and it was requested that TPO's are sought for those trees in line with TDC Tree officer's advice.	Land rear of Fieldside, Frating Road, Great Bromley CO7 7JW
17/01810/FUL Mr R Moss	Variation to condition 12 of 05/02008/FUL to allow meat to be imported to the premises.  Great Bromley Parish Council had no objection to this application.	Primrose Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TP

Lizzie Ridout, Parish Clerk, Great Bromley Parish Council, [clerk@gbpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@gbpc.org.uk)

## LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: [littlebromleypc@gmail.com](mailto:littlebromleypc@gmail.com)

Things are finally beginning to happen in Little Bromley! The Council are pleased to say that we have our Village Gates up at both ends of the Village with the appropriate signage on them. We have had comments back that they are having a positive effect on cars' speeds as now drivers can see they are entering the start of a Village. Thanks to Tendring District Council for all their help in getting these put up for us.

BT are considering the potential for providing Superfast Broadband in Little Bromley. However, they need to get an idea of the level of interest from Villagers before they take this any further. Hence, the Parish Council has delivered notices in the village inviting them to register their interest, as the more names we have on the list the better our chances of getting Superfast Broadband installed. If you wish to register your interest (with no obligation), please send your name, address, postcode and landline phone

number to [anita.spall@gmail.com](mailto:anita.spall@gmail.com) (or alternatively give your details to one of the other Parish Councillors and they will pass them on). Potential funding may be available at Tendring District Council and we will monitor this closely.

We have also received notification regarding the positioning of the long awaited Vehicle Activated Signs in Little Bromley, so we expect these to be installed in the near future. In the meantime we are continuing to push for the white lining in the village and the 30mph speed limit along Bentley Road.

We haven't got a meeting in December this year - our next one is January - so we will take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and let's hope 2018 is as productive as this year has been.

The next meeting of Parish Council is on the 18th January 2018, 7.30 pm at The Haywain.

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NEWS

The Public Consultation regarding the proposed Garden Communities options and Evaluation will take place between 13th November and 9th January 2019.

For this area Market Field School, Elmstead Market will be the place to view various maps and documents; planning officers will be on site on 14th December.

The Tendring District Council Local Plan has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, the public enquiry into the plan is expected to be in January. Details will be in the local media.

You may have read reports in the local newspapers that a Planning Inspector has stated TDC do not have a 5 year housing land supply. This decision is being challenged by means of a Judicial Review by TDC. The official view from TDC Local Plan Committee is "Confirm that the Tendring District Council Methodology calculation the Housing Land Supply as agreed by members in January 2017 remains sound and should be relied upon and continue to be used by officers"

Update on the A120 Harwich Road roundabout. Anybody using this junction or driving to Little Bentley can clearly see the work that has so far been undertaken.

Trees and undergrowth have been cleared and gives the impression of the junction being opened up.

Fly tipping continues to be a big problem in our area. Rosemary and I urge all residents to take note of any fly tipping and report it to TDC environmental services. Also if you witness any fly tipping please note details of the person and/or vehicle and report the details as well.

I understand that a Housing Association has purchased the land at Mary Lane, Great Bromley for the affordable housing and will be holding a public exhibition in the near future.

I am pleased to report that following my request to TDC Highway Rangers, Finches Lane in Elmstead has been cleared of all the undergrowth and overhanging branches.

*Fred Nicholls*

## GARDEN COMMUNITIES

As you may already be aware there are proposals for three new garden communities across North Essex, one of which is known as Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community.

The 'Issues and Options Consultation' starts on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and runs until Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. If you would like to find out more about the proposals for the Garden Community some exhibition events have been organised as follows:

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 15.00-19.00 at William Loveless Hall, 85-87 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 10.00-14.00 at Colchester Market, High Street, Colchester CO1 1PJ

- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 10.00-14.00 at Greenstead Community Centre, Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 16.00-20.00 at Market Field School, School Rd, Elmstead Market CO7 7ET

Comments on the proposals can be made using forms available at the events, or online.

The link to the online consultation document will be published on <http://www.ne-gc.co.uk> when the consultation opens.

# GARDEN COMMUNITIES DPDs

## ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATIONS

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Relative Garden Community</b>
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 10.00-14.00	Marks Tey	Marks Tey Parish Hall	Old London Road, Marks Tey CO6 1EJ	Colchester / Braintree Border
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 15.00-19.00	Wivenhoe	William Loveless Hall	85-87 High Street, Wivenhoe CO7 9AB	Tendring / Colchester Border (TCB)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November 16.00-20.00	Great Tey	Great Tey Village Hall	Chappel Road, Great Tey CO6 1JQ	Colchester / Braintree Border
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	C360 Community Marketplace AGM for North East Essex	Firstsite	Colchester Town Centre	All
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 10.00-14.00	Colchester Town	Colchester Market	High Street, Colchester CO1 1PJ	Colchester / Braintree Border & TCB
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 10.00-14.00	Great Saling	The Saling Millennium Village Hall	Piccotts Lane, Great Saling CM7 5DW	West of Braintree
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November 16.00-20.00	Stebbing	Old Friend's Meeting House	TBC	West of Braintree
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 15.00-19.00	Coggeshall	Coggeshall Village Hall  The Keys Room	Stoneham Street, Coggeshall CO6 1UH	Colchester / Braintree Border
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 10.00-14.00	Greenstead	Greenstead Community Centre	Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE	Tendring / Colchester Border
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 16.00-20.00	Feering	Feering Community Centre	Coggeshall Rd, Feering CO5 9QB	Colchester / Braintree Border
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December  16.00-20.00	Braintree	Braintree Town Hall	Market Square, Braintree CM7 3YG	West of Braintree & Colchester / Braintree Border
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 16.00-20.00	Easthorpe	Easthorpe Church Hall	Easthorpe Road, Colchester CO5 9HD	Colchester / Braintree Border
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 10.00-14.00	Rayne	Rayne Village Hall	3 Gore Road, Rayne CM77 6TX	West of Braintree
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 16.00-20.00	Elmstead	Market Field School	School Rd, Elmstead Market CO7 7ET	Tendring / Colchester Border

# MORE THAN JUST A FARM

With the days now shorter we are busy fitting a lot into our days at the farm. All fields have now been ploughed and re-drilled with new crops. On our farm this year we are growing wheat, barley, oil seed rape, potatoes and beans.



You will have noticed our hedges and verges have all been cut. This is important every year to clear the ditches to allow water to drain away to stop/

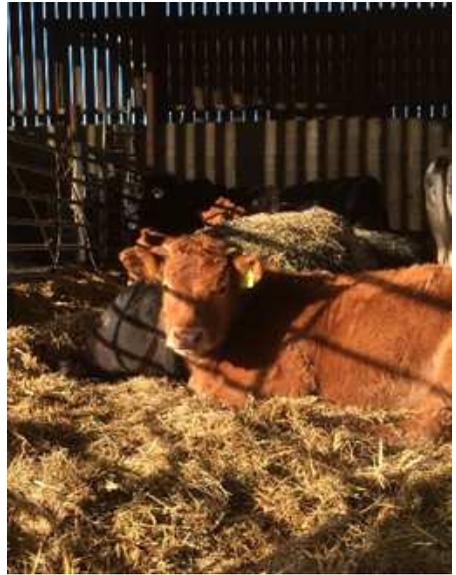
reduce flooding risks and saturated crops. With the cooler days winter warming meals are most popular in the butchery, from slow roast beef ribs to rare breed pork shoulder, we now have a new display cabinet to make seeing what we have available even easier!

The shooting season is well underway and we have been busy plucking and using



some of the meat to make some delicious 'game sausages'. We are looking forward to our first Christmas in the butchery and supporting local turkey producers too.

Our cows are now in for the winter months and they are enjoying their straw bed and



silage. All our straw and silage is produced on our farm over the summer months. Our sheep will come in for a few months over lambing season in the new year as we like to keep a close eye on all our ladies during their last stage of pregnancy. Our pigs stay out during the winter but have extra straw in their sties to keep them warm.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Until next time, Thank you

Becky

[www.beckysbutchers.co.uk](http://www.beckysbutchers.co.uk)

# 2017-18 EVENTS

## DECEMBER

- 2 Christmas Market, Seven Rivers Cheshire Home, 11.00am
- 3 SVAM lecture, Constable Hall, East Bergholt, 4.00pm
- 6 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 9 Christmas Fayre, Village Hall, 10.00am
- 10 Messy Church, St Mary's church, Ardleigh, 2.30pm
- 13 A Christmas Carol, Lt Bromley church, 7.30pm
- Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 18 Carols, Bricklayers Arms, 7.00pm
- 20 Quiz Night, Ogilvie Hall, 7.00pm
- 21 Friendship Club Meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- Come & Sing Carols, The Courthouse, 7.30pm (see p39 for more details)
- 31 New Year's Eve Ball, Village Hall

## JANUARY 2018

- 3 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 Egg Basket Course, Village Hall, 10.00am
- 18 Friendship Club Meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- WEA Course starts, Village Hall, 2.30pm
- Lt Bromley parish council meeting, Haywain, 7.30pm
- 20 Quiz Night, Ogilvie Hall, 7.00pm
- 21 SVAM concert, East Bergholt church, 4.00pm



## FEBRUARY

- 17 Lunch, Ogilvie Hall, Lawford,

## WEA



Ardleigh Branch  
(now meeting at Great  
Bromley Village Hall)

### Spring Term 1918

Course Title:

### Men, Money and Power - A History of Britain's Railways

The course content will be to promote a better understanding of the interaction of the political, financial, engineering and social changes that the railways brought to this country.

Tutor: Roger Mannion

We meet on a Thursday afternoons commencing at 2.30 p.m - 4.00 p.m. There is a tea break

The course will commence on 18th January 2018 and will be for 10 weeks, There might be a half term break

The course fee is £54.

Do come along to the first week and see if it is the course for you. Payment to be made on the second week of attendance.

For further details contact Jill Frostick on 01206 502698 or John Terry by email [john@terryst.org.uk](mailto:john@terryst.org.uk)

## Stour Valley Arts & Music

**LECTURE GIVEN BY JOHN LYALL ,  
architect**

### Gold and Dirt: Reflections on an architectural journey

Sunday 3 December 4.00pm Constable  
Hall, Gandish Rd, East Bergholt

**TICKETS:** Tel.01206 298426 Email:  
[svamtickets@btinternet.com](mailto:svamtickets@btinternet.com)  
Website:[www.svam.org.uk](http://www.svam.org.uk)

## BARTOSZ GLOWACKI

Sunday 21 January 4.00pm Constable  
Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt

**TICKETS:** Tel.01206 298426 Email:  
[svamtickets@btinternet.com](mailto:svamtickets@btinternet.com) Website:  
[www.svam.org.uk](http://www.svam.org.uk)

Programme including music by Piazzolla,  
Scarlati-Marcello/Bach and Gubaidulina.  
All details on website.

**Willow Weaving day**  
Great Bromley Village Hall  
Saturday 13th January 2018  
10am- 4pm

## Egg Basket Course

Led by experienced tutor Jo Hammond, this one day course includes all materials and sandwich lunch.

Cost £60, £10 deposit secures place. To book phone Kate 07592735600



## Great Bromley Christmas Fayre

10am to 1pm  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
at the Village Hall



### Activities for children throughout!

We have lots to offer including;  
Grand Christmas Draw \*\*\* Musical Entertainment \*\*\* Book Stall  
Tombola \*\*\* Cakes & Produce \*\*\* Shooting Gallery \*\*\* Plants  
Children's Competitions \*\*\* Christmas Wreaths and Decorations  
Stocking Fillers and Gifts \*\*\* Children's Toys, Puzzles and Games  
and much more

### We will also be serving drinks and refreshments for all ages

All proceeds to Village Hall and St George's Church funds

## Lawford flower ladies are organising LUNCH

on Saturday 17th February  
in the Ogilvie Hall

Cost £10.00 per person  
Two Course Lunch

To include glass of wine/soft drink  
Tickets to be purchased in advance from Ann Morsley 01206 393075  
Both events are for fundraising for the flower festival in June 2018

Please support us by coming along or a donation if unable to attend either the quiz or lunch would be much appreciated

Leonard  
Cheshire  
Disability

Seven Rivers Cheshire  
Home  
and  
Little Dragons Pre-School



## CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 2nd December  
at Seven Rivers  
11am - 2.30pm

Come along and get in the festive spirit.  
Tombola, prizes and more.....

Donations of £1.00 per child  
(Accompanying adults free)

## Messy Church

Invites you to our  
Countdown to Christmas  
Come and have some family time,  
some messy fun and a light tea  
on



Sunday 10th December  
Registration at 2.30pm –  
5.00pm  
At St.Mary's Church,  
Ardleigh



All Welcome!

For more information please contact:  
Carol Cordwell: 01206 395103

## A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens  
at Little Bromley Church  
on Wednesday 13th  
December  
at 7.30pm



**Tickets** (£10 for Friends of Little Bromley Church) from the website: <https://thisismytheatre.yapsody.com/event/index/148691/a-christmas-carol>  
See page 22 for further details.

## Lawford flower ladies are organising QUIZ NIGHT

in the Ogilvie Hall  
Saturday 20th. January 2018  
Tables of six

Bring your own food and drink  
Time 7.00pm for 7.30

Cost £5 per person.  
Please contact Joy Rolfe on 01206 393665

## Recent Meetings

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November Event  
 Organiser Eve Regelous, who worked closely with Harrods, gave a glimpse of behind the scenes of day to day life in this world famous company including its history.

## Future Meetings & Diary Dates

We don't have a speaker meeting in December but have our popular Christmas lunch at the Constable Hall on Wednesday 6 December. This is always a popular event and so early booking is advised.

On Wednesday 10 January we will be entertained by Ancestral Voices who will take us back to the festive season under Henry VIII & Elizabeth 1 using words, music and images, including instruments from the period. Many of today's carols & Christmas traditions originated in the Medieval & Tudor eras. You will hear Carols as you may not have heard them before!

## 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 300 members and 30 groups. For further information please visit [www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk](http://www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk) where membership secretary Gillian Gibbs may be contacted.

At our meeting on 14 February Robert Burridge will speak on "Scott, Amundsen & The Race To The South Pole". He will cocenterate on the personalities of both men, their leadership styles and the equipment they used to show their characters & their epic achievements in the face of huge difficulties.

"The Life And Times Of Sir Alfred Munnings" is the subject for the 14 March meeting. Marcia Whiting, Curatorial Associate at The Munning's Museum will give an illustrated presentation exploring his life & wide ranging subject matter, including portraits, landscapes & rural scenes as well as the horse paintings for which he is so well known.

## Meeting Venue

We meet at The Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP at 2 for 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.

## Remember

It's never too late to learn! Join over 400,000 members across over 1,000 U3As throughout the UK today!

## A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

at Little Bromley Church

on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm.

On Christmas Eve, Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean-spirited and miserly old man, is visited by the ghost of his business partner Jacob Marley. Shown Christmas Past, Present and Future he is offered the chance of redemption... but will he take it?

The Little Bromley audience is invited to celebrate the festive season as *This is my Theatre* brings Charles Dickens' classic

tale *A Christmas Carol* to life in a stunning one-act adaptation.

With traditional carols for all to sing and festive refreshments this will definitely get all of the family in the mood for Christmas.

This is not a production to miss!

**Tickets** (£10 for Friends of Little Bromley Church) from the website: <https://thisismytheatre.yapsody.com/event/>



# VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES



As another year draws to a close, the village hall trustees are busy

planning the annual Christmas Fayre which will take place on 9th December in the village hall. This year, trustees will be working together with St George's Church to organise and deliver what is one of the highlights of the village calendar, offering everyone the chance to have some fun and do a little pre-Christmas shopping whilst raising funds for both the village hall and the Church. The event kicks off at 10.00am and boasts a good selection of stalls and activities for all ages including the chance to see and hear the popular St George's School Christmas Choir in action - back again by popular demand following their acclaimed performances in previous years. There will also be the usual children's games competition running throughout the event, with various prizes for the lucky winners including a £30 toyshop gift voucher. A good selection of food will be available in the restaurant, catering for a range of ages and tastes. The Grand Christmas Draw will take place at the end of the Fayre, giving all ticket holders the opportunity to win a large number of worthwhile prizes, including the main prize of a luxury Festive Hamper. We look forward to seeing you there!

Grand Draw tickets are available from village hall trustees, members of the PCC or from me priced at £1 each.

There will be a plant and produce stall at the Fayre which would welcome donations of indoor plants and produce. Likewise, the book stall would appreciate donations of good quality books, puzzles and games. Please contact Kate Strowbridge or me if you would like to donate something - I can collect items if required.

The next fundraising event at the village hall after the Fayre will be the New Years Eve Ball for which tickets are now available and selling well. Please ensure that you book early for this popular event to avoid

disappointment.

On a less upbeat note, I regret to have to inform parishioners that the village hall was broken into (again) during the night of 9th/10th November. Entry was gained by forcing a window and various cupboards and doors in the building were damaged in an attempt to identify items worth stealing. However, it would appear that nothing of consequence was removed from the building but the perpetrators have not been caught and any information regarding this incident should be passed to me in the first instance. The cricket pavilion was also targeted at the same time. Unfortunately our village hall and cricket pavilion are relatively isolated, which perhaps makes them more attractive to thieves and all parishioners are asked to remain alert when in the vicinity of the hall/pavilion and report any suspicious activity.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the trustees to wish all members of our communities a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing residents from both villages at some of the many activities at the village hall in the coming year.

Martin Frostick  
[villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk](mailto:villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk)  
or 01206 250263



## THE GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE PANTOMIME (PART 2)

A few years ago I told you about how the Village Pantomime started, thanks to the Women's Institute. In December 1958 the all-female cast performed *Cinderella Revisited* and did various re-runs by request right up to March 1959. In December 1959 they performed *Beauty and the Beast*, and the last WI-only panto was *Dick Whittington* in January 1961. My mother Jill Frostick had only appeared in the first of these, as pregnancies kept her behind the scenes for the next two, helping with scenery, costumes and dance routines. There were several willing husbands behind the scenes, notably Mr Deere (who ran the Post Office and was a calligrapher and sign writer) making props and scenery, but Jill and Val Hayward wanted to bring men into the cast.

In the early 1960s much work was needed on the church tower to keep it upright, and the Rev James Ransom was finding ways to fundraise. Jill and Val suggested a village panto for this, and hoped to enlist a professional outside producer. It was a struggle to get the show off the ground, however, and hampered by a bitter winter. As before, I will let snippets of my mother's diary reveal more of the story!

Jan 29 1962: Val came to tea and we discussed drama, and found our ideas were the same, to combine with others in the village and include some males! The Rector, when I rang him this evening, seemed quite interested in the idea for Church Repair Funds.

Feb 10: Spent the whole evening typing out the letters for the Rector's meeting re church repair fund.

Feb 21: Rectory meeting - the idea of a drama production was adopted with quite some enthusiasm.

Jul 3: Meeting at the rectory - Mr Bert Faithfull from Boxted came and he seems ideal for the job of producing - quiet, confident and full of ideas and not the least daunted by our lack of talent or stage facilities. We just need a script!

18 July: We decided to send two good scripts for Mr Faithful to choose from and

made a provisional cast list.

1 Aug: We have decided on Mother Goose.

9 Aug: We had our meeting tonight, quite a good lot turned up. Mostly girls, and we read through the whole panto. They all seemed keen and thought it was good and funny.

4 Sept: Had a chat with Val, it seems this pantomime is going to be difficult - the men are letting us down!

12 Sept: Another panto meeting, we had a vote to carry on as we seem to have scraped a cast together now. [*We think from memory that Jill was cast as principal boy, with Margaret Pirie principal girl, Joy West the goose, Vera Biddis the dame, Peter Wenden and Tubby Austin the slapstick comics.*]

26 Sept: Rehearsal again - the singing progresses, but we have no chorus master as ---- has backed out.

2 Oct: I visited Mrs Guiver for a chat. She seemed keen to help us with the music. [*Mr Faithful turned out not to be true to his name - he had dropped out too.*]

4 Oct: Rehearsal where again we discussed dropping it but they all seemed keen to carry on regardless!

16 Oct: Went to Mrs Guiver and we got on very well with ideas for the chorus work.

17 Oct: Rehearsal - Miss P came and proceeded to lay the law down!

24 Oct: Rehearsal - rather sparse attendance of chorus but the principals went very well indeed.

6 Nov: Mrs Guiver and Mrs Pirie came this evening and we worked out the remaining dance items. Several mentions of poor turnouts of chorus at rehearsals.

6 Dec: To Rectory for rehearsal but only 3 of us came so we went home again!

12 Dec: Good turnout and got on well.

6 Jan 1963: I find I have 16 goose tunics to make! I have completed 11 but am now short of sheets. Four must be dyed yellow for the goslings.

9 Jan: Rehearsal, *everybody* turned up so we got on well except we had all forgotten everything after the long break!

23 Jan: Rehearsal tonight, I was peeved that the Rector has dropped out and

pushed his part on to poor Janet [Rowe].

30 Jan: A good dress rehearsal, most things getting sorted out except the scenery, which is disappointing.

31 Jan: Our first performance went off reasonably well and we had quite a good audience, despite the appalling weather and frost.

1 Feb: We had a full hall with lots of children. It went marvellously well, really slick and no mistakes, so much better with a responsive audience. The children were so quick to pick up their cues for the ha-has etc. Everyone speaks very kindly and are



full of praise for our efforts.

2 Feb. Everything went with a swing, though not quite as good as last night. The audience warmed up in the latter half and ended famously. Tubby and Peter put on an extra little act, a simple conjuring trick, which went down very well indeed. Afterwards we had a grand beano backstage with heaps of food and drinks - finished with a bit of song and dance. All great fun and I'm sorry it is all over.

\* \* \*

Everyone decided it was enough fun to do again, and so began the Pantomime Group which continued for nearly 50 years.

© Hugh Frostick 2017 Tel: 01206 617324  
*Many thanks to Jill Frostick for permission to use her diary. I am keen to make a copy of all pantomime programmes, particularly 1963 Mother Goose! If you have any I would be very grateful to borrow them.*

**theWI**

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Ah - late autumn. The perfect time of the year to tidy up the garden in time for winter, prune back those herbaceous shrubs, and trim the holly trees and conifers. It is also time to think about decorating the house for Christmas. So why not combine the two activities? That is what the ladies of the Great Bromley WI decided to do for their November meeting.

Each of us brought in a bag which was filled with our garden clippings. The hall looked like the local recycling centre. There were buckets and bags full of a variety of greenery: spiky, variegated, berry laden clippings, evergreen herbs and twigs.

One of our members, Joy, demonstrated how to effectively shove pieces of greenery into a prepared florist's oasis. In less than two minutes, the circular oasis started to look charming, all cuttings aligned neatly around the circular form. All shared their garden clippings around for those of us who only brought one type of foliage, to use in

our wreaths and table decorations.

We added dried apple and orange slices, dressed the wreaths with cinnamon sticks, and star anise, and added a ribbon to finish everything off. What a great use of our garden clippings, and a lovely social occasion too.



Now to hang the finished creation on the door and welcome the season with our home made garland. An evening very well spent...

Eileen Brown

# UNUSUAL INSURANCE CLAIMS

Last year I dropped my mobile phone down the loo. Although I fished it out very quickly and dried it out, it would only turn on and off. I went in to Colchester to the mobile phone shop to see if they could make it work. They told me it was a write off so I had to choose a new one. The nice man in the shop was very helpful and was able to transfer all the important stuff off the old one on to the new one (for a fee). I finally admitted what had happened to the phone only to be told that it is a very common reason for phones going wrong with women being the usual offender (simply because of the different way men and women use the facilities).

I didn't claim on insurance but out of curiosity googled insurance claims, some of which seem a little cheeky, and found some of the more unusual home insurance claims...

## **Festive Fire**

There's plenty of potential for home insurance claims around Christmas. Bad weather, opportunistic burglars and accidental damage caused at festive gatherings can all cause problems. But one man's festive claim was a little more unusual than most. According to Money Mail reports, he left lit candles attached to his Christmas tree and left the room. The fir caught fire, spreading to the house, causing £330,000 worth of damage.

## **Low-flying goose**

Geese aren't high on the list when we think of dangerous animals, but perhaps they should be. Post Magazine reported a rather bizarre case of a low-flying goose who crashed through a man's roof, damaging a chest of drawers, his TV and a games console.

## **Carpet-munching snail**

Animals are responsible for more than their fair share of home insurance claims. From dogs who decide to try their hand at decorating to badgers who nibble through walls, we've heard about many unusual claims involving our furry friends. But perhaps the most weird and wonderful is a story spotted in the Lancashire Evening Post about a pensioner in Preston, who put in a

£78 claim for a new carpet after a snail ate part of his old one.

## **Baby vs laptop**

Like animals, children are often the trigger for insurance claims, but this particular case is pretty strange (and funny). According to Confused.com, one doting grandad held his grandson up to his laptop to show him off via Skype, only for the little one to vomit all over the computer, causing £450 worth of damage. Ooops.

## **Denture dramas**

Claims relating to dentures are actually more common than you'd think – but they typically have a bizarre twist to them. We've seen reports of people lodging claims after their false teeth have fallen down the loo or been eaten by the dog. But the weirdest denture-related claim has to be for a set which were snapped up by an opportunistic magpie.

## **The Back End**

A livestock farmer in Devon claimed that his phone disappeared inside the back end of one of his cows. He had been using the torch on his iPhone while assisting the cow during calving in the middle of a particularly dark and stormy night. The phone later made a reappearance – but perhaps a little unsurprisingly, failed to work properly. The Insurance company paid out on the claim in full

## **The Flying Christmas Tree**

A man was driving home from Christmas shopping, when he saw a car coming the other way with a Christmas tree badly tied to its roof. This must have been a split second observation: no sooner had he seen it than the tree launched itself straight at him. "He was driving too fast around a sharp bend and I saw the tree lift off and it flew straight at me. The trunk made a great dent in my bonnet and caused me to swerve off the road into a hedge."

Mr Fairclough added: "The chap didn't stop and he never came back for his tree, so the Police said we might as well have it. Yhr insurance company paid out all damages.

# Little Dragons Pre-School - Great Bromley & Frating

Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR  
Ofsted Inspected

Website: [www.littledragonspreschool.org](http://www.littledragonspreschool.org)  
Email: [littledragonspreschool@gmail.com](mailto:littledragonspreschool@gmail.com)



**OFSTED INSPECTED OUTSTANDING**

## **BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS- PLACES AVAILABLE**

**Tel: 01206 231823/ 07857 503103**

We are flexible and happy to take children for the occasional session and times to suit your situation.

If you require further information please call us on the numbers above or pop in to see us.

**30 Hours funding** for eligible parents comes into effect from September 2017 - give us a call for more details.

On 29<sup>th</sup> October we hosted a 'Halloween' fancy dress party at Gt. Bromley Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who supported us, it was a roaring success and we raised a fantastic £580.

To commemorate Armistice Day the children cut out and painted poppies, these were made into a 'wreath' which the children laid at the memorial.

This term we have been enjoying an animal theme - we read the book 'Dear Zoo' and the children have participated in lots of activities and crafts.

We are now looking forward to another busy month. December is always a special and exciting time at pre-school. On the last day of term we invite our parents and friends to join the children in singing some festive songs to the residents at Leonard Cheshire Disability. We will finish with our Christmas party and hopefully a visit from Santa.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and friends for their continued help and support over the year and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## **FUNDRAISING:- UPCOMING EVENTS**

**CHRISTMAS MARKET** Saturday 2nd December at Leonard Cheshire Disability 11am - 2.30pm



Come along and get in the festive spirit. Tombola, prizes and more.....

### **Please help us to collect:**

Used Printer Ink Cartridges/ biscuit wrappers/ plastic bottle trigger heads and caps from washing up bottles.

### **OUR RECYCLING STATION now makes it easier to drop off items**

We have set up an area - just inside our main gates, on the right, with boxes for you to drop off collected items. Thank you.

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](mailto:littledragonspreschool@gmail.com)*

### **Dates for diary:**

Saturday 2nd December - Christmas Market at LCD

Wednesday 20th December - Christmas party/ Concert - Last day (No After school club)

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January- Return to preschool

# THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS



## Great Bentley Surgery

### *Merry Christmas from all the team!*

I recently asked all of our GPs, nurses and staff what patients can do to help us through the busy winter:

**EMAILS** – Please be aware that we are not able to book appointments by email unless a disability prevents a patient from being able to telephone us.

**RESULTS:** If calling to see if your results have been received, please leave enough time and ensure that you call after 1.00pm so that lines are kept free in the mornings.

**PRESCRIPTIONS:** Please order your December prescriptions as early as possible before Christmas to ensure you get them in time. Also the dedicated prescription line 01206 257557 is for queries only. We cannot accept requests over the phone, only in writing or by email.

**MEDICATION REVIEWS:** If you know you have a medication review due, please book the appointment straight away. It creates a lot of extra work for staff and doctors when we have to issue prescriptions when the review is overdue.

**WAITING ROOM BLOOD PRESSURE MACHINE:** Our doctors and nurses would find it incredibly helpful if patients took their blood pressure using the machine in the waiting room before their appointments. This saves time and ensures that we get more accurate 'at rest' readings.

**HOME VISITS:** One home visit takes up to an hour of a GPs time, whereas if seen in the practice it takes just 10 minutes and the GP will have all necessary equipment to hand. Please do not take offence if we insist that you come in. This service is only for truly housebound patients. We cannot be responsible for lack of transport.

**COUGHING CAN BE GOOD!:** This might seem a strange statement to make as coughing often makes us or our children feel pretty miserable. However coughing is usually there and happening for a very

good reason! Almost all coughs are due to upper respiratory infections (common colds caused by common viruses). During these viral infections (*which antibiotics will not cure*) horrible sticky mucus can form throughout your nose, throat and deep into your lungs and that's really not nice. If this mucus stayed there it will attract bacteria who would enjoy themselves in the lovely warm sticky environment and reproduce quickly making loads more mucus and causing inflammation. Fortunately we have a marvellous built in way to get rid of the horrible sticky mucus before it gets loaded with bacteria. This process is called "coughing". Coughing brings the mucus up and out of the lungs and respiratory tract and is usually swallowed which renders it completely harmless as it cannot survive in your stomach. Coughing also agitates mucus preventing bacteria from developing their defensive biofilm and creating a huge colony of pus-filled goo! In summary coughing is good. It's there for a reason. If we had a medicine that would

completely stop coughing, it would kill people as they would end up full of infected mucus and if they couldn't cough it up they would die. So just remember when you or your child is coughing, just think about the great job it's likely to be doing and it commonly lasts for a few weeks! Of course if you are coughing up blood, suffering with chest pain or shortness of breath please ring the surgery for advice.



**Please remember the Patient Participation Group does not meet in December.**

*Richard P Miller – Practice Manager*

## SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

Happy Christmas Everyone, or as Noddy Holder would say 'MERRY CHRISTMAS, So here it is Merry Christmas every bodies having fun'. Well that is what we all wish, in truth we all run around hoping that the turkey will be cooked the children like the presents and you don't get a Christmas card from the one person you forgot all about. Just remember it's only one day, and if you need it ask for help its everyone Christmas and no one person is responsible, we are all responsible to make others Christmas the best it can be.

Our residents have already started in visiting the Garden centres picking up Christmas gifts for their families and friends.

We have a full programme of entertainment coming into the home for December, we start with our joint Christmas Market with Little Dragons on Saturday 2 December from 11.00am. light lunches will be available. We are hoping that Santa will visit.

We have also been asked to put in a Christmas Tree Display for the United Reformed Church Christmas Tree Festival in Colchester so please pop in and say hello I will be there all day on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our clients will be going to see the panto at the Mercury Theatre; we have four trips booked and we have an theatre company coming into the home to perform a panto for everyone and specially invited guests. Elvis will also be making a Christmas visit. Everyone is invited to our Christmas Quiz Night on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> at £2.50 per person. Please bring your own drink, free nibbles, teams up to 6 persons. This starts at 7.30pm, if you think you might like to join us for the quiz could you just phone 01206 230345 just so we have an idea of numbers.

As we look into the New Year we here at Seven Rivers wish you all you wish yourselves, with peace, love and happiness. Take care Happy Christmas and New Year  
Liz x



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

### Can you help?

We are making plans and getting prepared for starting our Forest school sessions with the younger children later this term. The large corner plot of our school grounds will also be incorporated into the Forest School area. Watch this space – we may well be appealing for volunteers to help us clear, tidy and plant soon!

We are very keen to provide more opportunities for the children to share a book with an adult. We would love to hear from you if you, or another family member, would be interested in volunteering to read with the children. You do not need any particular experience or skills, just a love of reading, some time to spare on a regular basis and the enthusiasm to discuss books and reading with children on a one-to-one basis. Please contact the school office for further details. Thank you.

### Barnado's Christmas Appeal

We were delighted to have received so many lovely gifts for this appeal. Our huge box contained teddies, jigsaws, lego, modelling and craft sets, paints and books and lots more!



# THANKS

## ST HELENA HOSPICE STALL in Great Bromley

**Another year** has passed and we are delighted to say that this year we have raised a total of £10,571.01 for the Hospice.

Thank you to all who have brought items for us to sell on the stall and to Robert and Peggy for the apples and pears they donate, William for the weekly supply of mushrooms and not forgetting Bob who arrives every Friday with fresh vegetables plus what he grows in his garden.

We would also like to say a big thank you to all who come and purchase from the stall.

Without your support we couldn't raise the money.

Please remember the stall is open Monday to Saturday, 9.00am-4.00pm and on Sundays it is open 10.00am-1.00pm. We are always pleased to see you.

Many thanks to you all and we wish you a happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

*Jenny and John*

Hospice Stall, Briar Road, Great Bromley

## The Great Bromley Autumn Litterpick

The Litterpick on 11<sup>th</sup> November was a great success and yielded a record number of black sacks of discarded rubbish, including a whole car wheel and an upright vacuum cleaner. My thanks to all the volunteers, including the dozen or so helpers from the Rapid Relief Team of the Plymouth Brethren, for making the village look so much tidier. Thanks also to The Cross Inn and The Courthouse for allowing us to rendezvous in their car parks and to Grant Hibbert for arranging well-earned coffee and cakes at the Cross afterwards.

*Owen Blowers*



# MESSY CHURCH

## Baby Moses comes to Messy Church

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 10am we welcomed around 43 children to our Messy Church session at Great Bromley Village Hall. We began with the story of baby Moses who had been left in the bulrushes. We had been given some lovely bulrushes to show the children.

After the story the children went off with their adults to do crafts and play games around the hall. They played games to find the baby and knock down the bulrushes. They made Egyptian headdresses, paper boats, crocodiles, babies in bulrushes and fish weavings. They also did a large picture to go up in the church.

After regrouping for a recap of the morning, they enjoyed some songs and prayers before going back into the hall. Then they played a crocodile game before sitting down for a shared meal. Hot pizza was on the menu and it all disappeared.

We had a lovely morning and it was really nice to welcome some new families as well as our regulars. Thanks once again to our helpers. Please look out for our next event on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at St. Mary's Church, Ardleigh at 2.30pm.** It will be "Countdown to Christmas" at Messy Church.

*Carol Cordwell*

# MARKET FIELD SCHOOL, ELMSTEAD MARKET

## Our visit to St George's Church

As part of our life-skills programme of visits within the local community it was with great pleasure that I was able to take my class to visit St George's Church yesterday. Jenny Nichols very kindly welcomed everyone and told us some interesting stories about the history of the church. The children enjoyed hearing about George and the Dragon and learnt lots of new vocabulary related to different parts of the church. They all completed an 'I spy' challenge looking for ten interesting artefacts in church. They loved being able to see inside the font and being able to stand in the pulpit. The children were very surprised to see the bell

ringers hats high up on the tower wall.

Thank you so much Jenny for playing the organ too, my class loved listening to that. After visiting St George's we went to Little Bromley Church to compare the two. It was most interesting.

*Angela Howarth  
Market Field School.*



# FROM THE RECTORY

If there was a list of the most surprising Christmas traditions that happen around the world, Japan would undoubtedly come near the top. In a country where it isn't even a national holiday, the astonishing success of Kentucky Fried Chicken at Christmas is remarkable.

It began some forty years ago, when foreigners who were living in Japan struggled to find a whole turkey or chicken anywhere else, so ended up purchasing a yuletide KFC. Ever the masters of marketing, the company seized on this and now offers specifically themed traditional Christmas party barrels. This family pack includes fried chicken, a salad, and a chocolate cake. So popular are these barrels that customers have to pre-order, and it's not unusual for them to sell out more than a month before Christmas Day itself.

As retailers in the UK report that between 25% and 30% of annual sales will take place over the Christmas period, enticing customers to spend their money at one outlet rather than another is a battle that has to be won.

For the largest retail groups, the landscape has changed significantly in recent years. It had so often been about availability of product and competitive pricing, But now, using the skills of the advertising creatives, eliciting an emotional response to what a retailer has to offer is central.

It's all about the experience.

Carols sung by candlelight, Christmas trees weighed down by decorations, children excitedly hanging stockings, roaring fires, mulled wine, mince pies, red nosed reindeer and the ho-ho-ho of a jolly Santa Claus. A modern Christmas seems to be incomplete without these things, and has echoes of fondly remembered previous years.

Look further back to the very first Christmas.

A young girl, unexpectedly carrying her first

child. A husband taking his bride on an unwelcome journey. A birth away from the safety of home among strangers, surrounded by the filth and stench of animals. And throughout it all, the promise of God in the form of a human child.

It may give rise to an entirely different set of emotions. But it's love, God's love that informs them all.

The love of God at Christmas is Good News, and that good news has a name. The name of Jesus Christ.

Happy Christmas  
Simon

Rev Canon Simon Heron  
Lawford, The Bromleys & Little Bentley  
Area Dean of Harwich

01206 392659  
[www.lawfordchurch.co.uk](http://www.lawfordchurch.co.uk)  
'Loving God. Living Life.'

## St George's Church, Great Bromley **FAMILY SERVICE**

9.15am  
Sunday 19th November  
Songs, prayers, a bible reading and a short message

A service for all ages!

## **CAROLS**

at The Courthouse, Great Bromley  
Thursday 21st December  
at 7.30pm  
Sausage rolls, mince pies, mulled wine etc  
The start of Christmas  
Come and sing well known carols  
*Wear your favourite Christmas jumper!*

## **CAROLS**

at Bricklayers Arms, Little Bentley  
Come and join us  
on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm  
To enjoy Popular Christmas Carols.

*Collection for Team Angus*



## Services for December and January

December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Advent Sunday</b> 9.15am Benefice Holy Communion & Licensing
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Advent 2</b> 10.30am Parish Eucharist (CW1)
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Advent 3</b> 9.15am Family Carols
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 10.30am Parish Eucharist (CW1) 4.00pm Crib Service
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Day</b> 9.15am Communion (BCP) with Carols
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Christmas 1</b> 10.30am Benefice Eucharist (CW1)
January 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Epiphany 1</b> 9.15am Holy Communion (BCP)
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Epiphany 2</b> 10.30am Parish Eucharist (CW1)
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Epiphany 3</b> 9.15am Family Service
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Epiphany 4</b> 10.30am Parish Eucharist (CW1) 6.30pm Sung Evensong (BCP)



Curate-in-Charge: Revd Canon Simon Heron T. 01206 392659  
 Churchwardens: Mrs Jenny Nicholls T. 01206 230688  
 Mrs Yvonne Cobbold T. 01206 230360

*The church is open daily and you are welcome to visit.  
 More details and information at [www.greatbromley.org.uk](http://www.greatbromley.org.uk)  
 Facebook or Twitter @StGeorgesGtBrom*

St Mary's church, Lawford			St Mary's church, Little Bentley		
Every Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion	1st Sunday	10.30am	Morning Prayer
1st Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion	3rd Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion
2nd Sunday	10.30am	Family Service			
	6.30pm	Evensong			
3rd Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion			
	6.30pm	Café Church			
4th Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship			
Wednesdays	9.30am	Holy Communion			

**J.A.M. DROP-IN**  
 Every Friday in St George's church  
 Term time only  
 Parents and children welcome  
 All are welcome  
 3.00pm to 3.45pm  
 Refreshments, activities

**Church Lunch**  
 Christmas Lunch with Carols  
 Friday 1st December 12 noon  
 New Year's Lunch  
 Friday 5th January 12 noon  
 Please come & join us for friendship & fun.