

KATISHA'S KOLUM

Since Mistress went on a course to Denman College with the WI, which she thoroughly enjoyed, and is now spending her time with hospital appointments and visiting, I offered to take over the writing of the front page this month.

Some of you, over the past months, have kindly enquired after me and I am pleased to report that, as a one-year old cat, I am fit and well. I have a wonderful life exploring the garden, visiting the gardens of my neighbours and endeavouring to keep down the rat, mice and rabbit populations in the surrounding meadows. I am also still working on catching my first pheasant. It is all very hard work but I am extremely active although I find wet days rather boring, preferring on such occasions to stay indoors out of the rain.

However there are bonuses to being indoors. One, of course, is my nice comfy bed by the warm stove which I can leap out of at a moment's notice to get under someone's feet. There is also the fridge which I have learned to open when the door does not quite shut. This is excellent as I have filled my tummy with lovely cooked ham etc. The dog provides endless fun as she leaves her tail lying around wagging it and I simply can't resist pouncing on it. And then there are the fish. Fishing is my latest hobby but you have to be patient and it is time consuming. There are several ways to fish although, as yet, I haven't caught anything but I am confident that my skills will improve to the point when I do. There is the Paw Through The Hole method whereby I put my paw through the feeding hole at the top of the tank and try to hook

out a fish. A disadvantage of this is that my paw becomes wet. Another method is to stick my Nose Through The Hole but unfortunately I cannot get it far enough in. The last method is to sit on the top of the tank and hope they jump out through the hole. My weight on top has cracked the lid and since my swimming lesson last summer in the pool outside I have decided I am not keen on getting wet so this last method is the least preferred lest I fall in. I have discovered fish food is very tasty and lick up any pieces that fail to go through the hole.

Another way of relieving boredom both inside and outside is to bait the Old Cat. Sometimes I chase her but recently she has taken to bopping me round the head with her paw and I respect her for that so I stop being a nuisance. She also hisses at me sometimes. The other day though I gave her a tremendous fright. I was halfway up a tree when she walked beneath it so I dropped out of the tree on to her back - I gave her a most satisfactory fright but she ran indoors to sneak on my antics and be comforted by Mistress. Maybe by dropping out of a tree on to a pheasant I will finally catch one ...

Katisha



The 'Bromley Messenger'

is very grateful and thanks all those who by their donations have sponsored this month's magazine through
PERSONAL AND CLUB DONATIONS

SPONSORSHIP AND NEW COVER

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

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

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

Len Christodoulides

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

MATERIAL for the **FEBRUARY 2008** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **Monday, 18th February, 2008** please. Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

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Please support the sponsors of our magazine.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Ian Rose came to our 2008 New Year's meeting with his slides of Tanzania taken when he and his wife spent a holiday there. As always, the scenes of the country and animals were so enjoyable and Ian has the stories to go with them.

They travelled to the Serengeti Park which is a huge crater formed by volcanic eruption millions of years ago, staying in a Lodge. Many species of animals live in the Park as it is a very fertile area. Enormous soda lakes are home to thousands of pink flamingos, storks and pelicans to name just a few as well as wonderful plants and other birds of various colours.

On the way back they met a family from the Masai people wearing their traditional costumes, very colourful with lots of beads. One man had an ostrich feather headdress which made him look very tall.

After refreshments, during our business meeting, we discussed the Resolutions being put forward at the National Women's Institute Annual General Meeting to be held later in the year. Ann Fairley reported that, with the help of Jenny Nicholls, seven boxes of "goodies" were packed to be sent off for the troops in Afghanistan.

Our next meeting will be "A History of Asda" starting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th February in the Village Hall. If interested, please come along, you will be made very welcome.

June Willgress

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Hello! to 2008 hoping it will bring you GOOD HEALTH, HAPPINESS and may all your troubles be LITTLE ones. The next meeting is on 21st February and the competition is for a small figurine.

The Christmas Lunch was a great success and we thank Brenda and Richard for the hard work they put in on these special occasions, also their helpers. The collection in the 'Messenger' tin was £3.26.

Vicky Griffiths

FEBRUARY GARDENING TIPS

Why not grow a fig tree?

They are very easy to grow; I got one from Blenheim Garden Centre last November very reasonably priced and if you are 60 or over you get a 10% discount.

Dig a hole approximately 2' deep and 2' square, line the sides with slates or tiles and the same at the bottom. Place some well rotted compost or manure in the bottom.

Figs do best on a south facing wall or fence and grow them fan shaped. To do this you will need two or three wires stretched across the wall or fence. On these wires fix canes to form a fan and to these canes will be tied the branches of the tree. I will give a progress report each month on my fig tree.

Frank Griffiths

KITCHEN CORNER

February is the month for pancakes! Time to have fun in the kitchen. My grandchildren love to make their own and have varied ideas about the contents, but the results give lots of pleasure.

Basic mix is 4 oz of plain flour with one egg and half pint of milk. Put the flour in a bowl and make a well in the centre, drop in the egg and some of the milk, and gradually beat in the flour until smooth. Add the rest of the milk, beat all to a smooth batter. Transfer to a jug. I sometimes add a tablespoon of cooking oil to the mix but this is not essential. Next put your pan on to heat; a really hot pan makes for good pancakes! Rub a little fat over the surface or brush it with some oil, then pour in some of the batter, tipping the pan so the mixture covers the base. As soon as it sets, flip or toss it over to cook the other side. Turn on to a warm plate, and either fill and roll up or serve with lemon and sugar in the traditional way. Apple puree with cinnamon makes a good filling, or try Mrs Ransome's recipe for Apple Fraize. (Cook sliced apple in some butter, pour some batter in the pan. When it starts to set, lay some apple on top then pour more batter on. Turn over to cook the other side and serve sprinkled with sugar.)

Jill Frostick

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

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald

Telephone: 01206 230305

Friday, 1st February

UNICEF non Uniform Day

Wednesday 19th March

EASTER FAYRE

11 new children started school in January in Class 1 and two in Class 3.



Great Bromley & Frating Playgroup

At Great Bromley Village Hall.

Monday & Thursday 9.30-12 noon

Wednesday 9.15-11.45am

& 12.15-2.45pm

Session Tel No: 0785 7503103

(Lunch time session also available)

Children: 2years-6 months to 5years.

£5.00 per session. Ofsted inspected.

For more details/visits, please contact

Group Secretary-Debbie on 01206

250183



Scallywags

At Great Bromley Village Hall

Friday Mornings 9.30-11.30am

0-5years.Parent and child group.

Activities/themed sessions/play equipment etc.

For more details or visits please contact 01206 230625

FROM THE GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

Amid all the furore in the media recently about loss of personal data in various forms by banks and government departments, it has been interesting to see quite a sharp increase in the number of patients asking for their medical records to be withheld from the new NHS national computer system – otherwise known as “the spine”. We seem to get letters or telephone calls every day from people who are concerned that their details might end up in the wrong hands, and who can blame them?

I admit that I am in favour of people having portable medical records, so that wherever you are in the country, if you need medical attention the person looking after you can check to see if you have any major problems or allergies. However, the way of doing this that is being developed seems ill thought out and I can certainly understand anyone feeling that if a department like the DVLA can't keep personal data safe, why should the NHS be trusted to do so?

You can opt out of having your data loaded onto the spine by writing to your surgery, and any hospitals that look after you, telling them that you want to do so. Many people seem to feel that this is the safest option until there is an NHS system that is proven to be safe and secure. I don't have strong feelings either way about opting out, but I understand and sympathise with anyone who does.

Talking of the media, some of you may have read or heard recently that the NHS is again campaigning to reduce the use of antibiotics. This is mainly because a strong link has now been established between overuse of antibiotics, particularly certain types, and the increase in the number of Clostridium Difficile (C Diff) and MRSA cases around the country.

On occasions in the past, there have been grumbles about the doctors here possibly being reluctant to prescribe antibiotics, and now perhaps it becomes a little clearer why. It has long been known that they don't work on viruses such as colds or flu anyway. Overuse also leads eventually to an antibiotic ceasing to be effective as the illness targeted

develops resistance to it. It is also true that in many cases where people feel they should have antibiotics, their bodies will deal quickly and perfectly adequately with the problem that they have without medical intervention.

The message is, **please** accept the doctor's word for it if he or she says that antibiotics aren't needed or won't help. If you abuse antibiotics, you might well be storing up problems later for a time when you – or your children – desperately need them. C Diff and MRSA are classic and horrible examples of this happening. I guarantee that the doctor won't have a vested interest in preventing you having access to antibiotics, but you certainly will have a vested interest in ensuring that there are still antibiotics around that will work when you really need them.

Unusually, I have another two leavers to report this month. Normally, I'm sorry to see good staff go, but I can't possibly begrudge either my assistant, Jill Cann, or our Healthcare Assistant, Stephanie Leiper, their new opportunities.

Jill is going off to be Practice Manager at Dr Spooner's surgery at Stanway, where I'm sure she'll do an excellent job. She has been with us for over four years and has become a really important member of the team. I shall just have to work a bit harder for a while whilst I look for someone to fill her shoes.

Stephanie has also worked for us for several years, mostly taking blood samples but also at times on reception. Many of you will also know her as a key member of the District Nursing team that does such a fantastic job locally. She has gone off to do her nurse training, at the end of which she will step up to being a fully qualified nurse. I know that she has wanted to do this for some time and I'm sure she'll be brilliant at it.

I know that everyone will join me in wishing both Jill and Stephanie the very best of luck with their new ventures and in thanking them for all the hard work they have put in while they have been here.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

FROM THE ARDLEIGH DOCTORS' SURGERY

New Practice Nurse appointed

The practice has appointed a new Practice Nurse, Joy Harrison, to replace Michelle Black.

Joy is an experienced practice nurse and holds an M.Sc in Clinical Nursing from Sheffield University. She also works part-time as a Nurse Educator at the Open University. Joy will be our practice nurse lead on respiratory care for patients with asthma and COPD. Joy will be starting a Nurse Prescriber course in January at Essex University involving one study day a week for six months.

Patient survey results – December 2007

A survey was carried out during the first week of December 2007 when patients were requested to take a questionnaire form home which was handed out in the surgery with a response rate of 73% (156/212 forms) The full results of the survey are on the practice website at www.ardleighsurgery.nhs.uk. In common with previous surveys, the results indicate high patient satisfaction with the services provided by the doctors and staff. The figures in brackets are the results of the October 2006 survey.

- 98% (97%) rated the way they were treated by receptionists as good to excellent.
- 94% (92%) rated the hours the surgery was open as good to excellent. 12% (15%) would like extended evening surgeries and 34% (42%) access at weekends.
- 95% (94%) rated the time they had to wait to see any doctor as good to excellent. (79% (87%) within two working days)
- 98% (97%) reported that they could see a doctor urgently on the same day.
- 85% (88%) rated the ability to get through on the telephone as good to excellent.
- On average 98% (94%) 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.

64 patients wrote appreciative comments about the practice on the form.

30 patients requested improvements to the services we provide as follows:-

- 9 patients would like the surgery to be open

during the weekend particularly on Saturday mornings.

3 patients would like to be able to access late evening surgeries

8 patients found getting through to the surgery on the telephone difficult

1 patient found obtaining an urgent appointment difficult.

1 patient felt waiting times were too long

3 patients felt the parking was a problem

1 patient would like larger premises and found the children play area very noisy

1 patient felt that signposting in the surgery should be improved

1 patient would like the telephone answering machine messages to be clearer

1 patient would like to be able to obtain their medicine from the dispensary rather than the pharmacist.

1 patient had a comment about their doctor's treatment

1 patient would like elderly patient checks to be offered

1 patient requested access to counselling to be improved

The practice will be addressing these issues and finding solutions where practicable. Some are difficult to resolve such as car parking. We cannot make the car park any larger but we would remind patients that it should only be used for the disabled and parents with babies and the free village car park should be used as an alternative. We already staff two telephone lines every morning for appointments and queries. We would request patients to telephone after 2 pm for blood and other pathology results and non urgent queries.

Extended access is a contentious issue which is being given a high priority by the government. GPs are reluctant to return to covering Saturday mornings and feel that providing late evening surgeries for a small minority of patients would mean putting undue pressure on GPs and staff particularly in small practices with three partners or less such as Ardleigh. That is why the new GP contract removed the requirement for GPs to provide out of hours cover in 2006 and PCTs were funded to provide Walk in Centres. The Government is now planning to impose change by removing a significant amount of income from general practices and allowing them to get it back only if extended hours are offered

Fred Merrin, Practice Manager

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

By the time you read this the Village Hall committee will have held its first meeting of 2008 on 22nd January.

As we move into 2008, the Village Hall has served the inhabitants of Great Bromley and the surrounding area for some 85 years. With sensitive management and progressive improvement throughout this period, we have sought to bring the Hall up to a reasonable standard whilst retaining some of its unique character. Of course, some of this has been placed upon us by government legislation but then we must have a building that is safe for people to use.

Our most recent improvement has been the replacement of the ladies' toilets with modern white low level close coupled bowls and cisterns. We are grateful to John Summers who carried out this work during the Christmas break whilst the Hall was unused for a few days.

However, a very major repair and improvement is looming which we have begun to work upon which is the replacement of the Hall roof. With every storm, particularly those from the north

west, we tentatively walk round the building and look to see which tiles have been dislodged and there are usually some. The tiles and fixings are deteriorating gradually, thus the need to consider this very major project if we are to keep the building water tight and available for future use.

On Saturday 15th March at 7.30pm, the "Nostalgia" Big Band will make a return visit for you to listen to and dance the evening away. Tickets may be booked with Beryl Hurst on 01206 230578.

Also, on Saturday 10th May at 7.30pm there will be an evening of entertainment with Angie Diggins at the Village Hall following on from her show at the Clacton Westcliff theatre and other venues in the UK. Tickets may be reserved with Beryl Hurst on 01206 230578.

To book the Hall, contact Mrs Lynda Allam on 01206 230375 who will advise on availability and cost. The Hall may be seen on www.greatbromley.org.uk and click on "village hall".

Bevan Willgress

CAROL SERVICE

If you did not manage to get to the CAROL SERVICE held in St. Georges' church on the last Sunday before Christmas then you missed a lovely gathering of many people from the villages and beyond. The usual service of celebration of the birth of Jesus was enhanced by St George's Church Choir who sang so beautifully, directed by Gregory Frostick who brought along some members of his family to join in. The people stayed to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies and a lot of friendly chat. For me, that Sunday evening formed a demarcation between the ever maddening rush of gift wrapping, writing cards and food preparation, allowed a breathing space, and started the beginning of the real spirit of Christmas, giving thanks for the gift of God's Son. Hope to see you there next year.

Olive Sparling

CAN YOU HELP MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE ST GEORGE'S CHURCH?

(YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A CHURCHGOER!)

Gt Bromley residents have reason to be proud of their village church. A Grade 1 listed building, it is said to be one of the finest churches in north Essex, featuring in Simon Jenkins' book *1000 Best Churches* and in the Tourist Board's *Guide to Essex Churches*. Pevsner dubbed it *the Cathedral of the Tendring Hundred*. The chancel, nave, south aisle and south doorway were all built in the 14th Century while the north aisle, south chapel and tower were added in the following Century. The church is particularly renowned for its magnificent 16th Century double hammer beam roof. Other notable features include the two re-set spandrels of Adam and Eve by the south door and a 14th Century piscina. The recently repaired west window is thought to be one of very few examples of its kind in south-east England while the bell ringers hats provide a unique source of interest and amusement for visitors.

In common with other churches all over England, the scale and cost of the upkeep of St George's is daunting. Major repairs to the roof and north parapet were completed in 2005 at the cost of £150,000. The west window was cleaned and restored in 2006. This specialised piece of work was undertaken by glaziers from Canterbury Cathedral and cost over £11,000. An urgent need now is the repair of the clerestory windows (these are the small windows above the nave) and their surrounding masonry. This is likely to cost around £90,000. Grants may be available but organisations such as English Heritage are likely to expect a proportion of the cost to be met through local fund raising. Other outstanding tasks include addressing the problem of damp in the south wall and interior decoration.

The Parochial Church Council is committed to keeping the church open, not only to remain a focus for the spiritual life of the

village but also because it is part of our country's cultural heritage. However, maintaining the building is too big a task for church members alone and we need the support of the wider community. If this is not forthcoming then there is a real risk that the church could close within the foreseeable future.

Many churches form 'Friends' groups. These consist of not only churchgoers but other people, local residents or past residents, who want to ensure that ancient churches such as St George's are not allowed to sink into disrepair and decay but are preserved for the benefit of future generations. In the longer term, this is what the PCC would like to see established in Gt Bromley. In the short term we would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in re-establishing a Fabric Committee to focus on the maintenance of the building.

We would like to hear from you if you feel you could help in any of the following ways:

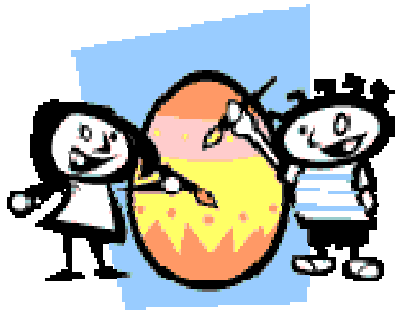
- Practically - some tasks can safely and appropriately be undertaken by volunteers.
- In organising fund raising events.
- Helping with grant applications. This involves researching and contacting appropriate organisations and charitable trusts, form filling and letter writing.
- Contacting churches that have established *Friends* groups, finding out what is involved and whether this is feasible for Gt Bromley.

We aim to hold an initial meeting in March. If you are interested in attending or would just like more information please contact Marion Bromfield (230089) or Jenny Nicholls (230688).

Marion Bromfield and Gregory Frostick

EASTER FAYRE

at
St George's School
on Wednesday, 19th March
1.45pm-3.00pm



NOSTALGIA BIG BAND

on
Saturday 15th March
at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall
Tickets may be booked from
Beryl Hurst on 01206 230578

In aid of Village Hall Funds

AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT WITH ANGIE DIGGENS

on
Saturday 10th May
at 7.30pm
Tickets may be reserved from
Beryl Hurst on 01206 230578

*In aid of Village
Hall Funds*



CRICKET CLUB

100 Club January 2008

- 1st. H Fairley
- 2nd. Leo Foley
- 3rd. Fergus Fairley

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CARPET BOWLS

Two results this month, we lost to Brightlingsea away 6-2 but managed to draw 4-4 with Clacton-on-Sea at home.

Our home match with Engaines scheduled for 6th December was unfortunately cancelled, but, nothing daunted, ten members and two guests had a fun evening at Walton Pier Bowling instead. Derek Frostick was the highest individual scorer for the evening, but the 'real highlight' was the Fish and Chip supper afterwards - or so I was told.

County

Andrew has played two more matches for the County. In November they managed a respectable 17-19 away win against Norfolk, and a home win 20-16 against Hertfordshire in December.

The last Club evening before Christmas was more of a social evening, with cards changing hands, lots of goodies to eat and the odd glass or two in evidence. It was hard luck on the drivers among us, who had to make do with the 'jolly old teabag' as usual. Gerald Canham brought his Dad, Joe, over to see us for an hour or so. He was looking well and knowing Joe he just couldn't resist sending a few woods down the mat. He hasn't lost his touch.

Nancy Kempster

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Bromley Parish Council

Report of a parish council meeting held on 10 January 2007

Planning

The Council considered the following planning application:

In connection with the applicant's appeal to the Planning Inspectorate the council agreed to support the district council's refusal to allow wooden decking and a covered smoking area at the Snooty Fox, Frating Road.

Tendring District Council has decided the following planning applications:

Park Farm, Hilliards Road – extension to existing building (approval not required).

Talisman Coach Lines (Hazel's Garage) Harwich Road – temporary staff and storage facilities, ie stacked portacabins, (approval, which expires 31/12/09).

Greshams Farm, Harwich Road – change of use of agricultural buildings to general industrial, storage or distribution, (refusal).

The Spinney, Back Lane West – rear extension, (approval).

1 St George's Close – conservatory, (approval).

Bay Trees, Parsons Hill – single storey side extension, (approval).

Reservoir

A formal application to Essex County for permission to extract minerals is expected shortly and when received an environmental impact assessment will need to be undertaken. At that stage

residents can make representations to the planning authorities. Meanwhile the parish council has made its concerns known to the county council and a copy of its letter has been placed on the website (www.essexinfo.net/gbpc). A meeting for concerned residents will be/has also been organised.

Poorlands Charity

The trustees of Great Bromley's Poorlands Charity met in December and agreed to distribute grants of £45 each to five residents. The Trust's income in 2007 was £198, with some cash carried forward from the previous year. The Trust's investments are presently worth about £6,500.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 14 February 2007 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

A reminder that Great Bromley Parish Council will shortly be deciding the allocation of grants for community projects. The parish council has a total of about £2000 for awards to organisations whose activities benefit the residents of the village.

Applications for grants should be sent to the Clerk, Ken Bromfield (contact details on the front cover), who can provide further information. **The closing date for the receipt of applications is Monday 11 February 2008.**

Little Bromley Parish Council

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on 7th February 2008 at 7.30pm.

For the venue please contact the Parish Clerk on 01206 391015.

Great Bromley Parish Council
CONTRACTS FOR GRASS AND HEDGE CUTTING

In March the council will be awarding the contracts for the maintenance of its land during the period April 2008 to March 2009. There will be three separate contracts, of a total value of about £4000, covering: (a) general hedge cutting; (b) general grass cutting; (c) general maintenance of the closed cemetery plus miscellaneous small-scale grass/hedge cutting work.

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

The closing date for the receipt of tenders is Monday 10 March 2008.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH GRANT MANAGEMENT TEAM

With several village organisations and working groups now in a position to begin raising funds for community-related capital projects, the parish council proposes to establish a small team to provide a focus for identifying appropriate grant funding sources and obtaining grant funding for projects. The team will provide the expertise and competence required to identify potential sources of grants, co-ordinate and prepare grant applications and monitor, in conjunction with the parish council and other relevant organisations, the expenditure of grant funds allocated. Major capital projects include: replacement of the village hall roof; provision of the proposed village information centre in Church Meadow; village pond restoration; and assistance where appropriate with the ongoing restoration of St George's Church.

Two volunteers are sought from the community to join this team for the next 18 months or so. Ideally, volunteers will have some experience in obtaining or awarding grant funding, have the ability to research, prepare and write robust grant applications and liaise with grant funding bodies on behalf of the community. Anyone interested in assisting with this important and very worthwhile task is asked to pass his or her name to the parish clerk, Ken Bromfield, (230089) by the end of February 2008.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Working Group 10 - Footpaths Project

The Footpath Working Group has been active since August 2007 since when members of the WG have been busy walking all the Public Footpaths in the village. I am pleased to be able to report that all Public Footpaths in Great Bromley have now been surveyed and a detailed report has been sent to Essex County Council's Public Rights of Way Officer notifying her of all problems encountered including blockages and overgrown paths. Currently enquiries are being made regarding a village Footpath Map for display in the village. May I take this opportunity to thank all members of the WG for their hard work on this project.

Ann Jones

FROM THE PAST

Early Schoolmistresses and Governess Great Bromley

At The Hall in 1848 Miss Mary Cudlic, aged 27, was Governess to the Alston children. She came from Norfolk.

At the same time Great Bromley had a village school and also dame schools.

Sophie Keeble, aged 27, and also a School Governess, lived in the Round House with her husband, Clemet Keeble, aged 45, an Agricultural Labourer or Ag

Lab.

In School House and Head Mistress of the village school was Miss Elizabeth Wilkin, aged 32, who is described in the Census as Governess but by William White's Essex Directory, 1848, as School Mistress. She was born in London.

Also living in School House was her father, Joseph Wilkin, aged 61, farmer born at White Colne and mother, Rebecca, aged 62, born at Frating.

John Appleby

FURTHER RECTORY REMINISCENCES

Remarkable as it seems now, we had a governess, Miss Behr, whose car number ALE 640 (ALE 6 for tea) caused much amusement. On one occasion, a mischievous uncle advanced the hands on the schoolroom clock and we were let out early. Memory plays some curious tricks and I have no recollection of this, but Christine and Dick remember prayers in a tiny chapel, a former dressing-room to the principal bedroom.

We had no electricity, no telephone, and no mains water or sewer. Tony recalls how it was his daily job - until someone from the village was paid to do it - to pump water from the well, and he also pumped the organ in church. He also admits to climbing out on the roof of the house (strictly forbidden). Celia had the task of emptying the chamberpots every morning while Christine filled the (much needed) hot water bottles in winter. We relied on handsome Aladdin paraffin lamps for lighting the main rooms - sitting-room-cum-study, dining room, and kitchen and we each had our own candlestick at bedtime.

Although I was too young to appreciate it at the time, Mother must have been under severe pressure in trying to keep up with everything, but perhaps it helped that we each had a mentor. Christine still complains, 70 years later, that she had care of me and, when I fell in the moat, was blamed more that I was. And we were expected to exchange special presents at Christmas time.

Father - and Mother - retired in 1944 and moved to Maldon Road, Colchester, necessitating the sale "in a marquee on the premises" of some 200 lots, raising £830 5s.

Gerald Gurney

[Many thanks to Gerald for his reminiscences from the Rectory (now Copley Dene) which have sadly come to an end. However we are aiming to have more residents' memories coming over the next few months so 'Watch This Space' as the saying goes! - Ed.]

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Great Bromley Was Great

Having joined the Wolf Cubs at the age of 8 in 1954, I moved up to the Boy Scouts in 1957 at the age of 11.

The 2nd Stanford-le Hope scout troop had had an association with a disabled scout called **Len Hobden** who had been assisted by the troop in the funding of a motorised invalid carriage. Len had made full use of his transport and had joined the troop on camps and visited our headquarters for various social functions.

As an 11 year old, I was now eligible to attend my first summer camp. By this time Len had become a resident of the Seven Rivers Cheshire Home and had been able to arrange for the troop to camp in the meadow next door. The great day arrived and we boarded a double decker bus with our camping equipment stowed on the lower deck and the scouts upstairs. On our arrival at Great Bromley equipment was unloaded and carried to the bottom of the meadow. Tents were erected and our kitchen area set up against the fence which separated the meadow from a wooded area. With firewood collected we put the finishing touches to the site, flag pole, latrines etc. Our water had to be carried in cooking dixies from the Seven Rivers kitchen.

While setting up camp we had been joined by Len in his latest acquisition, an electric invalid car which was completely enclosed. If I remember correctly the meadow was farmed by Mr Pirie who lived with his family in a farmhouse a few hundred yards along the road. We had been given permission to make use of wooded area and the adjacent lake. Like coiled up springs we were soon exploring the area. I have a clear memory of our scoutmaster's wife missing her footing while crossing a horizontal log near the lake and sinking up to her knees into a peat bog. She had to clean herself up in the horse trough. *(She wasn't the only one to fall in that week).*

On Sunday morning we all assembled for church parade which was well attended by residents of Seven Rivers as well as the girl guides. The rest of the day was spent playing games in the meadow and in the evening we were joined by a lady who we learned was to become Lens Wife. Her name was Elsie. Elsie was also a resident of Seven Rivers but didn't have a motorised chair so some of the boys pushed her home at bedtime.

On Monday morning I was shoe-horned into Len's

electric car with him and we set off to the Post Office to collect the bread. As there was only enough room for Len and the bread in the car I had to make the return journey on foot.

During our stay Len had arranged for a local coach company to take us out on a sight seeing tour. Amongst the places we visited, Ardleigh, Mistley and Manningtree come to mind. We all thought it very strange to see a sign reading M.C.C. outside the Manningtree Cricket Club.

Wednesday was the day when our parents came to visit. A coach arrived at about mid-morning and those who wanted to could join their parents on a trip to Clacton. While those would rather stay at the camp had a good time playing rounders and other games.

Len had asked and it had been agreed that at a convenient time during our stay we would put on a repeat performance of our recent Gang Show in the Grounds of the Seven Rivers. This proved quite traumatic as we not only had to remember our original lines but had to learn the lines of chums who had been unable to join us at camp.

On frequent visits to the lake we would quite often meet Mr Pirie's daughter Mary and her brother fishing for eels. Following one of these visits a couple of us were invited back to the farmhouse to see some of their animals.

All too soon Friday arrived, our last full day. But it did have its compensations as Friday was traditionally Camp Fire Night and we were going to be joined by the Girl Guides. The time arrived for the girls to join us and with the dough we had prepared duly wound round sticks and cooked in the camp fire to make our twisters. We sang camp fire songs and had a great evening.

On Saturday we sadly closed our camp and with the aid of Mr Pirie's tractor and trailer we conveyed our equipment up to the top of the meadow where our bus was waiting to take us home.

The memory of that week has stayed with me and my fellow scouts, many of who I still have contact with.

So thank you Great Bromley for making my first scout camp such a memorable one and if anyone can recall our visit I would love to hear from you.

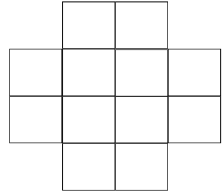
Bruce Baker
Tel 01245 420891 or
email: bruce.baker@talktalk.net

MAKE A VALENTINE'S CARD

14th February is St Valentine's Day. Why not make a Celtic Knot heart card?

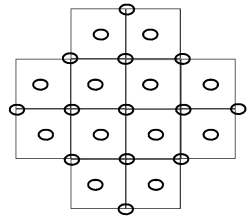
Step 1

Draw **lightly** in pencil a grid with 1" or ½" squares



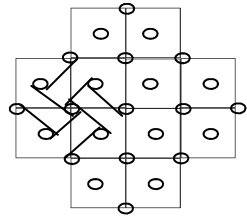
Step 2

Mark **lightly** in pencil little circles as indicated



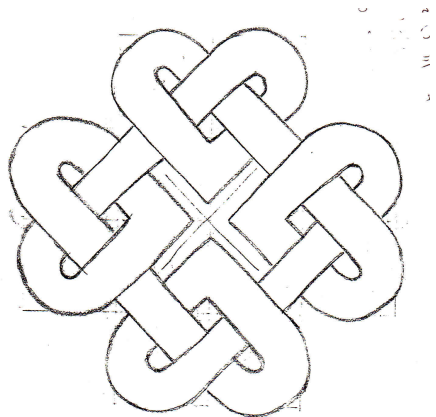
Step 3

Keeping **inside** the circles draw the connecting lines



Step 4

What it should look like when completed



THROUGH THE WEBSITE

I just found the Little Bromley website and thought I'd contribute to a bit of history.

I was not born in Little Bromley but in Manningtree and my family moved to Little Bromley when I was 3 months old. I continued to live there till I was 21. My mother (now deceased) was the district nurse/midwife for the surrounding area for a number of years and delivered most, if not all, the babies in LB from about 1945 to the early 60's. My father (also deceased) worked at what was BX Plastics at Brantham for 42 years, cycling there and back each day from Little Bromley. Our second home in Little Bromley was the bungalow (Elmhurst) at end of the first straight, the first turn of the road to Ardleigh, we moved around the corner from one of the pair of houses 25 yards on the other side of the road.

This meant that we had electricity for the first time (I was eight) and I clearly remember helping to carrying things from one house to the other and having things like an electric cooker delivered, although still having to pump water from the well just outside the back door. Strange to say, one of my earliest memories was of the milk being delivered by horse and cart with me running out with mum and a big jug to have the milk ladled out of a churn - happy days!!!!

All a long time ago now, but just thought someone may remember us, my mum was Elizabeth my dad was Worthy and my brother was Hugh.

Regards,
Tudor Smith

Anyone wishing to communicate with Tudor can do so with a letter to the magazine, or via the editor, or via the contact page of www.LittleBromley.org.uk

LETTERS

Do we ever stop to think about the preparation of our village magazine? Our family appreciate it so much and although living in other parts of the country now, it is eagerly read by them when visiting home. We tend to pick up magazines from other areas and ours is one of the best with all the news about the village and the local information included. So may we thank Leonie (and probably there is some thanks due to George, her husband, as well) for her constant work in getting the magazine out on time after the work of compiling it. THANK YOU, DEAR LEONIE, WE DO APPRECIATE YOUR TREMENDOUS EFFORT.

Sincerely,.

Olive and Dennis Sparling.

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Services for February

Sunday 3rd **PRESENTATION OF CHRIST**

Sunday before Lent (Candlemas)

8.00am The Eucharist
10.30am The Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

*St. Mary the Virgin
St. George the Martyr
St. Mary the Virgin*

6th **ASH WEDNESDAY**

7.30pm

St. George the Martyr

Sunday 10th **LENT 1**

8.00am The Eucharist
10.30am The Parish Eucharist

*St. George the Martyr
St. Mary the Virgin*

Sunday 17th **LENT 2**

8.00am The Eucharist
10.30am The Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Evening Prayer

*St. Mary the Virgin
St. George the Martyr
St. Mary the Virgin*

Sunday 24th **LENT 3**

8.00am The Eucharist
10.30am The Parish Eucharist

*St. George the Martyr
St. Mary the Virgin*

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

Forthcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- 6 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 14 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 15/16 'Showtime' with Dedham Players, Assembly Rooms in Dedham, 7.45pm
- 21 Friendship Club, Village Hall, 2.00pm

MARCH

- 15 WG11 Litter Picking Day
- 15 Dance with 'Nostalgia' Big Band, Village Hall
- 19 Easter Fayre, St George's School, 1.45pm

MAY

- 24 Coffee Morning, Village Hall

AUGUST

Friendship Club Auction

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Essex Police Choir, St George's Church