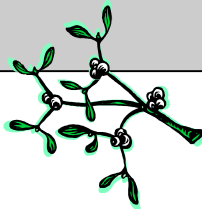




Great Bromley War Memorial adorned with poppy wreaths following its renovation by parishioners in October.

A group of enthusiastic volunteers from the village has replaced the loose stone base with hand-made concrete slabs and repaired the adjoining footpath. The work was supported by a small grant from the ward district councillors.

JINGLE BELLS



As I write the snow is swirling outside and the air is chill. Lovely to look out on and play in but not so good if driving but perfect weather in which to sit by the fire.

Soon it will be Christmas, a lovely time of year with families gathering together and enjoying one another's company. The shops in these financially difficult days are frantically trying to entice us in. At least this year they didn't start so early! However, in these straitened times, with the prospect of them worsening, maybe the commercial side of Christmas will not be as great and the real reason behind the festival will come to the fore. I am holding the 'wider' family do this year and with the very recent births of a baby great niece and nephew the party will have a complete set of generations.

My holly hedge has not produced as many berries as usual this year and will probably have none by the time I want to bring some in to decorate the house as during the first really cold snap it is usually descended upon by the birds who speedily eat the berries. Holly was once viewed as a sacred plant which kept the

earth beautiful even as north winds blew and snow lay on the ground. In later times it became a symbol of

Christmas for the Christians and is now regarded as a symbol for peace and joy; a tree under which to settle arguments as well as being a protection from lightning.

Mistletoe (which I have tried, and failed, for years to introduce, through seed, to grow on my apple trees) is so difficult to propagate people used to link the plant with spontaneous generation, fertility and aphrodisiacs.

On page 8, with many thanks to the compilers, Ian and Val Harris, you will find the December Quiz to tease your brains during the holiday period. No prizes - just a test for the '*leettle grey cells*'!

This issue has photographs, courtesy of Michael Symonds, of the new Rector, Fr Robert, and guests at the reception following his Installation in to the parish and also of the Harvest Lunch, courtesy of Neil Skinner. The cover shows the newly renovated Great Bromley War Memorial. If you have a photograph you feel would be suitable for the magazine do please send them to me as a .jpeg to the email address which can be found inside the back cover.

Wishing you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas.

Leonie Henderson



Merry Christmas to all our readers

SPECIAL GREETINGS

Dear Friends

Over the past few months I have been eagerly awaiting the day when I would be Inducted as Rector of Ardleigh and the Bromleys and every spare moment was taken up with the preparations for the house move and for the big day. It is a new experience for me to live in the countryside and already I am thoroughly enjoying it. I look forward to getting to know you in both communities.

Obviously, this will take some time and much of my energy up to now has been taken up in preparation for all the Christmas services. I am sure that you too will be looking forward to Christmas and, unfortunately, many of us can get quite exhausted with all we have to do at this time of year to ensure that we have an enjoyable Christmas.

The first Christmas was not all that different. The circumstances were certainly not the same, but Mary and Joseph were caught in the confusion of jostling crowds on their way to Bethlehem. A Polish carol had Mary plead, "Please go slowly Joseph, I can't rush along so fast, look what a load I bear. I'm so tired, all I can think of is somewhere to stay, a nice little inn".

We know, of course, that there was no room for them in the inn. The world can be a very harsh place. It was so when Jesus was born and it has been ever since. We do well to remember that when we tuck into our Christmas dinner. The rulers of the world pass decrees and people are displaced. In 1939 thousands of Poles were transported to Siberia. Families were torn apart. A Polish boy placed in a Soviet orphanage found a small compatriot. They were forbidden to keep Christmas, but the boys hid in an empty dormitory on Christmas Eve. They

blew on the icy windowpane and glimpsed the Christmas star, pulled straw for their mattresses, knelt beside their 'cribs' and whispered well loved carols.

Whatever our situation, it is right and fitting that we should express joy at this time of year. The old carols say that sparrows, robins and starlings rejoiced with country people who fed their cattle in the first light of Christmas Day, believing with simple trust that the very animals bowed their knee on the night the Lord of Lord of all was born.

I never cease to marvel at the difference a new born baby makes. Everyone stops to have a peep at the baby. Yes, this happens everywhere, even in supermarket queues! These lovely things are what Christmas is all about. And yet we also know that having a baby is not all sweetness and light. The child must be fed, he or she must grow up, and there will be pain and tears along the way. It was so with the Christ child, and in order to achieve his mission and purpose, to win for us our salvation there were the greatest hardships and the cross.

So let us all fill our hearts with joy this Christmas and in so doing let us also resolve to follow the Christ child by sacrificing ourselves to His service and to bring healing love and peace into our world which has so much need of it.

A very happy Christmas to you all,

Fr. Robert



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall committee met on 18th November.

The Rural Community Council of Essex, to whom the Village Hall is affiliated, arrange and run seminars and conferences of interest to charities and other voluntary organisations. One seminar held recently was at Hylands House, Chelmsford, which brought together several aspects of Fund providers who could support large or small projects in the county. It was over subscribed, with a waiting list, such was the demand. Another, was the annual conference for Village Halls and Community Buildings held in October at Copford Village Hall. An all day affair including buffet lunch, where people interested in running halls etc can listen and interact with speakers on a large variety of subjects that one becomes involved with on such a committee as ours.

The Christmas Fayre is almost upon us, Saturday 6th December from 10.30am-2.00pm. Coffee, tea, soft drinks and light

lunches will be available together with an array of stalls, games and a raffle or two. Do come along and support us whilst we raise funds for the village hall and the Women's Institute.



In the spring we hope to bring the Nostalgia Big Band back to the hall for an evening of dancing, probably on 21st March. Now is the time to pick up those dancing tips from the television on a Saturday or Sunday evening from a well publicised programme!

To book the village hall for your event, please contact Lynda Allam on 01206 230375 who will advise on availability and cost.

May I, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, wish you a very Happy Christmas and thank you all for supporting us throughout the past year.

Bevan Willgress

'THE BROMLEY MESSENGER' WEBSITE ADVERTISING

The Bromley Messenger can now offer internet links, advertisements and web sites through their agreement with Visual Computing Services (VCS), on our www.greatbromley.org.uk website or via it to www.greatbromley.biz.

There are different categories of charges dependent upon status of advertising already, together with the opportunity to have a website designed by professionals for you at very attractive rates.

You can view the charging regime and choose which slot fits your requirements on the website under "Sponsors and

Advertisers" in the menu.

Your invoice will be duly sent by the Treasurer of the 'Bromley Messenger' if category A or B, whilst VCS will invoice for C & D (The 'Bromley Messenger' receives a commission for categories C & D).

If you are interested then click "contact us" on the webpage "Advertiser Enquiry" section.

Len Christodoulides





Great Bromley & Frating Playgroup

At Great Bromley Village Hall.
Monday & Thursday 9.30-12 noon Wednesday 9.15-11.45am
& 12.15-2.45pm

Session Tel No: 0785 7503103
(Lunch time session also available)
Children: 2 - 5 years. £6 per session.
Ofsted inspected.

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

We end our very popular theme of 'Book/stories' this term with 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Twas the night before Christmas'.

We enjoyed a visit from the 'Tempest' photographer last month. She took some beautiful photos of the children for their families to order if they wished, just in time for Christmas!

This is always a very busy but fun term with lots of Christmas activities - cards, calendars and decorations to make with lots of glitter!



The children have been busy practising some Christmas songs to perform to their parents. The older children will be performing a short play and we finish with

our Christmas party, so lots to look

forward to!

We have six children leaving us to start school in January. Good luck and best wishes to Abigail, Bailey, Blake, Courtney, Hannah and Madeline.

We are looking for a new Playgroup Supervisor, as unfortunately, due to family commitments, Sue will also be leaving us soon.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteer helpers, your help is invaluable and much appreciated, and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dates for your diary

Reminder - A.G.M. Wed 27th November
Last day of term - Thurs 11th December
We return on Mon 12th January 2009

Jane Calderbank.



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

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

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald
Telephone: 01206 230305

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!



We have had a frantic but very exciting month getting ready for Christmas. The children will be putting on three performances of the 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' at the beginning of December. Rehearsals are going

very well and costumes are still being made – only 118!!

The children are looking forward to their visit to the Mercury Theatre to see the

pantomime 'Dick Whittington'.

Class 4 pupils are busy producing designs for the school Christmas postbox – all desperately hoping that theirs will be chosen!

On an historical note the children and voluntary helpers had a fabulous time making the 3D history/art displays earlier this month. We have received many positive comments from our parents who have had the opportunity to view them.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful new year.

GREAT BROMLEY FUN DAY



The committee have now put together a draft list of events to be part of the Great Bromley Fun day on 13th June. These include, in no particular order:

BBQ, Bar, Fancy Dress, Face Painting, Tombola, Cake & Produce Stall, Coconut Shy, Children's Games, Welly Throwing, Croquet Course, Bowl The Pig, Stocks / Wet Sponge, Beat The Goalie, Splat The Rat.

In addition we hope to have attractions from external organisations including live music and numerous exhibits from local businesses, individuals and organisations.

Many thanks to all those who have come forward to volunteer to help in some way. If you would like to help or if any local businesses or individuals would like to provide sponsorship in any way then please contact Neil Skinner on 01206 231661 or at nrs@brooktye.co.uk.

Neil Skinner

Wanted

The skills of a Carpenter

St George's Church Fabric Committee are looking for a carpenter who could help them complete some very interesting work on the church lych-gate. Help on a voluntary basis would be ideal but funding could be made available. If you are interested please contact Paul Knappett on 01206 250156



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Bromley Parish Council

www.essexinfo.net/gbpc

Report of a parish council meeting held on 13 November 2008

Planning

Tendring District Council has decided the following planning applications:

Little Paddocks, Frating Road – three holiday chalets (approval)

Land east of Hall Road – erection of (3) free-range poultry buildings, with packing and collecting facility (refusal).

Ashfern House, Harwich Road – change of use from care home to private dwelling (refusal).

Proposed travellers' site - Ardleigh

This application is provisionally scheduled for consideration by Tendring District Council's Development Control Committee at its meeting on 10 December. Those wishing to attend

should confirm time and place by contacting the planning department on 01255 686868.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 11 December 2008 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

Ken Bromfield, Clerk to Council

Little Bromley Parish Council

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on
18th December at 7.30pm
at The Haywain, Little Bromley

GRANTS

Great Bromley Poorlands Charity

The Poorlands charity was established over 400 years ago to assist residents of Great Bromley who are in need. The charity has an annual income of about £200 from which small cash grants can be made available to individuals and families. If you know someone who might benefit from this scheme please contact either the charity's chairman (James Wild – 01206 230679) or secretary (Ken Bromfield – 01206 230089).

All enquiries will be treated in confidence but **must be received by 12 December 2008**.

'Grassroots'

(Formerly known as Colchester and Tendring Community Trust)

'Grassroots' is a grant-making charity which nurtures community organisation with the support of local donors. Combining local knowledge, convenience and friendliness, the trust is responsive to local needs and donor preferences.

If you are a member of a community or voluntary group requiring small scale financial assistance, or wish to support the charity – perhaps with a donation – then please contact the Director, Mrs S E Hawes, through one of the following: t el: 01206 542255; email: info@grassrootscharity.org; Straight Road Centre, 329 Straight Road, Colchester CO3 9EF. See also the website www.grassrootscharity.org.

DECEMBER QUIZ

- 1 St. Nicholas' day is in December, what is the date?
- 2 What happens on the first Thursday of December in Trafalgar Square?
- 3 When in December is "International Mountain Day"?
- 4 One Bond girl has the unlikely name of Christmas Jones. Which film did she appear in and who was the actress that played her?
- 5 Who were the "Decembrists"?
- 6 When is St. Lucies (or Saint Lucia) Day?
- 7 Where is the Winter Palace and what is it also known as?
- 8 When is St. Stephen's day?
- 9 What regular event takes place on Christmas Day in London's Hyde Park?
- 10 Two acts have had three consecutive Christmas number 1s in the singles chart. Who are they?
- 11 When is the time to plant broad beans?
- 12 Which song has been the Christmas number 1 on three separate occasions and who recorded it each time?



Compiled by Ian and Val Harris

Answers on page 22

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

Is there an eyesore in your local community that you would like to see cleaned up? Is there a local hall or community centre in need of redecorating? Is there a charity in need of volunteers?

Community Payback lets you suggest the type of work carried out by offenders sentenced to unpaid work for the benefit of the community. There is no charge for this service and Probation can provide most of the tools and equipment needed. It also has a workshop for undertaking small-scale construction work. Probation does however ask groups to provide materials such as paint or wood etc.

If your community or voluntary group could benefit from this kind of assistance then please contact the county's

Probation Service as follows: email - community.payback@essex.probation.gsi.gov.uk, telephone John Minns or Amanda Watts on 01206 768342 or write to Essex Probation, 23 St Peters Street, Colchester CO1 1HL. See also the website www.essexprobation.org.uk/communitypaybackgeneral.htm.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our long serving member, **Mrs Helen Atkinson**, who always joined our activities at the Club.



Save the Children "Knit One, Save One" - the following is an extract from a letter sent to our member, Mrs Lily Newman, who had her needles 'clicking' for over

two years making hats, jumpers and blankets.

"The appeal has now come to an end so please make sure to tell your friends and family to get their hats etc. to us as soon as possible. I thought I couldn't write to say "thank you" without telling you some facts about our wonderful knitters around the country. Over 2,500 hats have poured into our head office each day of this 8-month campaign - half a million hats in total! Over 400,000 have already been sent to Save the Children programmes in countries where high numbers of children are dying, including Zimbabwe, Tibet and Sierra Leone. We couldn't do this without your help so THANK YOU".

The letter is signed Leora Hansen, Head of Campaigns and Advocacy.

18th December is the meeting when we have our own Christmas Get Together for all members and a small plate of eats would be appreciated.

You will no doubt have your Christmas mail coming in, so don't forget to save the stamps.

There is so much sadness in the world and it is difficult to wish everyone a Happy Christmas so instead I wish everyone a PEACEFUL and RESTFUL time with better things to come in the NEW YEAR.

Vicky Griffiths



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We held our Annual General Meeting on the first Wednesday in November with Mrs Ellen Chubb, Women's Instituted Adviser (WIA) to guide us through the proceedings. Mrs Ann Jones has agreed to be our new President, Mrs Sue Orriss our new Treasurer and Mrs Mary Clarke continues as Secretary, for the coming year.

The retiring Committee were re-elected en bloc, namely, Mesdames Paula Bradshaw, Jean Dalgety, Ann Fairley, Mary Hart and Jenny Nicholls, with Sylvia Mangan as Minutes Secretary.

After refreshments were served, members who attended the Embroidery Course at Denman College earlier in the year, gave members further guidance on the type of stitches used.



There will not be a meeting on the first Wednesday in December as we are going to have a meal together at the Cross Inn later in the month. On behalf of all our members, may I wish you all a very 'Merry Christmas'.

June Willgress

CRICKET CLUB

Our Annual Dinner and Awards Night was held at the Wooden Fender on 8th November. About 40 members and friends enjoyed a delicious meal, and a huge thank you must go to Carl and his staff for making it a very enjoyable occasion.

The Chairman, Bill Kempster, thanked all the committee for all their hard work and support throughout the season. The club has now repaid all the loans and purchased a second-hand roller and triple mower. The Chairman thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the triple mower. He once again thanked John Boulton for the excellent standard of the wickets throughout the season and congratulated him on reaching the best standard in the league.

The retiring secretary, Katherine Foley, was thanked by the Chairman for all her hard work and support to the Club over the past 10 years and presented her with a gift from the Club.

The 1st X1, having been promoted to the P.D.Q.1st Division, finished a creditable 7th in the table, the highest position we have been. The 2nd X1 finished 3rd in Division 8 in the Two Counties. Owing to re-organization the 2nd X1 will be playing in Division 6 of the Two Counties next season.

The President's wife, Lynda Allam, presented the Awards.

1st X1 Batting Award	Richard Lawson
2nd X1 Batting Award	Craig Perrin
1st X1 Bowling Award	Louis Perrin
2nd X1 Bowling Award	Louis Perrin
1st X1 Best Fielder	Louis Perrin
2nd X1 Best Fielder	Louis Perrin
1st X1 Players Player	Craig Perrin
2nd X1 Players Player	Craig Perrin
Clubman of the Year	Richard Lawson
Young Player of the Year	Rob Wareing
Special Award.	Paul Gaffney for his 5 for 30 against West Bergholt.
Craig Perrin	148 not out, 100 v Witham, 100 v Essex Police
Matt Pirie	100 v Gosfield
Liam Fisher	101 v Chappel

We would like to thank everyone who came to the Quiz Night. Fourteen teams keenly contested, eventually won by a team from Elmstead. Congratulations to them. We raised £460 for Club funds.

May we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Phil Allam



GREAT BROMLEY HANDY BOOK



I shall be updating shortly the Bromley Messenger Handy Book for 2009 and would be grateful for any suggestions by way of additional information you would like to see and also for any amendments, that you know of, to the information given in the last issue that need to be made to reach me by Monday, 12th January 2009.

Thank you.

Leonie Henderson

KITCHEN CORNER

Salmon Quiche Serves 4-6

Ingredients:

6oz. shortcrust pastry

1 onion peeled and chopped,

1oz butter

3½oz can salmon, drained

1 level teasp chopped capers

1 tbsp chopped parsley

2 eggs

¼ pt single cream

¼ pt milk

Salt and pepper.



Method:

Roll out pastry to line a flan ring 8 ½ inch. Fry onion in butter till golden brown, drain on kitchen paper and sprinkle over pastry base.

Cover with flaked salmon, capers and parsley. Beat eggs together with cream and milk, season well and pour into the flan case.

Cook at 425°F for 15 to 20 minutes till beginning to brown then reduce heat to 350°F for a further 20 to 30 minutes till well risen and golden brown. Serve hot or cold.

Jill Frostick

CARPET BOWLS

Two league table results this month.

We were away to Thorpe on 24th October and lost 8-0, but the figures were reversed when we entertained Weeley at home on 12th November when we managed an 8-0 win. A light supper is served after every match and both evenings were very pleasant.

We send 'Get Well' wishes to Dick Wilsher, who is recovering from a hip-replacement operation. Hopefully he will be able to play again by the end of the winter season.

Remembrance Sunday

On 9th November the Club was represented at the Service of Remembrance held at the village War Memorial, when, along with other organisations, a poppy wreath was laid to honour the war dead. We must never forget our debt.

Nancy Kempster



BERNARD JENKIN MP ADVICE SURGERIES FOR CONSTITUENTS

Bernard Jenkin, Member of Parliament for North Essex, will be holding the following advice surgeries for his constituents:

Friday 21 November 2008	10.30am - 12.30pm	Lawford Venture Centre
Friday 5 December 2008	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Brightlingsea Parish Hall
Friday 9 January 2009	10.00am - 12noon	Colchester Conservative Club
Friday 23 January 2009	10.00am - 12noon	Marks Tey Parish Hall
Friday 6 February 2009	10.00am - 12noon	Colchester Conservative Club
Friday 27 February 2009	10.00am - 12noon	Great Bentley Village Hall

Please note that appointments are for constituents only. For more information or to book an appointment, please call Emily on 020 7219 0253 or email vanderbijle@parliament.uk with your name, address and a contact telephone number.

Forthcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 6 Christmas Fayre, Village Hall, 10.30am
- Christmas Concert, Royal Hospital School, Chapel, 7.30pm
- 10 PCSO Les Barnes 'Surgery', Village Hall, 7.30-8.30pm
- 11 Playgroup Christmas Party
- Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 18 Lt Bromley parish council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 21 Festival of Carols, Ardleigh church, 6.30pm
- 23 Candlelight Carol Service, Little Bromley church, 7.00pm



2009

JANUARY

- 12 Playgroup New Term starts
- 15 WEA Spring Term starts, Ardleigh Village Hall, 2.30pm

FEBRUARY

- 28 'Return to Akenfield' (Eastern Angles), Village Hall,

MARCH

- 21 'Nostalgia' Big Band, Village Hall

JUNE

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



Eastern Angles

present

RETURN TO AKENFIELD

28 February 2009

in the Village Hall

Supper will also be served

Return to Akenfield is not only a kaleidoscopic view of a village in a state of flux, subject to the forces of globalisation, intensive farming and migrant workers but also a surprising investigation into Akenfield as a more than a geographical space but as a concept. It examines our contradictory relationship to the countryside - a place of infinite space, endless skies and yet limited possibilities. A place to escape from and yet one that we yearn to return to.

More details tba

In aid of St George's Church Repair Fund



WEA

Ardleigh Branch – Spring Term

The English Music Scene from

Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II

Thursday 15th January to 26th March 2009

Ardleigh Village Hall
2.30 pm - 4.15 pm

This 10 week course covers the English music scene over the past 450 years up to and including the age of Elizabeth II. The Tudors, the Stuarts, The Georgian era, the Victorian age and the 20th Century will all be represented, both by examples of their music and by a study of the musical scene and historical events of the various periods and their influences on the leading composers of the time. Where possible, we shall investigate how particular pieces were constructed, displaying the techniques of the appropriate musical period e.g. Baroque/Classical etc. Composers such as Tallis, Purcell, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Britten *et al* will be represented. Musical examples selected will cover a range of genres, including Church music, Court music, vocal/choral, orchestral, parlour and film. By the end of the course, it is hoped that participants will be able recognise some of the more well-known pieces of English music both by title and composer, and have a good awareness of historical period and style. The fee for the course will be £43 (slight reduction for couples). This will be payable on the second week of the course. This gives you a chance to come to the first week and see if you think it is the course for you.

Just turn up for the first week or phone either Jill Frostick on 01206 250263 or John Terry on 01206 230490

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

6th December
in Great Bromley Village Hall
10.30am - 2.00pm

*In aid of the Village Hall and
WI funds*



St George's Church

SUNG EVENSONG

with anthem
Sunday 14 December at 6:30pm

BENEFICE FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

St Mary' Church, Ardleigh
Sunday 21st December at 6:30pm



Friends of Little Bromley Church

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 23rd December at
7.00pm

Lots of carols for all to sing
Refreshments afterwards
All welcome



Holbrook Music Society
presents

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

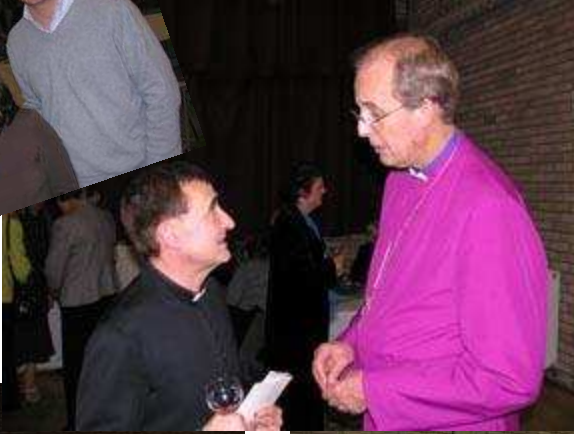
given by
The Holbrook Choral Society
and Orchestra
with The Royal Hospital School Chapel
Choir

On Saturday, 6th December at 7.30pm
In the Chapel at The Royal Hospital
School

For tickets £12 contact
Peter Crompton (Director of Music, The Royal
Hospital School) on 01473 326222
or Leonie Henderson on 01206 231262

**REVD. ROBERT FARRELL
INDUCTION & INSTALLATION
14TH NOVEMBER 2008**





HARVEST LUNCH 28TH SEPTEMBER 2008



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



Services for December

Sunday 7th	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	2nd Sunday of Advent Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 14th	8.00am 10.30am	3rd Sunday of Advent Eucharist Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 21st	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Advent Eucharist Parish Eucharist Readings and Carols	<i>St. Mary the Virgin St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Tuesday 23rd	7.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	<i>St. Mary's, Little Bromley</i>
Wednesday 24th	4.00pm 5.30pm 11.30pm	Christmas Eve Christingle Service Christingle Service Midnight Mass	<i>St. Mary the Virgin St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Thursday 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Christmas Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 28th	8.00am 10.30am	The Holy Innocents Eucharist Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin</i>

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

THANKS

Thank you

We would both like to say thank you to everyone who purchased from, and donated produce to, our little 'White' table in Briar Road, Great Bromley to raise money for St Helena Hospice.

Family circumstances in the summer prompted us to try and raise money for the Hospice, so on Saturday, 2nd August we decided to put the table out and sell surplus flowers, fruit and vegetables. But, we were not prepared for the response that we got and quite often demand outstripped supply. Thankfully friends came to our rescue and donated fruit and vegetables so that we were able to offer something on the table for most of the time.

We bought a pitch at Seven Rivers Car Boot Sale and raised £29.40p selling bric-a-brac and paintings. We have also had a donation of £10 from a Mr and Mrs X who will probably wish to remain anonymous.

When we decided to put the table out, we only envisaged possibly raising £50-£60 but due to your wonderful support we have been able to give a cheque to the Hospice for £234.40p. Thank you. Hopefully we can do it all again in 2009.



We would also like to say a big thank you to Ian and Liz at Greenacre Cattery for allowing us to continue to use part of their field as an allotment for without it a lot of this would not have been possible.

Jenny and John
1 Hollydene Cottage, Briar Road, Great Bromley

P.S. If there are any keen gardeners out there who find that they have a surplus of fruit and vegetables in 2009 and would like to donate them to the table for the Hospice please contact us.

MATERIAL for the **JANUARY 2009** edition of 'The Messenger'

should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **Monday, 8th**

December, 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.

Copy can either be delivered by hand, sent by post or e-mail. (see inside back cover for details) or via the link on the websites www.greatbromley.org.uk or www.littlebromley.org.uk

POLICE



These are the incidents for Great Bromley in October

- Theft Other - Hall Road
- Back Lane West
- Burglary Other - Ardleigh Road (Electrical Sub Station)
- Nuisance Youths - Chase Road
- Nuisance Vehicle - Harwich Road (Mini Motor)
- Noise Nuisance - Hall Road (Party)
- Criminal Damage - Briar Road (A.S Farm Services)
- Harwich Road
- Theft From motor Vehicle - Hall Road
- Road Traffic Collision - (Damage Only)
- Harwich Road
- Chase Road

Newsletter for the Month of November

Dear All

I have received the information below from a colleague at Essex County Council. Their Trading Standards Office is trying to make as many people as possible aware.

Please pass on to as many people as possible.

May want to circulate this around especially as Christmas is fast approaching - it has been confirmed by Royal Mail. The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

Please advise family members/Friends.

Also I received a telephone call from a co-ordinator to raise concerns over a Credit company. This company are putting leaflets through doors in the Frinton area and maybe other areas offering loans with an APR of 399.7% which is very high. It is not illegal for them to do this

Please be very careful when considering taking any loan out as the APR is how much interest you will pay on that loan, with this company it is 399.7%. This company are acting legally so I will not single them out by naming a particular company.

Les Barnes PCSO 71909

Thorpe Le Soken NPT Eastern

Internal Ext : 487603

Tel: 01255 862843

07967 466876

Email : leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police

website : www.essex.police.uk

WORKING GROUPS

WG11 - Litter Picking



Many thanks to all who assembled for the Litter Pick on 8th November. Thanks to your efforts, the morning was very successful and by midday the village had

been picked clean. Once again, many hands made light work and everyone said that they enjoyed taking part in a community project.

We meet again in the spring - look out for the date to put in your diary.

Brenda Perry

LITTLE BROMLEY FIREWORK DISPLAY

We were very lucky with the weather on Friday 7th November, when we held our bi-annual firework evening.

Guided by our huge bonfire, the evening started at 6.30pm when the entries for our Guy competition started arriving. A lovely selection of nine guys were brought along and booked in. Mrs Mary Roughley had the job of judging this assortment of large and small guys at 7pm. Connor Moan was awarded 1st prize for his large, scary Guy and Nicole Botterell's entry came 2nd. They were both presented with gift vouchers and prizes donated by the Haywain. All of the entrants received a large selection box donated by Mrs Roughley. We then watched as the Guys were burnt.

At a charge of just £2 a vehicle, the car park was soon full and it was lovely to see so many people enjoying the display. Jose's Catering did a roaring trade with their baguettes, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The mulled wine was very popular and the neon necklaces disappeared

along with the sparklers. As children helped themselves to free sweets, the fireworks began at 7.30pm and went on for around 45 minutes, finishing with a spectacular finale.

On behalf of the Little Bromley Parish Council and the Amenities Committee, we would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening. It couldn't have happened without the help of several local people. We would like to thank Mrs Roughley for the use of her land and the Fairleys for preparing the area for our use. We would also like to thank the many Little Bromley and other local residents who came forward to help at this event. A final thanks goes to Unique Driveways for donating a large amount of extra fireworks for our evening.

Carol Cordwell



FROM THE DOCTOR'S SURGERY

As I write this the flu jab clinics have in full swing. The waiting room has been packed with people stripping off cardigans and jackets, rolling up sleeves and apparently having a whale of a time. (What is it that makes it such a social occasion?) Well over a thousand jabs have already been given and the take-up has been so good this year that we actually ran out of stock for a couple of days. Luckily, reinforcements arrived just in time to save us a marathon session of telephone calls trying to rearrange a full clinic. That really would have been a nightmare.

We have an extra "jabber" this year, who is helping to make sure that our older patients and those with chronic diseases are safe from flu for the winter. Our Healthcare

Assistant, Nikki Hartley has long been used to sticking needles into arms to draw out blood samples, but had not, until now, been qualified to inject things back in. One intensive training course and a lot of hard work has changed all that and she is now able to give flu and pneumonia jabs. I'm proud to say that I was her very first victim when she gave me my flu jab a few days ago and I can testify that she has sharp needles and very gentle hands.

Anyway, if you are entitled to a jab, please book soon, as the signs are that our stock is going to be completely used in record time this year. Why not give Nikki a try?

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Tony Virgo, who has been with us as a receptionist for nearly seven years, is about to hit a very significant landmark age and handed in his keys on Friday, 7th November. I'm sure that many of you would instantly recognize him as the shiny-headed one in the corner, and will miss his friendly and helpful presence. As for us, we will miss his reliability, flexibility and easy-going nature – not to mention his wife, Fay's Lemon Drizzle cake, which is impossibly delicious and has broken many a diet here at "The Hollies".

Also we have the retirement of Sonia Bennington to announce this month, the third since the summer. She has been the cornerstone of reception for 24½ years, believe it or not. I can't begin to imagine how many telephone calls she has taken, how many appointments she has made and how many new patients she has greeted during that time. To many of you, she will have been the first person you ever saw at the surgery – in fact, she may well have become **the** face of the surgery.

I'll tell you a bit about Sonia's replacement next month, but right now I can introduce you to Debbie Brumpton who has taken over from Tony Virgo.

Debbie is very much a local girl. She went to the primary school in Alresford, where she still lives, then attended the Colne High School in Brightlingsea before qualifying as a hairdresser. She plied her trade at Keddies in Colchester, which I don't remember but I'm told I should be impressed by. She then became a GPO Telephonist for a few years – hence her excellent telephone skills – before getting married, doing some travelling and producing three children. Recently, she has been helping her husband with the administration of his business as a Tree Surgeon and doing some invigilating during exam time at local schools.

Some of you will already have heard about a new scheme called Repeat Dispensing, which can allow people whose medical problems are well controlled on regular medication to get more than one month's worth of prescriptions at a time.

It needs to be made clear that this **isn't** a way of reducing prescription charges. If you have to pay, you will still be charged the appropriate amount for every month's supply of each item prescribed. However, it does save sending in requests every month and can reduce the number of trips you need to make to the pharmacy. As a handy side effect, it cuts down on our work too.

If you think the scheme might help you, please ask about it next time you order a prescription. The final decision about whether or not it is suitable for you rests with your doctor, but I am sure that it would make life a little easier for many people.

It's coming up towards the time when I rack my brains for a New Year's Resolution. The personal ones never last and usually revolve around weight control. Next year, I've just decided I'll worry less about everything. What I do want though, is suggestions from you as to what the practice could resolve to do to improve our service to patients. Bearing in mind that whatever we try to tackle has to be practicable and achievable, if you have a good idea, please drop me a note about it. If someone comes up with something that looks good and which we feel we can do, we will have a go at it. Don't be surprised though, when your suggestion is adopted if you get roped in to help with implementing it.

Paradoxically, the December magazine always comes out a little early for me to be able to detail the surgery's Christmas (there, I've used the word!) arrangements or to send season's greetings to you all. I promise to do that next month when I'll also get back on track with the "Disease of the Month" slot. Just for now though, stay well and warm – AND DON'T FORGET YOUR FLU JAB! And, PLEASE remember to request your prescriptions in good time over the next few weeks. There is always a mad rush in December and if you can give us an extra couple of days to process requests, it always helps.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND (YOUTH)

YOUTH groups across Essex are being urged to apply for their share of a £2m bonanza.

The Community Initiatives Fund (Youth) builds on Essex County Council's trailblazing Community Initiatives Fund which, in its first three rounds, granted £5m to 600 vital community projects across Essex worth more than £38m. That was so successful further funding has been made available this year.

That fund was so successful it has pledged a further £1m for it to continue this year as well as inspiring this new funding venture.

The fund is split between the county's 12 districts and boroughs, with £155,000 available for each one for youth projects in the financial year 2008/09 with any grant needing to be spent by 2010.

The money will be given to capital schemes only with a minimum grant of £15,000 set to help really worthwhile projects get off the ground. Young people will be involved in the decision-making process while applicants must provide strong evidence of consultation and involvement of young people in their application process.

There will be two funding rounds for this new grant - the first deadline for applications will be **12 September 2008**, with decisions being made from mid-October to the end November. The second deadline for applications will be **16 January 2009** with decisions being made in March 2009.

Application forms and guidance notes are available on the website

www.communityinitiativesfund.co.uk

For further information, please contact co-ordinator Beverly Davies on 07929 543523 or email info@communityinitiativesfund.co.uk.



Essex Environment Trust COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE



The **Community Enterprise Challenge** is a new competition launched by the Essex Environment Trust at its 10th Year Celebrations on 11th July 2008. The competition is aimed at the provision of new facilities in rural villages.

Prizes on offer for 3 sizes of project are:

Large Projects: £100,000

Medium Project £50,000

Smaller Projects: £25,000

Project Types. Essentially the Trust wants to see **local initiatives** – new ideas that will satisfy an established **local need** – something wanted and supported by the local community and with their **involvement**.

In "TV speak" terms, the Trust is looking for projects with an obvious **Wow Factor!**

As a Trustee said recently, "The local community knows better than us what the local needs are and we expect to receive projects of a wide variety of types, however, the essential need that we will be looking for is the project will **make a difference** in that local community."

Rules. A full set of the Rules is available with the application forms, but the main rules are:

- The competition is open to all rural

communities and the Trust's definition is all villages having a population of up to 6,500.

- The scheme is for capital projects only. Revenue schemes are excluded.
- There must be demonstrable public support for the project.
- To be eligible, applicants will need to demonstrate that their project is capable of starting on the ground by July 2010 i.e. 12 months after the prize has been awarded.
- Because the money comes from the Landfill Communities Fund, project sites must lie within 10 miles of a licensed landfill site. In Essex that really isn't a problem as 99% of the county's villages are within this range. If in doubt, the Trust can advise.

Deadlines are as follows:

Stage one: 1st Dec 2008 ~ Return of the basic application form.

Stage two: 12th May 2009 ~ Return of a more detailed form supplied to short-listed projects.

Results will be declared at the Trust's Annual Review Evening on **9th July 2009**.

Forms are available from *The Essex Environment Trust, "Community Enterprise Challenge" 53, New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1AT* or phone 01245 265555 (24hr. Answerphone is available) or order by e-mail to keith@essexenvironmenttrust.org.uk.

ANSWERS TO DECEMBER QUIZ

1 It's on the 6th There are many traditions surrounding St Nicholas and his other companion, Black Peter, In Holland he leaves small presents in the shoes of good children every night up until Christmas Eve, as he goes about the country.

2 The 62nd Norwegian Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square will be lit on Thursday 4 December in the annual ceremony. The first tree was brought over in 1947 as a token of Norwegian appreciation of British friendship during the Second World War. When Norway was invaded by German forces in 1940, King Haakon VII escaped to Britain and a Norwegian exile government was set up in London. The tree is a Norwegian spruce (*Picea abies*) and is selected from the forests surrounding Oslo. It is cut down in November during a ceremony in which the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the British ambassador to Norway and the Mayor of Oslo take active part. Local and international schoolchildren sing Christmas carols and the city authorities serve 'forest coffee' and sandwiches.

The tree, which is usually 20 to 25 m (70 ft) in height and between 50 and 100 years old, is then shipped free-of-charge across the North Sea to Immingham by DFDS Tor Line. A special crew is contracted to haul it from the docks to its allocated place Trafalgar Square.

In addition to Oslo's tree to London, the city of Bergen gives a tree to Newcastle, and Sunderland receives one from Stavanger.

3 The UN General Assembly has designated 11th December as International Mountain Day after the success of the UN International Year of Mountains in 2002. Because mountains are particularly affected by climate change they have important implications for the world beyond mountain areas, mountain glaciers in many parts of the world have been retreating for decades. Mountain systems cover over a quarter of the land surface of the world and directly support over a fifth of the world's people, they provide the freshwater needs of more than half of the people of the world and support about a quarter of the terrestrial biodiversity. Much of the food that we eat originated in the mountains (e.g. potatoes, apples and maize).

4 The film was "The World is Not Enough" and the actress was Denise Richards.

5 They were a group of Russian officers who staged a coup against the ruling classes in 1825. It failed, the 5 leaders were hanged and over 100 others were sent to the mines in Siberia.

6 13th December

St Lucies Day

"Tis the yeares midnight, and it is the dayes,

Lucies, who scarce seaven houres herself unmaskes,

The Sunne is spent, and now his flasks

End forth light squibs, no constant

rayes;

The worlds whole sap is sunke:"

John Donne

A nocturnall upon S. Lucies day,

Being the shortest day*



*The shortest day (the Winter solstice) is actually the 21st December. The 21st is the date of the Pagan festival of Yule when the sun child is reborn through the love of the Gods, it is also the Jewish festival of Hanukkah (also known as Hannuka or Chanukah) which starts at sundown on 21 December and lasts for 8 days. Each day one candle on an nine-stemmed candelabra (called a Menorah) is lit.

St Lucia day is celebrated in Sweden where the girl who is chosen to be Lucia wears a long white dress and a crown of candles, to brighten the long winter nights.

7 The Winter Palace of the Czars is in St. Petersburg and was built during the reign of the Empress Elizabeth between 1754 and 1762. Catherine the Great added a building called "The Hermitage" which she used as a retreat and in 1917 the Bolsheviks combined the two buildings into one large complex designed as a public museum. The Hermitage, as it is now known, was bombed 19 times during the World War II during the siege of Leningrad (the former name of St. Petersburg): it was rebuilt and now houses the second largest museum in the world.

8 The 26th when Good King Wenceslas looked out, when the snow was round about, deep and crisp and even. Ancient tales tell of the New Year Robin killing his father, the Wren, on this day, symbolising the death and resurrection of the year.

9 The Peter Pan Swim is at 9 a.m. in the Serpentine Lake. This event dates back to 1864 when the author of the children's classic of that name (J M Barrie) presented the Peter Pan Cup. Dozens of people swim the 100 yards in temperatures often just above freezing. Only members of the Serpentine Swimming Club may take part in the race but spectators are welcome on the banks of the lake.

10 The Beatles; in 1963 I Want to Hold Your Hand, in 1964 I Feel Fine and in 1965 Day Tripper The Spice Girls; in 1996 2Two Become One, in 1997 Too Much and in 1998 Goodbye.

11 St. Thomas's Day (21st December) unless you live in south west England when it is 5th November. On this day needy women used to go from door to door begging for Christmas 'goodenings' and giving bunches of evergreens in return.

12 Do They Know it's Christmas by; Band Aid in 1984, Band Aid II in 1989 and Band Aid 20 in 2004.