

# ***The Bromley Messenger***

## **February 2010**

Volume 23 No 11



***Winter!***

*Photographs by L Henderson*





## EDITORIAL

One of my Resolutions this year is to get everything right in the magazine. I apologise to anyone affected when telephone numbers or other information disappears or becomes corrupted. The copy is usually correct in the original but Microsoft does not make it easy for its users and also when I turn the magazine into a .pdf to send for printing, the programmes quarrel and I do not always spot the changes they make behind my back. Please pay particular attention to the information on the inside covers which I have had to re-do due to various glitches that have beset the cover pages and let me know if your particular information (or anyone else's) needs amendment.

Do read the surgery news from Great Bentley on page 23 about the SCR (Summary Care Report), among other things, which is concerned with the NHS wanting to upload individual's medical details on to a central computer system. This will apply to everyone in the country.

Sitting in the warmth with friends round a dinner table with good food and wine on New Year's Eve it was magical watching in the light outside the snowflakes falling to the ground. The snow, of course, came

in earnest the following week and disrupted everyone's lives. Although it was difficult to get about for many people and a bother on icy pavements and roads, I enjoyed the period, I love the snow and even getting out and about in it was an adventure. I enjoyed being cut off and 'surviving' and feeling that I can just play as I am not being expected to go anywhere etc. but most of all I enjoyed the peace of the lane past us. The cars who use the lane as a 'rat run' went other ways - what a shame they don't continue with their alternate routes.

Despite the wintry conditions a friend and I braved the trains to go to London to see the musical 'Hairspray'. A thoroughly enjoyable evening with excellent singing and dancing if a little loud and therefore an assault on the eardrums! Closer to home there are interesting half term activities for children at Manningtree Sports Centre, as well as all sorts of events at the Village Hall during this month with a ball, a band and a play to look forward to in March. So, now that the snow has gone, you can tear yourselves away from the fireside and enjoy each other's company at the community events.

*Leonie Henderson*

**MATERIAL** for the **MARCH 2010** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th February, 2010** 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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For details of availability and costs for **ADVERTISING** in the 'The Bromley Messenger' please contact the Treasurer on 01206 251264

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## 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**

### NEIGHBOURHOOD SPECIALIST OFFICER



**Hello,**

I am **Police Constable Dan HEARD** and I am your new Neighbourhood Specialist Officer.

I cover Elmstead Market, Gt. Bromley, Thorrington and Frating.

I look forward to being able to pro-actively police the area and I hope the communities of these areas will help me.

My role as the N.S.O will be to deal with any incidents that arise in the area.

Although any immediate police matters will be dealt with by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the rural areas, I will concentrate on any ongoing issues, such as Anti-Social Behaviour, repeat victims or other Neighbourhood priorities you wish to bring to my attention.

I will be working closely with P.C.S.O Les BARNES and also other N.S.O's in the Tendring area.

If you have any questions about my role or any issues involving rural policing, do not hesitate to contact me via email or telephone.

Failing that, if you see me out and about, please stop me and have a chat.

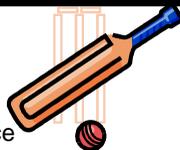
Main Police number – 0300 333 4444-  
my extension number 487603  
Rural police number – 07967 466 876  
Emergency number – 999

Email address –  
[Daniel.Heard@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Daniel.Heard@essex.pnn.police.uk)

### CRICKET CLUB

**100 Club Winners**  
for December 2009

1st.	Mr. Dave Hardy
2nd.	Mr. Andrew Bruce
3rd.	Fergus Fairley





Dates for **beat surgeries** in Great Bromley between **19:00 - 20:00**  
(note change of time)

20/01/10, 10/02/10, 03/03/10, 14/04/10,  
05/05/10, 16/06/10, 07/07/20, 18/08/10,  
08/09/10, 20/10/10, 10/11/10, 01/12/10

## **Incidents in Great Bromley for the month of December**

**Burglary Dwelling** - Colchester Road  
**Suspicious Circumstances** - Carringtons Road - Carringtons Farm - (Van parked on property)  
**Theft Other** - Frating Road - (Caravan taken apart and the metal taken)  
**Nuisance Other** - Chase Road West - (Something thrown at a window)  
**Road Traffic Collision** -  
With Injury - Harwich Road x 2  
Badley Hall Road

### January Newsletter

## **Information received from Trading Standards**

There has been an increase in the amount of thefts from farms, schools and village halls in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Diesel, metal and heating oil have been taken in the last month.

It is believed that suspects are operating close to the border of Essex.

### **Copper Price increase**

BBC News Channel, 30/12/09

The price of copper has reached a 16 month high with strike action looming at two copper mines in Chile. Investors expect demand for the metal to be strong in the New Year. Copper is now on course for an annual rise of about 140% - it's biggest in more than 30 years - Source BBC News Channel, 30/12/09.

Rise in demand and price will increase the value of copper as target for theft and sale as scrap across the county.

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A number of agencies have the right of entry to your home; therefore it is most important that vulnerable residents are made aware that local criminals may try to take advantage of this. Please contact your local vulnerable people and reiterate that they must double check all unexpected visitors to their home and to contact the organisation that they state they are from by telephone (obtain the number from the telephone book and not from the person at the door) to establish their bona fides.  
-----

Whilst I was on foot patrol in Thorpe le Soken, a resident called me as I walked past her house and asked me if I could help her. She had locked herself out and left the key in the lock on the inside. I asked if there are any windows open. 'No'. We then tried to reach the key by putting our arms through the letter box, painful but without success. Suddenly I saw that there were screws holding the letter box in the door frame so I asked the lady if she had a screw driver which she had. I then unscrewed the letter box and the lady put her arm through, reached the key whereupon we could open the door. This just proved to me how easy it was to gain access to this property with ease and without any noise, so please when you lock up at night do not leave your keys in the lock.

*PCSO BARNES 71909*

Les Barnes PCSO 71909  
Thorpe Le Soken NPT Eastern  
Internal Ext : 487603  
External 01255 862843  
Email : [leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police](mailto:leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police)  
website : [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

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

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald  
Telephone: 01206 230305



The Christmas play - 'Cinderella' was a great success as usual and many parents and grandparents thoroughly enjoyed watching their children perform so magnificently.

As you may have noticed the first week back to school was disrupted by the severe weather. It was decided, after much deliberation, to close the school to ensure the safety of pupils, parents and staff. The pupils enjoyed coming back the following week and building all sorts of creatures out of snow!

The PTA will be holding an adult quiz night in February at the school (date not yet finalised). If you would like to bring a team, please contact the school office - 01206 230305.

On 5 February the whole school will be supporting the work of UNICEF by participating in their national non-uniform day. Pupils will come to school wearing 'mufti' clothes and pay a fine for the pleasure! This year's UNICEF's project is the health and well-being of children in Mozambique.

All classes will have a curriculum focus on global diversity this term. We were thrilled to hear that we were successful in obtaining a grant from the British Council which will fund Mrs Fitzgerald and Mrs S Fairley to visit Ghana in March, developing further our links with partner schools.



*Photographs courtesy of Gt Bromley School*



Registered Charity No: 1030641

## Little Dragons Pre-School

Great Bromley & Frating Ltd  
at Great Bromley Village Hall  
Ofsted Inspected

Monday & Wednesday 9.15-11.45am & 12.15-2.45pm

Thursday 9.30-12 noon

Children 2-5 years. £8 per session

(In addition to the above a setting up fee of £1 per session is required.)

Lunch time session available Mon & Wed. Cost £1.50

For more details/ visits please contact us on 0785 7503103

We have now completed our name change from Gt. Bromley and Frating playgroup and as you can see have our new 'dragon' logo.



The new term got off to a slow start with unfortunate closures due to the weather. The children, however, had great fun in the snow when

we reopened and all have settled in well. Our older children as always ready to welcome and help the new children starting this term.

We now offer a 'home visit' to families of children prior to them starting pre-school.

This gives the children the opportunity to meet their key-person in their own home, aiding the transition stage to pre-school. It also enables us to collect and share information in a confidential environment. We do have some spaces available still: we take children from the age of two years. For further information or to arrange a visit to the setting please contact us on the above number.

### Dates for your diary:

We will be holding a 'Fun Morning' in the Village Hall on Monday 15th February to raise funds for Pre-School. Do come along and support us.

Half Term - week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February

## Baby Dragons

### Parent and Child Group

At Great Bromley Village Hall

Friday Mornings 9.30-11.30am

0-5 years. Parent and Child Group

Activities/themed sessions/ play equipment etc.

For more details or visits please contact 01206 230625

We have a new name! We have changed our name from 'Scallywags' to 'Baby Dragons'. This follows the name change of Great Bromley and Frating Playgroup to 'Little Dragons Pre-School'.

Why not pop along with your child/ children, meet other parents and enjoy a cup of coffee while your children play,



# THE BROMLEY BOOK CLUB

## The Bromley Book Club Update!

The Book Club has had 5 successful meetings and we have tackled these titles so far:

**The Music Room** by William Fiennes

**The Outlander** by Gil Adamson

**The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak

**The Golden Notebook** by Doris Lessing

**Foreign Fruit** by Jojo Moyes

We have at present 6 members and each month we visit a different member's house for a couple of hours. Whoever hosts gets to choose the next book. The meetings are very casual: we usually have something to drink, some



nibbles and chat about the book although it has been known for us to get sidetracked.

I can't speak for the rest of the group but I am really enjoying getting to know a lovely set of people.

I look forward to each of the monthly meetings and would like to thank everyone for joining the group.

We are always eager for more members (male or female) so check out the website for Book Club chat at [www.c-creation.co.uk/book-club/](http://www.c-creation.co.uk/book-club/) or ring me on 07525749814

*Clarrie Beech*

## FUN AT THE CROSS INN

Whatever the weather, you can't keep a good Morrisman down as you can see from the photos. Snow may have stopped the dancing, but it didn't stop the assembled troupe raising the rafters with carols and Christmas songs, aided and abetted by the lunchtime clientele who were in very good voice! Many thanks to all who ate hot sausage, drank mulled wine and sang their hearts out, thereby contributing towards the £160 raised for the East Anglian Children's Hospices.

*Richard Perry*



# FRIENDS OF LITTLE BROMLEY CHURCH

Friends of Little Bromley Church New Year Party, 2.40pm on Sunday 3rd January had us wondering if we would have a party: Wendy, Jill and Linda had made some lovely flower arrangements, with only three or four people sitting in the pews to appreciate them. There had been a power-cut, so the church had not been heated and there was no prospect of tea and coffee being offered....

By 2.55 pm we all relaxed. Martin Frostick had managed to connect power - the water urn was switched on, although it was too late to heat the church. Meanwhile, people streamed through the doors, the candles were lit, the cake table laden, and with a sense of anticipation we were all welcomed by Gregory Frostick just after 3.00pm.



There followed the most delightful 45

minutes of seasonal readings, songs and carols. Our thanks to the Frostick family, Alex & Fergus Fairley, Naomi Crame and David & John O'Grady, who entertained us enchantingly.

Refreshments were served to about 60 people; including Chloe Cockerill of The Churches' Conversation Trust who had travelled from Cambridge to be with us.

We received generous donations totalling £320, which is being shared between the East Anglia's Children's Hospice and The Brooke - a sanctuary for Donkeys and Horses.

If you now wish you had been with us, there will be further opportunities during the year as more events will be held. Watch out for details in The Messenger!

*Susan Scott*

## ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

*united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh*



### Church of England Services for February

<b>Sunday 7th</b>	8.00am 10.30am	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
<b>Wednesday 17th</b>	7.30pm	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
<b>Sunday 21st</b>	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	<b>1st Sunday before Lent</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i>
<b>Sunday 28th</b>	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	<b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

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



## GREAT BROMLEY 2010 FUN DAY

**Planning has now begun** for the 2010 Great Bromley Fun Day which will be held at the village hall and cricket ground on 12th June from 2pm to 5pm.

The organising committee is made up as follows:

Neil Skinner	Chairman
Ken Bromfield	Secretary
Anne Clapham	
Tracy Griffiths	Signage
Rebecca Himsworth	
Beryl Hurst	
Ann Jones	
Bill Kempster	Space Planning
Ruth Lawson	
Mike Petty	Publicity
Nigel Rowe	Health & Safety
Alan Thomas	Car Parking

Beneficiaries of the day will be the Village Hall Refurbishment Fund, The Church Fabric Fund and The Cricket Club.

The format will be along similar lines as 2009 but if you have any suggestions for things to be included please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee or the Chairman on 01206 231661 or [nrs@brooktye.co.uk](mailto:nrs@brooktye.co.uk)

Regular updates on progress will appear here and the Great Bromley website.

*Neil Skinner*



## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The January meeting was cancelled due to snow.

The next meeting of the WI will be on 3rd February in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

## BOWLS CLUB



The two match results played before the Christmas break were two home wins, 8-0 against Little Clacton and 7-1 against Alresford. Our first two meetings of the New Year were both cancelled due to the wintry weather, 'better safe than sorry'!

Our Christmas social evening took on a new look this year, apart from a table full of goodies to eat as usual, when Andrew introduced us to Target Bowls. A ringed target on a plastic sheet with numbers for each ring - the bull's eye being the highest - was laid at the end of the carpet. Everyone had eight woods to score as high as they could.

Joint winners were Ron Copp and Derek Frostick and after a play-off Derek won the donated bottle of wine. Something just that little bit different to think about for another time.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year and successful bowling.

*Nancy Kempster*

## FROM THE PAST

### THE OLD RECTORY

The English Parsonage by B Anthony Bax states that the Parsonage House at Great Bromley in 1610 was compassed with a moat, a gate house with a large chamber and a substantial bridge of timber, an orchard and a little garden all within which together with the circuit of the house contained about half an acre of ground.

Without the moat there is a yard in which there is another Gatehouse and a stable and a hay house adjoining also a barn 25 yards long and nine yards wide.

*John Appleby*

# PARISH COUNCIL

Great Bromley Parish Council

[www.essexinfo.net/gbpc](http://www.essexinfo.net/gbpc)

**Report of parish council meetings held on 12 December 2009 and 14 January 2010**

## **PLANNING AND HOUSING MATTERS**

***The Council considered the following planning applications:***

**Land East of Hall Road** – a two further free-range poultry sheds (phases 4 & 5) (objections)

**7 Fairfield Close** – rear extensions (no objections)

**Westward House, Mary Lane North** – detached dwelling (no objections)

**Arethusa, Ardleigh Road** – double garage, workshop & first floor accommodation (objections)

**Talisman Coachlines, Harwich Road** – retention of temporary staff facilities and storage (no objections)

***Tendring District Council has decided the following planning applications:***

**10 Meadow Close** – rear extension, (approval)

**Hamilton Lodge, Parsons Hill** – alteration and extension of existing accommodation and development of four bungalow units (application withdrawn)

**12 Meadow Close** – porch and conservatory (approval)

**Oak House Farm, Harwich Road** – alteration of vehicular access (approval)

**Snooty Fox PH, Frating Road:** Revocation of Tree Preservation Order (approval)

**Cold Hall, Harwich Road** – change of use of former farm buildings and farmyard to the storage of pedal cycles, used domestic appliances and other household utensils prior to export (refusal)

## **Affordable housing**

With the encouragement of the District

Council and the English Rural Housing Association the council continues in its quest for a second scheme of affordable housing in the village. It is likely that a further Housing Needs Survey will have to be undertaken. Meanwhile the council is beginning to identify and appraise potential sites for such a scheme. Residents will appreciate that this is a slow and painstaking process and the council does not expect to see houses ready for occupation in the immediate future. As always if you own or know of potentially suitable land in the village outside, but adjacent to, the approved development areas – then please let the parish council know.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Council budget: 2010/11

The council has agreed its budget for 2010/11 with planned expenditure of £18,635. This will be financed by £14,000 from council tax revenue, £1545 from grants and other income and the balance from the council's reserves. Expenditure will include the following:

General administration	£6740
Community grants	£3000
Grounds' maintenance	£4950
Flower tubs	£ 925
Litter and dog bin emptying	£ 370
Village projects	£ 750

## **RECYCLING**

Please remember to take your used bottles, jars and paper to the recycling facility at Church Meadow. This provides a useful income for village projects which amounted to £775 last year.

## **POORLANDS CHARITY**

The trustees of Great Bromley's Poorlands Charity met in December and agreed to distribute grants of £60 each to three residents. The Trust's income in 2009 was £227 and its investments are presently worth about £4500.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

During 2009/10 the council has allocated grants totalling £3050 to the following local community organisations and towards the expenditure noted: Royal British Legion (general donation), St George's Church (churchyard maintenance, flower festival and display board), Cricket Club (mobile cricket net), Village Hall (hearing loop and public address system), Playgroup (play equipment), Tendring Citizen's Advice Bureau (general donation), Bromley Messenger (sponsorship).

## ROADS

Following the recent snows and lack of maintenance many of our local roads are in a poor shape. The council has submitted a comprehensive list of defects to the county's highways department with a request that these are seen to.

**The next meeting** of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 11 February 2010 at Great Bromley Village Hall.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. There will be three separate contracts with a total value of about £4000 and covering the following work: (a) general hedge cutting; (b) general grass cutting; (c) general maintenance of the closed cemetery plus miscellaneous small-scale grass/hedge cutting work.

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

***The closing date for the receipt of tenders is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010.***

**The Parish Council recently put up new signs** at Hare Green recreation ground stating that dogs are not allowed for very obvious health reasons (in addition to the statement on the ground's notice boards). These have been removed and the council would like to remind the person or persons concerned that removal of such notices is a criminal act of vandalism and such persons are liable to prosecution. The signs will be replaced in due course and the council would be grateful of any information regarding vandalism of any of the recreation ground's facilities. I am sure that the general public will agree that we are fortunate in having a facility such as the recreation ground and that we need to protect it from a small number of antisocial and small minded members of our society who would seek to cause damage to our environment.

*Great Bromley Parish Council*

## WORKING GROUP 9



Working group 9 will recommence work in the closed churchyard, to complete the work around the graves on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Anybody who would like to come along is most welcome.

*Fred Nicholls*

# LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Little Bromley Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 19th December, 2009.

There were five members of the public present and the following matters were brought to the attention of the meeting.

The training of the volunteer traffic team is ongoing and very soon we shall see the speed gun operators functioning within the Little Bromley perimeter so "Speedsters Beware".

At last the saga of the Old Smithy has now been resolved and planning permission given for the development of a single storey dwelling on the site. Sarah Candy and Neil Stock were rightly congratulated for their very able help in the gaining of said planning permission, as was the Clerk who pushed so hard to get this eyesore removed.

Progress is also being made with the Rural path through the village. The owners of the properties that will be

affected and where permission is required to proceed will be approached personally by the Chairman and the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked the organisers and those that took part in the recent litter pick on a job well done. He also thanked his Council, Clerk and members of the public for their support over the last year. He wished everyone the greetings of the season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Our local PCSO was present and warned the meeting about Hare Coursing which is taking place locally. Incidents, if witnessed, should be reported to police to avoid being involved in any violence that might be offered by the offenders. "No heroes please."

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on 11th February at 7.30pm at The Haywain, Little Bromley.

*Maj AC Downes MBE, Clerk*



## FEBRUARY GARDENING TIPS

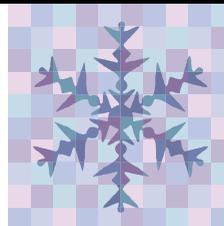
Late December and early January has not been very kind to gardeners and hopefully by the end of the month we will have seen the snow all gone. Unfortunately, there will still be frosty nights about so if you have been housebound during the snow take heart as it won't last for ever.

**Roses:** On mild days pruning can still be carried out. Cut back to a shoot and cut out all weak or thin stems. If you want large blooms cut back hard, by cutting back lightly you will get smaller blooms but more of them.

**Lilies:** Plant at the end of the month in pots or tubs and give some protection until it gets a bit warmer.

**Irises:** Dutch irises planted for cut flowers can be planted at the end of the month. Cover with cloches and ventilate on mild days.

*Frank Griffiths*



# *Forthcoming Events in 2010*

## **FEBRUARY**

- 3 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
5 Non-uniform day at St George's School supporting UNICEF  
10 Ardleigh Horticultural Society (Talk: The Winter Garden) Ardleigh Methodist Hall, 7.45pm  
Beat Surgery, Village Hall, 7.00pm  
11 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm  
13 Village Hall Open Day, Village Hall, 10.00am  
15 Fun Morning, Little Dragons Pre-School, Village Hall  
Half Term week  
18 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm  
20 Village Hall Quiz Night, Village Hall  
TBA Adult Quiz Night, St George's School (*Contact School office for details*)

## **MARCH**

- 2 Village Hall Trustees committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
3 Beat Surgery, Village Hall, 7.00pm  
10 Ardleigh Horticultural Society (Talk: Herbaceous Perennials) Ardleigh Methodist Hall, 7.45pm  
13 The band, *Locarno*, playing in Village Hall  
20 'The Long Way Home', play by Eastern Angles, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
27 Easter Bunny Ball, Lawford Venture Centre, 7.00pm

## **EASTER BUNNY BALL**



27th March  
Lawford Venture  
Centre

### **3 Course Dinner**

Dancing to **Steve Linton Band**  
7pm- 12 Midnight

*Large Raffle for Little Havens  
Children's Hospice*

Tickets £30.00 (Black Tie)

Call Linda Pinhey (**SWEET SUCCESS**)  
01206 230126

## **PLANT & GARAGE SALE**

Saturday, 8th May  
At Ilex Farm  
*Watch this space!*

## **HALF TERM ACTIVITIES**

Half Term is 15th to 21 February

### **Manningtree Sports Centre**

Pre-Enrolment Times:

Mon 8th - Fri 12th

10am - 12noon and 5pm - 7pm.

### **Tues 16th Feb Musical Theatre**

**Workshop** with showcase at 4pm. Time  
9.30am - 4.30pm. Cost £6. 7 - 15 years

### **Wed 17th Feb Arts and Crafts**

1.15pm -  
2.15pm Cost £3. 5 - 7 years and another  
session at 2.30pm - 3.30pm Cost £3. 8 -  
12 years

### **Fri 19th Feb African Drumming**

**Workshop** - have fun and explore rhythm  
with a drum 10am - 11am. Cost £3. 4 - 7  
years and another session 11am -  
12noon Cost £3. 8years +

## WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE HALL

### VILLAGE HALL OPEN DAY

On Saturday, 13th February  
10.00am-1.00pm

Come and see the village organisations  
who use the Hall (more details on page 29)

Demonstrations by

The Debbie Millar School of Dance  
And the

Carpet Bowls Club

Free cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit.

All Welcome

\* \* \* \* \*

By popular demand the band

### LOCARNO

will be playing on Saturday 13th March

Tickets £10.00.

More details next month

### 'THE ALTERNATIVE QUIZ NIGHT'

on Saturday February 20th  
in the Village Hall  
at 7:30pm.

You need a team of eight and to  
bring your own nibbles and  
drinks.

Tickets are £4.00 per  
head. There is a maximum of  
twelve teams only so book  
early.



Contact Dinah on 01206 231059 or at the  
Post Office on 01206 231073 or Jayne on  
01206 230529.

### Little Dragons Pre-School

'Fun Morning'

in the Village Hall

on Monday 15th February

to raise funds for Pre-School. Do come along and support us.



Registered Charity No: 1030641



**Eastern Angles**  
present their new play

## THE LONG WAY HOME

by Charles Way

20th March 2010

at 7.30pm in Great Bromley Village Hall

A heart-warming story for the whole family about friendship through adversity, by the author of *In the Bleak Midwinter*. An old woman decides to walk home to the seaside village of her birth - a journey through dark woods, fertile plains and over snow-capped mountains. She soon meets a wild young boy in the forest whose only means of communication is to bark like a dog and the two become unlikely travelling companions. *The*

*Long Way Home* is a traditional folk tale from the heart of old Europe, brought into the modern age through storytelling, music and magic.

As in past years there will be supper available and supper spaces are limited. These tickets do go very quickly.

Tickets available as:

Play Only	7.30pm	£8.00
Play with Supper beforehand		£20.00
	(Supper at 6pm)	

promptly)

**Both types of ticket** available from:

Anne Clapham (01206 230790),  
Paula Knappett (01206 250156) or  
Jenny Nicholls (01206 230688)

**Play Only tickets** from The Post Office at  
The Cross Inn

# NATURE'S DIARY

The last few weeks have been dominated by the snow and ice, now all gone. Two of my beehives have suffered an attack by a woodpecker that got past my protection from them. Come the spring serious restoration will need to take place. Great Spotted and Green woodpeckers, Long Tail, Great and Blue tits, greenfinches, goldfinches, chaffinches, sparrows, pheasant, partridge, dunnock, collared doves and woodpigeon have all been seen feeding in the garden recently, with blackbirds and thrushes flocking to the fallen fruit lying on the ground. The snowdrops are now visible and in bloom, an early source of nectar. The catkins are making an appearance, the grass beginning to grow along with the cow parsley and nettles. Why not try nettle soup? I am told it is very good for you.

DEFRA has brought out a FOOD 2030 report. By and large it seems constructive. It suggests food should be clearly labelled with country of origin, that more food should be produced in this country without damage to the environment, the food industry should prepare for the unexpected in the form of natural disasters, disruption to fuel supplies, transport. or commodity price increases and that we

should accept GM food as the way for the future. The last point I am, personally, unconvinced about as I feel nature is already tampered with too much and some routes, once embarked upon, cannot be reversed.

Talking of tampering with nature there was a report that the Italians, having created a map of the long extinct (400 years) Auroch's genome using DNA from a preserved bone, hope to recreate this large (6' 6" at the shoulder) and heavy (about a ton) long horned, tetchy cattle-like creature which roamed the European forests until declared extinct in 1627. Apart from curiosity why should they want to bring it back to life?

No-one will want it running around wild any more than they already like wild wolves and boar. It is similar to the desire to bring back to life once more the woolly mammoth and dinosaurs. This world is no longer the world they knew. Let them rest in peace in our imaginations and in folklore.



# THE DOCTORS' SURGERY



By the time you read this, letters will have started going out to everyone advising that the NHS now wishes to upload part of their medical record to a central computer system. Your so-called "Summary Care Record" (SCR) will

initially include details of your current prescriptions, any allergies you have and a note of any bad reactions to medicines you have experienced in the past.

There is no need for me going into great detail about the SCR as the letter explains it all. However, a couple of points do need highlighting.

Firstly, if you do not wish your records to be available on the central computer system, please let the surgery know in good time for us to get your signature on an opt-out form before the deadline of 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Please note that even if you have previously told us that you do not want your records on the spine, you still must sign an official opt-out form and let us have it back by the deadline date.

Secondly, even if you sign an opt-out form, this will not stop your name and address being available on the spine. I understand that there is no opt-out from this.

Don't forget that your SCR will go onto the national system unless you say otherwise. The plan is that other details will be added to it at a later stage, though we are assured that this will have to be with your informed consent at the time. All I can suggest at present is that you read the letter that you receive and make a genuine decision as to whether or not you want your data to be uploaded. If you have doubts and decide not to go along with it initially, you can opt out now, and then change your mind later. I haven't seen anything saying that you can be included initially, then change your mind and have your SCR withdrawn later.

If stopping smoking is your thing this year, don't forget that we can offer a lot of support here at the surgery. We have our resident Smoking Cessation adviser who would happily spend time supporting you and who can prescribe all sorts of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) – things like patches and

chewing gum, which are supposed to back up your own willpower. The pharmacy can also help. They too have trained advisers available and are able to give out NRT free of charge to people they are working with.

Go on you smokers! Make 2010 the year when you finally get the weed out of your system and reclaim your life. No more standing outside in the cold and rain just so that you can satisfy your craving. Less chance of developing cancer, chronic breathing problems or heart disease. An end to people recoiling from you because you smell like an old ashtray. And just think of the money you'd save to put towards the extra holidays you'll live longer to enjoy.

Swine Flu clinics are in full swing at the moment and it seems that some parents, particularly those of healthy under fives, are really unsure about whether or not their children should have the jab. This is a decision that nobody else can make for you. However, it is worth bearing a few things in mind.

The immediate Swine Flu panic may be over, but the virus will be with us for a good while yet in one form or another. It could mutate and become more virulent again. It isn't just a threat in winter. Any protection that you can get for your child now will stand him or her in good stead for a long while yet.

Small children, even healthy ones, are felt to be particularly vulnerable to Swine Flu. Even a mild dose could leave you nursing a very poorly child for a week or more.

The experts have now agreed that healthy under fives only need one dose of the vaccine, rather than two. The amount injected is tiny, just 0.25 ml.

The vaccine is inactivated, i.e. it contains only dead virus. Nobody can catch Swine Flu from it.

I remember how horrible it is letting someone stick a needle in your child, but the possible alternative is many times worse. Further advice and information is available on [www.dh.gov.uk/swinefluvaccinetools](http://www.dh.gov.uk/swinefluvaccinetools) - in the end though, it's your decision.

*Hugh Cronin, Great Bentley Practice Manager*  
Tel: 01206 250691

# CHILDREN'S PAGE

**St. Patrick's Day** is celebrated on March 17. It celebrates St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

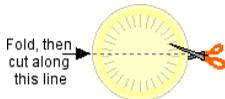
## St. Patrick's Rainbow Mobile

Make a rainbow mobile with a hanging pot of gold and shamrock to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

You will need:

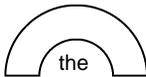
- A white paper plate
- Green and yellow paper (or white paper and black, green and yellow crayons, marker, or paint)
- Printer
- White glue or a glue stick
- Scissors
- A hole punch
- String (green is best, or you can colour white string with a green marker)

1. Fold and then cut a white paper plate in half.



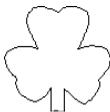
2. Draw a rainbow on the paper plate with markers, crayons, or paint.

The order of the colours in a rainbow is: Red - Orange - Yellow - Green - Blue - Indigo (dark blue) - Violet. An easy mnemonic for remembering the order of the colours is the name 'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain,' (an allusion to the Wars of the Roses). Also, red part of the rainbow is always on the top of the arch in a single rainbow.



3. Punch three holes in the plate: one hole at the top, and a hole on each end of the rainbow.

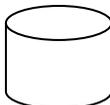
4. Draw and cut out the shamrock and colour it green and punch a hole at its top.



5. Draw and cut out a pot of gold

Colour in the Pot. Cut out a few "gold" coins from yellow paper.

Glue the coins to the top of the pot. Punch a hole at the top.



6. Attach the pot of gold and

the shamrock to the rainbow with a few inches of green yarn. Attach a few inches of the yarn to the top of the rainbow for hanging.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Groundhog Day** is an annual holiday celebrated in the United States and Canada on 2nd February. According to folklore, if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day fails to see its shadow, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter will soon end. If on the other hand, the groundhog sees its shadow, the groundhog will supposedly retreat into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks. The holiday apparently has its origins in European weather lore, where it was a badger or sacred bear that emerged from its burrow.

## Make a Pop-up Groundhog Puppet

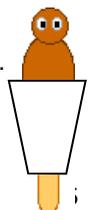
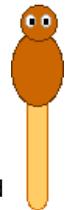
You will need:

- Paper cup
- Craft stick
- Brown construction paper
- Crayons, felt tip pens, paint
- Scissors
- Glue
- Optional: googly eyes

To make:

1. From brown paper cut a circle or oval (the body) and another smaller circle (the head). Draw a mouth and eyes on the head (optional - glue on googly eyes).
2. Glue the two pieces (the ground hog) onto a craft stick.
3. Cut a small slit in the bottom of the paper cup. Decorate the paper cup with felt tip pens or paint.
4. Insert the bottom of the craft stick into the hole.

You now have a pop-up groundhog.



# GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 301310

**You do not need** to be 'Brain Of Britain'. You do not need to belong to Mensa and I'm not even sure that it will help. You do need to be able to have fun, to have a laugh and to be in one of eight. What for? 'The Alternative Quiz Night' is happening on Saturday February 20th at 7:30pm. You need a team of eight and to bring your own nibbles and drinks. Tickets are £4.00 per head. There is a maximum of twelve teams only so book early. Contact Dinah on 231059 or at the Post Office on 231073 or Jayne on 230529.

We will be having a working party to tidy the garden and paths around the Hall in the near future. Any help will be gratefully received. More details soon.

By popular demand we see the return of the band Locarno who will be playing on Saturday 13th March, tickets £10.00. 'Strictly' watchers can get on down and strut their stuff. Bring your own food and drink and don't forget your dancing shoes. It should be a great night.

Another Fun-Day is on its way on June 12th 2010 so make sure you don't book your holiday for mid June.

The Open Day on Saturday February 13th is getting pretty booked up. Organisations showing their wares so far are:- The W.I, Badminton Club, Men's Club, Playgroup (*now known as the 'Little Dragons Pre-School'*), Scallywags (*now known as 'Baby Dragons'*), Church Fabric Group and Friendship Club. We are hoping that the Parish Council will also have a table. There will be demonstrations by Debbie Millar Dance School and the Carpet Bowls Club. Come down to the Hall on the 13th to find out who/what is involved. Have a free cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit. Opening times are from 10am to 1pm.

The Village Hall Committee would be delighted to see you and to hear from anyone else who would like a table.

The grant application for a replacement kitchen has been successful so we have some money already. A sub committee has been set up and will continue to get the new kitchen organised. Ideas are formulating into plans. So watch this space.

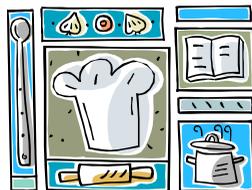
The old plans have been dusted off for the store room project. The store room plans were approved by Tendring Council when the Millennium Lounge was built. Chairs and other items would be stored there. It's all grant dependent though.

The Village Hall is proud to announce the visit of two of the Trustees from Essex Environment Trust - Chris Manning - Press, DL, a former Chairman of the County Council and Chris Jones, a Director of Cory Environmental to mark the completion of the new roof. The Essex Environment Trust was a major grant provider for the new roof and will be presenting a plaque soon to mark the new roofs completion.

Next Committee meeting: Tuesday 2nd March at 7:30pm.

That's all for now, as always thank you for your support and please put the forthcoming event dates in your diary. Let's all make the most of our Village Hall in 2010.

David Beech  
[sailspar@me.com](mailto:sailspar@me.com)



# HELP AND INFORMATION PLEASE

## SEVEN TALES AT SEVEN RIVERS

When ever I see an old building, my thoughts very soon turn to wondering about the lives that must have been lived within its walls; what laughter, what sadness, might they have witnessed, borne of domestic trials and triumphs, and by the great events that have taken place in the world beyond its gates.

And so it was when I first saw Seven Rivers. I have recently joined the volunteer team there as editor of our new in-house newsletter. What lives have those walls watched over, what hopes and fears, excitements and disappointments?

Did the house see lively candle-lit parties in its Victorian hey-day? Did it watch its men march off to the horrors of the trenches in the Great War? Did it, perhaps, play a role in looking after the victims of that terrible conflict? Who knows?

I have so far learned a small part of the Victorian story of Seven Rivers. In its hey day it was known as Great Bromley Hall and was a family home which included a substantial estate.

The Alston family lived in their "small country house" for many years through the mid-nineteenth century. Indeed, Edward Alston and his wife Mary raised nine children here - with the help of a governess and four domestic servants.

Beyond the hall was an estate of some 350 acres which was worked by a team of 19 men and a harness boy.

One of the children, it turns out, has a rather romantic but ultimately tragic story to tell, of which more, perhaps, another time.

I am very keen to find out more about the house and its many tenants, including its history as our Cheshire Home, so please

do share with me any stories or information you may have tucked away in some corner of your mind - or dusty cupboard!



I can be contacted through Seven Rivers on 01206 230345, or directly on 01255 861481 or e-mail [rivertales@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rivertales@tiscali.co.uk)

Thank you - I look forward to hearing from you.

*Colin File*

## KITCHEN CORNER

### HOMEMADE SOUP

in 7 minutes

#### **Ingredients**

1. Marigold Vegetable Bouillon powder
2. Your choice of veg / salad e.g. carrot, celery, lettuce, radish, green veg, frozen peas,
3. Vermicelli (or other soup pasta)

**Method** (quantities and times approximate)

For each person heat a tsp of Marigold powder and 250 ml (1/2 pt) water in a pan. While it comes to the boil chop your veg and salad small then add to the pan and simmer for about 5 minutes. Add ½ tbsp vermicelli per person 2 mins (or as per packet) before soup is ready. Add salt and pepper if needed and serve.



*Gregory Frostick*

# LETTERS

## 'Great' in Great Bromley Justified

Stones of Oregon, USA treated like long-lost neighbors

It is now December, the day after Christmas. I, David Stone, along with my wife, Lisa have finished an eventful three month volunteer effort in Ghana ([www.gone2ghana.com](http://www.gone2ghana.com) if interested). We are in Spain, with Lisa's sister and family who live in Seville. I can think of no one day in our travels that sticks more to our mind than **September 17, 2009**.

### A Day In Great Bromley

We Stones, in the beautiful state of Oregon USA, attend regularly scheduled family reunions nearly every summer. This has been going on since the late 1970's. Recently, my second cousin, Steve Stone, discovered via internet a strong linkage to a quaint village in England called Great Bromley. In fact, he went to 'check it out' I believe in 2007. Armed with evidence proving our familial connection to Great Bromley, Steve offered enticing photos and letters verifying the importance of this village for our family. Of particular interest, he mentioned by name one village lady named Jenny Nicholls who seemed to have appeared from nowhere, offering Steve and his sons Michael and David much appreciated assistance while visiting St. George Church. Jenny provided a wealth of information. Two STONE reunions go by and Steve is still talking of his experience, now urging Lisa and me to go to Great Bromley. Well .....we did.

We were on our way to Ghana with a stopover in London, intending to see Great Bromley. We have Jenny's phone number and email. As life takes twists and turns, this contact led to a series of

gratifying scenarios.

Guided by Jenny and husband Fred's directions, we take the train to Manningtree. After borrowing a mobile phone and calling, Fred and Jenny tell us that they will come to the station to pick us up. I don't know for sure what we were expecting but that was not among them. With Fred behind the wheel and Jenny to his side, our tour of 'Stoneland' begins.

Here is what I put in my journal that night :

*.....we have been invited and have accepted to lunch with Fred and Jenny, who is in charge of certain historical aspects of the St. George Church. This 'lunch' shall take place at the home of Leonie and George Henderson. ....mind you, we have never met any of the people mentioned prior to this day to be described. We are already much impressed with the embodying reception . Imagining this lunch would be a light affair, small sandwiches to tide us over, we accepted. ....having retrieved us at the train station Fred drives his Citroen jauntily along the one-lane road ...Little Bromley (pop. 200 or so) then Great Bromley (pop. 900 or so). Along the way we have visited the Little Bromley Church (probably mid-1500's) and then take a long look at the interior and exterior of 'my home church' the St. George Church ( probably same era) . We learn that many a Stone has been baptized in this ancient holy house...significant to us is the STONE STAIN GLASS WINDOW. (plenty of video taken). ....Jenny has been instrumental in creating a display in the church dedicated to the history of the Stone Family at the church. It is an amazing display! I video tape up close, nearly all the information for future intellectual digestion. ....evident that the St. George is from probably at least mid-1500s as there are demon in reliefs*

*around some of the support posts and , as if in response, angels at the end of each hammerhead beam.*

As I write this article, this being Dec. 29, I am inspired to study the videos to get a better sense of what was seen, along with the wealth of historical information from Jenny and Fred. We Stones are indeed lucky to have a community that cares so much about their church and heritage, of which we are a part. There is a contact with a relative named Susan in the states. I would inscribe her contact at this point if my luggage, and therefore the contact, was not lost. We are without four suitcases, surviving on limited choice of wardrobe presently.

[Susanne Stone Page can be contacted at [susannecalistapage@mac.com](mailto:susannecalistapage@mac.com) - Ed.]

As if seeing my family's history before my eyes were not enough, this good ol' American boy was yet to experience the real coup de grâce! The exquisite 'lunch' (in the 'colonies' this would be called a banquet!) in which we were to partake. Oh my! .... back to my journal writing: *We are greeted by George and Leonie in front of their vintage farmhouse; wine offered/accepted in the kitchen; cordial, intelligent conversation – we immediately like these people! .....and here comes the biggest impression. We are led to the dining room where, what to our eyes should appear, . . . but a sumptuously displayed dinner!...stuffed mallow is the main dish which was more than delicious. The home-grown potatoes had a taste that is better than I have known. The conversation continues to be easy and flowing. By now, daughter Eleanor of Leonie and George is present adding good tidbits to the conversation. Subjects range across a wide spectrum from politics to Ghana to gardening. We have a delectable fruit crumble made by Leonie. What more to say about this dessert? George is one lucky husband!* Before departing, we take a nice picture

of all gathered at the Henderson Farmhouse. Though it was but one afternoon, these fine folks have given of themselves in such a cordial and welcoming manner, they are now deeply imbedded in our lives.

*David Stone*

Email: [revellstone@yahoo.com](mailto:revellstone@yahoo.com)

# THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

Dear Friends,

I shall be organising a parish pilgrimage to Walsingham and we shall be staying there from Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be joined by some of my former parishioners from St. Augustine's Thorpe Bay.

I do hope that as many of you as possible will consider joining us for what is a wonderful spiritual experience as well as a time of great fellowship together.

## Why go on pilgrimage?

Well pilgrimage is an essential part of life and living. Christians see life itself in terms of a journey, coming from God and returning to God. This is true of other world religions where pilgrimage is also important. A pilgrimage is a symbol in action. It represents the journey of the Christian life from earth to heaven. The Church is sometimes described as a pilgrim people.

During the Middle Ages pilgrimages were very popular. It was not like going on holiday. Pilgrimages often took years. Journeys were long and dangerous. They usually travelled in groups and they would stay in monasteries or hostels on the way. Pilgrims undertook these journeys to holy places because it was important for their faith.

It is a strange phenomenon of the late twentieth century that pilgrimage should again have become popular. Thousands of visitors go to Walsingham each year.

The particular emphasis of pilgrimage to Walsingham is concerned with the Incarnation of Jesus – this is the belief central to the Christian faith that at a definite date in history, in a certain place, God himself was born of a woman into a human family.

The Holy House at Walsingham is a reminder of Nazareth, of the house in which Jesus lived as a child and young

man. By visiting it and praying within it, pilgrims believe that they are identifying with those influences which were formative as Jesus grew through childhood to adolescence and adulthood.



The story of Walsingham begins in the 11<sup>th</sup> century with a Saxon noblewoman named Richeldis de Faverches. She was married to the Lord of the Manor of Walsingham Parva. He died leaving her a young widow with a son, Geoffrey. We know that Richeldis had a deep faith in God and we know too of her reputation for good works in care and generosity towards those around her.

At this time there was a great deal of interest in the Holy Land and people undertook long and often dangerous pilgrimages there. Christian armies were soon to be engaged in a number of Crusades to liberate the holy sites from Muslim control and it is believed that Geoffrey eventually joined one of those Crusades as an expression of the Christian faith.

For Richeldis, however, the life of prayer and good works was rewarded by a vision in the year 1061. In this vision she was taken by Mary to be shown the house in Nazareth where Gabriel had announced the news of the birth of Jesus. Mary asked Richeldis to build an exact replica of that house in Walsingham. This is how Walsingham became known as England's Nazareth. The vision was repeated three times, according to legend, and retold through a fifteenth century ballad. The materials given by Richeldis were finally

constructed miraculously one night into the Holy House, while she kept a vigil of prayer.

Although we cannot be certain that this story represents all the details of historical fact, we do know that in passing on his guardianship of the Holy House, Geoffrey de Faverches left instructions for the building of a Priory in Walsingham. Royal patronage helped the Shrine to grow in wealth and popularity, receiving visits from Henry III, Edward II, Edward III, Edward IV, Henry VII and Henry VIII, who finally brought its destruction in 1538.

It was Fr. Hope Patten, appointed as Vicar of Walsingham in 1921, which ignited Anglican interest in the pre-Reformation pilgrimage. It was his idea to base a new statue of Our Lady of Walsingham on the image depicted on the seal of the medieval Priory. In 1922 this statue was set up in the Parish Church of St. Mary, and regular pilgrimage devotion followed. From the first night that the statue was placed there, people gathered around it to pray. This work of intercession continues to this day.

Throughout the 1920's, the trickle of pilgrims became a flood of large numbers, for whom eventually a Pilgrim Hospice was opened (a hospice is technically the name of a place of hospitality for pilgrims) and in 1931, a new Holy House encased in a small pilgrimage church was dedicated. In 1938 that church was enlarged to form the Anglican Shrine, more or less as we know it today.

As pilgrim numbers continued to grow, so did the needs of those who came. St. Joseph's House was opened for pilgrims with special needs and Richeldis House opened in 1991 to provide yet more accommodation.

During the build up to the millennium celebrations of 2000 a new Refectory was planned. H.R.H. Princess Alexandra opened it in 2001. By the way, the quality of the food served at the Shrine is very good indeed.

In June 2007 work began on the new Milner wing which has now opened and it contains a Welcome centre, a new Reception area and a range of en-suite bedrooms. Pilgrims and friends helped raise £2 million towards the cost of this latest major undertaking.

If any of you wish to know more about what goes during a pilgrimage please do not hesitate to ask me. Briefly however we travel up to Walsingham on the Friday by coach and we arrive early in the afternoon. Having settled in our rooms we have our First visit to the Holy House and that is usually followed by Stations of the Cross in the grounds of the Shrine. The first evening is free for people to relax either at the Shrine or a visit to one of the local pubs. There is a wonderful feeling of fellowship. On the Saturday we sometimes visit the Slipper chapel where pilgrims in the middle Ages would take off their shoes and walk the last mile barefoot to the Shrine. Usually we have an outing on the Saturday afternoon and we have visited several places in the past including Sandringham and Norwich. Before Supper on Saturday evening we have the first Pilgrims' Mass and then after Supper there is a lovely candle-lit procession through the grounds. On Sunday we go to St. Mary's Parish Church for the normal Parish Eucharist and that is followed traditionally with a lovely Roast Beef lunch. In the afternoon there is the Sacrament of the laying on of hands and anointing, a very peaceful moving service and pilgrims have the water from the well poured over their hands as a sign of God's healing power in our lives. After this there is a final procession and Last visit to the Holy House before we depart for home at about 5pm. Pilgrims, including myself, always go home spiritually renewed and refreshed to face whatever lies ahead in our own lives. I commend this pilgrimage to you as it is always a source of blessing.

With my love and best wishes,  
*Fr. Robert*