

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2011

Volume 26 No 9



Photograph courtesy of Richard Perry

The Friendship Club

50th Anniversary Celebration

'As you can see, a good time was had by all.'

***The Bromley Messenger wishes all
our readers a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year***



THE FIRST PAGE

Firstly, congratulations to the Friendship Club for their first 50 years. Their celebrations went with a swing as can be seen on the cover and page 3.

Christmas is fast approaching and there are the Christmas Fayres in Great Bromley as well as round and about to enable you to buy those presents you were unable to find elsewhere and a Farmers Market for the all essential food products. Do support these events as everyone concerned, organisers and stallholders alike, put a great deal of time and effort to bring you all that you require virtually to your doorstep.

As I write it is a beautiful sunny day; so much for the forecasts of snow in October! I wonder how much longer this mild weather will last but even so, despite the sunny days, there is now fog. Following yet another accident on the A120 at Great Bromley, this time involving a busload of children, the speed of the traffic approaching these intersections from both the Colchester and Harwich directions, I think, should be addressed. It is all very well reducing the road to one lane, but cars

can still be going very fast as they approach the area. Drivers, especially the youthful ones, can be impatient and aggressive in their driving and don't THINK in advance enough.

I still have the two rescue dalmations. The older one had glaucoma with the result that he had to have an eye removed but he has recovered well and the stitches will soon be out. Hopefully a good home can be found for them together as they love each other dearly.



For the first time (and all future years) this is a combined December and January issue with the next edition being the February magazine with a copy date of 14th January. I therefore take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, peaceful New Year with many thanks for all the encouragement, support and articles you have provided during 2011.

Leonie Henderson

MATERIAL for the **FEBRUARY 2012** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th January, 2012** 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

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

Please support the sponsors of our magazine.

THE UNITED PARISHES OF ARDLEIGH AND THE BROMLEYS

On Wednesday November 30th at 6.30p.m.
there will be a Eucharist
for St. Andrew's Day
at St. George's Church Great Bromley.

This Festival offers an opportunity for us to pray
particularly for the mission of the Church.

Our preacher will be the Revd Jenny Tomlinson, Parish
Development Adviser in the Colchester Episcopal Area
who will follow this up with a Stewardship Programme
during the course of next year.

Life continues as usual at St George's throughout major renovation work. All are very welcome to our Christmas services. Christmas Eve 24th December. Crib service 5.30pm and Midnight Mass , 11.30pm

MESSY CHURCH - 29TH OCTOBER

Sparkling Angels and Growly lions were very much in evidence as the latest Messy Church got underway in Great Bromley Village Hall during half term.

We were all very pleased to welcome 26 children with their mums, dads or grandparents.

After initial drinks and biscuits everyone sat down to hear about how Daniel was shut up in a lion's den and managed to escape unhurt. During the story we were introduced to Rory, a very fierce lion, who turned out to be a bit of a pussy cat however loudly he tried to roar.

After the story it was time to put all the glitter and glue to good use. Daniels,

Angels, Lion Masks, prayer cubes and handprints were made to be taken home. While "Daniel's feast" was being prepared by the helpers, songs, prayers and stories continued in the Millennium Lounge. Hot dogs, lion biscuits, cakes and other food was then enthusiastically eaten by all.

We would like thank all the helpers, especially our teenage assistants who gave up their time to make this a busy exciting morning.

Everyone is looking forward to the Messy Christingle where everyone will be able to make their own Christingle for the service to follow. This will be held in Ardleigh school on Sunday 4th December at 3pm. Do come and join in the fun.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

FRIENDSHIP CLUB



Our **Golden Anniversary** was last month when Mr Marshall made three beautiful cakes. We had hilarious entertainment by the "Clacton Footlights" and memorabilia was displayed including the photograph album showing the Friendship Players who entertained other clubs for many years.

The next meeting is on 15th December and the **A.G.M. is on 19th January** when your subscriptions will be due - please bring your cards.



Our Christmas Party will be on the 15th and it would be appreciated if members could bring a small plate of eats and a raffle prize for the **BUMPER RAFFLE**.

Another year is ending and to all who are not 100% in health we wish them a speedy recovery and hope everyone will have a good Christmas.

Vicky Griffiths

FROM THE PAST

I have gladly agreed to provide a slot in the magazine about days and people past. I shan't try to fill John Appleby's boots, but will keep this area going in my own way.

I have a great find to share with you next year, but this month I thought I should introduce myself. I was brought up in Great Bromley, like my mother Jill before me. My late father Charles was brought up in Little Bromley, but eventually moved to the big smoke of Great Bromley! I now live in New Zealand since which time my interest in the villages of my childhood has, ironically, soared! I run the two village websites www.greatbromley.org.uk and www.littlebromley.org.uk. Internet searches regularly generate enquiries about relatives from our villages. I will report these requests so that if you have any information or share an interest in that name, I can put you in touch.

I have been interviewing people and probing their family albums with great interest, so I have quite a collection. Some matters are told in confidence and not to be

shared, and of course no photo will be published without permission. If I can encourage correspondence, publishable or otherwise, and dig out some more tales from our villages I will be happy whilst hopefully you will be entertained!

I am not officially a history recorder but I do have a repository of fascinating artefacts and documents which I maintain for my own pleasure but also as a safe historical service for the villages. If you have any items of interest which you would lend for copying, or donate to the collection, please give them to Jill or Martin at Grove House, or to our editor Leonie to pass on.

Hugh Frostick



It was suggested I supply a photo, but I don't seem to have one taken after Christmas 1968.

IN THE GARDEN IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY



With last winter in mind don't forget to empty all your plastic watering cans otherwise if they freeze you will have a split can on your hands. Another must is to have a supply of salt in stock for de-icing paths etc.

Wrap up well and finish off any rose pruning that needs completing. Also choose a mild day for planting new rose bushes.

Keep inspecting stored potatoes, fruit, etc, and remove any that show signs of rotting.

Frank Griffiths

KITCHEN CORNER

Beef and Cheese Roll

Serves 4

3 thick slices white bread, crusts removed.
4 tbsp milk
1 ½ lb minced beef
2 eggs lightly beaten.
2 tsp dry mustard
1tsp salt pinch pepper
½ tsp dried basil
1 onion finely chopped
2 tbsp chopped parsley
1 tbsp flour
2 tbsp melted butter
8 oz mozzarella cheese

Method:

Put bread in large bowl with milk. Squeeze lightly and pour off excess milk. Add meat and eggs, seasoning and herbs. Knead till well blended.

Dust with the flour a piece of foil or waxed paper, put meat on and with floured hands

press into a rectangle. Cover lightly with foil and refrigerate for at least an hour.

When meat is cold, cover with thinly sliced cheese and roll up like a Swiss roll. Place on a baking sheet, join underneath, brush with melted butter and bake moderate oven 50 minutes.

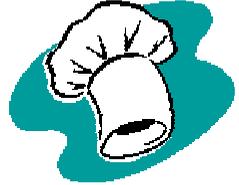
Serve hot with tomato sauce

Sauce:

1lb ripe tomatoes
3 tbsp butter
2 onions fine chopped
1 clove garlic crushed
1 tsp thyme,salt and pepper
2 fl oz red wine

Sauté onions in butter till soft, add peeled and quartered tomatoes and seasoning. Cook 45 minutes stirring occasionally.

Jill Frostick



CARPET BOWLS

The AGM was held on 12th October.

Chairman, Pat Petchey, reported on the year's events - the Brumbella Cup was again contested, with a good result, and it was agreed to run the competition again in 2012.

The officers of the Club were thanked for their work over the past year and were willing to serve for a further 12 months.

Treasurer, Derek Frostick, was quite happy with the figures for the year although expenses had increased; he gave a very good detailed report. Captain Andrew Childs reviewed the year's matches and, taking into account holidays and illness, he managed to field satisfactory teams and said "the year had been enjoyable especially the friendly matches making it a bit more varied".

Competition

Ron Copp, Derek, Andrew and Pat entered a competition at Wix last month. They won two of their three matches but couldn't advance any further.

Match Results

Three recent matches: Langham at home we lost 8-0, Dedham away and Brightlingsea away, lost 5-3 at Dedham and 7-1 at Brightlingsea. They were good games in spite of the scoreboard. We've all enjoyed meeting a lot of new people in this new league.

Nancy Kempster



THANKS

St Helena Hospice Stall

Once again it is the time of year that we would like to say thank you to everyone who has donated fruit and vegetables to the Hospice stall and to all the people who have come time and time again to make a purchase.

This year has been very busy from early March with spring flowers and vegetables through to early November with the last of the dahlias.

The sum raised this year was £2,513.27 so it is a huge thank you to you all. It makes it all worthwhile.

Jigsaws will be available throughout the winter months and there will also be a small amount of bric-a-brac (you may find just what you are looking for). If anyone has any jigsaws in their cupboards that they no

longer want to keep we will be happy to accept them.

Once again THANK YOU to you all and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Jenny and John

Hospice Stall, Briar Road, Great Bromley



ST HELENA HOSPICE



St Helena Hospice
your time...your hospice

2011 Light up a Life Events

St Helena Hospice would like to welcome you and your family to one of our Light up a Life events this Christmas. These special events bring together people who are missing a loved one. Each event includes Christmas carols and readings.

Friday 2nd December

Brightlingsea - 7.00pm, St James Church, High Street.

Friday 9th December

Harwich - 6.30pm, St Nicholas Church, Church Street.

Sponsored by: Harwich and Dovercourt Independent Funeral Services.

Sunday 11th December

Colchester - 4.30pm, Colchester Castle.
Sponsored by: W H Shephard Funeral Directors.

Monday 12th December

Walton - 6.30pm, All Saints Church, West Street.

Sponsored by P G Oxley Funeral Directors.

Sunday 18th December

Clacton - 4.00pm, Clacton Pier.

Sponsored by: Titfords Funeral Services.

Tuesday 20th December

Colchester - 6.30pm, St Helena Hospice, Myland Hall, Barncroft Close.

Sponsored by: Hunnaball of Colchester.

For more information on these events, and if you would like to request a dedication form, please contact St Helena Hospice Fundraising Office on 01206 791740.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

The parish council met on 10th November and it next meets on **WEDNESDAY 7th December 2011** at Great Bromley Village Hall.

As from **January 2012** the council will meet on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of the month at 7.30 pm in the village hall. So the first two

meetings in 2012 will be on Tuesday 10th January and Tuesday 14th February.

Your attention is drawn to the two notices on grants published below.

The parish council sends Christmas and New Year greetings to all residents of Great 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 the charity's present secretary, Ken Bromfield (01206 230089/clerk@gbpc.org.uk/4 St George's Close Great Bromley Colchester CO7 7HZ).

All enquiries will be treated in confidence but ***must be received by Tuesday 6th December 2011.***

Great Bromley Parish Council

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Great Bromley Parish Council will be allocating grants in 2011/12 to organisations or voluntary groups whose activities benefit the village community. Recent grants have ranged in value from £20 to £1000 with recipients including the following: The Royal British Legion, St George's church, cricket club, play group, friendship club, village hall, citizens advice bureau, Bromley Messenger and Hamilton Lodge.

Applications for grants should be submitted in writing ***and by 1 February 2012*** to the Clerk, 4 St George's Close, Great Bromley, Colchester CO7 7HZ, who can provide further information (01206 230089).

VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

Come April next year we will be looking for some new people to join the Committee. Fred Nicolls is standing down as Chairman but may still remain on the Committee and Neal Skinner, who is presently Minutes Secretary, will be standing down completely. Both will be sorely missed as they have both done an incredible amount for the Village Hall. These guys will be a hard act to follow so anyone interested, please make yourself known.

We have looked long and hard at the costs of running our Village Hall and we will be raising the prices for a few of the Hall users. This will be done only to bring all users up to the same hourly rate and will not affect 99% of the user groups.

Jobs still outstanding (roofing insulation and the interior painting for which we will need volunteers). Martin is buying another 20 rolls of insulation so we are getting very close to needing help to get these and the balance from last time installed.

Rewarding job and well worth doing.

Christmas Fayre

3rd December - 10am to 1pm

Santa is due to make an appearance again but this time he will have his own grotto. In the centre of the hall there will be a Christmas tree too. Many of the old favourite stalls and a few new ones too. A Christmas Hamper worth £80 will be raffled on the day. Raffle

tickets are now on sale and this year there are three main prizes with a value of £75 each as well as load of smaller prizes. Food wise, there will be homemade soup, with French bread, tea, coffee, mince pies etc. Live music, slot car racing, video games, plant stalls, Christmas decorations are to name but a few of the things on offer. Come down, grab a bargain or just bring the children to see Santa.



Farmers Market

15th December - 6pm to 9pm

With nearly 20 stalls this time, free mulled wine when buying a sausage roll or mince pie. This event should be the best yet with many new stall holders, so why not come and have a look for some Christmas present ideas or just to buy some cheese, vegetables or earrings.



New Years Eve Dance

31st December

With a Disco. Only 100 tickets available with 50 already sold. This will be a "posh frocks" night with black tie optional for the men, buffet by Linda Pinhey, bring your own drinks, adults only, finish at 1:00am. Lots of interest being shown in this event so please book your tickets now to avoid disappointment. Tickets are £20.00 and will be available



from any committee member. 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 2011. Well what's left of it anyway. Next Committee meeting Tuesday 3rd January at 7:30pm. As always all welcome.



GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

100 Club Winners for October

- 1st. Mr. Richard Lawson
- 2nd. Mr. John Hodge
- 3rd. Julie Herring.

Who would have thought that an Annual General Meeting could be such fun!!!

The meeting started seemingly normal, but we then heard from a member who had been on board a cruise ship and had experienced a W.I. meeting whilst cruising. It would seem that our concerns are very similar to many others. Increase in subscription fees; Magazine some not keen; Cost of running the London headquarters to name a few. Some institutes had a "naughty table" including ours. I will leave you to draw your own conclusions. Although twelve people attended the meeting, no one had a camera to record this event.

Moving on, a presentation was made to a member who is a Maternity Matron in the local neo-natal unit, of blankets, baby coats and hats that had been knitted by our members.

Thanks were given to all the committee for their support over the last year.

Sheila Gunson, our W I Advisor, then took over the meeting. Jenny, our president, gave her report, followed by Mary as secretary. We then went on to the business of the meeting; the committee were all agreeable to stand for the next term

of office, and after appropriate voting Jenny was re- elected our president.

Sheila went on to tell us about her visit to Buckingham Palace to a garden party in July, exactly the same day as one of our members, although they had not seen each other. Another strange fact - both had been recorded on the official video, and when it was re-viewed it would seem that they were less than 100 yards apart without seeing one another.

The entertainment was Desert Island Discs, each member taking part had chosen a piece of music that was special to her. We had a wonderful selection, a piece from Starlight Express, James Last, some traditional jazz, S Club 7, The Carpenters, and finally Elvis and Teddy Bear. In future do not let anyone tell you that an Annual General Meeting is boring. It most certainly is not in our Institute.



The next meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 7th December which will be our Christmas party and 4th January. All are welcome.

Joy Rolfe



CORRECTION

Despite my best efforts to ensure that the contents of my letter [*November issue*] outlining the planning process were wholly correct, it has been pointed out to me that I have mis-stated the position of Councillor Rosemary Heaney in her role as Chair of TDC's Planning Committee.

I am advised that when an application relating to a property in Great Bromley is being considered by the Planning Committee Councillor Heaney can continue to act as the Chair providing she has not raised a prior objection against the application.

I apologise for the error and any misunderstanding that may have arisen as a result.

Pender Richardson

With Christmas coming we bring the outside inside. Evergreens such as holly, with its red berries (female plants only), along with ivy and fir cones, are used in wreaths, table decorations and to deck the house. Prince Albert, during Victoria's reign, introduced the Christmas tree to our houses. These days we usually purchase Norway Spruce although many other varieties are now available. Mistletoe, too, is hung around the house mainly as an excuse to kiss someone. Mistletoe grows in fruit trees, such as apple, is a semi-parasitic plant and although it feeds off its host tree it does also possess chlorophyll and is therefore able to create its own food through photosynthesis. The plant is associated with the mistle thrush which is supposed to love the sticky white berries thus spreading the plant from tree to tree by wiping the excess seeds and berries from its beak onto a twig of another tree. Holly berries, too, form an important food source for many birds and small mammals and ivy, as well as providing food, is a haven for overwintering insects and small birds who eat the berries or the insects depending upon their preferred diet.



Teasels, too, are beautiful. Used for decorations, especially when gilded, with their seeds being a favourite food source for 'charms' of goldfinches. Only birds with slim, pointed beaks can reach the seeds within the teasel head. Robins, the favourite of Christmas cards, are one of the few birds to be heard singing during winter, as both males and females maintain territories for feeding which may, in turn, become their breeding territories come spring. They pair up during January when the females stop singing.

Don't forget to leave fresh water out for all creatures to drink and/or bathe in.

LMH

Christmas Fayre

Saturday, 3rd December
10.00am - 1.00pm

Great Bromley Village
Hall



Santa is visiting
Live music * Video
games

Slot car racing
Christmas Hamper Raffle
Christmas Decorations
PLUS All your favourite stalls
Plants

Homemade soup, with French bread,
tea, coffee, mince pies etc.

**Come down, grab a bargain or just
bring the children to see Santa**

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE with a DISCO

31st December
Great Bromley Village Hall



'Posh' frocks with black
tie optional for men
Buffet but please bring
your own drinks

Tickets ADULTS ONLY
£20 available from any
committee member

Book now to avoid disappointment

Manningtree's Weird & Wonderful Christmas

Friday, 9 December

The late-night shopping event will include street
entertainment, festive stalls and the
performances from local community groups to
fill the town with Christmas cheer.

6pm to 9pm in and around the High Street. For
more information contact Jenine Collier,
Chairman of Manningtree Chamber at J&M
Travel on 07517 046704 or visit
<http://wonderfulmanningtree.wordpress.com>

Messy Christingle

Sunday 4th December at
3.00pm

Ardleigh School



Make their own Christingle
for the service to follow.
Do come and join in the
fun.

FARMERS' MARKET

Thursday 15th December 201
Great Bromley Village Hall
6pm to 9pm

Included among the promised 17 stalls
in attendance are:

Award Winning Sausages * Cakes
Preserves * Smoked Products
Fish * Fresh Vegetables
Knitted Goods * Plants * Bulbs
Homemade chocolates * Cheese
Chutneys & sauces * Homemade
fudge

Jewellery and many, many more.

Plenty of last minute Christmas
Presents.



Free admission,
mulled wine, mince
pies and
refreshments
available.

A Christmas Vintage Fayre

Sunday, 4th December
The Venture Centre, Lawford
10.00am - 4.00pm

Lots of stalls selling items from
the 1920s-1980s

Teas and cakes
Admission £1 adults, children free

Contact Linda Finch 01206 323969 for
further information

EVENTS



DECEMBER

- 3 Christmas Fayre, Village Hall, 10am
Village Hall committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 3 Messy Christingle, Ardleigh School, 3.00pm
Vintage Fayre, The Venture Centre, 10.00am
- 7 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
WI Christmas party, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 9 Manningtree's Weird & Wonderful Christmas, High Street, 6.00pm
- 14 Beat Surgery, Village Hall, 7.30-8.30pm
- 15 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
Gt Bromley Farmers Market, Village Hall, 6.00-9.00pm
- 17 Lawford Farmers Market, Venture Centre (Christmas Market)
- 31 New Year's Eve Dance, Village Hall

JANUARY 2012

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 14 Friendship Club A.G.M., Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 19 WEA - The Essex Coastal Trade from 1800, Ardleigh Village Hall, 2.30pm

FEBRUARY

- 1 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 9 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 14 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 16 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm



WEA - Ardleigh Branch

THE ESSEX COASTAL TRADE FROM 1800

Tutor: Roger Beckett - 10 week course

Commencing: Thursday 19th January 2012

Ardleigh Village Hall, Station Road, Ardleigh, CO7 7RS at 2.30 p.m.

Cost of 10 week course - £45

The course takes an overview of the coastal trade or Essex ports during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It includes an examination of the numbers and types of vessels owned at the three Essex ports of registry: Maldon, Colchester and Harwich. The course could provide a useful starting point for anyone undertaking in depth studies of particular aspects of Essex shipping. It could also be useful for anyone pursuing family history with Essex maritime connections.

We hope to see you on 19th January, you can come the first week and see if it is the course for you. Payment is required on the second week of attendance. We have a tea break of about quarter of an hour, so we end about 4.15 p.m. each week.

Please contact Jill Frostick 01206 250263 or John Terry 01206 230490 if you need more details.

ESSEX LEGACY 2012 CELEBRATIONS

'Celebrate your Fete'

The London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are nearly here and with the Mountain Biking event taking place in Essex at Hadleigh Farm, Hadleigh, Essex is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the vast range of opportunities that the Games will bring to all organisations, councils, companies, groups and individuals to play their part in this once in a lifetime experience.

This is the chance for parishes, towns and voluntary organisations to be involved in the celebrations in 2012, both leading up to and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the greatest show on earth and Essex Legacy from the 2012 Games invites groups and organisations in the communities to take part in the Essex Legacy 2012 celebrations.

Celebrate your Fete – After the exciting announcement of the Torch Relay Communities on Route we invite groups and organisations in the communities to

take part in the Essex Legacy 2012 Celebrations and help celebrate both the Torch Relay and the 2012 Games by enhancing or organising an event that the community can take part in to help celebrate the 2012 Games.

This could be an existing event such as a fete or sports festival and with the addition of a little funding could offer so much more to all the community or it may be a new event that your community has always wanted to organise. You could enhance existing provision or create a new fete / festival with contemporary elements. It could be a mixture of a traditional fete (stalls, tombola, coconut shy, bands, etc), urban games (BMX, skating, street dance and street art), sporting activities or cultural activities.

So if your group/organisation would like to apply for a grant of up to £400, go to <http://www.essexlegacy.org/celebrations/celebrate-your-fete-in-2012/> for more information.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

The Tourism and Events Team at Tendring District Council are currently compiling a list of events in Tendring for 2012.

To ensure that we include as many events as possible from across the district, we would be grateful if you could notify us of any events you are aware of taking place within your parish or town.

Event information can be submitted via the online form on the What's On pages on the District Council web site – www.tendringdc.gov.uk

Details can also be sent to the Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, Station Road, Clacton on Sea, CO15 1SE or by emailing clactontic@tendringdc.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you know of any event

organisers who may wish to publicise their event, we would be grateful if you would forward this email to them, or notify us of their contact details.

We realise that many event details may not yet be finalised, but any information you can give us will be greatly appreciated.
Erika Morgan

Tourist Information Centre
Life Opportunities
Tendring District Council
Town Hall Station Road
Clacton on Sea CO15 1SE
Tel: 01255 68 66 33

www.essex-sunshine-coast.org.uk
www.tendringdc.gov.uk



Christmas Again!

As our thoughts turn once again to preparations and celebrations of the festive season and my own grandsons, now going on 4 and 6, look forward with increasing excitement to all that that happy time brings, Christmases past sometimes spring to mind.

I remember still, as a boy, looking forward to my Christmas dinner almost as much as I did the opening of the presents around the Christmas tree which was to follow - but only after we had listened respectfully (or endured!) the Queen's Speech.

It was not the chicken leg that I always hoped for but never got (turkey was too posh and expensive for us in those pre-Bernard Matthews days), nor the "pigs in blankets", also a Christmas speciality, that I so eagerly anticipated – and certainly not the dreaded brussel sprouts which invariably appeared on my piled plate! No, it was the Christmas pudding that I looked out for. Well, not so much that dark mound of steaming fruits and nuts liberally smothered with brandy sauce (not too much for the boy, mother!) as the treasure I hoped to find buried within: a not-exactly-shiny "silver sixpence" – that's what I hoped to find! And, of course, I did – to the congratulatory "Oohs!" and Aahs!" of the adults around the table. "Lucky boy!"

What I did not know then was that my silver sixpence was a part of a tradition going back centuries. Since the middle ages, part of the fun of eating

Christmas pudding has been finding a "surprise" trinket that would, supposedly, predict your fortune for the coming year.

The best thing to find was a coin, preferably a silver one, because that meant you would become wealthy. Almost as good was a ring which meant you would get married. One that the young maidens would hope to avoid was a thimble as that predicted spinsterhood - a state to be much avoided in days of yore.

Apparently it all started back in the Middle Ages when the finder of a bean in the Christmas pudding would become the "King of Misrule" and lead the jollifications, somewhat raucously, for the rest of the night.

Well, what ever you find in **your** Christmas pudding this year, we at Seven Rivers wish you and all our friends and neighbours in Great Bromley a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Colin File, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

Gt Bentley Surgery

You might remember that I've had a bee in my bonnet for a couple of years now about the NHS starting to upload individual patient Summary Care Records (SCRs) to the national computer system – the spine. I promised I would let everyone know when it was imminent so that anyone who doesn't want their SCR to be available to NHS staff throughout the country can say so.

Basic data, such as name, address, date of birth and NHS numbers were uploaded quite a while ago. Nobody was given a choice about that. Well, it now seems that our patients will have the first part of their medical data uploaded around mid-March 2012. This batch will include details of medication, adverse reactions and allergies. Further data about medical history will be added, but only with each individual patient's specific consent, from a later date still to be decided.

If you don't want this data available on the spine, please ask for an opt-out form next time you contact the surgery. The Department of Health, in its wisdom, has decided that anyone who doesn't express a wish either way will be assumed to want their SCR on the system. I think that used to be called "inertia selling".

If you do want your SCR uploaded, you don't need to do anything. It will happen automatically.

I'm afraid that nobody here can advise you on the pros and cons of having your data uploaded. Everyone has to make up their own mind about that.

Last month, I mentioned that we are trying to put together a Patient Participation Group (PPG) to help with planning and mapping out the surgery's future. I'm afraid the response hasn't been great to date and plenty more volunteers are needed if we are to make the idea work. As I indicated, everything will be done by e-mail as far as possible, and the commitment will amount literally to a few minutes perhaps half a dozen times a year. If you feel that it's a good idea, please don't leave it to other people – we need your help. E-mail a few details about yourself to me at "postmaster.gp-f81021@nhs.net" and I'll put you on the provisional list.

We are still dishing out flu jabs at a furious rate, but there are a surprising number of people who don't seem to be taking the threat seriously this

winter. Just because the government isn't running an advertising campaign this year, it doesn't mean that there won't be an epidemic. Don't forget that if you catch flu, even if it doesn't kill you, it can make you very, very ill for several weeks. Also, if you catch it, you'll probably pass it on to your nearest and dearest – husband, wife, kids, grandchildren, neighbours – you owe it to them to make sure that you are protected to ensure that you don't cause them to suffer. We expect to have plenty of vaccine available this year, so book yours now. If you are in the government's target groups, the jab is free and you would be mad to ignore the protection that it will bring.

Whilst on the subject, if you are unfortunate enough to catch flu, or even just a bad cold, please don't bring it into the surgery. Stay at home so that you don't spread your germs. Drink plenty of fluids and use over the counter remedies from your pharmacy to help ease the symptoms. Both flu and colds are caused by viruses and we still can't do anything at all to cure them. Antibiotics won't help one little bit and the more you use them unnecessarily now, the less effective they will be when you genuinely need them. Please don't try to talk the doctor into prescribing them if he/she says that they aren't appropriate.

The surgery will be closed from the evening of Friday, 23rd December until 8.00am on Wednesday, 28th, then again from Friday 30th until 8.00am on Tuesday, 3rd January. During those times, **urgent** medical care can be accessed from Harmoni by ringing the normal surgery number. As ever, **minor injuries** can be dealt with at the special units at Clacton and Harwich hospitals. The Walk-in Centre at the Primary Care Centre building on Turner Road, Colchester will be open to deal with people who are **ill but well enough to travel**. Finally, for genuine, **life-threatening emergencies**, A&E will be open at Colchester General. Please don't put yourself through using it if one of the other options will do the job though. Staff there will be far too busy coping with really serious cases to attend to tummy-aches, hangovers, bumps and abrasions – you won't be welcome and it'll be a long wait.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager



October incidents in Great Bromley

Assault - Chase Road

Burglary Other - Hall Road

Hare Coursing - Ardleigh Road

Criminal Damage - Frating Road - (Car Damaged)

Animal - Brook Street - (Loose Horse)
Chapel Row - (Nuisance Dog)

Suspicious Circumstances - Back Lane East

Nuisance Neighbour - Back Lane East

RTC - Harwich Road

November News Letter

Lights on!

As the autumn nights draw in it's time to think about the burglar out there and not leaving them "tell tale" signs that your home is empty and vulnerable. The art of illusion is to try and make it look as though your home is occupied even though you are not there. Provide that first impression to the "would be" burglar that this house is occupied, it looks too difficult to get into and that if they do try there is a good chance they will get their collar felt!

Lighting

If your house is overlooked and there is the chance of burglars being seen they will prefer to go elsewhere, so get some decent lighting on your house. Dusk till dawn activated lighting on the front and rear with energy saving bulbs, not only deters the burglar but you can see who is at your door or around your home, and also when you return home you have a welcoming light.

Is there clear unobstructed access to the rear?

Burglars will prefer to gain access out of sight at the rear. Where possible fence and gate access to rear gardens, top this with some trellis or spiky toppings (the spiky topping requires a warning notice). How about some defensive planting, what's this you ask.....something like Berberus, Pyracantha or Hawthorn around perimeter fencing or anything else you wish to protect i.e. domestic fuel tank (some garden centres sell more established plants).

The illusion

Try to make it look similar to when you are there - table lamps inside on timers (don't use energy saving bulbs with digital timers it shortens the life of the bulb) or use a "dusk till dawn" sensor (bulbs are now available with a built in sensor), a radio on a talking programme, it all helps. You can even buy a device now called "Fake TV" that mimics the light from a television. **DO NOT** leave Christmas tree lights on though as they can be a fire risk.

Out and about?

For a little extra confidence consider carrying a personal attack alarm, many come with a torch and are quite cheap from DIY stores, internet etc. Most of all be aware of your surroundings, avoid concentrating on mobile phones and music devices whilst out and about.

We have received reports regarding cold calling in Essex.

The first one is where a male cold calls offering to fit cheap alarms to windows and doors. Secondly we have had reports of traders offering to fix roof and guttering. In both cases the consumers has ended up being overcharged and have been left with a shoddy job.

We urge you not to take up these offers and only use an approved trader i.e. :

<http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/sitepages/bwchome.aspx>

Les Barnes PCSO 71909

EARLY NOTICE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTONS

Tendring residents are being given plenty of early notice of arrangements for their waste and recycling collections over the festive period. Collections will be managed in the normal way so as to reduce the impact on homes.

Tendring District Council (TDC), working with its contractor Veolia Environmental Services, considered all options and will keep disruption to an absolute minimum over the period from December 26 through to January 8.

The majority of people will get their collections the day after it would normally take place; therefore those visited on a Tuesday will be collected on Wednesday and so on, and those on Friday collected on Saturday. However, those who usually have a collection on a Monday will not receive one on Christmas week (December 26) as this is a Bank Holiday but will get a double collection on Tuesday January 2.

Nick Turner, TDC's Cabinet Member for the Environment, said that every possible combination had been considered.

"We have made sure that as many residents as possible get their one collection each week, albeit on the following day to normal. However, we have had to also take into account waste and recycling tipping arrangements with Essex County Council as we cannot make a collection if there are no sites open to take the materials."

Clr Turner apologised to those minority of homes which will not get a collection for two weeks and one day due to their normal collection being on a Monday but said there was no way round the situation. "I would ask residents to bear with us and only put bags and recycling out on the morning they will be collected. Together we can help to keep the District's streets as clean and tidy as possible over the festive period."

All the Council's 80 recycling bank sites will be open over the festive season which allows residents to recycle their glass bottles, cans, textiles and paper. Free disposal and recycling of all household waste is available at Essex County Council's Recycling Centres.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS 2011/2012



Normal Day of Collection	Revised Day of Collection
December 2011	
Monday 19th	Usual Collection
Tuesday 20th	Usual Collection
Wednesday 21st	Usual Collection
Thursday 22nd	Usual Collection
Friday 23rd	Usual Collection
Monday 26th	No Collection
Tuesday 27th	Wednesday 28th
Wednesday 28th	Thursday 29th
Thursday 29th	Friday 30th
Friday 30th	Saturday 31st
January 2012	
Monday 2nd	Tuesday 3rd
Tuesday 3rd	Wednesday 4th
Wednesday 4th	Thursday 5th
Thursday 5th	Friday 6th
Friday 6th	Saturday 7th

Normal collections will resume week commencing Monday 9th January 2012

Please remember that both refuse and recyclable materials are collected each week from all domestic properties in the Tendring District.

Please store your waste within the boundary of your property until it is due for collection.

THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

Dear Friends,

1976 was a difficult year. On the night of January 2nd the Vicar called to see my mother and I went to my bedroom to do some reading for next term's work. The vicar left and then I heard my mother call. We had an Aga cooker and each morning and evening it had to be topped up with anthracite. I had been doing this since I had been home because my mother was too weak, but she must have thought she would try to do it whilst I was studying. She had collapsed in the kitchen. I called the doctor and he examined her and said it was something to do with her heart and that she should see a specialist. This was not our usual doctor. He came the next morning at 11 a.m. and said there was nothing wrong with her. His last words to me on the doorstep were, "She will live a normal lifespan".

My mother's sister called to see her over the lunch period and after my mother had eaten scrambled egg on toast her sister left and went home. My mother then went to the toilet and I called up but there was no reply. She had managed to return to bed before she died. I called a neighbour who was a nurse to try to resuscitate her and then I called the doctor but it was obvious she had suffered a massive heart attack.

My mother was buried on January 7th 1976. It was a beautiful day, the sun shone. We had a Requiem Mass for the family early in the morning followed by a very large public funeral later that morning.

I spent most of my time seeing to the arrangements and comforting my father. I cried alone. I never really questioned her death. I seemed to have been prepared. Before the burial I felt my mother's presence very strongly as I looked everywhere for a white tablecloth for the reception afterwards which I eventually found. I can only think she guided me to a most unlikely place to

find it. Death I believe can never separate the bonds of love.

After my mother's death I returned to Oxford and the following year I graduated in Theology. During the summer of that year I visited the Holy Land for one month. I was based at St. George's College in Jerusalem and we studied "The Bible in its setting". This was a wonderful experience.

One of the many things we did was to visit the 'Field of the Shepherds' outside Bethlehem and then the Church of the Holy Nativity. I mention this now because when you read this we shall be drawing ever closer to Christmas. I pray that the joy of the shepherds and the message of the angels will fill your hearts and the hearts of those you love during this Christmas season and wish you all a very Happy New Year when the time comes.

With love, *Fr. Robert*

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Church of England Services

December

Sunday 4th	8.00am 10.30am 3-5.00pm 6.30pm	2nd Sunday of Advent Eucharist Parish Eucharist Messy Church Christingle Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. Mary's School, Ardleigh</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 11th	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Advent Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 18th	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	4th Sunday of Advent Eucharist Parish Eucharist Readings and Carols	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Friday, 23rd	6.30pm	Carols	<i>St. Mary's, Little Bromley</i>
Saturday, 24th	4.00pm 5.30pm 11.30pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service for Children Crib Service for Children Midnight Mass	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Benefice Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

January

Sunday 1st	8.00am 10.30am	2nd Sunday of Christmas Eucharist Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 8th	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	Epiphany Sunday Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 15th	8.00am 10.30am	2nd Sunday of Epiphany Eucharist Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 22nd	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Epiphany Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 29th	8.00am 10.30am	The Presentation of Christ - Candlemas Eucharist Parish Eucharist with Laying-on-of-Hands and Anointing	<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.