

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2013

Volume 27 No 10



LITTLE BROMLEY AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Litter pick - held on 10th November - thanks to all the people who came along to help - there wasn't just me as in the picture but about a dozen volunteers - who collected 27 bags of rubbish, a car bumper and fridge door! After our exertions we all retired to The Haywain where Dawn had laid on hot refreshments for us! Next litter pick is planned for March/April next year - details to be decided in January.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas Quiz held at the Haywain on 1st December on behalf of the Little Bromley Amenities Group. Thanks to Dawn for providing the prizes and to everyone for helping with the buffet and raffle prizes. It was a good night and we hope to hold more quiz nights next year. Watch this space.



THE FIRST PAGE



As I write it is cold and snowing outside with flocks of birds in the garden feeding at the bird table. Everywhere looks fresh and beautiful with the added bonus that no-one is racing at silly speeds in their car down the lane.

Only a very short time ago we were complaining about how much rain was falling. The ditches were full, gardens and fields saturated and many people suffering from their properties being flooded. On page 9 there is a questionnaire for Lt Bromley residents on the subject of flooding and Lt Bromley parish council would like to receive your replies to the questions posed.

Still on the subject of water, Gt Bromley parish council is hiring a coach to take parishioners to Chelmsford for the Manning Grove Reservoir Appeal Hearing. See page 2 for full details.

Lt Bromley parish council are again looking for a new parish clerk. Details of what the job entails and how to apply can be found on page 7.

I have a loyal band of contributors who each month send me information, stories, reports etc of all things to do with village life. One such contributor was Frank Griffiths who has decided the time has come to hang his fork in the potting shed, put the wheelbarrow away and retire from his monthly sharing of his extensive knowledge and advice in the garden and vegetable patch. His 'what to do next month' column will be sadly missed and on behalf of you all I would like to thank Frank for his years contributing to the Messenger.

Lastly, a huge 'Well Done' to Henry Fairley who has won one of Tendring's Unsung Community Hero awards. There is not much that Henry has not done for Great Bromley over the years and I think I can speak for you all that we are very grateful.

February is the month when St Valentine became synonymous with 14th February as Valentine's Day. It seems the day became associated with romantic love during the High Middle Ages. By the 15th century it had evolved to an occasion when one gave flowers, sweets and sent greetings cards to those we love - much as we do today. Aren't traditions lovely?!

Leonie Henderson

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Reservoir on land adjacent to Manning Grove, Carringtons Road, Great Bromley

The appeal against Essex County Council's refusal to grant planning permission for the reservoir at Manning Grove is to be considered by the Planning Inspectorate at a public hearing in Chelmsford on Tuesday 19th February. The hearing will take place in the Picture Room at Shire Hall, Tindall Square, Chelmsford commencing at 10am.

The appellants and Essex County Council have made written representations to the Inspector and a large number of parishioners from Great and Little Bromley and from Ardleigh have also written. The details of the submissions by the appellants and Essex County Council are available on the Parish Council website at <http://www.gbpc.org.uk/>.

The County Council's submission is very comprehensive and provides robust support for their decision to refuse planning permission. Nonetheless, parishioners can support the refusal by attending the hearing. Parking can be hard to find and expensive so a coach from Talisman Coaches has been arranged at a concessional rate. Our thanks to them.

Coach to Chelmsford for Reservoir Appeal Hearing

Cost £6 per head

Please book your seats by contacting Richard Perry (preferably by email, please) at perrybr@btinternet.com. If you have no email access, please ring Richard on 01206 230537. Note that payment will be required in advance. When we know how many people wish to take up the offer, we will arrange pick up times and places

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

GT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Firstly, on behalf of the Parish Council, we would like to wish you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Of particular importance this month is the fact that the Planning Appeal Committee are due to hear the Carrington Reservoir Appeal at the County Council Offices in Chelmsford on 19th February. The Parish Council are organising a coach to attend this hearing - please see on opposite page for further details. I am sure you will agree that the more people who attend to show their objections, the better.

The first Speedwatch programme took place before Christmas which proved successful with a number of drivers being warned. The equipment is currently being calibrated and we hope to re-start the programme shortly. We are always looking for volunteers to help so if you do have some spare time please get in touch.

SPEEDWATCH

You may have noticed that some of the trees adjacent to the Village Hall have been removed. Sadly these were diseased

and deemed unsafe. It has also been recommended that some of the other trees nearby be removed for the same reason. The Parish Council intend to re-plant these trees in the Spring and the project is being managed by the Village Tree Warden, Colonel Frostick.



Lastly, the Parish Council will, with immediate effect, be publishing its income and expenditure sheet on the Council web-site. This will be updated monthly.

Our next meeting will take place at the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th February at 19.30. Members of the public are warmly invited.

Laura Austin
Clerk@gbpc.org.uk

Great Bromley Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Great Bromley Parish Council is looking to re-tender its Grounds Maintenance Contract, which includes grass and hedge cutting for the period 1st April – 31st March 2013.

If you would like to tender for this contract please express an interest to either the chairman chairman@gbpc.org.uk or the clerk clerk@gbpc.org.uk.

A tender pack will be sent to you detailing the scope of the contract. The closing date for completed tenders is 28th February 2013 with a start date of 1st April 2013.

Alan Thomas
Chairman Great Bromley Parish Council

Co-option To Council

Great Bromley Parish Council are very pleased to announce that Kate Strowbridge has been co-opted to join the Parish Council. Kate is well known in the community, she has lived in the village for 13 years and was until recently the Nurse Practitioner at Ardleigh Surgery. Kate lives in Ardleigh Road Great Bromley.

I am sure that Kate will make an excellent parish councillor and I am delighted that she is joining us on the council

Alan Thomas, Chairman, Great Bromley Parish Council

The centenary of the First World War

In July 2014 it will be the centenary of the start of the First World War, which lasted for four years and saw 16 million people killed.

Great Bromley Parish Council would like to mark this event in two ways, firstly by carrying out some works around the War Memorial which commemorates the fallen of the village and in organising an event to mark this historic centenary.

The council would like to consult on both of these activities, so if you have any ideas that you would like to see implemented on or around the War Memorial or you have an idea for an event to commemorate this event please let the chairman chairman@gbpc.org.uk or the parish clerk clerk@gbpc.org.uk know.

A small budget has been identified to allow these ideas to be developed during 2014.

Grants available to village organisations

Great Bromley Parish Council are able to make small grants to local organisations in order to support them in community activity within Great Bromley.

If your group or organisation would like to apply for a grant then please contact the chairman chairman@gbpc.org.uk or the clerk clerk@gbpc.org.uk, setting out how much you would like, some brief details of what the grant is for and how much the total project will cost.

The allocation of the grants will be made at the March meeting to be held on Wednesday March 13th at 7:30 at the Village Hall.

The Parish Council will publish the organisations which receive a grant, the project title and the value of the grant

*Alan Thomas,
Chairman Great Bromley Parish Council*

KITCHEN CORNER

When I was in Wiltshire recently I was talking to my daughter-in-law's helper and we exchanged ideas about country food and our farming background. One of her favourite memories was of the apple crumble cake which her grandmother used to make. So I decided to try one as she had described and it was delicious! Really quick and easy too.

Apple Crumble Cake

For the sponge base:

2oz SR flour
2oz butter
2oz caster sugar
1 egg

Filling:

1 very large Bramley apple, peeled, cored and sliced

Topping:

6oz flour

3oz butter
2oz sugar

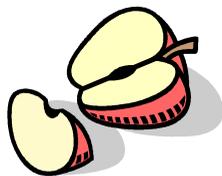
I used a 16cm spring form loose bottom cake tin. Grease well, make up the sponge base in the usual way and spread over the base of the tin. Cover this with the thinly sliced apple, then top with the crumble mix and sprinkle with a little demerara sugar, if liked.

Bake at 180°C for 30-40 minutes till nicely golden brown. Let it cool a little before releasing the sides and serve with custard or cream.

When cold and set you can serve it as cake.

Makes 4 large portions.

Jill Frostick



LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY – CLERK

Little Bromley is a rural parish with a population in the region of 200. We have 5 councillors and a precept of £3600. The Parish Council is updating its working practices and as such requires an enthusiastic person with good IT knowledge. Candidates should have excellent oral and written communication skills and be able to confidently speak, send letters or emails to local government departments and agencies as required.

Duties include:

- Attendance at all formal meetings and preparation of agendas and minutes.
- Dispatching promptly all notices, letters, emails and other documents as the business of the council requires and other documents of or concerning the Council.
- Dealing with all the correspondence that comes to the Parish Council.
- Keeping safe, secure and accessible custody of all deeds, plans, records, letter writings and other documents of or concerning the Council.
- Monitoring actions/decisions of the Parish Council and advising the Council on its statutory duties and regulatory requirements regarding its activities.
- Liaising with other agencies eg. EALC, Tendring District Council and other societies.
- Managing the Councils financial

accounts including keeping accurate records for presentation each month at the meeting, preparation of year end accounts and submitting them for internal and external audit. Previous experience of bookkeeping is essential.

The vacancy is for Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer and will be for approx 4 hours per week.

The candidate should ideally live close to the Parish of Little Bromley since knowledge of the community and local issues are important. Experience of working as a clerk or within local government would be preferred.

The candidate needs to be computer literate in Microsoft packages i.e. Word and Excel and proficient at e-mail.

An hourly rate in accordance with nationally agreed conditions is payable, as well as mileage, office expenses and a small allowance for home office use.

There is an expectation that if not already held, the clerk will work towards the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiCLA), as training will be available.

For further information or to apply please contact Mr Steve Wilcox Chairman on 01206395646 or email sjwrc208@aim.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is 14 March 2013.

CRIME IN LITTLE BROMLEY

Whilst the number of crimes in the parish of Little Bromley is still small, perhaps one or two per month on average, parishioners should be aware that there has been an increase in crime in the village over the last few months. This increase is reflected elsewhere in Tendring.

Most of the crimes involve theft of property

from private houses but there has been one serious assault on a parishioner whilst working in the parish. In times of economic hardship it is usual to see an increase in crime and in particular theft from property and “muggings”.

Crimes can be committed at any time of the day and not just in the “early hours” or while people are at work; at



least one crime in Shop Road, Little Bromley, occurred early evening around 5.30 – 6.00pm. We are a small community and it's important that we all remain vigilant at all times and try and protect our neighbours as well as ourselves from becoming the victims of crime.

To report an incident, you can contact the police by dialling 101; in an emergency dial 999.

(Note an **emergency** situation is where there is a crime or serious incident in progress, a serious risk of injury or a serious risk of damage to property).

If you are interested in improving the security of your property, then contact the police and ask to speak to the local crime prevention officer. Insurance companies often give free advice on how to improve security, particularly on their websites. Simple things will help to deter criminals such as leaving lights and a radio "on" when you leave the house and ensure all windows and doors are locked.

Little Bromley Parish Council will be discussing with the local police to understand what can be done to stop crime in the parish and what advice is available to parishioners.



FLOODING IN LITTLE BROMLEY

If you live in the parish of Little Bromley and you have suffered the misery of having your house or garden flooded in recent years, then the Parish Council would like to hear from you!

We are grateful to those landowners who have recently cleared some ditches in the parish and this has improved the flow of water and so reduced the risk of flooding in some parts of the parish, but there maybe more we can do.

The Parish Council is aware that some houses and gardens in the parish are affected by flooding but is not sure exactly which ones they are or how often they have been flooded.

We are aware that some people may not wish to divulge sensitive data about their property, so we are asking people to answer as many of the questions below as they are prepared to (or able to) but hope that the minimum data provided will be, the road they live in and details of the flooding.

The Parish Council wishes to collect data that will help it have meaningful dialogue with Essex County Council (who is responsible for drainage in the parish) and landowners to improve the situation in the village. All data collected will be kept confidential.

Please send the information to Sandra Shute the Parish Clerk. Her contact details are as follows:- Dewberry, Shop Road, Little Bromley, CO11 2PX
Email: sandra.shute@btinternet.com
Tel: 01206 396767

FLOODING QUESTIONNAIRE:

Name:

House number or name:

Road:

How often have your garden / sheds flooded in the last 10 years or since you have lived there (which ever is the longer)?

How deep was the water?

How often has your house / garage flooded in the last 10 years or since you have lived there (which ever is the longer)?

How deep was the water?

How much did it cost to repair the damage / replace damaged goods?

Any additional Information:

Thank you for your time.

UNSUNG COMMUNITY HEROES OF TENDRING HENRY FAIRLEY

Unsung community heroes from across Tendring have once again been honoured in an annual award scheme.

The 20 recipients of the Pride of Tendring Awards – held for the first time last year – was announced on 1 January 2013. The announcement will be followed by a special ceremony at Clacton's Princes Theatre on 8th February when the recipients will be recognised and presented with their accolades.

The initiative is aimed at highlighting those people from all walks of life who make a real difference to others in the community.

The awards are run by Tendring District Council (TDC), are sponsored by Dong Energy and have the support of the Clacton, Frinton and Walton Gazette and the Harwich and Manningtree Standard.

Tendring District Councillors had the opportunity to put forward their nominations which represent a host of organisations throughout the area and which include men and women of all ages who do so much good work in, and for, their communities and are richly deserving of these accolades.

TDC Chairman Danny Mayzes said that he is delighted to be continuing with the Pride of Tendring Awards, which had their inauguration last year, and that the concept of recognising the achievements of individual residents in the District is a fitting one to help celebrate what is good about

Tendring.

Cllr Mayzes praised and thanked Dong Energy for sponsoring the awards again and also thanked the Gazette and Standard for also coming on board and giving their support.

Henry Fairley

Henry Fairley, his wife and family moved to Great Bromley in 1966. He is a farmer and



almost immediately he was co-opted to Great Bromley Parish Council. He served for 40 years, including Chairman for 13 consecutive years.

Mr Fairley served as a Great Bromley Village Hall Trustee for over 20 years, was Great Bromley Tree Warden for many years and also served on Hare Green playing field



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

Head teacher: Julie O'Mara
Telephone: 01206 230305



As part of our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) topic, the whole school participated in

wonderful music teacher and director, Mrs Bridle. We all loved taking part in 'Oliver', Children from all the classes took part. Year 6 pupils really got into their roles and performed extremely well. I thought Oliver, played by Daisie performed her solo really well and Class 1 and 2 did such a good job in their dances. Class 3 sang brilliantly as the choir and being part of Fagin's gang. Thank you to all those who came to watch our performances, I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Luke Harris
(Chairman of the School Council)

National Anti-bullying Week towards the end of last term.

Children learnt about the different types of bullying and, most importantly, what they should do if they witness or are a victim of bullying. Each class shared their work during the assembly last Friday. This included beautiful friendly hand collages and a friendship song from the children in Class 1. Class 2 made very informative Anti-bullying posters. Class 3 also designed Anti-bullying posters which will be displayed in the school corridors. Children in Class 4 read a selection of friendship poems and acted out a short play about cyber-bullying. The school has a very clear definition of bullying:

Bullying behaviour is defined as deliberate hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time.

We invited PCSO Robert Diss into school to talk to children in Years 5 and 6 about internet safety.

Our Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy can be found on the school's website, along with our school rules

We had a fantastic last few weeks of term, the highlight of course was our Christmas production – Oliver!

I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make our school play so brilliant especially to our

The children were delighted to have two very generous cheques presented to them at an assembly on Tuesday 11 December. They were presented by Jacquie, Hannah and Zoe who work at Capita Insurance Services in Colchester. They kindly nominated our school as one of their charities this year and raised an amazing £400 towards our spiritual garden project and also sponsored new kit for our football team. Thank you so much.

A huge thank you to all those from our school who helped to support the Colchester Fire Swim by participating, helping and sponsoring. We are delighted to say that we have raised £800 for the charity.

Well done!





Little Dragons Pre-School

Great Bromley & Frating

Ofsted Inspected

Website: www.littledragonspreschool.org

Email: littledragonspreschool@gmail.com

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

Children 2-5 years. Monday – Friday 9am- 3.30pm (extended session available until 4.00pm)

Breakfast club for preschool age 8.00am -9.00am

Breakfast club for St George's children 8.00am-8.45am (and a walking bus to school)

After school club for St George's children 3.00pm – 5.30pm

For more details/ visits please contact us on 0785 7503103

Happy New Year. It's a great start to the New Year for us and very exciting as WE HAVE MOVED! We are pleased to announce that Little Dragons Preschool has moved into our new premises at Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, Gt. Bromley.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all the support and help we have received from friends, local businesses and the community. The response has been incredible and we couldn't have done it without your generosity. THANK YOU.

We held an open day on 11th January which was very well attended; the faces of the children as they walked in was priceless and made all the hard work worthwhile.

We opened for business on Tuesday 15th January. As this was a week later than the official start of term we will remain open for the half term week beginning 18th February.

We would like to welcome Roisin, Reuben and Jake who will be joining us this term and hope you enjoy your time with us.

A Breakfast Club is available – see times above. Children will be able to choose from a range of healthy foods, including fresh fruit, yoghurts, cereal, toast and fresh juices. From £3.90.

The after school club will be starting in April.

We take children from the age of two years and offer a 'home visit' to families of children prior to them starting Pre-school.

This gives the child the opportunity to meet their key-person in their own home, aiding the transition stage to pre-school. It also enables us to collect and share information in a confidential environment.

For further information or to arrange a visit to the setting please contact us on the above number.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 18th February (half term week)

WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Monday 15th April

After School Clubs begin

GT BROMLEY CRICKET CLUB

100 Club Winners

November

- 1st Mrs Lisa Davis
- 2nd Mr. Bryan Wright
- 3rd Mr. Andy Pirie

December

- 1st. Mr. Bill Kempster
- 2nd. Mr. Joe Richardson
- 3rd. Mr. David Goss

THANKS

Kate Strowbridge would like to say thank you to all those of you who were interested in joining a 100 Club for the village hall but, sadly, that there has not been enough interest to make it possible to run the 100 club.

RESEARCHING THE PAST

My hobby is a mix of great fun and frustration. For the past few years I have been trying to carry out my researches on all things Great and Little Bromley from as far away as I could get – New Zealand! This has meant, on my almost annual summer visits back to England, a frantic chase around to meet with people to hear their story or see their photos. Enforced cancellations at times resulted in disappointment and a long wait for another chance to meet. It has been frustrating wanting to look something up in a book or document located in the wrong country. This is all about to change as I am moving back to these shores, looking forward to being 'on the ground' later in the year and able to move my research up a notch. Last year I shared with you my disappointment when John Appleby revealed he had disposed of this post card collection, thought to have been dispersed forever. It turns out that John had not done so. After his death, his son Roger sorted the belongings of his Great Horkesley home and found what looks like almost the whole collection together with other artifacts from our Bromleys. Roger and his brothers very kindly gave me first refusal on these and I have purchased them for safe keeping.

This means the long awaited Little Bromley postcards book can at last be progressed! It is a shame that John didn't write down his insights into each of them; the wording becomes a job for me. I will be trying to track down further photos and information to go with all the images, so some of you can expect a call... I would

also greatly welcome contact from anyone who has old cards which I may not have seen and that they can let me copy.

Online research

The online tools available for family and village history are getting better all the time. The 1911 Census has been available for a year now, being the first that was recorded in the house-holders' own handwriting (rather than being written by the census taker). I have been poking around in it, and smile at the addresses listed: "Next to Post Office", "Near New House" to make the detective work somewhat interesting. There are several houses listed in "Great Heath" – do we presume they had a fire, to make it Burnt Heath? That's something to look into unless someone already knows the answer.

It is frustrating to think that we need to wait 8 more years until the 1921 census is publicly released, and there will be a very long wait after that for the next – the 1931 census was entirely destroyed by an accidental fire during the war, and a 1941 census couldn't of course occur.

Did you know?

There is a Big Bromley ski resort on Bromley Mountain in Peru... and that particular Peru is in Vermont, USA!

Do you know?

The origins of "Shakey" as a nickname (as in Shakey Cobbold)?

© Hugh Frostick 2013



GREAT BROMLEY POST OFFICE at The Cross Inn

Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TL

Telephone: 01206 231073

Mon/Tues: 9.30am-2.00pm Wed/Thurs/Fri: 10.00am - 2.00pm

Sat : 9.00am-midday

- Please note that there is now a wide selection of cards and wrapping paper available.
- A dry cleaning service is also available.

Please ask for details at the counter.

2013 EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 6 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 7 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 9 Flower Festival meeting, St George's church (Fryerning if cold) 10.30am
- 13 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 19 Manning Grove Reservoir Hearing, Shire Hall, Chelmsford, 10.00am
- 24 A.P.C.M., St George's church, 11.45am

MARCH

- 1 Women's World Day of Prayer, St George's church, 10.30am
- 5 Village Hall Trustees committee meeting, Village Hall, 8.00pm
- 9 Table Top Sale, Village Hall, 10.00am
- 23 Gala Concert, St Botolphs church, Colchester, 7.30pm

APRIL

- 24 Village Hall A.G.M., Village Hall, 8.00pm

MAY

JUNE

- 1-2 Little Bentley Hall Waterways and Garden Show
- 28-30 Flower Festival, St George's church

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Julian Smith from "Britain's Got Talent", St George's church, 7.30pm
- 22 Harvest Festival and Lunch, St George's church

OCTOBER

- 19 Essex on Tour production, Village Hall

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

- 7 St Nicholas Fayre Village Hall (To be confirmed)

JANUARY 2014

- 25 Essex on Tour production, Village Hall

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

- 26 Essex on Tour production, Village Hall





GT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

2013 Events

TABLE TOP SALE

9th March 2013

Great Bromley Village Hall from 10.00 a.m.

Tables £5 (6ft)

Ideas: Produce, Crafts, Unwanted Gifts, Cakes, Advertising,
2nd Hand Clothes - cast offs, Plants, Books, Toys, Jewellery

Make New Year Money - Keep Your Takings

Please contact: Jacquie Terry 01206 230 490 to book tables

Village Hall AGM

24th April

8.00pm

LAWFORD VENTURE CENTRE

Valentines Dinner Dance

3 Course Meal

Saturday 16th February 2013

7 for 7.30 till 12.00

Dancing to **The Spiderz**

Charity Raffle for Gateway

Tickets **£30.00** per head

Call Linda Pinhey on

01206230126

Papworth Trust

Fun United Holiday Club

Fun United is a Holiday Club for disabled young people aged between eleven and eighteen. Fun United is open during all school holidays from 10.00am to 3.00pm at the Venture Centre 2000, Lawford. The Holiday Club costs £5.00 for the day and it is a great way to meet new friends, enjoy fun activities such as sports, arts and crafts, wii games, dancing, cooking and much more. Places must be booked so for more information and to book you place, please contact Gayle Kiff on 07891 006522

BRANTHAM LEISURE CENTRE

Saturday, 23rd February 2013

Family Disco

Fundraising for the Brantham Girls
London Half Moonwalk (13.1 miles) in

May

All proceeds to breast cancer

This will be a ticket only event - only 120

tickets available from Cheryl Spooner

07546408436

There will be a raffle and a charity
bucket

Moonwalkers: Claire Hartley, Louise

Madley, Louise Mower

Julie Percival, Julie Hammerton,

Sarah Rowland, Rachael Mann,

Marianne Faux Brookwell and Cheryl
Spooner

Exercise to Music

starting on the 14th January 2013

2.00 – 3.00pm

Whether you come on your own or with a friend, daughter or mum, you will be welcome. If you want to find out more please get in touch with Laura barefootetm@gmail.com or phone 01394 279527...07767062223

Two for the price of one this month (or a BOGOF). In December we celebrated as a group by enjoying a Christmas meal at one of the local pubs in the village. After a very enjoyable meal we were treated to a very interesting talk from Lesley, a relative of one of our members. Lesley is a trained psychiatric nurse and is now working for the army in Colchester helping and counselling soldiers who have returned from active service. This is a very challenging job but Lesley is very committed and enjoys her work very much. None of us was really aware what this entailed and were very surprised at what might trigger a soldier to drop to the ground when he might hear a loud bang (for example a car back firing can trigger untold memories). Instead of sending Christmas cards to each other we collected the money and donated it to 'Help the Heroes' via Lesley.

January saw a very different talk from Chris & Christine of "Hedgehog Haven" who are both retired police officers from the "Met". They started the charity in 2007 and are very donation reliant. They explained that any hedgehog that was found wandering in daylight needed help and this was where they came in. They are based in Frinton but also have a lady in Colchester and they all work together.

Any injured or sick hedgehog is wintered at their centre until April and then released back into the wild in a safe environment, always a male and female together in the hope they will reproduce. Their natural

habitat is hedgerows, but their main problem is that they will eat anything, including slug pellets which will kill. One amazing fact is that hedgehogs can climb so when they fall their spines act as a cushion and protect them (they have 5,000 spines). It is very rare for them to have fleas, but if there is the odd one they only live on a hedgehog as they are not transferable; if fleas manage to lay eggs on an open wound they will lay eggs which turn to maggots and need urgent treatment. They can also have ticks which need treatment.

The main threat to hedgehogs are humans and the motor car, the only natural predator is the badger no others exist. Also black bin bags can be a nuisance as hedgehogs think they are a warm place to sleep and also to find food, so when putting bags out please make sure the tops are tied and hedgehog unable to gain entry, otherwise they will go to sleep and the find themselves thrown on the rubbish cart. The costs per year are very high eg Feed, £2,000-£2,200, Medication £2,000, Cleaning Materials £300-£400 pa. Hedgehog Haven has a very sympathetic vet for consultation, but they do need to charge for medication so all donations are gratefully received at all times.

This was a very enlightening talk and extremely interesting, at the end Chris read a poem about the Hedgehog from one of Pam Ayers books - brilliant !!

Joy Rolfe



VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

Happy New Year everyone and hoping you all

enjoyed the Christmas Season. The days are now getting longer and spring will be here before we know it. We hope!

Mike Corduff has completed the oil tank work making the whole area much more secure and after two thefts last year this is great news. The whole effect looks great and should discourage any thieves.

The Christmas Fayre went ahead on Saturday 1st December. The day went well with good takings but the children numbers were disappointing especially with a great deal of work having been put in particularly for them. The takings this year were £1,097.30 divided between the Village Hall and the W.I. 50/50. I am sure you will agree a great result. Well done Filipe and all involved with making the day such a great success.

Next year the social side looks a bit like this:

Quiz night - 19th January book your place with Jane Bateson on 01206 230529

Table Top Sale - 9th March from 10am to 1pm in the Main Hall

Village Hall AGM on 24th April at 8pm

Still in the planning stage are a Race night mid April, Whist Drive in May and still being

looked at are Film Nights, Visiting Plays and a Murder Mystery night.

Work on all the toilets will start early February. This will not affect hirers but it will radically change all the toilets. The ladies will be much lighter and brighter and the gents will be nearly unrecognisable. New floors in all three of the toilets, lighting that switches itself on and off as you enter and leave. Extra storage cupboard in the ladies too. Doors and not curtains any longer. The floor in the main hall is being re-sealed mid January too. This is a bit over due and has to be done from time to time.

24th April is the Village Hall AGM and Fred will be leaving his post as our chairman. He was going to leave last year but we had so many new committee members he agreed to stay on for one more year only to help the new members bed in. We need a new chairman. Fred will be a hard act to follow but the vacancy does need to be filled as there is no chance at all of Fred staying on for another year. So who is up for it?

That's all for now, as always thank you for your support. Let's all make the most of Great Bromley Village Hall in 2013 and lets start to look forward to warmer weather

Next Committee meeting Tuesday 5th March at **8:00pm**. As always all welcome.

STOP PRESS

Great Bromley Village Hall have been invited by Essex On Tour Organisation to be involved in a Touring Theatre Circuit. With three other venues. Our last involvement with Essex on Tour was "Drop Dead Divas"

We will host three Essex on Tour productions on 19th October 2013, 25th January and 26th April 2014.

All three productions will be by a

professional company and it is anticipated be partly funded by the Arts Council.

We will have to wait for what productions will be put on in the Village Hall, however the price of tickets will be capped at £10 per ticket.

It is hoped that the village will support the three productions, all different, full details should be known in June.

A PLEA

This is a plea to all cat owners in Little Bromley. There appear to be a number of non-neutered cats in the village which regularly produce litters in and around many of our gardens. Currently, I am feeding four one-year-olds who live in my patch, and came across a tiny, feral kitten only yesterday.

The cat rescue establishments are full to overflowing and are unable to take any more strays.

Catching ferals is tricky and not without risk as they are frightened and extremely fierce! Assuming they are caught, they then need to be neutered and have to be returned to the wild since no homes can be found. It goes without saying that they do not do well in this situation, especially as the weather worsens. Obviously, if allowed to roam unchecked, they will produce endless litters of their own. I no

longer work so have to meet the cost of feeding my garden ferals from my pension; the alternative is seeing them starve, or have them euthanized. In other words, those of us who care for our own pets are forced to take responsibility for the lack of care by others.

Please, if you know your cat is not neutered and you are not a dedicated breeder, have them sorted as soon as possible (they breed all year round!). Help with the cost is available if you claim benefits; or the Cats Protection (cp@cats.org.uk) run an assisted neutering scheme where vouchers can be obtained for free neutering of a feral. Alternatively, please contact Colchester Cat Rescue for more information.

Many thanks for your co-operation.
Lesley Barrell



TAILS FROM PRIMROSE FARM

Happy New Year from Primrose Farm. Well, it has rained and rained and rained, the water table is as high as it has ever been. The wildlife pond level that was very low last year is just a foot below ground level. We had several areas of flooding which is only now seeping down into the water table.

The kestrel is always seen hunting at the moment and sat perched on the edge of the barn just watching, waiting eagerly to pounce. There is barn owl activity again in and out of the barn owl boxes on the edge of Longcover Wood.

The pigs are enjoying the mild weather and are happy in the mud, although getting around the farm is difficult.

Looking at other farm shops in the area we are arranging to have Tony's fresh fish stall come on a regular basis with local caught fish. Tony fishes out of St Osyth and his wife Kerry sells at local farmers' markets.

I thought I would share a recipe that I found in the Ladies in Pigs recipe book. Ladies in Pigs are an organisation that was set up by pig farmers' wives to support the pig industry to support British Pork.

Karen Moss

Saucy Apricot Pork

1lb (450g) British Pork tenderloin or pork steaks.
1tbsp flour
Pepper
2 tbsp (30ml) oil,
1 medium onion, chopped
4oz (100g) streaky bacon chopped
2tbsp (30ml) brandy optional
411g can of apricots in fruit juice , chopped or pureed
¼ pt (150ml) double cream or crème fraiche
Chopped parsley.

1 Slice pork cutting diagonally across the grain. Season flour with pepper and lightly coat the pork with it.

2 Heat oil in a large frying pan and soften onion and bacon for about 3 minutes.

3 Add pork and cook for approx. 5 minutes. Remove from the pan and keep warm, covered with foil in dish

4 To make sauce : add brandy and stir juices to reduce slightly. Add apricots and reduce liquid by half until slightly syrupy. Add cream or cream fraiche and heat through.

5 Add sauce to pork dish and serve garnished with parsley.

6 Serving suggestion : serve with rice or pasta.

ESSEX POLICE



If you need to talk to me for any Police Community problems, you can contact me on 07967 466876, or 101 ex 487607 (free phone) or email me leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police please note if you leave a message I will try to reply to your call the day I am next on duty.
Les Barnes PCSO 71909

Incidents in Gt Bromley

November

Hare Coursing - Badley Hall Road
Abandoned Vehicle - Back Lane East
Theft - Harwich Road - (Court House PH,
Phone taken)

December

Burglary Other - Badley Hall Road -
(Shed broken into)
Suspicious Circumstances - Harwich
Road x 3 - (Young girl knocking on doors)
Theft from Motor Vehicle - Chase Road -
(Catalytic convertor taken)
RTC - Harwich Road x 2

PCSO LES BARNES 71909

Dear Residents

Happy New Year to you all. As I write Crime and antisocial behaviour continues to fall in your neighbourhood. But let's not rest. We know there are people out there who do not share our standards and think it is acceptable to break into our homes, building and vehicles. I simply ask you to consider your own security. A spates of thefts from vehicles in Brightlingsea were all from cars that were left insecure. Thieves are opportunists who will walk from vehicle to vehicle, house to house looking for the easy win.

Have a walk around your own property - make it safe and secure. Don't be a victim in 2013. If you would like some crime prevention advice we are more than willing to assist. Just call or e-mail me on 3030@essex.pnn.police.uk.

Kind regards
Police Sergeant 3030 Simon TATTERSALL

ST HELENA HOSPICE



St Helena Hospice
your time...your hospice

Hospice launches Pier to Pier walk for 2013

Sunday 24th March 2013 sees the return of our annual Pier to Pier sponsored walk, taking place between Clacton and Walton piers.

Pier to Pier involves either walking seven miles from Clacton Pier to Walton Pier or you can really go for it and walk there and back for a 14 mile challenge. Those walking the longer distance will start at 10am and those doing the seven mile walk will start at 11am.

The walk is open to everyone, whether you're walking for fun or in memory of a loved one, and registration is free. We are hoping that everyone will be able to raise some money through sponsorship for St Helena Hospice.

This year you can register online at www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/piertopier or alternatively call the Fundraising and Marketing Office on 01206 791740 for a paper form. Spaces on the walk are limited so register as soon as possible. Registration opens Thursday 31st January 2013 and closes at 5pm on Friday 15th March 2013.

THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

Gt Bentley Surgery

Well, everyone here survived Christmas and we are all now looking forward to longer daylight hours. I have to admit that walking the dogs is no fun during the week at the moment – always in the dark, not to mention the ever-present mud. The dogs don't seem to mind, but for me lighter mornings and evenings can't come soon enough.

Apologies to anyone who found getting their prescriptions around Christmas time a bit slow. For some reason it was frantically busy, and whilst we are now getting used to the new computer system, it still slowed us down. Maybe we will get better at it when we have a bit more experience of it.

On the subject of prescriptions, please may I remind everyone that we don't take prescription requests over the telephone. This is for two very good reasons, both of them basically to do with patient safety.

Firstly, when we did deal with things over the 'phone we used to get far too many wrong items issued. This was very wasteful, as once medication has left a pharmacy it can't be recycled if it is returned unwanted; it has to be destroyed. It was also potentially unsafe if patients didn't spot that they had received the wrong medication, as well as being very frustrating for the victims of errors who could end up without a supply of their regular medication for a day or two whilst things were put right.

Secondly, we simply can't cope with the number of calls involved. We do prescriptions for some 16,000 items per month these days and you can probably imagine the time that would be taken up dealing with telephone requests for even a small proportion of that number. We would be overwhelmed and sick people, perhaps needing rapid attention, would have problems getting through on the 'phone.

We do offer a number of other ways of putting in prescription requests, so please do use them.

- By e-mail to holliesprescriptions@nhs.net
- By fax to 01206 252496
- By post or delivery to the surgery
- Via the "Patient Access" system, which you can sign up for at the surgery then log into through the www.patient.co.uk website. (You can also make appointments via that site.)
- If you live in Little Clacton, there is a collection box in the Post Office on The Street.

If you are on the Repeat Dispensing scheme, you can get your next month's supply of medication simply by letting your pharmacy know when you want it – there is no need to contact the surgery unless a new batch of prescriptions is required or we have asked you to come for review.

We are nearly at the end of the flu jab season now and this year have given a record number. If you qualify for one, it's not too late to have it done as there is a bit of stock still available. Please ring to book an appointment soon though, because once the spare jabs have gone, that will be it for this winter.

The other vaccination which is well worth considering if you are aged 65 or over, or if you qualify for a free flu jab, is against pneumonia. We are about to start writing to people who really should have the jab, offering the chance to come in for one. Don't forget that pneumonia doesn't only strike during winter, and it can be a killer. For most people the jab is a "one off", no booster being required, which is always good news. If you know that you are entitled to the vaccination there is no need to wait for your invitation. Either ring and request an appointment, or ask about it next time you are in the surgery.

Finally for this month, if you have been rying to make 2013 the year in which you stop smoking but are finding it hard going, don't forget that we can help. We have a specially trained Smoking Cessation Adviser who works at the surgery each week, and she can organise access to the many really effective aids that there now are to help you quit. For many people, these can come free. Do give us a call if this is to be your year for kicking the habit. We can help you be healthier and wealthier – as well as stopping you smelling like an old ash-tray.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager, Great Bentley Surgery

The "Christmas" Box.

It's done a good turn again this year –
Still looks as good as new,
Pine needles on the carpet here?
No! Not even just a few.

The lights all twinkled merrily
New patterns every day.
But there was not a bulb to see
On our LED display

Glass baubles they have had their day
It's plastic all round now,
They won't break but bounce away
So science, take a bow.

And oh the tinsel, in sumptuous swathes
Of colours, every hue,
The children's bright, wide eyes enslaved
By such a wondrous view.

But we all know what they want most,
It's not our dear Queen's Speech,
And never mind the turkey roast –
The pressies are in reach!

Which one's for me – Oh aren't they all?
Excited words unspoken,
An iPod, yes, a mobile phone –
But not a Marks gift token!

When all is done, the pressies gone,
The kids have had their day,
We'll pack the bits up one by one
Until next Christmas day.

Into the "Christmas" box they'll go,
The tree, the lights, the tinsel,
And Santa's distant "Ho,ho,ho!"
Will echo?????

Don't it drive you mad when you just can't
find the last piece of the puzzle?
Now how am I going to finish my little
poem? Answers on a post card please....!

Well now, all that was just a not-so-vain
attempt (I hope!) to catch your eye and
your ear, so... -.

"Can I have a word?"

A stock phrase in a certain city soap?

Here's another (I love this one –talk about
"tosh!") *"I promise!"*

Well, I would like a word, if I may – and I
will make a promise, too:

The Word – well, words, actually, I would
like are: ***"Christmas Pressies"***.
Not just any Christmas Pressies, you
understand, but a particular kind of
Christmas Pressie.

What I am after is the *"Oh yes, thank you
dear, it's lovely"* (but, thinks: *"Oh dear, I
really don't think I can use this!"*)
Christmas Pressie. Still with me??

The Promise - is a firm, clear undertaking,
not to be instantly forgotten about (as per
Eastenders) or quietly dropped and
repackaged (as per Westminster) as
follows:

*"We at Seven Rivers do hereby solemnly
swear to ensure that any and all of your
unwanted Christmas Gifts will be re-
homed with the utmost care and
consideration for the future wellbeing of
said Gift, Article or Object."*

HELLO! Are you still there??

Oh good! So, if you should have any
unwanted artefacts arising out of your
Yuletide Gift Exchange, do please think of
us!

The lady to contact is Pauline Melton on
01206 230345 – thank you!

Colin File
Volunteer Newsletter Editor (and Director
of Drive!).

P.S. Happy New Year from all of us to all
of you!



THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

Ardleigh Surgery

Dr Bettle, who has been on sick leave for the past three months, returned to work at the beginning of January following a back operation.

This has obviously placed pressure on the surgery and the availability of appointments with the other partners and affecting continuity of care. We apologise that patients may have had problems in particular booking ahead to see the doctor of their choice. We had to run with a much higher level of 'same day' appointments. Fortunately we found some GP Locums to cover some of Dr Bettle's surgery sessions.

The disruption in the surgery had been compounded by the practice migrating to a new clinical computer system but with the support of the staff we have made good progress in implementing the new system. It is a much improved system in particular enabling clinicians to have a much more comprehensive view of the patient medical

history on the screen. However, owing to the way it is designed, some areas such as appointment booking and dispensing are taking staff longer to do.

We are sorry to advise that Practice Nurse Jo Gordon left on the 4 January to take up a new job with the MOD in the Garrison. Jo has enjoyed working at the surgery but has left for family reasons.

We have decided not to replace her. Nurse Practitioner Joy Harrison, will be working extra hours assisted by Health Care Assistant Jan Burgess who can undertake a wide range of 'practice nursing tasks'. Jan is in her final year in her studies with the Open University to qualify as a Practitioner in Primary Care.

We are planning to recruit a new Phlebotomist to take blood samples, thereby, allowing Jan Burgess more time to extend her role in the practice.

Fred Merrin, Practice Manager



NHS North Essex

Moves taken to encourage safer parking

MOVES are being taken to improve the safety of people parking at and visiting health

facilities in Colchester and Harwich.

From January 7, parking fines will be issued to people parking inappropriately in the car parks at the Colchester Primary Care Centre in Turner Road, Colchester and the Fryatt Hospital and Mayflower Medical Centre, Harwich.

Inappropriate parking includes parking in a disabled bay without a blue badge, on a double yellow line, on hatched lines or on the grass.

Jane Mower, Estates Operations Manager for NHS North Essex, said: "We have experienced problems at both sites with inappropriate parking causing a risk to pedestrians which have resulted in several near misses. At Fryatt Hospital we have received a letter from Harwich Town Council requesting something to be done due to cars obscuring the pedestrian crossing.

"As a result we are instigating fines. These will be £10 if paid within 10 days, increasing to £25 after 10 days. The security teams at both sites will be managing the parking to ensure a safe environment for our patients, visitors and staff."

Public invited to attend NHS board meeting
DIABETES care and the reorganisation of the local cancer network are just two of the subjects to be discussed at the board meeting of North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (NEECCG) on Tuesday (January 15).

The meeting will be held in the Colchester Primary Care Centre in Turner Road, Colchester starting at 2pm and members of the public are welcome to attend. There is a 15-minute session at the start of the meeting when the public can ask questions of the board.

The clinical commissioning group is preparing to take over the running of the local NHS from the primary care trust in April and NEECCG Chairman, Dr Gary Sweeney, is keen for the public to play a greater role in the new organisation.

FIFTY YEARS ON THE ORGAN



Photos courtesy of Jill Hamblin

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the

Churchwardens, PCC, 'Catering Committee', Benefice Choir, Bell-ringers, Barbara 'The Cake' and everyone involved in organizing the wonderful celebration to mark my 50 years of organ playing at Arleigh Church which took place on 2nd December 2012, including the Friendship Club and their inspired arrangement of 'What a friend we have in Jesus' (Michael). I was amazed by the number of people who came to the Advent Service and celebration and thank everyone for their support, both on this occasion and over the years at Arleigh. It was a splendid evening that I shall always remember, and I was so pleased to be able to share the occasion with so many people, some of whom I have known for a very long time, and others who are more recent friends.

The champagne was shared with my family on Christmas Day when a toast was raised to my achievement. The amazing CD set, together with the lavishly illustrated and informative book, is greatly appreciated and, as the Christmas festivities come to a close, I look forward to having the time to relax and enjoy the book and the CDs.

I am sure that you all appreciate why I was not able to give a full 'thank-you' speech at the event but I thought this would be a good time to give an insight into my 50 years.

I started as full time organist at St Mary's when I was approached by the Vicar,

Francis Butcher, on Mr Lloyd Willimott's retirement around Christmas 1962. I had previously been singing in the choir during school holidays and received organ lessons while at school. Mr Willimott



suggested that I might be interested in playing for the 11.00 Matins each Sunday. This was a great privilege and it proved to become the foundation of my great love of accompanying the Psalms. In those days, there were three choral Services each Sunday and a Parent and Children's service at 2.30. (The Vicar also celebrated at the 8.00 Communion and a 3.45 service in Crockleford!!) Those who know me may well wonder how I managed to make it on time to all the services, especially living at Blue Barns when winter weather could make Harts Lane difficult to negotiate. It was lovely to see choir members from over the years present at the service on 2nd December.

Times gradually changed and in 1966 (street lighting reached Arleigh!) we were the first Parish in the Diocese to welcome the Roman Catholic congregation to worship in the Parish Church. Over the years, there was a gradual reduction in the number of services. In 1962, I would never have believed that I would get a Sunday 'lie-in' let alone the occasional Sunday 'off-duty' as is the case now.

I have been extremely fortunate in having happy working relationships with all Vicars appointed, starting with Francis Butcher followed by Charles Goulding, Reg Doncaster, Trevor Diaper, Nicolas Spicer and, more recently, Robert Farrell. All have been extremely encouraging to me in my role as organist, and have always been supportive of the musical events I have



organized over the years and I am very grateful for that support.

I am very privileged to have such a fine organ to work with and I am grateful to the PCCs over the years who have always made sure that the instrument is kept well maintained. Latterly, through the PCC support and the munificent grant from the GCG Environment Trust, the organ was totally rebuilt in 2004. Many of you will remember Peter Crompton's stunning opening recital. We have an organ that

was built in 1905 and, providing it is well looked after, there is no reason why it should not celebrate its 200th birthday in 2105!

I have really enjoyed the last 50 years, not only the organ playing, but also my involvement in Church and the friendship this has brought to me. I hope to be able to continue for a little while longer and, again, thank all those who made the evening of the 2nd December so very memorable.

2013 AT ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

A.P.C.M. 2013 24th February

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is held once a year. Only people who are on the Electoral Roll are allowed to attend and vote at this meeting.

This year 2013 everyone has to re-apply to become a member of the Electoral Roll. Please fill in a form which can be found in the church. It is very important to become a member if you are interested in the day to day life of our church now and in the future. If you become a member of the electoral roll you may vote and stand on the Parochial Church Council, a very important committee which is responsible for many decisions and policy making which happen at St. George's.

This year we are actively seeking new members of our Parochial Church Council. Enthusiastic, committed members of the community who wish to see Church life here in the Bromleys nurtured and active for years to come.

Please come and join, be actively involved, become a reader, a sides person, join the choir, help with cleaning or flower arranging, help with refreshments – 2013 is going to be an interesting year for us all here at St George's. Fr. Robert is retiring on 14th April and we are waiting to hear what the future holds for us here in Great Bromley. If you need more information don't hesitate to ring or email.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Keep this date free in your diary - 28/29/30th June 2013. St George's will be having their biennial Flower Festival. The theme will be "Children's Books", hopefully linked with a Book Week at the Primary School. If you would like to be involved/help please ring or email Jenny Nicholls on 01206 230688.

Join in the next meeting 9th February at 10.30am at the Church or at Fryerning if the weather is very cold. You do not have to be a regular church goer to join us, or a flower arranger, you can help with raffle, refreshments, running stalls, your help will be very much appreciated. If you would like to sponsor a flower arrangement or sponsor a pew end in memory of loved ones please contact 01206 230688. The Flower Festival weekend will culminate in a Community Songs of Praise on Sunday evening.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

1st March 2013 at 10.30am

This year to be held at St George's.

You are most welcome to join us.

The service this year has been arranged by the Women of France.

"LOO" UPDATE

Steven and Dawn Walker have successfully brought this project to the point where we are about to "dig the first trench". We are so

grateful for all their hard work on this project, and we are now appealing for volunteers to complete the installation of the loo at St. George's, if you have experience in this type of work and would like to help please contact Jenny or Ann by email or phone.

We have been struggling to complete this project for over fourteen years and we are very hopeful that in 2013 we shall at last have a "proper loo" in St George's!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES at St. GEORGE'S

A huge thank you to all members of the village, friends and family who supported the Christmas Services at St George's. Celebrations began with a very successful Messy Church Christingle at Great Bromley Village Hall. Our thanks to Carol Cordwell who led a most enjoyable afternoon. We so enjoyed the visit of the St George's Primary School on 19th December, it was so encouraging to meet so many parents and

friends. The beautifully decorated church was full to capacity. Our thanks to Melanie Bridle and Julie O'Mara for arranging this visit. The Candlelit Carol Service was bursting at the seams, (thanks to June & Peter for the delicious Mulled Wine) 97 people attended the Crib Service on Christmas Eve (thanks to the wonderful children who read so beautifully) and the two services on Christmas Day, despite the heavy downpour were well supported.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September 13th 7.30pm Julian Smith from "Britain's Got Talent"

September 22nd Harvest Festival and Lunch.

December 7th St Nicholas Fayre Village Hall
(To be confirmed)



Photo courtesy of Angela Howarth Stanmore

THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

Dear Friends,

Our Christmas celebrations now seem a long way behind us and we are about to turn our minds to Lent and Easter.

Nevertheless before we move on, the Christmas and Epiphany season reaches its natural climax on February 2nd – the feast of Candlemas. On this day Mary and Joseph are doing merely what is required of them, the ritual presentation of their first-born male child, Jesus, to God, and the sacrifice that accompanies it. The law of God, given by Moses to the Jews, ordained that a woman, after childbirth, should continue for a certain time in a state which that law calls unclean; during which she was not to appear in public, nor presume to touch anything consecrated to God. The term was of forty days upon the birth of a son, and the time was double for a daughter; on the expiration of which, the mother was to bring to the door of the tabernacle, or temple, a lamb of a year old, and a young pigeon or turtle-dove. A young pigeon or turtle-dove, by way of sin offering, was required of all, whether rich or poor, but nothing more than two pigeons or two turtle-doves was required from the poor, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering.

Since Our Lord was conceived by the Holy Spirit and his blessed Mother remained a spotless virgin in reality she was under no obligation to the law. She was however within the letter of the law, in the eyes of the world, who were as yet strangers to this miraculous birth.

On this occasion old Simeon is guided to a meeting with them, and taking Jesus in his arms is moved to say, "My eyes have seen your salvation". This is important for us all because it means that from now on we know what salvation looks like. It takes on the face and body of a human being – Jesus.

For us this is an affirmation and a proclamation that God has come to live

among us in human form, to live as we live, to experience life with us in all its wonder and sorrow, and lead us to a new appreciation of what it means to be truly human.

All this has a direct impact and relevance to living our lives in our world today. What it means is becoming more and more of a challenge. It leads us to ask questions of ourselves. Does being human mean that we have to go to war to settle our differences? Does it mean we cannot solve our problems, only make more of them? Does it mean that fear, injustice and cruelty are products of our humanity regardless of what we do?

When we say "yes" to Jesus it has to mean we are saying no to the things that enslave us. Then we have to start living like it.

Living like it means several things. First of all it means a refusal, which is being ready to say no to the things our world tells us we have to put up with.

It also demands from us our best efforts. Each one of us has an opportunity to re-offer our lives to God as well as the task of discerning what God asks us to do with that life.

There are several things we can do in celebration of this feast of Candlemas and in the year ahead. First of all there is a need for all Christians to live a prayer centred life attempting to discern in that the things God wants us to do with the gifts and talents we have been given.

Secondly in prayer we develop our relationship with Our Lord.

Thirdly as we grow deeper in our relationship with Our Lord we begin to share his concern for others and for justice in our world where there is so much to do to build up his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

With love from
Fr.Robert

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Church of England Services

February

Sunday 3rd	8.00am	The Presentation of Christ - Candlemas	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Parish Eucharist - <i>Incense will be used</i> Evensong	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 10th	8.00am	Sunday next before Lent	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	The Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Wednesday 13th	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday - The First Day of Lent	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
		Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes - <i>Incense will be used</i>	
Sunday 17th	8.00am	1st Sunday of Lent	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
		Parish Eucharist - <i>Incense will be used</i>	
Sunday 24th	8.00am	2nd Sunday of Lent	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
		The Parish Eucharist <i>followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting</i>	
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

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