

The Messenger

The Magazine of
the villages of
Great & Little
Bromley

February 2019

Vol: 2 No: 2



Some of the ladies of Great Bromley Women's Institute enjoying a very relaxed January meeting making name badges, catching up on chat and enjoying seasonal refreshments.

For report on December's meeting see inside

(Photo: Merriel Gallifant)

theWI

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

THE FIRST PAGE

Winter has at last properly arrived and it is rather cold at -4°C. Inside I have put some Tips found on the TDC website covering journeys in snow and ice which I hope are useful. Please also think of your elderly neighbours who might be grateful to see you during the colder days.

Help too is needed by the Friendship Club if they are to continue. Perhaps there is someone who can spare one afternoon a month to help run the Club.

Broadband is coming to Little Bromley thanks to the parish council but, despite much hard work, it looks as though some parts of Great Bromley will remain without high speed broadband for a while longer. It does seem ridiculous that in this technological day and age of the Computer and the World Wide Web that high speed broadband is not available to all. Both villages, though, have dedicated people working on your behalf to improve the service and we are most grateful to them..

As I write there will be a total eclipse of the moon tonight which will turn red. This is known as a 'blood moon' (due to the Earth's atmosphere) or a 'wolf

moon' (a name derived from Native American Indians who said wolves howled during full moons at the beginning of the year). It will be the last total eclipse to be seen in Britain for 10 years. I intend to see it if I can wake myself up in the wee small hours of the morning!

Spring though is beginning to show



itself. I loved the carpet of snowdrops that bloomed every year in parts of the garden of my old house in Great Bromley. I took a few bulbs with me for my new garden here which are in flower. The daffodils are also beginning to poke through the ground and will no doubt soon be dancing in the sun.

It will soon be warm again!
Leonie

MATERIAL for the **MARCH 2019** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by

14th FEBRUARY 2019 please. Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed. Whilst the editor welcomes contributions, photographs etc this is on the understanding that there is no obligation to publish, that the item may be edited and that there is no breach of copyright. Publication is in good faith and neither the editor nor the publisher accept any liability in respect of the content of any article, photo or advertisement, including any error or omission, responsibility for which remains with the author.

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HIGH SPEED BROADBAND - GREAT BROMLEY

Residents at the Ardleigh end of the village have had access to BT Openreach fibre via the cabinet in Waterhouse Lane (*Ardleigh 4*) for a couple years. Access to Openreach fibre means suppliers such as BT, TalkTalk, Sky, Plusnet etc. are able to provide a service to residents. Properties along Frating Road, Ardleigh Road, part of Hall Road and others just off these roads benefit from this.

The rest of Great Bromley is officially served by County Broadband using their wireless system. This service has been scrutinised since it went live due to lack of universal availability and poor levels of service regarding reliability, support and cost.

County Broadband have what is known as a 'Claim' on Great Bromley. This means that no other supplier (i.e. Openreach) is allowed to provide a service where this Claim exists. Their Claim does not cover the Ardleigh end of the village hence Openreach has implemented a fibre solution there. For reasons that are unclear County did not include Springhill Close and certain properties in the Parson's Hill area in their Claim. Therefore Openreach, with additional funding through Superfast Essex (Essex County Council), laid approximately 4km of fibre to a new cabinet called *Ardleigh 6* at the end of Springhill Close.

Here it becomes farcical! Properties near the church, including the school, have fibre in the ground yards from their front doors to a cabinet many can see, but are not allowed access to, simply due to bureaucracy and red tape.

County's service has been under scrutiny because of the unreliability of the wireless technology offered and Superfast Essex has now amended County's claim for some Essex villages due to poor service. The Claim over Great Bromley however remains in place as Superfast Essex has not received enough evidence for it to be

removed. Superfast Essex's figures show that County Broadband's Claim here covers 389 properties, a reduction of only 4.

Disappointing. However, those villages with their Claim removed, either in part or completely, are now reliant on Openreach, or another supplier, making a purely commercial decision on the viability of providing fibre. Current government funding has all been allocated. The *Ardleigh 6* cabinet took nearly 4 years to go live since the planning application so these villages are unlikely to see anything soon even assuming Openreach decide to get involved. Also, more remote properties are unlikely to receive any sort of service unless the rules change.

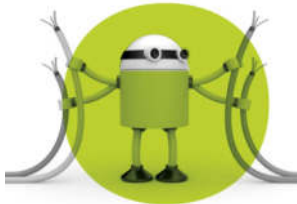
Some months ago County announced plans to implement a fibre solution in Great Bromley offering speeds far in excess of those Openreach offer. This should be a more reliable solution than their wireless offering which needs line of sight between transmitters and property - difficult to

achieve with so many trees around. Their solution involves providing fibre directly to the property rather than a street cabinet, then copper to the door as Openreach usually does - hence the potential faster speeds. This is possible as Openreach are now legally obliged to provide third party suppliers, like County,

full access to their infrastructure such as ducting and telegraph poles, to lay their fibre. So, theoretically, with a BT landline into your house, County can provide fibre along the same route. It will be interesting to see how this works in practice....

Allegedly County has access to funding to implement its fibre offering but a final decision will be based on the potential take up within the village. They are due to host a meeting in Great Bromley in early 2019 to explain their plans and to gauge interest.

Continued over .../



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Experience of County Broadband has shown that their claims, promises etc. should be treated with a large pinch of salt. They are at present implementing a fibre solution in Bulmer village and I will be monitoring their progress. However, the majority of Great Bromley will, for the foreseeable future, be reliant on County Broadband to provide a fibre based superfast broadband service.

Users who can't wait for a fibre solution might be interested in looking at a 4G Router accessing the internet via a mobile phone signal. Not necessarily the best solution for heavy users as it can be expensive but it is an option. Google 4G Routers for more information.

A polite reminder that if your property does

have access to High Speed Broadband it is not automatically upgraded – you have to ask your supplier as it is effectively a different product.

Lastly, I mentioned that County Broadband's claim on Great Bromley has been reduced by 4 properties. Due to the nature of Superfast Essex's reporting and the commercial sensitivities involved it is not possible to identify which 4 properties, unless you know their status before. You can see your property's status by going to <http://www.superfastessex.org/interactive-maps/rollout-map/> If you know your status has changed the Parish Council would like to know – please email the Clerk at clerk@gbpc.org.uk.

Neil Skinner

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

We need photographs for the Bromleys 2020 Vision Calendar that reflects the changing community/environment of Great and Little Bromley throughout the year.

Plenty of photo opportunities coming up – spring and summer flowers; we might even get snow!: Valentines; Easter; planting; harvesting; animal husbandry etc. It is opened to anyone (under 14's need guardian permission to enter) but obviously needs to be taken within the boundaries of Great and Little Bromley.

So get snapping!

The closing date will be August 1st 2019. This is to allow for judging and printing. Full terms and conditions are on the Great

Bromley and Little Bromley websites; the Great Bromley Community Facebook page or by request

to bromleys2020calendar@gmail.com or 07973166820 (Gillian Thomas)

Also looking for sponsors to fund each month – all enquiries

to bromleys2020calendar@gmail.com

Prizes for the winning photographs.

Any profit from the selling of the calendars will be distributed to Seven Rivers

Leonard Cheshire Disability and Essex Wildlife Trust.



THANKS

A big 'Thank You' to all the residents living close to Cannston on the Frating Road who tolerated smoke from my bonfires for several weeks. Each day I thought someone would appear on the doorstep!!

Thank you all once again for being so considerate and I wish you all a healthy and happy New Year.

From Paddy Reynolds, cousin of the late Marjorie Elder.

Fun Things to do in the Snow - Outside!

Surely it is going to snow soon! I for one love the snow - until it turns to ice that is and then I am not so keen!!

Last year when there was that really good fall of snow I borrowed a sledge and zoomed down the hill. My first zoom on a sledge for years and how thrilling it was. I just loved it but I had forgotten the relentless trudge back up hill dragging the sledge along behind me.

As a child I lived at the foot of the South Downs. Every winter there was much snow and often we were unable to get out of our lane thus missing school. We had huge fun sledging down the hill although my younger sister did, on one occasion, fall off when going over one of the large molehills and broke her wrist!

We did all of the following at one time or another so have fun!

- Go sledding! Get a sled, use a tin tray or even make a sled out of cardboard, and just go!
- Build a snowman. Roll some balls, big or small. Build a snowman together. Find something for eyes, twigs for arms, and wrap him up warm with a hat and scarf!
- Have a snowball fight! Make a snowball. Or practice your aim by throwing and knocking over a tin can.
- Build a snow fort. Or an igloo. Pack the walls together to build a safe place for hiding out!
- Help your parents

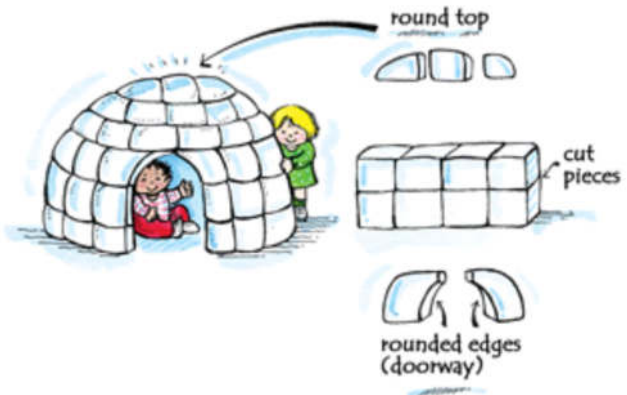
and clear the paths with a shovel! While you're out shovelling the driveway or path create your own paths... maybe a snow maze!

- Make a trail of footprints in the snow. Look for animal and/or bird footprints. Try to guess who made them - rabbit prints? Squirrels? Deer? Birds?
- After a fresh snowfall, go lay out in it and make some snow angels together. Make a whole snow angel family!

Be sure to dress warm and take care not to fall!

Stay away from ice, especially ponds/rivers.

Have a cup of hot chocolate when you get back inside with little marshmallows on top!



GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpc.org.uk

Clerk: Lizzie Ridout Email: clerk@gbpc.org.uk



Parish Council Budget 2018-19

Members of the Parish Council unanimously approved the Council's budget for the forthcoming year. Cllr Lord presented the following statement to Members:

It has reached the time in the year when GBPC reviews expenditure and budget management performance for the year preceding. This is done for purposes of good financial control and assurance as well as signposting the budget needed to be set for the new year (FY19-20).

The Budget for 2018/19 was set at £21,880 and the projected outturn for FY18-19 is £20,166. When the contingency budget of £1000 is removed from this picture, it shows underspend of £714 and a variation of only 3.4% between what was forecast and what was actually spent. This demonstrates good predictability and a good state of financial control. There was some fluctuation at a line item level in our budget performance but nothing significant at a net level and these minor variations have been factored in the new budget.

Based on the actual figures for 2018/19, the projected budget for 2019/20 has been set

at £21,855.

A proposal will be reviewed at the January 2019 Parish Council meeting to retain the Parish Precept at £22,000 which, following a reduction in the amount of Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant money from Tendring District Council, is a reduction of 0.4%, or 25 pence based on an average Band D property. Whilst there are some extraordinary cost pressures in FY19-20 e.g. running of local elections, these have been offset by savings found elsewhere e.g. reduction in subscriptions paid by GBPC based on a value for money assessment.

The next litter pick date has been arranged for Saturday 30th March at 10am meeting at the Bromley Cross Pub. All volunteers are welcome over the age of 18 and equipment will be provided.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 13th February 2019 at Great Bromley Village Hall – all are welcome to attend.

Lizzie Ridout
Parish Clerk

Planning determination

| REFERENCE | PROPOSAL | LOCATION | DECISION |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Mr & Mrs Martin O'Brien | Reserved matters planning application for proposed 6 No. detached dwellings and garages, and the change of use of the existing barn into a village shop with associated parking for visitors. | Little Paddocks Frating Road Great Bromley CO7 7JL | Approval - Reserved Matters/ Detailed 05.12.2018 Delegated Decision |

Planning application

| REFERENCE | PROPOSAL | LOCATION |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 18/02020/ FUL Mr B Stevens | Proposed construction of single dwelling and garage. Great Bromley Parish Council supported the application. | Pond Farm, Hall Road Great Bromley, CO7 7TP |

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Email: littlebromleypc@gmail.com

The Parish Council is pleased to report that Superfast Broadband is coming to Little Bromley at last! This has been a huge effort and a lot of work but it does now appear that we are almost there! Open Reach are currently working on the infrastructure and although we haven't been able to get a date for this to go live we are told that the Superfast Essex website will be updated at the end of April. We understand that the majority of the addresses that were submitted to Open Reach a few months ago will be able to access Superfast Broadband.

The website address to check is: <http://www.superfastessex.org/interactive-maps/address-checker/>

We have been told that the white lining in

the Village has been assessed but no immediate action will be taken at the moment due to funding cuts but it will be addressed when budgets allow.

The 40 mph survey came back from Bentley Road, and we have been informed we didn't meet the criteria for this to be considered a dangerous stretch of road for speeding. We originally requested that this was reduced to 30 mph because, as well as the speed, it is dangerous to walk to the pub along this road without footpaths and lights. We have requested that this is put on the Agenda for the next Highways meeting which we will attend.

The next meeting of the Council will be on the 21st March at the Haywain, at 7.30 pm

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NEWS

Firstly a very hearty New Year to you all.

It has generally been a quiet start to the New Year.

Recycling rates in Tendring remain very low. This was referred to a TDC Committee to look at.

One of the surprising facts to come out of the committee's work was that over 67% of people interviewed would be happy to pay extra for a more comprehensive service especially regarding plastics. To collect all forms of plastic would, however, cost TDC an additional £800,000 each year. Something to be further discussed.

The Joint Local Plan (Garden Communities) continues onwards and a recent response from the Planning inspector looking at our Local Plan commends the local authorities (Tendring, Colchester Braintree and Essex) for constructive proposals intaking the examination forward. He has also indicated the authorities should take as much time as

is needed to try to make sure the Plan is sound. It would appear the local authorities will write to the Inspector in mid summer with revisions of the Local Plan.

A motion was put to full council requesting the council ensures that every child in Tendring be taught to swim before they leave primary school. Council have invited the Director of Education for Essex to attend an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to attend a future meeting to discuss how schools can meet their statutory duty and move towards 100% of the District's children learning to swim before they leave primary school education.

As always Rosemary and I are always available should you need to contact us.

Fred Nicholls

IN THE GARDEN WITH KATE

I do hope everyone had a lovely Christmas. A white one would have been nice, but probably not popular for those who had to travel.

My garden appears to be sleeping at the moment, with very little apparently going on, but move a few leaves to one side, and spring bulbs are coming through; fork over some soil, and plenty of worms are still active. I am spending some time outside attempting to cut back brambles as I can now see them properly on the leafless trees and bushes. I had a vain hope that they might suffer after the dry summer, but it does not appear to have affected them at all.

There are however many plants that come into their own in early spring. We have a silver birch which looks magnificent when the sun catches the beautiful white bark. Winter flowering trees and shrubs are also very cheering; the witch hazel and wintersweet with wonderful scent, various viburnum with delicate pink flowers, winter flowering cherry, startling yellow mahonia, Christmas box and amongst the flowers, snowdrops, hellebore, crocus and early narcissus.

There are still jobs that can be done in the garden even at this time of year. Any winter digging not already complete can be finished, and any new beds and borders marked out and dug. However if the weather is frosty, keep off the grass as this may cause scorch damage where you have walked. It is a good time of year to have mowers serviced ready for spring, and to clean and sharpen garden tools.

Soil can be warmed prior to sowing early vegetable crops by covering up with polythene sheeting or a polytunnel. Ensure that the greenhouse is ready for the start of the propagation season. All pots and trays should be washed, including propagators, and the greenhouse glass cleaned. It is usually a good time to empty and clean water butts - I frequently find dead

mice in mine! In order to get a head start, chillies and peppers can be sown in a heated propagator as they need a long growing season in order to fruit. Early potatoes should be chitted if not done before. As far as harvesting is concerned, Brussel sprouts, sprouting broccoli and the last of the leeks should be lifted.

For tubs and pots, keep dead heading, as failure to do so in the case of pansies and violas mean the plants will stop flowering. Occasionally, tubs and pots may need watering if there is a prolonged dry spell, but if the weather is wet, they will need to be lifted up to ensure they do not become waterlogged.

February is a good time to decide which bedding plug plants will be required in spring/summer, and order from mail order companies and similarly order seeds.

Even if it is only from the comfort of your armchair with cup of tea in hand, enjoy your garden!

Kate Strowbridge



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

At our December meeting a minute's silence was held in memory of Ray, one of our oldest members who died recently after a short illness.

As it was our Christmas meeting members had brought along a selection of goodies for teatime, and as our entertainers for the afternoon failed to arrive we entertained ourselves, singing carols. After calling the raffle and tucking into our Christmas fayre our Treasurer reminded members that subs would become due at the January meeting, our AGM.

Sylvia Ward

A Plea

The Friendship Club was started 57 years ago and meetings are held in the Village Hall once a month for elderly people from the village and the surrounding area. The numbers have reduced during the last two years due to people passing away and re-locating. Most members of the Committee have become elderly and feel the time will soon come when they cannot carry on.

It would be such a terrible shame if we have to fold - depriving the members of monthly speakers/entertainers, lunches and friendship.

PLEASE, PLEASE if you are able to help us run the Club or would like to be a member ring Beryl on 01206 230578 or Barbara on 01206 230673.



STOUR VALLEY MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Recent Meetings

John Hammond explained the skill of "Will Writing" at our 16 January meeting, a most interesting subject for all those retired!

Future Meetings

We hold our New Year Lunch at the popular Haywain, Little Bromley, on 6th February when our spouses and Probus Widows will join us for what will be an enjoyable event and a tasty meal. On 20 February Brian Wilcox will introduce "New Ways Of Working". Brian Wills will present what will be a lecture on particular local interest on Wednesday 6 March when he speaks about "Constable and his Paintings". Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 March.

Meeting Venue

We meet at the convenient St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree CO11 1EB

New members are welcomed

Our Club endeavours to be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, and involve members to a minimal cost. New Members are always very welcome to join us at a future meeting of the Stour Valley Men's Probus Club just join us at 10am on a meeting date. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and provide the opportunity for development of acquaintances. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10 for 10.30am. Please contact Speaker Secretary Dave Carman on 01255 880202 for further details.

THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS



Great Bentley Surgery

We have finally almost finished this winter's flu season and what a palaver it was! I'm pleased to say however, that we managed to get the majority of eligible patients vaccinated before Christmas and our population is therefore protected to above the level that the NHS expects. It's been a lot of hard work and careful planning by the whole team, so I just want to thank everyone, including our patients for working with us to make this a success. I've already ordered next season's year's vaccines which will be the same two as we have used this year. Hopefully there will not be any changes this year and we will get our order early in September and on time!

I came across a great online blog by a Dr Jon Griffiths recently which really struck a chord with our GPs. As a result I am serialising this blog with Dr Griffiths's permission and share its contents with our patients and numbers two and three are below. You can read the full blog online here: <https://bit.ly/2GHljRt>

"10 insider tips I bet you don't know about your GP"

4. Your Doctor is not telepathic

Pretty obvious, right? Yet it seems that people think their GP will know what they are worried about, which of their problems is a priority for them and what their hidden fears are. A good doctor will no doubt explore all of this with you, but you can short-cut this. *Be up front about what is on your mind.* If you are worried because you think your rash or lump might be cancer, then say so. If you want to exclude some rare condition because your mother had it – let the doctor know. Try not to leave your main problem until the end. You would be amazed how many people get through the whole consultation and then, at the end, say something like "While I'm here, can I mention this chest pain I've been getting?"

5. Your Doctor is a specialist

They have just specialized in being a generalist! Don't make the mistake of thinking that there is a hierarchy of doctors, with GPs at the bottom and hospital consultants at the top. Your GP will have spent a minimum of 5 years in training AFTER medical school. They are experienced doctors qualified to look after you. Sometimes people think that going to A&E means you get to see a 'proper doctor' – remember that the junior doctor in A&E is likely significantly less experienced than your GP. Many people think that being a GP is the hardest job a doctor can do. If you are concerned that you might need to see a specialist, then talk this through with your GP – they are in a really good place to decide with you if that is what is needed, or not.

The next meeting of the Patient Participation Group will take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 21st February 2019 at the Great Bentley Village Hall.

I would like to welcome Kathy Chilvers as the new chair of the PPG.

Richard P Miller – Practice Manager

2018-19 EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 3 Footpath Group, meet Wivenhoe car park, 10.30am
6 WI meeting (Elephant conservation), Village Hall, 7.30pm
13 Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
21 Friendship Club, Village Hall, 2.00pm

22

MARCH

- 3 Footpath Group, meet Manningtree Co-op car park
6 WI Members' meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
13 Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
21 Friendship Club, Village Hall, 2.00pm
Little Bromley parish council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
30 Great Bromley Spring Litterpick, The Cross Inn, 10.00am

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APRIL

- 3 WI meeting, Dedham/Lavenham Cloth Trade, Village Hall, 7.30pm
10 Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
14 Running into the Graveyard 2019
18 Friendship Club, Village Hall, 2.00pm
28 Road Rally

29

MAY

- 3 WI AGM, Village Hall, 7.30pm
8 Gt Bromley parish council meeting incl AGM & Annual Parish Assembly, Village Hall, 7.30pm
16 Friendship Club, Village Hall, 2.00pm
31 May-2June Little Bentley Hall Waterways & Garden Show

JUNE

- 5 WI meeting, Savoury Nibbles Demo, Village Hall, 7.30pm
20 Friendship Club, Village Hall, 2.00pm

Village Hall Diary Dates

Mondays Yoga Karen Maze Tel 07766
242829 1130am to 1230pm
Boxercise 7pm to 8pm

Tuesdays Men's Club Billiards from
16.30pm
Badminton 6pm to 730pm
Children's Martial arts age 4 to 16. From
4pm to 6pm Tel.07816 320298
beth.cooper@adrenalineartialarts.co.uk
www.childrenskarate.co.uk

Wednesdays

WI 6th Feb
Bowls from 7pm 13th 20th 27th

Thursdays

WEA 2pm until Dec 13th
Friendship 2pm 21st Feb
Ballroom dancing 14rg 21st 28th 7.30pm
Tel Angela 07708 982550
Bowls 7th Feb from 7pm

Saturdays

23rd Cricket Club presentation evening



Great Bromley Spring Litterpick

The Spring Litterpick will take place on Saturday 30th March, meeting at 10am in the Car Park of the Bromley Cross Inn. Volunteers (the more the merrier, but over 18s only please) should bring appropriate footwear and gloves. Hi-visibility clothing, bin bags and litter grabbers will be provided and refreshments will be available afterwards at The Cross Inn. More details can be obtained from Owen Blowers on 01206 231010.



FOOTPATH GROUP

Enjoy walking, meeting new people?

Then why not come along to walks organised by the Dedham Footpath Group. We walk 4-5 miles on the first Sunday morning of each month.

1. Sunday 3rd February meet at the free car park in Wivenhoe at 10.30am for a 4-5 mile return walk to Arlesford via woods and river trails.
2. Sunday 3rd March meet at Manningtree Coop car park for a 4-5 mile walk through fields returning via the river.

Dedham Footpath Group welcomes all walkers and those with well behaved dogs, kept on leads at all times, are welcome to join us.

For more information email DedhamFG@gmail.com

Little Bentley Hall Waterways & Garden Show

31st May - 2nd June 2019



Friday February 1, 2019 - 10.30am to 12pm

Great Bentley Methodist Church, 4 Heckford's Road, Great Bentley, Colchester CO7 8PQ

Friday February 8, 2019 - 10am to 12pm
Acorn Village, Clacton Road, Mistley, Manningtree, CO11 2NJ

Thursday February 21, 2019 - 10.30am to 12pm

Alresford Church cafe book club, St Andrews Close, Alresford, Colchester, CO7 8BL

Thursday February 21, 2019 - 10.30am to 11.30am

The Parish Hall, Victoria Place, Brightlingsea, CO7 0BP

Parish council meeting

Wednesday February 6, 2019 - 7.30pm to 8.30pm

The Pavilion, Ford Lane, Colchester, CO7 8AT





SEVEN RIVERS CHESHIRE HOME

A new year has arrived and been forgotten about, just that sad feeling for many of us that we couldn't keep up our good intentions about the diet or whatever we had decided that was going to improve our lives with our new year resolution.

The one thing I have to do this time of year is think about what we here at Seven Rivers will be doing during the year. I need to book the entertainment that comes into the home, think about how to improve next Christmas, did we do too much or too little? Ask residents what they enjoyed and what they didn't. And the ever-present fund raising. I am pleased to report that we have reached our target for a new wooden gazebo with the help and support from yourselves and our fundraising group of ladies. We hope to have that in situ by the spring ready for our residents for the hot summer days we all hope to be enjoying.

We are still in need of replacing our minibus so fundraising continues. We will be holding our second Fun Dog Show after the success of last year. We hope to improve on last year. We have secured the services of two professional judges and hope to have two show rings to speed up judging, we are also looking for side shows so if you are interested in having a stall at the dog show please contact me . The date for this year's dog show is **Saturday 11 May.**

One of our Volunteers has for many years run a table top sale in Long Melford. This year we will be holding these on **Sunday 5 May** and **Sunday 6 October**, again if anyone wishes to be involved please contact me at Seven Rivers.

We of course will be having our Cream Tea, Bonfire Night and BBQ's plus continuing our involvement within the village.

I am always looking for volunteers to help

here at Seven Rivers or if you run a group who like to have speakers, we are also able to give talks free of charge. We give a brief history about Leonard Cheshire and information about what we do now. For more information please phone 01206 230345 or e-mail me at elizabeth.barrenger@leonardcheshire.org

Take care till next time
Liz x

The Great Bromley Cross

More than a Pub.... Events February

****Every Friday Pub Food 6:30 to 8:30****

Sat 2nd - Curry Night - £11 per head for a selection of curries with rice and naan bread, "Booking essential as places are limited"

Sat 9th - The Duke Pizza Van

Mon 11th - Monthly Monday Club (2nd Monday of the month) Pub open from 6:30pm

Thu 14th - Quiz Night hosted by Adrian from 8pm book tables in advance

Sat 16th - Live music, Martin (Lazy Train) Semi-acoustic Trio rock and Pop Classics

Sat 23rd - Wok n Roll from 5.30pm Authentic Chinese food

Thursday 28th - Open Floor Music Night from 8pm

Opening Times Wednesday 6pm - 9pm • Thursday 5pm - 11pm • Friday 4pm - 11pm • Saturday 5pm - 11pm • Sunday 12 Noon - 3pm • Cafe/Post Office Wednesday 10am - Noon

info@greatbromleycross.co.uk
www.greatbromleycross.co.uk
Tel. 01206 621772



VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

The village hall trustees were disappointed to learn

that their recent grant application to the ECC Community Initiatives Fund was unsuccessful. However, key elements of the refurbishment and maintenance programme will continue regardless and PD Construction of Great Bentley has been selected to replace the kitchen roof in the coming months, funded from village hall financial reserves. Several other minor refurbishment and maintenance tasks are likely also to happen this year, subject to the final approval of trustees at their next meeting.

The Village Hall Grand Christmas Draw took place on 2nd December and made a net profit of £624 for hall funds. This was a good result and thanks are due to those individuals and organisations who donated prizes and to all those who bought tickets. Attention has now turned to our next event, which is a Craft Fayre taking place in the

hall on 30th March 2019. Full details of this will be promulgated on notice boards and on social media in due course.

The latest hire charges and other information about the hall are now available on the new village hall website - greatbromleyvillagehall.org.uk - or from the bookings manager (Mary Fawcett on villagehallbookings@greatbromley.org.uk or 07543974751). The new website is being populated with up-to-date information as it becomes available and it should be complete by late March this year.

As mentioned in last December's magazine, all members of the public/users of the village hall and its grounds should note that the village hall and grounds (including the car parks and cricket field) will be closed for all access and use on Friday 1st February.

Martin Frostick
villagehallsecretary@greatbromley.org.uk
or 01206 250263

GREAT BROMLEY FLOWER FESTIVAL - JUNE 2019

This is an invitation to you all to join together at St. George's Church in June and celebrate a weekend of Flowers, Music and Fun.

The inspiration for the chosen theme this year is taken from a song called "As Long As I Have Music" by Don Besig and Nancy Price.

The words of this song are very meaningful and encompass all the wonderful elements of music which will inspire wonderful Flower Arrangements in the church.

"When the world seems far beyond me and I have no place to go, when my life seems cold and empty and I find I am all alone.

Then a song that I remember helps to ease my troubled mind and I call upon my music and I find the strength within me and reach out just one more time.

For as long as I have music,
As Long as there's a song for me to sing, I

can find my way I can see a better day.
The music in my life will set my spirit free.
When the road is dark and lonely and I feel
I want to cry when the dreams I keep inside
me seem to fade and almost die.
Then I call upon my music and it helps to
dry my tears
And I know that I can make it I'll go on
despite my fears."

There is much to plan and organise so, if you would like to join with us please phone me 230688 or Carol 395103

There are flowers to arrange, cakes to bake, tea to make, "Raffle Tickets to sell and people to Meet and Greet!!
Wonderfull!!

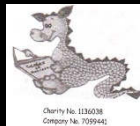
Everyone is welcome a true "Community Summer Event for the whole family.

Jenny

Little Dragons Pre-School - Great Bromley & Frating

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

Website: www.littledragonspreschool.org
Email: littledragonspreschool@gmail.com



OFSTED INSPECTED **OUTSTANDING**

to the setting please contact us on the above number.

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS- PLACES AVAILABLE

Tel: **01206 231823/ 07857 503103**

We are flexible and happy to take children for the occasional session and times to suit your situation.

If you require further information please call us on the numbers above or pop in to see us.

30 Hours funding for eligible parents came into effect from September 2017 -give us a call for more details.

HAPPY NEW YEAR. Christmas seems a long time ago now; on the last day of term we were lucky to have a visit from Father Christmas himself! We had a party lunch with lots of lovely food supplied by our wonderful parents and our raffle raised £52. A great way to finish the year. All the children have now settled back in after the holiday and we are looking forward to another exciting term.

FUNDRAISING:-

Please help us to collect:

Used Printer Ink Cartridges/ biscuit wrappers/ plastic bottle trigger heads and caps from washing up bottles.

OUR RECYCLING STATION now makes it easier to drop off items

We have set up an area – across the car park to the right of gate, with boxes for you to drop off collected items. Thank you.

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

Party Table and Chair Hire

Having a party for Pre-School children?

We can offer 4 perfectly sized tables & 20 chairs.

*Deposit only £10 Tables only £5.00 each
Chairs Only £1.00 each*

Collection Only - Contact us: Tel: 07857 503103 Email:

littledragonspreschool@gmail.com

Dates for diary:

Monday 18th February – Half term week

Monday 8th April – Easter Holiday

Tuesday 23rd April - Preschool reopens

Running into the graveyard 2019

This 10K run based around our villages will take place again next year on April 14th. The entries opened two weeks ago and already more than half are sold. The ambition of the Friends of Little Bromley Church is to buy a composting toilet for the church and so improve and increase the use of the church. This project is supported by the Parish Council. The run next year will make a significant contribution to funding this purchase.

If you have intentions of running, please put your entry in soon as I anticipate that the event will be full before Christmas. As in previous years I am hoping that I can rely on the support of people from the villages to marshal, bake cakes and give their vocal support to the runners. Many runners who have participated in the previous year's describe this as a special race.

Roly Knott (race organiser)



COFFEE BREAK NUTRITION with Suzanne Abbott

Happy New Year

to you all! Hope you've had a lovely Christmas and that the lemon and a bottle of apple cider vinegar came in handy over Christmas.

And now the New Year begins. Here we are again with another year ahead of us and those New Year resolutions – to start a better diet, to eat less or cut back on the wine or exercise more...

That brings me to mention an excellent programme I watched just last week. It was by Dr Michael Mosley (one of my favourites), called 'The truth about getting fit'.

As we know there's been a lot of talk over the past few years about doing 10,000 steps in a day to keep healthy and fit. Apparently this wasn't based on scientific research, only some clever marketing from Japan to sell pedometers! But that is beside the point. The researchers in the programme were trying to explore the concept of the 10,000 steps and is there something that could perhaps work better.

In the programme, 2 groups were created. One had the challenge of doing 10,000 steps in a day and the other were given an app called Active 10 where each individual had to do 3 x 10 minutes of brisk walking per day – this means walking fast enough so you can still talk, but you aren't able to sing!

The first group found the 10,000 quite a challenge. This was done during their working day, so not all were able to fit it in. The other group found it a lot easier to achieve the 3 x 10 minute brisk walking. This didn't interfere with their working day.

So what did the researchers find? They discovered that when doing the brisk walking, the individuals increased their physical activity, their heart rate went up and they got out of breath.

The Active 10 app exercise is much easier to fit into anyone's day with greater benefits.

The most beneficial exercise mentioned in the programme is High intensity interval

training (HIIT). This is done by doing some vigorous exercise of 2 bursts of 20 seconds, 3 times a week, plus warm up and cool down. This type of exercise triggers changes deep in the muscles and allows glucose to be used up very quickly.

If one doesn't have access to a specialised bike with monitors etc, there is another way to do HIIT on the spot!

This is what you do:

Warm up by gently jogging on the spot for a couple of minutes then when you are ready, do star jumps (opening arms out then closing to the body, same with the legs) for 1 minute, then squats on the spot for 1 minute, static sprinting on the spot for 1 minute, back to squats for 1 minute and star jumps for 1 minute. Altogether 5 minutes of hard exercise on the spot. Then cool down by gentle jogging for a minute.

You don't need any equipment or the gym or any excuse not to do it (other than if you are infirm of course).

The researchers found that you get the same results as if you did the exercise on a specialist bike in a gym. For best results you need to do these 3 times a week. That's about ½ hour altogether.

To summarise, all exercise improves your cardiovascular system but HIIT delivers maximum health benefits in a minimum amount of time.

It certainly got me and my husband out of the house every day after I downloaded the Active 10 app onto my phone. It made us feel invigorated. I am still looking to fit in the 5 minute on the spot exercises – anytime

soon 😊

Best of health!

Suzanne

Naturopathic Nutritionist

The Great Bromley WI December meeting was combined with our Christmas lunch and held in the Courthouse at Great Bromley. And what a treat we had in addition to the lovely food.

We took over the pub and had the luxury of our own room area for the festivities. We quickly ran through the business of the day, and got to our Christmas lunch, trying to work out the quiz we had all been given – identify the Christmas song from a few words – not as easy as it seemed.

We had a fabulous after lunch speaker too. Marina Woodrow is from the Colchester night shelter. This shelter has rooms and can accommodate up to 20 homeless people – couples too – for up to a year. She has an army of volunteers to cook hot food for the residents twice per day, and three times on Sundays. The staff work to ensure that all residents' welfare needs are taken care of, that they have their correct benefits, and are given help for any drug and alcohol problems.



The centre runs alcohol free. Residents are breathalysed on arrival each night to ensure no alcohol issues. This has reduced the need to call for an ambulance from twice per week, to once per year, and putting far less pressure on the emergency services.

Our members were particularly generous, donating over £120 to the shelter, hopefully giving some Christmas cheer to the residents who are in temporary financial difficulty at this time of year.



Our entertainment was rounded off by the fabulous Hyoie O'Grady. Hyoie has just finished a one-year placement as Enjolras in *Les Miserables* in London and he sang a range of songs for us including songs from *Les Misérables*, *Don Quixote*, *Mack and Mabel*, and finished off with a lovely Christmas song. How lucky we are to have his mum, Dorothy, and grandmother, Jill, in our WI.

A fabulous meeting – and practically a full house this month, rounding out our year with a lovely event. We look forward to the 2019 line up and are particularly grateful to the committee for its hard work in putting such a great set of speakers, and social events in 2018. Thank you ladies.

Eileen Brown

TIPS FROM TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR TRAVELLING IN SNOW & ICE

Before Snow and Ice

If you have to make a journey when snow is forecast, make sure you have warm clothes, food, water, boots a torch and spade. Always let someone know your route and when you expect to arrive. • **Try** to wait until the roads have been gritted before travelling. • **Put** grit or cat litter on paths and driveways to lessen the risk of slipping. • **Check** on vulnerable neighbour

During Snow and Ice

Avoid travel if at all possible. • **If** you go outside wear several layers of clothing, and keep dry. • **Watch** out for signs of hypothermia: uncontrollable shivering, slow or slurred speech, memory lapse, drowsiness. • **Watch** out for frost bite: loss of feeling in and pale appearance of fingers, toes, nose and ear lobes. • **Keep** moving your arms and legs to help blood circulate.

• **Do** not walk on frozen ponds, lakes or rivers, you might fall through.

After Snow and Ice

Take care when walking on compacted snow, it may have turned to ice. • **Take** care when shovelling snow, cold air makes it harder to breathe, which adds extra strain on the body, and can cause heart attacks in the vulnerable.

Driving in Snow and Ice

If you must travel, take care around gritters and don't be tempted to overtake. • **Reduce** your speed, it can take 10 times longer to stop in these conditions. • **Use** the highest gear possible to avoid wheel spin.

• **Manoeuvre** gently and avoid harsh breaking. • **If** breaking is necessary, pump the brakes don't "slam" them on. • **If** you get stuck stay with your car and tie something brightly coloured to your aerial.

KEEP WARM!

KITCHEN CORNER

PILAU of CHICKEN

1 chicken
4oz rice
3 small onions
1 oz almonds
white stock
Butter
Seasoning
1hard boiled egg.

Method

Cut the chicken into joints. Melt butter in a pan, and in turn fry the pieces of chicken, blanched almonds, rice and onions, cut into rings, to a golden brown. Keep the almonds aside for garnishing and put all the other ingredients into a pan and cover with stock. Season to taste. Bring to boil then simmer gently for 10 minutes and then transfer to a

low oven for 1-1½ hours according to age of chicken.

Pile on a hot dish and garnish with the almonds and hard boiled egg.

Serve with a green salad or vegetables

Jill Frostick



Past Meetings

Sally Dearman spoke to us on Wednesday 9 January on "Woman Can Fly". This was the story of one woman's journey from jumping out of a landing window, then out of planes, to becoming a civil pilot, then the first woman through the RAF's fast-jet flying trains system.

Future Meetings & Diary Dates

"An Afternoon with Joyce Grenfell" by Gillian Grinham is the subject for our 13th February meeting. Gillian is an Author, former teacher and a Director of plays & musicals. She will perform a series of monologues and songs from Joyce's repertoire, interspersed with details of her much loved entertainer's life.

Toni Neobard & Kate Broad, family historians and authors will present "For Better or For Worse" on 13 March. This will be a light-hearted look at marriage and relationships through the eyes of Victorians. What happened if they didn't marry and what if you did but were not happy with your choice? It will be a glimpse at bizarre goings-on showing wedded bliss wasn't always so!

On 10 April the popular speaker Mark Mitchels will talk to us on "The Genius of Charles Dickens". Dickens rose to become a great novelist by sheer talent and determination. He worked a self-imposed schedule that never relaxed and in the end he probably brought about his early death. But the novels survive, to be rediscovered by each generation. What sort of man was he? His genius is astonishing and this talk uses biography and extracts from his books to re-create the man and his achievements.

NEW - each month, the Coffee Grinders will meet at The Lambe School, Gaston Street, East Bergholt, CO7 6SD from 10-12 noon. This meeting especially welcomes new members but gives all members the opportunity of meeting the activity Group Leaders and the Committee whilst enjoying a cup of coffee. The next meeting is on Friday 22 February.

Membership

Our main purpose is to encourage lifelong learning for those who are no longer in full time employment and emphasis is always placed on making learning active and fun as well as helping in developing friendships. We have a wide range of groups including language study, country walking, computer studies and gardens, churches and historic buildings visits. In the main, membership is drawn from communities in the lower Stour Valley and adjacent areas including Brantham, Capel St Mary, Dedham, East Bergholt, Holbrook, Lawford, Manningtree, Raydon, & Stratford St Mary. We are affiliated to the ThirdAge Trust, have over 370 members and 35 active groups. For further information please visit www.stourvalleyu3a.org.uk where membership secretary Gillian Gibbs may be contacted.

Meeting Venue

We meet at The Constable Hall, Gandish Road, East Bergholt CO7 6TP at 2 for 2.15pm. Annual membership costs £12 a year and this entitles members to attend the meetings that take place on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. Whilst Visitors are welcome to join us on a limited number of occasions, paying a donation each time, Members are given priority, for safety reasons, due the halls limited capacity.

Remember

It's never too late to learn! Join over 400,000 members across over 1,000 U3As throughout the UK today!

RAYMOND SIDNEY (RAY) ROGERS

1928-2018



Ray was born on the 1st April 1928 to parents Sidney and Queenie who both worked for British Rail. Home was a terraced house in Mile End, Colchester, with grandparents living nearby. Ray had a happy childhood except when, during the war, he and his

brother Maurice were evacuated to Coventry and billeted close to a munitions factory! They were soon rescued by their father and brought back to Colchester. When Ray left school at 14 he started work as a boiler maker's apprentice for his Uncle who owned a business in Colchester. This work set a theme for the rest of his life as he was, at heart, a "maker and fixer" ... he loved nothing more than to design, make and repair things, and would spend *hours* tinkering away in his garage to create an item that he could have probably easily bought at a DIY shop.

Ray met Maureen at a dance in Colchester in the early 1950s and was smitten enough to regularly bike from Mile End to Kelvedon to meet up for a few hours, a round trip of some 35 miles. (This was typical of Ray who was very active and kept "on the go", be it cycling 20 miles work and back, endless DIY and garden projects, organising walks or learning to ski when aged 62.) They were married and had two sons, Nigel and Graham. Ray and Maureen's first house was in Bourne Road, Colchester, and it needed a lot of TLC to turn it into a home, which they did together with typical energy. At that time Ray and Maurice started a small business in the garden workshop making wrought-iron fences and gates. Nigel has vivid memories of holding pieces of metal in place whilst Dad "tacked up" with his big welding plant which caused the neighbourhood street lights to dim.

Ray's hobby of sea fishing inspired him to buy an old boat. With no telephone at home, he used the local 'phone box to contact some adverts. In his excitement he seemed to forget that Maureen was a telephonist! She picked up the call to make the connection and, recognising his voice, wondered why he was calling her? He quickly made up some excuse about "wanting to know how long to boil potatoes." He did finally get his boat and many of the boy's happiest memories

were associated with messing about in that.

In the early 1970s Ray was made redundant from BX Plastics where he had worked for 20 years. It was a difficult time for him as he loved the work where he made many lifelong friends. He retrained as a service engineer for household boilers, work that he didn't particularly like but he enjoyed visiting his clients. He liked nothing more than to have a good debate and when he got animated on a topic there was a fair amount air-stabbing with his forefinger to emphasise his point! Ray loved a laugh and, being born on 1st April, he was a victim of quite a few practical jokes, which he took in good humour, but he also played plenty on his unsuspecting sons. He once took a bottle of cider that Nigel had been secretly swigging and topped it up with vinegar!

Ray learnt to play the piano accordion as a child and used those skills in retirement to learn to play a huge electronic organ and also encouraged Maureen to learn. They held organ club meetings at their house and attended organ concerts together.

In 1969 the Rogers family moved to the newly-built 7 St George's Close in Great Bromley with a very large garden. Ray took a week's springtime holiday each year just to dig it over ready for vegetable planting. It became apparent that there was enough room there to build another property, so in the late 80s they planned the construction of a new house next door. It was in this house that Ray happily spent his last 30 years and maintained he never wanted to leave until "carried out in a box." With a lot of support from his family and friends, particularly Estelle & Ann, his wish was granted.

Ray was surrounded by a loving and supportive family of his two sons, daughter-in-law and two granddaughters and more recently, Conny, his grandson-in-law. He knew he was soon to become a great-grandad, something he was terribly excited about, but Jude was born after Ray had passed away.

Dad, you are dearly loved and will be greatly missed and will forever remain an inspiration for what can be achieved in life by **hard-work, good humour and a little luck!** Thank you for being a wonderful Dad. And certainly, as you would say, "*you were a good old boy*".

Nigel and Graham Rogers

ROBIN CHARLES EDWIN FINCH

6 AUGUST 1941-26 JANUARY 2018

Robin was born during the war at Colchester maternity home, the first of three sons to Phil and Elsie Finch. Robin was an unusual name for a boy at that time, chosen because he was ill just after his birth and the medication the nurses applied gave him a bright red chest.

During the war when his father was serving on the mine sweepers, the family lived in the Cross Inn, Great Bromley, which was run by his grandmother Louisa Catlin. After the war the family moved from farm to farm around East Anglia, probably as Phil spoke his mind and had a passionate need to tell each farmer what he thought of them!

Robin's school life was also rather nomadic but he eventually settled at Colchester Royal Grammar with his brothers. This seems to be a happy time in his life and years later he would still delight in quoting the school motto in Latin.

It was a meeting with the policeman from Great Bentley that gave Robin the idea to join the Metropolitan Police, so at 16 he left home for London to become a cadet. By August 1960 he was a Constable and 30 years later in August 1990 he retired as Chief Superintendent after an eventful career.

One year he collected a Christmas turkey which he assumed would be frozen, not dreaming it would be fresh killed that morning. He caused great drama when he carried the bird through the front doors of Scotland Yard dripping a fresh trail of blood up to his office, which happened to be next door to the Commissioner.

Robin met Ann Brown at a dance in 1960. That night Ann dreamt she would marry that young policeman, just as she had dreamed about choosing a career in nursing. She was right as in March 1963 there was a classic nurse and policeman match up which led to almost 55 inseparable years

and three children: Nick, Paul and Jemma.

After retirement Robin and Ann moved to Lawford where Robin was active on Parish Council and Local History Recording, helping in bookshops and running quizzes amongst many other things.



Robin had a lovely sense of humour and loved telling his stories about his adventures. Not everything was revealed, however, and in his last days in hospital, after a small cough, his upper set of teeth plopped out onto the bed. His very surprised children were finally told that he had lost his teeth carrying out his duties as a London bobby and that was why he sported a moustache to hide this fact.

During his last week the family spent every day together, giving support and strength to each other. Even in these times laughter was not far away. In one unforgettable moment during a quiet time of reflection, Robin started to rise up in bed, but it was only Paul's size 10 shoes that had knocked the adjustable bed's remote control into action!

Robin will be sorely missed by his many friends and family.

GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY GREAT WAR CASUALTIES

We have come to the end of our series of commemorating the Great War dead on the Great and Little Bromley War Memorials, with a tribute appearing, where possible, in the month 100 years after their death.

There are a few men we have not covered, however, due to lack of information. We will mention these men briefly here. All men will have tributes on the war memorial pages of the village websites, and it will be an ongoing process to update the information there as we find out more.

W Dove

This may well be Walter Henry Greensides Dove who was the son of Walter and Marion. From the WW1 Pension records for Alfred, Walter's brother, it appears that he and his father were living at New House Farm, Little Bromley in 1917. Alfred's occupation was farm labourer. We have not managed to tie up military records at this stage.

Frederick and Harry French

A newspaper article definitely links Frederick and Harry to Great Bromley, and identifies them as brothers, and a little more information has turned up that will go on the web page. The article, from the Essex Newsman on 5th May 1917, reads: "Cpl. F. French, Rifle Brigade, son of Mr and Mrs French of the Dairy Farm, Great Bromley, was killed in action on April 9th. Their other son was killed whilst acting as a sniper last July." Which makes Frederick's date of death as 9th April 1917, and Harry's month of death as July 1916.

Herbert Harvey

We think it likely that we know who this chap was and have some info about him but we don't have that last piece of the jigsaw which may be provided by the 1921 Census. It is interesting to note that the Frating War Memorial apparently contains the name of a Herbert Joseph Harvey, not Herbert George. Is this the same man? With the possible exception of his birth, marriage and death certificates (which we have not sighted) all other documents including the Births, Marriages and Death

indexes only show a middle name of George.

Ernest Lucas

We do not know Ernest's exact date, place and cause of death (though it appears to have been in late 1918/early 1919 in East London, being registered in West Ham in Q1 of 1919), nor his place of burial. Ernest is not officially classed as one of the war dead.

Wilfred Henry Lewis

We had someone contact us and suggest this man had been missed off the memorial, but we know nothing more than that and have found no ties with Great or Little Bromley at this stage, so this may be a red herring.

As always, we welcome any new or additional information - and in particular photographs - that anyone may be able to provide. *HF & MA.*

GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB



100 Club Winners

October

1st R. Gladwin
2nd D. Lording
3rd E. Mann

November

1st J. Taylor
2nd T. Higgins
3rd B. Hurst

December

1st Martin Frostick
2nd Ivan Arthey
3rd Pam Wright

FROM THE RECTORY

Pop singer, musician and philanthropist Cliff Richard, the country of Myanmar and New Year's Eve have one thing in common.

They were all previously known by another name. Cliff Richard was born Harry Webb, Myanmar was Burma and New Year's Eve was rather unimaginatively known as Old Year's Night.

Spectacular celebrations to mark the passing of another year and the welcoming in of a new one occur the world over, and Samoa in the South Pacific is the first to get the party started. This hasn't always been the case though. Up until 2010, Samoa was the last country in the world to see the calendar turn from the 31st December to the 1st January. Following a government decision, Samoa moved to the west of the international date line, and were subsequently the first nation to see in 2011.

The rationale behind the move was that it put Samoa in the same time zone as Australia and New Zealand, who are their major trading partners. As the Samoan Prime Minister Tuila'epa Sailele Malielegaoi explained. "While it's Friday here, it's Saturday in New Zealand, and when we're at church on Sunday, they're already conducting business in Sydney and Brisbane."

The start of a New Year is often a time that people have sought to make a change in their lives, be it diet or exercise or work/life balance, although nothing usually quite as drastic as the change that Samoa made.

In a letter written to some of the first followers of Jesus Christ, the writer describes Jesus as 'the same yesterday, today and forever' - God is unchanging. At the same time, in one of the tensions of apparent opposites that Christians so often live with, the bible also records God saying through an ancient prophet, 'see, I am doing a new thing'.

These two aspects of God's character are a wonderful focus for the start of a New Year. God continues to act in our world. He creates anew, he finds fresh and exciting ways of building up and strengthening the weak and the weary. He continues to search out the lonely and the lost. And in a world where change is constant and unrelenting, he remains the same God of love.

Simon

Rev Canon Simon Heron
Lawford, The Bromleys & Little Bentley
Area Dean of Harwich

01206 392659

www.lawfordchurch.co.uk

'Loving God. Living Life.'



**Community Library
at The Cross**

Every Wednesday 10.00am-12 noon



**The Post Office
at
The Cross**

Wednesday mornings
10 - noon



Services for February

St George's Church, Great Bromley

Welcome to our services

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| February 3 rd | <i>Candlemas (Presentation of Christ)</i> 9.15am | Holy Communion (BCP) with hymns |
| February 10 th | 4th Sunday before Lent 10.30am | Parish Eucharist (CW1) |
| February 17 th | 3rd before Lent (Septuagesima) 9.15am | Family Service |
| February 24 th | 2nd before Lent (Sexagesima) 10.30am 6.30pm | Parish Eucharist (CW1) Evensong (BCP) with choir |

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Vicar: | Revd Canon Simon Heron | 01206 392659 |
| Churchwardens: | Mrs Jenny Nicholls | 01206 230688 |
| | Mrs Yvonne Cobbold | 01206 230360 |

***The church is open daily and you are welcome to visit.
More details and information at www.greatbromley.org.uk
Facebook or Twitter @StGeorgesGtBrom***

St Mary's church, Lawford

| | | |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| Every Sunday | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| 1st Sunday | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| 2nd Sunday | 10.30am | Family Service |
| | 6.30pm | Evensong |
| 3rd Sunday | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| | 6.30pm | Café Church |
| 4th Sunday | 10.30am | Morning Worship |
| Wednesdays | 9.30am | Holy Communion |

St Mary's church, Little Bentley

| | | |
|------------|---------|----------------|
| 1st Sunday | 10.30am | Morning Prayer |
| 3rd Sunday | 10.30am | Holy Communion |

St Mary's church, Ardleigh

| | | |
|------------|---------|------------------|
| 1st Sunday | 10.3am | Parish Eucharist |
| 2nd Sunday | 8.00am | Holy Communion |
| 3rd Sunday | 10.30am | Parish Eucharist |
| 4th Sunday | 8.00am | Holy Communion |

J.A.M. DROP-IN

Every Friday in St George's church
Term time only
Parents and children welcome
All are welcome
3.00pm to 3.45pm
Refreshments, activities

Church Lunch

Friday, 1st February 12 noon.

All welcome to join us at 12 noon.
All welcome.

