



Services for December

1st	6.00pm	The Eucharist	Hamilton Lodge
2nd	9.00am	Little Footsteps	St. Mary the Virgin
	10.00am	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
3rd	11.00am	The Eucharist	Seven Rivers
4th	9.00am	The Eucharist & Rosary	St. Mary the Virgin
	2.30pm	Marriage of Anna Groom & Marcus Downing	
Sunday 5th		Advent 2	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	St. George the Martyr
	8.00am	The Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer & Sermon	St. George the Martyr
6th	9.30am	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
8th		The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady	
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
9th	9.00am	Little Footsteps	St. Mary the Virgin
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
10th	11.00am	The Eucharist	Seven Rivers
11th	9.00am	The Eucharist & Rosary	St. Mary the Virgin
Sunday 12th		Advent 3	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	St. Mary the Virgin
	8.00am	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary the Virgin
13th	9.30am	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
15th	7.00pm	The Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
16th	9.00am	Little Footsteps	St. Mary the Virgin
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
17th	11.00am	The Eucharist	Seven Rivers
18th	9.00am	The Eucharist & Rosary	St. Mary the Virgin
Sunday 19th		Advent 4	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	St. George the Martyr
	8.00am	The Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer & Sermon	St. George the Martyr
20th	9.30am	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
22nd	7.00pm	The Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
	8.00pm	Bible Readings & Carols	St. Mary the Virgin
23rd	7.00pm	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
24th		Christmass Eve	
	11.00am	The Eucharist	Seven Rivers
	3.00pm	Christmass Carol Service	Hamilton Lodge
	4.00pm	Children's Christingle Service	St. Mary the Virgin
	5.30pm	Children's Christingle Service	St. George the Martyr
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St. Mary the Virgin
25th		Christmass Day	
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
Sunday 26th		Holy Family Sunday	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	St. Mary the Virgin
	8.00am	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
27th		S John the Evangelist	
	11.00am	The Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
29th	7.00pm	The Eucharist	St. George the Martyr
30th	7.00pm	The Eucharist	St. Mary the Virgin
31st	11.00am	The Eucharist	Seven Rivers

"HERE WE COME A-WASSAILING,
 AMONG THE LEAVES SO GREEN ..."



To hold a wassail is to carouse, to sing good wishes, carols and the like from house to house at Christmas.

In the past, various different groups have take it upon themselves to organise carol singing around our villages. There have been the brownies, the guides and enthusiastic villagers and probably other groups I don't know of throughout the years. If you have ever taken part on one of these occasions you will know that it requires a little organisation beforehand together with warm, sensible clothes and footwear, illumination, carols and, of course, your voice on the night.

It is always a wonderful experience to go with friends from house to house singing. People, whilst also hopefully enjoying our singing, are always generous with their giving to whichever charity the proceeds are being donated to that year.

My brother and I, as children, used to go carol singing every year round our village. As an adult I have taken the brownies carol singing here and also been part of the group of villagers who leg it around the houses at that time. On one memorable occasion within the last few years it snowed while we were out - it was also bitterly cold! - making us think vividly as to what Christmas is really about. Not the buying up of goods from shops but the more simple pleasure of being with one's family and friends commemorating the birth of Christ.

So to all our readers I raise my wassail cup and wassail (salute) your health with the wassail ale (made with roasted apples, sugar, nutmeg and toast) and wish you health and happiness whilst wassailing with your friends and family.

Have a peaceful Christmas.

Leonie Henderson



Happy Christmas to all our Readers



The people of S Mary's Ardleigh
and S George's Great Bromley
wish you all a blessed Christmass
and invite you to join in our
celebrations

**22nd 8pm Bible Readings & Carols at S Mary's
Ardleigh**

24th CHRISTMASS EVE

**4pm Children's Christingle Service at S Mary's
Ardleigh**

5.30pm Children's Christingle Service at S George's

11.30pm Midnight Mass at S Mary's Ardleigh

25th CHRISTMASS DAY

10.30am The Parish Eucharist at S George's

26th HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

8am The Eucharist at S Mary's Ardleigh

10.30am The Parish Eucharist at S George's



**THE UNITED PARISHES OF ARDLEIGH AND
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Dear Parishioner

"It's your busy time of year Rector" goes the call, and yes, December is quite rightly busy for Rectors. I say quite rightly because we are celebrating what Christians believe to be the most important thing to ever happen in our world, that God chose to come to earth and be born of a woman and live as one of us.

It's not an easy thing to get one's head around and has always been seen as impossible by some that, in the person of Jesus Christ, God should dwell fully human and fully divine. But that is what we believe and what marks us out from others, that the God we worship as father, knows intimately what we are going through, not just because he created us, but also because he has lived on earth like one of us.

That makes me feel secure and gives me hope, so I'm happy to be busy celebrating with others and sharing the joy. The shoeboxes, which many of you have filled with gifts, are now on their way to children of what nation, colour or creed, I do not know. What I do know is that when they receive and open them, they will be aware that someone who they cannot see, loves them, and wishes their lives to be better because of Christmass, just as if Jesus has been born again in us.

May your busyness in celebrating bring peace to you and yours and to the world.

Fr Nicolas.

Rector: Fr Nicolas Spicer -01206 230344
nspicer@lineone.net

Churchwardens:
S Mary's Ardleigh

Mrs Mandy Pratt - 230003
Mrs Claire Scargill - 395417
Mrs Ann Fairley - 250229
Mrs Barbara Hall - 230673

S George's The Bromleys

ST JOHN EYE HOSPITAL, JERUSALEM

St. John Eye Hospital Jerusalem is a centre of excellence providing ophthalmic care of high quality and relevance to the people of the Holy Land irrespective of race, creed, social class and ability to pay.

Locals and parishioners of Gt Bromley and Ardleigh have supported this hospital in Jerusalem for quite a few years. The staff at the hospital always respond to ever more difficult times with optimism and have recently set up a second outreach team and mobile clinic for those who are unable to travel to the hospital.

Please sort out any surplus soft toys for the patients in the Children's Ward. These children are given a toy as a comforter which they take home with them after their stay in hospital.

Please leave them in St George's Church, or drop them off at Michaelmas House, or phone Pru on 231115 to arrange collection.

Many thanks

Pru Simons.



CONKERS CONQUER THE STONES

Many of you will remember the Millennium weekend when the whole village took part in a "Stone" gathering. And how much they too recall it, and with such joy! Father Nicolas and I recently visited historic Boston where the Stone brothers sailed up the Charles river in 1635 and set up their farms. It is a beautiful part although most of their land is now covered by substantial Boston buildings.

It is quite astonishing to find so many local names around the area: Colchester, Billericay, Braintree, Norwich, Dedham, Haverhill etc. where East Anglians had settled in the 17th century and after.

We were lucky to have wonderful hospitality in Boston which we enjoyed with Susanne Page and Ben Stone, so we were able to explore the area for a day or two before the Stone gathering. The first day we became real tourists taking a WW2 SUKH (an amphibious vehicle) on a guided tour of the town and the great river, so we were shown all the historic areas, the discourse albeit peppered with tales of pop and film star stories.

It is a gracious leafy town with very fine 18th century buildings, many still privately occupied; there is much wealth in this city.

Susanne and I deserted Fr Nicolas one day and drove to Cape Cod, staying a night in a wonderful place on the shore, The Lighthouse Inn, selected from the internet with a



privately owned and working lighthouse and ... rub your eyes! ... it turned out to be run by one Gregory Stone and family, direct descendants of our

Simon. A number of the family were there to celebrate the life of the grandfather whose funeral

was the following day. They embraced us as long lost relatives with assurances that they will all come over to Great Bromley; they had not previously been aware of the living Stone connection with St George's. There is now a dream that there might be a get together, hopefully with Bromley people too, at this lovely place in a couple of years. Who is up for it?

All the Stones we met cherish their background, many of whom have visited in the past. We even met the grandson of the initiator of the Stone window. Genealogical records and photos were also shared at the Wayside Inn, Sudbury, with its connections with Longfellow, where 22 of us gathered for lunch. Ben Stone and Susanne were the links, together with Fr Nicolas and myself uniting the gathering many of whom were meeting for the first time.

The conkers I had brought from Great Bromley were a great success. The seeds, their roots and the flowering branches likened to those who had planted their roots in the USA. The colours of the Fall had not reached their peak, but they lent glory to the elegant wooden colonial style houses of the area. That evening there was a very lively get together in a Tapas restaurant in Boston - which is a really swinging place!

Sunday took us to the very high church service with beautiful singing, before we set off with Sally (Susanne's sister) and husband, Thor, on a tour of the burial grounds of the Stone family: St Aubin cemetery, Watertown (Simon) and Harvard University yard in Cambridge where Gregory is buried.

We bring back messages of love, friendship and remembrance and we look forward to 23rd April, St George's Day, 2005 when some of the Stones will definitely be with us. I know they will receive the usual welcome from the parishioners, so well recalled by those who have visited in the past.

Jean Harding

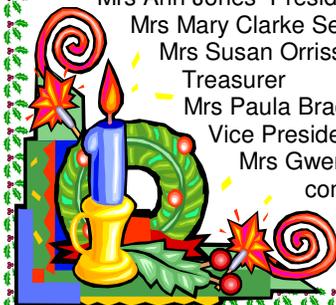


WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It didn't seem possible that November was here again and time for us to hold our Annual Meeting when we elect our Officers and committee for the ensuing year. Mrs Susan Gunson, Women's Institute Adviser (WIA), came along to guide us through the procedure.

Mrs Ann Jones agreed to be our President for a third year and officers and committee also agreed to serve for a further 12 months. The re-elected committee is as follows:

Mrs Ann Jones President
 Mrs Mary Clarke Secretary
 Mrs Susan Orriss Treasurer
 Mrs Paula Bradshaw Vice President
 Mrs Gwen Barrell committee
 Mrs Jean Delgety



committee Mrs Sylvia Mangan committee After the elections, Mrs Gunson told us how she became a WI member some 25 years ago, not knowing much about our organisation but gradually through the years she became involved.

We hope you came along and supported the WI and Village Hall at their jointly run Christmas Fayre in the Hall on Saturday, 20th November and thank you all for that, all proceeds will be split equally between the two.

In December, we will be at "The Cross Inn" for our Christmas meal together. On behalf of all WEI members, I would like to take the opportunity to send "Seasons Greetings" to everyone.

June Willgress

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

NO - it was not Leonie or the printers who got the competition wrong - it was yours truly! It should have read "a scarf" - sorry!

By the time you read this entry you will have had, and enjoyed, your Christmas lunch and I am sure you will all join me in saying a big Thank You to Richard and Brenda and to wish them a very happy Christmas.

At our last meeting we were taken on a journey through Walton Backwaters with slides showing the wildlife.

Make a note in your diary, the last meeting of the year is 16th December when we will have our own "tea party" at the Hall with a BUMPER RAFFLE. If you can contribute a little something to put on the table it would be appreciated - thanks.

Can't get it wrong this time as there will not be a competition! To EVERYONE we wish a happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Vicky Griffiths



NEWS FROM THE DOCTORS' SURGERY

GREAT BENTLEY SURGERY

THE HOLLIES, THE GREEN, GT BENTLEY

It's nice for a change to be able to write something about a patient.

Normally the rules of confidentiality mean that we can't even admit that someone is registered here, (as if you didn't all see each other coming and going!), but I know that this particular lady will be delighted to see her name in print.

For the whole of October, we collected money for Breast Cancer Research. Our book money went to them, and Val Jolly, our ace prescription issuer, organised a box full of pink items - pink being the "Breast Awareness" campaign colour - as a prize for the person who got closest to guessing their total value. There was a teddy, a scarf, a pen, various bathroom bits and pieces - all pink - even a bottle of pink wine. Anyway, the winner was a lovely old friend of ours, Queenie Hoare of Thorrington. Val says that she has never known anybody so excited as Queenie was when she heard that she had won. When I saw her a few days ago she was still full of it and said that this was the biggest prize she had ever won in her life.

I hear that the teddy has taken up residence on Queenie's bedside table and rumour has it that she slipped the bottle of wine to our receptionist, Tony. (I hope you didn't have any ulterior motive there, Queenie!) By the way, thanks to everyone who contributed to the collection by whatever means. The eventual total was £295 which was a tremendous effort. Then, to cap it all, Queenie then insisted on topping the sum up to £300. Thanks Queenie, and congratulations!

Another bit of nice news is that a few days ago we had our first births within the practice for several years. Dr Bhatti had

a baby girl, Niamh, (it's Irish and pronounced "Neeve") on 8th November. Niamh and Mother are both well, Dad is understandably proud, while sister Aoife and brother Danny can't decide



whether they are pleased to have a new playmate or jealous of all the attention she is getting.

By one of life's coincidences, Donna, wife of Joe Knatt our Superintendent Pharmacist, also had a little girl, Alisha, just three days earlier. Again, all is well. Alisha is Donna and Joe's first baby - little do they know what they have let themselves in for. Best wishes and many congratulations to all concerned.

We are coming up to that time again when everything seems to go mad on the prescription front. I'm not sure why being closed for an extra two days should make us so busy, but it does. Please help us by getting your requests in a few days earlier than usual. That way, hopefully, there won't be quite such a mad rush in the days leading up to Christmas.

Just in case anyone doesn't know, prescriptions can be ordered by post, by fax (01206 252496) or by e-mail (postmaster@gp-f81021.nhs.uk), as well as in person. We don't take orders over the 'phone though, as there is too much risk of errors and they would block up our telephone lines.

Finally for this month, we are always looking to improve or streamline our services here at the surgery. So, if you can think of any way in which we might be able to do things better, please let us know. If it turns out to be something that is totally impractical we will say so, but patients' input is always welcome, especially positive suggestions.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager



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UK last posting dates for Christmas

Wed 15 December	Standard parcels
Sat 18 December	Second Class
Tues 21 December	First Class
Wed 22 December	Special Delivery

HARVEST LUNCH

Thanks be given to all who supplied dishes of exceptionally good food, plus those who organised the raffle and gave prizes as well as those who gave freely of their labour on the day to make it such the social success that it was with 96 people from both villages attending and making it a successful and enjoyable celebration of harvest time.



The net proceeds, some £340??, were donated to the charities operating in Sudan.

Corina Swanston

KITCHEN CORNER

Christmas is always a busy time in the kitchen, with holidays and entertaining friends and family. I find it helps to make some batches of mincepies to keep in the freezer, usually uncooked, to just take out and bake when needed. I also ring the changes by doing some with orange flavoured pastry - add grated zest to the mixture and use juice of the orange to mix instead of water. Vary them too, by making some with lids and others with stamped out shapes on top. It is also a help to do some advance preparations such as breadcrumbs for sauce, brandy butter, chopped herbs for stuffings, soups, sausage rolls. All these will keep several days in the fridge or can be frozen.



Don't forget if you have a frozen turkey, to make

sure it is properly thawed out before roasting, and that the juices run clear so that you know it is properly cooked. It is best not to stuff the cavity, only the neck, as this helps thorough cooking. I usually put a lemon inside the bird, or perhaps an onion, to make a good flavour for the gravy.

Happy Christmas cooking!
Jill Frostick

BRIGHTLINGSEA FARMERS' MARKET

16th December 9am - 1pm
Brightlingsea Community
Centre, Lower Park



For further details contact Bob Shotton
(01206 302669)

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Management Committee

met on 9th November at the Hall. Their next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, 4th January, 2005 at 7.30pm.

We are sometimes asked if we will allow the use of the hall free of charge for a charity fund raising event. This is not possible as one charity is not permitted to cross subsidise another charity with its funds, any funds that a charity has should be used for the purpose for which it was set up i.e. the objective as stated in its documentation. Even the Village Hall Committee has to book and hire the hall before it can run a fund raising function such as a dance.



The committee aims to treat all users of the hall fairly, spreading the burden of running and maintaining the facilities amongst the current users. Any shortfall then has to be made up by the Village Hall Committee, with fund raising events, unless some kind person organises a function and donates the proceeds to the hall. We also would like to receive a legacy which would enable us to carry out a major project such as re-roofing the

building with felt and new slates/tiles, something we have in mind that will need doing sooner rather than later.

None of the committee members (Trustees) receive payment for organizing and running the village hall. Only our caretaker is an employee and receives payment on a part time basis for attending to day to day business. Most committee members spend a considerable amount of time and energy seeing to hall affairs, often giving freely in their efforts to help the charity. So if you are thinking of organizing a charity event, why not consider giving to our worthwhile charity, Great Bromley Village Hall?

We thank you and appreciate your support at our Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 20th November, all money raised will be split equally between the Hall and the WI this year. We will be bringing back the Glen Miller Big Band sound to entertain you again in the spring on Saturday, 19th March, 2005. More information later but please book this actual date in your new diary.

May I, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the Season's Greetings for the new year.

Bevan Willgress

STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS Tendring District Council STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS Christmas & New Year Household Waste Collection Arrangements 2004/05

Normal collection will be operated up to and including Friday, 24th December, 2004

Week commencing Mon 27th Dec 2004

Normal day of collection

Monday & Tuesday - **NO** collection this week
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - Normal collection

No recycling will take place this week



Week commencing Mon 3rd Jan 2005

Normal day of collection

Monday collected Tuesday 4th January
Tuesday collected Wednesday 4th January
Wednesday collected Thursday 6th January
Thursday collected Friday 7th January
Friday collected Saturday 8th January

For collection of recyclable materials please refer to your calendar



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CARPET BOWLS

The Sale of the Century was not so successful making just over £350, with the local tip getting the majority of the items. Thanks go to all those who contributed in items, time and effort.

The annual Christmas Sleigh collection starts in December, and we visit the Cheshire Homes on Sunday 19th December at 3.15pm for the Rotary carol singing event with Father Christmas and pressies.

We have had to reduce our nights out on our visits to Brightlingsea, Wivenhoe, Thorington, and Alresford, due to decreasing members able to collect; if anyone would like to be involved please contact me.

Charities include this year Make a Wish and the Little Haven Hospice, to each of whom we have recently given £1500 from last year's fund raising events.



I take this opportunity of wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a new year with plenty of occasions to be involved with the community in any appropriate way.

Len Christodoulides

P.S. If you wish to advertise in the Messenger contact me for rates e.g business card is £30 per annum

To quote the TV sports presenters, on 17th October Great Bromley "came home with the silverware". Playing at Wix in the Warne Memorial Cup they scored the highest number of points beating Weeley, Clacton and Gt Bentley on the way. Quite an impressive looking cup which will seem twice its size when someone has to clean it during the year. Being the winning team it has to be either Jayne, Richard, Nan or Linda. I guess Richard - he is definitely outnumbered. Hard luck, Rich!!

League matches
 Three more league matches to date. We won 6-2 away to Gt Bentley, 5-3 away at Clacton Bowls and a drawn game away to Lt Clacton.

Club Pairs Competition
 This was completed on 10th November with Linda and Brian Francis defending their title against Evelyn and Andrew Childs. Both sides took the first 2-3 ends with singles. Evelyn and Andrew then came in with a 3 and a 4. Linda and Brian crept up gradually needing 5 to win on the last end. They were holding one, but Andrew kept it a close head which Linda was unable to break. The final score was 10-7 to the challengers. Well done! to all of them.

Already it is time to wish all our members and friends a very Happy Christmas and a good 2005.



Nancy Kempster

FROM THE PAST ...
A PARSON LANDOWNER

Richard de Skegeton was the parson of Ingatestone in 1294 according to *The Calendar of State Papers*.
 He held land in Elmstead, Great Bentley, Wivenhoe, Great Bromley and Stambridge in 1270 which is recorded in *Essex Feet of Fines*.
John Appleby

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Great Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 11 November 2004

PLANNING

The Council considered and agreed no objections to the following planning applications:

6 Back Lane East – formation of new access.

4 Meadow Close – two-storey extension.

Field House, Parson's Hill – porch and extension.

The Council considered and agreed that it could not provide a view on the following planning application without further information:

Oak House Farm, Harwich Road - change of use from kindergarten school to casino club.

The Council agreed to make representations to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the district Council's enforcement notice requiring the removal of a mobile home and attached structures from the
Portlands Barn site, Harwich Road and where the landowner had appealed.

Tending District Council planning decisions:

Talisman Coaches, Harwich Rd – offices and toilet accommodation, (approval).

Land adjacent to Spread Eagle, Brook St – amendment to previous approval, (approval with conditions).

10 (Council Houses), Harwich Rd – detached double garage, (approval).
Former post office, Brook St – change of use from commercial to residential, (refusal).

Industrial units, Parson's Hill – centre for servicing and repair of caravans, motor homes and ancillary vehicles, (approval with conditions).

Old Courthouse Inn, Harwich Road – removal of condition of approval to allow use of residential accommodation separate and independent of public house, (conditional approval).

Pussy Willow, Mary Lane South – conservatory (approval)

Hare Green recreation ground

A 'springy motorcycle' is to be installed for the use by young children.

Highways

The Highways Agency has confirmed that the repairs to the Parson's Hill bridge should be completed by 17 December 2004.

Future meetings

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 16 December 2004 at the Village Hall, Great Bromley.

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on **9th December, 2004.**

For the time and venue please contact the Parish Clerk on 01206 391015.



GREAT & LITTLE BROMLEY ON THE WEB

www.greatbromley.org.uk and www.littlebromley.org.uk

GREAT BROMLEY & FRATING PLAYGROUP

Mondays Wednesdays & Thursdays 9.30am-12 Midday
£5.00 per session 2 yrs 6mths to 5yrs
at Great Bromley Village Hall.
Contact Gayle (Secretary) on 01206 251349



Our setting has trained staff, is friendly and welcoming. It's fully committed to early years learning. We accept 'nursery education vouchers' funded by the state for three and four year olds, and are regularly inspected by OFSTED to ensure that our educational provision is of an acceptable quality. Our last inspection (December 2003) was with good results, copies of which are available.

I would like to mention the children who will be leaving us at Christmas to join school in January. They are: Joshua, Charlie, Alfie, Liberty, Bailey, Zak, Ellie, Megan, Grace, Dan, George and last, but not least,

Christian. We hope you have all enjoyed your time at Playgroup and we wish you well in your new schools.

Our Last day of term before Christmas is **Thursday 9th December.**

Our children will be doing the Christmas nativity again this year so good luck to all who take part. The children's Christmas party this year is with Jabber Jacks, we hope they all enjoy themselves.

On behalf of all the staff and committee I would like to wish all our children a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!
See you in 2005!
Kelly Buckingham.



SCALLY



WAGS

**0-5YRS
FRIDAY MORNINGS
9.30AM-11.30AM**

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL
CONTACT TRACEY ON 01206 230625 OR KELLY ON 07916113713

We recently celebrated our **1st year** of up and running as Scally Wags! We had a birthday party to celebrate, which went extremely well. All the children and Mums enjoyed themselves.

We would like to thank all who attend Scally Wags, which help it to be such a well turned out and successful group!

Our Christmas party this year will be with Jo Jingles taking place on Friday 10th December (which is our last day of term).

The cost of this will be £3.00 per child, and all monies need to be paid in advance ASAP. Please see Kelly for more details.

We do hope you all enjoy the festive break and we look forward to seeing you all back in 2005!

Kelly Buckingham & Tracey Sutherland.



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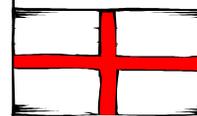
CROWN LANE SOUTH (Off John De Bois Hill)
ARDLEIGH COLCHESTER CO7 7PL

Tel: 01206 230180

TENDRING REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN: POTENTIAL PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT SITES

A number of residents attended the meeting for a lengthy discussion of the four sites proposed for private development. Residents were particularly concerned at the large-scale 'Oasis' development which would include an industrial estate and more than 1000 new houses. The general view was that there was no economic, employment or social rationale for the scheme and it was opposed by every major authority, including the county council and government office. Although 'Oasis' was not an official scheme it mirrored the proposals in the district council's new local plan, and which were designed to help secure a road link between Harwich and Clacton. Residents did not consider that such a link, between the A120 and A133, would significantly benefit the local community. The likely sale and redevelopment of the Cheshire Home site was discussed and

residents expressed concern at the consequent loss of jobs. Any new houses would also put additional pressure on the local sewage works. The site did however offer possibilities of additional affordable housing, which was being sought by both the parish council and local community. The Harwich Road and Furze Lane proposals did not look feasible as they were on green field sites outside the areas of permitted development and were difficult to access. The parish council will be objecting to the Harwich Road, Furze Lane and Oasis proposals. Residents were also encouraged to write to the district council with their own views. If the Cheshire Home *does* sell its Great Bromley site the parish council would support a limited development on condition that it included at least 10 – 12 affordable houses.



Brenda and Richard welcome you to
"THE BROMLEY CROSS INN"

For fine ales and good food, brought to you in a friendly, welcoming atmosphere and comfortable, homely environment.
01206 230282

- **Thursday, 16th December CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT Prompt 8.30 pm start**
In aid of the Donkey Sanctuary £2.50 per head includes light supper
- **Wednesday, 22nd December MUSIC NIGHT 8.15 pm start**
Enjoy a pre-Christmas singalong and join us round the Christmas tree for end of the evening carols.
- **Christmas Eve** Live music from **TREBLE TROUBLE**
- **Christmas Day** Opening hours 12 - 2.00pm Closed in evening
- **Boxing Day** Opening hours 12 - 3.00pm 7.00-11.00pm
Lunchtime country buffet £11.00 per head 12.30-2.00pm (bookings only)
Pub open to non-diners
- **New Year's Eve** Opening hours 12-2.00pm 7.00pm-1.00am
4-course evening meal £19.95 per head (bookings only)
Pub open to non-diners
- **New Year's Day** Opening hours 12-2.00pm 7.30-11.00pm
Restaurant open in evening

NOTE: HURRY, HURRY, HURRY This is your last chance to buy one of the few remaining "Inn-Mates" Calendar. All profits go to the Essex Air Ambulance Fund.
Non-Smoking Restaurant

Forthcoming Events

DECEMBER

- 5 Ramblers' Association walk, from Elmstead Market, 10.00am
- 9 Last day of term for Playgroup
Lt Bromley parish council meeting, 7.30pm
- 10 Scally Wags Christmas party
- 16 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 19 Rotary visit Seven Rivers for carol singing, 3.15pm
- 29 Lt Bromley Christmas Concert, St Mary's Church, 2.30pm

JANUARY

- 4 Village Hall Committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm

MARCH

- 19 Dance to Glen Miller Big Band Sound, Village Hall

APRIL

- 23 Stone family visit from America

Brenda and Richard of The Cross Inn send warmest Season's Greetings to all customers and friends, and say a big thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We send our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the kind folk who have given their time, money and hard work to ensure the success of our charity functions. There are so many of you who have been so generous. Please forgive us not mentioning you all by name. However, we must say a very special thank you to Chris and Tom Trimby (our Singing Postperson) who have been

absolute stars, particularly with their help on the Music Festival, the Calendar and the Post Office opening.

Last, but not least, our sincere thanks to Dinah and Richard for getting the Post Office off to a flying start. Our appreciation of their support and commitment is reflected in the many complimentary remarks made by the Post Office clientele.

Dinah and Richard join us in wishing you all the merriest Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



MATERIAL for the **January 2005** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **MONDAY, 7th December, 2004** please. Contributions from anonymous sources will not be printed.

Copy can either be delivered by hand or sent by post, fax or e-mail. (see inside front cover for details)

Our thanks to **The PARISH CHURCH of ARDLEIGH & THE BROMLEYS** for sponsoring this month's magazine.

Please support the sponsors of our magazine.

LITTLE BROMLEY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Wrap up well and enjoy a Concert by candlelight! There will be music, words and refreshments with a seasonal theme.



**St Mary's Church,
Little Bromley
2.30-3.30pm
Wednesday, 29th December**

Followed by tea (£1)
Admission free. Donations to charity.
For more details see
www.littlebromley.org.uk or contact Gregory rostick (01473 424469).
If you need a lift please ask.

RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

5th December

The Tending Group of the Ramblers' Association meet 10.00am in the free car park at Elmstead Market for an 11 mile (or less if desired) to Ardleigh for pub or picnic lunch.



For more details ring
01206
230791

ONLY HAD A COUPLE? OK TO DRIVE?

There is **NO EXCUSE** to drink drive

HAD A DRINK EARLIER

For a man of average weight, it takes one hour for the body to get rid of one unit of alcohol.

FEEL FINE TO DRIVE

Any amount of alcohol will affect your judgement

ONLY HAD A COUPLE

Even a single drink will affect your driving performance

HAD A MEAL

Alcohol just takes a little longer to get into your system, your driving will still be affected.

CAN HANDLE MY DRINK

You may think you can handle your drink, but you will have difficulty judging distance and speed. Your reactions are slower, so it will take you longer to stop.

ONLY GOING DOWN THE ROAD

A large proportion of all drink drive accidents occur within 3 miles of the start of the journey

DRIVING SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY

Alcohol actually makes you less alert

WON'T GET STOPPED

The police can ask you to take a breath test if they suspect you have been drinking, if you commit a traffic offence, or if you are involved in an accident.

DON'T DRINK DRIVE

BUT I WANT TO GO OUT AND ENJOY MYSELF

You don't need to mix drinking and driving ...

- ▶ book a taxi
- ▶ use public transport
- ▶ stay overnight
- ▶ drink soft drinks until you get home
- ▶ arrange for someone who is not drinking to drive - you can take it in turns.

On average 3,000 people are killed or seriously injured each year in drink drive collisions and nearly one in seven of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal limit.

THINK! DON'T BE ONE OF THEM
www.think.dft.gov.uk

