

TIMES ARE A CHANGING?

And so the magazine turns 21 this year with another bumper issue. How it has grown and changed over the years just as have the villages. The Village Appraisal was published last month and this month the parish council has identified (on pages 11-13) the areas in which action is to be implemented. Volunteers will be needed for the various working groups as set out in the article by Martin Frostick.

One of the points revealed by the Village Appraisal was a body of support for entering the village for the Best Kept Village Competition. However, if we are to do so clipped hedges and neat flower beds are not enough to help us to win if, as the letter on page 3 reports, our verges and footpaths have litter and dog muck strewn on and around them. I don't know if there are any dog bins in the villages but maybe some should be sited on popular dog-walking routes for the easy disposal of doggy bags.

The status of St George has been challenged of late but I went to a fascinating talk recently on why he should remain the Patron Saint of England. His origins, the myths, the stories and the

paintings charting his increasing importance were all explored in great detail so that by the end I was completely convinced that we should keep him. The church and the school are holding services on his Patronal Day, 23rd April.

Writing this as I am whilst the country is in the grip of a cold spell following on from unseasonably high temperatures, both villages are gearing up to a number of events that are planned for the coming warmer months organised by village organisations, the church, local groups and pubs - there is something for everyone to enjoy. Meantime, while you are sitting comfortably by the fire, there is the Easter Quiz, compiled by Ian and Val Harris, to tease those 'leettle grey cells'.

Our cover photograph has altered with the start of our new year and depicts the Communications Mast up Hilliards Road. Its site was originally part of the Chain Home Radar Network but is now used for civilian purposes by the police.

Happy Easter.

Leonie Henderson



The Great Bromley Pylons

These were erected from 1932 and were six in number, three large and three smaller masts. There was a story which went the rounds that from these went a death ray which stopped engines of cars on the Harwich Road. Radio Direction Finders were operating for aircraft.

The masts were guarded by the RAF Regiment when World War II broke out and the WAAFs engaged on the equipment were accommodated in the Hutments near the school. Later the local Home Guard took over the duty from the RAF. The Royal Observer Corps at Colchester sent sighting reports to the Pylons.

Bombs were dropped near the site by German planes on 24th August, 1941.

The equipment was upgraded in 1943 with magnetron-based-centimetre sets and Great Bromley became headquarters for "GEE", the first radar-guided-bomber navigational system.

Demolition took place in June 1970 but masts were left for use by the police and Marconi.
John Appleby (First printed in 'The Bromley Messenger' February 2006)

THE FIRST EASTER QUIZ



1. Where does the name "Easter" come from?
2. What are the earliest and latest dates for Easter Sunday?
3. What is "Maundy Money"?
4. Which bird was accused of not wearing full mourning at the crucifixion?
5. Which tree was used to make The Cross?
6. What is a "Simnel cake"?
7. What and when is the "Vernal Equinox"?
8. Which Celtic god is April Fools day linked to?
9. When and where was "The Easter Rising"?
10. Where is Easter Island?
11. Why was it so named?
12. Where does the tradition of the Easter Bunny come from?



Answers on page 19

KITCHEN CORNER

A real quickie recipe this month! A good snack.

Quick Cheese Muffins

1 cup each of:- grated cheese milk SR flour

Mix well, drop spoonfuls into greased muffin tins or baking cases.

Hot oven till golden brown.

Don't burn your mouth!

Jill Frostick



MATERIAL for the **MAY 2007** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **Monday, 16th April, 2007**

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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St. George's (C of E) School, Gt. Bromley

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald
Telephone: 01206 230305

School in the Community

The **Easter Fayre** will have been held on 28th March

The PTA are having a Golf Day.
18 holes includes two course meal.

On **St. George's Day - 23 April** the School will attend a service in the Church.

After the Easter Holidays Year 4 start their swimming lessons.

A painting session of outside structures will be held at the next half term, details next month, volunteers are needed please.

We had our Ofsted inspection at the end of last term and have been classed as outstanding or good in all the required elements, something we are understandably proud of! Well done to the children, staff and parents!

Our topic next term will be environments - the children will be looking at oceans, deserts, jungles to name but a few!! There will be a huge range of activities related to this, so, if you are interested in your child joining playgroup, please ring the number above to arrange a visit.

Talking of next term, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter and look forward to seeing the regulars and some new faces the week beginning April 16th.

LETTERS

I am constantly amazed at the variety of drink tins, plastic bottles, food packets, wrappings etc. that appear at the end of my drive. Like most residents I naturally put these in my appropriate rubbish bag, but my eyes were opened even wider when I had a walk around the village footpaths from home to the Hare Green/Frating area recently.

It seems to be common among certain drivers on trunk roads to throw their rubbish out of the windows, and the A120/A133 are no exception! Nonetheless, tidiness begins at home as far as I am concerned and home for me is Great Bromley! If you can carry it out FULL then you can certainly carry it **home EMPTY!**

The footpaths I am referring to as being the worst offenders are:

- Footway on A133 flyover (over A120) leading to old Harwich Road
- Chapel Lane which is a Byway Open to All Traffic (but mainly used by walkers

and riders)

- The footpath leading from Back Lane to the B1029 alongside the A120. This was particularly bad at the B1029 road end.
- The footpath leading from Chapel Lane to Hare Green and into Harwich Road.

The footpaths are generally well used by dog walkers, most of whom do seem to clean up after their dogs but I do make a plea to make the clean up invisible. Take it to an official waste-bin for the purpose. Or take it home and do whatever dog owners do with it, BUT do not throw it in the ditches where it can pollute watercourses. At one point I saw a "poop-bag" hanging in the undergrowth where the thrower had obviously intended it to go into the ditch. This is particularly true for field edge or headland paths. There is nothing worse than having to clean dog muck off a boot after a good walk.

Name supplied

Privet (I mean Hello),

I'm Olga. I come from Russia and now I'm working as a volunteer at Seven Rivers for 1 year. Last year I finished university and when I heard about volunteering (Gap activity project) in the UK I thought this might be the experience I've been looking for.

When I was accepted I couldn't believe it! I didn't know what to feel, both positive and negative feelings came to me. They informed me I would be working in the Activities Department. Before I left Russia I was a bit worried about working with people with disabilities, because I never had contact with anyone with a disability.

When I came to my placement everybody was so friendly and helped me to settle in and feel comfortable. In activities we're doing a lot of different things every day: word games, craft, painting, bowling, cooking... Many of the residents have such a good sense of humour and we are spending a lot of time laughing. The residents, staff and volunteers feel like a big happy family. We're trying to do our best, so that they don't feel that they're disabled. So, I'm enjoying my work a lot. Firstly it was quite difficult to understand and get through to someone, to understand their needs, however when I got to know them better it was easier to

understand their likes and dislikes.

Besides I work as a volunteer, I learn how to live on my own; my English is improving so much. This time in England is the best time of my life, I learn about myself and about working with others. I've never thought that this year can change my life so much.

I see a big difference between Russia and England, but I can adapt in a new environment and it's so interesting to get to know a new culture, traditions and people.

This year I recognised that I really like to be an overseas volunteer and I'd like to have an additional experience next year. Probably I'll be a volunteer in another country after I'll leave England. So, If you want to have a new experience, to meet new people, to get to know a lot of new things, to change your life then think about being a volunteer.

P.S. I'd like to say Thank you very much to the staff and especially Gill Sleightholm, Gary Newton and Paul Rayner.

Olga Kuznetsova



Affordable housing at Lakewood, Great Bromley

As many villagers will be aware, English Rural Housing Association (ERHA) currently owns and manages six rented homes at Lakewood, Hall Road. Since the homes were completed in 1997 high property values have continued to have a real impact on local people. The homes at Lakewood are designed to help locals who can no longer afford open market rents in the community.

At present all of the properties are occupied, but should any vacancies occur they will be marketed around the village. ERHA also keeps a mailing list of people who are interested in applying, this means that you can register with us and automatically receive details of vacancies as and when they arise. If you would like register on our mailing list please contact us on telephone 020 7840 0540 or email info@erha.org.uk and request an application form.

CRICKET CLUB

The A.G.M. was held at the Pavilion on 28th February, 2007. The Chairman thanked all the Committee for all their hard work during the past year. He said the umpires reports from last season showed that the club were awarded top marks along with West Mersea for good behaviour and sportsmanship.

The following officers were elected:-

PRESIDENT - P.P.Allam, Esq.
CHAIRMAN - W. Kempster, Esq.
SECRETARY - Mrs. K. Foley
TREASURER - M. Foley, Esq.
1st X1 CAPTAIN - P.S. Allam, Esq.
1st X1 VICE-CAPTAIN - R.Lawson, Esq.
2nd X1 CAPTAIN - D. Hardy, Esq.
2nd X1 VICE-CAPTAIN - P. Hibbins, Esq.
FIXTURE SECRETARY - D. Hardy, Esq.
100 CLUB MANAGER - P. Allam, Esq.
CHILD WELFARE OFFICER -
R. Lawson, Esq.
COLTS MANAGER- S Wright, Esq.

The club will be running the following Colts teams this season. Any boys or girls

interested please contact Steve Wright on 01206 230119.

Kwik Cricket on Friday evening form 6-7p.m. for boys and girls aged 6 years upwards run by Pip Allam and Richard Lawson.



U.11 Terriers

Steve Wright and Kay Tagg

U.12 Terriers

Steve Wright and Peter Wright

U.13 Colts

Matt Foley and Richard Lawson

U.16 Colts

Phil Allam and Liam Fisher

Forth coming events:-

CHAIRMAN'S DAY 23rd June, 2007.

Phil Allam

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Essex County Council has allocated further funds to parish councils and community groups in Tendring for **capital** projects during 2007/8. Projects should aim to improve the quality of life for local residents and communities through promoting the social, economic or environmental well-being of a locality. Expenditure must be of a capital nature and result in the creation of a new physical facility. Staff or running costs cannot be funded and individual grants will not normally exceed £20,000. Projects could include: community, social and recreational facilities; community transport initiatives; land purchase; playground equipment; environmental schemes

Applications must be **submitted by 25 May 2007**. For further information contact Beverly Davies on 07929 543523 or email info@communityinitiativesfund.co.uk.

Application forms can also be downloaded from:

www.communityinitiativesfund.co.uk.

Proposals must be supported by the parish council so please contact the clerk (01206 230089) before submitting an application. Good luck!

CARPET BOWLS

In the last two winter league matches for this season we met at Great Bentley, both home and away, losing 6-2 away and winning 5-3 at home. One or two clubs have yet to finish their match fixtures, so our position in the table is undecided.

Competitions

Two Pairs teams played in the Brightlingsea Charity Tournament in memory of Phyllis and Henry Gowlett on 25th February. Linda and Jayne won 13-0 over Brightlingsea and 8-3 against Bardfield, but lost by one point only against Silver Dawn and Elmstead, Derek and Andrew lost 6-7 versus Braintree R.C. but won 7-3, 9-3 and 15-1 against Langham, Chelmsford S.C. and Wimbish respectively. Although they were both runners up in their groups, they did not progress to the next round.

Brumbella Cup



Another good day was enjoyed by everyone on 10th March, especially weatherwise. It makes such a difference when visiting teams travel several miles to

compete. After the first cups of coffee and tea of the day were despatched, Pat blew the whistle for the start at 11.30am. From then on it was all activity. 16 teams of four plays set off to battle it out, some light heartedly, others more seriously. It is a very busy day all round with a lot of paperwork to be done in the preceding weeks but thanks to Jayne and her computer expertise it becomes a bit easier each year, as details are kept in hand. She heaves a sigh of relief when the last team has signed in and arrived on time. In this computer age we haven't yet found anything that makes tea in vast quantities, at the appropriate time, so our wonderful kitchen staff - Nan, Pauline, Evelyn, Pam, Rose and Shirley have to

rise to the occasion 'hands on'. Not forgetting, of course, Jayne's Auntie June (an import from Colchester) who wouldn't miss it for the world. A big thank you to them and to everyone who donated raffle prizes. It was a splendid array and raised £185; money raised for the day was £405.60 which will be sent to the Helen Rollason Cancer Fund - chosen because Essex was her home ground. Thank you to everyone who helped raise this amount. The competition details are: Semi-finals Lt Clacton - 6 shots to Walton 1 - 7 shots. Brightlingsea - 6 shots v Clacton-on-Sea - 5 shots, close games as the score suggests. It was nip and tuck in the final till Walton 1, taking the last two ends, overcame Brightlingsea 9 shots- 5. Very entertaining. Jayne Bates presented the Cup and trophies.

The Summer League is looming so "Here we go again!!"

Nancy Kempster

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

www.essexinfo.net/gbpc

**Report of the Great Bromley Parish Council meeting held on 8 March 2007
Planning**

The Council considered and had no objections to the following planning application:

Spread Eagle, Brook Street – Erection of stable block and store in garden (amended).

Tendring District Council has approved the following planning applications:

Land adjacent to Spread Eagle, Brook Street – new detached house.

Dolphins, Colchester Road – replacement conservatory.

Parish Council website

The parish council now has its own website which can be found at:

www.essexinfo.net/gbpc. The council's email address is:

gbparishcouncil@tiscali.co.uk

Great Bromley village sign

The sign adjacent to the village hall has been renovated.

Future meetings

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12 April 2007 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

Ken Bromfield

gbparishcouncil@tiscali.co.uk

Little Bromley Parish Council

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on 12 April PCM (Public Assembly)

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

Great Bromley Parish Council Elections 3 May 2007

The closing date for submitting nominations to be elected as a parish councillor is *4 April (12 noon)*. Nomination packs can still be obtained before this date by telephoning the council's clerk on 01206 230089. Details of candidates standing for the parish and district councils will be published in May's *Messenger* and will also be posted on the parish notice boards on 10/11 April.



NOW.....TIME FOR ACTION!

Following the publication of the full appraisal results and the appraisal report, the parish council has endorsed an outline action plan which summarises the various activities that need to be undertaken to address the issues raised by the appraisal.

The activities have been defined and made the responsibility of specific 'working groups' of volunteers. A list of 'working groups' and their areas of responsibility are given later in this article. The term 'working group' has been chosen for convenience and, whilst work will be required to bring these activities to a successful conclusion, those participating will not be pressured to do more than they are prepared or are able to do.

The parish council will co-ordinate these activities and some parish councillors will play an active role in them. However, help is required from others in the village to make it all happen. Volunteers (other than parish councillors) need to be identified now so that the working groups can be formed. This will enable at least some of these projects to commence by early June.

If you would like to play a part in this community effort to improve our quality of life (as well as having the opportunity to meet some like-minded residents along the way), then you should pass your name, contact details and the working group(s) in which you would like to be involved, to the parish clerk. It does not matter if you did not volunteer to be involved when you

completed the appraisal questionnaire. The clerk will give the information to the new parish council in May, after which meetings will be held for those people volunteering and the working groups will be formed. The working groups will work independently of the parish council and be responsible for the detailed management and implementation of their projects. However, the parish council will monitor and co-ordinate project work and will be responsible for funding, including submission of applications for any grants required.

The parish clerk is Ken Bromfield who can be contacted by telephone on 230089 or by email on gbarishcouncil@tiscali.co.uk

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES

Working Group 1

Investigate the viability, priority and provision of additional voluntary and leisure activities for adults within the village

Some popular activities were identified in the appraisal results and this working group needs to consult with residents regarding these, and other activities, as well as liaising with individuals and organisations to organise and fund these activities. Adult Further Education will also be considered by this working group.

Working Group 2

Improve the general availability of information about the village

This working group will liaise with the local history recorder, parish clerk and webmaster to create and make available to residents historical and current information. Information will be displayed at the proposed village information centre on Church Meadow and on the village website. The working group may also look at the viability of a village information booklet and other ways to make general information about Great Bromley available to those who need it.

Working Group 3

Develop a village plan as a basis for future management

The task includes identifying the village's future priorities with regard to housing, planning and the priorities for our financial resources. The existing village appraisal working group will take on this task, but other volunteers would be most welcome.

Working Group 4

Hold a public meeting on neighbourhood watch with a view to launching schemes throughout the village

There is significant support for neighbourhood watch schemes in the village. This working group will liaise with Essex Police to plan how neighbourhood watch schemes could be implemented. A public meeting/ briefing on neighbourhood watch and the appointment of local neighbourhood watch co-ordinators will be needed.

Working Group 5

Review all hazardous roads, road junctions and pavements with a view to initiating improvements by the authorities. Inspect the condition of hedges and verges to identify those which are a hazard and need attention

This working group will need to plan and implement a full review of these issues and, following their survey, consult with the local authorities, Essex Police, the parish council and landowners on their proposed options to improve the situation.

Working Group 6

Establish a formal speed reduction initiative within the village

In conjunction with Essex Police and ECC, investigate the options and affordable solutions to reduce speeding in Great Bromley. The outcome may include the display of additional warning signs and a formal community speed watch programme.

Working Group 7

Launch a formal village pond restoration project

This working group is responsible for surveying and assessing the village pond and planning/implementing improvements to water levels, natural habitat and immediate surroundings.

Working Group 8

If feasible, launch a community environment project in conjunction with St George's School on land fronting Springhill Close

Investigation of land ownership issues will be the first task of this working group. If adoption of this land is possible, a survey and assessment of the site will be required prior to detailed planning and implementation of the desired environmental area.

Working Group 9

Undertake the Church Meadow and Closed Churchyard Projects

This working group will liaise with the parochial church council, St George's School and ECC to improve the utility of Church Meadow. Aspects to be considered include vehicle access, surfacing improvements, lighting, the location of the proposed village information centre and the provision of a children's play area. This working group will also be responsible for planning and implementing the renovation of the closed churchyard.

Working Group 10

Launch a village footpaths project to include clearance, signage and production of a master map

In conjunction with the village footpath warden, a full survey and assessment of footpaths will need to be undertaken by this working group and a future footpath maintenance plan agreed with ECC, probably through a parish paths partnership.

Working Group 11

Sponsor and organise an annual village 'spring clean' day and co-ordinate voluntary litter picking throughout the year

Liaison with TDC and residents is required of this working group, culminating in a village-wide programme of litter clearing.

Working Group 12

Form a Best Kept Village Competition Committee with a view to entering the competition in the future

It is anticipated that this working group will form the committee, and liaise closely with the other working groups and village organisations.

Working Group 13

Continue with the village tree planting programme and request additional tree preservation orders

Members of this working group are invited to assist the village tree warden with tree and hedge planting.

Working Group 14

Investigate the provision of a limited holiday play scheme within the village

In conjunction with ECC, TDC, St George's School, the Playgroup and Scallywags, this working group will plan and resource a holiday play scheme for school children in the village.

Working Group 15

Review the provision of bus services with the local authorities to ascertain whether a service could be provided to Manningtree and whether additional services could be provided to Colchester. Consider launching a voluntary transport service within the village. Investigate the viability of a community bus for Great Bromley

These transport-related issues will be addressed by this working group, in conjunction with ECC, TDC and the Rural Community Council for Essex. Some further survey work may be required as well as

liaison with surrounding villages to establish any common requirements.

Working Group 16

Review the list of improvements suggested for the Hare Green Recreation Field. Investigate the provision of a hard surfaced area with a basketball hoop and assess the viability of a tennis court. Review the adequacy of current play facilities in the village

This working group will liaise closely with the Hare Green Recreation Field Committee and St George's School/Playgroup/Scallywags when considering the need, priority and cost of improvements and new facilities.

Working Group 17

Provide a village information centre in Church Meadow

This working group will be responsible for planning, designing, preparing, purchasing and installing the village information centre and for establishing future management arrangements for it.

Working Group 18

Assess the viability of a community-run shop in the village

Through the case study of existing community-run shops in comparable villages, and further consultation with interested parties, this working group will assess all aspects of such a venture in Great Bromley and make recommendations.

Working Group 19

Review in detail the demand for youth sports and leisure clubs, in particular football

Using the appraisal results and input from St George's School, this working group will identify which sports and leisure clubs may be viable within the village, identify the facilities and resources needed to make them happen and implement those activities for which there is a confirmed and justified need.

Martin Frostick

Little Bentley Hall Charity Garden Show

Off A133 north of Colchester

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June

10.00am—6.00 pm

Entry £6 Children under 16 Free

Gardens open. 100 Trade Stands * Antiques Road Show & Fine Art Exhibition
Show Gardens & Schools Competitions * Hot and Cold Food
available

This will be the largest Charity Garden event in East Anglia in 2007 when up to 15,000 visitors are expected to flock to these Private Gardens owned by Christopher and Virginia Palmer-Tomkinson. Quite apart from the spectacular gardens, the show will feature 12 Show Gardens, Schools Grub in Tub competitions and 100 trade stands. There is also a Fine Art Show and Antique valuations.



All proceeds will go to local Chairities, and we hope to raise more than the £60,000 which was raised when the village last held this event in 2004. Not a bad effort for a small village of just 200 people.

Visit the website: www.littlebentley.net or call telephone 01206 251790.

White cat has been missing from Barlon Road area of Little Bromley since last summer.



Any information please call 07979857474

Essex Handicrafts Association

EXHIBITION 2007

Hylands House, Chelmsford
11.00am - 5.00pm - Sat 14th April
11.00am - 4.00pm - Sun 15th April

Entrance Fee £3.40 Concessions £2.30
(usual House admission fee)

Suppliers - Craft Demonstrations - Raffle
Supervised Family Workshops
Second Hand Book Stall - Refreshments

FREE PARKING

Forthcoming Events



APRIL

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 6 Good Friday
- 8 Easter Day
- 12 Lt Bromley Annual Parish Assembly (for details ring Parish Clerk)
Gt Bromley parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 14/15 Essex Handicrafts Association Exhibition, Hylands House
- 19 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 21 Peal of Bells, St George's church, 9.00am
- 23 S George's Day Eucharist, S George's, 7.00pm
- 24 Post Stroke Information Day, Holland on Sea, 10.00am
Village Hall committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 28 Friends of Lt Bromley Church Open Morning, Lt Bromley church, 10.30am
Easter Fayre, St George's School, 1.45pm
Service of Welcome & Praise, S Mary's church, 6.30pm

MAY

- 3 Local Election Day for Parish & District Councillors .
- 4 PTA Golf Day, Stoke by Nayland Golf Club
- 5 Plant & Garage Sale at Ilex Farm, Ilex Farm, 10.00am
- 9 Village Hall AGM, Village Hall, 8.00pm
- 10 Gt Bromley Annual Parish Assembly, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 26/27/28 Flower Festival, S George's church

JUNE

- 2-3 Little Bentley Hall Waterways & Garden Show
- 15-17 West Woodhay House Garden Show
- 16/17 Art Exhibition, Elmstead church
- 21 Friendship Club Open Day, Village Hall
- 23 Essex Police Band, St George's church, 7.30pm
Cricket Club Chairman's Day
- 24 London Bridges Walk in aid of Kidney Research UK

JULY

- 7 Coffee Morning, Village Hall
- 15 PTA Summer Fun Day, St George's School



Friendship Club



OPEN DAY

21st June

More details
to be announced

FRIENDS OF LITTLE BROMLEY CHURCH



(In association with the Churches
Conservation Trust)

Saturday April 28 Open Morning
10:30am - 12 noon at the church.

All welcome for refreshments, to view the recent
restoration work
and hear about the Friends events planned for 2007

ST GEORGE'S PLANT & GARAGE SALE

at
Ilex Farm, Waterhouse Lane
on
5th May
10.00am - 1.00pm

Plants or anything for the
Garage Sale (no books, clothes
or small bric-a-brac) gladly
accepted the day before the
sale

Tel: 01206 230679



S George's Day

Monday 23rd April

9.15am School Service

7pm The Parish Eucharist

Preacher Fr Richard Tillbrook
Vicar of S Barnabas Old Heath.

Saturday April 21st at 8.45am

A peal of bells

to mark 100 years since the
first peal.

12noon a Service of
Thanksgiving with John,
Bishop Of Chelmsford.
Followed by a hot lunch in
the Rectory

(Tickets £4 from Trish
Hughes 01255 553885)



FLOWER FESTIVAL 2007

St George's Church, Great
Bromley

"Saving our World"

Saturday, 26th May 10.00am-5.00pm

Sunday 27th May 12-5.00pm

Songs of Praise 5.30pm

Monday 28th May 10.00am-4.00pm

Refreshments all day

BBQ Lunches served

12-2.00pm every day

Strawberry Tea Sunday

Grand Raffle (Caroline McShane
323188)

Stalls * Cakes * Tombola

Produce and Many More

CDs * Toys * Books

Games for Children

Entry £1.50 per adult

Plenty of Free Parking

** Please come and help **

For further information please contact
Jennifer Nicholls (230688) or Fr Nicolas
(230344)



Special Service of Welcome and Praise



Sunday 29th April at 6.30pm

S Mary's Church Ardleigh

Mozart - Missa Brevis in Bb KV
275

Mascagni - Easter Hymn from Cavaleria
Rusticana

And with congregational hymns.

Reception with Drinks and Canapés

Retiring Collection for S Helena Hospice

ESSEX POLICE BAND

23rd June
at St George's Church
at 7.30pm

Tickets £8 including
refreshments

To book please telephone Barbara Hall
on 01206 230673



“Starburst” Community Action Programme



Starburst at EuroJam

Summer 2005 saw 10'000 Scouts and Guides from 68 countries across Europe and beyond gather at Hylands Park, Chelmsford for EuroJam, the European Scout Jamboree. The young participants had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, from adventurous or creative activities to global issues workshops and also the Starburst community action programme.

Starburst aimed both to give the Jamboree participants the chance to go out into the local area and participate in a community project, as well as to make a positive contribution to that local area. Through this part of the EuroJam programme we enabled 1'000 participants per day for 8 days to take part in projects throughout Essex.

Our projects included:

Danbury Common, nr Chelmsford

Under the supervision of the National Trust, Scouts worked to reclaim natural heath land by removing vegetation, scrub and trees.

St Peter's Hospital, Maldon

Scouts cleared, prepared and planted unused ground to create a pleasant garden for the use of the hospital's Maternity Unit patients.

River Lee Country Park, Waltham Abbey

Scouts created shallow pools in order to extend the wet grassland areas for the benefit of the local wildlife.

Discovery Centre, Great Notley Country Park, Basildon

Scouts used environmentally friendly materials to build a trim trail for the use of visitors to this beautiful open space.

Rainham Marshes, Puffleet-on-Thames

Working with the RSPB, Scouts were involved in both foreshore clearance and invertebrate survey work.

Thriftwood School, Chelmsford

Scouts completed a number of tasks including laying bark in the play area, hedging, planting and pond clearance to enhance the facilities available to the students who attend this special needs school.

Thorpe Bay Beach, Southend

Working with representatives from Southend's Sealife Adventure Centre, Scouts participated in the national Adopt-a-Beach project, cleaning the beach and submitting their surveys to the Marine Conservation Society to form part of their campaign for a cleaner marine environment.

Much was achieved in just 8 days of activity with many of our project hosts completing years worth of voluntary work in just over a week. With approximately 8'000 young people and their leaders having experienced the fun and satisfaction of contributing to such projects we also hope that the

benefits will also extend beyond the borders of Essex. **Starburst at the 21st World Scout Jamboree**
Following the success of the Starburst community action programme at EuroJam, we are launching the Starburst programme for the 21st World Scout Jamboree in 2007. Please find some key information below.

Dates

Starburst projects will run from Sunday 29 July 07 until Monday 6 August 07, excluding 1 August.

We are looking for projects that meet the following criteria...

- Young people can work together to achieve something of (sustainable) benefit to the local community or a national charity
- Suitable for the 14 – 18 age group
- Easy to communicate and suitable for young people who may not speak English
- Host a minimum of 45 young people and their leaders
- Ideally take 4 or 8 days to complete
- Provide (most of) the necessary materials and tools e.g. paint, saws, spades
- Within a one hour drive of Hylands Park, Chelmsford
- Provide someone to co-ordinate participation in Starburst

... but we are flexible

The above are our guidelines but we would be happy to discuss individual circumstances with anyone interested in hosting a Starburst project.

Additional Activities

As part of the Starburst programme for the 21st World Scout Jamboree we hope that participants will also be able to explore something of the local community.

This could be by taking part in an orienteering course, short hike or nature trail, or perhaps by visiting a local hospital, church, castle, village or town centre.

What happens next?

Our team of enthusiastic volunteers are on standby to start working with potential project hosts. Should you need any further information or wish to discuss your ideas, please contact Kimberly Harwood in the Jamboree Office.

Kimberly Harwood, Event Co-ordinator

The Scout Association

Gilwell Park, Bury Road, Chingford, London E4 7QU

tel 020 8498 5468 / 07983 581503

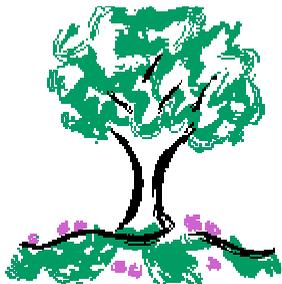
email kimberly.harwood@scouting2007.org

website www.thejamboree.org



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sally Hepher came to our March meeting to tell us about "The Woodland Trust". There are about 40 native species from our own country and she brought some small branches of our natural trees for us to identify, telling us the history behind each one.



Oak was the most valuable and is used for buildings, boats and charcoal with the bark being used in tanning. **Silver Birch** is used for plywood,

furniture and in the wine industry. **Ash**, a very springy wood, is good for shafts in carts, hard to break and easy to burn. **Alder** trees like wet ground and are good for holding up river banks, water pipes and black gun powder. **Sweet Chestnut** goes back to Roman times for woods, also **Wild Cherry**.

The UK is the least wooded of all European countries. We have some Ancient Woods which are extremely rich in wildlife, plants etc.

The Woodland Trust has four objectives:

- 1) it seeks to prevent loss
- 2) to create new woodlands
- 3) to increase people's awareness and
- 4) conservation.

Also, to obtain sponsorship and funding from various sources.

A scheme in 2004 to plant 12 million trees (one for every child under 12 years old) was to help them experience tree planting in their lifetime. This also allows them to study various aspects of the timing of

nature in relation to climate change and the way wild flowers and animals are affected.

It was a fascinating evening. I, for one, was sorry it had to end. Sally left us a good selection of leaflets i.e. how to become a member, the work of The Woodland Trust and their future aims.

In April, Angela Brakeways's subject will be "Marilyn Monroe". Do come along if you wish on Wednesday, 4th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, you will be made very welcome.

June Willgress



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Sorry!
**The OPEN DAY is on
21st June.**

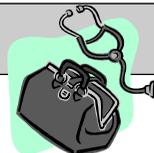
The trees opposite the Village Hall are being cut which meant we were unable to have the Hall on the 15th so the meeting was cancelled but Beryl managed to book another date so now we have 22nd March - hope you all got your new date by phone.

The April meeting is on the 19th. The competition is a **SMALL BIRD ORNAMENT.**

Vicky Griffiths



FROM THE DOCTORS' SURGERIES



Great Bentley Surgery

So, after nearly 31 years, the time has come for Dr Steiner to lay down his stethoscope and take to his deckchair. On 1st March he cleared his desk, emptied out his medical bag, logged off the surgery computer for the very last time and rode happily off into the sunset. The Hollies will seem very strange without him.

Goodness knows how many patients he has seen since that long, hot summer of 1976 when he arrived here in Great Bentley at the tender age of 29 to become the third GP in the practice. Assuming a conservative average of just 30 per working day, the number will be well over 170,000. How many sleepless nights did he suffer as the "on call" doctor over the years, I wonder? How many prescriptions has he written? How many injections has he given? How many miles did he drive on home visits? The answer to all these questions is simply "an awful lot"!

Now that he has gone, I thought you might like to know a little more about the private man behind the GP façade.

Although he was brought up in the Midlands, Dr Steiner is actually an Essex man. Late in her pregnancy, his mother was sent to be looked after by her father in Ilford and consequently young Nick was born in Woodford on 8th February 1947 (60 years ago today as I write this.)

From a very early age, all he wanted to do was drive a sugar lorry, so medicine was perhaps not the obvious choice of career. Nonetheless, excellent results at school got him to Bristol Medical School from where he graduated as a doctor in 1972. He then spent three years honing his skills at hospitals in Lincolnshire before qualifying as a GP and joining Dr Craig and Dr George in the old surgery, which is now Bentley House of course.

In some ways, "NS", as he is universally known here in the surgery, was ahead of his

time, as he worked long and hard developing his specialist interest in diabetes.

Eventually, his expertise and knowledge was such that he was appointed Clinical Assistant in Diabetes at Colchester General Hospital, a post he held for 10 years. These days, the government is encouraging more GPs to develop special interests like he did and even offers incentives for them to do so. We like to think that Great Bentley's care of patients with diabetes is second to none, mainly due to Dr Steiner's keen interest and huge knowledge, both of which he has passed on to Jan Williamson, our Nurse Practitioner.

Away from the surgery, Dr Steiner loves the outdoors. He is a keen walker and most of his holidays seem to be spent trekking with friends in foreign hills, most recently Cyprus in January. He used to be an enthusiastic skier, but his broken shoulder a few years ago and his more recent serious illness have kept him off the slopes for a while. He was also for many years a good wind-surfer, and yes, that was him in the picture on his surgery wall. He still loves pottering in his huge garden, which seems to be a natural haven for all sorts of bird-life despite his obsession with chopping trees down.

He is also a poet – not quite from the Wordsworth or Shakespeare mould, but undoubtedly talented. Many times he has entertained colleagues and friends with his whimsical and perceptive verses, which are invariably presented with the sort of timing and delivery that would have earned him a fortune if he had got in before Pam Ayres.

If his poems have become more personal and sentimental over the last few months, the blame lies entirely with a very small boy called Aram, his recently arrived first grandchild. Aram is the son of Kate, Dr Steiner's daughter, who has continued the new family tradition of medicine by qualifying as a doctor herself. To NS's immense pride, she now works as a Radiologist in a major London hospital.

I suppose the only surprise about Dr Steiner's retirement is that it was so long coming. I'm sure that if we at the surgery were being honest, we'd admit that when he was diagnosed with leukaemia back in 2002 we didn't expect him to be able to work to 60. He has fought his way through though, with the aid of a bone-marrow transplant courtesy of his sister Anna, most of the time very cheerfully and with his sense of humour intact. I have to say I'm delighted to be writing about his retirement rather what might have been.

Nick Steiner is going to be a hard act to follow, both as senior partner, a role that Dr Cavenagh is ideally suited for and now inherits, and as a hard-working rural GP. For the latter role, we are also sure we have the right person to step into his shoes. The

brave man chosen to take up the challenge is Dr Sean O'Reilly, whom many people will remember, as he did his GP training here in 1999/2000. We all wish him well.

We shall all miss Nick being around the surgery on a day-to-day basis, as I'm sure many patients will. On behalf of everyone here, I wish him a long and very happy retirement.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

FROM THE PAST ...

Little Bromley Man's Care

Husbandman Richard Woode of Little Bromley loved his wife and family enough to provide for them in his lifetime and after his death.

Wife Anne was left everything but on condition that son John was given 33s 4d; daughters Alice, Susan and Mary had 26s 8d when they were all aged twenty two.

But if Anne remarried she and her new husband had to make a bond for £20 to his brother William Woode.

John Appleby



AND 20 YEARS AGO ...

1st Great Bromley Guides



Joan Landon wrote:

Great Bromley Guides were first registered as a Company in 1922 and ran for fifteen years before being closed in 1937. After the war it was re-registered in 1947 so this year [1987] is our 40th Anniversary and we plan to celebrate this event in some way. Please would anyone who has ever been a member of Great Bromley Guides, and would like to be at this celebration event, get in touch with me and give me their names and addresses and those of any other ex-members that they know.

[Had they not closed down the Guides would be celebrating their 60th anniversary this year or 75th if you count the 15 years before the war - Ed.]

GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Committee met on Tuesday, 6th March with nine members present.

We are sorry that the Playgroup and The Friendship Club had to cancel their planned activities for Thursday 15th March. This was due to the electricity supply to the hall and houses nearby being disconnected whilst trees and hedges were cut clear of the overhead lines so that supplies were not interrupted at other times. In these circumstances we could not provide heating or lighting at the hall. However, it did enable us to check that the emergency lighting worked (and it did).



We would like to thank you all for your support on Saturday 17th March at the evening of dancing and entertainment in the village hall with the "Nostalgia" Big Band.

Also, thank you to Beryl Hurst and her helpers for running the event. A good time was had by all and approximately £420 was raised for the Hall Fund.

The Village Hall Committee next meet on Tuesday 24th April at 7.30pm in the hall.

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Charity will be held on Wednesday 9th May at 8.00pm in the village hall. You are welcome to come along and take part, any nominations to the committee should be handed to me before the meeting commences. Nomination forms may be had on request.

The Village Hall Committee will be organising a coffee morning at the hall on Saturday 7th July. Please book this date in your diary - more details nearer the time.

Bevan Willgress

GARDENING TIPS for April

LAWNS: After mowing apply fertiliser followed by a selected weedkiller. **NOTE:** DO NOT put grass cuttings that have been treated with weedkiller on to the compost heap or use for mulching



RHODODENDRUMS: Remove faded flowers - mulch with peat DO NOT use lime anywhere near the shrubs.

ANNUALS: Sow hardy and half-hardy into trays of fine compost - cover with a sheet of newspaper and a sheet of glass

BULBS: Continue to plant gladioli

LILIES: Stake tall lilies as flower heads form.

Frank Griffiths

COFFEE MORNING

7th July
Village Hall

Watch this
space!



*In aid of Village Hall
Funds*

RING THOSE BELLS!

Did you know that the peal of six bells in St. George's church is considered to be one of the finest in the county? The bells date from 1717 to 1930 when they were rehung by Alfred Bowell of Ipswich. Part of the old wooden fifteenth century bell frame still stands against the wall of the ringing chamber. The bell that you hear tolled at Communion services is the former tenor (heaviest bell) which was moved in 1930.

The current band of seven ringers were mostly trained by Felix Erith and Arthur Cole in the 1960's. However, half of them now live outside the village and cannot always get to practice nights or ring for services. The aim is to ring for the 10.30 a.m. service, other special services and for weddings. From time to time, a Quarter Peal lasting 45 minutes is rung and on April 21st at 9.00 a.m. there will be an attempt at a full Peal of 5040 changes in 3 hours to commemorate the first peal on the bells in April 1907.

Change ringing means that the bells

change places at every stroke so there are methods to be learned, ranging from Grandsire Doubles to Norwich Surprise Minor. Lists of numbers (the music) can be intimidating but it is very rewarding to learn and ring a new method. For the beginner, perseverance is needed when learning to handle a bell but once this skill is mastered, progress is rapid.



Great Bromley is also well-known for its display of bell-ringers hats at the back of the church under the tower. These date from the early eighteenth century and belonged to the different tower captains who have been in charge of the ringing since that time.

We would love people from the church and village to come along on a Friday evening at 8.00p.m. and learn this ancient art. Any lapsed ringers would be especially welcome. Why not come and see us?

David Wenden (Tower Captain)

The First Easter Quiz - answers

1. The name is derived from the Saxon Eostre (Ostara) who was the goddess of spring.
2. This is calculated from tables for calculating the first full moon on or the day after the vernal equinox; the earliest date is 22nd March and the latest is 25th April.
3. Maundy Money is special coins given by the sovereign (in a red and white purse). These coins are given at a ceremony to "as many old men and old women as the sovereign is years of age". The coins are of sterling silver and are legal tender. The face value of the coins is still one pence, two pence, three pence and four pence (since 1971 they are new pence but the designs have not changed since 1822 when the special coinage was introduced)
4. The Magpie
5. The Aspen, it still trembles at the thought
6. It is a large cake which is now associated with Easter but was originally given as a gift to mothers on Mothering Sunday. The cake is traditionally decorated with eleven balls of marzipan to represent the eleven true disciples although more modern versions may use small chocolate Easter Eggs instead.
7. This is when the sun crosses the plane of the equator and we have equal length of day and night, it is on or about the 21st March
8. Lud, the god of humour
9. This was on Easter Monday, April 24, 1916 it took place at The Post Office (The GPO) in Dublin
10. In the Pacific, it is owned by Chile, has a population of 1598 and an area of 55 square miles.
11. It was discovered on Easter Sunday 1722 and has over 800 large statues, the largest of which is 11 metres high and weighs 80 tonnes.
12. The Easter Bunny was first documented as a symbol of Easter in Germany in the 1500's probably from pagan folk tales where the hare (or rabbit) was the symbol of fertility and new life. The rabbit or hare appears in many cultures at the spring festivals.



Dear Parishioner,

Christians are about to enter into the most important week of the year. Starting with Palm Sunday (April 1st) great excitement marks the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday remember the teaching days of Jesus in the city and the quiet nights at Bethany with his friends. Maundy Thursday see celebrations of Thanksgiving for the Eucharist, priests washing people's feet following Jesus' command to serve, and a watch of prayer as if in the Garden of Gethsemane until midnight. Good Friday is a special day of fasting and praying the Way of the Cross leading into the expectation of Holy Saturday. Early on Easter day we meet to hear again the story of Christian history and God's faithfulness to his creation, culminating in much noise and celebration as Jesus' Resurrection is proclaimed.

Many of the things that happen during this week can be traced back to Jerusalem in

the 4th Century. We know that there was a priest at S Mary's in 1120 and at S George's in c1255 and so Easter has been celebrated here since at least then. Year by year the faithful have gathered to mark these events and renew themselves to God's love and service.

Surely that is the point of having a Church building? It's a place where people gather to worship God and all are welcome to join in. In the past we may not have been as welcoming as we should; and are now seeking to provide not just a welcome smile, but a more open approach to the things that happen during the services so first timers or returnees are not quite so baffled. Of course ultimately all of us have to let go and let the words, music and action flow over us and back to God, because these are things of faith and mystery which can enrich our lives.

May the offerings of this place bring you blessings and peace.

Fr Nicolas.

CHURCH NOTES

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held after the morning service on Sunday, March 5th and was well attended.

Barbara Hall and James Wild were re-elected as churchwardens and Ann Wild and Dee Barrell were elected as Deanery Synod representatives. The following church members were elected to the Parochial Church Council: Marion Bromfield (secretary), Guy Everington (treasurer), Gregory Frostick, Caroline McShane, Jennifer Nicholls and Ann Oughton. The meeting was followed by an excellent lunch at the rectory provided by Trish Hughes and Brenda Perry.

The house church groups are meeting weekly during Lent and are studying a short course entitled *Can We Build a Better World?* This focuses on the achievements of William Wilberforce and seeks to apply them to the modern world, considering issues such as unfair trade, illegal labour and the sex trade. During the rest of the year the groups meet on a monthly basis and focus on a variety of religious and social topics. Anyone interested in joining a group would be most welcome and should contact Fr. Nicolas.

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Services for April

Sunday 1st		Palm Sunday	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
2nd		Holy Monday	
	12 noon	Chrism Mass	The Cathedral
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
3rd		Holy Tuesday	
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
4th		Holy Wednesday	
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
5th		Maundy Thursday	
	7.00pm	The Eucharist with watch until Midnight	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
6th		Good Friday	
	11.00am	Stations of the Cross	from Ardleigh School
	3.00pm	Good Friday Service	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
7th		Holy Saturday	
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
Sunday 8th		Easter Day	
	5.00am	Vigil and First Mass of Easter	
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
9th		Easter Monday	
	9.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
11th		Easter Wednesday	
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
12th		Easter Thursday	
	10.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
13th		Easter Friday	
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Seven Rivers
14th		Easter Saturday	
	9.30am	The Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 15th		Easter 2	
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
16th		Prayer Meeting 871727	
19th		Little Footsteps	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	5.00pm	The Magi (Yr 6+)	Old Coal House
20th		The Eucharist	Seven Rivers
21st		The Eucharist & Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	12 noon	Thanksgiving Service with the Bishop of Chelmsford	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
22nd		Easter 3	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Prayer, Praise & Benediction	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
23rd		S George	
	9.15am	St George's School Service	
	7.00pm	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
25th		S Mark	
	7.00pm	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
26th		Little Footsteps	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	5.00pm	The Magi (Yr 6+)	Old Coal House
27th		The Eucharist	Seven Rivers
28th		The Eucharist and Rosary	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 29th		Easter 4	
	7.30am	Morning Prayer	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Ecumenical Service of Easter Praise and Thanksgiving	
30th		The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	7.45pm	Prayer Meeting 871727	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>