

DISJOINTED THOUGHTS



We are once again in the Midlands and once again it is raining! The last time we were here the countryside was under water and I

thought the crops were beyond hope. However, to my amazement the corn is being, and has been, cut and bales of straw are in the fields. I have no idea of the quality but at least something has been harvested. In the south there is foot and mouth to be concerned about and what a scandal if it did escape from the laboratory. Time will tell but meanwhile all those with cloven hoof animals need to be vigilant and the rest of us should give some thought as to where we go and what we do to ensure the outbreak is contained.

It is not uncommon to mock the application of "Health and Safety" particularly where a risk assessment concludes that a particular practice, which has been adopted for years without incident, is too dangerous to continue. A number of pursuits carry risks that can be minimized by proper forethought and planning which is what it should be all about. However, there are others which are simply reckless where some forethought would not be amiss and we should all have this in mind. 'Tombstoning' seems to be the latest craze at the seaside, whether it be off a pier or rocks, and what a stupid risk to take for a few seconds' excitement. Anyone who has been

near anyone with a head injury knows that the line between life and death, normality and disability, is very fine indeed.

If you are looking for something different as well as much more worthwhile, more satisfying and a very good way to get to know your fellow villagers why not join one of the working groups set up in the wake of the Village Appraisal. The first of the working groups are up and running, as reported on page 23, but more help and more volunteers are needed so that other projects can proceed. So if you would like to do something for your village and/or environment, maybe even get a tan, whilst doing a bit of work in convivial company do contact Martin Frostick, Chairman of Great Bromley Parish Council, and register your interest.

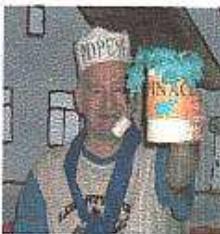
This month Fr Nicolas moves on to a new beginning in Workshop—a time of anticipation for him as well as, I expect, some trepidation and we wish him all the best in his new job and surroundings. It is also the month when young children start school, others move on to 'big' school, teenagers start further education or university whilst those who have left education are looking for jobs. Good luck to everybody.

Leonie Henderson

Come and join The fun!

We are desperately seeking anyone who has any spare time to volunteer within our organisation, to help us and our users in any way share or form with:

- ★ Garden,
- ★ Driving,
- ★ Help out in the Office,
- ★ Cooking,
- ★ Flower arranging,
- ★ Demonstrating,
- ★ Give a talk on a hobby or
- ★ Interest you have.



Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

GARDENER'S CORNER

Lavender While lavender plants are in flower pinch out fading blooms to encourage fresh growth. The biggest challenge in growing the plant is to achieve a plentiful supply of the nectar-rich blooms without letting the plant get completely out of control. If you fail to cut the plant back sufficiently, it will flower poorly and have a shorter life. The best time to prune is immediately after flowering so it can concentrate its energies on growing fresh stems.

Trees and Shrubs

Take semi-hard cuttings of evergreen conifers, holly, cherry, laurel and aucuba.



Dahlias Keep well watered during dry spells and make sure plants are well supported.

Irises Plant Dutch, English and Spanish irises.

House Plants Bring indoors plants that have stood outdoors during the summer.

Frank Griffiths

KITCHEN CORNER

Pepper Mince

This is a quick and economical supper dish.

Allow 4oz lean minced beef per person
1 green pepper
1 red pepper
1 large onion
1 large tin baked beans in tomato sauce
1 beef stock cube
salt and pepper
oil for frying

Gently fry sliced onion in a little oil till lightly browned, stir in minced beef and cook on low heat till browned. Add sliced peppers and stir well. Season and transfer to a casserole and add the beans. Cook in a medium oven until the flavours are blended - 350°F / 180°C. If the mix appears to be too dry, stir in a stock cube dissolved in ½pt water. Serve with hot bread rolls or creamed potatoes and green vegetables.



Jill Frostick

Burning Stubble

I hate to see the stubble burning,
A change of wind and flames are turning,
The smoke and flames can rise so high,
Pollute the air and reach the sky.

Or so it seems across a field,
Where ground is flat and there's no weald,
The smoke is thick the straw it crackles,
If I had fur I'd raise my hackles.

You shut the windows, close the door,
But you seem to smell it even more,
Birds and rabbits flee in fright,
The smoke it turns the day to night.

From burning straw the smuts they fly,
Away right up to reach the sky,
Black particles far away they fall,
Cover plants and trees and all.

We splutter, cough and nearly choke,
From all that pervading stinking smoke,
Another way I wish they'd use.
There's nought to gain and nought to lose.

Phyllis C Groom
from her 'Book of Poems'



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On 1st August, 14 members travelled to Sudbury for our Annual Outing. It turned out to be a lovely day in more ways than one, with everyone enjoying the bright sunny weather and the scheduled activities.

We visited Gainsborough House and after having a cup of tea, or coffee, before the tour round, we admired the paintings, the recently finished improvements to the building and the garden. After lunch our Manningtree Community Minibus took us down to the River Stour for a boat trip. This was very pleasant, seeing lots of wildlife including ducks, dragonflies, swans and even a grass snake swimming

across the river in front of us!

For our September meeting, we are having a speaker from The Stour Valley Organic Company to tell us about "Organic Lavender". If you are interested, do come along to the village hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th September. You will be made very welcome.

June Willgress



WI Walk for Macmillan Nurses



The Women's Institute regrets that it is having to cancel the proposed walk for the charity on Saturday 6th October from Dedham to Flatford because of insurance complications.

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

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald

Telephone: 01206 230305



Sallywags

At Great Bromley Village Hall
Friday Mornings 9.30-11.30am
0-5years.Parent and child group.
Activities/themed sessions/play equipment etc.
For more details or visits please contact 01206 230625



Great Bromley & Frating Playgroup

At Great Bromley Village Hall.
Monday & Thursday 9.30-12 noon
Wednesday 9.15-11.45am
& 12.15-2.45pm
Session Tel No: 0785 7503103
(Lunch time session also available)
Children: 2years-6 months to 5years.
£5.00 per session. Ofsted inspected.
For more details/visits, please contact
Group Secretary-Debbie on 01206 250183

CARPET BOWLS

A new member this month. We welcome Jim Gamble to the club and hope he enjoys his new sport.

Cup Winners

At Gt Bentley on 29th July a triples team of Linda Francis (skip), Derek Frostick and Ron Copp won the Tendring Triples Cup competition. 20 teams competed each team playing five matches. Two points are awarded for a win. Gt Bromley scored 9 points out of a possible 10, beating Jaywick 5-4, Weeley 6-4, Nayland 11-7, Silver Dawn 11-2 and drawing 5-5 with Walton who were runners-up. Well played!

An unusual competition for us to take part in was a Men v Women Fun Day at Braintree. Andrew was asked at short notice to provide two men and two lady players. They had no idea what it entailed but off they went. Players were drawn from all over Essex to make up teams of four. Quite a coincidence that Andrew and Derek were on the same team. They drew two of their games and won one. Evelyn, joining with three other ladies, unfortunately lost all their games, whilst Pam's team won 1 but lost 2. They managed to beat the County Captain's team, so were quite pleased. In spite of their initial trepidation they all enjoyed a good day's bowling with the result MEN 45 points, LADIES 27 points.

League Result

We maintained our position at the top of the league beating Wix by 1 point. Wix needed 6 points from their last match but managed only 5. So, as league leaders on 12th August, Gt Bromley had to travel to Braintree to play other league winners in their Region. Nine bowlers on a team each playing three singles games, Gt Bromley played against Swards End, Birch Teys and Roxwell. After 27 games there was only 4 points difference between first and last teams with Roxwell coming out on top. Our Captain Andrew, summed it up as a good day's bowling all round.

Nancy Kempster

GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

100 CLUB WINNERS FOR AUGUST

- | | |
|------|-----------------|
| 1st. | Mr. D. Fuller |
| 2nd. | Mrs. Ann Wild |
| 3rd. | Mrs. D. Lording |

Forthcoming events

Cricket Club Quiz Night
13th October
7.30p.m. at the Village Hall

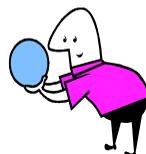
To reserve your table please phone Phil Allam on 01206 230375.

WANTED

After many years tending the cricket square and grounds, our hard working groundsman, John, has announced his retirement.

We are therefore looking for someone to prepare wickets for next season, beginning February/March. Somebody retired/semi-retired with greenkeeping experience would be ideal.

If anyone thinks they would be able to help, or knows of anyone who might, could they please contact in the first instance either Chairman, Bill Kempster (01206 252100) or Secretary, Katherine Foley (10206 251780)



GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall Committee met on 24th July with 11 present.

Further areas of the hall are being redecorated during the summer break, these are the rear access passageway, committee room and the toilets.

From 1st September, winter hire rates apply. We are pleased to be able to hold the hire charges at last year's level until the end of August 2008. Your co-operation in using the hall and supporting the various clubs and groups which are based there is very welcome. If your interest is not catered for, why not form a group yourself?

We are organising a Race Night at the hall for Saturday 6th October. If you are interested in sponsoring a race or a horse please contact Frederick Nicholls on 01206 230688. Seven races, tapes up at 7.30pm, bring your own food and drink. We'll be pleased to have your support



and you should have an enjoyable, exciting evening.

Our Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday, 17th November from 11.00am until 2.00pm with stalls, raffle etc and light lunches in aid of the St George's church and Village Hall funds. Your continued support of this event would be very welcome.

On Saturday 15th December we will present a Buskers Review (Revival?), recorded extracts from previous shows, cheese and wine with carols to end.

The committee will meet again on Tuesday, 25th September at 7.30pm in the hall.

Bevan Willgress

Seven Rivers Cheshire Home

Autumn Sale

of

Fabulous range of stalls and a variety of gifts at Great Bromley Village Hall, near Colchester on Tuesday 2nd October 10.30am-3.00pm
Entry £2



Refreshments including coffee, cakes, sandwiches will also be available.

Lots of Free Paint Available

Just a quick note to all our RePaint members to let you know that we have a lot of free paint in store at the moment.

A lot of it is coming from businesses and is new and unused.

If there is a painting project you are looking to complete shortly give us a quick call to see if we can help you out.

Andrew Wilkinson
Community RePaint Colchester and Tendring
15 Church Walk, Colchester, Essex. CO1 1NS

Tel: 01206 367776

e-mail: repaint@en-form.org.uk

www.repaintessex.org.uk

FROM THE GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

So far, so good. The pharmacy has been open again on Saturday mornings for over a month now and the good news is that it is being pretty well used. The new hours will become permanent provided that trend continues. For anyone who hasn't noticed, the reinstated Saturday opening hours are 9.00am until 1.00pm, and the full range of services are available, including pharmacist advice on minor ailments.

Incidentally, Sarah our pharmacist tells me that following requests from customers she has started stocking more pet requisites, such as flea treatments. If there is anything else that she doesn't keep but which you would like to see available, please let her know and I am sure she'll try to help.

We had a fairly unusual occurrence this month when one of our staff left. Carol Addison, who had been a secretary here since 1999, moved to the Colchester hospitals to take up a full-time post. We wish her all the best there. She will be replaced at the end of August by Diana Scales, who joins us from Brightlingsea Surgery where she has worked for several years. Carol will be a hard act to follow, but we are sure that Diana is up to the job and look forward to her joining the team.

There has been a good reaction so far to the new system whereby patients can book appointments and order repeat prescriptions over the internet. Quite a lot of people have already asked for their fact sheet and guide, and prescription requests in particular are beginning to trickle through. If you would like to try the system, let us know and we'll print out the necessary details for you.

Are you one of the many patients out there who have had a first Hepatitis A vaccination before going on holiday but who have never come back for their booster? If you are, it's worth booking in to have it done. The second jab means that you will be

protected against the disease for 25 years. Not bad for something that comes free. We will be sending out reminders over the next few weeks to people whom we know need the second dose, but if you know that you are one of them, please don't wait to be reminded – especially if you are off on a foreign holiday again soon.

We have just heard that 61 of our patients managed to stop smoking in 2006/07 with the help of the Smoking Cessation advisors who do a support session here each Friday afternoon. If you are still hooked but want to quit the habit, why not book an appointment and see what they can do for you? You might well be surprised at the amount of help and support that is now available on the NHS.

It doesn't matter why you want to stop. It could be to improve your stamina for a favourite sport or pastime, to avoid heart disease or so that your kids don't become passive smokers. It could even be just because you don't want to have to stand outside the pub having a quick drag in all weathers while your mates are warm and comfortable inside. If you have the willpower, we have the support to help make you a non-smoker. Give it a try!

Congratulations to the successful 61, by the way!

Finally this month, I'm asking for your help again. Whilst the number of non-attenders for doctors' appointments seems to have reduced, we still get far too many people not turning up for nurses' appointments. Nurse slots are just as important as doctor appointments and we never seem to be able to fit everyone in as quickly as we would like, so please – if you can't get here for any appointment, whatever the reason, ring and let us know so that someone else can be fitted in.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

FROM THE ARDLEIGH DOCTORS' SURGERY

Medical staff changes

A new GP Registrar started her training year with the Ardleigh practice on the 1 August. Dr Susmitha Pavuluri was previously employed at Colchester General Hospital as a Senior House Officer in various departments and most recently in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Dr Lisa Parker who works part-time at the practice has extended her hours of consultation and is now working on Friday mornings in addition to Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Influenza vaccinations

It is influenza clinic time again !

The Department of Health recommends patients should have vaccination against influenza if they are aged over 65 or at particular risk if they have one of the following medical conditions; heart disease, diabetes, respiratory disease including asthma, renal disease or who are immunocompromised.

This year we are anticipating little delay in the delivery of 'flu vaccines to the surgery and 'Flu clinics will, therefore, be held on Thursday afternoons weekly starting on the 11 October and ending on the 2 November.

Please telephone the surgery to book into one of those clinics. We encourage patients to attend these clinics rather than use valuable normal appointment slots unless you are attending the doctor or nurse for some other reason.

National patient survey results

You may be aware through the press, TV, radio and internet that the government published details in July, of a survey it had organised into patients' experience of GP services.

Overall, around two and a quarter million patients in England responded to a

questionnaire asking how easy it is to:

- contact the practice by telephone
- consult a GP within two working days
- book ahead for non-urgent appointments
- make an appointment with a particular GP
- views on surgery opening hours

A separate postcard questionnaire asked patients who had been referred to hospital whether a choice of hospital had been offered at the point of referral.

610 of our patients (60%) returned survey forms and the results were similar to those obtained in our own surveys in past years and were better than the national averages. (Figures in brackets are the national results)

- 98% of people (86%) reported that they were satisfied with their ability to get through to the Ardleigh surgery on the phone
- 95% of people (86%) who tried to get a quick appointment with a GP said they were able to do so within 48 hours
- 98% of people (75%) who wanted to book ahead for an appointment with a doctor reported that they were able to do so
- 98% of people (88%) who wanted an appointment with a particular doctor at the surgery thought they could do this
- 83% of people (84%) said they were satisfied with the current opening hours in the practice. Patients are dissatisfied mainly with the unavailability of Saturday morning surgeries. (74% of dissatisfied patients compared to a national

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

average of 48%) and late evening surgeries. (13% compared to 26% nationally)

- 94% of people (94%) who were referred by a GP discussed choice of hospital

The GP patient survey indicates that patients are generally satisfied with GPs' hours of availability. We are, however, concerned that this national survey, which cost the government around £11m, was a poor use of money which could have been much better spent on patient care as the

results only confirmed those of earlier surveys.

The GP patient survey indicates that patients are generally satisfied with GPs' hours of availability. GPs felt that some of the questions in this survey were biased because they asked if patients wanted longer opening hours without explaining the implications that this would have for GP practices, patients and the NHS in terms of the availability of medical and nursing manpower and financial resources.

Fred Merrin, Practice Manager

Race for Life

29th July 2007

University of Essex

Members of staff from Ardleigh Surgery, including doctors, nurses and receptionists, completed the 5km Race for Life. Despite the predicted forecast being for heavy rain, it was a lovely summers day and the walk was completed in good time.



The team raised approximately £1000 between them, helped enormously by generous sponsorship by many patients at the surgery. We would like to thank all those who pledged money, and remind those who have not paid that any monies due will be gratefully received in the surgery.

Kate Strowbridge

High Sheriff Annual Award

High Sheriff's Fund - To support local initiatives devised to make communities safer places to work and live.

The High Sheriff of Essex, Lady Kemp-Welch, has written to advise of the awards from her office and has asked that they be promoted throughout the District.

There is a grant award of up to £1000 to any Essex-based organisation for projects that make local people safer in their homes, schools, villages and towns.

Full details of various schemes are available on

www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk .

Brochures and further details of the HS Awards can be obtained by contacting jo@essexcf.org.uk or phoning 01245 355947. The deadline for applications is December 1st.

Forthcoming Events



AUGUST

- 1 WI outing
- 10 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- 16 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Fr Nicolas' Farewell party, Ogilvie Hall, 6.30pm
- 8 Heritage Open Day/Bike Ride, Lt Bromley Church, 9.00am
Lt Bromley Fete, Mulleys Farm, 12 noon
- 10 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Phone Clerk for venue, 7.30pm.
- 22 Concert, Lt Bromley church, 7.30pm
- 27 WEA course begins, Ardleigh village hall, 2.30pm
- 28 Harvest Big Barn Dance and Supper, Wick Farm, Ardleigh, 7.30pm
- 30 Harvest Lunch, Gt Bromley Village Hall, 12.30pm

OCTOBER

- 2 Autumn Sale, Village Hall, 10.30am
- 6 Race Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 Friends of Lt Bromley church Annual meeting, church, 11.00am
Music Concert, Lt Bromley church, 7.30pm

St George's Church
Great Bromley

Harvest Lunch

at Great Bromley Village Hall
Sunday 30th September
12.30pm for 1.00pm

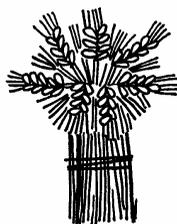
Tickets: Adults £6 Children £3
Available from 01206 230089 or
01206 250229 and members of the PCC

Bring your own drinks and glasses



2007

Celebrating The Harvest



28th September
7.30pm

The Big Barn Dance

Celebrate the
Harvest Festival at
the grand opening
of James Blyth's
New Barn, Wick
Farm, Wick Lane, Ardleigh.

Dance to the music of 'The
Thatchers'.

No prior knowledge required, the
caller will talk us through the steps as
needed.

BYO drinks, tickets £6 (£4 child)
Includes ploughman's supper,

Tel: 01206 230314 (Wendy Brothers).

Little Bromley Fete

To be held at
Mulley's Farm,
Bentley Road,
Little Bromley
on



Saturday 8th
September 2007
12 noon to 3pm.

Entry fee/ticket holders
entitled to a Barbeque Meal
and glass of wine/soft drink
£5.00 adults, £2.50 children under 12.
There will also be a special prize for
the lucky ticket holder.



Should you have any items you
wish to donate
or require tickets

Please telephone: 01206
395103 or

01206 391015 or 01206 391345.

The Little Bromley Fete is organised by the
Little Bromley Parish Council and the
Amenities Committee. We are always looking
for interested people who would like to help us
to make these events a success or join us on
the committee.

If you have a little time to spare to help at the
Fete or would like to donate any items please
contact us on the above telephone numbers.

We are always pleased to hear from YOU.

WEA Ardeigh

THE SAVOY OPERAS

Course Tutor - Christine Jones
Thursdays 2.30 pm to 4.15 pm
10 weeks Fee £40

27th September to 29th November
Ardeigh Village Hall, Station Road
Ardeigh

Contacts: John Terry (01206 230490)
or Jill Frostick (01206 250263)

Whether you are 'love-sick maidens' or
'gentlemen of Japan' bring your sisters and
cousins and your aunts to study Gilbert's
witty lyrics and Sullivan's catchy tunes.

This WEA course will cover many of the
Gilbert and Sullivan Operas including
Mikado, Pinafore, Pirates of Penzance,
Patience, Iolanthe, Ruddigore, Trial by Jury
and many more.

The course will include verbal discussion,
videos of the operas and will include a
session of making models. It is hoped that a
visit to a production of one of the Operas can
be arranged. Please do come along to the
first session on the 27th September where
you can decide if it is the course for you,
before paying the Course Fee on the second
week.

There will be a slight reduction in the fee for
couples. There are also books on the
subject which can be borrowed.

FRIENDS OF LITTLE
BROMLEY CHURCH

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

8th September 9.00am-6.00pm
(also Bike Ride and Lt Bromley Fete)

23rd September 6.30pm

Harvest Festival Evensong
(Parish of the Bromleys)



Saturday 22 September
at 7:30 pm

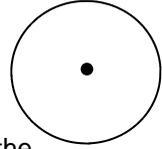
CONCERT

The East Anglian Single Reed Choir
directed by Charles Hine.
20+ clarinets and saxophones play Bizet,
Offenbach, Tchaikovsky etc

Tickets £4 (students £1) on the door.

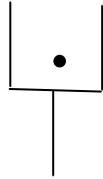
GAMES FOR WET DAYS!

1. How do you draw a circle with a dot in the middle without taking your pencil off the page?

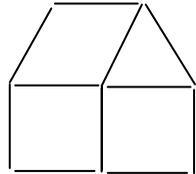
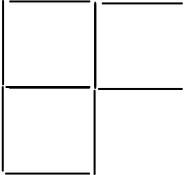


Use old matchsticks or cut up pieces of drinking straws to do the following puzzles.

2. Keeping the dot outside the shape move 2 matches without changing the shape and keeping the dot in the same position outside the shape.



3. Make 4 rectangles moving only 2 matches.



4. Alter the direction the house is facing by moving 1 match only.

Answers on page 14

MATERIAL for the **OCTOBER 2007** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **Monday, 17th**

September, 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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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.essexinfo.net/gbpc

Report of a parish council meeting held on 9 August 2007

Planning

The Council considered the following planning applications with no objections except as indicated:

Bush Farm, Hall Road – demolition of existing house, erection of new dwelling and changed vehicular access.

Elm Bungalow, Harwich Road – demolition of existing bungalow and erection of two chalet bungalows and garages.

Harwin, Frating Road – revisions to existing approval

Snooty Fox, Frating Road – external wooden decking and 'covered' smoking areas (objections)

Tendring District Council has approved the following planning applications, except as indicated:

Crossways Centre, Frating Road – erection of canopy.

Wiltwyk, Colchester Road – extensions.

Arundel, Ardleigh Road – canine fitness centre and parking area.

16 Meadow Close – conservatory

Little Bromley Parish Council

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on 13th September 2007 at 7.30pm.

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

Alvi, Mary Lane South – extensions (refusal)

Highways

The county highways department proposes laying a paved pedestrian footway along Ardleigh Road between the Cross Inn and the former chapel. There will be a second cut of highway verges this year. As reported elsewhere village working parties will be looking into the problems of both speeding and other road hazards

Future meetings

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 9 August 2007 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

Ken Bromfield

Email: gparishcouncil@tiscali.co.uk



Race Night

Great Bromley Village Committee

is holding a Race Night on Saturday 6th October

at the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Admission will be by Race Card priced £1

In order to make the evening a success we are asking for support from you by purchasing a horse for the racing. The cost of a horse is £5.00, there are 8 horses per race and a total of 7 races for horses to be purchased. The name of the horse and its owner will be printed on the race card. The winning 'owner' of the horse that wins each race will win a bottle of champagne.

It promises to be a very enjoyable fun evening and the committee asks that you give your support.

If you would like to own a horse please contact Fred Nicholls on 01206 230688

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANELS – A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs) consist of representatives from the community, voluntary and statutory groups or organisations which are well placed to make a contribution to community problem solving in their areas. The NAPs give local people the opportunity to work together with local agencies to improve the general environment and their quality of life. They are also one of the 'building blocks' of the Tendring Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Great Bromley comes under the umbrella of the Tendring Rural South NAP which includes the town of Brightlingsea as well as neighbouring villages.

Each NAP is encouraged to identify and address local issues within their area which would benefit from discussion and community action. Discussion and the exchange of ideas and experiences are very important aspects of NAP business and are likely to have some benefits for our village. Current initiatives (of general

local interest) include tackling crime and youth nuisance, speeding in rural areas, road safety and dog fouling.

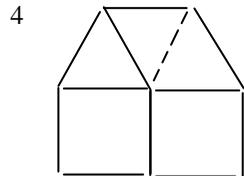
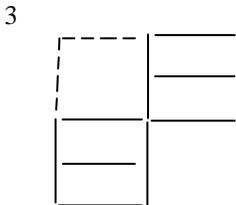
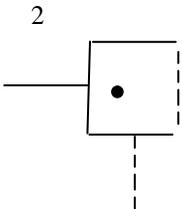
I represent the interests of Great Bromley Parish Council on our local NAP and, specifically, will be raising any relevant points arising from parish council meetings, the village appraisal or from the subsequent working groups. However, members of the public are reminded that they are most welcome to attend those quarterly NAP meetings which are open to the public and raise any issues of their concern. The next public NAP meeting will be held at Colne School, Church Road, Brightlingsea on Thursday 18th October at 7pm.

Please contact me on 01206 250263 should you require any further information on NAPs, or alternatively contact the Police NAP support officer (Gill Burmby) on 01255 254052 or email: gill.burmby@essex.pnn.police.uk

Martin Frostick

Answers to Puzzles on page 12

1. Draw the circle then without taking your pencil off the page fold a corner of the page to the centre of the circle and draw a line across the folded corner to the centre of the circle and make a dot.



GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

General Update

Working Groups 6 (Speed Reduction) and 10 (Footpaths) were launched at the parish council meeting in August, bringing to 9 the number of active working groups. However, parish councillors apart, less than 3% of village residents have volunteered so far to play a role in activities resulting from the village appraisal and, without more support, further progress is likely to be slow.

Why not join in? Feedback from those people engaged in working groups so far indicates that the experience is fun, gives a feeling of achievement and offers an informal opportunity to meet some new faces. Further volunteers are required for most working groups, particularly as leaders for those working groups not already launched.

A full list of working groups was given in the April edition of the Bromley Messenger. Draft terms of reference for each group have since been written, which will give potential volunteers a better feel for what is involved. Please contact me for further information on 01206 250263 and/or give me your name if you would like to volunteer. Any assistance that you can offer would be much appreciated.

Progress reports from each working group will be published in the Bromley Messenger periodically, commencing this month.

Martin Frostick

WG 5 – Hazardous Roads

Guidance has been sought from Essex County Council regarding hedgerow and verge maintenance. A full survey of village roads, pavements, bridlepaths and footways (excluding public footpaths) is planned to commence in early September.

Martin Frostick

WG 9 – Closed cemetery/Church Meadow

The work continues in the closed cemetery and those residents that have had a look will have noticed that the hedges are being brought under control. By the time this edition of the Messenger is published the wild sown trees should all have been felled, which will open the area up considerably. Two new volunteers Tracy & Glenn have joined our merry little band and they are most welcome. All extra pairs of hands are much appreciated and will help to speed up our task considerably.

Fred Nicholls

WG 13 – Tree Planting

About 120 semi-mature trees (of various native species) from the village tree nursery will be ready to plant out around the village this winter. The tree warden is currently working to identify suitable planting sites and invites suggestions from village residents. Ideally, trees should be planted on public land but, given the limited amount of public land within the village, planting is more likely to be on private land, adjacent to public rights of way, such that the environmental benefit of the trees can be enjoyed by all. Preference will be given to sites where a local resident or the landowner is able to water the trees during the summers of 2008 and 2009 whilst they are becoming established. Some of the trees are quite large, up to 3 metres in height, and as well as further volunteers bring required to assist with planting (2 only so far) assistance would also be most welcome from anyone with a wheeled digger able to give of their time for a couple of mornings during the planting period. Please contact me on 01206 250263 if you wish to suggest a planting site or would like to offer your assistance.

Martin Frostick

FROM THE PAST ...

Another 1881 Census

Walter Tricker and George Sargeant took a part of the census each. Tricker went to Great Bromley Rectory where Arthur Etaugh Graham, aged 46, and his wife Hannah, aged 45, lived with their large family.

The eldest son, Arthur, Aged 18, was a Midshipman and must have been home on leave. The eldest daughter, Ivy, aged 17, was a scholar and so too were the rest of the young Grahams, namely Annie, aged 15; Gilbert, aged 14; Beatrice, aged 13; Harry, aged 11; Robert, aged 9; John, aged 8; Helen, aged 4 and the youngest Alan, aged 3. They were all born in Great Bromley.

The staff at the Rectory were Mary L Knights, aged 25, the governess and teacher for the family. She came from Ipswich.

The domestic staff were Sarah Lawyer, aged 18, Julia Peach, aged 20, both from Suffolk and Emma Lott from Great Holland.

John Appleby

AND 20 YEARS AGO ...

Harvest

Maybe it was twenty years ago, maybe a little more, that returning from a ramble by field paths round Little Bromley, I stopped to gather blackberries from the hedge at the corner of Mary Lane where Springfield Close is now, one early September evening. The sun had just set and a sickle harvest moon shone silver in the afterglow.

The elms along the bank were black against the crimson sky, but in that long field, perhaps a million years ago the flood plain of the river that is now the Bromley Brook, sheaves of corn were stoked in long golden rows which followed the carve of the brook.

I was told that this lovely sight, even then an anachronism, was due to Margaret Pirie's inspiration. Sad it is to see today on the

other side of my hedge, the blackened ears still lying in the sodden ground, after the worst summer weather for years, and I can only hope it helps our farmers to remember the golden days.

Irene Wilkinson

[Mrs Wilkinson, who originally lived in Bay Cottage and then in Springfield Close, wrote 'Historical Jottings' for the Bromley Messenger or some years]

Parish Festival - S George's Church

We were very disappointed that the weather was so bleak on the first weekend in September, but it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the many helpers and those who attended.

The flower arrangements were exquisite. In looking at them one was 'lost in wonder, love and praise'. I hope that all who helped will accept my warmest thanks - the flower arrangers, those who sat in the church and the stalwart band of stall holders and tea providers who braved the elements on Church Meadow.

The weekend was rounded off by a very well attended United Service at which we were pleased to welcome many visitors from the Methodist Chapels.

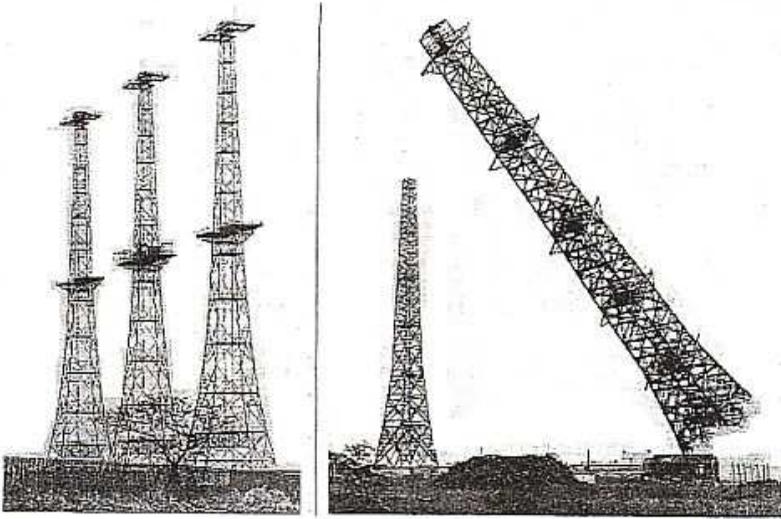
The money raised from the event, to be shared between the General Church Fund and the Repair Fund will be in the region of £530. Thank you all who helped.

The Rector

and also

Ann Fairley appreciated 'the help and support given to her over the Flower Festival weekend' ... thanking 'everyone ... and the brave folks who manned the stalls during the inclement weather' which brought in £270.16.

[It looks as though the summer of 1987 was similar to this one in terms of bad weather! - Ed.]



Great Bromley's pylons — progress or eyesores?

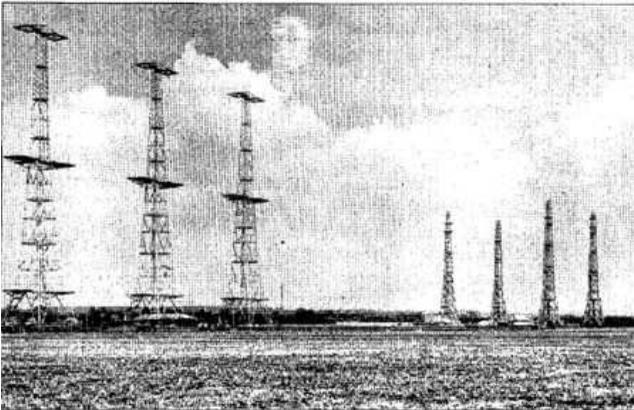
From the late 1930s when the pioneering radar pylons, pictured above left, first went up at Great Bromley, they were regarded by some as progressive symbols of the new scientific age.

However, many countryfolk — understandably suspicious and kept in the dark by Government secrecy as to the pylons' precise security function — believed they possessed some kind of sinister or magical powers.

Some said they stopped passing motor cars dead in their tracks, others that they could bring down enemy aircraft by making their engines cut out!

However, no such powers could save the metal monsters from destruction when, in June 1970, the demolition men moved in.

Unfortunately Sue is unable to identify the source of this newspaper cutting



A Chain station of the initial radar chain.

A similar site to Great Bromley was that of Pevensey in East Sussex
(sent in by Mr Edward Barrett)

Further recollections of the Pylons

As one whose childhood was dominated by the three steel, four wooden and two smaller pylons on Park Farm, I would like to add further insights into the history of Great Bromley's Chain Home Radar station.

The field on which the four wooden or low level pylons (200 feet) were situated was bought by the Air Ministry from the Wenden family in 1936. Family lore has it that they wanted them to have the adjacent field because that particular field was the most productive on the farm. However the Air Ministry insisted on having the first field as it was eight inches higher!

My parents survived the war, living only 200m away and with no air raid shelter. They told of several hair-raising occasions as the Germans tried to bomb the radar station. On one occasion a German bomber dropped a big bomb in front of the house (still a dip in Chase Road East) and on another a land mine on a parachute came down in the field behind the house. I remember the crater though I was very small and it was later filled in.

The four wooden pylons were blown up in 1958 and 1959. The first two were blown up in an early evening thunderstorm and people at first thought that they had been struck by lightning. It later transpired that it should have been done earlier but someone had forgotten to turn off the electricity! My parents witnessed the blowing up of the remaining two first hand as they were returning from their weekly shopping trip to Colchester. The family bought the field back in 1960 along with railings, guard hut, central control bunker, the bases for four pylons and sundry Nissan huts. Not very conducive for farming! More recently, a contractor wished to remove the concrete bases and use them as hard core for extending the

facilities at Parkston Quay. He struggled with one set and then was never seen again - apparently the bases are like icebergs with most of them below the ground and made of very strong concrete. They certainly knew how to build in the 1930s!

The steel high level pylons (360 feet) were dismantled in 1970 and just the one we see now was left but without its fine platforms. Does anyone else out there have other memories?

Sue Orriss

The copy of a newspaper cutting (above left) shows

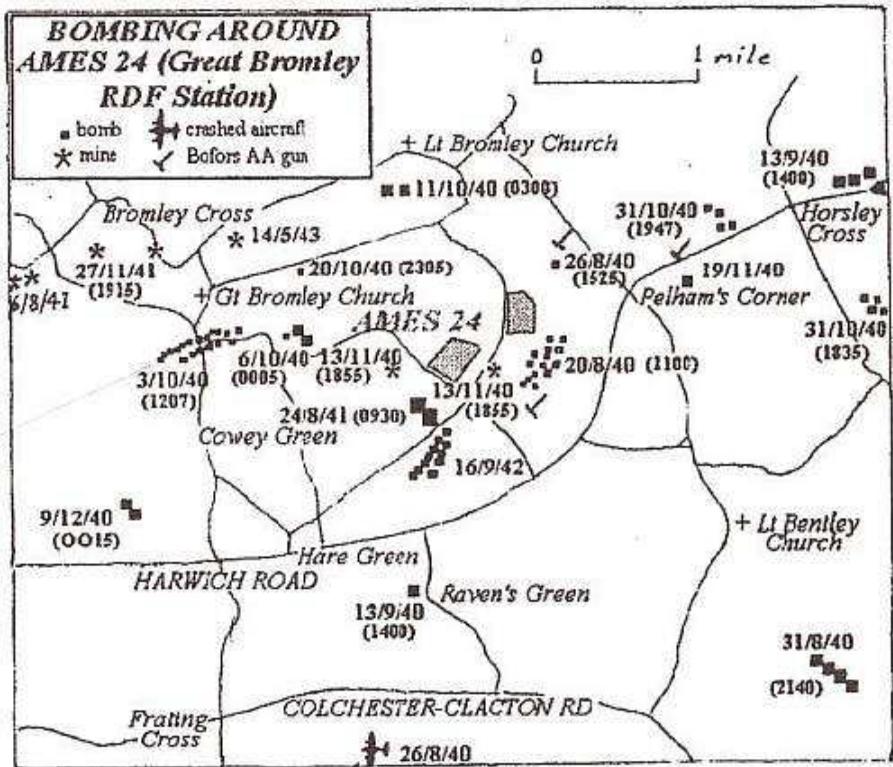
- a) the three steel pylons as they were in the 40s and 50s, and
- b) one of the wooden ones coming down probably in 1959. There doesn't appear to be a thunderstorm as in 1958!

For more on the pylons read on

On the historical page in last month's The Rev'd Paul Davis wanted to know where Great Bromley High Street was. 20 years later we have the answer from John Appleby who says:

'In "Where the Broom Grows" I inserted photograph No 47. The photographer was F Newell of Manningtree and the original shows the title "The Stores, High Street" (it was before Frating Road really begins and shows the shop, the staff and even the cycle). It is now a private house which you will all know.

Newell took shots of the Shop, High Street, from its north and south sides. The date was 1900.'



Pylons

I have always had a keen interest in history and historical re-enactment and as a technical volunteer with the East Essex Aviation Society's museum at Point Clear and also a lay historian, have followed the series on AMES 24 (the Low Home Command radar chain station at Gt. Bromley) with particular interest .

To add to the layout drawing (contributed by John Appleby), I have a map of the bombing raids on AMES 24 (Gt Bromley) during the Battle of Britain in which the Luftwaffe attempted to put the radar network out of action, before operation Sea Lion (the actual invasion of Britain). It shows impacts by bombs and mines, and crash sites of German Bombers due to successful defence by the Bofors Gun

crews and their approximate gun positions at Red House, Park and Welhams farms . It also shows T and R Sites and puts the previous drawing into context (T being the site in Hilliards Rd, R in Stone Rd), and has the dates and times of the raids . I have been talking to a local resident who witnessed the destruction of the ME110 shown crashed South of the Clacton Rd on this map, and excavated around 30 years ago. It is surprising how many landmarks came close to being lost forever because of the poor aim of the German bomb aimers trying to hit the Pylons !

Malcolm Robartes

WHY THE FLOODS CAME (from a 1987 magazine)

And the Lord said to Noah: "Where is the Ark which I have commanded thee to build?" and Noah said unto the Lord: "Verily I have had three carpenters off sick. The gopher wood supplier hath let me down and the damp-course specialist hath not turned up. What can I do, O Lord?" And God said unto Noah: "I want that Ark finished after seven days and seven nights". And Noah said "It will be so". And so it was not so.

And the Lord said unto Noah: "What seemeth to be the trouble this time?" And Noah said unto the Lord: "My sub-contractor hath gone bankrupt, the plumber hath gone on strike and the glazier departeth on holiday to Majorca - yea, even though I offered him double time. Shem, my son who helpeth me on the Ark side of the business hat formed a pop-group with his brothers Ham and Japeth. Lord, I am undone."

And the Lord grew angry and said: "What about the animals? Two of every sort have I ordered to come unto thee to keep them alive.

Where, for example, are the giraffes?" And Noah said: "The van cometh on Tuesday, yea, it will be so."

And the Lord said unto Noah: "How about the unicorns?" and Noah wrung his hands and wept saying: "Lord, they are a discontinued line. Thou canst not get unicorns for love nor money."

And God said: "Where are the monkeys and bears, and the hippopotami and the elephants, and the zebras and the hartebeests, two of every kind, and the fowls of the air by sevens?"

And Noah said unto the Lord: "They have been delivered unto the wrong address, but should arrive on Friday. All save the fowls of the air by sevens, for it hath just been told me that they are sold only in half-dozens."

And Noah said: "Lord, Lord, thou knowest what it is like with delivery dates." And the Lord in his wisdom said: "Noah, my son, I know, I know. Why else dost thou think I have caused a flood to descend upon the earth?"

Cricket Club Quiz Night

13th October at 7.30p.m
in the Village Hall



To reserve your table please
phone Phil Allam on 01206
230375.



THE UNITED PARISHES OF ARDLEIGH AND THE BROMLEYS



Dear Parishioner,

This is probably the most difficult letter to write in this past nine years of the parish magazine. Caught up in the emotions of leaving, moving and arriving as I am words are difficult to find.

Having been "head hunted" for the job at Worksop it has taken a while for me to come to terms with something I did not seek. It would be wrong to say that I am not flattered and excited at being called to such a beautiful church and faithful people. Daunted a little as well, seeing I will have more responsibilities; a large Church school, a young curate and an elderly assistant priest, duties in the town and district council offices a larger congregation with many more baptisms, weddings and funerals. There is high unemployment in the town, a large drug problem affecting people of all ages, a need for people to be valued and loved.

Thinking of all that whilst I'm finding it hard to say farewells. I have been very happy here and wish to express my gratitude to those of you who have had a hand in that. I know too that I have disappointed some people, not been the Rector they would have liked and for that I am sad, but know I have done my best for who I am and the way I live my priestly life.

Thankfully the Church has always taught that the worthiness or unworthiness of the minister does not add or subtract from the love of God to those who seek Him. In that I move on knowing that another will follow with different ideas and ways and that is good.

The Churches are in a better condition now, with modern facilities (on their way at S George's), more financially stable-

paying their way in the Church and to charity, the congregations larger, Sunday School and Church Youth thriving, links with the Stone family, school, deanery, diocese and wider Church are stronger and will continue if the congregations wish it.

If you've missed out on all of this, now is the time to "Come and see". Sadly for me I won't be here to welcome you, but others will. The worship of God, service of His Son Jesus Christ and channelling of the Holy Spirit goes on, as it has for centuries from your beautiful churches. Make the most of it.

God bless.
Fr Nicolas.

Rector: Fr Nicolas Spicer -01206 230344
nspicer@lineone.net
Churchwardens
S Mary's Mr Robin Hill 792046 Mrs Mandy Pratt 230003
S George's Mrs Barbara Hall 230673 Mr James Wild 203679
www.ardleighandthebromleys.co.uk

Harvest Dates

30 th September	
10.30am	Harvest Eucharist at S George's church, Great Bromley
12.30pm	Harvest Lunch in Great Bromley Village Hall Tickets (£6 & £4 from Marion 230089)
6.30pm	Harvest Evensong at S Mary's church, Ardleigh

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Services for September

Sunday 2nd

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 & Sermon	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

Sunday 9th

8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

Sunday 16th

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 & Sermon	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

Sunday 23rd

8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

Sunday 30th

8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
10.30am	The Parish Harvest Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
6.30pm	Harvest Evening Prayer & Sermon	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

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

Details of weekday celebrations from Church or at
ardleighandthebromleys.co.uk

CHURCH NOTES

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the questionnaire about church life at St George's. Although no clear picture emerged and the comments varied enormously, it was a useful exercise, not least in making the PCC aware of the variety of views held by both members and non-members of our church.

The Harvest Lunch will be held in the village hall on Sunday, September 30th. Tickets are available from Ann Fairley (250229) or Marion Bromfield (230089) or any member of the PCC. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Fr. Nicolas' last service is on Sunday, 2nd September at 10.30am. The appointment of a new priest will take some months but on 5th September the PCCs of Bromley and Ardleigh will meet with the Bishop of Colchester to begin the process of selecting a suitable candidate. The 8am and 10.30am services will continue as normal during the interregnum but there will no Evensong during September other than the Harvest Festival Service at Lt Bromley on September 23rd at 6.30pm.