

December 2007

Vol 21 No 9

2007 has been a varied, eventful and busy year in our villages.

Earlier in the year there were council elections with a goodly number of people - some new - standing for election to serve our communities. The Great Bromley Village Appraisal was published providing an insight to our view of the village which, for the most part, was good and optimistic. As a direct result of the Appraisal Working Groups have been set up which are enjoyed by those involved but they do need more volunteers to tackle the other areas targeted in the Appraisal.

As with the Working Groups, village organisations and charities also need your support and voluntary help both on their committees and generally. Some people sometimes express the view that they have the right to benefit from such activities but sadly those same people quite often refuse to do anything towards helping such groups themselves when asked. 'Doing' things is quite often left to a small number of dedicated people who stand up, offer their services and can be counted upon to reliably organise and run the many events and groups that happen throughout the year. Organising a group or an event is hard work, time consuming and can initially be regarded by some as doing a duty. However, once involved a person can quite often find it enjoyable to participate, forging close bonds with fellow workers - bonds which can turn to lasting and lifetime friendship.

We are fortunate to continue to have our Post Office at The Cross Inn. Post Offices, and rural ones in particular, have been under threat. I read this week that, as public consultations have begun on the closure of 2,500 branches across the country, the planned closures will be put on hold and the

consultations therefore suspended in the run-up to the local elections next year.

There have been other changes. Our church is currently searching for a new incumbent and, as you will see on page 21, both the parishes of Arleigh and The Bromleys have rescinded the Resolutions that were in place so that in future, should we want so to do, a woman priest could be chosen to serve in our parish.

As you will read on page 5 the planning inspector's report on the objections to the Tending Replacement Local Plan has been published. We now know that the Oasis proposal has been rejected along with the industrial/business park proposal alongside the A120/A133 slip road. There are also a number of other matters which have been rejected which would have affected our villages. A lot of time and effort has been put in by members of the villages in connection with these schemes and many may consider that sense has prevailed.

The farming community has been hit by the hardships and worries of foot and mouth, blue tongue and, now, avian flu with the weather throughout the year having been, to say the least, inclement. However, so far as I am aware, nothing has been cancelled as a consequence. Well done and thank you to all those who have organised something this year for, despite the rain and the cold, spirits were not dampened and such events in the company of family and friends are always much enjoyed.

With the season of Advent and Christmas upon us I wish all our readers a peaceful and very merry Christmas surrounded by those you love.

Leonie Henderson

***Wishing all our Readers a very
Merry Christmas***



KITCHEN CORNER

TURKEY STUFFING

Here are 2 ideas for the Christmas bird. It works well to stuff the neck only as the bird roasts better with the cavity not filled. I usually put an apple or lemon inside to help flavour or you can use an onion.

Scottish oatmeal stuffing

1 medium onion.
6oz medium oatmeal
3oz shredded suet
Salt and black pepper

Peel and finely chop the onion and mix in the other ingredients.

Lemon and Parsley stuffing

4oz butter.
4oz white breadcrumbs
Finely grated rind of one lemon
4 tbsp finely chopped parsley
Pinch of dried thyme or marjoram
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Mix dry ingredients and stir in the melted butter to bind to a moist crumbly stuffing.

Happy Christmas!

Jill Frostick



**Proud
to be
square**



Leonard Cheshire – the country's leading disability charity has changed its name to

Leonard Cheshire Disability

Be assured that nothing else has changed!

Seven Rivers in Great Bromley will continue to offer the same care and attention to your loved one that it always has!

MATERIAL for the **JANUARY 2008** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **Monday, 10th December, 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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PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

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

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald
Telephone: 01206 230305

At this time of year the school is gearing itself up for Christmas. The PTA have a Festive Fayre on 30th November at 6.00pm in the School Hall - all welcome.



The children will be hard at work rehearsing for the School play which will be for two matinees and one evening performance. Then the children are off to see Sleeping Beauty at the Mercury Theatre.

Finally they are having their own carol concert at the Church when they break up on the 19th December.

LC



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

Firstly, we would like to welcome Jane Taylor and Lisa Curtis to our staff, but they need your help:

SAVE OUR PLAYGROUP

Despite a fabulous Ofsted inspection and purchasing new ICT equipment (which the children love!) we have a large number of children starting school in January and our numbers are dangerously low. Why not come and visit us and see a great local asset for yourselves? Or can you recommend us to anyone in the area who might not know about us? Can you help in any other way? Ring on the number above.



Scallywags

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Bromley Parish Council

Report of a parish council meeting held on 8 November 2007

Residents are reminded that minutes of the council's meetings, plus other information, can be found on the website at:

<http://www.essexinfo.net/gbpc/>.

Planning

The Council considered the following planning applications with no objections:

The Spinney, Back Lane West – rear extension.

1 St George's Close – conservatory.

Land adjacent to Sunnyside, Ardleigh Road – new dwelling.

Bay Trees, Parsons Hill – single storey side extension.

Tendring District Council has approved the following planning applications:

5 Council Houses, Harwich

Road – two storey rear extension and detached garage/workshop.

Southview, Ardleigh Road – cart lodge.

The following proposal has been withdrawn by the applicant:

Park Farm, Hilliards Road – extension to existing barn and change of use to industrial.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 13 December 2007 at the Village Hall Great Bromley.

Ken Bromfield

Email:

gbparishcouncil@tiscali.co.uk

TENDRING REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN

Following the public enquiry during 2006/7 the planning inspector's report has now been published. The inspector's findings are binding on the district council which will adopt the new plan at its meeting on 12 December. A six-week period will then follow to allow any challenge to the final plan.

The inspector's report has been published on the district council's website (<http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk>), where it can be compared with the plan originally proposed by Tendring. The revised plan will be available in due course at public libraries and Tendring offices.

The following decisions by the inspector may be of particular interest:

- a) The proposed industrial/business park (QL5c) adjacent to the A120/A133 slip road has been deleted from the plan. The inspector also rejected the 'Oasis' proposal for an alternative employment site with associated housing.
- b) The inspector does not support any form of development in the Horsley Cross area.
- c) The inspector does not provide a view on the future development of the A120 – such as dualling and the introduction of an interchange with the A133 at Hare Green.
- d) Some objectors to the draft plan proposed additional development outside defined settlement areas. These have been largely rejected by the inspector who does not consider that there is a need for additional housing within Great Bromley village. He has however agreed that the present settlement area should be extended to include the whole of the main building of the Cheshire Home. The implications of this change for the future development of the site will need to be clarified – although the building of 20+ houses would not be permitted. Hare Green no longer appears to have a settlement development boundary.

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

WG9 - Closed Cemetery

Work has continued in the closed cemetery up until 10th November. We are now stopping until next year apart from planting some hedging. The East Anglian Daily Times and the Colchester Evening Gazette have both carried features on the work being done. As a result of these features we have had a response from people who have relatives buried in the cemetery.

On Saturday 1st December at 10am John Appleby has agreed to meet with the working group and anybody else who is interested in the closed cemetery. We will meet at the closed cemetery, if the weather is inclement we will meet at the church.

Fred Nicholls

WG 5 – Hazardous Roads

Following guidance from Essex County Council regarding highways and hedgerow and verge maintenance, a full survey of roads and bridle paths in the village has now been undertaken. A total of 39 highways maintenance tasks were identified, ranging from significant re-instatement of verges and uneven road surfaces following the sewer works in the Burnt Heath area, to minor pothole repair and signpost replacement. ECC Highways has already started to action these tasks and, funding permitted, the work should be complete by the end of February.

However, we have been advised that Anglia Water are obliged by law (and as instructed by the highways authority) to continue their reinstatement works programme, as problems emerge, for a period of 2 years from the date of sewer completion.

The survey of roadside hedges and trees resulted in 68 unsatisfactory areas being

identified in the village, several resulting from landowner neglect over a large number of years. Given that the highway boundary varies in width from location to location, it is difficult to generalise as to how far landowner hedges should be cut back, but the following general guidance from ECC may be helpful:

- Roadside verges should have a clear minimum width of 450mm at all times from the road edge. This means that hedges should be cut back at least one metre from the road edge to allow for vegetation growth.
- Hedges should be cut back regularly such that there is no overgrowth of metalled footways. This includes brambles during the growing season.
- Trees overhanging the road should allow a minimum clearance of 5.1 metres above the road surface, including on the road edge/kerb line. There should be a minimum clearance of 2.4 metres above footways.

Where the highway boundary is more than 1 metre from the road edge, then hedges may need to be cut back more severely. A useful guide is the position of road signs, which are properly surveyed in when installed. If a road sign is obscured, then almost always the hedge is encroaching on highway property and should be cut back.

WG 5 volunteers will be visiting landowners and householders during December to discuss those hedges which are considered to be a hazard. Further information can be obtained from me on 01206250263

Martin Frostick

WG11 - Litter Picking - 10th November

Despite initial heavy rain, approximately 25 volunteers took part in the morning's event. As TDC operatives had picked Harwich Road and the B1029 the preceding week, we concentrated on the rest of the village. Every road was visited but, thanks to the efforts of residents, not all needed attention. 35 bags of rubbish were collected together with larger discards.

Thanks go to everyone who participated, also to Barhale for the provision of warning signs, and to Ray Cootes of TDC Cleansing Department who provided eight litter grabs.

For your diary - a provision date of 15 March 2008 has been fixed for the next campaign.

NB Litter picking may not be the most glamorous way to spend a Saturday morning but everyone who took part said how much they had enjoyed getting stuck into a community project, and that they appreciated the opportunity to meet other village folk.

Brenda Perry

WG 13 – Tree Planting

Thanks to all those who have suggested locations for trees to be planted in the coming months. Following survey, it is proposed to plant approximately 140 trees in the vicinity of Brook Street/Mary Lane North/Stone Road/Badley Hall Road/Parsons Hill and also along the

public footpath between Mary Lane North and Badley Hall Road. Planting will take place in December with volunteers being notified of exact dates in due course. Please contact me on 01206 250263 if you would like to volunteer to help.
Martin Frostick

Mobile Library

As from **2 January** 2008 the county's mobile library will be calling at the four Great Bromley locations on **alternate Wednesdays** – not Thursdays – and at **new times**. Full details will be given in January's Messenger. Meanwhile the last visit of the year under the present arrangements will be on **Thursday 13 December**.

Little Bromley Parish Council

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

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



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We had our Annual General Meeting in November. Mrs Hazel Ridgeway, WI Advisor, came along to guide us through the proceedings. Our treasurer, Mrs Ann Jones, gave out her Financial Report and our secretary, Mrs Mary Clarke, reported on events over the past year.

Our President, Mrs Sue Orriss, then read her Annual Report and thanked her committee for all their hard work. She also thanked everyone else who carry out the many various tasks each month. After the voting, Sue Orriss agreed to be our President for the ensuing year and the retiring committee was voted in en bloc.

When the official business was over, Hazel Ridgeway told us of her experiences as a WI Advisor. They were both interesting and humorous, especially when she explained how a large conker came to fall on her head. She was looking for one under her Horse Chestnut tree to put in her own Institute's competition. One fell on her head - she went on to say it won her first prize - the first time ever!

This month's meeting (December) will be our Christmas Party. On behalf of all our members, I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

June Willgress

More from the W.I.

Denman College

Twelve members are looking forward to spending four days at Denman College in Oxfordshire early in January. This is the Women's Institute's own national training college and members will be enjoying two courses, Design for Crafts and Short Shaded Embroidery in Long and Short Stitch. They look forward to sharing their new found skills with others in the village.

Ladies that Lunch

Members and their friends have begun to go out bi-monthly to a local pub or restaurant to have lunch together and invite anyone interested to join them. If you would like to join us, the next one will be in the third week of January 2008 - please phone Ann on 230563 for details.

Calling all Knitters!

Through Associated Countrywomen of the World, Great Bromley has a link with Mrs Francine Moteetee in the mountain country of Lesotho in southern Africa. We knit warm jumpers of the basic Oxfam pattern for the children to help combat the cold winters and send off a parcel every few months. If you have some spare wool and/or time and would like to contribute to this venture, please phone Sue on 251949.

Tending Group Day

Mrs Joan Gibbs of Frinton organises these very enjoyable days at Bradfield Village Hall, three or four times a year. They are open to all women, not just Women's Institutes, and cost £6 for the day. For this, you get to hear three good speakers on a whole variety of subjects. Drinks and light lunches are available. The next one is on 12th February 2008 - for more details please phone Mary on 251939.

Sue Orriss

CARPET BOWLS

We've been busy this past month with league matches. We visited Little Clacton and managed a draw, back there (same venue) to lose 2-6 against Engines. We beat Clacton Bowls 8-0 at home and a drawn match with Brightlingsea at home. This was our first encounter with Brightlingsea, although we were on home ground we found them tough opponents. A very nice crowd and we had a very enjoyable evening.

On behalf of the Club members, a poppy wreath was laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday at the 10.45am service.

National County Bowls Championships 2007 Andrew played for the County in the National Championships at Blackpool; recently. This comprised of 240 players making up 6 teams of 4 players for 10 different counties across the country from Essex to Northumberland.

Playing 9 games of 11 ends, Andrew's team enjoyed good success over the two days with 7 wins and 2 defeats (including one win of 32-2) making them the strongest of the 6 Essex teams. The competition was eventually won by Cambridge with Essex finishing 3rd, their best ever performance in this competition. Unfortunately he did not get to see the Blackpool lights as they had already been turned off!

Teams: South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Hertfordshire, Durham, Essex, Sunderland, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Northumberland.

To our members and all the people who bother to read our column, A very happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Nancy Kempster



GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB



Gt. Bromley Cricket Club held their Annual Dinner and Awards Evening at the Wooden Fender on Saturday 10th November. Forty-two members and friends enjoyed a superb meal. Many thanks to Carl and his hard working staff. The trophies were presented by the President's wife, Lynda Allam.

1st X1

Batting Award	Jordan Read.
Bowling Award (shared)	Nathan Pryke Matt Foley
Fielder of the Year	Jordan Read
Young Player of the Year	Craig Perrin
Player's Player (equal votes)	Nathan Pryke Jordan Read

Trophies were also presented to:-
Matt Pirie for his 102 v Gosfield, Nathan Pryke 7 - 9 v Gt. Totham and 5 - 29 v Gt. Bentley, Matt Foley 6 - 21 v Shalford and Pip Allam 5 - 16 v Kesgrave.

Katherine Foley was presented with the Best Clubperson Award by the Chairman, Bill Kempster also thanked all who had helped the Club throughout the year. He congratulated the 1st X1 on gaining promotion into League Division One.

2nd X1

Batting Award	Jordan Read
Bowling Award	Louis Perrin
Fielding Award	Jordan Read
Players Player	Louis Perrin

Trophies were also presented to Louis Perrin for his 8 - 72 and Jake Foley 5 - 25.

Phil Allam received a trophy on behalf of the U.16s for winning their league and Matt Foley received a trophy on behalf of the U.13s for winning their league.

Continued on page 9/...

Touchstone Folk Dance Club



WHY NOT JOIN US!

We meet at Wivenhoe Congregational Church Hall on Thursday evenings from 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. We do a variety of different folk dances, American and English, and have different callers every week.

You will be made most welcome, please come along and give it a try. The first evening is free, after that the membership fee is £1.50 per evening, which includes refreshments.

You do not have to be a couple to come along, there are several single members and all the existing members will be more than willing to dance with you.

We also run a couple of dances in the year at Great Bentley Village Hall. Please contact John Terry. The Nook.

Colchester Road, Great Bromley, Essex (01206) 230490 if you are interested in coming along.

John Terry

PS - The Touchstone Folk Dance Club started in Great Bromley in the old Guide hut around 1989 and was called the Bromley Folk Dancers at that time, it moved after a while to the old Methodist Chapel at Balls Green and then to the Methodist Church at Great Bentley before finally going to its present location. The club was originally run by Ron and Doreen Mears who live in the village but they gave up a few years ago and I am now Chairman of the Club. Since they left we have no permanent callers but use different ones each week from all over Essex. We changed our name to Touchstone many years ago when a Group of us went to Sweden and the USA to demonstrate English Country Dancing and felt we should have a name which did not attach us to one village in England. Touchstone is the name of a Folk Dance.

.../Continued from page 8

The Chairman thanked all the Colts coaches for all their hard work and dedication throughout the season, with special thanks to Steve Wright, Colts Manager.

John Boulton, who is semi-retiring as Groundsman was congratulated on the excellent standard of the ground and wickets prepared throughout the season and was presented with a small gift on behalf of the Club.

On behalf of all our cricket club members I would like to wish you all a "Very Happy Christmas".

Phil Allam

Forthcoming Events



DECEMBER

- 1 Talk by John Appleby, Closed Cemetery, 10.00am
- 5 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Christmas Concert, Chapel, Royal Hospital School, 7.30pm
- 13 Lt Bromley Parish council meeting, 7.30pm
- Gt Bromley Parish council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 16 Evensong with Choir, St George's church, 6.30pm
- 20 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 23 Carol service with Choir, St George's church, 6.30pm
- 24 Christingle service, St George's church, 5.30pm
- Midnight Eucharist, St George's church, 11.30pm

2008

JANUARY

- 6 Epiphany Carol Service, St Mary's church, Little Bromley, 4.00pm
- 10 WEA 'Lives of the Great Painters', Ardleigh Village Hall, 2.30pm
- 22 Village Hall Committee meeting, Village Hall,, 7.30pm

MARCH

- 15 WG11 Litter Picking Day
- Dance with 'Nostalgia' Big Band, Village Hall

MAY

- 24 Coffee Morning, Village Hall

AUGUST

Friendship Club Auction

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Essex Police Choir, St George's Church

DO YOU REMEMBER?

As a Boy Scout in the 1950's I have vivid memories of the week I spent with the 2nd Stanford -le-Hope scout troop in Great Bromley.

If anyone is still in the village that can recall that event I would be pleased to hear from them.

Bruce Baker bruce.baker@talktalk.net



[Next month I will include Bruce's memories of the event. - Ed.]

WEA ARDLEIGH

LIVES OF THE GREAT PAINTERS

Course Tutor - Graham Simmings
Thursdays 2.30 pm to 4.15 pm
for 10 weeks



from 10th January 2008
Ardleigh Village Hall,
Station Road Ardleigh
Fee £40

Contacts: Jill Frostick - 01206 250263,
John Terry - 01206 230490

When Vasari published his 'Lives of the most excellent Painters, Sculptors and Architects' in 1550 the modern discipline of Art History came into being.

This course will examine Vasari's achievements and the impact of his book and the continuing importance of biography as a method of studying the history of art and ideas.

Please do come along to the first session on 10th January 2008 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

Evensong with Choir

Sunday 16th December
6.30pm
St. George the Martyr



HOLBROOK CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

Saturday 8th December
In the Chapel, Royal Hospital School
7.30pm

Christmas Concert

Tickets £10 contact tel: 01473 326222

PDSA BOOK STALL

In August 2006, Jacquie and John Terry started a book stall in their car port in Colchester Road, Great Bromley where people could either drop off their books or browse and take books. The idea was to raise money for the PDSA Big Book Fetch on 13th to 15th October 2006. We collected £75.

We decided to continue with the books outside all the time. A year has now passed and we have over the last year collected another £223 which I will be sending to the PDSA in the next few days. So thank you everyone for your donations, as you can see a total of nearly £300 to date.

We have had more books in than have been taken, but that is good, it gives us a large range of books. We now have a very large collection of Fiction Books which I try to keep in alphabetical order, a large children's section and lots of Cooking, Gardening books etc.

Please feel free to come and browse, leave any books you no longer need. It is an exchange book stall, so although we would like you to give a donation this is not obligatory. It is a book stall, so PLEASE, PLEASE no other items. Available most of the time, the books might be covered in bad weather.



Look for the sign on the Colchester Road - **Books in Carport**

John and Jacquie Terry

MORE RECTORY REMINISCENCES

Father was inducted in 1929 and was also Chaplain to Tendring Heath Hospital. He ran a Goose Club and a Sickness Club and was always keen to find employment for young people. He soon became a familiar figure when out on his tricycle visiting - over a year - every household. Not the least of his happily undertaken duties was as an umpire at village cricket matches; only he and the Elmstead postmaster were acceptable to both teams for their bitterly contested matches.

Mother, apart from raising seven children - all born within nine years - supported Father in every village activity, and, as Dick recalls, she conveyed parishioners to church (and hospital), ran whist drives on behalf of the Red Cross, organised a library and make-do-and-mend meetings as well as helping with army welfare. I remember how proud I was to select the books for children when the van came round two or three times a year. On one

occasion she had to interrupt a cricket match when Father forgot a wedding - but he got to the church in time. It was once said that Father was the rector and Mother was the di-rector of the Parish.

Mother, of course, needed a vehicle, and a family of nine needed a rather unusual one. It seems astonishing now but a nine-seater (the seats at the back facing each other), with a step up to a single door, was specially designed and built by Willetts of Colchester, and we even went to see this (the original "crew-bus"?) under construction. We well recall trips to Brightlingsea for swimming in the outdoor pool and to Clacton for excursions to London Bridge on The Crested Eagle. (In sharp contrast to the demands of 2007, I doubt if we ever locked a door when leaving the house).

Gerald Gurney

To be continued ...



The Rector and his family a-wheel in 1935

Pictured left to right:

Celia, Tony, Mother, Christine, Dick, Anne, Gerald, Father, Richmond

FROM THE PAST ...

Early Schoolmistress, Little Bromley

At Little Bromley, Carrington Nunn of the Hall built a school in 1829. It was in Church Road.

The 1851 Census records the School Mistress at that date.

She was Mrs Elizabeth Good, aged 44, born at Harwich. She was married to William Good, aged 48, who was born at Lawford and was described as an Ag(ricultural) Lab(ourer) or Ag Lab.

John Appleby

of the new parish of The Bromleys and for the redundancy of S Mary's Church. ... Our hope is that it will be taken over by the Redundant Churches Fund to whom application will be made. If this is successful, the fund will repair and restore the church, which will remain open for visitors, will be available for suitable use and will be able to be used for worship on several occasions each year. It will also be available for the solemnisation of marriages, provided the legal requirements are met by the persons concerned.

... AND 20 YEARS AGO

S George's Church News

Luckily the church escaped any serious damage during the great storm [of October] apart from part of the west window being blown out. We were so grateful to have our electricity supply reconnected at mid-day on Sunday, 18th October, just in time for us to be able to go ahead with the visit of the Suffolk Occasional Choir who provided us with a service of outstanding beauty. It was a great joy and privilege to welcome Dr Christopher Dearnley, the Master of Music at S Paul's Cathedral, as conductor. He was most impressed with the church and organ and hopes, with the choir, to make a return visit.

At last we are making real progress in the long planned and hoped for repair of the tower. The architect's specifications are now in the hands of the Diocesan Authorities and English Heritage, and tenders are being invited from suitable contractors.

Parochial Re-organisation - Great and Little Bromley

The Church Commissioners have now published the draft scheme for the creation

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Mrs Pallett gave a very interesting talk on Journalism at the November meeting. Don't forget the next meeting on 20th December is our TEA PARTY. If you could bring a small plate of "eats" it would be appreciated. SUE and JOHN will be entertaining us - NO competition this time, but we will need donations to the BUMPER RAFFLE please.



As this is the last Messenger report for this year we wish you all a HAPPY CHRISTMAS and hope the NEW YEAR will bring you GOOD HEALTH and everything you wish for.

Vicky Griffiths

THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PRIEST



For most members of both Ardleigh and Bromley Parochial Church Councils, this has been their first experience of being involved in the process of appointing a new priest. There

are set procedures that have to be followed, rules that have to be adhered to, and for many of us it has been a steep learning curve! However, we are making progress!

Priest and parish profiles have been drawn up. The former describes the attributes of the person that we would like to see as our new incumbent, while the latter describes our respective villages and the secular as well as religious activities that take place there. These profiles will help the Patron, Fr George Guiver, from the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield, Yorkshire, to select suitable candidates for the vacancy.

An important meeting, known as the 'Section 11 Meeting,' was held with Ardleigh PCC, on October 30th. Each parish appointed two representatives to interview applicants, and in the case of St George's these are Barbara Hall and James Wild. Also at this meeting both parishes rescinded the Resolutions that were in place regarding the Ordination of

Women. In theory, this means that a woman could now be appointed as incumbent to the Benefice. However, as this is still a sensitive issue in the parishes, it is likely that this time round, our new rector will be a man.

The Patron made a personal visit to the parishes on November 20th and, together with the Bishop of Chelmsford and the Archdeacon of Colchester, met with the wardens, and members of both PCCs. This enabled him to have a better sense of the needs of the two parishes. We agreed that Fr George will start immediately to 'head hunt' a new priest but if this does not yield a positive result then an advertisement will go in the *Church Times* early in the New Year.

We now wait for Fr. George to present candidates for interview. At this stage an element of secrecy surrounds the process. This is because applicants may not have wanted to risk unsettling their current parishioners by telling them that they are considering a move, so the representatives are not allowed to reveal the identity of anyone that they interview. Some of us may find this quite frustrating but we are just going to have to be patient!

Marion Bromfield

FROM THE GT BENTLEY DOCTORS' SURGERY

I need to get a couple of apologies out of the way first this month. Normally, our systems and equipment are pretty robust, but during the last few weeks the gremlins have crept in and one or two of them have definitely been through a wobbly phase.

Firstly, the new internet access facility collapsed. We had been working hard to let people know that this is a great alternative to ringing in for appointments or sending through bits of paper to reorder medication and our campaign had been so successful that over three hundred of you had signed up for the service. To suddenly start getting calls saying that the system wasn't working was a bit of a shock and an embarrassment.

What made things more difficult was that the fault was intermittent, and it took several days for EMIS, our system provider, to track down what was wrong and sort it out. As a result of their investigations into this and a couple of other apparently minor problems that we had reported, they found some other fairly critical faults in the clinical system which luckily they were able to mend before they could cause a major breakdown. We lost the system completely for several hours whilst they did their remedial work, but it could have been an awful lot worse. So, apologies if you were affected by all this. Normal service has now been resumed, I'm glad to say.

The next hiccup involved the link that transfers telephone calls from our number to the Harmoni out of hours service when we are not open. We understand that this was not working for a short while on Saturday, 3rd November and then again on Monday, 5th November. The problem, which affected several surgeries, was in the BT system and they got it sorted very quickly once it had been reported. Apologies again if you were one of the, thankfully, very small number of people who were affected. Just in case this ever happens again, the number to which your calls get transferred is 0845 6025215 and you can call it direct if you need to.

Incidentally, Harmoni tell us that as well as medical services they can also provide access

to out of hours NHS dental services in an emergency. The practice has no dealings at all with things dental, so I have no idea how quick the service is, or where it is situated. However, I suppose that if you break a tooth on your breakfast cereal on Christmas Day, anywhere will do. The number that you would need for the out of hours dental service is 0845 6025238.

Yes, I used the "C" word! Christmas is fast approaching, and I dare say that it will bring the usual last minute rush of repeat prescription requests. If in December you can allow a couple more days than usual for your order to be processed, it would help the pharmacy and us a great deal.

For the record, the practice will close at 3.00pm on Christmas Eve, when Harmoni will take over, and reopen at the usual time (8.30am) on Thursday, December 27th. We will then close at 3.00pm on New Year's Eve and reopen at the usual time on Thursday, January 2nd. Again, Harmoni will provide full cover whilst we are closed.

On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve The Green Pharmacy will also close a bit earlier than usual, at 5 o'clock. Anyone needing to obtain medication urgently whilst their usual pharmacy is closed can find out which duty pharmacy is open by contacting the local police.

This is the time of year when I really admire carers – whether formal or informal. They take on goodness knows what tasks and responsibilities, often completely without reward and in their own time and, generally speaking, seem to be incredibly cheerful and patient. They do a fantastic job and I take my hat off to them.

If you are a carer and we don't yet know it, please tell us. As well as noting our records that you have extra responsibilities, we can provide access to a lot of addresses and telephone numbers that might be helpful. We also stock a huge assortment of leaflets covering a wide variety of subjects, all aimed at people who look after others. You might be pleasantly surprised at the amount of help and support that you can call on.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager



GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall committee met in November with 11 members present. Apologies were received from the two absent.

You will see when you visit the Village Hall that further progress has been made with the internal redecoration of several more areas. Our man has made good the shrinkage cracks and deformities which have appeared in the Millennium Lounge since it was first brought into use in March 2001 and refreshed the paint work to restore it to its best. Yes, it is 6½ years since it was officially opened by Vera Biddis and the Lounge is a great asset to the Hall.

Our caretaker, Marion, and partner, Pat, together with her daughter, Kay, have over the summer and into the autumn been steadily working away at other areas, so we now have completed the redecoration of the rear entrance passageway, the rear toilet, the Gents toilets and cloakroom, the Ladies toilets and cloakroom, and the Committee room behind the stage. Our grateful thanks are extended to them all for their hard work in improving the décor at the Hall including the additional curtains and the various vases of flowers that have magically appeared.

Our Christmas Fayre was held on 17th November with stalls, raffles, etc and light lunches in aid of the St George's Church and Village Hall funds. Your continued support of this event was very welcome, with all of the Hall in use and offering attractions, some to buy, some to win and some to play with! The committee's thanks are expressed to all the many helpers, contributors and supporters who worked very hard to raise £1162 on the day which was shared equally between St

George's Church and the Village Hall funds, each receiving £581.

The next event to note in your brand new diaries is a dance on Saturday, 15th March when the "Nostalgia" Big Band will make a return visit to the hall for your enjoyment. –Tickets will be available in the New Year.

The Village Hall committee will next meet on Tuesday 22nd January at 7.30pm in the Millennium Lounge at the Hall. In the meanwhile, if you wish to book the hall you can do so by contacting Mrs Lynda Allam on 01206 230375 who will advise on availability and cost.

On behalf of the committee, may I extend our Christmas Greetings to you all.

Bevan Willgress



ESSEX POLICE

Just a quick report to let you know what's been happening or in this case what's not been happening in October in Great Bromley!

It has been a very quiet month, you'll be pleased to hear. There has been only one crime reported which hasn't got much relevance really. It is a theft of mobile phone from a property in Great Bromley which had a party with over 50 people

attending and a mobile phone was stolen.... Apart from that nothing has been reported and nothing for November yet....

Halloween and Bonfire Night went down well. I had no problems reported to me for Great Bromley which is good to hear!

Many Thanks

Pc 3282 Ali Driver - beat police officer for Great Bromley

UPBEAT - November issue

Information from the email based newsletter

Autism alert card

October saw the launch of the new autism alert card. The cards have been produced by the Essex Autistic Society in collaboration with Essex Police and Suffolk Constabulary. The pink, plastic card clearly carries the Essex Police and Suffolk Constabulary crests to draw the attention of police officers and other emergency services workers, stating that the bearer has an autism spectrum condition.

For further information please visit www.essexautistic.org.uk

Police drugs awareness programme wins award

The 2Smart4Drugs roadshow has won a community award for its anti-drug message. The roadshow, organised by Essex Police and sponsored by Essex FM, is run at nine locations throughout the county. This year, 15,000 children attended and were treated to a 90 minute show which included interactive drug education.

Lights on to keep the burglar out this winter

As the clocks go back and the nights draw in, Essex Police has warned that the county is entering a peak burglary season and is encouraging everyone to increase their home security. During the autumn and winter months, Essex homes can often be left in darkness for long periods of time. Residents are being advised to take a few

simple steps to protect their property and avoid becoming victims of crime.

- Fit an automatic timer or dusk to dawn sensor activated lighting for both indoor & outdoor lights as well as radios to create the impression that someone is in the home.
- Ensure that doors, windows, garages and sheds are closed and locked with keys removed.
- Fit a front door viewer to allow those at home to see any callers before opening the door.
- Install a burglar alarm or CCTV system to create an effective deterrent.
- Store keys out of sight in the house, especially away from the front door to stop thieves 'fishing' for them.
- Mark valuable property with an ultraviolet or permanent marker or with the use of particular modern systems such as Smartwater and Microdot.
- Photograph or video valuables, especially antiques, paintings and jewellery where marking could affect the value of the property.
- Work together with your local community to build secure environments by joining your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Residents can gain further information on how to secure their home by contacting their local Crime Reduction Officer or Neighbourhood Policing Team.

MUSEUM TO GO!

Colchester's history is taking to the highway, embarking on a new long and interesting journey into people's lives and communities! This is all due to Colchester museums securing £100,000 of external funding from the Designation Challenge Fund Phase 4. This fund will launch a project that will take collections out into hard to reach audiences and community in a creative and innovative way.

Museum to Go is Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service's van based, community focused mobile museum.

The **Museum to go** is free, friendly and fun! Especially for communities in Colchester, Maldon or Tendring, our van will bring your history to wherever you are! Discover, touch, smell, play, create, listen and look to find out about the people who lived here before us. On board the museum will be objects that showcase the environment, life and people of Essex, telling their stories from the prehistoric to modern period.

The museum will focus around the pod or discovery unit which will always be staffed with an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of museum staff! Our discovery pods have four main themes: Life, Meals & Medicine, Rubbish, People, and a fifth, smaller theme will be reminiscence boxes for use with the elderly in care homes. This will be supported by

other activities and a second enthusiastic knowledgeable member of staff. These include a height chart, timeline game, dial-a-hat, dressing up, magnetic gallery, historic games (such as skittles) a wormery to explore layers of history, a skeleton interactive to explore how evidence survives and art activities. There will be a 'dig deeper' corner where more in depth information will be available for those who want it and a laptop which will also provide other info as well as the chance to explore 'Virtual Colchester' or take on the Romans in the game 'Rome-Total War!' (Kindly donated by Creative Assembly)

We hope to work with local groups to provide specific activities to meet their needs, whether this be art activities, more formal talks or more specific requirements. The museum is fully flexible and can be booked for a minimum of two hours up to a whole day and can visit at weekends and evenings.

To discuss your needs or to book call the team on 01206 507846 or Email museumtogo@colchester.gov.uk

HOUSING SURVEY

we need your help

Fordham
RESEARCH

Tendring
District Council



**Help give a voice to the
housing needs of local people.**

If you have received a questionnaire,
please reply in the pre-paid envelope provided.

Closing date for returning the questionnaire is:

21st December 2007

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Services for December

<u>Sunday 2nd</u>	ADVENT SUNDAY		
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Advent Carols, Camerata Singers	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
<u>Sunday 9th</u>	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
<u>Sunday 16th</u>	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong with Choir	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
<u>Sunday 23rd</u>	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	6.30pm	Readings & Carols with Choir led by Archdeacon Annette Cooper	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
24th	CHRISTMAS EVE		
	4.00pm	Christingle	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	5.30pm	Christingle	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Christopher of Colchester	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
25th	CHRISTMAS DAY		
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
27th	ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST		
	10.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
<u>Sunday 30th</u>	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
JANUARY			
<u>Sunday 6th</u>	EPIPHANY		
	8.00am	The Eucharist	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
	10.30am	The Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i>
	4.00pm	Epiphany Carol Service	<i>St. Mary's, Little Bromley</i>

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