

The Bromley Messenger

March 2009

Volume 22 No 12



Ditch alongside Spratts Lane

Photograph L. Henderson

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

This past month the weather, in the forms of snow, ice and rain, has been causing difficulties around the country. Although I don't feel the villages were affected too badly by any of this it has caused difficulties with our milkman who got stuck in the drive due to the fact that it resembled a skating rink and a Tesco van became mired in the paddock where it decided to turn round. We managed to unstick the milkman but we had help, in the form of a digger, to pull the van out of the mud.

The ditches in recent weeks have been full to the brim from the water that was pouring off the lanes. The ditches, on the whole usually striking terror into the hearts of motorists as they edge past each other in the limited space of the road, really come into their own during wet weather and the fact that they are all so well maintained round here means that they function perfectly.

The monthly Gardening Tips by Frank Griffiths takes on a new form this month. With the price of vegetables ever increasing, he is turning his pen to giving us step by step advice as to how to grow our own vegetables. If you don't have a large garden or want to turn your garden into a vegetable patch, they can always be grown amongst the flowers in the flower bed or in flower pots. Vegetables straight out of the ground or from the bush always taste much better than shop ones, as well as containing more vitamin C, as they have not been shipped around the country for days slowly going past their best and freshest all the while.

The long tail tits I mentioned last month arrived right on cue. They have also been seen by Mrs Marshall in her garden. I have about 7 which chatter away all the time to each other as they flit about. I wonder how many others there are

around the villages?

There are to be two litter picking days this month - one in Little Bromley on 21st March and the other in Great Bromley on 28th March. Both days need volunteers to help with the work which is both good exercise and in the fresh air! Do please contact the relevant people (see page 7) if you can spare some time. It is a pity a similar clean up cannot be had in space. The image from the European Space Agency shows that just a few miles above the surface of Earth there are thousands of objects littering up space with the result that recently there was a collision between two of them.



Fun Day plans for 13th June are well under way and they too need volunteers to help as well as some sponsors. As with all big 'dos' this will need team work and many hands to make light work of what promises to be a wonderful day. There is also a Village Fete to be held in Little Bromley on 25th July. Maybe they too need some help?

Telephone scams never seem to go away these days. I see that I mentioned such scams in these pages as far back as 2004. On page 27, with thanks to Mr Mears, there are some pointers as to how to complain, or maybe even get your money back, if you have fallen victim to a scam. There is a website address which gives a lot of information as well as phone numbers and an address. However the best thing is not to get sucked in in the first place - if something seems too good to be true just say 'no'!

Leonie Henderson

GREAT BROMLEY FUN DAY

The Fun Day committee are urgently seeking

an individual to be responsible for the Health & Safety aspects of the Fun Day in June. To comply with insurance requirements we need to have risk assessments carried out on the specific activities being planned and a general review of the facilities. No previous experience is necessary - it just requires common sense to be applied!

If you would be interested in this role which is key to the success of the day, please contact the chairman on 01206 231661.

Neil Skinner



Plans are now well under way for the Great Bromley Fun Day, which will take place at the Village Hall and Cricket Club on Parsons Hill during the afternoon of Saturday, 13th June. The main theme is to be along the lines of a Fete, which should prove to be an exciting event for all ages.

Anyone interested in helping out on the day should contact Neil Skinner, the Chairman of the organising committee on 01206 231661.

We are also looking for sponsors to contribute towards the cost of producing the programmes and in this regard please contact Mike Petty on 01206 250425.

MATERIAL for the **APRIL 2009** edition of 'The Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **15th March, 2009** 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. Copy can either be delivered by hand, sent by post or e-mail. (see inside back cover for details) or via the link on the websites www.greatbromley.org.uk or www.littlebromley.org.uk

Please support the sponsors of our magazine.

SPONSORSHIP AND NEW COVER

Sponsorship will be due in April, when we also decide on a new cover and update the information regarding the Clubs and Organisations of the villages.

Would you all let Leonie know what you want to change, or confirm not to change or add, to the inside covers.

If anyone would like to sponsor the magazine for a part or whole page advert in a month of your choice and have your information on the back cover every month then please contact me for prices.

Len Christodoulides

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Bromley Parish Council

www.essexinfo.net/gbpc

Report of a parish council meeting held on 13 February 2009

PLANNING

Tendring District Council has approved the following planning applications:

Two Trees, Chapel Lane – single storey rear extension

2 Chase Cottages, Honeypot Lane – single storey rear extension

Planning Appeal

Great Bromley Free Range Eggs Ltd has appealed against Tendring District Council's refusal to allow it to build three large sheds on land to the east of Hall Road. The Planning Inspectorate will be holding a hearing, to consider this appeal, at the District Council's offices, Thorpe

Road, Weeley at 10.00 am on 25 March 2009. Telephone (0117 372 8815/8000) Ann Edmonds of the Planning Inspectorate if you wish to attend and speak for or against the application.

Policing

Following a communication from the parish council the county's Chief Constable has confirmed that PC Caroline Webb has been appointed the village's beat officer. She can be contacted – for non-emergency matters only – at Thorpe police station on telephone: 01255 221312 or 07967 466876.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12 March 2009 at Great Bromley Village Hall.

Ken Bromfield, Clerk

Urgent message for Great Bromley's voluntary bodies!

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Great Bromley Parish Council will shortly be allocating grants to assist community projects. The parish council has about £2500 annually for awards to local organisations or voluntary groups whose activities benefit village residents. Recent grants have ranged from £20 to £1400 with recipients including the following: St George's church, Cricket Club, Playgroup, Friendship Club and Hamilton Lodge.

Applications for grants should be sent to the Clerk, Ken Bromfield, 4 St George's Close, Great Bromley, Colchester CO7 7HZ, who can provide further information (01206 230089). ***The closing date for the receipt of applications for the current round is Wednesday 11 March 2009.***

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Little Bromley Parish Council

Report of the Little Bromley Parish Council meeting

There were no members of the public in attendance. Our PCSO was in attendance and gave an update on police matters in the parish. He warned everyone to be on their guard about burglaries, particularly in view of the recent incident at the Haywain. He also reported that Mistley Police were now in possession of an up to the minute 'Speed Gun' which they will be putting to good use in future. 'HOT RODDERS' beware.

It was agreed that the **Village Fete** this year will take place on **25th July**. It is

expected that the format will be in the shape of a Barbeque and sideshows etc.

Anita Spall is organising another **Litter Pick on Saturday, 21st March** and needs volunteers. If you can help to take part please ring on 01206 390033.

No news yet on the 'Rural Path'. Be assured though that we are pursuing the subject and will not let it drop.

The next meeting of Little Bromley Parish Council will be held on 16th April in the Function Room of the 'Haywain' Public House, Bentley Road, Little Bromley at 7.30pm.

Maj A Downes, Clerk

WORKING GROUP 11 - LITTER PICKING

Saturday 28th March 2009

The Spring Litter Pick will be held on the above date. If you can spare some time between the hours of 10.00am and midday to help tidy up our village, please be at the car park of either the Cross Inn, The Old Courthouse or the Snooty Fox at 10.00am, grab a litter pick and a plastic bag and follow your team leader. It's a mucky job, but you may be surprised how much fun you can have whilst getting involved in a community activity.

PLEASE NOTE - to comply with insurance regulations, you must be fit, be between the ages of 15 and 70 and be wearing protective, high visibility clothing. Some high visibility jackets are available and will be on site, but if you have your own, please do wear them. You may also wish to bring along any garden tools that may be helpful to you for litter collection. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES, please ring 01206 230282. Look forward to seeing you.

ST. GEORGE'S (C OF E) SCHOOL, GT. BROMLEY

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald

Telephone: 01206 230305



'Let it snow, let it snow' and boy did it!! We are proud to say that we did not close during the cold spell and all staff and nearly all pupils

made it to school on both days. Unlike the RE Inspector! He was due to undertake a section 23 inspection on the Monday but couldn't make it from the other side of Essex. This has now been re-arranged for 20 March.

Class 4 did a fantastic job of leading an assembly on the work of UNICEF and the pupils raised £153.25 for this charity. Thank you to all those who kindly donated.

This term the children have enjoyed additional sporting activities through the School Sports Partnership Programme where they have received specialist coaching to develop their skills in football, basketball, squash, volleyball and multiskills - athletics. Please see photograph below.

This month we are looking forward to our parent consultations on 23 and 25 March which is an opportunity for pupils' progress to be discussed. We also warmly invite you to our Easter Fayre on 27 March at 1.45 pm.

Please remember that we are collecting the following vouchers:

- Sainsbury's Get Active
- Nestle Box Tops
- Box for Schools – The Times Newspaper

We would be grateful for any of the above and thank you for your support.



Photograph by kind permission of St George's School

THE CURRENT POSITION ON MMR TAKE-UP

The government has set a target of 90% children having the MMR vaccine by the age of 2.

In East Essex the numbers are only 74% against the national average of 84%. There is concern about the low take up since an epidemic could cost hundreds of lives.

The East Essex Area Forum (EEAF) have set up a working group to promote the vaccine and try to dispel the bad publicity that came from a flawed report publicised

in the national press some years ago. EEAF have arranged for a mobile unit to be available for giving the vaccine on **Wednesday 11th March** at the Co-Op car park in Manningtree and **Friday 13th March** at Gt. Bentley Village Hall - 9.30-4.30 – no appointment needed.

This does not stop anyone having the vaccine that has not had one and Essex University will also be targeted. Enquiries Jane Gardner 01245 436079

Len Christodoulides



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: 2 - 5 years. £7 per session.
Ofsted inspected.

For more details/visits, please contact Group Secretary-Jean on 01206 250694

Our theme this term is 'occupations' which has so far included Doctor, Fire-Fighters, Dentists and Police. The children



have enjoyed some wonderful role-play and learned about how these people help us.

We have also celebrated the Chinese New Year with activities such as making Chinese dragons. We made lanterns and talked about 'Teng Chieh' - the Chinese Lantern Festival which ends the New Year celebrations. The older children also made a large dragon and performed the dragon dance.

Dates for the diary:

Last day of term 2nd April 2009.
Return after the Easter Break 20th April 2009.



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

MARCH QUIZ

1. When is "The Ides of March"?
2. Do you know the Roman names for the other days in the month?
3. March 14th and July 22nd have something in common; do you know what it is?
4. What will take place at 15:40 on Saturday 29th March?
5. Where and when is the "Orange and lemon children's service held?
6. What is the March March March?
7. What was "The Long march"?
8. Albert Einstein was born in March, do you know the date?
9. Which American actor had a career that spanned 44 years and produced over 70 films, the most famous being the 1932 version of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde?
10. What was patented on St Patrick's day in 1845?
11. What are "The Marches"?
12. Who wrote and who sang "March of the Mods"?



Compiled by Ian and Val Harris

Answers on page 18



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our speaker for the February meeting was Bill Pirie, who came along to tell us about his career in the Essex Police Force. Starting as a cadet and retiring as Chief Superintendent, he gave us a very interesting and amusing account of his experiences during his long and successful service. Bill told us that he loved every day carrying out his duties and would like to do it all again if he had the chance.

This month, March, our speaker, Paul

Howard, will be talking to us about 'Trinity House'. If you would like to come along on Wednesday, 4th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, you will be made very welcome.

June Willgress



THANKS

Thank you to everyone who left used postage stamps at The Cross Inn Post Office for us to donate to "Hearing dogs for the deaf", we are continuing to collect them.

Many thanks, Val & Ian



GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

With the price of vegetables so expensive it pays to grow your own. So, for the next few months my articles will deal with vegetables and a few tips along the way.

Two of the earliest vegetables to grow this month are peas and first early potatoes.

For the peas take out a drill with a draw hoe approximately 6" wide and 2" deep and sprinkle the seed along the row, cover and place a cloche over them.

The early potatoes should be planted about 6" deep, 10" apart in rows 14" apart. Only plant one row first and when the shoots are through plant your second row and so on. You do not want all the potatoes to be ready at once and by this method you will have a longer period of new potatoes for the table.

Parsnips should be planted this month as they take a long time to grow. Plant the seed 6" apart and according to how many rows you need, rows should be approximately 10" apart.

Carrots are another crop that can be planted this month. I always plant my carrots in land drains (more about this later) for by this method you can control the watering and fertiliser as well as being very easier to protect against the carrot fly.

Runner beans is another crop that is easy to grow. All you need is a space about 2' square, place 6' canes 6" apart and join together at the top to form a wivam. Plant the seed 2" deep or

alternatively plant the seed in 3" pots and transplant when plants are strong enough.

The next on the bean list are French beans. These are a bush type and need no support. Plant them in rows 8" apart and 2" deep. These can also be planted in pots and planted out when big enough.

Now for a few tips. As I said earlier to grow carrots in land drains or 4" gutter down pipes, you need to sieve the compost so that it is very fine, add some sharp sand, about ¼ sand to ¾ of compost, sow one seed in each pipe and cover the top with a piece of newspaper and glass. When the seedlings are through remove the cover.

If you do not have cloches they are very easy to make. Take a sheet of corrugated plastic, that can be obtained for your local DIY store, and bend it to form a tunnel, place a cane each side to keep the tunnel in shape then tie a piece of string across between the two canes to stop the wind blowing them away.

Another idea is to use a length of chicken wire to form a tunnel cover with a sheet of bubble wrap and anchor it down with some large hairpins made from wire coathangers.

Another idea I use is to save any plastic bottles, cut off their bottom with the result that you have a mini propagator.

If you have not got too much room in the garden remember that anything that you grow in the garden can be grown in pots and tubs, with the exception of parsnips which grow to anything over 1' long. Potatoes can be grown in grow bags cut in half and stood on ends.

Frank Griffiths



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

It is with sadness that I start this report with the news that another of our members has passed away. NICK SAGE was a regular member at our meetings.

It was good to see so many members at the January meeting (A.G.M.) considering the very cold weather (many thanks). The game of Bingo was in lieu of a speaker but we were able to hear the financial situation of the Club - as you know we are a self-supporting club and rely on your



26	01	18	03	12
24	14	07	20	16
02	14	28	32	05
23	06	34	07	33

subscriptions at the beginning of the year, but when you consider the subsidies we give you (outings and Christmas

Dinner) you do get a portion of your subs back!

The raffle, Club stall, card stall all help to keep the Club going and we have some activities to discuss later (fund raising).

The Competition for March is Something Yellow.

Get well wishes to everyone who has been feeling poorly and miserable during the last few weeks; we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

FROM THE PAST

Great Bromley Seamen

Several Seamen or mariners are to be found in the Church Registers and other documents. In 1557 John Wright, born at Great Bromley, seaman was recorded in The Oath Book of Colchester. Why the entry was there is hard to tell as these are the only details. He may have sailed from The Hythe; he may have sold fish, if he was a fisherman, in the Fish Market in High Street. This market was filled with their stalls from the Red Lion down to the ancient St Nicholas church.



Around The Row near the tiny church of St Runwald was where the meat traders had their wares displayed for sale on every day, including certain hours every Sunday. In those days they had no fridges or freezers so there was a need for this.

John Appleby

ARE YOU NEW TO GREAT BROMLEY?



If so telephone Tracy Griffiths on 01206 230054 for your Welcome Pack.

Forthcoming Events



MARCH

- 4 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 6 Women's World Day of Prayer, St Mary's church, 10.30am
- 11 MMR vaccine offered in Co-op car park, Manningtree, 9.30am
- 12 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 13 MMR vaccine offered in Gt Bentley Village Hall, 9.30am
- 17-21 Barefoot in the Park, Manifest Theatre
- 19 Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm
- 21 Litter Picking Day, Little Bromley
'Nostalgia' Big Band, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 23 Countryside Talk, Gt Bentley Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 27 Easter Fayre, St George's School, 1.45pm
- 28 Litter Picking Day, Great Bromley, 10.00am
Open Day, St Mary's church, Little Bromley, 10.30am

APRIL

- 2 Playgroup terms ends
- 16 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 20 Playgroup summer term starts

MAY

- 9 Plant and Garage Sale, Ilex Farm, 10.00am

JUNE

- 6/7 Festival Weekend, Little Bromley church
- 13 Great Bromley Fun Day, Village Hall/Cricket Club, 2.00pm

JULY

- 25 Village Fete. Little Bromley. More details tba

Manifest Theatre, Manningtree

The Manifest Theatre's next production will be
'Barefoot in the Park'

By Neil Simon. Directed by Caroline Roberts
17th to 21st March 2009 at

7.30pm. Tickets £5 plus £2 for non-members.

Box Office opens Saturday 28th February 2009 10.30am to 12noon and will then be open Monday and Wednesday evenings 7.30-9pm and Saturday mornings 10.30am to 12 noon

Paul Bratter, a straight-laced young lawyer, marries Corrie, a spontaneous free spirit. The newlyweds set up house in a minuscule fifth-floor apartment in New York and must contend with a lack of heat, a skylight with a gaping hole, several long flights of stairs, oddball neighbour Victor Velasco, and Corrie's well-meaning mother, in addition to adjusting to married life!

FRIENDS OF LITTLE BROMLEY CHURCH

Saturday 28th March
10.30-12.00

Open Morning with talk at 11.00am
followed by
Annual Meeting at 11.30am
Light refreshments available.
All welcome.

Advance notice

Little Bromley Church will be open on
the first Sunday of the month
2.00-5.00, May to October 2009.

NOSTALGIA BIG BAND

playing at
Great Bromley Village Hall
on Saturday, 21st March
at 7.30pm



Tickets available from
Beryl Hurst (01206
230578)

In aid of Village Hall Funds

EASTER FAYRE

27th March
1.45pm

St George's School



FRIENDS OF LITTLE BROMLEY CHURCH



6th/7th June
Festival Weekend

PLANT & GARAGE SALE

Saturday 9th May
10.00am
Ilex Farm



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 6, 2009, 10.30am.

St Mary's Church at Arleigh will be
hosting this year's Women's World Day
of Prayer, for this area. Commencing at
10.30am.

The service has been prepared by
Christian Women of Papua
New Guinea.

The Speaker will be the
Rev'd Canon Gillian
Greenslade.

ALL WELCOME, men,
women and young people.



GT BROMLEY FUN DAY

13th June
in the
Gt Bromley Village Hall & Cricket
Ground

Watch this space!



Can the Countryside produce both food and wildlife?

An Illustrated talk by
Guy Smith

Gt Bentley Village Hall
Monday 23rd March
at 7.30pm

Admission £1
To include tea/coffee

EVERYONE WELCOME

Gt Bentley Conservation Group

LITTLE BROMLEY FETE

Saturday 25th July
Further details tba

KITCHEN CORNER

Simnel Cake

This is a classic which is popular for Easter

Marzipan:

225g / 8oz ground almonds

225g / 8oz golden caster sugar

115g / 4oz icing sugar

1 egg, separated

Juice of 1 lemon

Cake:

170g / 6oz butter

170g / 6oz light muscovado sugar

3 medium eggs

225g / 8oz plain flour

55g / 2oz chopped glacé cherries

450g / 1lb mixed dried fruit

1tsp mixed spice

½teasp baking powder

Grated zest of a lemon

2 tablsb milk

2 tablsb brandy



Method: Make the marzipan. Mix the almonds, sugar and add lemon juice and egg yolk to make a stiff paste. Wrap in cling film and

place in the fridge.

Cream butter and sugar, beat in the eggs with a little of the flour. Then add the fruit, spice, baking powder and flour and fold in thoroughly, then stir in the lemon and brandy. Remove marzipan from the fridge and divide into three pieces. Dust one piece with a little flour and roll out to a 7" (18cm) round. Line a 7" (18cm) tin with greased greaseproof paper. Place half the cake mix in the tin, cover with the round of marzipan then add the rest of the cake mix. Smooth the top and bake in a slow oven at 160°C, 320°F for 2-2½ hours.

Leave to stand 15 minutes before turning out to cool on a rack. When cold, remove the papers and brush the top with sieved apricot jam. Roll out another piece of the marzipan to fit the top of the cake and press into position. Score the top in a diamond patten and brush with the egg white. Roll the rest of the marzipan into even sized balls and press round the outer edge. Place under the grill and toast gently until golden brown.

HAPPY EASTER!

Jill Frostick

VERA BIDDIS

Jean and Tubby would like to thank everyone who attended Vera's funeral and for all the help given, especially the Service with choir, soloists and lovely flowers in the church followed by the gathering at the Cross Inn where memories were exchanged. At the parting of the afternoon we were given this poem written by Auntie Vi which, to us, was very apt for the occasion.

FOR VERA

A light has gone out in our village
One that shone for many a year
And that light is now brighter in Heaven
Oh how it shines there true and clear.

Those who were close to dear Vera
Know how game she was to the end
We recall all the birds in her garden
And how to their needs she'd attend

Her relations, friends and visitors
Would have to make sure there was seed
For robin and wagtail and blackbird
And all of the birds that she feed.

Their liberal allowance of bird seed
Was part of her daily routine
In return were her loyal subjects
And Vera their royal queen.

We celebrate now her long lifetime
We remember her laughter and smile
We thank her for all that she stood for
Dignity, courage and style.

GREAT BROMLEY BELLRINGERS

In memory of Vera Biddis

The Great Bromley bellringers rang a Quarter Peal of 1260 changes of Plain Bob Minor on Friday, 30th January to commemorate Vera's life. All the band were either taught by, or rang with, her father, Mr Arthur Cole. She was a loyal supporter of bellringing and appreciated good striking.

Those taking part were:

Treble - Dominique Erith

2nd - Sue Orriss

3rd - Derek Bloyce

4th - Philip Erith

5th - David Wenden (conductor)

Tenor - Barry Bloyce

The bells were also rung half-muffled on the morning of her funeral.

Sue Orriss

pp Great Bromley Bellringers



TO VERA

As you wished, thank you for a wonderful party.

The weather was winter, real winter weather with no apologies and probably more as you remembered it. The singing in church, which was full, was wonderful; I loved the choice of music and I haven't heard 'Brother James's Air, sung so beautifully with its harmonies for such a long time. Barbara Hall hauntingly sang 'Be Still my Soul' as the cortège left the church.

The Cross Inn laid on a magnificent feast and was cosy and warm. Greetings were exchanged between people who had not met for some time. The atmosphere was gently buzzing as we all reminisced. The choir sang 'The Holy City' followed by a short break for 'puds' (very important, but no cheesecake), and then we all enjoyed a general singsong of old favourites.

It was a lovely village gathering.
For ever in our hearts.

Jacquie Terry



GREAT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Village Hall committee met on 20th January with 10 members present.

We are assisted with the running of the Village Hall by being affiliated to the Rural Community Council of Essex who have their base at Feering. Every two months or so they produce a newsletter which keeps us in touch with the wider world and other village hall activities in Essex. They also organise an annual conference and numerous seminars to educate and spread the word amongst the various Village Hall and Community Building committee members. They are very useful at identifying funding sources and helpful when the Government decide to introduce new legislation affecting the running of village halls as has happened in recent years.

A major project currently under consideration by the Village Hall committee and the Parish Council is the replacement of the village hall roof. The



existing roof is coming to the end of its natural life and needs attention in order to keep it serviceable, more than

just day to day repair. Funding from grants etc. is a major issue in the current climate, although finding a suitable firm to do the work may be easier.

Our next committee run event is the dance at the Hall is on Saturday, 21st March from 7.30pm until 11.45pm when the 'Nostalgia' Big Band will be making a

return visit. Tickets are £8.50 and may be booked with Beryl Hurst on 01206 230578. Why not come to the hall for a fun time together? Bring your own food and drink. In aid of Village Hall Funds.

On Saturday, 13th June, we have the Great Bromley Community Event 2009 (Fun Day) led by Neil Skinner and his committee taking place at, and around, the Village Hall in conjunction with Hamilton Lodge Fete, which we hope you have noted in your diaries. Also in October 2009, we hope to be organising a Cabaret evening and on Saturday 5th December our Christmas Fayre.

We are pleased to know that Geoff Hurst is out and about again following his trip to hospital, especially as he is the longest serving member of the Men's Club which meets at the Villa Hall on Tuesday evening, having joined in 1971 when the Club was reformed! Are there any other younger men in the village or nearby who like a game of snooker or cards who may like to join, please let us know if you are interested.

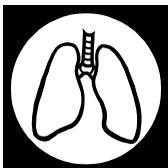
We would also like to hear from persons with time to spare and are looking for an interest, who may like to take on the voluntary jobs of Village Hall Secretary, Treasurer and Bookings Person. The two current holders of the posts have both served for many years and feel it is time to hand over to younger bodies. If you are out there, please let the committee members know so that the matter can be discussed with you.

Bevan Willgress

FROM THE DOCTOR'S SURGERY

Great Bentley Surgery News

Straight in this month with a special plea for more people to sign up as organ donors and carry a donor card. There is a terrible shortage of organs suitable for transplant at present, which means that a lot of people are



waiting far too long, and in many cases dying before an organ becomes available. It isn't that the expertise and technology aren't there to perform successful

transplants these days – it is simply that there are too few people registering their wish that their usable organs should help other people live after they themselves die.

I know that the thought of having something removed from your body after death, or possibly being asked to agree to a loved one's organs being donated, is a terribly emotive issue. However, if you are struggling with it please try to view things from the other side.

Imagine that it was your wife, husband or child who was sitting waiting to see what turned up first – death or a donated organ. I can't imagine that many of you wouldn't be hoping and praying that someone, somewhere who is unfortunate enough to meet an untimely end has been foresighted and generous enough to put their name on the donor register. Equally, if you know that your loved one wanted their organs to be donated, please honour that wish and allow other people to live on as evidence of their generosity and kindness.

Registering as a donor is very easy. You can ring 0845 60 60 400. You can go to www.uktransplant.org and register online. You can even pick up a leaflet and a card here at the surgery. It could hardly be easier.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, please make it absolutely clear to your family that you specifically want your organs to be used for transplant after your death. Tell them that you'll come back and haunt them if they refuse to let it happen. It's no

exaggeration to say that if anything terrible did happen to you, you could bequeath the gift of life to several people.

Talking of generosity and kindness, Val Jolly who puts so much effort into collecting for charity throughout the year, has asked me to pass on a special "thank you" to everyone who bought tickets or contributed prizes for our Christmas Raffle. We raised a fantastic £350 which was split between the East Anglian Children's Hospice and the Alzheimer's Society. Thank you. You are lovely people!

Rather than a particular disease, this month we're going to briefly cover a couple of aspects of sexual health and family planning. Expert status is bestowed on Sue Webb, our Nurse Practitioner who writes:-

The concept of the "family planning clinic" is slowly being replaced for obvious reasons – it's not just for people who are planning a family! Nowadays, we tend to use the wider title of "Sexual Health".

At the surgery we offer a wide range of sexual health services to people of all ages and we are keen to include our teenagers.

Advice on various methods of contraception including condoms, pills, patches, injections, implants and coils of various types is available from two of our nurses as well as from the doctors. Feel free to come and discuss the best option for you. If it is needed, we can also provide emergency contraception (the morning after pill).

Two services specially designed for younger people here at the surgery are the newly introduced Chlamydia self-testing kit and the C card scheme.

Chlamydia is the fastest growing sexually transmitted infection amongst young people. One in ten people under 25 years old has it. However, it is easily detected and easily treated with a special antibiotic. The take away testing kits are available from reception at the surgery for anyone aged 15-24. The result is sent directly to you in confidence via

your preferred method of contact:

- Text message
- Call to your home telephone or other landline
- Call to your mobile
- Letter

If you are over 25 and wish to be tested, this can be done either at the surgery or at local hospital clinics (see our notice board for clinic times).

The C card scheme has been running in Tendring for some time and aims to provide sexual health advice and free condoms for the under 20s. Anyone who has been issued with a C card can now collect condoms from the surgery. Our receptionists will recognise your card and will not ask you any embarrassing questions.

For further information about either of these services, or about other sexual health matters, please contact the surgery.

Susan Webb , Nurse Practitioner
Hugh Cronin , Practice Manager

ESSEX POLICE



These are the incidents in Great Bromley for the month of January

Harwich Road - Nuisance Youths
Briar Road - Theft From Motor Vehicle
Rectory Road (Torch Towing) - Theft
Other

Les Barnes PCSO 71909

Thorpe Le Soken NPT Eastern

Internal Ext : 487603

External 01255 862843

Email : leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police

website : www.essex.police.uk

TELEPHONE SCAMS WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

Our thanks go to Mr Mears who found an article in a computing magazine telling how to recover money from scams involving expensive phone calls as mentioned in the Police Newsletter in our December 2008 issue.

A company, Phonepayplus, acts as an agency that carries out the day-to-day regulation of the PRS (premium rate services) market on behalf of Ofcom. Phonepayplus mostly only deal with complaints about services operating on 09, 118 and mobile short codes (5-digit text numbers). The consumer can visit the agency's website at www.phonepayplus.org.uk to make a formal complaint by either:

- Completing their online complaint form, or
- Calling their free help line on 0800 500 212 (open 0800-1800 Monday to Friday), or
- By writing to them at PhonepayPlus, Freepost, WC5468, London SE1 2BR, or finally
- By texting them through their textlink on 020 7407 3430.

Phonepayplus has also set up a website called Phonebrain (www.phonebrain.org.uk) aimed primarily at children, which explains what phone-paid-for content is and how to avoid running up unnecessary bills. There is also a section for parents and teachers.

Answers to March Quiz

1. The Ides of March is the 15th day in March and there is also The Ides of May, July, and October which are on the 15th day of those months. The Ides of the other months are on the 13th.
2. The first day of the month was called the Kalends and the Nones was the 7th day in March, May, July, and October; the 5th in the other months. The other days of the month were identified by counting backwards from the Kalends or the Nones; for example March 2nd was VI Nones.
3. The dates are Pi Day and Pi Approximation day. Pi or π is the ratio of the diameter to the circumference of a circle and is a [mathematical constant](#) which is approximately equal to 3.14 or 22/7 when written as a fraction. When written in the American date format this gives us the two dates.
4. The Oxford and Cambridge University boat race, this is usually held in March or early April but the training begins in the previous September. Every member of the crew trains for approximately two hours for every stroke in the race and it takes about 600 strokes to complete the course. The first race

was held in 1829 on 10th June at Henley-on-Thames and it wasn't until the third race in 1845 that it was rowed from Putney to Mortlake: this was won by Cambridge in a time of 23 minutes and 30 seconds.

5. 31st March. The service was one of thanks for the restoration of the bells of the church of St Clement Dane in London. The children of St Clements Dane Primary School receive an orange and a lemon after the attending the service, the tradition stems from the barges carrying these fruits which were landed from barges just below the churchyard.

6. The March March March is a long (30 mile) pointless walk across the fens from March to Cambridge. It was started in 1979 by Jonathon Partridge and has been attempted by varying numbers ranging from 27 in 1992 to 0 in 2007 when no one turned up (last year it was 6). Only 50 people have completed the walk no doubt due to the several pubs visited en route. One of the support vehicles is driven by Ann Gustard which has given rise to the suggestion that MARCH stands for Mobile Ann Rescues Cowards Halfway. All walkers will need to learn the song known as the March

March March March. If you are mad enough to try it, details can be found on the internet.

7. It was the ten thousand kilometre march made by Mao Tse Tung and his followers in 1934/5. A 100,000 people left Jiangxi but only 8,000 arrived at Shanxi one year later.

8. 14th March 1879. His most famous equation is $E=mc^2$. This means that energy (E) and mass (m) are equivalent, so that mass can be converted to energy and vice versa. Because c^2 is such a large number (90,000,000,000,000,000) a small amount of matter can be transformed into a huge amount of energy.

9. Fredric March who won one of his two Oscars for his role in Jekyll & Hyde.

10. The first [rubber band](#) which was patented by Stephen Perry of London.

11. The boundary areas between England and Scotland and England and Wales. In the Middle ages they were held by the Lord of the March (Marchiones).

12. Tony Carr wrote it and his son, Roy Carr was the lead singer of The Executives, which was the group who initially sang it in 1964. Joe Loss & His Orchestra reached number 31 with it in 1964, The Pat Aulton Mob released it in 1966, it was sampled on the "Let's Party" record by Jive Bunny & The Mastermixers in 1989 when it reached number one. It is said to be based on the Finnjenka Dance (Finnish jenka dance).

CLACTON & DISTRICT STROKE ASSOCIATION

An local independent registered charity

"Surviving financially in today's economic climate"

As with all charities, raising funds is becoming increasingly difficult, especially nowadays with the current financial climate. Many charities are experiencing a marked decrease in donations. The financial needs of our organisation are only met in part by funding from the statutory bodies. The shortfall of as much as 60 to 70 per cent has to be met by vigorous fund raising and reliance on donations.

As a registered charity we are obliged to have between 9 and 12 months running costs in hand. This can lead to a misunderstanding of our financial situation and can be misconstrued as us having 'lots of money in the bank' and not in need of any financial support.

All monies received directly benefits the people who use our various services.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that we are an independent local charity that has been in existence for over 35 years with considerable success. Contrary to popular belief, we are NOT part of the National Stroke Association London. We support local people on a personal basis and their immediate needs.

The centre is owned and run by the CDSA for its own activities and is let out to assist other disabled groups. In the region of 100 people a week attend the centre affording much needed respite for their carers. Our aim is to assist in any way possible during recovery, rehabilitation and in the long term.

We offer support in various ways to stroke survivors, their families, carers, friends and professionals involved in their care.

We constantly press for improvements in services for stroke survivors and strive to increase public awareness of stroke and resulting trauma. We sign people to other agencies, health professionals and social care.

We offer advice and written information about healthy living, diet, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, smoking cessation and other aspects of stroke prevention.

DAILY REHABILITATION GROUPS

We run groups which take place four days per week at our centre in Holland on Sea and one afternoon in Harwich.

CARERS' GROUP & SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Meets monthly to share experiences, problems and benefit from mutual support, advice, information and occasional speakers.

STROKE CARERS & FAMILY SUPPORT

This is a visiting service which provides information, literature and emotional support for stroke survivors, their families and stroke patients living alone. Strokes can bring about many changes for the stroke survivor and their family. The Stroke Carers & Family Support Adviser is available to help support families both emotionally and practically during these changes. It can be very beneficial to talk things over in a supportive, empathetic and confidential environment.

STROKES ARE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

If you suspect a stroke dial 999

Carers urged to come forward for unique scheme

Potential carers who want to be paid to support people with a learning disability are being urged to come forward by Mencap's Essex adult placement scheme.

Adult placement cares welcome adults with a learning disability into their home to give individual guidance and support on a long or short term basis.

While other successful schemes are running across the country, not enough adult placement carers have come forward across east Essex.

The scheme pays between £275 and £475 per placement per week and provides ongoing support and training. The person with a learning disability you are supporting becomes part of your household, having the opportunity to share in the family activities.

The scheme also means that carers get to provide valuable support to people with a learning disability. By living in an individual's home, adults with a learning disability have the support they need, without having to live in a care home.

Helen Chapman, adult placement manager, said:

"Mencap is calling for anyone who can welcome an adult with a learning disability into their home to come forward. It is an amazing scheme that gives a good income to the carers, but provides a perfect mix of independence, care and support for people with a learning disability.

"It is a crying shame that not enough people have come forward – as it means people with a learning disability miss out living in family homes."

Anyone who is interested in the scheme should call 01376 519 450 or email essex.aps@mencap.org.uk.

“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 15th May 2009

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2009 SIA will celebrate its 35th Anniversary and being that Friday 15th May 2009 is Spinal Cord Injury awareness day and what a better way to raise funds than eating Fish and Chips and raising money for SIA.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Donor Development Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

2009 is the first year that SIA are running the suppers but we already envisage this to be one of our top fundraising initiatives in the SIA calendar over the coming years. Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives.”

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

Best Kept Churchyard Competition 2009

Sponsored by Lodge & Sons (Builders) of Stebbing

Entries are invited for the 2009 Best Kept Churchyard Competition.

This competition looks to recognise and reward Churchyards in Essex which are well-managed, providing a peaceful haven for both humans and animals. We encourage entries from Churchyards of all denominations.

- **Does your Churchyard strike a balance between being an area of peace and contemplation whilst allowing nature to flourish?**
- **Do you actively encourage wildlife into your Churchyard?**
- **Do you have a team of volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain an attractive and welcoming Churchyard?**

Entries may be submitted by any organisation which is responsible for managing a Churchyard. If you are proud of your Churchyard and those who work in it then please consider entering this FREE competition. Three cash prizes of £150, £100 and £50 will be awarded to the winners.

Entries must be received by **31st March 2009**. Judging will take place in two stages between April and June. Winners will be announced at the RCCE AGM in July, where certificates and prizes will be awarded.

Entries may be received for any churchyard, whether or not your village has been entered in the RCCE Village of the Year and Best Kept Village and Best Green Village Competitions.

If you are not responsible for the Churchyard in your village, please pass this information and entry form on to the relevant organisation.

Entry Form on Reverse

Best Kept Churchyard Competition 2009

Sponsored by Lodge & Sons (Builders) of Stebbing

ENTRY FORM

Name of Church	
Name of Organisation managing the Churchyard	
Address of Church	
Name and address for correspondence	Postcode
Telephone number	
E-mail address	
Do you have a management map or plan?	YES / NO
If yes, is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy enclosed * <input type="checkbox"/> Available / on display in Church or Churchyard (please state location to assist judges)
Are there any special circumstances or problems that you feel should be taken into consideration?	
Have you made any particular improvements to your Churchyard in the last 2 years? <i>Eg water butt, seats, garden of remembrance, pathways</i>	
What special measures are in place to attract/encourage wildlife in your Churchyard? <i>Eg bird boxes, bat boxes, log piles, wild-flower area</i>	
Are there any information/interpretation boards/leaflets available to visitors?	

Please return by 31st March 2009 to:

RCCE, Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth Road, Feering, Essex CO5 9SE

** Please note that we are unfortunately unable to return copies of management plans which are submitted with applications.*

THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

Dear Friends

Last month I shared some thoughts with you about the desert experience, and this month I would like to share with you how the desert experience led to growth in the life of many Biblical characters, and indeed in the life of Jesus. Finally, I would like to indicate how such experiences can help us develop in our own spiritual lives.

The first characters in the Bible are Adam and Eve. They are introduced to us as the pinnacle of God's creation. God has created all that is and he loves what he has made. The man and the woman are the jewel in the crown. They reflect the creator. They are moral beings able to reason and think critically, free to choose to love or not to love; free also to live with the responsibility for and the consequences of their choices.

Their curiosity gets the better of them, and Adam and Eve choose to exceed their place in the created order. When God asks them to own their deeds they immediately shift the blame. Their instinct is to protect themselves at the expense of the other and to avoid responsibility and accountability. They experience shame and embarrassment, and know that they have lost something irreplaceable: complete trust and a relationship which was transparent in its love, freedom and integrity. Adam and Eve hide from God, an impossible task if there ever were one. God comes looking for them and finds them. They must face that responsibility. Their life had to change radically in all respects. From now on life will be a struggle. They are expelled from Eden.

As in the case in most families, their children are very different in temperament and personality, and this leads to conflict. Cain is jealous of his brother Abel. In a fit of jealous rage, Cain slaughters his

brother in a field. Like his parents before him, Cain discovers the inconvenience of having to answer to a God who is consistent in love and justice. Cain is sent to build a new life elsewhere.

In many ways Cain's actions paint an accurate picture of what everyone does. When we take our leave of God and live our lives without reference to him, we are forced to create our own world. We build a 'city' and surround it with a protective wall. This limits our vision of the world, but gives us a place and an identity. The problem is that we think that our own small world is the ultimate meaningful reality.

However, when the city walls come tumbling down we can see how flimsy they are. We can suddenly catch a glimpse of a world and a reality that is much bigger than our own little city. Our own 'city' I put into perspective. The defensive walls, designed to give security and comfort, give way to a world of colour, variety and vast opportunity. When we encounter God and he lifts us out of our own little world and open to us a whole new universe, our experience is always going to be uncomfortable, threatening and challenging. It might feel a very risky business to leave the city and walk out into the new world, but we can do it because Jesus has done it first. He is the pioneer of our faith and we do not walk anywhere he has not already been. During the season Lent we think particularly about Jesus' pilgrimage, as he is the example of our own.

Jesus has left the securities of home family and job and has embarked on a public itinerant ministry which he knows will have a sticky end. At the outset of this new ministry Jesus comes to John, a recognised prophet, and asks to be

baptised. After having his ministry and mission affirmed by God at his baptism, it might reasonably be assumed that Jesus should simply get on with the job of preaching, healing and forgiving people their sins. However that is not what happens.

Instead God's spirit leads Jesus to fast in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. Why does God lead his own Son out into the desert at this point and in this way? Surely Jesus needs encouragement not hardship?

The desert experience is not one to be resisted or avoided. We do not need to escape from it or despair of it. If we find ourselves in the desert, it can be a sure sign not of God's abandonment (though it might seem like it) but of his guidance and love. For he is wiser than we are and he knows what we need. God who loves us will not hesitate to lead his children into a desert if that is where they need to be. If he led his beloved Son into a desert, he shall also lead us into a desert. We shall emerge into a Promised Land only if, or when, we have learned from what it is God is trying to teach us. Even the Promised Land has its own deserts, famines and faults. He is usually trying to teach us to depend on him, and value nothing more than him. He is teaching us to worship him alone. Seen in this way the desert experience is one to be embraced, endured, accepted, explored and learned from. In our individual lives and within the corporate life of a parish we sometimes encounter great difficulties and it is difficult to make sense of them. The United Benefice of Ardeigh and the Bromleys has not been without its difficulties and confusion and people have taken sides, and indeed changed their minds after soul searching with great integrity over the question of women's ministry in the church. We would do well to be reminded that God sometimes chastens those whom he loves. If we are

attentive to God and his will for us then it can with his help be possible to move forward with understanding, tolerance and love. Indeed we shall never know the whole truth in this life. For as St Paul says, 'now we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we shall see face to face' (1 Corinthians 13 v 12). We must all remember that there are flowers and plants which grow only in the desert. They cannot be found in a jungle or fertile area. It is facile therefore, and a recipe for frustration and disappointment, to look in the desert for the familiar plants and flowers we have known in the past, which grow only in fertile areas. To seek earnestly plants which do not grow where we are, even if we have seen them grow beautifully elsewhere is a waste of time. It is a doomed exercise and must be avoided. Past experience enjoyment of such plants must be left behind. We are to move through the desert (at walking pace) and look with fresh eyes for the tiny and unique plants which grow only in the desert. There we will discover God's creative life where we least expect it. The surprise can be marvellous and life changing. For God is a God of such surprises. Knowing God can be painful. He can lead us into the desert. It should teach us to seek him above all else, with a thirst and hunger we have never known before.

The Psalms of the Old Testament reflect the whole of life, the abundant expression of joy and confidence in God, and the expression of complaint, fear, abandonment and confusion. It is clear that our worship must be thoroughly honest. For God knows our heart and is not deceived by sham praise. The root of joy, the route to God is often found in the desert. Whether we experience it or not depends on whether we embrace the experience or run away from it. Love to you all.

Fr. Robert

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Services for March

Sunday 1st	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	1st Sunday of Lent Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 8th	8.00am 10.30am	2nd Sunday of Lent Eucharist Parish Eucharist	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 15th	8.00am 10.30am 11.45am 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Lent Eucharist Parish Eucharist <i>Annual Parochial Church Meeting</i> Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 22nd	8.00am 10.30am	4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday Eucharist Parish Eucharist - All Age Worship	<i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>
Sunday 5th April	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	5th Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	<i>St. Mary the Virgin</i> <i>St. George the Martyr</i> <i>St. Mary the Virgin</i>

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

HOW GREEN IS YOUR VILLAGE??????

Does your village travel wisely? Do you as a community recycle? Does your village have allotments? Do you care for your local environment? If so you could realistically become the Best Green Village in Essex 2009.

To complement the already successful Calor Essex Village of the Year and Best Kept Village Competitions the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) is looking for rural communities to enter a competition that asks villages to demonstrate how their rural community is creating a sustainable future.

The competition, which is now in its second year, is simple to enter. Village representatives or a combination of like minded individuals are asked to fill in a questionnaire to let us know what green actions the village is involved in. It doesn't have to be wind turbines and solar panel heating, with our experience of working with rural communities the competition has been designed to acknowledge what is achievable in a rural community.

Supported by Essex County Council the Best Green Village Competition allows community groups to assess what difference they are making at a local level to what is now widely recognised as a global issue. Applicants are asked to highlight what their community is already doing to save energy, travel wisely, shop ethically, recycle and care for the local environment.

To complete an on-line questionnaire or to find out more please visit www.essexrcc.org.uk. Alternatively contact the RCCE on 0844 4773938.