

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

JANUARY 2011

Volume 24 No 10



Photograph: G Henderson

KATISHA'S KOLUM

It's mi turn this munth! Mistress is taking it easy and neglecting the magazeen in awder to shop and cook and get the hows redy 4 big and littel people to stay over Crissmas. She hasn't got the tree yet. I do like the tree. I can clym up it and play with awl the glittery things she hangs in it, but I do hav to disappear quicky wen things fawl off. I don't understand y it makes her cross. I made it fawl over wunce. I am hoping sum of the food she is preparing is 4 me as the white, cold wet stuff, the hard slippery stuff, the cold crispy stuff which freezes my paws and also the wet stuff which makes pudels and mi fur wet has ment I do not want to be owtside. And I am always hungry.

Instead I have been spending my time eeting and snoozing beside the fire in Master's favourite chair. But oh, the bordon. A 4 year old, fine, good looking cat like me at the peak of fitness has been reduced to batting a ping pong bawl about the hows and emptying the basket full of waste paper on to the flaw to keep fit and is a paw substitute 4 chasing around the garden looking 4 mice and rabbits.

I was amazed and purleezed to see how generous you are in your giving to charities (page 17). However although I see donkeys and dogs in the list, I see no



cat charities. I hope you r not prejudiced against us. Mistress came back from the fare at the village hawl with lots of goodies but nuthing 4 me. She did give me a cuddle thow. I see 2 the church repair fund has good news (page 29) and various works r going ahead during the year. Well dun to awl on the committee.

The owd dog doesn't like the weather ither and makes her trips owtside as brief as possibal. The WI postponed their annual evening owt becos thay didn't want to go owt in it ither but thay had a luvly time wen thay met up 4 lunch a week later. I expect others also cancelled owtings 4 the same reeson.

Not a lot to say this munth. Thank u to everywun hoo arks how I am - munch appreciated. It only leeves me to wish everywun a very happy, healthy, stomach full 2011 from me and also from Mistress. And keep warm.

**Happy New Year
to all our Readers**

KITCHEN CORNER

Cheese Cake.

To serve 6 people.

This is my own way of making a cheese cake using fruit from the freezer.

1/2lb Blackcurrants, or other soft fruit
250g tub mascarpone or cream cheese
1/4pt double cream or use crème
frêche/yoghurt if preferred
1oz cornflour
Sugar to taste
2oz butter and 6or7
crushed digestive
biscuits.

Method. Use a 6in
spring form tin.

Melt the butter and stir in
the crumbs press into
base of tin, leave to cool and set.

Mix the lightly whipped cream and
mascarpone and spread over the base.
Cook the fruit with a little water and
simmer till softened. Add sugar to taste,
slake the cornflour with a little water, add
to the fruit and cook and stir till
thickened. Leave to get quite cold, then
spread over the cream mix. Chill well
before serving.

Jill Frostick



FROM THE PAST

Ann Radford's Married Life (2)

Ann Radford, née Jeffrey, went to
Langenhoe in about 1920 to work at the
Rectory there.

She married John Radford there. He had
been previously married. He very much
disliked the people at Little Bromley, which
he visited occasionally, because they
insisted on calling Ann as a "Make shift
wife", a term which was in use there some
one hundred and sixty years ago.

John Appleby

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Once again Brenda and Richard did us
proud with our Christmas lunch. It was
enjoyed by everyone and a big vote of
thanks to Brenda, Richard and their staff.

The January meeting will be on 20th
January and the competition is 'a wine
glass'.

A happy new year to all our members.

Vicky Griffiths



Charity No. 1136039
Company No. 7029443

Little Dragons Pre-School

Great Bromley & Frating

Ofsted Inspected

Website: www.littledragonspreschool.org

Email: littledragonspreschool@gmail.com

Great Bromley Village Hall

Monday & Wednesday 9.15-11.45am & 12.15-2.45pm Tuesday & Thursday 9.15-11.45am
Children 2-5 years

Lunch time session available Mondays & Wednesdays

For more details/ visits please contact us on 0785 7503103

CRICKET CLUB



The Annual Cricket Club Dinner was held at the Wooden Fender, Ardleigh on Saturday 20th November. It was a most enjoyable evening and an excellent meal.

The following **Awards** were presented to the cricketers by the Chairman's wife, Annette Grainger.

Club Person on the Year. Shared between Trudie Dodd and Pip Allam

1st X1 Awards

Batting Award	Craig Perrin
Bowling Award	Louis Perrin
Fielding Award	Craig Perrin
Players Player	Craig Perrin

Individual Batting Awards

100 v Lt. Baddow	Craig Perrin
132 v St. Osyth	Craig Perrin
125 v Witham	Richard Lawson
113 n.o. v High Easter	Pip Allam

Individual Bowling Awards

5 for 66 v Springfield	Oliver Wright
6 for 31 v Chappel	Oliver Wright
7 for 37 v Lt. Baddow	Matt Wareing

Young Player of the Year Jake Foley

2nd X1 Awards

Batting Award	Craig Perrin
Bowling Award	Matt Wareing
Fielding Award	Louis Perrin
Players Player	Matt Wareing
Mallard Trophy	Jack Edwards



Individual Batting Awards

142	Joe Sheeky
115	Craig Perrin
134	Louis Perrin

Individual Bowling Awards

6 for 54	Louis Perrin
5 for 47	Matt Wareing
5 for 14	Matt Wareing
5 for 42	Rob Wareing

Evening League Division 2 won by Gt. Bromley.

Individual Trophies were presented to each player who participated.

Batting Trophy	Liam Fisher
Bowling Trophy	Matt Wareing
Individual Batting Trophy	
110	Liam Fisher

We would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2011 and look forward to next season at the Cricket club.

100 Club Winners for November

1st.	Mr. Ian Lawson
2nd.	Mrs. Ann Wild
3rd.	Mrs. Julia Kempster

Could I just remind all members that membership is now due and if you could please send a cheque to me (made out to G.B.C.C.) or pop it in at the house it would be much appreciated.

Lynda Allam

MINERALS MATTER

Essex County Council will be consulting on the Minerals Development Document: Preferred Approach for ten weeks from **9 December 2010 to 17 February 2011**.

The document sets out what has emerged as the Preferred Approach to future mineral supply following previous Issues and Options consultations and consideration of over 3,000 consultation responses. The document outlines a Preferred Core Strategy, Development Management policies and the sites selected as Preferred Sites for future mineral extraction and mineral transhipment.

It is a very important time to have a further say on the approaches being proposed, on the site selection methodology and on the sites selected. Comments made at this stage will inform the next stage of the document – the Submission version, due to be available at the end of 2011.

Exhibitions are planned for libraries across Essex during the consultation period, and drop-in sessions are to be held at venues in the vicinity of all the suggested mineral extraction sites – both those selected and those not selected at this stage. The final list of preferred sites to go into the Submission document may change as a result of the responses made to this consultation, so it is important to have your say and submit a response to this consultation.

For further information see the Essex County Council website at:
www.essex.gov.uk/MDD-consultation

Drop-in sessions: Dates, Venues and sites

Alresford, St Andrew's Church

19 Jan - 11.00am – 7.00pm

Site A16 Church Farm, Alresford

Site A19 Lodge Farm, Alresford
Site A20 Sunnymead, Elmstead and Heath Farm, Alresford

Thorrington Village Hall

20 Jan - 5.00pm – 8.00pm

Site A21 Thorrington Hall Farm, Thorrington

Site A34 Thorrington (alternative proposal to A21)

Site A15 Admirals Farm, Great Bentley (also at Frating session)

Site A18 Gurnhams, Little Bentley (also at Frating session)

Ardleigh Village Hall

21 Jan - 1.30pm – 7.30pm

B3 Park Farm, Ardleigh

A42 Ardleigh Rail

B1 Slough Farm, Ardleigh

Frating Memorial Hall

28 Jan - 11.30am – 6.30pm

Site A17 Frating Hall Farm

Site A15 Admirals Farm, Great Bentley (also at Thorrington session)

Site A18 Gurnhams, Little Bentley (also at Thorrington session)



HANDICRAFTS & HEIRLOOMS

My talented friend, our Editor, as you may know is gifted in many areas of handicrafts. She has recently won a large trophy for a traditional christening gown. Leonie made the lace, sewed the pintucks by hand and smocked the bodice. The names of the fortunate infants who wear it will be embroidered on the under slip.

Pru Simons

Editor's note: *It is rather embarrassing writing things about myself but it would also be an abuse of my position if I ignored someone's piece. Thank you, Pru, for the kind words.*

The trophy mentioned was won in an Essex Handicrafts Association competition. Should you be interested in handicrafts, EHA meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in the United Church Hall, Chapel Road in Brightlingsea at 7.30pm. For more information telephone Millie Alden on 01206 302958. Everyone is always welcome and all sorts of crafts are learnt and enjoyed.

However, I know there are many other talented people in these villages. They work with the needle, with wood, metal, glass, clay, wood, threads and material



quilting, knitting, embroidering, engraving, carving, potting - in short, creating.

You will find an example of different 'soft' crafts in the working of the village sign very recently made by ladies of the WI which is on permanent display in the Village Hall.

It would be lovely to hear about the crafts that interest people in the village. If you are someone, or know of someone, who creates things do send me a piece, preferably with a picture as well, that we may hear and learn about all the diverse abilities that are practised in these villages.

LMH



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

Head teacher: Pat Fitzgerald
Telephone: 01206 230305



**Baby Dragons
Parent and
Child Group**

Come and have fun with your child at Baby Dragons every Friday Morning between 9.30-11.30am
Fun and exciting activities for children aged from 0-5 years.

at Great Bromley Village Hall
Parsons Hill, Great Bromley, Essex CO7 7JA
07857 503103

ESSEX POLICE



Incidents for November 2010 in Great Bromley

Assault - Harwich Road x 4

Suspicious Circumstances - Harwich Road
(Abandoned Vehicle)

RTC with injury - Carringtons Road

Beat surgery dates for Great Bromley for
2011

All held at Great Bromley Village Hall
from 19:30 - 20:30

12th January	2nd February
16th March	6th April
18th May	8th June
20th July	10th August
21st September	12th October
23rd November	14th December

NEWS LETTER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Please be aware that information has been received from the north of the country stating that an engineering company is calling mobile phones mentioning repairs etc, then asking you to input certain numbers and character combinations, which allow the person on the other end to potentially hack the phone, granting them access to the SIM at which point they make a series of expensive calls charged to the owners phone.

If you receive a call from someone asking you to do above please hang up.

Postal Scam:

It has been confirmed by Royal Mail. Trading Standards are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655 or <http://www.icstis.org.uk> or local trading standards.

A company named 'Digital Satellite Warrant Cover Ltd' is currently targeting consumers with the following statement either by telephone or by mail.

"URGENT NOTICE - Your Sky Digital Satellite System Warranty Is Due To Expire - Call 0871 423 7974 without delay"

If you receive a letter from this company or any other company stating this or words to similar effect, either ignore it and dispose of it or forward it to your local trading standards office for them to investigate.

Credit Card Fraud Scam Targets Sky TV Customers

Early Warning the online fraud prevention company have just discovered a new type of scam which directly targets Sky TV Customers How the fraud works

1. Members of the public receive a pre-recorded telephone call asking if there is Sky TV in your property,
2. A week or so later you receive a telephone call from a fraudster saying he works for Sky TV and that your Sky subscription has not been paid and would you like to pay for it over the telephone by credit card as your Sky TV is about to be turned off.

If you fall for this scam your credit card details are then in the hands of Fraudsters who can use your card over the Internet / Mail order to buy goods or they can create a card that can be used abroad to withdraw money from your account.

Early warnings advice is as follows

1. If you receive a call from **any company** asking for payment by credit card over the telephone. **Decline their request and ask them to put the request to you in writing.**
 2. Members of the public should check each and every bank statement they receive to make sure they are aware of every transaction shown on their statement. You should contact your bank immediately if you find any transaction you are unsure about.
- Can I also recommend that you consider using a blocker on your phone such as "Anonymous Caller Reject" from BT. This acts as a deterrent to bogus callers who tend to block their number. It has the added bonus of also stopping the double glazing, patio etc sales and the "you have won"... type calls.

What is Anonymous Call Rejection and how do I use it?

Anonymous Call Rejection lets you stop calls from people who have withheld their number. If a caller withholds their number so that you can't tell what number they called from, they won't be able to get through to you. They'll only get through if they reveal their number.

There is a monthly charge for this Calling Feature. Go to www.bt.com/callingfeatures to see how much it costs (click on "Home phone security features").

How do I use Anonymous Call Rejection?

To **set up** Anonymous Call Rejection, press the star (*) key on your telephone keypad, followed by the number 227 and then the hash (#) key.

To **cancel**, press hash, the number 227 and then the hash key again.

To **check** whether Anonymous Call Rejection is set up, press star, hash, the number and then the hash key once more.

What will happen if I withhold my number when calling someone with Anonymous Call Rejection?

A message will notify the blocked caller that: 'the person you are calling is not accepting anonymous calls. Please redial without withholding your number'.

Can I release my number if I want to contact someone with Anonymous Call Rejection?

If you are prevented from contacting someone because they have Anonymous Call Rejection and you withheld your number on a call, then re-dial the number without using the '141' prefix.

Are there any calls which Anonymous Call Rejection will be unable to block?

Anonymous Call Rejection will not block calls where the system cannot obtain the identity of the caller and the message 'Unavailable' is delivered. This would mean that the call is coming from a network that does not support Caller Display and Call Return type services. This could be from:

- Some non-compatible exchange types (UXD5)

- Another network provider e.g. Mercury and some mobile networks
- A caller using a Chargecard
- Calls where the message 'Payphone', 'International', or 'Operator' is delivered

What are the potential security and safety concerns with Anonymous Call Rejection?

Many public services such as the police force, the DSS, hospitals, fire brigades and public utilities will not be able to contact customers

who use Anonymous Call Rejection.

This is due to the configuration of their private switchboards. This problem will also affect many UK businesses. Discussions are underway to find a solution for these problems.

Beat the Burglar

Traditionally burglaries increase at this time of year so we are asking people not to give thieves a chance.

You can beat the burglars by taking just a few simple steps

1. Make your home safe and secure by fitting 5 lever mortice locks on external doors and for all other doors and windows fit secure locks.

2. It is most important to take extra care when locking up particularly with regard to UPVC doors. Lift the handle and lock the door with the key.

3. When you leave your property remove keys from locks and place them out of sight.

4. With the nights drawing in make your property look occupied at all times by using automatic light timers and you might want to consider installing external lighting.

5. Nowadays burglars break into properties to steal car keys so avoid leaving car keys near a door or window and lock your car in a garage or behind a locked gate if possible.

"You can beat the burglars by taking just a few simple steps. We do have plenty of crime reduction advice on our website at www.essex.police.uk or by contacting your local crime reduction officer on 0300 333 4444. Crime reduction officers offer free advice on crime reduction and if you are considering installing a burglar alarm will put you in touch with regulated alarm installation companies in your area."

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

VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

On Friday, although the temperature was minus 5 degrees in the evening, a bunch of volunteers had spent a couple of hours clearing the paths, exits and car park entrances so that the Christmas Fayre could go ahead. I had thought that the whole event would be cancelled because nobody would want to turn out in such cold weather. Fred said "it's on". So we got digging, Martin said that the temperature difference was 37 degree Celsius from Thailand to here and as Martin had only been home for a couple of days it was a bit of a shock! We did have some great help from John Hart with his mini digger, without which we would have still been there. Martin, Fred, Neil, David, John, Philip and Jim, without your efforts and Fred's good judgement there would have been no event.

That was yesterday. Today, Saturday, the Fayre has just happened, with people arriving in the Hall from 7:30 this morning. The really good thing about this year's Fayre was the number of children present. An early unofficial count of the money raised by the event was £1400, to be split between the WI and the Village Hall. This is more than last year and with fewer people visiting. Thank you Beryl Hurst for getting us organised, especially as your husband, Geff, has been unwell whilst you have been sorting us out. We all wish Geff to get better soon. A big thank you Beryl and to your committee of the WI and the Village Hall. Well done. A great event.

Future Great Events

26th February - Alternative Quiz. Last year the hall was heaving so book your teams soon

2nd April - Race Night. We need people to sponsor races and to purchase horses prior to the event. It should be a great night!

21st May - Essex on Tour present "A Night on Broadway" starring Drop Dead

Divas

June TBA - Hog Roast and Disco for all ages.

7th October - Cabaret Night with the return of Olly Day and introducing Kevin Dean. Book early! Not to be missed.

If anybody was going past the Hall during the present cold snap they would have been disappointed to see the snow sliding off the roof. This shows that our insulation is not working as well as it should. We will need some help to install loft insulation over the ceiling of the main hall. More details to follow.

It was agreed that Village Hall Committee meetings will be held every other month on the first Tuesday. Forthcoming meeting dates are: 4th January, 1st March and May 3rd.

That's all for now, as always thank you for your support and please put the forth coming event dates in your diary. Let's all make the most of our Village Hall in 2011.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee we would like to thank all the users, fund raisers and helpers who have worked so hard this year. We would also like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Next Committee meeting is to be held on Tuesday 4th January 7:30pm.

David Beech



EVENTS in 2011

JANUARY

- 4 Village Hall Charity Trustees meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 5 WI meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 16 Churches Together, St Mary's, Ardleigh, 10.30am
- 20 WEA course (Vienna - Centre of Musical Excellence), Ardleigh Village Hall, 2.30pm
- Friendship Club meeting, Village Hall, 2.00pm

FEBRUARY

- 9 Ardleigh Horticultural meeting, Tiptree, Ardleigh village hall, 7.45pm
- 10 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 12 Valentine Dinner Dance, Venture Centre 2000 Hall, Lawford, 7.00pm
- 26 Alternative Quiz Night, Village Hall
- 27 APCM, St George's church

MARCH

- 1 Village Hall Charity Trustees meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 6 APCM, St Mary's church, Ardleigh
- 9 Ardleigh Horticultural meeting, Japanese Gardens, Ardleigh village hall, 7.45pm
- 19 Colchester Institute Chamber Choir, St George's Church, 7.30pm

APRIL

- 2 Race Night, Village Hall
- 13 Ardleigh Horticultural meeting, Wonderful Gardens, Ardleigh village hall, 7.45pm
- 21 Lt Bromley Parish Council Public Assembly meeting
- 29 Apr-2 May Flower Festival, St George's Church

MAY

- 3 Village Hall Charity Trustees meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 Ardleigh Horticultural meeting, Colchester Parks, Ardleigh village hall, 7.45pm
- 21 'A Night on Broadway' show, Village Hall

JUNE

- ? Hog Roast and Disco, Village Hall
- 18 Strawberry Tea, Fryerning, Gt Bromley. More details to follow

JULY

- 9 Tendring Show

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

- 7 Cabaret Night, Village Hall



**VALENTINE DINNER
DANCE**

Saturday 12th February

7.00pm - 12 midnight

Venture Centre 2000 Hall
in Lawford

Dancing to "
Untouchable"

3 Course Dinner
£30.00 per head

Bar

Raffle for
Motorneurones Disease Charity

Call Linda Pinhey on
Tel:01206 230126



WEA Ardeleigh Branch
Spring Term 2011
**Vienna - Centre of Musical
Excellence**

Venue - Ardeleigh Village Hall
The course commences on 20th
January 2011 and finishes on 31st March
2011 with a half term on 24th February
2011

Time 2.30 p.m. and finishing at 4.15 p.m.
(a fifteen minute tea break included)
The fee will be £44.00 per person

The course tutor is Peter Goodwin who
we have had before and does an
excellent course.

His information for the course at present
says:

"Vienna - hub of the musical universe for
300 years.

Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, Brahms,
Mahler, Schoenberg and the music of the
Strauss family are all explored in this 10
week Course."

For further details please phone

Jill Frostick on 250263 or

John Terry on 230490

**ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
FLOWER FESTIVAL 2011**

29th, 30th April, 1st & 2nd May.

You can be assured that we chose the
dates first!!!

We are delighted of course that Prince
William and Kate Middleton have chosen
the same weekend for their wedding next
year.

Our chosen theme, therefore, couldn't
have been more
appropriate"Celebrations....

We all have so much to celebrate in our
lives and to be thankful for, so if you
would like to join our team to plan, help or
support our Flower Festival in 2011
please give me a ring on 01206 230688

Thank you,
Jenny

Saturday, 19th March
at 7.30pm
in
St George's Church

Ian Ray
with the
**Colchester Institute
Chamber Choir**

followed by
Wine and Refreshments

More details to follow

Due to unusually extreme weather conditions our Christmas Meeting and Evening Meal at the Haywain PH, Little Bromley had to be cancelled. However, the Haywain kindly allowed us to re-schedule our Christmas Meal for the following week. So 18 members, a week late, were able to sit down and enjoy a festive lunch - followed by a free raffle with prizes donated by committee members. Many thanks to the Haywain for being so accommodating.



Our first meeting of 2011 is Wednesday 5th January when we are looking forward to welcoming Angela Dennis whose talk is entitled "My Life in Music".

The programme for 2011 is very varied and exciting. You are welcome to come along and join us on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome.

Date for your diary, Strawberry Tea, 18th June 2011, at Fryerning. Please give me a ring if you require more information.

The members of Great Bromley W.I would like to wish the Editor and all readers of the Messenger a very Happy and Healthy New Year for 2011.

Jenny Nicholls. 01206 230688

YOUR GENEROSITY

Each month the Messenger contains details of events being planned to raise funds for charity. Sometimes, not always, the sums raised are printed in the magazine and out of interest I decided this year to add up the sums that have been reported which I find comes to the incredible sum of £17,381.66. This has all been raised during 2010. In addition, the Cross Inn has, over the year, raised the staggering sum of £9,000 by themselves.

The list of charities you have given support to is varied and include, among others, in no particular order the East Anglian Children's Hospice, The Brooke, UNICEF, Haiti fund, Dog's Trust, Little Haven's Children's Hospice, Breast Cancer/Moonwalk, The Bethany Taylor Woods Fund for Muscular Dystrophy, the St Helena Hospice, Dreams Come True,

Flood victims in Pakistan, Strides of Hope Charity Walk, Seven Rivers, Hamilton Lodge, Motor Neurons Disease, and Donkey charities. St George's church, the Village Hall, the Cricket Club, the WI and The Friendship Club have all benefitted from your generosity. Individuals and various village organisations have also raised funds which have been given to charity.

Well done and thank you to all those of you who have raised these sums as well as a big thank you to those of you who donated their money for all these worthwhile causes.

LMH



GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Great Bromley Parish Council
www.essexinfo.net/gbpc

Report of a parish council meeting held on 8 December 2010

Planning

The Council considered and objected to the following planning applications:

Re-siting of three free-range egg units which had been previously approved.

Resubmission of an application for a further free-range egg unit which had previously been rejected on appeal.

Tendring District Council has refused the following planning application:

Land rear of Roseland, Colchester Road – stable building and change of land use.

Council finances

The council agreed its budget for the period April 2011/March 2012 and where the annual precept (income from the

council tax) remains unchanged at £14,000. Further information on the council's finances will be published later in 2011 and the budget will be posted on the council's website in due course

Affordable housing

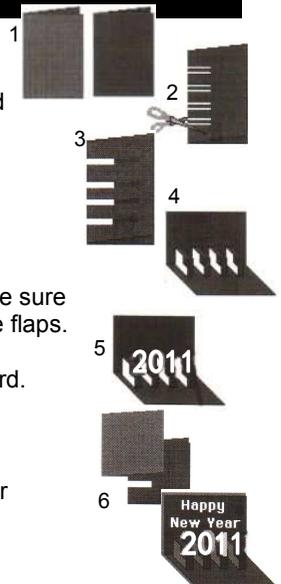
The parish council continues to have discussions with the English Rural Housing Association (ERHA), Tendring District Council and landowners on the possibility of a second development of affordable housing in the village. At the council's *next meeting on 13th January* representatives of the ERHA will talk about a proposed housing needs survey, a future project and answer questions.

The next meeting of the Council will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday 13th January 2011 at Great Bromley Village Hall and as always residents are welcome to attend.

CHILDREN'S CORNER - MAKE A NEW YEAR'S CARD

1. Fold two pieces of thin card in half. One piece will be the outside of the card; one piece will be the inside.
2. On the inner card, make four short, parallel cuts along the fold line. The cuts should be in two pairs.
3. Fold over the flaps that were formed by the cuts. Unfold the folds you just made and open up the card.
4. Push up the flaps made by the cuts. These will hold up the numbers.
Close the card so that the flaps are inside the card
5. Cut out large numbers (for the new year) from thin card. Make sure that they fit inside the card when it is closed. Glue them to the flaps. Close the card.
6. Glue the other folded piece of card on to the outside of the card. Make sure you don't glue where the numbers are. Decorate with glitter glue or markers.

Instead of numbers you could decorate with stars, fireworks or champagne glasses to pop up out of your card.



THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

Gt Bentley Surgery

It still amazes me that a little bit of snow can bring everything grinding to a halt. I'd better not say anything about soft southerners though – I've been down here too long to feel smug and superior any more! I have to admit too, that the recent falls were enough to cause a genuine nuisance. We used up a normal winter's worth of salt in just a week, trying to maintain safe pathways through the snow and ice to the main surgery door. The doctors and staff here deserve a real pat on the back for keeping everything going throughout the bad week. Everybody managed to get to work, which was fantastic. The only working days missed here were due to schools closing and there being no alternative childcare available, which must have been a problem everywhere.

A lot of patients cancelled appointments rather than struggling to get in, which I'm sure was the sensible option – and thank you to those of you who did let us know that they weren't coming. (The prize for the best call goes to a lady who felt that the roads were far too dangerous for her to drive in, so please would one of the doctors drive out to her.) Anyone who just didn't turn up but failed to tell us they weren't coming – please remember that you can always cancel an appointment by leaving a message on 01206 255071. Finally on the weather front, apologies to anyone who had difficulty getting an appointment after the snow while we were working through the backlog of people who needed to be seen. Hopefully things will be back to normal by the time you read this.

The festive season is nearly here and at the surgery we are looking forward to being closed for four days at Christmas (Saturday 25th – Tuesday 28th December inclusive) and then three days at New Year (Saturday 1st – Monday 3rd January). For anyone who hasn't already got them, I'll give below our tips on avoiding the Accident & Emergency Department at Colchester while we are having our breaks. The staff at A&E are brilliant I know, but who in their right mind would want to spend hours there waiting to be seen if there are suitable, quicker alternatives available. Well, in many cases there are.

If you just need **medical advice** when we are closed, it's available from NHS Direct on 0845 4647. This is a nurse-led service which

specialises in giving expert guidance on straightforward matters that don't need the immediate attention of a doctor. They might enable you to stay at home with your family, even if you aren't well enough to enjoy your Christmas dinner.

If you have a **minor injury** (note – **not** an illness or a major trauma) that needs attention, the Minor Injuries Units at Clacton and Harwich Hospitals will be open each day over the Christmas and New Year breaks from 9.00am until 9.00pm. You don't need an appointment and waiting time at either unit is usually a lot shorter than at Colchester A&E.

If you have an illness that definitely needs attention and you can travel, as an alternative to the Out of Hours Service which is always terribly busy over the holiday period, why not try the Walk-in Centre in Colchester? It's on Turner Road, quite close to the hospital (handy if it turns out that you need to go there afterwards), and is open from 7.00am until 10.00pm every day of the year. Again, you don't need an appointment.

If you think you are ill enough to warrant seeing a doctor, in the first instance please call the Harmoni Out of Hours Service. (Here at Great Bentley, if you ring the surgery out of hours on 01206 250691, you will automatically be transferred to Harmoni.) You will be assessed over the telephone and, if necessary given an appointment to be seen at one of their out of hours centres. If you are genuinely too sick to travel and it seems absolutely necessary, a duty doctor will be sent to visit you. **Please note that lack of transport is not a reason for a visit – neither is bad weather.** Only people genuinely too ill to travel will be visited.

As a last resort, there is always A&E at Colchester, but I for one would use any of the above in preference. Let's leave A&E to deal with major trauma and life threatening situations which, let's face it, are the really important parts of their job.

So it's now time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas – or Yule, or Winter Solstice if Christmas isn't your thing – and a happy, healthy New Year. I think I'll hedge my bets and celebrate the lot. Meanwhile, it's time I went off and started thinking about New Year's Resolutions again. Watch this space.

Hugh Cronin, Practice Manager

NATURE'S DIARY

As I write the snow is beginning to disappear but it is still very cold. The birds have already stripped my holly of every berry and that is before December hardly gets underway, so there could well be a paucity of food in the countryside by the time spring arrives if the weather continues as it is. Therefore, do feed the birds and don't forget to make sure they have water to drink and bathe in as well. I have been recently told that many of the smaller birds, i.e. tits, finches etc., go south for the winter and the ones we are feeding are birds that have flown here from the north.

I have also been told of very recent sightings at Minsmere (not that far away) of a snow bunting and an even rarer ring-tailed hen harrier. I wish I had been there to see them. What a fantastic sight they must have been.

January and February are the core of winter, and spring feels a long way



off. Days are short, but can be crisp and bright. Early morning frosts leave pearls of ice on spiders' webs making them useless for catching prey although beautiful to look at.

Trees stand starkly in fields and woodlands in winter with buds poised to burst when spring at last arrives. They have been particularly beautiful recently with their branches covered in hoar frost gleaming in the sun. Although it is perhaps more difficult to identify trees without their leaves it is worth the effort. One way to cheat is to look for fallen leaves below a tree and see if it is possible to identify it that

way. However if you look carefully many species, particularly oak, ash and silver birch, have a very specific shape, bark texture and twig/bud form. Any good tree guide should point out what features to look out for.



At certain sites during winter bird flocks gather to roost in their tens of thousands. Look out for the starlings on the wires along Hall Road where they gather in large numbers. They provide a moving spectacle and quite a din. Their numbers fell badly a few years ago but they seem to be making a come back which is good news.

Bats, hedgehogs and badgers hibernate over winter when their food supply is in short supply and/or difficult to get to. However should the weather ease they may venture out and make a sortie. Some species such as grey and red squirrels tough it out, feeding on buds and stashed food supplies. Love or loathe them, grey squirrels do provide many people with a close up experience of nature not found any other way. Young children are particularly fond of them and in many parks it is possible to hand feed them if you have the patience. You may see them engaged in a courtship chase during January where the females are pursued by one or more males vying for her attention and to father her offspring.

LMH



ST GEORGE'S GREAT BROMLEY REPAIR FUND

Great news, in fact three pieces of great news.

First, we have enough money in grants and donations to go ahead with the major repairs to the South Clerestory walls and windows.

English Heritage is the main grant giver and we have now received generous grant offers from GCG Environmental Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, and National Churches Trust. We are in the process of signing contracts for the works which we hope will take place in the spring and summer of 2011.

Second, Her Majesty's Government has confirmed that the VAT recovery scheme for Listed Places of Worship will continue in 2011. That means we can claim back the 20% VAT paid on the building repairs. For a while we were worried that this would be abolished by the spending review.

Third, we have a generous grant from Essex Heritage Trust for the Lychgate repairs.



We have decided in principle to go ahead with these repairs in 2011 but we need another £1,500 and welcome further donations from residents and friends. This work

will be a memorial to Vera Biddis and we will be erecting a plaque to commemorate her long life and long service to Great Bromley.

More details will follow about the repair works and about our grant givers.

This is tremendous progress towards keeping St George's in good repair - most of the building is 500 years old and we aim to keep it going for another 500!



We are all volunteers giving our time and talents to make this happen. Many thanks to our wonderful Fabric Committee and Friends and to those who have contributed to the Repair Fund.

There is more to come - we have a long scheme of works ahead of us to the north side of the church and to the porch. If you can help us financially or would simply like to know more about our Grade I listed church, or would like a free guided tour, then please do get in touch.

Lastly, don't forget the church is open every day to visitors. When the weather warms up a bit why not pay a visit and explore this wonderful building for yourself?

Gregory Frostick
01473 424469



THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

Dear Friends,

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

As we look forward to 2011 it will be a very exciting year at St. George's Church as we will now be in a position to undertake the major repairs needed to the clerestory windows and the lych-gate.

We are still planning to have our Flower Festival despite all the other things which

will be happening. It is intended to take place on the last weekend of April and we do hope we can count on your support as we have done in the past.

With my best wishes for 2011.
Fr. Robert



THE TOILET

In response to my article regarding "THE TOILET" in the November edition of this magazine, imagine my delight to receive an email offering help and assistance for our project.



Steven & Dawn Walker have offered not only their expertise and skills,

but have also offered to manage the project for us!

Father Robert Farrell, the wardens and P.C.C. are very pleased to accept their very generous offer of help and are looking forward to working with them in the future.

Watch this space! Thank you, thank you.

Jenny Nicholls

MATERIAL for the **FEBRUARY 2011** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger' should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th January, 2010** 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 the sponsors of our magazine.

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh



Church of England Services for January

Sunday 2nd	8.00am 10.30am	The Epiphany Eucharist Parish Eucharist	St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin
Sunday 9th	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	The Baptism of Christ Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	St. Mary the Virgin St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin
Sunday 16th	8.00am 10.30am	The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Eucharist Parish Eucharist	St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin
Sunday 23rd	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Eucharist Parish Eucharist Evensong	St. Mary the Virgin St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin
Sunday 30th	8.00am 10.30am	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candlemas Eucharist Parish Eucharist with Laying-on-of-Hands and Anointing	St. George the Martyr St. Mary the Virgin

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

ST HELENA HOSPICE STALL

We have received the following letter from St Helena Hospice and we thought the best way to pass the contents of paragraph 3 on to all of our supporters was to print the whole of the letter in the Bromley Messenger

Jenny and John, Briar Road

Contents of letter dated 12 November 2010 from St Helena Hospice, Myland Hall, Colchester and signed by Rosy Stamp, Hospice Director

"Thank you for your letter of 2 November and magnificent donation of £1274.76 to St Helena Hospice, raised through the sale of your own and donated produce at your front gate.

We are very grateful for this kind gift which will help us to continue to provide care and comfort to local people and their families.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to this magnificent total. We very much appreciate all your hard work throughout the year and feel sure that all the fruit and vegetables bought in this way have been thoroughly enjoyed by those fortunate enough to taste them!

Thank you for your support of St Helena Hospice. It is very much appreciated.'