

# THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

*SEPTEMBER 2011*

Volume 26 No 6



*Photograph courtesy of Ruth Lawson*

## Farewell to Pat

Pat Fitzgerald at Grove House - just one of her farewell parties!

The full report of them all can be found inside.

# EDITORIAL

I am writing this in a caravan in a field on the side of a hill in Derbyshire. It has been raining. Yesterday was sunny with a bit of wind. There is no electricity and no other mod cons in this field. The only people we see are walkers on a nearby path. Our neighbours are sheep (which bleat a lot), some hairy cattle, horses and a couple of farms. It has lovely views down the valley and we love being here.

However, the lack of modern services is causing the production of this magazine a problem. I am using my old laptop which uses 'old' programmes so has thrown a hissy fit at the 'modern' programme I usually use. My computer battery doesn't last long so we have to keep re-charging it in the car as we drive somewhere as the caravan electricity needs to be conserved. (We do have a solar panel for re-charging the caravan battery but sun has been in short supply). The September magazine is therefore a challenge.

Please overlook any shortcomings and mistakes (Natalie is not here to proofread) there may be in this issue and regard it as a feat in itself.

*Leonie Henderson*

**MATERIAL** for the **OCTOBER 2011** edition of 'The Bromley Messenger'

should reach the Editor, Leonie Henderson, by **14th September, 2011**

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# PAT FITZGERALD

After 24 years as head teacher of St George's Primary School, Mrs Pat Fitzgerald retired at the end of the summer term.

There were several retirement 'celebrations'. Firstly the Parish Council and PCC kindly hosted a tea party at Grove House, a farewell evening was held at the school, we had an 'open' school where pupils and parents both past and present had the opportunity to say their goodbyes, the children held an assembly where they sang a song especially composed by Mel Bridle, our music teacher, and lastly, as part of our end of year leavers assembly, final farewells were said.

As you can imagine each occasion led to a mixture of emotions and many tears were shed! However, they also reflected the huge respect, regard and affection in which Pat is held by so many people. She has been a skilful, dedicated and outstanding head of the school. For those of us lucky enough to have worked at the school both now or in the past in any capacity, will know how valued and respected Pat always made people feel, creating a working environment which was both positive and very rewarding. She has always led by example, setting high standards, getting done what needed to be done by negotiation and persuasion but always with determination, clarity of vision and purpose. She was an incredibly caring and thoughtful person to work for, her door always being open to staff, parents and, of course, children. Her greatest legacy though will always be to the countless hundreds of children that have been touched and influenced by her while she has been in the teaching profession. She truly was born to teach. Her passion for education has never dimmed and she has always had the most amazing intuitive understanding of children and what makes them tick. Children quite simply love her and whatever else may have been happening she would always have the time to talk to any child who was feeling vulnerable or upset in any way. Praise from Mrs Fitzgerald and the awarding of a dragon sticker was the highest accolade and does not get forgotten – indeed it is highly prized even into adulthood! To have been able to influence the hearts and souls of so many young people in such a positive manner is an immeasurable and invaluable quality and the school has been truly blessed to have had Pat as its head teacher.

However as in all things we must now look forward to the future and the school continuing to evolve and prosper. To that end we very warmly welcome Mrs Julie O'Mara as the new head teacher of St George's School. Mrs O'Mara has been deputy head of Stanway Primary School for 8 years. We are sure that the local community will join with us in wishing her every success and happiness in her new role.

*Staff and Governors of St George's School*



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

Head teacher: Julie O'Mara  
Telephone: 01206 230305



# WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As our usual correspondent, Joy, is

away enjoying a course on flower arranging at Denman College, the W.I, college in Oxfordshire, it has fallen to me to report on our very successful Dabble Day at the beginning of August. It was lead by Sheila Gunson who is a W.I. Advisor and also a Denman tutor. With clarity and much humour, she guided the nineteen of us present through four different types of craftwork.

The first one was pyrography and, yes, it did involve burning! Designs and pictures were burnt onto coasters and bookmarks with a special pyrography iron using gentle flowing movements. It proved rather easy to press too firmly and make large dots!

The second craft was encaustic work which involved an iron, coloured wax tablets and some clear wax to clean the iron. The best way to produce some really delightful patterns and pictures was not to try too hard but to see what emerged. We each had four cards on which to express our artistic gifts.

Iris folding followed. This was a real revelation as it utilised old official envelopes and was the final word in recycling. The resulting cards were lovely and gave everyone a real feeling of pride and satisfaction. Later, we became more adventurous and produced cards with boats, Christmas trees, pears and butterflies on them.

Finally, we made some basic spring cards using motifs from serviettes for decoration. The results were rather striking but by this stage, some of us were running out of time and did not quite finish them.

We all went home feeling very proud of our efforts, especially those who had felt more than a little apprehensive of their abilities at the beginning of the day. As usual, we had a lot of fun and would like to invite any who would like to join us to our next meeting on September 7th when Martin Frostick and Leonie Henderson will share with us the joys and challenges of keeping bees. Do come!

*Sue Orriss*

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We enjoyed our singalong with our entertainers at the last meeting and are now looking forward to the Auction. There is not much to report this time but we send our good wishes to anyone who is on the sick list.

The competition for September will have been announced at the Auction.

Vicky Griffiths

## GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB



### 100 Club Winners for July

- 1st. Mr. Bryan Wright
- 2nd. Mrs. L. Oakley
- 3rd. Mrs. Jill Frostick

# GT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Planning

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

Morant's Lodge, Colchester Road – removal of a condition that the occupation of this property should be tied to agricultural activity.

***Tendring District Council has approved the following planning application:***

Brookside, Badley Hall Road: replacement dwelling

***The Planning Inspectorate*** has dismissed an appeal against Tendring District Council's refusal to allow a garage at 1 Boulton Cottages, Frating Road.

## Financial matters

The council's accounts for 2010/11 have now been audited by the Audit Commission and found to be satisfactory.

## Working groups

The council has reviewed the village working groups and discontinued a number of them where there has been a lack of activity, local support or rationale; however the following groups remain active: hazardous roads, speed watch, village pond, Church Meadow and closed cemetery, footpaths and tree planting. Please get in touch with the parish council if you would like to get involved with any of these working groups.

***The Council will next meet at 7.30 pm on Thursday 8 September 2011*** at Great Bromley Village Hall. One item on the agenda will be the ***consideration of a planning application by the Little Dragon Pre-School for the change of use of Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, from a domestic dwelling to a pre-school.*** Extensions and alterations to the existing property are also proposed.

If you have a view on this proposal then you are welcome to make them known at

this meeting. You can also send your comments, by 9 September 2011, to Tendring District Council, quoting reference 11/00900/FUL, at either Planning Services, TDC Council Offices, Weeley CO16 9AJ or [planning.services@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.services@tendringdc.gov.uk).

This planning application can be examined at the Tendring Council offices above or viewed on line at

<http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/publicaccess>.

The council may also consider the ***Carringtons Road/Manning Grove Reservoir*** if the application is received by the date of the meeting. See any announcements on the council's website or the village notice boards.

# LT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The following matters were discussed at the parish council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

There were 8 members of the public present and also District Councillor, Neil Stock.

Rachel Downard, the present owner of Braham Hall, in response to the many observations about the safety aspects of the hedgerow at 'Memorial' corner gave a detailed explanation as to why it was not possible to make further cuts to the hedgerow. It was accepted by the meeting that in fact the owners were doing everything possible within the modern and ancient laws to deal with the problem. It was also agreed that the way forward was to organise a meeting with the Highways Department.

A member of the public suggested that the installation of gates at the entrances to the village would possibly help with traffic calming.

Four speed watches took place during the last two months and 35 vehicles were reported. The speed limit on Bentley Road (40mph to 30mph) is due for discussion in October 2011.

Donations for the re-furbishment of the War Memorial have reached the magnificent sum of £977. Thank you to all for your generosity.

Our bus shelter is drawing closer; planning and construction is on track.

The barbecue / fete / and sale is on 10<sup>th</sup> September. A detailed meeting is to take place shortly.

Councillor Stock gave a very interesting briefing about various happenings in the district:

- The relaxation of Planning laws and the problems that it could cause in communities.

- Possible centralisation of Tendring District Council and the benefits that ensue
- He also touched on the problems of Jaywick.

We would like to thank Councillor Stock for giving us his time and assure him that he is welcome at any time.

Kate Everett reported that the Community Pavilion, School Lane, Lawford is now up and running. An excellent facility which can also be hired out for functions. Congratulations, Kate, you can now return to your family.

A planning application for 'Hunters Moon', Chequers Road has today been received but is yet to be investigated.

## STONE VISITORS - AUGUST 2011

August has been a busy month for visitors from across "the pond". Descendants of Gregory and Simon Stone who worshipped at St. George's in the 17<sup>th</sup> century continue to visit our historic church here in Great Bromley.

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August my husband and I arranged to meet Mike & Yvonne Anderson/Stone at Manningtree Railway Station. This was their first visit to Great Bromley and sadly the weather that day was not very kind to them.

Mike originated from Iowa and is a relation of Marvin Krause who visited last year. Yvonne and Mike have recently moved to Umah close by the Mexican border. We shared a pleasant time together before they returned to London.

Wayne & Corinne Stone, descendants of

Simon arrived on Monday August the 8<sup>th</sup>, staying with relatives in Cambridge they arrived in rented transportation and were met by Fr. Robert at the Church. Wayne & Corinne live near Chicago, U.S.A.

We are so fortunate to be able to meet so many friendly and interesting members of the Stone family which now seems to have spread throughout the U.S.A. and beyond.

Through our association with the Stone family we are supported by some financial donations towards our historic church, particularly our latest ongoing project to provide a "loo" at St. George's and repairs to the fabric of the building.

The display in the church tells the whole story.

*Jenny Nicholls*

## REUBAN SANDS



Reuben Sands (10), a pupil of St George's School, was sent by his agent in June to attend an audition at the Pineapple Dance Studio London for the chance to attend the prestigious 'Westend Master Class'. Competing with hundreds of performers from around the country for only 30 places, Reuben received a call to say he had got into the Masterclass.

The Masterclass is where a group of handpicked, exceptionally talented, young performers will train and prepare for a successful career in Musical Theatre coached by Westend performers and Industry professionals.

The principal and choreographer is Lindsey Wise, leading artist in the

Westend.

Michael Xavier Director, regarded performer and nominated for two Olivier Awards, said 'The standard, discipline and work ethic of our young

performers is second-to-none. Reuben has had exceptional training and it shows, I am looking forward to working with him. Reuben, whose ambition it is to play Gavroche in Les Miserables, is a student at Stagestruck in Frinton. Two other students auditioned and all three got in!

*Annie Sands*

## KITCHEN CORNER

### Damson Steamed Puddings

Serves 4

300g damsons, rinsed  
150g caster sugar  
enough water just to cover the fruit

*For the puddings;*

100g unsalted butter at room temp + a little extra for greasing the moulds  
100g caster sugar  
2 eggs  
100g SR flour  
Finely grated zest of 1 lemon

- Simmer the damsons, water and sugar until soft. Pass through a colander and allow to cool.
- Preheat the oven to 100°C/350°F. Gas Mk 4. Butter four dariole moulds or small individual pudding basins. Cream the

butter and sugar together until smooth. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well. Sift in the flour and fold in gently. Add the zest.

- Place a generous spoonful of damson into the base of each mould then spoon in the batter.
- Cover each mould loosely with buttered foil and bake on the middle shelf for 30 minutes. Allow to rest for 10 minutes before inverting on to a warm plate.
- Serve with cream or custard.

# VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

Farmers Market was held on July 23rd but with people away on holiday and a lower number of stall holders it was a little disappointing. However money was raised and people attending had some bargains.

Neil, Tracy and Dean have been looking at the Hall running costs and charges to report to the Main Committee on September 6th. As we all know costs are constantly rising and as the committee looks after the Hall on behalf of the village it is our duty to ensure it stays viable. More details of this later and on the jobs still outstanding (roofing insulation and the interior painting for which we will need volunteers).

I am pleased to announce that two new members have joined the Village Hall Committee, Phil Allam and Philipe Farn, thank you both for volunteering and welcome.

It is looking very likely that we will be installing extra protection for the oil tank before we put any oil in it for the winter. We have had one attempted break in already and with oil prices not set to get any lower the Committee thought it wise.

**Future Events** to look forward to  
Cabaret Night Olly Day on 8th October  
(very very few tickets left)

Farmers Market on 22nd October from 10am to 1pm

Christmas Fayre on 3rd December

Farmers Market on 21st December  
(Provisional) 6pm to 9pm

New Years Eve Dance on 31st December  
with a live dance band

A warning - The Olly Day event in October is nearly sold out so do not delay in organising your tickets to see this very funny man. Book tickets very soon and get there early so as not to be too close to the front. We hope that by changing the seating arrangement from his last visit that we may fit in 115 people. At the time of the last Farmers Market on July 23rd there were only 6 tickets left. Tickets are the same price as before at £15.00 per head but will include food. Bring your own drinks and prepare to have lots of laughs and fun.

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.

Next Committee meeting Tuesday  
September 6th at 7:30pm. As always all welcome.

*David Beech*

## IN THE GARDEN IN SEPTEMBER

I was once told that in this country we do not have a climate, only weather, and this year is no exception, but I don't think any one is suffering from sunstroke.

We are now at the end of the seed planting, but there is still time to plant winter hardy lettuces. Hardy varieties sown outdoors in late August or early September can be grown in the open throughout the winter in milder areas for cutting about the end of April. Once the seedlings are through some protection will be needed, i.e. cloche

or cold frame,. They can also be grown in the greenhouse border.

Climbing roses are making a lot of new growth so tie them in before it is time to prune out the old growth.

Dahlias are in full bloom now. After any rain we may have, shake the blooms to remove the rain that is making the blooms top heavy.

*Frank Griffiths*

# EVENTS IN 2011

## SEPTEMBER

- 6 Village Hall Trustees committee meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10 Car Boot/Fete/Barbeque, Barlon Road, Lt Bromley, 10.00am
- 18 Harvest Festival, Lt Bromley church, 6.00pm
- 21 Beat Surgery, Village Hall, 7.30-8.30pm
- 22 WEA course 'Brunel', Ardleigh Village hall, 2.30pm
- 24 Dance to live Music, Village Hall, 7.30pm  
Lawford Farmers Market, Venture Centre
- 29 Flower Festival Lunch, St George's church, 12 noon
- 30 Folk in the Church concert, St George's church, 7.30pm
- 30-2Oct St George's church Flower Festival

## OCTOBER

- 2 Harvest Lunch, St George's church, 12 noon
- 4 Seven Rivers Charity Fair, Village Hall, 10.30am
- 6 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 8 Cabaret Night with Ollie Day, Village Hall
- 12 Beat Surgery, Village Hall, 7.30-8.30pm
- 13 Gt Bromley Parish Council meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 14 'Pink' Coffee Morning, Village Hall, 10.00am
- 22 Gt Bromley Farmers Market, Village Hall 10.00am-1.00pm

St. George's Church.

### FLOWER FESTIVAL 2011

Friday September 30th 10am to 5pm,

Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> 10am to 5pm

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 12md to 5pm

Refreshments, stalls, Grand Raffle.

Festival Lunch Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> £5.

Harvest Lunch October 2<sup>nd</sup> 12noon £6

If you would like to donate a raffle prize,  
sponsor some flowers, please contact

Jenny or Ann

St. George's Church

### FLOWER FESTIVAL 2011

#### "Memory Pew Ends"

£10 each

If you would like to dedicate a pew end  
for a loved one please contact Jenny  
(230688) or Ann (250229).

Harvest Lunch October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

You are warmly invited

### Harvest Lunch

at St. George's Church  
following

Festival Eucharist with Bishop

Christopher

All welcome

Tickets £6. Children £3

Time 12 noon for 12.30pm sit down

Tickets from Jenny 01206230688 , Ann

01206250229

or any P.C.C. Member.

*Please bring your own drinks and glasses*



**Little Bromley Church**  
 Sunday 18th September  
**Harvest Festival Service**  
 6.00pm



**Seven Rivers, Hall Road,  
 Great Bromley.**

**DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF  
 THE 60's, 70's and 80's  
 PLAYED BY OUR LIVE BAND!**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September  
 7.30pm – 11.30pm  
 at the Village Hall**

**Bring your own  
 refreshments**

**RAFFLE**

**Tickets £7.50  
 obtainable from Seven Rivers  
 on 01206 230345**



**FESTIVAL LUNCH**

29<sup>th</sup> September  
 12 noon  
 £5

Come and enjoy a lunch in the Lady Chapel to launch Our Flower Festival 2011. Tickets available from Jemmy, Ann or the Post Office

**FOLK IN THE CHURCH**

Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011

Join us at 7.30pm  
 "The Medlars"  
 &

"Nil Desperandum"

at St. George's Church

Tickets £6 Including finger buffet, wine and soft drinks.

Tickets available from Jenny, Ann or the Post Office

All welcome.



**WEA**

Ardeigh Branch  
 Autumn Term

Starting Thursday 22nd  
 September at 2.30 p.m.

**BRUNEL - AN ENGINEER'S LIFE**

The tutor for this course will be Roger Mannion BSc

Do come along and join us at Ardleigh Village Hall for what promises to be a very interesting course. The course is ten weeks long, and each session is one and a half hours long with a short tea break in the middle. The cost is £44 for the course, payable on the second week, so you can come along on the 22nd and see if it is the course for you. If you have any queries please contact me, John Terry on 01206 230490 or email [john@terrys.org.uk](mailto:john@terrys.org.uk) or Jill Frostick 01206 250263

Little Bromley Parish Council and Amenities Committee

Would like to invite you to a

**CAR BOOT & FETE**

to be held on

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

between

**10am and 3pm**

in **Barlon Road, Little Bromley.**

**Only 50p entry per car**

Car boot stalls £5 -- please bring own table and arrive by 9am

**And to enjoy at the Fete**

Tombola Raffle Cake stall  
 Games

**Burgers and drinks**

If you would like to help / donate a raffle prize / have any other queries

Please phone either Anita on 01206 390033 or Carol on 01206 395103.

# POUNDS AND INCHES!

The best friends of my daughter have just lost a baby to Spina bifida and asked if we could raise some money to help fund the cause of this terrible condition.

So, want to try and loose a few pounds and help the charity?

As from 9th August we meet in The Cross Inn, Great Bromley on a Tuesday night 8.30ish, weigh ourselves and pay a **£1.00**, if you lose weight that's all it costs you, if you remain the same or gain you pay another **£1.00**.

Why not try it till Christmas and see how it goes?

Follow a diet of your choice or just cut back on the fat and sugar intake and do a bit more exercise, no hard and fast rules, it is up to you but we all need a bit of encouragement to (be good).

So come on men and women give it a go we can encourage each other, it will be fun and we will raise some **Pounds** and loose some **Inches**.

## GT BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

### EVENTS

8th October

*Cabaret Night Olly Day*  
(very, very few tickets left)

22nd October

*Farmers Market 10am-1pm*

3rd December

*Christmas Fayre*

21st December (Provisional)

*Farmers Market 6pm-9pm*

31st December

*New Year's Eve Dance*  
with a live dance band

Great Bromley W.I.  
Supporting Breast Cancer Care U.K.  
Warmly invite you to a

### "PINK"

Coffee morning and Book Swap  
in The Millennium Lounge  
Great Bromley Village Hall  
on

14<sup>th</sup> October  
10am to 12 noon

Please come along and bring a friend.

Leonard  
Cheshire  
Disability

## CHARITY FAIR

Seven Rivers Cheshire Home  
is holding a sale of new,  
'not on the high street' items  
on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October  
10.30am-3pm  
at Great Bromley Village Hall  
Articles for sale will include ladies'  
clothing,  
toys and stocking fillers,  
china, cookware,  
jewellery  
and a wide range of gift ideas.

Entry fee: £2

Coffee, cakes and sandwiches will be  
available

All proceeds go directly to the Seven  
Rivers Cheshire Home  
at Great Bromley

For further information please contact:  
Helen Harvey (Chairman of Appeals  
Committee) 01206 250320  
[helenharvey6@hotmail.com](mailto:helenharvey6@hotmail.com)

# ST HELENA HOSPICE



**St Helena Hospice**  
your time...your hospice

## Hospice Lighthouse Walk – a Walk for all!

St Helena Hospice is delighted to announce that they are holding a new fundraising walk that will take place along the Dovercourt and Harwich Promenade, at 10am on Sunday 2 October.

The Lighthouse Walk will follow a four mile circular route along the promenade, starting on West End Lane and taking walkers past the Low Lighthouses, around the Stone Pier and up to the Maritime Museum Umbrella Lighthouse, before returning back along the promenade to West End Lane.

The walk is free to register and everyone is welcome to sign up. It's a perfect opportunity to walk in memory of a loved one or just for fun, with friends and family members, or even come along with the family dog and make friends along the way.

The Hospice is hoping that everyone who takes part will be able to raise valuable funds for the locally based charity, and are urging people to sign up soon as possible as places are limited.

For more information and to request a registration form, please call the St Helena Hospice Fundraising Office on 01206 791740, visit their website:

[www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/lighthousewalk](http://www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/lighthousewalk) or email:

[lighthousewalk@sthelenahospice.org.uk](mailto:lighthousewalk@sthelenahospice.org.uk) Alternatively, you can pick up registration forms from the St Helena Hospice shop on Bagshaw Road in Dovercourt.

### **St Helena Hospice Night Vision Relay event 2011**

St Helena Hospice will be holding their annual Night Vision Relay event on Saturday 17 September, from 10am until 10pm. The event, which is kindly sponsored by Topnotch Health Club, will again take place at the Weston Homes Community Stadium, the home of Colchester United, and registration is now open for teams to get their places confirmed at the event.

Night Vision Relay is a 12 hour fun-filled team relay event and is open to people of all ages and abilities. The aim of the relay is for participants to walk, run, jog or stroll around the course, keeping at least one team member on the track at all times.

Teams can be made up of friends, family members, colleagues or groups and associations, and there is no limit to the amount of people you have in your team. This is a sponsored event but there is no minimum amount to raise – every penny counts towards helping patients and their families in the local area.

To take part in Night Vision Relay, you must register your team. To request a registration pack, please contact the St Helena Hospice Fundraising Office, on 01206 791740 or email: [nightvisionrelay@sthelenahospice.org.uk](mailto:nightvisionrelay@sthelenahospice.org.uk)

# THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

## Ardleigh Surgery

### **New GP Trainees**

Our current GP Trainee, Dr Nicola Cullum, completed her training year with the Ardleigh practice on the 3 August and has obtained a salaried GP position in Clacton.

This year we are training somewhat less qualified hospital doctors who are undertaking rotational placements in general practice. Dr Caroline Cooper will be with us for six months and Dr James Howard for four months.

### **NHS Health checks**

We are continuing to write to patients aged 50 - 74 who do not have existing heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, kidney disease inviting them for a NHS Health Check over the next five years. The check is to assess patient's risk of developing these medical conditions and to offer advice on how to reduce the risk and stay healthy. Please take up this invitation when you receive it. The check will include taking your family history, blood pressure and a simple blood test to check your cholesterol level. We are inviting patients on a somewhat random basis so do not worry if you do not receive your invitation for sometime. If you are concerned that you may be risk, please contact the surgery to request a Health Check at any time before you receive your invitation.

### **Surgery access**

We have undertaken quarterly patient surveys requesting feedback from patients on how easy it is to access services at the surgery. In line with results of the national patient surveys, we have received high satisfaction in being able to obtain an appointment within 2 days and in getting through on the telephone. However, consistently, 10% of patient state they are unable to book ahead for an appointment beyond two days. We can only think they are misreading the question as all patients can book ahead up to three months.

We have had problems with obtaining locum cover in the last six months and are aware that this has impacted on appointment availability when our GPs are on leave. Patients are sometimes requested to telephone back on the day. We still, however, provide a morning or afternoon session for patients that need to be seen urgently on the day. We are hoping this will be partly resolved as new GP Locums are becoming available until such time those GPs get permanent jobs.

Our surgery has got busier and we have some staffing problems with a key member staff on long term sick leave plus the need to cover the branch surgery in Dedham. Covering staff holidays has become an issue so we have recruited a relief Receptionist, Tania, whom used to work for the out of hours service and this has made a difference. We are aware that getting through on the telephone first thing in the morning can be a problem. Since November, we have a receptionist providing extra session manning the telephone on a Monday morning in the back office and this has helped.

Patients can help by not telephoning for non-appointment queries until later on during the day or later on in the week. Requests for blood tests and pathology results should be done after 2 pm which gives the GPs time to read and file the results onto the computer system

### **Nurses room refurbishment**

We are refurbishing the Nurses room with new storage units and flooring during the first week of September. They will be seeing patients in a spare back office room and will probably be limited in undertaking some clinical procedures during this time.

*Fred Merrin, Practice Manager*

# THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

## Great Bentley

Firstly, the good news is that our main computer is back to its normal ultra-reliable self. It turned out that the main cooling fan had got so clogged up with dust that it no longer worked, leading to the overheating that I mentioned last month. The solution wasn't quite as simple as Hoovering out the insides, but all it took in the end was a replacement fan, then all our troubles were over. Apologies again to anyone who was inconvenienced by the problem – and thanks and praise to all the staff who battled through the difficulties it created without once running out screaming onto The Green. Well, not while I was watching anyway.

As I mentioned last month, our new Registrar, Dr Subha Nambi has now started with us and is settling well into The Hollies routine – even the slightly eccentric bits. I have now learned a little more about her and I thought you would like to share it

Dr Nambi did her medical degree at Madras Medical College in India and, as with all our Registrars, is already an experienced hospital doctor. For the last few years she has been working at Colchester General and this is her first taste of general practice. I don't think we have put her off yet.

She has been married to Dr Arul Nambi (who was our Registrar two or three years ago) for 10 years, and they have two boys, Akilan who is 8 and Nithilan who is just 5 months. Her mother has bravely shouldered the lion's share of the childcare during the day whilst the two Dr Nambis work, which I reckon earns her a special mention. I don't know how the NHS would survive without the support that families give to our young doctors, nurses and other staff.

The new Dr Nambi claims that she doesn't have time for any hobbies – all her time is taken up with family and her work as a doctor. I can well believe it. I'm sure that everyone will join me in wishing her a happy and successful few months while she is with us.

Unbelievable though it might seem, it is time to mention flu jabs again. The jabbing season seems to come round quicker each year.

We should be getting our first delivery of jabs around the middle of September and, by the time you read this, we will be ready to book appointments. As Saturday morning sessions have proved to be popular for working people over the last couple of years, there will be two this year, other sessions being scattered at varying times throughout different days of the week between now and mid-December. A couple have been arranged at Little Clacton village hall as usual. As ever, each appointment will be just one minute long, so I'm afraid there will be time for the jab and nothing else. If you have other issues that need dealing with, please make a separate appointment.

It's the usual suspects who qualify for a free jab under NHS rules:

- \* Anyone aged 65 or over
- \* Pregnant women
- \* People suffering from conditions such as asthma, COPD, diabetes or stroke
- \* Anyone with chronic heart, liver or kidney disease
- \* Patients living in long-stay residential care homes
- \* People who are immunosuppressed due to illness or medical treatment

Additionally, some individual carers might qualify, though anyone who is employed as a professional health or social care worker should be vaccinated not under the NHS, but by their employer as part of an occupational health programme.

If you think that you might be due a free jab, please ask at reception so that we can check for you. I wouldn't leave it too long before doing so, as demand last year was huge and I'm expecting the same again this year.

Having depressed you all with the thought that summer is almost over, I'm going off for a holiday now. Here's hoping for a long, balmy Indian summer.

*Hugh Cronin*  
Practice Manager

## WEA or WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

I have for the last few years been doing the publicity for the Ardleigh branch of the WEA but have been recently asked what does WEA mean and what does it do.

The official web site describes the Association as follows:

"We are the Workers' Educational Association - also known as the WEA - and we're the UK's largest voluntary-sector provider of adult education. We were founded in 1903, in order to support the educational needs of working men and women who could not afford to access further or higher education.

Today we provide courses for all kinds of adults but we maintain our special mission to provide educational opportunities to adults facing social and economic disadvantage. We run over 10,000 part-time adult education courses each year. Our 110,000 students reflect all ages and interests, and come to us from all walks of life.

We are one of the UK's biggest charities, and operate at local, regional and national levels through our regional offices and volunteer-led branches. Our courses are created and delivered in response to local need, often in partnership with local community groups and organisations."

So you can see it is a very large organisation dealing with education throughout the United Kingdom

I understand the Ardleigh branch of this Association was started before the last War and has continued ever since. We try to find subjects of interest to all. In our case the courses are of ten weeks (one and a half hour sessions) in the Autumn and Spring Term of each year, held on a Thursday afternoon commencing at 2.30 p.m at Ardleigh Village Hall. at a cost at present of £45 per course. The courses

are in effect self funded the course fee paying for the hire of the village hall and the salary of the tutor and their travelling expenses. To cover this we need around 18 people to come along to the course, of late we have found that we have been a few short of this number.

Our course for Autumn Term 2011 is Brunel: An Engineer's Life; The course tutor is Roger Mannion

Roger writes about his course as follows: Brunel, one of our most famous and controversial engineers, produced outstanding designs far ahead of his time. We look at his successes and failures within the context of his time.

This course starts on the 22nd September, you can come along to the first week and see if it is the course for you.

If you have any queries please contact me, John Terry on 01206 230490 or email [john@terrys.org.uk](mailto:john@terrys.org.uk) or Jill Frostick 01206 250263

In January starting on the 19th our course is:

The Essex Coastal Trade from 1800

Most of the villages around us also run courses and below are the courses at the nearest villages to us for the September term, also at the Castle Methodist Church in Colchester there are twenty-nine courses over the year on a wide variety of subjects.

Brightlingsea: Alice Munro's Short Stories

Dedham: Shakespeare's Villian

Great Bentley: Industrial Archaeology

Lawford: King Arthur in History and Legend

Wivenhoe The Effect of Climate Change on Human Evolution

For further details of these and the contact number for the course in each village please contact me as above.

John Terry (Chairman, Ardleigh Branch - WEA)

# LT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL QUIZ

The Quiz held at The Haywain on 23rd July in aid of the Village Memorial Fund raised £358, including a donation from Mr and Mrs Buxton.

The winning team was Kelly's Heroes.

The Little Bromley Amenities Committee thanks all those who attended and everyone who generously provided raffle prizes a buffet food which resulted in a great night out.





## Incidents in Great Bromley for the month of July

### **Burglary Dwelling** - Hall Road **Suspicious Circumstances**

Fairfield Close - (Male acting suspiciously)

Parsons Hill - (2 males walking up and down the road)

**Disturbance** - Rectory Road

**Theft of Motor Vehicle** - Parsons Hill

**Animal** - Harwich Road - (Dog running loose)

**Nuisance due to Noise** - Harwich Road - (Old Court House)

**Nuisance Youth** - Meadow Close - (Very young youths playing on scooters)

## NEWSLETTER

### **OFT warns against increase in rogue doorstep traders during summer months**

Figures released today by the Office of Fair Trading show that home improvements continue to top the list of complaints about doorstep rogue traders. The OFT is today urging consumers, especially the elderly and vulnerable, to be on their guard against rogue traders knocking at their door.

The top five of all complaints received related to home maintenance work in 2010 and were:

- roofing - 1725 (30%)
- tarmacing and paving - 1088 (19%)
- insulation - 663 (12%)
- general building work - 573 (10%)
- burglar alarms - 348 (six%).

With complaints about home maintenance peaking in the summer months from July through to the autumn, the OFT is launching an awareness campaign urging householders to be cautious and take time to think about people who call at the door. Rogue doorstep traders will often offer services at attractive rates and use

persuasive sales techniques to entice people into making hasty decisions.

The OFT offers the following advice on how people can avoid being scammed by rogue doorstep traders:

- If a trader knocks at your door do not agree to on the spot house repairs, or sign anything on the spot.
- Be wary of special offers or warnings that your house is unsafe.
- Do not make snap decisions. Take time to talk to someone you trust before you make a decision.

If in doubt, call Consumer Direct on 08454 040506 or visit [www.direct.gov.uk/consumer](http://www.direct.gov.uk/consumer).

### **BOGUS TELEPHONE ENGINEERS**

Although we get our fair share of bogus officials targeting mainly the elderly and vulnerable residents in the District, the following incident is a somewhat unusual ploy which may fool even the most alert if unaware of it.

One evening a man called at a ground floor flat in the Loughton area occupied by an elderly couple. Prior to knocking on the door it transpires that caller had cut the victim's telephone line outside the house. When the victim answered the door, the caller explained that he was a BT engineer and was calling to repair the line which was faulty. The caller produced some ID which, of course, was fake. The victim would not have allowed the bogus engineer in at this point but the engineer pointed out to him that he could check he was genuine by checking his phone. When the victim checked his phone of course, he found the line was dead. This made him believe the caller was genuine and he allowed him in. Even if the victim had thought to check the caller out with BT at this point he couldn't because the line had been cut. Having got into the house the caller resorted to the usual modus operandi. Before moving

away from the front door to check the phones in the company of the victim, he pretended to close the front door but actually left it ajar for his accomplice to come in and search the house whilst the victim was kept busy by the caller. On this occasion, the fact that the telephone line was dead was enough additional circumstance to convince the householder that the caller was genuine.

**If you are faced with a similar situation regarding a telephone fault that you were unaware of, don't let the caller in! Use your mobile phone or a neighbours phone to contact your service provider and make an appointment for one of their engineers to call**

**Hot Weather – Crime Prevention Advice**  
**Tendring Police would like to remind residents to ensure that all windows and doors are kept secure** during the warm weather. Burglaries have taken place in Tendring in the past, where suspects gained entry through open windows.

Many people become complacent in the warm weather and leave doors and windows open especially at the rear of the property. Burglars are usually opportunists and will take any lucky

chance that they are confronted with. Crime Prevention Officer Dave Gillies suggests that easily accessible windows are fitted with a 'limiter' device, which prevents them from being opened to a large degree. The same security steps are given for easily accessible windows on upper floors.

People are also reminded to lock outbuildings, such as sheds too. People don't always appreciate how much valuable property is often kept in their sheds. Lawnmowers, bicycles and power tools are attractive to thieves and are usually costly to replace. The other danger with leaving sheds and outbuildings unlocked often means that thieves can use garden tools stored in them as a tool to force entry to the house.

For further crime prevention advice, call Tendring Police on 101 or visit the Essex Police web site <http://www.essex.police.uk>

Les Barnes PCSO 71909  
Thorpe Le Soken NPT Eastern  
Mobile 07967466876  
Tel 03003334444 Ext 487603  
Email : [leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police](mailto:leslie.barnes@essex.pnn.police)  
website : [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)

You may be aware via recent media coverage that there has been formal action by Basildon Council to take back possession of the land currently occupied on 41 unauthorised pitches by Gypsy/Traveller families at Dale Hall Farm, Crays Hill, Basildon.

It is thought that they will be shortly moved on by police, and it is possible that some of these families may relocate to Tendring. It is a good idea to look at your land to see if it is secure against incursions by vehicles.

In the event than an incursion has taken place please contact Tendring District Council's Environmental Services on 01255 686744, or if it is outside business hours then call Careline on 01255 222727. If you wish to contact the police their number is 0300 333 4444

# MESSY CHURCH

On July 27<sup>th</sup> we embarked on our 3<sup>rd</sup> Messy church Morning and were pleased to welcome 33 children and their mums to Ardleigh school hall.

Our theme was "Sand & Sea" and great fun was had with various crafts and stories. We were pleased to have the help of Gill Moore who started the morning with the story of "The wise man and the foolish man" who built their houses and lives on different foundations. This was followed by an introduction to puppets that showed how Jesus called his disciples to follow him.

The children then tried their hand at various crafts which included a boat with figures to illustrate the story, modeling sand castles and houses from junk boxes and paper cups. Icing fish biscuits, making fish mobiles, and "rock pets" from stones. The activities certainly lived up to their Messy Church name as a great deal of paint glue glitter and water was in evidence.

When all the wonderful objects has been made and put to dry ready to be taken home, we all gathered together to write our own prayers on flags which were then used in a short prayer time, followed by another story.

After all this activity everyone decided that they were hungry and sat down to enjoy a lunch which included themed food including melon" boats" and a" fish "made from sausage meat and pastry.

It was then time to go home but we all left eagerly anticipating The next "Messy Church" which will be held at Great Bromley Village Hall in October when we hope to see lots of new and existing friends for more fun.....Watch this space for details.

*Yvonne Cobbold*

St. George's Church Great Bromley.  
"Calling all Young Mothers and Carers"

A new mother and Toddler/Baby Group is planned to take place on the first Friday of each month 9.30am to 11.30am in the Village Hall at Great Bromley.

All are welcome come and join us for a friendly coffee in pleasant surroundings. Please contact Ann (250229) or Jenny (230688) or Yvonne (230360) for more details.

Please let us know if you would be interested in joining this group

# THE RECTORY, GREAT BROMLEY

Dear Friends,

I concluded my last letter in 1965 the year when I was confirmed. Immediately after this I became a server. This involved an extra service – 8a.m, 11a.m. Sunday school 2.30p.m. and Evensong at 6p.m. That was no problem! I loved going to church. My first Communion was on Passion Sunday 1965 at 8a.m. It was quiet, but I remember it as if it were today and ever since the quiet celebrations bring back that sense of awe, which I felt at my first Communion.

My favourite subjects at school were History and Scripture and it is not surprising that I was later to read History and Theology at University.

At the age of fourteen I began to teach in Sunday School and at the same time our Organist was ill. The Vicar came to ask if I would play the piano for Sunday morning service and I ended up playing the large pipe organ! Although I could not play the foot pedals at first the church service was no problem. Chanting canticles and psalms were second nature. I eventually became the regular organist until I went to University.

At the age of seventeen I went to university at Aberystwyth. I had done four A levels in History, Geography, Scripture, and Music, but I chose to read History for my first degree. People always used to say that I would become a priest, but despite my immense involvement I used to dismiss the idea. I really had no idea what I wanted to do except that I enjoyed my academic studies and I was content to leave it at that.

I was very excited about being a student and looked forward to meeting people from other backgrounds in university. I

soon made friends and most of them were Christians. Most of them were Anglicans and one is now a priest in the Church in Wales. One was a Roman Catholic. All were serious Christians and went to church regularly, despite the fact they were in a university. It was not a very fashionable thing to do.

We would discuss all sorts of subjects together as students do – politics, current affairs and also our commitment to Christ I had always been attracted to a catholic spirituality. My Vicar at home had been trained at Jesus College, Oxford and at St. Stephen's House, the Anglo Catholic College at Oxford. This catholic teaching was evident in the parish although it was not accompanied by much ritual. I occasionally attended the Roman Catholic Church with my friend at university and I learnt a great deal about the Roman Catholic Church from him. In turn he learnt a great deal about Anglicanism and used to worship with us regularly. It was at this time that I realised that my intellectual and spiritual home was in the Anglican Church, the tradition I had been brought up in. Its comprehensiveness and tolerance is such a great strength.

I had joined the Student's Anglican society immediately on arrival at the University. During my second year I became the Vice President and in the third year I was the President. We had various speakers, socials, fellowship breakfasts and suppers.

More about life as a student next time and also the beginning of my sense of vocation to the ordained ministry of the Church.

*Fr. Robert*

# ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY

*united with St. Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh*



## Church of England Services for August

### Sunday 4th

8.00am  
10.30am  
6.30pm

### 11th Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist  
Parish Eucharist  
Evensong

*St. George the Martyr  
St. Mary the Virgin  
St. George the Martyr*

### Sunday 11th

8.00am  
10.30am  
6.30pm

### 12th Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist  
Parish Eucharist  
Evensong

*St. Mary the Virgin  
St. George the Martyr  
St. Mary the Virgin*

### Sunday 18th

8.00am  
10.30am

### 13th Sunday after Trinity

Eucharist  
Parish Eucharist

*St. George the Martyr  
St. Mary the Virgin*

### Sunday 25th

8.00am  
10.30am  
6.30pm

### Harvest Thanksgiving \*\*

Eucharist  
Parish Eucharist  
Songs of Praise

*St. George the Martyr  
St. Mary the Virgin  
St. Mary the Virgin*

### Sunday 2nd October

8.00am  
10.30am

### Harvest Thanksgiving / Harvest Festival \*\*

Eucharist  
Parish Eucharist

*St. Mary the Virgin  
St. George the Martyr*

*Preacher: Rt Rev'd Christopher Morgan, Bishop of Colchester*

**\*\*\* Please note: Change of sequence for these two Sundays.**

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