

THE BROMLEY MESSENGER

February 2015

Volume 29 No 10



Children's University Graduation

Currently we have 45 members of the Children's University and late last term, 25 pupils attended the graduation ceremony. Please read on for a report of the graduation by Jake Cooper.

I was very pleased to be asked to host the ceremony along with Alice Stanmore. When we got there, Alice and I practised our words on the microphone. When I was practising I felt nervous and excited. Then Di Bignal told us to gown up! There were lots of parents and I felt scared because I had to introduce the graduates and I did not want to make any mistakes. There were a lot of children from St George's receiving their certificates. The best bit for me was when I got to say '1, 2, 3, throw your hats up in the air'!

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

THE FIRST PAGE

Before you read any more of this issue I apologise for its layout and everything about it.

My computer keyboard has decided, for whatever reason, to refuse to speak to the screen via the computer. It will accept no manual commands and I can type nothing. All I can do is cut and paste and even that is being a problem. So this is the best I can do this month. So this is being typed and sent via email from my tablet so that I can cut and paste onto this page. Oh what fun I am having (not) this month!

The first snowdrops in my garden came out on 2nd January and are now beginning to come out *en masse*. However the snowdrops by the church are already looking magnificent. I do love it when the snowdrops come out as, for me, winter is giving way to spring. Having said that, have we

had a winter yet this time round? It has just been wet, windy and warm with only a very few properly cold nights. However, in the Midlands, where I went after Christmas and over New Year, there was snow on the ground which had turned into ice it was so cold. The fact that the snow was ice didn't stop the 4 year old attempting to make snowballs to throw at poor Granny! Fortunately they fell to pieces! I do like a bit of really cold weather before Spring bursts into life and with snow forecast maybe winter will yet bare its teeth.

Wishing you all a belated happy and healthy 2015.

Leonie

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those who by
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Little Dragons Pre-School - Great Bromley & Frating

Church Meadow Bungalow, Hall Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TR
Ofsted Inspected

Website: www.littledragonspreschool.org
Email: littledragonspreschool@gmail.com



OFSTED INSPECTED OUTSTANDING

BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS- PLACES AVAILABLE Tel: 07857 503103

Both the breakfast and after school clubs are doing well and growing in numbers- there are still places available, if you require further information please call the number above or pop in to see us.

HAPPY NEW YEAR – it doesn't seem possible that we have been in our lovely premises for two years now! It has gone so quickly. Hopefully by the time this is published we will also have started building our conservatory, very exciting times. We are constantly striving to update and improve our facilities and the next fundraising event on our calendar is:

A FUN QUIZ NIGHT - £3.00 per person.

Teams of 8 Maximum.

Bring your own nibbles and drinks. Raffle on the night

Come for a laugh and some fun and of course a local night out.

Location – Great Bromley Village Hall

Date – Friday 20th March

Time – From 7pm.

Hope you can make it.

December was a very busy month. Pre-school was invited to the church to help 'unwrap' and set up the figures for the nativity scene. The children thoroughly enjoyed this while learning the story of Christmas too.

Amanda visited us at pre=school and also told us the Christmas story, we then had great fun making Christingles to take home. On the last day of Pre-school we were invited to Leonard Cheshire Disability to sing some Christmas songs and Carols to the residents. A lot of our parents and some grandparents were able to join us.

We were all made very welcome and had a lovely time.

The children then returned to Pre-school to find Father Christmas there! After the presents were distributed we finished with a party lunch (with lots of lovely food supplied by parents) A great way to finish the year – we are now looking forward to 2015

Party Table and Chair Hire

Having a party for Pre-School children?
We can offer 4 perfectly sized tables & 20 chairs.

Deposit only £10 Tables only £5.00 each

Chairs Only £1.00 each

Collection Only - Contact us: Tel: 07857 503103 Email:

littledragonspreschool@gmail.com

We take children from the age of two years and offer a 'home visit' to families of children prior to them starting Pre-school. This gives the child the opportunity to meet their key-person in their own home, aiding the transition stage to pre-school. It also enables us to collect and share information in a confidential environment.

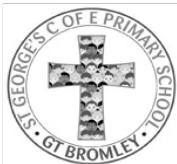
For further information or to arrange a visit to the setting please contact us on the above number.

Dates for Diary:

Monday 16th February Half Term Week

Monday 23rd February Preschool reopens

Friday 20th March Fun quiz night



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

Head teacher: Julie O'Mara Telephone: 01206 230305

Class 3 Enterprise 2014

Colonel Frostick taught us how to make candles. Our candles are made from recycled materials. First, we stuck a wick into a jam jar, it was held up by sticks made



into a tweezer shape. We got old candles and melted them to make wax. We added a red dye to some of the wax.

We poured the wax into the jam jars and waited for them to go hard. When they were dry, we made labels and decorated the candles with ribbon. The candles were sold at the Christmas Fair.

By Katelynn Dixon, Arthur Foster and Daisy Pearson

Nativity - Born in a Barn

Last week the children from Classes 1 and 2 performed a nativity called Born in a Barn. We had lots of characters including Mary, Joseph, Angels, Kings, Shepherds and lots of sheep! The speaking parts were played by the Year 2 children who were all animals. We worked very hard learning our

lines and practising the songs. We had fun wearing our costumes and masks and we loved going on the stage! We

performed the play four times, once to the whole school and the Little Dragons Pre-School and then to our parents, relatives and governors. It was very exciting and we hope everybody enjoyed it as much as we did!

By the Children from Class 2

We really enjoyed our Nativity last week.



We liked learning all of the songs and learning the actions. It was fun pretending to be sheep!

By Bobby Branchflower and Alexander Breedon

A huge thank you to all those who donated to the retiring collection at the end of each performance. We raised £255.99 and this will support our School Fund and the World Food Aid Programme.

Carols at Great Bromley Village Hall

In December some pupils from our school performed a Christmas Carol Concert at the Great Bromley Village Christmas Fair. Our first performance was at 11.00 am and it was a hit! We sang Jingle Bells, Away in a Manager, Ding Dong Merrily on High and lastly the recorder group played Little Donkey. We then had a chance to rest our voices and played the Christmas games that were for children. After an hour of fun and games it was time to perform again. We sang different songs for our second performance. We all sang Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, children from Classes 1 and 2 sang Don't Worry Mary beautifully. Charles Godsell and Jake Cooper performed Silent Night in German. We all sang The Twelve Days of Christmas which adults joined in with. We all danced during this song and two judges chose the best dancers. One adult and one child was chosen and Abigail Ballinger was the winner for the children and she won a chocolate bunny. Our final song was We Wish You a Merry Christmas. We really enjoyed the morning and look forward to doing it again next year.

By Charles Godsell and Evan Lovesee



LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

littlebromleypc@gmail.com

December's Parish Council meeting had a full agenda which commenced with a useful presentation from TDC on recycling. We were informed that the 50 mph speed restriction at Pellen's Corner became effective from 15th December and camera's will be installed in January - the long term plan being to provide a roundabout. Although our application for a vehicle activation sign did not meet policy criteria, Councillor Bass will personally intervene at the next Highways Panel meeting – watch this space!

Essex County Council have launched a new initiative to help residents and small and medium size businesses cut their fuel bills – visit their website on essex.gov.uk/energyswitch until 2nd February 2015 for further information.

Councillors now have further information from TDC regarding the proposal for mains drainage and a letter will be sent out to residents shortly. Please do take the time to feedback your comments because this is an important issue for our village.

It is proposed that tree planting in the village will take place in February – is anyone aware of any land that would be

appropriate? Volunteers are also required so please do contact me if you are able to assist.

Regarding the issue of vandalism – residents are encouraged to report all incidents to the PC or Police since it is important that the Police Authority has an accurate picture of how much criminal damage takes place in this area. Just a quick reminder of the dates for your Police Local Community Meetings at Manningtree High School, 6-7pm - 27th January; 24th March; 26th May and 21st July. The council are in the process of establishing a neighbourhood watch scheme – more information about this and how to get involved will be made available shortly.

We are pleased to report that some missing PC paper work has been returned to the Council via ECC Archives.

Dates of this year's PC meetings are as follows:- 22nd January; 19th March; 28th May; 23rd July; 24th September; 17th December.

Karen Tarling

Clerk to Little Bromley

GREAT BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

www.gbpco.org.uk

Our January meeting was shorter than usual to allow for a group training session to be undertaken later in the evening. The main topics discussed relate to affordable housing in the village and setting the budget for the forthcoming financial year.

Affordable Housing

The local authority are obliged to ensure areas of affordable housing across

Tendring. But what is meant by affordable housing? The term doesn't just extend to making property more financially accessible to members of the public. Great Bromley Parish Council have been interested for some time in making areas of the village accessible to members of the local community but identifying suitable parcels of land has often proved difficult. However, a potential area of land has been identified as appropriate and now the Parish Council

would like to update their register of those who wish to express an interest. To qualify for affordable housing the applicant(s) must be able to demonstrate a link with the village. For instance, a family who have resided in Great Bromley for many years and whose child has moved outside the village owing to the rising cost of property prices, and whom wishes to return to the village. To register your interest or should you require any further information please contact me on 01206 231056 or clerk@gbpc.org.uk.

Parish Council Budget 2015-16

The Parish Council discussed the setting of the budget and the precept over both the December and the January meeting. By precept we mean the amount of money which is provided to us by TDC annually and which is funded by Council Tax contributions. All Parish Councils have the power to increase the precept and as such it is not capped. The Parish Council have listened to you over the past year and many of you have spoken to us about several matters of disrepair within the village which require attention. It is of note that our budget has not historically catered for a

village maintenance fund and coupled with a decline in village volunteers over the past few years the Parish Council felt it sensible to make arrangements for a village maintenance fund. Next financial year, allowances for this have been made by reallocating funds which the Parish Council would have already received by virtue of the precept. However, following lengthy discussion the Parish Council also unanimously voted in favour for a rise to the precept of 24%. Whilst this sounds like a significant increase, in real terms this is approximately £10 per household per year. We hope you will agree that a rise of less than a £1 a month in exchange for a smarter, tidier village is a small price to pay and inevitable bearing in mind the decline of volunteers undertaking the maintenance over recent times. Village maintenance will appear as a monthly agenda item and our minutes will show any maintenance which has been undertaken in the village. Should you notice anything in the village requiring attention, do let me know.

Laura Austin
Clerk to Great Bromley Parish Council

S137 Grants

The Parish Council has a fund of £2,000 from which to provide small grants to village organisations and groups. If you have a project or group that benefits the community and you would like the council to help then please do contact us and a claim form and explanatory leaflet will be sent to you.

The parish council helps to make decisions on many things around the community and actively help to make Great Bromley a great place to live. A parish councillor helps in this as a volunteer by attending our monthly meetings and contributing their experience to the discussions and perhaps taking on a project to improve some aspect of village life.

The council is none political and works to achieve practical outcomes rather than political ones.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor then please do come along to our next meeting and make yourself known to me, the work can be very satisfying..

Parish Council Elections May 2015

The Parish Council is up for election in May this year and if you are interested in standing then please contact me, come along to one of our monthly meetings, the next is 11th February 2015, or look on the TDC website for more information.

A120 Average Speed Cameras

I am sure that you will have noticed that the average speed cameras are now up together with the warning signs on the A120 and do appear to have reduced traffic speed and so increased thinking time of drivers on the junctions. The layout designs continue to cause confusion and potential accidents.

The work continues between the MP, ECC, TDC and the affected parish councils pressing the Highways Agency to bring forward their design for the roundabout, which will be the final solution to these horrendous junctions. We have been promised that early in the new year the Highway's Agency will share their initial

design thoughts with the communities and will hold them to that.

Great Bromley Parish Council Grounds Maintenance Contract

The annual contract for maintaining the village's open spaces, hedges and ditches comes up for renewal in April 2015. If you would like to tender for this contract then please do contact me and I will ensure that you get a tender pack. We are particularly keen to hear from local grounds maintenance contractors.

Alan Thomas
Chairman
Great Bromley Parish Council

Those of you that have visited Hare Green recently will have noticed that the play equipment is getting rather old and tired and is in need of renovation, however we have not been idle.

I have managed to secure two substantial grants over the winter from Awards for all and the Big lottery fund which when added to contributions from Tendring (through their s106 funding) means that we are able to make a major improvement to the access and facilities at Hare Green.

Further details will be circulated over the next couple of months via the messenger

and through the school and a leaflet drop to Hare Green residents so please look out for these.

In the mean time if anyone should like to devote some of their spare time to be on the Hare Green sub committee, on which there are still vacancies and have an input into this exciting project and improve a valuable asset to the village please contact the Parish Council via clerk@gbpc.org.uk
Cllr David Hardy

New iPad for Christmas?

Don't know where to start?

Help is at hand! If you would like a lesson in the basics of using your iPad then we are holding a class in The Venue at The Haywain, Little Bromley on Wednesday 25th February. We will teach you to text - email - take photos and email them - accessing the internet - using your Calendar and reminders - contacts - just about everything to get you up and running. If you would be interested in coming along

then the time will be 7.00 pm and the class will last approximately 2 hours (if it runs over a bit then we don't mind if you don't!) Cost £10 per person. Please email : bro.conner@talktalk.net or phone 07564363478 to book a place. Class will run if enough people are interested so please book.

PLANNING

Planning Applications

APP REF	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
14/01408/OHL – to be determined by another authority	Land South of Frating Road Ardleigh Essex CO7 7SZ	The development of a solar farm necessitates connection onto existing overhead power line. It is necessary to install a new H-Pole structure to make the connection from underground cables laid from the development.
14/01531/FUL – approval, full	Parkland Frating Road Great Bromley Colchester Essex CO7 7JN	Proposed external brick chimney & rear dormer doors to bedroom.

Cllr. KS asked about the solar farm – Cllr. RH said the applicant had not submitted the correct land survey. It is currently being held over.

APP REF	LOCATION	PROPOSAL
14/01177/FUL	Hazelwood Estate, Parsons Hill	Continued use of premises for retail purposes – revised description.
14/01664/OHL	Street Record, Frating Road	To add a bracket to existing pole 55 and to make connection on this framework.
14/01767/FUL	Arthrath, Harwich Road	Storage Barn for hay and straw to replace existing.
APP/P1560/ A/14/2229002 APPEAL	Land to West of Back Lane East Back Lane East Great Bromley	Outline application with all matters reserved for the residential development of 0.14 hectares of land comprising 3 dwellings with associated garaging, parking and ancillary works

Regarding the appeal, Cllr. FN explained that the appeal is to be determined on the basis of written representations only. Cllr. RP indicated that everyone needs to submit their own written representations again. The appeal reference needs to be quoted. Cllr. RH said it's outside the village envelope, there are highways problems in terms of access, the ditches are too deep and pose a risk of flooding, the area would be used as a cut through to the school and the village hall. Members of the public who were present to hear this matter were also advised to write.

LT BROMLEY AMENITIES GROUP

The Haywain Christmas Carols Night

It was far from a 'Silent Night' in the Haywain on Wednesday 17 December. The evening was a firm favourite

with the locals who all joined in the festivities. The singing was accompanied by Lesley, Jim, Geoff and Fred who very kindly organised the music and carols. The highlight of the night was the special rendition of "Do They Know its Christmas" featuring George Michael (aka Neil), Boy George (aka Brian), Sting (aka Ken) and Bono (aka Adrian). There were mince pies and mulled wine for everyone, thanks to Dawn and Andy.

Christine



a record attendance of 28 people. The evening kicked off with Bucks Fizz and Canapes followed by a two course dinner. In 2014 the Amenities Group raised £2,037.50 and have donated £1,011.25 to various Charities, as well as paying the major part of the War Memorial restoration. Next year we are planning on holding our Fireworks Event which was very popular in 2013 and we have already raised £370 towards this event from our **Xmas Quiz** night. It would be good to see some new faces at our **Bingo Night** on Saturday 21st February. If you would like to join the Amenities Group please email amenitiesgroup@gmail.com.

Little Bromley Amenities Group Tree Planting

We are planning a date for our annual **Tree Planting** event which is due to take place late February/early March. If you would be interested in helping please email amenitiesgroup@gmail.com. As soon as the date has been finalised it will be advertised on Haywain Noticeboard and emailed to all Amenities members.

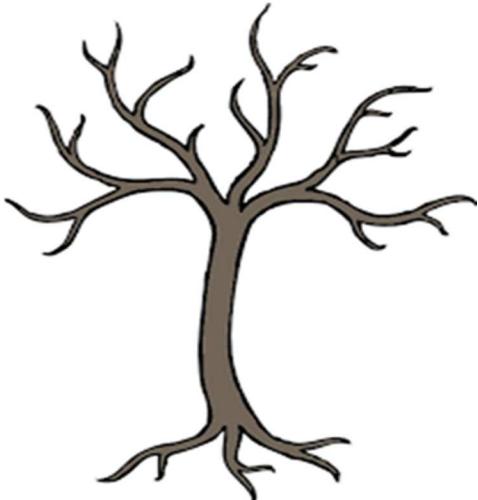
Christine – Secretary



Little Bromley Amenities Xmas Dinner

The Little Bromley Amenities Xmas Dinner took place on Saturday 20th December with

IN THE GARDEN WITH KATE



I do hope everybody had a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

I ventured into the soggy garden over the Christmas period, suitably attired in my new leather gardening boots and smart new gardening gloves, and tried to see what needed to be done. It was a trifle depressing to say the least! Garden designers tell us that we ought to have gardens that look good in all seasons, but I just can't seem to achieve it for the winter. I have many evergreens of various types and colours, but on a wet English winter's day everything looks.... soggy!

I did manage to do some tree work- well actually my husband did it and I helped- pollarding a wriggly willow, which now looks extremely pathetic, but it will grow like Topsy when the spring comes.

I have, however, had some early blossoms in the garden, cowslips and forsythia are flowering together with periwinkle and some hardy geraniums. Even a non hardy geranium on a pot on the patio is still flowering! This is despite some really quite hard frosts. Another job I have managed to complete is foraging dead seaweed from

the strandline in Brightlingsea and putting it on the asparagus bed. It seems to improve the crop immensely. I have also had a load of horse manure which has gone on the empty vegetable beds so that it can rot down before the spring.

January is an excellent time to pore over the seed catalogues and gain inspiration for the garden next summer. It is also a good time to sort out the seed packets from last year (and possibly some years before that!) Germination from old seeds will not usually be as good as that from new seeds, but when there are so many in a packet, that may not be a problem. I usually sow some of my old seed as early as possible so that if there is a poor result, I have time to make a second sowing.

Winter is also a good time to administer some TLC to your garden tools. Spades work better if the edge has been sharpened, and secateurs and loppers need both sharpening and oiling. It is also a good time of year to get the lawnmower serviced if required, as the workshops are usually quiet now.

Fruit tree and bush pruning can be done now too, as can roses. Sweet peas can be sown this month under glass. I sowed mine in the autumn, and they are now about 6 inches high, but a couple have been eaten, whether by slugs or hungry mice I am not sure, but I obviously need to keep a close eye on them. I must confess that I am not at all convinced it makes any difference in the end to flowering. Brassicas need protection from hungry pigeons, and parsnips, leeks, kale, swedes and broccoli can be harvested.

Finally don't forget to ventilate the greenhouse on mild days to discourage mould and pests.

Enjoy your garden!

THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

Great Bentley Surgery

I would like to thank all of our patients for using our local NHS services sensibly over the Christmas and New Year period. The doctors' tell me that the vast majority of visits by our patients' to A&E were appropriate which I know was very much appreciated by the staff working there under enormous pressure this year. Thank you all very much for this.

We are as busy as ever and are forever reviewing where we can be more efficient in order to maintain the quality of the service we offer. One recent change is that we now have **dedicated telephone number for prescription queries which is 01206 257557**. This number has a facility to leave a voice message and I promise that you will always receive a call back. We have had to introduce this in order to avoid the prescription issuers being constantly interrupted risking errors being made and slowing down the process considerably.

We have been listening to patients' comments and as a result have now installed several **alcohol gel dispensers** in the waiting room and corridors for patients to use. This is particularly important during the winter months of course, as this helps prevent the spread of infection of flu and other nasty germs. In addition, we have also installed a **baby changing unit** for all parents' to use following recent comments received. It's located in the disabled toilet to the rear of the waiting room, the only place it would fit!

With all of our old paper based medical records having been transferred to computer last year, a large space has opened up behind reception. This **new**

admin area enables our reception team to make and receive the majority of calls away from the front desk meaning that they will be able to talk without so much concern about the conversations being overheard by patients' in the waiting room. I would like to clarify however, that names have always been avoided when making or receiving calls on the front desk in order to maintain confidentiality, which we will continue with of course. Where change happens, unexpected consequences can result, so please bear with the reception team whilst they get used to working differently.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that Great Bentley Surgery hosts a '**GP Care Adviser**' called Tim Exley every Wednesday afternoon. The role of the GP Care Advisor is to provide a range of advice, support, information and assistance to vulnerable clients of all age groups, to improve their quality of life, and increase independence and life expectancy. It includes assisting people to access social care, welfare benefits and self-help support to help them maintain their independence at home. If you think that Tim could help you or someone you know, then get in touch with the reception staff.

That's all from me! I hope to see you all at the **Patient Participation Group meeting** at 6.30pm on Thursday 19th February at the Great Bentley Village hall.

Richard P Miller – Practice Manager

2015 EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 9 Little Bromley Amenities Group Meeting @7:15pm at the Haywain
- 14 Valentine's Dinner Dance, Venture Centre, 7.00pm
- 21 Little Bromley Amenities Group Bingo Night @7:30 at the Haywain
- 21 Community Exhibition Village Hall 9:30am
- 28 Willow Weaving course, Village Hall, 10.00am

MARCH

- 7 Flower Festival meeting, St George's church, 10.30am
- 8 A.P.C.M., St Gorge's church, 11.45am
- 19 Lt Bromley Parish Council meeting, The Haywain, 7.30pm
- 21 Murder Mystery Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm

MAY

- 30 **LITTLE BENTLEY HALL GARDEN SHOW**

JUNE

- 26/27/28 Flower Festival, St Georges church

LITTLE BENTLEY HALL GARDEN SHOW 2015

Mr & Mrs Palmer-Tompson are planning to open their Gardens at Little Bentley Hall again to the Public on a much lower key basis to previous shows and for one day only on Saturday 30th May 2015
Gardens Open - 1pm-5.30pm
Gala Evening - 6pm-9pm - Jazz Band, Wine & Canapes.

We would like to involve as many people from the Village in this event and we would invite them to join our Committee . The event this year will be in aid of the Church and the Village.

Everyone else please SAVE THE DATE as we would love as usual to invite all our Neighbouring Villages to join us to what has always been a wonderful event.

For more information contact Nigel Dyson - 01206 250622 or visit www.littlebentley.net or visit us on Facebook.

CHARITY TABLETOP SALE & COFFEE MORNING

In aid of the ASSWIN PROJECT
Saturday 7th March 2015 10.00-12 noon
At Great Bromley Village Hall – Millennium Room

This charity in India cares for the 'Tip Flies' and their working donkeys. Tip Flies are orphaned children who try to eke out a living by sorting through the rubbish heaps around

Colcatta. The lives of both children and the donkeys they rely on are some of the saddest you will ever see so please come and help me raise some much-needed funds to send to Jean and Bob Harrison, friends of mine who set up the project and run it there.

**TABLES - £6.00
ENTRY - £2.00 - includes tea/coffee & biscuits**

TO BOOK A TABLE PLEASE CONTACT BRENDA 01206 230537 - please leave a message on ansafone if necessary, thank you.

St George's Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

March 8th at 11.45am

Join the electoral roll and support your
village church.

Contact 230688 for details

Flower Festival

Date for your diary
26th, 27th, 28th June

Flower Festival "Brolly Folly"

Please would you like to help?

Next meeting March 7th 10.30am in the
Church.

Please phone 230688



Community Voluntary Services

Tendring are holding a Great Bromley Community Exhibition in the Village Hall on Saturday 21 February, 9:30am – 1pm.

The purpose of the exhibition is to raise awareness of health and social care services available to residents living in Great Bromley. The event will showcase the services and activities available and show how local people can become involved or access the services they need.

Valentines Dinner Dance

Saturday 14th February
at The Venture Centre 2000, Lawford
7 for 7.30 Sit Down
Bar

Raffle for Breast Cancer

Dancing to a Smokin Jackets
3 Course meal with
Coffee
Tables of 8
£36.00 per head

To Book Call Linda -
Sweet Success



Murder Mystery evening

presented by Murder Most Foul
An evening of murder and intrigue
presented by a professional company in

Great Bromley Village Hall

Saturday 21st March 2015 at 7.15

Includes a 3 course dinner with coffee by

Sweet Success

Tickets £25/ head available

from Primrose Pork, Hall Road,

The Cross Inn Post Office or

from Kate 07592735600

Cash bar or BYO

Kate Stowbridge, Weeping Ash, Ardleigh
Road, Gt Bromley, Colchester, CO7 7TL

Home: 01206230211

Mob: 07952735600



28th February

Willow weaving course

at Great Bromley Village Hall

10.00am-4.00pm.

One day course with well known local tutor, Jo Hammond, making structures for the garden. Cost £50pp includes all materials and sandwich lunch. Just bring yourself and some secateurs.

£10 deposit secures place.

Places limited to 12, and several taken already, so if interested, don't delay! Please contact

Kate Stowbridge 07592735600



BINGO

Saturday 21st February
at The Haywain
7.30pm start
Books of 6 games at £2.50
to buy on the night
Profits to go to the Amenities Group for
village events
Light Buffet
Telephone The Haywain on 01206
390004 to book a table
Come along and enjoy a social evening
with

Little Bromley Amenities Group

THE DOCTORS' SURGERY NEWS

Ardleigh Surgery

There has been media coverage in the past year or so reporting that the Government was planning to introduce changes to make it easier for patients to register or remain registered with a GP when they live outside the practice area of that doctor.

These changes have now been introduced from the beginning of January 2015. However, they have been introduced on a voluntary basis and it is for each practice to decide if they wish to participate. The issue they remains unresolved is providing a universal solution to what a patient should do if they require a home visit as there will be no mandatory obligation on the registered GP to provide a home visit to those patients. It will be the responsibility of the NHS England Local Area Team to make these arrangements and try to find a sufficient number of practices willing to provide home visits to patients not registered with them.

The Ardleigh practice has decided not to adopt either of these new arrangements and we will continue to expect patients who move outside our published practice area to change to a general practice covering their new address. We believe that if we continued to allow our patient list to grow as a result of adopting such an arrangement this would bring about a reduction in the quality of service provided to our existing patients and adversely affect the ability of patients to obtain an appointment within a reasonable timescale. We are also not willing to provide home visits to unregistered patients for the same reasons and are also concerned to do so without access to the patient medical record.

*Fred Merrin
Practice Manager*



VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

Happy New Year, I hope you all had a good Christmas although it probably seems a long time ago by now.

First I want to apologise for the confusion in getting the time wrong in the December issue for the start of the Christmas Fayre. Having said that, my error did not stop the Fayre from being one of the best ones we have ever had. I was working so was unable to attend but I did hear that the car park was full and people were queuing to get in. It was a huge success with good attendance and over £1500 profit made to be divided between the Village Hall and the WI. St George's School and the parents of the children involved are thanked for

organising and supporting the children's Christmas choir which performed magnificently during the Fayre giving the Hall a great festive atmosphere and many people a lot of pleasure. Congratulations are due to those children who won the Christmas games competitions and the lucky £100 pound winner of the Grand Christmas Draw. A huge thank you to Martin and all his helpers who organised and ran the Christmas Fayre in December.

Last Saturday we had another event to start the New Year with the Quiz Night. Run by Jayne and Kate with their helpers. Always one to look forward to and this one did not disappoint. Great fun, smiley faces and good times. Well done, a well run event

with happy contestants and £300 profit to help keep the Hall running.

Future Event Dates:

28 Feb Willow Weaving Course (currently full)
21 March Murder Mystery Evening
9 May Plant and Table Top Sale
July (date TBC) Jazz Evening
22 Oct Craft and Collectables Event
21 Nov Barn Dance
12 Dec Christmas Fayre
31 Dec New Years Eve Ball

I was walking around Tesco doing food shopping when my phone rang. It was a lady who was asking about the Murder Mystery Night. She used to live in the Village but had moved and they still receive the Messenger. The lady's parents still lived near by and she wanted to buy tickets for her parents for Christmas present. She said that she would be coming back with her husband especially for the event and so would need four tickets. She was delighted with the value as other events she had looked at were three times the price.

As you can see there are many different things going on locally in the Village Hall where car parking is free, distances less and prices low.

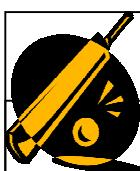
Work has started to lay a new road surface in the Village Hall car park. Excavations

have taken place and the base course has already been laid. A fine dressing will follow, to be rolled in during March. This will hopefully solve the problem of the muddy and uneven car park in the winter months. Thanks are due to Cllr Fred Nicholls and TDC who arranged for the road surface material to be provided free of charge.

The Village Hall trustees have reviewed maintenance priorities for the coming year and are planning for the exterior of the Hall to be repaired and repainted, commencing in May. External grants towards the cost of this work will be sought.

The level of Hall hirings is holding steady although there are generally a wide choice of vacant slots available should you wish to hire a room(s) in the Hall. The feedback we get from our hirers is that we are lucky to have one of the nicest and most competitively priced Halls in the area - why not try it for yourself whether it be a child's birthday party or meeting. If you have any suggestions as to how we can make the Hall more suitable for your needs or can suggest improvements, then please let me or a Village Hall trustee know. Full details of the Hall and contact details are given on the Village website

That's all for now, as always thank you for your support. Let's all make the most of Great Bromley Village Hall. Let's use it, not loose it!



GT BROMLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB

100 Club Winners

November

- 1st. Mrs Gill Christmas
2nd. Mr. Steve Hill
3rd. Mr. Tubby Austin

December

- 1st. Mr. Paul Bird
2nd. Mrs. Ann Wild
3rd. Mr. Dave Hardy

Lynda Allam



ESSEX POLICE

Dear All

I am writing to you to let you know that on the 17th December I will be leaving Essex Police. This has been a hard decision for me, one personal and the other is Essex Police Street Meet.

Please come along to meet your local PCSO and discuss any community issues

Dates: Tuesday 13th, Tuesday 20th and Thursday 29th January

Time: 1500 hours - 1600 hours

Venue: Old Forge Café, Old Forge Court, Elmstead Market
that I don't feel that I am enjoying my role as a PCSO anymore.

With the government cuts that Essex Police have to make, changes are being made to the PCSO role and I can't see myself as part of these changes.

The personal one is that I am 55 and can take early retirement which will leave me to get a job that is not working shifts and will give me more time to care for my mother who has vascular dementia.

I would also like to thank everyone for all your support in the 7.5 years that I have been a PCSO, you have made it a pleasure to come to work and very satisfying job.

Thank you all again
PCSO Les Barnes



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Great War Survivors.

Whilst we rightly concentrate on the memory of the men killed in the Great War, there were a great many who fought and came back; Gill Thomas has been researching the past of several of them. This month Gill has traced the movements of Charles Barker into the navy.

Charles James Barker was born in Great Bromley 16 August 1886 to Albert Peter Barker and Elizabeth Lemon (nee Watts). In the 1871 census his mother and father lived in Colchester Road Great Bromley. Albert was a cattle dealer with one servant but no children at this time.

By the time of the 1881 census Albert was a dealer and farmer at Cold Hall with 300 acres and 10 men; they had 6 children, a servant and a governess.

By 1891 Charles lived with 6 sisters and 2 brothers in The Hall, West side of Great Bentley Green. His father does not appear to have been present the night of the census, but his mother, declared herself married and a farmer's wife. They also had 2 servants.

In 1901 Charles and his younger brother John Watts Wiseman Barker were school boarders in the Private School at 3, Lexden Street, Colchester (later the Boys' High School). It was run by a Mrs Julietta Richardson, a widow aged 39 who was the housekeeper, along with two teachers, 4 servants and 8 boarders.

By the 1911 census Charles was lodging at 18 Foster Road, Parkesdon, Essex and gave his profession as an Engine Fitter with the Railway. He was staying with goods guard

George Parsons and his wife Ellen.

Charles enrolled with the Royal Naval Reserve on 31st October 1914 service number EA 1468. His record card shows he was an Engineer Sub Lieutenant (temporary) from 1st June 1916 number 22ESL (although on this record he states his place of birth as Great Bentley). On 1st January 1918 he was classed as an Engineer Lieutenant. We don't yet have further details of his war record. He was removed from the list of RNR Officers on 8th December 1922.

Charles married a Lincolnshire girl Dorothy Emma Willoughby in 1921; his address was 91 Westgate, Grantham, Lincolnshire. His grand-daughter Bonnie Barker, from Ontario, informed us that Charles was in business with his brother John from 1920 to the 1930s. They ran a shop in the town centre called Barker Bros. where they sold agricultural machinery; this was dissolved in the 1930s when John and his family moved away. Apparently Charles had little or no contact with them after that. Charles died in September 1977 aged 91 in Grantham.

If you have a relative, born or brought up in Gt or Lt Bromley, who served in the First World War then please let us know what details you have, we will gladly look into the background!

*Gillian Thomas & Hugh Frostick email
hugh@littlebromley.org.uk*

We were very fortunate to obtain an excellent speaker in the name of Sue Morgan, she was to enlighten us as to the brilliant work that is being done for "Help for Hero's".

Any personnel male or female who are serving in our armed forces are able to partake of this very needed service should they be unfortunate enough to be injured on active service, anywhere in the world.

They are transferred to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, still in full uniform, bloodied and an induced coma in an aircraft that is kitted out as an operating theatre with up to seven operating tables. When out of hospital in Birmingham they are transferred to Hedley Court should they need prosthetic limbs and also should they be suffering from mental health needs (combat stress).

If they need prosthetic limbs they will need to learn how to walk again and they are moved to recovery centres of which Colchester has one Gevas House this opened two years ago, this house is supported by the Royal British Legion, and also by the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Association.

If at all possible injured personnel are re-deployed within the forces, if this is not able to happen they are invalided out and Help for Hero's pay for re-training. One of the injured has already re-trained as a pilot and some took part in the Invictus Games in 2014. The athletes all trained at Tidworth House in Hampshire.

The biggest problem is the continual need to fund raise and very little is spent on administration but they need to pay for legal advice because of the large sums of money involved.

We should be very proud in Essex as apparently we are among the best at fund raising for this cause. What an interesting talk and a worthy cause to support.

Joy Rolfe



GREAT BROMLEY POST OFFICE at The Cross Inn

Ardleigh Road, Great Bromley CO7 7TL

Telephone: 01206 231073

Mon/Tues: 9.30am-2.00pm Wed/Thurs/Fri : 10.00am - 2.00pm

Sat : 9.00am-midday

- Please note that there is now a wide selection of cards and wrapping paper available.
- A dry cleaning service is also available.

Please ask for details at the counter.

KITCHEN CORNER

Joan's Tea Bread

February is marmalade making month and this tea bread recipe makes good use of the flavour of this preserve

6oz SR flour
Pinch of salt
3oz caster sugar
2oz sultanas
2 tbsp marmalade
1tbsp corn oil
1 egg
2 tbsp milk

Method

Mix all ingredients well and pour into a greased loaf tin
Bake for 40 minutes in a moderate oven 175°C-180°C
Cool slightly before turning out on to rack
Serve sliced and buttered

Jill Frostick



for people to...

Provide appropriate support to young people with special educational needs (SEN) and their parents/carers through the transition from a traditional Special Educational Needs Statement system to the new Education, Health & Care (EHC) assessment and planning process.

Full training will be provided

Volunteers will be working either alongside other volunteers and staff or independently

Working hours are flexible

Volunteers would usually need to commit to around 6 hours per month

To support group-based and individually focused support, workshops/events which

We need people to understand and support children with special needs.
We are looking

PUBLIC INTEREST

will empower young people and parents/carers to make informed choices/decisions. Successful applicants will be required to complete two days of face to face training, two days on-line training plus some supplementary training.

Training is available throughout Essex.

If you would like to work with us to support disabled children get in touch.

Email Cindy at cpeacock@ecdp.co.uk

Call Cindy on **01245 392 319**

www.ecdp.org.uk/is

ecdp is a Company Limited by Guarantee Registration Number 4217686 (England & Wales) as Essex Coalition of Disabled People and a Registered Charity Number 1091293. ecdp (ventures) is a Company Limited by Shares Registration Number 7581086 (England and Wales) and a wholly owned subsidiary of **ecdp**

PUBLIC INTEREST

St Helena Hospice Stall, Briar Road

We have asked the Editor to print the following letter as it appertains to all of you who support our stall one way or another.

Many thanks
Jenny and John

Letter from Catherine Venables,
Community Fundraising Manager at St
Helena Hospice to Jenny and John, dated
25th November 2014.

'Thank you so much for your cheque in the

sum of £11,571.45. This is absolutely wonderful. Your hard work is really appreciated by us all here at St Helena Hospice. Please pass on our thanks to all your customers when you see them over the coming months for their continued support. You really do an amazing job and provide a fantastic service to your local community as well.

Your kind donation will go a long way towards helping St Helena Hospice continue the work we do caring for patients with life limiting illnesses in our area in our centres and in their own homes.'

Proposals to bring Care Closer to Home

I have just been to a meeting by North Essex CCG in Colchester to hear about some proposals to make the hospitals at Colchester, Harwich and Clacton "urgent care centres".

This would relieve the pressure on A&E as

they would act as a filter. They would also allow more routine health care to be carried out by using more facilities locally and at GP surgeries 7 days a week.

There are 3 proposals and if you would like to comment see how to do this below.

Len Christodoulides

Stour Valley Men's Probus Club Recent Meetings

An interesting range of subjects have been have been covered at recent meetings including Mistley's Mycologist Ian Rose speaking on "Myths and Folklore of Mushrooms and Pat Smith recounting "The East Coast Floods in 1953". Our New Year Dinner for members and their guests took place at the Venture Centre, Lawford on Sunday 25 January with entertainment by Comic Poet Roz Hall All events have been much enjoyed by Members.

February Meetings

At our meeting on 4 February Pip Wright will speak on "Old Essex Newspaper Stories" and on Wednesday 18 February Dr Jane Pearson will recount "The rise and fall of Colchester's Good Time Girls".

New Venue – St John Ambulance HQ Manningtree

Please note, we now meet at the St John Ambulance HQ, Manningtree.

New members

Our Club endeavours to be simple in structure, be free of the constraints and obligations of service clubs, and involve members to a minimal cost. The club is directed primarily to providing fellowship between members who are compatible with each other, and provide the opportunity for development of acquaintances. New members are welcomed by Stour Valley Men's Probus Club, we meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Manningtree at 10.30am. Please contact Secretary Brian Rolfe on 01206 393665 for further details.

Graeme Forsyth

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our December Christmas Tea Party was once again very well attended with plenty of festive food and with entertainment provided by Clacton Footlights. Instead of exchanging Christmas cards donations were given to Charity. Our Christmas raffle was excellent and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by one and all.

Our Speaker for February will be Ann Gould of Age Concern UK. Mrs Gould will be able to answer queries on help available and provide

members with leaflets on a variety of subjects. The Competition is a piece of old jewellery.

The Committee decided the annual subs should be increased to £11. and they would welcome some new additions to the Committee for the coming year so if anyone wishes to offer their services please speak to Beryl.

Sylvia Ward

The Carol Service at St. Mary's Church, Little Bromley

On Saturday 20th December at 2.30 in the afternoon the Friends of Little Bromley Church held their Carol service.

As the doors opened and the bells rang, we were pleased to welcome all those who joined us. As the pews filled up, spare chairs were brought in to seat the 100 people in attendance.

The service led by the Reverend Canon Gillian Greenslade and Gregory Frostick provided a lovely start to the Christmas countdown.

Following music, readings and singing, a medley of Carols was played by The River Band.

Very few rushed off afterwards, as refreshments followed the service and gave everyone the chance to eat and chat.

We would like to thank all those who provided the tasty treats which everyone enjoyed. We would also like to thank those who did the beautiful Christmas arrangements in the Church. It was a really nice afternoon.

Carol Cordwell

Bevan Willgress

(1937-2014)

Bevan joined the St George's bell ringers in 1992 when the band reformed after four years of silence, while restoration work took place on the tower. However, he had had a long and illustrious career in bell ringing before that time.

He grew up and learnt bell ringing in his mid teens in the village of Axle, between Norwich and Great Yarmouth. Aged 18, he rang his first full length peal of Grandsire Doubles in October 1955. He continued his ringing in Somerset during National Service and then back in Norfolk in the Wymondham area. In 1971 he moved to Lawford and became a loyal member in the band at St Mary's, Mistley.

Altogether he rang 84 full length peals and conducted ten of them. The last one was at Wormingford in June 1999 in seven Minor methods for the Guild of Post and Telecom Ringers, a group that he had been closely involved with since the early 1970s. He also rang over 250 quarter peals, the most

recent being at St George's in December 2011, which he also conducted.

He always supported the Essex Association of Change Ringers, both by helping out at the annual Ringing School at Coggeshall and more locally at District training mornings at Ardleigh. He kept us in touch with national rings by buying a Ringing World calendar for the belfry and ordering Ringing World diaries when required.

His gentle encouragement, both to learners and to more experienced ringers, was much appreciated and will be sorely missed. He attended church regularly, was a good friend and an excellent bell ringer - it was a pleasure to know him.

David Wenden (Tower Captain)

Children's Committee News

Messy Christingle

On Sunday the 7th December at Great Bromley Village Hall, we held our Messy Christingle session in the afternoon.

As children were welcomed into the hall, Alice played the piano until the children sat down. After listening to our story, around 26 children went to make a Christingle and now understood what the different parts represented. We made stained glass windows to celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World. A colourful map was produced to celebrate the different Christmas traditions around the world. We then had the story of Babouska which gave us the chance to make some lovely Russian dolls. As we thought about children less fortunate than ourselves, the children made Christmas stockings (with some very neat stitching) and put a chocolate coin inside. The children also helped to fill in our lovely prayer poster.

These activities were followed by talking about what they had learnt, a prayer and singing the Christingle song. Whilst the children sat down for food, Children Society candles were handed round to the parents, which could be returned at the Crib services on Christmas Eve. Any money raised from these would go to those children in need of help.

Everyone then went outside to light their Christingles, unfortunately the wind was very strong so quite a few didn't get lit. We were able to sing our Christingle song however! We had a lovely time and would like to thank all those who helped and all those who came to the last session of 2014.

Colouring Competition

At the beginning of December, the Children's committee sent pictures of a Christmas Tree into St. George's school, Great Bromley and St. Mary's school, Ardleigh to take part in a competition. With a short deadline, children were invited to return the decorated pictures to their schools.

Upon collection, these were then judged and put on display in St. George's Church, Great Bromley and St. Mary's Church, Ardleigh, where they would be all over Christmas. We were very pleased with the response.

Everyone who took part received a prize and special prizes were awarded to the favourite picture chosen from each class. It took quite a while to decide the ones to choose.

From St. Mary's school we had 27 entries. The favourite pictures chosen were from: Jennifer Owen

in Class 1, Mollie Thrower in Class 2, Amelia Watkins in Class 3 and Rosie Snook in Class 4. The school staff very kindly gave out the prizes to the children.

From St. George's school we received 21 entries. The favourite pictures chosen were from: Bobby Branchflower in Class 1, Torri-Sorcha Macrae in Class 2, Roxanne Lawes in Class 3 and Ruby Arnold in Class 4. The prizes were handed out during the school's Carol Service held in the church by Jenny Nicholls and Reverend Allen.

The trees looked very bright and colourful on display in the churches. We would like to thank all those who entered our competition..

Children Society's candles. A lot of candles were returned from those who had attended the Messy Christingle and other candles were filled on the day. We are pleased to say that around £100 was raised from the collection in each church for the Children's Society.

The Children's Committee would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year.

Carol Cordwell

Christmas Eve Crib Services

The Children's Committee were pleased to assist the Reverend Richard Allen at the Crib Services on Christmas Eve.

At St. George's Church (about 75 people) and at St. Mary's Church (around 100 people) we heard the Christmas story. With several children reading the lessons and doing such a lovely job of it, and others putting the figures into the stable, the services were very enjoyable.

Young helpers took decorated baskets around for the collection of

Church Lunch.
4th February 2015 at 12 noon
Home made soup.
ALL welcome
Churchgoers and non-churchgoers

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, GREAT BROMLEY



**ARDLEIGH and THE BROMLEYS
CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

February 1

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

Candlemas

8am Eucharist – St George's

10.30am Parish Eucharist – St Mary's

6.30pm Evensong – St George's

February 8

2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

8am Eucharist – St Mary's

10.30am Parish Eucharist – St George's

February 15

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

8am Eucharist – St George's

10.30am Parish Eucharist – St Mary's

February 18

ASH WEDNESDAY

the beginning of Lent

10.30am Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes – St George's

February 22

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

8am Eucharist – St Mary's

10.30am Parish Eucharist – St George's

Holy Communion every Friday at **11.30am** at Seven Rivers, Hall Road, Great Bromley.