

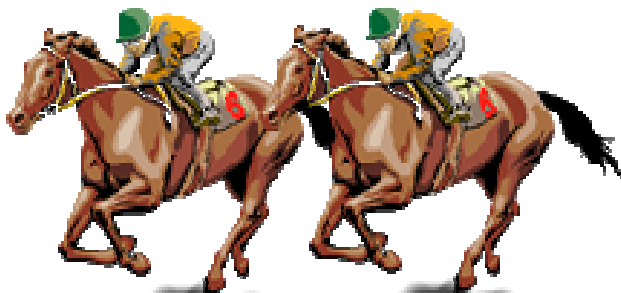


April 2015

Supported by



Chelsfield
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RACE NIGHT at The Five Bells Friday 10th April

The Newsletter and "What's On" Guide for
Residents & Friends of Chelsfield Village

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St. George's Day

at The Five Bells

Saturday 25th April

Medieval Banquet, there will be jousting on the Wii
and photo opportunity in medieval stocks!!!

Contributions

We depend on your
contributions to keep the
Village Voice both useful
and interesting so please
send any events, articles,
photos, drawings, articles
or stories for the May
issue to:

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

or post to:

**Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village
BR6 7RN**

by Monday 27th April

Visit: www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

The Badger

The badger (Meles meles) is a fascinating creature. Both an animal that conjures up the secret world of the countryside on a moonlit night, but also an animal that is currently something of a controversial species due to the arguments relating to bovine TB. Farmers have no doubt that they carry the disease and cause a huge amount of damage to their industry while others will say that it's the cows giving the badgers TB: who knows ! Culling has been tried but even this is controversial and nobody is really very sure whether it's effective.

The old English name for a badger is 'Brock' while the Scottish equivalent is 'Brox' which leads neatly to the name of Ranger's football ground which is 'Ibrox', meaning "home of the badger". The modern name may well come from the French 'becheur' (digger) or the English 'badge', referring to the animals distinctive forehead.

Badgers are common in and around the village. There is a badger sett only a few hundred yards from my cottage but there are also others in the area. They are not difficult to find due to the large mounds of soil they excavate to build their homes. The entrance can also be strewn with old bedding and flints, removed to make the sett more comfortable. These setts can be used for many generations and have been known to endure for centuries.

Over the years I have had many meetings with badgers although I have never done a 'badger watch' where one sits, sometimes for hours, waiting downwind of a sett entrance for the badgers to leave their home and foray for food. This food mainly consists of worms although carrion and other insects are also taken. Consequently badgers prefer wet weather when the worms come to the surface at night. In dry weather the

badger forays further afield looking for their dinner and can cause damage digging for their food. It is on evenings like this I have met badgers on the lanes and have found that due to their poor eyesight one can often get quite close before they realise you are watching them. At this point they scuttle across the tarmac with their claws making a distinctive clattering noise as they head for their sett. Of course, their poor eyesight and lack of speed often leads to their undoing as they fall prey to their main predator, the car. On one occasion I remember coming home from a Saturday evening out and entering my back garden which is really very narrow only to find that I had inadvertently trapped a badger. He made a run for it and I had to jump to one side to let him by. They are not known as aggressive animals but they have powerful jaws and I would not like to put them to the test !

On a completely different scale, some badger like animals have formidable reputations in other parts of the world. Honey badgers (Africa) and wolverines (N. America) are not actually related to badgers but play similar roles to our version and look rather similar. However, the honey badger has been known to take on lions just for the hell of it while wolverines will drive a grizzly bear from a kill such is the aggressiveness of these animals. O.K, back in Chelsfield...

Badgers are well known down the allotment where they can cause problems. A favourite meal is sweetcorn and I can remember a number of occasions looking at my crop and thinking, "OK, a couple of days more to ripen up and I'll harvest them at the weekend" only to find the badgers have got there before me ! Others have tried building fences but even these do not always work. Nowadays I don't bother to grow sweetcorn because I'll only be doing

it for the badgers. On other occasions it seems that the badgers have been rolling around, fighting or playing in my plots and causing all sorts of damage. But even then, I have a sweet spot for them and can't find it in me to be too harsh.

I'll finish on a couple of piece of old folklore. The first is a 200 year old rhyme:

*Should one hear a badger call,
And then an ullot cry,
Make thy peace with God,
good soul,
For thou shall shortly die.*

An ullot being an owl. The second is a means of

warding off witchcraft:
"A tuft of hair gotten from the head of a full-grown Brock is powerful enough to ward off all manner of witchcraft; these must be worn in a little bag made of cat's skin - a black cat - and tied about the neck when the moon be not more than seven days old, and under that aspect when the planet Jupiter be mid-heaven at midnight."

Well Jupiter is just about mid-heaven at midnight just about now so get cracking....

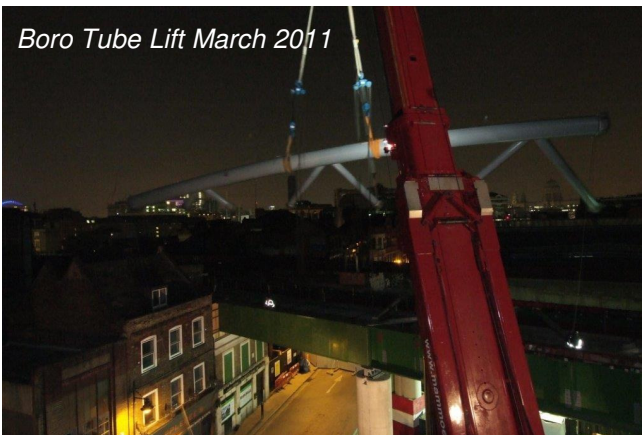
Steve Fuller



Never Work With Children, Animals...or Cranes!

It is a very old adage in the world of photography and the theatre never to work with children or animals. Slightly unfair, but the thinking behind it holds good because both creatures can be fickle, uncooperative and have to be handled carefully. I have had a go at both, have had a little success with children (but not babies) but dogs and horses total failure. I thus chose a career in the world of construction and industry without this problem....supposedly! The exception is cranes.

I have attended numerous sites often at night or weekends where a huge and expensive crane is due to make a lift. Either to place a bridge, beams or huge piece of equipment into an awkward location or across a railway or river, or to remove an ancient worn out bridge. There are several large crane companies in the UK & Europe who specialize in a particular piece of equipment and who will tender for a contract. They are extremely expensive and the operatives are highly skilled, hence the day rate is in the £1000's. It takes



Boro Tube Lift March 2011

weeks of planning for a contractor to arrive at a date to perform the lifts and when it involves working over railways, roads and rivers they have to get a Possession Order in place. This is seldom extendable and has to be paid for so any hitches on the day can be very costly and worrying to all concerned.

Since 1971 I have been to such events several times a year and most go smoothly without any hitches, although a precise timetable is seldom adhered to, so as the photographer it is prudent to arrive in plenty of time and be prepared to sleep in the car or sit in a crowded site cabin drinking tea or eating butties.

At one event in East London I was told to be on site at 8am when everything didn't actually happen until 6.30pm! Another big lift across the Avon and the GWR line near Bristol, booked for a Sunday morning one summer at 1am, never started because the huge special telescopic crane was fitted with the wrong limiters – a device to prevent the jib lifting too high and touching the high voltage overhead cables. The job was delayed for several weeks. A long drive for us for nothing but of course chargeable. They didn't have to pay for the crane I suspect.

Just occasionally the timings I am given are too

cautious and I have arrived for the first lift (always the best for a photo) to find it to be well underway as I approached the site. Rushing around getting camera and flash and PPE on I just managed one shot.

One that I didn't make in time was across the Great Ouse in Cambridge as I was sent to the wrong side of the river at night. A security guard who spoke little English chased me, having not been informed of my visit, as I sprinted to get some shots before driving a huge detour around the unlit lanes across the Fens. There were 6 beams so I got some more shots eventually.

Three years ago I went to New Cross to film an old

railway bridge being removed across the old Surrey Canal. Arrived in thick fog to find a group of miserable looking workmen who told me that the crane engine had failed, and it would take many days to get another from Germany.

I have also had the dubious pleasure of being winched up in a cage to the top of really high cranes over London to get spectacular photos. These cages tend to spin if windy so grabbing the shot can make you feel quite sick. H&S has virtually put paid to this adventure.

I am pleased to report that none of the cranes I have worked with have toppled over, but this does happen, how I don't know as the rules and practices are

so strict, but they over reach, the ground collapses beneath them, or the counterbalance weights are insufficient. They do a lot of damage when they fall and can lead to death or serious injury to the operator or anyone on the ground.

Perhaps the most fascinating and photogenic project in recent times, involving several cranes and rolling jacks was the placement of the new railway bridge at Southwark for the London Bridge widening scheme. Over three days one Easter the weather remained fine and clear and mild and being very well lit, produced several hundred spectacular images. One of these is attached. A DVD of the whole operation was made by a colleague I have in which a lot of time lapse was used.

Ever since I was a child I was fascinated by cranes and have a collection of models. The first big model my dad built for me from my Meccano set in 1951 was a giant crawler crane using everything in the box of bits. Just seeing a big crane always gives me a lift.....

Philip Lane



Bucks Cross Road Closure

Many of you may have noticed that a few weeks ago, the top of Bucks Cross Road – where it joins Court Rd was closed, with holes being dug and large sections of pipe being lowered into the ground. This was to install new drains and soakaways. It is hoped that the trees and telephone cables survived intact.



Latest News from The Croft Tearoom

I am delighted to let you all know that the Croft has been saved from closure by a local resident who will be taking over the ownership and management of the business. I believe Rebecca has

the drive, passion and business skills to move the Croft into a new phase whilst keeping our ethos of community service.

This means that the Croft

Tearoom will not be closing at the end of March. It will be 'business as usual' and Norman and I will support Rebecca for a 3 month 'handover' period until she gets fully up and running. This is a real opportunity for the Croft to move forward and good news for existing Staff & Volunteers, the business and for the community we serve. I ask that you give Rebecca your full support to help us keep the Croft in St Mary Cray as a viable & sustainable business.

I will email you again with



updates about our events and you will be invited to a 'Farewell & Re-launch' event soon, to celebrate

our achievements since 2009 and to hear what plans Rebecca has for

the future.

With very best wishes

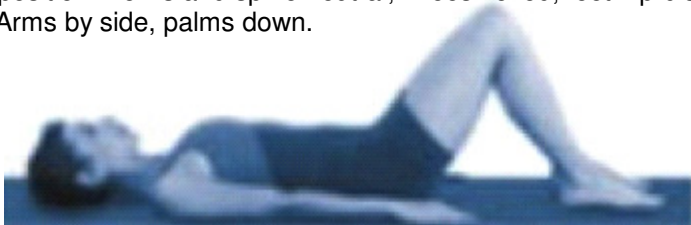
Move of the Month by Francesca - InsideOut Pilates UK

“Ab Prep”

Ab Prep is a simple abdominal exercise that strengthens your core muscles, protecting your back while increasing muscle tone.

STARTING POSITION

Starting position: Pelvis and spine neutral, knees flexed, feet hip-distance apart on mat. Arms by side, palms down.



2. Inhale: lengthen back of neck to create slight cranio-vertebal flexion.

3. Exhale: Maintain position as you contract abdominals to slide rib cage toward pelvis and flex thoracic spine (upper back) reach arms off mat level with shoulders. Inhale: hold position by maintaining abdominal contraction while breathing into rib cage.



4. Exhale: roll upper body down to mat, allowing cervical spine to return to neutral once head is on mat, simultaneously lower arms.

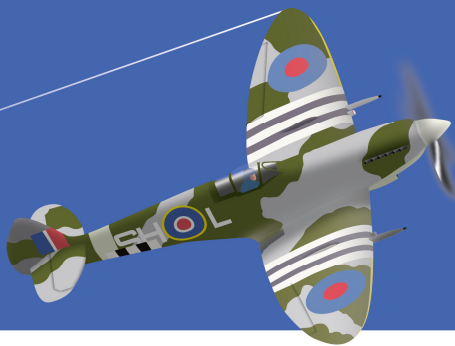
Complete 5-10 repetitions.

Francesca

iopilatesuk@gmail.com

01689482669 or mobile 07791073445

All the fun of
the Fair!



Chelsfield Village Fair

Saturday 11th July 2015



Gates open 12 noon
Adults £3.50 Under 14s FREE

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Supporting
South East
London Breast
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causes

Chelsfield Village Green, Bucks Cross Road, Chelsfield Village BR6 7RN
Website: chelsfieldfair.com Facebook: [facebook.com/chelsfieldfair](https://www.facebook.com/chelsfieldfair)

CHELSEFIELD, WELL HILL AND DISTRICT PRODUCE SHOW

**Saturday 12th September 2015
In Chelsfield Village Hall**



SCHEDULE AND RULES

**Set up from 9.30am
Viewing from 2.00pm**

Prize giving time to be announced on the day

Flower arrangements

1. An arrangement to celebrate the Queen's long reign.
2. A bridesmaid's posy.
3. ☹️ A fairy glen no more than 4 inches high.
4. Men only: A flower arrangement in a Wellington boot.

Flowers

5. 3 Varieties of the rose.
6. A bunch of lupins.
7. A spray of chrysanthemums.
8. A single stem of each of 5 plants representing the colours of the main English political parties
9. A vase of garden flowers.
10. A single hydrangea head in a vase.

Vegetables

11. Gardener's choice. Enough vegetables for a meal for two comprising potatoes and two other vegetables.
12. X2 A mixed salad– any three of the following: 1 lettuce, 1 cucumber, 6 radishes, 6 spring onions, 1 capsicum, 3 tomatoes; staged in a seed tray.
14. 3 Onions- tied & trimmed.
15. 5 potatoes of one variety.
16. 5 medium to large tomatoes.
17. 7 Pods of French beans.
18. A pair of courgettes.
19. 3 Carrots, trimmed.
20. The longest stick of rhubarb.
21. A jam jar of garden herbs.
22. A bucket of home produced compost.

Fruit

23. 3 Dessert Apples- polished.
24. 3 Cooking Apples- unpolished.
25. 3 Pears.
26. 5 plums.
27. A dish of wild fruit and nuts.
28. ☹️ An ugly fruit.

Wine

29. A bottle of dry white table wine.
30. A bottle of sweet white table wine.
31. A bottle of dry red table wine.
32. A bottle of sweet red table wine.
33. A bottle of a grain wine.
34. A bottle of stout.

Country Fare

35. Three hot cross buns.
36. A Bakewell tart. – 7 – 8 inches
37. Themed cake –“Gardener’s World” - decoration only to be judged.
38. Five Cheese scones.
39. X2 Dundee cake to given recipe
40. Three 2 inch Squares of millionaire’s shortbread.
41. A jar of marmalade.
42. A tub of courgette chutney.
43. Three Eccles cakes.
44. ☺ Men only and children: Five rock cakes to given recipe.

Photographs - All to be unmounted max size 8½ " x 6"

45. An insect.
46. A bridge.
47. A village sign.
48. A characterful tree.

Handicrafts

49. A hand knitted or crocheted item.
50. An item or tapestry or embroidery (specify if using kit).
51. A soft toy.
52. A greetings card with a fabric and bead collage panel.
53. ☺ A necklace, any medium.
54. ☺ Any craft or hobby (specify if using a kit).
55. A pencil drawn portrait.
56. ☺ An illuminated letter G
57. ☺ Charity knitting. Two mini Christmas stockings – a basic pattern will be provided in the next Village Voice.

Miscellany

58. ☺ A matchbox (standard size) filled with real listed items starting with the letter H for harvest.

Classes marked X2 earn double points.

Classes marked with ☺ can be entered by adults or children. The children’s entries will be judged separately in 4 age groups: under 5, 5-7, 8-11 and 12-18. The Individual’s best 3 scores to count.

Additional schedules and enquiries

Catherine Gandolfi 01689 831826

Chris Courtney 01959 535022

Also available on the Village Voice page www.greenstreetgreen.co.uk/villagevoice

The Cups & Trophies

KNOX-CUNNINGHAM CUP - Household cup, adult classes only.

WELL HILL CUP – Household cup, all classes.

KEN PICKERING CUP- First awarded in 1996. This is awarded to the “best in show”

TOM CASTLETON ROSE BOWL – This is awarded to the garden judged to most enhance Chelsfield Village.

ALLOTMENTS CUP- First awarded in 1996. To be awarded to the individual with the highest number of points in the vegetable class.

CHILDRENS' CUP- This is awarded to the child with the highest number of points in the Children's' classes.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II GOLDEN JUBILEE PLATE - This is awarded to the individual with the highest number of points not awarded the Knox-Cunningham or Well Hill Cup.

WINE CLUB CUP - First awarded in 1996. This is awarded to the individual with the highest number of points in the Wine Class

COUNTRY FARE CUP – This is awarded to the individual with the highest number of points in the Country Fare class.

TRISS & JOHN COTTENDEN TROPHY – First awarded in 2007. This is awarded to the individual with the highest number of points in the Flower classes.

PROGRAMME

Staging: 9.30-11.00 a.m. Entries will not be accepted after 11.00 a.m.. Judging 11.30. Viewing 2.00p.m. Prize Giving 3.00 p.m.

RULES

1. Open to residents of Chelsfield, Well Hill and District.
2. 30p per entry. Children's classes free.
3. Competitors may submit more than one entry in each class, but can only win one prize per class. Children may submit entries in adult classes 30p per class.
4. Fruit, vegetables and flowers (except in classes 1-4 and 28 must be home-grown. Handicrafts, cookery and wine must be homemade. No item may have been exhibited at this show in previous years.
5. Winning entries will be awarded points as follows:
 - 1st prize: 3 points (red card) & prize (will vary according to class)
 - 2nd prize: 2 points (blue card) & prize (will vary according to class)
 - 3rd prize: 1 point (yellow card) & prize (will vary according to class)

Class 12 and 39 will merit double points for each prize. Handicraft classes and children's classes will be judged on individual merit.

6. Children's classes will be judged in four age groups - up to 5, 5-7, 8-11 and 12-18. Best 3 scores to count

Household cups

The Knox Cunningham Cup will be awarded to the household with the highest number of points gained in all adult classes. The Well Hill Cup will be awarded to the household with the highest number of points in all classes. No household may win both cups. Only the best score in the household in each class will be counted.

Each entry must be accompanied by a 2" square of white paper (yellow for children, provided). On the back should be:

- a) Your name
- b) The class number of your entry

You will be given a competitor's number when you arrive, which must be written on the front of the square of paper. Entries for the children's classes should show the child's age on the front of the square of paper.

Chelsfield Village Fair 2015 Rumbles into Life

Grab your diaries, smartphones, household pets or whatever you use to store important information and write "Chelsfield Village Fair - 11th July" in big letters. Last year's threatening weather failed to put us off, the cancellation of the 2012 failed to put us off so I'm afraid it looks like you're stuck with one day of cheerful chaos for years to come.

Having taken rather a hit on the last Fair due to the dire early morning forecasts we threw caution to the wind and gave away nearly all the takings to our local good causes and headline charity Bromley Mencap (not that we begrudge them a penny of course but we are a bit skint at the moment!). Regardless of that plans for this year's Fair are well underway and we have selected South East London Breast Cancer Trust as our headline charity this year (please visit their website www.selbct.org to discover what this excellent charity do for sufferers

and their families).

We were delighted with nearly every aspect of the Fair last year so we're going to avoid breaking a winning formula. That said, we have some new entertainment in the form of the Force 10 Big Band who will provide live jazz and swing later in the afternoon while we hope that Croydon Steel Orchestra will take up their normal slot opening the Fair and filling our first couple of hours with summery sounds.

Eagle Heights are back and we will have the ever popular Birds of Prey display in the main arena and that brings me along to the other flying where we have, as the draft poster artwork indicates, branched out a bit. The highlight will be the traditional Spitfire display and as someone who trawls around the country to countless airshows I can assure you that I have rarely seen anything better than a Chelsfield Spitfire display. But adding some glamour and show-

biz this year I am delighted to announce that we have booked the Breitling Wingwalkers who will be bring their single aircraft display to the Fair. Harking back to the barnstorming days between the wars, this is pure showbiz with a girl performing heartstopping acrobatics in a harness on the top wing of a Boeing Stearman biplane; loads of noise, colour and smoke - it'll be huge fun.

The bill for the flying will be around £4,000 which is a fair amount for a small village so we are once again appealing to you all to consider joining the Chelsfield Flying Club (CFC). CFC is the reason we can have flying displays so we need donations. To become a Gold Member (and qualify for the souvenir item of clothing which may NOT be a T-Shirt this year - it might, but it might not), you need to donate £60 or more (more preferably!). This also entitles you to a visit to Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar to see the treasure trove of Spitfires

which fill our skies locally. If you donate £100 or more, you become a Platinum member and that entitles you to sit in one of the Spitfires during that visit. We will confirm the date of the visit soon.

You can donate to CFC by writing a cheque made out to Chelsfield Village Fair (write Chelsfield Flying Club on the back) and either popping it through my door (4 Orlestone Gardens) or you can leave it behind the bar at the Five Bells marked for my attention. Alternatively, you can pay on-line by going to:

flying.chelsfieldfair.com.

We are also keen to encourage corporate sponsorship of the flying displays so if you have any contacts and would like to get in touch, we'll tear their arms off!

The Fair is the biggest day in the Chelsfield calendar, certainly in terms of numbers and it's lovely to show our beautiful village off to everyone while ruthlessly taking their money and doing some real good with it! If you want to volunteer we are always on the lookout for more help so we'd love to hear from you; we're nice

lot and we don't bite.

You can get in touch with the organisers through our newly revamped website chelsfieldfair.com or you can email direct to admin@chelsfieldfair.com.

More news in the next issue of the excellent Chelsfield Village Voice but do keep in touch with us via social media and the website in the meantime.

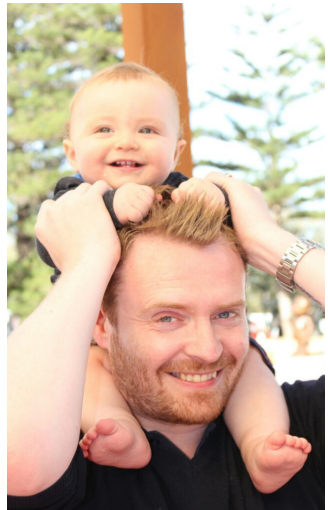
Dave Griffiths
Vice Chairman
Chelsfield Village Fair
chelsfieldfair.com
facebook.com/chelsfieldfair

Why This April Issue Is So Late

Each month I attempt, usually unsuccessfully, to get the Chelsfield Village Voice into general circulation by the 1st day of the month. For those of you who receive it via email you are the fortunate ones, you will always be the first to see what's been going on and what's about to happen! (if you wish to be added to the email list please send me your email address).

This month, April, it is late out again, but this time feel I have a more valid excuse for being late with the distribution, rather than the regular "too much work"!

Last week our dear 10 month old grandson, Hector Leopold Campbell-Sloan, seen here with his proud father, James, was taken seriously ill with a bronchial infection and was



rushed into Evelina Children’s Hospital, part of St Thomas’s Hospital, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit where he spent his first Easter Bank Holiday weekend along with his very concerned parents, Kat and James, his Auntie Nancy, his grandmother Avis and I.



The care given to him at Evelina was exemplary and the dedication and skill of the staff second to none. Now, as I write this I can report that the Ventilator he has been on for the last three days is about to be disconnected, we expect little Hector to enjoy a smooth and com-

plete recovery throughout the week.

I’d like to thank all of you, our readers for your patience in waiting for your monthly copy of the Village Voice – but thank even more the staff at Evelina Hospital, for what they have done for

Hector, and, for that matter, all staff at all hospitals, for the amazing work they carry out day in and day out with the minimum of recognition and for the most derisory of rewards!

Dan Sloan
chelsfield-villagevoice@gmail.com

Local History Group— A Romeo & Juliet Story

Paul has an interest in the history of the Metropolitan Police force and its officers. This story arose from the preserved letters sent by PC John Conerly to his sweetheart, Alice White.

The correspondence started in 1916 when Jack, as he was known, was still a serving police officer. The letters have been transcribed mostly

by Mike Fountain and others by Paul.

Jack joined the police force in 1915 and was stationed at Islington and Stoke Newington. In 1917 he volunteered for the rifle brigade.

The letters are mostly undated but an estimate of the date can be made by reference to topical items mentioned. One

such was the shooting down of a German airship - a great feat rewarded by the VC for the pilot concerned. Over 80 letters were addressed from his police station and a similar number from his army service at Minster in Kent and Le Havre, France.

The letters from his army days have been donated to the Imperial War Museum, copies having

been made.

These letters highlight a time, long since departed, when a young man was able to write of his love to the only woman in his life even when there were obstacles in the way.

Their families did not approve of the relationship, he being from a Catholic family and she possibly being a Quaker or Baptist and meeting was difficult due to last minute changes in shift duties. However, the prompt postal service made their meetings possible. The meetings were arranged at various shops and other locations, the venues being chosen as easy to get to by public transport.

Jack volunteered and signed up on December 15th 1917. Many police officers became drill instructors. He was posted to Sheppey camp where the conditions were very poor. The winter was bad and it is clear he was desperate for letters from Alice. They continued to

meet when possible and married in a registry office on 21st March 1918. He was 23 and she was 25. Alice's father was a witness at the marriage. They spent one night together before he returned to camp.

He was wounded on the Western Front in Belgium and, despite being operated on by a top surgeon, died the same day, August 18th. He is buried at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Alice was remarried in 1923 to another police officer and continued to visit Jack's grave, it is thought secretly, even with her children. This was not a happy marriage for Alice or the children. Paul visited the youngest of these 3 children, Roger Hearne, several times, and it was he who donated the letters and told Paul that Alice would often re-read the letters in times of stress to recall her happier days with Jack.

After refreshments Paul passed round the carefully preserved letters with their transcriptions with the clear message that they should not be removed from their plastic sleeves. There were also photographs of Jack as a young man and in his military uniform. One photograph showed Alice visiting Jack's grave before the official gravestone was erected and another showed her visiting the cemetery with 2 of her children.

This is a heart rending story, that must have affected thousands of other couples. Jack was always Alice's love and it is wonderful the letters have survived for nearly a hundred years and have been donated to the police.

Many of us could think of similar situations within our own families from both World wars.

Catherine Gandolfi

Superfast Broadband Update

Here is the latest update we have received from

Steve Barnes:
◆ He has written to the

CEO of each of the mobile phone companies

("4G" can provide a faster broadband experience). Each (O2, EE, Vodafone and Three) have no plans to improve the sometimes terrible signal in this area, so this does not help to solve the problem.

◆ He has contacted Virgin Media (who announced recently a further £3bn investment in the UK). Jo Johnson thinks this could include our area (I'm doubtful) – He is discussing with them.

◆ He has approached a number of other suppliers who provide "radio" broadband in rural areas (eg Gigaclear, Hyperop-

tic, Vfast). So far they have all been reluctant to consider this area, but is continuing discussions with them. Some of them work on the basis that they would have to sign up a percentage of the community to a contract before they will do anything (eg 30% of the households in one case)

◆ As Chelsfield (and Downe and Cudham) primary schools have a fibre cable running into them. It may be possible to use this for a wider supply of fast broadband to the community – He will continue to follow this up with the "London Grid for Learning" and any

appropriate supplier.

◆ He is continuing to build a "directory" of local businesses – this may show there is a business-led demand with some of the broadband companies.

In addition to the above, Steve is keeping pressure up on Jo Johnson, and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (the Government funding body) to help us. Bromley Council seem unable to do very much - despite this pressure. I'm also talking to the Mayor of London's office regularly.

Catherine Gandolfi

This Happy Breed - A Review

This rarely performed Noel Coward play is thought to be autobiographical. The title apparently comes from John of Gaunt's speech in Shakespeare's *Richard II*: "This happy breed of men, this little world, / This precious stone set in the silver sea . . ."

Chelsfield Players decision to do this version 'in the round' certainly paid

off, producing a feeling of intimacy between the actors and audience.

The action was spread over the twenty year period between the two world wars and presented a tough challenge as the characters had to age convincingly. This was best achieved by the progressive greying of Ethel Gibbins' hair. The props were well chosen and the

family got through a number of tea sets with the furniture remaining comfortably constant until the arrival of a radio.

The family of Frank (Andrew Haggerty) and Ethel Gibbons (Jo Clent), typical of the lower middle class of the time, portrayed the British values of self reliance and love of king and country. Some of the younger

characters flirted with communism, causing conflict with their elders during the General Strike but the writer, Noel Coward, ensured they conformed and became respectably married. There were shocks that the family had to endure. Youngest daughter, Queenie (Marie Hurding), ever ambitious to improve her lot, ran off to France with a married man – scandalous at the time – sending a postcard with a French

stamp deemed to be disgusting by her grandmother. The favoured only son, Reg (Steven McDougall), was killed with his wife in a motor accident, stunning the audience into silence at the end of the Act. The interplay of Mrs Flint (Judy Ives) and Sylvia (Anne Kindly) with long suffering Ethel seemed to pass Frank by as he enjoyed the close friendship with his old comrade and neighbour Bob Mitchell

(Patrick Neylan). There was a lovely drunken double act with the two being surprised by a disapproving Ethel. Those who played the younger members defined their different characters well and, helped by their close proximity, drew the audience into their world. The interact periods were nicely filled with appropriate piano music by Phil Lane.

A view from the stalls

A Step In The Right Direction

On Friday 20 March, 50 sixth form students from Bullers Wood and The Priory Schools attended the Next Steps conference at Bromley Central Library. The event is a key part of the Bromley Youth Employment Scheme, and the aim is to provide young people with an insight into the sort of job opportunities available to them when they finish their studies and how to access them.

The key to the success of the day was the range of local and national employers who were there to support the young people. The event included presentations and a series

of ‘speed networking’ sessions enabling students to ask employers specific questions about working in their industry.

If you want to find out more about how BEBP can help young people and employers - get in touch

with us.
 Bromley Education
 Business Partnership
 Telephone:
 020 8462 5046
 E-mail:
ebp.admin@bromley.gov.uk
 Web:
www.bromleyebp.org.uk



We would like to thank

CHELSFIELD PARK HOSPITAL for their sponsorship printing the Chelsfield Village Voice

The BMI logo consists of the letters 'BMI' in white, serif font, centered within a dark blue square.

Beware of Suspicious Calls

Residents in Bromley borough are being warned by Trading Standards not to respond to a stranger who makes contact on the telephone wishing to offer assistance around the needs of elderly residents, sometimes including the offer of a massage service.

The caller, believed to be in his 50s, identifies himself as Mr Bell and attempts to make an appointment to visit the resident. He is described as having a

Scottish accent and drives a 4x4 vehicle. He carries a clipboard.

Fortunately attempts to carry out some of the appointments were thwarted by members of the public who were suspicious of him and concerned by his lack of an identity card.

Although it is not against the law to make such telephone calls, both the Police and Trading

Standards urge residents to exercise extreme caution if they receive similar contact. The advice is never to allow a stranger into your home unless you are certain of their true identity and intentions.

If you receive such a call you may wish to notify Trading Standards on their rapid response number 07903 852090 or report the matter to the Police by calling 101.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail:

csc@bromley.gov.uk

Opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Address: Civic Centre,
Stockwell Close,
Bromley, BR1 3UH

Reporting Problems to the Council

Can be reported via the CVS website, or if urgent by phone out of hours
Emergency Duty Team
020 8464 4848.

Village Neighbourhood Watch

Contact

John Leach 07711304965

BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital

Main Reception

01689 877855

Helpline

0845 6032932

Physiotherapy

01689 885914

Councillors

Keith Onslow

keith.onslow@bromley.gov.uk

Samaris Huntington-Thresher

020 8464 3333

samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk

Lydia Buttinger

lydia.buttinger@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Voice

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BT Line Faults 0800 800151

EDF Electrical Power Failure

08007838866

Thames Water Emergencies

0845 9200800

Transco Gas Emergency

Service 0800 111999

Bromley Police Station 24 hrs

0300 1231212

Samaritans 01689 833000

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Safer Neighbourhood

Team 020 8721 2605

Chelsfield Village Hall

(bookings) 01689 831826 /

836808 or email to

cvhlettings@gmail.com

Chelsfield Players

info@chelsfieldplayers.org

www.chelsfieldplayers.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall
Windsor Drive

Iyengar Yoga Classes

9.30am-11.00am
Suitable for Beginners
Contact Denise
01689 853215

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall and
Brass Crosby Room

Chelsfield

Housemartins

Monday Afternoons, for local
people who are unable to go
out without help
Contact Anne on
01689 826349

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Pilates Class

6.30pm-7.30pm
Contact Francesca on
07791073445

EVERY TUESDAY

Summer term starts

14th April

Brass Crosby Room

St Martin's Toddler

Group

10.30am-12.00 midday

Contact Sarah Ford:

01689 853415

stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Pilates Class

09.00am - 10.00am

10.00am -11.00am and

11.00am to 12.00 midday

Contact Francesca on

07791073445

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

Charity Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

EVERY WED & FRI

Pilates Classes

Chelsfield Methodist Church
Hall, Windsor Drive

Wed 8.00pm -9.00pm

Friday 9.35am-10.35am

Contact Bethany Lucas on
07415 638546

bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am

Contact Pam Keeper on

01732 458930

EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Pilates Class

6.30pm-7.30pm

Contact Francesca on

07791073445

EVERY FRIDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Pilates Class

3.00pm-4.00pm

Contact Francesca on

07791073445

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 8th April

(2nd Wednesday of

Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

Contact Irene

01689 835143

Friday 10th April

Five Bells

Charity Race Night

Enjoy a flutter and cheer

your horse home

Racing starts at 9.00pm

Wednesday 15th April

Five Bells

Open Mic Night

So all you budding
musicians out there, why
not come along and
have a go! Starts at
8.30pm

Thursday 16th April

(3rd Thursday each month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.30am

Tuesday 21st April

(3rd Tuesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

From 7.45pm

Contact Pat 016898623

Saturday 25th April

Five Bells

St Georges Day,

Medieval Banquet,

Jousting on Wii &

Photo Opportunity in

the Stocks

Wednesday 29th April

Five Bells

Open Mic Night

So all you budding
musicians out there,
come along and have a
go! Starts at 8.30pm

Saturday 11th July

Chelsfield Village Green

Chelsfield Village Fair

The big event of the

year!