



April 2024

Generously sponsored by  
**versapak**



## GUIDED SPRING WALK Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April

**Circular Walk starting at  
St. Martin's Church, Chelsfield  
At 10.00am  
Approx 4 miles - some stiles to cross**

**Tea and  
coffee served  
from 9.30 to  
12.30**



**Breakfast buns  
served from  
11.30 to 12.30  
£5**

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Residents & Friends of Chelsfield Village**

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**Please send articles, photos,  
ideas, events, stories,  
complaints, or whatever,  
for the May 2024 issue of  
Chelsfield Village Voice to:  
chelsfieldvillagevoice  
@gmail.com  
by Saturday 27th April 2024**



## The Slow Worm

For many years I've wondered about creating a wildflower patch either in my garden or my allotment. I once tried in my allotment but only achieved a primarily weed dominated mess. You see, unbeknown to me at the time, you can't just scatter wild flower seeds and expect a luxurious swath of wild flowers the following spring. I've read books about this and they all seem so unclear and even contradictory. At times I think I must have missed the critical chapter. All I want to know is, when to cut the grass and to what length? These books say things like "cut the wildflower patch at regular intervals to keep the length of grass to a few inches then in the autumn when the flowers have gone to seed, cut them back" – what! If you keep cutting them back, how are they going to 'go to seed'? Anyway, this year I'm going to have a go on a few square yards of failed grass in my garden. A neighbour had some spare turf last year which I planted on the area in question and I thought I

might improve the area that way. It looked great for a few months then all of a sudden it just returned to a mud bath. So, after some research I think I might have a solution. The source of the problem appears to be that most soil in gardens is actually quite fertile and this encourages weeds. Wildflowers on the other hand prefer rather barren soil. One way to achieve a suitable patch for wildflowers is to dig up the area in question to a depth of about 6" and place it to one side. Dig the next 6" and place that in another pile. Then return the topsoil into the bottom of the hole and

because the soil will now be unconsolidated (and therefore take up more volume), tamp it down so that it consumes something similar to its original volume. Then replace the soil from the lower level such that it now sits on the surface. In this way the soil will be low in fertility and lacking in weed seeds and at last suitable for wildflowers. As I already have various piles of soil in m garden I will try this approach in the autumn and report back the following spring/summer to let you know how I'm getting on.

So, on the subject of slow worms. For those unfamiliar with these



creatures, they look rather like snakes with a maximum length of about half a metre and have smooth glossy skin and range in colour from grey to brown and have even been reported to have blue spots in coastal regions. I must concede that I have never seen a slow worm in or around Chelsfield. I have seen them in Wales and Cornwall but they are reported to be common across the British isles so maybe I've just been unlucky. As is commonly known, they are neither snake, nor worm but a legless burrowing reptile.

Three of the characteristics that distinguish them from snakes is the fact that they have eyelids while snakes do not and can hear which snakes cannot do in the way that we would understand that sense. The other easily noticeable characteristic is that, unlike snakes, their bodies do not taper along their length. Another commonly known fact about slow worms that when attacked they have the ability to shed their tails (an ability known as autotomy). The tail will

continue to wriggle in an attempt to distract a predator and allow the slow worm to slink off to safety. Despite this defence the slow worm loses many of its number to predators such as domestic cats, birds such as crows and owls and mammals such as badgers and foxes. If this reptile can avoid predators it may well be the longest living lizard with life in the wild being as long as 30 years while in captivity the record of a Danish slow worm living in a zoo stands at 54 years.

Being cold blooded they like to stay warm and find compost heaps very much to their liking as the heap generates heat as it decomposes. Very much to the liking of the compost owner is the fact that slow worms feed on many of the pests that gardeners like to keep under control – slugs, snails, caterpillars and millipedes but also some that gardeners like to encourage: like earthworms.

As for this reptiles name, it appears to stem from the old English 'slawyrml'.

Wyrml relates to anything that creeps or crawls while the word 'sla' means 'to strike'. The slow worm is not venomous but has been known to bite and there is a reference in Shakespeare's Macbeth to 'blind worm's sting being stirred into witches cauldron'. Indeed one local name for this reptile is 'blindworm' despite possessing sight but then in some areas it is also called a 'deaf adder' despite being able to hear while the adders cannot! One last interesting observation about the slow worm is that it is 'ovoviviparous'. This is something of a link between reptiles and mammals as it means that eggs are kept within the mothers body until they are ready to hatch and clearly something like this must have happened at least once when a species of reptile evolved into a mammal (along with other adaptations) and eventually led to the whole mammalian clade (animal group derived from one ancestor).

*Steve Fuller  
April 2024*

## St Martin's Spire Appeal

The appeal for funds continues to progress well. Not at the early rate, of course, but that was expected. The total received now exceeds £100,000, which is amazing.

The much heralded Auction of Promises was not only a very enjoyable evening but it also raised £6,000, which was above our most optimistic hope. So special thanks are given to all who supported this event by providing the catering, by donating a pledge, by

bidding the prices up and especially to the successful bidders.

We have also received the fabulous news that the organisers of the Chelsfield Village Fair have made the Spire Appeal the headline charity for the fair this year – heartfelt thanks to Sharon and her team for this honour.

So, with the money in hand, a number of pledges to come in, some more fundraising events and the support of the Village Fair we have well and truly pushed the 'go'

button on getting the work undertaken. A preferred builder has been chosen, a detailed quote received and detailed discussion have taken place to ensure, as far as is possible, that all the required work is covered in their quote.

Regrettably the size of the quote means we've had to move the fundraising target rather higher, but sometimes, as Captain Kirk might say, we just have to 'Tread Boldly'.

*Steve McCann*

## Save Our Spire Pilgrimage

You will have heard about St Martin's fundraising appeal for repairs to the spire and stonework - it's going quite well but we still need to raise funds. Separately from this, St Martin's has supported Christian Aid for a long time, and it's Christian Aid Week in May. Those of you that know me well will know that in the past I have done extreme sponsored walks, so I have put these things together and come up with a fundraising idea... From 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May I'll be walking from St Martin's **Chelsfield** to St

*St Martin-of-Tours*

**Spire Appeal**  
Chelsfield

Martin's **Canterbury** along the Pilgrims Way and North Downs Way. I'll be walking nearly 70 miles in 6 days and, although that's not very extreme, I'm not as young as I was so it will be a challenge! I'm hoping that people will sponsor me to keep me going and any sponsorship I receive



will be split between the **Spire Appeal and Christian Aid**. I'm also hoping that people across

the parish will join me, either in person or in spirit. You could see me off after the morning service at St Martin's on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, walk with me for part or all of a day (or more than one day!), join me for lunch en route, or join me at one of the churches I hope to visit on the way. Here's my proposed route:

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Chelsfield to Wrotham – 12 miles

Bank Holiday Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Wrotham to Rochester Cathedral – 13 miles

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Rochester Cathedral to Detling – 10.5 miles  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Detling to Charing – 12.5 miles

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Charing to Chilham – 11 miles

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Chilham to St Martin's Church, Canterbury – 8 miles

More information will be available at

<http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk/spire.html>

very soon. A small team

have very kindly offered to help co-ordinate walkers and supporters, so if you'd like to find out how to join or meet me please email them at

[spire@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:spire@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)

If you'd like to sponsor me there is a link below to the fundraising page for the event. Looking forward to seeing some of you on the way...

*Philippa Rooke*

<https://givealittle.co/c/5DqAkBW7p0HXbamuvU1pv7>

## A Hole Lot of Trouble

A mysterious hole about four feet in diameter and 20 feet or so deep has suddenly appeared in the garden of Stonehouse, Bridget O'Donnell's mid-19<sup>th</sup> century home almost opposite the Five Bells in Church Road.

It opened up on the threshold of Bridget's garage, about 40 feet from the house, when her son-in-law, Gary, drove his car in on 6 March. As the tarmac collapsed, the car's offside rear wheel sank into the cavity but luckily the vehicle was soon

extricated – undamaged – with the aid of Bridget's son, Terry, and wooden planks.

At the surface, the hole has a slightly smaller diameter but it widens out just below the top layer, forming a kind of ledge. Bridget believes the collapse may have been caused by the relentless rain of recent weeks weakening the underlying chalk.

Many so-called sinkholes have appeared with similar suddenness around the Orpington

area over the years. But the Stonehouse hole seems peculiar – its sides are relatively smooth and the shape is virtually a regular cylinder.

Could it have been a well providing a domestic water supply? Probably not, as there is no brick or concrete lining, or even a visible edging. Could it be a spot from where chalk was excavated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier? Possibly. Such "chalkwells", consisting of a narrow shaft and sometimes with



chambers at the bottom, were often dug at field boundaries. Farmers would then spread the chalk on their adjacent fields, either to break up heavy clay soil or neutralise acidic soil. When the chalk was exhausted, the hole would generally be capped, rather than filled in. These caps do erode gradually over time. Chalkwells are quite common in Kent and collapses tend to occur after extreme wet weather.

Another theory about the Stonehouse hole is that it was a “sump”, collecting rainwater to be pumped out for watering the garden. Such holes, usually shallow (unlike the one at Stonehouse), sometimes bottle-shaped and called “bottle wells”, were fed with a pipe or pipes draining groundwater or taking water from the roof of a house or its outbuildings. Examples have been seen in Chelsfield before. Interestingly, a three-inch pipe enters at the top of the Stonehouse hole. But even during heavy downpours no water has come from it.

Or perhaps it was once a cesspit or cesspool – essentially a holding tank for waste and foul water –



***Sinking feeling: Bridget stays a safe distance from the edge***

serving the house before drainage to a public sewer system was available.

For Bridget O'Donnell, the next step is to have

the hole in her garden backfilled. Several tons of crushed aggregate and concrete will be poured in to stabilise and plug the void.

*Patrick Hellicar*

BRITISH BEEF

WEEK

At

Monday 22<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023T  
H  
EB  
O

SPICY BEEF STIR FRY with sesame seeds &amp; Rice £16.95

ANGUS BEEFBURGER with cheese, bacon & burger sauce  
served with chips & salad £16.9510oz RIBEYE STEAK with grilled tomato, mushroom, chips  
& garlic Butter £25.95P  
E  
E  
PSTEAK & KIDNEY SHORTCRUST PASTRY PIE  
With creamy mashed potato, garden peas & a red wine Gravy  
£18.50

PLEASE ADVISE STAFF OF ANY ALLERGIES OR INTOLERANCES

A 10% optional service charge will be added to all bills

Hewitts Road  
Chelsfield  
BR6 7QL

Tel: 01959 534457

info@thebeepen.com

## Five Bells Bingo Nights

# BELLS BINGO



**Wednesday 3rd April and  
Wednesday 17th April**

Eyes down 7.30pm

£10 per book - 6 games

**CASH PRIZES!**

Book your table now on

01689 821 044

Food served until 7pm



## Save The Date - St Martin's Summer Fete



# Save the Date!

**St. Martin's Summer Fete  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

12 noon – 4pm

Rectory Gardens, Skibbs Lane, Chelsfield BR6 7RH

Looking for volunteers to help set up, man stalls etc etc!

Contact Philippa at [philippa@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:philippa@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



## Rob's Ramblings - Helping Research into Dementia

Having admitted to being 70 (plus a few hundred weeks!), I'm required to renew my driver's licence every three years and I completed the renewal form again last week. They say that time flies faster the older we get, so I shouldn't have been surprised it seemed no time at all since completing the previous licence renewal form.

By the way, have you ever thought about who the "they" are in those sayings that begin "they say that..."? If "they" ever make themselves known to me I'll give them a piece of my mind and ask them not to impregnate our language with trite adages. But having said that, there are a few I could suggest myself!

Giving them a piece of my mind brings me back to my driving licence. One of the questions on the renewal form was about which organs I'd be willing to donate when I die. The law changed a few years ago and now it's presumed that when

we've finished using organs ourselves we'd be happy to donate them. Who can argue with organs being rehoused as transplants to help other people improve their lives?

In fact, we've become temporary custodians of the organs we're born with. If we keep them healthy, others can benefit when we've gone .....but our organs haven't. When deciding what and how much to eat and drink maybe we should accept a responsibility for keeping them healthy, bearing in mind those future users of our orphaned organs.

I could comment about the food we eat because I could be regarded as an expert, having eaten for as long as I've lived. I've also consumed a wide variety of food including Yorkshire Pudding, Toad in the Hole and an occasional take-away, to say nothing of porridge and tapioca. On the first and third Wednesdays of every month I continue

my food adventures by eating delicious cakes at the Chelsfield Community Café - why not go there and try them yourself? But I won't use my experience to impose my views.

Anyway, back to the renewal. The question about donating organs is accompanied by a list that made me realise one vital organ was missing – the brain. Although I haven't yet heard it's possible to transplant a brain, redundant brains could be used for research. I wonder why brains aren't included as one of the organs for automatic donation?

We all know people who don't seem to use their brains much but when death come to all of us our brains will become even more surplus to requirements. We could avoid any waste by offering to donate our brains for research with results that could benefit current and future generations. I think the more we learn, the more

we can understand. (What a catchy phrase that is and I offer it as a contribution to the trite sayings referred to earlier – feel free to repeat it, but don't mention my name!)

However, we don't need to wait for death to make our brains available for research and mine has been used in that way for about 10 years. Having volunteered its use for on-going research into dementia, every six months or so I complete a small number of on-line tests so experts can assess, broadly, how my brain is functioning (or not!). If they detect signs of dementia I'm sure they'll tell me or my GP so my family and I will know we should start planning for a different future. It's like having my own brain MOT, although that's not quite the intention and it's not comprehensive.

The donation question on the renewal form doesn't have space for naming specific beneficiaries but, if brains ever become transplantable, I wonder if that would change. Can you imagine a multiple-

choice question with a range of candidates as recipients of your brain? Not wanting to be parochial, those needing a brain could even include one or two foreign politicians! Think how good you'd feel if your own words and wisdom came from the face of a celebrity politician, replacing the dross that is sometimes spoken?

That's fantasy but in the real world of now it would be helpful to all of us if you'd also volunteer to take part in dementia research while you're still alive. Research is the only way to understand more about diseases like Alzheimer's, to find more effective ways to diagnose it, prevent it and to work towards a cure. Anyone over the age of 18 and living in the UK can take part in the research.

It's easy to do and takes little effort, it's not very challenging and it's very interesting. And in case you're from Yorkshire, like me, I should mention it'll cost you nothing but a couple of hours a year. More people like you and

me need to get involved as volunteers and there are lots of opportunities to take part. If you feel comfortable filling in yearly questionnaires and doing brain tests online, that would be a great help. Others might be happy to go a step further, but only if they wanted to, and be willing to have brain scans, blood tests or take part in clinical tests.

Any role you can play would help scientists and organisations like Alzheimer's Research UK find out more about dementia and new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat it. To learn more about how to volunteer and what it entails Google "Join Dementia Research." You'll get details on how you can help and a better explanation of how useful your help would be. How can you refuse to help change the way dementia looks in the future?

Volunteer for the research to help us all and remember, they say the more we learn the more we can understand.

*Rob Burn*

HALSTEAD WI PRESENT



# SPRING ART & CRAFT FAIR

**SATURDAY 27th APRIL**  
**1.00PM – 4.00PM**

**Free entry**

**HALSTEAD VILLAGE HALL,  
KNOCKHOLT ROAD, TN14 7EX**

Featuring Stalls with various local craftsmen – Patchwork, Wood crafts, Wildlife Cards, Needlework, Pottery, Mosaics, Fabrics, Jewellery, Beauty products, Stained Glass with Sea Glass, and much more! Fabulous Raffle prizes

Make a note in your diary

## Village Produce Show - Is There a Future?

As many of you are aware, there was a Village Produce Show the last couple of years at the end of the summer. The show had been run annually for a number of years and this was an attempt to re-establish it after a gap of some years.

Although this still appears to be a popular event, both entries and entrants have declined over the

past few years, and we were thinking of not repeating a produce show again in its present form. We were considering a radically changed format for next Spring as a Country Fayre / Craft show.

The changes being: Dropping the classes that are poorly supported Increasing the variety of classes that are supported such as

Country Fayre, Handicrafts and Photographic classes. This would hopefully result in more entries and entrants.

Alternatively we just drop the produce show entirely due to lack of support. Please let us know your thoughts.

[chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)

## PRUH Table Sale



**The Friends of the Princess Royal University Hospital  
are holding a**

**Table Sale**

**on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2024**

between 10am and 6pm

inside the main entrance to the

**Princess Royal University Hospital**

Lots of goodies to buy.

All proceeds go towards making the hospital a better place for patients and staff.

**Do please come and support us on the day.**

The Friends of Princess Royal University Hospital is a registered charity, with registration number 231071, run entirely by volunteers.



## St Martin's Calendar of Services



The Benefice of  
Chelsfield with Green Street Green  
and Pratts Bottom



### St Martin's Chelsfield & Well Hill – Services – April 2024

All welcome! Come and join us any time. Please check the church website for any updates

#### Benefice Service

Monday 8 April 10.00am Said Holy Communion at St Mary's  
*for the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

#### St Martin's

Wed 3 April	9.30am	Said Holy Communion <u>CWO2</u> : SAJ
	7.00pm	Taizé Service
Sun 7 April	10.00am	Holy Communion <u>CWO1</u> : MH
2 <sup>nd</sup> of Easter	6.30pm	Choral Evensong <u>BCP</u> : Reader John Buckle
Wed 10 April	9.30am	Said Holy Communion <u>CWO2</u> : MG
Sun 14 April	10.00am	Family Worship : SAJ
3 <sup>rd</sup> of Easter	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist <u>CWO2</u> : SAJ
Wed 17 April	9.30am	Said Holy Communion <u>CWO2</u> : SAJ
Sun 21 April	10.00am	Holy Communion <u>CWO1</u> : MG
4 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	6.30pm	Choral Evensong <u>BCP</u> : KIA
Wed 24 April	9.30am	Said Holy Communion <u>CWO2</u> : MG
Sun 28 April	10.00am	Morning Worship : KIA
5 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	6.30pm	Choral Evensong <u>BCP</u> : PS

#### Well Hill

Sun 14 April	10.00am	Morning Worship <u>KIA</u>
Sun 28 April	10.00am	Holy Communion <u>MG</u>

Key: CWO1 – Common Worship Order 1; CWO2 – Common Worship Order 2; BCP – Book of Common Prayer; SAJ : Rev Susan Atkinson-Jones, MG : Rev Michael Gentry, MH : Rev Martin Hayward, KIA : Reader Ken l'Anson PS : Reader Phillip Southby



BROMLEY ADULT CHOIR  
with Orchestra & Soloists

# Best of Choral Bach MAGNIFICAT BWV 243 Choruses from Cantatas

Come & enjoy an evening of some of the most  
beautiful music Bach ever composed



Sunday 28 April 2024. 6pm

All Saints Church | 44 Bark Hart Rd  
Orpington BR6 0QD

**BYMT**  
BROMLEY YOUTH MUSIC TRUST

[www.bymt.co.uk/events](http://www.bymt.co.uk/events)



## THE PARISH OF CHELSFIELD

### NOTICE OF A MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

The annual meeting for the election of churchwardens will be held in the church of St. Martin of Tours, Chelsfield, on the **21st day of April 2024 at 4.30pm.**

In this Notice "parish" means an ecclesiastical parish.

The meeting may be attended by:

1. All persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish, AND
2. All persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence

Under section 5A of the Churchwardens' Measure 2001,<sup>1</sup> an appeal against the election of a churchwarden may be made by any person entitled to take part in this meeting or by a candidate in the election. An appeal may be made against the election of any person on any of the following grounds:

1. That the person was not duly elected,
2. That the person was not qualified to be a candidate at the time of election,
3. That before the election was held, the person misrepresented a material fact in connection with the election,
4. That the conduct of the election was such as to affect its outcome,
5. That it has been determined that an error was made in the roll or that question is awaiting determination, and that error would or might be material to the election result;
6. That a vote which was allowed should have been disallowed, or that should have been disallowed was allowed, but only if that would or might have been material to the election result.

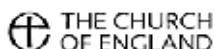
Any person who wishes to make an appeal should consult the Minister or the lay chair of the deanery Synod as to the appropriate procedure.

*S. F. Atkinson-Jones*

Signed: The Reverend Susan Atkinson-Jones  
Rector

**Nomination forms, meeting papers and details concerning attendance and voting will be available on the church website at:**  
**<http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk/report.html>**

<sup>1</sup> Substituted by Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2020/406, Part 2 rule 10(3) (consequential amendments) (July 2020). The full text is available at [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/406](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/406)



**THE PARISH OF CHELSFIELD  
in the Diocese of Rochester**

## **REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

Notice is hereby given that the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish will be revised by the Parochial Church Council, beginning on the 30th day of March 2024 and ending on the 6th day of April 2024.

After the revision, a copy of the Roll will be published by the Parochial Church Council on the church noticeboards for at least 14 days and a copy of the Roll will be available for inspection on a reasonable request being made to the Council.

Under the Church Representation Rules, a lay person is entitled to have his or her name entered on the roll if the person –

- (a) is baptised,
- (b) is aged 16 or over, and
- (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.

The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

The third declaration is that the person is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from the Church Electoral Roll Officer. In order for a person to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, an Application Form for enrolment must be returned by the date shown above for the ending of the revision of the Church Electoral Roll by the Parochial Church Council.

Any error discovered in the Roll should at once be reported to the Church Electoral Roll Officer.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2024

Signed:

Church Electoral Roll Officer  
Email: [roll@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:roll@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



## Local History Group - Metropolitan Police Telephone Boxes

Paul Rason gave a well illustrated presentation. He brought along 2 small models (money boxes) and some memorabilia for us to look at in the break.

The Metropolitan Police Force was established in 1829 as the first police force in the UK. The police force needs a means of communication within the organisation. In the early days there was no way to communicate with officers on the beat.

The first communications with police stations employed teleprinters which were used to transfer information to

police stations in order to mobilise forces.

In 1939 the first police phone boxes were placed in Dagenham to communicate with officers on the beat. Eventually there were 600. The first were made of wood but the later models were made of concrete with a teak door. A light would flash on the top to attract the attention of the officer who would patrol from box to box on their regular route. The telephone was accessed through a flap on the side. Inside the box would be a stool and a work top. They were hot in the summer and cold in the winter.

As they needed an electricity supply and had to be located on common land they were not always situated in the most convenient spots.

Radio communication with police cars came first to Bromley with 2 cars being equipped. Originally morse code was used.

Officers would patrol with just their whistle and chain which had a phone

box key attached, notebook and truncheon. They had to provide their own handcuffs. Very unlike the modern police officer. Trials were made of a large walkie-talkie in 1947. A smaller portable version eventually became available but was not carried by all officers.

Paul showed the locations of 27 boxes which would have been covered by officers patrolling in Bromley's P Division. The most local boxes were at Locks Bottom, Warren Road/Windsor Drive, Court Road near The Highway, 2 in the Cudham Lane area, Downe, Leaves Green, Biggin Hill and The Three Horseshoes, Knockholt. Knockholt was included in the Met area despite being in Kent due to the strategic importance of Biggin Hill during WWII.

There is a website that lists all the locations of Met Police phone boxes, with photographs visualising what they would have looked like in situ. You can visit it at [www.ghostmonuments.co.uk](http://www.ghostmonuments.co.uk)



# LIVE MUSIC

## @ THE FIVE BELLS



# POP, DISCO, DANCE

## FRIDAY 26TH APRIL

## FROM 8:30PM

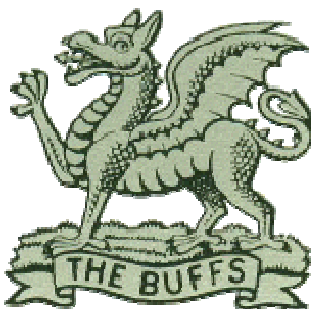
@GOLD\_FUNCTIONBAND

FACEBOOK.COM/GETMEGOLD



## Chelsfield's Casualties of World War II

This month's story is particularly poignant as eighty years ago David Noall was killed in action, aged 24, on Easter Day, 10<sup>th</sup> April 1944. 312118 2nd Lieutenant David Alexander was a member of the Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs), but



at the time of his death he was serving with the 1st Battalion of the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment. He has no



known grave but is remembered on the Cassino Memorial in Italy. The Commonwealth War

Graves Commission citation states he was the son of William & Lorna Margaret Noall of Upper Norwood, Surrey.

I have found more information online in extracts from a publication called 'Croydon and the Second World War: The Official History of the War Work of the Borough and Its Citizens from 1939–1945, Together with the Croydon Roll of Honour'. This detailed work has a lot of information about all the citizens of Croydon who served their country in World War II and is a tribute to the compiler, William Charles Berwick, as now we can know more about some of those who otherwise would have been lost to history.

From this book we learn that David Noall was born in South Norwood on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1920, but at the time he was killed his address was given as 'Koreela' Homestead Road, Chelsfield. He was educated at Selhurst Grammar School and was a Rover Scout and a member of old Croydon Harriers. He served in the

Queen's Westminsters branch of the Territorial Army before the war. He was wounded at El Alamein when an NCO with the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

I couldn't find exactly when Noall's unit was attached to the Queen's Own RWK's but once with them, and as with Fred Parrott last month, he was sent to Italy to take part in the Battle of Monte Cassino. Noall's battalion had previously been in North Africa, taking part in the Tunisian Campaign, and didn't arrive in Italy until just before the 4<sup>th</sup> battle. He was killed in action while on a night recce in preparation for this, on Easter Day, 1944.

One of the difficult things that comes up again and again when I'm doing this research is the length of time it took for relatives to find out what had happened to their loved ones. A newspaper clipping available online reads 'Previously reported missing, now officially reported killed in action in Italy, Easter Sunday, 1944... beloved youngest son of Mr and

Mrs W. Noall.' This is from 30th July 1945, more than a year after it happened.

Noall's residence, 'Koreela', was at the southern end of Homestead Road on the East side. I think it has been replaced by a new house now. It appears

that David lived there with his mother as Mrs Noall is registered as still living there in 1951 when she died. Mr Noall seems to have stayed in Upper Norwood and this leads to David being remembered in two places. I found a very lovely piece of extra information on the

Imperial War Museum site which records that he is also remembered in a window in St John the Evangelist church in Upper Norwood. The stained glass window depicts Mary and St Alban and is behind the main altar.

*Philippa Rooke  
pjrooke@hotmail.com*

## Chelsfield Community Cafe



Chelsfield Community Cafe will take place on 3rd & 17th April.

We will hold our Easter event on Wednesday 3rd.

All are welcome, so don your Easter bonnet. We

will have a raffle, quiz, fun comps and lots of lovely cake!! Please join us between 2:30 and 4:30pm on these dates in Chelsfield Village Hall.

*Mags, Pam and  
Chelsfield Volunteers*



## National Trust: Orpington & Chislehurst Centre

The Centre has monthly evening lectures held at the Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, BR6 9JH starting at 7.30pm and afternoon lectures held most months at the Methodist Church, Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst, BR7 5LX starting at 2.00pm

There is also a regular programme of local walks, day trips, holidays

and a variety of social events.

To find out more about the Centre and how to join please send an email to [ntocc100@gmail.com](mailto:ntocc100@gmail.com) Membership is open to both members and non-members of the National Trust.

### LECTURES FOR APRIL 2024

Thursday 11th April at

2.00pm - *40 Years without a Proper Job* - a life spent working in every aspect of live entertainment

Thursday 25th April at 7.30pm - AGM followed by the monthly lecture *Pyjama Fairies* – the only UK charity to make pyjamas and surgical gowns specially designed for babies and children in hospitals.

## Knit & Natter Evening

This month we are meeting on Monday 8th April at 8pm.

Whether you are a

knitting expert or want to get started, crocheting and other crafts welcome, or just a chat, we'd love to see you.

If you like to join us please call Sophie on 07983 656022 to find out where we are meeting this month.

## Kent Heights Flower Club

We are a small independent flower club based in Halstead

Next meeting: **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

A demonstration and talk with

**SUE ELDRIDGE**

**THE LIFE OF CONSTANCE SPRY**

Visitors £5 to include entry and refreshments

Halstead Village Hall, Knockholt Road, TN14 7EX

7.00pm for 7.30pm

All Welcome

Future Meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> May: Workshop – Supermarket Swap

6<sup>th</sup> June: Coblands Garden Centre

4<sup>th</sup> July: Helen Hare – Travelling Down Under

For further information please contact Sally Kemsley 01959 534406



## Five Bells Upcoming Live Music Dates

**26th April - Gold**

**17th May - Luke Edney**

**28th June - Devanna**

**26th July - Gold**

All performing from 8:30pm

## Armed Robbery at Windsor Drive

Armed Police attended a shop in Windsor Drive on March 22nd, following reports of an armed

robbery. "If you have any information that may support police with their investigation, please call

101 stating CAD1644/22MAR24." There were no report injuries.

## **Philip Lane - Looking Back in Time**

St Martin's Ladies Group is delighted to host a

Presentation by Philip Lane featuring

### **ORPINGTON AND DISTRICT LOOKING BACK IN TIME**

with his photographs projected on the big screen  
in the Brass Crosby Room at St Martin of Tours Church,  
Church Road, Chelsfield  
on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>, April 2024 at 2.30 pm

Tea and cakes will be served afterwards - Entry fee £2 to visitors

## **Wonderful Woodland for Worlds End**

An exciting plan to create a new woodland on under-used land just off Worlds End Lane has been unveiled by Bromley Council.

For Chelsfield Park residents it will be a welcome addition to the neighbouring Chelsfield Hill Wood, a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) on the south-facing slope behind houses bordering the Lane. This hosts flowering chalk species and ancient woodland composed of oak, beech, ash and hazel with rich ground flora.

A minimum of 1,600 trees per hectare will be planted on the proposed

site, which includes some existing rough woodland and a field where horses grazed quietly for many years. Fronting the south side of the lane from almost opposite Homestead Road to the bottom of the "dip" before Julian Road, the new woodland will stretch back 150 metres or so (500 feet).

A large glade sprinkled with anthills and flowering plants will provide open space within the site. Rides – mown grassy paths – will be bordered with woody shrubs to create a transition from open space to high-canopy woodland.

Together with hawthorn, holly, hazel, elder and honeysuckle, this will

ensure good habitat and food sources for wildlife, birds and insects including the White Admiral butterfly identifiable by its dark wings with white bands.

With climate change in mind, the tree species selected will come from a wide variety of seed sources, thus increasing genetic diversity and the woodland's future resilience. Oak and beech will make up the new high canopy while hawthorn, coppiced hazel, hornbeam, wild service tree and field maple will supply the "understory".

Bromley says the chosen tree types will reflect the structure and diversity of

the surrounding woodland. An existing area of hazel coppice will probably be extended and managed to support species such as the hazel dormouse. Ash dieback is a big problem locally so, to reduce the spread of this disease, ash trees will not be in the mix. Invasive cherry laurel will be carefully controlled.

Earth onsite will only be broken when necessary. Every tree will be planted by hand to minimise ground disturbance. Anthills present throughout the site will be retained. Natural regeneration of seed from surrounding ancient woodland trees will also

be encouraged, creating a natural transition from grassland to woodland – the greatest benefit to biodiversity. A mesh fence 1.6 metres high (five feet) may be erected to protect this area from the depredations of the local deer population.

Currently, there are no plans for the woodland to be publicly accessible. However, volunteer groups are likely to be encouraged to get involved with coppice management, providing a sustainable source for firewood.

Bromley has launched a four-week consultation about the Worlds End

Lane site and two others located in Chislehurst, ending on 9 April. Details at:

[www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/666/consultation-underway-about-woodland-planting-proposals](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/666/consultation-underway-about-woodland-planting-proposals)

Feedback and suggestions will help shape the final plans. The Council will then seek funding to help with planting and other establishment costs, including from the Forestry Commission which provided a grant for a feasibility study on the project.

*Patrick Hellicar*

## Halstead & District Horticultural Society Events for 2024

Visitors are most welcome to talks for a small £2 charge. Our membership year has just begun for 2024 so if you are interested in meeting local people with a shared love of horticulture, please email our Chairman Lisa at: [lisao123@btinternet.com](mailto:lisao123@btinternet.com) 07759 591312.

### **April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Spring Show 7.45pm  
Great seed potato challenge and seed swap  
Halstead Village Hall

**April 25<sup>th</sup> Talk 8pm**  
at Halstead Village Hall  
*"The Jungle Garden"*

**May 4<sup>th</sup> 9am-12**  
Plant Sale  
Halstead Village Hall  
(with Community Café)

**June 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**  
Quiz  
Halstead Village Hall

**June 20<sup>th</sup> 7.45**  
Summer Show  
Halstead Village Hall

**July 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Outing to Godinton Gdns

Ashford by coach

**September 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Autumn Show Halstead  
Village Hall 2pm

**September 26<sup>th</sup> 8pm**  
Talk - Halstead Village  
Hall *"Flowering Shrubs  
for September and  
October"*

**October 24<sup>th</sup> 8pm** Talk -  
Halstead Village Hall  
*"Houseplants"*

**November 20<sup>th</sup> 8pm**  
AGM & Social Halstead  
Village Hall



## Performances

We perform three concerts a year of classical choral music in Orpington. Our concerts are usually in the Spring, Summer & Autumn.

2024 Concert dates:

**Saturday 16th March**

**Saturday 20th July**

**Saturday 23rd November**

## Rehearsals

We rehearse on Tuesday evenings for around 12 weeks in the run up to each of our concerts.

Rehearsals are at All Saints' Church in the centre of Orpington and start at 8pm

Our full members pay a subscription of £55 per term to help cover the costs of running the choir

Find us at [www.asfc.london](http://www.asfc.london) or contact us via the church office on **01689 832 031**

# DO YOU LOVE SINGING?

**EXPERIENCE THE PURE JOY OF MUSIC-MAKING WITH ALL SAINTS' FESTIVAL CHOIR!**

**ALL SAINTS' FESTIVAL CHOIR**  
*is welcoming new singers in all voice parts*

## Who are we?

With a celebrated thirty-year history, our choir invites you to join without auditions or experience – just a love for singing.

Our diverse group meets together and crafts beautiful harmonies under our skilled conductor. Immerse yourself in the world of some of the greatest composers including Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, Schubert and Dvorak.

Try a couple of rehearsals without commitment and see if you like us!



**Unleash your inner musician – join All Saints' Festival Choir!**

## The Asian Hornet Threat

Following the articles in the December and January issues regarding

the serious threat to our native bee populations by the Asian Hornet, we

hope these pages will aid identification of possible local nests.



[www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

Version 1.0. Produced by Lucy Cornwell (NNSS), Nigel Semmence (National Bee Unit).  
Based on 'Identification Information Sheet' Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France

# Asian Hornet nest identification

Asian hornets produce two types of nest, primary and secondary:

### Primary nests:

- Spherical with a small entrance hole at the base, usually 5 to 10 cm in diameter.
- Built in spring by a lone Asian hornet queen, usually in a protected place such as brambles, a hedgerow, or in / on a building.
- All primary wasp and hornet nests look similar, only report primary nests if seen with Asian hornets. To identify a nest, watch for insects from a safe distance.**

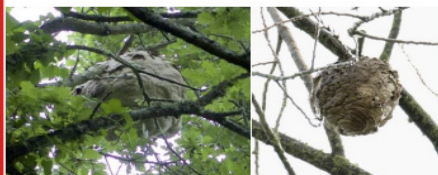
### Secondary nests:

- Pear-shaped, entrance hole halfway up the nest, up to 60 cm wide x 80 cm tall.
- Usually found in trees, may also be in buildings and hedges.
- Use binoculars to identify secondary nests from a safe distance. Do not disturb suspected nests and retreat from any wasp / hornet nests if flying insects are observed.**

Asian hornet,  
*Vespa velutina*



Secondary nests in a tree canopy in summer (left)



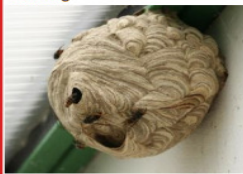
**Primary nest.** All primary wasp and hornet nests look similar. **Only report if seen with Asian hornet.**



Secondary nest in a hedge



Secondary nest in a building



## Alert!

Report sightings of Asian hornet and suspected nests:

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: **Asian Hornet Watch**
- online at: [nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet](http://nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet)
- by email: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)

For assistance with identifying a suspected Asian hornet nest, or to help identify nests, please contact your local Asian Hornet Team (AHT).

Report Asian  
hornet:



Find an  
AHT:





# Nests of similar species

Secondary Asian hornet nests may be confused with other wasp and hornet nests, or objects in trees. If you suspect you have seen an Asian hornet nest, please use binoculars to check from a safe distance before reporting. See overleaf for details of where to report nests and how to get help with identifying a potential nest.

## Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*

### Secondary nest:

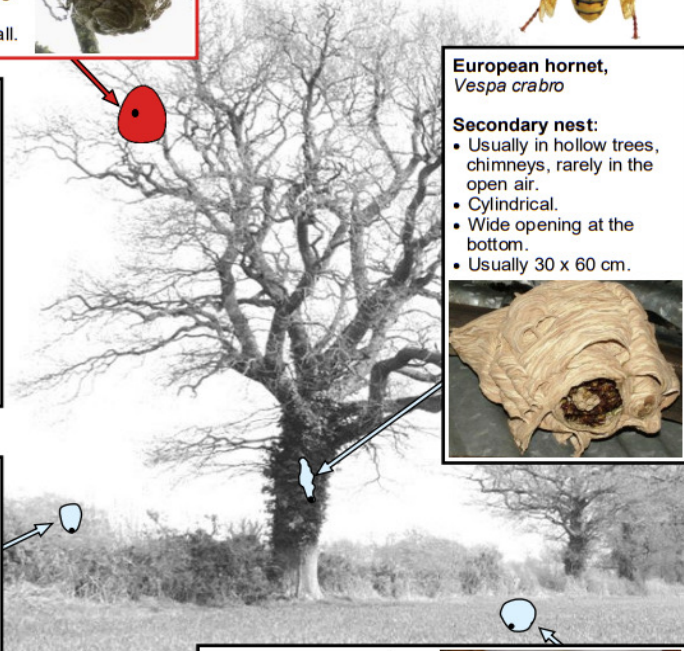
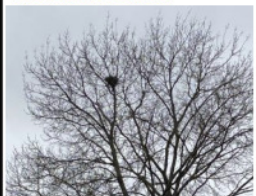
- Usually found in trees, may also be in buildings and hedges.
- Pear-shaped.
- Entrance hole halfway up the nest.
- Up to 60 cm wide x 80 cm tall.



### Other objects in trees

- Crow and magpie nests.
- Mistletoe.
- Squirrel dreys.

### Bird nest in a tree:



## European hornet, *Vespa crabro*

### Secondary nest:

- Usually in hollow trees, chimneys, rarely in the open air.
- Cylindrical.
- Wide opening at the bottom.
- Usually 30 x 60 cm.



## Median wasp, *Dolichovespula media*



### Secondary nest:

- Usually in bushes that are less than 2 m tall.
- Conical.
- Small opening at lower end, off centre.
- Usually 20 x 25 cm.



### Primary nest:

Characteristic tube-shaped entrance (unlike primary Asian hornet nest).



## Common wasp, *Vespa vulgaris*



### Secondary nest:

- Usually on the ground, or in confined spaces in buildings.
- Round to conical.
- Small hidden opening at the lower end.
- Usually 30 x 35 cm.



## Two New Welcome Arrivals in Windsor Drive

[illegible][illegible]

Breakfasts					
SET 1	EGG, BACON, HAM, BEANS	TORST	1.750	ROLLS	1.350
SET 2	EGG, BACON, SAUSAGE, BEANS	HALLUM	1.750	SANDWICH	1.350
TORST	1.750	BACONETTE	1.350	EGG, BACON + SAUSAGE	5.500
SET 3	EGG, BACON, SAUSAGE, BEANS, HAMMANS	PANINI	1.450	EGG, BACON + SAUSAGE	5.500
GRILLED TORST	1.750	EXTRA SALAD	0.500	EGG, BACON + SAUSAGE	5.500
SET 4	2 EGGS, GRILLED TOMATO, HAMMANS			EGG, BACON + SAUSAGE	5.500
HALLUM, BEANS, TORST	1.900			EGG, BACON + SAUSAGE	5.500
SET 5	2 EGGS, AVOCADO, HALLUM,			BACONET + BACONETTE	5.500
CALSAZ, EXTRA ITEM	2.200				
EXTRA ITEM	2.200				
Eggs Benedict			On Toasts		
EGGS BENEDICT, AVOCADO, BACON	2.900	JACKET POTATO + FILLING	1.650	2 PACKED EGGS, 2 TORSTS	1.450
EGGS BENEDICT, AVOCADO, BACON, SAUSAGE	3.150	JACKET POTATO + FILLING	1.750	3 SCRAMBLED EGGS, 2 TORSTS	1.500
EGGS ROYALE, AVOCADO, HAM, SALAD	3.950	Small - Included with Small Plate		BEANS + 2 TORSTS	1.450
Omelettes			Jacket Potatoes		
PLAIN OMELETTE	1.600	PLAIN SALAD	1.350	EXTRA SHAKED SALAD	1.500
CHEESE OMELETTE	1.650	GRAND SALAD	1.500	EXTRA AVOCADO	1.150
CHEESE + 4 MUSHROOMS OMELETTE	1.750	GRAND + FILLING	1.500		
SPINACH OMELETTE	1.750	GRAND + 2 FILLING	1.600		
VEGET. + CHEESE, 100 GRIFF	2.500				

Windsor Drive. Choux Bakery and Little Big Treats both offering a high quality food and drink menu. Something for everyone to enjoy - Let us wish them well and support them both!

## Receive Chelsfield Village Voice by Email

To receive your copy of Chelsfield Village Voice by email each month, as soon as it's published, simply email your request to:  
[chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)  
and you will be added to

the monthly email distribution list.

If you opt to receive Chelsfield Village Voice by email you will only receive two emails from us each month (unless any urgent issues should arise at any time), the

first to remind you of the upcoming deadline for articles to be included in the next addition, and the second, around the 1st of each month, will be the monthly issue. Our mailing list is not shared with any other persons, group or organisation.

Our thanks to **versapak** who are currently funding the printing costs of Chelsfield Village Voice

## Dates For Your Diary

### WEEKLY EVENTS

**Every Monday**  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Karate Classes**  
7pm - 8.30pm

**Every Tuesday**  
Brass Crosby Room  
**St Martin's Toddler Group**  
10.30am - 12 noon

**Every Tuesday**  
Five Bells  
**CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**  
8.30pm

**Every Thursday**  
The Chelsfield Pub  
**QUIZ NIGHT**  
from 7.30pm

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

**Wednesday 3rd April**  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Chelsfield Volunteers**  
**AFTERNOON TEA**  
2.30pm-4.30pm (page 20)

**Wednesday 3rd April**  
Five Bells  
**Bingo Night**  
from 7.30pm

**Thursday 4th April**  
Halstead Village Hall  
**Kent Heights Flower Club**  
from 7.00pm (See Page 21)

**Saturday 6th April**  
St Martin's Church  
**Churchyard Working Party**  
from 9-11am

**Monday 8th April**  
Call Sophie 07983 656022 for this months venue  
**Knit and Natter**  
8pm (see page 21)

**Tuesday 9th April**  
Brass Crosby Room  
**Philip Lane presents Orpington & District Looking Back in Time**  
from 8.30pm (See page 22)

**Wednesday 10th April**  
Halstead Village Hall  
**Spring Show**  
from 7.45pm (See page 23)

**Wednesday 10th April**  
Five Bells  
**Open Mike Night**  
from 2.30pm

**Thursday 11th April**  
Methodist Church Prince Imperial Rd. Chislehurst  
**National Trust Lecture**  
**40 Years Without a Proper Job**  
from 2.00pm (Page 20)

**Saturday 13th April**  
Meet St Martin's Church  
**Guided Spring Walk**  
from 10.00am (See front cover)

**Tuesday 16th April**  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Evening WI**  
7.30pm-9.30pm

**Wednesday 17th April**  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Chelsfield Volunteers**  
**AFTERNOON TEA**  
2.30pm-4.30pm (page 20)

**Wednesday 17th April**  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**CRAFIELD CLUB**  
from 7.30pm

**Wednesday 17th April**  
Five Bells  
**Bingo Night**  
from 7.30pm

**Wednesday 24th April**  
Five Bells  
**Open Mike Night**  
from 8.30pm

**Thursday 25th April**  
Methodist Church Sevenoaks Road Orpington  
**AGM & National Trust Lecture - Pyjama Fairies**  
from 7.30pm (Page 20)

**Friday 26th April**  
Five Bells  
**GOLD Live Band**  
from 8.30pm

**Saturday 27th April**  
Halstead Village Hall  
**Spring Art & Craft Fair**  
from 10am - 3pm

**Saturday 27th April**  
Coolings Garden Centre  
**Knockholt Farmers' Market**  
from 1pm - 4pm (See page 11)

**Sunday 28th April**  
All Saints' Church, Bark Hart Rd  
**Bromley Adult Choir**  
from 6.00pm (See Page 14)

**Wed & Thurs 1st & 2nd May**  
Princess Royal University Hospital  
**Table Sale**  
from 10am - 6pm

**Friday 17th May**  
Five Bells  
**Luke Edney Live Band**  
from 8.30pm

## Recycling Bin Collection April 2024

Tuesday 2nd April  
Monday 9th April  
Monday 15th April  
Monday 22nd April  
Monday 29th April

Every week

Every 2 weeks (Mar-Nov)  
every Month (Dec-Feb)

Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste  
Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste.  
Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste  
Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste.  
Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste

Batteries, Small Electrical Items, Textiles (please only present one small transparent bag each week, and re-present the following week if it is not collected)

Green Garden Waste is collected fortnightly or monthly only from households that subscribe (£60 per annum) to the Bromley scheme (Telephone: 0300 303 8658 for advice)