



December 2014

Supported by



Chelsfield
Park
Hospital

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

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Merry Christmas Chelsfield!

*With the festive season now well
and truly upon us, take this last
chance to join with others from the
village to share and enjoy our*

Chelsfield Village Christmas Social

Wednesday 17th December
at 8.00pm

in
Chelsfield Village Hall

**Contributions of food and
drinks will be most welcome**

Contributions

Send any events, articles,
photos, drawings or
stories for the January
2015 issue to:

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

or post to:

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

by Sat 27th December

Visit: www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

The Robin

With Christmas approaching I thought I'd choose the easy seasonal option of the robin (*Erithacus rubecula melophilus*) meaning 'sweet singer'. Earlier names include ruddock (from old English *ruddoc*) dating back a thousand years. Anybody that regularly tends a garden will know their local robin due to the unusual tameness of this bird. One theory as to why these birds are so tame is that in earlier times they would attend wild boars that roamed into their territories and pick over any upturned soil for worms and other goodies. Clearly, when a gardener is weeding or preparing the ground, their actions are similar to the boars and an instinctive desire to be first to the feast kicks in. However, this tameness is not seen in other parts of Europe where redstarts are considered to be relatively tame.

The robin has a wide range throughout Europe but interestingly has failed to adapt to being introduced to other parts of the world, particularly Australia, New Zealand and the US. This seems odd for a

bird which is both intelligent and adaptable.

The robin is considered Britain's favourite bird and many rhymes and sayings relate to this relationship. The best know is probably William Blake's:

A Robin redbreast in a cage / puts all of heaven in a rage.

This echoed a long standing conviction that harming Robins was unnatural. Another gruesome rhyme relates to earlier times (~1800) when two highway men were hanged near Chester and their bodies left to rot in cages for over 25 years. When the bodies were finally removed a robin's nest was found in the skull of James Price leading to the rhyme:

Oh! James Price deserved his fate:
Naught but robbing in his pate
Whilst alive, and now he's dead
Still has robin in his head.

Robins also have a tradition of being associated with death. Often a robin in a house is considered an omen of death however other reliable sources tell of robins appearing in

houses after a death has occurred. One book that I used as a reference for this article tells of the Larkin family from Loddon, Norfolk who lost a father and grandfather. One the same day five members of the family had a robin related experience that they considered unusual.

Many years ago I had my 'own' robin and our relationship consisted of me placing some bird food out every morning in a particular place when I went to work. The robin quickly got to understand the procedure and would be waiting for his breakfast as I left for work. If you are really keen to make very good friends with a robin then I understand that the best method is to buy some live mealworms (not the freeze dried type which they are merely fond of) and use them to feed your robin. Once the robin has realised the treat in store then slowly adapt the feeding process so that the robin has to feed from your hand. Most robins will readily feed in this way: not for the squeamish !
About five years ago I had

solar heating installed and a nest in a hedge close to the house was clearly going to be close to where workmen would be up and down on a ladder all day. I was hoping that the young would fledge prior to the day of the install but as luck

would have it 'fledging day' coincided with 'install day' ! None of the workmen even noticed the nest and the parent robins only appeared occasionally when the men were away from the ladder. The following day I had the pleasure of watching the young take

their first dodgy flights away from the nest. Down in Shoreham, a friend of mine had neighbours who were having building work done where the workmen had to repeatedly move a Robin's nest. The parents appeared to take this in their stride and the young were successfully fledged. Before I finish I'd like to relate one more robin related fact that I thought I needed to tell but which I could not easily incorporate into the text above. Remarkably, robins have a heart beat rate of around 1000 beats a minute. What ! No wonder they always seem full of beans! Have a merry Christmas and keep an eye out for any robins that may need feeding over the winter.

Steve Fuller

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Tryhorn Article Correction

Following a recent article about St Martin's Tryhorn field, the Village Voice has been made aware by Patrick Hellicar of a correction. 'It was Nick himself, not

his father Albert, who sold the land to the church. Albert bought the field from Court Lodge Farm in 1952 along with Nick's sister Joyce and her husband Joseph

Lukasiewicz. Joyce died in 1965, Albert in 1973 and Joseph in 1977, which is when Nick inherited the land. He sold it to St Martin's the following year.'

**Sing Christmas Carols
with Phil Lane**

Collection by my Christmas Elves for Motor Neuron Disease



The Five Bells Chelsfield
Thursday 18th December 2014 from 8.17
Traditional Carols at their very best!

Charity

Stewart Vassie worries about the business of charity

My Mother used to use the expression, "It just doesn't smell right." She would use it about a great pallet of issues and usually she was right. Things that didn't smell right to her would usually turn out to be wrong.

For me, the whole business of charities has not smelt right for the last couple of years. The definition of the word 'charity' has sat oddly in the context of published statements when people have used the word 'charity'. Perhaps I define it wrongly but charity used to have two common definitions, one was used semi-pejoratively and meant being regarded as someone who could not sort his or her life out and had to be helped, while the second definition was not receiving but giving and was a private thing, not something that was witnessed or seen publicly. This second definition was good while the first was often considered

as bad. A person was charitable and helped or they were a charity case and needed and hopefully received charity.

Nowhere in the definitions were the words profit, employer, campaign or bonus, charity was a personal and private thing a reflection of your own actions and attitude.

Naturally most charitable actions were organized locally but there was not much of an industry about this organizing and often it was done via the church, the parish or the local priest who knew and understood the two definitions I have given above.

Now however the term charity has morphed into something different and is now a major industrial sector in the economy of the country. The warm feel of charity has been removed and replaced by some ersatz emotive thing that is manipulated, and publicly displayed as a menu. This new 'ersatz charity' does not seem to be grounded in the foundation of the old 'charity'

but is now sculpted to images and clever headlines. Ersatz charity has at it heart a single motive to generate revenue to fund anything that the organisers deem desirable and for them right. Indeed it has to generate revenue to keep the organiser's businesses turning, the media departments and creative costs covered and the taxes and payroll paid. This is not cheap. Where in the past the parish priest aided by Mrs X or Mr Z incorporated the costs involved into their normal budgets, now employing a top flight photographer and a media buyer can run into thousands and they have to be located somewhere so you've now got to provide office space, electricity and services plus pay community charges and none of that is low cost. Then there is insurance, pensions and you have to obey the current employment legislation and all this cost has to be paid out of the widows mite, which means that the widow has to be persuaded to contribute

more to increase the size of her mite. Often the widow cannot increase the size of her mite and then the answer is to increase the number of widows and so you need some staff to appeal to these new widows and before you know it you've got a department and up go the costs yet again. It is by this process that the Charity Industry just grows and grows – it has to but, and here is the flaw, the costs increase but the cause does not benefit unless you have a global organization so you need 'global reach' and this requires major publicity campaigns, all a very long way indeed from a charitable thought of someone. The charity industry is now about growth factors and penetration into the target market. It is not enough to just be concerned for strays or the disadvantaged, you have to be

involved in the presentation of your strays or disadvantaged; they have to be pictorially presentable – look needy and or starving in a newspaper ad. or on a leaflet. Equally the message has to be well crafted, sound convincing and generate not just one contribution but monthly contributions. With such a large cost structure you need to be able to assure the bank and the big backers that your charity can generate the income you need to function; it is all part of a strategic plan and with a bit of luck you might even land a Government or Council grant, which would please your financial officer and his advisers. The trouble for me is that it has all become so very, very far from my definition of charity. I adore cats and donkeys and when I see a collection box for these my

special charities, I give some money but I won't pledge a regular payment because my definition of charity is to help when I see a need, it is a personal thing not something that can be manipulated by sophisticated marketing.

I expect that a good cause is only a 'good cause' if it is a photogenic, non- controversial and highly marketable. I don't think I am hardhearted, it is just that I am certain I can make my own mind up about charity rather than have fancy directors on salaries of £100,000+ per annum try to make my mind up for me. I believe that charity is about what is in your heart and less about what is in your wallet. Jesus was a poor man but was charitable and that's a role model that seems right for me.

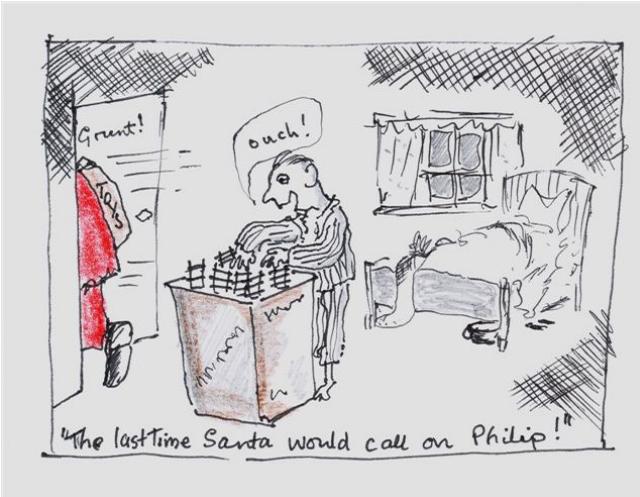
Stewart Vassie

I Believed in Father Christmas...a salutary tale!

When I was a child in the late 40's and early 50's Christmas Eve was a truly magical time. Mum was busy in the kitchen getting things ready for the

next day, including probably some desserts to take to one of my two grandparents on Christmas afternoon. It was bustle everywhere and I vaguely

remember doing last minute wrapping up of the rather humble presents that my 6d a week pocket money would allow. I was sent to bed early and af-



ter staring out of the bedroom window for a sight of that wonderful gentleman scudding across the night sky, I was soon asleep. Determined to try and see him arrive in my room to fill my stocking I always failed until.....one particular Christmas Eve in 1952.... I was awoken by a great crashing and dragging sound just in time to see the great man's shadowy and furtive form leaving

by the bedroom door. It was very dark but curiosity got the better of me and I cautiously stumbled towards this huge thing at the end of my bed. I pushed my little hands into the box and was assailed by something sharp and jagged. With a cry I jumped back into my warm bed and waited till dawn. As light broke I investigated to find the biggest box of tinplate railway track I

had ever seen, and my stocking magically bulging at the end of my bed. How Santa had managed to get this lot down our chimney remained a mystery, but who was I to question? When I came downstairs for breakfast, a very excited little boy, my father told me that he had been informed that I had espied Father Christmas making his delivery, a most unwise thing to do, he said. For many years after this he still came and left my stocking but no big presents. This omission was however very adequately made up by my parents who gave me a special present from them. I still believe in Father Christmas but accept that he has quite enough work to do for all those millions of expectant children without pandering to the likes of me, who dared to peep!

Philip Lane

Village Cottage Damaged in Car Crash

Walking through the village on a quiet Sunday morning recently, all was well, but on my return 10 minutes later found at the

Bucks Cross Road / Warren Road junction, a car had overshot the junction and had embedded itself into the front of the cot-

tage opposite. Fortunately the occupants of the house were out at the time, and the lady driver, although shaken, did not

appear injured, and was attended by the London Ambulance Service. First

at the scene were a couple of Sunday cyclists who directed the traffic. In

all three police cars and two police cars attended the scene.



Hospital Support War Film

BMI CHELSEFIELD PARK AND THE SLOANE HOSPITAL DOCTOR'S SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR MODERN BRITISH WAR FILM

Consultant Vascular Surgeon Mr Eddie Chaloner, who practices at BMI Chelsfield Park and BMI The Sloane Hospital, has attended the premier of Kajaki, a modern British War film that he helped bring to the cinema.

Mr Chaloner was also a medical adviser and contributed his expertise and experience of landmine injuries to the films production crew. The film, 'Kajaki - The True Sto-

ry' depicts an incident involving a group of soldiers, mostly from the British Army's 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (3 Para), who were trapped in a minefield while stationed at the Kajaki Dam in Afghanistan in 2006. The ensuing injuries led to the death of the section commander, the serious wounding of several other soldiers and multiple awards for gallantry.

Speaking at the premier of the film at the Vue West End cinema in London's Leicester Square, Mr Chaloner commented, "There were many as-

pects of the project which resonated with me. Whilst still a junior surgeon I had done two tours in Afghanistan with the HALO Trust landmine clearing charity in 1992 and 2000 and further stints in Mozambique, Angola, Sri Lanka and Northern Iraq. Unusually for a doctor, I had been present on two separate occasions when soldiers were struck by explosive devices, right in front of me."

The film is directed by Paul Katis and written by Tom Williams, who worked closely with the survivors to bring to the silver screen a war film

that is as authentic representation of the horrors and bravery of war. The film's Executive Producer, Gareth-Ellis-Unwin is known for his work on *The King's Speech*, which won him an Academy Award for Best Picture as well as a BAFTA in 2011.

"I would urge everyone to go and see this movie! The majority of war films I have seen are seriously inaccurate and either over sensationalised or over trivialised. 'Kajaki – the true story' is an unflinchingly honest portrayal of the realities of conflict. In the final analysis it

is a tale of ordinary men doing extraordinary things in circumstances beyond the imagination of



Mr Chaloner with wife Anne Rigg on the red carpet of Kajaki premier

most people. It is a truly remarkable and important portrayal of the Afghan campaign from the soldier's perspective. I am very proud to have played a tiny part in making it happen," Mr Chaloner concluded.

'Kajaki - The True Story' is released nationwide exclusively through Vue Cinemas on 28 November 2014. The money raised from its release will go toward four military charities supported by the production.

For more information on the film please visit: www.kajakimovie.com

Superfast Broadband in Chelsfield - Update

Since the last update, Steve Barnes of Downe has had another meeting with Jo Johnson, MP and he has taken some more actions away. He has kept me up to date with the goings on. Additionally, he has been talking to BT, and has a meeting coming up soon with them. He has also lobbied the leader of Bromley Council (Stephen Carr) again, and he is

hoping the subject will be discussed at a full Council meeting in December. He has also been discussing the issue with two independent broadband suppliers, but their responses are not helpful. He is also chasing up the possibility of linking into the Downe Primary school fibre network, but his contact is not making much progress with Virgin Media. Hey ho...the

battle continues.... MEANWHILE.....we have 23 questionnaire responses, as opposed to Downe's 91, so many thanks to all those who have completed one. Please urge your neighbours and colleagues in the village to complete a questionnaire. We really need to be able to prove to suppliers that there is a real demand in Chelsfield Village for superfast

broadband.

The questionnaire is to be found by searching chelsfield.fasterbroadband.info. A meeting of representatives of the poorly served areas with BT management is to take place imminently.

Letter from Steve Barnes to Sajid Javid MP

Dear Mr Javid,
I have previously contacted your department - your last response to me was via Jo Johnson MP (your reference 251411/ST/30) dated 11 July.

I am leading a campaign in the rural areas of the London Borough of Bromley to bring superfast broadband to these parts of the borough. There are currently no prospects of uplift by any telco infrastructure provider, without the funding

having been put in place. We are facing the somewhat embarrassing prospect of having very slow broadband speeds because we happen to be within the confines of London, whilst our Kent CC neighbours are rapidly implementing superfast broadband on our doorstep through BDUK funding from your department. Indeed, I believe your department is funding broadband speed uplift in very remote rural areas of the UK, whilst overlooking this part of London!!

I understand your previous statements regarding "state aid" rules in cities, but I urge you to re-visit this. I understand BT have issued statements outlining that their interpretation of the rules means that funding broadband uplift in cities does not go against any

such rules. Additionally, Jo Johnson has argued that the definition of the boundary of "London" as a city should be re-drawn to rectify the anomaly in rural Bromley. I support this view also.

Please be aware I have spoken to BT at a senior level, and they have no plans for superfast broadband in this area. I have also contacted alternative suppliers (eg "radio" broadband providers) who have declined to bring their solutions to Bromley. This leaves rural Bromley with no prospect of uplift - a situation I'm sure you will agree is ludicrous given our proximity to the centre of London.

I therefore urge you to reconsider my case, and allow BDUK funding for rural Bromley. I would be grateful for an early response.

Many thanks

Minutes of Chelsfield Village Society AGM

Councillor Keith Onslow attended along with about 20 residents. John Leach stood in as Chairman as Pam Ames found she had double booked with a concert.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Pam Ames, Paul Bennett, Mary Lambert, Steve and Chris Miller and Janet Parsons.
- 2. Matters arising from minutes of 2013 AGM.**

Catherine said that the report of the meeting had been published in the Village Voice with no comment. It was displayed on a screen for all to see. Catherine said

she had seen in the News Shopper that our village was down for a sweep soon. John said he had more to say later about policing. The Orington cinema was under construction.

3. Chairman's Report.

John relayed Pam's thanks to everyone for coming. The Carol Margetts bench is wearing well and the plaque is now in place. The Summer Village Fair was successful despite lower visitor numbers. Thanks to the Chelsfield Flying Club for the outstanding flying display. Unfortunately no one was available to organise and run our bottle stall so we have missed the income the stall provides. Chelsfield Primary School have applied for planning permission for a single storey extension to the existing annexe as a separate room for pupils who require extra help so should not impact upon the Village. We have an adequate supply of salt for the winter but if anyone needs a snow shovel please let Pam know. The A224 /Warren Road junction remains a problem for the Village and we will continue to pursue

this issue. Tony Pitham is considering submitting a further planning application for the Koi Barn site. Alan Johnson and Terry Lloyd have more details as they and their immediate neighbours support the application. Pam attended a Council meeting accompanied new neighbour Terry Lloyd. The meeting was to discuss the Council's Budget for 2015/2016 as savings of more than £60 million have to be made over the next 4 years. There was much discussion, at times heated, with representatives of Residents organisations from our side of the Borough and many suggestions were made. You are urged to complete the Council survey giving your views. This can be obtained from the library or completed online at www.bromley.gov.uk/ourbudgetYourviews by December 7th. For the future, we do require new proactive Committee members, proposed and seconded, and a treasurer, which is not a very onerous task. We also plan to hold future Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of

every other month, beginning on 3rd February 2015 so that all members and councillors know the dates in advance. Lastly, thanks went to those members of our committee who have attended our meetings. Thanks go to John Leach who has done a great job as our Neighbourhood Watch representative and to Catherine Gandolfi for her work as our Secretary and Treasurer. Everyone was reminded that Catherine will be pleased to collect membership subscriptions that are now due. Thanks went to Dan Sloan who edits and produces the Village Voice and Chelsfield Park Hospital for printing the magazine.

Pam Ames

4. Secretary's report.

The Village Society ticks along quietly in the background supporting the Village Voice, Produce Show and local projects. Through the London Borough of Bromley Residents' Federation we are kept in touch with matters in the borough. Through this contact I became aware of a rural broadband campaign in Bromley, led by Steve Barnes

of Downe Residents' Association.

This has reached as far as the leader of Bromley Council, the Mayor of London and the appropriate government minister, Sajid David. A meeting of local representatives with high level BT management is being set up.

It is unacceptable that residents of Greater London are suffering snail like speeds when the government is boasting of rolling out superfast broadband elsewhere. I urge you all to fill in the broadband questionnaire mentioned in the Village Voice if you have not already done so.

Catherine Gandolfi

5. Treasurer's report.

This has been an unremarkable year. The end of year balance is about £90 down, mainly due to the lack of fund raising this year with no-one coming forward to run our stall at the Summer Fair. Hopefully residents have seen the plaque installed on the Carol Margetts memorial bench.

We have gained a few new members but lost a few.

I am still awaiting an invoice for the cost of paper for printing the Village Voice.

Thinking about the future, a couple of projects requiring our support have arisen. The restoration and siting of an old village sign post - courtesy of Philip Lane - and the possible installation of a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD), a national scheme subsidised by the British Heart Foundation. Our nearest PAD is at Eynsford Village Hall, rather too far away.

My thanks go to Chris Parsons for auditing the accounts. I would like to propose his appointment as auditor for next year.

Catherine Gandolfi

There were no questions about the accounts.

6. Approval of Treasurer's report

Acceptance proposed by Peter Gandolfi and seconded by Jenny Leach. Approved.

7. Appointment of Auditor

The appointment of Chris Parsons was proposed by Catherine Gandolfi and seconded by Melanie Stevens. Approved.

8. Nominations and

election of committee

There were 2 nominations for the committee. Terry Lloyd was nominated by Alan Johnson and seconded by Helen Griffiths. John Ritchie was nominated by Alan Johnson and seconded by Joy Ellard. The existing committee members: Pam Ames, Paul Bennett, Joy Ellard, Catherine Gandolfi, David Lambert, John Leach, Bridget O'Donnell and Melanie Stevens all expressed their willingness to stand again. The committee was elected en bloc after nomination by Peter Gandolfi and seconding by Jenny Leach.

9. Any other business.

Joy Ellard expressed concerns that the old Manorfields home in Avalon Road was to be used to house homeless single people. Melanie Stevens assured her that a similar project in St Paul's Cray, started in 2013 had had no reported problems. Pam Temple gave an update on the improved power supply to the village. The provision of a second supply has gone out to tender. Trees have been cut back to protect

the overhead power supply. It will cost £50,000 to supply this new underground cabling and switching.

Terry Lloyd spoke about the expected application for houses at the Koi site saying 3 nearby neighbours were in support. He said there were several illegal businesses operating on the site and he feared that, due to council enforcement ineffectiveness, the site could end up as a lorry park, going the same way as Bluebell Farm. He had brought along simple plans for us to see.

John Leach reported in his capacity as Safer Neighbourhood representative. He also serves on the independent Advisory Group which discusses police activity. He is on the Stop and Search and General boards and has attended a number of meetings. We are currently one of the safest south east

London Boroughs but the response time to the periphery needs to improve. The police are concerned about terrorist threats and want everyone to be aware. David Lambert wondered if the low incidence of crime was due to low reporting levels. Chris Parsons related several recent local incidents. John insisted that reporting crime enable the police to build up patterns.

Councillor Keith Onslow spoke about the council budget, re-iterating Pam Ames' comment that we should fill in the online questionnaire. He suggested we could contact him with our views. He did not know of our problems with the A224 cross roads and said most of his issues so far in his new ward had been with parking and traffic. Again we were urged to pass on to him any issues. Keith said he had attended a meeting organised by

Steve Barnes with Jo Johnson about the broadband issues. He reported that Councillor Will Harmer has "taken up the cudgel" for this campaign. He regarded good broadband as an essential public service and that Bromley Council want to help small businesses to expand – faster broadband being essential for this. He told us there was a fund for village signs we may be able to use for our signpost. He asked Catherine to send him a photograph of the sign. We should get an estimate for the restoration. The council may also have funds available to help with the purchase of a PAD. He asked to receive details. A break for refreshments was held followed by an enjoyable and well constructed illustrated talk by Alister Hayes of London Wildlife Trust about Charles Darwin and his work.

Parking Available

Parking - very convenient for Orpington Station.
Available on an ad hoc, daily, or weekly, basis.

Please ring/text 07879 470175

Come and join us at St Martin of
Tours Church, Chelsfield

Nativity Rehearsal and Christingle Making



Monday 22nd December 2014 at 10am

Meet in St Martin's Church

All nativity costumes provided, so come along and get a part!

Followed by Christingle making and a family buffet. Families, please bring a plate of food to share.

Nativity and Christingle service is at 4pm, 24th December 2014



For more details call
Sarah Ford on 01689 853415
stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

OR

Karen Chapman on 07813 019 551

'Tis The Season to Be Jolly Helpful

We recently featured Edmund Estate Agents of Green Street Green in the Chelsfield Village Voice. As Christmas approaches, we thought we'd ask them what they

are doing, as a local business, to provide some Christmas cheer.

Tim Keenan, partner at the Green Street Green Office, didn't take long to

respond. "I've only today agreed that we will again be sponsoring the Christmas raffle for Green Street Green school. Over the years we've provided support

for many school events there and in other local schools. One of our favourite annual events is Harris HospisCare's annual Summer Fair and Classic Car Show. We support that each year and enjoy the sunshine on the day. Quite often we supply a bottle of champagne as a prize, preferably a larger than usual one so it sells more raffle tickets!

“Advertising also helps bring in income to good causes. We've begun to advertising in C & K Magazine. That stands for Chartwell and King's Magazine, which relates to the Chartwell Cancer Trust, which provides financial support for The

Chartwell & King's Cancer & Leukaemia Units. We're glad that money is supporting such important facilities.

“This is our twentieth year as local estate agents. We're at the point where we've helped the same people move more than once or are helping the sons and daughters of people we met years ago. Though we've hardly been here at all in comparison to Chelsfield Cricket Club, who started out on or around the early 18th century. They told us recently they're keen to recruit new players, and it is a pleasure to mention that in this interview.”

If you'd like to say hello to Tim, drop into the Edmund office a couple of doors up from Waitrose in Green Street Green. If you're feeling adventurous, you could even 'tweet' to Tim via

@EdmundGrnStGrn.

Chelsfield Cricket Club's website is here:

<http://chelsfield.play-cricket.com>

and Edmund's website is at www.edmund.co.uk.

The Chartwell Cancer Trust website is at

www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk.

Happy Bromley

According to a new book 'The Information Capital' by James Cheshire and Oliver Uberti, using data collated from across the capital, Out of 32 London boroughs, Bromley is rated the second happiest, and the happiest in outer London. Using statistics from the

Office of National Statistics, factors such as satisfaction, purpose, happiness and anxiety were ranked from 1 to 10. Also researchers from property firm, Rightmove in another report, asked homeowners to rank 12 factors about their hometown, covering feel-

ings towards their home and also the community in which they live, ranking towns and areas over 110 places. Bromley appeared in the top ten, with Harrogate ranked at number one. Croydon and Enfield were ranked in the bottom ten.

St Martin's Christmas Services

Sunday 21st December

9.45am Crib and Tree Service

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Christingle and Nativity

MIDNIGHT MASS

11.30pm a service for everyone

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Christmas Service for Everyone

Bring your favourite present to show us

Local History - WW1 Double Bill

There was a double bill at the Chelsfield local history group meeting in November. Christine Hellicar talked about the trials and tribulations of editing the recently published *Home Front, Life in the towns and Villages of Bromley in the Great War*.

Then her husband, Patrick, told us about his transcription of and investigations into the wartime letters written by farmer George "GJ" Miller of Court Lodge Farm in

Warren Road. GJ's letters to two of his sons formed the basis of one of the chapters in the book.

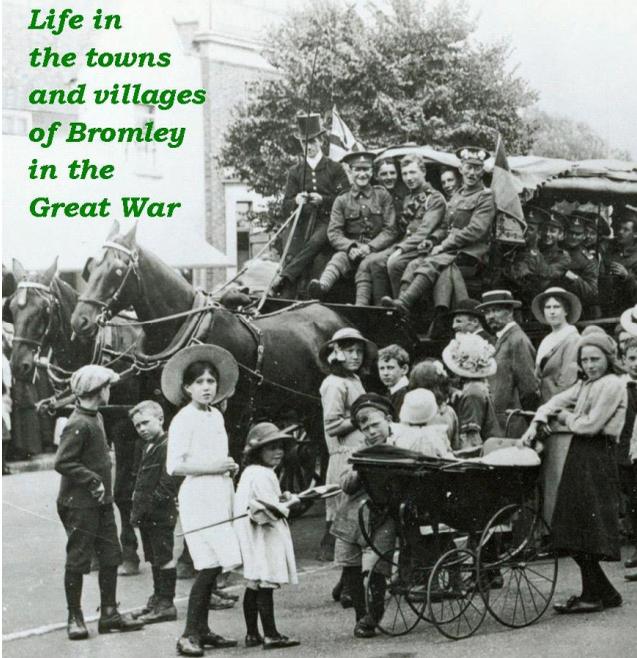
Two years ago Christine proposed to the Bromley Borough Local History Society that she produce a special WW1 edition of their magazine, *Bromleag* – which she edits – for September 2014. As the months progressed so much material emerged, either from the society magazine archives or

from current research, that the 48-page magazine became a 144-page book.

Every time she thought the book was complete, new material came to light – such as that on Belgium refugees, or details of soldiers billeted in the borough in places such as the old Fox's brewery at Green Street Green. Or, more surprisingly, the thousands of naval recruits who were trained at, and were

Home Front

**Life in
the towns
and villages
of Bromley
in the
Great War**



Edited by Christine Hellicar

**A Bromley Borough Local History Society publication
covering Beckenham, Bromley, Chislehurst, Hayes, Orpington and West Wickham**

Home Front – life in the towns and villages of Bromley in the Great War is available from Christine on 01689 857214 priced £9.

housed in, the Crystal Palace. One of her biggest problems was finding suitable illustrations, but eventually she found nearly 80 pictures and illustrations which help capture the

feel of life in 1914. Christine herself wrote several short pieces and a more in-depth chapter on Orpington Hospital, built in 1916 by the Canadians. Many of us can still remember the original

buildings, which were still partly in use until the 1980s. She also brought along three copies of a newspaper the *Ontario Stretcher*, which had been produced by staff and patients at the hospital.

Patrick said the Miller letters gave an invaluable insight into the problems besetting agriculture in WW1 – not least the shortage of men to work on the farm and the need to adopt new machinery and methods. But they also provided a unique “snapshot” of the changes wrought on everyday life at Court Lodge Farm and for people generally and inspired him to research many of the stories that were revealed by passing remarks and references to people and places.

With Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day fresh in our minds, Patrick told us some of the poignant stories he has uncovered of several local young men who died in the War – some of whom are named on the memorial plaque in porch at St Martin’s and others who are remembered on

the Orpington war memorial, at Downe and elsewhere. All were known to the Miller family as friends and neighbours or old school chums of GJ's sons.

However, Patrick, said, there was a great deal more in the letters than could be included in either Home Front or his talk, and he hoped to be able to tell the local histo-

ry group more in future talks.

There will be no Local History meeting in December. Next meeting 15th January 2015.

Chelsfield Players - Abandonment

Under the direction of Jeremy Walls, this play by Kate Atkinson hinges on the collision between two periods. The same set was used effectively as the play switched from the present day to the Victorian past, sometimes both at the same time by freezing one set of actors. In the present we see Elizabeth, an apparently carefree recent divorcee, moving into a flat in a converted Victorian mansion where she is constantly invaded by her adoptive mother, sister, Kitty, her lesbian best friend, Susie, an amorous photographer and a New Age builder.

The modern day occupants of the flat have little idea that the past is closer to them than they could ever imagine. Elizabeth's empathy with the house and its remaining Victorian furnishings dis-

turbs the ghosts of the house's past occupants, in particular of Agnes, an 1860s governess who was seduced by her lascivious employer, aroused the jealousy of his spiritualist wife and came to a predictably sticky end leaving a restless soul to wander the house. The changes between present and past became more rapid as the play progressed with obvious parallels between the present day and long ago.

The title refers to female abandonment in many forms. As a baby Elizabeth was left in a gents' toilet and is haunted by the unknown identity of her real mother. But she is also abandoned by her photographer lover. Similarly, the ghostly Agnes is impregnated and then discarded by the house's master, reducing her, in

Victorian terms, to the status of an abandoned woman. History has repeated itself with the difference that Elizabeth's new state of motherhood is now accepted by society.

Emily Edmunds as Elizabeth and Philippa Rooke as Kitty were as unlike as two sisters could be with appropriately contrasting costumes and were supported well by Patricia Walls in the role of their disapproving mother Ina and the best friend Susie, played by Marie Hurding. The author had ascribed subsidiary yet important roles for the men (it was all about female abandonment after all). The Victorian scenes provided us with short cameos of an outdated society.

The performance was enhanced by original incidental music by Philip Lane.



We would like to thank

CHELSEFIELD PARK HOSPITAL for their sponsorship printing the Chelsfield Village Voice



Although this was the first night a lot of prompting was required

Others I spoke to after

the play were disappointed that the author had not decided to engineer a positive link with the past – especially as a family

tree of the Victorian occupants was provided in the programme. I wonder why this was?

A View from the Stalls

Answers to November Dingbat Puzzles

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. 10 Downing Street | 4. Banana Split | 7. Equal Rights |
| 2. A Multitude of Sins | 5. Cash on Delivery | 8. Flat Iron |
| 3. All over the World | 6. Double Cross | 9. For Ever and Ever |

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.

Chelsfield Village Society

cvscontact@gmail.com

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

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

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

Wed 3rd December

Charing Cross Station
**Carol Singing on
Charing Cross Station**
5.00pm - 8.00pm
in aid of Guys Hospital
Kidney Unit and Christian
Aid - Come and join in!

Thursday 4th December

Five Bells

Just Friends (Live Jazz)

Starts at 8.30pm

Wed 10th December

Five Bells

Open Mic Night

Starts at 8.30pm

Sunday 14th December

St Martin's Church

An Informal Carol

Concert followed by Tea
3.00pm

Tuesday 16th December

Opposite Five Bells

Carol Singing Around the Christmas Tree fol- lowed by Five Bells Quiz Night

Starts 8.00pm Quiz
9.00pm
Everyone welcome

Wed 17th December

Chelsfield Village Hall

Village Christmas Social

Starts 8.00pm
Please some eats and
drinks to share
Everyone welcome

Thurs 18th December

Five Bells

Phil Lane's Christmas Carol Bash

Starts 8.17 precisely!

Sunday 21st December

St Martin's Church

Nine Lessons and Carols followed by Wine & Mince Pies

6.30pm

Monday 22nd December

St Martin's Church

Nativity Rehearsal & Christingle Making

10.00am

Thursday 15th January

(3rd Thursday each month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.30am