



December 2021



Supported by



Chelsfield
Park
Hospital

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

Worlds End Music presents

Christmas Concerts!



'A Christmas Carol'

Saturday 18th December at 7pm

St Martin-of-Tours, Church Road, Chelsfield

Join us for a classical music evening of festive cheer - Christmas music for string quartet interspersed with readings from Dickens' classic novel.



'The Snowman'

Tuesday 21st December at 2.30pm

St Mary's, Worlds End Lane, Green Street Green

Our children's concert - a magical story-telling of Raymond Brigg's 'The Snowman', accompanied by Howard Blake's music arranged for string quartet.

For information and tickets visit

www.WorldsEndMusic.com

scan the QR codes

or call 07971440850

SEE PAGE 8 FOR FULL DETAILS



The Brimstone Butterfly	2
Mutterings from The Millers	4
7th Doomed Christmas No.1	5
Chelsfield Community Café	7
Christmas Concerts	8
Christmas at the BoPeep	9
St Martin's Toddlers Group	10
Village Society AGM	11
Evening WI are BACK!	11
Christmas at The 5 Bells	12
Situation Vacant	13
Local History - Percy Pilcher	13
Derek Sheffield Rediscovered	15
View from the Rectory	16
On With The Show!	17
Halstead Christmas Fair	18
St Martin's Services Calendar	19
Remembering David Lane	20
Christmas Tree Time	20
Carol Singing at the Bells	21
Eat Your Heart Out....	22
Bromley Pharmacy Survey	24
Set Building for the Players	25
Chelsfield Station 1986	25
Christmas Riding Display	26
Coblands Christmas Fair	27
Dates for your Diary	28
Recycling Collection Days	28

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all our Readers

Start the New Year by sending something for inclusion in the January 2022 issue to:

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

(or telephone 07414 920920)

to arrive on or before
Monday 27th December



The Brimstone Butterfly

With the winter approaching I decided to buy one of those 'Insect Hotels' you see in garden centres and other places that cater to everything 'outdoors'. They are usually little house like objects (mine has two small piece of slate to mimic a roof) that have stacks of small pieces of bamboo rods wedged into them and a selection of pine cones to allow insects to enter and hibernate over the winter months. Some rods seem to have been claimed as the ends appear to have been blocked by the occupant to protect against both predation and the cold winter nights. I gave one of these to a friend as a Christmas present last year and it seemed to be quite warmly welcomed so anybody still searching for the right present for somebody this Christmas may like to consider one. And while I'm talking of Christmas, I'm experimented with making slow gin. I bought a 2 Litre Kilner jar and took a similar sized container to my favourite local patch of blackthorn trees – the source of

sloes (we'll be linking back to these trees later) which I will keep secret to reduce demand!) My recipe for sloe gin is:

Collect the sloes when they have turned soft (ripe), usually about November. Some say don't collect them until there has been frost but with global warming you may have to wait a while. Wash them thoroughly (don't want any bird-poo on them do we) and place them in a suitable container in the freezer for at least 48 hours. This is why you don't need to wait for a frost! The cold will cause the skins to split which saves the laborious job of spiking

each sloe individually. Once the sloes have been removed let them defrost in the fridge and when soft again transfer them to a Kilner jar. Then pour the gin over the sloes until the container is full and shake them daily for a few days and again a few times over the next couple of months. When ready, strain the gin to remove the sloes and pieces of skin etc. Note that I have not added sugar at this stage. The point here is that if you add too much sugar at the beginning the gin may be too sweet and that will be that. Wait until the gin is ready in a few months time then add the sugar in a liquid form





(saves waiting for the crystalline sugar to dissolve). To do this, add equal measures of sugar and water to a saucepan and heat until fully liquid then allow to cool. Then add in incremental measures to the gin until it's as you like it. Honey, rather than sugar can also be used. There is something of a question as to whether it is likely to be ready for Christmas or not. As it's not fermenting the only factor is the time required for the dispersal of the sloe flavour to permeate the gin: so it should be OK.

So, as we get deeper into winter I thought a piece about a summery butterfly would brighten up the scenery. This month I want to talk about the Common Brimstone Butterfly (*Gonepteryx rhamni*). This is the bright lemon yellow butterfly which, as its name implies is both common and widespread across large parts of the world. Although the male has a characteristic yellow colour the female is greenish white and could be mistaken for a cabbage butterfly. The name refers to sulphur with the term brimstone being used historically as

an alternative to sulphur. The word brimstone meaning 'burning stone': sulphur being mildly combustible in air. Also, the butter-like colour of this insects wings is thought to be the source of the original name 'butterfly'. This insect is also the only butterfly with yellow wings and no black markings so it's easy to identify and is usually one of the first butterflies to emerge after winter, so it's a great indicator that spring is on its way.

This butterfly is the only member of its genus and so is often just referred to as the brimstone. This insect's caterpillar lives primarily on a few species of blackthorn trees (I told you we'd be getting back to these) which are generally found in wetlands. But the butterfly itself seems to have a preference for purple/blue flowers and bluebells are an important source of nectar early in the year. Unusually for butterflies the Brimstone rests with its wings closed and the underside of its wings (a less intense shade of yellow) allow it to be easily mistake for a simple leaf.

Like all butterflies and

moths there are four stages to its life. They are egg: usually laid on the underside of blackthorn leaves. Larva, or caterpillar at which stage they eat leaves or flowers almost constantly and lose their skin numerous times as they grow. The third stage is the pupa (or chrysalis) during which the pupa undergoes a transformation into the fourth stage which is the butterfly as it emerges from its cocoon. Once it becomes an adult butterfly it lives for the better part of a year, which is longer than most other species of butterfly and this requires it to over-winter in woodland looking to shelter in ivy clumps or holly trees: often travelling long distances looking for suitable locations. It always seems strange to me when a little warm weather causes butterflies to emerge during the winter as they look far too fragile to survive the rigours of the season. Odd to think that they can find safe locations to see out the winter months.

Steve Fuller
December 2021



Mutterings From the Millers

Just thought I would drop a line or two to keep you up to date with the life on the farm, as I know a few of you have said how much they miss reading our little jottings. The grass seed Peter planted in September has all germinated and growing well and will just be left to grow until March when it will have a dressing of fertiliser. The fields have all been soil tested for potash, phosphate and lime. Our agronomist walks around the fields taking small samples and sends them off to the laboratory for testing. The results are back and no great surprises but just top ups of potash and phosphate. A little lime is needed in a couple of the fields, so that will be apply in pellet form in the spring.

Peter has been busy repairing roofs and more electrical work plus a bit of painting. As you can see from the picture, our lovely combine harvester left the farm in October. The new owner drove it to their farm in Hildenborough. They had an escort of land rovers front and back but I'm sure they caused a few problems in Sevenoaks high street! A sad day but



at least we were able to sell it. The drill and trailers are next.

Our last swallow left us at the beginning of October which was quite late I think but have been hearing the sky larks singing which is always a joy. Our big cedar tree in the garden lost quite a few large boughs during some high winds recently. Peter and I cleared as much as we could but had to have the experts look at it. Unfortunately it had to be felled, another sad day and makes the garden look so

different. I couldn't believe the noise and vibration when the large boughs fell to the ground. I counted the rings and measured the trunk and worked out that the tree was about 125 years old. Steve's great grandfather came here in 1899 so he could have had it planted. We

haven't decided yet what we are going to replace it with yet.



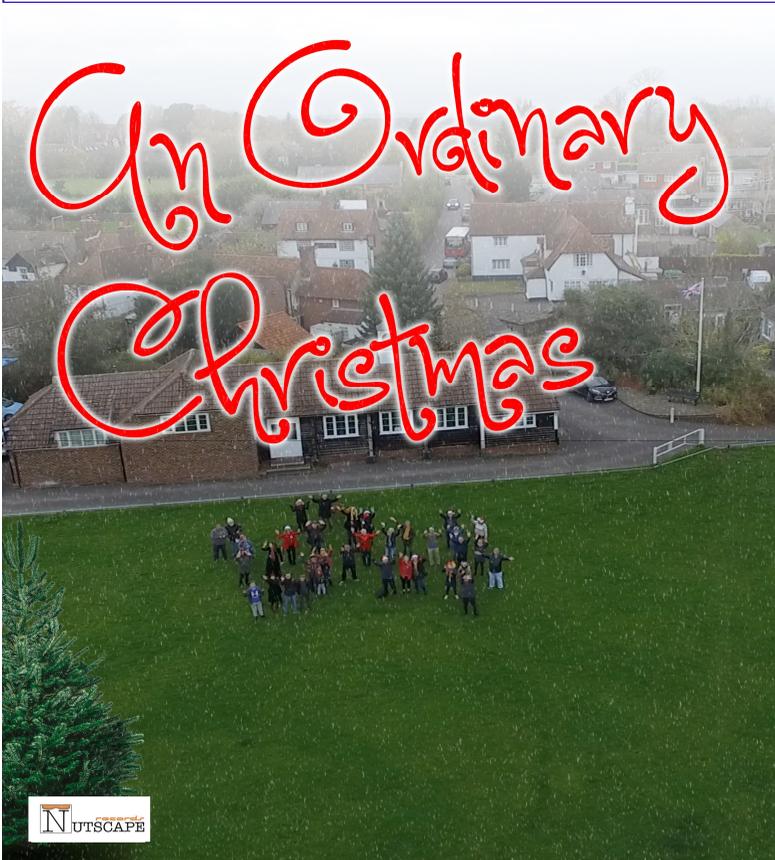


We all wish our readers a very happy Christmas and

best wishes for a great 2022.

*Chris Miller
Court Lodge Farm*

Seventh Doomed Christmas No. 1 Bid!



The Belldrinkers



Many of you will have noticed strange comings and goings with lights and tripods over the last few weeks, most of which is in the pursuit of this year's Chelsfield Christmas Single video. Lester and I (in our role as The Belldrinksers writing team) began writing the song way back in June and its title 'An Ordinary Christmas' was settled upon quite early in the proceedings. Twice a week I would head up to the studio and for the first few weeks, as is traditional, we would both sit at a keyboard and try stuff out until we had come up with a chord structure and a melody we like. And then we start adding stuff: programmed drums and bass are the first to go on, closely followed by electric and acoustic guitar which I play rather inexpertly. In idle moments I try to write words and Lester begins layering on his now legendary arrangements. By October we're sending sheet music out to the various musicians we've press-ganged and then the recording starts. We always start with a reference track; a song by someone else which inspires us, normally in terms of its style. This

year it was 'Iris' by The Goo Goo Dolls, which is a moody emotional rolling ballad which I've loved for ages. From that we nicked the weird time signature changes and the Celtic idea of military snare drum - then we pretty much binned it and went off in our own sweet way.

The final song is probably the most and least Christmassy sounding song we've ever written. Bits of it are schmaltzy in the extreme and other bits are pretty brutal; however we're really proud of the tune and the performances by our musician friends and the army of local people who sing and play on it are the best yet. Instrumentally we have drums, bass, guitar, acoustic guitar, double bass, cello, harp, oboe, tuba, French horns, trumpets, trombones and orchestral percussion, plus Lester's and my keyboard contributions dotted all over it. All the classical instruments were recorded in our own parish church, St Martin-of-Tours, which has an absolutely stunning acoustic and a huge thank you to Philppa Rooke, Barry Foale and Chris Mead for sorting

that out for us.

The musical journey culminated on 17th November when we spent ten hours at the world famous Abbey Road studios in London with the amazing Lewis Jones, mixing this 140 plus track monster. We could not be more happy with the results and the audio is now being processed by our aggregator so will be available on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon, YouTube music and every other place. I am in the thick of producing the video as I write this and the whole package should hit the public on Tuesday 7th December, quite possibly with an early evening launch in the Five Bells.

We have a Facebook page which will have all the updates:

<http://facebook.com/belldrinksers>

and if you search for Belldrinksers on YouTube, Spotify etc., you can watch/listen to all our previous efforts. We hope you like the song and will share it far and wide. I will be on BBC Radio Kent at



8:50am on Saturday 11th December promoting the single and being interviewed, on the Pat Marsh show.

And with that, all that remains is to wish you all a Happy Christmas from the Belldrinkers and we hope it's 'An Ordinary'

one, unlike last year's disaster!

*Dave Griffiths
The Belldrinkers*

Chelsfield Community Cafe



The Chelsfield Community Cafe (hosted by Chelsfield Volunteers) has continued to be a regular date in the diaries of many local people. Attendee numbers have slightly increased, which

is wonderful, and donations for local charities continue to be received from those we meet. The generosity of Volunteers & local friends in the community is amazing - their time, cakes & enthusiasm really makes these afternoons a delight for all.

We had a special Afternoon Tea event on Weds 17th November when we had Bromley Carers in Harmony singing for us. They

entertained all by singing a wonderful variety of songs including Winter themed harmonies, Spanish Ballads & Sea Shanties. We received lots of great comments, with all having a very special time. One of our wonderful Chelsfield Volunteers, with an amazing cake making talent, generously made a 'Thank you' Cake for this very special group - in return she asked that we give a donation to St Christopher's Hospice - £100 has been



transferred to their bank account - we all support this wonderful local Hospice.

In December we will hold our Afternoon Tea events



on 1st and 15th of the month. On the 15th we will be having a special Christmas event where Phillip Lane will come and play carols for us on accordion and a piano as well as a few songs we

can all sing along to. To add to the fun we will have a raffle and small Christmas Quiz - we really do hope many of you can join us.

Please note, we plan to

continue the Afternoon Tea events in 2022 with the January dates being Weds 5th & 19th January.

Mags Potter
Chelsfield Volunteers

Christmas Concerts

This should not be missed - music of this quality on our doorsteps is the best Christmas gift. Rebecca Gilliver lives locally and just happens to be principal cellist of the London Symphony Orchestra. She has set up World's End Concerts (named after a certain local road) and is returning for a couple of concerts, one in our own St Martin-of-Tours. Handing over to Rebecca:

'A Christmas Carol' - Saturday 18th December 7pm, St Martin of Tours. A candlelit, hour-long programme of festive music for string quartet played by several members of the London Symphony orchestra, including Co-Leader Carmine Laurie. The music will be interspersed with readings from

Dickens classic novel, read by Patrick Neylan. Programme includes Bach, Corelli, Arvo Part, carols and medleys!

'The Snowman Children's Concert' - Tuesday 21 December 2.30pm, St Mary's, Worlds End Lane, Green Street Green. I am incredibly happy to have persuaded the fabulous enSEMble26 from Sydenham to come over and present a story-telling to music of Raymond Briggs wonderful story. It will be accompanied by the original music to arranged for string quartet. (Please note this is not a showing of the movie!) Susie Riddell from the Archers will be telling the story and it will be a wonderful way to fire

up children's imaginations for Christmas!

Please check the website:

<https://worldsendmusic.com/>

for more details and to book tickets.

Local music is increasingly important - do spread the word to friends, neighbours and family!

Hope to see you all soon,

*Best wishes
Rebecca Gilliver, Worlds End Music.*

Tickets will go fast, so book yours now!



T
H
E

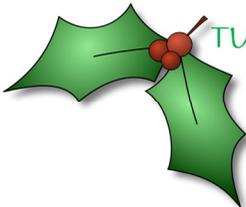
B
O

P
E
E
P

CHRISTMAS AT THE BO PEEP



CHRISTMAS MENU FROM FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER
TO
FRIDAY 24th DECEMBER
OPEN BOXING DAY 12.00-3.00pm



OUTSIDE CHRISTMAS MARKET
TUESDAY 14th DECEMBER 6.00pm-8.30pm

Carol Singing
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
Food & Drink
Raffle
Christmas Decorations & Gifts
Jewellery

Hewitts Road
Chelsfield
BR6 7QL
Tel: 01959 534457
info@thebopeep.com

WRAP UP WARM AND
COME & GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS !



St Martin's Toddler Group

November 2021



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers,
Here are our dates for the autumn term. We meet in The Brass Crosby Room on Tuesdays during school term time, 10.30am - 12noon, £2 per child/baby which includes refreshments and craft resources.

We look forward to seeing you,

Toddler Volunteers:

Jenny, Peter, Mary, Mo, Val and Anne.

7th & 14th December

21st & 27th December - Christmas Holidays so no Toddler Group

Contact Details:

Toddler Group Leader - Jenny Wood

Email: stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

Church website: www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk



Chelsfield Village Society AGM 17th November

Looking back over a very difficult past year, with fewer meetings held, our Chairman reminded us all of the achievements made by the CVS, two village cleans, playground refurbishment, village signs re-erected, traffic calming measures, roundabout, support for the existing R7 bus route to name a few.

The CVS will be funding the village Christmas tree which is at the heart of our village during this

festive period.

Chelsfield crime statistics were provided, burglaries are down as is arson and criminal damage, and compared to our adjacent wards, Farnborough, Petts Wood and Orpington our crime rate has decreased.

Our meeting was followed by a very enjoyable get together and a glass or two of wine, its was a great opportunity to meet our

neighbours in the village. A raffle was held the prizes of Prosecco, Wine and Chelsfield honey happily received.

We would like to thank our two Councillors Mike Botting & Angela Page for their ongoing support in our endeavours for all things Chelsfield Village.

The CVS would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas & Happy Healthy New Year

Chelsfield Evening WI (CEWI).....Are Back!

In fact, CEWI have never been away. During the lockdowns, CEWI have met via Zoom with a variety of speakers and demonstrators not usually accessible to the group. Since July, we have been meeting in the Village Hall

again and additionally we have started to do trips including the Handbag expo at the V&A and the process of how the BBC Strictly costumes are made.

We continue to meet on the **3rd Tuesday of the month** (except December) in the Chelsfield Village Hall; and from January 2022, we will be commencing our meeting at 19:30 with arriving being from 19:15 to ensure a prompt start.

Our program offers a

wide range of activities from speakers to demonstration to anything in between with extra activities offered each month too.

If you wish to find out more about us.....why not come along to one of our meetings!

Merry Christmas to everyone in Chelsfield Village

from CEWI
ChelsfieldEvening@wkwfwi
.org.uk





THE FIVE BELLS CHELSFIELD VILLAGE

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES & EVENTS

Wed 15 th December	Carols in the pub led by Phil Lane Starts 8.00pm
Wed 22 nd December	Open Mic starts at 8.00pm
=====	
Friday 24 th December	Christmas Eve Bar: 12 – 12 - Restaurant: 12 – 2.30 (note: No evening restaurant service)
Saturday 25 th December	It's Christmas ***** Bar service only: 12 – 2.30 (sharp)
Sunday 26 th December	Boxing Day (walking it off day) Bar: 12 – 5 - Restaurant: 12 – 3
Monday 27 th December	Bar: 12 – 5.30 - Restaurant: 12 – 3 Please note: No Monday Club
Tuesday 28 th December	PUB CLOSED TODAY – NO QUIZ
Wednesday 29 th December	PUB CLOSED TODAY
Thursday 30 th December	Bar: 12 – 9.30 - Restaurant: 12 – 2.30
Friday 31 st December	NEW YEAR'S EVE Bar: 12 – 5.30 – Restaurant: 12 – 3
Saturday 1 st January 2022	HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL Bar: 12 – 5.30 – Restaurant 12 – 3
Sunday 2 nd January 2022	Bar: 12 - 9.30 – Restaurant: 12 – 5



Situation Vacant at Chelsfield Park Hospital

BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital are expanding and are looking to recruit a part-time Housekeeper for 30hrs per week. Please apply by emailing your CV to Rachel.beer@bmihealthcare.co.uk

Closing date for applications is 28.11.2021

BMI Healthcare

Serious about health.
Passionate about care.

Local History Group

Percy Pilcher - Our local flying pioneer you've never heard of.

One hundred and eighteen years ago, the entire course of human history was transformed by one of the greatest inventions of all time - Powered flight.

From the Wright brothers first flight in 1903 history has marvelled at the great pioneers in their exploration of the skies. But what of the name Percy Pilcher? Today he lies forgotten, but he could have been

more famous than them all. Because Percy Pilcher could have been the very first person to fly, and very near us between Shoreham and Eynsford. In 1899, a full four years before the Wright brothers first flight, this 28 year old British engineer had designed and built what he hoped would be the worlds first powered aircraft.

Success would have made him one of the most famous names of our age, yet just before he was to test his aircraft for the first time, fate intervened. He was prevented from ever

flying it and his original design was lost to history. It is an intriguing puzzle. Could Percy Pilcher have beaten the Wright brothers to one of the greatest prizes of modern science, by being the first to fly?

Percy Sinclair Pilcher was born on the 16th January 1867. In 1880, the thirteen year old Percy entered the Royal Navy as a cadet, and it seems his interest in aviation started from an early age. His sister Ella to whom he he was close, recalled that "from his earliest boyhood he was entirely wrapped up



in the idea of flying". His days as a naval apprentice gave him a good grounding in mechanical engineering, but the problem with all of these early pioneers was that they had little idea of how to fly, and there was little understanding of aerodynamics.

One of these early pioneers was Otto Lilienthal, who had been making controlled glides in Germany since 1891. Pilcher made plans to visit Lilienthal in 1895, and at this time started work on building his first full size glider capable of carrying a man.

In all, Pilcher made 4 gliders. His first the Bat had some stability problems, later ones had more wing area as he

was aiming on adding a motor, but these being heavy were difficult to control. His last and most successful was The Hawk.

In 1897 Based on the work of Lilienthal, Pilcher, broke the world distance record with his Hawk glider, when he flew 820 feet.

In June Pilcher gave possibly the first public demonstration of his skills. A large party of scientists and others, were invited to his Eynsford Upper Austin Lodge flying grounds, to witness the trial of a new soaring machine. He was hoping to attract the interest and financial support of wealthy sponsors.

A number of free and towed flights of The Hawk

were made by Pilcher and also by his sister Ella as well as his cousin Dorothy Rose Pilcher. These flights by Dorothy and Ella probably made them the first women ever to fly in an aircraft.

Pilcher set his sights upon powered flight, and he developed a triplane that was to be powered by a 4 hp engine. It was probably Octave Chanute who convinced him to stack smaller lighter wings on top of each other. This allows the wings to develop more lift without a great increase in weight. However, construction of the triplane put him heavily into debt, and Pilcher needed sponsorship to complete his work.

By September 30th 1899 he had completed his triplane, and





had intended to demonstrate it to a group of onlookers and potential sponsors in a field near Stanford Hall in Leicestershire.

Unfortunately his newly built engine had broken and, not wanting to disappoint the sponsors, he decided to fly his latest hang-glider, The Hawk, instead.

The weather was stormy and rainy, but by 4 pm Pilcher decided the weather was good enough to fly. The first flight went well but on the second, whilst flying, the tail snapped and Pilcher plunged 30 feet to the ground: he died two days later from his injuries of a thigh fracture and concussion, with his triplane never having been publicly flown.

Had Pilcher survived this tragic accident he might have become the first person to fly a powered aeroplane. Nevertheless,

he made a valuable contribution to aviation's early development

Percy Pilcher is buried in Brompton Cemetery, London. He was unmarried and aged just 32. A stone monument to him stands in the field at the point where he crashed, and a full sized replica of his "The Hawk" glider is also displayed at Stanford Hall.

Pilcher's plans for the triplane were lost for many years but some correspondence was found in a private American collection. From this it was possible to discern the general direction of his plans and the basis of his design.

In 2003, a research effort was carried out at the School of Aeronautics at Cranfield University, and made into a BBC program. It showed that Pilcher's design was more or less workable and, had he been able to

implement the engine design, it is likely that he would have succeeded in being the first to fly a heavier than air powered aircraft under control.

A replica of Pilcher's aircraft was built and on its first attempt produced a flight of 10 seconds, not too far from the Wright brothers first flight of 15 seconds. On its second flight, after a few minor adjustments to improve stability, it flew for one minute 25 seconds. The Wright brothers managed 59 seconds on their best flight on their first day.

No one can be sure that Pilcher would have made these small refinements, but this team showed that there is no doubt that his Triplane could have flown.

This BBC program is available - search for Percy Pilcher in Youtube

Peter Gandolfi

Derek Sheffield Re-discovered

A friend of mine came across a couple of books recently which had a Chelsfield theme according to the summaries on the back

covers and as he was aware of my Chelsfield connection – is the Highway technically in Chelsfield?!!!! – he passed them to me,

unread.

The two books are called This Forgotten Place (published in 1993) and And Then There Were



None (1994) both written by Derek Sheffield. You may well be aware of these books.

I was expecting them to be a history of the village but as I read the first I realised that they are both a series of anecdotes about Grannie and Grandad Packham who (quote) “lived in the hamlet of Maypole and the parish of Chelsfield” in the early 1900s.

Having read the first few anecdotes and scanned the rest of the book, I can find little further information relating to the village itself, except mention of the two pubs – The Five Bells and the Bo Peep – and a number of interesting illustrations. My scanning of the second book, continuing the stories of the family from 1933 to 1963, suggests that it is along the same

lines.

I was a little disappointed in the lack of specific local content but the anecdotes are a fascinating insight into life in a small village during that period and I guess that this was very much Derek’s intention rather than a village history. This could have been any village.

Richard Marsh

View From The Rectory

The Walnuts Shopping Centre Proposal

In early November I was invited to attend a consultation about the proposed regeneration of the Walnuts Centre in Orpington and the churches along with many other community groups were encouraged to attend and comment.

As some of you know, I have only recently moved to Chelsfield but I grew up not too many miles from here in Crayford in the 1980’s and I remember that even then, the Walnuts didn’t really inspire in the

way other shopping centres did. It seems that everyone is agreed that it needs to be replaced and the current proposal will certainly bring investment into the town centre.

I know that not everyone is in favour of the proposal as it stands and I had concerns as well in some areas but the proposal will bring new housing (Private and Social), a new sports centre, a new day centre and retail space and will certainly rejuvenate the town centre. There does not yet seem to be any plans for infrastructure in particular transport

capacity and his is important as the parking provided is only enough for about one third of the dwellings.

The proposal has already been amended with one of the tower blocks decreased in height from the original proposal so it seems that the developers will listen to local opinion. The consultation period has now ended but you can keep up to date with the proposals on the developers website

www.thewalnutsorpington.co.uk

Rev Michael



Petts Wood Operatic Society Presents

ON WITH THE SHOW

A celebration of the greatest moments in
musical theatre from 1944 to today!

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER

7.30pm

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Greencourt Road, Petts Wood

Tickets £10 including refreshment

www.pwos.org.uk



Find us on
social media
@pwos_andram





SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2 TILL 4 PM

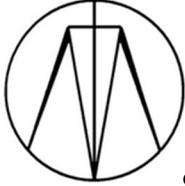


HALSTEAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

**CRAFT STALLS
FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
ADULT & CHILDREN TOMBOLA
CHILDRENS LUCKY DIP**

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

ENTRY £1.00



The Benefice of
Chelsfield with Green Street Green
and Pratts Bottom



**St Martin's Chelsfield & Well Hill
Calendar of Services – December 2021**

All welcome! Please be aware that in the current situation this schedule is subject to change, potentially at short notice. Please watch the church website for updates (see link at bottom of page).

St Martin's

Wed 1 December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 5 December	10.00am	Family Communion with Baptism
	6.30pm	Evensong
Wed 8 December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 12 December	10.00 am	Family Worship
	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist
Wed 15 December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sun 19 December	10.00am	Crib & Tree Service
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Wed 22 December	9.30am	Holy Communion
Fri 24 December	4.00am	Christingle Service
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Sat 25 December	10.00am	Christmas Holy Communion (Christmas Day)
Sun 26 December	10.00am	Benefice Said Holy Communion at St Mary's (No Services at St Martin's on this day)
Wed 29 December	9.30am	Holy Communion

Well Hill*

Sun 12 December	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sun 19 December	10.00am	Family Carol Service
Thur 23 December	7.00pm	Christmas Holy Communion
Sun 26 December	10.00am	Benefice Said Holy Communion at St Mary's

**NB these services are outdoors unless it is wet & have limited capacity if held indoors – for more information please contact Anne Ireland on 07767 783189 / anneireland@icloud.com*

As at 30 November 2021



Like



View



Follow



Watch



Remembering David Lane

On behalf of myself, Jayne and our families, we should like to thank all those who have sent us their cards, notes and messages of sympathy. Much appreciated.

We are keeping his bungalow looking lived in and cared for, until a new owner arrives in 2022. It is going to seem very strange not calling in on Dad and speaking on the phone, for his Christmas Eve birthday, and Christmas Day.

Whilst we have so many memories to treasure of some 70 years at this time of year at Lynton, it will be hard to believe this

has ended.

Still, we are blessed to have our own family around us here in East Sussex. The wonderful video that Nick took of Chris and myself playing accordions to Silent Night outside Lynton, with Dad running around, we shall watch on the big screen over Christmas.

Much of the huge collection of "stuff" acquired by Dad has found homes, I am still looking for a home for his big dental compressor, on wheels, that he had in his surgery for the "New fangled highspeed drill!" "Also a heavy metal

engineers bench vice. Two retractable projector screens on stands. One 40x40 the other 72x72 inches, or so. No charge but a donation to MND research always welcome. We fitted a new ceiling bath hoist that was never actually used. I have taken it down and trying to recoup some of the cost for the Estate. It has to be installed properly by someone. At time of writing not sold.

Give me a call if above of interest. 01323 391000. Wishing everybody in Chelsfield a Very Happy and safe Christmas.

Philip and Jayne Lane

Christmas Tree Time!



That time of year again.....just back from choosing, cutting down and bringing our tree home from Christmas tree farm in our '51 Ford truck, its our yearly tradition.

Happy Christmas and a healthy New year to all our neighbours.

Sue 'n Jim....Fairlawn.



CAROL SINGING AT THE FIVE BELLS 2021

HE'S BACK AT LAST!

The Annual and Traditional Chelsfield event is returning again 7.46pm
On Wednesday 15th December . As usual the revelling will be led by
PHIL LANE with his accordion(s) and **JAYNE** on her Shaker. **Timpani Ali** will
be offered to those who wish to shake & partake in the *Feast of Stephen*. **Carole
Sheets** will be passed around so everybody can join in trying to **Stop the Cavalry**.
But neighbours be warned: it will not be a **SILENT NIGHT!**

THERE WILL BE A COLLECTION FOR MND RESEARCH



FIVE GOLD RINGS OF THE FIVE BELLS!

“SEE THE LANDLORD PULL A FAST ONE...”

“DON'T COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY!”



Eat Your Heart Out.....

Eat your heart out ... Back in the dark days of 1975 (inflation nudging 25%, interest rates hovering around 12% at the end of the year and heading higher, strict wage restraint under Labour's Social Contract) you could set such worries aside and have a special evening out in Chelsfield at a price that seems ridiculously and impossibly cheap now.

At the Chelsfield Park Hotel in Bucks Cross Road – Chelsfield Park Hospital these days, of course – the *Le Gourmet* restaurant run by French business partners Alain Grenier and Alain Durand, offered a range of haute cuisine set menus for as little as £3.50 a head for four courses. For those who could manage it, the luxury-level eight-course meal plus coffee and *petits fours* came at just £9.25 a head.

LE GOURMET, CHELSEFIELD
French Haute Cuisine

4-Course Business Lunches
£2.50 per head (Inclusive of VAT)

Private parties catered for
Cocktail Lounge

Set in 4½ acres of gardens
22 bedrooms, all with private bath,
wc, radio, telephone
and colour TV.

Open 7 days a week
Lunches 12 noon-2 pm. Last orders
Dinners 7-9.30 Last orders

Dinner-Dance every Saturday
Reservations, Tel. Orpington 39325

You could spend much more, *naturalmente*, on the two Alains' *plats à la carte*. But according to a food writer from the Sevenoaks Chronicle, gastronomic delights

aplenty could be had at between £6 and £8 a head. You'd be assured of "a first-class meal with first-class table service". Perfection was the restaurant's aim, which

Durand said took "a little patience and a lot of love".

For businessmen who liked to visit *Le Gourmet* between 12pm and 2pm



for lunch, a four-course feast likely to require some belt-loosening was available at a mere £2.50 a head, including that new-fangled Common Market invention, VAT.

On Saturday nights you could enjoy a dinner dance with a four-course French meal, all for the princely sum of £5.50 – VAT inc.

By the end of November 1975, *Le Gourmet* had been open for about 18 months and the Chronicle noted that it had already acquired “a growing national and even international reputation” under its chef, the “gifted” Christian Germain.

A la carte dishes included starters such as crêpe Edouard VII (smoked salmon pancake and cream sauce), Mousse de Poisson Fumé, “an incredibly smooth and featherlight” mousse of smoked haddock, and Petit Pâté de Gibier, hot game pâté in puff pastry with an “exquisite” truffle and wine sauce.

The “unusual and intriguing” main fish dishes included monkfish in beer sauce, trout in

vermouth and roasted brill. Game was on the menu as available, and in November 1974 there was “excellent” pheasant, teal (“not often seen in restaurants but highly recommended”) cooked in an orange and lemon sauce, or the “fascinating” Pintade aux Morilles – guineafowl served with a special rare mushroom, providing “a stimulating, individual taste”.

Meals running to eight courses might seem “a tremendous challenge”, wrote the Chronicle’s epicure, but declared: “When food of this style and subtlety is served, the diner feels no sense of weariness or of overdoing things.” Fortunately, there was a pause for sorbet between the guinea fowl and the La Côte de Boeuf Béarnaise (grilled rib of beef) before the writer went on to tackle the speciality sweet (a cake consisting of layers of meringue and chocolate butter-cream and containing chopped nuts), a selection of cheeses and coffee.

The hotel itself, boasting 22 bedrooms, each

equipped with private bath and WC, phone, radio and colour TV, and surrounded by four-and-a-half acres of gardens, had literally risen from the ashes after fire gutted the listed building (Queen Anne with Victoria additions) in May 1971.

Before the Second World War, after the long-standing owners, the Norman family, had left what was then called Chelsfield House, Bromley Council bought it and used it as a “halfway hostel” for homeless families until about 1969. When the fire – believed to be arson – occurred, Bromley was considering an application from a development company to turn the house into a hotel.

Sadly, the Chelsfield Park Hotel and *Le Gourmet* appear to have been short-lived. In December 1976, Bromley Council granted permission for a £1.2 million plan to turn it into a 73-bed private hospital tentatively named the West Kent Medical Centre.

But that’s another story ...

Patrick Hellicar



Bromley Pharmacy Survey 2021

PNA Pharmacies Survey

Bromley Council is working in partnership with Healthy Dialogues in writing a pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA) which looks at the health needs of the people who live in your area. Part of this PNA will consider finding more out about your experiences and views around your local pharmacy, and how you may be currently using them.

The responses that you provide to our Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Public Survey will help to inform

potential decisions on future pharmacy services, or considerations for changes and improvements at your current pharmacy. Your input is invaluable in helping to shape the future of pharmacy services in your local area.

We invite you to take this opportunity to give us your views on this research by visiting the following link to the [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment survey](#).

Your answers will in no way affect the service you receive from your

pharmacy. You will not be identified in any reporting.

Participation should take no longer than 10 minutes. This survey will be open until the 13th December 2021.

If you require any assistance completing this questionnaire, would like to receive the questionnaire in a larger font, or have any questions about the project, please contact Puja Patel, Tel: 07825 571498 or email:

pna@healthydialogues.co.uk

We want to know about your experience with local pharmacies.

Answer this quick survey to let us know about how you use your local pharmacy and help shape future improvements to pharmacy services in your area.



Healthy Dialogues





Set Building for The Chelsfield Players

When setting up for our latest production - The sold out show "Last Quiz Night on Earth" - We started to put up a doorframe only for it to rattle considerably. Some sort of creature had been storing nuts in it throughout the summer. Analysis is continuing but first thought was that it was a door-mouse...

If you have a kernel of interest in either nature or DIY the Players always welcome people at their set build to lift a hammer or wield a brush. Come along and see what's in store!

*Jo East
Chairman
Chelsfield Players*



Chelsfield Station 1986





Chelsfield Equestrian Centre - Church Road



Thursday 23th December
Christmas Display

Start 11:30 AM

£1 Entry

Drill teams

Vaulting

Dressage Quartet

Marco's Kitchen on site for Hot

Drinks and food

Come along for a festive day
of fun! Everyone Welcome





Coblands Garden Centre - Dryhill Lane Sevenoaks

Christmas Fair in the Glasshouse

4th-5th December



Join us for our first Christmas Fair with over 30 stalls from the best local crafters, artists and small businesses. Whether it is the perfect personalised gift, a scented candle, hand-made jewellery or gifts for the kids, we will have a gift for everyone.



Visit our website for further details:
www.coblandsgardencentre.co.uk

COBLANDS
GARDEN CENTRE
Helping gardeners since 1963



Dates For Your Diary

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Monday

Five Bells

**MONDAY CLUB with
'OPEN THE BOX'**

7.00pm

Every Tuesday

Brass Crosby Room

St Martin's Toddler Group

10.30am-12.00noon

Every Tuesday

The Chelsfield

QUIZ NIGHT

from 7.30pm

Every Tuesday

Five Bells

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

8.30pm

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Wednesday 1st December

Chelsfield Village Hall

**Chelsfield Volunteers
AFTERNOON TEA**

2.30pm-4.40pm

Thursday 2nd December

Five Bells

**Live Jazz with Just
Friends**

from 8.00pm

Thursday 2nd December

Halstead Village Hall

Kent Heights Flower Club
from 7.30pm

Saturday 4th December

Halstead Village Hall

Halstead Christmas Fair
2.00-4.00pm (see page 18)

Sat/Sun 4th/5th December

Coblands Garden Centre

**Christmas Fair in the
Glasshouse**
10.00am-4.00pm (see page
27)

Saturday 4th December

St Francis of Assisi, Petts
Wood

"On With The Show"
from 7.30pm (see page 17)

Monday 6th December

Five Bells

KNIT & NATTER NIGHT

from 8pm

Tuesday 14th December

BoPeep

Christmas Market
From 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 15th December

Chelsfield Village Hall

**Chelsfield Volunteers
AFTERNOON TEA with
CHRISTMAS SINGALONG**
2.30pm-4.40pm

Wednesday 15th December

Five Bells

**Christmas Carols with
Phil Lane and accordion**
From 7.30pm

Saturday 18th December

St Martin's of Tours

**Christmas Concert
'A Christmas Carol'**
From 7.00pm (see page 8)

Tuesday 21st December

St Mary's Worlds End Lane
Green Street Green

**The Snowman Christmas
Concert'**
From 2.30pm (see page 8)

Wednesday 22nd December

Five Bells

Open Mic Night

From 8.00pm

Thursday 23rd December

Chelsfield Equestrian Centre

Christmas Display
From 11.30am (see page
26)

Recycling Bin Collection November 2021

Monday 6th December

Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,

Monday 13th December

Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.

Monday 20th December

Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,

Wednesday 29th Dec

Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.

Wednesday 5th January

Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,

Tuesday 11th January

Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.

Every week

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)

Every 2 weeks (Mar-Nov)

Green Garden Waste is collected fortnightly or monthly only

every Month (Dec-Feb)

from households that subscribe (£60 per annum) to the Bromley scheme (Telephone: 0300 303 8658 for advice)