

*Worlds End Music  
in collaboration with*

**ENSEMBLE  
26**



Story narrated by  
**Susie Riddell**

Including a surprise  
guest and a sing-  
along of carols, this  
live family concert  
by **enSEmble26** is  
the perfect musical  
start to the winter  
holidays!

*Raymond Briggs'*

## The Snowman

**enSEmble26** return this Christmas  
with their sellout musical version  
of 'The Snowman'.



Adults £12 adults, Children £2.50,  
Concessions available. For information  
and tickets visit: [WorldsEndMusic.com](http://WorldsEndMusic.com)  
scan the QR code or call:  
07971 440850

**Sunday 17th  
December at 2pm**  
St Mary's Church,  
Worlds End Lane, Green  
Street Green BR6 6AG

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

The Water Spider	2
Jazz Night at The 5 Bells	3
Mutterings From The Millers	4
Crafield Club Winter Break	4
Chelsfield Community Cafe	5
A Guiding Star Xmas Gift	5
Rotary Club to Close	6
St Martin's Spire Appeal	7
Phil Lane Photo Memories	7
Christingle Service Xmas Eve	8
Christmas Bells Concert	9
Asian Hornet Threat	10
National Trust Centre	12
Knit & Natter Evening	12
Axis Shotokan Karate Club	13
BoPeep Xmas Opening Times	14
BoPeep Christmas Menu	15
Chelsfield WW2 Casualties	16
What's in a Name?	17
St Martin's Services Calendar	19
Orpington Symphony Concert	20
Churchyard Working Parties	21
Mayor's SAVE THE DATE	22
English Martyrs Church	23
Dates for your Diary	24
Recycling Collection Days	24



*To all our readers!*

Please get anything for  
January 2024 issue to:  
[chelsfieldvillagevoice  
@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)  
by Friday 29th Dec 2023

## The Water Spider

By my calculation, this is the 150<sup>th</sup> piece I have written for the Village Voice starting back in October 2011 (don't get your calculators out as there are some complications)! These pieces are fun to write, I get the chance to self educate myself on many subjects but sometimes I have been up against the clock when I've left it all too late in the month to start writing: or even deciding what to write about... So, here's to the next 150 articles!!

I have just completed the building of a small patio (with external help) and while doing so the digging and expletives attracted the attention of a robin. I find robins have such individual personalities. All are attracted to the turning of soil. This is an evolutionary instinct as in previous eras they would follow boars or other large animals that would turn over the ground looking for food. As humans now do this more than any other animal (usually while gardening), we become attractive to them and they build relationships with us. This

particular robin is very confident and is happy to come within a foot or so of me although I have known those willing to eat out of my hand. Maybe this robin's placing a claim prior to the winter months when he knows my interest will coincide with his?

water spider (*Argyroneta aquatica*) is the only known spider on the planet to spend almost all of its life under water. In addition, it is common across most of the UK and not in some far-off tropical paradise. It simply needs slow moving fresh water but



This month I want to write about a very unusual spider. Considering that there are over 40,000 spiders currently scientifically catalogued and no doubt many more that have not been identified. Plus there are so many exotic locations that could harbour such a spider, it is sobering to think that the humble

on occasion it will leave water to moult or find new territory. Like all other spiders it obviously breathes air and manages to combine an aquatic lifestyle with breathing oxygen by creating its own aqua lung or air bubble underwater. For this reason this spider is often also called the 'diving bell

spider'. Its air bubble is created by spinning a hollow web and transferring oxygen from the water surface via air trapped between hairs on its abdomen to its bubble. It appears to go into a hibernation like state during winter when access to the surface may not be possible due to potentially being locked under ice. While transferring air to its lair the trapped air bubbles have the effect of making the spider look silvery. The web itself is water tight but allows gases to pass back and forth. As the spider breathes, the carbon dioxide in the bubble increases while the oxygen depletes. By the action of diffusion, the carbon dioxide is drawn out of the bubble while oxygen from the water is drawn in. Despite this, the spider needs to replenish its bubble about once a day as the nitrogen within the bubble is also diffused across the web causing the bubble to continually shrink in size. As a side note, the spider's simple

lungs (known as 'book' lungs because of the way they appear to be like the pages of a book) also operate via diffusion of both carbon dioxide and oxygen).

When this small (up to 14 mm although unusually for spiders, this species has a larger male than female) spider feeds it relies on prey touching its bubble or threads used to anchor the bubble. It typically hunts for aquatic insects and crustaceans such as mosquito larvae and daphnia but rather than dispatching them there and then they drag their prey back to their bubble alive before injecting them with venom. It is thought that dispatching its prey in water could cause the venom to be diluted and hence retrieves them back to its lair first. The male also has a crafty angle when looking to procreate. He moves his own diving bell alongside that of a female spider and tunnels through into that of the female and subsequently mates with

the female. Some aspects of this spiders life are unknown and whether the male is eaten or dies after mating, which is the norm amongst many spiders is unknown. The eggs eventually hatch and are placed in an egg sack within the females bubble until ready to leave the 'nest' and once they do leave they often create their own bubble within old unused shells or other appropriate locations.

Some sources claim that this spider's bite is more painful than that of a wasp but sources seems to be old and generally unreliable and up to date information appears to be lacking. It may well be an old wife's tale as there appear to be no recorded cases of anyone being bitten. Despite this spider's reputation for a painful bite they are apparently popular for use in an aquarium to which they apparently adapt well.

*Steve Fuller  
December 2023*

## **Jazz Night at the Five Bells**

**Thursday 7th December from 8pm**

**Live Jazz with Just Friends Sextet and guest vocalist Ruth Fahie**



## Mutterings From The Millers

Firstly, Steve, Pete and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

We have given up recording the about of rain we have, the gauge keeps overflowing! We do not need to record it anyway now that we have stopped growing cereals. Hedge cutting wasn't resumed due to the rain but perhaps after Christmas the ground maybe firm with frosts, (not too cold though I hope). As you can imagine with this weather, we cannot do much outside but hay and straw requests are really picking up so plenty of deliveries locally. Our machinery rep. thinks he has found us a bale wrapper as mentioned last month but he fell off a trailer and is out of action, perhaps the boys can go and have look in the New Year. Update soon I hope.



*I took picture 13 years ago looking down the field towards the railway line. Brrr*

Have seen more coal tits recently and hear the gold crests often in the larch tree outside my window. Apparently they weigh less than 6 grams and are Europe's smallest bird. They feed on insects and invertebrates and flit among tree branches catching spiders etc, often taking the food from the underside of branches, hanging upside down to reach its prey. Usually, by the time I've got my binoculars out, they have gone or move

too quickly through the trees to get a good view. Still lovely though.

Nothing else to report and again my new kitchen is still in my dining room so unable to reach the bookcase. Here is a quote from a previous mutterings.

*When the squirrels early  
start to hoard,  
Water will piece us like a  
sword.*

*Chris Miller*

## Crafield Club Winter Break

Just a reminder, Crafield Club will be taking a winter break and will not run the club during the

worst of the Winter weather. Our last Wednesday evening is 13th December and our

first week back in 2024 is Wednesday 20th March.

*Angela Varney*

## Chelsfield Community Cafe

The Cafe recently had a fabulous afternoon with Bromley Carers in Harmony singing for us once again! We are always very happy to welcome them to our Cafe. We heard some lovely songs including well known Christmas carols. We also sang to tunes that brought back wonderful memories to all! Along with our usual tea & cake we held a raffle for advent calendars. Donations raised were £100+ which will go to local charities. Thank you everyone for your generosity!! Next month, we will have a quiz on 6th December and our

Christmas event will take place on 20th December. Please join us where we will have cake, mince pies, a sing-a-long and Scarlett will be selling her handmade Christmas trees

(see the following article).

We look forward to seeing you all.

*Mags, Pam and  
all Chelsfield Volunteers*



## A Guiding Star With Christmas Presence!

Small wooden handmade Christmas trees strung with fairy lights will be twinkling brightly in homes all over Chelsfield and surrounding areas this festive season.

They've been carefully made from reclaimed wood and sold by 13-year-old Scarlett Hellicar to raise funds for an exciting travel adventure with the Girl Guides for a fortnight next summer. She has been chosen from around 200 candidates as one of just a dozen girls aged

13-18 from London and the South East to criss-cross Europe by train – and they have to plan the route and organise the whole project themselves. Ultimately, of course, they will be accompanied on their trip by adult Guide leaders.

Scarlett – youngest of the chosen girls – is a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kemsing Guides and lives at Seal, just outside Sevenoaks, with her parents and two younger sisters. But for the first few years of her life, their home was at Chelsfield, where her grandparents Patrick and

Christine have lived for many years in Worlds End Lane. And she remembers her time at Brinds Well nursery in Hawstead Lane with affection.

After racking her brains for money-spinning ideas, Scarlett realised Christmas presented a wonderful opportunity to kick-start her fundraiser by making items she could sell to anyone looking for an unusual gift or decoration for their own home.

"I wanted to make

something that would not only teach me new skills but also ensure that everyone who helped me received something special too," she said. "I researched gift ideas I felt were within my skills to create, cost-effective to make and based on recycled materials, which would be kinder to the environment and unique to my customers.

"After hitting on the idea of miniature Christmas trees, I planned out the size, shape and design and, with my Dad teaching and overseeing me, I learned to use a circular saw, a nail gun and – most importantly – a tape measure! "I cut all the wood myself in our garage, assembled the trees and spray-painted them in three

different colours – brown, red or green. To make them even more exciting and decorative, I bought battery-powered fairy lights from an internet site and added glitter to my trees too."



Each tree, standing 29 cm high (11½ inches), requires a metre of timber. And Scarlett has set herself a target of

making 100 trees!

With the aid of a spreadsheet, she has meticulously costed and recorded all her materials, enabling her to price her trees at £16 each. To her delight, sales have been brisk. In just a few weeks from the start of November she sold more than 30 trees around Chelsfield and Farnborough alone. Orders are still coming in from here, the Sevenoaks area and further afield.

Proudly, Scarlett says one of her little trees has traversed afar and is lighting a window somewhere in Northern Ireland right now!

***\*Patrick Hellicar (01689 857214) will be happy to pass on orders.***

## Rotary Club of Orpington to Close

We are sorry to have to advise you that the Rotary Club of Orpington has decided to close at the end of this year. Unfortunately our numbers have dwindled and it has reached a stage where there are too few of us to carry on running an effective Club. We have been unable to recruit new younger and more active members who could help us to keep going.

Our Club was chartered in March 1939 and it is a sad day for us that we will no longer be able to support the local charities who carry out such valuable work in our area, in addition to those which operate in areas of need nationally and internationally.

We should like to thank those who have supported us by coming to our

fundraising events or putting money in our collecting tins.

Rotary will continue to be active in Orpington through other Clubs.

*With best wishes  
President and members of  
Rotary Club of Orpington*

*December 2023*

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

## St Martin's Spire Appeal

# Spire Appeal

**We need to raise £175,000**



Since last month our fundraising has continued to bear fruit.

Donations have continued to come in nicely and the choir concert went well on 19<sup>th</sup> November, being enjoyed by both the audience and those singing.

We are now sufficiently confident of reaching our target that the decision has been taken to put the work out to tender so we can secure a specialist building firm to undertake the work next summer.

We now look forward to our next fundraising event, the Auction of Promises on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February next year in the Village Hall, preceded by a dinner.

Readers of last month's Village Voice will know that we already have some fabulous things that will be auctioned! In addition to the previously mentioned week in a house 200m from the beach in Marbella there will also be a week in a two-bedroom apartment in Mijas Costa (only 15

minutes' drive away from the house).

We'll be setting up a webpage giving details of the pledges in January, so you'll be able to decide what to bid for.

It would be nice to get a few more items and experiences to auction. Please think what you might be able to offer and get in contact. 01689 854119 or [spire@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:spire@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)

*Steve McCann*

## Photographic Memories From Phil Lane

*Shows how the A21 at Pratts Bottom was built in 1930 wide enough for dual carriageway. Big trees where saplings are. The road is starting to get busy already*



*Carol singing Crafield Club \$58 (Max in New Zealand, your Mum I think is just visible with a beret behind)*





**ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHELSFIELD**

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4PM**



**You are invited to receive a  
Christingle and light the candle  
to symbolise the light of Christ  
and bring hope in the darkness**

**ALL WELCOME!**




Worlds End Music presents our  
Christmas Concert, with Cromwell Brass.

A decorative illustration of a holly branch with green leaves and red berries, and a pine branch with green needles and brown cones, positioned in the top left corner.

## Christmas Bells!

7pm, Thursday, 14th December,  
St Martin-of-Tours Church,  
Church Road, Chelsfield.

Come and join us for that most festive sound of all -  
Christmas Brass! Local professional trumpeter Louis  
Barclay, brings his fabulous brass ensemble,  
'Cromwell Brass'. They will treat you to an hour of  
gorgeous Christmas music.

A decorative illustration of a holly branch with green leaves and red berries, and a pine branch with green needles and brown cones, positioned in the bottom left corner.

Tickets £10; children free; concessions available.

For tickets and more information go to

[www.WorldsEndMusic.com](http://www.WorldsEndMusic.com)

scan the QR code, or call 07547 794870

## The Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) in Kent in 2023

### A disaster unfolding before our eyes – can you PLEASE help.

Since 2005 when two nests of the Asian hornet *Vespa velutina* were spotted in the Bordeaux region of France, the hornet has spread into Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, northern Spain, Portugal, Majorca and the Channel Islands. First records for mainland Britain were from Tetbury, near Bristol in 2016 and in Woolacombe, Devon in 2017. The threats to honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies, native bees and many other pollinating insects caused by this non-native invasive hornet are very significant.

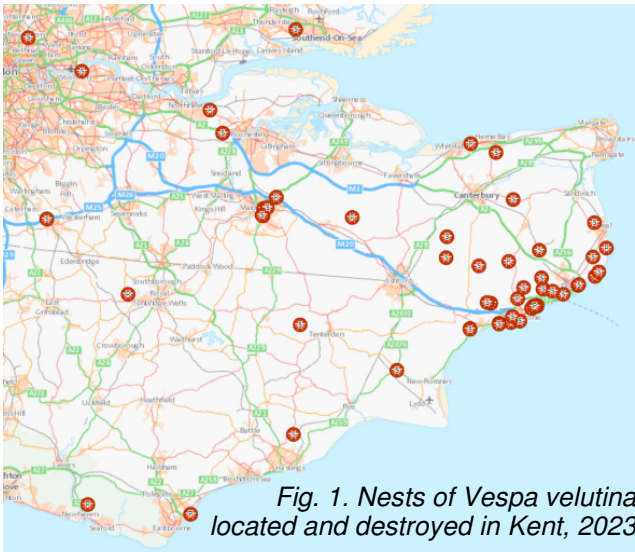
The National Bee Unit (NBU) has had a contingency plan to find and destroy *V. velutina* nests, and in 2017 publicity about the West Country invasion led to about 4,000 such reports with many people mistaking the European hornet and wood wasp for *V. velutina*. The nests are

very difficult to locate especially if they are in an evergreen tree and are more easily detected in deciduous trees. This is particularly so once the leaves begin to fall but by that stage the sexuals for the next year's generation will probably have left. DEFRA are currently trialling highly sophisticated drones with very sensitive heat seeking cameras in an effort to find mature nests and possibly embryo secondary nests prior to development of sexuals, but the early results are not encouraging. Work is also underway to improve radio tracking of Asian Hornet workers as they return to their nests – which currently is often difficult, labour intensive and sometimes virtually impossible - near Dover this year some nests were sited in a cliff collapse area covered in deep scrub.

DNA analysis of larvae by the NBU has shown that the consumption of pollinators varies from nest site to site. Asian hornet meals are seasonal, weather and habitat dependent. In

some areas honey bees are top of the menu, in other areas various bees, wasps, spiders, flies and many other pollinating insects, are present. The horror story for honeybees is that unlike native hornets or wasps (whose predation honeys can cope with) the Asian Hornet will relocate its nest to be near a bee colony or an apiary with several hives, and then intensively predate them – first by catching and killing returning workers loaded with the food that the bee larvae need, and then overwhelming the whole colony once it is sufficiently weakened. In France and the Channel Islands honey production has been hammered.

After a lull with few sightings since 2017, this year has been a disaster for Kent. Results so far show that 75 nests were located in the UK this year of which the majority (52) were located in Kent (Fig. 1 & 2). Monitoring effort was concentrated along the Dover – Folkestone coastline and so it is not entirely surprising that this is where the highest density



*Fig. 1. Nests of *Vespa velutina* located and destroyed in Kent, 2023*

of sightings was made. Beekeepers all over the county, and increasingly all over the UK, are now working hard to raise public awareness of this invasion, and of the dire consequences for all pollinating insects if the Asian Hornet becomes fully established. There are just a few months before hibernating queens start emerging – perhaps late February onwards – and try to establish new nests.

There are simple ways of setting up bait stations which don't harm any insects (not even the hornets) but allow people to observe and report any Asian Hornets that come feeding. Reporting is very simple – contact a local beekeeper or the Asian Hornet Action Team (<https://www.ahat.org.uk>) or the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Non-Native species group.

[atalertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:atalertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)

I hope to be able to provide information, pictures etc with an update in the Chelsfield Voice early next year – and I hope a lot of residents will help. Just a few minutes a day, sitting in the garden, watching a

# ASIAN HORNET

Report any suspected sighting on  
[bit.ly/AH\\_report](https://bit.ly/AH_report)

**INVASIVE SPECIES**

**A single nest of Asian Hornets can eat 12kg of native pollinators a year**

**Body** –velvety black/dark brown

**Head** – black with an orange /yellow face

**Abdomen** - black/brown segments bordered with a yellow band on the 4<sup>th</sup> segment

**2.5-3cm** (twice the size of a wasp)

**Legs** - brown upper segment with yellow lower segments

Designed by @mieldecucie for @londonbeekeepersassociation  
Photo courtesy of Isle of Wight Asian Hornet Watch

*A poster used in Kent summer 2023*



tray of sweet & sour  
gunge will be worth a lot  
– and like many surveys,  
a “nil” result will actually

be good news! And  
remember – its yellow  
legs we are looking for –  
**YELLOW LEGS !**

*David Rea,  
Park Gate  
(Kent Beekeepers Assoc)  
[david.rea@talk21.com](mailto:david.rea@talk21.com)*



*An Asian Hornet on a ball station  
in Kent summer 2023*



*Display at a Canterbury Uni  
conference Autumn 2023*



## National Trust: Orpington & Chislehurst Centre

The Centre has monthly  
evening lectures held at the

**Methodist Church,  
Sevenoaks Road,  
Orpington,  
BR6 9JH**

**starting at 8.00pm**

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.

**WE HAVE NO  
LECTURES IN  
DECEMBER 2023**

## Knit & Natter Evening



This month we are  
meeting on 11th  
December (second

Monday of each month).

Whether you are a  
knitting expert or want to  
get started.

Everyone is welcome.

Knitting, crocheting and  
other crafts welcome, or  
just a chat, we'd love to  
see you!

Contact Sophie on  
07983 656022 for venue.



## Axis Shotokan Karate Club

Karate-Do, which translates to "the way of the empty hand," aims to develop and perfect one's character by accumulating experience through training. Thus, Karate is a practice for everyone, regardless of age, gender, strength, or weakness.

The benefits of Karate training involves several essential components, including discipline, learning how to kick and punch, maintaining physical fitness, sparring (kumite), selfdefense, and meditation. As a result, participants can attain a healthier and more fulfilling lifestyle.

Shotokan Karate is one of the most popular Karate styles

practiced today. The Axis dojo practices both traditional and contemporary Shotokan Karate techniques valuing the importance of basic training (Kihon practice), formal exercises (kata) and fighting techniques (Kumite) aiming to

help you achieve your full potential.

Julian Binns, a 3rd Dan WSKF instructor, has over two decades of experience studying, practicing, teaching, and competing in Shotokan Karate.



**World Shotokan Karate-Do Federation**

 **Axis**  
**Shotokan Karate**

**Classes starting:**  
**Jan 2024**

  
**Greater London, UK**

**More Info:**

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

 [@axis.shotokan](https://www.instagram.com/axis.shotokan)

## Bo Peep Christmas Opening Times



### Bo Peep CHELSFIELD—OPEN AND CLOSING TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR 2023

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00–6.00pm Food 12.00–4.00pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	CLOSED ALL DAY
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00–6.00pm Food 12.00–3.30pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December to Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00–6.00pm Food 12.00–3.00pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00–10.00pm Food 12.00–8.00pm
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00–10.00pm Food 12.00–8.00pm
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	OPEN 12.00–7.00pm Food 12.00–5.00pm
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	OPEN 12.00–6.00pm Food 12.00–4.00pm
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	OPEN AS USUAL

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF CUSTOMERS  
FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN 2023 and  
WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

[www.thebopeep.com](http://www.thebopeep.com) 01959534457  
Hewitts Road, Chelsfield BR6 7QL

## Bo Peep Christmas Menu

CHRISTMAS

at



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**FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> to  
SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2023**  
(Excludes Sundays)

PARSNIP & ROASTED CHESTNUT SOUP  
Topped With Crispy Bacon

WILD BOAR PATE with winter fruit chutney & toasted ciabatta

SMOKED SALMON, PRAWN & DILL COCKTAIL  
With granary bread

WARM GOATS CHEESE SALAD with walnuts & croutons  
Dressed with a cranberry & orange vinaigrette

\*\*\*\*\*

ROAST TURKEY with all the trimmings,  
seasonal vegetables & roast potatoes

BRAISED LAMB SHANK ON A BED OF COLCANNON MASH  
Red wine & mint jus & parsnip crisps

ROASTED COD LOIN WITH CRUSHED NEW POTATOES  
Fine Green Beans, shelled mussels & a creamy tarragon Sauce

BETROOT & SPINACH WELLINGTON  
Roasted baby potatoes, asparagus spears & a mushroom jus

\*\*\*\*\*

INDIVIDUAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING  
with brandy custard

LEMON MERINGUE TARTLETTE  
with Madagascan Vanilla Ice Cream

SALTED CARAMEL CHEESECAKE  
with Belgian Chocolate Sauce & whipped cream

BAILEYS CRÈME BRULÉE with shortbread biscuit

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

3 COURSES £34.95

2 COURSES £26.95

1 COURSE £18.95

EVERYONE AT THE BO PEEP WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL THEIR CUSTOMERS  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE NEW YEAR.

## Chelsfield's Casualties of World War II

I've got a little behind in my research and I realised I've missed some 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of people remembered on our war memorial in the church porch. I'm now going to try to make amends and catch up, starting with:

### EDWARD WALLACE

76511 Captain Edward Alford Wallace was in the '70' Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery. He died on 22 April 1943 and is buried at the Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records note that he was the son of Captain Edward Gribble & Helen Wallace of Chelsfield, & husband of Hilda of Sunbury on Thames. We know this also because his mother and father are buried in the churchyard and we remember Edward with a wooden poppy cross on their grave every Remembrance Sunday. Sadly his mother Helen died before he did, in 1941.

'70 Field Regiment' appears to be the 70<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Field

Regiment who were assigned to the 46 Infantry Division on the Tunisia Campaign in North Africa from February 1943. On 31 March 1943 Edward Wallace is listed as wounded, serving in North Africa, and with rank given as 'Temporary Captain'. From this information he appears to have been injured during the enemy offensive 'Operation Ochsenkopf' (ox-head). In the four days around the day Wallace was injured, the 46 Infantry Division recaptured the ground lost to Division von Manteuffel and took 850 German and Italian prisoners. Wallace is recorded as having died in action, but he died a month after he was injured, so possibly as he died at a medical station very close to where he fell it was included in the records of those who died in action.

Looking through the parish magazines of the period I found an entry in October 1940 offering 'Congratulations to Lieut E A Wallace and Miss Hilda C Spencer who were married at Sunbury-on-Thames on September 7'. One the census in



1911 Edward's parents have been married for a year and have a daughter, Helen. Father Edward is a Shipping Manager with colonial merchants and they are living in Hornsey. Edward was born in 1915 in Hornsey and on the 1921 census he is living there with his mother Helen and elder sister. Later records show that when the family moved to Chelsfield they lived at 'Timbers' in Homestead Road.

Mark Leggett has kindly posted on the 'findagrave.com' website a photograph of Edward Wallace's headstone at the cemetery in Tunisia which I include here.

*Philippa Rooke*  
[pjrooke@hotmail.com](mailto:pjrooke@hotmail.com)



## What's In a Name?

Well, plenty if your name happens to be Robert Burn, as mine is. My parents had wanted to christen me Robbie but the vicar, in his wisdom, had been able to persuade them otherwise, although he could have been even more helpful and gone all the way to suggest an innocuous John, Dick or Harry. In those ancient days, few imagined christening a baby Robbie (not that Robbie was very bizarre, even then) and the more unusual names that seem to have become popular in recent years were largely undreamt of then. Maybe it's because I grew up in the provinces but as a child I never knew a Brooklyn or a Chester, a Summer or a Peaches. However, despite the vicar's attempted intervention my family always referred to me as Robbie, although I was lucky because my brother's first name was Shakespeare (oh no it wasn't!!)

For many years I didn't give my name much thought but awareness its significance dawned on me at the start of my career when I began answering the office phone. I was invariably asked if I'd really said Robbie Burn and then

had to wait for the laughter to subside before having a more meaningful conversation. In the end I eventually got used to the jokes and they weren't much of an annoyance, especially as I realised there was the benefit of people rarely forgetting my name.

I still feel an empathy with the international rugby player given the first name of Austen and whose family name was Healey. Oldies reading this piece will remember that the popular Austen Healey cars were still being produced at the time and I guess that throughout his career Austen's linked names would have been easily remembered by team selectors, even if he hadn't been as skilful as he was.

Not only have I had issues with my first name but I once had a memorable experience due to the way my second name is spelt. After taking certain professional exams every candidate used to expect, and usually receive, a letter on the same day informing them of success or failure. The due day arrived but no letter came to me so I initially thought I must have got the

notification date wrong or that a lastminute hiccup with marking had caused the Institute to delay posting all the letters.

I was usually first in the office and as my colleagues arrived they announced their results, obviously having received their expected letters. It soon became clear I was the only one not to have a letter and after some coaxing I was persuaded to ring the Institute to find out my fate. Hoping to join in the celebrations of successful candidates I did pluck up the courage to ring and ask if I had passed. The answer was a regretful and, to me, heart rending, No. I was told I had failed the exams. I hardly heard the blow being softened by an assurance I could retake the exams in the future, after more diligent study.

Although pleased for the success of my contemporaries, I was hugely disappointed at my own result which, being overly egotistical, I had not expected. I rang my wife to let her know the future looked glum and, being at home looking after our baby son, she said she would ring our families and friends to share the news

and accept any condolences. We agreed to discuss our future plans, and whether I should do more studying or not, that evening, opting out of joining in the celebrations of others.

After another hour in the office, lost in the depression of my downfall and feeling like a leper with no one knowing how to commiserate with me, I thought I should ring Personnel. I knew I could not avoid letting them know the result and then ask what they had planned for my stuttering career, or if I even had one. After giving my name I was met by a loud "Congratulations" that took me by surprise. I was unsure how to react to that response, thinking there might be a touch of sarcasm due to my previous self-confidence and I was thrown into emotional confusion.

I explained I had not received a letter and been compelled to ring the Institute who had informed me that I had not passed the exams. The guy at Personnel countered by saying he had the pass list in front of him and I was included in the list of those who had passed. The only explanation we could think of, other than it being a careless joke, was that someone had looked in the

list for BYRNE rather than BURN. What a relief.

After living through an hour of depressing feelings my future changed and began to look bright and rosy. During that hour I had tried hard to think of what I still had despite that particular exam result - a close family, a new son and other undoubted career skills – but it was very hard trying to balance these with the immediate and pressing failure in the exams. What a roller coaster it turned out to be. I had experienced the dismay from thinking I had failed important exams to the elation and happiness from knowing my future was back on track.

I had always had sympathy for people who did not pass exams, achieve what they wanted or felt downtrodden but the experience of failure, albeit for only an hour, ensured that forever more I treasured every success and had even more sympathy for those who were not successful. I also came to recognise even more that set-backs affect only part of one's life and there are many other precious things to be thankful for. In reality, no matter how they seem at the time, set-backs are always temporary and can always be overcome, one

way or another, and they help us understand the lives we have built are more important and lasting.

Problems with names didn't end there though. Many of my Burn ancestors lived in Whitby, Yorkshire, and in 1834, when William Burn relocated his Cabinet Making and Joinery business, the biggest in Whitby at that time, it became inevitable that the new location would become known as Burn's Yard - adopting the characteristic of Whitby in which each of the numerous yards is named after its occupants. Burn's Yard had existed unchallenged since 1834 the name changed in, I think, the 1980s. Without any vote by the Council for a change, and possibly due to the stain from the rim of a bureaucrat's coffee cup, Burn's Yard became Burns Yard, losing the apostrophe. Is it important? Well, possibly not, other than to the residents of the (former) Burn's Yard and to anyone, like me, called Burn, but the change heralded another loss in the link between modern Whitby and its history and the creep towards changing the grammar we use.

But what's in a name?



The Benefice of  
Chelsfield with Green Street Green  
and Pratts Bottom



## St Martin's Chelsfield & Well Hill – Services – December 2023

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

### St Martin's

Sun 3 Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion with Giving of Gifts CWO1 : MG
1 <sup>st</sup> of Advent	6.30pm	Choral Evensong with <b>Advent Carols</b> BCP : JB
Wed 6 Dec	9.30am	Said Holy Communion CWO2 : SAJ
	7.00pm	Taizé Service
Sun 10 Dec	10.00am	Family Worship <i>with baptism</i> : SAJ
2 <sup>nd</sup> of Advent	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist CWO2 : MG
Wed 13 Dec	9.30am	Said Holy Communion CWO2 : MG
Sun 17 Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion CWO1 : MH
3 <sup>rd</sup> of Advent	6.30pm	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols</b> SAJ
Wed 20 Dec	9.30am	Said Holy Communion CWO2 : SAJ

### **SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE**

10.00am	Morning Worship : PS
4.00pm	<b>Christingle</b> : MG
11.30pm	<b>Midnight Mass</b> : SAJ

### **MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY**

10.00am	<b>Parish Holy Communion</b> CWO1 : MG
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Wed 31 Dec	9.30am	Holy Communion CWO2 : MG
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### Well Hill

Sun 10 Dec	10.00am	<b>Family Carol Service</b> KIA
Thu 21 Dec	7.45pm	<b>Residents' Carol Service</b> MG
Sun 24 Dec	10.00am	<b>Christmas Holy Communion</b> SAJ

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 I'Anson JB : Reader John Buckle PS : Reader Phillip Southby

A large white treble clef logo on the left side of the header section.

# ORPINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7:30pm

74th Season

Mendelssohn

Fair Melusine Overture Op 32

Dvořák

Czech Suite Op 39

Mendelssohn

Scottish Symphony Op 56

The Parish Church  
of All Saints  
Bark Hart Road  
Orpington BR6 0QD

[www.orpingtonsymphonyorchestra.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonsymphonyorchestra.co.uk)

Conductor: Dominic Wells  
Leader: Sarah Douch

Tickets: £15 adults at the door  
or telephone 020 8851 4502  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/orpingtonso](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/orpingtonso)

Registered Charity no. 1063477



# CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTIES

**Saturday 2nd December**

**From 9am to 11am**

Please help if you can,  
no green fingers necessary!

Bring tools if you can - but most of all  
we just need you!

For more information or to join the  
Churchyard Working Party email group please  
contact the Churchwardens on  
[churchyard@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:churchyard@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



# SAVE THE DATE

## **The Mayor of Bromley's Civic Carol Service**

6.30pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
at All Saints Church,  
44 Bark Hart Rd, Orpington BR6 0QD

## **Traditional Sunday Lunch In Aid of Ukraine Appeal**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024  
at The Warren, Croydon Road,  
Bromley BR2 7AL  
Featuring a special appearance by  
King Henry VIII  
£35.00 per person

## **The Mayor of Bromley's Annual Quiz Evening**

7pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024  
At Crofton Halls, York Rise, Orpington BR6 8PR

## **End of Term Charity Appeal Dinner East India, Devonshire, Sports & Public School's Club**

16 St James's Square, London SW1Y4LH  
On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## English Martyrs Catholic Church - *Richard Healey*

If you have never seen the Sistine Chapel in Rome, there is a wonderful, two thirds reproduction of it at the above church in Goring-By-Sea in West Sussex. The church is normally open to visitors from Easter to the end of October. Monday 10am-1pm, Tuesday to Friday 10am-4pm. Phone 01903 242624 for details. Website: [www.english-martyrs.co.uk](http://www.english-martyrs.co.uk)

### A Labour of Love

In 1987 Gary Bevans went on a pilgrimage to Rome and was transfixed by the wonder of the Sistine Chapel. Indeed, he returned home convinced that he had to express his passion for this amazing building by reproducing the ceiling in his own parish church of English Martyrs in Goring. Happily, his parish priest and the parishioners were enthusiastic for the idea and accordingly he set about the task, working evening after evening for some five and a half years. The project was completed in 1993 and stands as an exceptional example of how, by using our gifts, we can transform our communities.

Interestingly the artist is by profession a designer. He explained that the greatest

discipline demanded by the project was to resist the temptation to put anything of himself into the paintings. He was also able to speak of the profound effect working for the long hours alone in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament had on him. Because of the many visitors today, the Blessed Sacrament is usually reserved in a small adjacent chapel, formerly part of the old church.

The ceiling at Goring is the only known reproduction of the Sistine Chapel in the world. The existing ceiling of the church was reskinned with ply panel by the artist. The paints he used were acrylic based, giving a good fresco finish when applied on a white background. The actual colours were made to

match those of the restored ceiling in the Sistine Chapel – following cleaning – and show Michelangelo as a superb colourist.

All the artwork you see in the church, was painted using full size drawings to ensure correct perspective. The size of the ceiling is approximately two thirds scale (3500 sq. ft. compared with the original 5000 sq.ft.). Following the conclusion of the ceiling, the artist then undertook painting the walls and décor of the church, to create its glorious marble effect.



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

## Dates For Your Diary

### WEEKLY EVENTS

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

Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd Dec  
Coolings Garden Centre  
**Craft Show**  
from 10am - 4pm

Saturday 2nd Dec (1st Sat)  
St Martin's Church  
**Churchyard Working Party**  
from 9-11am (see page 21)

Saturday 2nd December  
The Parish Church of All Saints,  
Bark Hart Road  
**Orpington Symphony  
Orchestra Concert**  
7.30pm (page 20)

Sunday 3rd December  
Chelsfield Community Centre,  
Windsor Drive  
**Breakfast With Santa**  
from 10am - 11.30am

Wednesday 6th December  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Chelsfield Volunteers  
AFTERNOON TEA**  
2.30pm-4.30pm (page 5)

Wednesday 6th December  
Five Bells  
**Open Mike Night**  
from 8.30pm

Thursday 7th December  
Five Bells  
**Just Friends Sextet Live Jazz**  
from 8.00pm (see page 3)

Monday 11th December  
Call Sophie 07983 656022 for  
this month's venue  
**Knit and Natter**  
8pm (see page 12)

Wednesday 13th December  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**CRAFIELD CLUB**  
from 7.30pm (see page 4)

Wednesday 13th December  
Five Bells  
**Festive Bingo Night**  
from 8.00pm

Thursday 14th December  
St Martin's Church  
**Christmas Bells Concert**  
from 7pm (see page 9)

Saturday 16th December  
Coolings Garden Centre  
**Knockholt Farmers' Market**  
from 10am - 3pm

Sunday 17th December  
St Mary's Church Hall,  
Worlds End Lane  
**The Snowman**  
2pm (See Front Cover)

Sunday 17th December  
All Saints Church, Bark Hart  
Road  
**The Mayor of Bromley's Civic  
Carol Service**  
6.30pm (page 22)

Tuesday 19th December  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Evening WI**  
7.30pm-9.30pm

Wednesday 20th December  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Chelsfield Volunteers  
AFTERNOON TEA**  
2.30pm-4.30pm (page 5)

Wednesday 20th December  
Five Bells  
**Open Mike Night**  
from 8.30pm

Sunday 24th December  
St Martin's of Tours Church  
**Christingle Service**  
4.00pm (see page 8)

Sunday 21st January  
The Warren, Croydon Road,  
Bromley  
**Sunday Lunch in Aid of  
Ukraine Appeal**

## Recycling Bin Collection December 2023

Monday 4th December  
Monday 11th December  
Monday 18th December  
Wed 27th December  
Wed 3rd January 2024

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  
Plastic, Glass and Tins, 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)  
every Month (Dec-Feb)

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)