

February 2021

Supported by



Chelsfield Park Hospital

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, CHELSFIELD

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

MURDER





PRESENTS

THE FALLING CHANDELIER







COME AND HELP SOLVE THIS WHODUNNIT

on

SATURDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 2021 7.30pm

Maximum of 8 teams of 3 households each Contact: Anne Ireland at anneireland@icloud.com to register

No charge to take part, but a voluntary donation would of course be much appreciated! Scan the QR code to link to the donations page. Thank you!



Fundraising event for St. Martin of Tours, Chelsfield Registered charity: 1131573 The Newsletter and "What's On" Guide for Residents & Friends of Chelsfield Village

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We hope you have all been managing as well as Possible through these difficult locked down weeks.

Share your stories and experiences, tell us of your plans, send us your photographs or drawings.

Submit anything for inclusion in the March 2021 issue to:

chelsfieldvillagevoice @gmail.com

or post to:
Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village
BR6 7RN



The Barn Owl

On the last day of 2020 my neighbour Tony and I decided to give Maypole Rd a good spring clean (bit early I know) and it's surprising how much rubbish accumulates. We filled two big bags of litter and as we finished I remarked 'that wont need doing for another year' as sarcasm is one of my few strengths.

We, as a village, did have a system a few years ago whereby residents adopted a road or area which they would then endeavour to keep clean and we did have about a dozen people who part of that. But it is difficult to keep something like that fresh and there's not a lot of news worthy of being passed on!

I do sometimes wonder what goes on (or doesn't go) on in the minds of litterers. Do they do it consciously or subconsciously? Do they justify it to themselves by arguing that if there is no litter then one piece isn't going to make a difference or, if there's a lot of litter then one additional piece isn't going to make a

difference! If the littering is conscious then usually there's an excuse to accommodate the behaviour. A friend of mine saw somebody leaving litter from a BBQ in a park in Swanley and when he asked why the excuse was 'keeps the park keeper employed'. It is wonderful when you can take a moral stand on an issue and not have to lift a finger!

his head giving him something of a fright which he believed was indeed a barn owl

My own most recent experience of a barn owl was in September down in West Sussex while on a short break doing some family history research. I did mention it briefly in the November issue of the Village Voice, My view was from a good



I try to only write about animals, plants or birds that I have seen in, or around Chelsfield, I have not seen a Barn owl (Tyto alba) around Chelsfield but I recall that Peter Gandolfi some years ago told me that one night he had been walking past the Five Bells when something white flew past compared to others of its

quarter mile away across a field but I could see the owl quartering the banks of the rive Adur in a strangely familiar manner considering I had only seen these birds on TV for many a year. These birds are one of the exceptional birds of prey that is very distinctive



ilk. It's large heart shaped face and chiefly white plumage can cause a scare at night as it glides silently past and this led to names such as: ghost owl, church owl and demon owl in British folklore. Indeed it has a long and influential aspect on folklore, has appeared in Shakespearian plays and poems and their presence, or more often their calls have always been used in cultural media to create atmosphere, suspense and fear. The Victorian naturalist Gilbert White wrote 'I have known whole villages up in arms from the snorts and hisses of the white owl. imagining the churchyard to be full of goblins and spectres'. I found one 19th century reference to a 'double tree' (an oak that was split low down then re-joined further up) at Hockley Essex that had a reputation for being haunted by a murdered child who wailed out in anguish. People would come from miles to experience the sound and many made money acting as guides. Eventually the authorities investigated and found that an owl was to blame and as was the way in

those days, the solution was to shoot the owl.

Supernatural aside, surprisingly the barn owl is the world's most common owl and Britain is at the northern most limit of its range. This may be due to Britain's weather as its feathers. which although capable of allowing it to fly silently, make it vulnerable to wet weather. Indeed during extensive wet weather it can be susceptible to starvation or the loss of its young as its feathers, unlike those of most birds does not simply throw rain droplets off and when the feathers are wet it becomes difficult, if not impossible to fly. For this reason this bird needs to roost and nest out of the rain otherwise they would be unable hunt or keep their young warm. Before the arrival of man, nesting was presumably in holes in trees but as man begun to practise agriculture and build permanent structures barn owls switched to squatting in farm buildings where there was also a good supply of mice and rats. However, their association with farm buildings makes them susceptible to secondary poisoning when they take

vermin that have eaten poisonous bate. Indeed. over 90% of tested barn owls have at least traces of poison in there blood. A guess you could consider it as an occupational hazard.

Barn owls make very simple nests consisting of just a few simple sticks and the young are born in a staggered manner presumably so that food demand is spread over an extended period of time. I have seen time-lapse film of a nest which shows the chicks slowly following each other creating a circular path such that as the parents arrive with food they each have an equal chance of receiving food. However, when food is short, possibly due to wet weather, the older chicks will sometimes turn on the runt of the brood (usually the youngest) and satisfy their hunger by a touch of opportunistic cannibalism.

There are estimated to be around 4000 nesting pairs of these birds in Britain but it is thought that those numbers are now slowly increasing.



They are beneficiaries of changes in farming practise where the edges of fields are often left fallow as these are prime barn owl hunting grounds. This ground is rich in voles and other small mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. However, they also like road verges and this puts them at risk

from collisions with vehicles and I know of one friend who experienced a collision with an owl that left a dusty image of its wings on their windscreen after such an incidence. This is due to 'powder down', a natural material on the feathers of birds which helps to protect them but becomes expelled and

imprinted on glass surfaces by dint of the impact.

It would be nice to see these birds as a regular sight in and around Chelsfield, so if anybody does have a sighting please let the 'Voice' know.

> Steve Fuller February 2021

Mutterings From The Millers

Did you miss the rain report last month? Well, just to keep you informed. we have had 100ml up until the last couple of days January, another wet month. This is the third year on the trot that we have had a very wet winter, as you can probably tell by the very muddy footpaths. We seem to be having much wetter winters but the crops are being starved of moisture when they need it most, ie spring and early summer. The benefits we are finding from the direct drilling, is that the ground is managing to hold onto the moisture on the heavier ground (clay and silts) but obviously not on the lighter soils (chalky, sandy or gravelly) where the crops struggle.

Hopefully the longer we carry on with the direct drilling, the lighter soils should benefit from more organic matter therefore holding onto moisture, time will tell.

Have you managing to notice the new barley crop growing amongst the weeds in the meadow? The field with the footpath from Warren Road to the church. Some of the fields look at the moment a bit messy, the reason being is that we were unable to apply weed killer in the autumn but hopefully in the next month we should be able to clean up the barley and wheat crops. The fields going into spring oats will have an application of weed killer prior to drilling, enabling the decaying cover crop

to feed the new emerging crop.

The boys normally attend a NRoSA, national register of spray operators, meeting each January in Dunkirk, Kent but obviously this will not be taking place this year so they will be completing a 21/2 on line course. Peter will be ok but not sure about Steve! Poor old boy.

We have heard a little about the future of farming outside of the EU. Could be interesting and challenging for small farms. The transition will last seven years starting now with the first reduction in usual payments from this year. We will have to be more environmentally friendly



and grow the same amount of crops as before, what fun lies ahead.

It is lovely to hear the birds starting to sing and call in the garden, especially the great tit with their loud, strong "teacher-teacher" call. We have been lucky this year to see so many redwings, a shy, lovely bird which looks a little like a small song thrush but with a broad white stripe over the eve and red underwings. They feed on berries and invertebrates, I have watched them on the ivy

berries in the hedgerows but was delighted to see them on our pyracantha which grows up the side of the house. Watching them so close through the window eating the berries was a great delight on a cold afternoon. Apparently they migrate at night from Iceland, the Faros and Scandinavia, moving generally when the sky is clear and the wind is in the east arriving here between October to April.

Although it has been very cold on some days, it wasn't bitter on St. Agnes Eve as mentioned last

month so that verse didn't hold out here. Candlemas Day is on the 2nd February and used to be regarded as being half way through winter. Apparently February is usually a damp month, not because of the high rainfall but because of a low evaporation rate and the saying for this month means that regardless of rain or snow, the ditches will usually fill during February.

> February fill dyke, black or white

> > Chris Miller

Join Our Virtual Murder Mystery Event

We are excited about our next Zoom online social event!

Join us on

Saturday, 27th February

for a Murder Mystery
event - The Case of the
Falling Chandelier.
Detective Inspector Lottie
Marbles would like your
help in interviewing the
suspects and working out
from the evidence
supplied Who Killed Eddie
Ball?

You need to register (details on front cover). There is a strict maximum

of 8 teams, but each team can have up to 3 separate households. Those who joined our quiz on 16th January know that we can link together different households into your own private "breakout room". The night before the event you will be supplied with a full brief. details of the suspects and a Top Secret Evidence File. On the night you will hear the police interviews of each of the suspects and then get the opportunity to

interview each of them in turn in your private team breakout room.

Don't be put off by the techie stuff! As a participant all you need to know is how to log on to Zoom. Everything else is done for you by our whizz IT host for the evening.



We already have several teams registered, so if you are interested in joining in, don't delay!

Anne Ireland



Remembering Mary

May I thank Dan for penning a lovely obituary to Mary in last month's Village Voice.

Also we are deeply indebted to all for the beautiful cards, letters and messages that we have received. The words of support are so deeply appreciated.

The funeral was restricted to family members due to Covid restrictions and it was a nice service that emphasised all of Mary's sweet qualities.

I miss her more each day

The picture of her was taken at the Village VE Day Street Party and was just a month before we received the terrible diagnosis.

Little did we know what lay round the corner.



During Mary's illness we received superb care and help from St Christopher's Hospice which allowed us to have Mary at home throughout.

Should you wish to make a donation in Mary's memory, you can donate on-line using the link: https://marylambert.muchloved.com or you can

make cheques payable to 'St Christopher's Hospice' and send them direct to the charity at:

51-59 Lawrie Park Rd, London SE26 6DZ

Thanks again everyone for your support.

David Lambert

Roundabout Update

Many deep trenches have been dug on the village side of the crossing, exposing the many buried services, some of which are being re-routed.

Apparently more pipes have been found than

expected.

We will keep you updated month by month as works proceed.



What a Fantastic Quiz!

held on 16th January 2021

I and the members of my team (Quizzy Rascals) were so impressed, not just with the questions themselves, but also by the very effective and efficient way in which the Zoom Quiz was run.

Around 65 people took part and, because of the current lockdown situation, many teams consisted of different households, in separate homes, participating on separate laptops and iPads.

My own husband was a little sceptical about how it would work, until I explained about 'breakout rooms'. What are these you may ask? It was a new concept to me too, but we were sent very clear instructions, prior to the quiz, explaining that each person who 'logged on' should change their personal screen name to the team name.

At the end of each round this enabled Philippa Rooke, the Quiz IT host. to put each team into their disastrous final round),

Report on St Martins Quiz own 'break-out room' for 3 or 4 minutes, to discuss their answers. Then we were all automatically reioined to the main screen. It worked brilliantly!

> Angela Wilkins verv eloquently read out the questions, which were both interesting and varied. They were challenging, without being too highbrow or difficult, and some were multiple choice, so it was an ideal balance

> Anne Ireland kept score, and it was an extremely easy process for the team leaders to send Anne the scores at the end of each round.

There were fourteen teams in all, and top scorers of the night were MAD (Methodist Amateur Dramatic Society) and JJM, so a tie-break question was needed. The final winners were MAD, led by Freddie Price, with JJM, led by Rev'd John Tranter in second place. Close runners-up were Wellbrim, The Legends (who had led for much of the guiz before a

Ring-a-ding Singers and, to our surprise, my own team Quizzy Rascals.

Enjoying the quiz in the comfort of our own homes (with wine and snacks on tap) was a great way for us to 'virtually' meet up with friends on a cold winter's evening. After the quiz ended Philippa kindly gave us all an extra half hour in our 'break-out rooms', which enabled us to have a personal catchup between ourselves. It was a perfect way to round off a very enjoyable evenina.

We said goodbye to our friends in fine fettle, and of course better educated. For instance, I now know that Pettitoes are none other than - Pigs Trotters!

Anne informs me that as a result of voluntary donations nearly £500 was raised for St Martin's. which made it a verv worthwhile event indeed.

Our thanks go to Philippa, Anne and Angela for a great night 'in', and we very much look forward to the next one!

Diane Wisdom



February Crossword (Solution Page 15)

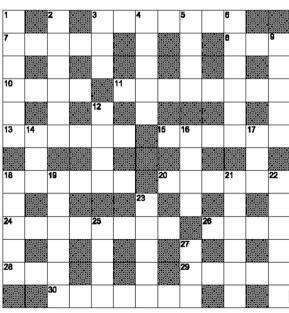
ACROSS

- 3 Chelsfield between the town of Orpington and hamlet of Well Hill (7)
- 7 It may be drab but its oil is prized in cuisine (5)
- 8 Not a full circle (3)
- 10 Treebeard was the oldest of these (4)
- 11 He cut his cloak in two to give half to a beggar (2,6)
- 13 Lightly walk in water (6)
- 15 Rabbits might go to this police sports club (6)
- 18 The village cowman and milkman both lived in this lane (6)
- 20 The most complex organs in the bodies of vertebrate's (6)
- 24 An accumulation of historical documents (8)
- 26 & 29 Where to get liquid refreshment at14.30 at sea (4,5)

- 28 Chew and swallow food (3)
- 30 This is not a string band (7)

DOWN

- 1 A girl with a crook around Maypole (6)
- 2 Protected, or quoted on the Stock Exchange (6)
- 3 Carefully examine an exserviceman's credentials (3)
- 4 Italian milk (5)
- 5 This is measured in square units (4)
- 6 The first Sunday after the full moon date, that falls on or after March 21st (6)
- 9 Leslie Virgo might have been fired if given an "n" (5)
- 12 A group whose intent is to bludgeon (4)
- 14 Say something in order to obtain some information (3)
 - 16 One of many that farmers have to manage (4)
 - 17 A dark time for some residents when their service fails (3)
 - 18 To block out the light (5)
 - 19 Encourage or stir up trouble(6)
 - 21 À stalactite made from water (6)
 - 22 Formed by Stalin in 1943 and based in the Lubyanka (6)
 - 23 Fungus that converts sugar to alcohol and CO2 (5)
 - 25 A thought or suggestion as to a possible course of action (4)
 - 27 Our borough council could be confused with a broadcaster (3)





50 Years Living in Chelsfield

Fifty years ago on the 16th January 1971, having just wed at Bromley Registry Office my wife, Avis, and I drove

Peter Murdoch design cardboard armchairs, cleverly assembled from a single flat piece of heavy card without even



in our WW2 Willy's Jeep to our "new" old cottage (Alice Bray wrote her will while residing here in 1509) in the peaceful little village of Chelsfield.

The only furniture we had to our names were a bed I'm made myself, a brand new refrigerator, purchased for £5 by waiting overnight outside Medhursts in Bromley (now Primark) at the start of their January sale, an Ercol dining room suite (bought using the same tactics at Harrison Gibson, also in Bromley), and four bright orange

the need for adhesive. These chairs were a welcome gift from a couple who later became great friends, Ivor and Mikki Jones, who lived in Well Hill.

Chelsfield was the quintessential English village, with one shop (two if you include the small shop halfway up this side of Well Hill) which was also a Post Office. Five pubs within easy walking distance (the 5 Bells and Bo-Peep, obviously, the Rock and Fountain on this side of Well Hill, The Kent

Hounds on the top of Well Hill, and The Chelsfield, in Windsor Drive), a small village school, 3 car repair garages (Chelsfield Motor Works, Bidewells, now Lockver Motors and Gerry Wing on Well Hill), St Martin's of Tours Church, Bucks Cross Farm a fully operational Dairy Farm, The Miller Wheel & Cultivator Co. Ltd., an arable farm but with a most intriguing history - maybe Chris can tell us more?, and George Whiteheads Farm in Hawstead Lane. mostly remembered for it's ever increasing scrap metal business and an abandoned helicopter!

One other landmark building that has dramatically changed, including being partially destroyed by fire, since we arrived was what is now Chelsfield Park Hospital. In 1971 it was an empty mansion which was restored to become a high end hotel, with a notable Good Food Guide listed fine dining restaurant.

The Village had very little problem with heavy or





speeding traffic then because of one significant factor........... Bucks Cross Farm as a dairy farm had to move their herds of cattle backwards and forwards between the cow milking sheds at Bucks Cross Farm to the fields dotted around Maypole Road, Bucks Cross Road and Hawstead Lane, this

proved to be a perfect means of traffic calming! Harry Munn, the cowman, lived in The Bungalow in Skibbs Lane that Paul Bennett and his family have since restored so immaculately.

The cows were milked twice a day at the farm with the untreated beautifully fresh milk (the

cows we're tuberculin tested) collected early each morning by the milkman, who lived at Hurstdene also in Skibbs Lane, and delivered to the Chelsfield and Well Hill residents. How much more "local and fresh" could you get?

The Farmer, Geoff Spiby, his wife and children, Elizabeth and Christopher lived in the farmhouse and were the most charming people one could meet.

Bucks Cross Farm fields that were not used for cattle were planted with roses, providing a glorious sight in the early summer. The picture shows the field adjacent to Skibbs Lane in bloom in 1972.

Over the years there have been many threats and changes in and around the village from the building of the M25, the route of which was fiercely contested by the D.A.N.D.A.G. group, to the massive threat of a one million square foot shopping centre (over twice the size of The Glades Shopping Centre in Bromley) on Hewitts Farm. The latter





proposal, following years of campaigning alongside a host of other local groups and organisations, and Bromley Council, we managed to overturn.

We are all aware that Chelsfield is home to a wealth musical talent well, this is nothing new...

In 1972 a local band, The Ginger Jug Band released an album which was recorded at "Chelsfield Studios" (one of Hewitts Cottages)

The band consisted of: Tony Petto - lead vocals, kazoo, guitar, banjo and bass drum; Bob Jones guitar, mandolin, violin and kazoo; Geoff Beaumont - harmony vocals, kazoo, 5 & 7 string banjos, piano, mandolin and jug; Steve Horne - washboard, harmonica, jug and hoot.



The village always has provided, until 2020 that is, a host of things to do, as could be seen on Diary Dates in this Village Voice up to April 2020, from Chelsfield Players magnificent productions, to annual Village Fete's and Fairs, Produce and Craft Shows, Musical events and even Christmas Revues.

We have enjoyed our fifty

years living in Chelsfield Village. Our three children were born here, attended the excellent village school, and have now moved to new lives in various parts of the world. For many years there was a youth club for the Chelsfield teenagers, this became very popular with the boys boarding at Cannock House School enabling them to get out and meet the local girls.

We have occasionally considered moving on to a more isolated area, but the idyllic location of Chelsfield, the excellent (for a village) bus and train services, friendly residents and our wonderful neighbours have always kept us here

Dan and Avis Sloan

Chelsfield Equestrian Centre

2020 was a challenging year for us with 27 horses and ponies on site. We were open and shut so many times we lost count! Our horses and ponies still need feeding, watering, exercising and mucking out when we are shut but with the help of donations from our

wonderful clients and a Govt grant we made it through.

2021 has not started very well but we will get through it - we have to! We have always offered Equine Assisted Therapy to children and adults with special needs. In

2021 this is going to be even more needed for children and adults to relieve the stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic.

Horses are capable of great empathy and we are continuing to work with our therapy horses



and ponies during lockdown so they are ready when we can open again. This experience does not need to involve riding we work with the horses on the ground. Here are some pictures of our amazing therapy ponies Bubbles, Rusty, Buzz and superstar Rex ready and waiting to help anyone who would like to come and benefit from this wonderful experience.

Jan Blumire











Mass Vaccination Centre in Civic Centre

Bromley Council is very pleased to announce its further support for NHS and CCG partners by clearing the way for the launch of a Covid-19 mass vaccination centre in the Great Hall, Civic Centre which it is hoped will be up and running by early March.

The proposed site, which has since been accepted and given the green light by NHS decision-makers will shortly be established, then overseen by the Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough supported by local healthcare professionals and local volunteers.

The new facility will deliver a sharp increase in the number of vaccinations being delivered, in addition to the existing centres already operating in the Borough.

Vaccinations for Covid-19 are well underway across the borough in line with the Government's priority groupings, with most over-80s and almost every resident in the Borough's care homes

having now received their first dose.

The NHS is already vaccinating a growing number of over 70s and the Civic Centre site will greatly add to the speed and overall available capacity of the programme Boroughwide.

Bromley Council Leader, Cllr Colin Smith said: "We are delighted to be able to offer our support to the NHS and to put forward the Civic Centre as an ideal location for the new vaccination centre.

"Being in a central location, with good transport links and excellent parking provision close by, it stood out as the obvious choice locally from the outset.

"To that end, with the nearby multi-storey car park standing largely unused at present as a result of the Government's lock down measures affecting Bromley High Street, we are also very pleased to confirm that car parking charges in the multi-storey will be suspended

for all NHS staff, any volunteers assisting them at the Civic Centre and residents attending appointments, until such time as the lock down measures are lifted and the High Street springs back to life.

"Along with our Councilrun rapid testing facilities and the outstanding work being undertaken by the Council's local contact tracing team, this new facility represents the latest positive step alongside partners agencies locally in the tortuous battle to stop the spread of this awful virus and ultimately get us back to a normal way of life which we all long for."

Residents are being asked to wait to be invited for their vaccine. When it is their turn, according to Government guidelines, they will be invited by the NHS either by a phone call, text or letter. Appointments are offered at either a hospital site; at general practice vaccination sites; a roving service for those unable to travel and soon the new mass vaccination centre at the Civic Centre.



Village Notice Board Update

Some of you may have missed the noticeboard recently.

Last year it was found to be hanging off the wall, separated from its back board and hanging by a thread, and was removed for its own, and our safety.

It now has a new backboard – thanks to a lorry dropping a suitable piece of wood along Court Road, and is now repainted, weather proofed and securely fixed in position.

Many thanks to those villagers who have helped with this work, especially Phil and



Michele Little from Crosshall, without whose help this would not have happened, and the Chelsfield Village Society for paying the incidental expenses.

All we want now are some village events and activities to advertise in it.

The Great Chelsfield Pram Race

Here are some photographs taken by Jayne of the wonderful Pram Race in, I think, about 1978. Very hot day I recall, we were hosed down as we reached the Rock and Fountain where we turned round having run via Bo Peep back to the Hall.

I seem to recall Dame





Anna Neagle awarded the prizes. I am the one with beard and mother in law's dress., pushing Mike Goss in the pram, with brother Chris, and lan Fenn helping.

Phil Lane





Crossword Answers



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²⁸ E	Α	T		Ε		S		²⁸ B	Ε	L	L	S
		³⁰ E	L	Α	S	T	I	С		Ε		Н



Recycling Bin Collection February 2021

Monday 1st February Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,

Monday 8th February Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.

Monday 15th February Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,

Monday 22nd February Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.

Monday 1st March Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,

Monday 8th March Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.

Every week Batteries, Small Electrical Items, Textiles (please only

present one small transparent bag each week, and represent the following week if it is not collected

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council Main switchboard: 020 8464 3333

E-mail: fixmystreet.com 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 council website, www.bromley.gov.uk/report, or if urgent by phone out of hours Emergency Duty Team 020 8464 4848.

Neighbourhood Watch John Leach 07711304965.

NHS Non-Emergency 111

Chelsfield Primary School 01689 825827

BT Line Faults 0800 800151

BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital

Main Reception 01689 877855 Physiotherapy 01689 885920 Outpatients 01689 885905

Councillors

Mike Botting mike.botting@bromley.gov.uk

Angela Page angela.page@bromley.gov.uk

Samaris Huntington-Thresher samaris.huntington-thresher @bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Voice chelsfieldvillagevoice @gmail.com

EDF Electrical Power Failure Call 105 or 0800 316 3105

Thames Water Emergencies 0800 714614

National Grid (Gas) Emergency (leaks) 0800 111999

Bromley Police Station & Police non emergency 101

Samaritans Freephone 116123

Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 8721 2605

chelsfieldandbottomSNT @met.police.uk

Chelsfield Village Hall (bookings)
01689 831826 or email to: cvhlettings@gmail.com

Chelsfield Players info@chelsfieldplayers.org www.chelsfieldplayers.org