



February 2023

Produced by  
Chelsfield Village Hall



HAPPY  
*Valentine's day*

Don't forget to book  
your table at one of  
our excellent local  
pub/restaurants

**The BoPeep** (see page 8)

01959 534457

**The Chelsfield** (see page 11)

01689 637 605

**The Five Bells** (see page 17)

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

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**Please get anything for  
inclusion in the March  
2023 issue to us by  
Friday 24th  
February 2023**

SEND TO:  
chelsfieldvillagevoice  
@gmail.com

## The Rock Pipit

Last month I mentioned my friends that have recently moved to the Orkney Isles. They sent me a picture of a seal they found at the bottom of their garden, which just happens to be the beach



(see photo). Nice to have such exotic wildlife in one's own garden! And while on the subject of seals, I spent Christmas in Mevagissey, a small fishing village in Cornwall.

A short walk from the village you can find a small secluded beach where I counted over thirty seals basking in the wet weather one morning. The attached photo shows half that number but they are not easy to count as they look somewhat like rocks! Natural disguise I guess (see second photo).

On a different subject I recently re-found a book I bought about twenty years ago called Chelsfield Chronicles written by Geoffrey Copus – a signed copy! He is sadly no longer with us but he was well known as a local historian and this book has many interesting

stories. I read a chapter about a well known Victorian gentleman called William Waring who, incidentally built many of the farm workers cottages in the village including my own. He was a large land owner in the area and his grave can still be found in the church graveyard. He was well known as something of a humanitarian and liked to ensure his workforce were well catered for. However, as times change what at one time would be considered as a sensible comment now looks somewhat ridiculous. I noted from Geoffrey's book that at the 1868 annual West Kent Hunt dinner William made a speech and commented that *"He was, and always had been, and hoped he always would be a preserver of foxes, but it was a trying position to fill, and very annoying to find that their best foxes, when they got to know any extent of country, got killed illegitimately on land where they were not welcome"*. That is: how dare others kill foxes before we get the chance to do so! This, 150 years ago was presumably considered to be





identifying it (the first example being described as the holotype) caused confusion as the species used was in fact another species entirely: a bird called a dusky lark. Only in recent decades with the advent of DNA analysis has the problem been solved. For bird watchers it is also very easy to confuse with cousins such as meadow pipits and water pipits.

enlightened thinking.

So this month I will be talking about a little known bird called the Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*) also sometimes known as the rock lark. I saw this bird while in Cornwall for Christmas and as I have said before, after a dozen years of writing these wildlife articles I'm running out of local birds to talk about so am now including birds I have seen elsewhere. This bird, I have to say is rather dull. It looks very much like a Dunnock which itself is often referred to as 'a little brown job' in the bird watching community. So, no points for splendid plumage. As its name implies it spends a lot of time on rocks and in particular, on the coast where it can be found poking about looking

under rocks and on piles of seaweed for insects or small aquatic creatures. It has a characteristic explosive call sounding somewhat like 'phist' which is perfect for cutting through buffeting winds on a noisy beach in winter. This bird's main claim to fame is that it is generally considered to be the most taxonomically diverse of British birds. That is: it appears to be sub-dividing into numerous different species: a process called speciation. There is one sub-species that is only found on the Outer Hebrides while another inhabits St Kilda, the Outer Orkney Islands and the Shetland isles while yet another sub-species lives on the continent. Identification has always been a problem with this bird and even the first attempt at scientifically

This bird builds a simple cup nest from seaweed, dead grass and hair and is often a victim of cuckoos, some of which specialise in using rock pipits nests. Each pipit will have its own territory but these birds have a very rare quality which to my knowledge is not shared with any other birds and that is that one pipit from a neighbouring territory will help another local pipit drive off an intruder should its territory be challenged. Strangely altruistic for a wild animal. There are few natural threats to this bird although it is vulnerable to some birds of prey due to its habit of frequenting open seashore where little cover is available. That's all for this month.

Steve Fuller  
February 2023

## Mutterings From the Millers

As you can imagine, the weather has curtailed some of the jobs on the farm recently but fortunately with all that rain the need for hay has increased. We have started to deliver some bales plus a few people have brought their tractor and trailer here for collection. Hedge cutting still needs to be done but on fairer days, but in the meantime Pete has been up on the big barn replacing the roof. A big job but with the scaffold in place, he can fit it in with the weather. More gate and pipe maintenance, just enough to keep him busy!

More problems with trespassing unfortunately. I thought the helicopter was bad enough last year but we found that one of our smaller fields had been gated and padlocked by a person so that he could exercise his dog. Some folk don't realise that a short green field can grow into a hay crop for us and that is our livelihood. Unfortunately the person destroyed some of the crop too.

The latest news on the

subsidies, which farmers have been waiting to hear for years, is a little clearer. Funds will be paid for enhancing nature, payments to encourage predatory bugs on to the farms to eat pest, rather than using pesticides, management of hedgerows for wildlife, plant wildflower meadows, winter bird food and clean up rivers.

Not a lot else to say so here are a few notes from Great Grandfathers letters in January 1 and February 1916.

"The weather has improved the last few days so we are trying to get on with work a bit. I have never seen winter greenstuff (all different green vegetables) so forward at this time of the year, it is nearly all running away. In fact, if the weather does not get colder, it looks as though there will be nothing left of the winter stuff in a month's time. Trade is fair and we have been working on a good lot of savoys and cabbages. Savoys are making 6/- and cabbages 4/- per bag

which is not so bad"

"We have got 700 - 800 sheep clearing up the rough greenstuff. I think if all is well, when things get normal again, we shall have to always keep a flock to clear up the fields etc then when greenstuff trade gets bad, feed it off instead of wasting time and money taking it to London"

A few notes from our county. Some of the Kentish farmers have had great problems over the past couple of years with various set backs and the lack of fruit pickers. Obviously there are political reasons, I don't think this is the occasion to talk about that, but the growers have had confirmation from DEFRA that more visas for seasonal workers will be available for horticultural businesses this year. For some farmers, this news has come too late as they have already made the difficult decision to reduce production for the coming season, but after a tough few years which resulted in £60 million worth of fruit and vegetables being wasted



in the first half of 2022 alone it is also good news for many.

The rain fall we had in November which ended our hose pipe ban, has made a significant difference to the water levels in our reservoirs with Bewl Water, Powder Mill and Darwell at 100% capacity and Bough Beech 95% which is

great news. A friend told us that where he lives in Devon, the reservoir water levels are very low and they still have a hose pipe ban.

Weather quotes for winter

During a fierce blizzard in Devon 1891, corn was reported to have germinated and grown to a height of 3 inches

beneath the snow. The ground was warm when the snow fell and the snow would have had an insulation effect against the cold air temperature above.

*As the days lengthen,  
So the cold strengthens*

*Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm  
February 2023*

## Chelsfield Community Cafe

Although we have had a few quiet sessions in January, our Christmas event was very different! It was attended by many and had the perfect Christmas atmosphere with Christmas tree, lights, decorated tables, music! We were

delighted to host Bromley Carers in Harmony again who sang carols and played beautiful Christmas songs from many different era's and genres. Sarah Spencer-Adams produced and sold fabulous filled gift mugs with all funds



raised (£85) going to our local animal charity: Safe Haven Animal Rescue (Worlds End Lane).

There was an amazing raffle which included a lovely homemade Christmas cake, gift sets, wine specialist books, purses, rugby joke collections, etc. As fate would have it the same lucky person won 1st & 2nd prize (there were over 30 donated by our great volunteers)!! As always huge thanks goes to our bakers who made Yule logs, mince pies,





We are planning our Easter event - 5 April - where we hope to host a craft day - making bonnets, decorating eggs and creating Easter cards - obviously this will be for those that want to join in (there is never any pressure to participate). Volunteers will help where possible.

Please do join us. You will always receive a warm, friendly welcome thanks to our wonderful volunteers!

February's afternoon teas will be on 1st & 15th February. We look forward to seeing you at Chelsfield Village Hall, 2:30 - 4:30pm.

*Mags, Pam, Caroline & the team*

sausage rolls, sponge cake and many more!! These photo's capture just a tiny piece of the fun and atmosphere!!

Over the coming months we plan to hold a few themed events:

The 1st February will be a games day with a word game and a memory

game - get your thinking heads on!! Obviously there will be a few little prizes!

On 1st March, Pam Temple will give a short talk about the Down House Garden, with slides - it's fascinating to learn what Darwin grew and how he used the garden as a laboratory.

## Halstead & District Horticultural Society

**Feb 23rd** 8pm Talk  
Clematis through the Seasons  
(Halstead Village Hall)  
Members Free Visitors £2

**March 23rd** 7.45pm  
Spring Show /Great potato challenge and Seed swap  
Halstead Village Hall

**April 20th** 8pm Talk Late  
flowering Perennials & Grasses (Plants will be on sale)

**April 22nd** A walking tour of London's Gardens (outing)

**May 8th** 9.30am-12 plant sale Halstead Village Hall

**June 7th** Outing to Belmont House and Doddington Place Gardens by coach

**June 22nd** 7.45pm  
Summer show  
Halstead Village Hall

**Mid July** (TBC) Outing to Penns in the Rocks



Groombridge (own transport)

nursery and the UK flower industry (Flowers available to buy)

Halstead Village Hall

**Sept 2nd** Autumn Show  
2pm Halstead Village Hall  
(Staging 9.30-11.30)

**Oct 12th** Quiz 7.30pm  
Halstead Village Hall

**Nov 23rd** AGM 8pm  
Halstead Village Hall

**Sept 28th** 8pm Talk My families Alstroemeria

**Oct 26th** 8pm Talk The great Storm of 1987

***Membership £10 per year - or joint membership £15***

## **Kent Heights Flower Club**

If you love flowers, come and join our Club. Everyone welcome, sit back, relax and watch the demonstration, pick up some useful tips, learn new skills and discover new interests

We meet the first Thursday of the month, March through to July, September through to November

7.00pm for 7.30pm

with a Christmas lunch in December

Halstead Village Hall, Knockholt Road, TN14 7EX

**Our next meeting is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

**Helen Hare is the demonstrator**

**and the theme 'East to West'**

**Patricia Ellis is our Demonstrator on 6<sup>th</sup> April and**

**Elouise Halfier-Stott on 4<sup>th</sup> May**

Members £5 including refreshment

Come and join us, have a coffee beforehand, enjoy the entertainment,

enter the raffle and you will have a chance to win one of

Helen's beautiful arrangements

For further information contact

Sally Kemsley on 01959 534406

VALENTINE'S  
NIGHT  
at



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JOIN US AT THE BO PEEP  
ON Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023



KING PRAWNS PROVENCAL on toasted ciabatta

WARM SALAD OF CONFIT DUCK LEG CHERRY TOMATO & PANCETTA  
With a Balsamic Glaze

CAMEMBERT (Individual or sharing) with caramelised onion & rosemary



PASSION FRUIT AND MANGO SORBET



HALIBUT FILLET with chorizo potatoes, Salsa Verde & fine Green Beans

MEDALLIONS OF PORK FILLET on a bed of spring onion mash  
Crispy black pudding & a creamy Wholegrain Mustard Sauce

WILD MUSHROOM & CHIVE RISOTTO with parmesan shavings,  
rocket & truffle oil



SHARING CHOCOLATE FONDUE with fresh fruit, profiteroles & marshmallows  
Lemon Tart with crème fraîche

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

4 COURSES £34.95

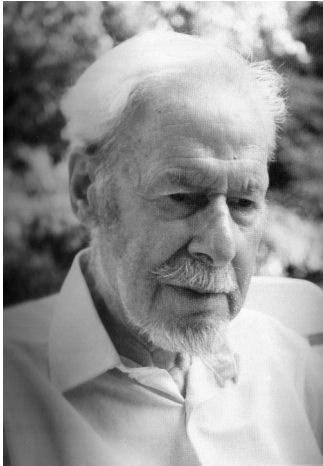
Starter & Main course or Main Course & Dessert £26.95

Main Course £18.95

A 10% optional service will be added to all bills  
Please advise a member of staff of any allergies or intolerances



## Donald Ward : Poet, Pacifist & Preacher



Donald Ward (1909-2003) died twenty years ago in February 2003. He was a resident of Chelsfield for forty years. A nature-lover, pacifist and lay preacher, Donald is our most famous local poet. I say this because his work was published by mainstream houses such as Allison & Busby and Anvil Press. He was featured on BBC radio. He was one of the first to participate in the new London area 'Dial a Poet' service – a novelty introduced in the 1970s. Telephone listeners could dial in to hear Donald reciting in his rather reedy voice, across a crackly line, his poem *Harvest Hill*: it included this vivid and

atmospheric scene:

*... The weeping grass  
steams in my bones –*

*The apple-loaded night  
begins,*

*Leans over me, the  
apples hold*

*Tangy silence – but the  
winged*

*Eerie bat still sucks his  
dream.*

Donald spent all his working life as a postman. He was a late starter writing poetry. Many of his poems described our local countryside of north Kent. Born in Belmont, Surrey he grew up in Ramsgate and Canterbury. Having registered as a conscientious objector in 1939 he served at night in the Heavy Rescue Brigade fulfilling the vital service of saving lives when bombs had fallen and fires were burning. Pacifism was a big factor in Donald's life: distributing copies of Peace News and stoically suffering verbal attack by people walking past; attending anti-war rallies

and CND marches; participating in a post-war reconciliation programme of inviting German prisoners-of-war to come and stay with his family.

Themes of Christianity and pacifism abounded in many of Donald's poems. In one he wrote, enigmatically: 'One man longs for war; the other longs for love. Two men are one man.' His son John wrote that one of his fondest memories of his father was being taken to Hyde Park Corner one bright spring morning in the 1950s to hear Donald Soper 'full of wit and charm and endless patience, expose the folly of our Cold War politicians.'

The Guardian newspaper wrote in February 2003: 'The postman and lay preacher Donald Ward, who has died aged 93, published his first volume of poetry *The Dead Snake* in 1971, at the age of 62. It won an Arts Council award and was described as a remarkable literary achievement.' Donald was a nature lover. He believed ardently in protecting the

environment. He would undoubtedly be concerned about climate change if he were still with us today. He loved butterflies: one of his last-published poems described the Adonis Blue.

*More blue than the bluest sky*

*you do not see the grass from which they rise-  
all, all is blue*

*Hanging like heaven just above your head*

*a swarm of angels in the morning sun  
brighter than day  
before the day's begun*

*Jerry Dowlen*

## Knit and Natter - Monday 13th February



The second Monday of every month at The Five Bells, 8pm.

knitting expert or want to get started, everyone is welcome.

for a chat too!

Knitting, crocheting and other crafts welcome. We'd love to see you!

Whether you are a

Feel free to join us just

## Phil's Christmas Bash

My long postponed carol bash at the Bells took place on the Monday 12th December, right after the snow fell. As a result numbers were well down and there were none of the locals present.

raised some £70 for MND.

We had no snow on the coast and an easy motorway drive up, but regulars from Tunbridge Wells areas were snowbound.

Sussex helped to make up a total of some £465 however.

Jayne and I send our New Year wishes to all in Chelsfield and thank those who did make the event here.

About 20 of us enjoyed singing and drinking and

The various other events down here in East

*Phil and Jayne Lane*

THE CHELSFIELD

01689 637605



## VALENTINE'S DAY

Don't be the one who forgets. Book your table now and bank those brownie points. Whether you're celebrating on the day itself, the weekend before or the weekend after, make sure you've got that all-important date nailed down.

We've got all your favourites waiting.

## Lancing College

Have you ever visited Lancing College Chapel?

Well it is well worth a visit, it has the WOW factor as you enter. It is situated on the A27 between Shoreham by Sea and Worthing. Open 10am to 4 pm except Sunday when it is 12 to 4pm. The crypt is



closed during term time. Lancing College has 600 students, 50% who are boarders.

The Chapel is the largest school Chapel in the World. It also has two organs.

Lancing College was founded by Nathaniel Woodard, curate at Shoreham-by-Sea, in 1848. He went on to establish what is now the Woodard Corporation of schools and academies.

The foundation stone for the Chapel was laid in 1868. The foundations are 70 feet deep. The Chapel is built of



Sussex sandstone from Scaynes Hill. The Crypt was finished in 1875 and used by the school, until the upper chapel was consecrated on 18th July 1911. Between 1921 and 1937 the War Memorial Cloister was built and the interior sumptuously furnished. In 1947 the Friends of Lancing Chapel commissioned a new design for the west end from Stephen Dykes

Bower. His west wall and rose window were dedicated on 30th May 1978, but again this remarkable building was left unfinished.

At last on 23rd April 2022 a west porch was dedicated to complete the Chapel after nearly 154 years.

The choir stalls at the Chapel were purchased from Eton College, about 100 years ago. Eton College were refurbishing, and when they removed the stalls they found Murals on the walls behind, so didn't replace them.

*Richard Healey*

## Please Keep the Donations Coming!

Thanks to everyone who has donated towards the printing costs of the Village Voice!

Donations (cheques) towards the cost of printing the Chelsfield Village Voice should be made payable to "Chelsfield Village Hall" and

sent to:  
Peter Gandolfi  
3 Orlestone Gardens  
Chelsfield Village  
Orpington  
Kent  
BR6 6HB

Donations may also be made directly online using the following account

details:

Chelsfield Village Hall  
Sort Code: 40-35-30  
Account No: 31172344

Please use the reference "Village Voice" in order to identify the purpose of the payment.

*Many Thanks, Dan Sloan*







Worlds End Music presents

Gary Ryan, guitar.

7pm, Friday 10th March

St Martin-of-Tours, Church Road,  
Chelsfield, BR6 7SN

Come and enjoy a stellar evening with international classical guitar soloist Gary Ryan. An hour of music followed by a reception in the Brass Crosby Room- refreshments available.

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 Friends of the Princess Royal University Hospital is hosting a fundraising event on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm, at the Education Centre in the Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Common, Orpington BR6 8ND. All proceeds benefit the hospital.

Tickets are limited in number, so hurry. Please email [treasurer@friendsofpruh.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@friendsofpruh.org.uk)

## JACKIE BURNS

Fellow, UK/European Lead for S.T.E.A.M,  
International Association for Astronomical Artists

**TALKING ABOUT ART &  
ASTRONOMY WORKING  
TOGETHER**



Friday, 24th February at 7.30pm  
The Education Centre at  
Princess Royal University Hospital

Tickets £10 per person  
Light refreshments provided

## A Historic Buzz Over Bees at Chelsfield

It was early summer 1880, and Chelsfield's Lord of the Manor, William Waring, had a bee in his bonnet. About ... bees.

What bothered him, according to *The Graphic* newspaper's "Rural Notes" column, was a big decline in beekeeping over the past 20 years among the cottagers of Chelsfield.

On a June evening a meeting was held in the village, with Mr Waring in the chair. And he left no one in any doubt that he strongly advocated a revival of this desirable activity – using improved methods.

Mr Garratt [*probably Jesse Garratt from St Mary Cray, secretary of the West Kent Bee-Keepers' Association*] who had been invited along to explain advances that had been made in beekeeping and the advantages they brought, told enthusiastically of a variety of new apparatus available.

He spoke about wooden bar-frame hives;

American wax foundations for ensuring the building of straight combs and the prevention of excessive drone breeding; honey slinger wheels (which allowed the honey to be extracted without destroying the comb); and perforated-zinc excluders designed to prevent the queen accessing the honey department. Other "useful appliances of apiculture" were also described in detail.

William Waring declared that he would himself purchase a hive with all the scientific improvements mentioned by Mr Garratt, in order that his neighbours and the tenants on his land might have a model they could observe and see how the improvements worked.

To encourage them, a list of prizes was announced for a Beekeepers' Exhibition to be held at St Mary Cray on 5 August, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr Waring.

Four and a half years later, in January 1885,

Jesse Garratt became managing director of the Bee & Fruit Farming Company Ltd formed with five other directors to provide a way for beekeepers to dispose of "the honey and wax now being produced on a large scale and to meet the difficulty experienced by so many of finding a quick market for their produce". It also purchased honey, wax and bees direct from shareholders or would sell on commission for them.

Garratt lectured throughout Kent and elsewhere for many years, promoting and encouraging beekeeping for profit and pleasure. He died in 1925 at the age of 82 at Wateringbury, where he lived with his second wife, having earlier moved from St Mary Cray to Meopham.

**Footnote:** Honey and beeswax were traditionally valuable rural commodities in Britain and beekeeping was encouraged to better the condition of the agricultural labouring class. Until the late 19<sup>th</sup>

century, bee-keepers used small upturned-basket hives called “skeps”, made of woven grass or straw. These were housed in conical-shaped “hackles” thatched to make them weatherproof. To harvest the honey, the bee colony

was first killed by drowning or suffocation and the comb then cut away. Skeps were cleaned and re-used the following season after new wild swarms had been collected. The more-practicable wooden movable-frame structure

introduced to the Chelsfield cottagers by William Waring was developed in America from around the 1850s and is still the basis for modern hives.

*Patrick Hellicar*

## Bromley Foodbank



Bromley Foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that’s why your food donations are absolutely vital to their ability to give everyone referred to them a balanced and nutritious 7-day supply of food.

They have now signed up to ‘Bank the Food’, an app for your mobile phone that allows you to see their real-time wanted list whilst you shop. You can find it in your AppStore or scan this QR code. Once downloaded and signed in, you can nominate Bromley Foodbank as your local foodbank and it will show you their list of requirements.



If you’re happy to turn on your location and receive reminders it will even nudge you when you’re in the shop! But you don’t need to use this bit.

If you don’t want to download an app you can find their latest list on their website at <https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/> and you can donate food purchased instore at

Waitrose – Green Street Green

Sainsbury’s – Orpington, Locksbottom, Petts Wood

Tesco – Orpington

There’s also a collection box by the pulpit in St Martin’s Church which is open daily from c9am to dusk.



THE FIVE BELLS  
*Valentine's Menu*

2 course £23 - 3 course £27

**Starters**

Courgette and parmesan soup served with  
garlic croutons and crusty bread

Beef carpaccio served with rocket,  
parmesan and balsamic drizzle

Prosecco gratinated seafood cocktail  
served with fennel grissini

**Mains**

Pan fried duck breast with black cherry sauce,  
hasselback potatoes and roasted carrots

Salmon en croute with white wine and dill sauce  
with buttery new potatoes

Pork fillet with pink peppercorn sauce, sautéed  
potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Spinach and cheese stuffed cannelloni, topped with  
tomato sauce, served with salad and garlic bread

**Desert**

Slow roasted pineapple with coconut  
parfait

Chocolate brownie with vanilla ice cream

New York cheesecake with forest fruits

Trio of deserts (supplement £2)

Enjoy a  
welcome glass  
of Prosecco on  
us!





The Benefice of  
Chelsfield with Green Street Green  
and Pratts Bottom



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

All welcome! Come and join us any time. Please watch the church website for any updates (see link at bottom of page).

### St Martin's

Sun 5 Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion CWO1 : MG
3 <sup>rd</sup> before Lent	6.30pm	Choral Evensong BCP : MG
Wed 8 Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion CWO2 : SAJ
Sun 12 Feb	10.00am	Family Worship MG
2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist CWO2 : MG
Wed 15 Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion CWO2 : MG
Sun 19 Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion CWO1 : SAJ
Next before Lent	6.30pm	Choral Evensong BCP : SAJ

### *Ash Wednesday*

Wed 22 Feb 9.30am **Benefice Holy Communion** CWO2 : SAJ

Sun 26 Feb	10.00am	<b>Benefice Communion at St Mary's</b>
(no morning service at St Martin's)		
1 <sup>st</sup> of Lent	6.30pm	Choral Evensong BCP : Reader Phillip Southby
Wed 1 Mar	9.30am	Holy Communion CWO2 : MG

### Well Hill

Sun 12 Feb	10.00am	Morning Worship Reader Ken l'Anson
Sun 26 Feb	10.00am	<b>Benefice Communion at St Mary's</b>

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

[www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



Like



View



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Watch

## And Thereby Hangs a Pot

Back in the heady days of 1950's/60's it was still quite commonplace for a drinker of ale to be given a tankard for his Coming of Age. Be it pewter, glass, china or even leather, this Bacchalian vessel of Coming of Age graced many a sideboard or display cabinet, or even one of the coveted hooks in the local hostelry. Yours Truly accrued several of these 'POTS' and at one stage had one hanging locally in the Five Bells, Bo Peep and Kent Hounds. I even had my Riley pot hanging in the White Hart at Brasted where the RM Club had once been meeting. Having forgotten about this one, when I went to retrieve it the young bar lady lifted it down and screamed to see a huge (dead) house spider in the bottom. The pot had also been dropped and dented, presumably on the stone floor.

For my own 21<sup>st</sup> in 1964 I had several pots and, curiously, a smoking pipe and tobacco from David Abbott. This set me up well for many

relaxing puffs and pints, like my Dad and late brother Chris, until a 4 week bout of chicken pox followed by bronchitis in 1980's put paid to my smoking. My lovely Malayan pewter pot from an aunt disappeared after leaving it behind at a Young Conservative BBQ at Pratts Bottom Hall in 1966. I went back next day but no trace (anybody reading this might have found it perhaps?!!)

Anyway, back to the reason for this article. My Malayan Solangen pot was kindly replaced by the same aunt and eventually this found a new home on the hooks at the Five Bells, having had a previous life at the Kent Hounds. Prior to this I was given by Ann Blatcher a glass pot which she engraved with the monogram *Lord Philip Lane* (my pretentious suggestion!) but being glass it was eventually cracked during washing etc, a risk that Old Duggie Parkes gleefully reminded me was

always likely. I had many hundreds of pints in my pewter 'tinpot' at the Bells even well after our moving to Seaford. Weekly visits to see Dad where I/we could stay over to save driving back the same night. Since his death in September '21, visits to Chelsfield have become less frequent and erksome - the roads increasingly under repair and busy. It was with some pangs of remorse, therefore, that in early January this year I decided to take my pot back to East Sussex so it could find a new home on one of the equally coveted hooks in the Smugglers in Alfriston. Being within walking distance of Sal's house I can stroll down the road for a beer and natter with my son in law, and have made many new friends through the village and Church. It is a very busy and thriving village nestling in the glorious South Downs bisected by the Cuckmere Valley. We shall be making trips back to Chelsfield during the coming years and if I felt really inclined, could take my pot with me (my

cousin always used a 'Travelling Tankard'. There are but three small issues with a metal pot – unless used regularly it can attract a dead spider; they seldom hold a full pint unless brim-filled, and you cannot see if the beer is clear without looking at a fellow drinkers' glass! Both to the advantage of the publican!

So I thank all those past custodians of my Bells Tin Pot – Doug Parkes Snr/Jnr; Kay and Ade and latterly Sam, Molly and barstaff.

The photo was taken in the saloon bar on a Monday 'Open the Box' evening, a weekly game in which I eventually won the jackpot.

*Phil Lane (Lord)*



## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### **Bromley Council**

Main switchboard:  
020 8464 3333  
email: [fixmystreet.com](mailto:fixmystreet.com)  
Opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm  
Address: Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH  
Problems may be reported via the council website, [www.bromley.gov.uk/report](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/report), or if urgent by phone out of hours Emergency Duty Team 020 8464 4848.

**NHS Non-Emergency**  
111

**Chelsfield Primary School** 01689 825827

**BT Faults** 0800 800151

### **Councillors**

Mike Botting  
[mike.botting@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:mike.botting@bromley.gov.uk)  
[ov.uk](http://ov.uk)

Angela Page  
[angela.page@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:angela.page@bromley.gov.uk)

**Chelsfield Village Voice**  
[chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](http://chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)

**EDF** Electrical Power Failure Call 105 or 0800 316

**Thames Water**  
Emergencies  
0800 714614

**National Grid (Gas)**  
Emergency (leaks)

0800 111999

**Bromley Police Station & Police**  
non emergency 101

**Safer Neighbourhood Team**  
020 8721 2605  
[chelsfieldandbottomSNT@met.police.uk](mailto:chelsfieldandbottomSNT@met.police.uk)

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

**Chelsfield Players**  
in-  
[fo@chelsfieldplayers.org](mailto:fo@chelsfieldplayers.org)  
[www.chelsfieldplayers.org](http://www.chelsfieldplayers.org)

**Samaritans** 116123





Chelsfield Village Hall,  
Bucks Cross Road, BR6 7RL  
Box Office-07549 012140



[www.ticketsource.co.uk/chelsfieldplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chelsfieldplayers)

**The Chelsfield Players  
presents...**

# Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

**30th March-1st April at 8pm**

**£10 tickets**

An amateur production in association with Dramatists Play Service Inc

Adapted by

## Jeffrey Hatcher

from the novella by Robert Louis Stevenson



**Rotary Club of Orpington**

**Invite you to their**

# **Fantastic Quiz Night**

Where? **All Saints Church Hall Barkhart Rd Orpington**

When? **Friday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Time? **7.00 pm for 7.30 pm** Price? **Only £10 per ticket**

**FREE BOTTLE OF WINE ON EVERY TABLE**

Tables of 8 but we can combine smaller groups

Please bring your own food, refreshments and glasses

## **Great raffle prizes**

To book please ring Val on 07894 066093 or 01689 826478

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

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES**

## Being Aware of Scams

With the new year in full swing, regrettably, doorstep traders and scammers have not reduced their activities. Bromley Trading Standards is advising residents to be very wary of rogue traders offering driveway, roof, patio, and path cleaning via cold calling at your door.

Don't deal with doorstep traders.

Whatever the work being offered, dealing with doorstep traders risks shoddiness, having no redress, and being substantially overcharged. You may also be subjected to repeated visits in the future.

In a recent scam, an elderly resident tried to cancel a driveway cleaning job but were denied their legal right to cancel, with the trader demanding they pay for equipment even though it hadn't been used.

For more information on doorstep scams visit: Doorstep scams and how to avoid them – Which?

Find a reputable trader on Trading Standards Checked:

[www.bromley.gov.uk/tradingstandardschecked](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/tradingstandardschecked)  
Report & Assistance  
Protect yourself and others by reporting incidents

If you, a neighbour, or someone else you know is being affected by rogue traders or a scam, call Trading Standards' Rapid Response on 07903 852 090 or visit [www.bromley.gov.uk/scams](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/scams).

If the cold caller is persistent and refuses to leave, you can call the police on 999.

If you (or someone you know) would like a Cold Caller sticker for your door or window, let us know at [tradingstandards@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@bromley.gov.uk) or through Citizens Advice below.

Visit the Citizens Advice website for help and advice or call 0808 223 1133.

To keep up with the latest scam alerts and warnings from Bromley Trading Standards sign up on [www.bromley.gov.uk/ScamAlertSignUpForm](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/ScamAlertSignUpForm).

Bromley Trading Standards also run a fair-trader directory to help you

find a safe, reliable trader that you can trust, visit [www.bromley.gov.uk/tradingstandardschecked](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/tradingstandardschecked) to learn more.

What is a doorstep scam?

A doorstep scam (or doorstep fraud) involves someone calling to your front door out of the blue, with the aim of tricking you out of money.

There can be an added pressure when dealing with someone face-to-face. This can sometimes be even more challenging than dealing with other types of scams, such as [phone scams](#) or [online scams](#). There are some honest doorstep sellers, but there is a fine line between a scammer and an unscrupulous trader. Scammers usually have the gift of the gab and will try to smooth talk you with a convincing story. Or they might be pushy and intimidating, trying to get you to sign a contract or buy something you don't want. Their main aim is to trick you out of money or gain access to your home to steal valuables.

Either way, the key is not to let them in, and report them as soon as possible.

## Dates For Your Diary

### WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Wednesday 1st February  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Chelsfield Volunteers**  
**AFTERNOON TEA Games Day**  
2.30pm-4.40pm (page 6)

Wednesday 1st February  
Five Bells  
**Open Mic Night**  
From 8.00pm

Monday 13th February  
Five Bells  
**KNIT & NATTER NIGHT**  
from 8.00pm (page 10)

Wednesday 15th February  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Chelsfield Volunteers**  
**AFTERNOON TEA & Talk**  
2.30pm-4.40pm (page 6)

Tuesday 21st February  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Evening WI**  
7.30pm-9.30pm

Wednesday 15th February  
Five Bells  
**Open Mic Night**  
From 8.00pm

Thursday 23rd February  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Local History Group**  
10.30am-12 Noon

Friday 24th February  
PRU Hospital  
**Art & Astronomy Talk**  
7.30pm (page 14)

Thursday 23rd February  
Halstead Village Hall  
**Talk on Clematis**  
8.00pm (page 6)

Friday 24th February  
The Five Bells  
**LIVE MUSIC - The Dirty Perks**  
From 8.30pm

Thursday 2nd March  
Halstead Village Hall  
**Kent Heights Flower Club**  
From 7pm for 7.30pm (page 7)

Sat 4th - Sun 5th March  
Coolings Garden Centre  
**Antiques & Collectables Fair**  
from 10am - 4pm

Friday 10th March  
St Martins of Tours  
**Gary Ryan Concert**  
From 7.00pm (page 13)

Friday 10th March  
The Five Bells  
**LIVE MUSIC - Gold**  
From 8.30pm

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th March  
Coolings Garden Centre  
**Craft Show**  
from 10am - 4pm

Friday 24th March  
All Saints Church Hall Barkhart Rd  
**Rotary Quiz Night**  
7pm for 7.30pm (see page 22)

Thu 30th March - Sat 1st April  
Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde**  
8.00pm (see page 21)

Thursday 6th April  
Halstead Village Hall  
**Kent Heights Flower Club**  
From 7pm for 7.30pm (page 7)

## Recycling Bin Collection February 2023

Monday 6th February  
Monday 13th February  
Monday 20th February  
Monday 27th February  
Monday 6th March

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

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)