



## The Newsletter and “What’s On” Guide for Residents & Friends of Chelsfield Village

January 2010



The Old Pond - Chelsfield 1910 (*Philip Lane Photography*)

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## Happy New Year to All and Sundry (your favourite peanut?)

Firstly thanks to all those who braved the seasonal snow to sing carols at the Bells and the Bo. Many of our friends came a long way for the former and we watched with trepidation through the windows as the blizzard started. Singing such carols as "Let it Snow" and "White Christmas" was particularly poignant - first time in 34 years that this has happened to me! Despite slightly lower numbers we raised £150 for Help the Heroes.

The Bo Peep similarly was on that terrible Monday 21st. I just managed to get there in the car but the car park beat me so had to leave the car in the road all night. My cousin from Wells decided to leave his car at his mum's in Petts Wood and WALK. On the way over he met a poor man gathering winter fuel for his dear old aunt Saint Agnes who lived against the forest fence by the Rock and Fountain. Despite hugely reduced customers at the Bo Peep we raised

## CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE !

Contributions for our February issue, should be emailed to:

[villagevoice@chelsfield.org](mailto:villagevoice@chelsfield.org)  
or posted to:

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

To read the Village Voice  
online visit:

<http://www.chelsfieldevnts.co.uk/cvs/index.htm>

Visit  
[www.chelsfieldevnts.co.uk](http://www.chelsfieldevnts.co.uk)

£95. Both landlords were very generous - thank you!

Another Thank You to Julius, from a Trustee of the Hall, for raising £160 at his music and poetry afternoon on the 28th. This was most enjoyable and to be hopefully repeated someday.

St Martin's Church was well attended as usual for the four big Christmas services-Nine Lessons, Christingle, Midnight, Family Service. The newly restored church with its customised lighting looked splendid. I have never heard such a quiet congregation at Midnight

(usually an element of coughing!). Unfortunately due to the snow the Parish Carols were called off for the first time - the risk of accidents from falling was too great apart from the difficulty of singing in that cold atmosphere.

*Philip Lane.*

## Christmas Quiz

At the Village Christmas Party we had a Village Voice Quiz to challenge our memories of articles in the 2009 issues of the newsletter - how would you have done?

Have a go - Answers at the back of this issue

1. What is the most common item stolen from cars?
2. Where is the old treble bell from St Martin's?
3. Who was the headmistress of Grangewood School?
4. Who were Mickey and Mona?
5. Who visited the Royal Albert Hall?
6. What area has suffered from 2 fires reported in the Village Voice?
7. What name was given to the privilege en-

joyed by a particular group which enabled them to avoid execution for capital offences?

8. Where did Alice Bray live?
9. Name our 3 councillors.
10. How does the SNT suggest you can you identify your flower pots?
11. How are UVPC doors vulnerable to burglars?
12. Where is the Village Internet Café held?
13. What does crapulous mean?
14. Who slept in the Farnborough Workhouse during his researches for a book?
15. Who won "Best in Show" at this year's Produce Show?
16. What visitors arrive

in the Village from equatorial Africa every May?

17. Where is the new local site for the National Blood Transfusion Service Mobile unit?
  18. What award did the 5 Bells win this summer?
  19. Name the local RAF hero commemorated by the memorial on Chelsfield Green.
  20. When does the Mobile Library visit the Village?
- Tie breakers*
21. In memory of whom is the late bench outside the Village Hall dedicated?
  22. Who were the Old Contemptibles?
  23. What 2 unusual creatures have been photographed in village gardens?

## Village Christmas Party

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December saw the revival of the Village pre-Christmas get together. Previous years the event had taken part in the Village Hall which had always seemed too large and cold. The choice of the Parish Room was a great improvement providing a cosier and more intimate atmosphere. Villagers braved the icy roads and footpaths to meet their neighbours for a relaxed and convivial evening.

Participants were invited to bring food and drink to share. By good fortune this always results in a wide variety of tasty nibbles and would you believe there were no mince pies! Not that anyone was complaining, we had probably all had enough by then with prospects of more to come

in the next few days. Dan Sloan's renowned mulled wine was as good and popular as ever and he provided the seasonal background music. We were all very careful not to spill red wine on Pam Ames' beautiful Christmas tablecloth

People came and went during the evening but most of the time there was a hardcore of around 25 to 30 villagers, including some who were attending their first village social event.

During the evening Julius Bannister and Sharon King ran a raffle to raise funds for the "Help for Heroes" charity, reaching the magnificent total of just over £100.

The party goers were invited to take part in a quiz whose 20 questions

were prepared by Catherine Gandolfi using the contents of the previous year's Village Voice newsletters. Paper and pencils were provided and several copies of the questions were spread around the room. At 9.30 the answers were read out with gasps of "Oh yes!" when people realised they did know the answers after all. Denis and Doreen Graham were the outright winners with 10 correct answers and won themselves a large box of Thornton's chocolates. The emergency tie breaker questions were not needed but have been added to the list of questions for you to try.

Many remarked that it was the best Christmas social event for many years.

## Car Scrappage Scheme

There is an unexpected bonus as a result of the Government's subsidy scheme to encourage the scrapping of older cars. Surprisingly, purchasers of new vehicles have

been going for less polluting models – usually with smaller engines. This follows the pattern of a similar scheme in the US which saw old pick-up trucks and off-

road four-wheel drive vehicles account for 83% of trade-ins.

Are we now going to see a change in the type of vehicle being driven through the village?

## An Afternoon of Poetry and Music

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December saw an interesting diversion, an afternoon concert of poems and music in the Village Hall. This was quite well supported, considering it was over the Christmas period. The music was supplied by the Thames Gateway Quartet and the poems read mainly by members of the Chelsfield Players. The words generally consisted of popular and well loved pieces, covering a range of styles including Philip Larkin, Emily Dickinson, William Blake and war poets such as Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and John McRae.

This was very appropriate considering one of the benefiting charities. Special mention should be made of Terry Sparkes (Chelsfield Village Hall Chairman), who read Patrick Kavanagh's Raglan Road with appropriate atmospheric Irish sounding violin and keyboard accompaniment by Julius Banister and Dave Griffiths. The selection of music ranged from Vivaldi and Bach, through Dvorak and Gershwin to Morris Albert and Jay Ungar.

This was an interesting venture and is well worth looking out for in the fu-

ture. Julius is considering introducing further poetry events in the village either in the same vein or maybe in the shape of a Chelsfield Village/Well Hill poetry competition or regular readings in The5 Bells.

The event raised around £160 for the restoration of the Village Hall, and £200 for the Help for Heroes Charity. These funds came from three sources: ticket sales, raffle and retiring collection. This was the first time I had attended one of these events; next time I must remember to take my wallet

## Bus Route Changes

Mayor Boris Johnson wants to introduce a package of measures to reduce the cost of Transport for London: and not just the above-inflation fare increases that start in the New Year.

He has announced the fact that he wants TfL to reduce bus coverage by 26 million kilometres annually. That means fewer routes or a greater gap

between buses, or both. In inner London areas where there is greater frequency than the suburbs that might mean an extra minute or two between buses. But in outer London the wait might well be much longer for services that at present are already one every 30 minutes or one an hour. We don't yet know if this will this affect Chelsfield Village.

Fares are to suffer a 12.7% increase. The mayor says the extra income will go towards modernising the transport network and to reduce the growing reliance on taxpayer subsidies, which, for the bus network is £620million annually. He also points out that 40% of bus passengers will continue to travel free or at a substantial concessionary rate.

## Get To Know Your Local Businesses

We intend to run a series of articles about little known local businesses. These are not intended to be advertising features but to provide information about the local businesses which share our village. Any suggestions for articles will be considered.

### Stem Florists

Stem Florists is a family run floral design company, specialising in bespoke wedding and funeral floral designs, corporate and office displays and special events. They are located in a unit at Court Lodge Farm.

The business is owned by Emma Giles, a local young lady who has lived in Orington all her life and now lives in Chelsfield Village. She manages this almost entirely on her own but does have help, on a part time basis, from family and friends, some of whom are former florists.

The business concept was born in late 2003 after the death of Emma's grandmother. Emma, decided to rebuild one of the floral tributes which had deteriorated, purchasing a large amount of white chrysanthemums and rebuilding it at the graveside in the rain and cold until completed. She realised that she had done quite a good job, and thinking it was an area she could take further, did a short course at Hadlow College and was trained



further by her florist friends.

At the time Emma, who has a law degree, was working for a law firm in the City of London in a department specialising in mergers and acquisitions, but was thinking of a complete change. She therefore embarked on her new flower business on a part time basis, whilst still maintaining her job in the city. When the law firm found it had over-extended itself financially, due to a move of premises, Emma was able to take advantage of the redundancy package on offer to devote her time to her new business.

Recently, together with her partner David, they have

expanded by purchasing a small garden centre at Sundridge Park to augment both Emma's existing business as well as David's work in the wholesale provision of plants, shrubs, trees etc.

Stem Florists has strived to become a recognised, leading local florist dealing with both individual clients together with larger corporate clients on a regular basis. These corporate customers have included The Mayor of Bexley, the London Golf Club and Hall Place as well as other top local venues. Stem clients can, therefore, be assured to receive fresh, professionally arranged flowers in both traditional and contemporary styles. Their regular customers return for all their floral requirements for both sad and joyous occasions.

For more information visit [www.stem-florists.co.uk](http://www.stem-florists.co.uk)





## Neighbourhood Watch

There has been no news as yet about the re-launch of this scheme since its mention in the October issue of Village Voice. Please report any local crime issues to Village Voice or cvscontact@googlemail.com as we need to keep each other informed until this scheme is up and running again.

Youths were seen kicking a ball about in the

Village Hall car park during school time. When asked why they were not at school they said they had been excluded from Wildernesse School and lived at Rock Hill. Be on the look out for unknown youths in the area with time on their hands.

### STOP PRESS

**3rd/4th January Church Road a garage was broken into and it is**

***believed the perpetrators also got into other adjacent gardens and took tools etc. Make sure your back gates are securely locked. Beware, and let others know to keep their eyes peeled.***

***Remember you can ask for a visit from the Safer Neighbourhood team to check on your security.***

## Poem from the Poetry Afternoon

This was written in 1994 following the crash of a light aircraft into the back garden of a house nearly opposite us in Homestead Road. The two young pilots were both killed when the aircraft had structural failure in mid air. I read it out at the Classic and Poems event in the Village Hall. It was sent to the mother of the pilot and subsequently accepted for inclusion in an anthology of poetry, "Still Life" in 2004.

### TWO AIRMEN

Upon a bright and sunny autumn day  
When even sweeping leaves becomes a joy  
The question falling on so many lips was why  
Two young men's souls should fall from cloudless sky  
Together with their fragile, flightless craft, just dropped  
No longer in control, like a bird whose heart has stopped  
Lay folded in a crumpled, silent heap upon the lawn  
Where foxes play at night, and crocuses in spring adorn

*Philip Lane*

## Happy New Year?

As well as other more local celebrations in the village, the New Year was also heralded by a power cut between around 3:30 and 5:00 on New Year's

morning. Workmen were seen around the Warren Road substation working with a digger in the early hours under lights. As usual burglar alarms were

set off, but it could have happened at a much worse time. One hopes this is not going to be a habit.

## Traffic / Parking - Latest News

Be on the look out for revised lunch time parking restriction times in Windsor Drive. These are expected to be instigated in the New Year. This change is a result of people pressure. Many of you contacted the councillor responsible for making decisions on these matters and he listened. Soon you will be able to park one side of the road during the lunch hour so that the Windsor Drive businesses will not suffer.

We are hoping to get a salt box installed in Warren Road near the school so that slippery pavements and the untreated junctions can be made safer.

Just before Christmas the R3 bus was unable to get past an obstructively parked SIXT van between Chelsfield Lane and Orlestone Gardens. The passengers disembarked and the driver

had to reverse and turn at the Chelsfield Lane junction, returning to Court Road and turning right, thus missing out the Maypole/Bo-Peep/Hewitts part of the route.

The Village Society has finalised a traffic and parking wish list after much consultation with local councillors Julian Grainger and Samaris Huntington-Thresher. We thank them for the time they have given us. This document has been sent to the councillors who will forward it to the appropriate council officials. Chelsfield Village has been promised some money to be spent on road safety and traffic problems in 2010. But we have been told it is now or never. Let's grasp our chance to get something done to improve the local conditions. All local interested groups are invited to add their voice to ours so we can make

a concerted effort. We are involving all those we can think of: Chelsfield Primary School, The 5 Bells, Village Hall, Chelsfield Players, Cricket Club, Chelsfield Park Hospital and bus company, but please contact either the Village Voice or [cvscontact@googlemail.com](mailto:cvscontact@googlemail.com) if you wish to join with us in this effort. Now, more than ever, we need to report any traffic accidents, however minor, particularly at the Warren Road/Court Road or Church Road/Court Road junctions. By the debris it looks as if there is an accident along Court Road at least once a week, but these are often not reported to the Village Society and easily missed. There is a log of all known traffic accidents in the area on the CVS website. Likewise if you have any pictures of local traffic/parking issues, please pass on to

## Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom SNT Mailing List

the VV or CVS contact as these will be useful in forthcoming discussions with the council on local traffic issues.

Our local Safer Neighbourhood Team is keen to contact as many residents as possible by email newsletter. The details would enable the team to contact us individually if there are crimes in our area that we need to know about.

If you wish to receive any information from your local Safer Neighbourhood Team please just

ask for your details to be added to the emailing list. The list requires name, email address, contact number and home address. All details are kept on a police computer and access is only for the members of the Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom SNT, your details will not be passed on.

The email database is a quick and effective way of contacting local residents and an effective way of saving paper and therefore lovely trees. If you have any friends or

neighbours who you think would like to be added to this list please encourage them to contact Kieran. Also if you would like a crime prevention visit by a member of the team please contact us and we will arrange for a member of the team to visit you at home.

Contact PCSO Kieran Cuffe Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom SNT

Kieran.J.Cuffe@met.police.uk

0208 721 2605

## A History of Chelsfield Post Office (cont. from December)

On 29th October, 1959 the Chelsfield Village Post Office was taken on by Mr. and Mrs. Lambert. Once again the redoubtable Mrs. Pat Whitehead continued to assist following on from the 20 years spent with Mrs. Humpherson. This relationship was destined to continue for another 21 years as Pauline Lambert was the Post Mistress at Chelsfield Village from 1959 until the end of 1980.

Pauline recalled that taking

over the Village Post Office so near Christmas in 1959 was a daunting experience and one not to be recommended if another date were possible! However, despite being in at the deep end straight away Pauline relates that those years running the Post Office have been some of the happiest in her life. Recollections of that period - in the heart of the Village at the Post Office - bring back thoughts of friendships formed in those past days

and many of these still endure today. In dealing with personal transactions Pauline became trusted by all who visited the Post Office and often quite unwittingly was the recipient of personal information from her customers which, of course, was never repeated. The world must have been set to rights many times a day when customers were doing business in the Post Office! This is an aspect of Village life which is sorely missed now and gone for



ever. No doubt at times Pauline longed for some peace and quiet but personally I do remember the Post Office as one of the "hubs" of Village life. It was a place where chance meetings occurred and there was always a friendly welcome from Pauline or Pat behind the counters.

I would not wish to give the impression that current encounters at Windsor Drive Post Office are any different; it continues to follow the same tradition of friendship and service so willingly given in past times. Also the conversation at times between customers is reminiscent of past days, but the setting will never quite take the place of the Chelsfield Village Post Office.

Whilst running the Post Office for those 21 years Pauline Lambert continued to offer the same extensive array of items on the "shop" side as her predecessor and indeed added other choices as time went on. One memorable extra was the provision of frozen items such as ice creams and ice lollies etc. They were available all the year

round, of course, but on hot, summer days it was a treat to be able to pop in for an ice cream at any time. I remember how often children coming with their parents to Saturday cricket matches could go along just that short distance to the Post Office to get a supply of ices on a hot, summer afternoon. Nowadays, there is nowhere at all in the Village to buy an ice cream - either for visitors or locals - and it is one of those aspects of life which give rise to a wistful recollection of what was once part of our daily lives here in the Village.

Pauline and her son David suffered a great setback in 1967 when Pauline's husband died most suddenly (from a heart attack) at still quite a young age. Despite much advice to the contrary Pauline decided that she would continue running the Post Office and associated shop in view of the tremendous amount of hard work that had been put into the enterprise by herself and her husband. Pauline therefore remained at the Chelsfield Village Post Office and was still most ably

assisted there by Pat Whitehead.

The Post Office with Pauline Lambert in charge continued, to thrive but lest the impression should be given that life was a "bed of roses" for Pauline, I would like to include mention of the fact that on three separate occasions there were attempted robberies at the Village Post Office. I am sure that Pauline can recall all three traumatic events quite clearly even with a number of years in between. From the point of view of local residents who were around the Chelsfield area at that time, the incident that is most remembered involved three men who were intent on robbing the Post Office safe on the afternoon of Wednesday, 20th December 1967. It is pertinent to include mention here that this particular incident happened only six months after the sudden death of Pauline's husband.

Pauline and her Step Mother-in-Law Win Lambert had been out shopping after the half-day closure of the Post Office on

the Wednesday, and had only been home for a short while. One of the men knocked on the door giving access to the private part of Cross House. Naturally Pauline took the "enquiry" at the door as a private caller but as soon as the door was opened and a few words exchanged with the unknown caller all three men pushed their way into the house. In vain Pauline tried to slam the door shut but the intruders gained entry and a struggle followed in the hallway. One of the men was carrying a double-barrelled shotgun and two had stocking masks over their faces which must have made them appear even more intimidating.

At that time and on that particular occasion, Pauline and Win were the only people in at Cross House. The men demanded the keys to the Post Office safe but Pauline resolutely refused to hand them over despite being threatened by the intruders who became increasingly angry. Win Lambert tried to get into the shop to telephone the police but was stopped

and thrust into a chair by one of the intruders. Meanwhile, the others were pushing and threatening Pauline in their efforts to obtain the keys to the safe. Several times they tried to gag and restrain Pauline in order to search for the keys themselves but Pauline successfully resisted. At the height of the fracas Pauline recalls that her mind somehow focussed on opening up the back door which led to the garden. Eventually Pauline did manage to reach the door so that her black Labrador dog "Ben" could get into the house and hopefully frighten the intruders. Pauline's dog was in no way ferocious or vicious but his entry on the scene might have deterred the intruders. Unfortunately, before Ben could get into the house the raiders slammed the door shut again. Fate took a hand, however, as in slamming the door shut a pane of glass broke with such a sudden noise that it startled the intruders and also caused them to think that possibly someone outside was trying to get in to as-

sist Pauline and Win. The thought at that moment of being apprehended, made the raiders flee the house the way they had entered. Such was the speed of their departure that even two purses lying on the kitchen table following the shopping trip were left untouched. As it transpired the keys to the Post Office safe were at that moment still locked in Pauline's car following their shopping trip.

The police were summoned immediately and all information possible was given to them about the incident. The men involved in this attempted robbery were later caught following another incident and were duly sentenced, for both crimes.

*To be continued*

*Written by Carol Margetts with the invaluable help and co-operation of Mrs Pauline Lambert plus additional detailed information and inspiration from Mrs Vera Margetts*

## Answers To Christmas Quiz

1. Number plate
2. Nunney, Somerset, accept either
3. Miss Gibson aka Philip Lane
4. Monkeys at 5 Bells
5. Children from Chelsfield Village School
6. Well Hill
7. Benefit of Clergy
8. Bucks Cross Cottage or accept Sloan's house
9. Julian Grainger, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, Bob (or Robert) Evans
10. Put label inside
11. Tool through letter box to operate handle to open
12. Parish Room
13. Full of alcohol
14. George Orwell
15. Doreen Graham
16. House Martins
17. Chelsfield Lakes
18. CAMRA SE London Pub of the Season
19. John Ellis, accept Hugh
20. Tuesday mornings
21. Jack Devine
22. Those who enlisted in 1914
23. Albino Squirrel and peacock

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### Bromley Council

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail:

[csc@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:csc@bromley.gov.uk)

Opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Address: Civic Centre,  
Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

### Reporting Problems to the Council

Can be reported via the CVS website, or if urgent by phone out of hours Emergency Duty Team 020 8464 4848.

### Mobile Library

The mobile library stops outside Chelsfield Village

School on Tuesdays between 11:15 and 11:45.

Books can be reserved from here, or over the Internet via the Bromley library website for later picking up from the mobile library.

### Councillors

Julian Grainger

01689 889392

[julian.grainger@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:julian.grainger@bromley.gov.uk)

Samaris Huntington-Thresher  
020 8464 3333

[Samaris.Huntington-Thresher@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:Samaris.Huntington-Thresher@bromley.gov.uk)

Bob Evans 01689 853002  
[robert.evans@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:robert.evans@bromley.gov.uk)

### Chelsfield Village Society

[cvscontact@googlemail.com](mailto:cvscontact@googlemail.com)

### Chelsfield Village Voice

[villagevoice@chelsfield.org](mailto:villagevoice@chelsfield.org)

### Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BT Line Faults	0800 800151
Electrical Power Failure (EDF)	08007838866
Thames Water Emergencies	0845 9200800
Transco Gas Emergency Service	0800 111999
Orpington Police Station 1000-1800 Monday-Saturday	0300 1231212
Samaritans	01689 833000
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Safer Neighbourhood Team	020 8721 2605



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall  
Windsor Drive

#### **Iyengar Yoga Classes**

9.30am-11.00am

Suitable for Beginners

Contact Denise on

01689 853215

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to commemorate Elvis's  
Birthday

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and join the fun!

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**Wednesday 13th January**  
Parish Room

#### **Internet Café**

2.30pm to 4.30pm

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**Friday 4th February**  
Five Bells

#### **Live Music**

**Just Friends Swing Sextet**  
from 8.30pm

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### EVERY TUESDAY

Parish Room Skibbs Lane

#### **Mums & Tots Group**

10.00am-12.00 midday

Details 01959 535110

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**Saturday 16th January**  
Five Bells

#### **Live Music**

with **Willie Austen**

**Family & Friends**

from 9.00pm

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**Monday 8th February**  
Chelsfield Primary School

#### **Parents' Evening**

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### EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

#### **Charity Quiz Night**

from 9.00pm

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**Tuesday 19th January**  
Chelsfield Village Hall

#### **Chelsfield (evening)**

**Womens Institute**

from 8.00pm Contact

01689 821592

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**Saturday 13th February**  
Five Bells

#### **Valentine's Eve Supper**

Booking Essential

01689 821044

from 6.30pm onwards

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### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### **Hatha Yoga Classes**

10.30am-12.00am

Contact Pam Keeper on

01732 458930

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**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**  
Brass Crosby Room

#### **Local History Group**

10.15am

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**Sunday 14th February**  
Five Bells

#### **Valentine's Day**

Delicious 3 course meal

Booking Essential

01689 821044

from 3.30pm - 6.30pm on

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### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### **Rugby for Girls**

Any Age

Evening training from

September to May

Contact Kevin

0208 289 8566

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**Saturday 23rd January**  
Five Bells

#### **Burns Night Supper**

Celebrate one of Scot-

lands finest son's with a

Three Course Feast

Bookings 01689 821044

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**Saturday 27th February**  
Five Bells

#### **Tapas Night**

Please book to avoid

disappointment

01689 821044

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**Thursday 6th January**  
Five Bells

#### **Live Music**

**Just Friends SwingSextet**

from 8.30pm

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**Wednesday 27th January**  
Parish Room

#### **Internet Café**

2.30pm to 4.30pm

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**Wed 24th—Sat 29th March**  
Chelsfield Village Hall

#### **"Hello, Is There Any Body There?"**

by Ian Hornby

a Production by

**The Chelsfield Players**

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**Saturday 9th January**  
Five Bells

#### **American Theme Food Night**

**Saturday 30th January**  
Five Bells

#### **Fun Race Night**

Charity race night, come