



January 2016

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As the calendar flips from 2015 to 2016 we fondly remember all the good things that have passed, and perhaps shed a tear or two for the sadder times. However the New Year is a time to look forward with optimism to the months ahead.

You will see by the diary dates on the back page of each issue of Chelsfield Village Voice that there is never a shortage of things going on either at one of the three local pubs, in the Village Hall, the Brass Crosby Room or elsewhere in the area - not bad considering the size of our village. The Village Voice welcomes the opportunity to act as notice board for these events, so please keep us updated with your events and activities planned for the coming year.

As far as the Village Voice is concerned we continue to receive some excellent contributions from our residents, for which we'd like to offer great thanks, but we'd particularly like to thank those most frequent pen pushers without whom there would be very little to read: Peter and Catherine Gandolfi who never fail to pick up, and pass on the local news; Philip Lane who always has some weird or wonderful story to impart, generally accompanied by a cartoon or photograph; and Steve Fuller whose Fauna and Flora articles are enjoyed by so many.

The other organisation that must be thanked is Chelsfield Park Hospital. It is only through their great generosity that the quality and regularity of our printing can be maintained at very minimal cost.

We hope that Chelsfield Village Voice continues to provide you with enjoyment and information throughout the New Year, but in order to do that we need input from YOU! Tell us about your life, your likes, your dislikes, your work, your business. Send us your drawings or photographs. Let us advertise your events either as an article or in the Diary Dates. Send in anything you would like to tell Chelsfield and friends of Chelsfield about!

*But most important, have a **GREAT NEW YEAR!!***

Dan Sloan - Chelsfield Village Voice

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Contributions

We depend on your contributions to keep the Village Voice both useful and interesting so please send any details of events, articles, photos, drawings, articles or stories for the February issue to:

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

or post to:

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

by Monday 25th Jan 2016

Visit: www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

The Kestrel

Over recent months I have noticed with some regularity the presence of a kestrel (Falcon tinnunculus) either hovering over the cottage gardens and local fields or sitting on the telegraph pole across Maypole road which seems to be such a popular perching place for so many types of bird. This is the bird so frequently seen on the verges of motorways hanging motionless while studying the grass for any movement that betrays the presence of a small mammal. Possibly due to the nature of its hunting habits this bird is frequently seen by the public and so considered common. It is common but not the most common rapture, that accolade going to the buzzard.

The bird's Latin name (tinnunculus) comes from the bird's call which is a rather metallic rattle and stems from the Latin tinnire: 'to ring'. More common names include 'windhover' and 'Kes' which lent its name to the famous 1969 Ken Loach film of the same name.

The film, about a boy rearing a young kestrel, in turn had its roots in a book by Barry Hines called A Kestrel for a Knave. Going further back in history the rather derogatory name of the book comes from the fact that the kestrel was considered the lowest in the feudal hierarchy of trained hawks and was deemed only suitable for servants or knaves. The bird's lowly position seems to stem from the fact that it was primarily a 'mouser' and would only rarely take other birds. When it does take birds they are invariably on the ground and so does not exhibit the excitement of the air-born chase so beloved of falconers.

The bird's hunting nature has inspired a number of poems. Ted Hughes' 'The Hawk in the Rain' being one of them:

*...the hawk
Effortlessly at height hangs his still eye.
His wings hold all creation in a weightless quiet,
Steady as a hallucination in the streaming air,
While banging wind kills these stubborn hedges.*

I recall attending a cousins wedding on the south coast of Spain a few years ago and staying in a tourist rental property that was built high above the sea along with many other similar properties. From here one could watch the kestrels hanging motionless while studying the ground. However, what was different and novel was that you could watch from a similar altitude to the birds or even from above, rather than having to crank one's neck skywards.

While talking to Fred and Lou at Mount Hall just before Christmas they told me of an occasion a few years ago when they found a young Kestrel on their land. They fed it on meat and contacted 'Eagle heights' who came and took it away. It seems that feeding a

young bird of this type on meat was not the best policy but were advised to use Hob Nob biscuits and milk! This is the same advice used for hedgehogs albeit not a diet you would generally expect to find in the wild! I'm guessing that 'straight' meat does not have the roughage (bones, fur, etc) that a bird of this type needs in

their diet and that the texture of this particular type of biscuit can act as a temporary feeding measure.

Kestrels have ultraviolet (UV) sensitive eyes that are used to locate the trails of mice and voles (Nature magazine Feb 1995). These small mammals leave scent trails of urine and faeces

that reflect UV light and highlight the commonly used trails made by these animals. In this way the birds can optimise the time and energy expended hovering over target areas knowing that the paths will eventually be used. In addition, by scanning large areas for these UV signs, kestrels can survey wide tracts of land to estimate the general vole population and move onto better hunting grounds if the population is low. So, if you should see a bird remaining stationary with just occasional wing flaps in all wind conditions then you can be sure that it is in fact a kestrel and not one of the other raptors that share the village with us.



*Steve Fuller
January 2016*

Village Society AGM Minutes

CHELSFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY AGM
18 November 2015

The meeting was well attended by numerous residents of the Village and were joined by guests,

PC Phillip Bradley, PCSO Dave Lillywhite, LBB Trading Standard Officer Rob Vale and Councillor Samaris Huntington-Thresher.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed

and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Due to various ill health issues the Chairman was out of action and wished to thank John Leach for stepping in and for keeping everything on line and

everyone on track.

On Saturday 20 June there was a Village clean-up day which was successful with many people joining in although some work remains to be finished.

6 July, Browns School had a Community Day organised by the Deputy Head, where students and teachers did a variety of jobs for the residents.

11 July was the Village Fair which was a great success. Thanks were given to Alan Johnson and his family who organised and ran the Bottle Stall and raised over £495.

In August a meeting was held between the Chairman, Terry Lloyd and Cllr Keith Onslow to continue to discuss the parking problems in the Village and the junction issues at the A224 and Warren Road. Feedback is still to be received.

At a committee meeting ways of improving the appearance of the Village were discussed and it

was decided to start with the installation of 2 flower troughs at the entrance gates on Church Road and Warren Road. John Ritchie and Terry Lloyd have offered to build them paid for with hopefully a match funded grant from the Council. The Chairman is to approach a local Garden Centre to request a discount on compost and flowers.

Last year representatives were invited to a round table discussion about Council Budgeting and a similar invitation has been received from the Council to attend a meeting on 1 December. There is an online survey for residents to complete at www.bromley.gov.uk/budget.views and also a public meeting at the Civic Centre on 26 November.

An appeal has been lodged by Tony Pitham against the refusal to grant planning permission for the building of houses on Lillys Farm, any comments should be made by 2 December to

the Council.

The Chairman announced that the annual subscription of £3.00 would be increased to £5.00 per household.

To conclude the Chairman thanked the Committee for their support, John Leach for his work as our SNW representative, Mandy as Secretary and Melanie as Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

A copy of the audited accounts were handed out and questions were welcomed, but none were forthcoming.

Approval of Treasurers Report

Proposer - John Leach
Seconded - Janet Parsons
Accepted as a true and accurate.

Appointment of Auditor for Year 2015/2016

Chris Parsons elected to audit the VS Accounts
Proposer – Pam Ames
Seconded – Melanie Stevens

Nomination and

Election of Committee

John Leach – David Lambert – Bridget O'Donnell – Alan Johnson – Joy Ellard – Terry Lloyd – John Ritchie
All of the above confirmed their wish to stand again on the Committee and were voted in en-bloc.
Proposer – Pam Ames
Seconder – Chris Parsons

Officers Roles

It was discussed that the current Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer wished to stand for

another term and would be elected by the Committee on 5 January 2016.

AOB

Chairman's Notices

Carols
Charing Cross – 03/12/2015
Around the Village Christmas Tree – 15/12/2015

Jane & Philip Lane at the 5 Bells Pub – 17/12/2015

Please note the Village Christmas Tree would be located at the 5 Bells Pub with kind permission of

Kay and Ade.

Membership Subscriptions

It was agreed that it would be set for £5.00 annually per household and £35.00 per household for life.

Presentations

Superfast Broadband given by Peter Gandolfi in the absence of Catherine Gandolfi. Police Presentation was given by PC Philip Bradley
Trading Standards Presentation was given by Rob Vale.

Carols De-Brief (Lucky Old Carol!)



I am pleased to report two very successful Carol Singing Bashes this Christmas. Despite having an accordion bash in Bromley for the Ramblers first, we were able to get to Charing Cross by 5.30pm for the traditional carol sing for Guys Kidney Unit and Famine Relief. Two hours of hard slog by the very commendable contingent from St Martins raised some £1600 again.

The famous Five Bells Carol evening on Dec 17th was exceptionally well supported with lively singing with one of the best renditions of Stop the Cavalry that I have ever heard, and my own carols were also sung well but I think it will be when I am in my box before any of them enter into the hallowed world of traditional carols! At 9.30 Jayne and I ventured forth into the heady world of the Masons in the

Public Bar, it was still sad not to see any of the Parkes family who were always there in years gone by.

As a result of this well supported event the record amount of £211 was raised for Motor Neuron Disease Research. Not only did my brother die of this, but we have another good friend who contracted this awful affliction in 2105 and there are others at St Martins who have been affected by it. Thank you to Kay and Ade and their

friendly staff for hosting this again, and plying the music man and his spouse with alcoholic lubrication. Thanks this year also to Pam and Bill who provided bed and breakfast over the road. They were puzzled to see that I insisted on counting the takings on their lounge carpet before turning in – in itself a tradition.

Whilst checking the bag of musical instruments I found we had acquired an illuminated reading glass - any takers?

On a lighter note, I played three accordions including my late brother's Maranucci and my dad's little Francesca Modello which he had for Christmas in 1949. I always play Silent Night on it in the Bells, a carol that my grandfather Archie Lane played each Christmas on the piano at his house in Orpington High Street, using only the black notes- a feat that as a small child impressed me greatly.

Philip and Jayne

The Country Wife - A Review

From the director, Philippa Rooke's message in the programme notes:

The Country Wife was written in 1675 during the tolerant early Restoration period of English History. The play reflects an aristocratic and anti-Puritan ideology, in reaction to the repression of the previous regime, and was controversial for its sexual explicitness even in its own time. The title itself contains a lewd pun! The language and

content may seem tame by today's standards, but the play was not performed or even in print for most of the 250 years of its existence because of the scandalous central plot and frank language.

It uses two indelicate plot devices; a rake's trick of pretending impotence ('an English-French disaster') to safely have secret affairs with married women, and the arrival in London of an inexperienced 'country

wife', with her discovery of the joys of town life, especially the fascinating London men.

The two main sets were distinguished by clever use of lighting and props. The costume budget must have been substantial for this restoration comedy. There was a large cast including some new faces, which is always encouraging. Cynthia Hearing in the title role maintained her accent

well through her progression from naivety to enlightenment. Andrew Haggerty as the obsessively jealous Pinchwife came across as suitably foolish and Patrick Neylan was well cast as the appropriately named licentious Mr

Horner. He appeared to enjoy performing his role his role with great gusto as did the three 'ladies' who fell for Mr Horner's dubious charms.

The play was long despite a considerable amount of expert editing

by Pat Walls and required our full attention to benefit from the witty dialogue. The night we were there the prompt was needed several times, but there were a lot of lines to learn.

A view from the stalls

Street Dance in Chelsfield Village

As you may know, we now have our very own Street Dance Class in Chelsfield Village. Every Thursday at Chelsfield Village Hall there are new Beginner

classes for children ages 4 +

At these classes they can learn the basics and should they choose to, progress on to other

classes or even competition teams. All the classes are for fun, fitness and to build confidence but there are many facets to the school.

*Class School Christmas Show 2015
A street dance adventure to Oz...*



The elite dancers have represented England at the official IDO Hip Hop, Electric Boogie & Break dance World & European Championships. They attend competitions, make dance movies, appear in shows and much more! One of our dancers has even won a TV Talent competition called Got to Dance.

Their teacher Clare has over 15 years experience as a fully qualified teacher. She believes every person who attends can grow in skill and confidence.

In October 2015 Clare had the honour of judging at the official world championships in Italy. There were over 3000

dancers from Canada, Europe and South Africa all competing in an amazing competition. It is the equivalent of the Olympic Games for dancers and a fantastic achievement for local children to be a part of. They are constantly training their dancers to reach this level. It gives them something to aim for and teaches them about hard work, dedication and competition all within a healthy, happy and safe environment.

If you are interested in involving your children, please contact us. Our classes reopen 12th January and for one week only, are free to all new participants. Please see:

www.class-streetdance.co.uk for full info



Orpington Priory Regeneration Project

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Steering Group has continued to be active throughout the last few months and are finalising the business plan and recruiting prospective trustees for a charitable

trust to be set up to manage The Priory, if Bromley Council agree to the community-led proposals.

There is a new petition for supporters of our community-led project to sign to show the strength

of local feeling about the possible loss of this valuable community asset. This can be signed via the link on the front page of the Orpington community web site. <http://orpingtoncommunity.weebly.com>

St Martin's Church Flowers

No doubt a few of you in the village have been to our lovely St Martin's church in the past year, whether it be for concerts, weddings, christenings, funerals or the popular celebrations of Easter or Christmas.

The Brass Crosby room is also extensively used throughout the year for various functions and at Christmas was used to make the Christingles or the rehearsal in the

church for the Nativity.

Those of you who attended the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve could not fail to notice, amongst the hundred or so people who attended, the beautiful flowers as you entered, around the church, by the pulpit and by the alter.

The alter flowers are arranged every week, with some villagers making a donation

towards the cost of the flowers in memory of a relative, whether they died last year or in past years. We wondered whether you would like to donate to this tradition.

Margaret would be very pleased to hear from you and her contact details are:

Margaret Coppard
01689 854094,
or Jackie McCann
01689 854119,
or via the Rectory.,

Broadband Update

There is currently a door to door survey underway of all properties in the area affected by the poor broadband provision (and I would like to thank my band of door to door volunteers who are helping carry out this task).

There is now a third possible solution/option. Many of us in the centre of the village will recall that NTL installed the infrastructure for cable broadband but they were not interested in providing

a broadband service to residents. Their successor, Virgin Media, seems to have changed their attitude to increasing their cabled area with their new "cable my street" initiative. If enough of us register an interest we may well be successful. I have spoken to a Virgin Media representative who assured me that it is not sheer numbers that count (difficult in this small community) but whether the majority are interested.

I urge you to register as no commitment is required at this stage.

Search cable my street virgin to register or use the link below and read more.

<https://cablemystreet.virginmedia.com/#!/new-build>

From the FAQs on their website.

How do you decide which streets get Virgin Media?

The decision to cable a street is based on how

interested your local community is in getting our services.

When will my area have access to Virgin Media services?

It all depends on your distance from our current network and level of interest from people in your area – including you.

If I register for updates, am I committed to paying for anything?

There's no commitment required from anyone right now. And if your street gets the go ahead, Virgin Media will be picking up the bill for any work done.

Is there anything I can do to get Virgin Media in my area sooner?

Yes! We're prioritising areas with the highest demand.

What percentage of

people on my street need to register interest before we can get Virgin Meia services?

There is no definite percentage as it's based on several other factors like the cost to start work and proximity to our existing network.

Direct any questions about the campaign to: cvhlettings@gmail.com

Catherine Gandolfi

Freedom Pass Renewal Letter

Of the 1.2 million Freedom Pass users across London, around 138,000 older person's pass holders will renew their passes in the New Year. This includes 6,500 in Bromley.

Older people living in the borough who have a Freedom Passes which expires on March 31 2016, will receive a letter in January 2016 explaining how to renew their pass.

The letter will encourage pass holders to renew online if possible, which is a straight forward process that takes only a few minutes. The Freedom Pass allows older adults to

travel on public transport for free across the capital, as well as on local bus services throughout England at certain times; the Freedom Pass has been managed and paid for by the London boroughs since 1986 and costs Bromley Council almost £11 million each year. Freedom Passes cannot be renewed at the Post Office.

A council spokeswoman said: "Anyone whose older person's pass expires on March 31 next year is entitled to a new one, provided they still live in London. Please wait for your letter to arrive and follow the instructions.

Once your new pass arrives it can be used straight away and there is no need to wait for the old one to expire though you should destroy the old pass once the new one arrives.

"If you have changed address within London and not informed the Freedom Pass helpline please do so to ensure the letter is sent to the correct address."

If your pass expires in March the letter will be with you by the end of January. If it has not arrived by January 31 please contact London Councils via www.freedompass.org or call 0300 330 1433.

We would like to thank

CHELSFIELD PARK HOSPITAL for their sponsorship printing the Chelsfield Village Voice



Stay Well This Winter

As the wintery weather heads this way, Bromley Council is working with health colleagues at the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group to share NHS winter health advice to help keep well during the winter months including encouraging those eligible to get a flu jab. It also includes information on using the right service if they do become ill this winter when there is added

pressure on A&E. At this time of year it is particularly important for our vulnerable residents and those at risk of ill health to take good care of themselves and home carers visiting elderly and vulnerable residents are also offering advice and information about staying warm, safe and well.

This is part of the Council's work to help prevent avoidable harm

to health by raising people's awareness of the negative health effects of cold weather and enable them to prepare for wintry weather.

For lots more advice and information on how to keep warm, safe and well this winter you can visit:

www.bromley.gov.uk/winter
or
<http://www.nhs.uk/staywell>

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail:

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.

Neighbourhood Watch

John Leach 07711 304965.

NHS Non-Emergency 111

BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital

Main Reception

01689 877855

Helpline

0845 6032932

Physiotherapy

01689 885914

Councillors

Keith Onslow

keith.onslow@bromley.gov.uk

Samaris Huntington-Thresher

020 8464 3333

samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk

lydia.buttinger@bromley.gov.uk

Lydia Buttinger

lydia.buttinger@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Voice

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BT Line Faults 0800 800151

EDF Electrical Power Failure
08007838866

Thames Water Emergencies
0845 9200800

Transco Gas Emergency
Service 0800 111999

Bromley Police Station & Police non emergency 101

Samaritans 01689 833000

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 8721 2605

Chelsfield Village Hall

(bookings) **01689 831826** or email to:

cvhlettings@gmail.com

Chelsfield Players

info@chelsfieldplayers.org
www.chelsfieldplayers.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall
Windsor Drive

Iyengar Yoga Classes

9.30am-11.00am
Suitable for Beginners
Contact Denise
01689 853215

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall and
Brass Crosby Room

Chelsfield Housemartins

Monday Afternoons, for local
people who are unable to go
out without help
Contact Anne on
01689 826349

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Pilates Class

6.30pm-7.30pm
Contact Francesca on
07791073445

EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room

St Martin's Toddler Group

10.30am-12.00 midday
Now also 13.00 - 14.30
Contact Sarah Ford:
01689 853415
smartinstoddlers@gmail.com

EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Pilates Class

09.00am - 10.00am
10.00am -11.00am and
11.00am to 12.00 midday
Contact Francesca on
07791073445

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

Charity Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

EVERY WED & FRI

Pilates Classes

Chelsfield Methodist Church
Hall, Windsor Drive
Wed 8.00pm -9.00pm

Friday 9.35am-10.35am
Contact Bethany Lucas on
07415 638546

bethanylucaspi-
lates@gmail.com

EVERY WEDNESDAY

(from 13th January 2016)
Christ Church Hall
(Charterhouse Rd)

Pilates Class

09:00am-10:15am

Private classes by
appointment.

Contact Sally 07786 035640

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am
Contact Pam Keeper on
01732 458930

EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Art Classes

10.00am -12.00midday Con-
tact Leo 07583777065
leo77ok@hotmail.com

EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Class Street Dance

4.30pm-6.00pm
Boys & Girls All Ages

EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Pilates Class

6.30pm-7.30pm
Contact Francesca on
07791073445

EVERY FRIDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Pilates Class

3.00pm-4.00pm
Contact Francesca on
07791073445

EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Dr)

Live Singer

5.00pm-8.00pm
Contact 01689600656

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 5th January
(1st Tuesday every month)

The Chelsfield (Windsor Dr)
Quiz Night

From 7.30pm

Contact 01689600656

Wednesday 6th January

Five Bells

Open Mic Night

So all you budding
musicians out there, come
along and have a go!
Starts at 8.30pm

Thursday 7th January

Five Bells

The Monthly Live Jazz Fix

"Just Friends" Create their
magic
Music starts at 8.30pm

Wednesday 13th January

(2nd Wednesday of Month)
Chelsfield Village Hall

Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome
Contact Irene 01689 835143

Tuesday 19th January

(3rd Tuesday of Month)
Chelsfield Village Hall

Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome
From 7.45pm
Contact
Madeline 01689891533

Thursday 21st January

(3rd Thursday each

month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.30am

Wednesday 20th January

Five Bells

Open Mic Night

So all you budding
musicians out there, come
along and have a go!
Starts at 8.30pm

Friday 22nd January

Five Bells

Live Music with

"Something Else" playing

Music tarts at 9.00pm with
Free Admission