



January 2020

Supported by



Chelsfield
Park
Hospital

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

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SATURDAY, 11TH JANUARY 2020

7.00pm for 7.30pm start
CHELSEFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Bucks Cross Road Chelsfield BR6 7RE

Bring your own snacks and drinks - and glasses!

Tables - maximum of 6 people
Tel: Anne Ireland on 07767 783189
or Email: aistuff@icloud.com
to book a table



Fundraising event for St. Martin of Tours, Chelsfield
Registered charity: 1131573

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
to
all our
Chelsfield
Village Voice
readers**

Make 2020 your year to share
an article, opinion, amusing
story, photograph, piece of
artwork or maybe a poem to
the Village Voice.

You have seen what other have
to say in this and previous
issues - Why not have a go
yourself

Please send anything you feel
suitable for the

February 2020 issue to:
chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com
or post to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village BR6 7RN
to arrive by
Monday 27th January 2020

The Wasp - Part 2

Happy New Year.

Just this once I'm doing things a little differently and repeating my efforts with the wasp.

When I started the piece on the wasp last month I thought I might struggle to find enough interesting material but as it happens there was more than enough material and so I concentrated on the wasp's most well known personality trait which is its sting.

This month, breaking with tradition, I'd like to follow up with some more information and broaden the review of this interesting guest to outdoor picnics. If you read last month's piece you will know that this couplet of pieces on the wasp started with a visit in my bedroom one early morning just before Christmas in 2014 of what I thought was a hornet but turned out to be a large wasp. So why was it in my bedroom at that time of year?

Let's start at the beginning. There are over 7000 species of wasp in

the UK but only 9 build nests and these are known as social wasps. The species of wasp we are interested in here is the common wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*).

After hibernating for the winter a queen wasp emerges from wherever it has hunkered down for the winter and looks for a good site to build a nest that is dry, safe and structurally secure enough to support the weight. She does this with wood and saliva which makes a pulp that is malleable and she uses this to build a small hexagonal matrix into which she lays her eggs. At this time the nest is only about the size of a ping pong ball. She then forages for food and feeds the larvae until they reach maturity and become worker wasps. They then take over the role of building the nest and providing food for the young and the queen resigns herself to laying eggs for the rest of her life.

A queen wasp can lay around 200-300 eggs a day and she gives off

pheromones to keep the nest population united in their individual roles within the nest. The worker wasps feed the larvae with insect prey they have caught and they mash these up into a paste which is fed to the larvae. The larvae in return pass a sugary liquid to the worker as worker wasps are unable to consume anything other than liquids. Once the larvae are ready they are sealed within their cells and transform into a pupa. They then become fully mature wasps and cut their way out of the cell. The nest structure will continue to grow in line with the nest's growing population and can become quite large. A nest can number in excess of 10,000 wasps.

Male wasps develop from unfertilised eggs laid by the queen; they are called drones and are smaller than the female worker wasps. The males cannot sting but will often act as if they can with the implied threat that that behaviour carries.

It is only in the late summer that the queen

lays eggs in larger cells for prospective new queens. The 'royal' larvae in these cells receive more food than the larvae destined to become worker wasps. In the autumn the queen's role declines, she stops laying eggs and the community building pheromones come to an end causing the wasp population's commitment to the nest to end. So with no new wasp larvae the worker wasps begin to starve and they then start to search out rotting fruit or your picnic to feed on.

Once the new queens mature in the autumn they leave the nest, mate with fertile males and begin looking for shelter to hunker down for the winter to start the cycle again. All of the wasps associated with the old nest then die. Which brings me back to my bedroom on a cold December morning in 2014. The large wasp that stung me I now realise was actually a queen wasp which had found her way into my house while looking for somewhere to over-winter in the warm: hence its size and cranky temper. It never did



complete its lifecycle as I found it dead a few days later on my windowsill.

The nest that I mentioned in last month's piece was in my allotment shed (great for keeping thieves away who visit in the night – despite wasps not being very active at night).

In early December I removed the nest once the queen had left and the worker wasps had died. Strangely, while removing the nest I did not find a single dead wasp suggesting that their lack of commitment to the nest causes them to remove themselves



from the nest in search of food before they die. The two photos on the previous page show the nest situated on a frost protection cover and the second photo is a close up of the hexagonal cells into which the eggs are laid and also some of the paper swirls that are used to create the structure of the nest. The nest though had been broken up and I think that maybe a mouse

has entered it possibly while exploring for a warm winter refuge. There is no food available except for a tiny amount of wasp honey – Oh seriously! You didn't fall for that did you? You need to be a little more sceptical or you'll be believing what politicians tell you next!

Anyway, I put the remains of the nest to

good use by recycling it into my compost heap which will add valuable dry carbonaceous material which will break down nicely with autumn leaves and nitrogen rich coffee grains and kitchen greens to produce compost for use next year on my plot.

*Steve Fuller
January 2020*

Mutterings From The Millers

Happy New Year and we trust you all had a merry and healthy Christmas.

The amount of liquid sunshine we have had since the middle of September to the end of December amounts to about 16". Needless to say, we are pleased that we made the decision not to plant the winter wheat and barley seed, as we think it will probably would have either been washed away, eaten by slugs or have poor germinated. We are looking forward to growing the spring crops as this will be a complete change of cropping. Spring crops are treated differently to winter crops as, due to the short amount of growing season, they need to "get

away quickly". Fertiliser needs to be applied as the seed is drilled, ready for the plant as soon as it germinates, also the pressure on disease is not so great, so hopefully less in the way chemicals will have to be applied. The only downside is a much smaller crop but better than no crop at all. Hopefully the ground will start to dry out ready for us to plant the spring wheat and barley at the beginning of March but will be very dependant on ground conditions of course. We haven't received our seed yet which is a little worrying, as there is a massive shortage but hopefully will be delivered soon. Must keep positive!

We had a visit from a man from the council towards the end of December, advising us that Warren Road would be closed from the next day due to investigation works at the junction with Court Road ready for the proposed roundabout. This was an ideal time to trim back some of the huge boughs from the hedgerow that were leaning over the road. A few people ignored the road closed signs and were not too impressed to meet a tractor and wood all over the road but we are pleased with the results. All being well we can have another go when the road closes again. Peter has been taking bales of straw down to the deer farm at Seal Chart by tractor and trailer which

has proved great for the deer but has met some, shall we say, interesting drivers. We will leave it there I think.

As we haven't much to say this month, here are some notes from great grandfathers letters.

December 1915

George went to the Smithfield show (which was the big farmers trade show in London) where he purchased an Overtime tractor from America. (Pictured) This was the pre runner to the John Deere tractors that we use today. George was convinced that the days of steam ploughing were finished. He said that the tractor with one man, could do what two steam engines and five men could do in one day. Not sure of the

cost but horses were scarce due to the first world war. The weather was "rough" with nearly 6" of rain in December so trade was very bad over Christmas. George talks about various men from the village or the sons of old school, who the boys knew and what they were doing. Mr William Waring had a commission in the West Kents, Lionel Hallett was saved from Persia and Leslie Guy hopes to get into the RNAS. He also talks about members of the family and their illnesses. The younger sons, including granddad, were to go back to boarding school in Goudhurst after Christmas. It is quite interesting what they sent to each other in the post. Cigars from Malta, a camera to some unknown posting, the local

newspapers, socks and George always sent either a 20/- or 10/- note. He also put the serial number of the note in the letter.

I think I mentioned once before that on the 25th January 1916 the 7th City of London company left the Brewery (just up from Waitrose) for Aldershot. 1,400 men from The Hon Artillery Company took their place.

The wheat was threshed in January but apparently it came out very light owing to the smallness of the ears but received a fair price. This was loaded on the train at Chelsfield station.

For a change, we finish with a passage from the diary of Samuel Pepys written on the 11th January 1668



"With my wife for half an hour walking in the moonlight, and it being cold frosty weather, walking in the garden and then home to supper and so by the fireside to have my head combed, as I do now often do, by Deb., whom I love should be fiddling about me and so to bed"

Steve and Chris Miller

Chelsfield Players “Misfits” Review

This production consisted of three one act plays with seating cabaret style around tables.

“The Mother Figure” consisted of Lucy (Marie Hurling) who lived her life in her pyjamas as a barely coping mother of three young children. Her neighbours Rosemary (Jo Clent) and Terry (Andy Haggerty) were concerned about Lucy who was not answering her phone but they ended up revealing their ailing relationship and Lucy treated them as she would her own children, by telling them to behave themselves and rewarding them with a biscuits, juice and milk. The couple were non-plussed by this psychological approach and couldn't get away quickly enough.

It was during this production that a guide dog laying down in the front row became very interested in a particular member of the cast and, whenever she came on stage, started to wag her tail which, as she was lying down, thumped the wooden floor for all to hear.

“Between Mouthfuls” had two couples in a restaurant being served by the same waiter (Nina Noss). However the audience only heard what the waiter heard. Pearce (Andy Haggerty) and Emma Pearce (Philippa Rooke) were already in the restaurant when Martin (Nick Barnett) and Polly (Marie Hurding) arrived. Polly, on seeing Pearce, wants to eat elsewhere but Martin insists on staying. When the waiter moved away from one table, the dialogue faded, and we only heard what the waiter heard when she is in earshot of the other table. As the meal progressed the relationship between the two couples became apparent to the audience and the waiter who was increasingly distracted from her work. I have never seen such an over dressed salad. This was an unusual approach but very effective with food and drink being served and consumed convincingly throughout. In “Last Panto in Little Grimley” members of a less than successful amateur dramatic group

decided to put on a Christmas show despite there being only four remaining members of the group. The characters were well defined by Jo East (the chairman Gordon), Nina Noss (the unfortunately useless would be singer Joyce), Emily Kindley as Margaret whose bossiness kept the others in check and Ken Clarke as the stage manager Bernard, never seen without a banana. Their decision to stage “Pussy in Boots” was Gordon's idea: a ruse to attract a larger audience who bought tickets in expectation of an entertainingly risqué production. The venture was doomed from the start by the lack of talent and accident prone nature of the cast. As their largest ever audience waited in eager anticipation the other side of the curtains the production suffered one calamity after another. The cast managed the comedic elements with excellent timing and, from the laughter of the audience, this was greatly enjoyed.

A view from the stalls

A Roundabout At Last!

Many of you may have seen workman around the Court Road / Warren Road junction recently, making preliminary studies for our new roundabout. Delays have been caused by the unexpected discovery of important cables, and the need for a design within the limited space available.

The design has gone through a number of changes, and now is believed to be the one shown here. The idea of

a double roundabout is due to the Warren Road junctions being a little offset, keeping the speed down of cars on the roundabout and also providing safe access to Rose Cottage on the corner.

Let's hope that no more unexpected finds are found during the excavations.

More news as work progresses.



The Belldrinkers 2019 Christmas Offering

I realise this is a little late, but it's still very well worth viewing!

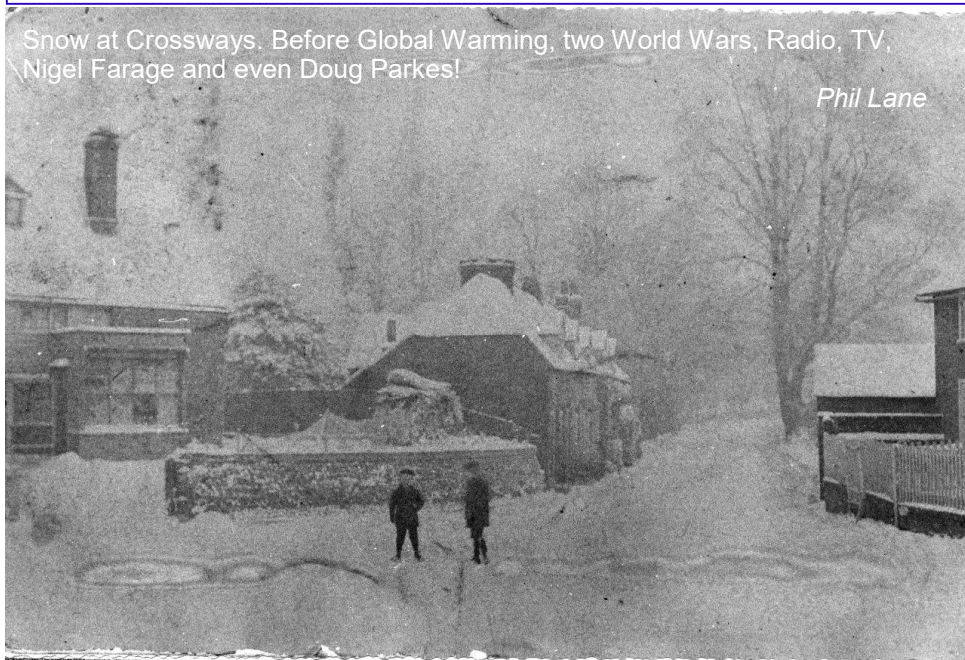
The Belldrinkers have still

not hit that Christmas Number 1 spot, but that is no reason to stop their very worthy annual attempts!

View on-line at:
<https://youtu.be/BVrwdYQ63N0>

It's wonderful - Well done to all involved.

Snow at Crossways - 1910



Snow at Crossways. Before Global Warming, two World Wars, Radio, TV, Nigel Farage and even Doug Parkes!

Phil Lane

Local History Group

Homes fit for heroes Bromley's garden city - a talk by Pam Preedy

A century ago at the end of the Great War Britain faced a housing crisis. To tackle the issue the Government brought in

the Housing (Addison) Act of 1919. Pam Preedy examined how Bromley Town Council created its first council estate at Turpington Lane, Bromley Common.

Two weeks after the

Armistice, Prime Minister David Lloyd George gave a speech in Wolverhampton in which he declared that the task for the country was: "To make Britain a fit country for heroes to live in." Within months the Addison Act had been

passed. The aim was to build 500,000 houses, nationwide over three years. Only 213,700 were finally built.

In 1918 demobilised troops would soon be coming home. Before the war, there was much unrest in the country, strikes abounded and by 1914 were tending towards violence. There was concern on the part of the Government that the 'heroes', trained to fight, might turn to revolution unless something was done to reward them for their sacrifice.

There were no slum properties in Bromley of the type found in London, but during four years of war no new houses had been built and the condition of the housing stock had been allowed to deteriorate leaving large numbers of substandard, insanitary and often overcrowded dwellings. Overcrowding was defined as 12 or more per house. It was common to find 10 people sharing 4 rooms.

The number of repossession cases coming before the courts together with anecdotal stories of homeless ex-soldiers, provided further proof, if that were necessary, of the acute housing short-

age in the area, as elsewhere.

The Housing (Addison) Act of 1919, named after Dr Christopher Addison, was a new departure. Unlike previous Acts, which merely empowered local authorities to build dwellings for the working classes, under the new act it was obligatory. Local authorities were required to prepare housing schemes at affordable rents for working people.

The process would take time but there was a pressing need for new accommodation immediately. In Bromley it had been suggested that converted army huts could be quickly converted into dwellings. The Bromley Rural District Council considered a plan for Knockholt to convert two army huts as residences, but much modification was needed as the huts were too long and the application to Bromley was turned down.

In West Wickham army huts were converted to residences costing £300 instead of £1,100 for a traditional building. These could be let at a more economic rent for agricultural workers. One family,

the groundsman of the Cricket Club and his family, required to vacate their rented accommodation in Freelands Road, gained permission to take up residence in a cricket pavilion for three years.

A number of sites were considered, the preferred option was 33 acres of land between Magpie Hall Lane and Turpington Lane owned by Mr A C Norman. Agreement of this choice and a price of £9,500 took nearly a year, until December 1919.

The next problem was raising the money to build the houses. There were four sources of money: the rates, bank loans, a loan from Kent County Council (KCC) and housing bonds. It was a lengthy process.

Raising the rates by the permissible 1d in the £1 would provide only £1000. A bank loan was turned down, but later with sanction from the Ministry of Health on the KCC loan, it was agreed and Bromley applied to KCC for a loan of £300,000.

Finally, councils were empowered to sell housing bonds and by April

1920 they had raised £8,700. The Government subsidy of £100 per house would be paid on completion of the houses.

The layout for the Bromley Garden City, with 10 houses to the acre, was finally started in February 1920. This was not a true Garden City, but the name was good propaganda. It was surrounded by farms and green belt. It had a good train service to London, though a good 35 minutes' walk away at Bromley South and Bickley. There was a good "omnibus" service to Bromley.

Building work was beset with problems, the £300,000 loan from the KCC was not forthcoming and labourers were laid off. Finally, at the beginning of July 1920 news came that the County loan was forthcoming for the full amount of £300,000 and work was re-started.

In early 1921 there was a

great shortage of plasterers. With extensive advertising Mr Elliman, the building contractor, managed to get eleven plasterers by 18 Feb 1921, up from eight the previous week; more were still needed. Bricks and tiles were in short supply because of a prolonged coalminers strike. Without coal the bricks and tiles could not be fired. Mr Elliman found another source of bricks.

The first 10 houses were due to be ready for tenants in time for Christmas 1920, with 40 more due to be ready in the New Year. There were 506 would-be tenants, of which 246 were local people. It was decided that letters should go out to these applicants describing the two types of houses and rent.

Preference was to be given to ex-servicemen with families with children, and married ex-servicemen without children. Families were checked to ensure that they could pay the

rent.

The houses cost £1,068 and £1,147 to build and an economic rent would be £60/£65 per year, ie £1 3s (23 shillings) and £1 5s (25 shillings) a week. This would be too much for prospective tenants so it was recommended that the initial rents should be 16s and 18s, a week exclusive of rates, and should be raised by 1s each year for seven years until the economic rent was reached. It took until the end of 1922 for the whole estate of 186 houses to be finished.

Nearly one hundred years later the houses are still standing. Considered at the time by some as "rabbit hutches" today they seem to be very roomy with many divided into flats and now cost between £400,000 and £500,000. Considering the whole estate of 186 houses was built for £200,000, which is now around the cost of one of the flats.

Welcome to a New Local Restaurant

We would like to welcome Panda Cook to Windsor Drive, Chelsfield. Several of our readers have visited this Modern Asian Fusion

Restaurant and have praised it highly. The staff are welcoming, helpful and provide superb service. The menu is extensive and

has a dedicated vegetarian / vegan section.

The house wines have also been recommended.



Halstead Talk

Halstead & District
Horticultural Society

February 27th at 8pm

Talk "All About
Roses"
(also plants for sale)

at Halstead Village
Hall, Knockholt Road,
TN14 7EX
Admission £2

Improving Lives After a Stroke



QUIZ NIGHT

CHARITY EVENT RAISING FUNDS FOR

ICARE DAY CENTRE TRUST

7.15 - 10.30pm on Saturday 8th February 2020

St Mary's Church Hall, Worlds End Lan

Green Street Green, BR6 6AG

Entrance fee : £8 per guest, maximum 8 per team

For more details and bookings contact Sue Chown on

01689 862883 or icare01@hotmail.co.uk

**We often sell out so please book early to avoid
disappointment**

ICare Day Centre Trust is a small charity in Green Street Green that provides rehabilitation, friendship and support for over 70 people who have suffered a stroke and friendship, support and respite for their carers.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive
Live Singer
 From 6.30pm Contact 01689 880288

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall,
 Windsor Drive
Iyengar Yoga Classes

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

EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Christ Church Hall,
 Charterhouse Rd
Pilates Classes

Monday

10.45am Over 60's
 6.00pm Beginners/Improvers Pilates
 7.10pm Mixed Ability Pilates

Tuesday

7.15pm Beginners Pilates
 8.25pm Mixed Ability Pilates

Wednesday

9.30am Mixed Ability Pilates
 10.40pm Beginners / Improvers

Friday

8.45am Pilates with weights
 10.00am Beginners/Improvers
 Pilates

Saturday

8.45am Mixed Ability Pilates
 10am Beginners/Improvers Pilates
 see www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk
 for more information contact
sally@orpingtonpilates.co.uk
 Ph. 07786 035640

EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room
St Martin's Toddler Group
 10.30am-12.00 midday
 Contact
stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

EVERY TUESDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive
Quiz Night
 From 8.00pm Info: 01689 880288

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells
Charity Quiz Night
 from 9.00pm

EVERY TUES WED THURS & FRI Pilates & Pre & Post Natal Pilates Courses

Tues @ Warren Road School
 7-8pm Pregnancy Pilates (from 14 weeks)
 8.10pm Pilates (Mixed Level)
Wed @ Pratts Bottom Village Hall

9.35am & 10.45am (Mixed Level)

Wed@Chelsfield Methodist Church Hall
 7pm (Beginners) & 8.10pm (Mixed Level)
 7pm (Mixed Level) & 8.10pm (Intermediate)

Thursday@ Chelsfield Methodist Hall
 8.20pm - Pilates (Mixed Level)

Fri @ Chelsfield Methodist Church Hall
 9.35am (Mixed Level) & 10.45am
 (Intermediate)

12-1pm—Post Natal Pilates (Babies
 Welcome)

For further information contact:
bethanylucaspilates.co.uk
bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com
 07415 638546

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am
 Contact Pam Keeper
 01732 458930

EVERY FRIDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Drive)

DJ NIGHT

From 8.30pm Contact
 01689 880288

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday 5th January

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

Nikki Red Live

from 6.30pm

Monday 6th January (1st Monday of Month)

Brass Crosby Room

St Martins Memory Cafe

2-4pm. Contact Jackie McCann
 01689 854119
memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

Wednesday 8th January

(2nd Wednesday Every Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome
 Contact Sue on 01689 827407

Saturday 11th January 2020

Chelsfield Village Hall

QUIZ NIGHT

from 7.00pm for 7.30pm Start
 See Front Cover for full details

Sunday 12th January

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

Antoinette Sings Live

from 6.30pm

Saturday 18th January

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

Skaralites Ska Reggae Band

from 8.30pm

Sunday 19th January

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

Karen Bizzell

from 6.30pm

Tuesday 21st January

(3rd Tuesday Every Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome
 From 7.45pm Lisa Lobb
 (Secretary) on 01689 608070

Saturday 25th January

(4th Saturday in Each Month)

Coolings Garden Centre, Knockholt

Knockholt Farmers Market

from 9.00am to 1.00pm

Saturday 25th January

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

International Rescue Band

from 8.30pm

Sunday 26th January

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

Kevin Swaine

from 6.30pm

Thursday 30th January

(Last Thursday of each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

Starts 10.30am

Friday 31st January

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

2020 Disco 1920's Fancy Dress

from 8.30pm

Saturday 1st February

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

Singles Karaoke

from 8.30pm

Saturday 8th February

St Mary's Church Hall,
 Worlds End Lane, Green Street
 Green

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT (for iCare)

from 7.15pm to 10.30pm

See Page 11 for details

Saturday 22nd February

(4th Saturday in Each Month)

Coolings Garden Centre,
 Knockholt

Knockholt Farmers Market

from 9.00am to 1.00pm

Thursday 27th February

Halstead Village Hall

Talk "All About Roses"

from 8.00pm

Happy New Year to all our Readers!