



January 2022

Supported by



Chelsfield
Park
Hospital

Wishing You, the
Residents and
Friends of
Chelsfield a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

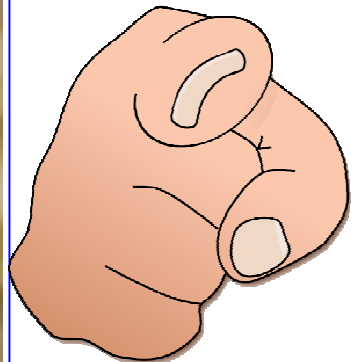


stay safe in 2022

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

The Blackthorn Tree	2
Brown's Xmas Appeal	4
St Martin's Toddlers Group	5
Chelsfield Community Cafe	7
5 Bells New Year Events	8
Our Move to Well Hill	9
Bromley Scam Alert	10
Updating Scams Warnings	11
Local History	11
BoPeep Events	13
iCARE	14
St Martin's Services Calendar	15
Dates for your Diary	16
Recycling Collection Days	16

**YOUR VILLAGE VOICE
NEEDS YOU**



Start the New Year by sending
something for inclusion in the
February 2022 issue to:

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

(or telephone 07414 920920)

**to arrive on or before
Thursday 27th January**

The Blackthorn Tree

I've written in the past that owls do not seem to be very common in the Chelsfield area at least based on being able to hear them call. But During November I have heard repeated tawny owl calls with one owl call coming from the conifers that surround the set of cottages I live in. Other times I have heard calls coming from the grounds of the hospital and Bucks Cross Farm. So, seems we now have a local owl to brighten the dark winter nights.

Last month I gave you my recipe for sloe gin. I also mentioned that I have a favourite place to collect sloes from their parent blackthorn trees and just a few weeks ago I revisited that location to find that there were absolutely no sloes left. I wondered if others were collecting the sloes for their own gin but even the sloes at the top of the trees were missing so I had to conclude that they must have been taken by birds. Clearly they must be very popular to have been completely removed so soon after becoming ripe. So, following my

sloe gin recipe I thought that the blackthorn tree would be a good subject for the Village Voice: so here it is.

The blackthorn tree/bush (*Prunus spinosa*) is perceived to have a nature that is often mixed and has been described as both the 'Mother of the Woods' and the 'Dark Crone of the Woods' but we'll get on to that a little later. It's name alludes to its bark, branches and twigs all being very dark, if not black in colour – and it's clearly thorny! It's spiny impenetrable nature make it a great refuse for wildlife and gives protection from grazing animals. Thrushes & waxwings in particular seem to enjoy

the blackthorn's fruit. It can either be described as a small tree, or a large bush reaching a height of about 4m which makes it perfect for agricultural hedging material. It could be mistaken for the hawthorn tree but in addition to its colour the distinguishing feature between the two is that the blackthorn flowers in early March with a riot of white blossom (see photo) before its leaves appear while the hawthorn's leaves appear first and then its flowers. This happens in May giving it the unofficial name of the 'Mayflower tree'. Due to the blackthorn's early spring flowering an especially cold spring was traditionally known as a



'blackthorn winter'.

I've mentioned my recipe for sloe gin but the blackthorn tree can also be used to make almond flavoured syrup using sugar, water and the white flowers of the blackthorn tree, the more flowers the stronger the almond flavour. In a publication dated 1839, an author called Cowell wrote in *'A Floral Guide for East Kent'* that the French pickle unripe sloes as a substitute for olives. Pushing the raw sloes through a sieve seems to change the flavour of the fruit, the resulting puree being slightly sweet and making a pleasant accompaniment to cheese. It was the great herbalist Culpeper in "The Complete Herbal" published in 1653 who described the sloe as "when ripe, of a fine purplish black colour, of a sour austere taste, and not fit to be eaten until mellowed by frost". It is thought that a cross between the sloe and the cherry plum may have been the source of all domestic plums, damsons and greengages. Man's relationship with sloes also seems to be a long



one as the berries seem to have been used by man since before the iron age with sloe pips having been found on many ancient archaeological sites.

In mythology the Blackthorn's spiny nature has given it deep associations with witchcraft and bad fortune. It has perhaps, the most sinister reputation in Celtic tree lore and was known as 'Straif' in ancient Ireland, the word being thought to be the origin of the modern word 'strife'. Both Blackthorn and it's sister tree the hawthorn are said to have formed Christ's crown of thorns and this was the reason Christian monks considered both to be unlucky. Witches' wands and staffs were said to be made from the hard-wearing wood and were

known as the 'black rod' which could dispatch a curse if pointed at a victim. This belief may stem from the ability of the thorns to easily turn simple scratches septic. It's hard wearing wood does however make for good walking sticks and is also the traditional wood used for Irish cudgels called Shillelaghs due to being a heavy, dense wood.

Despite the dark associations with witchcraft Rudyard Kipling, looked more favourably upon this tree and in his 1906 poem 'Puck of Pook's Hill' wrote that: "Of all the trees that grow so fair, old England to adore, greater are none beneath the sun, than oak and ash and thorn".

Steve Fuller
January 2022

Brown's Xmas Shoebox Appeal for Romania

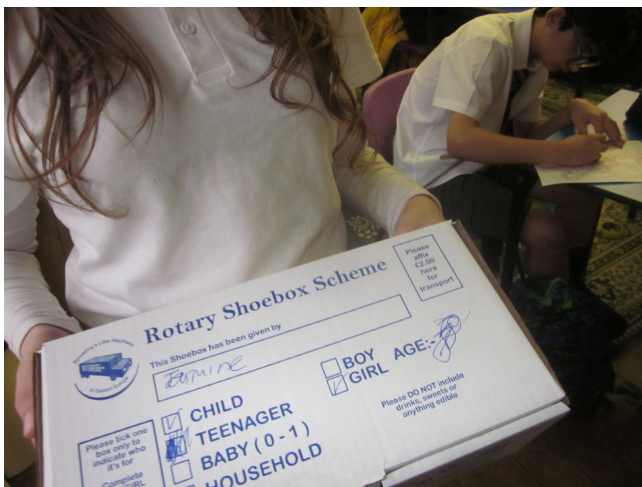
Dear All

In these very challenging times I thought I would bring some GOOD news for a change, even if it is in a minor way

As I am sure most of you are aware Brown's School has always participated in as many charitable events that we can throughout the year, and 2021 is no exception even though Covid is still a major part of the daily lives.

One of the these events that we have managed to continue to deliver over the last 7 years is the Xmas Shoebox Appeal for children in Romania. For these poor children the Xmas present in a shoebox is the only present they will have receive this Christmas. So it is with great pleasure to announce that the school managed to send 99 wrapped Xmas shoebox presents to our friends in Romania.

For the past 2 weeks Brown's school children



have been bringing in items to put in a **shoebox. These** could be brand new presents or older things that the students no longer need/want. So we had a great range of presents

to box, such as Teddy Bears, Toys, Pens, Pencils, Colouring Books, Model Cars etc. During 2 class sessions over the 2 weeks students were asked to fill the boxes with what





to collect the boxes and take them to the storage depot for travelling to Romania by road.

In this ever changing times it still shows that a small amount of charity/care/help can mean so much for others, who are far less luckier than us, and to people we may not even know, but want in some small way to make a difference.

they had brought in, and then to wrap them with Christmas wrapping paper and to stick a label on the box for what type of present it was for eg Boy between the ages of 10-14. They

were then brought to the office area to await collection.

Chris Nash from the Bromley Rotarian Society once again visited the school sight

So my thanks goes to all those Brown's students and parents who gladly volunteered gifts for the Romanian children in Europe.

Our next major school charitable event will hopefully take place in March for our annual Walk for Water.

May I wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year (Apologies if this arrives a bit late !)

Many Blessings

*Chris Ponulak
Deputy Headteacher
Brown's School*



St Martin's Toddlers Group



St Martin's Toddler Group

January 2022



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers,

Here are our dates for the Spring term. We meet in The Brass Crosby Room at St Martin's Church, Chelsfield on Tuesdays during school term time, 10.30am - 12noon, £2 per child/baby which includes refreshments and craft resources.

We look forward to seeing you,

Toddler Volunteers:

Jenny Peter Mary Mo Val Anne and Ally.

11th, 18th & 25th January

1st & 8th February

15th & 22nd February - Half Term so no Toddler Group

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March

5th, 12th & 19th April - Easter Holidays so no Toddler Group

Contact Details:

Toddler Group Leader - Jenny Wood

Email: stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

Church website: www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

Chelsfield Community Cafe



Hi to all patrons & friends of the Chelsfield Community Cafe!

Firstly we hope you had a peaceful, healthy holiday season!

Secondly, and sadly, as the government is telling everyone to be cautious and there are a record number of Covid cases

known in Bromley (at end of Dec) our view is that we should wait for the situation to improve before opening as normal. With cases rising and the impact on hospitals not yet clear, we therefore plan to remain closed for January, but hope to return in our normal cheery fashion in February (if it is safe to do so). Rest assured when we do reopen we will do our best to make things as pleasant as possible and will hopefully hold a belated Christmas event!

Please note, as a result of your generous

donations we prepared and delivered several Christmas hampers to local families (recommended by local schools & teachers). These were received with much appreciation!!

We look forward to hopefully seeing you all on the first & third Wed's in February. Please share this info with friends and encourage others to come along. Remember we offer free travel to those who would benefit from a lift to & from the venue!

*Warm regards
Mags & Pam
Chelsfield Volunteers*

Topical Guerilla Knitting Along Court Road



The Mystery Post Box Topper knitter has struck again with this wonderful Christmas scene! What a lovely community gesture

this "craze" that is sweeping the country is. I particularly liked the detail of the Father

Christmas themed washing on the line visible in the rear image here.

Peter Gandolfi

5 Bells New Year Events

**THE FIVE BELLS CHELSFIELD VILLAGE
TEL: 01689 821044**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR
CUSTOMERS BOTH OLD AND NEW
A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY & HOPEFULLY
WEALTHY NEW YEAR**

MAY 2022 BE BETTER THAN 2021

**IN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE NEW YEAR OUR
FAVOURITES ARE RETURNING**

**TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY AT 8.30
QUIZ NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY AT 8.00
OPEN MIC NIGHT**

**THURSDAY 6TH JANUARY AT 8.00
JAZZ NIGHT**

**PLEASE CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
AND/OR OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY
ALTERATIONS THAT MAY HAPPEN IF
GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ARE BROUGHT IN**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AND THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND GOOD
WISHES, IT HAS MEANT A LOT TO US.**

Our Move to Chelsfield & Well Hill

Reading the article in last months magazine concerning Chelsfield hospital and its history, reminded me of the time we moved into the area from the Oxhey area of Watford on the other side of London.

Following a transfer with my work to Lewisham in 1974, my wife and I had been searching various areas from Orpington round to Croydon for a suitable house. During this period we would stay at the Chelsfield Hotel as a base for our searches and remember the French cuisine well.

We were unable to find a suitable property until one day the Estate agent contacted me to advise that there was a property on Well Hill which might be of interest. In spite of having stayed in Chelsfield village we were not aware of Well Hill or where it was.

So one particular morning, I extended my normal "commute" to Orpington, which I was told was the nearest railway station, to view the property by

appointment. The property was known as "The Homestead" (now I believe called "The Beeches") and consisted of a bungalow with an integrated village store.



Having got as far as Orpington station, I then enquired how I could get to Well Hill and boarded the correct bus and asked the driver to tell me when we were in Well Hill. He then explained that he didn't actually go to Well Hill but would direct me when we got as near to it as the bus went.

I remember it was a lovely Spring day and as I walked up from Maypole past Cannock school (as it was then), the area was really beautiful, lovely scenery, birds singing

and not many cars so I became very impressed with the area.

On arrival at the property, the lady who owned the bungalow and shop showed me around and, I remember, made me a cup of tea in the kitchen where I could look out over to Chelsfield Village and view as far as Crystal Palace and London. It all looked magical and I think that morning made my mind up that this would be a great place to live and bring up our children who were then 12 and 10.

Later that year, 1976, we moved into "The Homestead" and settled down to life on the hill.

The shop was closed in 1978, some two years later, but we stayed there until 2001 and then moved further down in Kent to West Malling where I still live. We have maintained contact with our friends from both Well Hill and Chelsfield Village and have many happy memories of our time there.

Patrick Woods

TRADING STANDARDS ALERT!

Phishing emails Gift cards

Alert 3.9

22nd December 2021

Bromley Trading Standards is warning residents to be Alert to emails purporting to be from someone you know (of), with an example conversation below:

Are you free at the moment? Kind Regards

I am in a conference meeting right now as I would be working till late midnight but need you to help me get some gift cards. Could you pick a few [.....] play gift cards for me from [.....] online store, I tried purchasing online but no luck. When I'm done with the meeting, I will reimburse you.

Don't respond! Check the email address & contact the person you know directly

Scammers use gift cards as a form of payment as they can be easily redeemed and sold on. The criminals don't need the physical card to redeem the value as they ask you to share the serial code on the back of the card with them.

Forward the email to report@phishing.gov.uk

[Phishing: Spot and report scam emails, texts, websites and... - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/spot-and-report-scams)

Stop.Challenge.Protect.

[Take Five - To Stop Fraud | To Stop Fraud \(takefive-stopfraud.org.uk\)](https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

REPORT

Protect others by reporting incidents.

If you or anyone you know have been affected by fraud or any scam report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

If you have given out your bank details, contact your bank as soon as possible.

You can also visit [www.Bromley.gov.uk/scams](https://www.bromley.gov.uk/scams)

Keeping Up to Date with Scams

Don't forget you can sign up to receive Bromley Trading Standards, Alert! Newsletters direct to your Inbox by visiting <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/scams>

and completing the online form. We encourage you to circulate Alert! around your network of family, friends, neighbours, colleagues, clients and members of groups or

organisations of which you're a part. You may be in touch with Bromley residents who could be more susceptible to scams – sharing some information about scams may prevent them from becoming a scam victim.

In an emergency, when a crime is in progress, dial 999. To report non-urgent situations, dial 101 or report it

through the "Contact us" option on your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team page on the Met Police website.

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website:

nsc.gov.uk/cyberaware

Dave Lambert

Local History Group

As a continuation of looking at early flying pioneers in our locality, we will look at another Orpington early aviator pioneer Malcolm Campbell, better known for his many prewar speed records. Campbell was born (and is buried) in Chislehurst. I only found out about this local connection, from a walk around the lanes of Orpington with our local historian Pam Zollitoffer. The walk ended at the top of Broom Hill, where his flying attempt took place. Below are some notes from his autobiography 'My Thirty Years of Speed', relating to his one and only attempt to get involved in aviation by designing and building his own aeroplane

with a friend. Apparently it was seeing Louis Blériot's Plane which was being exhibited in Selfridges department store in Oxford Street shortly after Blériot had made the first flight across the English Channel, that spurred Campbell's interest in aviation, and his aeroplane shows a close resemblance.

"I had a friend who was as enthusiastic as myself, and we engaged a carpenter, then rented a barn on the edge of a strawberry field near Orpington"

"Our only visitors during those nights in the barn were occasional policemen who came to warm

themselves by our brazier, and to comment on the slow construction of the 'plane. I encouraged their visits, because I knew that we should need their help when we actually began to fly. In those days, would-be aviators roused as much hostility and ridicule amongst the public as the first motorists had done ten years earlier, and friendly police would be useful to keep the crowd in hand."

"News of what we were doing soon spread in the locality. People used to gather near the barn on the chance of seeing something, long before we were ready to attempt our first flight. Their interest

was derisive, and this attitude became intensified as time went on. I began to see that, when we did push the 'plane out, we should need the police to maintain order."

"The strawberry field was dangerous as a potential flying ground. It sloped badly, the earth was full of furrows and a deep ditch lay right across the centre. When the machine was nearly complete we selected a stretch for the take-off and boarded over the ditch, filling the furrows, and making the ground as smooth as possible."

"We decided upon a Sunday morning for our first effort, and I sent a message to the police to let them know our intentions, but the message went astray, because no constables appeared."

"We made everything ready, and only when we were pushing the 'plane clear of the barn did I discover that a big crowd had gathered. The people gathered right across the field, blocking the line of the take-off. When we asked them to move, we found that a public footpath traversed the field, and they reminded us that they

had as much right to be there as ourselves, and refused to go."

"The crowd was very obstinate, and would not make way even after I had explained that it would be dangerous to remain in the path of the machine. The only thing to do was to start the engine and hope that they would run when they saw the 'plane coming towards them."

"It was my intention to try and take the 'plane off the ground without preliminary tests of any sort, although I had never flown before. I knew that when one pulled the control stick back, the machine would ascend, and that when one pushed the stick forward, the nose dipped. I knew, also, that it was necessary to gather flying speed before trying to take the 'plane into the air, and that lateral control was maintained by ailerons. But that was the sum total of my knowledge."

"After various delays, I climbed aboard, the engine was started and, when the right moment had come, I waved to friends holding the wings. The 'plane was released and it began to run forward across the field, heading for the crowd, wobbling from side

to side as it gathered speed. I was very thrilled at actually being under way, while I struggled to keep the machine as straight as possible, and I judged that I was travelling fast enough to get off the ground when I found myself almost up to the staring crowd."

"I pulled back on the control stick at once. The 'plane lifted a few feet into the air, hesitated, then flopped back with a crash, pitching half on to its nose before it came to an even keel, with the propeller damaged and the engine dead. A wing was broken, a wheel was smashed from the undercarriage and my first effort to fly was a failure."

Campbell was being far too generous here, but eventually a few men did volunteer to help. As he goes on to say, "It would be an exaggeration to say the 'plane had flown, but it had certainly gone into the air under its own power. I am amazed that anyone can be so arrogant as to think that they can fly a totally untested plane without any flying experience at all, it's probably just as well that it didn't take off!

Peter Gandolfi

BoPeep Events



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT THE BO PEEP

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 25th January –BURNS NIGHT



Join us for some Haggis, Neeps and Tatties



Monday 14th February –Valentines Day

Sunday 27th March –Mother's Day

Throughout the month of January we are doing a selection of

Pies and Tarts and a bottle of house red or white wine
£39.95 for 2 people

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THANK YOU FOR
COMPLYING WITH THE CURRENT PROCEDURES WE HAVE IN
PLACE SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO REMAIN SAFE AND OPEN

iCARE

ICARE is a small independent day centre in Green Street Green. We offer rehabilitation and support for those who have suffered a stroke or other brain injury, as well as respite care for families and carers.

Our range of services includes:-

- ❖ Physio and Speech Therapy***
- ❖ Cognitive Therapy through arts & crafts, quizzes and board games***
- ❖ Friendship and support in a safe, caring environment with our fully trained staff and volunteers.***

***We are welcoming new clients.
For more information, please contact
01689 862883 or
admin@icarecentre.org.uk***



The Benefice of
Chelsfield with Green Street Green
and Pratts Bottom



**St Martin's Chelsfield & Well Hill
Calendar of Services – January 2022**

All welcome! Please be aware that in the current situation this schedule is subject to change, potentially at short notice. Please watch the church website for updates (see link at bottom of page).

St Martin's

Sun 2 January	10.00am Benefice Communion at All Souls 6.30pm Evensong
Wed 5 January	9.30am Holy Communion - BCP
Sun 9 January	10.00 am Family Worship 6.30pm Sung Eucharist
Wed 12 January	9.30am Holy Communion - BCP
Sun 16 January	10.00am Family Communion 6.30pm Evensong
Wed 19 January	9.30am Holy Communion - BCP
Sun 23 January	10.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Evensong
Wed 26 January	9.30am Holy Communion
Sun 30 January	10.00am Benefice Communion at St Martin's 6.30pm Evensong

Well Hill*

Sun 9 January	10.00am Service of the Word
Sun 23 January	10.00am Holy Communion

**NB these services are outdoors unless it is wet & have limited capacity if held indoors – for more information please contact Anne Ireland on 07767 783189 / anneireland@icloud.com*

As at 29 December 2021



Like



View



Follow



Watch

Dates For Your Diary

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Monday
Five Bells
**MONDAY CLUB with
'OPEN THE BOX'**
7.00pm

Every Tuesday
Brass Crosby Room
**St Martin's Toddler
Group**
10.30am-12.00noon

Every Tuesday
The Chelsfield
QUIZ NIGHT
from 7.30pm

Every Tuesday
Five Bells
CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT
8.30pm

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Wednesday 5th January
Five Bells
Open Mic Night
From 8.00pm

Thursday 6th January
Five Bells
**Live Jazz with Just
Friends**
from 8.00pm

Tuesday 18th January
Chelsfield Village Hall
Evening WI
7.30pm-9.30pm

Tuesday 25th January
BoPeep
Burns Night

Thursday 27th January
(Last Thursday each
month)
Chelsfield Village Hall
Local History Group
From 10.00am

Wednesday 2nd February
Chelsfield Village Hall
**Chelsfield Volunteers
AFTERNOON TEA**
2.30pm-4.40pm

Thursday 3rd February
Five Bells
**Live Jazz with Just
Friends**
from 8.00pm

Tuesday 15th February
Chelsfield Village Hall
Evening W.I.
7.30pm-9.30pm

Wednesday 16th February
Chelsfield Village Hall
**Chelsfield Volunteers
AFTERNOON TEA**
2.30pm-4.40pm

Recycling Bin Collection January 2022

Wednesday 5th January	Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,
Tuesday 11th January	Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.
Monday 17th January	Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,
Monday 24th January	Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.
Monday 31st January	Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,
Monday 7th February	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) Green Garden Waste is collected fortnightly or monthly only
every Month (Dec-Feb) from households that subscribe (£60 per annum) to the Bromley scheme (Telephone: 0300 303 8658 for advice)