



January 2023

Produced by  
*Chelsfield Village Hall*



Happy New Year  
to all our readers

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

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**We look forward to  
receiving your  
thoughts, articles,  
photos and details of  
your events planned  
for 2023**

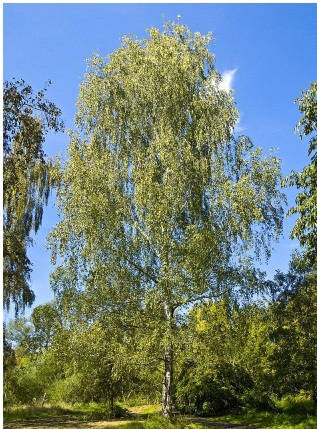
**Please get anything  
for inclusion in the  
February 2023 issue  
to us by  
Friday 27th  
January 2023**

**SEND TO:  
chelsfieldvillagevoice  
@gmail.com**

## The Silver Birch

Friends of mine have recently moved to the Orkney Islands. One of them will work as a teacher in the local primary school that currently has 9 children, 11 with their own included. As you can imagine, moving just as the winter is arriving and adapting to the typically wind swept, rather featureless landscape will be something of a challenge. Their house is a lone building, somewhat stark sitting in the landscape but plenty of room for the kids to play with the sea at the bottom of their garde. However, there are trade-offs with frequent views of the northern lights and the night sky - albeit when it's not raining! Another practical advantage is that my friends plan to purchase a wind turbine and hopefully be able to live off-grid. Family members will be arriving for Christmas so hopefully, by the time you read this they will have had a good relaxing festive break (with bracing walks along the beach) and returned south to more clement surroundings. On another matter, I have had a wasp

nest in my loft this summer for the second time in a few years where previously I not not had any for thirty odd years. I tried to remove the remains but it was interwoven with insulation so left it alone. I hear that wasps do not return to old nests so it shouldn't attract a new queen in the spring.



This month I'm going to talk about the birch tree (*Betula pendula*). In the UK when people talk about the birch tree they are usually talking about the silver birch i.e *pendula*, sometimes known as the warty birch or European white birch. It, or its cousins species can be found from Europe to China although it was

introduced into North America and in now considered as an invasive species in some states, provinces and territories. This may be due to its habit of being one of the first to start growing on disturbed or damaged soil. The term used for this is 'pioneer species'. This tree gets its name from its characteristic white bark. It is a medium sized tree with an open canopy and drooping branches. It also has easily identifiable, almost triangular leaves and 'catkin' flowers and millions of tiny seeds that are dispensed each autumn. Woods consisting primarily are not surprisingly referred to as birch woods and are ideal conditions for grasses, mosses and bluebells. The wood itself is surprisingly hard being only slightly softer than oak and birch. That comes as a surprise as woodpeckers seem to like to attack this wood and being a tree that generally does not grow to the age of some more illustrious trees one would expect it to be a 'soft' wood. Indeed, there is a test called the Janka

hardness test which is used to determine the hardness of all woods and involves finding the force required to insert a steel ball half way into the wood in question. This test clearly shows that birch is a surprisingly hard wood. It is also an attractive wood, being of a pale colour allowing it to be easily stained. It is fine grained and due to its hardness is suitable for making furniture. It was once used in the Lancashire cotton trade for the making of bobbins, spools and reels but British grown birch nowadays has few commercial uses as British trees do not grow to the sizes typically found on mainland Europe. However, in Finland a novel use of a bundle of birch trigs is to gently beat oneself while in a sauna and where fittingly, the birch is the national tree. This makes

sense historically as the tree has many uses which would have been a great asset during more primitive times when survival against a Nordic winter would have been difficult. For instance shoes can be woven from strips of bark. It's waxy bark is also useful for starting fires even when wet and when heated the bark gives off a resin that makes an effective glue and can also be used to start fires, or when twisted into rope, used as a candle.

In Celtic mythology, possibly due to its habit of colonising new soil, it was known as a symbol of renewal and purification and bundles of birch trigs were used to drive out the spirits of the old year during Samhain, which is now known as Halloween in Britain (yes, it is an American import but it has its original roots in

pagan British history). In time, this tradition would evolve into the 'beating of the bounds' ceremonies in local parishes. Birch's renewal symbolism is also associated with spring as it is one of the first trees to come into bloom. Indeed the Celtic goddess of spring (Eostre – from which we get the word Easter) was celebrated between the spring equinox and a fertility festival called Beltane. An event that is roughly the modern equivalent of May day in terms of symbolism and its place on the calendar. So, during this time Eostre would be celebrated by dancing in and around birch trees.

I'll leave you with an old arboreal saying "The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now".

*Steve Fuller  
January 2023*

## **Please Help Our Toddler Group**

At St Martins we have a thriving, happy toddlers group which meets from 10.30am-12.00 each Tuesday during term time. We have a wonderful selection of toys, puzzles, construction games and always play doh. We serve

drinks and a snack to both adults and children and end with songs and rhymes.

We are now in need of a new leader. We have 5 willing volunteers to help run the group and plan to

open again for a term on January 10th. If you think you may be able to help us lead the group or share the leading please contact Rev Michael at St Martins Church Chelsfield.

*Many thanks,  
Val Hemmings*

JANUARY  
AT  
THE BO PEEP

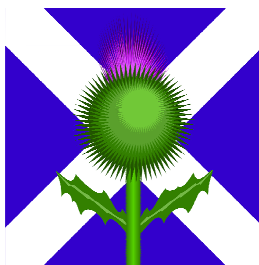


## NEW YEAR SPECIAL OFFER

2 courses for £15.00  
Monday–Thursday 6.00pm–8.00pm  
Throughout January 2023



WEDNESDAY 25th to Saturday 28th JANUARY



Celebrate Burns Night  
With Haggis neeps & tatties  
And maybe a wee dram !!

Hewitts Road  
Chelsfield  
BR6 7QL  
Tel: 01959 534457  
[info@thebopeep.com](mailto:info@thebopeep.com)

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS  
[www.thebopeep.com](http://www.thebopeep.com)

## Local History Group - The Ox-In-Flames

### ***A taste of America at Farnborough in the Sixties***

At the end of the 1950s, American businessman Marshall William Reinig was getting restless. By then 52 years-old and based in the Minnesota port town of Duluth on the shores of Lake Superior, he had made a fortune in publishing, printing and advertising and from his two mink farms. A high-energy, extremely hard-working individual, he also dealt in property and mobile homes, was a director of a bank and active in political and philanthropic circles.

Itching to splash out further afield with his dollars, Reinig watched from across The Pond as Britain began to emerge from its grey post-war existence and economic privations and noted how our young folk embraced American “imports” like Rock ‘n’ Roll, Marilyn Monroe, Coca-Cola, Wimpy bars, hamburgers, milkshakes.

The man from Minnesota “wanted in on the action”. And, as Patrick Hellicar

told the Chelsfield local history group in November, he caused a stir in September 1960 when he opened what he claimed to be “Britain’s first drive-in restaurant” – the “Ox-In-Flames” on the Farnborough By-pass.

Drive-ins had been around since 1921 in America, and Reinig knew a lot about them. His company owned 11 business magazines in 1960 but the one with the largest circulation – close to 50,000 – was Diner, Drive-In and Restaurant.

Advised by Florida State University, which boasted a leading restaurant and hotel management school as well as a Professor who was “one of the top authorities in this field” and wrote monthly articles for Drive-In, Reinig persuaded three other mink farmers to put up \$25,000 each for his English adventure.

In the summer of 1959 Reinig sailed for the UK with his wife Anita and 13 year-old daughter Janet. He bought “a fine lot 16 miles from downtown London in Kent on the

Farnborough By-Pass near the village of Orpington”, and hired a firm of architects to design the building which shared a one-acre site with the existing Farnborough Way Garage next door.

“Hurrah!” Reinig recorded in his family memoir, “we had the first American-type drive-in anywhere in Europe. Some American suggested it be called the Flaming Steer but our British adviser told us that in England that had almost a sexual connotation so we settled for Ox-In-Flames.”



It opened for business on 10 September 1960 but the official opening came five days later. Ten thousand householders in Bromley and Orpington





were invited to visit the ultra-modern drive-in for a free beefburger and “free gifts for women” during the first week.

In true American-drive-in style, two “car hops” – attractive young ladies in check shirts and very short white pleated skirts and sporting a cross between an usherette’s cap and forage hat – were on hand on Day One to serve guests who preferred to stay in their cars rather than visit the restaurant itself.

The Ox was open every day from 11 in the morning until midnight, serving up such delights as Steakwiches, Fishwiches, Oxburgers, Hamdingers and Shrimptoats accompanied by fizzy drinks with ice-cream floating on top and followed by apple or

bilberry pie with ice cream for afters. The car hops, though, had vanished.

Everything was delivered on cardboard plates and – if you asked for them – plastic knives, forks and spoons were available. But customers were encouraged to use their fingers ... “nature’s best eating utensils”. If the idea caught on, Reinig aimed to create a chain of 40 drive-ins, with Kent and the by-passes of Britain prime targets.

Sadly, the drive-in dining phenomenon was not the success Marshall Reinig had dreamed of. Losses at Farnborough spiralled, and after a few months the Ox-In-Flames closed its doors. Reinig sold up and the renamed “New Ox-In-Flames” continued until the late 1960s, serving grills, snacks and

teas at one end of the building while, at the other end, dinners, suppers and dancing were on offer each evening in its licensed Ranch House Restaurant.

In the 1970s, the Ox became a Little Chef, operating for years under that franchise until its collapse. Eventually the building was taken over by the Frankie & Benny’s American-Italian-style restaurants chain, which has also struggled in recent years. The Farnborough Way Garage had long departed the adjacent part of the site.

Shortly before Christmas 2021, German discount supermarkets group Aldi sought consent to demolish the restaurant (still essentially Reinig’s 1960 building under the skin) and replace it with a 1,843 square metre store and 49 parking spaces.

A wave of objections greeted Aldi’s plan and in March Bromley threw it out. The design, scale, siting and elevated position of the store appeared out of scale and it would be a “discordant feature” in an

established townscape and residential view, the Council said. The proposed development was “un-neighbourly and overbearing” and “harmful to the character and appearance of the surrounding area”, as well as being excessively dependent on the use of private cars so that traffic

locally, already heavy, would increase.

Since the end of November, Frankie & Benny’s has been closed and shuttered with huge concrete blocks guarding the entrance and exit against unwelcome visitors. Aldi has made no appeal nor put in a fresh

planning application. The future of what was once Marshall Reinig’s dream site seems uncertain. But the name “Ox-In-Flames” lives on – as a tiny petrol station and car repairs garage/workshop in Knockholt Village.

*Patrick Hellicar*

## Chelsfield Players - Underground - a Review

As the curtains opened there was an admiring gasp from the audience and a spontaneous round of applause.

As you can see from the photograph the depiction of a 1980s tube train carriage was perfect.

The cast of 12 were mostly all on the stage for the whole performance. Far too many to single out any individuals as the whole cast worked well

together to have the audience in the dark right to the end.

I did find it odd that a carriage of disparate travellers were so keen to share their lives with each other but all was revealed in the end. A second viewing, knowing the end, would undoubtedly enable one to read between the lines and pick up nuances which certainly passed me by.

Three new actors were a welcome addition to the family of players and also a new sound man. The depth of talent which comes together in our little village hall, actors and creatives alike, is a pleasure to us all.

This was director David Bacon’s first production. May he direct many more.

*A view from the stalls*



## Village Hall Defibrillator - continued

Last month it was mentioned that the village hall defibrillator had been missing for a few days and then reappeared.

A few days after publication, we received an email from a local resident, saying that their

son had been taken seriously ill, and the 999 operative had asked them to get the village defibrillator.

The concerns of their son being in intensive care, quite rightly took precedence over

thoughts of the return of the defibrillator.

Situations such as this, show the need for a defibrillator in the village, and we hope that the patient is well on the road of recovery.

## Chelsfield Knit and Natter Club



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

Whether you are a knitting expert or want to

get started, everyone is welcome. Feel free to join us just for a chat too!

Knitting, crocheting and other crafts welcome.

Next Dates:

9th January 2023  
13th February 2023

We'd love to see you!

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live  
**ORPINGTON**

*Are you retired or working part-time and want to do something brilliant?*

The u3a is a UK-wide collection of 1000 plus charities that provide the opportunity for those no longer in full time work to come together and learn for fun.



## Future ULEZ Changes

You are probably aware that the ultra-low emissions zone is intended to be expanded across all of Greater London next summer. The decision comes in the face of vast opposition and means 15 per cent of vehicles registered in the new outer London zone will be liable for the £12.50 a day levy.

Critics say that the expansion of the zone - effectively to the M25, will deliver fewer air quality benefits and cause

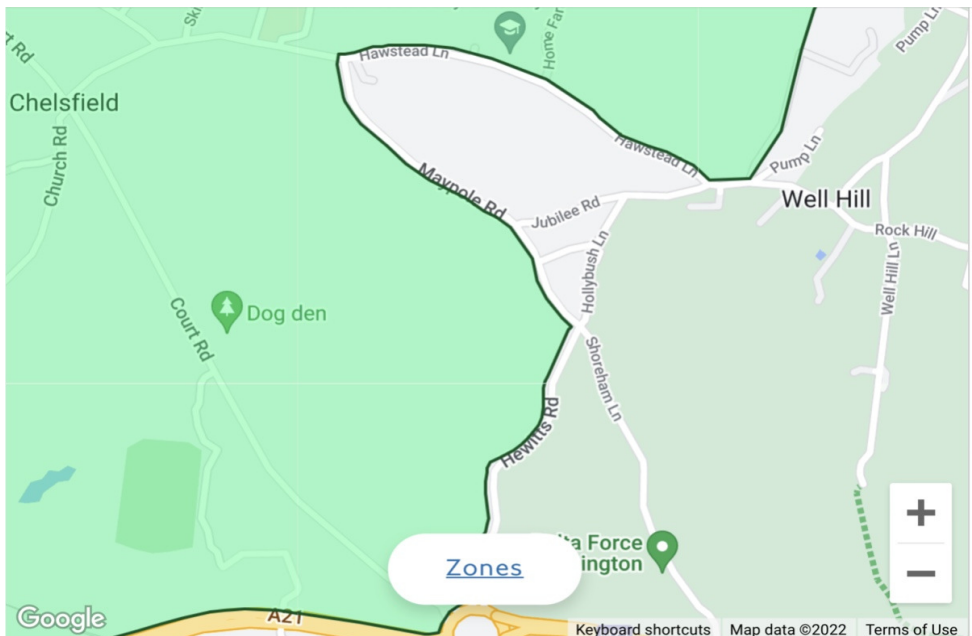
greater harm to residents and businesses, where car ownership is higher due to fewer public transport alternatives. Apparently some boroughs are looking into not allowing ULEZ cameras in their areas. Below are some links to a number of informative articles on the ULEZ changes, and an image of the new ULEZ border around the village. An electronic version of the newsletter will make using these links easier.

Bromley's response to

ULEZ proposal  
<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/366/no-to-mayor-of-london-s-ulez-expansion-proposals>

Four councils oppose London-wide scheme ULEZ  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-63833268>

ULEZ Expansion 2023 - Transport for London  
<https://par.tfl.gov.uk/mod es/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-expansion-2023>





The Benefice of  
Chelsfield with Green Street Green  
and Pratts Bottom



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

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

### St Martin's

Sun 1 Jan	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion CWO1 : MG
Naming & Circumcision of Christ	6.30pm	Choral Evensong BCP : Reader Ken l'Anson
Wed 4 Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion CWO2 : MG
Sun 8 Jan	10.00am	Family Worship SAJ
Epiphany	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist CWO2 : MG
Wed 11 Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion CWO2 : SAJ
Sun 15 Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion CWO1 : SAJ
2 <sup>nd</sup> of Epiphany	6.30pm	Choral Evensong BCP : Reader Ken l'Anson
Wed 18 Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion CWO2 : MG
Sun 22 Jan	10.00am	Family Worship Reader Karen Harcombe
3 <sup>rd</sup> of Epiphany	6.30pm	Choral Evensong BCP : MG
Wed 25 Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion CWO2 : SAJ
Sun 29 Jan	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion CWO1 : SAJ & MG
Candlemas	6.30pm	Choral Evensong CWO2 : SAJ

### Well Hill

Sun 8 Jan	10.00am	Morning Worship Reader Ken l'Anson
Sun 22 Jan	10.00am	Holy Communion MG

Key: CWO1 – Common Worship Order 1; CWO2 – Common Worship Order 2; BCP – Book of Common Prayer; SAJ : Rev Susan Atkinson-Jones, MG : Rev Michael Gentry

## Free Crockery From the Village Hall

Surplus to requirements 65 cups and saucers, all in crates.

If interested let the Village Hall know on:  
[cvhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhlettings@gmail.com)



## We Still Need Your Support! - Please Keep it Coming

A huge thank you to everybody who has made donations towards the cost of providing monthly production of Chelsfield Village Voice over these recent months.

We need to maintain regular monthly support to keep the Village Voice going, so if you are able to donate anything we would be extremely grateful.

Donations (cheques) towards the cost of printing the Chelsfield Village Voice should be made payable to "Chelsfield Village Hall" and sent to:  
Peter Gandolfi  
3 Orlestone Gardens  
Chelsfield Village  
Orpington  
Kent  
BR6 6HB

Donations may also be

made directly online using the following account details:

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

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

*Dan Sloan  
Thanks!*

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### Bromley Council

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

**NHS Non-Emergency** 111

### Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

**BT** Faults 0800 800151

### Councillors

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

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

### Chelsfield Village Voice

[chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)

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

**Thames Water** Emergencies  
0800 714614

### National Grid (Gas)

Emergency (leaks) 0800 111999

### Bromley Police Station & Police

**non emergency** 101

### Safer Neighbourhood Team

020 8721 2605  
[chelsfieldandbottomSNT@met.police.uk](mailto:chelsfieldandbottomSNT@met.police.uk)

### Chelsfield Village Hall (bookings)

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

### Chelsfield Players

[info@chelsfieldplayers.org](mailto:info@chelsfieldplayers.org)  
[www.chelsfieldplayers.org](http://www.chelsfieldplayers.org)

**Samaritans** 116123

## The Belldrinkers 2022 Christmas Single



If you missed the Belldrinkers Christmas single for 2022, it may be viewed here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1\\_biHIUqo4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1_biHIUqo4)

Brilliant job Dave and Lester, Thanks!

## Dates For Your Diary

### WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Tuesday

Five Bells

**CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**

8.30pm

Every Thursday

The Chelsfield Pub

**QUIZ NIGHT**

from 7.30pm

### INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Wednesday 4th January

Chelsfield Village Hall

**Chelsfield Volunteers**

### AFTERNOON TEA

2.30pm-4.40pm

Wednesday 4th January

Five Bells

**Open Mic Night**

From 8.00pm

Monday 9th January

Five Bells

**KNIT & NATTER NIGHT**

from 8.00pm

Tuesday 17th January

Chelsfield Village Hall

**Evening WI**

7.30pm-9.30pm

Wednesday 18th January

Chelsfield Village Hall

**Chelsfield Volunteers**

**AFTERNOON TEA**

2.30pm-4.40pm

Wednesday 18th January

Five Bells

**Open Mic Night**

From 8.00pm

Thursday 26th January

Chelsfield Village Hall

**Local History Group**

10.30am-12 Noon

## Recycling Bin Collection January 2023

Wed 4th January 2023

Tuesday 10th January

Monday 16th January

Monday 23rd January

Monday 30th January

Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste.

Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste

Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste.

Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste

Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste.

Every week

Batteries, Small Electrical Items, Textiles (please only present one small transparent bag each week, and re-present the following week if it is not collected)

Every 2 weeks (Mar-Nov)  
every Month (Dec-Feb)

Green Garden Waste is collected fortnightly or monthly only from households that subscribe (£60 per annum) to the Bromley scheme (Telephone: 0300 303 8658 for advice)