

CHELSEFIELD VILLAGE VOICE

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

July 2009

Chelsfield Village Fair

www.chelsfieldfair.com



Flying displays from
'Spirit of Kent' Spitfire
and a De Havilland
Vampire

Gates
Open
12 noon

Fun for
all the
family!

Beer Tent
Barbecue
Working Bog Display
Birds of Prey
Pony Rides
Funfair
Charity stalls
Sideshow
Green St Green May Queen

Chelsfield Village Green, Bucks Cross Road
Chelsfield Village, Kent, BR6 7RN

Raising money for the
Hospitals and RNLI and
local good causes

Part of the
Lifeboats

In This Issue:

Bromley Masterplan	2
Blood Service	2
Bird Walk	2
Well Hill Concert	3
Tea Time in the Cray	4
Parking Problems	4
Safer Neighbourhood	5
Visitor to Chelsfield	5
The Peacock	6
Letters	6
Internet Café	7
Local History Group	7
Tales from Chelsfield	8
Traffic Report	10
EDF & Power Cut	10
Contacts	11
Join the Village Society	11
Dates for your Diary	12

CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE !

If have an event, a story,
an amusing experience,
anything, tell us, this news-
letter is your voice to
speak to the village.

Contributions should be
emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org
or posted to:

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

URGENT APPEAL

The Chelsfield Village Society will be running a bottle
stall at the Village Fair, to help pay for the costs of
printing and producing the Village Voice Newsletter.
Any donations of Bottles (or offers to help) to:
Catherine Gandolfi, 3 Orlestone Gardens. Please.

Have Your Say on Town Centre Masterplan

Residents will have six weeks to give their views about extensive changes to a town centre. Anyone interested in submitting their opinions about Bromley's Area Action Plan, which outlines proposals for the next 15 years can comment until July 17. It includes changes to leisure, retail, housing and commercial development. Residents'

views will be forwarded along with the plan to the Secretary of State and will be considered as part of the independent examination in public, which is likely to be early in 2010.

The plan and its supporting documents are available at all libraries, the Civic Centre, in Stockwell Close, Bromley or on the council's

website, www.bromley.gov.uk/bromley/towncentreAAP. CD's of the documents are available on request. Completed forms can be sent to btcaap@bromley.gov.uk. Director of Renewal & Recreation c/o Town Centre Development Team, Room N98, Bromley Civic Centre, BR1 3UH

The Blood Wagon comes to Chelsfield

The National Blood Service run a mobile unit for local Blood Donation sessions that in the past has been parked at Green Street Green, Crescent Way for donation sessions. These ses-

sions have now moved to: Chelsfield Lakes Golf Club, Court Road, starting 30/31st July and regularly after this. An ideal location for the residents of Chelsfield Village and environs.

Appointments can be made by ringing the National call centre on 08457-711-711, or alternatively by visiting the website www.blood.co.uk.

Bird Walk at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve

Local residents can find out more about the exotic bird species that can be seen in Sevenoaks during the summer months.

Sevenoaks District Council is holding the two bird walks, on Wednesday 17 June at 10am and Wednesday 8 July at 6.30pm, at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve. Both walks will last around two hours.

No previous knowledge of birds is necessary as the walks will be led by experienced walk leaders who will provide information and advice on the many rare and exotic bird species at the Reserve. Places are strictly limited, and anyone who would like to attend should call

Simon Davies on 01732 227374 to book a place, or

e-mail sus.dev@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Walkers are advised to wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing and be

prepared for a little rain. If the weather is hot, walkers should bring water,

sun-block and a hat. Children under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

A CONCERT FOR WELL HILL

FEATURING WELL-LOVED
CLASSICS & LIGHT MUSIC GEMS

Performed by



*The Thames
Gateway Quartet*

In association with Village Concerts & Chelsfield Events

Raising funds for
Well Hill Mission Church

SUNDAY 12TH JULY AT 3PM
WELL HILL MISSION CHURCH
(In the Garden in the event of fine weather)

Tickets priced at £6 ~
Box Office 01689 874876 / 823749 / 823749
www.villageconcerts.info

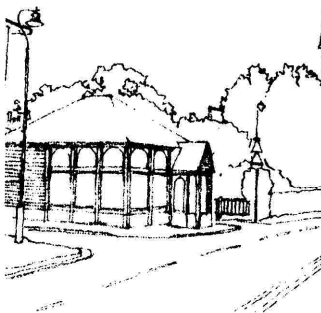
Time for Tea - In St Mary Cray

A new enterprise is coming to St Mary Cray.....

The Croft Tearoom, shop & training venue (a Community Interest Company) will be opening in September 2009 after complete renovation takes place at no. 263 High Street (previously the Florist/Greengrocer and next to the Red Lion).

The aim is to offer a high quality service to customers, particularly groups (i.e. walkers, cyclists etc) in and around St Mary Cray who seek a distinctive venue, offering home-baked cakes, breads & home-made soups using

locally sourced, fresh ingredients as well as a small selection of items for sale including foods,



arts & crafts. Architecturally designed, the Tea-room will be a highly energy-efficient Eco-building, using sustainable building techniques

& materials, and the aim is to enter the building for the Bromley design awards.

Carole Wells will be recruiting a small team of staff and seeking suppliers of raw ingredients, giving preference to people from within the St Mary Cray area, and in due course, to link with other organisations to offer training for small groups in related craft skills & interests (eg jam making, slow bread making & minor catering skills). For more information please contact the CVS or Village Voice.

Parking Problems on Fete Day

Three people parking for the Fete in the layby outside the rectory got warning notices, specifying that the following contravention had been committed. "Parked with one or more wheels on any part of an urban road other than a carriageway"

This lay by has been used without any problems for at least 20 years.

When tackled by one of the innocent parkers, Bromley Council showed surprised at the notices and suggested

that the Village Society write in to the parking dept for clarification.

The Village Society received the following response from the Parking Operations manager

"The reason that the notices were issued is that the CEOs (Parking Attendants) were advised by a member of the public that there were cars parked on the grass verge along the road. Upon investigation all they found were the vehicles in the lay

by. They radioed their office to check what to do, the message they sent was that the vehicles were on a raised piece of road that looked like footway, the office asked them to take a photo of the area and then they would check if it was enforceable. The CEO misinterpreted the instruction and issued warning notices. Please be assured that no further warning notices or penalty notices will be issued at that location."

Safer Neighbourhood Team Street Briefing Report

The SNT came to Chelsfield Village on Sunday 14th June for a street briefing. Chelsfield residents were not well represented with only a few residents attending.

Subjects discussed were: Traffic and parking problems – These were not really considered a police matter, and we were advised to contact the council with any problems. Stretches of road in the locality that would benefit from the of a speed gun were discussed.

Recent cases of theft of window boxes, large plant pots and hanging baskets were mentioned. We were told that all cases of theft, however minor should be reported so that a pattern of criminal activity can be established. It was suggested that all plant containers that may be at risk should be marked or labelled to aid later identification. For example a

label could be hidden inside the pot. If you identify your stolen pot, the advice was to call the police.

The boundaries of the Chelsfield SNT area were discussed as the SNT were not aware of some of the houses in the area that we consider to be part of the village and which appeared to be missed out. They agreed to provide details of the current Chelsfield Village Neighbourhood watch boundaries on to the CVS.

The SNT team agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme would benefit from the publicity of a re-launch and some new notices.

The new initiative "Dog register" was discussed. This will enable the SNT to link any lost dogs in the area to their possible owners. Over the last few weeks, they have been able to locate the owners

of a number of lost dogs in the area.

This register will also allow the SNT to contact all dog walkers to help find lost dogs. Many dog walkers talk to each other and this is the best way to communicate, and pass on information the best way to describe it, is to see it as a Neighbourhood watch for dogs.

If you would like more information call the SNT on 02028 721 2605

You can visit their web page on <http://www.met.police.uk/teams/bromley/chelsfieldandprattsbottom/index.php>.

This site has recently been updated, you can now view team members and the actually area covered.

You can e-mail the team directly at: chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@met.police.uk

The Latest Visitor to Chelsfield Village

Following on from the Albino Squirrel (who is now an established resident), we now have the honour of visits by a beautiful Peacock.

He has been a regular sight around Well Hill for some time, but he has now decided to come down to the village to take a look around.

Currently he has settled at Bucks Cross Farm, but don't be surprised if you see him elsewhere in the village over the coming weeks! (see next page)

The Peacock at Bucks Cross Farm**Letters****Follow up to clay pigeon slaughter**

I too am distressed to hear the senseless slaughter of these innocent victims every Sunday morning. Unlike their feathered counterparts they do not have the wit to take evasive action. As a right to roamer, I have been witness to shooting par-

ties where the failure to hit one of these more intelligent birds results in hearty cheers from the observers. Please spare a thought for their unfortunate relatives who have no control over their own destiny.

Catherine Gandolfi

Internet Café &**Dog Watch**

Dear Village Voice

I am very interested in the idea of an Internet Café in the village. It is exactly what I need – the sooner the better!

I also think the “dog watch” idea is good, as a daily dog walker would be willing to take part.

Elsa Sjøvorr

Chelsfield Internet Cafe

The proposal of an Internet Café in the last Village Voice was well received with a number of residents contacting the Village Voice. The aim is to provide Internet access and computer help for those lo-

cal residents wishing to learn more about this technology, or to help them with their problems. Refreshments will be available. All equipment will be provided, or bring your own, or alternatively just come

along for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

It is planned to start this service on Wednesday July 22nd 2:30 in the afternoon in the Parish Room. Hope to see you there!

Local History Group

The last meeting on the 3rd Thursday in June, 10:15 in the Brass Crosby room, was an informative talk/discussion on local politics and constitutional matters, chaired by Paul Rason.

Orpington had its first MP in 1945, a Conservative, Sir Waldron Smithers. He had previously been the MP for Chislehurst, and he obviously made a good choice as Chislehurst went labour! He remained MP for Orpington until his death in 1955.

Donald Summers beat a young Margaret Thatcher, then living in

Farnborough, to represent Orpington. Mrs T later tried again in Finchley. Donald Summers became MP from 1955 to 1962, forcing a by election when he became a County Court judge.

The by election was won by Eric Lubbock for the Liberals. The 'Orpington Man' remained MP until 1970, losing to Ivor Stanbrook who took Orpington back to the Conservatives. John Horam took over in 1992.

It was surprising how many of the audience remembered most of these!

The borough of Bromley is the largest in size of the London boroughs, and about third in population of around 300,000. Recent boundary changes, due to population variations were discussed, and past council results for constituencies within Bromley compared.

Finally ward based information from census returns and other sources, for a number of Bromley wards was compared to show interesting variations throughout the borough.

The next meeting is in September.

Tales From Chelsfield Past - continued

Times Past - Times Present - Part Three

Following on from my last article I would like to continue along the same lines and offer more thoughts about the individuals who used to call regularly in Chelsfield Village and the surrounding area.

First of all I refer back to the item in the last issue about the replenishment of the batteries for radios. Although I have used the word "battery" in the original article the term used at the time was "accumulator" and the mention of this word seems to have stirred a great many memories locally. Taking the accumulator to be re-charged seems to have been a regular task often given to younger family members, and at the time was seen as one of the necessary chores in everyday life. A while after the article was prepared my

mother, Vera, remembered that the name of the "accumulator man" from Pratts Bottom was Mr. Brennan. I hope that this detail in itself will stir some more memories and I am glad to be able to include Mr Brennan in our local recollection as the task he undertook was a much valued one for Chelsfield residents.

In the 1920s/1930s Orpington was more like a village with far more residential dwellings than shops. At this time St. Mary Cray was the main centre for shopping if needs were not able to be met in Chelsfield Village. However unlike today, the requirements of local residents were also met through regular callers in the Village area, offering a multitude of goods and services. I have recounted a number of these in past issues and would like to take this opportunity to add some more.

During the 1920s a feature of life in Chelsfield Village every Sunday was a visit by a man called Mr Dibley. The more familiar name for Mr Dibley, however, was the "winkle man" as for very many years Mr Dibley sold winkles, shrimps and also water-cress from a stall in the yard at the Five Bells pub. My mother remembers that there was a big trade every Sunday for the winkles, shrimps etc. and people came from a wide area especially to make a purchase for Sunday tea. Woe betide the winkle man if he did not turn up for any reason with so many disappointed and hungry customers!

After Mr Dibley during the 1930s and up until the outbreak of the War, another "winkle man" used to visit Chelsfield every Sunday. His name was Mr Dick Palmer and he used to sell winkles and

possibly also shrimps in the bar of the Kent Hounds pub on Well Hill. Mr and Mrs Palmer lived in the East End of London and used to come down to Chelsfield each weekend to visit their daughter and son-in-law Mr Albert Costin. At the time of writing, Albert still lived on Well Hill in the same cottage as then, not far from the Kent Hounds. Mick used to bring the winkles with him fresh from East London when he came down every weekend. Once again there was a big trade for the winkles which were sold at 8d a pint - old pennies, of course. During the wartime hostilities Mick and his wife were bombed out of their East End home and moved down to live in Chelsfield. At first they lived with Mrs Annie Evans - a well remembered resident of Well Hill of that period. Later Mick and his wife lived in a cottage located next to the Kent hounds pub although, of course, the "winkle"

trade was no longer possible thereafter in the much changed wartime circumstances. At the same time as the "winkle" men were coming to Chelsfield, the traditional "muffin" man was also a regular visitor with his board of fresh muffins for sale. Unfortunately, I do not know the name of the Chelsfield muffin man - perhaps one of our older readers will remember. It would be interesting to know more about this individual if at all possible so that he can be included in another article.

In the course of the 1920s and onwards there were several regular visitors to the Chelsfield area who sold flowers and plants. A man who came for many years with numerous plants was Mr Riddle. My mother remembers that he used to have the most lovely violas which were always purchased by Bert Parkes as well as many other types of flowers.

Another seller of plants and flowers in the Village and surrounding area was a man called Mr Crawley. On other occasions he also sold fresh fish from his horse and cart. In later years Mr Crawley and other members of his family sold flowers and plants from a stall outside the White Hart pub in Orpington High Street. It was only in recent years that they were stopped from selling at this venue by the local Council who considered the enterprise a hazard to traffic flow - sadly now a sign of the changing times in our locality.

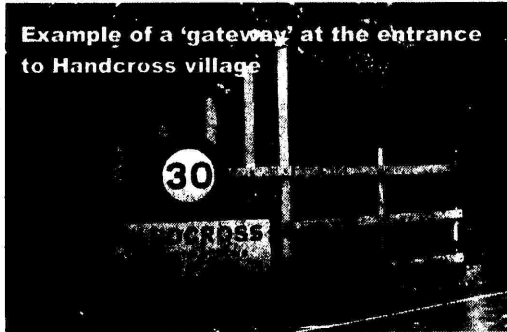
I hope to continue this theme in the next issue with more recollections of life and times now much changed around Chelsfield.

Contributor Carol Margetts (Grand-Daughter of Bert & Gladys Parkes)

Traffic Sub-Committee Report

Last year's AGM and the village questionnaire found that traffic and parking problems were of great concern to many residents. A sub-committee has been formed and met on 17th June

to formulate some ideas to address these problems which were affecting the village. The committee members had previously researched local examples of how these



Example of a 'gateway' at the entrance to Handcross village

problems are dealt with elsewhere, and the range of measures available. It was thought that the several entrances to the village would benefit from a gateway treatment such

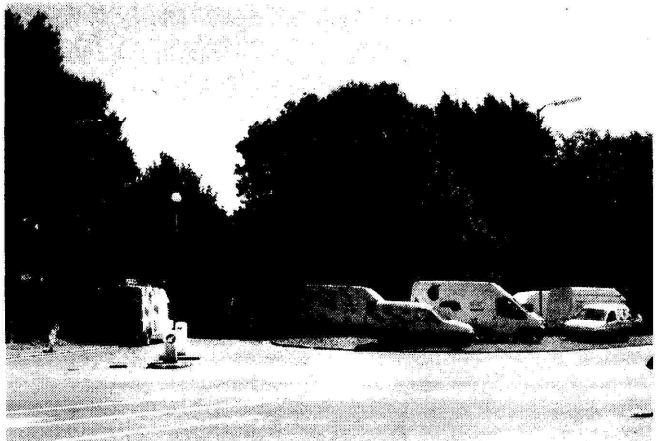
as can be seen in other villages, see picture. Roundabouts, lower advisory speed limits, the reshaping of junctions, chicanes, double yellow lines at junctions and kerb build outs were considered to provide safer street parking. A meeting with a local councillor is now being arranged to put forward these proposals and find the way forward.
Watch this space!

EDF Invade Chelsfield Village

Late in the evening of Monday 22nd June the residents of Chelsfield Village suffered yet another unscheduled power cut. This was reputed to affect 1500 homes. The last residents saw power reconnected nearly 18 hours later. A spate of neighbourliness broke out providing hot water for those unable to boil kettles and several burglar alarms were heard punctuating the tranquillity of a lovely summer's day when their internal batteries ran down. Ten assorted

vehicles plus diggers spent most of the day in the new Chelsfield Village car park. We are all look-

ing forward to our compensation payments for this inconvenience.



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council Details Main switchboard Telephone: 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	between 11:15 and 11:45. Books can be reserved from here, or over the Internet via the Bromley library website for later picking up from the mobile library.	Chelsfield Primary School 01689 825827
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.	Councillors Julian Grainger 01689 889392 julian.grainger@bromley.gov.uk Samaris Huntington-Thresher 020 8464 3333 Samaris.Huntington-Thresher@bromley.gov.uk Bob Evans 01689 853002 robert.evans@bromley.gov.uk	BT Line Faults 0800 800151 Electrical Power Failure (EDF) 08007838866
Mobile Library The mobile library stops outside Chelsfield Village School on Tuesdays be-	Chelsfield Village Society cvscontact@googlemail.com Chelsfield Village Voice villagevoice@chelsfield.org	Thames Water Emergencies 0845 9200800 Transco Gas Emergency Service 0800 111999 Orpington Police Station 1000-1800 Monday-Saturday 0300 1231212 Samaritans 01689 833000 NHS Direct 0845 4647 Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 8721 2605

Why not join Chelsfield Village Society?

Chelsfield Village Society acts as the voice of Chelsfield Village. We receive and disseminate local information. We are consulted on various local, council, borough and Greater London matters. We have the opportunity to represent the Village on several local bodies. Without the Village Society our voices would not be heard and we would not be informed of local information. As a member you can elect the committee, serve on the committee and take part in decision making about the future of your village.

It only costs £3 a year to be a member of Chelsfield Village Society, or £30 for life membership. If you would like to join please fill in the form using capitals and send to Catherine Gandolfi,

3 Orlestone Gardens, Chelsfield Village. BR6 6HB

I enclose £3 for annual membership, or £30 for life membership of Chelsfield Village Society.

(cheques payable to Chelsfield Village Society)

Name Phone

Address

email

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 5th July

Keston Common

Keston Countryside Day
a wonderful afternoon
with exhibits from most of
the local wildlife and
environmental groups

Tuesday 7th July

Five Bells

Charity Quiz
Night 9.00pm

Wednesday 8th July

Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve

Bird Walk 6.30pm

Saturday 11th July

Cricket Field

Chelsfield Village Fair.
This year with two his-
toric flying displays, as
well as all the traditional
Fun of the Fair! Gates
Open 12.00 midday

Saturday 11th July

Five Bells

Liam Coleman & Friends
playing live Irish & popu-
lar songs from 9.00pm

Sunday 12th July

Well Hill Mission Church

A

Concert for Well Hill—
The Thames Gateway
Quartet. 3.00pm

Tickets £6.00 Box Office
01689 874876 / 823749 /
823749

Tuesdays 14th 21st

& 28th July

Five Bells

Charity Quiz Nights
9.00pm

Friday 17th July

Five Bells

Marc Palmer plays live
music from 9.00pm

Sunday 19th July

Foal Farm

Foal Farm Country
Festival

Wed 22nd July

Parish Room

Internet Café open for
first time 2.30pm – come
and join us!

Wed 22nd Thur 23rd

Fri 24th & Sat 25th

July

Chelsfield Village Hall

Chelsfield Players pre-
sent "Lady Windermere's
Fan" by Oscar Wilde
Tickets available from
24th June from Box Of-
fice on 01689 831187

Wed 2nd September

Vernon Hall High St St Mary Cray BR5 4AX

Weekly Country Market
starts (Morning)

Saturday 19th Sept

Chelsfield Village Hall
Chelsfield & Well Hill

Produce Show. For
Schedule of classes

please contact:

Catherine 01689 831826
or Chris 01959 535022

Sat/Sun 17/18th Oct

Chelsfield Village Hall

Philip Lane's Chelsfield
Photo Show

Tuesday 3rd Nov

Brass Crosby Room

Chelsfield Village Society
AGM followed by an illus-
trated talk

Wed 18th Thur 19th

Fri 20th & Sat 21st

November

Chelsfield Village Hall

Chelsfield Players pre-
sent Time and The Con-
ways" by JB Priestley

Please send your

diary dates to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or post to:

Chelsfield Village Voice

2 Bucks Cross

Cottages

Chelsfield Village

Kent

BR6 7RN

Keep in touch

VISIT CHELSFIELD

ONLINE

go to

www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk