

CHELSEFIELD VILLAGE VOICE

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

July 2010

Chelsfield Village Fair
 10th July 2010
 Gates open 12 noon
 chelsfieldfair.com

IN SUPPORT OF HELP for HEROES

Flying Displays from the Spirit of Kent Spitfire and a De Havilland Vampire!

the Fun of the Fair

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CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE !

Do you have any amusing stories old photos or forthcoming events? Let the whole village know by sending us the details or article!

Contributions for our August issue should be emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
 2 Bucks Cross Cottages
 Chelsfield Village
 BR67RN

Visit

www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk



Bring your family and a picnic to
THE BIG LUNCH!
 In The Rectory Gardens on
 Sunday 18th July
 (pudding provided)

Chelsfield Players 'A Wedding Story'

Looking at the synopsis, I really was not sure I was going to enjoy the May production 'A Wedding Story' by Bryony Lavery, about a family dealing with Alzheimer's. I knew that the play description had put off a number of regular patrons from seeing it, probably expecting a harrowing tale.

The play portrayed the contrast between the lifelong unconditional love shown by Evelyn and Peter and the unwillingness of their daughter Sally to commit to her new found partner Grace and the failure of son Robin's marriage and separation from his children. The two grown up children were afraid of and unprepared for their new roles as carers but by the end of the play had taken everything in their stride including Sally's commitment to a civil partnership with Grace. It was good to see some

strong female roles.

Madeleine McCubbin, as Evelyn, gave an excellent and sensitive portrayal of an intelligent doctor's decline due to Alzheimer's and Andrew Haggerty's Peter had the audience's wholehearted sympathy as he showed a gradual wearing down and loss of self control. As daughter Sally, Lana Beckwith slipped effortlessly in and out of role as she narrated throughout the play. She portrayed the conversion of cynicism to commitment with conviction. With a small cast of only five the play must have been very demanding for the main characters to perform.

The play flowed seamlessly from scene to scene using sharp and witty dialogue. There were often four or five characters on stage but not all taking part. The action would pass smoothly from one couple to another as the

subject changed. I'm sure we all found the moments of humour a welcome relief from the distress and sadness affecting the characters.

An emotional ending was helped by the well chosen Billy Joel song – 'She's Always a Woman to Me', now with a wider audience with its recent use in a TV advertisement.

The inclusion of wedding cake with the intermission tea was a nice touch as was the raising of donations for the Alzheimer's Society.

Overall this was an enjoyable heart warming play that worked well. I thought it the best Players' production I had seen for quite some time. Those residents who were put off by its challenging subject missed a treat. In common with Evelyn, Casa Blanca is one of my favourite films too!

A view from the stalls

Alien Invasion in the Village

We now have Japanese Knotweed in our vicinity. Bromley Council are aware and have confirmed its identity. This is the most invasive species of plant in Britain and it spreads extremely quickly, preventing native vegetation from growing. It is a notifiable species and one can be held liable for costs incurred from the spread of Knotweed

into adjacent properties.

Japanese Knotweed is a rhizomatous perennial plant which was introduced into Europe in the 18th century as an ornamental plant. Since its introduction, it has thrived in the European climate and with no natural predators it has become a force to be reckoned with. Oddly all European plants are

female and because they don't need male germination, there are no male plants in Europe. All reproduction is purely through cuttings being transported to new site areas.

It can grow at over 100mm a day and tiny fragments of rhizome are enough to give rise to a fresh plant. The rhizome and root system can spread up to 7 metres in length and 3 metres in depth dependent on soil conditions.

The plant can cause significant damage to construction work and has the power to grow through tarmac, paving stones, brickwork, cement and even houses. Purely through cell expansion, the plant will find the smallest crack or joint and then force its way through, cracking the already damaged masonry.



Neighbourhood Watch 'Rogue Traders'

Our local Safer Neighbourhood Team have passed on the following message:

Please be on the look out for TREEMASTERS a business advertising themselves as 'Your Local Tree Services'. They have been leafleting parts of the Borough.

The address and post-code on the leaflet do not compliment each other and we suspect they are rogue traders. We have tried to find who is behind this business without success. Any sighting / intelligence would be appreciated. If you have information, please contact - Brian Davies, Senior

Consumer Protection Inspector. E Mail: brian.davies@bromley.gov.uk
Mobile: 07944 878194
Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley BR1 3UH, Telephone: 020 8461 7483

Our SNT team now has a **Doorstep Crime Rapid Response Number - 07903 852090**

Parcel Delivery Scam

Be warned about a parcel delivery scam where a yellow parcel delivery card informs householders that a courier has been unable to deliver a parcel and gives a premium rate telephone number to ring starting with 09.....

The regulator of premium rate phone services (phonepayplus) is planning a crackdown on rogue traders and is asking the public for information, with the intention of making significant changes to the current code of practice, such as providers of

premium rate services being required to register. Phonepayplus are asking consumers who receive a delivery card using a premium rate number, to contact them on: 0800 500 212 or via its website: www.phonepayplus.org.uk

Trench Mystery Deepens

Those of you who venture down Skibbs Lane may have noticed an unusual change recently in a field on the left, just after passing the

Coal Post. This now has a carefully prepared trench across the whole width of the field, and at right angles to the road. Around 3-4 feet wide

and 3-4 feet deep and with the chalky soil piled up carefully to form a high bank on one side of the trench. What could this possibly be for??

Report From Local History Group

This month's local history meeting was a talk given by Paul Rason concerning the need for local and family historians to know the boundaries of the authorities or other groups at the time of the researchers time period of interest. For example a census entry in 1881 would state born in 'Rotherhithe, Surrey', so any further research may have to be directed to the Surrey County Archives. If 'Abbey Wood, Kent' was shown; again a search may have to be made at Maidstone Archives although today both have SE postal addresses and would seem well inside the London area. Paul went on to explain the forming of the Metropolitan Police and their expansion from central London in 1829 out to the suburbs of leafy Farnborough, St Mary Cray and Bromley by 1840. The rank, supervision and general control of the 'New Police' development was also explained with the

use of the 'Collar', later 'Shoulder' numbers of the Constables and the use of the alphabet to denote the different Divisions of the Force.

The outer boundary was then set roughly on the line of the now familiar 'Coal Posts' which are still to be seen at Green Street Green, Chelsfield Lane, Skibbs Lane and elsewhere.

Chelsfield was covered by the Kent County Constabulary until after the Second World War when in 1947 it was transferred to the Met along with other small areas of Kent.

Paul was also able show that the almost daily 'Police Orders' i.e. instruction to the Force contained much what we would call today 'Social History'. Sighting a reference in 1840 to 'Punch and Judy Shows', police not to interfere with; unless causing an Obstruction of the Highway with crowds forming etc. and most importantly that Constables were the

'Servants of all the Public' and not to act or be treated as 'Servants' of individuals, as they no doubt would take advantage of the PC. This was an oblique reference to the attitude that could and would have been the norm for the local 'gentry' to order around men in what they regarded as a lower class.

Paul was then handed out bound copies of Police Orders from various years (1871, 1881, 1946 etc) which the members attending found most interesting, reading about dismissals or rewards for bravery, new laws and even restrictions on animal movement in Foot and Mouth Control Orders as late as 1946 covering St Mary Cray, Orpington, Tubbenden and on towards Holwood Farm etc. The detail of the development of the 'New Police' and arrival in this part of Kent the members found to be of great interest.

Plea for Bottle And Cake Donations

Chelsfield Village Society will be running its usual bottle tombola at the Summer fair on July 10th. Alan Johnson requests that you leave bottles on his doorstep at Rounds, the house opposite Chelsfield Lane in the

village. Profits from the stall will be used to offset the production costs of your free monthly newsletter, the "Village Voice" which now has a circulation of around 350 copies.

The catering team of the Summer Fair would be pleased to receive donations of cakes to sell in the Village Hall for refreshments with tea/coffee etc. These should be taken to the kitchen on the day of the Fair.

News From LBB Residents Federation Meeting

70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Come along to honour and pay tribute to RAF veterans who fought in the Battle of Britain. This will take place on 25th June 2010 10:30 to 1:00pm. They will parade along Bromley High Street to Market Square in vintage vehicles, where they will take part in a ceremony marking the freedom of the borough given to RAF Biggin Hill in 1980. Doves will be released and (weather permitting) the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will undertake a flypast. This will be followed by celebratory music and dancing from the 1940s.

The gate guardians at Biggin Hill Airport have

been replaced. The old Hurricane has a new home at RAF Northolt but the Spitfire was sold to a private buyer and turned up for sale on ebay for a reserve of £20,000. There were no bids!

New rail timetables came in to effect on Monday 24th May. There seem to be more services stopping at Chelsfield and Orpington. Copies can be picked up from the local stations or timetables viewed at www.southeasternrailway.co.uk.

If you have problems with appointments and obtaining test results the Patients Advisory Liaison Service (PALS) at the PRU is there to help and is highly recommended.

The office is located on the left hand side after the shop.

Safer Neighbourhood Team officers have been trained in the use of laser speed guns but have to refer their findings of offenders to the police. Three speed cameras will be/have been installed in Crofton Road. Even the buses have been timed at 40mph going down the hill, but not by the cameras – yet.

Finally, Bromley have changed the contractor for the telephone operated parking system but, showing a lack of forward thinking, neglected to post the phone number of the new contractor.

Transition Towns

These have been in the news recently; their aim is to equip communities for the future challenges of climate change, resource dependency and the need to move away from our heavy dependence on oil for many aspects of life – including transport, food production and distribution. This dependency means we have very low resilience to rising oil prices or fuel shortages. The movement seeks to increase our communities' resilience by reducing our dependency on oil by localising the economy and growing food locally.

The Transition Movement was started as a joint initiative by Rob Hopkins

and Ben Brangwyn, with Totnes becoming the first transition town in 2006.

The initiative spread quickly, and by January 2010, there were 275 communities throughout the world recognized as official Transition Towns. While referred to as 'towns', the communities involved range from villages (Kinsale), towns such as Brighton, suburbs (Portobello, Edinburgh), through council districts (Penwith) to cities and city boroughs (Brixton).

Brighton has a population of about 250,000, so an effective transition to a low carbon economy requires a network of smaller groups based on

the various communities in the area.

The Transition movement has attracted a wide age range but has so far failed to attract hard-to-reach groups or non-greens.

Neighbouring Sevenoaks has now become a Transition Town. This came about through many local ecological groups getting together with a view to reducing Sevenoaks' carbon footprint. They have run many events, including a very successful Insulation Day. There is a Food Group, and they are trying to get a grant for running a food market and gardening advice centre.

Fly Tipper & Local Firm Fined

It has been reported in the local press that Fly-tipping in Polhill cost a Halstead company and a Hartley man more than £35,000. BSP (Knockholt) and driver Gregory Roff both pleaded guilty to participating in what was described as a "large scale, audacious dumping operation". Cleanup costs ex-

ceeded £500,000.

Roff, 45, of Ash Road, Hartley was handed a £9,000 fine and costs of £19,000.

Maidstone Crown Court heard he dumped 97 loads.

BSP (Knockholt), of Sevenoaks Road, Halstead, must pay a fine of £4,000,

plus £3,000 legal costs and clean-up costs of £250.

In all, four companies and five drivers admitted dumping a total of 8,200 cubic metres of waste over a three-week period. They were ordered to pay £153,400 for breaching the 1990 Environment Protection Act.

A History of Chelsfield Village Bakery

The history of the Smallwood family bakery business in Chelsfield Village spans a period of 70 years. Throughout that time the bakery with its shop and daily deliveries was an integral part of life in the Village and far beyond into the surrounding areas. Even into the 1950s, residents used local shops and availed themselves of house to house deliveries of basic provisions. The Smallwood bakery was one of the foremost by providing daily supplies of bakery products over a period of 70 years.

The Smallwood bakery business was founded by Mr. Thomas Smallwood in 1882. (Mr. Thomas Smallwood Snr. was Betty Smallwood's Grandfather). It was located at Crosshall in Chelsfield Village and from these premises bakery products were sold and also delivered to the surrounding areas. There was also a second bakery running in Chelsfield Village at that time, located at premises nearby which are now private houses called "The Old Bakery" and "Courtyard House". This second bakery was known as The

Climax Bakery and was owned and run by Mr. Horace Groom and his wife. Thus two bakeries were successfully operating in Chelsfield Village at the same time.

In due course Mr. Thomas Smallwood's son - also called Tom Smallwood, developed a baking business with his wife (Nell) at Faversham in Kent, and this ran most successfully there for many years. The time came when Mr. Horace Groom decided to give up his baking business following the death of his wife and at this point Tom Smallwood decided to take over the Groom's bakery premises and he moved his business from Faversham to Chelsfield Village. The name "Climax Bakery" was retained by Tom Smallwood when he transferred to Chelsfield. For a while the two Smallwood family bakeries ran alongside each other and did so until 1933 when Mr Thomas Smallwood decided to retire. Subsequent to this it was decided to merge the two bakery operations in Chelsfield Village onto one site at the premises nowadays known as "The Old Bakery" and "Courtyard House".

In the earliest period of the Smallwood bakery business at Crosshall, the premises consisted of the bakery itself with the ovens etc. plus private living accommodation attached for Mr Thomas Smallwood and his family. The bakery also had a shop facility for selling produce directly from the premises. Betty Smallwood recalls that customers did not actually enter a shop area as such, but were served at a counter with the various wares being brought there from the area behind where they were stored. The top half of the counter had a door which could be pushed open by the customer and at the same time a bell rang inside the shop, which summoned staff to the counter for service. There was a display window for the bakery products which still looks much the same today although, of course, Crosshall is now a private house.

As well as sales direct from the Crosshall premises, the bakery produce was delivered six days a week to a wide area around Chelsfield Village. The area encompassed

included Well Hill, Park Gate, Pratts Bottom, Halstead, Green Street Green and Chelsfield Lane with no delivery charge ever levied on the customer.

For many years the bakery produce from Crosshall was delivered using a horse and cart as the mode of transport. At that time, Mr Thomas Smallwood owned the field at the rear of Crosshall where the horses were grazed and kept in stables which were built there. Deliveries were made throughout the year and in all weather conditions, no matter how difficult that might have been. In particular, Betty Smallwood recalls the extremely heavy snowfall of 1926 when deliveries had to be made using pack horses to carry bread to

the local villages and outlying dwellings. The usual horse and cart transport would never have got through the lanes which were almost completely blocked by deep snow, which reached the level of the top of the hedgerows in that memorable winter.

In later years at Crosshall the horse drawn transport of the bakery produce was replaced by motorised means such as a van or lorry. However, in conditions of extreme snowfall or icy lanes the delivery of bread etc. must have been just as difficult and unpleasant as in earlier times but customers' needs were always met somehow. Over the long period of its operation the Smallwood name was held in very high regard and no wonder when customers were nev-

er left short of supplies no matter how adverse the conditions week by week. After the retirement of Mr. Thomas Smallwood in 1933 it was decided in due course to move the Crosshall bakery business onto the site already being used by Tom Smallwood and combine into one baking facility. As already mentioned this site is now occupied by two private dwellings called "The Old Bakery" and "Courtyard House".

(To be continued)

Written by Carol Margetts

With the invaluable help and co-operation of Mrs. Betty Owen (nee Smallwood)

Plus additional detailed information and inspiration from Mrs. Vera Margetts

Trouble With Horse Chestnuts

Over the last few years you may have noticed that our local horse chestnut trees are being attacked by a pest that can cause the trees to lose many of their leaves in late summer. Although these trees can look dead, they are probably still healthy.

The premature leaf loss is a result of being infested with the larvae of horse chestnut leaf miner moths, (*cameraria ohridella*) that is

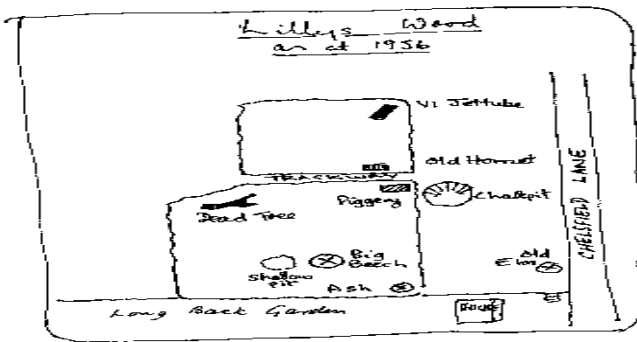
spreading across the southern half of England. The larvae mine within the leaves, which eventually shrivel and drop off as early as the middle of August. Infested trees do not look pretty, but they are well able to withstand the damage, and should grow normally the following year.

The owners of horse chestnut trees can help to limit the effects of this pest by

disposing of the fallen leaves in autumn by collecting and burning, or composted under 10cm (4 inches) or other plant material. This should reduce the degree of attack next year and will help to maintain the health of the tree.

The Commission's Forest Research agency is monitoring the spread of horse chestnut leaf miner moth..

Childhood Memories of Lillys Wood



practice stopped before the War. There was also the remains of a Wolsley Hornet which we could sit in and pretend to drive. Far up in the top right corner was the rusting jet tube of a Doodlebug or V1 which we also sat in. This was there for many years but vanished just before I became interested in it historically, so I lost out. In the field outside was a large chalk pit that I now find was used as a source of chalk for marling by Lillys Farm. Mention of it is made in Thomas Brooker's diaries. This has been filled in.

Across the other side, deeply hidden and hard to find, was a long fallen tree ideal for climbing over, if a bit slippery in the wet.

Since Bromley took over this wood it has been heavily thinned and managed and much of the mystery has gone. It probably was overdue for this but the hurricane of '87 did a lot of damage.. It is still lovely to walk through but I am not sure if the horn-beam still adorns the western edge with its silvery leaves. I hope there are still masses of bluebells - I will revisit this Spring to find out.

During the early 1950's we lived in Chelsfield Lane near to Goddington Park entrance. I had two groups of regular friends who occasionally met up. The principle local gang was Colin Bearsby, David and Andrew Taylor, Jimmy Chalk, Mike Markin and Bernard Tritton. Our favourite adventure playground was Lillys Wood with its huge trees and secret corners. It was, it seemed to us, private and there was always the very remote threat of being turfed out. Without the woodland pathways that exist today some areas were very inaccessible and overgrown and it had "corners". As we entered the wood from Chelsfield Lane there was big ash tree which was great for climbing. From the top of this you could see for miles across London and we carved our names into the bark up there in 1956. When the tree fell in the

hurricane I could just make these out. A few yards in was a big beech, still there, which had 6" nails driven in as footholds. We used these to get into the main tree and would challenge ourselves to jump down, a drop of some 8 feet. I was around this tree that we would sometimes dig trap pits to catch the unwary other local kids and they would do the same for us. Holes about two feet deep covered in brushwood and leaves. Good legbreakers today and probably not approved of! The wood was split in two by an old cart track linking the two fields. At one end was the "Tin Elephant", a rusting corrugated iron shed for either farm machinery or pigs. Close by some old pig troughs and a small swill cooking building. They used to keep small groups of pigs locally to forage for nuts and acorns. We never saw any as I think the

Philip Lane

Eating Out - 7 Hotel/Diner - Voice Rating ☹☹☹☹

Earlier this year a new Hotel and American style Diner opened at the top of Polhill.

Formerly 'Michaels Restaurant' the building has been completely rebuilt as a 25 room Hotel incorporating the diner restaurant.

Our mystery diners visited on a Wednesday evening and found the diner very busy.

The starters were typically

American Style with much of the food from the freezer and deep fried.

Salads were basic and not particularly well presented.

The Vegetarian Chilli was served with Tortilla chips and Fries (everything seems to come with fries!)

The burger / meat dishes really didn't excite any of our diners.

This is not a place to go for a night out unless you particularly like American style fried pre-prepared foods.

None of our mystery diners thought they would return again in the future.

Some on-line reviewers, however, do seem to enjoy their visits!

7 Hotel & Diner, London Road, Polhill, Kent TN14 7AA 01959 535890

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail:

csc@bromley.gov.uk

Opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Address: Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

Reporting Problems to the Council

Can be reported via the CVS website, or if urgent by phone out of hours Emergency Duty Team 020 8464 4848.

Mobile Library

The mobile library stops outside Chelsfield Village

School on Tuesdays 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.

Councillors

Julian Grainger
01689 889392

julian.grainger@bromley.gov.uk

Samaris Huntington-Thresher
020 8464 3333

samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk

Russell Jackson

russell.jackson@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Society

cvscontact@gmail.com

Chelsfield Village Voice

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BT Line Faults	0800 800151
Electrical Power Failure (EDF)	08007838866
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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall
Windsor Drive

Iyengar Yoga Classes

9.30am-11.00am

Suitable for Beginners

Contact Denise on

01689 853215

EVERY TUESDAY

Parish Room Skibbs Lane

Mums & Tots Group

10.00am-12.00 midday

Details 01959 535110

EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Art Workshop

"Art for the Fun of it"

4.00pm-5.00pm

5 years and upwards

£8.00 per child

Details 01959 532761

geraldinefranklin @bt.com

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

Charity Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY**Hatha Yoga Classes**

10.30am-12.00am

Contact Pam Keeper on

01732 458930

EVERY WEDNESDAY**Rugby for Girls**

Any Age

Evening training from

September to May

Contact Kevin

0208 289 8566

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thurs day 8th July

**(2nd Thursday Each
Month)**

Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

Come and Try Your Hand at
a Range of Crafts

11.00am

Saturday 10th July

Cricket / Recreation Field

Chelsfield Village**Fair**

12.00 Midday onwards

Sunday 18th July

Rectory Gardens

The BIG LUNCH

bring a picnic lunch -

puddings provided

12.30pm

Punch & Judy 2.30pm

Saturday 24th July

Five Bells

Steak Night

Booking advisable

01689 821044

Thursday 15th July

(3rd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15am—Midday

Wednesday 28th July**Thursday 29th July****Friday 30th July and****Saturday 31st July**

Chelsfield Village Hall

The Chelsfield Players

Present

La Musica and**Perfect Partners**

Two short plays by Bryony

Lavery directed by Madeline

McCubbin

Booking Office:

01689 831187

Thursday 5th August

**(1st Thursday Each
Month)**

Five Bells

Live Jazz Thursday

"Just Friends" will be

playing their monthly set

Thursday 12th August

Five Bells

Bargain Evening

~~Fish & Chips and a pint!~~

Saturday 24th August

Five Bells

Tapas Evening

Enjoy the many tastes of

that wonderful country

Spain

Booking advisable

~~01689 821044~~

Friday 27th August

Five Bells

**Gastronom Taster
Evening**

An 8 course meal for all

foodies - win a day in our

kitchen with head chef

Chris!

Booking advisable

~~01689 821044~~

Sunday 29th August

Five Bells

**5th Anniversary
Party**

~~Live Music with the Ray~~

Rich Band

Saturday 4th September

Chelsfield Village Hall

Produce Show

for a schedule phone
