



June 2021

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## THE CHELSFIELD TO CLOSE?

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



It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Punch Pubs notified us on Friday that they are not renewing our lease.

Our last day will be on the 20th July 2021. We will honour all events booked before that date and have already contacted everyone booked thereafter. We are sorry for any disappointment caused, however this was totally unforeseen and out of our control. We hope you will be understanding.

We have loved our custodianship of The Chelsfield, breathing new life into the pub and making lots of wonderful memories in the process.

Thank you all for your support and custom over the years. We hope to see as many of you as possible before we have to hand back the keys.

Kind regards

Tom, James & all members of our  
hardworking team

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Are any of our local groups or clubs planning to get started or hold events again in the near future? If so, let us know.

Keep us posted on your plans, thoughts, stories and experiences.

Submit anything for inclusion in the July 2021 issue to:

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

(or phone 07414 92020)  
to arrive on or before  
Friday 25th June 2021

## The Mole

Over the winter I noticed that a large hole had appeared to the side of my shed in the allotment. Luckily it opens onto a piece of wasteland so it's not a concern to me but just this week the fox has decided that her den needs a front entrance (expecting guests ?) and has excavated soil in front of the shed where soil is dumped onto my mown lawn. I shovelled it back in an attempt to suggest that it's not a good plan and backed that theme up with an old fork spline stuck into the ground: so only time will tell. And while on the subject of sheds, the blue tit eggs in the bird box on my shed at home have hatched and every time I enter the chicks start calling out. I noticed the other morning that the parents were flying relays between the box and the 'fat balls' in my bird feeder at the other end of the garden. Come on guys: that's just lazy...

This month I want to write about the humble mole (*Talpa europaea*). Some years ago I had an allotment patch that sat in

the corner of the site close to trees and maybe for this reason I was more susceptible to moles than other plot holders into the area. Having said that, it was not a frequent problem but I do remember seeing an active molehill being built while I stood and watched. Something I considered myself to be quite lucky to witness as usually these molehills just appear overnight without any evidence of their creation. A friend of mine wanted to see a molehill in construction and had this on his 'bucket list' when just last year he achieved it although he was not quick enough to record it

on his mobile phone!

So, most are aware of the manner that moles make a living but due to its life style (underground) very few of us have seen one of these creatures. They have a reputation for being trouble as they can cause a lot of damage to a nicely mown lawn or other garden features. The soil heaps they produce are extracted from tunnels they excavate and the point of those is to act as traps for worms to fall into therefore presenting themselves for dinner. The saliva of moles has the ability to paralyse earthworms and these worms – sometimes



hundreds of them, can be stored within the tunnels for later use. So, they are a mixed bag really as they cause damage but aerate the soil and also eat pests like slugs and root eating insects while not being interested in plant roots themselves.

Living within the tunnels requires certain adaptations and one of these is the ability to tolerate higher carbon dioxide levels than other mammals. This is possible as their blood cells have a special form of haemoglobin that has a higher affinity to oxygen than cells found in mammals that live above ground. They can also re-use exhaled air allowing them to survive for long periods below ground.

Another adaptation is a polydactyl thumb. This is an additional thumb which helps the mole dig through soil and can they dig! Apparently they can produce up to 20 meters of tunnels in a day and it's the spoil from these tunnels that can cause moles to be such a problem. To aid their subterranean lifestyles their velvety fur does not have a nap. That is, it does not fall in any given

direction unlike the fur of surface creatures. This allows the mole to reverse along a tunnel without getting soil clogged in its fur. A type of closely woven cotton called 'moleskin' is named after the pelt of moles as the feel of both is somewhat similar. But this nicely napped pelt makes the fur rather splendid for making expensive coats although somewhat fiddly due to the small size of the pelt. Queen Alexandra, wife of Edward VII started something of a fashion craze when she took to wearing such a coat at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century which turned a serious agricultural problem in Scotland into a lucrative industry!

History shows that this animal got its name from old English although that source may have been from an earlier origin as many similar names are used across Europe in various languages. The first recorded name was 'mouldywarp' meaning soil and to throw – "one who throws soil" or "dirt tosser". By Tudor times the name 'mole' had been established and expression "don't make a

mountain out of a molehill" (meaning to "exaggerate a problem") was first recorded. The mole also lends its name to a unit used in science. In chemistry a mole (derived from the word molecule) is the number of atoms in 12 grams of the isotope carbon-12. This number is defined as Avogadro's number which is approximately  $6 \times 10^{23}$  and needless to say, a very large number which has absolutely nothing to do with the furry animal. But I digress.

So, how do you get rid of moles. There are some nasty methods that involve various gases, even the use of moth balls placed in the tunnels. There was once a Jasper Carrot comedy sketch that involved night long vigils and the use of a shot-gun mounted torch but my favourite is the burying of wine bottles with the neck exposed to the wind allowing the bottle to resonate. It is said that the vibrations annoy the moles and they move on to pastures new.

*Steve Fuller  
June 2021*



## Mutterings From The Millers

We enjoyed Steve Fuller's article about the Little Egret, you can see them on the river Cray by the Nugent shopping centre and along the river towards the boating lake.

You can guess what we are going to say! Yes, we had 80mls of rain during May, after such a dry April to be followed by that lot was just right. For some of the crops it was too late as the barley had already suffered badly from the dry and the cold. The other crops are enjoying the warmer temperatures and the water which activated the fertiliser. More of the warmer days and sunshine please.

We have had a few comments about the Meadow, the field with the footpath between our house and the church, saying that had we left that field fallow? No we haven't. This field was supposed to be the new hybrid barley that was going to break our records and smother the grass. Needless to say the grass has won so no more on that subject other than we won't be

growing that again.

A short message this time but will tell you about our crop plans for next year in July as we are in for a radical change.

Here are a few pictures of the lovely wild flowers growing along Warren Road. Stitchwort, think its greater, cowslip, white dead nettle and Jack by the hedge (garlic mustard)



Here is a short weather saying for this month:

*June, damp and warm, does a farmer no harm*

but I like this one:

*Rain on St. Barnabas' Day  
June 11th is good for grapes*

*Steve and Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm  
June 2021*

## The Pubs Are Now Open!



# THE BO PEEP IS OPEN WHATEVER THE WEATHER !!

We are now open indoors and outdoors at The Bo Peep open all day  
Everyday please check out our website for times, menus and special  
events coming up over the next few months [www.thebopeep.com](http://www.thebopeep.com)

We are complying by the government guidelines which we hope will  
change again for the better on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THANK YOU FOR  
COMPLYING WITH THESE PROCEDURES SO THAT WE CAN  
CONTINUE TO REMAIN SAFE AND OPEN

## Chelsfield Village Society

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all households within the vicinity of Chelsfield Village.

### AIMS & OBJECTIVES

We aim to improve the facilities and amenities of Chelsfield Village and preserve the rural character of the area.

We encourage high standards of architecture

and the preservation of the Conservation Area and Green Belt concept.

We pursue our aims and objectives by means of bi-monthly meetings, lectures and publications.

Most of our time is taken up with planning matters, road issues, traffic and parking, making sure that we enhance and protect the village environment, whilst allowing it to grow and

develop to suit the needs and wants of the residents.

We have elected representatives from the Committee who attend regular Borough-wide meetings to ensure that our voice is heard such that we are able to make a difference.

### SUBSCRIPTION

Annual Subscription is £5.00 per household, or life membership £35.00 and is

payable on joining the Society.

### CVS MEETING TUES 18TH MAY 2021

This was our first meeting since the easing of lockdown, held in a committee member's garden, a bit chilly but very well attended, by committee members and two of our Ward Councillors, Mike Botting and Angela Page.

The following matters were discussed:

#### Planning Proposals:

1. Chelsfield Village School expansion
2. Agricultural barn East of Lilys field.
3. Knockholt & Shire Lane traveller sites.

4. Orpington High Street development

Parking in the village is adversely impacting on the Bus service and represents a risk for Emergency Services access.

#### Roundabout:

Construction is expected to be finished in July 2021. As part of the scheme, there will be a change of surface/ "dragons teeth" at the entrance to Warren Road, with "SLOW" markings on the road surface and 20mph flashing signs to be active at school times, twice a day, during term time only.

**Fly Tipping adjacent to**

### Court Road pull in area at the end of the Public Footpath:

It is proposed that the pull in area be removed to prevent cars pulling in and dumping rubbish. Playground. Could do with a repaint and tidy-up, this will be followed up with the Council by the Committee.

#### NEXT MEETING:

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th July, should you wish to add any Chelsfield Village issues or concerns to our agenda, or require more information on this update, please contact:

*CVS Chairman,  
peter.lamond@me.com*

## Summer Teas with Chelsfield Volunteers

Life is changing and many of our volunteers are back at work.

A number of us have been able to continue helping at the foodbank, and at the vaccination centres over the last few months.


We know from this that there are many people

who want to get out and start socialising safely again, so we have decided to offer the chance to do just that over the summer.

We will be putting on **four afternoon teas in July and August in the Village Hall**, or on the nearby Green if the weather is fine. Do come

along for a cake and a chat, or maybe bring a friend, relative or neighbour you know who is keen to get out.

The R7 comes up from Orpington To Chelsfield Village, but we can help with travel too. See the poster for dates and contact details. *Hope to see you there! "*

The background of the page is decorated with various illustrations related to tea and coffee. At the top, there's a brown teapot, a yellow cupcake, a pink cupcake, and some green leaves. On the left side, there's a pink cup of coffee, a green swirl, a pink swirl, and a stack of cookies. At the bottom, there's a green teapot, a pink cup of coffee, a brown swirl, and a yellow cup of coffee. On the right side, there's a pink cupcake, cinnamon sticks, a yellow leaf, and a purple teapot.

**Ready to meet up again?**

**Chelsfield Volunteers**

Will be offering

**Afternoon Tea**

**at Chelsfield Village Hall**

This summer

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August**

**Drop in for tea, cake and conversation**

**from 2.30 to 4.30pm**

**All welcome – old friends, new faces  
and everybody in-between!**

no charge but donations are welcome

**If you need transport, or if you can offer help with transport,  
please call Peter on 01689 831826 or [cvhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhlettings@gmail.com)**

**If you can volunteer to help out on any of these days, with  
serving tea/coffee, providing cakes, setting up etc please email  
[chelsfieldvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvolunteers@gmail.com)**



## Guerrilla Knitting in Orpington

Walking down Court Road recently, I came across this example of guerrilla knitting on the top of a post box next to the entrance to Goddington Park.

around the Orpington war memorial roundabout commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of WWI. I hear that this art seems to be spreading and

to have originated in the U.S. with Texas knitters trying to find a creative way to use their leftover and unfinished knitting projects as a form of temporary decoration and embellishment art.



It draws our attention to everyday street furniture that usually goes unnoticed, and can also be a means of delivering a peaceful protest.

There are some wonderful examples on the Internet, covering trees, bicycles and even cars, on the commons.wikimedia.org website, or here:

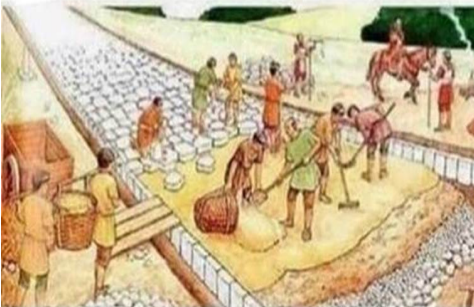
<https://fi.pinterest.com/maaritmerinelle/guerrilla-knitting/>

I was unaware of this pastime, other than some years ago, finding knitted poppies and name tag labels adorning the railings

is now found in a number of our Kent sea side towns. Apparently Guerrilla Knitting also known as Yarn Bombing, is believed

## Only Too True!

**WITHOUT A SINGLE DEGREE, THEY BUILT US ROADS THAT HAVE LASTED AN ETERNITY...**



**AND THEN, THE ENGINEERS ARRIVED!!!**





**News From St Martin's - Your Parish Church**



*St Martin's worships and serves a loving God,  
reaching out to the community  
in the name of Jesus Christ*

We are open for services but in the current situation this schedule is very much subject to change, potentially at short notice. Please watch the church website for updates (see link at bottom of page).

All services led by Rev Susan Atkinson-Jones unless otherwise stated

**St Martin's**

Wed 2 June	9.30am	Holy Communion – BCP
Sun 6 June	10.00am	Family Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Wed 9 June	9.30am	Holy Communion – BCP
Sun 13 June	10.00am	Family Worship – <i>led by Reader Richard Jones</i>
	6.30pm	Holy Communion – BCP
Wed 16 June	9.30am	Holy Communion – BCP
Sun 20 June	10.00am	Family Communion – <i>led by Rev David Graham</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer – <i>led by Reader Richard Jones</i>
Wed 23 June	9.30am	Holy Communion – BCP
Sun 27 June	10.00am	Family Worship – <i>led by Reader Ken I'Anson</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer – <i>led by Reader Philip Southby</i>
Wed 30 June	9.30am	Holy Communion – BCP

**Well Hill – outdoors\***

Sun 13 June	10.00am	Ministry of the Word - <i>led by Reader Ken I'Anson</i>
Sun 27 June	10.00am	Holy Communion

*\*Services at Well Hill are weather-dependent and have limited capacity – for more information please contact Anne Ireland on 07767 783189 / anneireland@icloud.com*  
 As this is still a changing situation it's important that we look out for one another. Please let Rev Susan know of anyone who is ill or in distress, or if you need prayer or spiritual support, or are lonely and just need a short chat please phone 01689 857763.

For more information on St Martin's please visit our website and Facebook page, or search for @ChelsfieldStMartins on Twitter and Instagram

[www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



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## Chelsfield Cricket Club

You may not be aware but Chelsfield can trace its cricketing origins back to 1731!

The Grubb Street journal, the newspaper of that time, highlighted in the edition of the 27th May 1731 the following paragraph:-

“On Monday the 3rd will be played at Kennington Common a great cricket match between London and Sevenoaks in Kent, and at the same place, the next day following, will be another match between London and Chelsfield in Kent”

This shows that cricket in Chelsfield must have been played well before that date for there to have been a good enough representative side to play the Men of London!

You will appreciate we are a very small club but with a long history and we are very keen to keep the game alive in Chelsfield.

Obviously with

everything that's been going on worldwide, our income over the last eighteen months has been absolutely minimal and we'd therefore invite contributions from anyone who is interested in supporting the village club and who enjoy the sound of leather on willow!

We can't let a quintessential element of country village life disappear.

Regrettably the good news that we previously had about TfL improving our facility has come to a complete standstill due to their financial straits.

Donations can be sent to our Treasurer,

Alex Mitchell at:-  
2, The Firs  
Jubilee Road  
Chelsfield  
BR6 7QU

Alternatively, you may prefer to pay on the internet and the details are:-

NatWest  
Chelsfield Cricket Club  
Sort Code: 60-16-03  
Account: 14028565

In the latter case, a confirmation email to:

[alex\\_mitchel@hotmail.com](mailto:alex_mitchel@hotmail.com)

would help to clarify who the payee is unless you wish to remain anonymous.

I do hope you can support your club in any way possible.

Also, if anyone wants to use the ground or facilities, please contact Ross Anderson, the Fixture Secretary to agree a date and to discuss arrangements. Ross can be emailed at:

[ross.stuart.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:ross.stuart.anderson@gmail.com)

If you have any queries or positive suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me, David Lambert

[davidjlambert17@gmail.com](mailto:davidjlambert17@gmail.com)

## Chelsfield Cricket Club Fixtures 2021

DATE	OPPOSITION	HOME/AWAY	TIME	NOTES
May 23rd	Shoreham	Away	14:00	
May 30th	Westerham	Home	13:00	
June 6th	Kent Ramblas	Home	14:00	
June 13th	Woodside Park	Away	13:30	
June 20th	Stockbury & Hartlip	Home	14:00	
June 27th	Hildenbrough	Away	14:00	
July 4th	ODCuaco	Away	14:00	
July 11th	Horton Kirby	Away	14:00	
July 18th	London RAMS	Home	14:00	
July 25th	Chislehurst	Away	13:30	
August 1st	Wrotham	Away	14:00	
August 7th	Chelsfield Park	Home	14:00	Saturday
August 15th	Kent Royals	Home	13:00	
August 22nd				
August 29th	Kent Royals	Away	13:00	
September 5th	Chelsfield Park	Away	13:00	
September 12th	Stockbury & Hartlip	Away	13:00	
September 19th	Kent Royals	Home	12:30	
September 26th	Locksbottom	Home	12:30	

This is the current list which may vary through the season, any updates will be circulated in due course.

## Gridlock in the Village



We suffered absolute gridlock in the village on Friday 28th May. The fact that it was also our dear landlord Ade's birthday that day is just a mere coincidence.

Happy Birthday Ade from all your friends and grateful customers.

*Dave Lambert*

## Specials for June at the Bo Peep



2 courses for £14.95 at the  
**Bo Peep**  
Monday–Thursday in June  
from 3.30pm–5.30pm  
Starter & Main Course  
or  
Main Course & Dessert

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

### starters

FISHCAKE served with mixed leaf & sweet chilli dip  
FARMHOUSE PATE with toast & chutney  
CREAMY GARLIC MUSHROOMS served with crusty Bread

### main courses

BEER BATTERED GOUJONS OF FISH with tartare sauce & chips  
SPICY VEGETABLE STIR FRY with noodles  
BREADED SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN BURGER in a brioche bun with melted cheese,  
BBQ sauce, chips & salad

### selection of desserts

.....and for **FATHERS DAY**  
**Sunday 20th JUNE 2021**

Courgette, Mint & Feta Cheese Soup with crusty bread  
Prawn & Crayfish Cocktail served with granary bread  
Duck & Orange Pate with red onion chutney & toasted ciabatta  
Deep Fried Halloumi dressed with honey

\*\*\*\*\*

Roast Sirloin of Beef  
Roast Breast of chicken  
Both served with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes & Vegetables  
Poached Salmon Fillet  
With Crushed New Potatoes, Green Beans & a Creamy Chive Sauce  
Mushroom & Stilton Tart with mixed salad & new potatoes

\*\*\*\*\*

Profiteroles served with Cream & Hot Belgian Chocolate Sauce  
Sticky Toffee Pudding  
Apple & Cinnamon Crumble  
Lemon Tart

**Main Course only £14.95**

**2 Courses £20.50      3 Courses £25.95**





## **The Toddlers Group to Reopen**



### **St Martin's Toddler Group**

December 2020



Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers,

I am happy to say that all the volunteers who help to run Toddler Group are ready and willing to open again in September when the new school year begins if we are not in another lockdown situation.

Stay Safe Everyone,

Toddler Volunteers:  
Jenny, Peter, Mary, Mo, Val and Anne.

**Contact Details:**

Toddler Group Leader - Jenny Wood 07752 678345

Email: [smartinstoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:smartinstoddlers@gmail.com)

## A Local Celebrity



If you viewed the recent series of “The Pursuit of Love” on BBC 1 you may have recognised one of the characters. Kaila, the

very well behaved dog sitting politely at the table in the photograph above is a regular walker around the footpaths in

Chelsfield and is happy to meet with we locals despite her performing success in this and many other productions.

## Halstead & District Horticultural Society Events

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Thurs June 24th        | Summer Show Halstead Village Hall<br>Staging 19.45 - 20.10hrs                   |
| Wednesday July 7th     | Brogdale Fruit Collections Faversham<br>Outing by own transport                 |
| Saturday September 4th | Autumn Show Halstead Village Hall<br>Staging 9.30 -11.30am 1.45pm Prizes 3.15pm |
| Thursday September 9th | RHS Wisley Flower Show - Depart by coach 9am                                    |

Please ring Barrie on 01959 533074 to check events are going ahead.  
Membership is free this year so if anyone would like to join please ring Barrie.

## Demelza Needs Our Support

Just a quick reminder to ask everyone to support our Demelza Hospice Care for Children’s shop in Petts Wood.

fundraise, and now that we are able to re-open the shop we will have to rely heavily on it.

Throughout the pandemic our hospices have been open looking after children that need our help.

It is a very difficult time for hospices as we have not been able to

It is a lovely shop with lots of toys, ladies, gents and children’s clothes and much more.

Thank You.

*Rosemary Norris*

## Another Possible Scam?

This morning (around 10.30) I had a phone call on my landline advising there was to be a power cut in my area and to press 1 to find out more.

I have already had a letter advising there is to

be a Planned Power Cut in my road (Church Road) on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. So I didn't respond but put the phone back on the receiver.

However, it has been playing on my mind that

others may not be so aware and press 1 which could lead to the high charges you hear of. If you consider I may be right perhaps you'd alert your readers

*Heather Colver*

## Biggin Hill Airport Application Turned Down

Within the last few weeks Biggin Hill Airport Ltd., made an application to the London Borough of Bromley to lift the current restrictions on shared flights from Biggin Hill Airport.

Shared flights refer to small private aircraft being permitted to carry

individual fare paying passengers on a one-off basis, usually to specific events.

However, there is concern that this would be a further step towards small scale fare paying passengers using Biggin Hill as a regular air terminal, and eventually

lead to scheduled flights.

The application was rejected by Bromley Council at a meeting on Wednesday 26th May.

It's unlikely that this will be the last we hear on this subject, so watch this space.

## The Chelsfield Pub is Under Threat Again

We understand that the pub will be closed for a short period of time to undergo refurbishment.

As you may remember, back in 2019 Punch Taverns put forward plans to demolish the pub and replace it with a block of flats, a small bar and a convenience store. Those plans were met with a huge amount of

resistance from the local community culminating in the Save the Chelsfield campaign group leading a challenge to the plans, we were eventually successful with the great help and support of local people, councillors and MP.

On the 30th September 2019 I received a letter from the Managing

Director of Punch Taverns containing the following promise;

*"We welcome feedback from customers, and should we look to change the offer at The Chelsfield in the future, we will endeavour to share our plans with the community."*

*However, it is important*

*to make clear that, at this moment in time, there are no changes to share."*

I have emailed Punch

reminding them of their promise and suggesting that they share any plans they have in a meeting with the local community.

*Bryan Gannon  
Save the Chelsfield  
Pub Protection Officer  
CAMRA Bromley branch*

## Days Long Gone



Two fascinating shots, one of Jack Devine at the Church gate and the other of his black cat sitting on the cigarette machine that was outside the Post Office Shop, with the original Ivy Cottages in the background (I seem to recall a brand of fag called Lucky Black Cat at the time – not that I smoked them. I was only 7)

*Phil Lane*



## Recycling Bin Collection June 2021

Tuesday 1st June	<b>Non-recyclable refuse, Paper &amp; Cardboard, Food Waste</b>
Monday 7th June	<b>Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,</b>
Monday 14th June	<b>Non-recyclable refuse, Paper &amp; Cardboard, Food Waste.</b>
Monday 21st June	<b>Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,</b>
Monday 28th June	<b>Non-recyclable refuse, Paper &amp; Cardboard, Food Waste.</b>
Monday 5th July	<b>Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,</b>
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 only from households that subscribe (£60 per annum) to Bromley