



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

March 2010

The Next Chelsfield Players Production

Hello, Is There Any Body There?

by Ian Hornby

All is dull and peaceful at Squire Grange. Lady Amelia searches for inspiration for her latest mystery novel as Sir Malcolm sleeps off the excesses of another idle day. Family friend Freddy is persuaded to try and think of new ideas. Meanwhile, the hapless Vic Tim arrives and is promptly dispatched by an unknown assailant. Everyone must try to discover the murderer before he or she can strike again. The first problem, however, is how to get rid of Vic's body, not least because he has to come back in Act Two as a policeman! Smalls, the butler, and Mabel, the maid, try to assist the inept police, but not in time to stop the Director being murdered. Eventually Miss Marbles arrives to unmask the culprit...or does she?

Performances on

**Wed 24th, Thurs 25th, Fri 26th and Sat
27th March 2010**

At 8.00pm In the Chelsfield Village Hall

Doors open 7.30pm

You are invited to purchase tickets at **£6.50** each
(including refreshments)

Booking from Monday 15th February

Please contact: Brenda Payne 01689 831187

We look forward to seeing you. Thank you for your
continued support.

Visit our web site at www.chelsfieldplayers.org

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CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE !

Contributions for our April
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

Get To Know Your Local Businesses

My name is Daniel Moore and I have recently set up my own gardening company called 'The Green Man'.

I live in Hawstead Lane with my wife Miranda and the dog Harvey (whom you may have seen around the village creating havoc) and have lived in the village for roughly 6 years.

As a bit of background I was made redundant from my office position back in October 2009 and decided to do something I have always wanted to do and start up my own gardening company.

Having been always interested in gardening I thought it was the perfect opportunity to 'go for it'!



I am obviously looking for work all around the area and I have included a photo of myself and my 'Noddy' van.

I cut and tend to lawns, provide planting schemes, prune, and hedge cut etc etc.. I do weeding and other general maintenance as well. I am willing to negotiate special deals

for customers in the village

Should you need to know more, or discuss your individual requirements please contact me on my mobile number: 07961 075189 or alternatively you may find me in the Five Bells from time to time as I refresh from a hard days gardening!

More Dumping of Rubbish

A large bale (perhaps a metre squared) of toxic asbestos waste was found by a resident to be dumped in Skibbs

Lane between Locker's motors and the large barn a little further on. Reported to the Council. A horse surprised

by this unexpected obstruction, unseated its rider and ran loose through the village. The rider was unhurt.

Local History Group

A full house met to hear Sue Short gave an illustrated talk on the trials and tribulations of producing her book, "Pratts Bottom", subtitled "A Journey Through Life".

In 1988 Sue and her husband bought a ruined cottage and three quarters of an acre in Pratts Bottom. The old Beech cottage was demolished as being beyond repair, having suffered a fire and consequently being in a poor state. The plot was cleared with many bonfires. This was illustrated with photographs. The house was rebuilt and after her husband's death in a road accident Sue continued with the project. She found an old postcard of the property which helped her in landscaping the garden. This encouraged her to re-search the history of the cottage.

Sue contacted Geoffrey Copus for information about the history and maps of the area and her interest expanded to include the history of Pratts Bottom. She sent questionnaires to the residents to collect as much information as possible

about the properties in the area. Reading through all the material she collected, Sue noticed how the field names often reflected the soil type or geology of the area. She has tried to produce the history of each house. Charts at the back of the book include census records and school records. People were very generous lending hundreds of photographs to be copied. As the amount of information grew Sue compiled it into a large format prototype book which showed the photographs to best effect. However in retrospect she confesses that she made a mistake in not finding a publisher first and preparing the book to their specification. She eventually found a publisher in Sevenoaks who informed her that the public would prefer a smaller format more easily handleable book. Sue is disappointed that the photos are smaller than she would wish.

Sue said her second mistake was to announce the book launch with no books ready for sale, so to start with she was giv-

ing talks with nothing to sell. Proof reading was carried out in a rush by family, friends and neighbours, much of it via the Internet with distant members of the family. When the books finally arrived 200 were sold in the first 2 hours. The book is now in its second printing with the original errors corrected.

The village shop in Pratts Bottom sells copies of the book.

Would she do it again? Probably not, she says, as it took over her life for 4 years.

After the refreshment break Sue went on to show us some of the many photographs she has collected. Among these were photographs of Birthday Woods, the restoration of 17th century Pear Tree Cottage, a splendid hunting scene in front of the Bull's Head, Osgood's Carriage Works and shop, a mammoth tooth found in a field behind the Bull's Head, the several incarnations of the Post Office (now defunct), the Clock Garage (now the Esso Garage), the village fete,

school, scouts, home guard etc. Everyone seems to love looking at old photographs of the locality, and the audience could have looked at the photos for hours!

Not having known much about the area previously we were inspired to walk to Pratts Bottom via the footpath next to Pecks Cottages, Church Road. The walk was enjoyable

despite a couple of stiles of Everest like proportions, lots of sticky mud and a blizzard on the return route at Broke Hill golf course!

Chelsfield Evening Womens Institute

Members of the Chelsfield Evening WI meet in the Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month at 8.00 pm.

During the year the members enjoy talks on a variety of subjects, undertake a number of outings and have the opportunity of attending WI training days. We also have a monthly knitting circle, have dart and whist teams that participate in friendly local WI competitions. We also have a stall at the annual village fete which, not surprisingly, sells

cakes!

The programme for 2010 is as follows:

March 16th

Life with my guide dog

April 20th

Music 1952 – 2009

May 18th

AGM and Resolutions

June 15th

Fashion, Colour and Co-ordination

July 20th

The Fire Brigade

August 17th

Summer Party

September 21st

Tales of Scotland Yard

October 19th

Forensic Science

November 23rd

Belly dancing

December 14th

Christmas Social

We are always delighted to welcome visitors. Our secretary, Betty, is available to answer any questions you may have. Her number is: 01689 820863. We would be pleased to welcome new members.

Angela Wilkins

Neighbourhood Watch

There has been a recent burglary of a house in

Warren Road. The Burglars broke in through

the front door whilst the house was unoccupied.

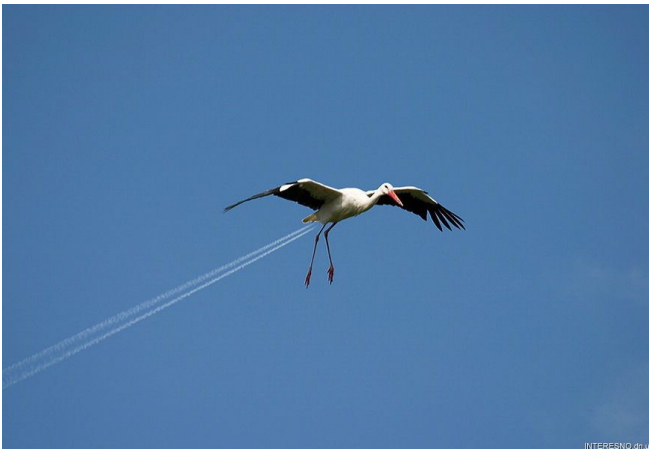
Village Car Park News

Members of the Chelsfield Village Society met with a representative of Bromley Council and the

lease holder of the land in question, to discuss a possible way forward. The ultimate decision lies

with Kent County Council, the owners of the land in question.

The Right Place at The Right Time?



A History of Chelsfield Post Office (continued from January Issue)

A few months after the incident (*the attempted robbery reported in the last episode*) Pauline and Win's courage and resolution to protect Post Office property was rewarded in a special ceremony for the occasion which was held at GPO Headquarters in London on Tuesday, 19th March 1968. Both Pauline and Win were presented with bravery awards personally by the then Postmaster General, Mr. Edward Short. Pauline was presented with £50.00 and an engraved purse and Win received £15.00 and an engraved purse. Mr. Short said that the Post Office were honoured to have such women with

them and were proud of them for what they had done. He described both women as courageous and such actions as a deterrent to would-be intruders. Following the presentations Pauline and Win were shown over GPO Headquarters and then taken out to lunch at the Post Office Tower. Pauline's son David was also at the presentation ceremony to see his mother and Win Lambert honoured.

Even now after many years have gone by, this incident is still remembered by those who lived in Chelsfield or had connections with the Post Office at that time. Only re-

cently I happened to be talking to a man who was a retired postman who used to deliver around Chelsfield and Well Hill. He brought up the subject of the robbery at Chelsfield Village Post Office which goes to show the gravity of what occurred on that day even in the light of events in today's much more violent society.

I feel that I cannot pass by mentioning another very serious attempted robbery at the Chelsfield Village Post Office that took place on 31st July, 1971. At the end of that day Pauline and Pat were totalling up cash in the Office to make the books up, when two men

entered. One of the men was holding a knife and proceeded to try and open the gate leading behind the counter from the customer side of the shop. Pauline went to the back of the shop with the intention of fetching her two Alsatian dogs and when she returned the two men had fled. Luckily, an off-duty policeman saw the men making their escape in a car and about an hour later the two men plus an accomplice were apprehended. At first all three men denied, any knowledge of the incident but later they admitted their involvement. The motive for the robbery was an attempt to recoup money that two of the men had lost the night before whilst playing cards. The three men who all came from the Eltham area subsequently appeared in Court at The Old Bailey and were put on probation for two years.

The Post Office was still as busy as ever when the year 1980 arrived. This year heralded another happy period in Pauline Lambert's life as she married for a second time and decided to move with her husband to nearby Knockholt. At this point Pauline made it known that she wished to relinquish her job as Post Mistress at Chels-

field, but in no way could she have anticipated that the Post Office Management would then announce that the Village Office would close permanently at the end of 1980. Despite a most vociferous and energetic campaign (including a well supported petition) it did not prove possible to persuade the Post Office to change its mind. Looking back Pauline wondered whether the closure would have happened if she had decided not to have got married. Personally, I think that it must have already been planned to occur at some point and Pauline's wedding and move from Cross House was a very good excuse to put the plan into action. If the Post Office Management really wanted to retain the Chelsfield Village Office I am sure that it would have been kept open. It would not have been the same of course, without Pauline behind the counter but Post Office life in Chelsfield Village would have continued to flourish. As it turned out, however, once shut it has remained that way since 1980 although Pauline's family - David, Mary and their family - still live at Cross House. Years later Pauline was still to be seen in the Village taking her beloved Alsatian dog

"Lucky" for long, daily walks in the locality.

When the Post Office closed Mrs. Pat Whitehead was re-located to work at the Office in Court Road (part of the Home & Garden store) where she worked behind the counter for a further 12 years as a much valued colleague of Mr. and Mrs. Khambalia. After Pat's health deteriorated badly she moved to a nursing home near her son in Cheltenham.

After such an enduring presence in Chelsfield Village and with such a distinguished history I feel that the best word for the closure of the Village Post Office is tragic. I realise that after such a long interval there is no prospect whatsoever of the return of the Chelsfield Village Office. However, I do hope that my account of what has gone before will ensure that this aspect of our Village life will never be lost or forgotten.

Written by Carol Margetts with the invaluable help and co-operation of Mrs Pauline Lambert plus additional detailed information and inspiration from Mrs Vera Margetts. Sub edited to update contents.

The Post Office Scales



Many years ago in fact it must be about 30 now I went into the Post Office one afternoon and got chatting with Pauline Lambert when she must have told me about retiring from Chelsfield Village Post Office, the exact details escape me as

it was quite a while ago but I do know I showed a great interest in the weighing scales. I found anything like that absolutely fascinating and think I probably said to Pauline on leaving the shop " if you are getting rid of your scales I would just love to own them and have them in my kitchen at Holly Cottage!"

I do know I was greatly surprised, excited and very pleased when some little while later Pauline offered them to me.

They are extremely heavy I might add as I found when lifting them up onto my kitchen work top where they have lived ever since. We

have a cottage style house with many things of historical interest about the place and whenever friends come and chat to me in my kitchen, if they have not been before then the scales are always a topic of great interest!

I am very proud to own them, I do still use them from time to time to weigh something quickly but only as a rough guide, they are not so accurate these days but mostly they sit there governing my work top and remaining to be looked at and enjoyed by me, my family and friends.

Jayne Lane

Bromley Town Centre Inquiry

Bromley Council's grand plan, otherwise known as the Area Action Plan, to revamp the town centre will move on a stage further later this month

when a Government planning inspector will hear views for and against the proposals. It is likely to last eight days or more and begins on

March 30th at the Civic Centre. The inspector will make site visits and probably submit his report in the summer.

Local Wildlife

Walking back from our local farm shop at Hewitts farm in the late afternoon we spotted a fallow deer in the ap-

ple orchard. It was standing very still, having seen us first. This was the first time we had seen a deer in this

location. Has anyone else seen these lovely animals locally?

Six Helpful Tips for Cold Weather Drivers

The Village Voice has not tested any of these so use them at your own risk!

With any luck we have seen the last of the ice and snow, if so save this list for next year.

1. Keep your headlights clear with car wax! Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights.

It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your lights - lasts 6 weeks.

2. Squeak-proof your wipers with rubbing alcohol! Wipe the wipers with a cloth saturated with rub-

bing alcohol or ammonia. This one trick can make badly streaking & squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence & clarity.

3. Ice-proof your windows with vinegar! Frost on its way? Just fill a spray bottle with three parts vinegar to one part water & spritz it on all your windows at night.

In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess. Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water---preventing water from freezing!

4. Prevent car doors from freezing shut with cooking spray! Spritz cooking oil

on the rubber seals around car doors & rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber.

5. Fog-proof your windshield with shaving cream! Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield & wipe it off with paper towels. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.

6. De-ice your lock in seconds with hand sanitizer! Just put some hand sanitizer gel on the key & the lock & the problems solved!

...and Another Six (tongue in cheek) for an Icy Crisis

1) Don't worry if power goes off - air outside colder than in freezer so leave door open.

2) Build up stockpile of north sea gas by inflating hundreds of kids balloons. Keep away from holly and naked flames.

3) Strap a hedgehog to each boot for better grip.

Emergency food:

4) When all else exhausted - pond fish, half a fox, next

door's cat, pigeons, etc all make for nutritional meals. TV recipe books make good fuel for burning on the barbeque.

5) If you have elderly people living alone up the road do call on them to see if they have any food left in their larder - it will save you eating any of the above.

6) Use next door's drive for sliding and sledging - don't spoil your own with salt and sand - handy tip- I have

discovered that dried bread crumbs from toast increase adhesion for getting your own car out of the drive.

And finally - when you put the tortoise away in October make the box big enough for yourself as well. It is cosy up there in the loft and the shell makes a good pillow and when you wake up in the Spring you'll have all those dozens of episodes of East Enders to watch!

New Craft Group

Anne Mead has told us about a new craft group which will meet on the second Thursday of the

month at 11.00am in the Brass Crosby Room. Anne Sheard will be on hand to give help and

advice for all those unfinished embroidery projects and to encourage you to try other handicrafts.

Bromley Street Pastors

“What’s a Street Pastor?” The question comes in different forms. Sometimes it is “What’s a Street Pasta?” I have even been asked “What’s a Street Pester?” However the question is phrased, we seek to respond with good humour.

Street Pastors are all volunteers from local churches. They go through a selection process which involves taking up references from their church minister and one other person. They undergo twelve Saturdays of training spread over a period of five months.

As well as practical instruction on how to handle different situations on the Streets, they receive training in drug awareness, counselling, sociology and introductions to how various statutory services operate: social services, probation, police and youth provision.

Street Pastors have a distinctive uniform which

creates an identity that people come to recognise. Being in uniform, people readily accept us approaching them & talking with them.

- ▶ So what is it we are aiming to do?
- ▶ to be a caring presence on the streets,
- ▶ to offer support, encouragement and practical help,
- ▶ to foster good will and a sense of safe community,
- ▶ and to gain a better understanding of the local community that as churches we seek to serve.

In churches, we have considerable experience of caring for a wide variety of people and building caring communities. As Street Pastors we seek to take that caring ethos of the church onto our streets and help build a sense of caring community.

Our motivation in this comes from wanting to

follow the example and teaching of Jesus. It was said of Jesus that he went about doing good and bringing wholeness into peoples lives. Many people are familiar with the term ‘good Samaritan’, but few realise that it comes from the teaching of Jesus about what it means to be a good neighbour.

We are not there to preach to people but to care for people. Of course we will, when asked, talk about our faith because we do believe that an active Christian faith and involvement in a church community is a great benefit.

Street Pastors teams operate on Friday evenings in Bromley town, Orpington and Beckenham. Around the country there are some 3500 Street Pastors in about 130 different locations and new areas starting up every month.

Ray Bell

01689 604295
 orpinton@streetpastors.co.uk
 www.streetpastors.co.uk

Road Safety Panel

Would you like to volunteer to be Chelsfield Village's representative on this panel? It meets every 2 months at the Civic Centre in Bromley and

offers an opportunity to put forward the village's viewpoints and problems. It would enable us to keep in touch with Bromley's road safety initia-

tives. If you are interested, contact the Village Voice or Chelsfield Village Society.

Village Voice Content

The Village Voice has been in production now for around 18 months and circulated free of charge to all Chelsfield

residents and local organisations. Over 300 copies are now printed and circulated monthly

We invite contributions and feedback on what you want to see in Your newsletter

Hollybeech Railway Open Days

As this very wintry winter slips slowly away we are trying to get our garden and railway back into a condition fit enough to open. Continuous wet and cold have played havoc with the Hollybeech Railway. Wiring and structures are showing signs of age - the

railway was started in 1991 and much is original. Hopefully, then, the Open Days will be Sat 29th May;

Sunday 27th June Sat 31st July. Times 12-5pm. A collection for a charity, not decided yet for 2010. Last year we managed to raise £300 which was

sent for Help the Heroes. Apart from a few extra bridges there is little new, but the garden may show signs of change with pruning and some new bits.

Contact Philip Lane 01689 858634 for more details

Village Hall Bench

Visitors to the Village Hall will have noticed that the Jack Devine memorial bench has now

been replaced after its recent accident. Rather than use wood, we have selected a

heavy duty recycled black plastic material for the seat and back, with heavy iron frame.

St Martins Church News

St Martins Church News: We are still adding to the hard surface car park as and when funds allow.

The Crosby Room is proving very popular as a small venue. The newly decorated and rewired/

relit interior looks lovely - do come and visit us or a service or two.

Update from Philip Lane

I am now giving talks on aerial photography and Old Chelsfield, and entertaining with music for groups and organizations. Proving very popular and am travelling far and wide. Please contact me for details 858634. I have just made a CD of all my piano compositions over the past 51 years! Happy indeed to sell them for £5.

I am not doing my Photo show as a big event anymore but there will be a potted version at the Village Fair in the Hall. All the albums are available at Holly Cottage if you want to browse at any time

The Old Chelsfield Village Sign from Philips archives



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

Bob Evans 01689 853002
robert.evans@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Society

cvscontact@googlemail.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

Mondays 15th, 22nd, 29th

March & 5th April

Five Bells

Salsa Dance Classes

Starts 8.00pm

Thursday 11th March

(2nd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

Come and Try Your Hand at

a Range of Crafts

11.00am

Sunday 14th March

Five Bells

Mothering Sunday

Special meal

Booking Essential

01689 821044

Tuesday 16th March

Chelsfield Village Hall

Chelsfield (evening)

Womens Institute

from 8.00pm Contact

01689 821592

Wednesday 17th March

Five Bells

St Patricks Day

Typical Irish Meal

From 6.30pm-9.00pm

Friday 19th March

Five Bells

Live Music

Simon Perry's Sounds of

the 60's & 70's

from 9.00pm

Wednesday 24th March

Parish Room

Internet Cafe

Typical Irish Meal

From 2.30pm-4.30pm

Wed 24th—Sat 27th March

Chelsfield Village Hall

“Hello, Is There

Any Body There?”

by Ian Hornby

a Production by

The Chelsfield Players

Saturday 27th March

Lullingstone Park

Orienteering

Any age group, just turn up

between 10.45am and

Noon

Monday 29th March

Five Bells

National Cask Ale

Week

Lots of New Real Ales

Thursday 1st April

Five Bells

Live Music

Just Friends Swing Sextet

from 8.30pm

Friday 2nd-5th April

Five Bells

Easter Beer Festival

30 Real Ales from across

the Country

Saturday 3rd April

Five Bells

Fun Day

For all the Family

from 8.30pm

Thursday 6th April

(2nd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

Come and Try Your Hand at

a Range of Crafts

11.00am

Wednesday 7th April

Parish Room

Internet Cafe

Typical Irish Meal

From 2.30pm-4.30pm

Wednesday 21st April

Parish Room

Internet Cafe

Typical Irish Meal

From 2.30pm-4.30pm

Saturday 12th June

Rectory Gardens

St Martins Church

Fete

Saturday 10th July

Cricknet / Recreation Ground

Chelsfield Village

Fair

Sunday 18th July

Chelsfield Village Hall

The BIG LUNCH

details to follow