



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

March 2011

Saturday 26th March



Chelsfield Primary School **SPRING FAIR**

12.00 midday to 4.00pm

Easter Grotto, Bouncy Castle, Raffle, Tombola,

Easter Egg Hunt, Egg Decorating,

Chocolate Fountain and so much more

For more information please contact
general.account@chelsfield.bromley.sch.uk

Many thanks for your help & support of our event

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Contributions PLEASE !

Amusing stories,
anecdotes, old photos,
forthcoming events?

MAKE IT PUBLIC!

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

By the 27th March
please

Visit
www.chelsfieldevts.co.uk

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Paul Bennett Building & Restoration

To those of you in the village I haven't met yet (which is most of you) my name is Paul. I bought The Bungalow in Skibbs Lane (known to some of you as Harry's bungalow) in July 2009.

The Bungalow stood empty for several years until Bromley Council took ownership and advertised for sale through Linay & Shipp. At that time the Bungalow had become overgrown and derelict. Plans were afoot to buy the plot and have the property demolished to make way for a large new build but green belt and conservation laws scuppered most

plans. I however wanted to renovate and restore the property and try to keep some of the old features that remained. Several months were spent applying for planning permissions etc which took us through the winter into March/April and work is now well underway.

I have used my skills within the construction industry to take this mini project to over halfway with the occasional help from an old friend who is a bricklayer. I am currently 70% through the roof works. On completion of the roof a further 4 or 5 months internally doing

the plumbing, electrics, carpentry work, kitchen and bathroom will ensure this winter will be warmer than last. Next year the landscaping and gardening will be completed and the final decoration etc.

I am able to do most types of construction right up to finishing which include solid hardwood flooring, bespoke wardrobes and kitchens etc.

If any Village Voice readers or friends require works to be carried out in the restoration or building field, similar to the work I am currently doing, I would be more than happy to advise and quote to suit your requirements.

Chelsfield Animal Feeds

Chelsfield Animal Feeds was originally Longlands Animal Feeds at Longlands Farm. The shop was moved to Chelsfield Riding School in early 1990. 21 years later, we are still thriving and hope to welcome many new customers in 2011. We started by selling a small range of horse

feeds and some dog and cat food. By popular demand we expanded the range to include small animal, pet, poultry, fish, smallholder range and a variety of wild bird food. Many locals call in just for a chat, to ask for advice concerning feeding their pets or just to see the horses.

Visitors are always welcome to the Centre. We are still enjoying Chelsfield time! Come and join us.
CHELSFIELD
EQUESTRIAN CENTRE,
CHURCH ROAD,
CHELSFIELD, BR6 7SN
TELEPHONE
01689 855603
www.chelsfieldequestriancentre.co.uk

Local History Group

As a change from the usual talk about a topic with a local flavour, Paul gave an illustrated talk on Norman Rockwell, inspired by the current exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery until March 27th.

Norman Rockwell, born in 1894, was an American artist best known for his cover illustrations for the Saturday Evening Post, a magazine with a circulation of around one and a half million. He produced several covers a year over a period of 47 years. All 330 posters are on display in the exhibition. The distinctive illustrations spawned the genre "Rockwellian."

Rockwell started his career as an illustrator in 1916 with the cover of the Boy Scouts in America annual publication. He was tall and skinny and deemed to be underweight for army service. He subsequently joined the Navy but never went to sea as his talents as an artist were soon recognised and put to good use. After the war he became a full time jobbing

artist, working to commission providing the artwork for advertising posters for health and insurance companies and other organisations and businesses. The paintings were done in oils and full canvass size. He continued painting up to his death at the age of 84, completing over 4000 paintings.

Rockwell was looked down on as "just an illustrator" by the art world but took his work very seriously and prepared for and planned the paintings meticulously. In his time at the Post he worked with 4 editors and three photographers. The posters had to be painted in portrait format and to take account of the cover layout leaving space to accommodate the banner tile and date and price. This stayed at 5c for several decades, suddenly jumping to 15c in the 1950s. Three April Fool covers were produced with deliberate "errors" to spot. Paul presented many slides of the front covers and the photographs used to plan

them. The models he used were either his family or other local people. Several photographs were taken to provide the material for each cover and we saw how accurately the final product reflected the photographs. He would first make preliminary sketches followed by a full sized charcoal drawing and at least two small oil studies. He lived in New England and the subjects were predominately Anglo Saxon in appearance. There would have been no black models in his local town but his later illustrations became more socially aware.

In 1960 a new editor took over and wanted more portraits for the front cover. Rockwell did not want to do portraits so he left the Post in 1963. He produced fine portraits of all the stars to advertise the film "Stagecoach."

Paul then passed round his collection of books and postcards for us to enjoy and a member brought along three Norman Rockwell wall plates to show. Each of these

has a story behind it, with an older, grandfatherly figure telling tales to a younger child or grandchild. All his illustrations show a painstaking attention to detail. The background objects were chosen with great care and

the daily lives of ordinary Americans were faithfully and lovingly recorded. He has been described as seeing America move from the horse and buggy to man on the moon. The resulting paintings are a vivid chronicle of the

times and a history in themselves.

Dulwich Picture Gallery is open Tues.- Fri. 10am – 5pm, Sat. Sun. and Bank Holiday Mon. 11am– 5pm. Closed Mon.

Neighbourhood Watch Report

February 2011

**Contact John Leach
07711304965**

Telephone Scam

We have received the following from PCSO7383 Julia Smith of the Metropolitan Police Service, as part of the Farnborough and Crofton Safer Neighbourhoods – 02071618670

We have had several reports of a telephone scam offering old people a refund on their council tax, due to their having lived at their address for many years without causing any hassle! The caller has a strong Asian accent, there have been reports of both a male and a female caller, there is lots of background noise, and the number is withheld. He/she asks the potential victim to confirm

their first name and dob, then tells them they are due a £7000 government grant as reward for good behaviour. He/she then asks for bank details to enable the payment to be made directly.

If you have had this happen or anything similar please let us know. We are in constant contact with trading standards who need as much information as possible on this matter.

Theft from Allotments

The police advise that the Allotments were again targeted over the weekend of 19th and 20th February 2011, with chicken wire, snow tyres for a Freelanders, spades, rotavators, mowers and other equipment being reported stolen. If you have equipment at the Allotments

and you have not checked it recently, it may be a good idea to see that your property is still there. The Police advise that most equipment has been code marked, so if anything is offered for sale with post codes marked on the equipment, then it may be from a dubious source.

Police do recover great quantities of stolen property during the course of their investigations, and if there are no markings, then they have no means of returning property to their rightful owners. Therefore, please mark all property with your house number and post code.

Cold Calling

Trading Standards have received two calls from consumers in West Wick-

ham ward and Hayes & Coney Hall ward concerning identical incidents.

Both were cold called by a white male claiming he was sent by Bromley Council to investigate a blocked drain in their road and asked to inspect drains in their back gardens. One consumer was a 90 year old female living in Ravenswood Road who fortunately had a neighbour with her at the time. She was told that although the drain was not blocked her man-hole cover was faulty and he offered to repair it. She declined and said she would call the council to check his story and he left.

A further call was received a short while later from a man in Baston Road who also had a cold call from the same man with the same story. On inspection of his drain he was told he needed a jet wash and this would cost £200. When refused, the price dropped to £75. When this was turned down he offered to replace the man-hole cover which he said was faulty. When he was re-

fused again he threatened the consumer that he would report him to the council.

The male is described as white, in his 20s, stocky build with short dark hair and an English accent. He drove a white van with the words "Leigh on Sea" on the front and side.

If you feel a scam is taking place at the time please do not hesitate to contact us or the Doorstep crime rapid response number 07903852090.

Any sightings we would appreciate details of van and occupants.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Chelsfield Village Society is promoting Neighbourhood Watch to all the residents covered by this publication. I intend to send out in the near future, a note to all residents indicating the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch. In the mean time, it would be useful if you would email me at johnleach2000@aol.com if you would like to be part of the Watch and if you have any specific

issues you would like taken forward. I understand that some household insurance companies offer a % reduction to the premiums for being part of the Neighbourhood Watch. The Police are willing to attend a meeting to answer questions and mark up property as required. Let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements.

Remember – Springtime brings out a lot of things including people trying their luck. If you see anything suspicious going on, then try to get a car registration number and/or photograph of the incident and pass the details on. It is most important that any incident is reported with as much evidence as possible. If it is an emergency call 999, or report it to (Police) 0208 721 2606. Email: matthew.nye@met.police.uk

Break-ins There have been recent break-ins or attempted break-ins in the centre of the village. We owe it to our neighbours to keep a look out for unusual activity.

Village Hall Quiz

For those of you who missed the Village Hall Quiz Night, here are the Dingbats.

<p>1)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Pot00000000</p>	<p>2)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Math The</p>	<p>3)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Knee Light Light</p>	<p>4)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Lang4uage</p>
<p>5)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">0d0o0m0</p>	<p>6)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">revirdtaes</p>	<p>7)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">cover cop</p>	<p>8)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">9ALL5</p>
<p>9)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">P_EPP_{ERMINT}</p>	<p>10)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">issue issue issue issue issue issue issue issue issue issue</p>	<p>11)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">m ce m ce m ce</p>	<p>12)</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Put ton</p>
<p>13)</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">one another one another one another one another one another one another</p>	<p>14)</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Y N N U S</p>	<p>15)</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Lettuce cucumber Tomato Onion cress</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Answers in the next Issue</p>

An Early History of Chelsfield Village School - Part 2

Chelsfield Village School represents one of the few remaining Institutions that constituted the largely self-contained community in Chelsfield and the surrounding area in earlier times. For over 130 years the Village School has been the Establishment from which children have entered the adult world of work, or in more recent times have continued their education in other facilities in the local area or further afield.

The Village School together with St. Martin's Church and the Five Bells Public House are the only remaining aspects of the original self-supporting community that has existed for centuries. Other once familiar and vital parts of Village life have now disappeared - notably the Post Office, the Smallwood Bakeries, the Village Shop (Neal's Stores) and the Blacksmith's Forge in Skibbs Lane.

The Chelsfield Village

School therefore represents an integral part of the community with its long history spanning many generations of local families.

The first mention of a School at Chelsfield is in the year 1720 (in Loxes Magma Brittanica) where it is reported "Chelsfield where there is a small school for poor children". Possibly this was held at Kidders where the upper room in the house runs the whole length of the building and has been known as the schoolroom.

In 1823 the first School as such was built and the School Master was called Mr Edward Brooks who was paid by School fees. An old account book has entries such as:

Paid Edward Brooks for G. Dunmall 8 weeks to this day 2/-

For Richard and Philip Whitehead 5/-

For a writing book for George Dunmall 7d.

Edward Brooks was succeeded at the School by

Mr. Thomas Colebourn. In addition to fees the School was also supported by subscriptions at that time.

In 1864 the present School was built on the site of the old one with the cost being met by voluntary contributions. In 1884 it was decided that as the cost of the upkeep of the School was being met by two or three donors only, a meeting of the Ratepayers was held on 16th May 1884 and it was agreed that the formation of a School Board was the only solution to the problem. In 1902 School Boards were abolished and Kent Education Committee took over the role with local managers to represent the interests of the Parish residents.

In due course "Secondary" education was introduced in England and Wales with children from 11 and upwards continuing their education at other Establishments such as Charterhouse School for Boys or Girls, Rams-

den School for Boys or Girls, Chislehurst and Sidcup Technical School for Girls, Cray Valley Technical School for Boys, Orpington Grammar School for Girls or Bromley Grammar School for Boys. Chelsfield Village School remained as a "Primary" School for approximately 90 local boys and girls up to the age of 11 years. This status has remained right up until the present day with the only major change being a much wider catchment area in operation as a result of amended Government Education policy.

From its establishment in 1864 the Village School has met the educational needs of the Chelsfield community right up until the present day. During these 130 years there have been enormous changes in the lifestyles of local residents with housing and employment representing two areas where family life has been transformed.

Up until the late 1950s, the Chelsfield community was largely self-

supporting with the Village School being the Establishment where the majority of local children started their education, and until only the late 1930s finished their School life as well. Around that period "Secondary" education for all children began to be developed and local children moved on to other Schools for at least several more years before legally finishing their formal State education.

Since the mid/late 19.50s there have been enormous changes in every aspect of family life but until around that period up until at least the 1939/45 War the family as an entity does not appear to have changed nearly so much for say the previous 50 years. In this last statement I am thinking specifically of the number of children in each family unit and its consequent relation to the Village School serving the Village community and the wider area around Chelsfield.

Up until the 1939/45 War a family with 2/3 children was regarded as a small one, and 5 or 6 children in

a household was not at all unusual. At the time when Chelsfield Village School was founded and up until the First World War much larger families with 10,12 or 15 children were not at all unusual. Indeed, in my own family my Great-Grandmother had 14 children and her next-door neighbour had 15! This was in East London around 1900 but I believe that much the same situation prevailed in rural areas such as Chelsfield around the turn of the Century. In the 1920s and 30s large families such as this were not nearly so evident but even on the outskirts of Chelsfield there was a family of 16 children whose only source of education would have been Chelsfield Village School.

After the 1939/45 War there was the post-war "baby-boom" with all its consequences on education, social welfare etc. but apart from this phenomenon the more recent trend has been for small families of 1, 2 or 3 children or none at all. At the present time there is also the matter of single-parent families

etc. but I do not wish to become enmeshed in such current, complicated social issues and would

prefer to concentrate on times past where I feel that I am on much safer ground!

Written by Carol Margetts with additional information and inspiration from Mrs Vera Margetts

Bernard Tritton

I can't work out who wrote "Sleigh Ride" (p.3 of the December edition of Chelsfield Village Voice), but when I was Googling this evening it brought me the only 20th-century hit I got for "Bernard Tritton" + Orpington.

In 1968, the year I turned 18, I worked at Reuters' reference library in Fleet Street.

One of the other people working there -- the only one whose full name I now remember -- was a Bernard Tritton who came from Orpington (and was proud of it). He would have been in his late 20s or early 30s, was married, and probably had at least one child. Might he have been the Bernard Tritton the author knew in the

1950s?

For some reason his name came to mind this evening and I wondered if he could be traced. He was an interesting man, and it would be good to know he was still around. If you have any leads, please let me know.

David Alexander, Baarn, Netherlands

Banksy Beware





2011 marks our 75 year birthday!

The Chelsfield Players

Six Characters in Search of an Au- thor by Luigi Pirandello

A group of film-makers are editing a documentary when they are interrupted by a family claiming to be fictional characters and asking to have their story told. But the story takes a sinister turn as the lines of reality become distorted. Is fiction more real than reality? *Six Characters in Search of an Author* exploded onto the stage in 1921 as one of the unique achievements of twentieth-century drama.

Updated and recontextualised in this gripping new version by Rupert Gould and Ben Power, it becomes a dark parable for a media-obsessed age and an exhilarating exploration of how we define art, ourselves and 'reality' in the twenty-first century.

Performances Wednesday 23 to Saturday 26 March 2011 at 8pm

Box Office: 01689 831187



Scenes from two recent Chelsfield Players productions



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, Brom-
ley, BR1 3UH

Reporting Problems to the Council

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

Mobile Library

The mobile library stops
outside Chelsfield Village
School on Tuesdays be-
tween 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 Ser-
vice 0800 111999

Orpington Police Station
1000-1800 Monday-Saturday
0300 1231212

Samaritans 01689 833000

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Safer Neighbourhood Team
020 8721 2605

Chelsfield Village Hall (bookings)

01689 855617

Village Neighbourhood Watch

Contact

John Leach 07711304965

**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
Brass Crosby Room
**St Martin's Toddler
Group**

10.30am-12.00 midday
Contact Sarah Ford:
01689 853415

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

EVERY THURSDAY
St Martin of Tours Church
Viva Acappella
Ladies Barbershop Chorus
Practice
Contact Helen 07984
961696

**SPECIAL
EVENTS**

Wednesday 9th March
The Five Bells
Open Mic Night
Starts 8.30pm

Thursday 10th March
(2nd Thursday Each
Month)
Brass Crosby Room
Crafts For All
Come and Try Your Hand at
a Range of Crafts
11.00am

Tuesday 15th March
The Five Bells
Quiz Night Special
In aid of RNLI
from 9.00pm

Wednesday 16th March
(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane
**Internet Cafe & Local
History Transcription**
2.30-4.30pm

Thursday 17th March
(3rd Thursday each
month)
Brass Crosby Room
Local History Group
10.15 - Midday

Thursday 17th March
The Five Bells

St Patricks Day

With Live Music from
Fiddlefit
Starting 8.00pm

Wednesday 23rd March
The Five Bells

Open Mic Night
Starts 8.30pm

Friday 25th March
The Five Bells

**Live Music with
"Raincheck"**

Starting 9.00pm - open to
midnight (entrance fee)

Sunday 3rd April
The Five Bells

**Mothering Sunday
Special Menu**

Starting 9.00pm - open to
midnight (entrance fee)

Wednesday 6th April
(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane
**Internet Cafe & Local
History Transcription**
2.30-4.30pm

Sunday 5th June
The Rectory—Skibbs Lane
Big Lunch

Saturday 11th June
The Rectory—Skibbs Lane

**St Martins
Church Fete**

Saturday 9th July
Cricket Field

**Chelsfield Village
Fair**