

March 2023





All of our local pub/restaurants are offering menus that will delight any lovely mum!

The BoPeep

www.thebopeep.com 01959 534457

The Chelsfield

www.thechelsfieldpub.com 01689 637 605

The Five Bells

www.thefivebellschelsfield.co.uk 01689 821044

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

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Keep us updated with your events, stories, concerns and news!

Please get anything for inclusion in the April 2023 issue to us by Tuesday 28th March 2023

SEND TO: chelsfieldvillagevoice @gmail.com



Jersey Tiger Moth

Since Christmas there's been a comet named C/2022-F3 that has visited the inner solar system for the first time since before the last ice age. It was not a bright naked eye comet that was going to draw the attention of the public as it's only just visible to the naked eye under very good conditions and by the time you read this it will be travelling back to the icy backwaters of the solar system where, as I understand it. it will remain for tens of thousands of years or possibly even be lost to interstellar space. It came reasonably close to the Earth (not dangerously close but close enough to afford astronomers with a great view) and it seems that its gravitational interactions with the planets may have altered its orbit such that its future fate is currently unknown. These things are difficult to predict as this comet's orbit is so finely balanced that small changes such as unpredictable outgassing from the comet itself can have huge effects on its orbit. We'll know in about 50,000 years.



On a relatively warm January evening when the comet was pretty much as close as it was going to get to the Earth I managed to take a photo of it with a small telescope using a 52 sec exposure. So close was the comet that with a longer exposure it would appear as a streak as it travelled through the field of view (see image). The hazv area around the comet is known as the coma and is created by the emission of gas and dust from the comet's surface due to the sun's heat. This comet is known for being of a green colour due to the breaking of carbon bonds but that has not been recreated well in this photo. And while we're on the subject, CPRE (Campaign for the protection of Rural England) annually run a

survey asking people to count how many stars they can see within the constellation of Orion. I managed to count 10 which reveals a fair degree of light pollution. Apparently since the lockdown, light pollution has been reduced, a trend that is continuing even though the we are now leaving the pandemic behind us p.s, turn off unnecessary night lights: it's good for both wildlife and star gazing!

This month I want to talk about the Jersey Tiger moth (Euplagia quadripunctaria), sometimes known as the Spanish flag moth. This is a large (sometimes more than 2 inches in wingspan), strikingly coloured moth that has strongly striped wings of dark brown streaks on a creamy background. When the wings are opened, bright orange black spotted secondary wings are exposed (see second photo). It is indeed one of the more attractive moths of the tiger family. This moth flies both during the day and night and can easily





be mistaken for a butterfly. Historically these moths were well known in the Channel Isles, hence the name and considered a rarity on the British mainland There was one area in Devon where they were known but since Victorian times this moth has spread around south west England. A second population appears to have migrated from Europe into Kent and Sussex and as far as London where they were discovered in Forest Hill in 2004. Their global range stretches from Iran and Western Russia to the European mainland but they migrate during the summer and seem to have found Britain to their liking in recent years. Expect to see them travel further north with time.

The Jersey tiger moth feeds on plants that most would consider weeds, chiefly nettles, borage, ground ivy and brambles. During the summer heat they can often be found

aestivating - a type of warm temperature hibernation process designed to protect an animal from excess heat although this is more common in Mediterranean areas. While the jersey tiger moth is increasing in Britain's warming climate, another moth is also showing up in the village in increasing numbers. This is the box tree moth which I wrote about back in August 2019. It seems to be spreading rapidly and our local moth fancier Lester Barnes reported at the time that he had caught two in one night. He can now catch ten in an evening. This is a huge increase when the first was noted in Britain only 15 years ago. This new introduction would not be an issue except these moths feed on box trees and in recent years I have noted a number of these trees being killed in the village. Their presence is revealed by silky threads of what look like cobwebs which are designed to mask the caterpillars from hungry birds. When these moth caterpillars attack a plant the do so mob handed and quickly devastate the plant. Whether these moths will eat themselves

out of a food supply is currently unknown although they will tolerate eating less common plants related to box trees.



Another rapidly increasing migrant moth that appears to be becoming established in Britain and that has frequently been found by Lester in recent years is the tree lichen beauty. Thankfully this moth only eats Lichen. Something that I have noticed has become more and more common since I moved to the village over forty years ago and may explain the moth's increasing numbers. As can be seen in the photo, it even looks like a piece of tree lichen which makes sense if you want to be ignored while eating lunch!

> Steve Fuller March 2022





Worlds End Music presents
Gary Ryan, guitar.

7pm, Friday 10th March

St Martin-of-Tours, Church Road, Chelsfield, BR67SN

Come and enjoy a stellar evening with international classical guitar soloist Gary Ryan. An hour of music followed by a reception in the Brass Crosby Room- refreshments available.

Tickets £10; children free; concessions available.

For tickets and more information go to

www.WorldsEndMusic.com

scan the QR code,

or call 07547 794870



Chelsfield Community Cafe



'Our Community Cafe continues to thrive with attendees and volunteers enjoying the atmosphere, banter and camaraderie (as well as tea & cake!).

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month and ask for a small donation from everyone. These funds go towards minimal costs (as cakes are donated). Since inception the surplus has gone to various charities and disaster emergency appeals (as detailed). The cafe has proved to be a 'win. win. win' for so many! Thank you to all who have donated so generously!

Please join us in Chelsfield Village Hall between 2:30pm & 4:30pm on the 1st & 15th March.

FYI - Pam Temple will give a short talk (with slides) on Down House Gardens on the 1st March.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mags, Pam & The Chelsfield Volunteers





Halstead & District Horticultural Society

March 23rd 7.45pm Spring Show /Great potato challenge and Seed swap Halstead Village Hall

April 20th 8pm Talk Late flowering Perennials & Grasses (Plants will be on sale)

April 22nd A walking tour of London's Gardens (outing)

May 8th 9.30am-12 plant sale Halstead Village Hall June 7th Outing to Belmont House and

Doddington Place Gardens nursery and the UK flower by coach

June 22nd 7.45pm Summer show Halstead Village Hall

Mid July (TBC) Outing to Penns in the Rocks Groombridge (own transport)

Sept 2nd Autumn Show 2pm Halstead Village Hall (Staging 9.30-11.30)

Sept 28th 8pm Talk Mv families Alstroemeria

industry (Flowers available to buv)

Oct 12th Quiz 7.30pm Halstead Village Hall

Oct 26th 8pm Talk The great Storm of 1987 Halstead Village Hall

Nov 23rd AGM 8pm Halstead Village Hall

Membership £10 per year - or joint membership £15

Kent Heights Flower Club

If you love flowers, come and join our Club. Everyone welcome, sit back, relax and watch the demonstration, pick up some useful tips, learn new skills and discover new interests

We meet the first Thursday of the month, March through to July, September through to November

> 7.00pm for 7.30pm with a Christmas lunch in December

Halstead Village Hall, Knockholt Road, TN14 7EX

Our next meeting is on Thursday 2nd March 2023 Helen Hare is the demonstrator and the theme 'East to West' Patricia Ellis is our Demonstrator on 6th April and Elouise Halfier-Stott on 4th May

Members £5 including refreshment Come and join us, have a coffee beforehand, enjoy the entertainment, enter the raffle and you will have a chance to win one of Helen's beautiful arrangements

> For further information contact Sally Kemsley on 01959 534406



In Loving Memory of Mary Haines

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mary Haines on the 6th February. The funeral will take place at St Martins of Tours on the 23rd March at 11am

If you would like to attend can you please contact David (son) on mobile 07837 541248.

Well Hill Mission Church 130th Anniversary

WELL HILL MISSION CHURCH

in the Parish of Chelsfield, Kent founded 1893



130th ANNIVERSARY FLOWER FESTIVAL 24th & 25th JUNE 2023 "FARMING THROUGH THE AGES"

In June Well Hill Mission church is celebrating its 130th anniversary. It is one of a series of mission churches built in the late 19th century to serve the large numbers of seasonal hop and fruit pickers, usually coming from the East End of London and staying in the area from early summer to autumn. It is, we believe, the only one of these churches that remains in regular active use.

We hope to fill the church with flower displays for our celebration weekend in June and <u>invite you to join us</u> by creating a display.

We have identified a number of sites in the church. A list of locations is available, giving an idea of sizes, together with photographs of the interior of the church and a few of the displays from our centenary flower festival in 1993.

If you would be interested in creating a flower display for our festival, please email wh130th@gmail.com or phone Anne on 07767 783189 or Barbara on 07593 857447.





WELL HILL MISSION CHURCH Founded 1893 130th ANNIVERSARY

FLOWER FESTIVAL

24th and 25th JUNE 2023 11am - 4pm

CONCERT & CREAM TEA

3pm Saturday 24th June

Tickets for concert and cream tea - £12

Email: wh130th@gmail.com

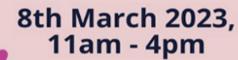
Tel: Julia Sparkes on 07930 676179



Orpington Community / Volunteering Fair

pring into Volunteering

Come to our
Community/Volunteering
Fair and meet and network
with local organisations, and
find out what you could get
involved in.



Hope Church,
The Walnuts Shopping Centre,
Community Hub
Orpington
BR6 OTW



www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk 020 83151930



Local History - A Big Story From a Little Box

A little black box found in a house at Petts Wood after its occupant had died provided an intriguing tale for the Chelsfield Local History Group's first meeting of 2023. Patrick Hellicar told how a few days before the first Covid lockdown in March 2020 the box – just 6¼ inches by five inches and 3½ deep and held together by two elastic bands – was handed to

him by a friend to investigate. Inside were stuffed several pieces of folded paper, Army uniform buttons, a couple of shoulder badges, some foreign coins and two small metal discs.





But there were no details of exactly where the box had been found, who it might have belonged to or how it ended up in Petts Wood.

The story Patrick unearthed from these meagre clues was of a young man who signed up with the Territorial 1st Kent Cyclist Battalion three months after the outbreak of the First World War. Soon, on dark, cold, wet nights he was patrolling country lanes on his bike with his comrades from D Company and watching for suspicious activity along bleak, exposed coastal areas where the enemy might try to land.

This soldier of the "Gas Pipe Cavalry" (nicknamed from the metal tubes that form a bicycle frame) was Herman Chandler, a 22 year-old ironmonger's assistant from Dover.

For a year he pedalled on patrol with his right leg

jutting out to avoid snagging his rifle clipped diagonally upwards along the bike frame and on to the head tube below the handlebars. At night, his only light came from a smoky, smelly, paraffin-burning, flickering front lamp.

In December 1915 the Kent Cyclists were ordered from their billets at Canterbury and sent to Chiseldon, near Swindon, where they were relieved of their bikes, formed into an infantry Brigade with other cycling battalions and began training for battle.

Knowing he would soon be departing on active service with what was now the 1/1st Kent Regiment, Herman asked for 48 hours leave and married his sweetheart Olivia Scarlett in Dover five days before Christmas.

At the beginning of February 1916, the Kents sailed for India to take over from regular troops of the British Indian Army who were being sent to the front in France and Belgium. Arriving in Bombay (Mumbai) after a month at sea, they spent the rest of the year under canvas, training on the plains around Bangalore before undergoing a tortuous 2,300-mile train journey the following December to Burhan on the North West Frontier.

Herman, officially part of the Machine Gun Corps from March 1917 though still serving with the Kents, fought with them until the end of 1918 on the NW Frontier and at Baluchistan as well as helping to quell disorder in the Punjab.

Then he was called into further action in the Peshawar region near the Khyber Pass from May 1919 when the third Anglo-Afghan War broke out. He was demobilised in October that year, shipped home to England and finally released from service on 21 December.

But Herman's story didn't finish there. By the end of 1920 he was living at Bromley Common and working as an assistant at George Weeks, the big ironmongers in Bromley High Street. Within two years, he and his wife Olivia had two daughters and were at Turpington Lane on Bromley's first





post-war council housing estate – built as "homes for heroes".

The Chandlers stayed there until around 1944, moving first to Brooklyn Road, off Bromley Common, then to Beechfield Road at Bickley. Through the 1920s Herman was a stalwart of the Bromley Town Council Tenants Association and a regular at St Mark's Church at Bromley South, singing in

the choir there for many years. At work, Herman progressed to become manager of the Beckenham branch of George Weeks.

Towards the end of 1968, Herman died at the age of 76. His widow, Olivia, continued to live at Beechfield Road until her death in 1981. She was 89 years-old.

The Chandlers' younger daughter, Olive, had married in 1949 and she and her husband lived not far from her parents in Frankswood Avenue, Petts Wood. Olive passed away in 2001 and her husband in 2017. It was they – Herman Chandler's daughter and

son-in-law — who had kept his WW1 mementoes safely in the little black box, enabling his story to be unravelled with dogged detective work

Patrick Hellicar produced a startling discovery to end his talk. The two curious black metal discs. found in the bottom of the box both turned out to have very dark and murky images on one side. From these he was able to coax a picture of a soldier wearing an Army tunic and a cap with a Kent Cycling Battalion badge and another (very likely the same man) in civvies. His conclusion this must be Herman Chandler himself!

Knit and Natter - Monday 13th March



The second Monday of every month at The Five Bells, 8pm.

Whether you are a

knitting expert or want to get started, everyone is welcome.

Feel free to join us just

for a chat too!

Knitting, crocheting and other crafts welcome. We'd love to see you!



Chelsfield Lane Snow 1968



We Need Your Support!



Thanks to everyone who has donated towards the printing costs of the Village Voice!

Donations (cheques) towards the cost of printing the Chelsfield Village Voice should be made payable to

"Chelsfield Village Hall" and sent to:

Peter Gandolfi 3 Orlestone Gardens Chelsfield Village Orpington Kent BR6 6HB Donations may also be made directly online using the following account details:

Chelsfield Village Hall Sort Code: 40-35-30 Account No: 31172344

Please use the reference "Village Voice" in order to identify the purpose of the payment.

Many Thanks, Dan Sloan





Saturday 1st April 7:30_{pm}

Dvořák

Legends, Op. 59, B. 117

Debussy

Petite suite, L65 arr. Büsser

Strauss

Oboe Concerto, TrV 292

Soloist: Izy Cheesman



The Parish Church of All Saints Bark Hart Road Orpington BR6 0QD

www.orpingtonsymphonyorchestra.co.uk

Conductor: Emily Singh Leader: Sarah Douch

Tickets: £10 (children £5) at the door or telephone 020 8851 4502 www.ticketsource.co.uk/orpingtonso

Registered Charity no. 1063477







Rotary Club of Orpington

Invite you to their

Fantastic Quiz Night

Where? All Saints Church Hall Barkhart Rd Orpington
When? Friday March 24th 2023

Time? 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm Price? Only £10 per ticket

FREE BOTTLE OF WINE ON EVERY TABLE

Tables of 8 but we can combine smaller groups

Please bring your own food, refreshments and glasses

Great raffle prizes

To book please ring Val on 07894 066093 or 01689 826478

Or Email rcorpington@gmail.com

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES



Village Hall Heating Problems

During February we had our usual annual service and inspection of the hall warm air systems, and unfortunately our main front warm air heater system was condemned as dangerous, taken out of service, and we were forbidden to use it.

Apparently it needed new burners, but the heater was now considered obsolete, and spares had not been available for a while. This has meant that we have had problems in keeping the hall open for our regular users. Although we also have a rear warm air system, the hall takes a while to warm up, which has meant that we have tried to warm the hall up before sessions, using additional expensive electric heaters.

I do hope that regular users will please bear

with this problem for the next few weeks, while we can get a replacement system installed.

Apparently the original system was at least 30 years old, so it hasn't done us too badly. The replacement will be a recommended economical and reliable make. It will be rather expensive but that is what we have a surplus for.

Peter Gandolfi

Aliens In The Lane

....what goes up must come down

All this recent talk about unidentified flying objects over USA and Alaska and shooting them out of the skv with Sidewinder missiles (at £330,000 a pop!), reminded me of an event in Chelsfield Lane in the late 1960's. There was a house opposite Dad's called Open Gates - now Dorado Gardens. It had been sequentially the home of Charles Rowe and his father: Ron and Doris Peacock; and finally George & Barbara Knight who ran Home & Garden shops on Charterhouse Parade and at Barnehurst.

George Knight's relation Mrs Statham also lived with them.

Now, Mrs Statham was a confirmed member of the aetherius Society who believed that there were Aliens from Mars who came to visit Earth. She was a nice lady but Dad thought she was potty!

One morning she came rushing over to Lynton to see Dad to tell him that Aliens had landed in a tree in their garden and she wouldn't go outside. We were very curious of course but it sounded exciting and worthy of investigation. We rushed over the road to the

'landing site' to spy up in the tree a contraption of aluminium poles, a sort of netting and shreds of Latex. Also a bag hanging from a cord of some heavy objects. Dad quickly guessed we were looking at a meteorological weather balloon. A rarity indeed and it couldn't have found a more apposite place to fall than here. No amount of explaining to Mrs Statham would divert her from this ethereal visitation and she begged us to take it away. (Today she reminds me of the delightful Sister Monica Joan in Call the Midwife). We did this without any



question and took it into the shed at Lynton to see what treasures were within. The netting was a fine copper mesh (a Radiosond) which could be tracked from the ground. Made good fishing nets. The thin tubes and stays were separated for many subsequent uses for

many years including aerials for an illicit Spark Transmitter which totally iammed next door's TV picture! He worked at the secret Fort Halstead which was embarrassing. (I still have a short bit here somewhere) but the heavy bag had nothing more than some old nuts and bolts acting as

ballast- a big disappointment! Bits of Latex came in handy.

Phil Lane

PS during my countless aerial flights I have spotted two of these 'Aliens' in the middle of fields

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

email: fixmystreet.com Opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Address: Civic Centre. Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH Problems may be reported via the council website.

www.bromley.gov.uk/re port.

or if urgent by phone out of hours Emergency **Duty Team** 020 8464 4848.

NHS Non-Emergency 111

Chelsfield Primary School 01689 825827

BT Faults 0800 800151

Councillors

Mike Botting mike.botting@bromley.g ov.uk

Angela Page angela.page @bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Voice chelsfieldvillagevoice

@gmail.com

EDF Electrical Power Failure Call 105 or 0800 316

Thames Water

Emergencies 0800 714614

Samaritans 116123

National Grid (Gas)

Emergency (leaks) 0800 111999

Bromley Police Station & Police

non emergency 101

Safer Neighbourhood Team

020 8721 2605 chelsfieldandbottomSNT @met.police.uk

Chelsfield Village Hall

(bookings)

01689 831826 or email to:

cvhlettings@gmail.com

Chelsfield Players

in-

fo@chelsfieldplayers.org www.chelsfieldplayers .org





The Benefice of Chelsfield with Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom



St Martin's Chelsfield & Well Hill - Services - March 2023

All welcome! Come and join us any time. Please watch the church website for any updates (see link at bottom of page).

St Martin's

Sun 5 March	10.00am	Holy Communion CW01:MG
2 nd of Lent	6.30pm	Choral Evensong BCP:SAJ
Wed 8 March	9.30am	Holy Communion cwo2:SAJ
Sun 12 March	10.00am	Holy Communion cwo1:SAJ
3 rd of Lent	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist cwo2:MG
Wed 15 March	9.30am	Holy Communion cwo2:MG

Mothering Sunday

Family Worship with Baptism MG

6.30pm	Choral Evensong BCP: Reader Ken l'Anson		
Wed 22 March	9.30am	Holy Communion CW02 : SAJ	
Sun 26 March 5 th of Lent	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship Reader Ken l'Anson Choral Evensong BCP: Reader Phillip Southby	
Wed 29 Mar	9.30am	Holy Communion cwo2: MG	

Well Hill

Sun 12 March	10.00am	Morning Worship Reader Gillian Garman
Sun 19 March	10.00am	Mothering Sunday service Reader Ken l'Anson
Sun 26 March	10.00am	Holy Communion MG

Key: CWO1 - Common Worship Order 1; CWO2 - Common Worship Order 2; BCP - Book of Common Prayer; SAJ: Rev Susan Atkinson-Jones, MG: Rev Michael Gentry

www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk



Sun 19 March 10.00am







View

Follow

Watch







St Martin's Church circa 1910



Two interesting old photos I have of St Martins the earlier one showing the Victorian

dismal wall decoration. Only the 10 Commandments still exist plus the odd bits in the Chancel uncovered during the last redecorations and preserved by framing on the wall.

Also show the gas lighting progressing which must have been quite an event after the oil lamps. Town gas of course from the St Mary Cray gasholders.

I bet they were very careful to ensure that they were always turned off and not allowed to blow out filling the church with gas causing the congregation to fall asleep even faster during one of the very long sermons!

These pictures have not been seen by many people before. I cannot straighten one of them further without losing some edge detail. You can just see one of the big radiators near the South door entrance.

Phil Lane



Dates For Your Diary

WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Tuesday
Five Bells
CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT
8.30pm

Every Thursday
The Chelsfield Pub
QUIZ NIGHT

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

from 7.30pm
Wednesday 1st March
Chelsfield Village Hall
Chelsfield Volunteers
Afternoon Tea & Talk
2.30pm-4.40pm (page 5)

Wednesday 1st March Five Bells Open Mic Night From 8.30pm

Thursday 2nd March Halstead Village Hall Kent Heights Flower Club From 7pm for 7.30pm (page 6)

Sat 4th - Sun 5th March Coolings Garden Centre Antiques & Collectables Fair from 10am - 4pm Wednesday 8th March Hope Church, The Walnuts Community/Volunteering Fair From 11.00am to 4.00pm (see page 9)

Friday 10th March St Martins of Tours Gary Ryan Concert From 7.00pm (page 13)

Friday 10th March The Five Bells LIVE MUSIC - Gold From 8.30pm

Monday 13th March Five Bells KNIT & NATTER NIGHT from 8.00pm (page 11)

Wednesday 15th March Chelsfield Village Hall Chelsfield Volunteers AFTERNOON TEA 2.30pm-4.40pm (page 5)

Wednesday 15th March Five Bells Open Mic Night From 8.00pm

Friday 17th - Sunday 19th March Coolings Garden Centre Craft Show from 10am - 4pm Tuesday 21st March Chelsfield Village Hall Evening WI 7.30pm-9.30pm

Thursday 23rd March
Halstead Village Hall
Spring Show/Potato Challenge/
Seed Swap
7.45pm (see page 6)

Friday 24th March
All Saints Church Hall Barkhart Rd
Rotary Quiz Night
7pm for 7.30pm (see page 14)

Thu 30th March - Sat 1st April Chelsfield Village Hall Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde 8.00pm (see page 18)

Saturday 1st April Church of All Saints Bark Hart Road Orpington Symphony Orchestra Concert 7.30pm (see page 13)

Thursday 6th April Halstead Village Hall Kent Heights Flower Club From 7pm for 7.30pm (page 6)

Recycling Bin Collection March 2023

Monday 6th March Monday 13th March Monday 20th March Monday 27th March Monday 3rd April Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste.

Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste.

Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste

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 or monthly only from households that subscribe (£60 per annum) to the Bromley scheme (Telephone: 0300 303 8658 for advice)