



May 2015

Supported by



Chelsfield  
Park  
Hospital

**Five Bells Family Fun Day  
Bank Holiday Monday 25th May**

*All the fun of the fair with three big inflatables a giant slide, a bungee run and a jousting activity coupled with Spider Man and Elsa from Frozen, face painting and glitter tattoos – this should be a great day. Entrance will be £5 for a wrist band which entitles the person to go on as many times as they like toddlers under 2 FREE entrance.*

*There will be burgers and sausages on the BBQ. The fun starts at 12 midday and goes on until 5.00pm*

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

The Lesser Periwinkle	2
Open Garden Invitation	3
Local History Group	3
Paediatric Session	5
Chelsfield Flying Club	6
Chelsfield Village Fair	7
Warren Road Fete	8
Broadband Update	9
Clean Up After Pets	10
Cranes & Bridges—Reply	11
Look This Way Please	11
Useful Contact Numbers	15
Dates for your Diary	16

St Martin's Church

F E T E

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 12 noon – 4.30pm**

**Rectory Garden and Glebe field, Skibbs Lane**

*Come and join us for all the fun of the fair. If you would like to have a stall or would like to offer assistance please contact Paul Gosling or Anne Mead on the church website.*

There will be all the usual stalls, cakes, plants, books, a bottle stall, bric-a-brac jewellery, cards and much more and delicious food and a barbecue.

The children from Chelsfield School are demonstrating dancing around the Maypole and Chelsfield Riding stables are providing a horse and carriage and there will be a five a side football tournament.

Parking will be in the field opposite the Rectory in Skibbs Lane.

Contact Anne 826349

Web site: [www.facebook.com/ChelsfieldStMartins](http://www.facebook.com/ChelsfieldStMartins)



**Contributions**

**We depend on your contributions to keep the Village Voice both useful and interesting so please send any events, articles, photos, drawings, articles or stories for the June issue to:**

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

**or post to:**

**Chelsfield Village Voice  
2 Bucks Cross Cottages  
Chelsfield Village  
BR6 7RN**

**by Wednesday 27th May**

Visit: [www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk](http://www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk)

## The Lesser Periwinkle

Early April, before the warm weather of mid-April had arrived, I was walking down Maypole Rd and noting that few plants had yet begun to show their colours. As I approached Mount Hall I noticed small but vivid purple-blue flowers in the hedge which I initially mistook for sweet violets. Upon closer study I found they were actually lesser periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), a member of the dogbane family. The flowers are very similar but the waxy evergreen leaf of the periwinkle is far smaller and the slightly asymmetrical flower does not have the heady fragrance of the violet. The name of this plant has been adopted to represent a shade of blue with a touch of purple and it must be said that the colour is rather unusual for a native flower.

It seems that the periwinkle can flower at any time of the year. It much prefers the spring and summer but mild winters will also allow a sprinkling of colour to brighten the traveller's path until the spring arrives.

Back in the mists of history, the alleged ancient mystical powers of the periwinkle led to its old

regarded as a symbol of immortality. The plant probably originally came from the conti-



name of 'sorcerer's violet'. It was used as a love charm by being sprinkled under the bed and leaves were eaten as a fertility aid. On a similar track the herbalist Nicholas Culpeper stated that 'Venus owns this herb and that the leaves eaten by man and wife together cause love between them'. In medieval times garlands or periwinkles were sometimes worn by people about to be executed and woven into funeral wreaths for children as this evergreen plant was

chosen as the floral emblem of the city of Geneva), as it rarely produces ripe seed in Britain's climate but it readily takes root from nodes along its stem. In Britain this plant seems to produce small areas of pretty outbursts of colour in the early spring such as along the hedge near Manor Hall. However, as so often seems the case nowadays, our pretty inconsequential blooms cause problems overseas. In the U.S. the plant is rec-

ognised as a potential problem as it can often spread and choke natural wild flowers. However, it still appears to be popular and it seems to have something of a 'Love/hate' relationship with Americans. I can't say that I'd really noticed this plant prior to seeing it this March but it is surprisingly pretty and I will be keeping a look out for it in the future.



*Steve Fuller (May 2015)*

## National Open Garden Invitation

We would like to announce the 2015 dates of opening our garden for the National Open Garden Charity.

Sunday 10th May  
1.00pm - 5.30pm

The tea money on this day goes to Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

and Sunday 5th July  
1.00pm – 5.30pm  
This tea money will go to St. Christopher's Hospice.

Entrance will be £4 per adult and free for children.

There will be tea and cakes to purchase and plants for sale.

Our address is:  
12, The Meadow,  
Chelsfield. BR66HS,

There is easy access for wheelchairs.

Our phone number for any queries is  
01689853210.

*Jean and  
Roger Pemberton*

## Local History Group

Paul Rason set out tables leading to expectation that we would be studying some handouts. He introduced the topic

which was the historical involvement of the River Cray in the development of Orpington. All the maps he handed out

were centred around the river. He stated that settlements grew up around rivers as people needed water to function and

survive.

The first map was dated 1640. The most important features were rivers with the River Cray being shown as starting in Orpington at the pond at Priory Gardens.

The local place names shown included St Mary Cray, Pauls Cray and Foots Cray showing the importance of the river. Other names shown are now familiar as road names such as Rookesley and Barkhart. The river is 9 miles long and had 14 separate mills for making paper. A paper mill at St Mary Cray produced the first paper for £1 notes in 1914. The river was also used for growing watercress which was harvested and sent to London.

On the second map, dated 1801, Tripes Farm was shown and the nearby Petting Grove (now Petten Grove). A mill was situated behind what is now Carlton Parade. The map showed that land features were

more important than those that were man made.

The origin of maps came into being in Scotland following the 18<sup>th</sup> century Jacobite uprising. As it was essential for armies to know the lie of the land. The maps were made by the Engineers of the Board of Ordnance, thus starting the history of the Ordnance Survey maps.

A national survey in 1861-71 was revised in 1901-2 and published in 1904. In this map the spellings were now more familiar. Town centres had been connected by winding cart tracks which took the mode of transport into consideration but the railways had arrived. These were engineered to take advantage of the flattest routes. Embankments were constructed by hand by cheap labour (navvies). Stations were located outside the town centres which had established themselves near the rivers.

A 1909 map of Orping-

ton High Street gave far less prominence to the river. Many large houses are shown. A property called Pineridge, where Knoll rise is now, was owned by a business man, Alfred Brown. He donated the lych gate to All Saints Church. He moved to a large house near where Orpington Hospital is. When he died during WWI leaving no descendents the land was taken to build Orpington Hospital.

The last map, dated 1930, showed Orpington By-Pass and the tree roads in Green Street Green. It was interesting to compare the map with what we know today and identify the sites of roads not yet constructed.

Springs are marked in Priory Gardens and a corn mill and paper mill are marked on the river.

The aforementioned Petting Grove has yet to be renamed. The growth of the town is no longer influenced by the river but by transport links.

*Catherine Gandolfi*



## Paediatric First Aid Session

**Saturday 20th June, 9.30 -11.30am**

St Martin of Tours Church, Brass Crosby Room, Church Rd, Chelsfield, Kent  
BR6 7SN

Learn how to administer emergency first aid to children in your care.

### The Course will include:-

Recovery position

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

Choking

Bleeding

Signs of Meningitis

Head injuries

Anaphylaxis

Question and Answers

**Refreshments included**

**£12 per person, to be paid in advance to secure your booking.**

Further enquiries: Peter Gandolfi 01689 831826

3 Orlestone Gardens, Chelsfield, Kent BR6 6HB

*Sorry we cannot accommodate children at this event*

A large, detailed model of a Spitfire fighter plane is shown in flight against a clear sky. The plane is painted in a grey and black camouflage pattern with a roundel on the wing.

**Help us put on  
the Chelsfield  
Village Fair  
Flying Display  
on 11th July  
2015 - join  
Chelsfield  
Flying Club!**

Without Chelsfield Flying Club, there would be no flying displays at Chelsfield Village Fair. Flying displays are expensive (around £4,000 for 2015) but the Flying Club ensures that neither our headline charity nor our local good causes suffer because we want to put on the best Fair in the area.



### Help us by joining!

**Gold Membership** - a donation of £60 or more gets you the official Flying Club Baseball Cap to wear on the day and a visit to Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar



### Platinum Membership

a donation of £100 or more gets you all the above PLUS you get to sit in a Spitfire at Biggin Hill during the visit.

Donate on line at [flying.chelsfieldfair.com](http://flying.chelsfieldfair.com) or post a cheque made out to Chelsfield Village Fair to 4 Orlestone Gardens, Chelsfield BR6 6HB

Thank you!



## Chelsfield Village Fair - Update

With a couple of months to go, we are in fairly good shape. A majority of our trading pitches have been sold, the entertainment slots are being filled and all the boring stuff is coming together too. By boring, we mean things like toilets, lottery licences etc. - not very exciting but a necessary evil of these events!

Our current focus is on Chelsfield Flying Club (CFC) which funds the air displays in order that we minimise the cost to the actual Fair itself and thereby ensure that the maximum amount possible goes to our headline charity (South East London Breast Cancer Trust) and local good causes. We have two levels of membership, Gold and Platinum. Gold is for those individuals who donate £60 or more and that entitles you to a visit to Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar and a CFC Baseball cap (see poster)

which you can wear proudly (or any way you want) on Fair day. If you want to do that bit extra, you can donate £100 or more and become a Platinum member and on that visit, you get to sit in one of the Spitfires at Biggin. You will of course be mentioned in the programme and on our website. Of course the real reason to donate is that feeling of excitement and satisfaction as you watch the aircraft flying at the Fair!

So if you would like to join Chelsfield Flying Club, you can do so online at [flying.chelsfieldfair.com](http://flying.chelsfieldfair.com) or by making a cheque out to Chelsfield Village Fair (write Chelsfield Flying Club on the back please) and sending it to 4 Orlestone Gardens, Chelsfield Village BR6 6HB. This year you will be funding the not inconsiderable cost of a Spitfire display and a display

from the Breitling Wingwalkers (who are incidentally currently displaying in Japan!).

Our fund-raiser, David Padilla is on the case of selling programme advertising and corporate membership of the Flying Club so if he approaches you, do consider having an advert in the programme - it's full colour throughout and everyone gets one on the day.

And once again, if you fancy helping out on the day, do get in touch - you can email [admin@chelsfieldfair.com](mailto:admin@chelsfieldfair.com) whereupon you will be snapped up for various (largely entertaining) duties.

I look forward to giving you more news in the June edition of your Village Voice.

*Dave Griffiths*  
Vice Chairman  
Chelsfield Village Fair  
[admin@chelsfieldfair.com](mailto:admin@chelsfieldfair.com)



# Warren Road School PTA Summer Fete

Saturday 20th June 2015  
12.30pm to 4.30pm



## Arena events include:

Football Skills Academy  
Warren Road Glee Club  
Tug 'O' War contests  
Orpington Gym Club  
Theatre Skills Academy



**Attractions include:** Bouncy Castles,  
Quasar, Face Painting, Beat the Goalie,  
Hoopla, Photo Booth, Win a Football,  
Coconut Shy, BBQ, Beer and Pimms Tent

**Fun for all the family**

Entrance fee: £1 per adult, Under 16's free





# Produce Show recipes and charity knitting

## Children's classes

The classes for children were not very clearly marked in the schedule.

They are classes 3, 28, 44, 53, 54, 56, 57 and 58

## Dundee Cake

5 ozs/150g butter	6ozs/175g sultanas
5 ozs/150g caster sugar	2ozs/50g glace cherries, halved
3 eggs	2ozs/50g candied peel, chopped
8 ozs/225g plain flour	2 level teaspoons ground almonds
1 level teaspoon baking powder	grated rind of an orange and a lemon
6ozs/175g currants	2ozs/50g blanched almonds

Pre-heat oven to 170°C/325°F/Gas 3

Grease and line base of a 7 or 8 inch (18 or 20 cm) round cake tin. Beat butter and sugar. Whisk the eggs separately and add gradually. Fold in the flour and baking powder. Then fold in currants, sultanas, peel, ground almonds and grated rind. Spoon into prepared tin, spread out evenly arrange whole almonds in circles on top and bake for 2 – 2½ hours.

## Rock Cakes

8ozs/225g self raising flour	4ozs/100g mixed dried fruit
2 teaspoons baking powder	2ozs/50g currants
4ozs/100g soft margarine	1 egg
2ozs/50g granulated sugar	about a tablespoon of milk

Pre-heat oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Lightly grease 2 baking trays.

Measure the flour and baking powder into a large bowl, add the margarine and rub in with the fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar and fruit. Add the egg and milk and mix to a stiff mixture. If dry, add a little more milk. Using 2 teaspoons, shape the mixture into about 12 rough mounds on the prepared baking trays. Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 15 minutes or until a pale golden brown at the edges. Cool on a wire rack.

## Charity knitting

Enter 2 knitted mini Christmas stockings for Harris HospiceCare to sell in their shop. You can use any pattern but 2 patterns are provided. Make as many as you like to help them raise funds.

## **Knitted mini Christmas stockings**

Fairisle instructions for this pattern are available at [www.stchristophers.org.uk/sites/default/files/fundraising/stocking%20pattern.pdf](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/sites/default/files/fundraising/stocking%20pattern.pdf)

This stocking in knitted flat.

Work it on double pointed needles because during heel shaping you need to switch from working one side to the other. You can knit it on regular needles but slide the work across onto a second needle at appropriate time. Apart from the stocking top it is worked in stocking stitch (knit on right side and purl on reverse)

### **Materials:**

oddments of yarn. I prefer to knit these on 2.75 mm needles with pure cotton 4ply but the pattern will knit up with whatever you prefer. Note, obviously the larger the needle size and thicker the yarn, the larger the finished stocking. Before you start, decide which colour you are going to knit the heel in and cut a length at least 110cm (44") keep to one side for second heel shaping\*.

### **Pattern:**

Cast on 25 sts

rows 1 - 3: knit

row 4: (right side) begin pattern if using and work a total of 14 rows of pattern ending with a wrong side row.

### **Heel shaping:**

I like to use different coloured yarn to accentuate heel. The heel is worked in 2 halves.

row 18: with right side facing, k7 and turn leaving remaining stitches on needle

row 19: slip 1, p6

repeat these 2 rows 3 more times until 8 rows of heel have been worked

row 26: k3, k2tog through the back, k1, turn leaving 1 remaining stitch of heel on needle.

row 27: slip 1, p4

row 28: k2, k2tog through the back, turn leaving remaining 2 stitches on needle

row 29: slip 1, p2

row 30: k2, k2tog through the back, k1, turn

row 31: slip 1, p3

leaving these 4 stitches on needle with the main part of the stocking, slide all the work along needle,

turn with wrong side facing and resume working the other side of the heel.

reverse row 18: with wrong side facing and using 110cm length of yarn cut earlier\*, p7 and turn leaving remaining stitches on needle

reverse row 19: slip 1, k6

repeat these 2 rows 3 more times until 8 rows of heel have been worked

reverse row 26: p3, p2tog, p1, turn leaving 1 remaining stitch of heel on needle

reverse row 27: slip 1, k4

reverse row 28: p2, p2tog, turn leaving remaining 2 stitches on needle

reverse row 29: slip 1, k2

reverse row 30: p2, p2tog, p1, turn

reverse row 31: slip 1, k3

row 32: with right side facing rejoin main colour and begin knitting across first 4 stitches

of heel shaping, pick up 5 stitches from inside edge of heel, knit 11 stitches across main part of stocking, pick up 5 stitches from inside edge of 2nd heel half and knit final 4 stitches (29 stitches on needle).

row 33: purl

row 34: K8, k2tog, k9, k2tog through the back, k8

row 35: p7, p2tog through the back, p9, p2tog, p7

row 36: K6, k2tog, k9, k2tog through the back, k6 (23 stitches)

row 37: purl

work 8 rows

row 46: with right side facing change colour for toe cap (see photo step 5) and work 2 rows

row 48: K3, K2tog through the back, k4, k2tog, k1, k2tog through the back, k4, k2tog, k3

row 49: purl

row 50: K3, K2tog through the back, k2, k2tog, k1, k2tog through the back, k2, k2tog, k3 (15 stitches) (see photo step 6)

row 51: purl

### **Making Up:**

Cut work from the ball leaving a long end for sewing up. Thread end through 15 stitches on needle (see photo step 7) and pull up tight.

Join seam running up bottom and back of stocking using mattress stitch (see photo step 8).

Turn inside out and tie up all ends securely and trim - no need to sew them in. Turn right side out.

Hanging loop: cast on 35 stitches and then cast them off.

Double strip over to make a loop and sew to back of stocking.

Secure with a cute button.

Copyright © Julie Williams 2005.



Simpler pattern for knitted mini Christmas stockings

[http://www.jeangreenhowe.com/Images/Mini\\_Christmas\\_Stockings.pdf](http://www.jeangreenhowe.com/Images/Mini_Christmas_Stockings.pdf)

### Materials

Needles 3mm for double knitting or 2.75mm with cotton 4 ply.

### The basic pattern

Begin at left edge of the stocking and cast on 24 stitches.

P 1 row

**Next row:** (K1, inc into next stitch) to end - 36 stitches.

Beginning with a P row, st-st 7 rows

### Shape top of foot.

1st row: K14 (K 2 tog) 4 times, K14 – 32 stitches

2<sup>nd</sup> and every following alternate row: P

3<sup>rd</sup> row: K12 (K 2 tog) 4 times, K12 – 28 stitches

5<sup>th</sup> row: K10 (K 2 tog) 4 times, K10 – 24 stitches

P 1 row

Beginning with a K row, st-st 12 rows

### Work the top border

Garner stitch 5 rows, cast off on the knit stitch.

### To make up

With P side of the stocking outside, join the row end with a back stitch seam, one knitted stitch within the row ends. Oversew along the cast on stitches. Turn right side out.



## Superfast Broadband Update

I have had no response to my letter to Cllr Stephen Carr at Bromley asking for Bromley Council action and help (sent on 6 April). I received another letter from Ed Vaizey MP regarding the government offer of funding - they still insist Bromley Council should pay their half (which they won't). Jo Johnson MP and the Mayor of London's office have gone very quiet in this pre-election period! You may have seen an article in this week's (Weds 22 April) News Shopper on my campaign.

My current area of investigation is twofold:

- Gigaclear - this company have shown an interest in fibre cabling our area. They sent me a plan for Downe (which was incomplete), and I have asked them to correct this and add in Cudham and old Chelsfield. I'm not sure how they propose to raise the investment necessary. They are also likely to want something like 40% of properties to sign

up to a 2 year contract - this may be a challenge!! I will continue discussions with them to find out more about their proposition.

- Crockham Hill Community Broadband - this is a group of residents in Crockham Hill who "did it themselves". They use "radio" broadband, and have set up their own aerials and receivers around their area. I went down to see their techie guy to see for myself. I haven't talked to the financial guys yet, but they have really made things work there. They are non-profit making, with any profits that do occur returned to the community (I'm sure we could do a deal). They have looked at our area - they believe an aerial at Downe primary school could serve Downe and Cudham, and even beam over to Chelsfield. I will continue discussions, but, as an example, they offer:

- £299 Installation cost (per premise)
- £29.99 per month for 20mb down / 6mb up service (24 month contract)

*Steve Barnes*

*24 April 2015*

### **Do our election candidates have anything to offer?**

I wrote to all our prospective parliamentary candidates asking what they would do to support our campaign for better broadband.

Idham Ramadi (UKIP candidate) replied promptly:

Hi Catherine,  
I told Steve Barnes of my experience in Biggin Hill. Some areas have poor mobile reception too. One solution is satellites, maybe that could help provide better coverage and improved speed connectivity. The other alternative is to work with CEO of broadband providers (when elected) and get them to prioritise their high speed roll out to areas like Downe and Chelsfield Village. I will also make sure that the Orpington constituency receives a slice of the £40mil set aside for this. But on this, will be fighting Orpington's corner for sure.

Jo Johnson's (Conservative candidate) office replied 2 weeks later:

Dear Mrs Gandolfi,  
Thank you for writing to Jo about superfast broadband in the London Borough of Bromley. Over the last five years Jo has been campaigning for superfast broadband in the rural areas of the Orpington constituency. To date, Jo has written to Ed Vaizey, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, Cllr Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council, as well as to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, to bring the problem to their attention.

He has continually reiterated his commitment to the roll out of superfast broadband and pressed BT for faster progress. Jo has also liaised with broadband companies, including Vfast and Call Flow, and more recently convened a meeting with Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, in addition to the Mayor's Special Assistant for Business and Enterprise and Councillor Peter Morgan, in Westminster, to discuss the roll out of superfast broadband.

You may also be pleased to learn that the Mayor of London has announced his Plan for Working People in London, which

includes a pledge to support high-speed broadband. According to the pledge, to boost demand for broadband, Transport for London will begin to install high speed broadband in all stations and offices. By insisting that these buildings have high-speed broadband, providers will have an incentive to extend their infrastructure to the neighbourhoods surrounding these buildings.

Jo will keep you updated on all future developments.

To date there has been no response from the other 3 candidates.

*Catherine Gandolfi*

## Keeping The Village Clean

Dear 'Voice',

In the February edition (which I missed for some reason and have only just seen), Pam Ames asked for suggestions for improvements. However, she didn't include how to contact her so could I ask you to forward this request.

Could I ask that a bin for dog waste be sited somewhere around the cricket field ?

Whilst I am used to picking up discarded drink bottles and cans from the allotment side of the hedge, over the past winter I have got rather fed-up having to pick up

bags of dog excrement that have been tossed over, presumably by unsocial local residents.  
many thanks

*Graham Rose  
Site Manager  
Chelsfield Allotment  
Association*

## Cranes and Bridges - A Reply

Reading Philip Lane's interesting article about Cranes last month, I did wonder what the picture was at the bottom of page 5, captioned 'Walton Lift October 2012'. It appears to look like a large steel hexagonal beam, stretching off into the distance, and showing a curve along its

length. Oddly it was the next day, when we were continuing our walk along the Thames path, having now got to Hampton Court and walking on to Staines, that we found ourselves walking under a rather new road bridge at Walton-on-Thames. It looked strangely familiar, but it was not until getting

home and comparing its picture with the one in the Village Voice, that it could be seen to be the same, showing one of its massive arches being erected over the river. It must have been a very impressive operation in getting it into position.

*Peter Gandolfi*



## Everybody Look This Way Please

As Jayne and I approach the Great Day in May when our daughter Sally gets married to Leigh at St Martins, I am prompted to reflect on the hun-

dreds of weddings I have photographed since 1965. By sheer coincidence the first wedding I did was also a Sally Lane who lived in Glentram-

mon Road. I went on to cover many Chelsfield couples and many from the church of course. After moving back to Chelsfield 6 years after our

own marriage I became a staff photographer for John Newport. I had already had a lot of practice printing photographs for Pictorial Services of Petts Wood, one of the three big names locally and who did our own wedding in 1969. It was never my core business in photography but did give me a lot of satisfaction (and often some stress!) and a supplementary income on Saturdays. In early days it was predominately black and white as colour was extremely expensive and was almost beyond the average studio to print their own. Whilst most weddings were local I did travel a long way sometimes, if it was worthwhile. The furthest was Bangor with a few in central London where parking was awful. There were many factors which contributed towards the stress which eventually made me decide to call it a day. No1 weather! A wet and windy day makes outdoor photos very tricky. Veils fly, hats take off, heels sink in. Taking the groups in the church or reception is the only option but you need to

take studio flash if it's really bad. Wedding guests can be very difficult if it is cold! Bearing in mind the bride's parents are paying a reasonably large bill for a full day's work, I often had to ignore complaints as we set all the groups up in a cold wind, knowing full well that if I succumbed and shortened or rushed the job they would have forgotten their moans when they were disappointed with the photographs. It takes at least 45mins to do all the groups. On a cloudless sunny day I would take the couple to a shady area to reduce contrast and stop them squinting. This would also baffle the amateurs whose cameras could not cope – digital can of course. Another pro trick is to work fast and then get in the way of other cameras to stop them stealing your shot! So many factors produced a similar stress level – vicars who booked too many weddings on the day with too little time between and then had a go at me for causing conflict in the car park. Not helped by late brides – an unexplained curiosity

when I had left the house with everyone apparently ready to leave! Often too the best shots of the bride and her maids were taken in her home. I got used to seeing partly clothed ladies wandering around but I did have to jigger them along quite often as time ran out. Sometimes the bride had not allowed for the time it would take on a busy summer Saturday for a horse and trap to wend it's clipclop way from Sidcup to Chislehurst church and then not be able to park.

*A now a bit of technical talk.* Up until about 2000 it was all film. Digital still had some way to go to match the colour and quality of a large format camera. I was a firm believer in the larger negative usually 6x6 or 6x4.5cm. This size reduced dust spots, allowed for selective enlargement, was easy to see and reduced camera shake risk that 35mm could cause. The cameras I used were Noritars and Bronicas with different lenses. Zoom lenses were seldom used on these cameras for wed-



dings unlike today's digital ones. Because of the pressure of the day it was sensible to have a very simple setting for exposure and I always used a light meter. An aperture of f8 or f11 was ideal, a medium speed film ISO 160, 400 in winter, and invariably a tripod. The latter not only for stability but it allowed me to set up and walk across to the couple or a group and place their hands and adjust their dress. I learnt how to make quite critical comments about crooked ties and hats, slips showing and other sartorial discrepancies, without offence and often to cries of laughter. Getting the wedding party on my side from an early stage was paramount and I made good use of my Amdram background.

*And now a bit about the people.....!*

I have to confess that there have been one or two marriages that seemed most unlikely and doomed to fail from day one! Be it the bride having a go at everyone and shouting abuse at her new husband for treading on her dress, or

the bride's mum, justifiably a wee bit stressed from all the tension having a go at me or complaining about the groom's family, all leading to what often proved to be a very short lived marriage. John would often sense this and get in the orders and pay-

her day coincided with Cup Final, and after the service all the men scuttled off to the adjacent hall to watch the TV, loosened their ties and came back very scruffy. Very small children pressganged into being pageboys or bridesmaids took some handling. They hat-



*Bowen Maybeold Wedding Group*

ment as swiftly as possible. One huge June wedding I did in Tunbridge Wells, at vast cost to her dad, was all over by September. Both families gathered completely separately outside like rival gangs. I was reminded of West Side Story. The pictures were lovely however. Such a shame. Another situation unpopular with the bride, is when

ed being photographed and rarely fell for my charms for more than a split second. "Everybody look this way please, and please don't look at her" I would cry to the group having placated a little girl and plonked her down on the grass.

*Disasters.....Nobody likes to talk about things*

going wrong, but they can and do. Unfortunately even though very few, they tend to stick in the memory more than all the successes. I always took two or three cameras with me but without an assistant harder to use. A camera rarely jammed but you could get flash synchro faults whereby the flash went off but did not reach the film frame. This happened badly only once, at St Martins when heavy rain forced us inside. John went on holiday after the wedding leaving me to deal with a very irate bride's dad who threatened to sue the company. They did have some photographs but not many groups. ( PS One hapless photographer in the Midlands was sued for £3000 for not for failing to do a wedding properly). As weeks went by it rumbled on but I heard a rumour that the marriage had failed so the whole thing died a death. God moves in a mysterious way.....! It is also easy to miss out taking certain friends or relations unless clear written instructions are given. I embarrassingly

mistook the bride for her mum once at Bromley Reg. and stood next to her asking when the bride was arriving. That took some getting out of! A colleague photographer dropped a roll of film on the grass which rolled open in bright sunshine. Trouble was he didn't know what was on it and took loads again to be sure. An elderly photographer in Bexley put his films into the fix first instead of developer and lost the lot. He rushed back to the reception to reshoot by flash and set his Rollei to M instead of X, this is fatal as nothing comes out. This poor man took his life. It is much safer using digital as you can check every shot and provided you don't lose the card or delete (and this can be recovered with skill) the room for technical error is small. There is a lot of dashing about and I have fallen over many times on wet grass, bashed my head on tree branches, fought against feeling ill and nearly got caught for speeding to the reception- some have! A wedding cannot be repeated

and there is pressure on you from so many directions.

*Finally a bit about clergy and churches.....*

I would ALWAYS make a point of seeing the vicar or verger beforehand to introduce myself (sometimes mentioning my connections with St Martins and Canon Virgo – not always a good thing!) Every church had its own rules but it would be unwise of me here to mention the difficult local ones by name. Some would not allow any photos in church at all, or only if without flash, which in a dark Victorian edifice on a winter's day ruled this out. Some vergers were just like the cantankerous curmudgeons in a Giles Cartoon, without vestige of humour or helpfulness. One memorable wedding at Downe had two happenings that stick in my memory. Firstly the organist's car broke down and he was stuck in Maidstone. Eventually an elderly little lady was roped in (I was very tempted to offer my services) and rendered a

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**CHELSFIELD PARK HOSPITAL** for their sponsorship printing the Chelsfield Village Voice



version of the bridal march that Les Dawson or Eric Morecambe would be proud of. I found it hard to either recognize the tune or not burst out laughing. The second event took place outside during photographs when the bride's mum, bedecked in short skirt and very high heels, stepped back on to a moss covered tombstone and fell on her back displaying to all and sundry her choice of underwear. Being the perfect gentleman I re-

frained from taking a photograph...! Whilst St Martin presents many good locations for photographs, especially the south door arch, and outside plenty of grass, most are so covered in gravestones that there is a risk of introducing a macabre element, and many high street churches have no area whatsoever apart from the church steps, so here it is better to wait until the reception or find a nearby local park.

So there you have it, a potted history of recording some 200 weddings. Given time I could relate many more anecdotes. The only one that I did not photograph was our own in 1969 and of course our daughter's yet to come. Both a big relief but I would never, ever, let on at such a personal event that I was once in "their game" and where good location might be found at the church!

*Philip Lane*

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### **Bromley Council**

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail:

[csc@bromley.gov.uk](mailto: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.

### **Village Neighbourhood Watch**

Contact

John Leach 07711304965

### **BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital**

Main Reception

01689 877855

Helpline

0845 6032932

Physiotherapy

01689 885914

### **Councillors**

Keith Onslow

[keith.onslow@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:keith.onslow@bromley.gov.uk)

Samaris Huntington-Thresher

020 8464 3333

[samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk)

Lydia Buttinger

[lydia.buttinger@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:lydia.buttinger@bromley.gov.uk)

### **Chelsfield Village Voice**

[villagevoice@chelsfield.org](mailto:villagevoice@chelsfield.org)

### **Chelsfield Primary School**

01689 825827

**BT Line Faults** 0800 800151

**EDF Electrical Power Failure**

08007838866

**Thames Water Emergencies**

0845 9200800

**Transco Gas Emergency**

Service 0800 111999

**Bromley Police Station** 24 hrs

0300 1231212

**Samaritans** 01689 833000

**NHS Direct** 0845 4647

**Safer Neighbourhood**

**Team** 020 8721 2605

**Chelsfield Village Hall**

(bookings) **01689 831826 /**

**836808** or email to

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

**Chelsfield Players**

[info@chelsfieldplayers.org](mailto:info@chelsfieldplayers.org)

[www.chelsfieldplayers.org](http://www.chelsfieldplayers.org)

## 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  
01689 853215

#### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall and  
Brass Crosby Room

#### **Chelsfield Housemartins**

Monday Afternoons, for local  
people who are unable to go  
out without help  
Contact Anne on  
01689 826349

#### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Pilates Class**  
6.30pm-7.30pm  
Contact Francesca on  
07791073445

#### EVERY TUESDAY

#### **Summer term starts 14th April**

Brass Crosby Room  
**St Martin's Toddler  
Group**  
10.30am-12.00 midday  
Contact Sarah Ford:  
01689 853415  
[stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com)

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Pilates Class**  
09.00am - 10.00am  
10.00am - 11.00am and  
11.00am to 12.00 midday  
Contact Francesca on  
07791073445

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells  
**Charity Quiz Night**  
from 9.00pm

#### EVERY WED & FRI

**Pilates Classes**  
Chelsfield Methodist Church  
Hall, Windsor Drive  
Wed 8.00pm - 9.00pm  
Friday 9.35am-10.35am  
Contact Bethany Lucas on  
07415 638546  
[bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com](mailto:bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com)

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

**Hatha Yoga Classes**  
10.30am-12.00am  
Contact Pam Keeper on  
01732 458930

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Pilates Class**  
6.30pm-7.30pm  
Contact Francesca on  
07791073445

#### EVERY FRIDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Pilates Class**  
3.00pm-4.00pm  
Contact Francesca on  
07791073445

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Thursday 7th May

Five Bells  
**Live Jazz Night**  
**Just Friends**  
the ever popular Jazz  
sextet - starts 8.30pm

#### Sunday 10th May

The Meadow  
**Charity Open Garden**  
1.00pm - 5.30pm

#### Wednesday 13th May (2nd Wednesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Afternoon W.I.**  
Newcomers Welcome  
Contact Irene  
01689 835143

#### Wednesday 13th May

Five Bells  
**Open Mic Night**  
So all you budding  
musicians out there, why  
not come along and  
have a go! Starts at  
8.30pm

#### Tuesday 19th May (3rd Tuesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Evening W.I.**  
Newcomers Welcome  
From 7.45pm  
Contact Pat 016898623

#### Thursday 21st May (3rd Thursday each month)

Brass Crosby Room  
**Local History Group**  
10.30am

#### Monday 25th May

Five Bells  
**Bank Holiday Fun Day**  
Midday - 5.00pm

#### Wednesday 27th May

Five Bells  
**Open Mic Night**  
So all you budding  
musicians out there,  
come along and have a  
go! Starts at 8.30pm

#### Saturday 6th June

Rectory Gardens  
**Church Fete**  
12.00 noon - 4.30pm

#### Sunday 5th July

The Meadow  
**Charity Open Garden**  
1.00pm - 5.30pm

#### Saturday 11th July

Chelsfield Village Green  
**Chelsfield Village Fair**  
The big event of the  
year!