

CHELSEFIELD VILLAGE VOICE

MAY 2019

Supported by



Chelsfield
Park
Hospital



Garden open at

12 The Meadows Chelsfield Park BR6 6HS

Sunday 19th May, from 11am until 5.30pm

Lots of interest for all generations, especially children (13ft Giraffe, Sumatran Tigers, designated children's area), wildlife pond, Koi pond and lots more Homemade cakes tea coffee etc. available plus plant sale.

Admission £4 per person - children free

Garden wheelchair friendly, ample seating available. Proceeds go to NGOS charities with all refreshment proceeds going to St. Christopher's Hospice.

Please come along to support your local charity and hopefully to have lots of fun.

Last year we had in excess of 260 visitors, raised almost £2000 and are hoping to smash these figures this year.

For more information contact Jean and Roger Pemberton on 01689853210

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

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Tell Us What's Going On!

You tell us what's going on or planned, and we will pass the details to the residents and friends of Chelsfield

Please send anything you feel suitable for the

June 2019 issue to:

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

or post to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village

BR6 7RN

to arrive by

Wednesday May 29th 2019

Mealworms / Darkling Beetles

First I'd like to mention that since the last 'Voice' was published with the article about nightingales, I have indeed heard the nightingales at the entrance to Chelsfield Park Hospital. In fact for the first time I heard two singing back and forth so, if possible, do keep an ear open while you go past – it's worth your time.

Also, in the woody copse adjacent to the entrance there has been a woodpecker rattling away for a couple of weeks now. Have not been able to find him/her but the sound travels well and is very obvious.

This month I want to talk about mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*) which are probably well known to more people than actually realise it. That's because these are the orange coloured worm like husks of freeze dried larvae that can be purchased to fill bird feeders. Each month when I start to think about my next article for the Voice I look for inspiration. Something that piques my imagination and this month it was during the planting of the last of my

potatoes for the coming season in my local allotment. As I dug I found a mealworm that I had disturbed. I have heard that live mealworms are pretty much a robin's favourite food and that the best way to train a wild robin to eat from your hand is to have a supply of these critters to entice the robin down from its perch. Well, I looked around and could not see or hear a robin which is a little unusual as any digging will usually bring a robin in looking for an easy meal. It is thought that the reason for this is that robins historically had a close relationship with boars (I won't call it a symbiotic relationship as it is difficult to see how the boars gained any

advantage) but the robins would follow boars around watching for worms as their benefactors disturbed the soil. Boars are a lot less common nowadays so gardeners are a good substitute! So I left the wriggling mealworm on a smooth surface and turned to go back to the task at hand and as I did so a robin flashed out of a nearby bush and grabbed the mealworm, proving once more that these larvae truly are a favoured meal. So, what are mealworms? Well, they are not worms, although difficult to see, they have six short legs towards the front of their bodies. They are the larvae stage of the life cycle of a darkling beetle which gets its name due



to the beetle's habit of living under branches and leaf litter. Consequently the Latin name *Tenebrio* means 'the one that likes darkness'. So the beetle's full life cycle is: egg, larvae, pupa and adult. The adult lays about a few hundred eggs at a time in the ground and the meal worms (or larvae) hatch a few weeks later and molt between 10 and 20 times as they grow larger. They then pupate undergoing metamorphosis until a few weeks later when a white beetle emerges from the cocoon and comes to the surface. A day later the beetle has taken on the usual black shiny coat one associates with most beetles.

Depending on the actual species of darkling beetle this life cycle can last between 3 or 4 months and ten years. This beetle family is large consisting of about 20,000 species around the world. They are not dangerous in any way but the mealworms will attack young new growth as well as decaying vegetable matter. Some people breed them to feed birds, chickens or small pet rodents or mammals and this is quite easy to do and can be researched on the internet. They will eat



smaller mealworms so if you wish to breed them they need to be kept with others of a similar age. They are popular as a food source because they are full of protein and fat. When the producers of commercial mealworms remove the natural moisture content by freeze drying these mealworms become very nutritious for their weight. However, they are not just good for birds: they can also be consumed by humans. To prepare roasted mealworms I have discovered a recipe: you lucky lot!

Place your live mealworms in a colander and toss and rinse them under cool water. This is to remove any dirt, etc.

Pat the worms dry with paper towels, place them

in a container or plastic bag, and put them in the freezer for about fifteen minutes. This will quickly kill the worms.

Spread the mealworms out evenly on a piece of oven foil then place the worms in an oven at 200 degrees and bake them for one to two hours until they are dry and crispy. They apparently taste like peanuts and can replace nuts in cookies, cakes, and other desserts. As a snack you have the option of dipping them in chocolate or salt or sprinkling them on salads or adding them to soup. Since roasted worms are brittle, they can also be ground and mixed with flour when you bake muffins, pancakes, or bread – enjoy!

*Steve Fuller
May 2019*

Mutterings From The Millers

I am writing this on Easter Saturday and wow the weather is amazing. Obviously we need some rain but it is lovely to see the sun and be working out in the garden without the chilly north and northeasterly winds.

The oats have all germinated and are growing away well. We were a little worried after a week or so, when noticing very large flocks of crows and rooks pecking away around the emerging seedlings. These birds can pull them up to look for grubs but fortunately they don't seem to have done too much damage. The wheat and the barley are at the stage of stem elongation, we will now keep our beady eyes out for fungal diseases and will treat if necessary.

Did you see the Countryfile programme on Sunday 14th April? We don't normally watch it but happen to catch the piece about direct drilling. It was very interesting to us and it confirmed our views regarding worms, soil bacteria and general soil health.

They showed two small wormeries, both with coloured horizontal lines. The one with soil that had not been ploughed had the lines mixed by the worms but one with ploughed soil remained straight. Also the ploughed soil when placed in water, dissolved quite quickly whereas the non ploughed soil, stayed together. This is the part of stopping soil erosion. The report went on to talk about environmental advantages too. All very interesting to us and great that the general public is being made aware of different farming methods. Obviously this system doesn't work for potatoes and other root crops but has a value place in all grass and cereal crops.

You may have seen a notice on the telephone pole at the entrance to the farm or public notice in the News Shopper regarding the installation of a 20 meter high lattice tower with three antennas and two dishes plus ancillary cabinets. We were approached about six months ago by EE for the erection of the tower

and were told in no uncertain terms that this towers erection was compulsory. We had meetings regarding the siting of the tower and comprised on the position but will lose about 20 meter square of farmland without compensation. Hopefully, they can start as soon as the crop is harvested or at least before we are due to replant. Fingers crossed.

We have been busy on the office side of the business with the year of the financial year but changing our computer system ready for the Making it tax digital and a new accounting system. Our brains have been pushed to the limit especially when the computer died. Fortunately Pete has been able to help us, I definitely think growing plants is easier than the computer side of the business!

On the wildlife side, we noticed the first swallow arrive here on the 8th April and a second one arrived a week later and one more the following week. Hopefully more

will arrive shortly. Deer, rabbits and partridge have been seen in the fields and we heard a tawny owl last night which is always a delight.

Not sure where the frogs have laid their spawn but here is a weather saying for May which I hope doesn't come true

Thunder in April, floods in May

*Steve and Chris Miller
Court Lodge Farm*

Honey Bees Wanted in Chelsfield Village

This is now the time that Honey Bees can be looking for new homes as a swarm, and can be seen settling as a large rugby ball shape of bees in trees or other places.

Bee colonies are required for the Chelsfield Allotments for pollination and for training new bee keepers. If any swarms are known of or seen, please contact:

Peter and Catherine Gandolfi 01689 831826

A jar of honey for each successful collection!



Chelsfield Players - The Hollow

The Village Hall was transformed for this play, originally written in 1946 as a Poirot novel, adapted for the stage by Agatha Christie in 1951. The scene for all acts was a "garden room" complete with fireplace, mantelpiece and chandeliers taking up the

length of one side of the hall leading to the play being performed in the round, with more audience watching from the stage. This did mean that the audience was up close to the action as invited guests, but led to a certain amount of detachment by those

sitting at the extreme ends of the audience. I wonder how the cast felt about the audience sharing their space? The victim, lothario Doctor John Cristow (Nick Barnett), was nasty enough to provide motives for several prospective murderers.

The twists and turns kept us guessing to the very end as a sharp police inspector, convincingly played by Jo East and ably assisted by his sergeant (Phil George) eliminated the suspects one by one. The charming old Angkatell couple (Keith Wishart and Madeline McCubbin) were delightful house party hosts to their relations who wove a complex web of romantic attachments.

The female characters seemed to belong to two types - passive (the dotty Lady Angkatell, sweet Midge, played by Rachel Parker and downtrodden Gerda played by Jo Clent) or scheming. The vengeful vamp, Veronica Craye (Anne Kindly) and mistress of the victim Henrietta Angkatell (Gill Bacon) were planted in

our minds as early suspects but it was the one who changed from the former group to the latter who was the culprit – a chilling transformation by Jo Clent.

Ken Clarke played the dependable butler, Gudgeon to the manner born.

The most credible witness in the end was seemingly the least significant character of all, the star struck maid Doris (Cynthia Hearing). In common with *Pride and Prejudice*, the plot involves the thankfully obsolete practice of entailment. Entailment happened when there were no direct male heirs to inherit the family estate. The estate could be kept in the extended family by entailing it to a chosen male relative. The

much loved house, Ainswick, where Lady Angkatell grew up had been entailed to the apparently dull cousin Edward (James Insley) who seemed destined to live his life alone as he was unaware of the feelings of Midge and yearned for the cold Henrietta. This would lead to the loss of the house to the extended Angkatell family.

However it all worked out well in the end (except for John Cristow) and Midge got to return to the beloved family home.

An excellent directing debut by Nina Noss. Only one thing nonplussed us – the choice of incidental music, and no we didn't guess who dunnit!

A view from the stalls

Police Sighted in Village

Please see photo taken earlier which proves that our local bobbies do visit our village!

How many points do I get for my I-Spy book? Remember those books?!

Dave Lambert





**St. Martin of Tours
Chelsfield**

SUMMER FETE

15th JUNE 2019



MAKE A SCARECROW COMPETITION

YOU ARE INVITED to make a scarecrow to be displayed at the St. Martin's Summer Fete in the Rectory Gardens, Skibbs Lane, Chelsfield, BR6 7RH on

Saturday, 15th June, 2019 at 12 noon

Both group and individual entries are welcome
Group entries: £2 Individual entries: 50p

Please bring your scarecrows to the Rectory Gardens no later than 12.30 on the day of the fete, together with your completed entry form and fee.

For more information, please email:
secretarypcc@smartinchelsfield.org.uk

✂.....

SCARECROW ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Group entry (£2): Individual entry (50p):

Contact email or phone no: _____

Competition organiser use only: Fee paid: _____ Entry no: _____

The poster has a dark blue background with white stars and a yellow crescent moon. At the top, a white banner contains the text 'CHELSFIELD PLAYERS'. Below this, the words 'QUIZ NIGHT' are written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath the title, the venue information 'Chelsfield Village Hall, Bucks Cross Road, Chelsfield BR6 7RL' is written in a smaller white font. In the center, there is a large yellow question mark with a white silhouette of a human head in profile inside it. To the right of the question mark, a white five-pointed star contains the date 'Saturday 15 June 2019'. Below the question mark, the event details are listed in white text: 'DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM', 'QUIZ STARTS AT 8:00 PM', and '£6 PER PERSON / TABLES OF 8 PLAYERS'. Further down, it says 'Bring your own drinks & nibbles | Raffle'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'Reserve your table on 07816 505448 / email info@chelsfield.org'. The final line of text states 'Proceeds from the evening will go to Chelsfield Players' Edinburgh Festival Fringe Fund'. In the bottom left corner, there is a small white text 'poster@yowall.com'.

Local History Group

Before St Martin's: The development of Christianity around Chelsfield before the Norman Conquest

*A talk by
Dr Patricia Holmes*

The early development of Christianity roughly coincided with the Roman invasion on the shores of Kent in 55 BC. Chelsfield would soon have experienced the effects of this. The present church of St Martin's is almost a thousand years old. No evidence of an earlier building on the same site has yet been found, but research undertaken on similar sites suggests that this was almost certainly a place of worship, both pagan and Christian, for many centuries before that. A major change for Christians came in 312 AD when the Emperor Constantine removed the ban on Christian worship. Christians were now allowed to declare their faith openly and without fear for the first time. It has been suggested that conversion to Christianity began earlier in this part of the country. Links between St Martins and

the Roman Villa at Lullingstone, a few miles east of Chelsfield, imply that this became a place of Christian worship by at least the fourth century. Chelsfield marked one corner of the Lullingstone estate.

The population of Chelsfield as well as being mostly illiterate, would be heavily influenced by the conviction that the magic, superstition and ritual of some sort of religion was essential for them to survive the rigours of lives dependent on the land and the weather. The arrival of an itinerant missionary offering the hitherto undreamed of promise of 'Heaven' would have been a source of wonder and fascination, and probably eagerly received. These gatherings would have gravitated naturally towards places where people were already meeting for pagan worship.

When the Romans abandoned their hold on England the newer tribes (Angles, Saxons and Jutes) came over in large numbers, bringing with them their own pagan

practices of worship. In the face of this threat many Christians fled to the West and the population declined considerably during the fifth and sixth centuries. Saxons worshipped gods drawn from Norse mythology, such as Woden and Thor and there was then a rapid decline in the spread of Christianity, particularly in the south and east of England.

When the monks, under the leadership of Augustine, arrived in Thanet in 597 they were met by the pagan Aethelberht, King of Kent. In due course Aethelberht himself was persuaded to convert and he then supported the mission with his patronage. Augustine found great support for his mission and many baptisms took place in a very short space of time with Christianity becoming regarded as a mark of civilisation. Augustine had halted at Tours during his journey from Rome to England in order to pray by the grave of Martin, and when he was enthroned as the first Archbishop of Canterbury, it is no surprise that the old-

est known dedication to Martin is at Canterbury. There are many churches dedicated to St Martin and, as Chelsfield was then in the see of Canterbury, it does seem possible that there could have been an early dedication around that time.

Under Aethelberght, Kent was a kingdom with a system of government and written laws, which made it well placed to become the first Christian kingdom in England. Augustine died in 604. The form and methods of his mission left a lasting impression on the development of language and culture in this region, as well as the stability of the Christian church.

Very early churches may have been little more than embryonic shelters, to be replaced gradually by building based on wattle and daub. The early church building at Chelsfield was likely to have been a small, simple rectangular structure built of wood. There are records showing that the Anglo Saxons began to import stone building techniques from the continent. Aside from the buildings, during the seventh and eighth

centuries the organisation of the church underwent considerable development and the beginnings of the system of parish churches with a parish priest became established. Many parish boundaries were established that remain unchanged to this day.

As far as the forms of worship were concerned, they were of course Roman Catholic in both beliefs and practices. The liturgy was said in Latin, which would have been unintelligible to the largely illiterate population and so other means were employed to make the message more vivid as they witnessed the ritual. St Augustine brought with him relics of the saints and apostles in order to provide tangible evidence of the stories they had to tell. Church scholars often had knowledge of Greek and Roman medical literature and where these methods failed, the church was the focus for the power of prayer and a foundational belief in miraculous cures. Another way of enabling true engagement with the Christian message was through poetry. Music also featured in these

gatherings in that the narratives were often sung, with a simple harp or other instrument as accompaniment - other instruments such as pan pipes and simple lyres have been found in Anglo-Saxon burial sites. Members of the clergy were not always happy about music making, suspecting it to be associated with the devil.

Starting in the early ninth century, Kent was beset by Viking raids, no doubt attracted by the wealth contained in the monasteries and minster churches. The first big raid was on Sheppey in AD 835 and attacks continued, targeting Rochester, Canterbury and the monasteries. Originally the Vikings came and went in a relatively short space of time, but by the middle of the century they had formed a sizeable settlement on the Isle of Thanet. This led to thirty years of killing, pillaging, burning and other atrocities committed at will. For Chelsfield a substantial army of this nature was then uncomfortably near.

Any existing church could well have been burned down and many inhabit-

ants slaughtered, as was frequently their custom. The terror of the Vikings continued on and off into the eleventh century. When it did eventually die down it is thought that this was at least in part due to an increase in conversions to Christianity among the Vikings themselves. Christianity in fact changed everything for the Vikings, just as it had for everyone else who encountered it and to all intents and purposes they ceased to be

Vikings.

The thing that stands out is that through a number of invasions from overseas, where the invaders held pagan beliefs of one sort or another, the Christian faith survived. The thread of Christianity was maintained from the early years AD right through to the building of the church here following the Conquest in 1066. This time of course the invaders came from a Christian heritage,

We ended with a quote from Edward Halsted's Topographical Survey of Kent in 1797:

This parish (Chelsfield) lies, in general, on high ground among the hills. The village has nothing remarkable in it ; at a small distance westward is Court Lodge and the church and at a like distance eastward the parsonage.....The soil is in general very poor and indifferent and the lands re let at easy rents.

Would You Like Some Furniture?

FREE! Chesterfield Sofa and Chair, Only used in Chelsfield Player's "The Hollow" now going free to a good home. Contact Jo East 07726 712381 to arrange pick up.

Also the rather grand sideboard that we used £40 ONO.



Bromley's Rare and Declining Species (3)

The Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Bullfinch are resident in the UK and are found in woodland, scrub and orchards. They are sometimes seen in gardens especially those connected to a patch of thick scrub or woodland by thick hedgerows. UK bullfinches tend not to move more than a few kilometres during their lifetime and form strong, lasting pair bonds so they are often seen in pairs throughout the year. Adults feed on berries and seeds such as dock, nettle, ash, birch and bramble. They also eat buds in spring which has led to their persecution in the past. They nest in thick scrub, dense hedgerows and scrubby woodland 1-2 metres above ground. The nest is a loose structure of twigs, lichens and moss, lined with hair and fine roots. 4-5 eggs are laid in April/May, then incubated for 12-14 days by the female who is fed by the male during this time. When the eggs hatch both parents feed the chicks on insects. Young fledge at 12-18 days and the adults often have a second brood. In winter residents can be joined by slightly larger relatives from northern Europe. Records for Bromley borough in 2017 were all from rural areas or near to parks which included areas of woodland and

scrub. These included Lilly's Wood, the Cudham and Downe Valleys, Darrick Wood, Keston, Jubilee Country Park, Scadbury Park, adjacent to Walden Recreation Ground, near Crofton Woods/Parkfield Recreation Ground and in South Norwood Country Park. 2018 records were again all from rural areas or near to woodland, or parks and other open spaces with woodland and/or scrub. They included areas where they had been recorded in 2017 such as near Jubilee Country Park, Scadbury Park and High Elms and areas where they had not previously been recorded such as Snag Lane, Spring Park, West Wickham Com-

mon, gardens near Elmstead Woods, adjacent to the River Ravensbourne in Queensmead Recreation Ground, a garden near Bromley Civic Centre and another adjacent to Ravensbourne School playing fields and countryside on the opposite side of Hayes Lane.

Threats to bullfinch

Loss of nesting sites: reduction of scrub & hedgerows, over-trimming of hedges, tidying up
Reduction in insects for developing young.

Loss of seeds and berries due to loss of hedgerows, scrub and rough grassland.
Reduction in availability of



'weed' seeds due to herbicide use and 'tidying up' (again).

According to the British Trust for Ornithology breeding bullfinch numbers fell by more than 50% 1970-2000. UK numbers have been slowly improving. The surveys carried out in 2017 and 2018 show bullfinch, though not present in large numbers, is widely distributed within the London Borough of Bromley, so this survey will be discontinued. Efforts to help improve bullfinch numbers must continue, including trying to link areas where they have been reported, including via gardens, especially in the more urban areas. To this end the Partnership is:

- producing posters

asking people to plant at least one UK grown native shrub or small tree in their gardens, or ask if they can plant one or more (or possibly a hedge) in their local sports and school grounds, allotments, parks etc., because UK invertebrates are adapted to eat native plants.

- Liaising with LBB's tree team regarding native tree planting.
- Asking for more 'wild areas' in parks and elsewhere, for example allowing grass adjacent to hedgerows to be left to grow long, providing seeds for birds.

Measures to help Bullfinch in Bromley: How you can help

- To increase nesting sites and improve numbers of seeds and insects for adult and young bullfinches, promote wild areas in your local park, school and sports grounds and garden, plant hedgerows of native species and maintain some areas of bramble scrub.

- Link wild areas via thick hedgerows.
- Decrease pesticide and herbicide use and encourage others to do the same.
- Feed birds in your garden.
- If you have a cat, keep it indoors between dusk and dawn and use a collar with a bell or ultrasonic device.

Well Hill Mission Church July 7th Concert

Over some time I have read you're truly most informative magazine which always includes mostly local news items, and it really keeps folk interested in Chelsfield Village life. The Walker family have played their part, i.e. my late Father Jim Walker was a very keen cricket player along with my nephew David Walker who is still very involved with the cricket clubs activities. In fact my

dear father played with the then village blacksmith dear Hubert Blackwell, along with my late brother Jim Walker, and local builder, and 'undertaker' who lived at The Rounds. However in my case I've always been involved in a number of responsibilities as a senior church officer for Well Hill Mission Church, one being as Hon. Treasurer having been appointed on 3rd

May 1951 - Phew! I am also co-ordinator for our annual music concert, in particular for the advertising part. As you will see from the flyer, our very dear friends Dave and Helen Griffiths will again entertain us.

*Mr Gerry Walker
K.A.L.C's
Hon Treasurer and
Deputy Church Warden*

Sunday 7th July 2019 - 2.45pm

Well Hill Mission Church



Classical,
television
themes, folk,
pop and rock
in unique
arrangements
for cello/
electric cello
and keyboards

burntwood

featuring Helen Griffiths (cello) and Dave Griffiths (keyboards)

Tickets **£7.50**
includes cream
tea

Please bring your
own picnic chair

All fresco if fine
weather

Tickets:

Carol & Chris Courtney
01959 535022

Julia & Gerry Sparkes
01689 823749

Vera & Gerry Walker
01689 606738

Celebrating Chelsfield - Miss Read on Stage

Sixty years ago, Chelsfield's very own famous author Miss Read – the pen name of Dora Saint, nee Shafe, whose family lived on Chelsfield Hill and who was a pupil at Chelsfield School in the 1920s – wrote her first novel featuring the fictional village of Thrush Green. Although a teacher by profession, Dora had been producing essays, scripts and articles for publication since the end of the Second World War and made her debut as an author in September 1955 with *Village School*, a story from another imaginary village, Fairacre. More Fairacre and Thrush Green books followed, as well as many others. Later, she recalled her Chelsfield childhood in the biographical *Time Remembered*.

Dora set Thrush Green in a small village in the Cotswolds, basing it on the real Wood Green,

near Witney, in Oxfordshire, close to where she had lived with her husband Doug and daughter Jill. The book, written in Dora's trademark charming, gentle and witty style, tells of one significant day in the life of Thrush Green villagers – the first of May, when the annual travelling fair visits the village green.

Playwright Ron Perry adapted it for the stage two years ago and it was performed to critical acclaim by the Redlynch Players, a drama group based in south Wiltshire, about six miles from Salisbury.

To mark the 60th anniversary of publication of the original book in 1959, Ron worked with Dora's daughter, Jill Saint, to collate events from the life of Miss Read. The result is a celebration of Dora's life called "Miss Read Remembered", which



Redlynch Players, along with Ron and Jill, will perform for audiences in Redlynch and Wood Green this month.

From Tuesday 21 May to Thursday 23 May it will be staged at Redlynch Village Hall at 7.30 pm and at Holy Trinity Church, Witney, on Saturday 25 May (7.30 pm) and Sunday 26 May (2.30 pm). Ron and Jill will participate in a "talkout" after each show. For tickets, price £10, email:

tickets@redlynchplayer.co.uk

Patrick Hellicar

Still 'Triang' to Discover my Nostalgic Childhood Days!

It's amazing what turns up! Whilst tidy up and cleaning my Dad's workshop at Lynton yesterday, I noticed



on a top shelf what looked like a bicycle pedal bearing. It was still showing signs of red paint and I was convinced that it was from my

earliest Triang Trike, that I was given when we lived opposite at Merton. After cleaning it, I then unearthed the only photo Dad took of me with it in about 1950/51 when I was 7 or 8. You can see where this bit came from. I may yet find the pedals. I didn't have the deluxe version of this popular tricycle with its metal trunk on the back, but still had enormous fun with it. I clearly recall riding it up the bank of Lynton after we moved across the road in 1953 and tipping backwards and bashing my head. My uncle Douglas did the same trick



with his tractor on his steep Well Hill field, and nearly met his demise!

Phil Lane

Dick Smith

This is Dick Smith, for many years up to WW2, Chelsfield's local postman.

Looks like it is taken in the Maypole area. Nobody left to remember him now I suspect, but entered into folklore when one Christmas Eve he was late home and was found asleep in a snow-drift having consumed one too many glasses of festive sherry as he made his rounds!

In more recent times there have been other customers of the once 4 pubs who have failed to get home in one piece when blizzards and Bacchus conjoined.



Phil Lane

Bromley in Bloom 2019

I had promised certain local groups information about the Bromley In Bloom 2019 completion for those that wished to participate? I have also included the Seven Primary Schools in the Ward in this circulation in the hope that they might consider participating. We have had several participants from within the Ward previously and it would be great to see even more this year. Please pass this email on to anyone you believe may be interested.

Good luck to all those

who do participate.

Kind Regards

Mike Botting
Councillor for Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom (including Green Street Green)

Tel: 07976-280511
Mike.Botting@bromley.gov.uk

The organisers of Bromley in Bloom are very keen for you to encourage residents to enter this year's competition. I have been asked to let you know that application forms are now available from reception at Coolings

Garden Centre, Rushmore Hill, or can be downloaded from:

<http://www.coolings.co.uk/news/405/coolings-in-bloom-2019>

If you have any questions about the competition, please contact Neil Pennywood at neil@pennywoodtours.com

Graham Walton
Democratic Services Manager
London Borough of Bromley
Tel. 020 8461 7743
www.bromley.gov.uk

Bromley's Easter Egg Hunt a Cracking Success!

Bromley's children looked after were invited to an 'egg-cellent' treat in the run up to Easter this year. As corporate parents, the Council organised a fantastic Easter egg hunt with games and competitions at the Civic Centre

so that the children, aged from 6 months to 15 years, could join in the fun.

Organised by the fostering team, around 50 children took part, accompanied by foster carers and Council staff with some 500 chocolate eggs to be found.

Councillor Peter Fortune Executive Member for Children's Services said: "We take our role as

corporate parents very seriously and this is just one of the events we organise for our children. Adults and children alike had a great time at the event followed by cakes in the sunshine."

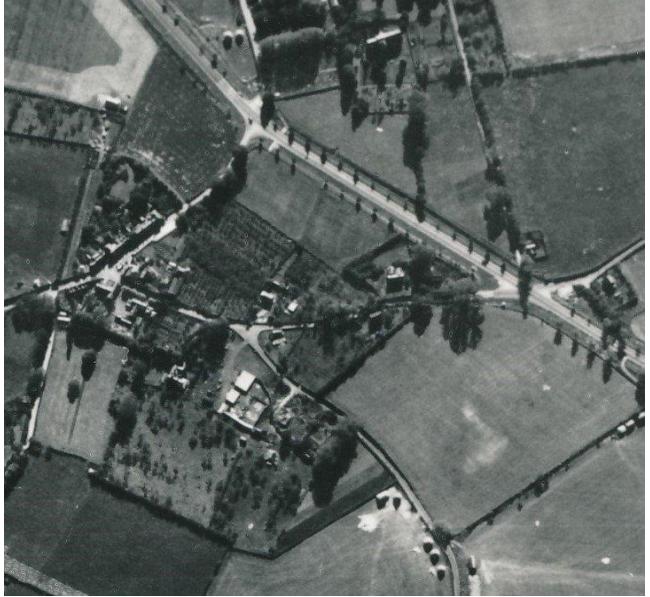


How it looked 1946 and now in 2019

Hi Folks

I have revisited an RAF aerial photo 11thOct 1946 and enlarged up the central village (see Phot to the right). Bit of detail lost, but this is just over 2 years since the V1 fell on Lillys in 1944 and the remains of the manor house can still be seen.

Little Lillys cottages opposite, were still standing in their damaged state when I was a child in 1950. It must have actually hit the House as I cannot see a



We would like to thank
CHELSEFIELD PARK HOSPITAL for their
sponsorship printing the Chelsfield Village Voice



crater. Also shown is the strip of land leading to Joe Turner's pigs where the Village Hall is now. The old rectory too can be traced out.

The recreation/cricket ground is clearly visible

that was bisected by the A224 some 18 years previous. As it looks like 2019 will see the start of construction for the 3/4 properties now given PP by LBB on the Koi Barn site this picture will be of special interest. I took an

updated shot yesterday (attached). Be ready for mud and HGV's folks! Geoff Copus would have been interested to hear about all this. Greatly missed by us historians.

Philip Lane

Sad Reminder of Why We Need a Roundabout

On Saturday April 13th eleven year old Josh Osborne was struck by a car on Court Road, close to the BP garage. Sadly Josh later died on Wednesday 17th April. We send our deepest sympathies to his family.

This tragic accident sets alarm bells ringing, once again, of how dangerous Court Road can be, and how fast vehicles move along it.

A year ago we reported that the London Borough

of Bromley were proposing to put a roundabout at the junction of Warren Road and Court Road expected last autumn.

COME ON BROMLEY! - Act **NOW** before we are reporting further fatalities!

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council

Main switchboard:
020 8464 3333
E-mail: fixmystreet.com
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 council website,
www.bromley.gov.uk/report,
or if urgent by phone out of
hours Emergency Duty
Team 020 8464 4848.

Neighbourhood Watch

John Leach 07711304965.

NHS Non-Emergency 111

Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital

Main Reception
01689 877855
Physiotherapy
01689 885920
Outpatients
01689 885905

Councillors

Mike Botting-
mike.botting@bromley.gov.uk
Angela Page
angela.page@bromley.gov.uk
Samaris Huntington-Thresher
samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Voice

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

EDF Electrical Power Failure
Call 105 or 0800 316 3105

BT Line Faults 0800 800151

Thames Water Emergencies
0800 714614

National Grid (Gas)

Emergency (leaks) 0800 111999

**Bromley Police Station &
Police non emergency** 101

Samaritans

Freephone 116123

Safer Neighbourhood

Team 020 8721 2605
chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@met.police.uk

Chelsfield Village Hall

(bookings) **01689 831826** or
email to:
cvhlettings@gmail.com

Chelsfield Players

info@chelsfieldplayers.org
www.chelsfieldplayers.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive
Live Singer
 From 6.00pm Contact 01689 880288

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.

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Tai Chi Classes

6.20pm-7.30pm
 Contact Jason Corner
 07502 152144

jasoncorner40@gmail.com

EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY

Christ Church Hall,
 Charterhouse Rd

Pilates Classes

Monday

10.45am Over 60's/Osteo
 6.00pm Beginners Pilates
 7.10pm Mixed Ability Pilates

Tuesday

7.15pm Beginners Pilates
 8.25pm Mixed Ability Pilates

Wednesday

9.30am Mixed Ability Pilates
 1.30pm Over 60's/Osteo

Saturday

8.45am Improvers Pilates
 10am Beginners Pilates
 Contact Sally 07786 035640
sally@orpingtonpilates.co.uk
 see www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk
 for venues and more info

EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room

St Martin's Toddler Group

10.30am-12.00 midday
 Contact Sarah Ford:
 01689 853415

stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

EVERY TUESDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

Quiz Night

From 8.00pm Info: 01689 880288

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

Charity Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

EVERY WED THURS & FRI

Chelsfield Methodist Church
 Hall, Windsor Drive

Pilates Classes & Pre & Post- Natal Pilates Classes

Wed 6.50-7.50pm
 & 8.00-9.00pm
 Thursday 8.20-9.20pm
 Friday 9.35-10.35 & 10.45 -
 11.45am

Post Natal Pilates 12-1.00pm
 (Babies Welcome)

Call Bethany Lucas
 07415 638546

bethanylucasplates@gmail.com

Further classes at:

www.bethanylucaspilates.co.uk

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am
 Contact Pam Keeper
 01732 458930

EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Class Street Dance

4.30pm-6.00pm
 Boys & Girls all Ages
 Info: Clare 07960 865518

www.class-streetdance.co.uk

EVERY FRIDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Drive)

DJ NIGHT

From 8.30pm Contact 01689 880288

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday 2 May

Five Bells

Jazz Night with Just Friends

Our popular sextet with their
 swing jazz standards
 Starts 8.30pm

Saturday 4th May

Green Street Green (opposite
 Bus Garage)

May Queen Crowning

Contact:
sallysoper@acwilgar.co.uk

Saturday 4th May

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

Singles Karaoke

Starts 8.30pm

Monday 6th May

(1st Monday of Month)

Brass Crosby Room

St Martins Memory Cafe

2-4pm. Contact Jackie McCann
 01689 854119

memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

Wednesday 8th May

(2nd Wednesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome
 Contact Sue on 01689 827407

Wednesday 8th May

Five Bells

Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians out
 there, come along and have a go!
 Starts at 8.30pm

Sunday 19th May

12 The Meadows Chelsfield Park

Open Garden

See front cover for full details

Tuesday 21st May

(3rd Tuesday Every Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

From 7.45pm

Contact Jules Phillips (President)
 on 0203 441 5669 or Lisa Lobb
 (Secretary) on 01689 608070

Wednesday 22nd May

Five Bells

Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians out
 there, come along and have a go!
 Starts at 8.30pm

Thursday 30th May

(Last Thurs each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

Starts 10.30am

Monday 3rd June

(1st Monday of Month)

Brass Crosby Room

St Martins Memory Cafe

2-4pm. Contact Jackie McCann
 01689 854119

memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

Thursday 6th June

Five Bells

Jazz Night with Just Friends

Our popular sextet with their
 swing jazz standards

Starts 8.30pm

Saturday 15th June

Rectory Gardens

St Martins Annual Fete

All the fun of the fair!!

Saturday 15th June

Chelsfield Village Hall

Quiz Night

7.30pm for 8.00pm start

£6 per person

Call 07816 505448 for tickets

Sunday 7th July

Well Hill Mission Church

Burntwood Concert

Starts 2.45pm

Tickets £7.50

Saturday 13th July

Chelsfield Cricket Ground

Chelsfield Village Fair

YES! it's the BIG one!!!