

CHELSFIELD VILLAGE VOICE

May 2023

Produced by
Chelsfield Village Hall



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



Join us for a special

CORONATION CREAM TEA

at St Martin's Church

on Monday 8th May

from 3-5pm

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chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

The Turnstone

This March I watched a squirrel move through the branches of a neighbour's yew tree and was amazed to see the amount of pollen that issued forth. It looked like a huge layer of dust had been disturbed. A little research revealed that such displays are common in early spring and on some occasions the public have phoned the fire brigade as they thought this display was smoke from fires in forested areas. It's surprising that for all the years I've lived here I have never seen this broadcasting of pollen before. I'm guessing that it's a very short term thing and unless you are around at exactly the right time you'll miss it.

Also, just before sending this piece to Dan for inclusion in 'The Village Voice' I happened to see a blackcap in my garden. This bird is often considered in the same category as the nightingale for the quality of its song. Although not an uncommon bird it is one of those species that's not easily recognised by the

majority of people. It looks like a great tit in size and manner but it's plumage is a rather dull grey with a slight green tinge but a very unmistakable black cap (ruddy brown for the female) as its name implies. Although some of these birds overwinter in Britain many migrate from continental Europe or further south and April is a typical time for these birds to arrive. Kent is also a major stronghold so maybe the one I saw had just arrived after a long journey and was looking for a new territory.

This Easter I was down in the West Country and as so often happens I saw a

bird that was new to me. In this case it was three Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*) searching for a meal on the rocks just outside the harbour to the small fishing village (and tourist magnet) of Mevagissey. As befits the Latin name, the translation means 'inhabiting sand' and these birds are truly a coastal bird being found in all coastal regions of Britain from Lands end to John O' Groats, but do not travel far inland. The full English name of this wader is the Ruddy Turnstone to distinguish it from its only other family member, the Black Turnstone but this need not concern us as it lives



exclusively along the North American Pacific coast. These birds are also known colloquially as 'ebb pickers' which I rather like. Both English names identify the nature of these birds as their hyperactive feeding habits describe the manner in which they are constantly patrolling the beach and sea rocks turning stones and weed looking for food.



Turnstones are pigeon sized and have both a winter and summer plumage, the winter one being a mix of both black and white plumage. The summer plumage which most fitted the birds I saw is dappled brown upper feathers, a thick black ring around the neck and bright white feathers on their undersides. They also have orange legs which creates an interesting mix of colours which gives them great camouflage in their natural environment. I took some photos but such is their camouflage that they will probably not show well against the rocky background on the reproduction in this newsletter (see first photo): though we can but try.

These birds over-winter in Britain having come from Greenland or Canada. When I saw them they must have been fattening up ready for the return trip west and a new nesting season. They are communal birds and like long tailed tits they move from one feeding place to another on-mass looking for titbits like children after pennies at a fête. If one feature defines this bird then it is its feeding habits. Versatility and adaptability are this birds hallmarks. They have been seen working in unison to turn over large stones or fish or to dig under such items to flip them over. The items they consider as food, or the locations they will explore are very varied. Anything from turning out guttering or chiselling gull

excrement off of a concrete path. Their more normal diet consists of beach-dwelling insects, molluscs, crabs and similar beach bugs. But they will also take advantage of the eggs of gulls, terns and even their own species. The list also includes raisins, garlic, dogfood, cheese, potato peel and fish. A varied diet seems to be the turnstone's claim to fame with the most extreme examples being a case where eight turnstones were seen fighting over a bar of soap! Other examples include feeding within the thoracic cavity of a dead sheep, similarly feasting on a dead wolf, a cat and even a human corpse on Anglesey beach.

*Steve Fuller
May 2023*

St Martin's Church Spire

St Martin's Church was built in the 12th Century. The tower and spire were added around 100 years later so the spire, in particular, has been a feature of our village for around 800 years and remains a landmark that can be seen for miles.

The construction of the spire is such that there is an internal wooden framework that supports wooden planks which, in turn, carry the wooden shingles that we see from the outside. In normal circumstances the wooden shingles have a limited lifespan of, perhaps, 50 years. Unfortunately the current shingles have had their lives shortened by the local parakeets, which have made a number of holes in the shingles. You'll see

from the picture that there are quite a number of holes, and that is just looking from one side. Those holes mean that the roof is no longer watertight.

Looking up inside the spire you'd expect to see only darkness, but the holes are such that there's quite a lot of light inside.



Already we are seeing accumulation of 'bird waste' which is not desirable. The ingress of water and, possibly, vermin has created a situation where remedial action is essential to protect the structural integrity of the spire.

a scheme of works to repair the spire. This will involve both erecting scaffolding around the tower and spire and employing specialised builders. While the specialist builders are on site and the scaffolding is there, some incidental repairs will be undertaken to stonework around two of the stained-glass windows. Given the need to firm up the architect's scheme of works, obtain estimates and the permissions needed to undertake work on a listed building we are hoping to undertake the work in 2024.

At this stage our best estimate of cost is around £150,000, including some contingency. We shall, of course, need to fundraise for this, but that will be the subject of a later article!

A specialist architect has been appointed to develop

*Steve McCann
St Martin's Church*



Join Us at Chelsfield Community Cafe



The Community Cafe will be meeting on Wednesday 3rd May and Wednesday 17th May in Chelsfield Village Hall.

On the 3rd we will be celebrating the Coronation with cream teas and a fun quiz. Do come along and join us, drop in from 2.30 pm and try your hand at some royal trivia!

*Pam, Mags
and the team*



Chelsfield Coronation Anthem

When we're not writing and recording Christmas songs, Lester and I sometimes indulge ourselves in side projects. In March we wrote and recorded a wassailing song which had a rude word in it and therefore allowed us to release it on Spotify with an Explicit rating, a long held ambition. Check out The Belldrunkers on YouTube if you want to find that ridiculous song which we recorded under our alternative duo name of The Nutscapers.

Anyway, having been mildly outraged that the King had asked Andrew Lloyd-Webber to write something for the Coronation but had entirely forgotten to ask us, we decided to go

ahead anyway. It's a largely classical choral piece called "To Be King" and while it may lack the gushing sycophancy of Nicholas Witchell, it's at worst a bit cheeky. We wrote it over one evening with the aim of having a lovely romantic tune with slightly silly words. One of the other inspirations was the amazing fanfare that is played before the National Anthem at all royal events. It was written by Gordon Jacob and goes all round the houses in terms of keys but rather makes the National Anthem sound a bit turgid afterwards. A bit like the Spice Girls being supported by the Beatles, or some such snobbish analogy!

Anyway Lester is the

master arranger so he got that job and has written a stunning discordant and startling fanfare for our song, a fanfare that needs real people to play it. This isn't the cast of thousands we normally employ for Christmas songs but we have live tuba, French horns, trumpets and trombones plus we're calling in a favour from the wonderful local Sine Nomine choir who are providing sufficient singers to multi-track into a choir.

If we get our fingers out, it may well appear on YouTube just in time for Charles to pop his glittery hat on. Wish us luck!

Dave Griffiths

Halstead & District Horticultural Society

May 8th 9.30am-12 plant sale Halstead Village Hall

June 7th Outing to Belmont House and Doddington Place Gardens 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 My families Alstroemeria nursery and the UK flower industry (Flowers available to buy)

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.

Thursday 4th May 2023
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Halstead Village Hall,
Knockholt Road,
TN14 7EX

Demonstrator:
Ellouise Hasler-Stott

Entry for members £5
including refreshments

For further information
contact:
Sally Kemsley on
01959 534406

The BoPeep Diary



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DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 6th–Monday 8th May

Coronation Weekend

Celebrate this royal occasion with British Themed food & drink !

B

O



P

Monday 15th–Saturday 27th May

British Asparagus Menu Available

E

E

P



Hewitts Road
Chelsfield
BR6 7QL
Tel: 01959 534457
info@thebopeep.com
www.thebopeep.com

SUNDAY 18th June

Fathers Day

Please check out our website for more details
www.thebopeep.com

Carrot Cake Recipe for the Produce Show

Here is the recipe for the Carrot Cake (Class 31 in the Country Fare category). This will give you chance to try it out a few times before the real thing on 9th September!

Ingredients

For the cake

- 250 ml sunflower oil
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- 225 g light muscovado sugar
- 200 g carrots, peeled and coarsely grated
- 300 g self-raising flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp ground mixed spice
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 75 g walnuts, shelled and chopped, plus 8 halves to decorate

For the icing

- 50 g butter (room temperature)
- 25 g icing

(confectioners') sugar

- 250 g full-fat cream cheese (room temperature)
- 3 drops of vanilla extract

Method

Preheat the oven to 180 °C/fan 160 °C/350 °F/gas mark 4.

Grease two deep 20cm (8in) round sandwich tins and line the bases of the cake tins with baking parchment.

In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients for the cake mixture. Spoon the mixture evenly between the tins.

Put the cakes in the oven and bake for about 35 minutes, or until golden brown, risen, and shrinking away from the sides of the tins. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Make the icing: measure the butter, icing sugar, cream cheese, and vanilla extract into a bowl and whisk using a hand or electric whisk until smooth and thoroughly blended.

Spread half the icing on one cake, sit the other cake on top, and spread the remaining icing on top to make a swirl pattern.

Decorate the top of the cake with the halved walnuts

If you would like to help with the planning, setting up or running of the Produce Show, or would like any copies of the schedule please contact Dan on 07414 920920, or email:

chelsfieldandwellhillsnow@gmail.com

WELL HILL MISSION CHURCH
in the Parish of Chelsfield, Kent
founded 1893



130th ANNIVERSARY FLOWER FESTIVAL "FARMING THROUGH THE AGES"

24th and 25th JUNE 2023

As we advertised last month, Well Hill Mission church is celebrating its 130th anniversary in June. We have sent invitations out to local churches and to other local groups to contribute displays, and have had a very positive initial response. There is still, however, plenty of space for displays, and we would very much welcome contributions from either individuals or groups.

We have identified a number of sites in the church, and a list of locations with 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 is available from the contacts below. If you would like to do a display, let us know and we can reserve your preferred site for you.

As part of our weekend celebrations, we are hosting a concert by Dave Griffiths and family at 3pm, to be followed by a cream tea. The concert will be *al fresco* in the garden behind the church, so please pray for good weather. We won't be able to retreat indoors this year as the church will be full of the flower displays. We will have gazebos up, though, so we should be able to keep both performers and audience dry even if there is some rain. Tickets for the concert are necessarily limited by the amount of space available, so don't delay!

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.

Concert tickets, price £12 to include the cream tea, please email wh130th@gmail.com, or phone Julia on 07930 676179.

Aches & Pains Monthly Meeting

A small friendly group to support and have a chat over a cuppa.

We meet the FIRST THURSDAY of each month
VENUE is

The EDE LOUNGE
at the back of the hall at:

St Mary's Church
Worlds End Lane
BR6 6AG

Time 2 to 4 pm

All welcome

Any questions please feel free to e Mail me on
Mhmanagement101@gmail.com

Hope to see you there.

Halstead Plant Sale



PLANT SALE

MONDAY

8th MAY

Halstead

Village Hall

9.30am-12 Noon

Enjoy tea and cakes at the Community Cafe as well!

Knit and Natter - Monday 8th May



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

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

for a chat too!

Knitting, crocheting and other crafts welcome.

We'd love to see you!

Whether you are a

Feel free to join us just

National Trust: Orpington & Chislehurst Centre

The Centre has monthly evening lectures held at the Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, BR6 9JH starting at 8.00pm and afternoon lectures held at the Methodist Church, Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst, BR7 5LX starting at 2.00pm

programme of local walks, day trips, holidays and a variety of social events.

To find out more about the Centre and how to join please send an email to ntocc100@gmail.com Membership is open to both members and non-members of the National Trust.

LECTURES FOR MAY 2023

Thursday 11 May 2.00pm

The Natural History of Iceland

Thursday 25 May 8.00pm

This Week in History

There is also a regular

Receive The Chelsfield Village Voice by Email

If you enjoy reading Chelsfield Village Voice, and would like to receive it regularly as soon as it is available then why not add your name to our email distribution list?

Your email address will not be shared with any other person, group or organisation, and you will only receive two emails a month from us - one reminding of the final

date for submission of articles, and the second the monthly issue.

Simply send your request to: chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

Pratts Bottom Village Fete

Pratt's Bottom
Traditional
VILLAGE FETE
for all the family
SATURDAY 13 MAY
12.00 - 4pm

We Need Your Support!



Through the goodwill of the residents and friends of Chelsfield Village we are just about managing to pay our way in printing costs for the Chelsfield Village Voice, but it's an ongoing process - we still need and depend on your generous support!

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

MAY

Elderflower cordial

A Recipe from the Woodland Trust

Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) is one of our most familiar trees and few plants have featured more in British folklore and traditional medicine.

METHOD

- Gather enough elderflower sprays to fill a one-litre (two-pint) measure when lightly packed.
- Shake the flowers to make sure there are no insects hiding inside, but don't wash them as this can spoil the flavour.
- Cover the elderflowers with water in a pan. Add lemon zest (as little or as much as you like). Simmer for 30 minutes. Top up the pan if necessary, to keep the liquid covering the flowers.
- Strain the flower-infused liquid through muslin or a tea towel, gently squeezing it to extract all the juice. Measure the amount of liquid.
- Add 350g (12oz) granulated sugar and the juice of half a lemon to each 500ml (1 pint) of liquid.
- Heat gently to dissolve the sugar. Bring to a gentle simmer and skim off any scum. Let the cordial cool.
- Pour the liquid through a funnel into clean, sterilised bottles, up to about 1cm below the top.
- Seal the bottles with swing-top lids, sterilised screw-tops or corks.
- Once bottled, the cordial will keep for several weeks in the fridge.

Top tip

Freshly picked flowers make the best cordial. The flowers lose their heady scent within a few hours, so make sure you have time to make the cordial soon after picking. Dry, newly opened flower heads have the best fragrance. Pick them from late morning on a dry day to make sure they are not soggy with dew, and don't collect from roadsides in case the flowers are tainted with exhaust fumes.

INGREDIENTS

1 litre (2 pints) elderflowers
Water
Lemon zest
Granulated sugar
Lemons





Featuring:

Beth Sawyer
saxophones

Helen Griffiths
electric cello

Dave Griffiths
keyboards

A wide variety of
classical, television
and film themes,
tunes from the
musicals, folk, pop
and rock in unique
arrangements for
saxophone, electric
cello and keyboards



Concert

Saturday

24th June 2023

at 3pm

Tickets **£12.00** includes
cream tea

Please bring your own picnic
chair

Tickets
wh130th@gmail.com
Julia Sparkes 07930 676179

Happy Birthday Pam!



Photograph courtesy of John Leach

2000 saw I at a glance



Over the winter, members of the village got together on a number of occasions to plant over 2000 daffodil bulbs supplied by the Chelsfield Village Society. The display can be seen alongside the Court Road / Warren Road junction.

Photograph courtesy of John Leach



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

Chelsfield Park Coronation Party

Chelsfield Park Coronation Party, Sun 7th May



Chelsfield Park Residents Association are delighted to invite you to celebrate the coronation of HRH King Charles III on **Sunday 7th May**, Midday until 5pm at the sports ground, 37 Oxenden Wood Road.

Food orders are now sold out, but you can still register your attendance for the free event and are of course welcome to bring your own picnics to enjoy.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/checkout/view-event/id/1891044/chk/f7ff/>

Full event details [are available](#), but if you have any questions, please contact [Liz Baker](#) [directly](#). To get help with your tickets (once booked) please [contact Ticket Tailor](#).

Hewitts Farm Shop

With the arrival of ULEZ to outer London in late August it may be difficult, or at least very expensive, to jump in our cars to go shopping unless our vehicles are ULEZ compliant. We can of course use the bus, but with the route of the R7 having been curtailed in many cases even that is no longer a viable choice.

There is another option...

and that is to walk! Although most shopping areas are quite some distance from the Centre of Chelsfield I would like to remind you that Hewitts Farm Shop is within a very comfortable walking distance, even when carrying bags of fruit and vegetables.

The farm shop and the pick your own farm has been run by the Morrison

family for well over 20 years and is well stocked with a huge range of fresh fruit and vegetables, along with fresh local eggs plus pretty well most of your most needed regular groceries.

So give it a go - try walking to get your shopping rather than taking the car, because in a few months it may be just too expensive to drive!

Worlds End Music presents



A Walk in the Wood(Wind)s...!

Monday, 29th May

St Mary's, Worlds End Lane, BR6 6AG.

3pm - Children's Concert.



A family-friendly and fun way to introduce your children to the fascinating world of woodwind instruments!

7pm - Evening Concert.



Our world-renowned local woodwind professionals form a quartet for a fabulous hour-long recital.

Tickets £10; children free; concessions available.

For tickets and more information go to
www.WorldsEndMusic.com

scan the QR codes, or call 07547 794870



Passing Time in Chelsfield - Part 2

Exclusive! Small Village, Big Fair – this July!

Chelsfield Village Fair



The annual Chelsfield Village Fair – this year on Saturday 8th July - is definitely the biggest event in the local calendar, except for, maybe, the Five Bells pub dog show (see my article in the last issue!). As Dave Griffiths, the Fair's Flying Display Director (flying display? Chelsfield?) says, "It's silly for a village this small to have a fair this big." It is so big that I hardly have room in this article to tell you what is coming up this year. But I have inside information from Dave.... The beans are about to be spilled, with some exclusive insights before the www.chelsfieldfair.com website has them! Here goes...

First up, the flying. The Spirit Of Kent Spitfire will be

roaring across Chelsfield's skies once more. Another display comes courtesy of pilot Mark Jeffries and his stunning 'unlimited aerobatics'. Finally, the rotors of 'Otto' the display helicopter will add its own quite different spin on things.

Down on the ground, the audience of up to four thousand will be treated to the Black Eagles, a West African acrobatics team, the Force 10 Big Band, the Orpington May Queen and her young attendants, and the Croydon Steel Orchestra. As Dave says, "They are young folk from Croydon. The most amazing thing, a great sound."

Experienced Chelsfield Village Fair-goers will be happy to see the usual Fun Fair, tea room, bouncy castles, pony rides, catering, coconut shies, and other stalls. Plus a core attraction, the beer tent. That in particular will draw the five organisers. As Dave says, "Years ago we met in the Five Bells pub. If it wasn't for that pub, the Fair wouldn't exist. We all like a pint and a great laugh, and wanted to

do something. It got out of hand! So many daft things happen along the way, it provides six months of anecdotes for us every year."

The Chelsfield Village Fair also raises money for local causes and charities, from local churches to the Village Hall, and this year's headline charity is The Maypole Project - see www.themaypoleproject.co.uk.

Do listen out for more – and an interview with Dave before the Fair – on the Bromley Buzz podcast, which I am proud to sponsor. See www.bromleybuzz.uk.

If you want to know more about me as a local estate agent, check out my website, www.ianwoodproperty.com.

As ever, if you see me in the pub, I'm tall, dark-haired, and I wear glasses!

Chances are I'll be having a pint of orange juice. Do say 'hello'.

*Ian Wood,
27th March 2023*

Open Garden Scheme - 21st May



Garden Open For Charity

12 The Meadows, Chelsfield, Orpington. BR6 6HS

Sunday 21st May 2023

11am - 5pm

Adults £5 Children Free

Light Refreshments

More information at ngs.org.uk



Changing Approach to Rice Farming in Thailand

Last month, I was able to travel to Thailand for the first time since Covid-19.

We have been funding work there with rice farmers. The aim of the project is to promote both climate smart agriculture and improved pest management. The farmers grow paddy rice, with water to flood the crop diverted into the field from a nearby river channel. This floods the field and the rice grows with its lower stem covered by water. Unfortunately, when



the soil is covered in water it releases methane gas, which is a strong greenhouse gas. These methane emissions are why rice cultivation is one of the agricultural practices having a significant effect on climate change.

However, scientists have adapted the system of cultivation of rice in flooded fields. They have discovered that, if the field is flooded and then left to dry, less water is required, the rice grows just as well and emissions of methane are vastly reduced. This is called alternative wetting and drying. Combined with other changes, for example not using a plough which turns the soil over, the farmers have really been able to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions. And the good news is that they might also now qualify for payments under the carbon credits scheme which reflects the active steps they have taken against climate change. It will be good for the climate, good for the farmers.

The farmers have also increased their profits by implementing Integrated Pest Management or IPM. In IPM farmers inspect their fields for weeds, insect pests and diseases but also insects which might attack the pests. With an understanding of the ecology in the field the farmer only needs to use pesticide when necessary to save the harvest, as a result they are spraying

their fields less. They have also been trained in identifying and use of more modern, less hazardous pesticides. The result has been an increase in both harvests and profits.

I met with a group of farmers, who have fields which were pretty small – about the size of a penalty box on a football pitch. These farmers were really excited about the opportunities that these improved ways of doing agriculture offered. One of the women present, had bought a drone. We are increasingly seeing drones being used in agriculture. For farmers who do not have a tractor, drones can apply pesticide much faster and with fewer risks than conventional approaches. Some drones can even identify where in the field needs spraying meaning less chemicals are applied. It is a changing world out there and it needs to be if we are going to minimise climate change and feed our populations.

Andrew Ward

Andrew is a local man who has worked in agricultural development for over 25 years

St Martin's Chelsfield & Well Hill Services



The Benefice of
Chelsfield with Green Street Green
and Pratts Bottom



St Martin's Chelsfield & Well Hill – Services – May 2023

All welcome! Come and join us any time. Please watch the church website for any updates

St Martin's

Sun 7 May	10.00am	Holy Communion with Baptism	CWO1 : MG
5 th of Easter	6.30pm	Choral Evensong	BCP : PS
Wed 10 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	CWO2 : MG
Sun 14 May	10.00am	Family Worship	MG
6 th of Easter	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist	BCP : SAJ
Wed 17 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	CWO2 : SAJ

Ascension Day

Thu 18 May	7.30pm	Benefice Holy Communion at All Souls	
Sun 21 May	10.00am	Holy Communion	CWO1 : SAJ
7 th of Easter	6.30pm	Choral Evensong	BCP : MG
Wed 24 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	CWO2 : MG

Pentecost

Sun 28 May	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's	
		SAJ and the new Archdeacon of Bromley & Bexley	
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong	BCP : KIA
Wed 31 May	9.30am	Holy Communion	CWO2 : SAJ

Well Hill

Sun 14 May	10.00am	Morning Prayer	KIA
Sun 28 May	10.00am	Pentecost Benefice Holy Communion at St Mary's	

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, PS: Reader Phillip Southby, KIA : Reader Ken I'Anson



Save the Date!

St. Martin's Summer Fete Saturday 10th June 2023

12 noon – 4pm

Rectory Gardens, Skibbs Lane, Chelsfield BR6 7RH

Looking for volunteers to help set up, man stalls etc etc!
Contact Anne on secretarypcc@stmartinchelsfield.org

The Big Help Out



**Can You Lend
Us a Hand?**

**Monday 8th May - 9am to 1pm
St Martin's Church, Chelsfield**

Our 900 year old church and its large churchyard are loved by the congregation and the wider community. It needs lots of TLC to keep it looking lovely so we're holding a big working party to get as many jobs done as possible inside and out. There are kneelers and brass to be cleaned, pews polished, door handles fixed, fences painted, lights cleaned, bushes pruned, ivy cut back, and many more tasks - and many hands make light work!

Please get in touch if you'd like to join us or just come along on the day. Check out the website, email bho@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk or call Philippa on 07826 516481

www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk/bighelpout
www.thebighelpout.org.uk

#TheBigHelpOut



Local History Group - School Logbooks

Paul Rason gave a talk on this subject some years ago but there is always something new to glean from a fascinating glimpse into the past.

The reason school logbooks were instated was down to the 1870 Compulsory Education Act. As schools were being given money by the local authorities there was a requirement to provide an accurate record of school attendance which was monitored frequently by the Attendance officer.

Green Street Green Primary School in Vine Road is one of the few schools that still keeps its old logbooks. Paul got permission to photocopy these books and teams have transcribed the contents so there is a safe digital record.

Each week the percentage attendance was recorded. Some weeks the attendance

figure was very low due to outbreaks of illness or poor weather with children being sent straight home if they arrived soaked to the skin or snow making the school inaccessible. Attendance was also poor during harvest time as the children were required to help in the fields. These absences had to be recorded and justified by the head teacher who wrote the logbook entries. At one point the number on the role was becoming unmanageably large. There were only two classrooms and the number reached about 120. Copies of the logbook pages were handed round for us to look at and made interesting reading.

Every event that happened outside the normal teaching was recorded such as who visited, any damage sustained to school

premises, non arrival of coal and delivery of lamp oil.

During the General Strike of 1926 one teacher had to cycle in from Brockley.

During the interval we looked at some of the photograph albums which had been provided by Philip Lane showing the local surroundings and village people.

Paul then handed round the records showing the reasons children had left the school. Children could originally legally leave at 10 years old and many did to help out their families. Others moved away. The school took children to the age of 13 and a small number did go on to further schooling. It was interesting looking at the Christian names of the children and seeing how many have fallen out of use. A few surnames were also recognised by some as still being in the area.

Pilates in The Village Hall

As many of know, our Pilates Instructor has had to stop her classes in the village hall. Many of us would still like to attend

Pilates classes in the village, and I have contacted a couple of local Pilates instructors wondering if they would

like to take on this venue together with members. Both have said that they do not want to expand at this stage.

I wonder if any of our local residents/newsletter readers know of new Pilates instructors that

would like to start classes with a venue and a ready made audience. If so please let Peter

Gandolfi know on: 01689 831826

Chelsfield's Casualties of World War II

Of the twenty servicemen and civilians remembered on our war memorial for World War II, three were killed within four days of each other at the end of April eighty years ago. I haven't had time to research them properly but felt we should remember them as close to their anniversary as possible. There's some basic information here and I will endeavour to find out more about them and write a longer article soon.

76511 Captain Edward Wallace

died on 22nd April 1943. He served in the 70th Field

Regiment of the Royal Artillery and is buried in the Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery in Tunisia. Edward Alford Wallace was the son of Captain Edward Gribble & Helen Wallace of Chelsfield, and husband of Hilda of Sunbury on Thames.

7959652 Trooper Horace Sampson

died the next day, on 23rd April 1943. He was only 20 and was a Trooper in the 2nd Lothians & Border Horse Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps. He is also buried in the Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery in Tunisia.

According to the records kept by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission he was the husband of K F Sampson of 'Crocken Hill', Kent

Frederick James Smith

died on 25th April 1943 aged 23. He was serving in the Royal Navy and at the time of his death was 5th Engineer Officer on the MV Doryssa. He is remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial in London. He was the son of Harry & Letitia Smith of Chelsfield, Kent.

Philippa Rooke
pjrooke@hotmail.com

New Yellow Line in Village

At long last, after much persistence from the Chelsfield Village Society and our local Councillors we now have a yellow line extension covering the squeeze point along Warren Road approaching the village, just after the junction with Chelsfield Lane. It is at this point that cars have been parked poorly, and

have on a number of occasions blocked access to our R7 bus. Resulting recently in TfL stopping the R7 coming into the village for a number of days. Speaking to some of the drivers, they are pleased with the result. We need to avoid any disruptions or difficulties in our bus service.





13 May 2023
All Saints Church,
Bark Hart Road,
Orpington,
BR6 0QD
2.30 pm to 5.00 pm
Refreshments
provided

Death comes to us all and the thought can be scary.

This free Open Day is for you to explore the various options. It is for everyone regardless of faith tradition or lack of faith.

The afternoon consists of a number of speakers, covering subjects such as legal issues, what funeral directors can offer, Palliative Care and Chaplaincy at hospitals as well as Hospice-care.

There is no need to book but if you would like to tell us that you are coming, please contact our Parish Office – 01689 832031.

Coronation Themed Guerrilla Knitting

As regular readers will know, Court Road Pillar Box frequently is adorned

with a knitted top by an anonymous local knitter. This wonderful knitted top

is celebration the coronation. We especially like the ears?



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/report,

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.gov.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

chelsfieldandbottomSNT@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 Tuesday
Five Bells
CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT
8.30pm

Every Thursday
The Chelsfield Pub
QUIZ NIGHT
from 7.30pm

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Wednesday 3rd May
Chelsfield Village Hall
Chelsfield Volunteers
Afternoon Tea & Talk
2.30pm-4.40pm (page 5)

Thursday 4th May
Halstead Village Hall
Kent Heights Flower Club
From 7pm for 7.30pm (page 6)

Thursday 4th May
St Mary's Church, Worlds End Lane
Aches & Pains Meeting
9.30am - 12 Noon (page 10)

Sunday 7th May
37 Oxenden Wood Road
Coronation Party with
Demelza Cake Stall
(see page 17)

Monday 8th May
St Martin's Church
The Big Help Out
9am - 1pm (see page 23)

Monday 8th May
St Martin's Church
Cream Tea
3pm - 5pm (see Front Cover)

Monday 8th May
Halstead Village Hall
Plant Sale
2pm - 4pm (page 10)

Monday 8th May
Five Bells
KNIT & NATTER NIGHT
from 8.00pm (page 11)

Thursday 11th May
Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road. BR6 9JH
National Trust Talk
2.00pm (page 11)

Saturday 13th May
Pratts Bottom Village Green
Village Fete
12.00 noon - 4pm (page 12)

Saturday 13th May
All Saints Church, Bark Hart Rd
Grave Talk
2.30pm. - 5pm (page 26)

Tuesday 16th May
Chelsfield Village Hall
Evening WI
7.30pm-9.30pm

Wednesday 17th May
Chelsfield Village Hall
Chelsfield Volunteers
AFTERNOON TEA
2.30pm-4.40pm (page 5)

Sunday 21st May
12 The Meadows Chelsfield
Open Garden
11am - 5pm (page 20)

Thursday 25th May
Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road. BR6 9JH
National Trust Talk
8.00pm (page 11)

Saturday 27th May
Coolings Garden Centre
Knockholt Farmers' Market
from 10am - 3pm

Monday 29th May
St Mary's, Worlds End Lane
Woodwind Concert
3pm & 7pm (see page 18)

Saturday 10th June
Rectory Gardens, Skibbs Lane
St Martin's Summer Fete
from 12 noon - 4pm (page 24)

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th June
Coolings Garden Centre
Craft Show
from 10am - 4pm

Saturday 24th June
Well Hill Mission Church
Concert
(see page 14)

Recycling Bin Collection May 2023

Tuesday 2nd May
Tuesday 9th May
Monday 15th May
Monday 22nd May
Tuesday 30th May
Monday 5th June

Every week

Every 2 weeks (Mar-Nov)
every Month (Dec-Feb)

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
Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste.

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)
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)