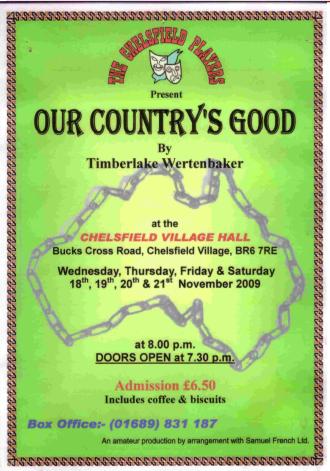


The Newsletter and "What's On" Guide for Residents & Friends of Chelsfield Village

November 2009



ABOUT THE PLAY

In an Australian penal colony in 1789, a young lieutenant directs rehearsals of the Restoration comedy *The Recruiting Officer*. With only two copies of the text, a cast of convicts, opposition from sadistic officers, unforgiving conditions and a leading lady who may be about to be hanged, Australia's first ever theatrical production is in trouble from the start. . .

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CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE!

Contributions for our December, Christmas issue, should be emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org or posted to:

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

To read the Village Voice online visit:

http://www.chelsfieldeve nts.co.uk/cvs/index.htm

Visit www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk



School Visit to The Royal Albert Hall



On Wednesday 14 of October all of Class 3 and Class 4 went to Royal Albert Hall. First we all met at Orpington Station then we got the train up to Charing Cross, after we got the tube up to Kensington Station. Then we had a little walk through London and finally we saw the Royal Albert Hall it was all red and gold, it was massive but beautiful. Everyone was like "wow". Then we went inside and it was amazing we went up lots of stairs and we sat down in our seats. It was brilliant there was about 4.000 people and there was big speaker things up on the ceiling to help the sound they looked like giant mushrooms. Luckily we got front row seats and we could see everything it was stunning. We found out that the Queen had it built for her husband Prince Albert and it was made in Victorian times.

Then it started, the lights went off and we heard a voice coming out of a

speaker saying that to start of we were going to hear some pupils of Marylebone School in a choir. He said because the English are famous for complaining they were singing a song about all their complaints that they had. It was outstanding and the atmosphere was extraordinary evervone loved it. Next Ripple Escola de Samba came on they had lots of instruments with them and they had lots of rhythm and patterns it was based on a South American festival

Dave Benson Phillips off of the BBC children's programs came on stage to introduce The Thames Youth Orchestra There were lots of movements and the piece shows the horror and violence of the war. Then it was The Spectators they had drums and were singing Dance Wiv Me by Dizzie Rascal. After it was still the spectators but they were singing there own song called Riding Free.

Next it was Coloma Junior Chamber Choir they sung Over the Rainbow from the film Wizard of Oz, then they sang a traditional welsh song called Oes Gafr Eto.

After it was Camden Youth Jazz Band and they played a piece called the Raider Returns by Michael Phillips Mossman. They then played a piece called Sophisticated Lady by Duke Ellington followed by another piece called Sir Duke by Stevie Wonder.

The last group was Co-Ioma junior chamber choir and they sang a gospel medley by Patrick Allen. Finally Dave and a man called Sid who worked for a company called Sing Up made lots of sounds with his hands that sounded like rain and we had to copy him. To finish up everyone in the hall sang a song called Sing Together. Then we left the hall and had our lunches in the park. Then we had a little run around and after we got the tube and then we got the train back and finally we got back to Orpington station. We all were very grateful to Mrs Foley who got the tickets and all the other teachers and parents who helped out.

By Olivia Fellowes and Georgina Lacy

Chelsfield Primary School



Barrage Balloons (follow up from Oct issue)

When I went on a gliding course at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire in 1953 the aliders were launched from the ground by what were or had been barrage balloon winches. The steel cable which free-wheeled from the winch drum was towed across the airfield by a vehicle. It was attached to the glider and on flag signals from the launch crew the winch driver slowly took in the slack in the cable and then ran flat out to get the glider in the air.

The winches were large vehicles with a powerful

engine driving the cable drum and fitted with a steel mesh cage protecting the driver and the winch mechanism from any wayward behaviour of the cable. There was also a guillotine by which the cable could be cut in an emergency.

Presumably the buoyancy of the balloon would have taken the cable up and I'm only guessing that if a group of balloons, rather than blocking the approach of enemy bombers came under direct attack from enemy fighters, could be lowered rapidly by the winch to a height where the fighters would not themselves be safe. I can't remember if the winches were self-propelled but the logistics of moving so large a balloon from site to site while tethered to the winch would pose some problems. Perhaps they stayed on one site once in position.

I have not researched this topic any further on the internet but perhaps my reply might encourage your questioner to do so.

Jim Rooke

of the tethered balloons in Chelsfield. Must be one somewhere.

Philip Lane

Since my last request Tom Blatcher has reminded me that the balloons were attached to a vehicle with winch, not fixed bases. There was a unit along Church Road where the cable was cut by a V1 allowing the cable end to drag over th rooftops taking tiles off. Never seen any photos

Village Christmas Party

As is usual at this time of year, our Christmas diary starts to fill up.

One date to include NOW, before you become double and treble booked is.

provisionally: WEDNES-DAY 23rd DECEMBER, at 7.30pm. You are all invited to join us for an informal celebration and pre-Christmas Village Party with Village Voice Quiz (so start revising those past issues!). Contributions of Food and drinks are welcome! More info in December Issue.



A Bit of History Behind My Accordians

...and Carol Singing in Chelsfield

It was at Christmas in 1949 that as a small boy of 6 years I tried to put on and play my dad's accordion which he had been given, second-hand, as a Christmas present.

I was fascinated by the instrument—it's colours and design (it had HOLLY LEAF bellows) and all the notes and buttons. It wasn't to be until the late 50's when I became competent enough to accompany my mum's club for carols around Chelsfield Lane.

For years I did this often in freezing conditions. It's penetrating voice could be heard through the house windows in the days before double glazing. It was not until the mid 70's when my brother invited me to join him at 'The Kings Head Bessels Green for carols. We produced sheets of words and it became a great success and institution lasting for many years, until John and Pauline retired and the vobs moved into the bars. At the same time I started at the Bo Peep and later at



My dad's original accordion A'Francesco Modello ' circa 1930, 24 base. Saxony.

The Kent Hounds, I had part exchanged dad's squeezebox for a modern German one, in key and fully working, at a small shop in Paddock Wood. I also found another old one in Woolwich. (Over the years I acquired 10 more but some were beyond repair and I am now down to 7 of varying weights. Amongst these is the original small accordion of dad which I found and repurchased many years later in a junk shop in Blackheath—it had been partly restored. I have one German, one Chinese and 4 Italian pieces. I play Silent Night on it only each year as it is slow of breath. They don't like extreme heat, cold, damp.

As years went by brother Chris moved away and I carried on alone for several years until meeting Barry Dix, a competent musician and teacher, (sadly now blind) who tries

to join me with his wife Jill when his busy schedule allows, now at the Five Bells and Bo Peep, (the Kent Hounds having sadly closed,) a very jolly fellow and most welcome. Over the decades we have raised thousands for charity. We have also built up a collection of percussion instruments for others to join in with. I also pride myself on the carol sheets containing what we feel is the definitive list of singable carols and songs for Christmas even down to copying a verse off the London Underground wall for Jingle Bells! Please come and join us at one or both of the two venues this vear. There will be a collection for a charity.

Five Bells
Thursday 17th December
BoPeep
Monday 21st December

Philip Lane



Local History Group October Meeting Report

This consisted of Geoff Copus discussing some of his recently acquired documents and information on the Chelsfield area.

A number of these recently acquired documents were handed around and discussed. these included local census records of the 30's. 50's and 60's, with many of the audience finding family links, photographs, plans of army huts originally at Lillys in the village, a map of the 1988 proposed Hewitts park development, maps of the Hart-Dyke estates and a hand written detailed list of war time incidents 1939-1045. These records included a plane crashing in Warren Rd, and Lillys destroyed by V1 flying bomb with fatalities.

Considering the extensive damage to property, the area did not appear to have many civilian casualties, although some cows were also listed among the dead.

The Chelsfield Parish Council minutes 1894 – 1934 were a new acquisition. These showed that Waring was the first chairman.

They appeared to have very little real power apart from overseeing the poor, cleaning wells, allotments, common land, looking after footpaths, volunteer fire brigade and rights of way. They appeared to have very limited power over planning.

In these minutes there were a number of occasions of problems with 'trippers' along the main road. These were related to excursions stopping pubs and the members committing a nuisance with 'singing, shouting, excessive speed and a danger to the public'

An illustration of Alice Bray's funeral in 1510 was passed round (She lived in Bucks Cross Cottages, now the home of the Sloans). The details of this elaborate event, involving lots of people, were included in her will.

Geoff told the story of Fritz Ring an unexpected British hero of the Great War. His grandmother knew the Ring family; both parents were born in Germany and lived in a bungalow along a footpath off Stanley Rd. Things were unpleasant for Germans over here during WWI. One son -Fritz - was killed in the war, and assumed to be on the German side. This was found to be incorrect. His army records showed him to be a member of the **RNVR** Nelson battalion and killed in 1917 fighting with the British Army in the BEF. He is not found on the Orpington memorial because his parents moved to Cobham where his name appears on their war memorial as Frederick L Rings. His brother Franz was an optician in Orpington High Street.

Paul Rason remarked that members of the RNVR were not always liked by members of the army, as being part of the 'senior service' they always marched at the front, and were allowed to grow beards.

Next meeting: 19th November at 10.15 in the Brass Crosby room



Chelsfield Village Society AGM Report

This was held in the Brass Crosby room on Tuesday 3rd November

The Chairman David Lambert apologised for the lack of our speaker from Eagle Heights who was busy else where today, and introduced Samaris Huntington-Thresher, one of our councillors who was present.

Apologies for absence.

These were received from Philip Lane, Alan Johnson, David and Helen Griffiths, Freda McClorey and Bridget O'Donnell.

Minutes of the 2008

AGM. The minutes were read out by the Secretary Catherine Gandolfi. The acceptance of these was proposed by Dan Sloan, seconded by Chris Parsons and passed.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman reported that there had been six committee meetings during the last year together with a number of road safety and traffic sub-committee meetings. These were to discuss solutions to the volume and speed of traffic and associated parking problems. He said

that there were copies of the wish list that had been produced, for residents to take away today, although input on these matters was still requested.

Thanks were given to Anne Paterson and Chris Mead for hosting the Village Society web site. This site contained a form for the easy reporting of problems to the council, that he urged residents to use.

The Internet Café run by Peter and Catherine Gandolfi was proving successful with a number of residents now learning new skills and new methods of communicating. He said he had heard that this used a broadband cable connection running around the front gardens of Orlestone Gardens and over a fence and down the rectory garden into the back of the Parish Room.

The monthly village newsletter 'the Village Voice' was now over a year old and was proving to be a success. This was going out to over 200 local residents. Any residents with potential content were urged to pass this on to Dan Sloan.

The Village Fair was supported with a CVS stall which raised over £200. Unfortunately one plane, the Vampire, did not make it as far as the Village due to the weather conditions.

The Produce Show in September was well supported, and David urged everyone to enter next year.

The CVS continues to be a member of the Bromley Resident's Federation, and at a recent meeting we heard of particular problems with a traveller's site in Layhams Road Biggin Hill. We may well have a similar problem in our area. The problems that Well Hill residents are present having with Travellers purchasing land at Well Hill was mentioned and many Chelsfield residents had written in to Sevenoaks council supporting Well Hill residents. The chairman of the Well Hill Residents Association had sent an email to the Chelsfield Village Society passing



on his thanks to all who had written to Sevenoaks Council with objections to this application.

The car wash in the grounds of the Koi farm has now ceased, much to the aural relief of the adjacent neighbours.

Neighbourhood Watch will be re-launched shortly with new signs etc. There was a case of dog napping on Well Hill with a subsequent ransom demand. David thanked the committee for their support over the last year.

Treasurer's Report.

The treasurer, Catherine Gandolfi, handed out copies of the year's accounts. She pointed out that the interest received was much less than last year and next year would be even less due to the paltry interest rate.

The main expenditures were on hall hire and printing. The cost of hiring the Parish Room for the Internet Café was covered by donations and the cost of hiring the Village Hall for the produce show is partially offset by the

proceeds of the show. The full cost of printing the Village Voice to date is not shown in the accounts for this year as we are waiting for a further invoice. Catherine thanked those who helped run the stall at the summer fair, Bill and Pam Ames and John and Jenny Leach. Money made at this will go towards covering our printing costs.

Last year we donated £1500 to the Village Hall. £500 of this was specifically for the installation of a handrail up the steep drive in memory of Ivy Parkes, Catherine wondered if this money had been lost in the general funds, Julius Bannister said he had heard this matter discussed recently at Village Hall meetings. Catherine replied that this was because enquiries have been made into the progress of this project and the status of our donation

Chris Parsons was thanked for auditing the accounts and Catherine proposed his appointment as auditor for next year. This was seconded by Dennis Graham and

agreed by the floor.

Julius Bannister asked if surplus funds should support local causes. David Lambert replied that this was possible but that the aims of the CVS are not to make money, and the committee would have to consider what level of surplus is needed to maintain the smooth running of the society.

It was suggested by Julius Bannister and Anne Mead that perhaps the school nature project could be supported. The CVS committee was not aware of this project and will consider a written submission for funding.

The approval of the accounts was proposed by Dennis Graham, seconded by Elsa Sjovorr and passed.

Election of Committee.

David said that all the current committee were willing to stand again, and invited further nominations as there were two vacancies. As no nominations were forthcoming, David suggested that the committee be elected en bloc. This was proposed by Dennis Graham, seconded by Peter Gandolfi



and passed.

Any other business

The traffic report wish list was handed out and discussed generally. Among the points discussed were the potential benefits of mini roundabouts and white gated approaches to the village as seen in many other local villages. Samaris Huntington-Thresher said that if we could get something done next year, we would be unlikely to get any thing else done in the following 10 years, so it is important to get this right now. She is willing to offer us quidance through this procedure.

David said that a possible site for a village car park had been identified next to the children's play ground in Skibbs Lane, but any progress depended on the cooperation of the lease holder who lives in East Sussex.

Not enough car parking is available at Chelsfield Park Hospital leading to pavements being blocked by overflow parking. Julius Bannister said that the Hospital had applied for permission to build another car park but this had been turned down by the council, and a joint venture may be worth pursuing.

Pam Ames said that she had written to James Cleverly (our GLA representative) about the need for traffic calming measures along Court Road, specifically the Warren Road/Court Road junction and asking for advice and guidance in this matter. As yet she has not re-

ceived a reply. She also said that Sevenoaks council is allegedly reviewing the expansion of other existing sites for travellers and is not necessarily going to give permission to the Well Hill site. David mentioned the illegal expansion of the permitted showman's site at Layhams Farm.

Joy Ellard asked about what was happening about the re-profiling at Hewitts roundabout. David and Samaris both said that this was to hopefully deter travellers and was being paid for by the golf club. The work was being monitored.

The meeting was followed by wine and nibbles, a free raffle, and a convivial social occasion.

Examples of Village Parking Problems



Access for Emergency Services?



Sometimes the bus cannot get through!



Evacuation at Well Hill

Firefighters from eight London and Kent fire brigades were called to a large warehouse fire on Rock Hill on Thursday 17th October. Fire crews were present between 9pm and 7 am the following morning.

Due to the risk of gas cylinders being present in the

fire and the risk of them exploding, a 250metre cordon was imposed by the police, with many families being evacuated to the Well Hill mission church and Chelsfield School.

Residents say that flames were approximately 30 metres in the air.

Approximately £250,000 of damage was caused to the neighbouring house, which only months ago suffered damage after an accidental gas explosion.

The fire is being treated as arson and its cause is being investigated by the police

Neighbourhood Watch

New type of crime. Dog walkers please be on your guard. A dog walker in Petts Wood had the lead snatched by an assailant who then demanded "your valuables or your dog". Needless to say, she handed over her valuables to avoid any harm to herself or her dog. This is a particularly nasty new sort of crime, please be wary if you are walking your dog alone.

Open letter to Mandy Lamond.

I'm sure I am not alone in

hoping for a revival of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, especially as crime seems to be increasing in our area. A regular article in the Village Voice would be very welcome. Many residents are not "in the loop" and would be keen to hear of any crimes or attempted crimes in the area. This would help them to be on their guard. Could you please supply your contact details so that residents who do not know who you are can pass on their email addresses to receive the electronic updates? This

information could also be included in your monthly article so that those of us not on the Internet can also be kept informed. You give no information about the "Neighbourhood watch toolkit" Is the kit a result of reguests for a re-launch of the scheme made at a recent street briefing in the village? And if so how is this to be done? Does it contain any information about Cold Calling as mentioned in the September edition of Village Voice?

A concerned resident

Notes from LBB Residents' Federation

<u>Digital Hearing Aids</u>: There is no longer a waiting list for digital hearing aids – however the PRUH failed to notify those on the list.

<u>Designated Public Place Order (DPPO)</u>: Following an approach by the Orpington Safer Neighbourhood Team to

introduce a DPPO for Orpington Town Centre to prevent alcohol related crime and disorder, the Portfolio holder for Public Protection and Safety will gauge residents' and traders' reactions to such a proposal by sending out a questionnaire. If the order is granted, it will not disrupt

peaceful activities such as a picnic in the park but in such areas the police can require any person to stop drinking.

<u>Travellers:</u> The Fordham Report states that the allocation for LB Bromley is 220 places out of a total of 689 for all London boroughs and seems



disproportionate. It could be argued that Bromley is a large and wealthy place but the danger is that out of area travellers would be attracted by the provision of sites.

Bromley's MP, Bob Neill, added that the three Bromley and Bexley MPs have discussed this with James Cleverly, GLA representative, who will object to the unfair allocation and ask for a back assessment on historic needs.

Bob Neill, MP, was also asked if there are any proposals to merge South London's health PCTs and local authority social services. He replied that PCT trust mergers are not under consideration. In order to run their PCTs effectively chief executives should be located centrally. Some aspects of social services (mental health), however, would lend themselves being merged into 'Superboroughs' and this might well be in the election manifesto.

Definition of Alzheimers/ Dementia: The criteria for identifying what a person is suffering from seem to be constantly changing with almost every new study published, thus delaying treatment Bob Neill will raise this at the next PCT meeting.

Biggin Hill.

Air Support Units: The air support unit of the Police was after out of hours refueling facilities at Biggin Hill. The operators are not prepared to make an application to the Council as they are not in a position to man the service

required once the Airport has closed down for the day. The Police have no intention to move their base from Lippits Hill in Essex to Biggin Hill.

Noise Complaints: The Federation's Biggin Hill Airport delegate has received many complaints concerning a large aircraft, a Boeing 727, now operating from BHA. Complainants believe it is noticeably noisier than any other aircraft but, according to the airport director, it fits the noise profile. The Council will only investigate something of this nature if it consistently gives rise to complaints and they have the facility within the lease to ban any aircraft generating too many objections.

If you are disturbed by this aircraft you should register your complaint with the airport. (Tel: 01959 571113 or email enquir-

ies@bigginhillairport.com advising date and time.) If unhappy with the reception you get or information provided, notify Peter Osborne on main@indbooks.co.uk or telephone 01959 573360 who will take it up with BHAL.

Biggin Hill Heritage Centre: Consideration is now being given to retaining a professional fundraiser to help launch the main fund raising effort in 2010, the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the Trust expect to seek representation at several high profile events.

<u>Trains:</u> With the imminent introduction of the new high speed train into St Pancras, fast services from Orpington

and Petts Wood appear to be reduced, as are services to Dover.

The new high speed services running to St Pancras will benefit people from East Kent to London whilst journeys west of Ashford will continue on existing services and some timings might change.

Four slow and four fast trains to and from London Bridge, Waterloo East and Charing Cross, calling at Orpington and fast to and from London.

The draft timetable for Hastings and Tunbridge Wells services shows all trains calling at Orpington and fast to and from London, however, Dover and Ramsgate services will not be calling at Orpington, running fast to and from Sevenoaks and London.

The draft timetable is due to come into effect on 13th December.

Methodist Church, Orpington: Rumours have been reported that Tesco intends to purchase the premises and turn it into a service station.

"Edible" landscaping: In their recent report 'Can you dig it?' NLGN* urges the Government to expand the number of public allotments, encouraging landowners to donate unused holdings to their local community and offer tax incentives to allow allotments to be built on unused sections of their property. (*The New Local Government Network formed to make local government more relevant to local people).



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail:

csc@bromley.gov.uk Opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Address: Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

Reporting Problems to the Council Can be reported via the

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

Mobile Library

The mobile library stops outside Chelsfield Village

BT Line Faults	0800 800151
Electrical Power Failure (EDF)	08007838866
Thames Water Emergencies	0845 9200800
Transco Gas Emergency Service	0800 111999
Orpington Police Station	0300 1231212
1000-1800 Monday-Saturday	
Samaritans	01689 833000
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Safer Neighbourhood Team	020 8721 2605

School on Tuesdays between 11:15 and 11:45. Books can be reserved from here, or over the Internet via the Bromley library website for later picking up from the mobile library.

Councillors

Julian Grainger 01689 889392

julian.grainger@bromley.gov.uk Samaris Huntington-Thresher 020 8464 3333 Samaris.Huntington-Thresher@bromley.gov.uk Bob Evans 01689 853002 robert.evans@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Society cvscontact@googlemail.com

Chelsfield Village Voice villagevoice@chelsfield.org

Chelsfield Primary School 01689 825827

We Apologise

Reading the Chelsfield Village Voice today, I was shocked to read the above article about a car accident. My grandmother was the passenger in the car, and an accident was not avoided, both she and the driver suffered badly bruised ribs and were in shock. And she certainly did not find the experience "exciting", and I'm sure she would have been horrified if any pictures of her just after

the accident had been printed!

It seems like the author of this article seems more concerned about a bench than the two women who sustained injuries in this accident!

Charlotte Guastella

Reply:

We are sorry if the article appeared somewhat flippant, but both author and Village Voice had been advised that the driver and passenger had come through unscathed.

We only wish to provide interesting local news, but not at the expense of any embarrassment or upset of our readers. Please apologise to your Nan and friend on behalf of the author and Chelsfield Village Voice

Dan Sloan Editor Chelsfield Village Voice



Tuesday 10th November Five Bells

Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

Wednesday 11th November Parish Room

Internet Café

2.30pm to 4.30pm

Wednesday 11th November Five Bells

Curry & Pint Night

Tuesday 17th November Five Bells

Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

Wed 18th Thur 19th Fri 20th & Sat 21st November

Chelsfield Village Hall

Chelsfield Players present

"Our Country's Good"

by Timberlake Wertenbaker

Thursday 19th November Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

from 10.15am

Thursday 19th November Five Bells

Beaujolais Day

Scrumptious French themed 3 course meal DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20th November Five Bells

Live Music The Rock Pins

Local Rock Band from 9.00pm

Wednesday 25th November Parish Room

Internet Café

2.30pm to 4.30pm

Wednesday 25th November Five Bells

Ladies Night Anne Summers Party

Free Nibbles & Lots of Giggles!

Saturday 28th November Five Bells

Game Food Night

Contact Pub for details

Tuesday 1st December Five Bells

Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

Thursday 3rd December Five Bells

Live Music - Jazz

Just Friends Swing Sextet. Jazz Standards 1920's on Commencing 8.30pm

Thursday 3rd December Five Bells Live Music - Rock

Dupe will be performing their Christmas Show

Tuesday 8th December Five Bells

Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

Wednesday 9th December Parish Room

Internet Café

2.30pm to 4.30pm

Tuesday 15th December Five Bells

Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

Thursday 17th December Five Bells

Carol Singing

Monday 21st December Bo Peep

Carol Singing

Tuesday 22nd December Five Bells

Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

Wednesday 23rd December (date provisional to be confirmed in December Issue)

Christmas Party

7.30pm to