



**The Newsletter and
“What’s On” Guide for
Residents & Friends
of Chelsfield Village**

November 2010

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens

Dramatised by Neil Duffield

One cold dark Christmas Eve, Scrooge is surprised by the ghost of Marley, his former business partner. Three other spirits each take Scrooge on mysterious and magical journeys to show him the error of his ways.

This vibrant new version by the award-winning playwright Neil Duffield gives all you can ask for in Christmas entertainment, carols, merriment and ghosts. Bah-humbug!

“...simple, unaffected theatrical magic...” *Sunday Times*

Performances on

**Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th,
Friday 19th, Saturday 20th Nov 2010 at 8.00 pm
also Saturday 20th November at 2.30 pm**

in the Chelsfield Village Hall (opposite the 5 Bells)

Doors open half hour before the performance

You are invited to purchase tickets at **£7.00** each adults
and **£5.00** for children less than 12 years.

(Ticket price includes refreshments)

Phone 01689 831187 for tickets

Please make cheques payable to ‘The Chelsfield Players’

Village Christmas Party/Social

Wednesday 22nd December

in the Brass Crosby Room

*If last year was anything to go by, this will
be a good event with many new faces.*

*There will be a raffle in support of the
village newsletter, Chelsfield Village Voice*

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Contributions Please !

Amusing stories,
anecdotes, old photos,
forthcoming events?

Let Us Know

Contributions for our
December issue should
be emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village
BR67RN

Visit

www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

Antiques & Collectibles Valuation Day

This was held on Saturday October 16th in the Brass Crosby Room and appeared a great success, with the room crowded with those seeking advice. In fact it seemed rather too successful with time running out at the end which meant the last sessions being rather hurried. Catherine Southon certainly knew her antiques and also had lots of

books available to help her with valuations. We were told the background of some children's jigsaws of cats that had been in the family for three generations. Apparently Louis Waine was obsessed with cats, with much of his work being done in a mental hospital where he spent much of his life. His caricatures of cats getting more and more

grotesque as his condition advanced.

Ms Southon said that she was surprised with the wide selection of objects that people had brought that morning, and had seen some lovely pieces, many of good value. Hopefully she can be persuaded to come to a repeat the event sometime.



Car Parking Space Available

I have a car parking space available about five minutes walk from

Orpington Station, if this is of interest and would be useful to you please

telephone me on 07811 580785 to discuss your requirements

Minutes of Chelsfield Village Society AGM 2010

10th November 2010, Parish Room, 7.30 pm

Apologies for absence.

These were received from Dave Griffiths, David Lambert, Dan Sloan, Philip Lane and Cllr. Samaris Huntington-Thresher. The meeting was also attended by Cllrs. Julian Grainger and Russell Jackson.

Minutes of 2009 AGM.

Catherine said these had been circulated in the Village Voice shortly after the meeting and had received no comment. She offered to read them out but it was agreed that this was not necessary. Acceptance of the minutes was approved - proposed by Denis Graham and seconded by Janet Parsons.

Chairman's Report.

Pam welcomed all those present and thanked them for coming. She apologised for the last minute change of venue caused by Catherine's brainstorm. Pam introduced our new councillor, Russell Jackson.

Pam said that she was elected Chairman after the 2009 AGM and since then the committee has met

regularly. We have the monthly Village Voice which has been well received. Comments and articles should be sent to Dan Sloan (details in VV). The Village Fair was again a great success and our thanks go to Alan Johnson and James Hummerson who collected bottles for the bottle stall and raised £300 for the CVS. Thanks to everyone who contributed bottles.

Japanese knotweed has been found on the edge of the Koi Barn land and is being dealt with.

It has been decided to replace the Church and Village noticeboards (which are in a poor state) with one board clearly divided in half. James Hummerson is preparing a design and the cost will be approximately £300. The PCC have agreed to share the cost with the CVs and Jeremy Binns has kindly offered to make a contribution in memory of Janet who did so much for the village. A plaque in memory of Janet is to be included above the CVS board.

British Telecom is to include the Orpington ex-

change in their fibre optic roll out so we should be able to enjoy fast Internet access by Autumn 2011.

Pam said most importantly, road safety and traffic problems is her hobby horse. Since January the Committee has had lengthy discussions with our Ward Councillors regarding the speeding traffic, large lorries through Chelsfield Lane and the Village and parking issues. Progress has been very slow but at last we are getting somewhere. We have a display of the mark 2 versions of our "wish list" and your comments are invited. However even these are subject to amendment as they do not fully meet our requirements. We have been allocated a budget of just over £17000 and we want to make the best use of this money.

The Council has advised us to deal with the matter of a village car park as a separate issue and we have agreed and will pursue this. Also we have a suggested scheme for the dangerous Court Road/Warren Road junction which we are considering and will implement for now



and look in more detail at making possible major changes to the junction which I think are needed. Pam thanked committee and our councillors for the hours they have spent throughout the year on this issue. During the Chairman's report Cllr. Grainger spoke about the proposed response to our wish list and invited members to view the plans and comment. Plans for the proposed improvements to the Court Road/Warren Road junction were circulated. He said that the provision of a roundabout there was a definite possibility in the long term.

Finally Pam was approached by Tony Pitham, owner of the Koi Barn, to meet him and discuss his plans for building 6-8 houses on the Koi barn site. He held a meeting in the Five Bells on the 20th October for residents to view and discuss his plans. James Hummerson will keep an eye out for any planning applications received. Otherwise there is little point in getting involved in a discussion until we receive a definite proposal. As you know, Tony is very good at changing his mind.

Pam reminded the meeting that there will be a village

party in the Brass Crosby Room on 22nd December. There will be a raffle to raise funds. Please bring a plate of food and some drink to share.

Treasurer's report.

Firstly Catherine gave a couple of facts:

Membership is the highest since 1996 and the balance is the lowest since 1991.

In the past we have made large donations supporting village projects and activities. Some of these were:

The village sign, £1000; the village pond, £230; the Village Hall clock, £100;

the Village Hall, £1750; the Brass Crosby blue plaque event, £640 and

the Golden Jubilee celebrations, £530 – both of these last two being in the same year.

We no longer have the funds to provide this sort of support.

Catherine pointed out from the accounts that there were two major areas of expenditure. Hall hire includes hire for Show and the Internet Café. The Internet Café is also responsible for almost all the donations that result in the project covering its own costs.

Printing costs are mainly for the Village Voice. The Editor, Dan Sloan, prints the copies at a very reasonable price. We are very grateful to have the opportunity to make use of this newsletter that helps us to fulfill our aim to communicate with all residents. It also brings the village together, inviting contributions from all groups and individuals.

Thanks go again to Alan and James who organised the bottle tombola at the Summer Fair. Our end of year balance is about £170 less than last year. We need to take an active role in fund raising at local events to support the Village Society's running costs, in particular the monthly newsletter. It was agreed we should have a stall at the St Martin's Fete.

Catherine thanked Chris Parsons for auditing the accounts. She invited him to act again as auditor for next year. His appointment was approved - nominated by Melanie Stevens and seconded by Janet Parsons.

There were no questions about the accounts.

Balance as of 30th September 2010

Current Account: £635.43

Savings Account:
£1023.59

Cash: £48.18

The report was approved – nominated by Melanie Stevens, seconded by Freda McClorey.

Nominations and election of committee

Two new potential committee members had been nominated to fill vacancies: John Leach was proposed by Catherine Gandolfi and seconded by Dan Sloan and Paul Bennett was proposed by David Lambert and seconded by Peter Gandolfi. The existing committee members: Pam Ames, Joy Ellard, Catherine Gandolfi, James Hummerson, Alan Johnson, David Lambert, Dan Sloan, Terry Sparkes, Melanie Stevens and Bridget O'Donnell were all willing to stand again. There being no further nominations or objections the committee was elected en bloc. Proposed by Peter Gandolfi and seconded by Janet Parsons.

Any other business.

Anne Mead gave several dates of events which she was asked to send to Dan Sloan for inclusion in the Village Voice diary.

Helen Griffiths complained that vegetation needed

cutting back as it was obscuring a street light. Cllr. Grainger pointed her towards the council web site where such problems could be reported. The Millers of Court Lodge Farm said that they have a continual battle with fly tippers and have to bear the cost of removal themselves. Cllr. Grainger gave them details of who they may be able to contact for advice or help.

Discussions about the “wish list” proposals continued during the refreshments.

Alan Ames of Eagle Heights arrived with Alaska, an American bald eagle, an enormous bird for such a small room. She was unable to fly in such a

confined space. He answered many questions. Cllr. Jackson took a turn at holding Alaska perched on the glove. She is not as heavy as she looks. It was way past her bed time so Alan returned her to her perch in his van and brought in Doris the 3 month old barn owl. She spent some time perched on Melanie's and then Catherine's wrists. We learned that she was originally called Boris until her gender became clear. Barn owls bred at Eagle Heights have been released into the wild in the area.

To round off the evening a free raffle was held, everyone having been given a free ticket.



Russell Jackson with 'Alaska' the Bald Eagle from Eagle Heights at the CVS AGM - any ideas for a caption?

Chelsfield Evening W.I.

At their September meeting the Chelsfield Evening WI were entertained by Steve Roberts who regaled us with tales of his time at Scotland Yard. He had left school in the 70s with an O level in pottery and joined the metropolitan police in 1976. He rose to the rank of Detective Inspector.

He had held a variety of posts and during his ca-

reer had dealt with kidnap, murder, had been a member of the flying squad, the crime squad and the anti corruption team.

He had served for a short time at St Mary Cray police station as well as being involved with the champagne Sid case in Orpington involving a security vehicle.

He had enjoyed a varied

and interesting career and he certainly gave us an incite into an underworld which, fortunately, most of us are oblivious to. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and in October the subject is Forensic Science.

On Tuesday 23 November we are looking forward to a belly dancing talk and demonstration. Visitors would, as always, be most welcome.

Village Hall News

The hall has had a ramp installed to improve access for the disabled, two new emergency exit doors have been installed and new windows fitted to the front and side of the building.

The guttering has been checked and cleaned of rubbish.

The hall committee have received donations towards the cost of these items from: The Five Bells; Chelsfield Village Society; The Pastime Dance Group; The Housemartins; and, last

but not least, The Village Fete committee; and would like to express their thanks to all these groups for their invaluable support



We always knew that Dan was a vane man, but thinking he knows which way the wind blows in Chelsfield points

to a degree of instability! Anyway, after years of frustrating dealings with Hawkins Clocks, who installed the Village Hall clocks in 2000, trustees Dan Sloan and Phil Lane have hopefully corrected the problem. All three faces are now telling the same time and can be separately controlled from within the hall. Whilst up the tower Dan discovered that the weathervane was seized pointing West. It is now packed with grease and we are waiting for a wind change to prove it works!

Local History Group Report

Paul Rason introduced this month's meeting with an extract from "This Week" a magazine of news clippings. A headmaster ate a tarantula in front of a school assembly as a fund raising stunt. Some pupils were reported to be upset by this antic and a parent was quoted as saying "In Orpington we don't do things like that". The headmaster was Mr Onac and the school was St Olave's.

Paul went on to say that he had recently showed the head teacher of Chelsfield Primary School, Patrick Foley, a disc with transcriptions of the school's log book. This dates from 1980 when there was a request for London Borough of Bromley publications of information from 100 years ago. The log books from 1883-1892 and 1892-1906 were transcribed. Paul received copies 10 years ago and gave a U3A talk on the subject. Volunteers were recruited to type up the log books

and transfer the information to discs. The results were printed and spirally bound.

Mr Foley has all the school log books, the earliest dating from 1865. The front of each book describes how they are to be used. They are used to record the more unusual happenings such as visitors – usually the local vicar in the early days.

It cost 1d a week to send a child to school and many entries concern children being sent home to get the money. Mr Waring, the local squire, visited often. As a JP he was used as a "correspondent" checking on behalf of the school inspectorate. Mr Waring's four daughters all worked in the school on a voluntary basis, the whole family thinking of it as "their school." Most of the children were the offspring of agricultural labourers and bad behaviour was reported to Mr Waring who reprimanded the children.

The long summer breaks were established because of the need for children to help with harvest which brought in much needed money. Any royal celebrations also resulted in school holidays. In 1887 the school was closed for a week to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. The school was lit by oil lamps and the hours depended on the hours of daylight as lighting the lamps cost money.

Paul circulated copies of the transcriptions. Poor attendance was a perennial problem. Much of this was caused by illness but particularly during the fruit and hop picking seasons children were kept away to help on the local farms. The opening of a new school in Pratts Bottom resulted in the loss of 40 children at once, quite a blow to a school depending on numbers attending.

Measles, whooping cough, diphtheria and scarlet fever all featured regularly, the log book showing that the school

was closed for three weeks during a measles epidemic by the sanitary inspector. The school took as many as 140 children in 2 classrooms so illness spread readily. In January 1884 there were several deaths from croup attributed to overcrowding and draughts. The following March diphtheria was rife and the medical officer again contemplated closing the school. Enlargement of the school and better ventilation was recommended. The current maximum roll is 115 with 4 classrooms, but is currently 85 with another 10 joining the infants after Christmas.

Bad weather affected attendance as many children had to walk several

miles to and from school. A case of physical abuse of children was noted, the perpetrator being taken to court and fined 10 shillings and costs. One parent removed her children from school because "the headmaster had occasion to punish her son for teaching insubordination to other boys". Three children were absent with St Vitus dance in 1886. In 1887 there were 50 children in a classroom designed for 30 and fainting and sickness were common. Other mass absences were due to fireworks displays, teas, and Sunday School treats.

Copies of the registers were also circulated from 1895. Attendance was

free by then, having been introduced on 1st September 1891 and children as young as 3 were sent to the school. Scholarships were proudly noted but not always taken up because of the expense and difficulty of transport.

The log books dating from the First World War show that many boys were involved in scouting duties guarding telegraph wires.

This talk was a pertinent introduction to the schools history, as we have now obtained a copy of Carol Margetts history of Chelsfield Village School, and after it has been converted into computer text, will be serialised

Logs For Sale

Earlier this year, one of the local businesses we featured was "Dan the Green Man". Dan was offering his services to as a landscaping and general gardening work. With the winter coming upon us faster than we care to imagine, Dan has

turned his skills to providing Logs and firewood, offering Well Seasoned Hardwood Mixtures, to keep your logs fires burning throughout the colder months. As well as providing you with logs Dan informs us that he will deliver, and

even stack the wood for you all included in the price. Dan is based in the village and is willing to offer discounts to anybody to requires repeat orders. For more details please contact Dan Moore on 07961 075189.

Beware of the Bodies!



This extraordinary yet interesting sign was spotted by a resident

walking between Well Hill and Shoreham recently!

Viva Acappella

We are Viva Acappella – a new and exciting group of harmony singers who got together in March 2009 with one thing on our minds

‘Fabulous singing’
We sing ‘a cappella’ and are always looking for new and different ways to sing well-known stand-

ards. We work hard to have real fun.

We rehearse every Thursday between 8.00pm – 10.30pm in St Martin of Tours, Church Road, Chelsfield, Orpington, BR6 7SN.

We welcome visitors at any time!

Call in to see us – you can just listen or join in. Phone Helen Mitchener on 07984 961 696 to let us know you are coming so that we can look out for you.

If you like what you see and hear and would like to join, you will be asked to complete a straightforward voice test and quartet performance audition– the rest is up to you!

We will support you with fast-track teach recordings, easy to access music and high quality vocal tuition with a stimulating programme of music every week.

Not only will your vocal and performance ability improve but you will see your confidence improve dramatically. In addition, you will have a ready made new group of friends that will stay with you for a long, long time.

Public Meetings

Have your say on how Bromley Council spends your money

The leaders of Bromley Council invite all residents to a number of meetings to hear their views on priorities for building a better Bromley.

“Times are challenging and we want to talk to you and hear your views about how we spend your money and about how we propose to keep the Council Tax as low as possible over the year to come”.

To give residents the most up to date information about the 011/12 budget, the latest facts and figures will be posted on the www.bromley.gov.uk website the week before the meeting.

Meeting dates are:

Tuesday 23rd November – Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, BR6 9JH

Thursday 25th November – Civic Centre, Bromley, BR1 3UH

and - Travelling safely on public transport is a priority for everyone

A presentation by the Police Safer Transport Team, plus the chance to question senior officers of the ambulance, fire and police services in Bromley.

7pm start with light buffet from 6.30pm

Tuesday 16th November 2010 – Bromley Football Club, Hayes Lane, Bromley, BR2 9EF

Junk Mail - How To Reduce Your Unwanted Mail

Did you know you can reduce your unwanted mail problems with a few simple steps.

To stop receiving un-addressed mail, either:

Send your name, address and post code on a post-card (no stamp needed) to:

Freepost RRBT-ZBXB-TTTS, Royal Mail Door to Door Opt Outs, Kingsmead House,

Oxpens Road, Oxford, OX1 1RX
Or email –

optout@royalmail.com

The Royal Mail only deliver around 25% of all un-addressed mail in the UK.

To opt out of other un-addressed mail, register with:

Your Choice Preference Scheme

Direct Marketing Association (UK) Ltd DMA
House 70 Margaret Street London W1W 8SS

Or email – your-choice@dma.org.uk To stop addressed mail, or to

remove a previous occupier from mailing lists:

(This allegedly stops up to 95% of direct mail)

Send name, address and post code to:

Mailing Preference Service, Registrations, Department 6130, Camberwell Way, Sunderland, SR9 9XY

Or register online – www.mpsonline.org.uk

For more details contact – The Green Team, N105, Civic Centre, 020 8313 4989

Local Fruit and Vegetable Suppliers

November 8th witnessed the opening of a new Fruit and vegetable shop in Windsor Drive. **"Natures Window"** at 29 Windsor Drive, Chelsfield, Kent, BR6 6EY, offer a full range of best quality, locally sourced (where possible) fruit and vegetables. You can buy in store, or by telephone for next day delivery. As well as the fresh produce, a

range of oils, chutneys, juices, cheeses, olives and selected meats are available. Look out for the regular promotions and tastings too! Natures Window will also be offering a weekly box delivery service, these will come as small medium or large and stocked with carefully selected produce with seasonal surprises and recipe suggestions.

To find out more telephone

07812 010386 or email: natureswindow.chelsfield@gmail.com

Hewitts Farm Shop on Court Road (beside Fired Earth) also provide a broad selection of fresh fruit and vegetables, all year round, from their own home grown (and pick your own depending on season), to locally sourced crops.

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 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 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

Russell Jackson

russell.jackson@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Society

cvscontact@gmail.com

Chelsfield Village Voice

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BT Line Faults 0800 800151

Electrical Power Failure (EDF)

08007838866

Thames Water Emergencies

0845 9200800

Transco Gas Emergency Service 0800 111999

Orpington Police Station

1000-1800 Monday-Saturday

0300 1231212

Samaritans 01689 833000

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Safer Neighbourhood Team



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall
Windsor Drive

Iyengar Yoga Classes

9.30am-11.00am Suitable
for Beginners Contact Denise
on 01689 853215

EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room

Mums & Tots Group

10.30am-12.00 midday
Details 01959 535110

EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Art Workshop

“Art for the Fun of it”

4.00pm-5.00pm 5 years
and upwards £8.00 per child
Details 01959 532761
geraldinefranklin @bt.com

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

Charity Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am Contact
Pam Keeper on 01732 458930

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Five Bells

Salsa Dancing Lessons

suitable for absolute beginners
and improvers £5.00

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Rugby for Girls

Any Age
Evening training from

September to May
Contact Kevin 0208 289 8566

EVERY THURSDAY

St Martin of Tours Church

Viva Acappella

Ladies Barbershop Chorus
Practice
Contact Helen 07984 961696

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tues 16th-Sat 20th Nov

Chelsfield Village Hall

Chelsfield Players present

A Christmas Carol

Phone 01689 831187 for tickets

Thursday 18th November (3rd Thursday each month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15 - Midday

Thursday 18th November

Five Bells

Beaujolais Day

Come and celebrate the new
wine with a French meal and a
glass of Nouveau 2010

Thursday 18th November

Bo Peep

Beaujolais Night

Soyez bienvenus a notre Nuit
Beaujolais

Come and celebrate the new
wine with a French meal

Saturday 20th November

St Martins Church

Concert of Organ & Trumpet

Stephen Davies, Andrew Crow-
ley 7.30pm

Friday 26th November

Brass Crosby Room

Christmas Sale & Coffee Morning

10.00am

Saturday 27th November

Five Bells

Opera Evening

VERY POPULAR - Watch this
space for more info!

Thursday 9th December

(2nd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

Come and Try Your Hand at a
Range of Crafts
11.00am

Thursday 9th December

Five Bells

Choir Singing Carols

Tuesday 14th December

Outside Crosshall (opposite
Five Bells)

Carol Singing around Christmas Tree

Time to be advised

Thursday 16th December

(3rd Thursday each month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15 - Midday

Wed 22nd December

Brass Crosby Room

Village Christmas Party/Social Evening

from 8.00pm