



November 2017

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Chelsfield  
Park  
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**ST MARTIN OF TOURS**



## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE Quiz Night

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2017,  
7.30PM

ALL PROCEEDS TO ST MARTIN OF TOURS  
CHURCH



TICKETS WILL BE RESTRICTED THIS  
YEAR, RING TO BOOK PLACES IN  
ADVANCE PLEASE

To be held at:

Brass Crosby Room, St Martin of Tours Church,  
Church Road, Chelsfield BR6 7SN (off A224)  
Quiz will start at 7.30pm prompt

£6 per person ♦ Two - six people per team ♦  
Nibbles provided ♦ Please bring your own drinks  
and glasses

For ticket purchase send cheques payable to  
'Chelsfield PCC' with a SAE to Sarah Ford,  
13 The Brackens, Chelsfield, Kent BR6 6JH.

Enquiries: Sarah tel: 01689 853415

TICKETS IN ADVANCE ONLY PLEASE

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Residents & Friends of Chelsfield Village

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### WHAT'S GOING ON?

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

Please send anything you  
feel suitable for the

December 2017 issue to:  
[chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)  
or post to:

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

to arrive by  
**Tuesday 28th November**

## The Toad

For a month or two I have been finding a toad in one of my compost heaps at the allotments. When I open up the sealed top I can usually find it (gender non-specific) sitting at the top of the pile before it shuffles off into hiding. I did wonder if it had become trapped in there so on one occasion I left the lid in such a position that it could escape if it wanted to but on following occasions it was still there so I assume it was happy with its supply of worms, slugs, lice and what not, despite its incarceration.

So, first of all, what's the difference between a toad and a frog?

Scientifically toads are a type of frog but that's not really what most people want to know when trying to distinguish them. So to find which you have discovered at the bottom of your garden simply take a stick (or a finger) and give it a gentle prod. If it jumps away it's a frog and if it crawls, it's a toad. At least usually: toads will jump but only when threatened. Other differences include the skin which is smooth and damp on a frog and warty and dry on a toad. The toad can also have a golden eye colour and a

prominent ridge behind the eyes. There is only one common toad species in the UK and that's the appropriately named common toad (*Bufo bufo*). This amphibian has a neat defence mechanism which involves excreting a toxin from a couple of glands on its back which predators find distasteful although some have learnt to skin the toad before eating the remains. The female is larger than the male and can be surprisingly large with reports of lengths of up to 15cm being reported. They can also live for a long time: 40 years!

Toads exhibit philopatry which is the tendency to return to the same breeding location and each spring make their way back to suitable deep water which they prefer to the shallower water that frogs like. Interestingly, toads are attracted by the calls of other toads that have located their breeding ponds and they seem to be able to identify siblings by their calls and hence avoid inbreeding. My toad presumably breeds in the road water collection pond near the entrance to the allotments and upon

thinking about this it occurred to me that although I have a vague memory of this flooding once or twice in the 30 odd years I've lived here I could not remember seeing the pond in recent years. So I took a look and to my surprise the pond appears to be drying up with trees and undergrowth slowly claiming the area that once sported a small pond. So, it's quite possible that "my" toad was born in that pond which has become drained and the pond is now incapable of containing enough water to allow new generations of toads to breed. No doubt the toad still attempts to run the gauntlet of crossing the road each spring: all to no avail. Death by motor car appears to be one of the major causes of toad deaths and consequently despite toads being widespread, (albeit surprisingly absent from Ireland), their numbers are dwindling. Earlier this summer as I sat down to read in my garden I noticed a toad on a brick wall and decided to take a photo for use in a future piece for the Village Voice. When I returned less than



"pinched" as well". She was executed for her sins.

However the toad was associated with pestilence and poison long before witch trials, and these beliefs evolved from biological rather than supernatural reasons. The belief that toads are poisonous arises from their natural defences which I have mentioned previously. In medieval times, not unreasonably, it was believed that pestilence was associated with dark, dank places and the toad's association with such places allowed it to consume noxious humours and miasmas in order to create their poisonous secretions. As Shakespeare has one of his doomed heroes say -

*I had rather be a toad.  
And live upon the vapour  
of a dungeon*

*Othello, Act I Scene III*

The worst example of the toad's poisonous secretions occurs in Australia after the cane toad was introduced from Central America to control the cane beetle that was causing damage to sugar crops. Unfortunately they had no effect on the beetles but spread widely and kill the vast majority of predators

thirty seconds later the toad was gone with no obvious place that it could have hidden. I can only think that its camouflage is very effective or toads can move a lot faster than I imagined. Personally I welcome toads in both the garden and allotment as they have a good reputation for keeping one's garden clear of slugs. However, like many wildlife members, toads have a long history of being prominent in folklore and it's usually bad news! In *The History & Antiquities of Lyme Regis and Charmouth (1834)* G Roberts tells us that -

*Toads that gained access to a house were ejected with the greatest care, and no injury was offered, because they were regarded as being used*

*as familiars by witches, with veneration and awe.* Indeed, toads appeared frequently in witch trials and I found a record of the trial of Joan Upney of Dagenham, who was brought before Sir Henry Gray Knight, on 3rd May 1589. She claimed that seven or eight years previously a witch from Barking named Fustian Kirtle or Whitecote had taught her the trade and that she had a number of toads that would do her bidding. Her two accusers, John Harrolde and Richard Foster, had both suffered. The record claims "one toad she placed in the Harrolde house, and it was claimed the creature "pinched his wife and sucked her til she dyed". Another toad was unleashed on Richard Foster's wife, whom it

that attack it due to the toxin contained under the skin which is released when the skin is pierced. However, some animals such as a local species of crow have learnt to flip the toad over and attack it via the throat area to

safely feed on the animals innards. So, evolution in progress! Incidentally, I understand that snakes in Australia are becoming smaller as large snakes have died out trying to eat the toads. Consequently

there is environmental pressure for smaller snakes to procreate as the toads are too large for them to tackle.

*Steve Fuller  
November 2017*

## Mutterings From The Millers

The planted fields are starting to have a green tinge to them after a good germination of the wheat. The warm nights and gentle rain have been just what the seeds wanted. As you can see from the photos, the wheat is



growing through the old stubble and the boys are very pleased with this new way of planting. The cost of drilling this way is greatly reduced as we mentioned before but Steve still prefers to see

a ploughed field but then he is old school. The soil is already crumblier than last year and the number of worm casts has increased greatly. The fields that look unkempt and just being overwintered and will be planted with spring barley early next year.

We have also noticed that there seem to be more sky larks and pheasants but don't know if this is due to direct drilling or not, whatever it is, it is good to see. On the subject of birds, we were sorry to see the swallows and house martins leave the farm but have noticed five buzzards gliding together in a circle above the farmhouse on several occasions. Quite a sight.

Electrical work and roofing is still on going together with hedge cutting. Steve had to

return to the farm last week as someone had thrown a car tyre into the hedge and it had got stuck in the rotor blades of the hedge cutter. Needed the loader to pull it out, quite a job. Hay, straw and haylage deliveries are picking up as the days are getting shorter and the owners are bringing their horses in at night.

Steve and I had an interesting afternoon recently visiting a school in Halling. A member of the family works in the reception class and we were asked to go and talk about harvest to the children. 45 eager and excited children listened very well to us talk about how we grow and harvest the wheat. We had the children acting out a seed growing, which was fun and they enjoyed a short video of a combine harvester at work.





Here is this months weather offering:-

*If on All Saint's Day (1st November) the beechnut be found dry, we shall have a hard winter; But if the nut be wet not light, we may expect a wet winter.*

*Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm*

## The Lewisham Train Crash

### A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!.

The day began well enough for December - a cold and frosty cycle ride along Bidborough Ridge in Tunbridge Wells, where I lived with my parents. Chained the bike to the railings and caught the bus to Tonbridge. The platform was packed. A ragged cheer went up as the 7.46 steamed in from Paddock Wood. All aboard. A few got seats. The train started for Hildenborough, with much skidding and then Sevenoaks when it speeded up arriving in Charing Cross about half an hour later.

At the time I was working at Williams Deacon's Bank in Pall Mall-

operating the switchboard-36 lines with little socket indicators that swivelled- a very responsible job, salary £340 per annum.

The fog got much worse around midday and at 4pm we were all sent home. As I left the bank, the normal flocks of noisy starlings were absent from a very gloomy Trafalgar Square. On arriving at Charing Cross I was advised that there were no trains for Tonbridge, but that Cannon St should be OK.

Before getting on the District Line, I decided to treat myself to some cigarettes-State Express 555 in a lovely purple aluminium tin -cost 4/6d (22 1/2 p) That left me

with 6d,

On arrival at Cannon St the 4.56 steam train was sitting in platform 6. Great, I thought- just made it. Unfortunately the barrier was closed in my face-an iron gate with an oak balustrade. Despite my pleas, I missed the train" you can get the 5.05 diesel to Hastings", the railman said. I did. The 4.56 left from a very foggy Cannon St, contributing to the murk with its energetic puffing.

What happened after that was tedious and in the event truly awful. By 10 pm the train had not reached New Cross, although it was hard to tell. At around midnight the train reversed to Charing Cross, where we

heard news of a serious crash. It was still very foggy and the station was packed. I went my last 6d on a cup of awful tea.

At around 2am I boarded

a black duffel coat amongst the dead or injured. There wasn't. In all, 90 people were killed in the crash when the 4.56 Cannon St to Ramsgate went through a red signal near St.

of a train on the Nunhead loop line heading for Lewisham over the main line stopped just before the demolished bridge because he couldn't see the track. The train was inches away from falling into the crash below.



The Bailey bridge which was erected after the crash was meant to be a temporary structure...it is still there today. And so am I, thanks in part to the railman in charge of the barrier on a foggy Cannon St station all that time ago.

a train for Tonbridge which went via Redhill. Two and a half hours later it arrived at Tonbridge, where I finally got a lift from an American gentleman, and arrived home just before 5am.

My parents were pleased to see me, having heard of the crash on the news, and after phoning Lewisham Hospital to ask if there was a fair-haired young man with

Johns station and ran into the back of a stationary Hayes train- at the same time demolishing a glider bridge over the main line. About 50 people were killed on the Ramsgate train, many being crushed by the falling bridge, with remainder dying on the packed Hayes (electric) train.

A further disaster was avoided when the driver

The 60th anniversary of that fateful night is on Monday, 4th December.

*Chris Parsons*

PS A monthly season ticket from Tonbridge to Charing Cross or Cannon St was £3-9s-2d (three pounds nine and tuppence). Today the fare is over £300.

The bank expected me to attend the next day, which I did, but not until lunchtime.

## Broadband Update

There are signs that the take up of fast broadband has been exceeding

expectations. Steve Barnes reports that in Downe, they have twice

had problems with running out of capacity. He asked Openreach to

check our fast broadband cabinet as well. Their response stated – we will need to increase capacity

on this cabinet as we are heading close to capacity, we will seek to initiate this now so that

we do not get into a situation where customers cannot place orders.

## Christmas Fair for Demelza

Chislehurst and Orpington Friend Group for Demelza Hospice Care for Children are holding their Christmas Fair on Saturday, 25th November at St Mary

Hall, High Street, Chislehurst from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm.

There will be many stalls including jewellery, collectables, festive

tombola, refreshments and many others. Entrance 20p. Do come along and buy some great Christmas presents while supporting a great charity.

## Chelsfield Primary School Christmas Fair

Friends of Chelsfield Primary School are holding a Christmas Fair at the Village Hall on Sunday 3rd December from 2:30-4:30pm

Santa's grotto, craft stalls, children's games and activities, festive food and drink, tombola, raffle and more!

Entry £1 per adult

(includes a free drink) and kids go free! All proceeds will go towards the Chelsfield Primary School PTA to help raise much-needed funds for the school.

## More on Crows!

We always find Steve Fuller's articles interesting but were surprised that in the October Village Voice he observed that crows were 'rarely noticed'.

Here in Petts Wood crows are very much in evidence on roofs and aerials and in our garden, though not close to the house. Their harsh cawing as they point their beaks upwards often

results in the arrival of more crows.

They are very skilled in flight, soaring upwards with wings spread wide showing the finger-like feathers at the tip. They are always ready for an aerial altercation and will quickly join forces to see off a heron if it invades 'their space', pursuing it for some distance, or, if it is perched they will mock dive bomb it until it is

forced into flight.

As a member of the BTO Garden Birdwatch scheme for over twenty years I know how fortunate we are to live in an area so rich in bird life. I counted 16 different species on one day this week in our garden, so if you want to study carrion crows and many other birds, I can recommend a visit.

*Pam Francis*

## Indian Cooking Demonstration at The Evening WI



owner of Fowlty Towers, a local hen hotel, and Caroline Ashby who are both volunteers for Fresh Start Hens.

If you would like to come along and see us, we meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Chelsfield Village Hall at 8pm. We welcome ladies of all ages, young and old, so why not come along and see us and make some new friends.

This month Chelsfield Evening Women's Institute welcomed Sue Hollings for a demonstration and tasting evening of simple Indian cookery. Sue, who is also a WI advisor for the West Kent Federation, was assisted by her friend and fellow WI member for the evening. Together they whipped up some delicious dishes comprising of simple chicken curry, kheere ka raita (a mint and yoghurt sauce), peas pullover and fresh chapatis. She also showed us how to mix the dry spice graham masala. We thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration and

heartily tucked into the food at the end of the evening.

We are all looking forward to our next meeting and hearing from Julie Smith who is the

You can find us on Twitter as well as Facebook under Chelsfield Evening WI where you will find our yearly programme and events.





## My Experience at Chelsfield Park Hospital

Chelsfield Park Hospital  
On the 19th June this year I had a total knee replacement of my left knee. The surgery was performed in Chelsfield Park Hospital and I now have a fully functional knee without pain.

The time spent in the hospital was only four days but I was in a very nice room and had plenty of staff tending to my

needs. The surgery was painlessly performed, the days after were not painless but made bearable with the help of prescribed drugs. Returning home I was advised to do various exercises (which I did with great difficulty and pain).

I am now walking without pain and I must say my stay in the hospital was

not enjoyable but certainly pleasant.

The hospital was clean, the staff on all levels were friendly and helpful. For this I would like to say Thank you to them should they read this article. I recommend that if you need any hospital treatment, choose Chelsfield Park.

*Bridget O'Donnell*

## First Aid - November 11th

Do YOU have children?

Do YOU have grandchildren?

**Learn first aid that could save their life**



<p><i>We have asked 'Making Medics' to come along and run a paediatric first aid session. This event is open to anyone, who would like to learn how to 'save a life'. Please give me a ring if you would like a space.</i></p>	
<b>When:</b>	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
<b>Where:</b>	St Martin of Tours Church, Church Rd, Chelsfield BR6 7SN (Brass Crosby Room)
<b>Time:</b>	1.30pm – 3.30pm (prompt start)
<b>Cost:</b>	£12 per person, includes certificate of attendance and refreshments.
<b>To book your place:</b>	Contact Sarah 07952 524819 stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

# DAILY MONSTER

The Village Hall  
Bucks Cross Road.  
Chelsfield, BR6 7RL

## THE CHELSFIELD PLAYERS

PRESENTS

An amateur production in association with Nick Hern Books



# FEED THE BEAST

By Steve Thompson

A new man in Downing Street

A fiercely funny look at the rocky relationship between our press and politicians in a world of spin doctors and Leveson inquiries



30th Nov - 2nd Dec 2017

Time: 7.45pm

Tickets: £8.50

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/chelsfieldplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chelsfieldplayers)

07816 505 448

## Commemorating Chelsfield's Casualties of WW1

In this month of remembrance, we commemorate two soldiers, one who is listed on the memorial in St Martin's Church and one not.

THOMAS WICKENDEN  
G/20745 Private Thomas Henry Wickenden of the



2nd Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment was killed in action on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1917 aged 29. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium. Thomas's battalion was part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the British

Expeditionary Force and he was killed in a minor skirmish at the end of the Second Battle of Passchendaele. Thomas was born in Chelsfield and was the son of Herbert Henry & Harriett Wickenden of Gillmans [aka Julian] Brimstone Farm, Church Road. In 1911 he was living with his parents and siblings on the farm and was working as a waggoner, as was his father. His father was born in Seal, his mother in Wrotham.

Ten years earlier they are living in the same place and Thomas's occupation is 'house boy on farm'. The Army Register of Soldier's Effects shows that his pay and pension went to his widow Mabel, who he married in October 1916 at St Paul's, Sutton at Hone. Mabel's occupation is given as 'Munitions Worker' and Thomas's as 'Horseman'.

### JOHN HILLS

574105 Rifleman John Thomas Hills of the 1st/17th Battalion, the London Regiment, died of wounds on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1917 aged 38. He is buried in Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquieres, France. John was the son of Tom & Elizabeth Hills of Well Hill, and husband of Emma Harriet of Stockwell. Strangely he is not commemorated on our memorial even though his brother William is, who died in August 1917. I found out about John while searching for William on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database, and then his Great Nephew got in touch and sent us the wonderfully detailed account of the lives of the two brothers that was printed in earlier editions of the Village Voice.

*Philippa Rooke*  
[pjrooke@hotmail.com](mailto:pjrooke@hotmail.com)

## Memorial Walk - Saturday 11th November

As Armistice Day falls on a Saturday this year, I'm planning to do a

memorial walk around the village and wider area, visiting the streets these

servicemen and their families lived in. I'll start in the centre of the village

after the 11 o'clock Remembrance prayers that Rector will lead, and then walk to some of the roads in Green Street Green associated with the servicemen. Anyone is welcome to join me, either just in the village to hear about the servicemen who lived there and on Well Hill, or on the walk down to Green Street Green via Warren Road. If you'd like to hear about the

men from Green Street Green but aren't able to walk all the way, you could meet me at the junction of Woodlands Road and Worlds End Lane at about 12.15pm. The walk will be just over 2 miles in total, and the last bit in Green Street Green will be just over half a mile.

I'd also be interested to hear from you if you (or someone you know) live

in Maypole Cottages Well Hill, Prospect Cottages Pratts Bottom, Kingsley Road, Laxey Road, Ash Road or Oak Road off World's End Lane.

If you'd like to join in please contact: Philippa Rooke on

[pjrooke@hotmail.com](mailto:pjrooke@hotmail.com)

or 07826 516481, or just turn up on the day for 11am.

## Village Christmas - Chelsfield's Bid for a Christmas No.1

Many of you will be aware of Chelsfield's appearance on BBC's The One Show last year when we released our Christmas Single. This three minute nationwide broadcast resulted in lower sales and viewings than the previous year's single which we just publicised locally. Work that out!

Anyway This Christmas (2015) and Just Another Christmas Song (2016) will soon be joined by this year's ditty, Village Christmas. Lyrically it bemoans the state of the world (no prizes for guessing the targets there!) but the refrain extols the joys of being in

a, and specifically our, village for Christmas. Pure Cole Porter! Lester Barnes and I have, once again, collaborated on what is our most ambitious number yet. We feature musicians from the village, and those who live further afield but are part of Village life. We have expanded our lead vocal crew this year and there will of course be the massed rabble at the end..

Lester and I came up with the style of song last year while in a pub in London waiting to appear on a Sky TV show promoting the 2016 Single. Many of you will have seen Lester

and his brother Dylan in their Dad, Dave's Force 10 Big Band in their annual appearance at Chelsfield Village Fair, and it is to that style of music we have turned this year. Lester is a master arranger and orchestrator and we have created a completely over the top swing song which we are in the process of completing as I write this.

We started composing on 1st August and having recorded all the parts using sampled instruments, we spend this period replacing them with the real thing. We have a full big band with strings so we're going for



Count Basie meets Nelson Riddle, if that means anything to you!

The recording will culminate on 16th November when Lester and I will spend a day at Abbey Road studios in London mixing all the individual tracks (well over 100). The engineer we have hired is hugely experienced and mixed the movie soundtracks for Skyfall, Spectre and Florence Foster Jenkins, amongst many others. Then we will move the finished track upstairs to be mastered for release.

No single is complete without a video and this year, we are going over the top and we'd like you to star in it. We have built a green screen studio in Lester's house so we can create a white Christmas in Chelsfield, something that the Met Office seems incapable of providing,

and we have top choreographers working on the huge dance numbers (that last bit isn't true). However there is a big crowd singalong scene which we intend to film outside the Five Bells soon after the Abbey Road sessions. We will advertise the date on our Facebook page <http://facebook.com/Belldrinkers> and details will be available in the Five Bells when we have got ourselves organised.

Every year people ask us whether it's a charity fundraiser and while it would be lovely if this were realistic, it just isn't. The days of recorded music making big bucks are over. Recording these singles costs us a good deal of money (which we don't baulk at in the slightest) and to date, our sales have recovered about £30 and we received a couple of

hundred quid for the royalties on the BBC broadcast. Spotify has yet to net us the price of a pint despite thousands of streams! So to advertise it as a fund raising single would be extremely embarrassing when we handed over £4.50 and some luncheon vouchers! However, should this single be an unexpected hit, Chelsfield's wonderful community will be the beneficiaries; we advise against holding your collective breaths.

Anyway, the reason we do it is to bring everyone together and have the sort of fun that we shouldn't expect at our ages. We're already discussing next year's song so be afraid.

*Dave Griffiths  
The Belldrinkers*

## Local History - In-spired at St. Mary Cray

Tony Lathey, a former chairman of the St Mary Cray Action Group and a stalwart of the ancient St Mary's Church in the village, delivered a captivating talk to the Chelsfield Local History

Group in September on the church's history and the £220,000 conservation project undertaken there last year. The church spire with its chamber housing six-

bells (still rung regularly) had been in need of urgent repair for a long time – just as the spire at St Martin's here in Chelsfield is currently. Many wooden shaves (tiles) were loose or

missing, allowing both the rain and pigeons in. Water had penetrated the walls, flints were missing, stonework was crumbling in places and drains were blocked with massive growth of buddleia, causing further problems.

using original materials, which makes any repair or replacement very costly. So St Mary's sought a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to help, and was successful. Tony's role was to produce a history of the church as

conjunction with English Heritage, inspected the tower from a long-arm "cherry-picker" mounted on a truck, then erected scaffolding, stripped off the spire's shingles and repaired or replaced damaged underlying timberwork.

Having lengthened the spire's overhang to ensure rainfall is pushed further away from the walls beneath, eliminating the damp problem, the builders completely replaced the old larch shingles with oak ones – which is probably what the spire sported when built.

Interestingly, the spire at St Martin's is covered with larch tiles too. These were probably used as a cheaper substitute for oak in a past renovation and now suffer badly from bird and weather damage.

At St Mary's, with scaffolding in place, the opportunity was taken to renovate and re-gild the three clock faces on the church tower and the weathervane atop the spire. The clock workings were also overhauled.

A computerised teaching tool for bell-ringers was installed at the same time. This enables a



As St Mary's is a Grade Two Star listed building, all repairs must be done

part of the project. Over 2016, specialised builders working in

single ringer to practise ringing a single bell in a peal while the computer rings the rest. This bell ringing can be relayed for public viewing on TV screens in the church. Brasses inlaid in the chancel floor at St Mary's had been hidden for years by a carpet fitted at the behest of a former minister concerned about public safety. This was taken up, cut and fitted with bound inserts which can be easily removed to display brasses to the visiting public in safety. St Mary's has now begun a series of free Saturday one-day events in conjunction with local history, family history and other heritage groups to display the church and local area's heritage. These events will be advertised on its new website [www.stmarysatcray.com](http://www.stmarysatcray.com)

and elsewhere. For the second half of the local history group's session, Tony described the history of papermaking in the Crays, illustrated with old photographs of the process and the people involved, including the lowly-paid rag-pickers – many of them women— and former owners. Paper making in the Cray Valley began in the 18th century, attracted by the River Cray as a vital and plentiful source of water for both power and the process itself. A number of mills sprang up at Foots Cray, St Paul's Cray and St Mary Cray.

A site on the edge of St. Mary Cray village was probably in use from at least 1757. The mill there was owned by the Joynson family from 1834 to 1931 and they oversaw

considerable expansion from the 1850s, branching out into the production of paper for banknotes.

From 1933 the mill was named the Vegetable Parchment Mills. Run by Wiggins Teape and Papeteries Delcroix, it specialised in producing greaseproof wrappings. The presence of this mill and that of William Nash in neighbouring St Paul's Cray (established in 1842 in a converted corn mill), provided a vast amount of local employment for many decades.

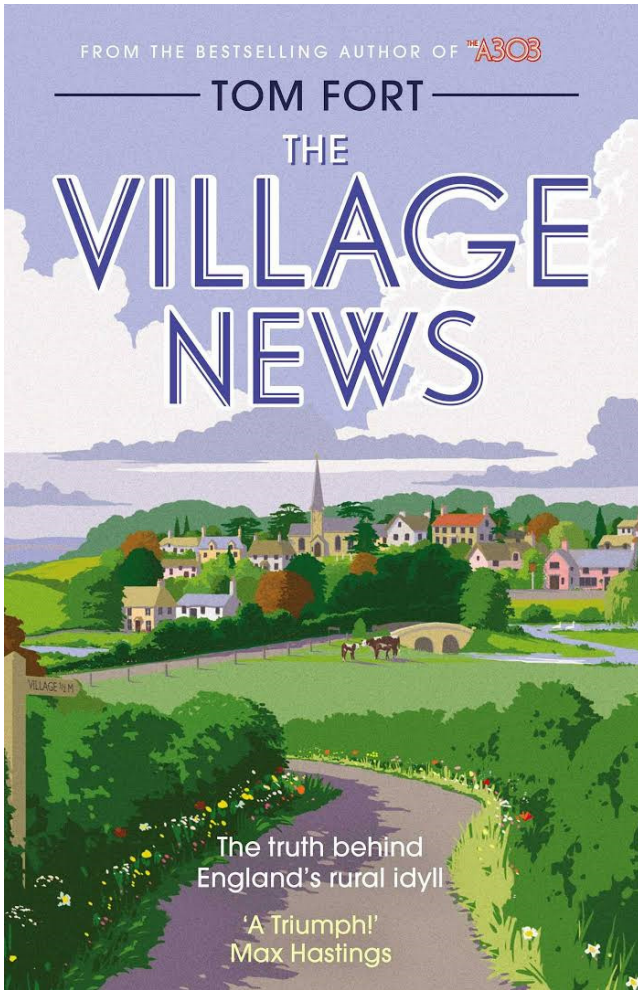
But by 1954 the Nash site was a factory complex and by 1986 it had been demolished. Joynsons closed in 1967 and the mill site is now occupied by a retail park, fronted by Sports Direct on Cray Avenue.

### **"Idyllic" Chelsfield Brought to Book**

Looking for a Christmas present idea? Former BBC journalist, writer and historian Tom Fort's whimsical, chatty and amusing book *The Village News: The truth behind England's rural idyll* could fit the bill nicely – especially as Chelsfield

gets a very honourable mention. Well, more than a mention, a whole chapter actually, titled "Idyll". Tom, brought up in a rural Oxfordshire village where he still lives, travelled the length and breadth of Britain (partly

on his trusty bicycle) to discover the essence of village life. He pitched up at Chelsfield in early 2015, having cycled from Orpington station, truly amazed at finding himself abruptly out of suburbia and into full-blown English



explored Church Road, scouted round Chelsfield Park. He attended the Village Society's AGM (disappointed not to stumble upon a scandal, drama or a decent feud), had a bite to eat at the Five Bells and was delighted to discover I was giving my talk on Miss Read, called "In Dora's Footsteps", to the Chelsfield Ladies Group that very evening in the Brass Crosby Room at St Martin's.

Limping a little from his bypass mishap, grazed and bruised, Tom was made welcome by the Ladies. He joined in the prayers, listened carefully to the announcements then sat back to enjoy my slideshow, scribbling notes furiously as I talked. In The Village News he gives me generous acknowledgement for making my materials available to him afterwards.

countryside of unkempt hedges, fields of ripening rape and woodland in the distance on his approach via Chelsfield Lane.

"I pedalled along slightly disbelievingly, hearing birdsong instead of traffic noise," he writes –

charmed by our village despite being tipped off his bike by a careless motorist on the bypass! Inspired by the books and reminiscences of Chelsfield's own author Miss Read, he dropped into the village school, chatted to the Rector,

A couple of days after the talk, Tom called me on my mobile phone to ask for my help with his Chelsfield chapter. I happened to be sitting in the warm spring sunshine alongside the war



memorial at Shoreham while two of my granddaughters splashed happily in the river shallows by the bridge. I described the scene to

him ... it was a "classic English village life moment".

The Village News: The truth behind England's rural idyll, published by

Simon & Schuster, price £14.99, but can be found cheaper online.

*Patrick Hellicar*

## Hedgerows Threatened

Following the excellent 'Doomsday' article in September's Village Voice, I am sad to report that there is a continuing effort to destroy the hedgerows around the village.

A planning application has been submitted to remove all the trees (and hence hedges) along Warren Road - between Orchard Cottage and Little Lillys. Amazingly, permission was granted to rip out the hedgerows along the Chelsfield Lane end of this plot, despite Bromley Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Chelsfield Village Conservation Area\* saying "the trees and overgrown hedgerows make a positive contribution to the rural setting and character of the village" and also "the council will exercise its powers to protect trees and hedgerows within the conservation area".

Despite this, the planning

enforcement officer has told us "the Warren Road boundary has been assessed by our arborculturalist and does not constitute an ancient hedgerow and therefore is subject only to the restrictions on boundary fencing, that is 1m in height if fronting a highway". So while the smaller plants hedge plants may be doomed, the trees (including an oak) need approval from the planning committee before they can be felled.

If any reader wishes to comment on, object or support this application please urgently go to <https://searchapplications.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/> and enter the reference 17/04751/TREE (\*copies from alan2017@btinternet.com)

Particular thanks to Alan Johnson on behalf of the Residents of Chelsfield Village & Society for his work on this matter.



## History of Chelsfield Park Hospital

The oldest parts of the hospital including the main entrance, reception, administration offices and even some of the larger patient rooms were built in the early part of the 19th

parishes and played a large part in preserving the church in Chelsfield. However his financial position worsened, he died suddenly in 1849 and his estate was left in some disarray. Two further rectors succeeded

much to develop the building and acquired more land to expand his estate. He lost control of the house at the beginning of World War II, at which time the building was used as a recovery hospital for



century and at this point the building was used as a Rectory. The Reverend Dr Tarleton was wealthy and gave generously to both the Chelsfield and Farnborough

him: Rector Follitt Baugh and Rev J. W. Nutt. Rev Nutt sold the house along with 38 acres of land to Edward Norman in 1904.

Edward Norman did

wounded soldiers. After World War II Chelsfield House was abandoned and fell in to disrepair. Eventually a developer converted it in to a Country House Hotel and it stayed as a hotel until the early 1980's when an extension was added and the building was converted for hospital use.

## Break-In

On 11th September at about 14.45 there was a breaking in Jubilee Road where the entry was gained by breaking one

of the small glass panels in the front door. This allowed them to turn the Yale type lock. The burglar alarm sounded

and several neighbours came out of their houses, but could not see anything amiss at the time. Thanks for those

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



who did investigate. It probably put off those who had entered the property as nothing seems to be missing.

Please engage the dead locks in all external doors when you are out, and watch out for possible entry via glass panes.

Also on 11th September a break in occurred in Moat Close while the residents were on holiday - Please be vigilant and watch out for these bad guys.

*John. B. Leach*  
 Safer Neighbourhood Watch

## Guy Fawkes



*The plot to blow up Parliament,  
 (A plan some felt was heaven-sent)  
 Was foiled for Guy, who with regret  
 Bought crummy shoes from Internet*

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### Bromley Council

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail: [fixmystreet.com](mailto:fixmystreet.com)

Opening hours Monday to  
 Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

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

### Reporting Problems to the Council

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

### Neighbourhood Watch

John Leach 07711304965.

### NHS Non-Emergency 111

**Chelsfield Primary School**  
 01689 825827

### BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital

Main Reception

01689 877855

Physiotherapy

01689 885920

Outpatients

01689 885905

### Councillors

Keith Onslow

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

Samaris Huntington-Thresher

020 8464 3333

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

Lydia Buttinger

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

### Chelsfield Village Voice

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

### EDF Electrical Power Failure

Call 105 or 0800 316 3105

BT Line Faults 0800 800151

**Thames Water** Emergencies

0800 714614

### National Grid (Gas)

Emergency (leaks) 0800 111999

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

### Samaritans

Freephone 116123

### Safer Neighbourhood Team

020 8721 2605

[chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@met.police.uk)

[@met.police.uk](mailto:@met.police.uk)

### Chelsfield Village Hall

(bookings) **01689 831826** or  
 email to:

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

### Chelsfield Players

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

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



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall,  
Windsor Drive

#### Iyengar Yoga Classes

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

#### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall and  
Brass Crosby Room

#### Chelsfield Housemartins

Monday Afternoons, for local  
people who are unable to go  
out without help.

#### EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY

Christ Church Hall,  
Charterhouse Rd

#### Pilates Classes

Monday 9.30am Beginners  
10.45am Over 60's  
Monday 5.45pm Beginners  
6.55pm Mixed Ability  
Tuesday 7.15pm Beginners  
8.25pm Mixed Ability  
Wed 9.15am Mixed Ability  
Wed. 1.30pm Over 60's  
Saturday 8.45am Beginners  
Saturday 10am  
Contact Sally 07786 035640  
[orpingtonpilates@gmail.com](mailto:orpingtonpilates@gmail.com)  
see [www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk)  
for venues and more info

#### EVERY TUESDAY

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

#### EVERY TUESDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Dr.)  
**Quiz Night**  
From 7.30pm Contact 01689  
600656

#### EVERY TUESDAY

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

#### EVERY WED THURS & FRI

Chelsfield Methodist Church  
Hall, Windsor Drive  
**Pilates Classes & Pre & Post-  
Natal Pilates Classes**  
Wed 6.50-7.50pm

& 8.00-9.00pm

Thursday 8.20-9.20pm  
Friday 9.35-10.35 & 10.45-  
11.45am

Post Natal Pilates 12-1.00pm  
(Babies Welcome)  
Call Bethany Lucas  
07415 638546

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

Further classes at:  
[www.bethanylucaspilates.co.uk](http://www.bethanylucaspilates.co.uk)

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am  
Contact Pam Keeper  
01732 458930

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Class Street Dance**  
4.30pm-6.00pm Boys & Girls all  
Ages

Info: Clare 07960 865518

[www.class-streetdance.co.uk](http://www.class-streetdance.co.uk)

#### EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Dr.  
**Live Singer**  
5.00pm-8.00pm  
Contact 01689 600656

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Thursday 2nd November  
(1st Thursday each month)**

Five Bells  
**JAZZ NIGHT with JUST  
FRIENDS**

Music Starts at 8.30pm

**Monday 7th November  
(1st Monday of Month)**

Brass Crosby Room  
**St Martins Memory Cafe**  
2 - 4pm. Contact Jackie  
McCann 01689 854119  
[memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)

**Wed 8th November  
(2nd Wednesday of Month)**

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Afternoon W.I.**  
Newcomers Welcome  
Contact Gwen on 01689  
834879 or Sue on 01689  
827407

**Wed 8th November**

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

#### Saturday 11th November

St Martins Church  
**First Aid Day**  
From 1.30pm

#### Saturday 11th November

Chelsfield and Environs  
**Memorial Walk**  
See Page 11

**Tuesday 21st November  
(3rd Tuesday of Month)**

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Evening W.I.**  
Newcomers Welcome  
From 7.45pm  
Contact Madeline 01689 891533

#### Wed 22nd November

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

#### Saturday 25th November

Brass Crosby Room  
**Quiz Night**  
Starts 7.30pm - See front cover

#### Saturday 25th November

St Marys Hall Chislehurst  
**Demelza Christmas Fair**  
Starts 10.00am - 2.00pm

#### Wednesday 29th November

Brass Crosby Room  
**Village Society AGM and  
Christmas Gathering**  
With guest speaker Patrick Hel-  
licar. From 7.30pm

**Thursday 30th November  
(Last Thurs of each Month)**

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

#### Thursday 30th November

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Floral Workshop**  
Wreath Making. From 7.30pm

**Thursday 30th November-2nd  
December**

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**FEED THE BEAST A Chels-  
field Players Production**  
See Page 10

#### Sunday 3rd December

Chelsfield Village Hall  
**Chelsfield Primary School  
Christmas Fair**  
From 2.30pm-4.30pm.