



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

September 2010



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WANTED !

Your stories,
anecdotes, old photos,
forthcoming events?

TELL ALL

by sending the details to
the Village Voice!

Contributions for our
October issue should be
emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to:
Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village
BR67RN

**Church Open Day
and Harvest Festival
Sunday 26th September**

St Martin's Church
will be open all day
with displays by all of
the local organisations
who use the church
facilities

Everyone Welcome

Visit
www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

Produce Show Report

Another successful Produce Show was held on Saturday 4th September. The number of entrants was maintained, being one up on last year (51), and included a welcome number of new faces. The number of entries was up around 7% to 281. We were again disappointed by the low number of children's entries and will have to consider changing the format of the schedule to take account of this. Our visiting judges all volunteered to help again next year and were impressed by the standard of entries. The wine judge was taken aback by the sheer number of wine class entries. Two judge's stewards stepped into the breach to judge the photographic classes after the judge failed to turn up. This is the first time this has ever happened, leaving us rather concerned.

Leslie Virgo again presented the prizes. He enlisted the help of two of the judging team in the search for his 'best in show'. He described this as an extremely difficult

task. He highlighted several entries that appealed to him but eventually awarded it jointly to a knitted shawl and a junk model, both entered by members of the same family.



Alex Nikodem holds the "Best In Show" plate he won jointly with his Grandmother, Gerda Nikodem

We had a visit from the show secretary of the Crockenhill Harvest Fayre, on a fact finding mission. He was impressed on the yearly variation we introduce into our schedule and went away with a number of good ideas and left us a copy of their schedule which has given us a few ideas for next year.

The raffle was a great success as usual. People were very generous in their buying of tickets, raising money to offset the costs of running the show. The final accounts will be presented in the next issue, and it is intended to display full show results on the Chelsfield events web site.



The quality of produce was superb!

The trophies were awarded as follows:

The Knox Cunningham Cup awarded to the household with the highest number of points in adult classes was awarded to Lyn Stone

The Well Hill Cup awarded to the household number of points in all classes was awarded to the Coulson family.

The Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Plate awarded to the individu-

al with the highest number of points not awarded the Knox-Cunningham or Well Hill Cup went to Patricia Peek.

The Triss & John Cotenden Trophy awarded to the individual with the highest number of points in the flower classes was won by Julia Sparkes.



The vegetable classes were very well contested

The Allotments Cup awarded to the individual with the highest number of points in the vegetable classes went to Trevor Weeden.

The Wine Club Cup awarded to the individual with the highest number of points in the wine classes was won by Andy Roberts.

The Country Fare Cup awarded to the individual with the highest number of points in the country fare classes was won by Lyn Stone.

The Children's Cup awarded to the child with the highest number of points in the children's classes was won by Alex Nikodem.

The Tom Castleton Rose Bowl awarded to the garden judged to most enhance Chelsfield Village went to John and Jenny Leach of 5 Orlestone Gardens.

The Ken Pickering Plate awarded for the 'best in show' went to Gerda and Alex Nikodem.

Chelsfield Produce show most eye catching front garden display. Judge's report.

Another good year with all the usual suspects showing well. For particular mention this year we must mention several runners up. Rosewood farm structure gets stronger every year and this year has been no exception. The five Bells tubs are a joy to see and the school is developing a 'boarder' which with tender loving care could be a contender in future years. June Cottage's lower baskets are excellent this year while 2

Lily's farm is a joy. The winner however this year is 5 Orlestone Gardens with great eye catching flowers at the peak of their powers and a profusion of tomato plants making excellent use of the space alongside the house, all capped by a tidy lawn.



The wine judge was taken aback by the sheer number of wine class entries

The day was rounded off nicely by a Spitfire and Hurricane giving a display of half a dozen low circuits of the village just after clearing up. The Chairman of the Chelsfield Fair commented that 'even the village fair only had one Spitfire' (It may of course have been to do with them waiting to do a flypast over Biggin Hill!)

Internet Cafe

The Village Internet café has now been running for over a year, and has been successful in helping many elderly residents make their first foray into using their computer/Internet with its many advantages including email and gathering information. We are very patient, and give one to one tuition where necessary, so if you are having prob-

lems, or want to get started/learn more about the use of your computer, consider this service.

So bring your problems and laptop if you have one, (otherwise equipment is supplied) and find out how computers can be of benefit to you. Alternatively just come along for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

Typical quotes have included:

“The response from my family and friends to their first E-mail from me was reminiscent of the arrival of my School Certificate (aka G.C.E., “O”levels etc.) results over 60 years ago. “Well done!”, “Hooray!”, “Congratulations!” –all by e-mail of course”

“It’s fun; fascinating and hopefully useful once we “get there”



Village Broadband Update

In a previous Village Voice the snail like performance of Internet Broadband in our area was discussed.

We can now confirm that optical fibre carrying high speed broadband was laid through the village some years ago as part of a government initiative. This comes in via the Warren road/Court Road junction, along Warren Road with a junction box outside the

school.

The Chelsfield Village Society has surveyed the village to see how much of it has cable TV access points. It would appear that all residences from the Court Road/Warren Road junction to the Five Bells have trunking in place, likewise all houses along Church Road up to the Chelsfield Park Hospital appear to have the necessary trunking in place that would allow

cable to be connected.

To our knowledge no houses are connected, even the school is not connected

The CVS have also approached Virgin Media, owners of the local network via their "cable my street" initiative, with a request to connect the village to the cable network. Virgin have responded and promised an evaluation and reply within 7 to eight weeks.

Dingbat Answers and Remaining Questions

As part of the 'Big Lunch' event, article last month, some of the cryptic 'Dingbat' clues were printed. The answers to these (**in bold**) are:

1) HIJKLMNO

H₂O or water

2) PePPermint

Three piece suite

3) BLU E

Blue movie

4) Dr. Do

Doctor Dolittle

5) ENTURY

Long time no see

6) ever ever ever ever +
ever

For ever and ever

7) ECNALG

Backwards glance

8) Recoter

Clerical error

9) put
weight

Put on weight

10) 13579
Coming

Overcoming the odds

If you were challenged by these, you may like to see the remaining clues:

11) Horobod

12) ~~L~~EAST

13) Lost words words
words words

14) Engmadeland

15) OO

16) Ban ana

17) c o d
Lo h L mon

18) h a p p i n e s s

19) X I S T.

N

G

20) knee

torch lamp candle

Neighbourhood Watch

Phone scam

The below scam has been brought to the attention of residents by Matthew Nye of our Safer Neighbourhood team. If you have had the same call or anything similar please let the SNT know and it can be passed on to the relevant agencies.

A call is received from a 'representative' of BT, informing that you are being disconnected because of an unpaid bill. The caller demands immediate payment of £31.00, or it will be £118.00 to re-connect at a later date. He may give an English name and a fictitious BT business number. If the caller does not believe this, he may demonstrate he is from BT by 'disconnecting' your phone line. He will ask you to hang up & to try phoning someone. Your phone will appear dead until he phones you again, as if he is controlling it.

(The cutting off of the line is very simple, he stays on the line with the mute button on and you can't dial out - but he can hear you trying. This is because the person who initiates a call is the one to terminate it. When you stop trying he cuts off and immediately

calls back. You could almost be convinced!)

The sad thing is that it is so simple that it may well fool the elderly and vulnerable. Obviously, if this scam is real, once they have your credit/debit card details, there is nothing to stop them cleaning out your account.

Badger Problems

A number of residents and allotment holders have had problems this year with Badgers digging up vegetables in the garden. On the Chelsfield allotments it was thought to be specifically a winter problem due to such a cold last winter. Unfortunately crops were still being damaged throughout the summer. The CVS contacted the local Badger group (West Kent) about this problem.

They say that the problem with badgers 'stealing' food from allotments has been quite pronounced this year. The long dry spell of weather has made it extremely difficult for badgers to obtain their natural food. Worms have been driven down much lower because of the dry weather and have not been coming up at

night. They have experienced the same problem here on their vegetable plot and have lost all carrots and a few parsnips as well as main crop potatoes but now that we have had a considerable amount of rain recently, hope that the problem may well be solved.

It was also suggested that the culprits could also be foxes as they have also been extremely hungry in the recent dry spell due to the same causes.

Have any other residents experienced problems, or have ideas for solutions.

A temporary solution was found by one allotment holder, knowing that Badgers had sensitive hearing and were wary of people, found that playing them BBC world radio at night kept them away from a tempting crop of sweet corn, but not from neighbouring plots!

The West Kent Badger Group requested that if you see a dead or injured badger please contact: Dave (Witherspoon) Area Contact on: 01959-573157 or Barbara Wilkinson on : 01474 703948

Bottle Stall From Village Fair

Chelsfield Village Society held a bottle stall at the Village Fair. This raised £300, generously rounded up by a member. The bottles were kindly donated by residents so the only expense was the

cost of the stall, £16. The profit will help fund future editions of this newsletter, the cost of which is around £500 a year.

The expenses of Chelsfield Village Society include the Village Voice,

Produce Show and hall hire. Membership subscriptions and fund raising are our only sources of revenue. Please consider joining to support your local residents' association.

Traffic Wish List - Progress

Progress so far with traffic wish list after meeting with councillor

Bromley Council's response to the 'wish list' for improving the traffic conditions in the village is slow but promising. There has been some progress with the Warren Road/ Court Road cross roads with a suggestion for vehicle activated signs high-

lighting the junction and improved signage to make it more obvious to motorists. Although this is a long way from the wished for roundabout, it is a start. The possible installation of a roundabout is a long process. Bromley Council would have to make a bid to Transport for London for funding and who knows what funds would be available in today's straightened times? The

time scale is at least 3 years. However, we have been promised that money has been allocated to spend on other traffic/parking measures in the village and these are being considered. Progress is also being made regarding a car park through Bromley council's discussions with Sevenoaks council who, through a historical quirk, own the land in question.

Restaurant Review - Pizza Express

This month we tried Pizza Express at 97 High Street Orpington.

The restaurant is bright, clean and modern. On arriving we were immediately taken to a table and offered drinks. The service throughout the meal was attentive and good.

There is a good selection of dishes in each course, with many alternatives to pizza, and plenty of vegetarian options

We ordered a selection of starters and main courses. The speed of service was good, the food was

very good, fresh and enjoyable.

The wine list is simple but adequate. The house wine was very good.

Overall, it is good value and we enjoyed the meal and would be very happy to return.

A History of the Chelsfield Village Bakery – Part 2

"Courtyard House" was indeed a Courtyard at ground level with the floor area above being the flour store at the Bakery. The sacks of flour were delivered by lorry - the vehicle backed into the Courtyard and the sacks were unloaded by hand. Each sack was carried (on a man's back) up wooden stairs at the rear of the Courtyard to the flour store above. The sacks, of course, were huge and must have been immensely heavy - especially towards the end of each delivery! The floor of the store must also have been very strong indeed to support such a huge weight of sacks. I have heard it mentioned that a four inch thickness of timber was used in the flooring which I can imagine could well have been the case with such a weight to support. The premises now called "The Old Bakery" did indeed contain the baking ovens and the preparation and storage area for the large range of bakery products. At the front of the building there was also a shop area with a counter and display shelves. Customers

could call in and purchase the bakery produce fresh from the ovens and indeed there was a brisk, regular trade from the Village area and beyond.

As at Crosshall there were also daily deliveries of produce to the wider Chelsfield area which in those later times was undertaken using van or lorry transport. Bob Hogben remembers working at the Bakery as a boy on Saturdays undertaking deliveries with the van alongside Jim Smallwood (Tom Smallwood's brother). The day involved an early start but it finished around 2.00 p.m. with a reward of 2s 6d for the help given. Bob recalls that getting back at around 2.00 pm enabled him to catch the 477 bus to Orpington to go to the cinema or "pictures" using his hard-earned cash! Half a crown went a long way in those days. I remember that even in the late 1950s I would get 2s 6d for helping my Grandparents (Mr. and Mrs. Parkes) in their garden every Saturday morning. It was a good reward then but probably sounds

a meagre one now if you do not happen to be able to recall that period in Chelsfield.

The premises at "The Old Bakery" also contained a small teashop in the front of the building as well as the shop counter. Access was by the same door as for the shop counter, with two or three sets of tables and chairs set out for use by the visitors. Tea or coffee was available as well as the large range of produce to go with your beverage fresh from the baking oven. An elderly friend used to drive the 477 buses into Chelsfield Village at that time and he clearly recalls being able to call at the Smallwood teashop for refreshment during his stopping-off break. The teashop was also a regular "port of call" for hikers or cyclists passing through the Village on a day out. Betty Smallwood recalls that larger parties of visitors were also catered for by using the lawn area in the back garden at the rear of the bakery premises. It was here that trestle tables and chairs could be set out and all needs by way of refreshments

could be supplied - e.g. teas for parties of hikers etc. I have long felt that this is a facility sorely missed in present times when it is impossible for visitors passing through the Village to obtain so much as a cup of tea let alone fresh baked cake or a pastry to go with it! It is not surprising that on warm, summer days Betty Smallwood and her family were kept busy with such business - especially on Saturdays.

The Smallwood bakery produced a large range of items to suit everyone's needs and tastes. This included loaves of bread of various sizes and shapes (e.g. cottage, bloomer, tin, batch, Hovis etc.), rolls of different sizes and types, pastries, buns, fancy cakes, sponge or fruit cakes, fruit pies etc. Betty Smallwood recalls that a large cottage loaf was sold for 2d (old pennies, of course) in the shop at that period. Also hot cross buns were 14- for one shilling (under 1d each). This brings to mind the rhyme "hot cross buns, one-a-penny, two-a-penny".

Much larger cakes were

made to order for the local community and these included Wedding Cakes which were expertly decorated by Tom Smallwood himself. Indeed the cake for my parents' wedding in 1947 was produced by Tom Smallwood in his bakery. No doubt many other residents will be able to say the same when reminded of Tom's wonderful skills at decorating cakes. Another example of Tom Smallwood's baking skills, which must certainly be mentioned, came to the fore at the time of the Harvest Festival Services at St. Martin's Church. Tom always produced a loaf of bread in the form of a sheaf of corn which was placed at the altar and greatly admired and appreciated by the congregation each year.

There is one other bakery product for which Tom Smallwood is still associated, namely his wonderful meat pies! Even now people remember them with affection and relish as they were so delicious. When they were sold at the Five Bells one person would have one and then his companions would rapidly follow as they looked and smelt so de-

sirable! Once eaten you would want to have one another day. Betty Smallwood still remembers how popular and famous her father's meat pies became. A large tray of these steak and kidney pies would be delivered over to the Five Bells every day as they were so popular and sought after there as well as at the Bakery Shop itself. They were sold at 3d each (old pennies, of course) and being so large and well filled they made a good hot meal in themselves. The meat for the pies was supplied daily by Charlie and Rose Strout who were one of the main suppliers of meat to residents of Chelsfield Village and far afield at that time. Betty recalls that their neighbour Miss Verells was ill at one period and Mrs. Nell Smallwood (Betty's mother) used to prepare beef tea (from the meat for the pies) to help Miss Verells in her recovery.

Written by Carol Margetts

With the invaluable help and co-operation of Mrs. Betty Owen (nee Smallwood)

Plus additional detailed information and inspiration from Mrs Vera Margetts

Following the cartoon by Philip Lane last month, we now include a 2nd, from his same bound collection

OUT OF MY MIND

Cartoons and Poems by Phil Lane Volume 2

Philip has written / drawn several bound volumes of his cartoons, copies of which are available to buy. Please contact Phil on 01689 858634

(HEALTH WARNING - unsuitable reading for unborn children or the deceased !)



Why Should You Join Chelsfield Village Society?

Chelsfield Village Society acts as the voice of Chelsfield Village. We receive and disseminate local information. We are consulted on various local, council, borough and Greater London matters. We have the opportunity to represent the Village on several local bodies. Without the

Village Society our voices would not be heard and we would not be informed of local information. As a member you can elect the committee, serve on the committee and take part in decision making about the future of your village. It only costs £3 a year to be a member of Chels-

field Village Society, or £30 for life membership. If you would like to join please fill in the form using capitals and send to:
 Catherine Gandolfi,
 3 Orlestone Gardens,
 Chelsfield Village.
 BR6 6HB

I enclose £3 for annual membership, or £30 for life membership of Chelsfield Village Society. (cheques payable to Chelsfield Village Society)

Name.....

Address.....

Renewing your Insurance? Read This First!

Do you get constantly pestered by junk mail offering you best deals on your car or household insurance?

Well, yes, it may be junk mail, but it may be bearing an important message, reminding you of something you really ought to double check.

So often one will be satisfied with the insurance service you receive and happily annually renew without a second thought, most peo-

ple trust their insurers to maintain the value for money originally offered.

If you have been with an insurance company for more than two years it's time to check the alternatives. The comparison websites: www.gocompare.com; www.confused.com; www.moneysupermarket.com; to name but three, all offer you the opportunity to save many £100's by searching the best quotes on your criteria.

Another advantage is that you only enter your details once, they then automatically complete all the future forms.

The Insurance companies give nothing to loyal customers, when questioned why new customers are paying less than you who have been with them for years, they go strangely deaf!

My only regret is that I did not do this years ago!

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
020 8721 2605



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 MONDAY

Five Bells

Salsa Dancing Lessons

suitable for absolute beginners
and improvers £5.00

EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room

Mums & Tots Group

10.00am-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

Rugby for Girls

Any Age
Evening training from
September to May
Contact Kevin 0208 289 8566

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 22nd Sept

Parish Room

Internet Cafe

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Friday 1st October

Five Bells

Live Music

“Mutley” play our way into this
Beer Festival week
Starts 9.00pm.
Pub closes midnight

Saturday 2nd October

Five Bells

Octoberfest

Over 25 ales and various
activities available throughout
the week

Saturday 2nd October

Five Bells

Book Exchange

Book Sale and Table Market.
11.30am to 5.00pm. Book a
table from £5.00
(Fees going to Charity)

Thursday 7th October

(1st Thursday Each Month)

Five Bells

Live Jazz Thursday

“Just Friends” will be playing
their monthly set

Sunday 10th October

Five Bells

10th of the 10th of the 10th

Any Roast and Any Desert for
£10

Monday 11th October

Novell's (Polhill Garden Centre)

Tea Dance

with Les Johnson
3.00pm to 5.00pm

Thursday 14th October

(2nd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room
Crafts For All

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

Saturday 16th October

Brass Crosby Room

Antiques & Collectibles Valuation Day

Catherine Southon (as seen on
BBC “Flog It” and other
programmes
3 items for £5.00
(in aid of Church Funds)
10.00am - 1.00pm
Refreshments available
Details Ann 01689 826349

Thursday 21st October

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15 - 12.00 noon

Wed 10th November

Brass Crosby Room

Village Society AGM

followed by Eagle
Heights Birds Talk and
Demonstration
from 7.30pm

Tues 16th-Sat 20th Nov

Village Hall

Chelsfield Players present

A Christmas Carol

Details to follow

Thursday 18th November

Five Bells

Beaujolais Day

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

Saturday 27th November

Five Bells

Opera Evening

VERY POPULAR - Watch this
space for more info!

Wed 22nd December

Parish Room

Village Christmas

Party/Social

Evening

from 8.00pm