



September 2017

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

Indian/Himalayan Balsam	2
Mutterings From The Millers	4
Broadband - It's Good News!	5
Brown's Community Day	6
CVS AGM & Xmas Event	8
Fly Tipping at the Village Hall	8
World War 1 Memories (Pt 2)	8
The Village Hall Clock	11
Donations for Paper	11
Domesday	12
Chelsfield Park Hospital	13
Review - Chelsfield Players	14
Heritage Open Day	15
Situations Vacant	15
Register to Vote	16
Chelsfield's WW1 Casualties	17
Safer Neighbourhood	17
Brave Rider Saves Pony	18
Useful Contact Numbers	19
Dates for your Diary	20

# THE COOLINGS HIGHWAY 10K

SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 10AM  
THE HIGHWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ORPINGTON KENT BR6 9DJ

[WWW.THEHIGHWAY10K.COM](http://WWW.THEHIGHWAY10K.COM)  
FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS,  
INFORMATION & UPDATES

START AND FINISH AT THE HIGHWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE HIGHWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL. FORTH REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 802304

## 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

October 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  
**Friday 29th September**

Flyers for this run, and offering a Coolings £5 money off voucher are available in the Village Hall

## Indian (or Himalayan) Balsam

A couple of months ago while walking I saw a tall plant with showy flowers in Barnetts wood near Timberden bottom between Chelsfield and Shoreham. A few weeks later I saw the same plant on a TV show and realised it was a balsam plant commonly known as Indian or Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). This plant is the largest annual plant in Britain growing up to 2.5 m high and has flowers that are very attractive to pollinating insects to the point where other flowers may be neglected. It was introduced in Victorian times due to its rather nice pink flowers which sit at the head of the

plant. However, it has since gone rogue and has spread widely usually hugging any source of water such as rivers and canals. It is not in the mould of Japanese knotweed but is still considered a problem as it tends to smother existing vegetation, die back in the winter and then leave riverbanks exposed without any vegetation to tie the earth bank together. When wet weather arrives, this leads to erosion.

Despite the fact that balsam was only introduced into the UK in 1839 it has already acquired the folklore names of policeman's

helmet, jumping jack, or touch me not. The first refers to the shape of the flower while the last two refer to its mode of propagation. As the seeds ripen, the pods create increasing amounts of internal stress until eventually some minor disturbance such as contact with a passing animal, the wind or the drying sun causes the pod to explode, sending the seeds up to 6 m away from the parent plant. Such is the novelty that at one time Birmingham botanical gardens sold the seeds under the name of Mr Noisy's Exploding Plant as a curio for kids!

Each plant can produce 800 seeds and consequently this plant, although now almost considered indigenous, is also regarded as an invasive weed that can overpower other plants by cutting out their light. It does not need a lot of light itself but does like damp ground, hence its affinity for rivers which help to spread its seeds.

There have been suggestions that during



the time it has been in the UK it has become more moisture resilient and is now able to survive on dryer ground. This may explain why I found it in a wood which, although it could be described as damp, is nowhere near a watercourse. I have also seen this plant in Gloucestershire but in that case it always kept very close to waterways. Near Liverpool it is known as Mersey weed.

Despite being an invasive plant, many people like it and in previous times a number of fans have actively spread its seeds. There are records of people taking the seeds from Sheffield to the Isle of Wight or spreading them through the woods in Surrey to help it along its way.

Having found the patch of balsam mentioned above I contacted Sevenoaks council as I was not sure if this plant was considered a real problem or one of those which, although not encouraged, had to be tolerated. To my surprise I quickly received a reply asking for more detailed information on the location and stating that the council would take a

look later in the week. Nice to see the council being so proactive!

To eradicate, this plant needs to be pulled up by the roots and happily this is quite an easy task as its shallow roots are less secure even than those of common nettles. This process needs to be repeated for a number of years before the plant is eventually eliminated. However this needs to be done before the plant flowers and the seeds begin to develop. Another approach is one being researched at the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International in Surrey, which has been working on a biological solution. Scientists have discovered a rust fungus that seems to attack only Himalayan balsam and no other plant. If their safety tests find no problems, permission for the controlled release of the rust species will be requested from UK regulators.

On a more positive note, some references I have found suggest all parts of the plant are edible although my Foragers Handbook only mentions the seeds. These can be



collected and eaten or added to breads, toasted or added to salads although they are small being little larger than sesame seeds. To collect the seeds one has to cup the palm of one hand around the seed-head while gently touching the seed pods with the other. The manner in which these pods explode gives the sensation that some unknown being is flinging these seeds at you with wild abandon.

I returned to the balsam patch a few weeks after notifying the council only to realise that the plant was spread throughout the woods to a far greater extent than I originally thought. So, if you should find a patch of these plants on your travels, then do inform the local council as they do seem to take the threat from them seriously.

*Steve Fuller  
Sept 2017*

## Mutterings From The Millers

St. Bartholomew's Day was dry and clear. Well, we can look out for a good autumn then!

Not one of our better harvests this year. The barley was the first to cut but unfortunately due to the dry weather in the spring, the plant only produced one or two tillers (side shoots) meaning the crop was about only 2/3rd of what is should have been.

Both of the wheat varieties seemed to cope with the dry much better and we have had a good crop. This year we grew, what we call biscuit wheat and all the various criteria was met. It gets a bit technical regarding proteins, moisture and hagerbergs targets but I won't bore you with all of that. The heavy rainfall on the Wednesday in the middle of August washed quite a lot of goodness from the wheat but it still made the grade. We won't talk too much about the peas because they were a ..... disaster. What with the dry spring, late frost and pigeons, the crop didn't really stand a chance. 2" of



Jersey Tiger Moth

rain on the ripe crop finished them off completely and we couldn't even gather a pea straw crop for the deer!

It didn't start too well when Pete discovered the lateral tilt on the combine wasn't working. After a long investigation, he discovered that mice/rats had chewed some of the wiring in the header. We do start up the combine during the winter to clear any vermin but the header is not attached to the machine and stored separately and cannot be run. As

this was the first winter without any farm cats this may be the reason but hopefully now that we have a new batch of cats this will not happen again. The machine still worked but Pete had to keep adjusting the header manually, slow and laborious on our undulating fields. During the rainy spells over a couple of weeks, the problem was eventually fixed with help from a John Deere mechanic.

We had a hairy moment this harvest when returning back from one of the fields across the

A224. The boys entered Church Road to find cars parked right along the kerbside in front of the church and beyond. Steve was driving the tractor a towing the header with Pete in the combine behind. They realised that they couldn't get through with the combine and Pete had to do a 50-point turn in Church Road. Obviously traffic was coming from

both directions and trying to squeeze round them. Well you can imagine the scene. There was a lot of shunting back and forth to let folk pass the tractor and header and by this point Pete had managed to turn round and go back to the A224 and Warren Road. Some photos would have been good but I think the boys had enough to contend with.

No new flowers to report on the Chelsfield green at this time of the year obviously and I guess that it won't be too long before it is cut and cleared. I have been delighted to notice in the garden though a Jersey Tiger Moth and a Humming-bird Hawk Moth on my flowers. - Hope I identified them correctly Lester!



Humming Bird Hawk Moth

Not a weather folk law but still an old saying for this month, Michaelmas Day or the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is celebrated on the 29th September

***Eat a goose on Michaelmas Day  
Want not for money all the year***

*Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm*

## Broadband - It's Good News!

Broadband is here! At the time of writing the first village residents are already enjoying the fibre broadband service from various suppliers. Let us know how you get on at [cvhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhlettings@gmail.com) or

via the Village Voice.

*Catherine Gandolfi*

We have now linked up to the new fibre connection and after two weeks are really happy with the

increased speed. Having previously had downloads at best less than 2 Mbps. We are now achieving between 15 Mbps and 50Mbps!

*Dan Sloan*

## Brown's School Community Day

On the 7th July 2017 Brown's School began their fourth "Community Day" where all the senior students from the school go out to Chelsfield village and help anybody who may need some assistance in and around their place of abode.



Every year the numbers of people we help seems to grow, and we were glad to help our new customers from the area. As always this event really depends on the weather, and once again the day began in a lovely sunny atmosphere – surely a great day ahead

The aim of the community day is to enlighten, guide and engage all the students in the school, so that they get to understand the need to help others unconditionally. Thus, all students and staff are allocated jobs to do, which some of the local residents have

previously indicated would be helpful and make a difference for them.

This year the students helped many of the local Chelsfield residents by doing jobs such as car washing, gardening, sweeping, general cleaning, fence painting, window washing, and assisting the cleaning of the local pub "The Five Bells." One of the main jobs was clearing once again the rather overgrown local bus stop, which was just about recognisable from the road side. This involved cutting down some parts of trees, removing rubbish, clearing the area of overgrown shrubbery

and brushing away all the residue so that anybody waiting for bus could actually have somewhere to stand. It is amazing how this area quickly becomes overgrown in a year!



For all those involved it was a great opportunity for all the students to practise the necessary social skills in meeting new people, whilst also doing some good deeds for the local community.

Students and staff of the school believe that helping



others is an important life skill and value to have, and have always



responded well to the call of assisting others. We already support charities such as “Cakes for Kids”, Bromley Homeless Shelter, Red Nose Day, Poppy Appeal, Slippers for shelter, Walking for Water, Xmas Shoe Box appeal etc so we see the community day as just another extension in helping. Brown’s School believes that it is the duty of everyone to help each other as much as possible and the Community Day is just one way of showing this. It is important that such an ethos also has a practical way of showing itself and what better way than to do little jobs to help others.

This year the management of the school again decided to invite all the people we helped back to our school for a lunch time Bar B Q . It was lovely to see so many local residents as well as many parents of our students take up the offer and join all the school staff and students for a lovely meal with all the added extras one would expect to see on such occasions. Also we were happy to see many members of the Rotary Society help out with all the cooking for the Bar B Q – we always appreciate their help in school and



supporting their charity events. Even the Ice Cream van turned up to add a final treat to the days proceedings, as well a new addition of a gigantic Bouncy Castle in the school grounds – all of which added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

The afternoon finished with all the students taking a well- earned break, and enjoying what was left of the school day by having time for themselves and their family and friends. Brown’s School stood in glorious sunshine with everybody delighted with the way that the whole day had gone.

May I take this opportunity in thanking all of Chelsfield residents who opened up their homes, gardens, village, public house, etc for us to help in some small way, and in also joining us for the afternoon’s celebrations. May I also give e big thanks to all the Rotarians who did such a splendid job cooking all the food for the Bar B Q Brown’s School looks forward to next year’s Community Day which we hope will be even bigger and with the idea of helping even more of the local residents in the future.

*Many Thanks  
and Best Wishes*

*C. Ponulak  
(Deputy Headteacher)*

## Village Society AGM & Christmas Gathering

The Chelsfield Village Society AGM & Christmas Gathering will be at the Brass Crosby Room, behind St Martin's Church, on Wednesday 29 November 2017 at

7:30 pm this year.

Following on from the meeting we are lucky to be joined by Patrick Hellicar, a retired journalist who's now

digging up local history stories.

Wine and Nibbles to follow, we hope that you will be able to join us.

*Melanie Watkins*

## Fly Tipping at the Village Hall

Last Thursday, mid afternoon a large quantity of tree stumps branches and related material was dumped behind the Village Hall, blocking vehicle access. It took all morning to move it temporarily out of the way, next to the garages.



The material looks as if it could have come from a front garden hedge being grubbed up.

If any local residents saw anything that could be related to this action,

could they please let the village hall know on 01689 831826.

## Chelsfield's Casualties of World War 1 - Part 2

As winter closed in William remained at Givenchy, digging tunnels, mending dugouts and creating listening posts to detect any enemy activity. At least underground he was sheltered from the snow and high winds that troops on the surface had to endure. John's company had been re-deployed to the Ypres

sector that the high command had already identified as the location of the next big push.

In May 1917 William's 254th Tunnelling Company was also sent to Ypres. When the tunnellers weren't working underground they were employed in building and maintaining trenches and roads just

behind the front line. Ironically it was working on this mundane task rather than the infinitely more dangerous tunnelling work that placed William in mortal peril.

In the early hours of the morning of July 31, 1917 the British launched the third Ypres offensive and triggered the bloody



episode now known simply as Passchendaele.

Torrential rain was falling as the sappers of the 254th Tunnelling Company were sent forward to work on the roads in the front line. The company's war diary names the area of activity as around St Jean and Wiltje. These are two small settlements only a mile apart and now called Sint-Jan and Wieltje that lie just to the east of Ypres. When the opening barrage began at 3.50 am on July 31 the front line ran north to south through Wieltje.

The sappers of the 254th Tunneling Company were operating on the edge of the unfolding battle. On that first day British troops pushed forward behind the advancing artillery bombardment and by day's end had advanced the line several hundred metres. But German forces had not been completely eliminated. In isolated pockets behind the new front line there were machine gun nests and fortified farms still under their control. The following day William Hills and his comrades

were again deployed on roadwork, but now in the previously occupied area beyond Wieltje. The conditions were shocking. The terrain, already churned up by artillery fire and destroyed German fortifications, had been turned into a quagmire by the heavy rain.

Unexpectedly the team of sappers became exposed to enemy fire, probably from one of the isolated positions the Germans had hung on to during the British advance. Three of William's comrades were killed outright. He and another six sappers were wounded.



Suffering from gunshot wounds to the legs he was carried by stretcher-bearers through the mud first to a nearby dressing station and then to a Casualty Clearing Station behind the front line. But the severity of his wounds meant he had then to be transferred to the Base Hospital 140

miles to the south in Rouen.

It's hard to imagine the harrowing ordeal that William faced first by gunshot trauma and then by the lengthy transfer to Rouen. It's possible that he didn't survive the long trip south or perhaps he clung on for a day or so at the hospital the Allies had erected on the Rouen racecourse. The official records only show that on August 4, 1917 Sapper William Hills died from wounds. When William was shot, his brother John was just five miles away. His company was being held in reserve and was not called into action. John would not have known of his brother's fatal wounding. But on August 6, just two days after William's death, a telegram boy marched up Well Hill to the home of Thomas and Elizabeth Hills bearing the small envelope that parents throughout England dreaded receiving.

In February the following year Elizabeth received William's personal effects and his outstanding pay of just over 19-pounds. In 1919 a further payment of 3-pounds war gratuity

was sent from the War Office together with a commemorative plaque and notification that he had been awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Today William Hills lies alongside 12,000 of his comrades at St. Sever Cemetery in Rouen. John was to survive his brother by only a few months. As winter set in at the end of 1917 his company had endured the endless cycle of front line fighting around Ypres followed by a few days of rest behind the lines before returning to action. Casualties occurred on a daily basis, even when resting the Poplars would lose men to the constant enemy shelling.

In November the Poplars received orders to march south to the Cambrai sector. They would have been pleased to leave Ypres behind but fearful of what lay ahead. Seven days of marching, with only limited access to motor transport brought the Poplars to the Hindenburg Line just west of Cambrai where British forces had made significant advances. Still exhausted by the march south, the Poplars were ordered the following day

to enter Boulon Wood to defend the newly won territory against the inevitable German counter attack.

When it came it was in the form one of the most terrifying weapons deployed at that time – gas. Throughout the night the Germans rained gas shells on the British troops packed into Bourlon Wood. The thick foliage trapped the gas and prevented it from dispersing. At one stage 680 British troops suffering from the effects of gas poisoning had to be led from the woods to the nearest casualty station. So impregnated with gas were their uniforms that medical officers treating them were also overcome. No records exist that identify what wounds Rifleman John Hills received defending Bourlon Wood. His position had been exposed not only to gas attack but also to conventional shelling and infantry engagement.

But the records do state that he died of wounds on November 30, 2017. His burial place, just a few kilometres from Boulon Wood, is in a small cemetery at Orival Wood the probable location of

the casualty station to which he was evacuated from the fighting.

Like William he was to receive the British War Medal and the Victory Medal and his widow Emma just a few pounds of outstanding pay and war gratuity.

William's name was placed among those of his friends and neighbours on the list of the Chelsfield fallen at the parish church memorial. But John's name is not among them. The sacrifice of this son of Chelsfield is recorded only on the Stockwell War Memorial. Their father Thomas, who died three years later, did make sure his sons' names were jointly etched into Chelsfield history. On his gravestone recently rediscovered by Geoff Copus leaning against the north wall of St Martin's churchyard were added the words: "Also William Hills, killed in France 4 August 1917 aged 41; John killed in France 30 November 1917 sons of the above".

## The Village Hall Clock

In the year 2000 the committee of Chelsfield Village Hall decided that the hall should have o'clock to celebrate the millennium.

A clock was chosen costing £3512.08 and Bromley Council contributed £1200 as part of a millennium grant.

An appeal was made around the village and by September 2000 the total fund reached had £3220.32, not quite enough. However, the hall then received a further £300 from Bromley Council who had withheld £300 from the original grant of £1500 until they had confirmation that the fund towards the clock had neared its target and was indeed being spent on a clock.

This brought the final total collected to £3520.32 giving the hall a surplus of £8.24. Not bad eh!

It is good to see that 17 years later the clock is still going strong!

*Freda McClorey*



## If You'd Like to Donate, We Always Need Paper

Further to the thanks given in last month's Chelsfield Village Voice to those residents who had made donations towards the supply of paper for the Village Voice, I have been asked by another reader how they might make donations towards the

production of this periodical.

Any donations should be sent to: Peter Gandolfi , 3 Orlestone Gardens, Chelsfield, Kent BR6 6DT. Cheques may be made out to "Chelsfield Publications".

I would also particularly like to thank Chelsfield Park Hospital for the continuous assistance and the sponsorship they provide by printing our monthly newsletter for us, and so professionally!

*Dan Sloan*

## Domesday

It was with considerable dismay that residents were recently made aware of the destruction of ancient hedgerows surrounding the paddock opposite Lillys on Chelsfield Lane. The village name of Chelsfield is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Cillesfelle, meaning land of a man called Cēol and while the village has changed and evolved over years, we should all be keen to protect and enhance it.

The village is not only in a Conservation Area but is entirely within the Green Belt. When discussing the removal of the hedgerows, as well as other proposed developments, there appears to be a confusion over the status of the village and the requirements for planning applications.

The term Conservation Area has been granted to the village as it is considered worthy of preservation and enhancement for its architectural and historical interest. This designation purposefully

aims to protect the area by managing change in a sympathetic way. It is further protected by Green Belt policy which aims to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open and separate from Orpington and other nearby villages and towns.

Over recent years and months, it is sad to have witnessed some residents and institutions displaying a complete disregard for our rural village. We have seen ancient hedgerows stripped out, wooden fencing installed with no new planting, old stable blocks demolished and a house built, hard impermeable driveways

installed, established trees felled, all without permission or replanting programmes in place. The aims of the Village Society is to preserve the rural character of the area by encouraging residents to preserve and enhance the village, taking into consideration the conservation and green belt concepts. We would urge all residents to ensure that any work that they wish to undertake on their property is done sympathetically, after seeking permission from the relevant Council department and talking to the Village Society to gain support and advice.

*The Village Society*



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## Chelsfield Players - Salt - A Review

Salt, written by Fiona Peek, was joint winner of the 2008 Bruntwood Playwriting Competition. This play was directed by Marie Hurding. The director's notes told us that the Chelsfield Players tend to perform more modern and edgy plays for their summer productions. Such plays, written by contemporary playwrights, offer fresh and insightful takes on modern life. In line with this, Salt presented a challenging narrative and strong language. The action took place over 8 months and a series of dinner parties. Amid all the quick-fire dialogue, all the characters had to lay the table, prepare food, eat it, share it, open bottles, recharge glasses, drink and open more bottles. And this wasn't just one difficult scene; it was the whole play. This was all accomplished most convincingly. There is some seriously competitive cooking by the men in Simon (Jo East) and Amy's (Philippa Rooke) fully functioning on stage

kitchen and so much recreational drinking that my neighbouring playgoer was concerned that it may affect the actors' performances. I convinced her that the wine was fake, but I may be wrong!

Their old friends, Nick (Patrick Neylan) and Rachael (Cynthia Hearing), in contrast to their successful friends, had fallen on hard times and were struggling to start a family. The relationship was challenged when Simon and Amy gave Nick and Rachel some money to help them through their financial difficulties. This selfless generosity unfortunately threatened the long term friendship as the cordiality of the first few scenes gave way to anger, bitterness and contempt.

The writer dropped a bombshell in the dying moments that was so underplayed as to be almost subliminal and led to much discussion after the play as we, and others tried to work out

exactly what happened.

Oh, and the title? Salt featured strongly in the food preparation scenes. Early on in the play the two men mentioned a past episode of making 'perfect' vichyssoise soup, by adding salt one grain at a time, until one grain had made it too salty (probably accompanied by plenty of wine).

Aristotle stated that "men cannot know each other until they have eaten salt -together, nor can they admit each other to friendship until each has been found lovable and trusted". This group of friends who ate salt together, found themselves less lovable and trustworthy than they thought. Maybe just one grain too much?

And for those who may be curious, the fridge freezer was donated to Give2give, a local charity whose re-use and recycling activities and provide a valuable benefit to the community.

*A view from the stalls*

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



## Heritage Open Day at St. Martin's



On Sunday 10 September St Martin's Church will be taking part in the Heritage Open Days weekend. From 2.30-5.30pm there will be historic records, photographs and specially-designed ecclesiastical embroidery on display, and demonstrations of bell-ringing.

Refreshments will be

available - come and say hello, and pass the message on to friends and neighbours who might be interested. For more information contact Philippa Rooke on:

[pjrooke@hotmail.com](mailto:pjrooke@hotmail.com)  
or 07826 516481.

For more places to visit go to:

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

## Situations Vacant



**Chelsfield Park Hospital**

Chelsfield Park Hospital are recruiting the following positions:

### HOUSEKEEPER

zero hour contract, ad-hoc hours to provide support, cover annual leave and sickness  
Competitive rate of pay, including holiday hours pay  
Flexible working hours to suit your lifestyle  
Excellent working conditions  
We pride ourselves on our cleanliness standards which is reflected in our

very low infection rate  
Full training will be provided

### PORTER

zero hour contract, ad-hoc hours to provide support, cover annual leave and sickness  
Competitive rate of pay, including holiday hours pay  
Flexible working hours to suit your lifestyle  
Lifting and manual handling duties will be required

### MULTI SKILLED TRADESPERSON

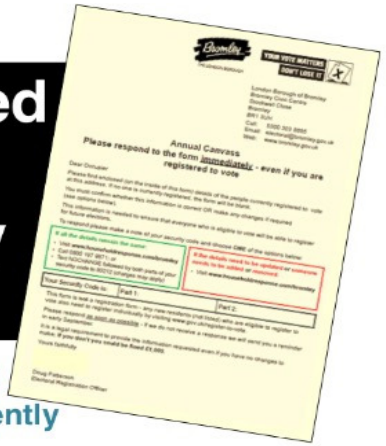
Excellent hourly rate including holiday hours pay  
Skills in painting,

carpentry, tiling, general DIY and maintenance skills  
Maintain a quality of work to compliment the building  
Zero hour contract, ad-hoc hours to suit your lifestyle, filling in any downtime you may have with private work

For more information please contact  
Rachel Beer, Operations Manager:  
Chelsfield Park Hospital  
01689 885907  
[Rachel.beer@bmihealthcare.co.uk](mailto:Rachel.beer@bmihealthcare.co.uk)

Or go to [www.bmihealthcarejobs.co.uk](http://www.bmihealthcarejobs.co.uk) to apply

# Have you responded to your Yellow Household Enquiry Form?



This has been sent to every household to check the names of the people currently registered to vote at each property

**YOU MUST CHECK THE DETAILS AND RESPOND TO THE FORM EVEN IF THE DETAILS ON THE FORM ARE CORRECT**

You can do this via:

Internet



Phone



Text



*See your form for details*

For further information or guidance please contact Electoral Services  
Email: [electoral@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:electoral@bromley.gov.uk) Telephone: 0300 303 8665





## Chelsfield's Casualties from the First World War

This month there is one casualty from the memorial in the porch at St Martin's Church. He is G/11003 Private Arthur Morgan, of the 8th Battalion Queens Own



Royal West Kent Regiment, who was killed in action on 9th September 1917, aged 29, during one of the minor skirmishes around the major battles of Passchendaele. He is buried at the Hooge

Crater Cemetery in Belgium, his body having been moved from a smaller cemetery in Zillebeke.

Arthur was the son of John & Emma Morgan and according to his military service record he lived with them at Maple Cottage, Maypole, Chelsfield. He was christened at St Martin's on 1st April 1888 and in the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses he's living with his parents and family at Maypole, and is an agricultural labourer like his father. He enlisted in November 1915 and was posted to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force in May 1916. His service record shows he was hospitalised in Bordeaux

with bronchitis in February 1917 but was posted back to the frontline in March.

Each family of a deceased soldier had to complete a form giving details of their next of kin and close family members, which is then witnessed by a minister or magistrate (in this case Arthur Waring).

The form was completed in August 1919 and his brother James is listed as 'on active service North Russia', so at least he survived the war, but he was now the only son, so it must have been difficult to have him so far away.

*Philippa Rooke*  
pjrooke@hotmail.com  
07826 516481

## Safer Neighbourhood

### From the Chair of Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Our Panel try to focus our local police in areas where they can implement preventative measures. At the last meeting, we

suggested some police time should be spent on anti- social behaviour around Woodside and Glentrammon Recreation Ground. We also asked the police to visit doctors' surgeries and other establishments so they are more aware of elderly and vulnerable residents.

We have previously asked the police to concentrate on youth engagement, Neighbourhood Watch and traffic calming measures, just to mention but a few. If you have any concerns or ideas, then please let us know or text

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

Perhaps the biggest proposal coming forward is the potential closure of all the "local" police stations, including ours at Green Street Green. See :

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/public\\_access\\_strategy.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/public_access_strategy.pdf)

This is all part of the cost cutting requirements in which we may see the proposed amalgamation of Bromley, Croydon and Sutton under one control.

These are only proposals so far. A lot of ex police have voiced their concerns to me about this. If you have a view, then please email me at [johnleach2000@gmail.com](mailto:johnleach2000@gmail.com).

If you are buying a house beware- Homebuyers are being warned that cybercriminals are stealing millions of pounds by pretending to be solicitors. In the first three months of this year £3.2 million was stolen by criminals who hacked into solicitors' emails and

impersonated them. Half of all cyber crimes that affect solicitors involve fraudsters emailing homebuyers and asking for a deposit to be paid into an account.

A spate of burglaries have recently occurred. Report any suspicious activity. If the police can be alerted, even if it is a non-event, they can check the area. Fortunately, we are still in one of the safest Boroughs around.

*John Leach*

## Bravery of Rider Saves Pony From Serious Injury

A pony narrowly escaped serious injury thanks to the brave actions of his driver following a serious hit and run collision. Charles Burnside had taken five-year-old Ragnar out on the roads in a trap for the first time when he was hit from behind.

The impact flipped the carriage right over the pony, so it landed in front of him with Charles trapped underneath. The young gelding, who is usually very "level-headed", took off, dragging his 25-year-old driver along the road.

Charles had to give chase to the pony who was heading downhill towards the traffic on the busy A21. He tackled the pony to the ground on a grass verge to stop him. "It was the pony's first time out and he'd been absolutely fine with no issues at all, when a car came shooting round the corner and rammed into the back of them," explained Jan Blumire, who has employed Charles at Chelsfield Equestrian Centre for the past four years.

"When Charles got out from under the vehicle he



**Charles Burnside**

had to go running after it down a steep hill. He managed to push the pony over, he said he had to in case it killed itself or someone else and it was the only way he could

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



think of to stop it. "He did a fantastic job saving that pony, Charles had big hoofprints on his back and concussion but his main concern was the pony"

Jan has been checking neighbouring houses' CCTV to see if anyone has captured footage of the car and its driver, who simply drove off.

"That was one of the things that upset Charles the most, that the driver just drove off," Jan added. "And when he got to the main road, which was busy because of an air

show, only one person stopped to help and held the pony's head while he took off the traces."

The accident took place at around 10.30am on Sunday, 20 August at the junctions of Worlds End Lane and Church Road in Chelsfield, where Jan has previously hacked with children from her riding school.

"Ragnar was visibly shaking after the incident and is "stiff" with a cut on his leg where he got caught in the traces. "He's come out of it

remarkably lightly, we're worried about mental trauma more than anything else," said Jan. "That pony has been faultless throughout his work and then this has happened but he has a sensible head and we're hoping he'll be OK.

The shafts on the solid iron two-wheeled vehicle were also broken, requiring repair.

Anyone with information on the incident, which involved a black Renault Clio, should call police on 101.

## 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)

### **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 6.55pm Beginners  
Tuesday 7.45pm Beginners  
Wed 9.15am Mixed Ability  
Wed. 1.30pm Over 60's  
Saturday 8.45am Beginners  
Saturday 10am Intermediate  
Contact Sally 07786 035640  
orpingtonpilates@gmail.com  
see

[www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk)  
for venues and more info

#### EVERY TUESDAY restarts 12th September

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

[bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com](mailto:bethanylucaspilates@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 7th September

#### (1st Thursday each month)

Five Bells

#### JAZZ NIGHT with JUST FRIENDS

Music Starts at 8.30pm

#### Sunday 10th September

St Martin's Church

#### Heritage Open Day

With artifacts on display,  
demonstrations and  
refreshments

#### Wed 13th September

#### (2nd Wednesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

Contact Gwen on

01689 834879 or Sue

on 01689 827407

#### Wed 13th September

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians  
out there, come along and  
have a go!

Starts at 8.30pm

#### Tuesday 19th September

#### (3rd Tuesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

From 7.45pm

Contact Madeline 01689

891533

#### Sunday 24th September

Highways School

#### Coolings Highway 10K

See Front Cover for details

Starts at 10am

#### Mon 25th Sept-Sat 7th Oct (Sunday's excluded, Sorry)

Bo-Peep, Hewitt's Road

#### British Food Fortnight

We will be serving a selection  
of classic British dishes eve-  
ryday - sourced from all parts  
of Great Britain

#### Wed 27th September

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians  
out there, come along and  
have a go!

Starts at 8.30pm

#### Thursday 28th September

#### (Last Thurs of each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

#### Local History Group

Starts at 10.30am

#### Wednesday 29th November

Brass Crosby Room

#### Village Society AGM and Christmas Gathering

With guest speaker Patrick  
Hellicar. From 7.30pm