

# Village Voice

The voice of Chelsfield Village Society  
October 2008

## Chelsfield Village Society

Notification of Annual General Meeting

To be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
At 7:30

In the Brass Crosby Room, St Martin's

**Including a talk by Alan Ames (plus birds!)  
of Eagle Heights**

Refreshments and Raffle

New members welcome

Visit our web site hosted at [www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk](http://www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk)  
Click on Links, then Chelsfield Village Society.

Contact us at [cvscontact@googlemail.com](mailto:cvscontact@googlemail.com)

After the Special General Meeting of June 2008 Chelsfield Village Society has been run by a Steering Group. The group has held 4 meetings. What has the group done?

- Tidied up the Constitution
- Started up a Village Society web site.
- Re-established links with relevant local organisations including the London Borough of Bromley Residents' Federation and the Road Safety Panel and maintained links with the safer Neighbourhood Team (Neighbourhood watch) and the Advisory panel for Conservation Areas.
- Introduced a Village Society Newsletter
- Circulated a questionnaire to all residents and members to gather ideas and opinions about the future directions of the Village Society.

We now need your help. At the last Steering Group meeting we identified the jobs/duties which have been carried out in past years by Village Society members. They are as follows:  
Chairman, secretary, treasurer, minutes secretary, social activities, fund raising, meetings of interest, refreshments, membership, hall bookings, planning, newsletter, web site, delivery rounds, stalls at local events, Produce Show, and representatives on local groups (LBBRF, Road Safety Panel, APCA, Neighbourhood Watch). These do not all have to be undertaken by committee members. All committee members will be expected to take on one or more of these tasks. Many of these jobs only occur every 2 months or once a year. Jobs can be shared to make the load lighter and more enjoyable.

Nominations for committee members should be made on the enclosed form and brought to the AGM.

## Questionnaire Results to be reviewed at next committee meeting

139 copies were circulated to all residents and members. 11 replies were received, 8 from members.

What should the Village Society be involved with? The suggestions of stalls at local events (fundraising), village maintenance/cleanup, traffic/transport problems, social events (fundraising) and support for the Village Hall were agreed with. In addition crime watch, village matters, parking, chasing up Bromley Council's responsibilities for street maintenance, keeping in touch with all village social aspects, security of access to cricket field, campaigns affecting village, planning matters, LBB meeting representation, fly-posting, street markings, talks and involvement of new residents were suggested.

What problems does the Village have and how can the CVS help? Problems-Traffic (speed & parking), safety of Court Road, litter outside school, lack of interest and enthusiasm from residents. Future of cricket club and 5 Bells. Suggestions to help - Flashing speed signs, 2-wheel parking, information and encouragement, village car park, support of cricket club.

10 of the 11 respondents were interested in receiving a newsletter and would like to see in it -Local contacts, news from council, Neighbourhood Watch, local events. Also suggested - articles of local interest, local news, village history, relevant anecdotes, contact information about who is responsible for what within the village, members representing different areas shown on a plan.

Half were interested in a village website and would like to see - CVS Constitution, history of the Village Society, how to report problems with log of results, contact form, dates of meetings, minutes of meetings, photographs, Village and Bromley events.

7 were prepared to get involved in CVS matters/activities

One respondent said they had no spare time to get involved and another wanted support from CVS in his particular area of interest but was not prepared to get involved with CVS. This will be followed up.

Other comments. A desire was expressed for CVS to continue in the way it used to operate. State of overhanging hedges. Inadequate street lighting. Establish contact with other local groups. Keep up contact with Council to remind them of their obligations. To have interests of all villagers in mind. Involve local political representatives. Communications to all members by hand where possible, not to be replaced by email or web site. Committee meetings to be held according to Constitution. Encourage all residents to look out for their patch and their neighbours. Map in bus shelter.

Neighbourhood Watch does not seem to be publicised enough.

Fund raising for local needs. There seems to be some confusion between the roles of the Summer Fair and Chelsfield Village Society. There is no link between the two organisations. CVS has no say in the distribution of funds raised at this event as it is run by a separate group with separate finances.

## **Waste and Recycling in Bromley**

This is an abbreviated version of an article Cllr Colin Smith, Bromley's portfolio holder for the environment, wrote for a residents' association recently.

I have been invited to write this article by your Resident Association Chairman updating you on the subject of Waste and Recycling, as well as Bromley Council's future plans concerning both.

I am particularly delighted to do so at this time given the apocalyptic nature of the reports on related matters being carried in the National press on a virtually daily basis!

With this in mind, please allow me to begin by telling you what Bromley isn't going to do.

\* We are not going to move to Fortnightly Waste collections for food waste

\* We are not going to put microchips in waste bins

\* We are not going to charge per weight of waste produced

\* We are not going to introduce an extra annual charge to collect your waste on top of Council Tax

\* We are not going to ban black bag side waste when your bins are full

\* We are not going to send people to snoop through your bins (Though any household seen not to be recycling will receive a visit from a Waste Advisor to enquire whether the Council can help them in any way to begin doing so).

Driven by the European Union's Landfill directive, the Government has imposed massive extra Landfill taxation on Local Authorities across the Country to 'encourage' them to do more to recycle, thereby reducing Landfill. Last year the tax stood at £ 24 per tonne, this year it stands at £32 next year it jumps to £40 per tonne and in 2010 to £48. Whatever the outcome of the next general election, there is widespread expectation that this trend will continue. Whether one agrees with such measures is secondary to the fact

that they exist. Recycling more is clearly a good idea and one impact this tax has had has been the desired effect of forcing recycling rates higher. Against that, the additional pressure it has added to Council Tax levels is extremely worrying. Every penny the Council spends putting waste into the ground is a penny it can't spend on either good causes elsewhere or using to help contain future Council Tax rises.

So what are we planning to do that's so different from elsewhere, why do we think we can do better and how do we plan to go about it?

The first benefit we have is the power of hindsight - a truly wonderful gift! We have deliberately avoided being in the first wave of Boroughs introducing such measures to enable us to learn from their mistakes and ensure that whatever we do introduce not only works - but works well. Add to this the fact that Bromley starts from a position of already having the best 'dry' (paper, glass, tins and plastic) recycling record of any London Borough and we know we are well placed to do so.

As some of you might have picked up from the local press over the past few months, we have already been trialling schemes in various parts of the Borough to see what can be achieved by collecting waste in different ways.

The plan in the trial area is that anything putrescible (smelly food waste) will continue to be collected weekly but from dedicated Council supplied bins that are both airtight and rodent proof. If the trials works, not only would recycling levels rise, but associated concerns around vermin and hygiene would reduce, as too will tales of foxes ripping open black plastic sacks as there will be both more space for rubbish available within what is currently the 'main' bin (soon hopefully to be known as the 'non recycling' bin) as well that with nothing putrescible being left in 'black sack' overflow to attract them, foxes/rodents will be less interested in them to begin with.

Black box paper recycling will also be upgraded to a weekly service at the same time as the trials have demonstrated that up to 20% extra material can be salvaged by providing a weekly service ( the implication being that having filled the fortnightly 'black box' prematurely, some residents choose to discard additional recyclable paper with the main waste ) .

In addition, in the trial area only, the Council is going to suspend the 'plastic bottles only' rule for plastics and widen the range of plastics accepted to include washed items such as yogurt pots, margarine tubs, food and ice cream containers.

Although for the time being the plastics collected will subsequently have to be separated and the 'non bottle' types sent to incineration (we can still only recycle plastic types '1' '2' & '3' - the grade of plastic that bottles are made from - thus the rule !) As the plastics recycling market matures (estimated to be about a year or so away) these types of plastic too will be recycled.

This is important, because despite the total number of annual doorstep collections rising from 13 to 17 million should the trial prove successful and it become rolled out Borough wide, it is intended to then collect the 'non recyclable' waste bin every other week in exactly the same way that the green recycling box container is collected today.

To those of you wishing to learn more, may I draw your attention to this hopefully helpful weblink containing an oft asked question and answer link.

[http://www.bromley.gov.uk/environment/recycling/composting\\_for\\_all.htm](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/environment/recycling/composting_for_all.htm)

#### **Request for content**

This is your Newsletter. If you have any relevant articles or news of village interest. Please submit these for future editions of the 'Village Voice' to either David Lambert, Cross House, Church Road, or via email to: [cvscontact@googlemail.com](mailto:cvscontact@googlemail.com)

## Report on the 2008 Chelsfield & Well Hill Produce Show

Although one family group, which last year accounted for over 70 entries, did not enter this year, the number of entries held up well. The poor weather in the run up to the show day affected the number of floral entries. Despite our best efforts of encouragement the children's entries were very low in numbers, but not in quality.

Both the number of entries and entrants were down slightly this year. There was an increase in the number of entries in the photographic and vegetable classes and again a number of new faces this year from both villages and the Chelsfield allotments. Over 20 people from Chelsfield and Well Hill were involved in running the show, from judging to floor sweeping and there were 45 entrants, with one individual making 33 entries. There were 4 visiting judges.

The prize giving was followed by an excellent raffle which resulted in the show making a profit for the first time in many years.

The trophies were awarded as follows:

**Knox Cunningham Cup** – Catherine & Peter Gandolfi

**Well Hill Cup** – Lyn Stone

**Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Plate**– Doreen Graham

**Allotment Cup** – Trevor Weeden

**Children's Cup** – Alex Nikodem-Wing

**Wine Club Tankard** – Andy Roberts and Les Cox

**Country Fare Cup** – Peter Gandolfi

**Triss & John Cottenden Flower Trophy** – Trish Peek,  
Josette Coulson and Julie & Terry Sparks

**Tom Castleton Rose Bowl** – Doreen & Denis Graham

**Ken Pickering Best in Show** – Doreen Graham, a decorated  
theme cake, "Songs of Praise"

## Useful Contacts

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 933000
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Safer Neighbourhood Team	020 8721 2605

## Bromley Council Details

Main switchboard Telephone: 020 8464 3333

E-mail: [csc@bromley.gov.uk](mailto: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

Emergency Duty Team 020 8464 4848, - or can be reported via the CVS web site

## 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](mailto:julian.grainger@bromley.gov.uk)

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