

The Problem With Our Bees



It is difficult to fully understand the importance of Bees to us. In fact they are central to human survival as Einstein understood with his quote: ‘If the Bees disappeared off the face of the globe, man would have about four years left’.

They are vital because they pollinate one third of all the food we eat and without honeybees our diet would consist of rice, bread and potatoes. The yields of most fruit, vegetables and nuts are much greater when pollinated by bees. The service honeybees provide to our economy has been costed at £200 million a year in the UK alone. Their worldwide value is many

hundreds of billions of pounds.

There are many types of Bee, 250 types in the UK alone, the main classes being solitary bees and social bees that live in groups, with most types suffering decline recently.

Bumble bees are social bees and there are around 25 varieties of Bumbles in the UK. (including the big furry ones). They live in colonies of around 100, often using an old mouse nest. These are also suffering from habitat loss, and because of the small size of the colony, can be very vulnerable in cold wet Springs, as they do not store much food, - honey.

Honey Bees

In America, pollination is big business, with thousands of hives constantly on the move following the seasons. An example is the pollination of the US almond crop, which produces most of the world’s

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*The Village Pond, handcoloured
Philip Lane Collection*

CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE !

Contributions for our May issue should be emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village BR67RN

Visit
www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

almonds. California has 60 million almond trees, needing over 1 million colonies (around half of all US hives) that have to be transported in. The US bees suffer from colony collapse disorder (the bees disappear) which is not fully understood, but could be linked to stress, agricultural chemicals the Varroa mite and a weakened immune system. US beekeepers have reported losses up to 90% since 06, a third of all colonies have recently died.

The Varroa mite is a recently introduced parasite that sucks the bees blood and is now endemic in the world's honey bees with Australia being the only Varroa free continent.

In the UK Honey Bees suffer different problems, with bee keeping being more of a hobby than an industry, with 25,000 beekeepers. Most losses can be attributed to the Varroa mite, which weakens the bee colony and within a few years will cause the death of the colony, without intervention by the beekeeper. The wild colonies that used to exist in trees etc

now die out, and any swarm that settles in a tree will die out in a few years due to Varroa infestation.

It is the sheer number of honey bees in a colony (50,000) that put the Honey bee head and shoulders above all others in pollination stakes (20,000 foraging from one hive compared to a nest of 100 bumble bees).

The main difference between Honey Bees and others is that they store large amounts of honey as they cannot hibernate like other bees, so need the honey as food to survive the winter as a colony of some thousands of Bees. With other Bees such as Bumbles, it is only the fertilised queens that survive the winter by hibernating individually in sheltered positions such as garden sheds.

Honey Bees reproduce by swarming, where after raising a new queen, the old queen flies off with a proportion of the bees to start a new colony. The Queen can lay up to 2000 eggs a day, each egg taking 21 days to reach to adulthood. Their sense of smell is 100

times more sensitive than ours to flowers and nectar, with a proboscis that can be half their body length.

What can we all do to help

1. Plant bee friendly plants

Where there are few agricultural crops, honey bees rely upon garden flowers for a diverse diet of nectar and pollen. Encourage honey bees to visit your garden by planting single flowering plants and vegetables. Go for the allium family, all the mints, beans and flowering herbs. Bees like daisy shaped flowers - asters and sunflowers, also tall plants- hollyhocks, larkspur and foxgloves.

www.britishbee.org.uk has leaflets on bee-friendly trees and shrubs.

2. Buy local honey if you can

Buying local honey helps local beekeepers to cover costs of protecting bees. Local honey is processed naturally and complies with all food standards requirements without damage to the honey. It tastes different from foreign supermarket

honey and has a flavour that reflects local flora.

3. Join the beekeepers, find a space for a beehive!

Beekeeping is an enjoyable, fascinating and interesting hobby – and you get to eat your own honey too. Local beekeeping associations run courses every year to help new people to take up beekeeping. Both Bromley and Orpington have local groups. If you are interested contact the Village Voice for details.

Many would-be beekeepers, especially in urban areas, find it difficult to find a safe space for their colony of bees. If you have some space in your garden, or know someone who has, contact your local beekeeping association and they could find a beekeeper in

need of a site. It is amazing what a difference a beehive will make in a garden. Crops of peas and beans will be better, fruit trees will crop well with un-deformed fruit and your garden will be buzzing!

4. Protect swarms

Swarming is the natural process by which colonies of honey bees increase their numbers. If you see a swarm contact a local beekeeper if you know one or the police - they will contact a local beekeeper to collect the swarm. Honey bees in a swarm are usually very gentle and present very little danger. They can be made aggressive if disturbed or sprayed with water. Swarms are protected and should not be harmed. Just leave them alone and wait for a com-

petent beekeeper to arrive.

5. Ask your MP and MEP to lobby for more funds for bee health research

Beekeepers are worried that not enough is known to combat the diseases that affect honey bees. Although a £10 million programme has been promised, only a proportion is aimed at Honey Bees research. A former DEFRA Minister, whose Department holds the purse strings to finance this, has said without this extra research we could lose our honey bees within 10 years. More needs to be directed to Bee research, Honey Bee health, disease resistance, management etc. Write to your MP or MEP for support.

Peter Gandolfi

Another Deer Sighting

I saw a mention in last month's Chelsfield Village Voice re the sighting of a fallow deer.

I report that we have actually seen one in our garden. One sunny Sunday morning about two

weeks ago there it was just enjoying the garden. It was a beautiful creature and scampered off into the field when it caught sight of us. I am not sure who was the most surprised at the

encounter, the deer or us. I hope it visits us again sometime. He made a quick get away before I had time to get my camera, maybe next time.

Bridget O'Donnell

Card Collecting

Card collecting has never been more diverse, or opportunities to indulge, including on the internet, more accessible, attractive and high quality. Modern issues, especially popular among young people, compliment the pre-war cards which are becoming increasingly treasured. Engraved trade cards were used in this country in the late 18th century, and were used until the introduction of chromolithographic cards, which were largely imported from France and Germany.

The first British cigarette cards appeared in the 1890's, although cards from the USA had appeared a few years earlier. Originally cards were used as stiffeners for the flimsy packets used at the time. Manufacturers quickly realised the potential for advertising and printed their names on one side, an addition of a picture on the other side followed as a natural consequence. Card production ceased briefly

during the First World War but resumed shortly afterwards when many boys and girls periodicals also issued them to stimulate sales in a highly competitive market.

By the Second World War card collecting had become a popular educational hobby, and has continued so to today. Although trade cards appeared before cigarette cards, their popularity with collectors has developed over the past 3 decades.

The Second World War brought about the virtual disappearance of cigarette cards, in the 1950's the absence of pictures with cigarettes thankfully encouraged manufacturers of other commodities to produce a continuing supply of alternative cartophilic material (Trade



A 1958 Brooke Bond Card

Cards, sometimes referred to as "Tea Cards" and "Modern Cards") thus keeping the hobby in a live healthy state. The availability of these cards has served as a stimulant for many of today's collectors. One of the most prolific and most famous in this sphere is Brooke Bond, who since 1954 have produced over 50 series of cards covering a wide range of subjects, others who have been responsible for promoting cards include confectionary, cereal and petroleum manufacturers.

Modern issues are a prevailing part of the card hobby in the continued absence of cigarette cards (although still available with some brands of cigars).

Card values range from a few pounds to hundreds of pounds depending on the rarity and condition. I am always interested in buying Cigarette Cards and old Postcards.

*Bob Hogben
01689 828052*

Get To Know Your Local Businesses

Bob Hogben, author of the article opposite, runs "ROB ROY ALBUMS" who specialise in supplying Cigarette Card, Postcard and Ephemera collectors with an extensive range of quality accessories. They sell their own

albums with polypropylene pages in a range of sizes, plus Postcard Storage Boxes, Postcard Protectors and Monthly Magazines etc.

Callers are welcome, but please ring first (01689 828052) or email: robroy-

albums@btinternet.com, visit our website: www.robroyalbums.co.uk

Rob Roy Albums are at "Crosshall", Chelsfield Village, Orpington BR6 6EN (opposite the Five Bells)

Hodsolls Mill

Not quite Chelsfield but a rare new find locally.

This was scanned from a glass negative taken by the late Charles Rowe before the war probably about 1920. Hard to recognize I have found it is of Hodsolls Mill which was opposite Orpington Pond, where the Carlton Cinema once stood. The mill, which was corn, was sadly demolished in 1935 to build the parade of shops and was the first mill on the River Cray.

Even mentioned in the Domesday Book, so, so sad to have lost yet more old Orpington. Orpington has always had a shameful record of preservation - there was



earlier this century a lot more of the Priory and house standing. We are lucky the rest wasn't knocked down. The view is from the fields that once stood behind between Perryhall Rd and St Andrews Drive. I have another shot of it looking

across the pond.

I found a box of lantern slides some years ago and after scanning and cleaning have identified several very interesting old views of London and Southern England.

Philip Lane

Letter Re: Bluebell Farm

Dear All,

I wish to draw your urgent attention to an issue which is once again concerning my family and my neighbours, namely the relentless expansion of infrastructure and facilities at Bluebell Farm for which no planning permission ever seems to be applied for in advance. I am sure that you will all be familiar with the very extensive planning issues that have surrounded this property and the inability of the local council to do anything to stop or com-

plete enforcement action on this development, whilst at the same time pursuing other local residents and businesses relentlessly for the most minor infringements. Now there is more development and a new roadway to the property is currently being constructed in Hewitts Road. The entranceway of which never had any planning permission to start with (Yet nothing was done). This must be stopped as this is greenbelt land and so local residents must have faith that there is a correct way to apply for

permissions and that if you have no regard to planning then real action will be taken. This property has drastically changed over the last six years from being open fields to a succession of outbuildings/stables/high conifer hedges and partitioned fields. I look forward to you giving this your urgent attention, if no action is taken swiftly then once again the council will run out of time for enforcement.

Yours sincerely
Name Supplied

Reply Re: Bluebell Farm

Dear, Mr & Mrs (*name*)

It was quite a coincidence receiving your email yesterday as I also received a phone call from one of your neighbours, (*name withheld*), on the same matter. He has been complaining about and reporting the various developments for many years.

The Village Society has offered support by writing letters to the planners and I have even spoken at a Council Planning meeting against the "stables" which became the subject of enforcement but succeeded on appeal.

We have long despaired of Bromley Council's effectiveness in this area,

so much having been allowed due to tardy response and ineffective enforcement. The developments always seem to succeed to to having been established for long enough (due to no action being taken despite complaints) or because of the ineptitude of the planning/enforcement officers.

I see you have sent your email to the three councillors. I would advise you also send to the prospective replacement for Robert Evans who is moving to another constituency. The new man is Russell Jackson and his email is: russellantonyjackson@googlemail.com

It could be worth reminding the councillors that

election time is soon upon us!

I will shortly be in your road delivering the imminent next edition of the Village Voice so I will bring my camera with me to obtain a photograph to accompany my letter

There is also the issue of Drive Assist operating out of the Turfsoil site. The head of enforcement told me he was looking

into this last August but it is still going on in blatant infringement of the existing permission. I will also be following this up as a separate issue so neither gets lost in the other.

Please keep in touch if you hear anything or want to discuss the problems in your area.

Secretary, Chelsfield Village Society

Hollybeech Railway Open Day



Advance notice:
The first Open Day for the Hollybeech Railway will be Saturday May

29th. Holly Cottage garden and railways open from 12-5pm. 26 G scale locos and a ride on train

for children and adults. Charity collection. Address from Phil and Jayne 01689 858634.

Chelsfield Players' Production Review

Hello is There Any Body There? is an unusual play and a departure from the Chelsfield Players' last two dramatic productions. It was more a play about a play than a play within a play. It was obviously great fun for the performers, engaging the audience from the start by each proclaiming to be the star of the show. The names of the cast were chosen to provide the best punning opportunities. Despite (or was it because of?) the most awful puns it raised much laughter from the audience. Notable amongst these was the "wire Squire" which was also "a telegram Ma'am" and was put "on the table Mabel" (so that's why she was called Mabel) and WPC Eve Nunnall, the very mention of whose name prompted a

concert of "evening all" from the other police officers present. We were expecting reference to be made to someone's smalls due to the butler being named Smalls and were not disappointed. We all knew that the murder victim just had to be Vic Tim. The re-incarnated, dim witted and appropriately named DC Fickey proudly boasted that he came from a long line of Fickeyes and the name of Inspector Sides was, of course frequently misheard as "insecticides". The inspector thought at one point that the audience had been poisoned by the interval tea but then realised they had just nodded off. We were all eagerly waiting for the next ghastly pun or comic surprise from the actors at the sudden thun-

der claps and dramatic chords. At one point Fickey even accused a member of the audience. The mystery of who the murderer or even the victims were eventually received the attention of the surprisingly flirtatious Miss Marbles. Having revealed and arrested the murderer, the frustrated and bored prompt, Miss Marbles and all the rest of the cast were gunned down in a hail of bullets from the opposite wings.

There was plenty of meat for the actors, all of whom made the most of their comic opportunities but the most enjoyable role, both for actor and audience just had to be Vic Tim/DC Fickey.

A View from the Stalls

Bromley Resident Association News

The fund raising launch for the Biggin Hill Heritage centre will be on Friday 25th June, the day before the Air Fair. A fly past of the Battle of Brit-

ain Memorial Flight and hopefully the Red Arrows is planned above Bromley High Street.

More youngsters have cars in Bromley borough

than any other London borough but this is not reflected in the accident figures.

There has been such a huge increase in the

number of speculative planning applications in conservation areas that the voluntary consultative panel is hard pushed to get through the workload. Until very recently they were going home early as there was very little to do. I wonder what has caused this sudden increase?

Bromley Council is attempting to save money by closing public toilets. This has not come to Orpington yet but is already affecting Beckenham and is proposed for Hayes and Petts Wood. The idea is to introduce "community toilets" which are provided by local businesses in return for a

payment of £1000 a year. Beckenham residents have the choice of The Odeon, which opens at 2.00pm, Costa Coffee with one unisex toilet and Waitrose which is not centrally located. In the other areas businesses are not coming forward to offer their facilities.

Local History Group

The topic of this month's talk by Geoffrey Copus was the demise of Orpington Village. The talk was illustrated by many slides of old maps of the area showing the ownership of various parcels of land and the rural nature of old Orpington. The first was of the Mayfield estate in 1860 just before the arrival of the railway and shows the High Street, Mayfield House, the Walnuts, The White Hart and the pond. There were a few shops and a large allotment site at Broomhill. The owners of the land where the railway was going made a great deal of money from the developers. After the railway was constructed in 1868 a few big houses were built. One of these,

Sunnyside in Tubbenden Lane, was owned by the publisher of Ruskin's books.

One of the landowning families was the Hart-Dykes, Waldens Farm and Court Lodge Farm being among their holdings. Another was the Harris family which became united through the marriage of to the Aynscombe family, also wealthy landowners. They had one daughter and three sons. The daughter married first but was considered to have married beneath her so was cut off from the family's wealth. The wiser sons waited for their father's death before marrying, two of them to much younger women. The Harris family estates

were divided into three parts; Goddington, Lillies and Orpington. George St Pierre Harris was lucky to be left the most valuable Orpington estate. George St Pierre Harris was an architect and built several large houses including "The Walnuts" and "Scads Hill House". He altered the face of Orpington High Street, which at that time stretched from the bottom of Church Hill to the pond but the only remaining testament to him is Aynscombe Angle. The two younger surviving widows of the Harris brothers struck up a strong and lasting friendship.

In 1892/3 St Andrew's Church was rebuilt. The original plans included a

tower and spire but these were never built. The new vicar of Orpington was Frank Chevenix Trench, originally from Ireland and from contemporary writings he was well respected and admired.

The Mayfield estate was offered for sale in several lots in 1888 but not all was sold so there was another sale in 1881.

Much of the land was bought by Frank Austin and it was the beginning of the end for Orpington Village. Plots for building were offered for sale in 1906, a great attraction being the Orpington golf course in the area between Crofton Lane, the railway and The Knoll. The new households all had living-in maids.

However the golf course was short lived and was built on in the 1920s.

The Lucerne Road and Irene Road area was host to several dene holes and Geoffrey showed us a picture of someone in a tin hat being lowered down one of these. The remaining houses in the High Street were pulled down in the 1930s.

A private school, Devon-

shire House, thrived for a while, being patronised by families who wished to and could afford to avoid the Board school. It was quite an enlightened establishment for the times. It offered French, Latin, science, and shorthand among the usual subjects with embroidery for the girls. Music was however only available at extra cost.

Beating the bounds was still carried out with enthusiasm in the 1920s but residents of Craven Road complained about large groups trooping through their gardens.

At this point we broke for refreshments after which Geoffrey showed us more slides of local historical interest. He mentioned the 1906 Handcross accident which occurred to a charabanc outing. There were several deaths. There was a lovely photograph of wounded soldiers being decorated at Orpington Hospital. The patients were always smartly dressed in pale blue jackets and red ties. Quite a few Canadian soldiers died of their injuries and are buried in Canadian Corner in the

church burial ground in Church Hill. After the Great War a soldiers' club was formed and the procession of men from the hospital to the club in the Baptist Hall was a common sight. Local children were discouraged from staring at the men. The club had 2000 attendances a week.

The Goddington estate was owned by Mr Miller-Hallett who lost his son in the war. His name is to be seen on the St Martin's war memorial. The estate was sold off between 1919 and 1935. Geoffrey showed us plans for new roads and houses in Goddington Park but this was bought by the council and saved. In 1930 the final sale of Hart-Dyke land took place. This comprised some hundreds of acres and went for £135,000.

Over the years many lovely houses have been lost. Many of these were designed by George St Pierre Harris.

Particularly enchanting was a slide of a painting showing a house the other side of the road from what is now the Post Office. It shows a

rural lane with trees and a long wall opposite the house. This would be sometime between the wars, with the present Post Office being about where the trees are. The house is now long gone.



Original watercolour painting of Orpington High St between the wars by W.Copes, reproduced here by kind permission of Geoffrey Copus

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

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robert.evans@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Society

cvscontact@googlemail.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 TUESDAY

Parish Room Skibbs Lane

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

Thursday 8th April

(2nd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

Come and Try Your Hand at

a Range of Crafts
11.00am

Thursday 15th April

(3rd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15am—Midday

Saturday 17th April

Five Bells

Thai New Year Meal

Menus now available

Tuesday 20th April

Five Bells

Chelsfield Evening WI

Music 1952-2009

Visitors welcome

Wednesday 21st April

Parish Room

Internet Cafe

Beginners Welcome

From 2.30pm-4.30pm

Saturday 1st May

Five Bells

Opera Evening

Three Course Meal with live classical and popular musical songs with “The Food of Love” professional opera singers

Wednesday 5th May

Parish Room

Internet Cafe

Beginners Welcome

From 2.30pm-4.30pm

Saturday 8th May

Five Bells

65th Anniversary of VE Day

Activities throughout the day, Street Party, Wartime artifacts, 1940's Show. Come RAIN OR SHINE! All money raised will go to “HELP THE HEROES” charity

Thursday 13th May

(2nd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

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

Thursday 20th May

(3rd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15am—Midday

Thurs 27th May-Sun 30th May

Chelsfield Village Hall

A Wedding Story

by Briony Lavery

a Production by

The Chelsfield Players

8.00pm Thurs-Sat

3.00pm Sunday

Saturday 29th May

Hollybeech

Railway Open Day

See Page 7 of this issue

Phone Phil or Jayne on

01689 858634 for more

details

Sunday 30th May

Five Bells

Ade's Birthday Party

We've managed to get the duo “Farlane” back again Music starts at 9.00pm Pub closes at midnight

Saturday 12th June

Rectory Gardens

St Martins Church Fete

Saturday 12th June

Five Bells

World Cup Football England v USA

American themed night for food with the sounds of Mo-town

Friday 18th June

Five Bells

World Cup Football England v Algeria

Sunday 20th June

Five Bells

Don't Forget Dear Old DAD

Fathers Day Lunch

Saturday 10th July

Crick / Recreation Ground

Chelsfield Village Fair