



The Newsletter and
“What’s On” Guide for
Residents & Friends
of Chelsfield Village

April 2011

Easter & Royal Wedding Beer Festival at The Five Bells

GOOD FRIDAY Friday 22nd April

**Our Beer Festival starts with real ales from
across the country.**

Our Big Egg Easter Raffle draw.
Restaurant open 12 – 4. No evening service. Pub open 12
noon – 10.30pm (Sunday hours)

ST GEORGES DAY Saturday 23rd April

Pie, Mash & liquor available all day until it’s gone.

Special meal to celebrate all that’s English available in the
evening. Restaurant open 12-3pm & 6.30-9.00pm. Pub
open 11.30am-11pm

EASTER DAY Sunday 24th April

Evening entertainment with ‘live’ music from Bandanna
starting at 9.00pm. Pub closes at midnight

BANK HOLIDAY Monday 25th April

Restaurant open:12–3pm. Pub close at 7.00pm

Pre WEDDING Thursday 28th April

‘Live’ music from three different acts each doing a 45
minute set each under the heading of **The Sound House**

THE ROYAL WEDDING Friday 29th April

Come and celebrate the wedding with us and watch it on
the big screen with our fabulous offer of bacon buttie & a
glass of ‘bubbly’ all for £6. The pub will be opening at 9.30
for the special breakfast in readiness for the ceremony at
11.00am. Come and watch our future King marry the
lovely Kate.

And for the children: a drawing competition of the wed-
ding, which could be the royal horses, the cathedral, the
bride & groom etc. To be judged straight after our Street
Party which starts at 12.00pm (this will move indoors if the
weather is rubbish). BBQ 12 – 5pm. Restaurant service 12-
3pm. No evening restaurant.

In This Issue:

01959 Broadband	2
LBB Residents Fed	2
Local History Group	3
Dingbat Answers	4
Wish List Progress	5
Chelsfield Riding School	5
Biggin Hill Airport	6
Village on the Internet	6
Memorial for Carol	6
Players Review	7
Message from TFL	7
Neighbourhood Watch	8
Secretive Resident	8
History of The School	8
Memories on the Net	10
Supernatural Occurrence	10
Useful Contacts	11
Dates for Your Diary	12

Contributions PLEASE !

Contributions for our
April issue should be
emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village
BR67RN

By the 23rd April please

Visit

www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

Broadband for 01959 Numbers

Are you connected to the Knockholt telephone exchange? In that case you have an 01959 telephone number. Would you like faster broadband? If so, do not change your broadband supplier until this summer. If you do, you may be locked into a 12-18 month contract and would, therefore, miss out considering the fast broadband scheduled to arrive this summer. This broadband will be faster

than anything BT, TalkTalk etc and we expect the prices to be competitive. The reason most of us have slow broadband, or none at all, is the distance from the exchange to our homes. Broadband speed, on the telephone copper wires, is highly dependant on the distance a home is from the exchange. So, rather than move to a home closer to an exchange, the new provider will be

building the equivalent of a new telephone exchange near Hewitts roundabout. This more than halves the distance the broadband signal has to travel which can result in a 10-fold increase in broadband speed. For the latest information, go to: <http://www.crockenhillbroadband.com/>

*Phil Hobson
Well Hill Residents Assn*

Notes from LBB Residents Federation

The new MP for Beckenham, Col. Bob Stewart, attended and introduced himself as putting his country first, his constituents second and his party third. As a resident of Shortlands he said he was well aware of Bromley's problems but correctly pointed out that many local matters should be dealt with at a council level. Our MP Jo Johnson asked the delegates permission to circulate news and information to the residents'

associations. This was unanimously agreed as communication is very important to us all.

The imminent council meeting about the application to vary the terms of the Biggin Hill Airport lease was discussed. See separate article.

The closure of the railway bridge in Chislehurst Road to buses has benefited shoppers who wish to visit the Nugent Estate as the diverted route passes that way. There

have been calls to continue one of the routes to this area when the bridge works are completed. This is projected to be May 2013. Before then the bridge will be closed to all traffic.

We previously reported that Bromley Council will be introducing parking charges to country parks in the area. We have now been told that this was a mistake by the portfolio holder and there will still be free parking.

Local History Group

Appropriate to the date, Paul Rason's talk was on the March family who were a family of artists, sculptors and statue makers

The family originated from Hull where the father was a seed crusher foreman. They moved to Battersea in 1901 with their children then to Farnborough to a place formerly shown on maps as The Leys. The children were educated at Hull and South Kensington. All the family members were involved in the business; both parents and all 9 children, 7 boys and 2 girls. Only 2 of the children married with just 3 children between them. The last, Elsie, died in 1974. The family was based at a 17 roomed house called Goddendene, located next to The Princess Royal Hospital where Sainbury's has been built.

The parents died in 1904 and are buried at St Giles Church, Farnborough along with two of their sons. The grown up children continued to live and work together. Paul showed us various pho-

tographs of the house in its heyday and in its decline during its demolition in 1974. In the 7 acre grounds were three very large studios incorporating a metal foundry. The sides of the studios could be slid back so that the work could be carried out in natural daylight. They were tall enough to be used during the war for hanging up parachutes to dry.

Different members specialized in various parts of the process: carving, sculpting and casting. On display in the museum at Orpington Priory are scale models made by various members of the family. This exhibition celebrating the work of local artists is on until April. Also to be seen locally is the large plaster bust of Sir Winston Churchill on display in Bromley library, made by Elsie March.

The family worked to commission. They would prepare models and submit them in competition with other applicants. Local people were used as models. Because of the era in which they were working, many of

these commissions were for war memorials. Bromley War Memorial at Martin's Hill has statues created by Sidney March. The family also produced the war memorial at Lewes and a memorial at Sydenham to the lost soldiers who were Gas Board employees. The family received commissions from around the world. The Champlain Monument at Orillia in Canada is by Vernon March. Champlain was the founder of Quebec City. The war memorial in Cape Town South Africa was by Vernon March.

Other statues included S B Bevington, first mayor of Bermondsey, located in Tooley Street, London and two of Lord Kitchener on horseback, one of which returned from Khartoum to be located at Chatham Barracks in 1958. All these were by Sidney March. Paul showed us a photograph of one of these statues part way through its construction with Kitchener's head and the horse's lower legs missing.

By far their most impressive work was the Canadian National War Memo-

rial. In 1926 there were 127 applications tendered for this commission and 7 were selected for further examination. Models were made and a committee adjudicated, choosing the design by Vernon March. He was assisted by his 6 brothers and sister, Elsie, who completed the work after his untimely death from pneumonia in 1930. The models of the 22 figures, 7 foot 9 inches tall were first made in clay, moulds were made and the bronze cast, all in the March's studios and foundry in Farnborough. Paul showed us several photographs showing the statues in various stages of production. Many men were employed to perform the heavy labouring such as moving the statues. The work was completed in 1932 and for a time was displayed at Hyde Park. The memorial includes figures of 2 ser-

vice-women, the only ones to be found on war memorials in the whole of the North American continent. The bronzes were relocated to Ottawa in 1937 and the construction of the cenotaph com-

Those of you with the Internet can view a short movie of them at work.
<http://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=20373>

Next month: Royal wed-



Detail from the Canadian National War Memorial

pleted in 1938. The official unveiling was performed by George VI as King of Canada.

dings and other occasions. Bring along your memorabilia.

Answers to Last Month's Dingbats

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1) Potatoes | 6) Back seat driver | 11) Three blind mice |
| 2) The aftermath | 7) Undercover cop | 12) Put on weight |
| 3) Neon lights | 8) All in a day's work | 13) Six of one and half a dozen of another |
| 4) Foreign language | 9) Three piece suite | 14) Sunny side up |
| 5) Dominoes | 10) Tennis shoes | 15) Side salad |

Village Wish List Progress Report

We are at last seeing some results from our long campaign to get some improvements in the village to help with the traffic and parking problems. A 40mph speed sign on the approach to Church Road has recently been installed and seems to be more effective than the previous version. A council notice has been pub-

lished detailing the introduction of double yellow lines at the Church Road/Bucks Cross Road/Warren Road junction. We are still pressing for them at the Orlestone Gardens junction but this is delayed due to poor communication from Bromley Council. Some of you may have noticed a large excavation in Chelsfield Lane. This is

for the first of the approach gateways. Bromley Council were immediately contacted as we were concerned about the size. We have repeatedly asked for gates in proportion to the village environment but Bromley seem to operate a "one size fits all" approach. Councillor Julian Grainger assures us that our concerns have been taken into account.

Chelsfield Riding School

Recently our liveries (private horse owners) have reported a number of incidents involving other road users driving dangerously.

Church Road has in the past 5 or 6 years seen a huge increase in through traffic and most of those do not obey the speed limit.

Add to this the increase in building contractors and related delivery vehicles to building sites. These drivers do not understand about consideration to other road users and in fact are quite abu-

sive when challenged.

Has anyone any ideas or suggestions about how we can improve the situation and possibly avert a serious accident?

We have always got on well with our neighbours in the Village and the Park but due to the recent spate of properties being redeveloped we no longer have that rapport with some of the locals.

Thank you to local motorists who drive considerately around horseriders.

May we take the opportunity to invite our neigh-

bours to call in and introduce themselves.

Events:
April 3rd is Dressage
April 22nd Showjumping,
May 8th is Dressage.

Come and see for yourselves and experience Chelsfield Time!

CHELSFIELD
EQUESTRIAN CENTRE,
CHURCH ROAD,
CHELSFIELD, BR6 7SN
TELEPHONE
01689 855603

www.chelsfieldequestriancentre.co.uk

Council Meeting - Biggin Hill Airport

There were many eloquent statements made by Ward Councillors that clearly outlined the case in support of the residents of the borough.

The questions that have been previously submitted from Council members and members of the public were not chaired in a reasonable and democratic manner for the supplementary questions from members of the public.

The motion Council debated was put by Councillor Fawthrop - being against the amendment

requested by BHAL.

The results of the 54 Council Members present were :

For the motion 37

Against the motion 08

Members Abstained 10

Therefore, a clear majority against any change in the lease.

However, this had to be confirmed by the Executive Committee of the Council at a separate meeting held directly afterwards.

At the Executive Commit-

tee all the 8 Council members spoke against the amendment of the lease and the Chair (Councillor Carr) concluded that there was no case, therefore, for any alteration to the lease. Confirmation that the lease will stand unaltered.

The point was made very clearly, however, that the terms of the lease having an unexpired term in excess of 100 years will no doubt be revisited on many future occasions - to assume less would be rather foolish.

Letter on Access of Our Village News on the Internet

I was interested to see in last month's newsletter (March) that someone from the Netherlands searching for on the Internet for a Bernard Tritton (who happened to be mentioned in the Decem-

ber VV), found our newsletter. This resulted in them giving us their memories of a Bernard Tritton that they had known. So now once uploaded to the Chelsfield events website, the

Village Voice can be 'Googled', for any phrase or text that it contains, and should become a permanent record available world wide.

Peter Gandolfi

Carol Margetts - Memorial

Anne Mead has suggested that we should commemorate Carol Margetts with a permanent

memorial and received a very positive response to this idea. Those of you who remember Carol will

have the opportunity to make a contribution. There will be more details in the next issue.

Review of Chelsfield Players Production

“Six Characters in Search of an Author “

When I found I was having difficulty in understanding the Director’s programme notes, I knew that it was going to be hard work for me! Some quotes are: “fractured reality”, “holding a mirror up to nature”, “challenges us to examine how we view reality”. Despite this disconcerting introduction the play was gripping throughout. Although the programme suggested a great deal of humour, I and the rest of the audience seemed miss this aspect.

This play, by Luigi Pirandello, was first written in 1921. This version by Ben Power is brought right up to date, and includes topical issues. As the play progresses we

are shown that fiction can be more real than any reality, reality changes but fiction stays eternal. Once a character’s story is told, they take on a life of their own.

A group producing a Docu Soap (or was it a Drama Documentary) on assisted suicide, are surprised by the sudden appearance of a strange family of six claiming to be fictional characters, with their own problems and story to tell. Are these imaginary or real, and what is reality?

Clever use was made of a large TV screen to show live video produced on and off stage (or was it live?) and during scene changes.

Our perception of reality was further challenged when the director re-ran parts of the play, like a

recording with comments about Bromley Little Theatre. Obviously not in the original!

Particularly worthy of mention are Glen Aylott and Lana Beckwith playing the roles of The Father and The Producer respectively. This was a strong, thought provoking play, and certainly challenging for the audience as well as for the cast who succeeded admirably, leaving most of us stunned into silence at the end.

This play is the Chelsfield Players entry for the Bromley Theatre Guild Festival 2011.

“Reality is that which when you stop believing in it, doesn’t go away” – Philip K Dick

A view from the stalls

Message From Transport for London

I am writing to let you know that motorcycles can currently use most bus lanes on London’s

Red Routes as part of a trial period ending 23 January 2012. If you drive in London,

please look out for motorcycles when turning across bus lanes as they can be hard to spot.

Neighbourhood Watch

Green Thumb Tree Care. You may receive enquiries from residents concerning this company. They have been delivering their card through doors in the Bromley.

The card includes the Bromley splash logo. We have spoken to the trader who appears to reside in a local travellers site and

whilst he has given assurances that the card will be withdrawn we have received reports that it is still being put through doors in Bromley.

I have prepared a press release which I hope to get in to next weeks local papers advising our residents that this company is not connected to us or indeed

to Green Thumb Lawn Treatment Services who are based in Hastings Road. They too have received enquiries from consumers asking if they are the same trader.

Please refer any enquiries to the rapid response number below.

07903 852090

A Meeting with a Secretive Local Resident

I know that we live in a rural area, and that we have a number of badger setts very close to the village, but these animals are very elusive and hardly ever seen, although I hear from our allotment colleagues that they have recently developed a taste for root vegetables. They have been helping them-

selves to these and are difficult to discourage.

Until recently I have never seen a live Badger in the village. Occasionally one would be spotted on the verge coming home at night near Tripes farm where there is a sett nearby. I was surprised last week to see the character-

istic loping shaggy body of one walking down Warren Road as I drove into the village. As I passed Little Lillys, it stopped in the entrance (to let me pass!) and turned showing its distinctive black and white markings on its head. Has anyone else seen these other residents in the village?

An Early History of Chelsfield Village School - Part 3

The situation in the Chelsfield Village area from 1864 until around the last War, was that of a local Village School with generation upon generation of local families whose children needed education. During this long period of Chelsfield history (and for generations before that time) the main sources of employ-

ment for inhabitants were local farms and the three or four large Family Houses and associated Estates that employed considerable numbers of staff e.g. The Court Lodge, Chelsfield House and The Waring Estate (Lord of the Manor). Family incomes from these sources of employment

were low and great care, ingenuity and sheer hard work were the only means of getting by in life for most Chelsfield residents. In terms of weekly income and financial status the majority of families around Chelsfield up until at least the early 1940s could be described as "poor", but I emphasise that

this word is used only from a financial aspect. I certainly would not wish to give offence by implying that "poor" meant lacking in care, love etc. - only in relation to family income. Another term used at that period until more recent times to describe Chelsfield residents has been "working class". Against this background Chelsfield Village School was established in 1864 and has endeavoured to meet the needs of generations of local children up to the present day.

Even though the children entering the Village School for the greater part of its existence have mainly come from financially "poor" backgrounds, the education given to them has certainly not been "poor" even in the very early days of the School's history. On the contrary, the standards of literacy and numeracy achieved have been good. In the 1920s/30s the quality of education given enabled some local pupils to gain Scholarships to continue their education at other Establishments further afield such as Bromley Grammar School for Girls. This opportunity was available only after passing entrance examinations but unfortunately it was not possible in many cases

simply from the point of view of family income even if examination success was likely. However, I feel that the standard of education at this small, Village School which enabled such success for some pupils should be emphasised and put on record when endeavours are being made to chronicle the School's history. It so happens that my Father (Edmund Marietta) attended the Village School at the same time as several of the successful Scholarship pupils and I have always been most aware of his neat handwriting even into old age, correct spelling, good arithmetic ability and overall interest in the world and current affairs throughout his long life. I am sure that like other contemporaries this must have arisen from his education at Chelsfield Village School in the 1920s. I am sure that many other readers can also verify the neatness of handwriting, correct spelling, grammar, precise arithmetic and much more which have been indicative of elderly relatives and friends educated at Chelsfield Village School in the 1920s/30s or even earlier. Despite coming from "poor" households the basic education at the Village School was very thorough indeed and lasted a

lifetime.

Perhaps at this point I could link these thoughts to the many group photographs taken of Chelsfield Village School pupils in years long past. The boys and girls in early photographs frequently look downcast and dishevelled in appearance (probably they were not keen on having the photograph taken in the first place!). The "poor" appearance of many of the pupils certainly belies the level of their educational abilities now evident from the talents shown later in their lives and achievements. The old adage "every picture tells a story" certainly has a new meaning as far as I am concerned since I now realise that appearances in these School photographs are very deceptive when the real story of their lives unfolds! (I am sure that Philip Lane will be pleased at this sudden discovery!).

During the early years of Chelsfield Village School's history, right up until the 1939/45 War children certainly received a very thorough and wide-ranging education that equipped each individual well for the working life which followed. In the period up to around 1900, children who did have some formal education often left at

11 years of age to start earning much needed money to help support their parents and siblings. At this time "free" education as a right did not exist, and a fee was charged each week. My mother, Vera, recalls that an elderly resident called "Tinker" Thomas - who lived in Pecks Cottages, Church Road - once remarked that he had gone to the Village School and had paid 1d a week to do so! In later years the Village School was funded on a structured basis through local rates

passed on to the Kent Education Authority and families were required by Law to send children to School from 4/5 years of age until at least 14 years of age. If children missed attendance for more than about two days, a School Inspector would make a visit to the home concerned in order to find out the reason for absence. My Mother, Vera, remembers that from time to time the three young "Parkes" children then living at the Rock and Fountain Public House on Well Hill would

stay at home in order to assist Bert and Gladys Parkes with a particularly urgent piece of radio construction work to meet an order deadline. On one such occasion the three children were in a back room making rather a noise when the Inspector - called Mr. Quince - arrived to enquire about absence from School. He was advised by Gladys Parkes (with the din in the background) that unfortunately the children were unwell - "Sounds like it!" - came the memorable reply.

Carol Margrett

More Chelsfield Memories Found on Internet

Purely by accident another website with Chelsfield memories was found.

This website is run by Barry Marchant, who was brought up in Chelsfield, and consists of his memories and humour. Below is a short quote from his site.

Do any residents remember him?

<http://homepage.mac.com/barrybloke/contents.html>

"I went today to Chelsfield, the village where I was born, just to have a look around and to satisfy myself that the residents were taking care of the place in my absence. Having parked the car on the Five Bells car

park I set out on a short tour of the area. As I walked along Skibbs Lane I passed what in my youth had been the blacksmiths forge. A large notice on the building offered the advice 'Lockyer Motors'. I went back to my parking place to make sure, but everything was secure!"

Super Natural Occurrences at Bucks Cross

Dear Residents, - *Early History of Chelsfield School Part 2 - a small typo* - It's Cox's Magna Britannia, I think, rather than Loxes Magna. 3 and 4 Bucks Cross Cottages was, I

think, known as "Kidders" and as your article states, was a school in 1720. As you may know the attic room runs the whole length of the house. What is interesting is that the whole

house was haunted until Janet arrived! Apart from that, the sitting room and Janet's back bedroom had bolts on the **outside** of the rooms (to keep people / children in) and also port-

holes to observe the inmates (photos available on request).

A more recent phenomenon was that when I made a sign of "The School Room" and placed it in the attic room - at about 1.30am, the clock in the sitting room downstairs struck three. This was an old Victorian clock that had not been wound up for more than six months. I was alarmed by this, but no-one else I men-

tioned it to took any notice.

Until that was, Peter White attended one of my Christmas Parties with his daughter, Joanna, and her husband Wayne (he's Australian)

Joanna, on entering the house immediately showed (obvious) signs of discomfort. We spoke in the kitchen - what is it? Oh! I really don't like that front room - I felt as if I was under exami-

nation by the Headmistress! Most Uncomfortable! Wayns & Joanna left.

Later, Wayne chucked in an observation about the clock striking three, "it's the time school comes out, isn't it?"

.....The plot thickens

Local observations welcomed

Chris Parsons

Ps. many more ghostly observations/comments on request!

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

Chelsfield Village Hall (bookings)

01689 855617

Village Neighbourhood Watch

Contact

John Leach 07711304965



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
(not 12th & 19th April)
Brass Crosby Room
**St Martin's Toddler
Group**

10.30am-12.00 midday
Contact Sarah Ford:
01689 853415

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

EVERY THURSDAY
St Martin of Tours Church
Viva Acappella
Ladies Barbershop Chorus
Practice
Contact Helen 07984
961696

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday 14th April
(2nd Thursday Each
Month)
Brass Crosby Room
Crafts For All
Come and Try Your Hand at
a Range of Crafts
11.00am

Wednesday 20th April
(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane
**Internet Cafe & Local
History Transcription**
2.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 20th April
The Five Bells
Open Mic Night
Starts 8.30pm

Thursday 21st April
(3rd Thursday each
month)
Brass Crosby Room
Local History Group
10.15 - Midday

**Friday 22nd April-Monday
2nd May**
The Five Bells
**Easter & Royal
Wedding Beer
Festival**

**Bank Holiday Monday 2nd
May**

The Five Bells
Poker Day
Pub Closes at 7.00pm

Wednesday 4th May
(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane
**Internet Cafe & Local
History Transcription**
2.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 4th May
The Five Bells
Open Mic Night
Starts 8.30pm

Thursday 5th May
The Five Bells
Jazz Night
Just Friends Swing Sextet
Starts 8.30pm

Friday 13th May
The Five Bells
**Whoops What a
Date!**
Ray Rich Band
Starts 9.00pm (pub closes
midnight)

Sunday 5th June
The Rectory—Skibbs Lane
Big Lunch

Saturday 11th June
The Rectory—Skibbs Lane
**St Martins
Church Fete**

Saturday 9th July
Cricket Field
**Chelsfield Village
Fair**

THE BIG ONE!