

KAY & ADE CELEBRATE 4 YEARS AT FIVE BELLS



On Saturday 22nd August Kay and Ade will be celebrating their 4th anniversary as landlords of the Five Bells, and to mark the occasion it's party night at the pub.

At 8.00pm there will be a presentation to them by the Chair of CAMRA SE London, this is to confirm their winning vote as “Pub of the Season”.

This will be followed at 9.00pm with one of the

pubs favourite rock bands DUPE (to see more info on DUPE go to: www.duperock.com)

Everyone is welcome to come and join the party, there will be complimentary party snacks to keep you all going!

We all wish Kay and Ade great thanks for providing us with such a welcoming local, with one of the best restaurants in the area!

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CONTRIBUTIONS

PLEASE !

If have an event, a story, an amusing experience, anything, tell us, this newsletter is your voice to speak to the village.

Contributions should be emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village
Kent
BR6 7RN

Chelsfield Village Internet Cafe

This inaugural event took place on Wednesday 22nd July, and help was given to a number of residents needing help with using their laptops. The event was considered by those attending to be successful.

It is intended to run these

every two weeks, with the next booked for Wednesday 19th August 2:30-4:30pm.

The aim is to provide computer help and Internet access for those local residents wishing to learn more about this technology, or to help

them with their problems. Refreshments will be available. All equipment will be provided, or bring your own, or alternatively just come along for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

See you there!

Join Us - Orienteering in Downe

At 11am on Saturday 26th September almost 100 people will be running across one of Kent's least known wartime relics.

The first event of the 09/10 Kent Orienteering League will be at Downe activity centre (scout camp) near Biggin Hill. The area is particularly suitable for anyone wishing to try the sport as it's a small area with plenty of paths for the short course. It will therefore be hard to get lost on the short course. The event will also help celebrate the scout camps 80th birthday.

Competitors on the medium and long courses will search for controls in the many world war 2 bomb craters within the woods. Why so many craters? When you look at the map you will see lines of craters pointing in

only one direction – the airfield next door.

Orienteering is an outdoor adventure sport. The aim is to navigate between control points marked on a map to complete the course in the quickest time. It does not matter how young, old or fit you are, as you can run, walk or jog the course and progress at your own pace. Beginners can enter by registering in the main car park between 11.00 and 12.00. Check our website www.dfok.co.uk for further details and any changes. Basic instruction and equipment are provided, no map reading experience is necessary.

Entry fees for Kent Orienteering League events are £4 adults/ £1 juniors/£8 family. You don't need any special kit to begin with.

*Sean Cronin
(Coach, Dartford Orienteering Club).*



Sean at Shooters Hill, studies the route to the next control

Lady Windermere' Fan - Review

Review of the Chelsfield Players production of Lady Windermere's Fan

This has always been one of my favourite Wilde plays, containing some memorable dialogue including 'a Cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing' and of course 'I can resist anything except temptation' and so many more. A new one to me was 'London is too full of fogs and serious people'

Like many of Wilde's comedies, it's a satire on the morals of Victorian society, marriage and relationships.

The story concerns Lady Windermere who discovers that her husband may be having an affair, and confronts him, but he instead invites the other woman, Mrs Erlynne, to his wife's birthday ball. Lady W's fan, a birthday present from her husband, becomes the prop by which she is almost ruined and then ultimately saved, and Mrs Erlynne captures a

wealthy new husband. All a bit like a modern pantomime really. And – oh yes - Mrs Erlynne and Lady W share a secret that Lady W must not know. (Mrs Erlynne is Lady W's mother).

The Village Hall was privileged to host the premier of this production which is being taken to the Edinburgh Festival, which is one up for Chelsfield!

Not one of Wilde's easier plays to stage, the Chelsfield Players did it proud. The play held our attention throughout with generally excellent casting and believable characterisation, especially the three main female roles, Lady W (Lana Beckwith), Mrs Erlynne (Emily Edmunds) portraying a very callous lady with a compassionate side and the Duchess (Judy Ives) who seemed to get many of the best lines.

Newcomer Mike Wortley, in the role of Lord W portrayed the awkwardness of his situation like a true Victorian gentleman. The costumes (by Lestrine

Wishart) were good, especially in the ball scene. The scene changes were slick as usual, accompanied by Philip Lane's appropriate original music. A lot of work had obviously gone into the production. It must have been a real squash behind the stage to accommodate all the cast in the ball scene. I don't think I have seen so many actors on the village hall stage before!

The scene in Darlington's rooms when all the men return from the Club and gossip about all sorts of events past and present, and Lady W is saved by Mrs E was convincing and enjoyable. In all a good evening's entertainment, a play in which the morals are as relevant today as 100 years ago, and we do like happy endings!

Review by members of the audience

Please keep a watch on the Village Voice "Dates for Your Diary" for future Chelsfield Players Productions

Result of Village Walk with Councillor Julian Grainger

A village society sub committee met Councillor Julian Grainger recently 'on site' to discuss some of the village traffic problems.

White 'gateways' to the village

At a recent CVS meeting, it was suggested that these could be desirable to mark the main entrances of the village (see the last VV). He agreed that these would give drivers the message that they were entering a vulnerable area, and that these would be a cost effective option. Suitable locations were identified.

Methods of slowing cars through village

The introduction of traffic slowing measures such as chicanes were discussed, but due to their expense he favoured road surface treatments such as the use of cobbles to slow vehicles down by encouraging them to take a smoother, less direct route. The introduction of an advisory 20mph speed limit in Warren Road with associated signage such as narrow road was suggested.

Solutions for Warren Road/Court Road junction

Any road engineering improvements along Court Rd

would be funded by Transport for London.

Seeing the junction during a busy period, Julian did agree that measures would help. Although a roundabout would be an ideal solution, this would probably be considered too expensive. He considered that there was enough space around the junction to allow it to be widened. This would then allow for a central refuge to help those crossing straight over or turning right within the junction. The refuge could be protected by bollards to make it safer. The widening of the Warren Road junction would allow for two exit lanes out of Warren Road from the direction of the station, and cut down on congestion at busy times.

Parking

Some progress is being made regarding a potential car park in the village. The use of part of a field as a village/school car park is being investigated. However, ownership of the field and planning permission for change of use was critical. Julian thought that it may stand more chance of success if village events that at present use this and other fields as overflow parking help fund this project by

charging a fee to support it. Possible funds could come from several sources such as safer travel to school initiatives.

Parking on corners and use of yellow lines

Some corners at junctions were identified as candidates for double yellow lines as sightlines were obscured by inconsiderate parking. A site for possible permitted two wheel pavement parking was identified to make the way easier for the buses. The provision of residents' only parking areas was discussed but it would cost residents in the restricted area £40-£50 a year for a permit.

For those of us that use the Windsor Drive shops and find the 13:00 – 14:00 parking restriction annoying, Julian said that there was no reason why both sides of Windsor Drive should not have a different hour of parking restriction, allowing for an overlap so that residents could park and use the shops around lunch-time. This had been considered previously, but as yet with no action. He suggested that we write/email to Councillor Colin Smith, who was dealing with this problem.

Letters

Dear Sirs,

I read in the July edition of the Village Voice that the police who attended the SNT meeting on 14th June did not consider traffic and parking problems in Chelsfield Village to be a police matter. They referred these subjects back to the council for consideration and clearly did not wish to become involved. I find this attitude really disgraceful and unacceptable. No wonder not

many residents feel it worthwhile meeting the police while this response is made to such important issues in Chelsfield.

Living in the centre of the village I see the huge volume of vehicles passing through every day and the issues also attached for pedestrians moving around. I marvel and feel thankful that in the village itself traffic incidents are rare but, of course, this has not been

the case nearby at the Court Road junctions with numerous fatalities.

I do feel that the police should be prepared to discuss and endeavour to assist in improving the current dangerous state of affairs. It is complicated and difficult, but deliberately avoiding getting involved is not acceptable in my opinion.

Yours faithfully

Carol Margetts (Miss)

Recent Accidents

Another serious road accident occurred on Saturday 11th July (the day of the fair) along Court Road just after the entrance of the golf club and heading into Orping-

ton. A car suffered severe damage resulting in the emergency services being called, and from the look of the wreck, the roof had to be cut off to get to the occupants. If

any details are known, could these please be passed on to the Village Voice for the village records.

Traffic in Chelsfield Lane

The verges in Chelsfield Lane are being eroded by heavy goods vehicles and coaches. Problems with passing are common.

This seems to be a new

phenomenon, caused, perhaps, by the use of satellite navigation devices.

Vehicles have been reported to the company owners but some sort of

restriction may be needed as the current signage is ineffective.

Please let us know if this problem is occurring anywhere else in the area, and if it needs action.

Bird Box Update

My last article to the 'Voice', about blue tits nesting in a box fitted with a camera, was sent on the 12th May and at that time the chicks were putting on weight quickly and developing the first tufts of feathers on their heads and along their backs. A few days later the chicks had become very active and along with their increased size, nights were becoming very difficult for the mother. She does however, make the task difficult for herself as she will often, for no apparent reason, decide to dive down into the bottom of the nest to ferret about for faecal sacks and cause all of the chicks to wake up and start moving around again. This was not smart as the nights were becoming increasingly difficult and the mother was constantly being disturbed by the movement below her and frequently abandoned the pile of writhing chicks for a bit of peace and quite by roosting to the side of the nest. However, within

minutes the mothering instinct kicked back in and she returned to the constant turmoil of the clutch. I'm sure there are mothers out there who know the feeling of a conflict of interest!

At about this time I noticed one of the parents feeding the brood and then attempt to fly to the exit hole only to fail to gain any purchase and fall back to the nest. This bird repeated this manoeuvre about four more times before successfully achieving its goal. I didn't see this happen again during the whole nesting episode and can only think that this bird was suffering from temporary exhaustion and consequently disorientation.

By the 17th May the chick's feathers were developing nicely. During a heavy downpour of rain, the mother returned to the nest and simply sat out the deluge protecting her brood, using the opportunity to preen her feathers which by now

had become very ragged. Within a day or two the chicks had begun to preen, flap their wings (without regard to who was getting a good thrashing) and move to the edge of the nest which is was now becoming a little too small for them.

A few days later some of the chicks were apparently beginning to get some ability to see as one or two often left the nest bowl and sit facing the hole in the box wall. They begin squeaking furiously whenever a parent came to the hole but seemed to fail to realise that the provider of all things creepy crawly had flown over their heads to the nest behind them! The parents seem to have a means of keeping all of the chicks well fed by avoiding the most aggressive chicks and preferring the less developed chicks to the rear of the clutch.

On the 21st May I noticed a few blue-bottle flies

around the nest and while watching, saw the mother drag a dead chick from the bottom of the nest and try to remove it from the box. After a couple of unsuccessful attempts the mother left the corpse to one side but for a couple of nights dragged it back into the nest bowl: presumably to keep it warm during the cold nights! After this the corpse was left permanently to one side.

Two days later some of the chicks were able to fly to the box hole and inspect the World they would soon be competing in for survival. This perch has its advantages as the parents would simply feed the chick without entering the box. Clearly the chicks would be fledging soon.

On the Bank holiday Monday, at about 9 am, I turned on the TV to find

that all but one chick had fledged. However, this chick did not seem to be overly active and I notice that over an hour the parents come back to feed it twice: but then nothing. It became increasingly clear that the runt has been deserted and as time passed it becomes less and less active. Clearly the parents had decided that tutoring the healthiest chicks was a better option than trying to save a runt that may not make it anyway. This is one of the problems associated with a camera in a bird box. One can merely be an observer of nature, red in tooth and claw. It was impractical to image that I could 'save' the last remaining chick as it looked as if it was four or five days from fledging and what was I supposed to do: teach it to find grubs and fly? The chick died that eve-

ning.

So, in summary, nine eggs were hatched. One chick died half way through the brooding phase and one was abandoned. Six successfully flew from the nest and one was officially recorded as going AWOL. Possibly it had died and had been removed without me knowing from the nest early on.

The whole process from the start of nest building to fledging had taken approximately 50 days. Although it was a tad disconcerting to have the runt left behind, the whole process was an education and I can now definitely recognise the call of a blue tit which I had always found to be somewhat difficult prior to this adventure.

Steve Fuller

Trip to Biggin Hill

Biggin Hill airport is often in the news at the moment, and it is planned to

arrange a visit to tour the airport in the near future. If any residents are inter-

ested in coming along, please contact CVS or the VV.

Borough News

Rogue traders and doorstep crime

Elderly and vulnerable residents are increasingly targeted by 'Rogue Traders'. These so called 'builders' make uninvited visits to houses offering to carry out building repairs. They can be very persuasive and often wish to be paid cash in hand. Often there is nothing wrong with the property and these 'builders' are no more than conmen. Bromley residents are urged to say no to any such cold calls and to look out for any neighbour who may have become a victim. If an urgent response is required please call the rapid response team on 07903 852090. Information can also be found at www.bromley.gov.uk under Trading Standards

Contact: 0208 313 4785 or email trading_standards@bromley.gov.uk

Staying Put' scheme

The Staying Put Scheme assists over 60s to remain in their own home. If the property is in need of repair the team gives: help and advice about the work that needs to be carried out; advice on Council grants/ completion of application forms; help finding a builder, and carrying out inspections when the work has been completed. This assistance is given whether the work is grant aided or privately funded. www.bromley.gov.uk/housing/housinggrants Contact: 020 8313 4222 or email janet.dangerfield@bromley.gov.uk

Celebrating Outdoor Bromley

Outdoor Bromley is an event showcasing the activities and organisations that use the borough's vast number of green spaces, whether for sport, recreation, conservation, education, walking or just simply enjoying the outdoors. This family event will start at 11am on Saturday 12 September in Queens Garden, behind the Glades Shopping Centre in Bromley. There will be stalls, activities and demonstrations for all ages to participate. Entrance is free. For further details visit www.bromley.gov.uk/celebratebromley Contact: 020 8313 4471 or email celebrate.bromley@bromley.gov.uk

Report of CVS Stall at Summer Fair

The Village Society stall raised a sum of £205.50.

Many thanks to the 11 people who donated bottles and the stall manning team of Bill, Pam,

John, Jenny and Catherine.

This sum will go some way towards covering the production costs of the Village Voice. With a

circulation of around 200 it is a shame that more people did not feel able to support our fund raising activity.

Shoreham Aircraft Museum

The Shoreham Aircraft Museum in the nearby village of Shoreham, was founded by local enthusiasts, with a passion for the Battle of Britain period. Not to be confused with the West Sussex airfield of the same name, this small museum houses well presented displays of hundreds of aviation relics excavated by the group over many years from crashed British and German aircraft, as well as items which have been kindly donated. Artifacts are carefully arranged to support items recovered from various aviation archeology 'digs' in the area, and displays are added to and changed regularly, making a second visit worthwhile.

The Museum serves as a lasting tribute to all those airmen who fought in the skies over southern England during World War II.

The Museum has a tea room, serving home-made cakes and refreshments, which also doubles as a gallery for aviation art prints and paintings by Geoff Nutkins one of the founding members of the museum.

The museum is open every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from Easter until the end of September. Opening hours: 10.00am - 5.00pm
 Entry charges: Adults: £3.00
 Children: £1.00 children under 10 free

In 2006, the Museum decided to erect permanent memorials to all those Battle of Britain pilots who lost their lives within a ten miles radius of Shoreham.

The fourth memorial was dedicated to Sergeant John Ellis of No.85 Squadron on Saturday 17th May 2008 alongside Warren Road in Chelsfield, Kent. It was on the afternoon of Sunday 1st September 1940 that Sgt Ellis, better known as 'Hugh' fell from combat high above Orpington. He was listed as 'missing' and it was not until 1993 that his subsequently recovered remains were positively identified. The memorial stone, next to the view point on Chelsfield green and adjacent to Court Lodge Farm, overlooks the field where Hawker Hurricane P2673 drilled itself and the forever young 'Hugh' into the Kent soil. The memorial service took place in the pouring rain, but the rotten weather did not stop over 200 hundred people attending to remember a brave RAF pilot who gave all he

had to give.

The museum makes an excellent Sunday walk from Chelsfield Village and comes highly recommended. The walk is around 3.5 miles each way, and a good way to build up an appetite for the tea room, or one of Shoreham's many pubs.

From the village walk up over Well Hill, and at the top, turn right down Well Hill Lane. Continue along the track then footpath, through woodland, past the mobile phone mast and over the very airy footpath bridge over the M25 feeder road. After the bridge the footpath bears right through Hollows wood and in about 300 metres meets Chelsfield Lane. Turn left and follow the road down under the M25 and to a junction with Shacklands Road. Turn Left and in a few metres, take the footpath on the right over the field and heading over the ridge ahead. At the top of the ridge you will see Shoreham below you ahead, and on the left, the large white cross marked on the hillside.

It is recommended that these directions are supported by a map for this walk

Do any residents have any favourite walks in the area that they can share? Please send details to VV.



Chelsfield on "Flickr"

Chelsfield now has its own group on the photo sharing website Flickr.

If you have a contemporary photograph taken in the village or feel the urge to go out and take a photograph that has a connection with the village, why not add them to this group? Pictures do not necessarily have to be "of" places in the village (or the surrounding area), but could be of any activity which is

part of village life. Its not intended for pictures of times gone by, I think that is catered for elsewhere.

The idea would be to build up a picture (pun acknowledged) of Chelsfield, people and places. The group can be found at

www.flickr.com/groups/a-view-of-chelsfield/

and is called "Chelsfield (and the bits nearby)". It is necessary to open an

account with Flickr but this is painless - and free. It is then a simple case of uploading photos to your account and then adding them to the Chelsfield group.

The number of photos which may be added is restricted to two per month, the idea being that only the best are added. "

Graham Stead

Orpington Town Centre Plans

Plans for this £2million plus scheme were available to view for a short period in an empty shop unit in The Walnuts. As usual, the residents of Chelsfield Village did not receive any notification but a small item was in the News Shopper.

Council employees were on hand and a book for comments was provided. The High Street make-over includes:

Improvements to the street scene by using high quality coloured block paving with new contemporary street furniture, including some

tree planting and reducing 'street clutter'.

Improved pedestrian facilities through wider pavements and raised crossing points.

Improved parking facilities by introducing more parking bays.

As part of the plan to reduce street clutter, a new style 'restricted parking' zone will be introduced.

In restricted parking zones, motorists can only park or stop in marked bays. Yellow lines and signs are not required but if a motorist stops and is not parked within

a bay, they could receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). As well as improving safety, the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit will mean there is less need for other road markings and signs. The removal of a lot of the signs and lines should make the High Street more visually attractive.

The cost of the scheme is estimated to be in excess of £2 million and the work should be complete in summer 2010. Further information is available at www.bromley.gov.uk/

Neighbourhood Watch Update

Well Hill - Theft of a dog for which the owner had to pay a large reward/ ransom to get the animal back.

Eynsford - Three burglaries and a car were stolen on Saturday 4th July and on the same day there was a 'Traveller Incursion' at Eynsford Castle.

Chelsfield Village - Barbed wire was found to have been cut (in a field with no public access)

causing a horse in the field to get badly cut. Reported to Safer Neighbourhood Team and injury dealt with by the owner.

Wheel nuts loosened on a car parked in the village, resulting in a wheel coming off on the M25 and a near fatal car accident.

A number of residents have noticed 'White vans' cruising slowly through the village, showing an

unhealthy interest in the property either side. The advice from the SNT is to take the registration number and report to the SNT who can make checks.

Don't forget if you see anyone behaving suspiciously, call the police 999 if a crime is in progress, or in other cases - Orpington Police Station 0300 1231212 or Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 8721 2605.

Free Tours of the Olympic Park

Local community groups and residents are being offered the chance to look around the new Olympic Park site and the home of the Olympic Arena being built in Stratford. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is running free bus tours of the site. During the hour-long trip, visitors can see the major venues including the Olympic Stadium and Aquatics Centre taking shape and learn

about the environmental and community programmes running on the Olympic Park.

Tours run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 6pm and on Saturdays and Sundays at 10am, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3pm.

You can book tours up to three months in advance by calling the booking line on 0300 2012 001.

The booking line is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Visitors over the age of 16 must present valid photographic identification (valid passport or driver's licence) on the day of the visit. Access to the site will be denied if this identification is not produced.

Hopefully a report will be included in the next VV.

Festival of Wildlife August 15th & 16th

With over 2000 visitors in 2008, this year's Festival of Wildlife at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve promises to be even bigger. This free family

fun weekend offers visitors plenty to do with family entertainment, live music, guided walks, wildlife photography sessions, family

activities including small mammal identification and bug hunting and a "Best of Kent" trade area. For further details visit



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat/Sun 15th/16th

August

Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve

Festival of Wildlife (see Page 15)

Sat 22nd August

Five Bells

Party (see Front Cover)

Sat 29th August

Five Bells

The Wild West comes to Chelsfield in the way of a Bucking Bronco and BBQ night. The fun starts at 6.30. Children from the age of 10 years may ride the Bucking Bronco

Wed 2nd September

Vernon Hall High St St Mary Cray BR5 4AX

Weekly Country Market starts (Morning)

Saturday 19th Sept

Chelsfield Village Hall

Chelsfield & Well Hill Produce Show. For Schedule of classes

please contact:

Catherine 01689 831826 or Chris 01959 535022

Sat 26th September

Downe Activity Centre (Scout Camp)

Orienteering (See page 2 for more details)

Sat/Sun 17/18th Oct

Chelsfield Village Hall

Philip Lane's Annual Chelsfield Historical Photo Show

Tuesday 3rd Nov

Brass Crosby Room

Chelsfield Village Society AGM followed by an illustrated talk

Wed 18th Thur 19th

Fri 20th & Sat 21st

November

Chelsfield Village Hall

Chelsfield Players present Time and The Conways" by JB Priestley

Dog Owners Register

The basic idea is to get details of both dog and owner. This means that if a dog is lost and we find it on the dog register it will be easier for us to return it. Also if we know where people walk their dogs on a regular basis we can e-mail them if dogs go missing in that area or if another incident has occurred and we need more information. Below is the form to sign up to the dog register. This should be sent to:

David Lillywhite 49 High Street Green Street Green Orpington Kent BR66BG.

Owners Name				
Address				
Contact No.				
E-Mail				
Dogs Name				
Breed		Dog/Bitch		
Age		Colour		
Chip	Tag	Tattoo	Collar	Muzzle
Insured				
Walked location / time(s)				