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Sunday 28th August 2011



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Contributions PLEASE !

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to:
 Chelsfield Village Voice
 2 Bucks Cross Cottages
 Chelsfield Village
 BR67RN

By the 27th August
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Sparrowhawks

I've decided to offer occasional pieces for the Village Voice based on the wildlife that I have seen around the village over the years. My first offering is on the Sparrowhawk, a bird which many probably do not realise frequents the area. This bird of prey at first glance can often be mistaken as a pigeon but is a far more handsome bird mixing grey, brown and white plumage. In the 60's it was almost killed off in Britain completely by the use of pesticides but since the banning of the worst of these, the species has repopulated the country making big inroads into the east of the country especially.

My first sighting of a sparrowhawk in the village must have been 15 to 20 years ago when I saw from my bedroom window a bird travelling along Maypole Rd below hedge height at maybe 30 to 40 mph. As it approached level with my house it suddenly rose above the hedge and down the other side into a

flock of starlings feeding on spilt seed. I can't say what exactly happened next as there were so many birds in flight that I lost sight of the sparrowhawk but I think the chances of a successful kill must have been very high. Since then I have seen and heard reports of sparrowhawks from Jubille Rd to Worlds End Lane. The current incumbants in the area particularly like to make flying visits to bird feeders. They will often be seen making a speculative visit by entering a garden at breakneck speed taking any feeding birds unawares. I imagine the sparrowhawks treat the feeds as 'fast food' outlets and do the rounds of most of the feeders in the area. Only last year from my own garden I saw what I thought was a pigeon making a clumsy landing in a tree only to realise that it was leaving with a small bird (probably a tit) in its claws and realised that Chalk Row Cottage gardens had just had a

visitation ! Since then I have regularly seen it sitting nonchalantly on feeders and even using a bird bath. However, the certain giveaway that a sparrowhawk is in the area is the sudden silence that falls over a garden. Along with the silence is a complete lack of bird movement. Every bird hunkers down waiting for the sparrowhawk to get bored and move on.

The fact that the sparrowhawk has a preference for bird feeder cuisine seems to make this bird one which is not on the Christmas list of most bird fanciers. Clearly the sparrowhawk will take a number of birds but we don't seem to mind if it's a Kestrel taking a mouse or vole. As a keen 'birder' myself I think that this is a small price to pay to see such an elegant, quick witted and relentless killer do what it does best once in a while.

My neighbour took this photo in the gardens of Chalk Row Cottages.

Steve Fuller



Review of 'Love in a Mist' Chelsfield Players

Blame my naivety, but I did think, when I saw this play advertised, written by Kenneth Horne, that this may well be the Kenneth Horne of the Radio, a generation ago, and may follow the 'I'm Jules and this is my friend Sandy' humour that he was known for.

However the programme put me right on this, it was a different Kenneth Horne entirely, a contemporary of Noel Coward, but still a worthwhile play, evocative of the Coward period, with elements of comedy, dra-

ma and romance.

Two couples seek shelter in a remote farmhouse on Exmoor when the mist comes down.

One couple are newly weds on their honeymoon, the other couple not yet realising that they love each other. The play revolves around their sleeping arrangements.

The plot has a circular theme, with each day repeating itself but with a different outcome.

A small cast of six kept

our interest in the twists and turns. Special mention must go to David Pascoe who played the Newly wed Husband, in his first role for the Chelsfield players. Costumes and the set were excellent and gave a good representation of the period.

Look out for the CP version of Terry Pratchett's 'Maskerade' in November, where they will try and recreate Pratchett's comic Discworld fantasy in our village hall!

View from the stalls

Thousands Descend on Chelsfield for the Fair!

Chelsfield should pat itself on the back for another successful Fair this year. I have completed my two-year stint as Chairman it was very pleasing to preside over what I thought was the friendliest and smoothest running Chelsfield Village Fair yet. The superb entertainment from the Croydon Steel Orchestra, Viva Acappella, the Corps of Drums from the cadets of the 103 Royal Fusiliers and Reptile Events made for an excellent day for the large crowds. The Fair and the St Martin's bellringers clubbed together to hire the miniature ten bell rig which gave many the chance to have a go at ringing; I made an absolute hash of it personally. Chelsfield Flying Club has raised more than ever before which meant that we were able to enjoy the ever wonderful Spirit of Kent Spitfire which gave a thrilling display in the expert hands of test pilot Dan Griffith. The Spitfire painting auction was a huge success with a winning bid of £540 following a bidding war between Committee member John Brooks and his son

Gerard. Gerard won and gave the painting to his dad as a present!

As you know, the headline charities for this year's Fair were Cancer Research UK and iCare stroke rehabilitation and they were represented well on the day with their own stall and of course the fund-raising ice cream stall in front of the Tea Rooms which the late Elsa Sjovorr ran for many years. Our thanks to Peter and Catherine Gandolfi for working tirelessly on the day producing gallons of ice cream and to Bobby Laws for donating all the ingredients.

It is perhaps slightly cold to judge the success of the Fair in terms of finances but the bank balance is a good indicator. The gate was broadly similar to last year, maybe slightly more and the catering was slightly up on previous years. We estimate that well in excess of 4,500 attended this year which I still find utterly astonishing given the size of the village! We can only estimate the numbers as we don't charge for children and we run out of fingers

and toes to count every one.

The new layout was well received and we think that we may well be able to increase the number of stands next year by using the area between the cricket square and the cricket pavilion. Moving the Tea Rooms to the Village Hall has been popular with the public and certainly with our volunteers working there; the cricket pavilion really was totally unsuitable although had served us as well as it could in previous years. The toilets were a problem. We had insufficient numbers and we failed to designate them between Ladies and Gents; we will be hiring more toilets next year, giving them a specific gender and improving the signage!

The traffic flow was immeasurably better this year and I have written to everyone living on the affected roads thanking them for clearing all the cars away before the Fair but I will thank them once again here – it really made a huge difference. The investment in new signage certainly helped and we

must thank Dave Gunn, St Martin's church and Douglas Parkes for the use of their land for car parks. We filled the lot by just after 2pm, incidentally!

In financial terms we will have to bite the bullet this year in terms of investing for future Fairs – we resisted last year, hence being able to donate a record £6,000 to charity. We desperately need flag signs for the toilets, commentary point and raffle tickets sales point, we need four new good-quality popup gazebos, many more tables and chairs, a large number of traffic cones and some lockable cabinets for the tea room and bar supplies. In addition, we need to replace the floor on 'our' pavilion and erect shelving. The cost of hiring the green from the Cricket

Club rose substantially this year and as is the way of the world, all other costs continue to rise. We were delighted to be able to keep the entrance fee to a modest £2 for adults with children continuing to gain free entrance and keep the bar prices identical to last year and yet we will still be able to make a sizeable donation to our headline charities and local good causes – £4,500 minimum, we estimate at the moment.

There are outstanding bills still coming in so we do not want to commit until we are sure. As soon as we get clarity around the last few remaining bills we will be finalising the accounts for this year's fair.

Our volunteers were magnificent once again; they donate hundreds of hours of their time to the Fair

and without them, the Fair simply would not happen – our undying thanks to them. I have enjoyed being Chairman for the last two years and look forward to supporting the new Chairman as I drop back to being a rank-and-file committee member! Many thanks to all of you for supporting the Fair and a big thank you to Dan Sloan for allowing us so many column inches in the Village Voice over the past year to publicise it. Please visit our website www.chelsfieldfair.com where we will be publishing our financial results soon and if you are on Facebook, please pop along and 'like' our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/chelsfieldfair

*Dave Griffiths
Chairman Chelsfield
Village Fair 2011*

The Village Gates - Letter

Dear Chelsfield Village Voice,

I have just read the July 2011 edition of the newsletter and I am responding to your request for views on the new gates.

The gates serve the dual purpose of reminding

people to drive cautiously while being visually attractive. However, am I to assume that those responsible for deciding where to place the gates have also decided that those of us who live beyond the gates on Bucks Cross Road are no long-

er part of Chelsfield Village? This includes the rest of Bucks Cross Road, Maypole Road, Hollybush Lane, Jubilee Road, Hewitts Road, Hawstead Lane, and Home Farm.

*Regards,
Richard Brewin*

The Not Forgotten Association

The **Not Forgotten Association** (NFA) was formed in 1919, one year after the Armistice of the dreadful carnage of WW1 by a famous American singer, **Miss Marta Cunningham**, who was visiting a hospital in England. She asked the matron, if by chance there were any wounded servicemen still undergoing treatment. The matron replied "Yes, six hundred".

Miss Cunningham was horrified and soon learned that there were many thousands of badly wounded men lying in hospitals up and down the country, many in severe pain, almost all, bored and lonely. She began by taking some to afternoon tea and immediately set up the NFA with the object of providing entertainment and recreation for the hopelessly crippled victims, anything to alleviate the tedium of their lives and give them something to which they could look forward.

HRH Princess Mary, later the Princess Royal their

first Patron and remained so until her death. The Duchess of Kent succeeded her until 2000 when HRH, The Princess Royal became Patron and remains so today.

Despite being formed before any of the better known charities, including the Royal British Legion,



Regimental Sergeant Major 'Baz' Thrift helping an Army amputee

Having marched at the Remembrance Parade at The Cenotaph

many have not heard of it. It has a tiny office in London which is a constant hive of activity. No plush furniture, plush carpets, extravagant expense accounts, expensive cars etc. The workforce is a small, totally dedicated team who put

together a variety of activities for all ex-service personnel male and female, WW2 veterans and those injured in all conflicts since.

In addition to providing holidays for them other events include, canoeing, sailing, climbing, shooting and archery, in fact anything they feel would help these young folks to feel part of society again. Many of those the NFA care for are double and triple amputees, courtesy of the Iraq and Afghan improvised explosive devices, some are scarred in other ways and every possible help is there for them or their widows.

D-Day veterans are taken back to the beaches, ex-Paras are taken back to Arnhem. There are day trips on the Thames and other rivers throughout the whole of UK and some go each year on the Battlefield Tours in France and Belgium. These events are free, paid for by the Association. An annual Garden Party at Buckingham Palace is arranged for over

2,000, a Christmas Party is also arranged at St James' Palace. Members of the Royal Family and dozens of well know celebrities attend, giving their time free to give these folks an event to remember. All this is done with no cost to those to whom, we, as a nation owe so much. Housebound veterans who are unable to take part in outings can also benefit from their resources.

So, where do the NFA get their funds? The answer of course is donations. However, in recent years a large number of other 'Charities' have evolved, some have become high profile in a very short time, some have done a tremendous amount for the young servicemen and are to be commended for that but the scope has limitations and has impacted on the money donated to the Not Forgotten Association and that needs to be addressed to allow them to continue the excellent work they've carried out for over 90 years.

Joy and I help them in many ways at some of their functions but per-

haps the best thing we can achieve is to make more people aware of their existence and so attract more donations to them. I must mention here, that their Events

York Marathons with a few Half Marathons in between. She does all this for sponsorship and every single penny she raises goes in to the NFA funds.



Rosie Thompson and 'Johnny' an ex- Grenadier

Manager is a most interesting character in the form of Rosie Thompson. She accompanies the very young, the very old and the physically disabled on all the ventures, if they sleep rough on the moors, so does Rosie, if they get soaked through, so does Rosie.

Readers will be surprised that Rosie also runs an average of three Marathons each year, including the London and New

There are local Orpington men and women serving or who have served in our military and could, at some time in the future, benefit from what the NFA have to offer. I ask that if you are planning a charity event, do, please, consider **The Not Forgotten Association.**

Jim Ellard MB

More information may be found at the website: www.nfassociation.org

National Benevolent Fund for the Aged

Dear Residents

I thought you would be interested in hearing about the services provided by the National Benevolent Fund for the Aged.

The National Benevolent Fund for the Aged (NBFA) is a charity founded in 1957 which gives direct practical help

to older people in the UK on low income. The NBFA provides free Breaks-Away, TENS machines and Emergency Telephone Alarms. We are launching day trips in an attempt to help more older people on a more regular basis.

We are organising a trip to Brighton, picking up

from Bromley, on the 6th September. For more information and to book places on the trip please call us on 0207 828 0200. Concessionary prices are available for people over the age of 60. Any money raised will go into our Breaks-Away holiday programme.

Chelsfield in "The Oldie" Magazine

Bromley and Chelsfield feature in an item in August's "the Oldie". The writer points out that Bromley Council owns six farms and has ignored calls to sell. Two of these farms are in

Chelsfield. They report that recently a 96.4 acre farm in Chelsfield was advertised by land agents Smiths Gore for £1.95million. The combined acreage of Bromley's farms is 1,494 acres.

The writer speculates that Bromley could avoid budget cuts by realising thire assets and utilizing reserves. I wonder which of "The Oldie" writers lives in the Borough?

Trading Standards

Banking on their Support

Trading Standards work closely with local banks to help detect rogue traders operating in the borough. If bank staff spot a person they think may be vulnerable taking out unusually large amounts of cash, they will inform Trading Standards so

that the team can investigate to see whether the person has been targeted by rogues.

Around £1 million of residents' money has been saved in this way and criminals apprehended so that they cannot prey on others in the borough.

Clamping Down on Rogue Traders

A key priority for Bromley Trading Standards is the protection of vulnerable people from bogus builders and scams. Our rapid response team works closely with Police, banks and the public in order to disrupt, prevent and, where possible, prosecute anyone found targeting older people in

Bromley.

Anyone who suspects they or a neighbour has been targeted by a bogus

builder or a scam can call the Trading Standards rapid response team on **07903 852090**.

If you have a general consumer enquiry please call **Consumer Direct** on **08454 040506**

Carol Margetts Memorial Fund

The Carol Margetts Memorial Fund currently stands at £246.10. If you wish to make a

contribution please make your cheque payable to "Chelsfield Village

Society" and deliver to number 3 or 7 Orlestone Gardens.

A Horse Tale

Living near Court Road, I was surprised to find early one morning (6.25 am) a horse outside my front door, shortly followed by a young boy, knocking and asking me for a rope to restrain the horse. I gave him a leather belt. He and his Mother had been driving up Court Road and had stopped to

try and keep the horse on the verge to stop it running out into traffic. His mother managed to quieten the horse down. Others had also stopped and were directing traffic away from the skittish horse.

A landscape firm van from the direction of Sevenoaks stopped, the

driver recognising the horse, and knowing who the owner was. He escorted the horse back along Court Rd to the field it had come from.

Police had been called by one of the parties involved that had stopped to help, but apparently failed to arrive.

A Resident

Safer Bromley Partnership's Junior Citizen Scheme

Primary school youngsters in Bromley can learn how to be the responsible citizens of tomorrow by taking part in the scheme. Children get involved in interactive scenarios that require them to make decisions about personal safety and the safety of others, while raising their aware-

ness of danger and the consequences of criminal actions. Themes covered include mobile phone crime, road safety, train safety, drugs and alcohol education, fire safety and first aid. Cllr Tim Stevens, Chairman of the Safer Bromley Partnership said: "Junior Citizen is a

marvellous initiative that educates children about safety issues at home, at school and while they are out and about. This advice and help, delivered by the Police, Bromley Council and other partners, is particularly well timed as students move on to secondary school."

News from the LBB Residents Federation

Peter Martin from Bromley Council gave a presentation about the Core Strategies Issues Document. This is a publication by Bromley Council outlining future planning issues in the Borough and inviting comments from residents.

The document starts with an introduction and a portrait of the Borough in 2011 with diagrams and basic facts and figures. There follows a Vision for the Borough in 20 years time and the plan Objectives. Comments are invited on the Vision and Objectives. Next there are Area Pen Portraits. The Borough is divided into 21 different areas – we come under Chelsfield, Green Street Green & Pratts Bottom. Local issues important to the areas are given and comments are again invited. Finally, there is a section on Strategic Themes that affect the Borough as a whole. Issues relevant to each theme are listed and comments invited.

To save money, Bromley have made this a chiefly on-line, web based process. However, the local

libraries have copies of the “Core Strategy Issues Document for viewing. Those of you with Internet access can visit www.bromley.gov.uk/ldf. Click on the LDF consultation portal two thirds of the way down the page, then click on the Core Strategy Issues and Consultation at the bottom then click on Read and comment on document. The menu is on the left. Those of you without Internet access are welcome to come to the Internet Café on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of August and September where we can help you can look at the document on line. You can then comment by post to: Strategy and Renewal Team, Planning Division, London Borough of Bromley, Stockwell Close, Bromley. BR1 3UH

Our MP, Jo Johnson, asked a question in the House of Commons enquiring about the relevance of Biggin Hill Airport during the Olympics. He was told that lots of wealthy and famous visitors would be using it. He

then asked about the local infrastructure available to support these extra visitors and was told that it was a matter for the council and Biggin Hill Airport Ltd. The numbers of metropolitan police officers are to be cut by 2000. The whole of the Borough will be covered by 5 sergeants. Quieter areas will lose their community support officers. At a recent SNT street briefing we were told us that this was a very low crime area so we may be at risk of losing our local officers.

Bromley Council are considering the introduction of road signs to encourage lorry drivers to avoid unsuitable routes which have been suggested by their satnavs. Chelsfield Village Society discussed this some time ago as a possible solution to the problems of heavy traffic through the village and particularly in Chelsfield Lane so we await news of this initiative with interest.

The bridge in Chislehurst Road is due to close in September for 18 months

Five Bells Diners Loyalty Scheme

We have just started a Diner's Loyalty Card Scheme, where when two people have a main meal

they get a card stamped, once the card is complete, that's 10 stamps the 11th main meal for

two is on us. There are no strings and they can choose what they like from the menu.

From "Safer Bromley News"

A message from Cllr Tim Stevens, our new Public Protection and Safety Portfolio holder and Chairman of the Safer Bromley Partnership.

"I have been involved with the portfolio and partnership since its inception, as portfolio holder in the early days and helping to shape the policy as PDS chair over the past few years.

"Over the coming year, I plan to build on some of the fine work already set in motion by my predecessors. In particu-

lar the highly successful 'Enough is Enough' campaign to send out a strong message that we will not tolerate drug dealing in Bromley.

"We live in a safe borough and we want to keep it that way. As a magistrate I understand at firsthand the impact that crime and antisocial behaviour can have on people's lives so I want to make this one of my priorities.

"Also, I intend to focus on some of the most vulnerable in our society.

We know only too well from the scams that Bromley's Trading Standards Team uncovers, that some older people can fall prey to unscrupulous traders. I want to help make sure that the partnership gives advice and support where necessary.

"Finally, I want to thank all of you who take an active part in your communities. It is unsung heroes like you that really make a difference in the Council's quest to go on 'Building a Better Bromley.'"

Summer Fair

Chelsfield Village Society's bottle stall raised an amazing £325.65. This will go towards offsetting the production costs of the Village Voice. Thanks to Alan, James, Melanie,

John and friends for running this ever popular stall.

There were many fond memories of Elsa on the ice cream stall. Our thanks go to Bobby Lawes for lending us his

wonderful ice cream machine and supplying the stock. We raised a magnificent £414 for Cancer Research UK in Elsa's memory.

Peter and Catherine Gandolfi

Bromley Scouts Clean Up!

Chelsfield Park Hospital

16 year olds, Lawrence Burford and Farley Gould and 18 year old Robert Jones from Bromley spent the day with their buckets

every car washed and in total during the entire day raised over £150.

The money raised will allow the Explorer Scout Unit to purchase a new

tic that for the second year running Chelsfield Park Hospital staff have been so generous in supporting the local scout unit by allowing our members to come in and clean their employee's cars. The boys have shown their dedication to our unit and behalf of everyone I would like to thank them everyone at the hospital who paid £5 for a car wash."

Executive Director Ruth Hoadley at Chelsfield Park Hospital, commented, "Robert, Farley and Lawrence are amazing young adults who should be an inspiration to everyone in the local community. We're always very pleased to support local groups and we wish the boys and the unit all the best in their continued fundraising efforts."



and sponges at Chelsfield Park Hospital, offering their car cleaning services the hospital's staff. The teenagers charged £5 for

marquee that will be used during their camping trips throughout the year. Luke Tucker, 41st Scout Group Leader, said: "It is fantas-

Check Your Credit Card Records

A number of people on the Internet have recorded their dissatisfaction with a company called Shopper Discounts & Rewards for taking money from peoples credit card account. I wrote to them after £10 was deducted from my account and they promptly responded within a few

hours saying:

Thank you for contacting Shopper Discounts & Rewards.

Our records show that you or someone with access to your credit/debit card completed an online transaction with Ryanair. After your transaction, you were

offered the opportunity to join the Shopper Discounts & Rewards programme with a £15 cash back voucher and a 30 day free trial. Immediately next to the offer, the Offer and Billing Details were displayed. By entering your name, postal code, selecting the relevant

postal address from the drop down list, inserting your credit or debit card details and then clicking on the 'yes' button to accept the offer, you authorised us to charge the monthly membership fee of £10 to the credit card or debit card that was provided after your free trial period ended.

Shopper Discounts & Rewards is an online savings and discount programme that enables you to earn cash back rebates of up to 10% at over 800 online

retailers. In addition, members can benefit from shopping guarantees and protections.

We try to make the offer as clear as possible by placing the Offer and Billing details directly next to the offer and sending out a pre-bill notification email within the 30 day trial period. However, we apologise if there has been any misunderstanding in the offer.

This membership has been cancelled as of the 14/06/2011 and we have

issued a refund of £10 for the membership fee charged. Your refund will be credited to your credit card or debit card account within the next 10 working days.

Just beware, I do not believe I signed up to the arrangement as the booking at Ryan Air was somewhat confusing. (Watch it if you book with them) However, it would not have been spotted if the Credit Card account had not been checked.

Crime Reporting Number for the Police

Remember if the crime is happening at the time please always call 999.

It's 101 for London's police

As latest figures reveal that less than a quarter of 999 calls require an emergency response, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), together with other police forces in the south east is today, Monday 11 July launching a new contact number for the public.

The new number, 101, is part of a national programme to improve access and will give the public one easy way to get in touch with the police for calls that do not require an urgent response. For example, the public should call 101 to report a crime that has already happened, seek

crime prevention advice or make us aware of local policing issues.

It is being introduced to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999 and to help tackle crime and disorder. In London the new number is just one of the ways the Metropolitan Police Service is modernising and improving our services while making them more accessible to the public.

As well as calling us on 101 or 999, the public can use our online services to get information or report crime; join virtual neighbourhood ward panels to oversee and influence local policing; visit a police station or front counter 24/7; or approach an officer in

the street.

Introducing 101 the MPS will be joined by some of our neighbouring police forces including Hertfordshire, City of London and Essex in being early adopters of the new number.

As with 999, calls to 101 in London will be handled 24 hours a day, seven days a week by specially trained officers and staff at the MPS's Central Communications Command who will help deal with enquiries. For people who speak no or little English they can also dial 101 where their call will be connected with an interpreter. Callers who are deaf, deafened or have a hearing or speech impairment can use a textphone

to call: 18001 101; or in an emergency it's 18000.

According to official MPS figures, in April 2011 there were 161,008 recorded 999 calls, 32,941 (20%) of which were graded as an immediate response required i.e. a genuine emergency. This means the remaining 80% would be more appropriate for 101.

Metropolitan Police Service Assistant Commissioner for Territorial Policing Ian McPherson, said: "The introduction of 101 is one of the biggest changes in the way people can contact the police since 999 was introduced in the 1940s.

Having just two phone numbers - 101 for reporting a crime that has happened, to get advice or to raise local policing issues - or 999 if it's an emergency, makes calling the Met a lot easier and makes our services more accessible.

It's also expected to reduce the number of inappropriate 999 calls the Met receives, enabling us to respond to genuine emergencies more effectively.

Only about 20% of 999 calls require an emergency response from the police. 999 should only be used in an emergency, that is when a crime is happening, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or where someone is injured, being threatened or in danger. For all other matters the public should

call us on 101.

There are now many ways for the public to get in touch with the Met: you can approach an officer in the street; you can visit a police station or front counter 24/7; you can report crime or get advice on our website; you can join one of our virtual neighbourhood ward panels and now you can call 101 if you don't require an immediate response. We can also come to you at a time and place to suit you - last year we made 80,000 appointments. You can also get in touch with your local (Safer Neighbourhoods) policing team to discuss policing or crime concerns in your area.

Even if your first language is not English we can still help as we can set up a three-way conversation between the caller, police operator and a qualified interpreter. We also have a text phone service for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Dialling 101 provides a direct link to your police, where you can get information, advice and access to your local policing teams.

101 is just one of the ways we are improving and modernising our services - a commitment demonstrated by increased levels of public confidence in the MPS - now one of the highest levels of all UK police forc-

es. The MPS is here for London and we are determined to keep on improving our services while making them accessible to all communities in London."

Mayor of London Boris Johnson welcomed the introduction of 101 and said: "This quick and easy 101 number will help with a wide breadth of important issues that don't require an immediate response. Some people have inadvertently used '999' for things which aren't emergencies, and this number will free up our blue light brigade to concentrate on critical matters, whilst offering the public an excellent way of reporting other issues.

We've been exploring the widespread potential for this service at City Hall and I hope this number will be more widely adopted in the future across an even broader range of services."

Supporting today's launch Home Office minister for policing Nick Herbert said: "This is a significant step forward in our ambition to reconnect the police and public. 101 in London will give the public a memorable non-emergency number so that they can get in touch with local forces.

It will make crime easier to report and help the police to tackle crime and disorder." Commander Ian Dyson, City of London Police and

ACPO lead on contact management, said: "101 is a number to ring your local police force. It's simple and straight forward. If it's an emergency call 999 if it's not, call 101. This number provides a universal, easy to remember 3-digit telephone number for people living or working in London.

We would remind the public that they should always continue to call 999 in an emergency - for example, when an immediate response is needed because a crime is happening,

someone suspected of a crime is nearby, or someone is injured, being threatened or in danger."

The 101 contact number is being introduced across the country over the next 12 months, and in London will replace the existing '0300' number.

The aims of introducing 101 are to:

- Help communities to keep their neighbourhoods safe by giving them one easy way to contact their local police and to report non-

emergency crime and disorder;

- Make the police more accessible to their communities, whilst reducing pressure on the 999 system and helping the police to put their resources where they are needed most.

- Help the police to cut crime by making it easier for the public to pass on information about crimes in their neighbourhoods and allowing the police to take swift action.

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

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Samaris Huntington-Thresher

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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

Brass Crosby Room

St Martin's Toddler Group

10.30am-12.00 midday
Contact Sarah Ford:
01689 853415

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 THURSDAY

St Martin of Tours Church

Viva Acappella

Ladies Barbershop Chorus
Practice
Contact Helen 07984
961696

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 6th August

Holly Cottage (Phone 01689
858634 for full address)

Railway Open Day

12.00 Midday-5.00pm

Wednesday 10th August

The Five Bells

Open Mic Night

Thursday 11th August
(2nd Thursday Each Month)
Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

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

Friday 12th August

The Five Bells

The Glorious Twelfth

Game Night—enjoy a meal
with the distinct flavours of
game

Wednesday 17th August

(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

Parish Room-Skibbs Lane

Internet Cafe & Local History Transcription

2.30-4.30pm

Thursday 18th August

(3rd Thursday Each Month)

The Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15am

Wednesday 24th August

The Five Bells

Open Mic Night

Sunday 28th August

Chelsfield - Brighton

Bike Ride

In aid of Help for Heroes
See Front of this issue

Thursday 1st September

The Five Bells

Live Jazz—Just Friends Sextet

Starts 8.30pm

Saturday 4th September
Village Green

Cricket

Chelsfield vs Orpington4's
Starts 2.00pm

Wednesday 7th September
(1st Wednesday each Month)

Orpington Village Hall

Country Market

10.00am-11.00am

Wednesday 7th September
(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

Parish Room-Skibbs Lane

Internet Cafe & Local History Transcription

2.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 7th September
The Five Bells

Open Mic Night

Saturday 17th September

Chelsfield Village Hall

Produce Show

Set up from 0930am
Phone 01689 831826 for
details

Wednesday 21st September
(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

Parish Room-Skibbs Lane

Internet Cafe & Local History Transcription

2.30-4.30pm

Friday 30th September

The Five Bells

Fish Day

All specials will be fish
(regular menu still available)
