



AUGUST 2018

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The Newsletter and "What's On" Guide for Residents & Friends of Chelsfield Village

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Demelza Hospice Care for Children and the Farnborough Village Society are pleased to be bringing back this old Farnborough Village tradition in 2018.

With plenty for all the family, Farnborough Fayre promises to be bigger and better than before, so you really don't want to miss out! All monies raised from this event will go towards helping to run another beloved village tradition - the Grand Christmas Switch On 2018. And, also helping Demelza Hospice Care for Children to provide specialist care and emotional support for children with terminal conditions and their loved ones, so they can enjoy their time together as a family, for as long as they have.

For more details, visit:  
[www.demelza.org.uk/farn-fayre](http://www.demelza.org.uk/farn-fayre)

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**What's Going On  
In and Around  
Chelsfield?  
Let Us Know!**

You tell us what's going on or planned, and we will pass the details to the residents and friends of Chelsfield. Please send anything you feel suitable for the

September 2018 issue to:  
[chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)  
or post to:

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

to arrive by  
**Monday 27th August 2018**

## The Cinnibar Moth / Ragwort

In the recent hot weather we have had in June and July I have noticed more moths than I have seen for some time. So I was wondering if revisiting the world of moths would be

hence not the sort that would be attracted to our resident moth fancier's (Lester Barnes) collecting lamp (and yes, that's his finger in the photo below). The moth gets its

element mercury and this echoes the moth's brightly coloured black and red wings which act as a warning to any predator (see the photos of both the moth and the caterpillar below).



Although originally resident in Europe and parts of Asia the cinnabar moth can also now be found in North America and Australasia. It was purposely introduced to control its main food source: common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea* – see photo with attendant cinnabar caterpillars) which can be troublesome to farmers and in particular horses and cattle but surprisingly, not sheep. It is a yellow daisy-like

a good idea for a piece for the 'Voice'.

common name from the bright red mineral cinnabar which is a source of the toxic

When I visited a friend in Shoreham. In the garden I saw a number of distinctive looking caterpillars. Each was boldly striped with a black a yellow design and appeared to be eating weeds. Upon doing some research I found this was the caterpillar stage of the very distinctive and attractive cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*). It's a little unusual in that it's a day flying moth and



flowered plant that can grow to four foot tall and probably gets its name from the ragged edges of its leaves. It's a weed that can quickly overtake a neglected paddock or field and consequently becomes a problem for livestock. It attempts to protect itself from grazers by creating alkaloid toxins as it grows. Although livestock do not eat the fresh ragwort due to the toxins, if these plants are collected with hay and fed dry they become palatable and this can cause liver damage.

One severe symptom of ragwort poisoning is that affected beasts 'walk with a staggering gait' - which some say explains the plant's old name of 'staggerwort'. So, the cinnabar moth is of great advantage to farmers as the caterpillars can strip one of these plants of vegetation in short order. One can even order the larvae on the internet although at £1 a pop I'll give it a miss!

So the moth lends itself to an environmentally friendly means of controlling this plant and explains its introduction into other parts of the world in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Rather bizarrely, ragwort's Latin name *jabobaea* refers to St James, the patron saint of horses despite the plant being such a danger to them. It is also said that it begins to flower on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, the day associated with St James although botanical sources suggest it can flower as early as June. The plant is known as 'stinking Billy'

to the Scots due to its unpleasant odour when bruised and the name Billy refers to the Duke of Cumberland who was the ruthless victor at the battle of Culloden in 1746.

Contrary to common belief it seems that ragwort, although dangerous to horses is not lethal. It seems that the British Horse Society

(BHS) falsely claimed in a 2014 survey that "ragwort is extremely toxic to horses." Apparently a lethal dose for a horse would be about 5 kgs. Using the scientific definition of 'extremely toxic' suggests that the BHS over-stated their case by a factor of ten thousand times! The reality is that it's better to be safe than sorry but let's not go overboard! But it is this toxicity that the cinnabar moth utilises for its own purposes and does so by predominantly eating the ragwort and in doing so builds up the plant's toxins into its own body making it unpalatable to its predators.

So it seems that both the moth and the plant are deeply interdependent and this can cause problems. Apparently

there was a plague of ragwort in the late 1990s. The balance of the ragwort and cinnabar moths had got out of kilter in the 1980s and the moths had virtually eradicated the plant. In following years there were no ragwort plants to eat and the moth population crashed. Consequently the ragwort seeds that had lain undisturbed in the soil for a few years germinated and they flourished without the attention of the moths. Hopefully the two are now in a healthy equilibrium and a close look at most stands of ragwort will enable you to find a few cinnabar caterpillars showing how closely they are associated.

Interestingly this plant is the national flower of the Isle of Man, despite the

problems associated with it, and is known locally as Cushag. The Manx poet Josephine Kermode (1852-1937) wrote a poem 'The Cushag' that reflects the islanders attitude to this plant.

*Now, the Cushag, we know,  
Must never grow,  
Where the farmer's work is done.*

*But along the rills,  
In the heart of the hills,  
The Cushag may shine like the sun.*

*Where the golden flowers,  
Have fairy powers,  
To gladden our hearts with their grace.*

*And in Vannin Veg Veen,  
In the valleys green,  
The Cushags have still a place.*

Vannin Veg Veen is Manx for the Isle of Man.  
*Steve Fuller  
August 2018*

## Mutterings From The Millers

Phew! I think you can guess what I am about to write this month. With a bit of luck, by the time you read this we should be well into cutting wheat. The spring barley will be a while yet as it was planted later than normal due to the wet conditions.

How the crops have coped with the hot temperatures we will not really see until they are all cut and weighed. The sun has burnt both crops rather than them dying naturally, which is what we call senescence. With the lack of our crop

of oil seed rape I think it may be a lean year as you can see from the picture.

Steve and I went on holiday in June. We were watching all the hay being made in Devon and wondering about ours

(sad I know) but Peter was on the ball and made ours all by himself. It had "turned" quickly in the heat so couldn't make haylage but made plenty of hay bales. Think we will have to go away again in June., hee hee.

The boys are attaching markers onto the new drill; this will mark the ground as they drive enabling them to see exactly where they have drilled. This will stop overlapping and misses in the rows. Some drills do come with this attachment but ours didn't. To fit retrospectively has given our John Deere rep. a few headaches, as it doesn't come as a kit. Each part has to be looked up and ordered individually but we have got there in the end. It was quite daunting when about 100 packets arrived of various sizes

without plans but the boys are nearly at the point of cracking it. Some jigsaw. I'll let you know how they get on but I think I will stay out of the way!

The young swallows are a delight to watch and we do have house martins after all. Couldn't identify them at first, they are so quick that I couldn't see if they were swallows or house martins. Don't know what happened to

the swifts but I gather that numbers are down this year. Our daughter, who lived in Kings Hill, has plenty flying around her house.

Weather saying for August is:-

*If a cold August follows a hot July, it foretells a winter hard and dry.*

*Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm*



## Planning Application for a Mobile Phone Mast

Local residents interested in the proposed 20m high mobile phone mast at the junction of Warren Road, Windsor Drive and Chelsfield Station Approach may view Planning Application

18/03049/TELCOM received by Bromley Council on 5th July via the following link:

<https://searchapplications.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationD>

[etails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=PBDOOLBTFV500](https://www.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationD?activeTab=summary&keyVal=PBDOOLBTFV500)

The link will permit you to read comments by others and express your own objection or support.

## Chelsfield's Casualties of the 1st World War

This month we are commemorating the youngest of the WWI servicemen on our War Memorial as he died when he was just 18 years old, 100 years ago in August.

### GEORGE AKHURST

92736 Private George Akhurst of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, London Regiment of the Royal Fusiliers was killed in action on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1918 aged 18. He is buried at Hem Farm Military Cemetery, Hem Monacu, in France. He was the son of George & Martha Akhurst of 6 Prospect Cottages, Pratts Bottom.

From the medal records it seems George was initially assigned to the King's Royal Rifles on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1918, then after a week transferred to the



*Royal Fusiliers Cap Badge*

London Regiment of the Royal Fusiliers, and he died two weeks after that. If true this must have been particularly tough for his family, as he was only in the army for a month before he died. I haven't been able to find out what action his unit was involved in on the day of his death but the cemetery is in the middle of the area of the Battles of the Somme. What do we know about George's all too short life? His army record gives his first name as

Alfred but this isn't used on the memorial or on the census records. In 1911, he is living with his parents and two younger sisters at 2 Shorters Cottages, Pratts Bottom, and the census shows he was born in Deptford. George's father, also George, was a farm labourer and in 1901 he's living with his wife and a one year old George in Deptford. Father George was born in Cudham, and looking further back to 1891 he's living in Pratts Bottom with his uncle and aunt, which may explain why he returned there with his family a few years later.

George Akhurst is also remembered on the memorial at St Mary's Green Street Green which was created in the 1990s.

*Philippa Rooke  
Pjrooke@hotmail.com*

## See Scams in Action!

To see scams in action do have a look at this video which demonstrates how easy it is to be caught in a scam. We all think we know

better and would never be caught out but don't be so sure.....watch this YouTube video and be aware of how convincing these scammers can be...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJsPo\\_YzI7M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJsPo_YzI7M)

*John Leach,  
Safer Neighbourhood  
Watch*



# The Chelsfield Players

Bucks Cross Road, Chelsfield, BR6 7RE

We are the Amateur Drama Society based in Chelsfield Village, Orpington, Kent  
*'for over 80 years making a drama out of the written word'*



## Our Next Production

## Future Productions



## One Flat Three Stories

Two Little Dicky Birds  
Chalk and Cheese

by Sandy Taylor

Sound Choice

by Bob Wise

2 Aug -4 Aug 2018

## Much Ado About Nothing

22 -24 Nov 2018

[Click here for our Autumn 2017 Newsletter](#)

**Booking SOON £8.50**  
**Box Office:**

**07816 505 448**

**Tickets booked on line**

**TICKETSOURCE**

## Geoffrey Copus



You may never have met Geoffrey Copus but the chances are, if you live in Chelsfield, that you'll have heard of him. Geoffrey Denis Copus, who died on 10 June at the age of 88 in Tunbridge Wells after a short illness, was the Grand Master of our local history. His 2004 book *Chelsfield Chronicles* stands uncontested as the definitive work on the origins of the village and its surrounds. He was, quite simply, the oracle, the go-to guy if you were delving into the past of this place and its people. You couldn't fail to be captivated by this kindly, gentle man with the appearance of an

archetypal English eccentric or cartoon professor – slightly dishevelled, sporting an unruly shock of grey hair and chortling excitedly over some new nugget of information or while telling a story about an odd character he'd just unearthed.

Underlying Geoff's lifelong local-history passion was fierce intelligence, enthusiasm, curiosity and a comprehensive knowledge of his subject. In his ever-generous way, he was delighted to share every scrap he discovered with those who – like me – beat a path to his door seeking help or guidance in a Chelsfield history project. And he was especially pleased when anyone he'd mentored shared fresh findings or the fruits of their work with him. Born in Towncourt Road on the Orpington-Petts Wood border, Geoff came to live in Park Avenue after his childhood home was damaged by a bomb in 1940. His father, Leslie, became organist at St Martin's church and as a

youngster Geoff regularly worked the organ pump in the vestry while his father played for the congregation.

To relieve the boredom between hymns, Geoff took to flicking through a pile of old parish magazines stacked by the pump. From avidly reading articles in them about the Chelsfield of days gone by, he caught the local-history bug. It was a fascination that stayed with him throughout his later schooldays and National Service in the RAF and over the course of his busy career as Passenger Relations Officer for the P&O cruise line where his patience and diplomatic skills served him well.

Those qualities proved useful, too, in persuading holders of important local history material to trust him, allow him to take it away to copy or transcribe – or even, as often happened, become its eventual custodian. He built an impressive archive as a result and devoted several rooms of his home to it.



New visitors to the Copus home at Oakdale Road, Tunbridge Wells, were invariably gobsmacked at the Copus cornucopia. All around, ceiling-high bookcases were filled with books, brochures and bulging files of every kind; documents, photographs and work-in-progress occupied every available surface. In the midst of all this, wrapped in chilly weather in at least two pullovers as central heating never intruded into the rambling Edwardian house, Geoff would work at table or desk, tapping away on a PC or laptop computer, machines he'd mastered in his later years (though he never got to grips with a mobile phone).

To me, Geoff with his meticulous attention to detail and amazing ability in discovering and deciphering ancient documents ranging from

court and manor rolls to title deeds and wills, seemed a frustrated academic. He helped many students with their master's theses, or doctoral dissertations and once remarked wistfully to me that he should have had at least a couple of degrees bestowed upon him for all the work he'd had a hand in!

It was in the early 1960s, with a growing family and in need of a larger home, that Geoff and his wife Brenda (a Chelsfield girl, of course, whom he met in 1949 and married at St Martin's Church in 1953) defected from Orpington. First they moved to Pembury, then – soon after the arrival of the fourth of their six children – Tunbridge Wells. But Geoff, a stalwart, naturally, of the Chelsfield Local History Group whose monthly meetings I run, always

kept a foot planted firmly in Chelsfield and nurtured a lifetime's fondness for it in his heart.

He will be greatly missed indeed.

About 200 people attended Geoff's funeral at St Barnabas Church, Tunbridge Wells, on 4 July. Geoff was a regular member of the congregation at this "high" church and the service was conducted as a Requiem Mass, in the exact form he had specified. At his insistence, there were no eulogies – but he asked that a party should be held at his home afterwards at which people could talk about him and his life if they wished. Geoff's cremation took place at a private family ceremony the next day.

*Patrick Hellicar*

## **Geoffrey Copus : A Genealogical Genius**

It is fair to say that I have only known Geoff Copus since moving back to Chelsfield from Tonbridge in 1975. It was whilst living and working as a photographer in

Tonbridge that I came across the earliest images of Chelsfield, 1862, in an album belonging to Joyce Layen. After moving back I showed copies of these

to the then many old residents which resulted in them sharing their snapshots and memories with me. I soon had enough (100) to display them in the Village Hall

which generated enormous interest. It wasn't long before the wonderful and enthusiastic Mr Copus heard about them and came to see them. I knew the his name because when my mother first joined the church in the 50's, his father Leslie, was organist under Norman Woodhall.

Geoff had already been showing the church records and registers to people in the old Reading Room and I have a photo of him doing just that.

Whilst I was beginning to get very involved with all aspects of Chelsfield life, and having to struggle to make a living, I still found time to acquire more photographs and later some historic documents. Long before the computer had made the sharing of information so much easier, we would exchange hard copies and photocopies,( each of us benefitting from this, as we were not competing).

Both Jayne and I soon found his sheer exuberance infectious, and my collection was rapidly building into a bit



of a monster, reaching in the end nearly 7,000 covering not just local but other parts of Southern England, and masses of aerials taken on my numerous sorties for my business.

I was particularly impressed with the fact Geoff never drove so he had to make the trip up to my annual *PhotoShow* either by train or being "delivered" by his supportive wife Brenda! He would spend all day in the Hall chatting and perusing the 70 or so albums (It should be said, without my good friend Ann Blatcher's considerable help and archival skills this would have just been a great pile of papers and

photos)

Geoff and I would challenge each other and gain great satisfaction, discovering rare and elusive finds. Even now, despite moving away, things still turn up and I have suddenly had to stop myself ringing or emailing him. Very sad.

Some subjects still have very scant records viz: The old rec/cricket ground where the bypass is; Ch'ang an Tang in Chelsfield Lane; the forge; WW2 barrage balloons at Bucks Cross etc.

We had always had a secret desire to establish a local, permanent home to display everything

rather than the inevitable "loss" to Bromley Local Studies vaults. They actually only want material that has already been carefully catalogued and referenced - much harder than it sounds and VERY time consuming! I have many discs and sheaves of A4 histories from Geoff on a plethora of subjects which should really be researched, some on floppy discs,

now obsolete.

It is gratifying to see the success of the Local History group meeting in the Brass Crosby Room, to which he did attend.

To say he will be missed is an understatement. There were unfinished missives up to a few weeks before his demise. But as a mentor, a friend, in his attention to

detail with accuracy, truth and enthusiasm -he was beyond compare. If anyone can report back what it is really like where he has now gone, he will, having already discovered when and who built the Pearly Gates!

*Philip and Jayne*

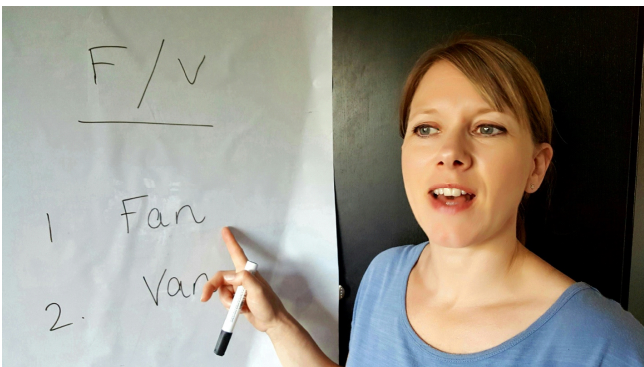
PS I don't envy the family sorting out his study!

## New Lipreading and Managing Hearing Loss Classes Come to Orpington

**Do you have hearing loss? Do you struggle to communicate in everyday situations?**

My name is Lisa Cox, I live in Chelsfield and I am profoundly deaf. I rely on lipreading to help me communicate. Without it I would not be able to follow a conversation at all. I believe in the benefits of lipreading so strongly that I decided to train as a lipreading tutor to pass on my knowledge to others in the same situation as me.

Did you know that one in six people in this country have some kind of hearing problem?



Hearing loss can affect anyone of any age. Hearing aids have improved enormously, they use all the advances in modern technology, but even the best aids don't cure hearing loss. It is still a problem to hear in noisy social or work environments. All is not

lost!! Research has shown that joining a lipreading class helps to avoid the damaging social isolation that can accompany hearing loss. Lipreading classes teach you to let your eyes help your ears fill in the things you miss. They are small friendly classes, and as

well as learning lipreading we cover lots of other things to help manage hearing loss.

We look at how hearing works and the things that can go wrong, equipment and organisations that can help, strategies to cope in various situations and much more. Oh, and we laugh a lot! Classes

are a lot of fun.

For any questions about lipreading or my classes, please do contact me on [lisalipreading@gmail.com](mailto:lisalipreading@gmail.com)

I teach at Bromley Adult Education College in Poverest Road, Orpington, and there is a class for complete beginners starting in

September on Tuesday mornings. Anyone can attend regardless of where they live.

Booking is now open and places are expected to fill quickly. Information is on the College website : **BAEC.ac.uk**. Classes are listed under 'communication'. Telephone 01689 822886

## Chelsfield Vista Rebuilt and Updated

Many residents of the area around Chelsfield appreciate the area known as Chelsfield Common, located behind the car park at the junction of Warren Road and The Highway. Previously designated as

an area for a new road prior to building the M25, the area is now a fine wildflower meadow with extensive views over the London skyline from a point opposite Court Lodge Farm. Further towards Chelsfield Village

there is also a memorial to John Hugh Mortimer Ellis, a pilot who in 1940 lost his life near this spot when his Hurricane plane was shot down during the Battle of Britain. In 1994 the Chelsfield Village Society and Bromley Council erected a viewpoint on the site in the form of a stone pillar and a metal engraved plate pointing out various land marks that could be seen in the distance. These ranged from Bromley Town Centre and Crystal Palace mast in the west to Bexleyheath and the Dartford Thames Crossing in the East. Over the years this structure had suffered from the effect of weathering and damage due to vandalism. It also



*Newly completed viewpoint showing the view over Orpington*



Chelsfield Village Society, Bromley Council and its parks and open spaces contractor, idverde, decided that the viewpoint needed updating and rebuilding. Using an artist to paint an impression of the view and a local builder in Warren Road to rebuild the pillar, the finished result is an oak board and a plate showing the area you can see. The project was completed on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and we hope that many of you visit and admire the view.

*Brian Wilson from The Friends of Warren Road at the newly completed Viewpoint*

became out of date with the building of new structures such as the Shard. A few years ago

The Friends of Warren Road, with the support of Melanie Stevens, Chairman of the The

*Pictures by Chris Davies*

## St. Martin's Heritage Open Day

St Martin of Tours church will once again be taking part in Heritage Open

Days this Autumn. Come along on Sunday 16 September from 2.30-5.30pm to see historic parish records which date from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, specially designed embroidery and vestments, and old photographs of the church and surrounding area. There will also be a display on the history of Chelsfield, bellringing demonstrations and tours of the churchyard, and of course tea and cake! Put the date in your diary and tell your friends and neighbours.

*For more information contact Philippa Rooke on [pjrooke@hotmail.com](mailto:pjrooke@hotmail.com) or Pam Temple on [shopping-p@temple-wells.co.uk](mailto:shopping-p@temple-wells.co.uk).*



## Chelsfield Evening W.I.



Our next meeting in the village hall will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm and we will be welcoming Annette Smith, our Federation Chairman, who is coming to see us. Tom Hart Dyke will also be there to tell us about Lullingstone and the World Garden. If you would like to come along, meet our ladies and participate in our WI groups, then please join us. Contact us either through our Facebook page, twitter account or telephone the president via the number advertised at the back of this magazine.

It has been a busy few months for the Chelsfield Evening WI. We have elected a new president, secretary and treasurer; held a stall at the Chelsfield Village Fair; went walking with llamas; and started a new book group and a walking group. A day walking with llamas was chosen by our ladies as the first of many events that has been suggested for our bucket list. The ladies had a wonderful Saturday at Bluecaps Farm in Wadhurst where they got up close and personal with the lovely llamas and had an amble in the sunshine. We also ran a successful

stall at the village fair where some lucky people won bottles of champagne from our tombola and enjoyed our sweet cones. Our walking group are next meeting in Eynsford. For those ladies who are unable to participate in the walk, they will be meeting the walkers in the tea rooms by the ford for refreshments after. The book group are now reading "This is going to hurt", by Adam Kay – we will give you our review next month. In August we will be at the Chelsfield Lakes Golf Centre enjoying our summer party and not having our meeting in our usual venue.





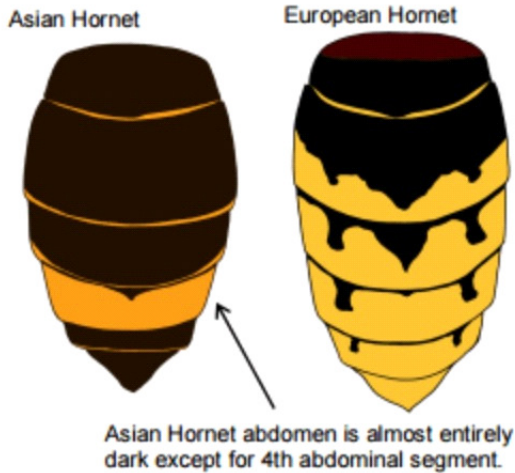
## Asian Hornets - Another Threat to Our Bees

The Asian Hornet was accidentally introduced into France in 2004 where it spread rapidly. The first UK sighting was confirmed in Gloucestershire in 2016, with a second sighting confirmed in North Devon 2017. Earlier this year it was spotted by a member of the public in a cauliflower, which has since been traced back to Boston, Lincolnshire. It is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to humans than a bee. However, they are a highly aggressive predator of native insects, posing a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. They appear quite different to our

native Hornet, with yellow tipped legs and a dark thorax. I became interested in this threat due to keeping bees, but also after a dead hornet was found in the Village Hall!

Fortunately it was one of our native European varieties. Please notify any sightings to the VV – and [alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alernonnative@ceh.ac.uk)

*Peter Gandolfi*



## IP Address Scam

Be wary of getting a phone call by an automated voice, saying that your IP address has been compromised, and asking you to press 1 to be put through to an

engineer.

**DO NOT DO THIS!**

This has been reported by a number of residents, and is a recognised

scam. Presumably pressing 1 (or any key) puts you through to a £10 a minute phone line where the user is kept on the line as long as

## Local History Group

**A Fresh Focus on Farnborough History**

When Farnborough resident Nick Reynolds retired eight years ago from a long

career in IT, he quickly found himself called upon to maintain the website of St

Giles' parish church.

That spurred development of a new site that went live in 2012. But Nick always felt that a section about the history of the village itself sat uneasily alongside church business, parish matters and a potted history of St Giles.

So he has created an impressive new offshoot site, [www.farnborough-village-history.org.uk](http://www.farnborough-village-history.org.uk) launched in January this year and focusing solely on Farnborough history.

The boundary of the village, and therefore the scope of the website, is taken as the ecclesiastical parish, which includes Locks Bottom and some land towards Orpington. Green Street Green was also part of Farnborough parish until the parish of Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom was created in 1938.

Introducing and demonstrating the new website at Chelsfield Local History Group's May meeting, Nick said that on launch day it contained 50 pages – but already it has grown to nearly 80 and more are on the way.

He began by displaying pages from the site about Church Road. Photos taken over 100 years apart show that today it looks much as it did in the past. But in the

early 19th century this was the main – indeed only – road through the village, and as a turnpike road it had to be lowered to its present level to make the climb easier for coaches. Other fascinating subjects covered on the website include Farnborough's war memorial, erected in St Giles' churchyard in 1922, and the story of the Lubbocks, former owners of the High Elms estate, whose burial ground lies in family-owned woodland close to the church.

Nick showed a range of pages featuring many buildings and other aspects of the village. Although Farnborough itself has not changed radically since the Second World War, the spread of new housing has led to the disappearance of many features including Plumbridge's Farm, two of the four public houses and the Workhouse (apart from the former chapel). One building that survives is Farnborough Hall, although most of its former estate has been built upon. Nick is keen to discover more about the property and its past occupants.

The most recent addition to the website is "*The Alley Kids Remember*", by John Riches, who lived in Farnborough as a child during the war. In the early 2000s, he produced a booklet of essays about his

own childhood experiences and those of childhood friends with whom he is still in touch.

The book is now out of print, but John was happy to have it published online, together with many photographs – some from the original book plus others taken more recently.

Although reluctant to describe himself as a historian, Nick also told the meeting about two aspects of village development that he has researched himself using source material including original documents from Kent county archives in Maidstone.

Articles on these – the turnpike route from London to Hastings on which Farnborough was an important location, and the many schemes for a railway line to the village which never came to fruition – can be found on the website.

Nick welcomes articles about Farnborough for consideration for the website. Please email him at [nickr306@talk21.com](mailto:nickr306@talk21.com)

Please note that the Local History Group will not be meeting over July and August.

Next meeting will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 Brass Crosby Room



## The Big Stink

On June 1st I was concerned about a long standing bonfire locally as the smoke was forcing me to keep my windows shut and preventing me from hanging out my washing. A walk around the village trying to locate the source of the nuisance led me down Skibbs Lane, past the hospital to my right, under clouds of drifting smoke, and towards the large barn. As I approached closer I could see the source was within Black Bush Wood. Discussing it with other residents I found that the fire had already been burning for two weeks and that fire engines had attended on a couple of occasions to no avail. Locals have seen several large lorries a day travelling down Skibbs Lane in the direction of Black Bush Wood for a considerable period of time.

The unusual prevailing wind had now blown the smoke towards the village, affecting many more of us. Further investigation revealed a clearing in the ancient woodland in which a huge heap of vegetable matter had ignited, either spontaneously or deliberately, and was smouldering, rather like the

infamous pile of rubbish in St Paul's Cray, or the more topical heathland fire on Saddleworth Moor.

A complaint to the Council was at first difficult as I was unable to provide an address. However, a search of the Council's planning pages revealed an application in 2011 for the construction of an enclosure to compost green waste which was withdrawn. This gave me the correct location to enable my complaint to proceed. The Council employee was very helpful and said she would refer it to the Environment Agency. The owner/farmer has stated that he is composting silage for use as fertiliser on his fields, and does not need permission to carry this out. He suggested arson was the cause of the fire and that the fire service could not put it out.

The amount of composting material is so large that it must have been accumulated over some years and appears to have been transferred onto the site. We seem to have reached deadlock at this stage.

Only yesterday lunchtime (28<sup>th</sup> June) I saw a large unmarked lorry with its load under a tarpaulin turning into Skibbs Lane (but too far away to see its number plate) so this episode may be continuing for some time. Bromley Council would be interested to hear of any sightings of lorries with identifying marks or number plates so that the source of any transferred vegetable waste can be traced. Please contact the Village Voice with any information.

*Catherine Gandolfi*



## Tree in Road

On the 20th July in Bucks Cross Road, a tree fell partially across the road. Kevin Brown with the aid of John Leach cleared the road way of the tree.



## Village Hall Defibrillator First Aid Course

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 13 local residents and hall users took part in a lively first aid course held in the village hall. This refresher course was to ensure the continued accreditation of the Village Hall Defibrillator with the London Ambulance Service.



Our instructors were Emma and Ellen from Making Medics. They covered the essential practical skills required when recognising and dealing with unconscious casualties and cardiac arrest. All those present found it instructive and worthwhile.

To retain accreditation a small number of us need

to do this every year, but places will be made available for others to take part.

The course was funded by the Village Hall, and will become an annual event.

As before, proceeds from the ice cream sales at the Village Fair will go towards supporting the defibrillator project

Making Medics run first aid courses for children in the village hall during holidays, and as well as offering regulated first aid qualifications and can customise first aid courses for all age groups and circumstances.

[www.makingmedics.co.uk](http://www.makingmedics.co.uk)  
[info@makingmedics.co.uk](mailto:info@makingmedics.co.uk)

07960 301188



Stroke rehabilitation and support

# icare

September 2018

Open Day

Icare Day Centre Trust (Green St Green)

Saturday 8th September 2018: 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Teas, Cakes, Gifts, Bric a Brac and Book stalls, Bottle  
Tombola, Games and Competitions and many other stalls.

Please come and support us at Old School House, High  
Street, Green St Green BR6 6BJ.

For more details please contact Sue Chown on

01689 862883

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### **Bromley Council**

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail: [fixmystreet.com](mailto:fixmystreet.com)

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  
council website,

[www.bromley.gov.uk/report](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/report),  
or if urgent by phone out of  
hours Emergency Duty  
Team 020 8464 4848.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

John Leach 07711304965.

### **NHS Non-Emergency 111**

**Chelsfield Primary School**  
01689 825827

### **BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital**

Main Reception

01689 877855

Physiotherapy

01689 885920

Outpatients

01689 885905

### **Councillors**

Mike Botting-

[mike.botting@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:mike.botting@bromley.gov.uk)

Angela Page

[angela.page@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:angela.page@bromley.gov.uk)

Samaris Huntington-Thresher

[samaris.huntington-](mailto:samaris.huntington-)

[thresher@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:thresher@bromley.gov.uk)

### **Chelsfield Village Voice**

[chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)

### **EDF Electrical Power Failure**

Call 105 or 0800 316 3105

**BT Line Faults** 0800 800151

### **Thames Water Emergencies**

0800 714614

### **National Grid (Gas)**

Emergency (leaks) 0800 111999

### **Bromley Police Station &**

**Police non emergency** 101

### **Samaritans**

Freephone 116123

### **Safer Neighbourhood**

**Team** 020 8721 2605

[chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt](mailto:chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt)

[@met.police.uk](mailto:@met.police.uk)

### **Chelsfield Village Hall**

(bookings) **01689 831826** or

email to:

[cvhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhlettings@gmail.com)

### **Chelsfield Players**

[info@chelsfieldplayers.org](mailto:info@chelsfieldplayers.org)

[www.chelsfieldplayers.org](http://www.chelsfieldplayers.org)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Drive)

#### Live Singer

From 6.00pm Contact 01689 880288

#### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall,  
Windsor Drive

#### Iyengar Yoga Classes

9.30am-11.00am  
Suitable for Beginners  
Contact Denise 01689 853215

#### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall and  
Brass Crosby Room

#### Chelsfield Housemartins

Monday Afternoons, for local people who are unable to go out without help.

#### EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall,

#### InsideOut Pilates

Monday 6.30pm-7.30pm  
Tuesday 9am-11am  
Thursday 6.30pm-7.30pm  
Contact Francesca on  
07791 073445

[iopilates@gmail.com](mailto:iopilates@gmail.com)

#### EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY

Christ Church Hall,  
Charterhouse Rd

#### Pilates Classes

##### Monday

10.45am Over 60's/Osteo  
6.00pm Beginners Pilates  
7.10pm Mixed Ability Pilates

##### Tuesday

7.15pm Beginners Pilates 8.25pm  
Mixed Ability Pilates

##### Wednesday

9.30am Mixed Ability Pilates  
1.30pm Over 60's/Osteo

##### Saturday

8.45am Improvers Pilates  
10am Beginners Pilates  
Contact Sally 07786 035640  
[sally@orpingtonpilates.co.uk](mailto:sally@orpingtonpilates.co.uk) see  
[www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk)  
for venues and more info

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room

#### St Martin's Toddler Group

10.30am-12.00 midday  
Contact Sarah Ford:

01689 853415

[smartinstoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:smartinstoddlers@gmail.com)

#### EVERY TUESDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Drive)

#### Quiz Night

From 8.00pm Contact 01689 880288

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

#### Charity Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

#### EVERY WED THURS & FRI

Chelsfield Methodist Church Hall,  
Windsor Drive

#### Pilates Classes & Pre & PostNatal Pilates Classes

Wed 6.50-7.50pm

& 8.00-9.00pm

Thursday 8.20-9.20pm

Friday 9.35-10.35 & 10.45 -11.45am

Post Natal Pilates 12-1.00pm

(Babies Welcome)

Call Bethany Lucas

07415 638546

[bethanylucasplates@gmail.com](mailto:bethanylucasplates@gmail.com)

Further classes at:

[www.bethanylucasplates.co.uk](http://www.bethanylucasplates.co.uk)

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am

Contact Pam Keeper

01732 458930

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Class Street Dance

4.30pm-6.00pm

Boys & Girls all Ages

Info: Clare 07960 865518

[www.class-streetdance.co.uk](http://www.class-streetdance.co.uk)

#### EVERY FRIDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Drive)

#### DJ NIGHT

From 8.30pm Contact 01689

880288

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Thursday 2nd-Saturday 4th August

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### 1 Flat 3 Stories - Three one-act plays by Chelsfield Players

Box Office 07818 505448

Tickets £8.50

#### Saturday 4th August

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive.

#### Singles Karaoke

Contact 01689 880288

#### Monday 6th August

#### (1st Monday of Month)

Brass Crosby Room

#### St Martins Memory Cafe

2-4pm. Contact Jackie McCann 01689 854119

[memorycafe@smartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:memorycafe@smartinchelsfield.org.uk)

#### Wednesday 8th August

#### (2nd Wednesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

Contact Gwen on 01689 834879

#### Saturday 11th August

Five Bells

#### The Annual DOG SHOW

Registration 3pm. £5 registration fee

All proceeds to Foal Farm. Domestic

Dogs only - no Show Dogs

#### Wednesday 15th August

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians out

there, come along and have a go!

Starts at 8.30pm

#### Tuesday 21st August

#### (3rd Tuesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

From 7.45pm

Contact Jules on 0203 441 5669

or Sue on 01689 827407

#### Monday 27th August

Five Bells

#### Bank Holiday Family Fun

Doors open Midday, Bouncy Castle,

Kids Football Pitch and large goals for the bigger kids and dads!

#### Wednesday 29th August

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians out

there, come along and have a go!

Starts at 8.30pm

#### Saturday 1st September

Church Fields, Farnborough

#### Farnborough Village Fair

12.00pm - 5.00pm

#### Thursday 6th September

Five Bells

#### Jazz Night with "Just Friends"

Our popular sextet with their swing

jazz standards Starts 8.30pm

#### Friday 7th September

Five Bells

#### Live Music with Titanic

Starts 8.00pm