



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

December 2010

Join us Carol singing around the Christmas Tree

Tuesday 14th December at 8.00pm
Outside "Crosshall" in the centre of the village



Village Christmas Party/Social

Wednesday 22nd December

8.00pm in the Brass Crosby Room

If last year was anything to go by, this will be a good event with many new faces. There will be a raffle in support of the village newsletter, Chelsfield Village Voice

Please bring some food and drink to share

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Contributions Please !

Amusing stories,
anecdotes, old photos,
forthcoming events?

Let Us Know

Contributions for our
January issue should be
emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village
BR67RN

Visit

www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

Noah: I thought we had two turkeys when we left ?

Mrs Noah: Well it is Christmas !

Carol Singing at the Five Bells

The annual and traditional stretching of vocal chords at Christmastide takes place at the Five Bells on Thursday 16th December. The “new” home for *Carols at Kent* is just as popular and you are welcome to come and sing with us, with a charity collection. All the traditional carols

and Christmas songs plus several specials composed by Phil Lane. Music and instruments will be provided and our hosts Kay and Ade will be on tap to supply finest beverages. Probably only one accordion this year as Barry is now cruising with his singing wife Jill. Any budding squeezebox

student’s welcome, I have another 7 instruments if you feel so inclined! Incidentally, there is a DVD/VHS of the last night at the Kent Hounds in 2004 depicting many inebriated but very jolly folk being “very silly”.

With seasonal greetings,
Phil Lane

A Christmas Carol - Review

This delightful and much loved Dickens story translated very well to a play with a very large cast – so large that the cricket pavilion was used as extra dressing room space. No space was to be found in the stalls either. I suspect this play was a sell out for every performance.

What can one say about such an enjoyable production? Patrick Neylan deserves special mention. He was on stage virtually throughout the play and had to learn a prestigious amount of lines. His progressive transformation from miserly old curmudgeon to someone with an almost

childlike delight in Christmas was well portrayed. Good use was made of the limited stage space and simple but effective props. The music by Dave Griffiths and special effects by a large backstage team contributed greatly to the overall effect.

A view from the stalls

How Slow is Your Broadband?

A recent article in the Daily Telegraph, reported a survey revealing Britain’s sub-2Mps blackspots. The village of Farningham, Kent was found to have the slowest reported download at

1.3Mps. Our village certainly used to be slower than this. Chelsfield must run this quite close. Can we beat this record, what speed do you get?

You can check your own broadband service speed

by connecting one of the many free online speed checkers. Try: www.broadbandspeedchecker.co.uk

for a quick and easy speed check.

Do you know the one on how the Shepherd got his lost sheep back?
Herd it!

Sleigh Ride

We have a toboggan at Holly Cottage that is almost as old as Christmas itself. My dad built it at his father's house in Orpington High Street in 1934 with friend John Sutton.

The side frames were made from an old black-board easel and still have the peg holes to show. He built a steering runner at the front which can be seen in the short 9.5mm movie film taken in 1936 at Biggin Hill. He also used to toboggan down Squirrels Court path off World's End Lane. After the War, when I was five, the



Philip in Goddington Park 1949

same sledge was brought out every winter and the metal runners cleaned with emery. I was dragged around Goddington Park and later was taken to the sand hills off Perryhall Road.

In the 50's with my friends Bernard Tritton, Dave Taylor and Jimmy Chalk as soon as snow threatened we would spend hours polishing the runners in preparation for the best runs ever! Eventually I rebuilt the long lost steering runner but this made it rather heavy and unwieldy. When Nick and Sally were born it started all over again! Minor repairs were made each year but like Walter Gabriel's broom, it was still the same toboggan.

We used to take it to Lullingstone Park and then on one infamous day, to Seaford Head Golf Course where yours truly managed to land head first in a bunker and ended up in East-

bourne General with concussion!



Nicholas, Chelsfield Lane 1977

More bumps and scrapes were acquired at Polhill before I decided that I should become more sensible. A few years ago it was rebuilt again and treated against further rot. The only bits that are original from 1934 are the two side runners and one plank! It is now 76 years old and still serviceable.



The Toboggan built 1934, now in 2010

Village Telephone Blackout

As many of residents are aware, the village lost all land phone connections on Saturday 27th November. This was due to the theft of two lengths of cable along Court Road at about 10.30pm.

Around 500 local properties were affected, with the supply was mostly restored by mid-day Tuesday 30th November. The BT engineers, working under the protection of a fishing umbrella, said that there had been several similar thefts in



the south east London area recently, the latest

the previous night in Grove Park.

Forgotten Years

When did you last see the countryside alive with people working together, talking, joking, and sharing a lunch break in the fields during work that progressed at a human pace? When did you last meet a tired steaming team of plough horses ambling homewards, or even a herd of dairy cows meandering along the lane between meadows and milking parlour, or a flock of sheep bleating down the road escorted by border collies?

Some of these would have been common sights within living memory, but now the teams, herds and flocks have been ousted from the lanes by motor traffic, and the fields are worked by massive machines with a lone driver. Chelsfield was a strong farming area at one time, mainly market gardening and fruit growing and one dairy farm; these farms flourished during World War II when all available land was farmed. The May family at Hewitts Farm were the

biggest farmers, others were Formans, Hatherill, Smith, Hurleys, Whithead, and they all employed local labour. There were some real characters among these men: Whiskers Osborne, Jumbo Martin, Tosh Wadey, Joe Turner, George Packham, Tinker Thomas and Terry Marr to name but a few.

In the school holidays we used to go strawberry picking at Hewitts Farm, we were given tokens at the end of the day and at the end of the week we would

**What disasters could happen if you dropped the Christmas turkey ?
The downfall of Turkey, the breakup of China and the overthrow of Greece !**

go to the farm and change tokens for cash.

When the seasonal fruit pickers arrive it kept the local pubs very bust! There were 4 pubs all run by great characters: The Bo Peep – John Pritchard; Rock & Fountain – Bill & Nellie Wright; Kent Hounds – Fred Exall; Five Bells – Bert Parkes. Chelsfield Village was a thriving village in the late 1930's with 4 shops: Post Office, General Stores, Bakers and Saddle & Harness makers; never short of village lads for the Cricket and Football teams. At the time there was always lots of people around, the buses were always full on Saturdays with shoppers going to Orpington. There was always someone to talk to.

As a schoolboy on Saturdays I worked for Jim Smallwood on the bakers round which started at 7.00am and finished at 1.30pm. I was paid 2s 6d and I would then get the 477 bus to Orpington where I would visit a fascinating bookshop called Goddards, where you would buy your favourite comics such as *The Wizard*, *Rover*, *Hotspur*, I would then go to the

cinema, Orpington Palace, commonly known as the "Bug Hutch" usually to see a cowboy film; this was the highlight of my week.

I must mention the three churches, St. martin's (Rev Mackay), The Methodist Chapel (Oswald Bowen), Well Hill Mission Church. I had some great times at Well Hill Christmas parties! Garden parties were also very good. There was a very good Boys Club run by Mr Moordey, known as "Uncle Wal", he did a great deal of good for the young people of Chelsfield Village. The children were taught by Miss Smith and Miss Sheldon. No uniforms but a great spirit. There were no cricket or football teams because of the war.

There was a shelter in the School to dive into in an air raid.

None of us have university degrees, but we must have at least reached a good standard because we have all done quite well with our lives – the happiest days of my life were as a boy in Chelsfield, which is still a great place to live.

Soldiers were stationed in Chelsfield House during the second World War, now Chelsfield Park Hospital. There were weekly Saturday night dances at the Old Reading Room. Music was provided by Radiogram with Jack Devine in charge. The village girls were never short of partners.

Bob Hogben



Old Doug, successor to Bert, at the Five Bells

Report from Residents' Association Planning Seminar

This is an annual event for representatives from Bromley's residents' groups. Nearly 90 delegates attended and were given a variety of presentations.

The first presentation was by, Bob Neill, MP for Bromley and Chislehurst, Under Secretary of State at the department of Communities and Local Government. He said that the inherited planning system was too complex, causing delays and costs. The new Localism Bill, the biggest bill in this parliament, recognises the needs and rights of the community to be involved in planning matters. In the London boroughs we have the elected Mayor and are subject to the London Plan. Certain targets will now have to be negotiated rather than imposed.

Community based planning is to be encouraged and developers will have to have pre-application discussions. The role of local councillors will be more constructive and relationships with local residents will be encouraged. The process will be facilitated by local councils

and involve residents' associations with consultation being the order of the day.

Councils will no longer be forced to build a certain number of houses, therefore the green belt and metropolitan open land will be safer. Mr Neill hoped that the bill will be introduced in the next few weeks or months.

The previous legislation imposed a maximum number of parking spaces per house, a delegate suggested that a minimum number of spaces should be provided to avoid overspill onto the local streets. The response was that local authorities should be able to make their own decisions in accord with the London Plan.

Some concern was expressed that local consultations with councillors and the council may exclude concerned residents and result in tacit approval. Broad consultation was to be encouraged.

The second presentation was by Bromley's Chief Executive, Doug Patterson. This concerned the planning necessary to

meet future requirements and the need for cutting costs. The pressure for spending is increasing due to an aging population and demands for more care for children. Mr Patterson reported that the local authorities are to become more accountable for policing, health and education. He reported that savings were being made in several ways. Office space would be reduced to save rent, enabling shared desk space by flexible working or working from home. Sharing a combined IT solution with Lewisham council will save half a million pounds a year. The proposed budget cuts of £35million over the next 4 years will primarily hit children's services.

At this point the Wilkinson Cup was presented. This award acknowledges the valuable role of local advocates who draw together the views of residents, champion good design and engender community empowerment. This year it was presented to Dick Groves of Disability Voice Bromley who provided advice on the suitability of

the Orpington High Street improvements for the visually impaired. He was pleased to have been able to make a contribution but said that not all of his ideas had been incorporated.

Chief Planner Bob McQuillan then presented a planning update.

The Mayor of London's draft replacement London Plan, published in October 2009 is under consideration. The original allocation of 117 traveller places has been reduced to 58 and it now seems that the number of places is no longer to be proscribed.

Planning changes introduced in June 2020 exclude private residential land from the definition of "previously developed land" and the national minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare has been deleted. Both these changes were welcomed as much development has been taking place in gardens and the local character of the area can now be respected.

He gave some examples of enforcement actions. One residence had accumulated such a quantity of rubbish in the garden that the council had to step in.

One hundred tons of rubbish were removed. Ewe were assured that enforcement actions were permanent and did not run out after time and that there would be no policy changes regarding Conservation Areas.

Keith Gausden, the area census manager gave a presentation about the imminent national census. The date that applies is 27th March 2011. The forms can be completed on line. Provided enough people respond, the statistics can be used as a building block for government allocation of grants. In Bromley, 93% of residents completed the forms in 2001. We were assured that no personal information would be available to anyone for 100 years. Only the statistics are used and can provide information on future requirements for education, health, emergency and social services. Bromley borough has the highest number of freedom pass holders of all the London boroughs – 60,000. The information would eventually be made available for genealogical research.

Mr Gausden encouraged us all to publicise the cen-

sus. There is a need for people to get involved delivering and collecting forms. This will be paid at a rate of £7.50 an hour. If you are interested in finding out more, visit www.censusjobs.co.uk

Last to speak was Peter Martin, Head of Strategy and Renewal. He gave us a planning and heritage update. Bromley's housing supply is planned to increase by to 500 dwellings per annum. The figure is constrained by available capacity and should be regarded as an estimate rather than a target. A map dividing the borough into different areas depending on their types was shown. We were included with Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom. Local issues were to be considered in these different areas. New laws were to encourage localism, inviting local input. This may be an expanding role for residents' associations.

The application to make Down House and the surrounding landscape a world heritage site has been deferred. It does not fit the accepted mould but will remain on the tentative list. Bromley will designate it as a site of importance.

LB of Bromley Residents' Federation Notes

The planning seminar was discussed. Bob Neill said that too many planning decisions were being made by people unassociated and unfamiliar with the sites in question – from councillors on planning committees from other areas to the office of the deputy prime minister – Prescott's old dept. overruling local decisions. Some expressed concerns that the new pre-application consultation process may lead to tacit approval before residents know of the application and can provide

input. Hopefully local councillors will encourage local consultation in these early stages.

A delegate from the Advisory Panel for Conservation Areas (APCA) stressed the importance of local input during planning consultations. Local knowledge is very important as those on planning committees and the planners do not have the same level of local knowledge.

There are 196 CCTV cameras in the borough. 79 on high streets, 75 in car parks – these are

static covering cash machines. The cost of running the system, including 12 operating staff monitoring screens, is £573,000. The operatives can contact the police if they see a problem..

The closure of Queen Mary's Sidcup A&E is overloading Queen Elizabeth London. Patients can still walk in to QM and may be transported to appropriate specialised unit – PRU or London hospitals. The situation is being monitored and may change

Bromley Community Engagement Forum

Offences on buses are down by 54%, the lowest in the metropolitan area. This is due to presence of police teams. Their helmet cameras are very effective at improving children's behaviour. There are 16 cameras on every double-decker bus. The driver has a red button to press to report problems. The worst

stations for crime Bromley South, St Mary Cray and Shortlands. Railway crime is down by 20%, presumably again due to transport police

More paths at High Elms are now suitable for wheelchairs.

Crystal Palace has the greatest diversity of bats in the country. All the bat boxes are

occupied.

If a bus turns round before the end of its route (as sometimes happens to the R3 in Chelsfield Village when the route is obstructed by inconsiderate parking) the driver should issue a further ticket to continue the journey on the next bus

Local History Group

The meeting took place in early November so Paul Rason chose remembrance as his theme.

Some time ago Paul undertook to log all the war memorials in the borough. He produced a book with maps showing the locations and photographs of each of the 330 memorials. Some of these pre-date WWI and were usually put up by the local community. The only memorial in England paid for by the government is the Cenotaph. Town war memorials were overseen by committees of local dignitaries and it was expected that they would be looked after. The London Borough of Bromley maintains 19 such memorials. There is no obligation but an act of parliament said that councils "may" look after the memorials.

We visited the brass war memorial plaque in the church porch. Unusually, there were more names from WWI than WWII. The Orpington town memorial is more typical, showing more names from WWII reflecting the growth in population between the wars. The names on the WWI part of the plaque

were unusually not in strict alphabetical order, only grouped alphabetically by the first letter of their names. No-one knows why this should be. Paul then showed us the Miller-Hallett window and the Asprey memorial. Capt. Maurice Asprey is buried in France but there is a memorial stone in the churchyard.

Paul showed us a booklet about the "Great War", so called because it was thought it would be the last. This booklet had information about the Canadian hospital and photographs of the hospital and Canadian Corner. This was presented to the families of each Canadian buried at All Saints and on the memorial at Orpington. It was interesting to see a photograph of Canadian nurses at the hospital queuing up to cast their votes for the Canadian election some years before British women won the right to vote. There was a list of all the local groups which were involved in the war.

After refreshments Paul handed out photocopies of records many of the WW1 people on the me-

morial locally. These documents included enlistment papers, newspaper cuttings, and war and medal records.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established in 1917 also provides either a uniform headstone or an inscription on a memorial for nearly 1,700,000 Commonwealth service men and women who died in WWI and WWII. Some deaths occurred after

Cessation of hostilities due to mines or injuries and illnesses incurred during the war. The Commission is responsible for the maintenance of all war graves. The headstones do not record the manner of the death. Those who died serving at sea were recorded on the memorial of their home port: Chatham, Portsmouth, Plymouth etc. The Commission also commemorates more than 67,000 Commonwealth civilians who died as a result of enemy action during the Second World War. Their names are listed on a roll of honour, housed near St George's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, London.

Would You Like to Take Part in a Local History Project?

In last month's newsletter, it was mentioned that volunteers were needed in transcribing the original school log books into an electronic form. These give a lot of interesting

information on the early days of the school. It has been suggested that this can become part of the Internet Café held fortnightly in the Parish room on Wednesday after-

noons. If you would like to help, please come along with your laptop if you have one, otherwise equipment is provided.

Tackling Climate Change in Bromley

A précis of a talk by Alastair Baillie, Bromley's Environmental Development Manager to the Bromley Friends of the earth group.

Alastair said that he looks after sustainability for the council. His job encompasses acting to reduce the environmental impacts inside the council as well as in the borough as a whole.

All large public buildings now must have a Display Energy Certificate and the Climate Change Act 2008 set legally binding national targets for reductions in CO₂. The Climate Change Act also created a committee to advise the government on carbon budgets and whether businesses should have to report on their carbon emissions.

London's response is important as it uses as much energy as Greece or Portugal – the Mayor's target is to reduce CO₂ by 60% by 2020. A worrying fact is that if we stopped emitting CO₂ now we would still have 40 years of warning to contend with.

Alastair posed the question: How green is the Government? Some of the downsides are that the renewables target is stuck at 15% by 2010. There is also a threat over many environmental bodies and to council funding. Some of the upsides are that the coalition has stated that it wants to be the 'greenest government ever' and the carbon reduction target of 80% by 2050 has been kept. Another positive is that the Department of Energy and Climate Change has not been abolished yet! There is also a proposed Energy Security and Green Economy Bill which includes the 'Green Deal'. It is estimated that 26 million homes could benefit from energy saving improvements. The improvements are paid for through savings made on energy bills - a 'pay as you save' scheme. The most energy inefficient homes could save on average, £550 per year.

The LB Bromley's Climate Change framework brings

together a number of borough and council plans. It includes a Carbon Reduction Commitment programme and includes target setting. It was interesting to see a breakdown of the 2008/09 carbon footprint for all of Bromley Council.

50% schools, 15% street lighting, 14% Buildings, 13% leisure services 5% staff commuting and 3% travel

Alastair explained that there are 97 maintained schools in the borough which would account for this high figure. New schools use a great deal on I.C.T. and electricity is generally three times more carbon intensive than gas. The annual progress in CO₂ reduction in the last two years was displayed, which showed some good progress, particularly in the areas of waste and water and buildings.

Bromley's carbon footprint (about 1.5 million tonnes CO₂) mainly comes from domestic sources (53%), with transport at 22% and 25% for industry.

Many energy saving measures of council buildings have been made including cavity wall insulation, roof insulation and replacement windows. A voltage optimisation system is estimated to be saving £40k per year. There are future plans to change intensive air conditioners for evaporative cooling units in the computer server room which should save 147 tons of CO₂ per annum.

Other current projects include dimming street lighting in trial areas and retrofitting street signs and centre is-

land columns so they are only being lit when it is dark.

For staff, there is a staff travel plan, car sharing scheme, cycling facilities and a walk to work week. Other ongoing projects include pool cars and bikes, an electric truck and a biodiesel fuel tank. Waste and water is being reduced at the Civic centre through a variety of measures including leakage control and on-site composting.

So what challenges does Bromley face in meeting its targets? It is a large affluent borough; with a lack of public

transport and a large infrastructure with the largest road network. Much of the housing stock is pre-war and hard-to-treat with energy saving measures. Several organisations / initiatives were mentioned that give advice although resources are now limited. These include The Energy Saving Trust and Warm Zone.

Alastair compared CO₂ equivalents for some common items: A plastic carrier bag 10g CO₂e, A New Zealand apple 100g CO₂e and a bottle of wine 1.0-1.5kg CO₂e.

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, Brom-
ley, BR1 3UH

Reporting Problems to the Council

Can be reported via the
CVS website, or if urgent by
phone out of hours Emer-
gency Duty Team 020 8464
4848.

Mobile Library

The mobile library stops

outside Chelsfield Village
School on Tuesdays be-
tween 11:15 and 11:45.

Books can be reserved from
here, or over the Internet via
the Bromley library website
for later picking up from the
mobile library.

Councillors

Julian Grainger
01689 889392
julian.grainger@bromley.gov.uk
Samaris Huntington-Thresher
020 8464 3333
samaris.huntington-thresher
@bromley.gov.uk
Russell Jackson
russell.jackson@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Society

cvscontact@gmail.com

Chelsfield Village Voice

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BT Line Faults 0800 800151

Electrical Power Failure (EDF)
08007838866

Thames Water Emergencies
0845 9200800

Transco Gas Emergency Ser-
vice 0800 111999

Orpington Police Station
1000-1800 Monday-Saturday
0300 1231212

Samaritans 01689 833000

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Safer Neighbourhood Team



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

10.00am-12.00 midday
Contact Sarah Ford: 01689
853415

EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Art Workshop "Art for the Fun of it"

4.00pm-5.00pm 5 years
and upwards £8.00 per child
Details 01959 532761
geraldinefranklin @bt.com

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

Charity Quiz Night from 9.00pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am
Contact Pam Keeper on
01732 458930

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Rugby for Girls

Any Age
Evening training from
September to May
Contact Kevin
0208 289 8566

EVERY THURSDAY

St Martin of Tours Church

Viva Acappella

Ladies Barbershop Chorus
Practice
Contact Helen 07984
961696

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday 9th December (2nd Thursday Each Month)

Brass Crosby Room
Crafts For All
Come and Try Your Hand at
a Range of Crafts
11.00am

Thursday 9th December Five Bells

Choir Singing Carols

From 8.30pm

Tuesday 14th December Outside Crosshall (opposite Five Bells)

Carol Singing Around the Christmas Tree

8.00pm

Wednesday 15th December Parish Room-Skibbs Lane **Internet Cafe**

2.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 15th December Five Bells

Open Mic Night

8.00pm
Take the Mic and sing or
play

Thursday 16th December (3rd Thursday each month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15 - Midday

Thursday 16th December Five Bells

Carols at Kent

Carols and other Christmas
songs and Music
8.00pm

Saturday 18th December Five Bells

Father Christmas is at the Five Bells

3.00-5.00pm

Wed 22nd December Brass Crosby Room

Village Christmas Party/Social Evening

from 8.00pm

Monday 3rd January

Brass Crosby Room
Church Social

Evening
from 8.00pm