



DECEMBER 2018

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Hospital



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

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Back in the pub again

See Page 10 for full details on this latest Christmas Song!



CHELSEFIELD
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christmas Fair 2018

Wednesday 12th December
from 3pm to 5pm
Chelsfield Primary School
Warren Road,
Chelsfield Village
BR6 6EP

**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year
to all our readers!**

**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

January 2019 issue to:
chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

or post to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village

BR6 7RN

to arrive by

Sun 30th December 2018

The Pheasant

In early November I noticed a male pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) in the field opposite my cottage and thought that although this bird is not uncommon I have not seen many in the area. Ours is not to my knowledge a 'game-bird' area (the closest being West Sussex) so it must be feral. That may seem like a strange comment when these birds are such an iconic symbol of our countryside but following some research I realised that these birds are originally from Asia and first appeared in our countryside during the times of the Romano-British. They then became naturalised prior to the arrival of the Normans in 1066. Many different sub-species have been subsequently imported and released in Britain by game-bird breeders, so our resulting stock is mongrel, the majority showing the features of several species.

There are questions as to the sustainability of the species if 20 million birds were not being released into the wild every year

but they are well adapted to the British climate and breed naturally in the wild. However, most released birds survive less than a year in the wild due to predation by foxes and the shooting lobby. Prior to the interest of the shooting community the bird's main use was in breeding for food. It then became locally extinct from most of the British Isles in the early 17th century and was then 're-invented/introduced' as a game bird in the 1830s. This led to many of the woods and copses that are with us today having been left to act as

sanctuaries for these birds.

It is the male that shows the flashy colours while the females of most sub-species are almost identical and are a fairly drab grey colour. However, despite the male's bright colours, it is considered by bird-fanciers as the most boring bird in Britain. This is because, not being indigenous and having millions of birds reared like free-range chickens and then being released into the wild for the shooting community it represents 'fake ornithology'. The shooting





another destroyed all of the nests of any bird species within a wood because they might eat the food intended for the game-birds.

Interestingly, as of 2005, the pheasant has the smallest known genome of all living amniotes (amniotes lay their eggs on land or retain the fertilized egg within the mother). The genome contains only 970 million base pairs compared to over three billion for humans. More recent research has found that this record has now been beaten by a type of hummingbird.

When nesting naturally in the countryside a cock will have a small harem of hen birds but has nothing more to do with the female after mating as incubation and chick rearing is exclusively the hen's job. The hen will nest in a small depression, often in a hedge or in tall grass. Once born the chicks stay near the hen for several weeks, yet leave the nest when only a few hours old. The cock, always the 'showy' one (see photos), can be prompted to crow by distant rumbles of

season lasts from 1st Oct to the 1st Feb and drives a multi-million pound industry. It usually involves birds being driven by beaters and dogs to fly over a line of guns assembled in a woodland clearing. This form of entertainment took off when both guns and transport developed to the point where shooting became a major part of the landed gentry's social calendar in the mid 1800s. The sport became very competitive with each shooter trying to 'bag' as many birds as they could in any given day. Edward VIII established the British record by killing 3937 in a day. He said afterwards: "Perhaps we overdid it today"! Consequently the birds become very wary of man after they associate them

with danger. Very wise as even today the pheasant is one of the World's most hunted birds. Having 'bagged' the birds, the carcasses were often hung for a time to improve the meat by slight decomposition, as with most other game. It seems that the hen makes better eating than the cock. One way of knowing when the bird is ready to cook is to hang it by the tail in the pantry and when it falls to the floor: it's ready for the pot.

Due to the needs of the upper class customers the gamekeepers went to extremes to ensure as many birds as possible were available to be shot. This included 'shooting all of the nightingales because they disturb the pheasants at night' while

thunder or gunfire. It was said that during WWI, pheasants in Kent crowed in response to the sound of guns at the Battle of the Somme (where my grandfather served) while the same happened on the East coast during the battle of Jutland in 1916 (a battle incidentally in which a great uncle of mine lost his life while serving as a radio operator on HMS Elizabeth). But that's

another story!

Considering the Pheasant's iconic association with the countryside, it does not seem to have many (any?) folklore names associated with it although an 'old English' pheasant refers to a bird without the distinctive white neck ring. Its collective nouns are a covey, a nide, or a nye' of pheasants although my

favourite is a 'bouquet' of pheasants. When reading these collective nouns I always get an image of a rather bored Victorian vicar sitting down and thinking up imaginative names as they seem have nothing to do with hard working country folk using colloquial language!

*Steve Fuller
December 2018*

Mutterings From The Millers



As you can imagine at this time of the year, the crops look after themselves. The wheat and barley are still growing, they are what we call tillering. This is, in effect, the plant making more stems to carry ears, and then next year depending on the amount of water and sunlight in the spring, the plant will kill off the ones it doesn't think it can feed. The cover crop is growing nicely as you can see from the photo. These 3 different plants are sucking up any left over nutrient from the previous crop.

The boys are still working converting the old farm shop into an office for me. The plastering has been done and painted and they are now working on the electrics. As you can imagine after all that practice in the old units, they are quite a dab hand at it now.

What a lot of rain and in such heavy downpours too. As I write this on the 27th November, we have had 120 mls (5") rain just this month. That is 110000 gallons of rain per acre! Great Grandfather, George writes in November 1915 they had snow and it was very cold. It took the steam engine 7 hours to

get 2 waggons from Foxbury (where Foxbury Drive is now) to the main road but by the end of the month it was getting milder and the snow all gone. The workers had harvested the potatoes and onions with the onions making £14 and the parsnips 90/- that morning at market. The weather wasn't good over the Christmas period and trade at the market very bad. They had 6" of rain during December so the fields must have been very wet indeed.

Steve's Grandfather and Great Uncle returned home from boarding school and their mother, Emily, who took them up



for £50 per annum.

This month's weather report is from Devon in 1891. Apparently during a fierce blizzard, corn was reported to have germinated and grown to a height of 3ins beneath the snow – the ground was warm when the snow fell and the snow would have had an insulating effect against the cold air temperature above. Brrr brrr



Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year

*Steve, Chris & Pete Miller
Court Lodge Farm*

to London with their sister Muriel, met George and they all went to visit Gamages

Vickers of Erith were running buses to and from Orpington for the

munition workers and were taking all the available houses to house them. Great Grandfather tenanted Harecroft house (now called Harefield) in Warren Road to Vickers

Much Ado About Nothing - A Review

We entered the hall with the impression of a drive in cinema. A nice touch was front of house members also being in period dress.

I learned that "Nothing" in the title really should be Noting, which in Shakespeare's day meant gossip, rumour or overhearing, which makes more sense, as this is what the play is about.

Benedick and Beatrice are tricked into confessing their love for each other, and Claudio is tricked into rejecting Hero at the altar on the erroneous belief that she has been unfaithful. At the end, Benedick and Beatrice join forces to set things right, and the others join in a dance celebrating the marriages of the two couples. A truly happy ending.

I am always wary of the Bard's plays in modern dress. This production used a combination of 1950s America with a biker gang taking the place of soldiers returning from war, but set in the original Messina in Sicily. This combination seemed to work well, and was believable with an excellent set.

Our thanks go to the Director Diana McDonnell

Pascoe who adapted, abridged and modernised the play, pulling it off with great aplomb.

From the Director's notes, this play is one of Shakespeare's most soap opera-ish. A melodramatic comedy with love at first sight, silly misunderstandings and pranks, revenge, weddings and pretend funerals, a set of hissable villains (complete with biker jackets and combs)

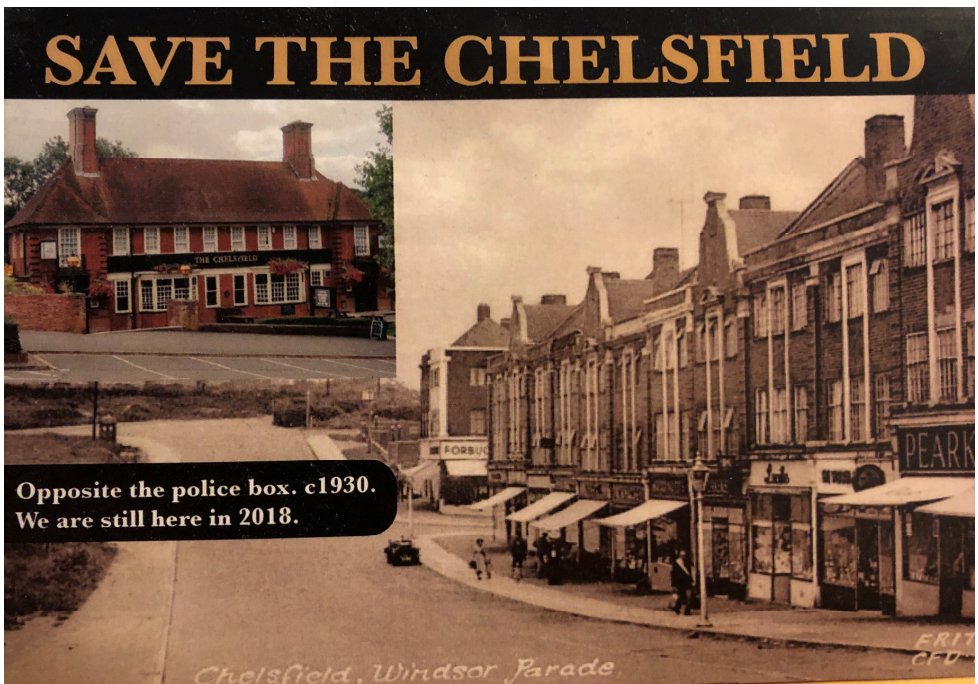
and inept coppers (beautifully played by Norman Bailey and Keith Wishart) who stumble on the truth. There were not one but two pairs of heroes and heroines with entwined storylines reminiscent of *The Taming of The Shrew* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The costume department created some lovely 1950s frocks and the well chosen occasional music was evocative leading to some very quiet audience

participation.

It must have been crowded in the small dressing rooms for the large cast who all acquitted themselves well. Imaginative use was also made of the audience isle for the entrance and exit of the characters. It must have been cold walking around the outside of the hall in their summer clothes.

A view from the stalls

Save The Chelsfield

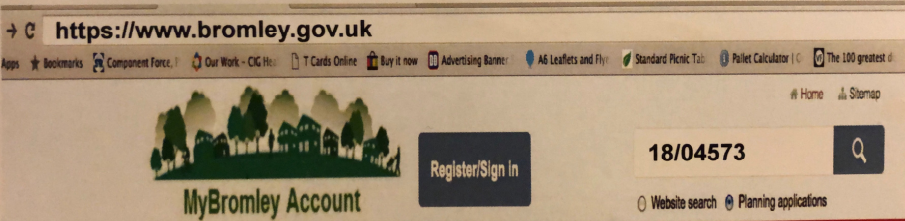


**Opposite the police box. c1930.
We are still here in 2018.**

SAVE THE CHELSFIELD

The Heart of the Community

Please make your objections on the council website to our destruction.
Please don't let this happen. You can object though on council website,
tap on planning and put in the box **18/04573**
This will take you to the application where you can make a comment.



REGISTER YOUR OBJECTION NOW

[facebook](#) Save The Chelsfield

Further to David Lanes WW2 Diary.....

As a regular reader of The Voice - obtained through friends - I was interested to read the extracts from David Lane's diary.

As a writer on aspects of World War Two history I followed up the diary entry for 6th September 1940 which records a Polish pilot whose Hurricane was shot down. Research in published records suggests the pilot was

Squadron Leader Zdzislaw Krasnodebski, joint Commanding Officer of the RAF's 303 Polish Squadron formed the previous month.

Born in 1904 he had served with the Polish Air Force since 1928, escaped to Britain after serving with the French Air Force and was commissioned in the RAF in May 1940. One of nine Hurricanes from RAF Northolt ordered

to engage an enemy formation over Kent on 6th September he was attacked by Messerschmitt 109s, baled out from his Hurricane - according to David's diary landing by Downe Lane - his aircraft crashing on Langley Park Golf course near Beckenham.

Badly burned, Squadron Leader Krasnodebski was admitted to Farnborough Hospital

then sent on to Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead where he was operated on by Archie McIndoe and became

a Guinea Pig. Returning to duty in June 1941 he served with the RAF in a variety of posts until retiring from the Polish

Air Force in 1946. He later moved to Canada where he died in 1980.

Jon Mills

Planning Application for a New Home

A planning application has been submitted to Bromley Council for a new single story dwelling in Chelsfield Lane. Needless to say there are many objectors to the proposed development being in the Chelsfield Conservation Area and Green Belt

The proposal may be viewed online at:

<https://searchapplications.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PH53CNBT12000&activeTab=suimary>

The deadline for comments is 6th December 2018, so if you wish to voice an opinion you must act quickly!

We have included a couple of layouts indicating the location and footprint size of the proposal for your information, along with a letter from the applicants, Matt and Gemma Ellis



This is the footprint of the proposal



This is how the building would look

describing their proposal. For further viewing of the proposed development please visit the application link.

Application For a New House in Chelsfield Lane

As some of you may know, we have recently submitted a planning application to create a new family home in the village of Chelsfield and we wanted to take this opportunity to explain our ideas and ambitions.

The main driver for this project is our family, we have two young children and see this as a lifetime home where we can raise them. We are not developers, nor are we undertaking this for financial gain.

Over the past year and a half, we have worked closely with our architects studying the specificities of the site on the north-west of the village as well as taking time to understand the unique qualities of Chelsfield village itself. It has been very important to us, the whole way through this process, that we make a positive contribution to the village. We have carefully considered any potential impact upon neighbouring properties and have crafted the design with this in mind. We believe this is an opportunity to look forward, by using the

highest qualities of architecture and workmanship, whilst still acknowledging the history of the village.

The position of the house at the edge of the village has been considered at length and we feel that a sensitive, low-key approach is required. The main principle is that the house sits comfortably within the landscape and reads as a simple farm-like building; the material palette and simple massing allows it to do this.

We realise that to some the building may appear different and not what you are used to, however, it's important to acknowledge that change is essential, and it is part of how places where we live evolve. Chelsfield itself has gone through many changes over the years as we can see in the different style buildings. Our proposal builds on this tradition creating a sustainable home for the 21st century.

Spreading the house across primarily one floor

keeps the building height low and helps nestle the building into the landscape, whilst the courtyard arrangement keeps the day-to-day outdoor activities, such as our children's play equipment, within the confines of the house. This arrangement leaves the landscape around the house to flourish as a natural environment, far improving the site as it is Today.

Our strategy is to plant the site with native species and to add hedgerows at the boundaries, softening any visual impact of the house from the road. We understand that building sites can cause unwanted noise, traffic and general inconvenience, so we have ensured the methods of construction offer the least amount of site time possible. The building structure is formed from an engineered timber, which is manufactured off site and delivered in sections and assembled. This not only reduces disruption but is also a sustainable method of construction.

During this process we have consulted with the immediate neighbours and have taken on board their comments. We welcome feedback from you all and would be

more than happy to discuss our ideas with you, whichever side of the fence you sit. We hope that you can support our endeavours to create a positive contribution to

the village of Chelsfield with a sustainable home for our family for many years to come.

Matt & Gemma

Chelsfield's Latest (doomed!) Bid for Xmas Stardom

Lester Barnes and I formed the Belldrinkers (named after the contributors' tendency to find themselves in the Five Bells pub more often than not) to write and record a one-off Christmas single. The song, entitled *This Christmas* featured a number of our musician friends from in and around the village plus a gang of other locals with a varying range of musical experience. Commercially, it was a dud, but the idea proved popular and it has endured ever since. In 2016, we appeared on BBC One's *The One Show* with that year's single *Just Another Christmas Song* and last year we released *Village Christmas*, a full on big band swing number. This elicited a 30 minute slot on BBC Radio Kent!

Undeterred by commercial failure, Lester

and I got together (as tradition dictates) in August to begin writing this year's song and we finished recording a couple of weeks ago. Featuring over 60 people, this year's song, imaginatively titled *Back in the Pub Again* follows the lyrical format of previous years i.e. verses poking fun at stuff and the choruses extolling the virtues of meeting up in the pub. The musical style we decided on was, originally, an Electric Light Orchestra pastiche but that has morphed into something a bit more eclectic with a disco chorus and a hard rocking middle section.

Once again, a huge wealth of musical talent offered their services and we were particularly delighted to have new contributors in the form of Gary Wilson (from The Titanic Cinq – my band) on drums, Chino Martel-

Morgan on congas and Adam Talbot on Tenor Sax. From the classical world, we have the crème-de-la-creme. My cousin Thelma Handy leads the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and is a huge fan of previous Belldrinkers singles and offered to play violin for us. We also have Andy Barclay, a local who also happens to be principal percussionist in the London Philharmonic Orchestra and he appears behind the glockenspiel and also playing sleigh bells. We have more lead vocalists this year than ever before and the number of people singing in the final choruses is, we think, a record.

We have filmed hours of video footage which I am currently editing into the finished video and it was largely filmed on location so you might see your

own house in it; you'll recognize the locations anyway. The single is released on the weekend of 1st December and the video will be released at 8pm on Tuesday 4th December with a launch in the Five Bells pub. We will be handing out the free 2018 Belldrinkers' souvenir on the night too!

If you want to keep in

touch with this single and the previous ones, search for The Belldrinkers on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, Apple Music etc. We also have a Facebook page: [facebook.com/belldrinks](https://www.facebook.com/belldrinks) and you can also search for The Belldrinkers on YouTube to see our videos. We will post links to everything on our Facebook page when the time comes.

A huge thankyou to everyone who has taken part and we hope you enjoy the song! And we wish you all a fabulous Christmas and we hope to see you back in the pub again. (See what I did there?).

*Dave Griffiths
The Belldrinkers*

Stalls Chelsfield Primary School Christmas Fair



CHELSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Stalls available at the 2018 Christmas School Fair

The Christmas Fair is being run by Friends of Chelsfield Primary School and school staff on Wednesday 12th December 2018.

You will have access to set up your stall from 2pm to be ready for 3.00pm and the fair will run from 3.00pm – 5.00pm. The price of your pitch is £15 plus a raffle donation.

Please call us to provide a description of the type of products/services you offer.

All stalls will be positioned inside within the main hall used for the event.

**The event address is:
Chelsfield Primary
school
Warren Road
Orpington, Kent
BR6 6EP**

If you wish to take a stall at the fair please contact the school on:

01689 825827 or email Flavia on: fsaunders7.305@lgflmail.org to obtain full details or book your space.

You will be able to use a school table and chair(s) if required.

Set up is from 2pm on the day of the fair. Access prior to 2pm is not possible.

Please note that there is limited parking in the village.

Christmas at St Martin's

Sunday 2 December - *Advent Sunday*

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Monday 3 December

5pm Carol Singing at **Charing Cross Station**

Sunday 9 December

9.45am Carol Service at **Well Hill**

Tuesday 18 December

8pm Carols Round the Tree **in the village**

Thursday 20 December

7.45pm Residents' Carol Service at **Well Hill**

Sunday 23 December

9.45am Christmas Communion at **Well Hill**

10am Crib & Tree Service

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Monday 24 December - *Christmas Eve*

4pm Christingle & Nativity

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25 December - *Christmas Day*

8am Holy Communion

10am Christmas Family Worship
(no evening service)

Come and join us to celebrate the good news this Christmas!

This only shows key Advent & Christmas services - each Sunday there will be 8am, 10am & 6.30pm services at St Martin's

For more information about any of our activities visit our website at
www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

Chelsfield Evening W.I.

This month Naama and the "Bellybuttons" came to demonstrate the art of belly dancing. Not only did we get to watch the ladies dance, we got to learn about the upper torso and how muscles are used during the performance. The ladies came from the Harris Academy and all wore costumes that they have made and customised by hand. Some of our ladies joined in and danced with Naama, Gloria, Karen and Sarah rounding the evening off before their finale, but we all had a fantastic evening, but I can tell you it's harder than it looks!

Our subgroups are continuing to meet regularly and the book group is currently reading "The Keeper of lost things" by Ruth Hogan. Some of our ladies also had an enjoyable evening at the quiz night in the Fivebells this month and are looking forward to another group night there. The walking group will be meeting again in the New Year when the weather improves.



In December our ladies are attending the live streaming of The Nutcracker at Orpington odeon, getting into the festive spirit before our December meeting on the 11th December in the hall.

A word from our president: "I had always wanted to join the WI, however, work commitments had prevented it up until the time I had my daughter and took a career break. I joined Chelsfield Evening WI almost three years ago, wanting to make new friends and do something more from

being a stay at home mum. I now find myself in the role of president having been elected 6 months ago. Some people think the WI is for retired ladies who only want to make jam or



cakes. But if you take the time to find out what the Women's Institute actually stands for you realise it so much more. I'm glad I joined the WI, particularly Chelsfield evening whose members are all friendly and always have engaging

speakers/demonstrators and events to put in your diary."

If You would like to come along and visit us and attend our meetings our contact details are on the back of this magazine. Do let us know in

advance so we can give your warm welcome when you arrive.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter. Where you can view our full programme and up and coming events.

Festive Cartoon from Phil Lane



Chelsfield's Casualties of World War One

You may remember that in the November edition of Village Voice I explained that my article would be the last for a while, as there were no more 100th anniversaries to commemorate until David Waters in April 2019. Just after it went to press I went to a Local History Group meeting where Pam Preedy spoke about the Farnborough War Memorial and her work. I hadn't heard about this until then so I had no idea what treasures lay in store.

Pam has spent the last few years reviewing every edition of the Bromley and District Times and other local papers for the years of the first World War, and capturing every reference to a serviceman on a database. She has very generously made this public on a website and it's an absolute mine of information, as she has captured all the details included in the articles – references to family, regiment, address, and military experiences – for all servicemen, not just those who died.

As a result I've been able to track down one more of our 'names' - William Finn. In the database Pam has logged an entry in the Bromley & District Times of 7th December 1917 that reports Driver William John

Finn has been killed. His parents were Mr & Mrs Frank Finn of Saltwood, near Hythe, and he joined the Royal Field Artillery early in 1915, as a Gunner, but attached to the R.G.A. He went to France after 10 weeks' training and was in the war zone in March and had seen very severe fighting. He was with a small party detached from his battery when he fell. His widow was living at Holly Lane Cottages, Chelsfield. He married Mrs Edith Divall, of Shoreham. The family later moved from Shoreham to Chelsfield. His widow was left with a boy and girl aged 6 & 7 respectively.

There are several clues here that helped me track down the right William Finn in the military records, and explain why I hadn't found him before. The family were living in Chelsfield by the time of his death, we have a previous surname for his wife and a location for marriage and for where his parents are living, military information, and an approximate period when he died, late Autumn 1917. From this I have put together the following history:

WILLIAM FINN

Gunner William John Finn, of the 6th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, was

killed in action on 19th October 1917 aged 34. He is buried at The Huts Cemetery in Belgium. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission [CWGC] website explains 'this cemetery takes its name from a line of huts along the road from Dickebusch (now Dikkebus) to Brandhoek, which were used by field ambulances during the 1917 Allied offensive on this front. Nearly two-thirds of the burials are of gunners as many artillery positions existed nearby. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens'.



William Finn was born in Hythe, Kent, the son of Frank and Amelia Finn - this is the only family and address information on CWGC which is why I hadn't linked this record with Chelsfield. In the 1911 census a William John Finn and his wife Edith are living in South Godstone, Surrey, with one daughter, and his mother-in-law Esther Ann Divall, and William is working as a milkman. Again, as they are not in Chelsfield I hadn't tracked

them down, but the family information ties up with the information in the newspaper report, as his wife is Edith, she was born in Shoreham, and the mother-in-law's surname is Divall. I was then able to look further back, and in 1891, aged 8, William is living with parents Frank and Amelia Finn in Saltwood; his father is a milkman and agricultural labourer. I think William may then have joined the army for a time, as I can't find him in the

1901 census records, and there is a military record on another website that could be his.

Using Pam Preedy's excellent website, which is at:

www.militaryancestors.co.uk

our memorial and the 'Absent Voters List' for 1918 I have now managed to put together a rough list of around 200 servicemen who joined up from this parish for

WWI. Bear in mind that at that point, the parish included Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom, and half of Well Hill (the other half being in the parish of Shoreham). I hope over time to tidy this up to produce a publishable list of everyone we know of that was connected with this parish who served in the Great War.

Philippa Rooke
Pjrooke@hotmail.com

Local History Group

Men of Farnborough who went to war 1914 – 1918 by Pam Preedy

On Tuesday 4th August at 8 a.m. the German Army invaded Belgium. Britain leapt to defend their little ally and an ultimatum was immediately sent to Germany to withdraw its troops. Since there was no response and the Germans continued with their attack on Belgium, at 11 p.m. British time, Britain considered herself at war with Germany. The people of Farnborough, Bromley and, indeed, all of Britain awoke on Wednesday 5th August, 1914 to a country at war.

My talk on the "Men of Farnborough who went away to war" provided details of some of those

men; some who were killed and recorded on the Farnborough War Memorial, but also others who survived. They ranged from the highest in the service, such as Adrian Grant Duff to the most lowly soldiers such as Private William Lettington.

Although Sir Adrian Grant Duff was not a local man, he was married to Ursula Lubbock of High Elms. He, it was, who had created the 'War Book,' which provided the blue print for mobilization in the event of war using a traffic light system. As a result when war finally came, the authorities were ready and mobilization could begin immediately. However, he was not just a desk soldier and was soon out at the front where he was killed at the Battle of Aisne in 1914.

The Army was peopled by a number of different categories of men: the regular army, in 1914, spread across the Empire, the Reserve, which included trained men who had served their term in the army, but paid to maintain their readiness and could be quickly mobilized; the Territorials (or Weekend soldiers); the Volunteers and finally from 1916, the conscripts.

Men from all these categories went to war from Farnborough; many returned, though how many were wounded is not known. No doubt many were traumatized and suffered horrendous nightmares. My talk gave details of some of the men who went to fight.: My researches uncovered an interesting man;

Sergeant-Major H A Thompson, the son of Mr & Mrs H Thompson of Palmerston Road.

According to the records he had joined the Royal Field Artillery in October, 1902 and served at Brighton for a couple of years. Here he married Emily Mary Harris, between April and June, 1904. He then went to India. Presumably Emily and their daughter, Winifred Nora, born about 1905 stayed in England. Emily died in 1953 under the name Emily M Burchell.

At the outbreak of war he returned from India and posted to the Western Front where he was involved in a number of the early battles. At Neuve Chappelle, (10th – 13th March, 1915), he was wounded and had shown great courage in the face of enormous personal risk and was awarded the DCM. Recovering from his wound, he returned to the front in 1915. He was again wounded and returned home to recover. No doubt he 'popped' into the George and Dragon hotel during this time. However it happened, he met and married Dora Constance Bowers a servant at the pub. Four years later they had a daughter, Hilda Margaret (1920 – 1990).

Sergeant Thompson survived the war and died in September, 1956 aged 72.

His brother-in-law, a good looking young man, Sergeant Mussell, was in the reserve. He went to join his old regiment, the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Kent Regiment, stationed at Dublin. The battalion was brought up to strength in about a week and sailed for Le Havre.

The men then made the journey across country to Landrecies, welcomed and cheered on by the French. Finally he moved, with his battalion, up to the little village of Mons, where the first shots were fired on 23rd August, 1914. He must have suffered in the terrible retreat of 200 miles southward chased by the Germans, until the enemy was stopped at the Marne, north east of Paris. In October, 1914 he was at Ypres, a strategic position, to be long fought over during the four years. Here, on the 26th October, 1914, he was killed and was buried nearby.

Not all men were sent to the Western Front. Lieutenant Frederick E Bourne served with the 1/5th Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment Territorial Force. He was sent to India, to Jhansi, one of the hottest stations to relieve the regular soldiers of the garrison. Apart from the strange new sights he would have seen, his war would have been very different; he was on garrison duty, a boring occupation. Then in December, 1917,

the Battalion was moved to Basra, Iraq, where the British were engaged in a long running battle to secure the oil supplies for the navy and politically to maintain prestige in the eyes of India's Muslim population. Sergeant Bourne died there on 25th October 1918, just days before the Armistice with the Ottoman Empire was signed.

However men came to sign up for war, those at the Western Front and Gallipoli all suffered the traumatic conditions, losing friend and comrades, under constant threat; so many men giving their lives for their country. But it was not only soldiers who went, but also seamen and airmen who were caught up in the dreadful struggle.

Before the war, Stanley Baird lived at 4 Pleasant View, a greengrocers shop. He was the youngest of 4 boys and two girls and his father worked for the Metropolitan Water Board at the Orpington Pumping Station. He had served in the Orpington Company of the Royal West Kent Territorials, but joined the Navy on 12th May, 1914. He was serving on the Cressy, on the morning of the 22nd September, 1914 when three ships, the Cressy, The Aboukir and the Hogue, were torpedoed and sunk by the U-boat U-9. Stanley was just one of 1,450 sailors who went

down with their ships that day.

Frederick George Kingsland was one of the intrepid band of flyers. He was the son of Mr and Mrs F C Kingsland, of Wellbrook Road, Farnborough. His father was the proprietor of the White Lion for many years. He enlisted in the Army Service Corps in April, 1915, and went to France a month later. In July, 1917 he

secured a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps and became a Second Class Air Mechanic. He was killed on 18th January, 1918 while flying, aged 28. He was buried in a civilian cemetery.

The local paper of the time, the *Bromley & District Times*, provided much information about those who to go to war and those who died for their country and

were rewarded for their acts of bravery, but tells us little about the regular 'Tommy' who did his duty and returned; many with life-changing wounds, many with dreams and nightmares.

The memorials at Farnborough and villages around Bromley testify to those who made the great sacrifice and laid down their lives.

Recollections of Childhood Christmasses in the 1950's

.....by someone who remembers them!

"Nostalgia isn't what it used to be", one of my favourite phrases. Such as can be readily attached to the life us children shared in the post war years from 1946 -56. The country was still trying to recover from 6 years of war, devastation, loss and hardship. I was born into it in 1943 but can only start to vaguely recall from the age of 3 or 4 with such vivid memories of the deep snow in 1947. Deeper almost than little me. From the age of five I was already finding the festive season exciting and developing those cherished memories that I still cling to, of all the special things that Christmas uniquely provides. The smell of the spruce tree, the holly draped over picture frames and doors (without central heating it lasted much longer). As dad had a car

then we would set off to Ashdown Forest two weeks before to cut holly from hedgerows. It had to have berries of course, usually eaten well before December by garden birds at home. I once tried to fox them by cutting our own early at Holly Cottage and storing it in the shed, to find that mice had eaten all the berries later!

Then the magic of Christmas cake making... that glorious spicy smell as mum mixed the ingredients in her huge brown bowl. The pudding too, and seeing it steaming away in its muslin bag. Neither faye did I actually have any ponshon for until well into my teens! The decorations next – none of your glitzy drapes but crepe paper twists, paper chains by the mile and, in our house, long cords of red and green raffia tails that always shed bits and dust when they came out of their storage box. I still love sorting out our old decorations – we still

have some lights wrapped around a Frosties box with a model of the QE2 offer on the back. The cheap lights bought in 1968 from a Whitecross Street market for 6/11 are now a fire hazard not to mention the hours spent trying to find the duff bulb!

As a child Christmas food was eaten in abundance it seemed. Breakfast, turkey dinner, down to grandma's for the afternoon where, after games tea, more games and then supper. Chris and I had two sets of grandparents living each end of Orpington High Street. Known as the *Toy* and *Train* respectively. The big family gatherings tended to be at the former where numerous games led eventually to disagreements over cheating etc, assuming that we hadn't already fallen out over who got the charms in the Christmas pudding, only eaten reluctantly by us children for that sole purpose.

We would like to thank **CHELSFIELD PARK HOSPITAL** for their sponsorship printing the Chelsfield Village Voice



It was at one such Christmas that I stuffed myself silly on crystallized fruits, and cannot face them even today. The mere mention of the words used to make me heave .I also found I could not stomach celery, *plain* chocolate digestives, marrow, coconut. But curiously loved bread sauce, marzipan, parsnips, sprouts. I recall one year when Christmas Day was thick fog. Trying to cross the Court Road junction down Spur Road a motorbike and sidecar, without lights, ploughed into the side of our Jaguar, spilling Christmas presents and cakes all over the road. No one was hurt, but dad put out his brand new

present from his wife Kay, a Pifco flashing light, out to warn drivers of the melee. It was crushed flat by the first speeding car! Much to mum's chagrin.

To end on a jolly note, however. How I loved presents, especially surprises. Money only tended to come from distant relations by post. I still have a few childhood presents in my display cabinet My "Train" grandpa would often make mine – a station, some locos, etc wrapped up in brown paper. GP had no time for fripperies. I have never stopped believing in Santa Claus but he stopped calling at my bedroom some time

about 1953 when I stupidly stayed awake to see him dragging an enormous box clatteringly into my room. He spotted me, grunted and fled leaving sooty footprints all over the carpet. Mum was furious. I got out of bed and in the dark thrust my hand into this box, to be assailed by the spiky ends of yards of O gauge railway track. So here I am, 75 years later, and still loving the Season. With the extra bonus of having all our family down here in Seaford / Alfriston, but I fear I shall have to make my peace with Father Christmas again if I want another stocking mysteriously filled!

Philip Lane

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council

Main switchboard:
020 8464 3333

E-mail: 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,
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

Angela Page
angela.page@bromley.gov.uk

Samaris Huntington-Thresher
samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Voice

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@met.police.uk

Chelsfield Village Hall

(bookings) **01689 831826** or
email to:

cvhlettings@gmail.com

Chelsfield Players

info@chelsfieldplayers.org
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, 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
 see

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
stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

EVERY TUESDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive
Quiz Night
 From 8.00pm Info: 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
 Further classes at:
www.bethanylucaspilates.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

EVERY FRIDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Drive)

DJ NIGHT

From 8.30pm Contact
 01689 880288

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday 3rd December (1st Monday of Month)

Brass Crosby Room
St Martins Memory Cafe
 2-4pm. Contact Jackie
 McCann 01689 854119
memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

Wednesday 5th December

Five Bells
Open Mic Night
 So all you budding musicians
 out there, come along and
 have a go!
 Starts at 8.30pm

Thursday 6th December

Five Bells
Jazz Night with Just Friends
 Our popular sextet with their
 swing jazz standards
 Starts 8.30pm

Saturday 8th December

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive.
"The Way" Live Band

Tuesday 11th December

Chelsfield Village Hall
Evening W.I.
 Newcomers Welcome
 From 7.45pm
 Contact Jules Phillips
 (President) on 0203 441 5669
 or Lisa Lobb (Secretary) on
 01689 608070

Wednesday 12th December

Chelsfield Primary School
Christmas Fayre
 Starts at 3pm

Wednesday 12th December

Five Bells
Carol Singing with Phil Lane
 Phil's Annual Christmas Bash
 Starts 8.00pm

Wednesday 12th December (2nd Wednesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall
Afternoon W.I.
 Newcomers Welcome
 Contact Sue on 01689 827407

Saturday 15th December

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive.
Reggae Live Band "Keval"

Tuesday 18th December

Outside, then later in Five Bells
**Carol Singing Around the
 Christmas Tree with Church
 Choir**

Followed by Wine, Mince Pies
 and Festive Charity Quiz in The
 Bells From 8.00pm

Wednesday 19th December

Five Bells
Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians
 out there, come along and
 have a go!
 Starts at 8.30pm

Friday 21st December

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive.
**Back to School Disco Fancy
 Dress**

Contact 01689 880288

Saturday 29th December

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive.
Singles and Karaoke
 Contact 01689 880288

Monday 24th December

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive.
Rachael Leach Live Music
 Contact 01689 880288

Thursday 31st January 2019 (Last Thurs each Month)

Brass Crosby Room
Local History Group
 Starts 10.30am