

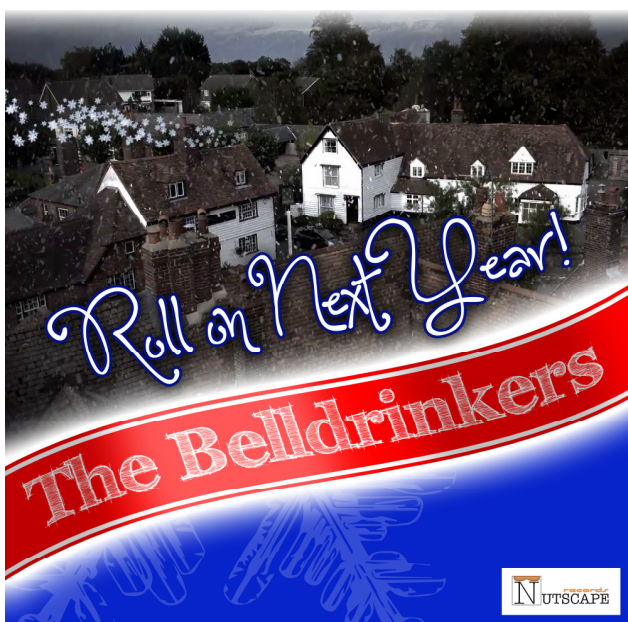


December 2020

Supported by



Chelsfield  
Park  
Hospital



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

The Earwig	2
Mutterings from The Millers	4
Quiz Night	5
Decorate the Christmas Tree	6
Field / Paddock Wanted	7
The Roundabout at Last!	7
Achtung Spiffeur	7
Chelsfield Christmas Single	9
Community Christmas Tree	10
The Golden Arrow	11
Village Voice Online	11
Geologists Walk Well Hill	12
Windsor Drive 60 years ago	14
News From St Martin's	15
Charterhouse School	16
Downing Street & Chelsfield	18
New Cook Book	21
Bo Peep Re-opens	22
How to Report Phishing	22
Winter Thoughts	23
Our Locals are Re-opening	24

## Chelsfield Christmas Single No 6

If you go to [facebook.com/belldrinkers](https://facebook.com/belldrinkers), you will find all the links to the YouTube video and the audio track which you can stream or download from all the normal sites (just search for Belldrinkers). Please feel free to comment and share with all your friends - going viral is probably an ambitious aim, and we are up against COVID-19 which seems to have pretty much cornered 'going viral'. However let's give it a go...

*See Page 9 for the full story!*

Please have a wonderful Christmas and New Year, whatever your circumstances

Then share your thoughts and experiences with us

Submit anything for the January 2021 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 on or before  
Monday 28th December 2020

*The Belldrinkers 2020*

## The Earwig

Just before the latest lock-down began I took a walk starting from Shoreham and travelled east into the valley which is on the other side of Darenth valley and according to my map doesn't appear to have a name. It's south of Eynsford and close to the little hamlet of Romney Street. To my surprise I found there an abandoned golf course and my map showed that it once had the title 'Upper Austin Lodge Golf Course'. From the maturity of the trees it looks like it has not been used for around ten years and reminded me of the Knepp estate that I wrote about last month. In this case though, without suitable animals such as wild cattle, ponies and pigs it will in time fully revert back to woodland. Not that that's a problem but experience at Knepp shows that those browsing animals keep the growth at an optimal stasis for the maximum benefit of other wildlife. While in this 'lost' golf course I discovered a monument to Percy Pilcher. Who he? – I hear you say! Well, he was

Britain's answer to the Wright Brothers. It appears that he spent a lot of time experimenting with hand-gliders in this area. He was working towards powered flight and planned his first such flight in Leicestershire in 1899 but due to poor weather he decided to use a glider to entertain disappointed observers. Unfortunately at a height of 30ft structural failure caused him to crash and he died a couple of days later. A BBC documentary a few years ago rebuilt and successfully flew his powered plane design so, with a little luck it seems he would indeed have gone into the record books as the first person to achieve powered flight (a few years earlier than the Wright brothers) One last observation: – in the photos displayed on Percy's monument you can see that all of the views contain surprisingly few trees. One always imagines that tree cover reduces with time but I have noted on a number of occasions that old photos show relatively few trees. The views from Percy's monument now

look a lot healthier with mixed farmland, scrub and woodland.

Before I move on I'd like to reply to Sally Kemsley who asked about sightings of grass snakes in the village. My last sighting was in 2013 at the bottom of Maypole Rd between Mount Hall and Buck Cross. In fact I wrote a piece about it in the Village Voice. Here's hoping more are found and please don't treat them as vermin as they are more afraid of you than you are of it – and they do no harm!

This month I want to write about the humble earwig (Forficula auricularia or European Earwig). I've chosen this critter as there seem to be so many of them around this year. I've noticed how many a time I've opened an external door and found that a few of them have been hiding up against the seal and as I've disturbed them they run for cover. Despite its name, this creature is no more likely to crawl into your ear than any other small recess – although small crevasses

and recesses are its preferred environment. Around the world the myth that it will burrow into your brain and lay eggs still exists. Maybe in times past when we shared our homes with more of nature's creepy crawlies this was indeed something that happened more frequently. It is interesting to note that in French its name translates as 'ear piercer' while in German it is 'ear-worm'. Its English name is derived from the old English *ēare*, (fairly obvious) and *wicga* (meaning beetle). It even lends its name to the act of over-hearing another's conversation (to earwig). Clearly there's a message here somewhere! However, to my surprise earwigs do have wings, and exquisitely folded wings at that, and when these are opened they have the appearance of human ears, so maybe that is the link to human ears, rather than them taking refuge there. And talking of wings, they can fly – but has anybody actually seen one fly? I know I haven't.

Despite this species European origins it has

now travelled across the northern hemisphere having been inadvertently introduced into north America about a century ago. There are other earwig species and these number over 1800 worldwide including 7



species in Britain. A quick look at an earwig and you could be mistaken for thinking that its two pincers (cerci) are formidable weapons: they are however pretty harmless to humans but they do use them to capture prey and defend themselves. They also use these cerci to help fold the wings under their protective cases. You can use these cerci to tell if an earwig is male or female. If the pincers are strongly curved then the earwig is

male. If not, female. Earwigs can apparently bite although despite having frequently handled them I have never experienced that. It is difficult to decide whether earwigs are a problem to gardeners or

not as while they can do damage to plants they also eat other critters that are troublesome to gardeners. And to confuse things further, the common wasp will also prey on earwigs. So, choose your enemy!

This is quite a unique insect in that it is one of the few amongst the many millions of non-social insect species that looks after its young, even after they have hatched. It's life

cycle is quite interesting in that it breeds in the autumn and the male and female cohabit in a nest over the winter. When spring arrives the male either leaves or is driven off by the female (sounds rather like the human life cycle)! In the case of the earwig this is probably due to the male's

tendency to want to eat the young: I said the female was very protective! So, she lays up to 80 eggs and keeps them clean to protect them from fungal attack. After they hatch they go through 6 to 7 moults called instars with the mother feeding the young until the first two moults

are complete. If she dies during this time, then they are likely to eat her: waste not – want not...

So, no they don't tend to crawl into ears, they can bite and they can fly but rarely do they do either.

*Steve Fuller  
December 2020*

## Mutterings From The Millers



A short mutterings this month as it has been quiet here on the farm, the crops are just gently doing their thing. Not a cold November but fairly wet. We are again on the look out for aphids but to date seem to be only very low numbers so not worth spraying for them. The reason we keep an eye out for aphids is that they spread a virus which stunts the grow of the cereal and robs us of crop.

Steve has been recovering from another new knee, so Pete has been busy with

maintenance work around the farm and an extension on his house.

Still hearing sky larks in the sky which is joyful and seeing jays in the garden, always seem to see more in the autumn. Pleased to report that I have seen either redwings or fieldfares flying around the hedgerows. I wasn't close enough to identify which but always good to see them and hear them.

Keep a look out at the farm entrance, as an old friend will be returning!

*Sun through the apple trees  
on Christmas day  
Means a fine crop is on the  
way*

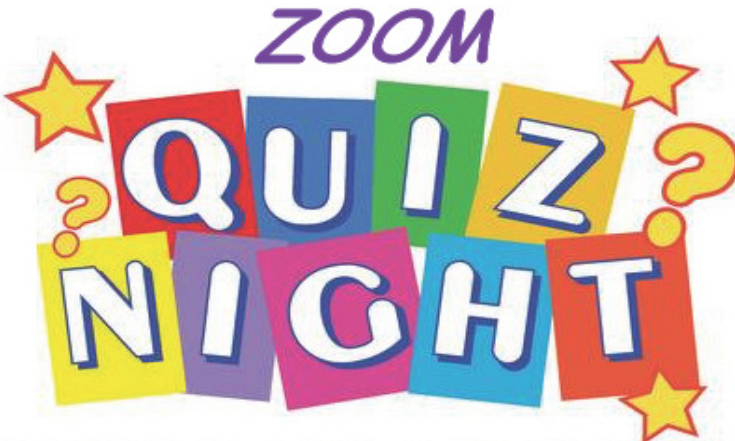
According to tradition and observation, it is important to have a fine Christmas Day to ensure a good spring and few late frosts. Frosts "cut" apple blossom and ruin crops, so a sunny Christmas means a frost free May and a good autumn.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas

*Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm*

**ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, CHELSFIELD**

**ZOOM**  
**QUIZ**  
**NIGHT**

The logo for 'Zoom Quiz Night' features the word 'ZOOM' in purple, 'QUIZ' in white letters on a multi-colored background (red, blue, green, yellow), and 'NIGHT' in white letters on a multi-colored background (yellow, purple, pink, blue, red). The text is surrounded by yellow stars and question marks.

**SATURDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2021**  
**7.30pm**

**from the comfort of your own home!**

**Teams - maximum of 6 people \***

**Contact: Angela Wilkins at**

**[oakover2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oakover2003@yahoo.co.uk) to register**

\* Can be from different households  
via the wonder of technology

**No charge to take part, but a  
voluntary donation would of  
course be much appreciated!  
Scan the QR code to link to  
the donations page. Thank  
you!**



**Fundraising event for St. Martin of Tours, Chelsfield**  
**Registered charity: 1131573**

## Hang a **Bauble** on the **Chelsfield Christmas Tree**

My daughter, Sofia, has had an idea for the Christmas tree.

The idea is this; why don't we all choose an ornament (preferably fairly durable to avoid breakages) and put it on the Christmas tree in the village? I would recommend we start around the 20th Dec, and keep them there until the 6th Jan, or the tree comes down, whichever is sooner.

Like that, while we cannot be together, we can still decorate our tree "together".

Obviously, we suggest you don't use solid gold family heirlooms, as there is a risk of breakages and/or theft, and please be mindful that it is on private property!

At the end of the period, please come and collect your ornament, as the CVS committee cannot be responsible for storing them.

If it works we would have a rather lovely new Christmas tradition!

*Alex Harley-Taplin*



The "baubleless" tree as it now stands in both daytime and night-time.

We will publish the fully decorated tree in the January issue.



I believe that if we all take part in decorating the tree then it would be a great way of all coming together in these hard times and also getting everyone excited for Christmas.

As we have already released the 2020 Christmas song then why not add some more joy to the holiday festivities by perhaps creating a new tradition of decorating the village tree as well.

From my point of view as an 11 year old child I believe that a Christmas tree is not fully complete without more than just lights. I know that we have done lights on the tree every year I can remember but in these somewhat more difficult times why should we not do more than just lights?

Why not add other decorations to the tree? I think it would be a fun way to start the holidays! We could all add a bauble to the tree perhaps during the 12 days of Christmas!

*Sofia Harley-Taplin*

## Space Wanted to Train Dogs

Field area / paddock, with car access, wanted, to train my border collies.

I will ensure that no mess

would be made, that I would provide all equipment (which would be non-permanent) and would be taken home

after each use of the field/paddock.

Please contact Lyn 07773626665.

## A Roundabout at Last

Many of you may remember that the Chelsfield Village Society and local councillors have been pushing for a roundabout at the Court Road/Warren Road junction.

We now hear that the roundabout is to become a reality. Work is scheduled to start on January 4th, with some prior preparation clearance and cutting back taking place before

Christmas and is estimated to take a total of around 12 weeks.

It was over 20 years ago that this was first suggested to counter the number of serious/fatal accidents along this stretch of road, and for a long time records were kept of the many accidents which occurred.

Hopefully this will reduce the speed of cars along this stretch of Court Road

and not just around this junction, and give us a safe means of entering and leaving the village. We are told that the money is ring fenced, and considering the state of the finances of TFL and Bromley Council at this time, it is remarkable that it is going ahead at all.

Our special thanks to our councillor Samaris Huntingdon-Thresher for keeping focus over the years.

## Achtung! Spitfeur!

As a small boy I had a model Spitfire with a propeller that whizzed round and even today this beautiful aircraft is admired from afar, not least at the Chelsfield Fair, and most people will have seen the film, the Battle of Britain where the Spitfire features along with the Hurricane.

In June 2018, my lovely sister Julia bought me a flight from Biggin Hill at vast expense.

I duly turned up at the Heritage Hangar for my briefing which took about an hour. Not for the faint hearted. You must realise that although rigorously maintained, this aircraft

was built in 1943 and as such is prone to mechanical failure. My aircraft was in action over Arnhem in 1944 when it shot down an Me109. The aircraft is able to glide and you will have a parachute. That's alright then!

I then had a briefing with

Anna, the pilot who asked me if I would like to fly the aircraft - What a question! Yes, please!

She explained the flight plan, what was expected of me and said that we would not fly in clouds, because there might be other people in them. No radar.



I was then shoehorned into the second cockpit. A tight fit. The aircraft is quite large, close up with a 33ft.wingspan. A parachute was provided, with precise instructions on how to exit., if need be. Pull back the canopy, open the small door on the left and when I say jump, JUMP! There was a static line attached and I also had a pull cord. I was tightly strapped in. The time had come. All Set? the pilot asked. All Set. Yes.

Whirr Whirr, Bang, Clunk.



That happened three times. It's not going to start, I thought, then whirr, bang, bang Roar. a cloud of smoke passed by the cockpit and we were off Wonderful!

We taxied to the main runway and got clearance

for take off. All set, Anna asked again. All set. Throttle open and ROAR. Wonderful. Off we went.

Soon airborne we headed towards the South Coast in very murky conditions. Now it was my turn to have a go. Alright, you





have control. I took hold of the joystick, nervously. Extremely sensitive...you could almost fly just by blowing on the stick. We need to get a bit more height, Anna said. Stick back and up we went, flying at 220 knots.. about 250 mph. OK bank left...I did and down went the wing until we were vertical. Ok level up. I did and off we went to the coast. Newhaven

appeared quite quickly in the murk, then we turned East along the coast to Seaford, where my other sister lives...I couldn't spot her, however, then on past Beachy Head and to Eastbourne. Then it was back to Biggin where Anna took back control. A good landing and a slightly shaken second pilot exited the aircraft nicely, not by parachute.

As in the film...How many hours on Spits, Chris...22 Sir. Good Lord.. I would have expected a better landing with all that experience.....er 22 minutes, Sir.

Not entirely a piece of cake, but the experience of a lifetime.

Thank you, Julia!

*Chris Parsons*

## Chelsfield Christmas Single No 6

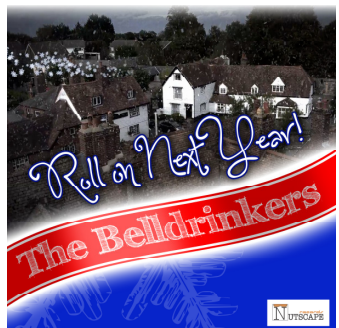
On 23rd November, The Belldrinkers released 'Roll On Next Year!', the sixth Chelsfield Village Christmas Single. Written, once again, by Lester Barnes and Dave Griffiths, the newly released song features as many people as possible, given the pandemic restrictions, as does the video. The music takes its influences from everywhere. A bit of late romantic orchestral in the intro, through slices of 70s and 80s pop, borrowing a bit of late 80s funk rock for the

chorus and a solo section which starts with an unmistakable touch of 1980s British heavy metal! Lyrically, it's a reflection on an awful year and an attempt to see the lighter side where there is one. The title is self-explanatory; doubt anyone would disagree.

If you go to [facebook.com/belldrinkers](https://www.facebook.com/belldrinkers) you will find all the links to the YouTube video and the audio track which you can stream or download from all the normal sites (just search for Belldrinkers).

Please feel free to comment and share with all your friends - going viral is probably an ambitious aim, and we are up against COVID-19 which seems to have pretty much cornered 'going viral'. However let's give it a go.

*The Belldrinkers 2020*





Help us decorate  
St Martin's



## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December one of the trees in our churchyard will become a Christmas Tree - please help us decorate it!

You could

- \* add a decoration you've made
- \* tie on a ribbon in memory of someone
- \* add a prayer for something
- \* add a note of thanksgiving for something

Come and see how it's looking and add something of your own next time you're passing.

From Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December our **Christmas Nativity** crib will be in the window of the Brass Crosby Room so you can see it from outside, come and have a look when you're walking past.

## The Golden Arrow Passing Through Chelsfield

I have just found this shot of the Golden Arrow going through Chelsfield April 2008.

I think this was the first steam train since about 1960. I have a similar shot taken by Mr

Humpherson from the Village, in 1957.

Philip Lane



## The Village Voice Online

Last months Village Voice published an appreciative letter from a past resident after they picked up a recent edition. They wondered if it was available on line. The Village Voice is

sent out to many ex residents by email. If you wish to be added to this list, please ask on [chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com) Alternatively we have an archive at:

[www.greenstreetgreen.co.uk/villagevoice/](http://www.greenstreetgreen.co.uk/villagevoice/)

This archive website also gets indexed by search engines, and so all previous articles are now searchable.

## Extract Geologists' Association Records - 1874

I've always known that Well Hill has unusual geology, but have never done any research. Someone I met recently

sent me this, when he found out I lived at Well Hill. Obviously these enthusiasts in 1874 thought nothing of

walking many miles in pursuit of their interests - not of gathering wild orchids freely!

*Ann Ireland*

### EXCURSION TO ST. MARY'S CRAY, WELL HILL, AND SHOREHAM, KENT.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH, 1874.

*Director:—*JOSEPH PRESTWICH, Esq., F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

*(Report by* HENRY WALKER, Esq., F.G.S.)

On arriving at St. Mary's Cray, and being joined by Professor McKenny Hughes, the party inspected the cutting at the St. Mary's Cray Station, which exposes lower pebbly beds of the Woolwich and Reading Series and Thanet Sands. The valley deposits, close to the Gas Works, were then visited. These were found to consist of ten or twelve feet of fine loamy brick-earth, with land shells, and a little gravel; the whole having a "rain-wash" aspect. The Chalk was seen below. Professor Hughes gave an admirable field lecture on the physical history of the landscape of which this valley is one of the features, and then a start was made for Skid Hill, where Mr. Prestwich, F.R.S., was to meet the Members, and act as conductor for the day. The walk from St. Mary's Cray to Skid Hill was a delightful one, through Kentish lanes, rich in the wild flowers of June, with great landscapes anon bursting into view under one of Constable's skies. Kevington, East Hall, and Skid Hill, the last named signalled by two grand trees of Portugal laurel (*Cerasus Lusitanica*) loaded with racemes of fragrant white flowers, were successively reached.

Mr. Prestwich, who had walked from Shoreham for the purpose,

now came forward as geological guide. The physical and topographical features immediately westward were first explained, Keston, Knockholt Beeches, and the long dry valley of the upper Cray being notable objects in the view. Skid Hill itself (capped with gravel) is but a portion of the interesting outlier of Thanet Sands and Woolwich Clay which at Well Hill—a mile further along the same elevation—has a still larger deposit of gravel of great age and singular interest. Indeed, Well Hill was the central point of interest for the day. Have we here, in Kent, a true Glacial gravel? At length the higher ground, more than 600 feet above Ordnance Datum, was reached, and the Well Hill gravel sections confronted the visitors. Here above the Thanet Sands and Woolwich Beds were large rolled flints, highly fossiliferous, in a reddish sandy matrix, unstratified. A closer search, at the suggestion of Mr. Prestwich, discovered fragments of chert and ragstone. These Mr. Prestwich referred to the Lower Greensand beds of the Sevenoaks Range, some six miles further south, and separated from Well Hill by the deep and broad valley of Holmesdale. The Well Hill gravel, according to Mr. Prestwich, is a solitary patch of marine gravel, of Glacial age, which once stretched over Kent, and is altogether an unique geological memento in the county. Illustrated with pencil and paper, and explained in a painstaking manner by Mr. Prestwich, the subject gave a wonderful charm to the well-marked panoramic landscape which is seen from Well Hill. Before leaving the spot the following orchids were gathered on the damp parts of the heath about Well Hill—*Orchis maculata*, *Habenaria bifolia*, and *Listera ovata*, and close at hand under the trees *Ophrys muscifera*.

On leaving Well Hill, the excursionists felt they had seen the great sight of the day. The following objects, to which Mr.

Prestwich called attention on the arrival at Shoreham may also be mentioned :—Some notable sand-pipes in the Chalk, by the side of the high road to Sevenoaks, between the eighteenth and nineteenth milestones, a very fossiliferous bed of Chalk with *Inoceramus*, near the first shaft at the north entrance to Halstead Tunnel, and a dry upper valley of the Chalk (south branch of the Timberden valley) with six feet thickness or more of flints, the water standing at a level below the valley fully 100 feet deeper than it once stood. Lastly, the visitors viewed from the hill near Darent Holme, the residence of Mr. Prestwich, the trumpet-mouthed valley of the Darent, opening out into the Weald, but draining in the opposite direction into the Thames. The bearings of these facts upon the past hydrographical conditions of the Weald formed an interesting topic of discussion. The party were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Prestwich at their mansion, Darent Holme, where a cordial vote of thanks was presented to the conductor through Mr. Walker and Professor Hughes. The return journey to town completed the day's proceedings.

## Windsor Drive in the 50's/60's

This Photo depicts Windsor Drive as it was in the late fifties or early sixties. The photographer was Mr. Attree who lived with his wife above the Post Office in the row of shops. Mrs Attree was Post Mistress there for many years. The empty ground to the right of the picture in those days was known as "the Bumps" and was



Z.62

WINDSOR DRIVE, CHELSFIELD

Copyright G. Attree

much loved by small children. It is interesting to note

there was almost no parking!

*John Francis*

## News From St Martin's

### Your Parish Church

*St Martin's worships and serves a loving God,  
reaching out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ*

**Wishing you all  
A happy and peaceful Christmas  
And a good New Year**

Christmas is the time that the church welcomes with joy the birth of a baby who will become the Saviour, Jesus Christ, our Lord. St Martin's will be celebrating Christmas this year but at the time of going to press we're not quite sure what form those celebrations will take, because we are waiting for post-lockdown guidance from the Church of England. But rest assured we will be

doing something! Keep an eye on our website and social media channels to find out what our plans are for this year. We'll post Christmas services on our YouTube channel, and Daily Prayer live on our Facebook page will continue with Jon on Tuesday and Val on Thursday at 8.15am. Both of these are also available via our website.

We're also planning a community

**Christmas Tree** in our churchyard – see the special article on page 10 for more details and join in if you can.

As this is still a changing situation it's important that we look out for one another. Please let Rev John know of anyone who is ill or in distress, or if you need prayer or spiritual support, or are lonely and just need a short chat please phone 01689 825749.

For more information on St Martin's please visit our website and Facebook page, or search for @ChelsfieldStMartins on Twitter and Instagram

[www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



Like



View



Follow



Watch

## Orpington's State-of-the Art School

Many Chelsfield folk will remember – and may even have attended – Charterhouse Secondary School, which closed in 1986 despite vigorous protests from parents who believed Bromley Council should have been modernising the school, not demolishing it to make way for housing.

Because of underinvestment it was tired and rather dilapidated at the end of its life. But when it opened in 1935 as Orpington Central Council School it was a state-of-the-art school.

In the 1930s Orpington was expanding very quickly from village to suburban commuter town but it did not have a secondary school. A site was chosen off the newly laid-out Charterhouse Road where semi-detached housing and bungalows were replacing fields. All the roads on the new development were to take their names from top public schools – Repton, Charterhouse, Sandhurst, Eton, Haileybury etc. The



Chelsfield ends of the major roads and some of the smaller roads were not completed until after the war, so the school sat between the new houses and fields.

Kent Education Committee decided the new school should be a model for the county. It cost £36,000 including land, fittings and furnishings. It was an educational showpiece, being one of the earliest examples of the modern low-built school architecture.

It opened with 114 boys under head teacher AJN Walker and five assistants. Within a year — by the time of the official opening — the

neighbouring girls' school was finished and there were 480 children, all of whom wore maroon-and-buff coloured uniforms, with 12 classrooms for boys and 12 for girls in the two schools.

The main building, in brick and on several levels to cope with the irregular ground, was officially opened in October 1936 by the President of the Board of Education, Oliver Stanley, and William Mansfield, chairman of the Orpington group of school managers, declared: "Orpington Central is typical of the future of the modern education ideal." There were heating, lighting and ventilation



systems, baths, showers, lockers and a teachers' restroom. In the list of subjects being taught, Physical Education came first — there were 16 acres of sports fields — then Maths, English, Science and Arts and Crafts.

The school was frequently visited by educationists from Britain and overseas and even featured in a wartime film, *The Lion has Wings*. It closed for only two short periods during the war after air raids or flying bombs caused some damage.

After the war the two schools were renamed Orpington County Secondary School for Boys and Orpington County Secondary School for Girls. By that

time there were 473 boys on the roll in 13 forms and accommodation was short. It was a technical school, with woodwork and metalwork being core to the curriculum, but as there was no grammar school in Orpington it was — until St Olave's moved to Orpington from Southwark — the prime secondary educational establishment in the area. There was also a learning disabilities unit, which was pretty far-thinking for the time.

Geoff Pogson, who now lives in Canada, attended the school: "I did enjoy my stay at Chelsfield. They had woodwork and metalwork shops where I got my first taste of using hand tools, something I still do today every chance I get. The two years during which I

attended the school were very wet, with the winter of 46/47 the worst for many years, so I didn't get to play much football or cricket, which were the things that seemed to matter at the time. "I remember a girls' school being close by but girls were an intriguing mystery and hard to talk to, so I only got to look at them as the bus went by, never getting the chance to actually speak to one." In the 1970s the boys' and girls' schools merged and the new entity was renamed Charterhouse School. It fell out of favour with the Council, possibly because it needed too much money to update and it was also on a prime residential site — 16 acres of it. Other secondary schools had been built in Orpington in the 1960s and 70s — Newstead, Ramsden Boys, Ramsden Girls and Darrick Wood.

In its latter years Charterhouse was not popular with parents; it was rundown and the threat of closure hung over it. Finally, the school closed a year short of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the summer of 1986, despite a big campaign to save it.



Locally it was felt that if it was a neighbourhood secondary school it could once again become successful. But there was a political dimension to the campaign as it would have meant changing the way Bromley Council allocated secondary

school places, which was not on a neighbourhood basis. Consequently, the campaign was unsuccessful and the school disappeared.

*Christine Hellicar*

Do you remember

Charterhouse School? Do you have memories of your time there?

Drop a line to Village Voice we would love to hear from you .....

*Peter Gandolfi*

[famgando@hotmail.com](mailto:famgando@hotmail.com)

## Downing Street & Chelsfield Part 1

My previous family history pieces have focussed on my direct ancestors. This piece however is about an interesting character that I found while study somebody else's family tree that included some of my distant ancestors. This person is my 3x great grand uncle: so not a direct ancestor. However, there are a number of interesting twists, turns and for anybody living within the village, local coincidences that make fascinating reading and is well worth the telling.

So, for family orientation purposes, if you follow my maternal grandfather's female line back a number of generations you reach my 3x Great Grandmother: Eliza Lavinia Gough born in 1821 in Newbury Berkshire. She was the oldest child in a family of 10. Eliza's next oldest sibling was Charlotte but we'll get back to her in the second part of this piece in

next month's Village Voice. Eliza's youngest sibling was Frederick Gough born in 1843 and he is the subject of this piece – see photo of rather grand looking gentleman.

Frederick's father Richard seems to have been rather 'well to do' and made a living as a corn merchant so I guess he was a



member of the middle classes and his position

may have led to Frederick's future prospects. However, Richard disappears after Frederick's birth: I cannot find a death record (probably due to poorly recorded details) but Frederick's mother Charlotte is recorded as a widow in the 1851 census. She is working as a servant at her father's house in Newbury and living with her young children. By the 1871 census we find Frederick working as a civil service messenger in the Colonial Office in Whitehall although how he acquired this job is unknown. However, two years earlier he had married Elizabeth Moore and on the marriage certificate he recorded his profession as 'Queen's Messenger'. It would be nice to think that he interacted with Queen Victoria on a regular basis but the role of Queen's messenger was not quite

that chummy. Today, the role involves escorting the diplomatic bag around the world and although that must have happened in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century I'm guessing that most of Frederick's role was somewhat more local than that.

Later census returns show him building a long term career in the Colonial office and by 1901 his ascent within the civil service can be judged by the fact that he is living in quarters in Whitehall described in the census return as 'Colonial Office' and his profession as 'Office keeper'. What this means is difficult to guess but he may well have been some sort of office overseer but it was clearly a position of some responsibility as at this time he had seven servants living under his roof. More light was thrown on his position when I found evidence of what appears to be the high point of his career. It seems that he was given the responsibility at the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 of acting as the host for the prime ministers of the following Colonial heads of state: Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand, Queensland, Cape Colony, South

Australia, Newfoundland, Tasmania, West Australia and Natal. This was, of course, before many of these states were amalgamated into the modern countries we know today. The visit of these heads of state went so well that they presented Frederick with a purse of sovereigns and an 'Address' shown here albeit difficult to read due to the Gothic font used. The text of the address reads:

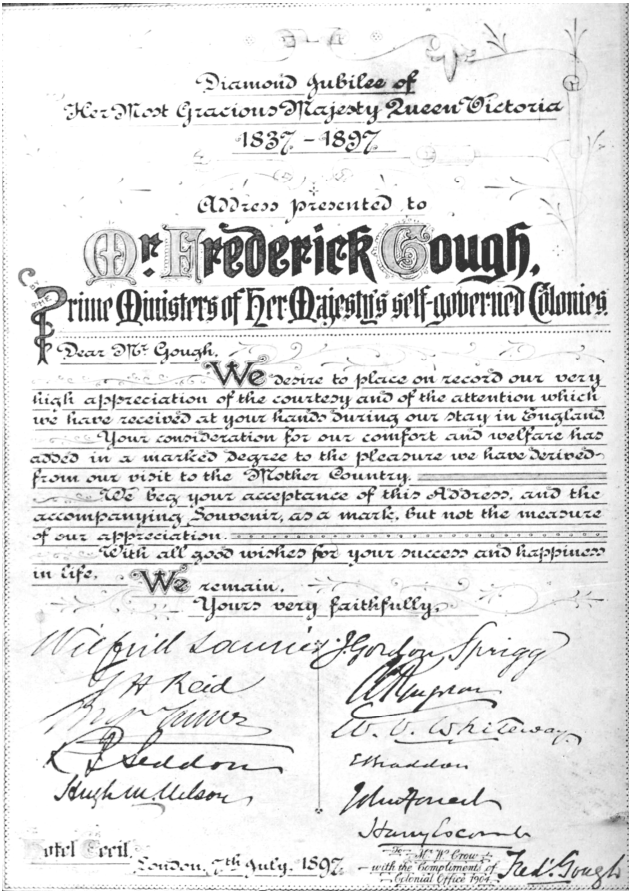
**Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria 1837 – 1897**  
**Address Presented to: Frederick Gough, Prime Ministers of her majesty's self governing colonies.**

*We desire to place on record our very high appreciation of the courtesy and attention which we have received at your hands during our stay in England. Your consideration for our comfort and welfare has added in a marked degree to the pleasure we have derived from our visit to the mother country. We beg the acceptance of this address and the accompanying souvenir as a mark, but not the measure of our appreciation. With all good*

*wishes for your success and happiness in life. We remain, yours very faithfully.*

The lower part of the address being signed by the Prime Ministers of the self governing states listed above. Frederick was also asked to perform the same task in 1902 when Edward VII was crowned.

In 1905 the prior address is mentioned in a newspaper article published in New Zealand and it comments that it is believed to be the only document signed by all of the prime ministers of Britain's self governing colonies in 1897. The prime ministers were so impressed that they wrote to the Right Hon Mr Joseph Chamberlain (who was the father of the more famous {or infamous} Neville Chamberlain, and at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Secretary of State for the Colonies) recommending Frederick for promotion. Shortly after he was indeed promoted to the post of 'Resident Superintendent' at the Colonial office, a role which had accommodation provided at the heart of the British establishment in Downing St. My guess is that this is a managerial role which oversees the smooth operation of the



and Administrations) told me that he had left £1625, a sum that's now equivalent to about £140,000 to a person called Richard Gough Cornford who worked as a bank-clerk. I did not recognise the name but clearly he was a relative of some sort due to the double barrel name including Frederick's surname Gough. So, I searched out this individual and to my surprise I found he was Frederick's nephew and had been born in Chelsfield! His, and his family's sad story is one I will tell in the next edition of the Village Voice. And to ease your possible concerns, Frederick's widow Elizabeth can be found living with Richard, his wife and a servant in the 1911 census.

So, it came as something of a surprise that my family, which generally has a humble background should be associated with a character who climbed the career ladder and eventually achieved high office in the heart of the British establishment. However, next month I will describe the second part of the story which focusses on Richard G Cornford and his family's rather ill-fated story.

Steve Fuller  
November 2020

Colonial Office's administrative tasks. He remained in that post until he died in 1907 at the age of 64 of a heart attack and his death certificate shows that his address at the time of his death was indeed Downing St.

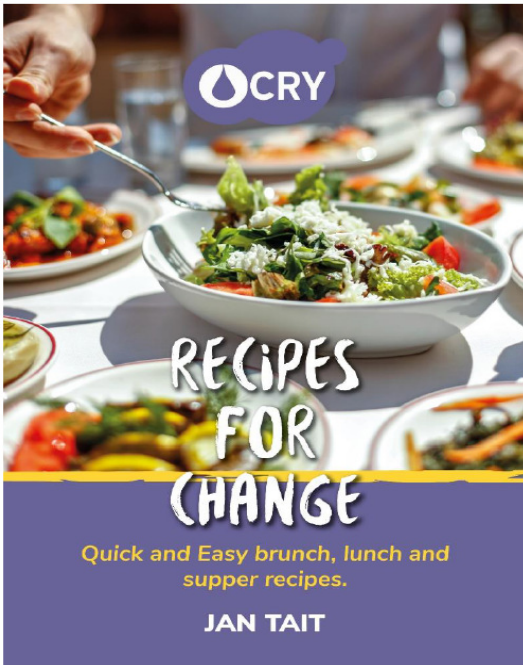
Frederick and his wife Elizabeth Moore had no children of their own. So, when Frederick died one

would assume that he would have left his accumulated wealth to his wife. He would also have had a comfortable pension that would have kept his wife Elizabeth in her old age but I was interested to see how much wealth Frederick's career had accumulated. Although I could not find his personal will, the National Probate Calender (Index of Wills

## Launch of New Cookbook- 'Recipes for Change.'

Dear friends, family and neighbours,

During this pandemic I have been moved many times by the plight of families in developing countries where there is great hardship and little or no government support. With so many jobs and homes being lost and medicines and food in short supply, I started to write a recipe book during lockdown (which will be published and available at the beginning of November) where all of the profits will



go to CRY (Care and Relief for the Young). This charity supports projects in 28 countries around the world, making a difference to the poorest of poor children. <https://www.cry.org.uk/>

The book will be priced at £10 and contains lots of great ideas for brunch, lunch and supper dishes. I taught Food and Nutrition for many years and have a particular interest in easy to make, healthy meals. The book also has a good length section with delicious vegetarian dishes and some of my favourite desserts and cakes.

So, if you are looking for Christmas presents, please consider buying my new book- 'Recipes for Change.' and your gift will help to change lives for the better.

Please email (preferably), text or call me if you would like any copies. Jan Tait 077120 02689 or [janchris.tait@gmail.com](mailto:janchris.tait@gmail.com)

Thank you!

Jan.

## Bo Peep Reopens

We are pleased to be re-opening on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> December serving eat in or take away from 12.00-7.45pm Monday to Thursday 12.00-8.15pm Friday and Saturday and 12.00-5.45pm on

Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming everyone and advise that tier 2 regulations will be in place.

Please refer to our

website for details on menus and more information.

Bo Peep-Chelsfield

[www.thebopeep.com](http://www.thebopeep.com)

01959 534457

## Phishing Scams & How to Report Them

We are getting an increasing number of scam emails. At this time of year they are likely to be about orders or deliveries.

They are easily spotted as they never address you by name but by your email address or as Dear Customer for example. If they don't use your name they don't know who you are.

For some time I have been reporting these emails by forwarding them to:  
[report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

This is the reply you will get:

Thank you for sending on your suspicious message. Timely alerts

from people like you help us to act quickly and protect many more people from being affected.

As of 31/10/20 the number of reports received stand at more than 3,613,000 with the removal of 18,071 scams and 39,313 URLs. Thank you for your continued support.

Our investigations may take some time. Whilst the NCSC is unable to inform you of the outcome of its review, we can confirm that we do act upon every message received.

We'll analyse the content of the suspect email and any websites it links to where appropriate.

If we discover activity that we believe is malicious, we may:

- seek to block the address the email came from, so it can no longer send emails
- work with website hosting companies to remove links to malicious websites
- raise awareness of commonly reported suspicious emails and methods used (via partners)

Care should be taken with any communication that asks you to share personal or financial information.

Please note...  
You should not report a

crime to the NCSC in this way. If you think you may have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, and live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you should report this to Action Fraud at:

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

be found at:

or by calling 0300 123 2020

[www.ncsc.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails)

Further information about reporting suspicious emails to the NCSC can

Thank you.

*National Cyber Security Centre*

## Winter Thoughts

Taken down Chelsfield Lane 1968 before the lovely elm blew down, before it got Dutch Elm Disease..

It is Jayne on right, two friends on left, also from Chelsfield Lane.

Looks like carolling will be another victim of Rona (as the girls call it). The charities will really miss out. I am thinking of using the accordion as a bribery weapon "Give me some money or I shall play Winter Wonderland and Jingle Bells outside your house for 2 hours!"

PS Holly berried trees are scarce this year cos the pigeons have eaten them all very early. Dad's huge tree was smothered until 2 weeks ago. I managed to find 4 small sprigs yesterday that they had missed.

*Phil Lane*



*Old Elm Chelsfield Lane 1968*

## The Local Pubs Are Opening Again.....



We intend to open on **Wednesday 2nd Dec** with shortened hours **12 noon - 2pm**. but our usual opening hours are **Sunday - Wednesday 12 noon - 9.30pm**, **Thurs - Saturday 12 noon - 10pm** with a 30 minute drinking up and finishing meal time. The pub will close a half hour after the stated time.

As you will all be aware

we are in Tier 2 with extra restrictions on the hospitality sector in that all people who visit the pub and want to drink alcohol will require to have a substantial meal and have a time slot of approx. 2 - 2 1/2 hours to complete the meal and then vacate the pub.

The one-way systems and the COVID-19 precautions are still in place and face masks are required to be worn until sitting at your table, there is no standing in the pub.

Only households and

their 'bubble' are allowed to dine indoors with friends up to six people must meet and eat outside.

**We do have a covered and heated patio area along with a heated marquee to accommodate groups but The Rule of Six applies.**

We are attempting to bring a little joy to this festive season with our Christmas and Boxing Day menus. Your place will need to be booked in advance by ringing the pub.



## Bo Peep-OPEN AND CLOSING TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR 2020

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00-6.00pm	Food 12.00-4.00pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	CLOSED ALL DAY	
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00-6.00pm	Food 12.00-3.30pm
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00-6.00pm	Food 12.00-4.00pm
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December to		
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	OPEN 12.00-6.00pm	Food 12.00-4.00pm
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	OPEN 12.00-6.00pm	Food-12.00-4.00pm
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	OPEN 12.00-6.00pm	Food 12.00-4.00p
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	OPEN 12.00-8.00pm	Food 12.00-6.00pm
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	OPEN 12.00-8.00pm	Food 12.00-5.45pm
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	OPEN AS USUAL	

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN 2020 and WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR