



February 2020

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Chelsfield  
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## Improving Lives After a Stroke



Charity Event Raising Funds for  
iCARE Day Centre Trust

**QUIZ**  
Night

Saturday 8th February 2020  
7.15pm to 10.30pm

St. Mary's Church Hall,  
Worlds End Lane, Green Street Green,  
BR6 6AG

Entrance Fee: £8.00 per guest  
Max 8 per Team

To book contact Sue Chown on  
01689 862883 or [icare01@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:icare01@hotmail.co.uk)

iCARE Day Centre Trust is a small charity in  
Green Street Green that provides rehabilitation,  
friendship and support for over 70 people  
who have suffered a stroke, and friendship,  
support and respite for their carers

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

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**Share your thoughts  
and memories,  
invite us to your  
events!**

Chelsfield Village Voice is the  
perfect way to spread your  
news, publicise your event or  
share and amusing story!  
Please send anything you feel  
suitable for the

March 2020 issue to:  
[chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com)  
or post to:

Chelsfield Village Voice  
2 Bucks Cross Cottages  
Chelsfield Village BR6 7RN  
to arrive by  
**Tuesday 25th February 2020**

## The Dunnock

Before getting onto the subject of the dunnock I'd like to recap on the subjects of a couple of previous pieces: the Indian balsam plant and the oak: both located in Barnetts wood at Timberden Bottom.

Last summer I was walking towards Timberden Bottom past the site where I had once noted and written about the invasive plant Indian balsam (September 2017). At the time I contacted Sevenoaks council and they quickly sent a crew of guys to strim these plants and I pointed out that this was probably not a good idea during the autumn when the seeds are ready to be broadcast across the forest floor. Well, the plants do seem to be spreading. The fact that large areas are exposed to the sun may hinder them as they like their roots to be set in wet soil but they look well established and likely to be there to stay. The only possibility is the release of a Japanese bug that feeds on the balsam which I believe the Environmental agency are investigating to ensure that there are no unintended effects on the

indigenous wildlife.

The same location was the site of two large oak trees, one of which fell across the road in the winter of 2017/18. I wrote about them briefly in March 2018 remarking that they must have begun growing around the time of George Washington's first 'state of the Union' speech. So, a couple of weeks ago I was on my way to Polhill garden centre via Timberden Bottom due to the usual access road (Hewitts Rd) to the M25 spur road being blocked for maintenance work. As I passed Barnetts wood I saw that the huge trunks were being collected and I ended up behind a truck removing two of these behemoths. It would be interesting to know where the wood from these trees ultimately ends up.

So, the Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*). This common bird which is about the size of a robin can only be described as, on the surface, a little dull. I seem to remember hearing Chris Packham, the TV naturalist, as a child, referring to them as 'little brown jobbies'. The word



dunnock dates from the fifteenth century and literally means 'small brown bird'. 'Dun' relates to dingy, dark or brown while 'ock' is the diminutive. Its more scientifically accurate name is now hedge accentor, accentor stemming from the Latin for one who sings with another. The dunnock also has the name 'foolish sparrow', or 'blind dunnock' because it is a prime victim of the cuckoo. The cuckoo probably chooses the dunnock's nest because it is quite substantial for such a small bird. The dunnock also has wonderfully blue eggs – a disadvantage during the days when egg collecting was considered 'jolly good outdoor fun for boys' (see photo) and may be an evolutionary attempt to avoid being a victim of the cuckoo. Interestingly,

female cuckoos can only lay eggs of one particular colour (blue, green, brown or grey and may include spots or patterns) and this trait is carried down through the female line. So, only a cuckoo that lays blue eggs will be on the lookout for a dunnock nest. Which begs the question, how do the female cuckoos know the colour of their own eggs. A particularly pertinent question for the occasion when the cuckoo lays its first egg! But I digress...

The dunnock is a mild mannered creature that spends its life flitting about at the bottom of hedges almost unnoticed by most. Consequently it's most commonly used name is the hedge sparrow but is unrelated to the house sparrow. Less common, regional names include hedge spadger, hedge warbler or hedge Betty. Such is its desire to stay near the ground and hop around the base of hedges that if you place fresh nuts into a bird feeder the dunnock will sit under the feeder waiting for the spoils that other birds throw aside to arrive on the ground. Only occasionally will it fly up to the feeder itself to find its own food.

The dunnock is a member of the small accentor family in the genus *Prunellidae* but is unusual in that only it and a Japanese cousin live at low altitudes, the rest being primarily mountain birds. In terms of its range it can be found across Europe and as far as Iran but was also introduced into New Zealand in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century where has flourished and become established.



So, unobtrusive and amiable and described by Lord Grey (Liberal politician and amateur ornithologist around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) as having an inclination to apologise for its presence. However, it has an extraordinary private life, described as perhaps the most complex known in British birds. This bird's relationships are very fluid ranging from the usual couple sharing the raising of young up to six

individuals sharing more than one nest. Part of the logic to this arrangement is that the female can increase the food supply to the young via the attention of several males. DNA testing has also shown that the young within a nest can belong to more than one male bird. Beta males have also been known to destroy the eggs in a nest if they are not involved with the female. In addition to partner swapping, the dunnock has been recorded as mating more frequently than any other small bird (once or twice an hour during a ten day period). Once the young are born males do not discriminate between their own off-spring and those of other males although the quantity of feeding of the young is related to the likelihood of those young belonging to the male.

So, something of a mundane bird with a racy private life but one of those that are always about in your garden, seemingly apologising for its presence there.

*Steve Fuller  
February 2020*

## Mutterings From The Millers

A shorter mutterings but this month, we are hoping for drier weather enabling us to plant spring wheat, barley and oats in March. This seed is due for delivery this month and after talking to our Agronomist, have planned all weed and disease control. The large green section of the field from the house to the riding stables is last years oats that were blown out of the husk before we were able to combine. This will have to be killed off before we plant with spring wheat, as it is completely riddled with disease.

That is all we have to say on the field side of the farm this month!



As you can see from the picture, repairs are about to take place on the gable part of the old stable buildings. Unfortunately a lorry driver failed to see the telephone cable and drove straight through it. The cable was pulled out of the wall and in the process took down about 6' of gable end brickwork. It also cracked the wall further up, so this has all got to be carefully taken down and rebuilt. Some of the new tin roof that Peter only erected about six weeks ago has also got to be replaced!

The annual spray workshop course in Faversham was completed in January and Peter continues to take straw down to Chart for the deer.

Great grandfathers letters mention that the tractor we mentioned last month, arrived at last in February 1916. The man who was going to start it was unable to come, so the tried to get it going themselves. Unfortunately it backfired and one of the men received "a nasty knock but was getting on all

right again". They tried ploughing and apparently she did well, drawing a three furrowed plough when the land was dry but useless when wet. Just after the plough arrived they had nearly 3' of snow so everything came to a grinding halt. One of the men was taken bad on the engine whilst going to market and had to be taken into the Plough on Bromley Common and put to bed. George had to send another driver up to the engine and by that time the snow was so deep, that he could not get beyond Mill Lane, Deptford where the engine was stuck for 24 hours. George managed to sell some of the produce off the vans there and another man took the rest to market with his rubber tyred Foden. The weather does have a great impact on farming whatever year it is.

We think spring is just around the corner, snowdrops and crocus are appearing and at the end of January we heard our first sky lark! Hurrah.

Here is a quote for Candlemas Day, 2nd February which apparently used to be regarded as being half way through the winter.

*If Candlemas Day is bright and clear,  
There'll be two winters in that year;  
But if Candlemas Day is mild or brings rain,*

*Winter is gone and will not come again.*

*Steve and Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm*

## Situation Vacant

### Are you looking for additional or flexible working hours?

**BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital are looking to recruit a Porter on a Bank contract covering various shifts as and when needed. For more information please email:**

**[Rachel.beer@bmihealthcare.co.uk](mailto:Rachel.beer@bmihealthcare.co.uk)**

## Putting On The Village Airshow

This year's Fair will be on 11th July 2010 and the team have emerged from hibernation. My main role, as most of you know, is 'organising the flying', a role which the Civil Aviation Authority rather grandly define as Flying Display Director (FDD).

The first year I organised any flying was 2007 and it was the first year I had any involvement in the Fair at all. One might almost assume that I childishly hijacked the Fair so I could realise a dream to put on an airshow. That would be an appalling accusation and I'm disappointed any

of you could have made it.

It was pretty informal in those days. If there was a single flying item (normally a Spitfire), they would either make me the FDD by virtue of the fact I contacted them, or they'd make the pilot the FDD (which you can still do for smaller shows). In fact they would tend to mangle me and the pilot together into another person who had the pilot's name but my address! I was happy it was as safe as it could be and everything trundled along peacefully enough until 22nd August 2015.

My wife Helen and I were enjoying a blisteringly hot sunny afternoon at Shoreham Airport on the occasion of their 2015 air show. The Shoreham show had started years before as a small show but had developed into one of the top events in the calendar; a lovely atmosphere and superb flying. A few acts had flown, including the Tiger Moth Diamond Nine and Peter Davies' Calidus autogyro (an act at the 2019 Fair), when Andy Hill arrived in the Hawker Hunter. I don't remember much about the display - it was enjoyable enough and conditions for photography were perfect. I

followed Andy down the exit of that fateful loop in my viewfinder and as I saw the aircraft pull into a doomed high alpha recovery, I remember thinking 'damn'; I put the camera down as the Hunter disappeared behind the trees and a wall of fire erupted from right to left. The rest is history. The crash had killed 11 people, some watching the show from outside, some driving on the A27. We finally exited the airfield at around 8pm, some seven hours after the crash.

11 peoples' families' lives had changed forever, 12 if you include the pilot. Shoreham Airshow has yet to reappear in the calendar and the regulations surrounding

airshows have become extremely onerous.

I submitted my application for the 2016 Fair in the midst of utter chaos and turmoil at the CAA who were reeling from the implications of Shoreham. Sleepless nights ensued when the CAA cancelled our show and then relented, allowing Mark Jefferies to display on the basis of the small footprint of his routine. I lost my beloved Spitfire.

In early 2017, it was announced that FDD was no longer an informal role; it would require formal accreditation in the form of a two day course, which I attended in Wiltshire in March of 2017. I was fairly

despairing of ever being able to put on much more than one flying act but I met some very valuable people there. My 2017 submission went in, complete with road and aerial survey and after a great deal of negotiation and pig-headedness on my part, the Spitfire returned.

Each year has had its trials and tribulations but in 2018 and 2019 we had three items which is my maximum limit. However all accreditations expire after three years so in December 2019, we were invited to apply for a place on the re-accreditation course, again in Wiltshire. I was accepted and then received 'coursework' which had to be completed over Christmas 2019 and submitted by early January 2020. The coursework was to plan a complete 9 item airshow at a coastal airfield site in Wales and it was far more work than putting on the show at the Fair!

However the course was valuable, not only as a method to renew my FDD accreditation, but to share valuable experiences with

*This is the Hawker Hunter, taken at Shoreham. It is the aircraft pulling up into its final loop - too low and with not enough power*





*The Spitfire taken at the 2019 Fair*

get the opportunity to enjoy my choice for this year. Many smaller shows have folded due to the rigidity of the new regulations which have made their shows unviable. Our show is not far off that line but every year when Chelsfield Flying Club steps up and raises the cost of the flying displays I get the feeling you all think it's worth it!

This event is so much more than the flying and there will be more about the 2020 Fair in forthcoming issues of the Village Voice. But I hope that's been a moderately interesting insight into the disproportionate effort that goes into one afternoon a year!

*Dave Griffiths*  
FDD - Chelsfield Village Fair

other FDDs and pilots. I am trying to upgrade my accreditation to a higher level and at the time of going to print I have no idea whether I will be successful. There are some critical new safety measures I need to put in place in order to continue air displays at Chelsfield, but with the goodwill of our lovely neighbours I am hopeful that we will

be able to do so.

It is no exaggeration to say that we have possibly one of the most restricted air display areas in the UK. We're never going to have a Typhoon display, or anything much more ambitious than we currently have, but I reserve the opening slot for a different item each year and hopefully you'll



## HELP WANTED!



St Martin's Toddler Group is a thriving and active group that runs from 10:30am to 12 noon every Tuesday during term time in the Brass Crosby

room at the church. The group has a new leader, Jenny Wood, and now we're looking for helpers to join the band of volunteers that help supervise

activities. If you'd like to help, even if you can't manage every week, please contact:

[toddler@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:toddler@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



## Well Hill Mission Concert - Advance Diary Date

For your diary we are pleased to confirm that Dave and Helen Griffiths have agreed to entertain us, once again, at our

### ANNUAL WELL HILL MUSICAL CONCERT

On SUNDAY 5th JULY at 2.45pm

FURTHER DETAILS WILL FOLLOW SO WATCH THIS SPACE

Many Thanks—Gerry Walker K.A.L.C. Hon Treasurer and Deputy Church Warden

## A Cockney Sparrows Tale

It was a cold day in February 1952. Gloria, an attractive but fading peroxide blonde, who lived in Hoxton was due to be married to a rather shady second hand car dealer from Welling, called Vernon. She had a younger brother, Sidney who was 10 and was to act as a pageboy later that day.

"Flipping heck Sidney..... ..what do you look like", said Gloria...you're in a right two and eight (state) and look at your barnet (hair) and gawd, look at the bird lime (time) Me Weddins in a couple of hours.....go and get your barnet cut and your whistle and flute (suit) pressed. Blimey. (no more clues)

So Sidney trudged off down the frog and toad to sort out his whistle and flute and get his Barnet cut. It was snowing gently.

He didn't really like Gloria, his skin and blister, but she

give 'im a tanner from time to time so he could afford to go to Saturday morning pictures, which he really enjoyed and it saved him taking a jam jar (really, not a car).

On the way along the frog and toad, he espied a small, brown, Richard the Third, lying on the pavement. Sidney picked it up... ..gingerly, and placed it on the top of a wall, so that no one should tread upon it.

As this happened, a rich Four by Twoish merchant was passing by and saw what Sidney had done. "My life, My boy! I have seen what you have done already! So soon!" Whereupon the rich Four by Twoish merchant put his hand into his skyrocket and pulled out a newly minted Lady Godiva, which he gave to Sidney .....thank you my boy, for picking up that small, brown Richard the Third, so that no one should

tread on it.

Caw, Strewth! Ta Guv, thanks ever so, said Sidney, full of joy. He had never even seen a newly minted Lady Godiva before, let alone owning one. It was a passport to a lifetime of Saturday morning pictures . (200,actually).

As the rich Four by Twoish merchant continued on his way and Sidney, with his slicked back barnet and neatly pressed whistle and flute trudged disconsolately back to his skin and blister, clutching his newly minted Lady Godiva, the small, brown Richard the Third got off the wall and flew away, chirping happily.

The End.

With apologies and acknowledgements to George Wylie.

*Chris Parsons.*





If you'd like to join us and give our lovely village a bit of a tidy-up, meet outside the **Five Bells Pub** on **Sunday 15th March** from **10:30am**. Equipment and outfits provided!

## Chelsfield Casualties of World War Two

Last Autumn I explained I was hoping to write about the casualties from World War Two that are remembered on the war memorial in the church porch. Shortly after I was contacted by the twin sisters from Well Hill, Rosemary Barrett and Susan Down. They invited me to meet them so they could tell me about their father, Douglas Motton. Sadly, they were only six months old when Douglas died serving his country, so they don't remember him in person, but they had lots of information given to them by their family. This tribute has been put together from what they were able to tell me and some online research.

### **DOUGLAS LEWIS MOTTON**

Douglas Motton was serving on the destroyer HMS Lively when it was hit from the air by German bombers. The ship was in the Mediterranean, 100 miles from Tobruk, when it sank on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1942. C/KX 120581 Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class Motton was only 24 when he died, lost at sea



along with seventy-six others. Douglas is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Douglas was the son of Stanley and Evelyn Motton, and husband of Irene. The Bromley & Kentish Times recorded his death in the edition of 29<sup>th</sup> May 1942 and noted that he had attended Chislehurst Road School, and had been employed in the gardens at Darrick Wood School before joining the Navy in January 1941. Susan and Rosemary remember that he was in the cricket club along with his brother Malcolm. The newspaper report explains that Motton

served on HMS Lively when it took part in some of the sea fights with the Germans and Italians in the Mediterranean, including the raid on Tarranto, and was in several engagements off Malta.

HMS Lively was an L-class destroyer of the Royal Navy. Commissioned in 1941, she was mainly active in the Mediterranean Fleet, based at Malta. Lively was part of the escort for several convoys to and from the island, and also intercepted enemy supply convoys going to North Africa. She was sunk off Tobruk while trying to intercept an enemy convoy.

Susan and Rosemary were born in Crosshall, where their parents lived, and they had an older brother Colin. They remember going to the air raid shelter which was in the village school, and that there were bomb craters all over. They also remember that a bomb came through the ceiling but didn't explode! Douglas's father Stanley had moved to Canada in

1910 and served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War. By 1917 he was back in this country, married to Evelyn and Douglas was born in November of that year. The picture shows Douglas with his son Colin and their dog. His hat band says 'HMS Pembroke' which shows he wasn't initially posted to HMS

Lively.

Very sadly Douglas's brother Kenneth was also a casualty of World War Two. He was also in the Royal Navy and was on SS Chumleigh when it ran aground in Norway in freezing conditions. The crew took to lifeboats but many died of hypothermia because of the conditions, including

Kenneth on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1942. He is also remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial, and on the Orpington War Memorial, alongside Douglas. How difficult it must have been for Mr & Mrs Motton to lose two of their three sons in six months.

*Philippa Rooke  
pjrooke@hotmail.com*

## Another Accident Court Rd / Warren Rd Junction

Some of you may have got involved in the traffic jam along Court rd on the morning of Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January. A number of police vehicles were on the scene of two cars in

the very centre of the junction embedded in each other. It looked like a low speed collision and a number of other vehicles had also stopped leading to further

congestion.

Our future roundabout cannot happen soon enough.

## Local History Group

### **Anerley – The Origins of a Bromley Suburb** - Christine Hellicar

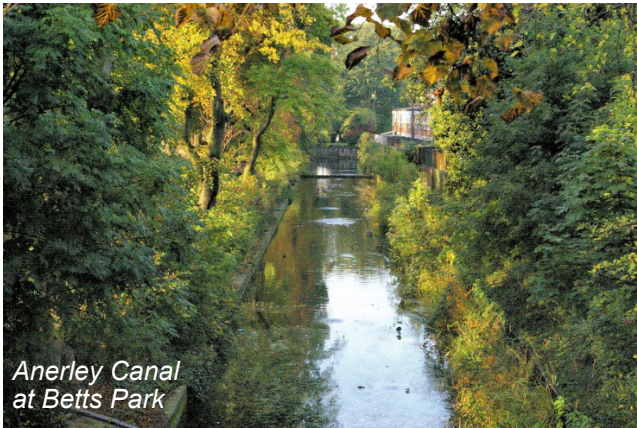
The suburb of Anerley – a place as far away as you can get from Chelsfield and still remain in Bromley – has a fascinating and rather unexpected history. Just how and why it came into existence was revealed to the Chelsfield Local History group at their final meeting of 2019 by Christine Hellicar. What is now Anerley was part of Penge Common,

wood-heath on the edge of the Great North Wood whose memory lingers today in the names Norwood, Norbury, Forest Hill and Honor Oak.

The common and hamlet of Penge were, for 1,000 years, an extremely detached part of the parish of Battersea, seven miles away on the River Thames. Penge was important to Battersea as it is situated in open marshy land and Penge provided much needed

timber and animal pasture.

Change first arrived for the common, on which there were no buildings, with the opening of the Croydon Canal in 1809. The canal passed within half a mile of the hamlet of Penge on its way to Deptford. According to a contemporary report "... nowhere along its course was there scenery to compare with the picturesque beauty of the surroundings as the waterway crossed Penge



*Anerley Canal  
at Betts Park*

Common and wound its way through Penge Forest”.

The canal did not impact greatly on the rural scene but the common was under threat of enclosure from 1770 and every proposal was opposed by the Battersea Vestry. Eventually John Barwell Cator – who was a considerable Beckenham landowner – was successful in getting a Bill for enclosure passed in 1827 and the common land was soon carved up among the big land owners and speculators, including William Sanderson, a silk manufacturer and wine merchant

A new road 15 metres wide was built along the track that crossed the common. It went from

Elmers End to what is today the Crystal Palace triangle at the top of Anerley Hill. Sanderson bought Plot 30 on this road at the point where the canal crossed the road, and built a substantial country home.

The canal might have been picturesque but it was not profitable. In 1836 it closed after only 27 years. It was bought by the London and Croydon Railway Company (LCR) for £40,259 and much of its route was used for their railway line. On 5 June 1839, the railway opened.

It was one of London’s and the world’s first suburban railways. An announcement at the time said: “Marquees etc are erected in the wood close to Anerley Station and parties using the railway

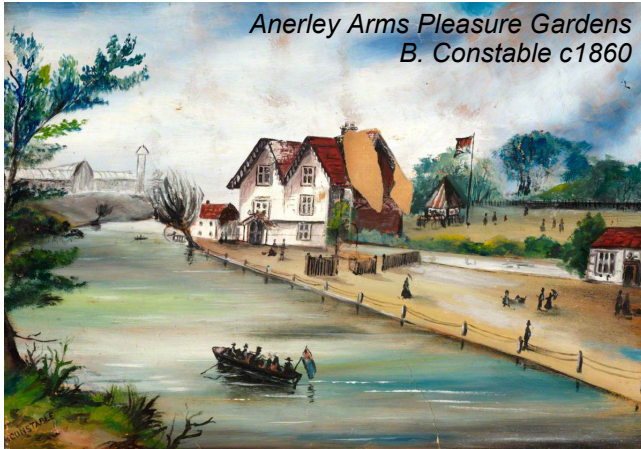
will be permitted to angle in the adjacent canal which abounds in fish.” That was the very first mention of the name Anerley.

Where the canal crossed the Penge Common road the LCR encountered an engineering problem, there was a loop in the canal and they had to buy land to straighten the track – William Sanderson’s – land. It is said he gave the land free as long as the LCR built him a station.

Sanderson’s house was called Anerley – a Scottish dialect word meaning “lonely” – so the LCR named their station after it.

Christine then outlined the rapid development of the area. Several acres of wood-heathland next to the railway, where a part of canal still existed, were turned into Anerley Gardens a “rustic pleasure garden”. The gardens became a desirable social venue with regular dances, a boating lake, Swiss cottage, maze, and bandstand and the Anerley Hotel.

Sanderson’s lonely Anerley soon began to change. The arrival of the railway brought a building



*Anerley Arms Pleasure Gardens  
B. Constable c1860*

impressive Anerley Vestry Hall was built. When Penge became an Urban District in 1900, this became the Town Hall. But the Crystal Palace spelt the end of Anerley Gardens. They could not compete with the new venue and closed in 1868. However, the name Anerley was used for the main roads, buildings and the postal district, SE20.

William Sanderson died in his house in 1871 and when his wife, Catherine, passed on six years later the land was sold for more villa development. But in Betts Park, opposite these houses, a small section of the canal still exists and at the fringes of the park can be seen some old trees, a tiny remnant of the Great North Wood.

boom which became a deluge once work began on the Crystal Palace in 1852. The LCR route was the only one in the area when building of the Palace started, so the station became exceptionally busy bringing contractors to the site. Villas and hostelryes sprang up and building

land doubled in value.

Some statistics show the rapid rate of change. The population of Penge increased from 1,159 in 1851 to 13,201 in 1871. In 1861 a new parish was formed for the Anerley area with St Paul's Church built in the new Hamlet Road. In 1878 the

## Chelsfield Evening W.I.

Here at Chelsfield evening W.I. we started off our Christmas by holding a Carol service for all the local W.I.'s in St Martins. It was really well attended with 100 W.I. ladies all in fine voice, after a wonderful service and lots of Carol singing we all enjoyed a cup tea and mince pies. A great way to begin Christmas.

Instead of our usual meeting in December, 28 of our members went to a local restaurant for a lovely Christmas meal we were really getting into the Christmas spirit.

Christmas is over and it's now a brand new year we are looking forward to a programme of interesting speakers lots of activities and visits. In January we

arranged a trip to a craft fair and an evening at Orpington Odeon to watch a live screening of the ballet Sleeping Beauty.

Our February meeting will be on Tuesday February 18th at 8pm a talk on 'Vita and Harold Sackville'.

Please call Lynne on 01689 835897 for more information



Chelsfield Village Hall,  
Bucks Cross Road, BR6 7RL  
Box Office-07816 505448  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/chelsfieldplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chelsfieldplayers)



The Chelsfield Players  
presents

# FUNNY MONEY

Thurs 2nd- Sat 4th April  
8pm-doors open 7.30pm  
£8.50 tickets



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://concordtheatricals.co.uk)

## ST MARTIN'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Please help if you can, no green fingers necessary!

St Martin's Church has a beautiful large churchyard which we love and we know people in the village appreciate it too. It takes a lot of work to keep it accessible and we need your help!

Following successful working parties last year we're going to have one a month starting on Saturday 7th March. Could you spare an hour or two to join us? Some tools will be available but if you can bring any that will be helpful.

**But most of all we just need you!**

**Saturday 7 March – 9am to 12 noon**

To join the Churchyard Working Party email group please contact the Churchwardens on [churchyard@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](mailto:churchyard@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



St Martin of Tours, your local parish church

## Introducing Our New Member of Parliament



My name is Gareth Bacon, and I am the new Conservative Member of Parliament for Orpington. I was born in Hong Kong but was raised, went to school and still live in Sidcup with my wife and daughter, close to the boundary of the Orpington constituency.

I took my Bachelors Degree at the University of Kent in 1996, before studying for a Masters Degree in European Politics at the same university the following year. The subject of my Masters Degree dissertation was an examination of the democratic deficit in the European Union – I concluded that this was a problem that could not be resolved and that Britain would be better served by

leaving the European Union. This forms much of the foundation of my support for Brexit.

After university, I worked in financial services before moving into financial recruitment, latterly as a Director of a large financial recruitment business.

I have been a London Assembly Member since 2008, initially as a London-wide Member but for the past four years I have been proud to represent the constituency of Bromley and Bexley, which includes Orpington, holding the Mayor to account and delivering for outer London.

On the Assembly, I led the GLA Conservatives and worked tirelessly to protect our green spaces, keep our communities safe, and ensure that every penny of taxpayers' money is well spent.

In the final 18 months of Boris Johnson's mayoralty, I served as Chairman of the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority. This body oversaw the London Fire Brigade and co-ordinated the emergency planning work for London.

In 1998, I was elected to serve as a local councillor in the London Borough of Bexley. For a total of nine years I served as a Cabinet Member in a number of positions including as Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm.

I will be standing down from my London assembly and Bexley Council responsibilities as soon as practicable. Now as your new Member of Parliament I will be a strong voice for Orpington in Parliament and deliver for this beautiful part of historic Kent.

I understand the challenges facing Orpington: crime and the fear of crime are rising, calls for building to be allowed on the greenbelt are getting louder, and like the entire country, people want politicians to stop dithering and get Brexit done.

I am proud to be your new Member of Parliament, so I can help Boris Johnson get Brexit done and deliver on the people of Orpington's priorities.



## A Little Family History

Family history can be a very personal subject and not to everybody's taste but I thought I would tell a tale about my forty year search for my grandfather that has highlighted some fascinating facts and resulted in new found relatives and friends.

I find genealogy a fascinating subject. It's a 'who-done it' mystery that is real and personal. A long string of events, each of which had to play out for the researcher to be in the position to do the research! My interest began when I was a teenager. I remember attending my maternal grandmother's funeral and seeing on the gravestone the name of her parents which was Brassington. I remarked that it was an interesting name and my mother corrected my pronunciation to something that had a more northern inclination. I think from that moment on I took an interest in the family history and despite the story I have just told, this story focuses on my father's side of the family.

My father never knew who his father was. He was bought up by his mother Alice in 1930s Plumstead and was lucky that her employer, a well-to-do family, allowed her to keep her job as a maid (in service as it was then called) despite the scandal of being a single parent. My father was however, bought up by many friends and relatives until the war when he was evacuated down to Cornwall. Consequently he had little interest in his father although he did have a photo (see first photo). When I took an interest he suggested I talk to my great aunt Lil who had helped raise him. Now, this was forty years ago and I may have misunderstood some of the details or my aunt Lil may have passed on incorrect information but I began searching on the census returns for a local character called William Knight who was older than Alice and who had a military background and had served in South Africa in the Boer War. He had a family that lived in Eltham and worked as

a porter in the hospital associated with the local workhouse which at the time was the only place the average person could get medical help. It was there that he met my grandmother who was having a knee operation. Having searched the census returns I came up with a prime suspect who had been born in Plumstead in 1875, been in the army, travelled the world and even fought in the same regiment as Winston Churchill on the NW Frontier at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: he sounded like an exciting individual. I waited for the 1911 census which became available 100 years later in 2011 but the only suitable person that I could find in those records was a lodger in Manchester who was a travelling salesman. I had no confidence that this was the right person so I again began waiting for the 1921 census returns that would become available in a few years time. The year 1921 would have been close to the date that he would have known my grandmother so that

census might be more enlightening.

I have searched my family history quite extensively and found links that go as far as Belgium and the Caribbean but positively identifying my grandfather has always been the missing piece of the jigsaw in my tree. So, after wondering about DNA testing for a number of years I decided to take the plunge and have mine tested. I was mainly interested in where my geographical roots were and if the results aligned with what I already knew. I used the Ancestry.com website to which I have been a subscriber for many years and this organisation would also check to see if others using their service had similar DNA. I was not however expecting any information that would help with finding my grandfather as the odds seemed rather long that a related individual would also be an amateur genealogist and have taken a DNA test. So when the results arrived I was delighted to find that I had some interesting European roots, primarily British but 11% Germanic

(Saxons), 5% Celtic, 3% Norwegian (Vikings). Of interest was a strong showing in West Sussex where I had no knowledge of ancestors. I was expecting a strong East Anglian connection from where the Fuller family had come from but this region's influence was minor. That's when everything changed. Within hours of getting those results I received an email from somebody called Sue from the South Coast saying that we appeared to be cousins which she thought was odd as she had researched her tree extensively and knew all of her cousins. We realised that my grandfather and her Gt-grandfather had the same surname - Knight. However, her ancestor

was Robert William Knight and mine (based on aunt Lil's information) was William Knight. I looked on her family tree which I was able to do via the Ancestry website and found that she had the same photo as me for this individual (see photo). I asked if this had been taken from my tree (which is possible and quite a normal thing to happen) and Sue said no, it had been passed down through her family. So we were clearly talking about the same person but it seems I had spent forty years chasing the wrong 'Knight' (William rather than Robert William). So I had lost an ancestor who had been around the world with the British army for twelve years visiting India, China, Egypt and South Africa. But what had I gained: quite a lot it seems. Sue told me that Robert had joined the marines at the age of 17 in March 1882 and travelled to the South Seas on HMS Nelson to which he was assigned between October 1884 and January 1889. His military record shows that his character was always 'Good' or V Good'. I did a little research on the internet and found a





ground? This photographic scene was reproduced on a local postage stamp 50 years later (see overpage).

Sue then sent me two photos of a box of shells that he had acquired on a trip to Norfolk Island which is north of New Zealand. This island had been colonised by the descendants of the mutineers of HMS Bounty. They had originally lived on Pitcairn Island but when the population had become too large for that island to sustain a number of them were moved to Norfolk Island and Robert's ship was visiting to deliver livestock and supplies (I guess hard-feelings regarding the mutiny had been overlooked by this time)! This can be confirmed by the message on the back of the box used to contain the shells (see photo overpage) which reads 'Norfolk Island 1886. South Seas.



photo of his ship in Sydney Harbour in the mid 1880s taken from the botanical gardens (see top photo). Another photo (lower) I found shows the deck of HMS Nelson moored at Port Moresby as local chiefs from New Guinea were invited

aboard on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1884 to be informed that they were now a protectorate of the British Empire! This was a reaction to Germany taking possession of the northern New Guinea coast. Maybe Robert is one of those in the back-

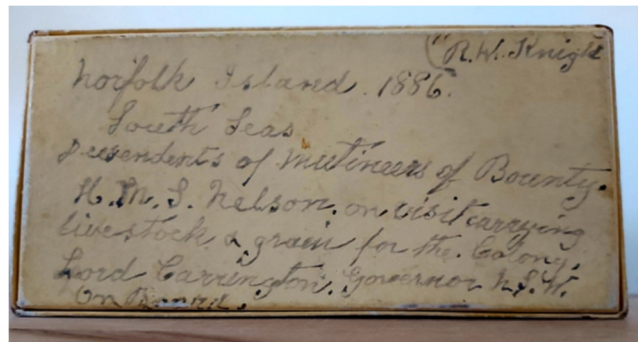
Descendants of mutineers of Bounty. HMS Nelson on visit carrying livestock & grain for the colony, Lord Carrington, Governor on board'. Sue then very kindly sent a few of these



shells to me as a keepsake. Interestingly this era was just when the Royal Navy were switching from sail to steam and HMS Nelson was officially a steam ship but as the photo shows it also had sails. At this time nobody totally trusted new-fangled steam engines enough for trips to far off destinations. In addition, it seems that HMS Nelson was well armed with 4 x 10 inch muzzle loaded guns. I could just imagine trying to reload one of these via the muzzle, standing on the deck handling shells during a battle. Luckily in those days the enemy rarely shot back!



Information from the National Archives showed up some additional information that I was unaware of. He apparently had been involved in a couple of campaigns and had won the Soudan (sic) medal and the Egypt star. At the end of his military career around the age of 30 his records last entry shows 'Invalided', yet under the section headed 'Invalided' there is no entry. Possibly this just means that as he was



approaching the age of 30 he had become too old for military service but was still physically fit. When Robert returned from the South Seas in 1894 he married Phoebe Designey who was the Gt grandmother of Sue. The photo I had of Robert with a thick winter coat suggested he was a 'spit and sawdust' character but Sue tells me that the opposite was true. Her grandmother would be taken by him for daytrips which invariably ended with tea at a good hotel. He was always the best dressed man around and wore a fedora hat and white cane. It seems we even have some interests in common as he was interested in astronomy due to his training as a marine where navigation by the stars was part of his training. He also lived in Eltham (my old teenage stomping ground) which confirmed aunt Lil's information but it seems that the information about him going to South Africa was incorrect. Possibly his time in Sudan and Egypt had become confused with the Boer War which was a little more recent in cultural memory at the time. Interestingly he

came from a line of family that had lived for many generations in a tiny West Sussex village called Shermanbury which was highlighted in my DNA geographical results. Robert himself was born in Pimlico London so I researched his father Aaron Knight who was indeed born in Shermanbury. Aaron had had an interesting life and at one time owned a pub called the 'Half moon' in Bath. He married in London and then moved to Datchet which I had never heard of before (on the river Thames near Windsor). Following some research it seems that a century before Aaron moved there the village was known as 'Black Datchet' due to all the resident rogues while the local prison had a section known as the Datchet wing – but that's another story. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Aaron moved to Datchet the place was becoming fashionable and had easy access to London via the newly laid rail line. He worked as a decorator and his wife Charlotte as a dressmaker. They even lived on a well to do road that still contains some of the most desirable

properties in the village. Anybody reading my piece a couple of months ago with the title 'Chicken of the woods' will have read that I took a boat trip to Datchet with a friend who lives on a narrowboat on the Thames to try and find his gravestone in the local church. We succeeded and his gravestone can be seen in the attached photo (note that in life he had been referred to as Charlie). His wife Charlotte remarried after Aaron's death taking the surname Sears but had her body interred with Aaron's. I wonder if there's another interesting story there. Incidentally, my friend with the narrowboat, who had no knowledge of his



parents, had his DNA analysed and found he was 85% Cornish and the other 15% came from the Indian sub-continent! Aaron's son Robert, my grandfather, died a few years before I was born and according to available records he is buried in Lewisham cemetery so I plan to take a drive there to see if I can locate his plot. I also plan to visit Shermanbury next summer when the weather will allow a few days hiking around the area to get a feel for the place.

So I waited forty years trying to locate my

grandfather but I had to wait for the development of DNA analysis to unlock the mystery. The story was however well worth the wait. I'm now slowly moving back through the generations in Shermanbury to see what that reveals about my ancestral home and male-line. This story ends with a reunion when, on my birthday in October 2019 I was able to meet up with my various cousins in London. There was Sue mentioned in this story plus another cousin called Yvonne from Ashford and even a Canadian branch of the family with the surname

Fuller. That in itself is another story which I hope to get around to telling.

I hope this was of interest to the general reader. As I said at the beginning, family history is a very personal subject and may not be to everybody's liking but I offer it as it shows what doors can be opened with DNA analysis and a little bit of luck. Anybody that has thought about it might like to take the plunge as the results can be quite enlightening.

*Steve Fuller  
Feb 2020*

## Local Photographs

*Warren Road 1963 - A rare sight these days?  
Phil Lane*



## Halstead Talk

### Halstead & District Horticultural Society

February 27th 8pm

**Talk:**  
**"All About Roses"**  
**(also plants for sale)**  
**at Halstead Village Hall, Knockholt Road, TN14 7EX**  
**Admission £2**  
**(Members Free)**



Chelsfield Village Taken 28th January 2020  
Phil Lane

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### **Bromley Council**

Main switchboard:  
020 8464 3333

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

Opening hours Monday to  
Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

Address: Civic Centre,  
Stockwell Close,  
Bromley, BR1 3UH

### **Reporting Problems to the Council**

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

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

John Leach 07711304965.

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

### **Chelsfield Primary School**

01689 825827

### **BMI Chelsfield Park**

#### **Hospital**

Main Reception

01689 877855

Physiotherapy

01689 885920

Outpatients

01689 885905

### **Councillors**

Mike Botting-

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

Angela Page

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

Samaris Huntington-Thresher

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

### **Chelsfield Village Voice**

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

**EDF** Electrical Power Failure  
Call 105 or 0800 316 3105

**BT Line Faults** 0800 800151

**Thames Water** Emergencies  
0800 714614

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

Emergency (leaks) 0800 111999

**Bromley Police Station &  
Police non emergency** 101

### **Samaritans**

Freephone 116123

### **Safer Neighbourhood**

**Team** 020 8721 2605

[chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:chelsfield.prattsbottom.snt@met.police.uk)

### **Chelsfield Village Hall**

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

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

### **Chelsfield Players**

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive  
**Live Singer**  
 From 6.30pm 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, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Christ Church Hall,  
 Charterhouse Rd  
**Pilates Classes**

#### Monday

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

#### Tuesday

7.15pm Beginners Pilates  
 8.25pm Mixed Ability Pilates

#### Wednesday

9.30am Mixed Ability Pilates  
 10.40pm Beginners / Improvers

#### Friday

8.45am Pilates with weights  
 10.00am Beginners/Improvers Pilates

#### Saturday

8.45am Mixed Ability Pilates  
 10am Beginners/Improvers Pilates  
 see [www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk](http://www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk)  
 for more information contact  
[sally@orpingtonpilates.co.uk](mailto:sally@orpingtonpilates.co.uk)  
 Ph. 07786 035640

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room  
**St Martin's Toddler Group**  
 10.30am-12.00 midday  
 Contact  
[stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com](mailto: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 TUES WED THURS & FRI Pilates & Pre & Post Natal Pilates Courses

**Tues @ Warren Road School**  
 7-8pm Pregnancy Pilates (from 14 weeks)  
 8.10pm Pilates (Mixed Level)  
**Wed @ Pratts Bottom Village Hall**

9.35am & 10.45am (Mixed Level)

**Wed@Chelsfield Methodist Church Hall**  
 7pm (Beginners) & 8.10pm (Mixed Level)  
 7pm (Mixed Level) & 8.10pm (Intermediate)

**Thursday@ Chelsfield Methodist Hall**  
 8.20pm - Pilates (Mixed Level)

**Fri @ Chelsfield Methodist Church Hall**  
 9.35am (Mixed Level) & 10.45am (Intermediate)  
 12-1pm—Post Natal Pilates (Babies Welcome)

**For further information contact:**  
[bethanylucaspilates.co.uk](mailto:bethanylucaspilates.co.uk)  
[bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com](mailto:bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com)  
 07415 638546

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am  
 Contact Pam Keeper  
 01732 458930

#### EVERY FRIDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Drive)  
**DJ NIGHT**  
 From 8.30pm Contact  
 01689 880288

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Saturday 1st February**  
 The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive  
**Singles Karaoke**  
 from 8.30pm

**Monday 3rd February (1st Monday of Month)**  
 Brass Crosby Room

**St Martins Memory Cafe**  
 2-4pm. Contact Jackie McCann  
 01689 854119  
[memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](http://memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)

#### Thursday 6th February

The Five Bells  
**Jazz Night at The Bells**  
 Music Starts 8.30pm  
**Saturday 8th February**  
 St Mary's Church Hall,  
 Worlds End Lane, Green Street  
 Green

#### CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT (for iCare)

**Wednesday 12th February (2nd Wednesday Every Month)**  
 Chelsfield Village Hall

**Afternoon W.I.**  
 Newcomers Welcome  
 Contact Sue on 01689 827407

**Wednesday 12th February**  
 The Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

Music Starts 8.30pm  
**Tuesday 18th February (3rd Tuesday Every Month)**  
 Chelsfield Village Hall

**Evening W.I.**  
 Newcomers Welcome  
 From 7.45pm Lisa Lobb (Secretary)  
 on 01689 608070

**Saturday 22nd February (4th Saturday in Each Month)**  
 Coolings Garden Centre, Knockholt  
**Knockholt Farmers Market**  
 from 9.00am to 1.00pm

#### Sunday 23rd February

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive  
**Live Band / Music**  
 from 6.30pm  
 from 7.15pm to 10.30pm

**Saturday 22nd February (4th Saturday in Each Month)**  
 Coolings Garden Centre, Knockholt

#### Knockholt Farmers Market

from 9.00am to 1.00pm

#### Wednesday 26th February

The Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

Music Starts 8.30pm

#### Thursday 27th February (Last Thursday of each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

#### Local History Group

Starts 10.30am

#### Thursday 27th February

Halstead Village Hall

#### Talk "All About Roses"

from 8.00pm

#### Monday 2nd March (1st Monday of Month)

Brass Crosby Room

#### St Martins Memory Cafe

2-4pm. Contact Jackie McCann 01689 854119

[memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](http://memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)

#### Thursday 5th March

The Five Bells

#### Jazz Night at The Bells

Music Starts 8.30pm

#### Sunday 15th March

Starts at The Five Bells

#### The BIG Chelsfield Street Clean

Meet at 10.30am

#### Saturday 7th March

The Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

Music Starts 8.30pm

#### Sunday 15th March

St. Martins Church

#### Churchyard Working Party

09.00am to 12 noon

#### Wednesday 25th March

The Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

Music Starts 8.30pm

#### Tuesday 17th March (3rd Tuesday Every Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

From 7.45pm Lisa Lobb (Secretary) on 01689 608070

#### Thursday 26th March (Last Thursday of each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

#### Local History Group

Starts 10.30am

#### Thursday 3rd-Saturday 4th April

Chelsfield Village Hall

Chelsfield Players present

#### Funny Money

Door Open 7.30pm Tickets £8.50

Box Office 07816 505448

#### Sunday 5th July

Well Hill Mission Church

#### Well Hill Musical Concert

Starts 2.45pm

#### Saturday 11th July

Chelsfield Recreation Ground

**CHELSFIELD VILLAGE FAIR**  
 Starts Midday