



January 2012

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Chelsfield
Park
Hospital

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

Chelsfield Village Internet Café



Do you wish to learn more about using computers or the Internet, or do you have any particular problems?

Absolute Beginners Welcome!

Where: Parish room – Skibbs Lane

When: 2.30 – 4.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

Phone Peter and Catherine Gandolfi:
01689 831826 for details

Or just turn up – All equipment is provided

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Contributions PLEASE !

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do you have any events, stories, pictures, ideas or information you would like to share with the village?

Contributions for the February issue to :

villagevoice@chelsfield.org
or posted to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village

BR67RN

by the 31st January please

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The Hare



showing that they need to be able to fend for themselves from an early age.

As is well known, the hares secretive nature is abandoned in spring when the males attempt to make unwelcomed advances to females who 'box' them to fend them off and this gives rise to the saying "as mad as a

This month I'm going to talk about the hare (*Lepus europaeus*) or European brown hare. This is a secretive animal, which is surprising considering they do not habitually live underground. Unlike rabbits that use their burrows to evade predators, hares use their speed. They can reach 45 mph and are the fastest land animal in the UK. In particular their long back legs make their uphill speed quite phenomenal. Coming downhill however is another story. Their shorter front legs give them a tendency

to become unbalanced making their downhill progress less impressive.

Hares can be distinguished from rabbits by their longer legs, ears and face and as mentioned earlier, do not use burrows but raise their young in a 'form', or shallow hollow on the ground. I have been informed that these can extend to small underground hollows although it's interesting to note that while the young of rabbits are born blind and hairless, young hares (leverets) have both hair and can see,



March hare". The behaviour of hares in general over the ages has led to them being connected with pagan beliefs. Their ability to outrun and 'disappear' when being hunted was seen as a sign of supernatural abilities

while Bill Oddie claims that some communities believed they could only be killed with a silver cross!

I have not seen hares within the village but have seen either one, or on occasion two at a particular location within a few miles of Chelsfield (I'll keep this

place to myself as hare coursing is still considered good sport by some). During a hiking holiday along the coast of Devon I remember starting out on the very first day and within half a mile found myself face to face with a hare sitting in the middle of a country

track. He seemed unconcerned about my presence until I got to within about thirty feet when he turned tail and headed into a field. This seemed like a good omen for what turned out to be a very good holiday.

Steve Fuller

Green Woodpeckers are in Chelsfield!

Following Steve's article on Green Woodpeckers in the December Village Voice we have had the following two encouraging reports, and photograph as evidence, submitted :

I was surprised to read that Steve Fuller had not seen green woodpeckers in Chelsfield. The birds are alive and well in the

area. Member Brenda Stambrey reports regular visits to fat balls in her garden in Chelsfield Lane. In the village they are to be regularly heard as they fly over the allotments and footpaths. Every year we see them probing our lawn for ants and teaching their slightly less colourful young how to Hoover up ants from

the cracks in the pavement

Catherine Gandolfi

There are green woodpeckers in Chelsfield! These two are regular visitors to our garden in Park Gate Road.

John Killeen



Local History Group Goddington House Part 1

Patrick Hellicar gave a talk about Goddington House prompted by its recent advertisement at a guide price a mere three million pounds. The agents advert describes Goddington is a Grade II listed Edwardian manor house. It isn't. Even English Heritage has mucked it up. The 2004 official listing details correctly say it was probably built in 1893 (Not Edwardian then!); that it was designed by the architect William West Neve in Olde English style and that it's the biggest Arts and Crafts house in Bromley. It also says that the house was built for the Harris family whose ancestors were Lords of the Manor of Orpington from the late mediaeval period and that the Harris family lived there until the 1930s. Well, it wasn't and they didn't! The incised geometric patterned plaster ceilings which incorporate monograms of the letters M and H for Miller- Hallett, not Harris. Geoffrey Copus had some good pho-

tographs of the ceiling. The solicitors who hold the Goddington deeds let Patrick and Geoff pore over a nice fat file of very useful maps and papers. We're amazed at the additional material we've dug up so far. Now I'm going to shed some light on some of the characters who've played a part in Goddington's history since the Harrises sold up in 1871. First in the cast of characters is Henry Hohler. He is described in various censuses as a banker's agent and it appeared that he bought Goddington from the Harris family in 1871 then, in true City-banker style, quickly flogged it to a chap called George Hallett. Though it seems much more likely that he merely acted for George

George Hallett turned out to be quite an interesting character and pivotal in the Goddington story. In fact it was he who first began to dignify Goddington with the name "Goddington Hall". I first found George in

the 1841 census, aged 29, at 40 Stamford Street in Southwark. In the house were Jane Hallett, who was 30, and Emily Hallett, 20 – obviously his sisters – and Elizabeth Tamplin, also 20. Remember that name, I'll come back to her later. In the 1851 census the word "antimony" was decipherable under occupation. In fact, George's father was an antimony refiner and George seems to have carried on the family business. He actually made his fortune by inventing a new and improved way of coating the bottom of iron and other ships with a long-lasting waterproof paint whose main constituent was antimony. I managed to unearth the details George filed in 1860 to patent his process. He was only 61 when he died at Goddington on 22 July 1873. He was a very rich man by then, though: his effects were sworn at "under £140,000" – a very substantial fortune indeed. Hallett's wife Marianne died a few months after him, and they both lie in Chelsfield churchyard,

under a tomb to the south of the chancel. Under the provisions of George's will, Goddington descended to his sister Emily Caroline Hallett. His other sister, Jane, had died earlier and he had no children – his wife was already 40 when they married in 1841. After Emily inherited Goddington she seems to have either demolished the place and built a new house on the old site or completely refurbished the existing one. That's one loose end Geoffrey and I still have to tie up.

In her will dated 1890 Emily Hallett described herself as "spinster and gentlewoman" of Goddington Hall. Alexander Miller Hallett Esquire, described as of Norway Wharf, Rotherhithe, was appointed as one of the executors and it was to him that Miss Hallett devised "all my lands and hereditaments known as Norway Wharf and my freehold estate at Goddington, Kent", together with all residue of her real estate. Although, curiously, there was no mention of any relation-

ship between them in the will, a reference in a Faculty of 1893 said Miss Hallett was Alexander Miller Hallett's aunt. Despite research over a number years, Geoffrey was unable to confirm the relationship between the two until this summer when we turned up a note in the deeds to Peter Heinecke's house, just off Goddington Lane, which revealed that Emily had adopted Miller Hallett as her nephew, and that she "entertained a very strong affection for him".

Miller-Hallett was the man who gave Goddington House the mock-Tudor makeover that you see today. He called in the minor Arts and Crafts architect William West Neve and it was remodelled and enlarged "regardless of cost". Incidentally, one of the first things Miller-Hallett did on arriving in the parish was to present St Martin's with a new church organ dedicated to Emily Hallett. He also contributed substantially to a new vestry to accommodate it. Emily is buried with her brother and sister-in-

law in the grave just by the church door.

I said earlier that I would come back to Elizabeth Tamplin, who was noted in the 1841 census at George Hallett's home. Well, she married Robert Miller, a physician born in Scotland, at Kensington in 1854. Two years later their first son was born and they called him plain Alexander Miller.

In the 1881 census, Alexander is shown as an antimony refiner - the same business George Hallett was in, of course. He was aged 25 living with his parents at 53 Bedford Gardens, Kensington – just round the corner to dear old Miss Emily C Hallett! His name was entered as Alexander M Hallett. His younger brother was also noted as part of the household but purely as Robert Miller, though later he changed his name to Tamplin-Miller. Extraordinary.

In 1882, Alexander married Frances Amy Symonds in Dartford and by then he was using the name Alexander Miller-Hallett.

Now the plot thickens:

George Hallett had referred in his 1868 will to his godchild Edith Symonds. Alexander's wife's maiden name was Symonds, of course -- with the same spelling. He also described Alexander's mother, Elizabeth Anne Miller (nee Tamplin), as his friend.

And a witness to the will was George Tamplin, a solicitor.

Robert and Elizabeth Miller were both buried here at Chelsfield, in 1894 and 1909 respectively. A witness to Robert Miller's will was Mary Jane Peerman who, in

the censuses of 1881 and 1891 was living with Emily Hallett. She was also named in Emily's will, written in 1890.

So you see they're all linked – and somewhat closer than the usual six degrees of separation by the look of it.

BEWARE!

Wednesday 21st December, about 9.00am. Having a gentle shave in the bathroom overlooking my back garden, at 3 Bucks Cross Cottages. Suddenly a figure in black caught my eye, moving under the window. I couldn't believe my eyes – a young man who looked just like a burglar / housebreaker.

I quickly donned my trousers (but no shirt) and rushed out to confront him. As I opened the back door he ran quickly round to the front of the house.... I caught up with him and asked what he was doing. We were both now in front of the house and must have been a strange sight, especially me, without a shirt and shaving foam on my

face, and him all in black looking uneasy.

He said that he had been knocking on the front door for five minutes (untrue!), and had gone to the back of the house to find "other houses".

When asked what he wanted he replied "petrol gauge", he meant petrol garage. His van, he said, had run out of petrol.

When asked why he ran when I opened the back door, he said he was scared (of what?). I asked him to leave and directed him to the BP garage in Court Road.

He appeared to be in his early twenties, with glasses, a black "beany" hat pulled down over his forehead, a black fleece top with a bright yellow Adidas logo, and black

trousers and shoes. He left saying he was going to get some petrol. There was no sign of his van anywhere nearby. I subsequently found a fresh footprint inside my conservatory which was unlocked. He was obviously up to no good, so BEWARE!



He looked a bit like this (my non-artists impression)

Chris Parsons

Précis Village Society AGM 2011

A full version will be available on the Village web pages.

Chairman's Report - extract

Pam reported the recent traffic calming measures which are now in place.

At the Village Fair the CVS bottle stall. £325.65 was made for the CVS. Thanks to the organisers Alan Johnson and James Hummerson.

We are very grateful to Chelsfield Park Hospital for their generous offer to print the Village Voice every month. Thanks to Dan for editing the magazine.

The new Village/St Martin's Church notice board is now in place. Many thanks to James Hummerson for the design and construction. Thanks to Jeremy Binns who has generously contributed to the cost and a plaque in memory of Janet is to be put in place.

About £250 has been raised to purchase a seat to be placed in the cricket field in memory of Carol Margetts. We are now exploring a suitable design.

Thanks to John Leach, our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, for attending meetings, making contact with the police and putting up the new Neighbourhood Watch signs.

15 residents attended a village clean up day.

A donation in memory of Anne Paterson was made to Water Aid on behalf of CVS.

Pam invited Russell Jackson to speak about the Lilly's Farm planning application. It was likely to be refused and he thought the development should be restricted to the sites of the existing buildings. He would encourage further discussion between the different parties.

Treasurer's report - extract

Several payments made after the year end and over £250 which we hold for the Carol Margetts fund give us an actual current balance £370.90 less than last year. However our printing costs for the Village Voice are set to decrease thanks to the generosity of Chelsfield

Park Hospital management. We now only need to provide the paper.

Nominations and election of committee

The existing committee members: Pam Ames, Paul Bennett, Joy Ellard, Catherine Gandolfi, James Hummerson, Alan Johnson, David Lambert, John Leach, Dan Sloan, Terry Sparkes, Melanie Stevens and Bridget O'Donnell were all willing to stand again. There being no further nominations or objections the committee was elected en bloc. Proposed by Jenny Leach and seconded by Janet Parsons.

Any other business.

Dan spoke about the application to build a waste incinerator on land next to the A224 just past the Hewitts roundabout. He had information to hand out and urged us to write to Sevenoaks Council before December 19th.

To round off the evening a free raffle was held, everyone having been given a free ticket.

Hospital Christmas Donation to Priory School

Students at The Priory School in Bromley will be able to explore the wonders of 'inner space' thanks to a Christmas donation of advanced medical microscopes made by BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital. The donation of the equipment, worth £5,000, was made to the school's Head of Science by BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital's Executive Director Ruth Hoadley.

The hospital, which is based on Bucks Cross Road, made the donation after a member of the hospital's assisted conception unit's team, Annette Lewis, who is also the vice chair of the Parent Teacher association at The Priory School, enquired what would be happening with the equipment after it was decommissioned.

"While the microscopes have been kept in excellent working order they were no longer viable for use in our hospital. We strive to constantly improve the equipment and facilities available to our staff and patients and unfortunately this often means that perfectly good equipment has to be sold off or scrapped to make way for new," Executive

Director Ruth Hoadley commented. "After being approached by Annette, we agreed that donating them to the local school was a fantastic idea. Rather than them being scrapped they will now be

Clare Boyd, Head of Science at The Priory School commented, "It was a pleasure meeting Ruth and accepting this wonderful donation of equipment from BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital. At a time



Sixth form students with BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital's Executive Director Ruth Hoadley and The Priory School's Head of Science Clare Boyd

able to inspire the next generation of doctors, microbiologists and scientists in our local community," Ruth concluded.

The hospital donated one inverted and one standard binocular microscopes that provide magnification starting at 100X all the way up to 1000X. The equipment will allow the student to examine, in fine detail, the structure of cells and provide insight into the microscopic world right under our nose.

when everyone is feeling the pinch of budget cuts it is fantastic to see that the school has the support of groups and institutions in the local community. These new microscopes will help improve both the understanding and insight we are able to provide to students of all levels and on behalf of the science department, students and the school I would like to thank Ruth, Annette and the team at BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital for their kind donation.

Protecting Your Property

Dear Residents,

Please take a minute to read the following crime prevention steps and implement them if possible. This time of year criminals are very active and we must do everything we can to deter them.

If you have any concerns or would like to speak to a member of the team, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Matthew Nye
PCSO 7346 PY
Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom SNT
Tel: 0208 7212605
Email:
matthew.nye@met.police.uk

There have been an unusually high number of reported burglaries to Bromley Police over the last four weeks in the areas of BR5/6/7 (Petts Wood, Orpington,

Chislehurst and St Mary's Cray).

The suspect/s main point of entry are via the rear patio doors, where they smash the window using bricks or force the doors open with tools, some of which are taken from sheds (shovels). The second "favoured" method is via the front door, in particular UPVC doors that have not been locked or wooden doors without Chubb locks. Suspects will use a "loop" instrument via the letter box to pull the handle down to open the doors.

Police would like to offer the following crime prevention steps:

1. When leaving your home make sure that both the Yale and Chubb locks are correctly locked
2. During night hours make sure that the UPVC

door is locked with the key and the Chubb lock is activated

3. Make sure all valuables (including door and car keys) are out of sight from doors and windows
4. Make sure that all PIR lights are well maintained and fitted both at the front and rear of your home
5. When leaving your home make sure all windows are locked/closed
6. If you have an alarm use it and make sure it is well maintained
7. If on holiday ask neighbours to keep an eye on your home
8. Taking into account the time of year make sure that Christmas presents are out of view
9. Create a list of serial numbers and take photographs of sentimental / high value property

Deer in The Village

Nov 25th: Deer sighted in field next to "Stonehouse" (picture)
Nov 26th: Another (or same) deer sighted in

"Stonehouse" garden, it did not stay long enough to get a picture – maybe next time



People of the Court Lodge 1066-1920 Part 2

A talk by Geoffrey Copus

The Crosby's marriage had been a very happy one, but the couple had had no children, and at Mary's death in 1800 she left the Manor of Chelsfield with the Court Lodge and all her lands to her cousins George and Francis Morland equally. In 1806 George bought out his brother for the sum of £4000 [the present day equivalent of which is some £130,000] and thus came to possess the whole and to be Lord of the Manor. He and his wife lived in this house, where he died in 1814, and she in 1817. They too had been childless, and in 1811 he settled the Chelsfield estate on his niece Elizabeth Elvy when, after turning down two other suitors, she married Robert Crawford at Chelsfield church. She and Robert, their three sons and six daughters were very happy and loved living at the Court Lodge. Robert became increasingly embarrassed financially and had to resort to raising mortgages on his property to keep afloat. This family's tenure of the Court Lodge came to an unhappy end

when Robert Crawford, finally overwhelmed by his debts, had to put the house and estate up for sale by auction in 1844. Alas, the auction failed to find a buyer, and it was left for Mr. Crawford to convey the whole estate by private treaty to Thomas Waring.

After Thomas Waring bought the estate, the Court Lodge reverted to being the house in which lived the tenant who farmed the land; he was the prosperous Bartholomew Spain, who was there with his family and servants at the time of the Censuses of 1851 and 1861. William Waring, the only surviving son of Thomas, inherited his estate and began to make radical changes in the parish. To this end, when Bartholomew retired in about 1863 William built the present Court Lodge Farm in Warren Road, where future farmers were to live, and began to let out the Court Lodge itself to a series of well-to-do tenants.

Frederick William Brind, a wealthy wine merchant, rented the Court Lodge with some surrounding

land from about 1873. Randolph Caldecott met and wooed Mr. Brind's daughter Marian and they were married in Chelsfield church in 1880. In 2003 Geoff was asked if he could arrange a programme for a visit to Kent by a party of the Randolph Caldecott Society and the visit ran without a hitch. The highlight for the members was for them to be invited into the Court Lodge and welcomed by Sarah and her family, and photographs of the occasion are shown on the Society's website.

We now come to what I feel is a most interesting, and in retrospect rather sad, period in the long history of Chelsfield - 1890 to 1920. The early 1890s saw the arrival of three wealthy new families in Chelsfield. Edward Norman the banker bought the former Rectory, extended it and renamed it Chelsfield House; Alexander Miller Hallett, a wealthy antimony refiner, inherited Goddington and transformed it "regardless of expense"; and George Asprey the silversmith and jeweller with his new wife Florence came to live at

the Court Lodge. George Asprey's first wife, by whom he had a son Kenneth, had died in 1888, and in 1892 he married Florence Rolls and they had three sons, Maurice, Philip and Eric, and a daughter Joan. George's diaries give a wonderful picture of village life, into which he, Mr. Norman and Mr. Miller Hallett all entered enthusiastically. In this parish alone, billiard rooms were added not only to the Court Lodge but also to Goddington and Woodlands. That at Court Lodge was installed by Liberty's in 1897.

Mr. and Mrs. Asprey were obviously a devoted couple. Relations between parents and children seem to have been unusually close and demonstrative for an upper class family of the time. After George was elected Captain of the Chelsfield Club in 1894 there are many diary entries giving details of cricket scores, showing that matches were often played against Fox's Brewery side at Green Street Green. Diaries also show a very busy social life for the family and servants alike and that the Aspreys were model employers.

No fewer than eight different horse-drawn vehicles belonging to the family are mentioned between 1892 and 1910. Florence learned to ride on a bicycle hired from Henry Thompson, the village's general shopkeeper. Next George and Kenneth learned to ride and they all three cycled as far as Sevenoaks. There are frequent entries about members of the family cycling in the muddy lanes. Kenneth married the beautiful Esta Manisty and bought himself a motorcar. George followed suit when in November 1910 he noted - "went to Motor Show at Olympia and I bought a F.I.A.T. for £850" – the present day equivalent of which is roughly £49,000. Maurice and Philip both had motorcycles by 1913, and when George and Florence went on holiday by motorcar, the sons visited them by motorcycle.

Things were about to change. George noted " 3 August 1914 (Bank Holiday) – At home. Philip played in match at Goddington and scored 22. 4 August – England declared war against Germany...". The Somme Offensive of July 1916 was a dreadful disaster which

cost many thousands of British casualties; Chelsfield had a Black Week when in one number of the local paper in August 1916, five men from the parish were reported to have been killed – among them Maurice Asprey. With characteristic stoicism, George simply noted Maurice's death in his diary, and later stuck in a newspaper cutting. Stewart Miller Hallett from Goddington had been killed at Mametz Wood shortly before and it must have seemed (as indeed was the case) that the whole fabric of life in the parish was being swept away. A constant reminder of this to those left behind was the sound of the guns from France, which could be heard clearly at Well Hill and elsewhere. The final tragic event in the Aspreys' life in Chelsfield was the death of George in 1918, when – already in a poor state of health – he had had a fatal heart attack while helping Harry Pettit to move the cars away from a fire which had broken out at the Court Lodge.

It would be wrong to end this talk on a tragic note because, overall, the picture of the Court Lodge

through the centuries is one of a happy house, and those who have lived here became very attached to it.

Sarah and her family kind-

ly provided refreshments after the talk and the attendees ticket payments were collected

A very big thank-you to Sarah for her kindness in

welcoming us to her beautiful house and gardens. Previous inhabitants over the centuries would be very pleased to see them in such good hands.

.....and A Happy New Year!

Well, in the words of the Queen herself.." another one bites the dust"! My 68th Christmas on this planet. To be honest I can only recall about 64 of these. Hurumph you say. Everyone of them however has at the time had it's own special feeling or memory. This year of course it's got to be our twin grandchildren Sophie and Nicole. Their only memory will be constant visits to the bar for a swift pint each, not unlike their father and grandpa. Three lots of carolling this year went well with the accordion, starting with a celebration of 60 years of the Crayfield Club, at a service taken by Rector Paul at St Martin's. This club was founded by my late mum and others in 1951, for the many wives and mums stuck at home in the post war years, in what was then the remote outpost of the Cra-

ven Estate and Chelsfield Lane area.No buses, one tiny shop, unmade road, cesspit drainage, short trousers.

The second session, the annual and traditional Bash at the Bells where there were three dinner parties in full swing. We had a great sing, it was very busy and we raised £209 for research into Motor Neurone Disease. This amount was a record for pub carols since we began in 1977 in Besseles Green. Finally, a street singing party around Warren Road and the Highway by St Martin's folk ending up at the Rectory for mulled wine and nibbles etc -thank you Paul and Alison.

When you get past 50 or so I find that Christmas is also a rather poignant reminder of Anno Domini. Since 1966 I have been taking a "delayed action" photo of us at the Christ-

mas Day dinner table. That's 45 photographs! It doesn't pay to look back at those early photos when I had hair and looked underfed. Also, sadly, all those dear friends and family no longer with us.

This Christmas also saw my father reach 95 and my aunt Joan in Petts Wood reach 90. Her sister is not far behind.

The new year beckons, 2012 when everyone will become extremely fit after watching weeks of the Olympics. I have already bought a new pair of Nike slippers to increase my chance of a Gold in the 100 yard nurdle.

Fortunately it is all downhill to summer now so this should be a doddle.

A Happy New Year to everyone, from Phil and Jayne Lane

Is Weight Loss Surgery the Right Option for Me?

Consultant General Surgeon Mr Shamsi El-Hasani at BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital is encouraging local residents not to rush into weight loss surgery in the New Year by hosting a free informal

anaesthetists, bariatric nurses, dieticians, psychiatrist, respiratory physician, intensivist and endocrinologist, understand that for many people weight loss surgery is a last resort. The team at

gastric bands, 800 laparoscopic gastric bypass and 200 endoscopic insertions of gastric balloons at Chelsfield Park Hospital. The free informal evening will provide attendees with the opportunity to hear Mr Shamsi El-Hasani and his colleague Consultant Endocrinologist and General Physician Dr Abbi Lulsegg speak on the full range of weight loss surgery procedures available at Chelsfield Park Hospital. Following the talk there will be a question and answer session, for any questions or concerns you may have related to bariatric surgery.



patient information evening on Wednesday 8 February at the Holiday Inn in Bexley.

Chelsfield Park Hospital and Mr El-Hasani provide world class bariatric services to patients across London, Kent, Medway and the South East of England. The hospital's dedicated multidisciplinary team, which includes a consultant surgeon, specialist bariatric

the hospital are able to offer a complete range of weight loss procedures and revisional surgery with comprehensive pre and post operative care. These treatments are tailored to their patient's individual needs to give them the best chance of success following their surgery.

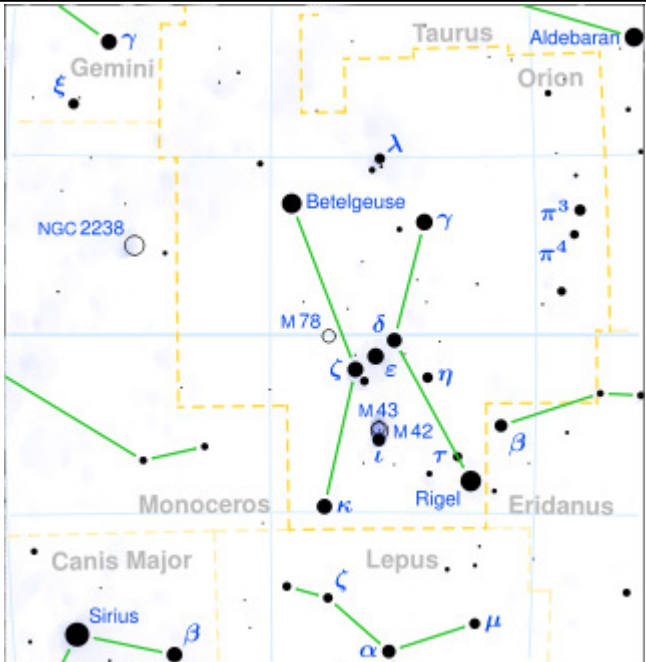
Since January 2000 Mr El-Hasani has performed over 1600 laparoscopic

The weight loss information evening will be held at the Holiday Inn, Southwold Road, Bexley, DA5 1ND on Wednesday 8 February. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis but can be reserved by calling: 0800 096 3178 To find out more about weight loss surgery at BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital please call 0800 533 5091

Winter Constellations

But for the weather, winter is the best time to watch the night sky. Well known, bright and easily identifiable constellations can be found to the south. The best known of these is Orion, the hunter with its three central stars forming the hunter's belt. The constellation is famous for the nebulae below the belt which is a star forming region. Unfortunately difficult to see without binoculars. The other feature of interest is Betelgeuse, an aging red giant star that will one day become a supernova. Luckily it is far enough from Earth to ensure we will not all be wipe out !

Below, and to the left of Orion is the brightest star in the sky (Sirius), the major star in Canis Major (The greater dog). This system is relatively close to Earth (~9 light years) and consists of two stars orbiting each other. The brighter



companion is twice the size of our sun while the other is a very small, but dense star.

Above and to the right of Orion is the constellation of Taurus (The Bull) with its bright red star Aldebaran (another red giant). There are a number of open star clusters in Taurus but the best of them is the Pleiades. This can be found by following a line from

Orion, through Aldebaran and on to the Pleiades. This cluster looks like a tiny version of the constellation, the Plough covering an area about the size of the full moon. Usually about seven stars can be seen with the naked eye but a pair of binoculars will show many more as the full complement numbers over 160.

Immediately east of the Pleiades are the faint

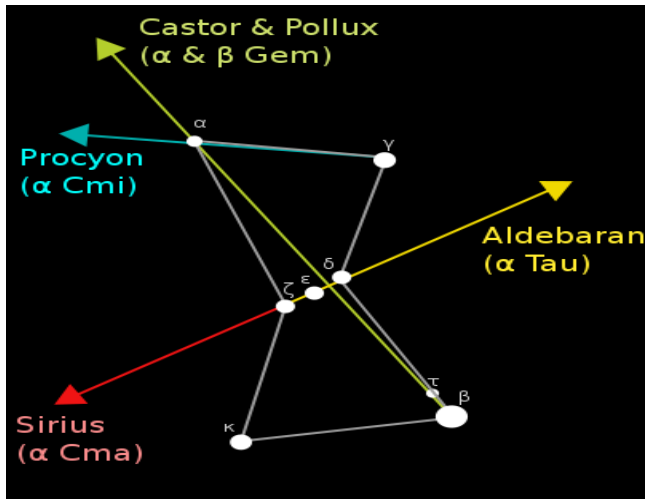
We would like to thank

CHELSEFIELD PARK HOSPITAL for their sponsorship printing the Chelsfield Village Voice



constellations of Aries and Pisces. On the border of these two is the giant planet Jupiter which is easily distinguishable by its brightness, currently brighter than even Sirius – so it should be easy to find. Next summer it will pass just south of the Pleiades which should be worth seeing. Next spring I will write a short piece on the spring constellations

Steve Fuller



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail:

csc@bromley.gov.uk

Opening hours Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

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

Reporting Problems to the Council

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

Mobile Library

The mobile library stops outside Chelsfield Village School on Tuesdays between 11:15 and 11:45.

BMI

Chelsfield Park Hospital

Main Reception

01689 877855

Helpline

0845 6032932

Physiotherapy

01689 885914

Councillors

Julian Grainger

01689 889392

julian.grainger@bromley.gov.uk

Samaris Huntington-Thresher

020 8464 3333

samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk

Russell Jackson

020 8464 3333

russell.jackson@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Society

cvscontact@gmail.com

Chelsfield Village Voice

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BT Line Faults 0800 800151

Electrical Power Failure (EDF)
08007838866

Thames Water Emergencies
0845 9200800

Transco Gas Emergency Service
0800 111999

Orpington Police Station 1000-1800 Monday-Saturday 0300
1231212

Samaritans 01689 833000

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Safer Neighbourhood Team 020 8721 2605

Chelsfield Village Hall (bookings)

01689 855617

Village Neighbourhood Watch

Contact

John Leach 07711304965

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall
Windsor Drive

Iyengar Yoga Classes

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

EVERY MONDAY

Five Bells

All You Can Eat

Curry Night

from 9.00pm

EVERY TUESDAY (Last 13th Dec - Back 10th Jan)

Brass Crosby Room

St Martin's Toddler Group

10.30am-12.00 midday
Contact Sarah Ford:
01689 853415

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

Charity Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga

Classes

10.30am-12.00am
Contact Pam Keeper on
01732 458930

EVERY THURSDAY

St Martin of Tours Church

Viva Acappella

Ladies Barbershop Chorus
Practice
Contact Helen 07984
961696

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 11th January

The Five Bells

Open Mic Night

Starts 8.30pm

Friday 13th January

Petts Wood Library

Red Cross Quilts

Talk and Coffee

Talk by Quilt expert
Dr Anna Mansi - Free entry
2.30pm-3.30pm

Daily until 16th January

Bromley Museum, Orping-
ton Priory

Cray Creative

A exhibition by local artists

Wednesday 18th January

(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane

Internet Cafe & Local History Transcription

2.30-4.30pm

Thursday 19th January

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

10.15am

Thursday 19th January

Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

Come and Try Your Hand
at a Range of Crafts
2.00pm

Tuesday 23rd January

The Five Bells

Charity Shield Quiz Night

The Quiz we really take
seriously! Starts 9.00pm

Friday 27th January

The Five Bells

Burns Night Supper

Menu available shortly

Wednesday 1st February

(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane

Internet Cafe & Local History Transcription

2.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 1st February

(1st Wednesday each Month)
Orpington Village Hall

Country Market

10.00am-11.00am

Wednesday 15th February

(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane

Internet Cafe & Local History Transcription

2.30-4.30pm

Friday 24th February

Brass Crosby Room

Coffee Morning

10.00am

Saturday 25th February

Orpington Village Hall

Quiz Night

in aid of the Village Hall

Sunday 3rd June

The Rectory Gardens

THE BIG LUNCH

for the Queens Jubilee

Saturday 9th June

The Rectory Gardens

Church Fete

from 12.30pm

Saturday 14th July

Chelsfield Cricket Ground

Village Fair

from Mid-day