



January 2017

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

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2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Chelsfield

2016 has certainly been one of the more tumultuous years in recent history with huge political upheaval both at home and abroad and the regretful loss of more greatly loved characters from the world of entertainment than we would ever have imagined.

This, coupled with the sad loss of some of very our own much loved residents will make it a year to be remembered.

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**Welcome to the New Year of 2017**  
**BE SURE TO MAKE IT A GOOD ONE!**

**Chelsfield  
Village Voice  
NEEDS YOU!!!**

We depend on your news, reports, stories, photos, diary events, cartoons, etc. to keep the Village Voice both useful and interesting.

Please send anything you feel suitable for the February 2017 issue to:

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

Chelsfield Village Voice  
2 Bucks Cross Cottages  
Chelsfield Village  
BR6 7RN

**by Tuesday**  
**29th January 2017**

## The Red Kite

Usually I choose a subject for these articles by observing wildlife around the village and then mixing those experiences with a wider background to the subject. However, just for this month I'm going to do a subject that a number of people in both Chelsfield and Shoreham have claimed to have seen, but which I have not personally had the good fortune to do so.

That subject is the red kite (*Milvus milvus*). The sighting that prompted me to use this bird this month was during a trip to Wiltshire where some fine December weather allowed a walk up to the top of *The Ridgeway*. There I saw the first red kit that I had seen for a couple of years that was not directly associated with one of the major motorways, these thoroughfares being the locations that the vast majority of people get the opportunity to see these birds.

This bird of prey may at first glance appear to be a buzzard. However, its flight can be far more



acrobatic and although it will soar at times, it can also conduct a display which a buzzard would find impossible. I remember hiking in Wales one time and while passing a farm I saw a red kite that was playing with the fierce wind in a manner similar to that of a crow. For such a large bird to move in that manner is really surprising. Visually the main difference between the buzzard and the red kite is firstly the buzzard's heavier, rounded wings but the main distinguishing feature is the very noticeable 'V' of the red kite's tail which gives the bird its common name. A less common historic name is 'glede/glead' derived from

the Saxon word for 'glide' although I would have imagined this name could have just as easily been associated with the buzzard.

In history this bird was usually seen as something of a pest and King James of Scotland decreed that it should be "killed wherever possible". At times during history in England and Wales it fared better as, being primarily a carrion bird, led it to being protected at times due to its habit of keeping the streets clear of rotting food. However, during Tudor times it fell under the "vermin laws" and bounties were paid for their carcasses. Shakespeare's *King Lear*

describes his wayward daughter Goneril as a detested kite and wrote in *The Winter's Tale* "when the kite builds, look to your lesser linen" implying that they steal washing hung out to dry in the nesting season'. This belief in clothes stealing is supported by a short story by Henry Williamson titled *The Flight of the Pale Pink Pyjamas*, which describes a kite's predatory assault on a clothes-line in Devon. A Roman writer by the name of Aelian, wrote that London birds had the habit of plucking hair off the heads of men to weave into their nests and even today nests contain items from crisp packets to children's soft toys.

The red kite's fortunes across Europe have been mixed with populations in its main stronghold of France and Germany falling. However, its numbers are increasing in Scandinavia, the Baltic States and the British isles. In Britain where our interest chiefly lies the red kite has had a 'rags to riches' story. Back in the 1930s this bird's numbers had been reduced to no more than

a handful of survivors in mid-Wales. The red kite's prospects appear to have improved naturally during the early stages of their revival but due to the genetic bottleneck that always occurs when populations stem from a small number of individuals there was the need to get fresh blood involved and this happened by introducing birds from various populations around Europe in the 1980s (primarily Spain and Sweden). Releases have occurred in Scotland, Buckinghamshire, the North East, Northern Ireland, the Chilterns and the Lake Districts. In the last few decades their numbers have blossomed to around 1600 pairs and they have spread from their release locations. So much so, that the first sighting in London for 150 years was reported

in *The Independent* newspaper in 2006. Indeed, should this bird's renaissance continue at the current rate the kite may well eventually rival other common birds of prey such as the kestrel and buzzard. Such was the success of this bird's revival that the British Trust for Ornithology named the kite 'The bird of the Century' and it has also been voted "Wales's favourite bird". In all probability this bird is likely to be more common in Britain now than at any time since the early eighteenth century.

The kite seems to like motorways, especially the M4 and M40 and can be seen wheeling around above while us mere mortals try to make progress below. It almost seems that the motorways are used as pathways to rebuilding



this bird's previous empire. So, the question remains: have they arrived at Chelsfield yet? As I have said, I have heard reports of them flying over the allotments and being seen in Shoreham but I must admit that I would like to confirm these reports with

my own eyes. I have heard of people seeing buzzards and believing them to be eagles so I have to remain on the fence until I can personally confirm one way or the other. Clearly the M25 would be a convenient path into the area but then I cannot

remember seeing any flying above any part of that road before. So, if anybody should have a definitive sighting of one of these birds within this parish then do let the Village Voice (or me) know.

*Steve Fuller  
January 2017*

## **Mutterings From The Millers**

What wonderful sunshine we have had over the festive celebrations and despite the chilly nights, it was glorious to be outside and we did see the sun through our apple tree!

The electric cables have now all been laid and Pete has learnt very quickly how to fix the cables inside the properties. All has been checked with an electrician and signed off. Just in the throws of finishing one of the old offices. We thought it only needed a bit of decoration but on further investigation, it had to be stripped right back to the old walls, treated, plaster boarded and top coat of plaster. New ceiling, door and electric laid, so practically a brand new office. This particular

room was built as the farm office back in the 1800's and Steve remembers his Grandfather using it for that purpose. It is on the end of the old stable block. All this DIY, together with straw and hay deliveries have kept the boys busy over the past month.

A benefit of the new drilling system is that we can now start to concentrate on getting the soil a better structure. One of the ways to do this is to grow a cover crop after we have harvested a cereal crop. This will mop up any nutrients that are still remaining in the soil so will not be washed away during the winter.

Steve and Pete visited a farm in Horsmonden to

see trial cover crops growing. There were five different mixtures growing and they soon realised the one that would suit us and would like to try. The mixture is a combination of two types of radish, one long and one short rooted variety, and a plant called Phacelia. This will be planted as soon as the previous crop has been cleared from the field and grow until the middle of January, then will be desiccated ready for the drilling to commence a little later.

The benefits from this is that the radish roots help to break soil up deeper down and the Phacelia extracts moisture from the ground into the plant which then slowly releases it as the plant breaks down in the spring. There are many

more benefits that I are sure we will discover but the worms will definitely have loads of decaying matter to use.

Thankfully we only a few chickens now so moving them into the greenhouse for protection from Avian Flu was quite easy. Not sure what we would have done if we still had our 500! I don't think they are that happy, as soon as I open the door they try to escape outside. Hopefully I will only have to keep them in for another week or so.

I have seen quite large flocks of Fieldfare and Redwings over the past month or so. Difficult to identify when in flight but have been delighted to see a dozen or so Redwings in the garden and then when a Fieldfare flies down you can see how they differ.

This months old weather saying:-

*St. Agnes Day, ah bitter  
chill it was,  
The owl for all his  
feathers was so cold,*

*The hare limped  
trembling through the  
frozen grass,  
And silent stood the  
sheep in dusky fold.*

The famous lines of John Keats reflect the fact that St. Agnes Eve, 20<sup>th</sup> January, is reputedly the coldest day of the year in southern Britain. St. Hilary's Day, 12<sup>th</sup> January, has the same reputation in the north.

*Wishing you a  
Happy New Year  
Chris Miller*

## Be Aware Of These Scams

Bromley Council is warning residents to be vigilant regarding a scam Council Tax email sent to residents.

The council has received a report from a resident who has been contacted by someone posing as HMRC and offering a refund on Council Tax. These emails are not from Bromley Council and are a scam trying to get information from the recipients.

Bromley Council is urging residents not to open any

attachments or click on any links in such emails and report them to HMRC or contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 if they receive one.

Under no circumstances should anyone give out bank details in response to this type of email. More scams advice is available at [www.bromley.gov.uk/scams](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/scams)

We are asking residents be on guard against telephone calls claiming to come from the Council requesting

payment of £25 for overweight dustbins. Whilst we have no evidence the scam has yet come to Bromley, it has been happening in our neighbour Borough, Bexley.

If you receive such a call, we suggest you do not divulge any personal information, including confirming your address, and contact Bromley Trading Standards.

*John Leach  
Bromley Neighbourhood  
Watch Association*

## Chelsfield Players - The Prompt

So many people compliment the Players on the quality of the acting, the sets and productions in general which is greatly appreciated as so much time and effort is given both on stage and back stage. It is sometimes hard to remember that the members of the Players are amateur with "proper jobs" family responsibilities and so little spare time.

Many may not understand the role the prompt plays so I thought I would explain how I see it. I have directed, acted and worked back stage for the Players for nearly 60 years. The prompt is not there to slow down or interrupt a performance. During rehearsals the prompt, unlike the actors, has to be at every rehearsal and follow every single word in the script. It requires a great deal of concentration, you cannot allow yourself to be side-tracked by what is going on around you. Every pause needs to be marked in the script so that performances are not interrupted by prompts that are not required. On performance nights I usually sit in the 'prompt corner' stage left. I watch the actors, I know when

they need a prompt by the fear in the eyes! I usually know when to leave them to sort it out themselves. If I am needed one word is often enough to get them back on the right track, not shouted but quietly aimed in their direction.

As far as words go actors usually aim at perfection it is not the prompts place during performances to pull them up on variations to the script. Several years ago I was asked to prompt for the joint productions of Bromley Theatre Guild. One of the actors there was a semi-professional and regarded highly by the rest of the company. He told me that he rarely needed a prompt but always felt safe when he could see me sitting there. And that is mostly what a prompt is – a comfort blanket, you won't need me but I'm there if you do and you can trust me to be there for you.

Many years ago during a Chelsfield Players production one of the leading female actors suddenly stopped speaking, she looked at me and I could see the fear. I said her line and she repeated it. From then on I said every one of her

lines and she repeated them. She knew where to be on stage, she knew what to do with the props but had no idea of any lines. Most of the audience had no idea that anything was wrong. But when the curtain went down she rushed off and I was left feeling rather exhausted!! She saw the doctor, tests were done and it appeared she had had a minor blip in her brain. Very bravely she went on stage the next night and I did not have to say a word.

It was a delight to be part of the Railway Children. As it was set in the body of the hall I suggested that they do without the prompt. This was discussed by the Players and Committee and they decided they wanted me to be there. So I became the flower seller surrounded by my flowers and reading my script in the guise of 'Beetons Book of Household Management' I was given words to say and became part of the performance.

I hope this explains a little of what I do as prompt, one of the few jobs where you can be pleased to say 'I wasn't needed'.

*Ann Blatcher*

## Avian Flu Prevention Zone

### Avian Flu Prevention Zone Affects Bromley Poultry Keepers

Keepers of poultry are being reminded that they now need to keep their birds indoors or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

The 30 day Prevention Zone, which started on 6 December, which covers the whole of England, was issued by the Chief Veterinary Officer to help

protect poultry from a strain of Avian Flu in Europe.

“Residents may well have read about this in the national media and they need to be mindful that the order affects all poultry owners. If you keep a few chickens in the back garden for instance, you are affected and should take steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

Whilst this is a matter for Government and

specifically DEFRA, we're aware that in our Borough, lots of people do keep a few chickens and we want to make sure that those residents are aware too” said Councillor Kate Lymer, Executive Councillor for Public Protection and Safety.

Further information is available from the GOV.UK website (Defra) where users can also sign up for the latest alerts.

## R.I.P. Sebastian

Many people who live in the Maypole area will know, and may have been visited by Sebastian, our donkey.

Sadly, on Boxing day he died, aged about 32. He'd lived with us for 28 years and was an accomplished escape artist, over a cattle grid, past electric gates and

down steps.

He will be a character sorely missed, not least for the frequent visits to the kitchen and dining room after the fruit bowl, and the cattery, where one year he ate the diary!

RIP Seb.

*Harry and Janet Quinnell*



## The Belldrinkers on “The One Show”

If you missed seeing “The Belldrinkers” on BBC “The One Show” on December 7th with their

smash hit (well...almost almost!!!) “Just Another Christmas Song”, check out this YouTube

address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ5OLizrMbs>

## More Heat Than Light in Old Chelsfield

Some folk reckon there's far too much light at night these days – it blots out the stars, confuses the wildlife, spoils a good night's sleep. Others fear a lack of lumens provides the perfect opportunity for footpads, housebreakers and ne'er-do-wells to go about their nefarious business.

The debate isn't new, though.

Back in 1927, as the nights were drawing in, "A Chelsfield Resident" wrote to the fortnightly Orpington Journal, lamenting: "There is no street lighting in Chelsfield whatever, and Chelsfield is now a parish with a large and growing population and a rateable value which has greatly increased during the past few years.

"Why cannot Worlds End Lane, Warren Lane, Chelsfield Village and other more thickly populated roads be lighted? Is it not time the ratepayers of Chelsfield had some return for their money? ... Street lighting is not a luxury, it is a necessity on the ground

of safety alone."

In the next issue "An Old Chelsfield Resident" protested that the parish should be left to enjoy its rural charm.

Over seven miles of roads would have to be lit, he wrote. "The cost would be enormous and it would impose a cruel extra burden on every ratepayer, many of whom, like myself, have no wish whatsoever for the so-called amenities of town life ... I am strenuously opposed to anyone coming along with proposals to light their way at my expense."

A fortnight later "A Chelsfield Resident" riposted that he didn't suggest lighting all roads. But there were 20 or so places where "in the interests of public safety, lamps should be placed".

He concluded: "My desire is to give it [Chelsfield] an additional charm, for now there is precious little charm about Chelsfield on a dark, wet, wintry night."

Another reader, GE

Sherman, chipped in: "The inhabitants have so far enjoyed complete immunity from street accidents at night ... I can pursue my way the whole length of Worlds End Lane at night with equanimity."

Residents of this "old world" village and its environments were, he wrote, "far more concerned with conservation of the amenities of its rural beauties than with road widening, street lighting, and other fantastic schemes contemplated by would-be reformers". Two weeks on, "An Ancient Chelsfield Resident" entered the fray, accusing the original complainant of being "vague and inaccurate" and demolishing his costings. "Apparently the expense is a matter of indifference to the 'Chelsfield Resident', but it is not so to many of us," he said.

Next, "Anti-Reactionary" joined the light brigade, suggesting opponents belonged to the "stuffy paraffin-lamp-wax-fruit-under-glass-

antimacassar period". "Why should we, living as we do, not in an 'old world' village in the 'eighties, but in a new bungalow garden village in the year 1927, reject any of the admitted advantages of town life such as reasonable street lighting, at the same time enjoying the pure air and open life of the country?" he asked.

To refuse to consider 20 or so safety lamps was "just as illogical as to reject the advantages of gas, good sanitation and efficient water supply, simply because one lives 16 miles from London instead of six".

Now the Parish Council waded in, warning that lamps would be expensive but it would consider the matter if there was "a widespread and strong desire for public lighting by

ratepayers generally".

Before the Editor of the Journal closed the bad-tempered correspondence at the end of November, "A Chelsfield Resident" fired a late shot, saying: "Cost has been the common objection to all improvements. If it had always been allowed, 'Ancient Resident' would now be shivering in his cave gnawing a bone."

Chelsfield, with its "dark, dismal, dangerous roads", was in danger of gaining a reputation as the most backward village in Kent, he said.

It wasn't the last word on the subject. Almost a year later, on 10 November 1928, Joseph Slade, living at the top of Worlds End Lane, informed the Journal's readers his house had been broken into twice in

three weeks.

The area was underpoliced, he complained, adding: "The fact that our district is completely without lights makes the work of the housebreaker doubly easy and escape with the goods a matter of comfortable privacy."

That brought "A Chelsfield Resident" back, bemoaning the "dark, dismal, uncivilised conditions apparently so congenial to some inhabitants". Mr Slade's letter proved lights were needed, he said.

Which spurs me ask:  
When exactly did  
Chelsfield get lit up?  
Patrick Hellicar

### **Local History Group:**

The next meeting will be on Thursday  
26th January 2017

## **The Pleasures and Pitfalls of an Unmade Road**

When my parents bought their first house, Merton, in Chelsfield Lane in 1947, it had a back entrance from Craven Road. Like so many roads in Chelsfield at the time, this was a "rough road", constructed of chalk and a few rolled flints.

The Craven Estate was constructed in the early 1920s with a real hotchpotch of properties from brick-built houses to wooden shacks. When the road was laid down there were very few motorcars and most residents could

not afford one. Bicycles, the odd horse and cart, and shank's pony ruled the day. The fly in the ointment was John Young's yard with its traction engines and associated wagons. You can imagine the ruts and bumps these created

as they chugged their heavy, clattering and noisy way to work on local farms.

As a child who would have to walk down this road later to school in Orpington, and then cycle or push our soapbox trolleys, it was an exciting obstacle course to avoid the puddles and deep holes. As the road then fizzled out in a field, dad seldom drove his Austin 7 any further than the garage driveway as bits would fall off. It was littered with nuts, bolts and other bits which us lads collected.

We did make forays to Green Street Green and Chelsfield Park however, which also had their fair share of flint roads. Indeed driving to the end of Oxenden Wood and Homestead Roads took 10 minutes and shook your teeth out. Glentrammon likewise was a long and rough traverse, chalky in the wet that was often traped into the houses. One of the real problems with these "unadopted" roads is that they had no drainage. After heavy rain the water had nowhere to go except into the drives and gardens of the downside of Craven Road. People dug pits and channels and us children had great fun making

dams and watercourses. The driveway of "Merton" where we then lived, took all the run-off from the hill from the Lane and a note in dad's diary for 1951 tells how he made a channel in the hedge which flooded his neighbour, Mr Couldridge, causing a Victor Meldrew situation!

When we eventually moved over the road to Lynton in 1954 all this was left behind though I continued to use Craven Road as a play road with my many friends.

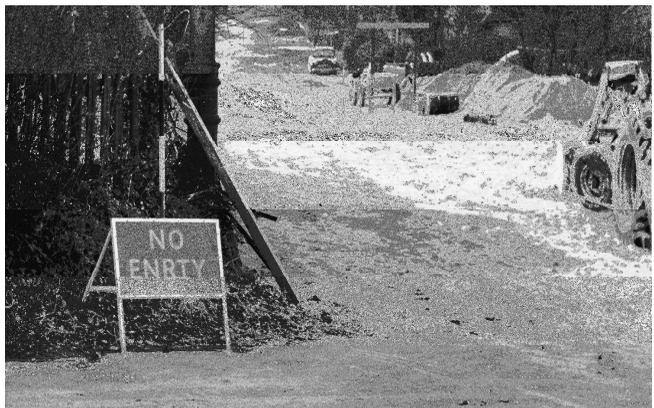
When main drainage came to the Lane in the early 1960s Craven Road was made up, quite a big event for everybody, although I believe everyone living or having access to the road had to pay a compulsory charge that hit some poor residents very hard. We had fortuitously avoided

this levy by moving! I took photos at the time and enclose one that indicates the poor level of literacy that appears to exist at this time!

The newly surfaced, drained and levelled Craven Road was a real novelty and of course was now more dangerous to play in, with more cars and greater speeds. The road eventually continued through the field to join Avalon Road, a lot more houses were built, and we became like everywhere else.

I secretly missed this unmade road, but have to say that down here in Seaford there are still several unadopted and rough roads with all their associated charm. I try not drive on them!

*Philip Lane*



## Art Classes

The Thursday morning art classes held in the village hall have now finished for this year and will start again in the New Year.

The Art Master and Man in Charge is Leo Coleman and he gives advice on how to improve our efforts.

He is very patient and gives praise to even the most awful of our achievements, so do not be worried if you feel you are not very good at painting or drawing. You will be surprised at what you can do.

We are a very small, but social, class and would

like to have some more people join us. Think it over... it is every Thursday at 10.15am until 12.15am. You will be made to feel very welcome.

Leo's telephone number is 07583 777065

*Bridget O'Donnell*

## Litter Picking

So we have now left 2016 behind: the year we began the litter picking scheme to try to keep the village a little neater than it has previously been.

We currently have 10 participating households although one will shortly be moving on leaving a council 'litter picking stick' looking for a new home. So if you should wish to pick out a stretch of road that you would like to look after then please contact me via the Village Voice.

I'm writing this after having taken a winter's walk on Boxing Day and it is somewhat disturbingly warm. Like last year I expect we will

pay for this weather with a plague of slugs, bugs or other unwanted visitors!

Winter is a good time of the year to collect discarded rubbish that may have been accumulating in the hedgerows over the years but has remained unseen due to the vegetation that hides most of it during warmer months. However, during my walk I noticed how Christmas appears to have been an opportunity to dispose of people's unwanted refuse or on occasion, produced the opportunity for the mere joy of slinging stuff.

A few days ago I picked

up a wheel hub and placed it on the grass lay-by on my road so that the next time I reported rubbish being dumped there it could be collected. Two days later I find it in the pond near Jubilee road. Clearly somebody has made a point of carrying up the road for no other purpose than to sling it into the pond. It does make you wonder what (if anything) is going through some people's minds!

Anyway, thanks to everybody that has contributed with the litter picking scheme and let's hope we can make a real impression during 2017.

*Steve Fuller*

## Bromley Safer Neighbourhood Board

The public meeting was held in Beckenham on the 17th November and the Police Borough Commander outlined that in our area, crime was generally still falling and we were in one of the very safe areas.

The Met still had to make budget saving of £400m. One of suggestions to save money is for the Met to merge the 32 current policing units into 12/14 units. a possibility is for Bromley to be merged with Croydon to form one policing unit.

The police reported they are currently targeting mobile phone users whilst driving, and red light jumpers!

We will see that all Police officers wearing body worn videos from 28th November.

This equipment have a proven record of minimising anti social behavior and improved behavior of youths and others in conflict with the police.

A increasing problem is youths on motorbikes. Word has spread around that they cannot be chased by the police if they are not wearing a crash helmet. The public are asked to report such incidents, and if threatened, by calling 999. Mobile phone photos are useful in

latterly tracing the individuals.

The meeting heard from the new Fire Borough Commander that since April, the brigade had been called out over 2000 times. The brigade strategy is a better engagement with the public.

Jenny Davis spoke about being a Street Pastor in the Penge and Beckenham areas. Pastors walk the streets to aid vulnerable people, especially girls who had too much to drink while they sober up enough to get home safely. (She would like more volunteers)

## The Mayor of Bromley's Charity Boost

The former Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Kim Botting raised £55,000 in her Mayoral year, which ended earlier this year. Already, £35,000 has been donated to The National Brain Appeal, with the remaining money provisionally allocated to a local charity, to be announced at a later

date.

The National Brain Appeal raises money for The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queen Square, part of University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The hospital is one of the UK's leading centres of

excellence for treating diseases of the brain, spine and nervous system, and is where Councillor Botting had major surgery to remove a brain tumour in 2010. "It was an amazing privilege to be Bromley's Mayor and I met and found out so much of the good work that so many

people do each day right across our Borough. I would like to thank these unsung heroes and the immensely generous donations that my charity appeal received. I always intended to divide the monies raised between a national and local charity and this was a very personal appeal. The National Brain Appeal charity is very close to my heart and when details about the local charity are confirmed, we will confirm this” said Councillor Kim Botting.

Presenting the £35,000 cheque to Mr Neil Kitchen, the consultant neurosurgeon who carried out her surgery, and to Theresa Dauncey, Chief Executive of The National Brain Appeal, Councillor Kim Botting added, “I owe my life to The National Hospital who they raise essential funds for. The staff at the hospital are fantastic, especially my neurosurgeon Mr Neil Kitchen. Mine was a highly complex and high risk operation that could have left me deaf, blind, paralysed. It was also possible that I might not have survived the surgery.”

Councillor Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council said, “Each Mayor brings their own focus to this ambassadorial role, with a nominated charity appeal part of this. I know that Councillor Botting worked tirelessly behind the scenes raising this record sum and carrying out the many and varied tasks of representing our borough and on behalf of all concerned, I would like to publicly thank Councillor Botting. It is this energy and vision that helps make improvement to borough life.”

The £35,000 raised boosted the charity’s Operating Theatres Appeal and helped the

charity reach the £4 million target to create two new operating theatres and undertake a major refurbishment of the existing theatres at The National Hospital. Work starts early in 2017.

Mr Neil Kitchen, consultant neurosurgeon at The National Hospital said: “It is very gratifying to see how well Kim has been since her operation. She has channelled so much energy into raising money for The National Brain Appeal. Her support is very much appreciated by the hospital and the charity. We have been in desperate need for more operating theatres capacity at The National



and the £35,000 she has raised has helped us get closer to achieving this with work commencing within weeks. It will mean we will be able to treat more patients who face conditions similar to hers."

Theresa Dauncey, Chief

Executive of The National Brain Appeal, said: "It has been a real pleasure to work with Kim during her year as Mayor of Bromley and we are so grateful for her support for The National Brain Appeal. As a patient at The National Hospital she understands how important it is to

have access to the right expertise and equipment when you are faced with a frightening diagnosis. The money she has raised is already having an impact with work about to start to create two new operating theatres at the hospital."

## Mother Daughter Days

### Community Spirit Continues

Many of you probably know, that last year we witnessed huge changes in adult education provision in Bromley as cutbacks saw the closure of The Widmore Centre and with it lots of the popular short courses disappeared. Previously, education for the over 20's received generous government funding, which has dwindled over the years making learning of this type more expensive for each of us. Centres all across the country are closing so much that a report in The Telegraph recently warned that "adult education and training could disappear in five years should cuts to funding continue". What

a sad situation and if we allow this to continue we will be all the poorer for it.

Adult Education Centres are the heart of our community as any of us who walked through the corridors of the Widmore Centre and witnessed the comings and goings of groups on their way to the various classes will tell you. Whether it be woodwork, yoga, beginners guitar, aromatherapy, Spanish, photography, embroidery or bridge, there was something for everyone. The building buzzed with people of all ages and backgrounds mixing in a safe, convivial atmosphere. There are many former students who will tell how what started as a hobby led to a successful career

change or an elderly person who found companionship in a shared interest as well as those who discovered a new found confidence through their personal achievements.

However, despite these cutbacks, many of these classes continue as former tutors, who were made redundant, refuse to give in. Yoga teachers have moved their exercise classes to local gyms and art teachers found a new home at sites such as The Ripley Arts Centre. New ventures have been formed, one of those being The Mother Daughter Days, who provide workshops for all women (not just mothers and daughters). With two events planned later this

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



year, they have a variety of short workshops available from arts & crafts, health & beauty, mind body spirit and dance. Running alongside the workshops there will be stalls selling a variety of gifts and pamper treatments. Altogether making a fun day out and keeping the spirit of the Widmore

Centre alive. You can get more information on this by checking out their website: [www.motherdaughterdays.com](http://www.motherdaughterdays.com).

The two dates we currently have arranged are:  
**Sunday 7th May 2017**  
At Bishop Justus School  
9.30am-4.00pm  
Workshops, Stalls,

Pamper Treatments

**Saturday 12th Aug 2017**  
At Bishop Justus School  
9.30am-4.00pm  
Workshops, Stalls,  
Pamper Treatments

We will put these dates in the "Dates for Your Diary" closer to the time, but in the meantime you might wish to make an advance note in your diaries now.

## Samaritan Recruitment

Information and Selection Day Saturday, 25th February, 2017 starting at 10am To find out more

about our information day and to receive an application pack, please email us at:

[samaritansrecruitbromley@gmail.com](mailto:samaritansrecruitbromley@gmail.com) or phone our Recruitment Line on 07802 633757

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

### Bromley Council

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail: [fixmystreet.com](http://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 CVS website, 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

Keith Onslow

[keith.onslow@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:keith.onslow@bromley.gov.uk)

Samaris Huntington-Thresher

020 8464 3333

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

Lydia Buttinger

[lydia.buttinger@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:lydia.buttinger@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)  
[www.chelsfieldplayers.org](http://www.chelsfieldplayers.org)

## 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 01689 853215

#### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall and  
Brass Crosby Room

#### Chelsfield Housemartins

Monday Afternoons, for local  
people who are unable to go out  
without help.

#### EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Pilates Class

6.30pm-7.30pm  
Contact Francesca on  
07791073445  
iopilatesuk@gmail.com

#### EVERY MONDAY

Christ Church Hall  
(Charterhouse Rd)

#### Beginners Pilates Class

6.55pm  
Contact Sally 07786 035640  
orpingtonpilates@gmail.com

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room

#### St Martin's Toddler Group

10.30am-12.00 midday  
Contact Sarah Ford:  
01689 853415  
stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Pilates Class

09.00am - 10.00am  
10.00am - 11.00am and  
Contact Francesca on  
07791073445  
iopilatesuk@gmail.com

#### EVERY TUESDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Dr)

#### Quiz Night

From 7.30pm  
Contact 01689 600656

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells

#### Charity Quiz Night

from 9.00pm

#### EVERY WED THURS & FRI

#### Pilates Classes & Pre & Post Natal Pilates Classes

Chelsfield Methodist Church  
Hall, Windsor Drive  
Wed 6.50-7.50pm & 8.00-9.00pm  
Thursday 8.20-9.20pm  
Friday 9.35-10.35am  
& 10.45-11.45am

Post Natal Pilates 12-1.00pm  
(Babies Welcome)

Contact Bethany Lucas on  
07415 638546

bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com

Further classes at:

[www.bethanylucaspilates.co.uk](http://www.bethanylucaspilates.co.uk)

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Christ Church Hall  
(Charterhouse Rd)

#### Pilates Class

09:00am-10:15am  
Private classes by appointment.  
Contact Sally 07786 035640  
orpingtonpilates@gmail.com

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am  
Contact Pam Keeper on  
01732 458930

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Art Class

10.15am - 12.15 midday  
Contact Leo 07583777065  
leo77ok@hotmail.com

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Class Street Dance

4.30pm-6.00pm  
Boys & Girls All Ages  
Info: Clare 07960 865518  
[www.class-streetdance.co.uk](http://www.class-streetdance.co.uk)

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Pilates Class

9.00am - 10.00am  
6.30pm-7.30pm  
Contact Francesca on  
07791073445  
iopilatesuk@gmail.com

#### EVERY FRIDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Pilates Class

3.00pm-4.00pm  
Contact Francesca on

07791073445

iopilatesuk@gmail.com

#### EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

#### Live Singer

5.00pm-8.00pm  
Contact 01689600656

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Wednesday 4th January

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

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

#### Wednesday 11th January (2nd Wednesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome  
Contact Gwen on 01689 834879  
or Sue on 01689 827407

#### Tuesday 17th January (3rd Tuesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome  
From 7.45pm  
Contact Madeline 01689891533

#### Wednesday 18th January

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

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

#### Thursday 26th January

Brass Crosby Room

#### Local History Group

Starts 10.30am

Meetings now held on the LAST  
Thursday of each month

#### Saturday 25th February

#### Samaritans Recruitment

samaritansrecruitbromley@gmail  
.com or phone our Recruitment  
Line on 07802 633757  
Starts 10.00am

#### Sunday 7th May

Bishop Justus School  
Maggie Hall Lane Bromley

#### Mother Daughter Day

9.30am-4.00pm  
Workshops, Stalls, Pamper  
Treatments