

# CHELSEFIELD VILLAGE VOICE

July 2016

Supported by



Chelsfield Park Hospital

## Chelsfield Village Fair

### Saturday 16th July 2016

Gates open 12 noon  
 Adults £3.50 Under 14s FREE  
 Music till 6:30pm



High performance aerobatics from an Extra 330SC

Displays subject to weather, serviceability and CAA permissions

Flying Displays financed by WJ King and Chelsfield Flying Club



**AGE Concern**  
 Orpington

Raising funds for Age Concern Orpington and local good causes

- Flying Displays  
 Eagle Heights  
 Birds of Prey Croydon  
 Steel Orchestra Force  
 10 Big Band Green St  
 Green May Queen Class  
 Street Dance Beer Tent  
 Hog Roast and Barbecue  
 Fun Fair Miniature Railway  
 Pony Rides Over 70 stalls  
 ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

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### Let Chelsfield Know What You Think - Tell Us About your Event!

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 August issue to:

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

**Chelsfield Village Voice**  
**2 Bucks Cross Cottages**  
**Chelsfield Village**

**BR6 7RN**

**by Monday 25th July**

Keep up with the latest by visiting:  
[www.chelsfieldevts.co.uk](http://www.chelsfieldevts.co.uk)

Chelsfield Village Green, Bucks Cross Road, Chelsfield Village BR6 7RN  
 Website: [chelsfieldfair.com](http://chelsfieldfair.com) Facebook: [facebook.com/chelsfieldfair](https://facebook.com/chelsfieldfair)

## The Cuckoo

I first moved to the village during the eighties. It was mid May and the first thing I noticed on the first morning waking up in my new cottage was the sound of the dawn chorus. It amazed me that it was so loud! Nowadays I still notice it but it never seems quite so loud. I wonder if this is due to me getting used to it or whether the songbird numbers have declined. This May I have enjoyed the dawn chorus as usual but one morning while still in a half-daze I noticed for the first time in many years the sound of a cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).

Throughout the eighties and nineties I regularly noticed the arrival of the first cuckoo each spring with its unusually distinctive and even peculiar call. But for the last decade or so I cannot recall having heard this bird until this year when it fleetingly partook of the dawn chorus. It seems that at least one other person in the village (Helen Griffiths) also briefly heard the cuckoo this year so it was probably passing through

on its migration north. Readers of *The Times* newspaper have for many years written to the paper to announce the arrival of the first cuckoo and these date back to at least 1839. An example is shown below.

While gardening this afternoon I heard a faint note which led me to say to my under-gardener.... 'Was that the cuckoo?' Almost immediately afterwards we both heard the full double note of a cuckoo.... There is not the slightest doubt that the song was that of a cuckoo. R Lydekker, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1913

Unfortunately, another letter a week later by the same reader apologises to the great British public for having been misled by a local builder who enjoyed drawing in cuckoos by imitating their calls!

It seems that the bird's name *cucu* came to Britain with the Normans. Chaucer used the name 'cuckkow' in 1381, 'cuckoe' appeared in the seventeenth century and its present form arrived in

the eighteenth. This is an example of an *onomatopoeic* name, where the object, in this case the call of the cuckoo gives its name to the bird itself. Examples abound with the cuckoo in many languages: Koekoeke (Dutch), coucou (French), kuckuck (German), kukulka (Polish). However, it is only the male that makes the classic cuckoo call and then only while perching: never while on the wing.

As most know, the cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, the most common being the robin, pied wagtail and the dunnoek. This behaviour is known as 'brood parasitism'. One of the most fascinating aspects of this behaviour is that cuckoo populations that primarily focus on one host species can produce eggs which look similar to those of the birds it is trying to fool into raising its young. Hence, cuckoo eggs intended for robins are red-speckled. The only eggs that do not follow this rule are those intended for the nests of

dunnocks. It is thought that this might be due to the dunnock being a recent evolutionary victim of the cuckoo. So this bird has a bad reputation due to its parasitic habits but there are worse offenders. The North American bird known as the *Brown headed cowbird* exhibits something referred to by ornithologists as 'mafia behaviour'. After laying their eggs in host's nests the mother will return to check on progress and if they find the hosts have ejected the parasitic egg from the nest they will destroy any host eggs or young and even on occasion the nest. Interestingly, this bird has eggs that are easily identifiable as not belonging to the host. There are two reasons for this. The first is that the cowbird uses the nests of many different birds and so cannot specialise and secondly it makes it easy for the cowbird to check whether its eggs are still within the nest or not.

In history the sudden appearance and disappearance of this bird led to many strange beliefs. An old Roman belief was that the bird

transformed itself into a bird of prey every autumn and this may be understood due to the bird's similarity in form to that of a sparrowhawk. This similarity is thought to occur due to mimicry which allows the bird to remain unmolested while conducting their long, stationary vigils looking for suitable host nests.

I'll finish with an old rhyme about the cuckoo which reminds me of the

beautiful yet melancholy Simon & Garfunkel song 'April come she will'. I imagine this rhyme is the original source for the song as S&G where known to use traditional songs on a number of occasions: *Scarborough fair* and *El condor pasa* (Peruvian) immediately come to mind.

I have placed the rhyme on the left and alternate lines of the S&G lyrics on the right for comparison.

<b>In April I open my bill</b>	<b>April come she will</b>
<b>In May I sing night and day</b>	<b>May she will stay</b>
<b>In June I change my tune</b>	<b>June, she'll change her tune</b>
<b>In July far I fly</b>	<b>July, she will fly</b>
<b>In August away I must</b>	<b>August, die she must</b>

*Steve Fuller  
July 2016*



## Mutterings From The Millers

I thought last month that we may have started haymaking but you can guess what I am going to say. In fact, the grass has now been knocked over by all that rain/hail and the peas have taken a bit of a bashing too. The forecast doesn't look too good for this week either so the haymaking will be delayed again. It will be made, I am sure; some years we have been harvesting wheat and haymaking at the same time. The wheat and barley are putting up with the weather and are looking good.

Steve visited a trial on a farm in Shottenden, near Chilham to see new varieties of wheat being grown. This is a good way of finding out how the new varieties cope with different conditions etc. and this has helped to decide which varieties

we will grow for harvest 2017. He also, besides having lunch there, discussed the possibility of baling the pea straw. We are pleased to report that this can be done and it looks like we have found a buyer down the West Country, which will be feed for cattle. Great stuff.

For those of you who walk the footpath from the church to Warren Road, you may have noticed that the crop on the sides of the path has turned yellow. This is due to the fact that Steve has had to spray the barley to kill it, as the footpath has to measure 1 metre wide. We were fined last year, as the footpath didn't quite

measure the required width. Oppps

The first of the swallows have fledged and it is lovely to see them flying around the farm. A sparrow hawk swooped down onto a sparrow right in front of the kitchen window, bad for the sparrow but a great close up of the sparrow hawk!

There is a lovely show of orchids on Chelsfield Green, is it a Pyramidal orchid? Perhaps one of the residents can enlighten us.

Not going to say much about the weather forecast other than lets hope St Swithin's Day, 15<sup>th</sup> July is dry!

*Oh St Swithin if thou'll be fair,  
For forty days shall rain nae mair,  
But if St Swithin's thou be wet,  
For forty days it raineth yet!*

Chris Miller

## Browns School Community Action Day

This year the school will again be involved in our community day in Chelsfield village on the morning of Friday July 8th, from 09.30am. Similar to last year all our

students will be visiting village addresses - cleaning/gardening/car washing etc to customers in the village, as well as helping out in the pub and the Village Hall.

We will report on how the day goes and what we achieve in the August issue of the Village Voice.

Chris Ponulak  
Deputy Headteacher  
Browns School

## The Housemartins

The Housemartins is one of the Villages longest running groups. Setup around 24 years ago by Anne Mead, for local housebound local residents. It arranges for members to be picked up and taken to weekly Monday meetings and to be taken out for regular trips.

This does require a lot of helpers to ensure that all runs smoothly. If you can spare a few hours on a Monday afternoon to drive the members to and from the meetings or would like to come and see what we do please contact Ruth on 01689 60845.

Have you got any talents, skills or experiences you can share with us? We would love it if someone could come and play the piano – some of the old favourites so we could have a sing song. Again please contact Ruth. I look forward to hearing from you!



*Fencing Training by the Gandolfi's*



*Celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday*



*Trying Pilates with Francesca*

## Chelsfield Village Society at the Fair

The Chelsfield Village Society will have a Bottle Stall at the Village Fair on 16th July.

We are very grateful to Alan Johnson's family and Terry Lloyd for organising this so please start collecting bottles. If any Village Society member would like to contribute a bottle you are welcome to leave it with me at 7 Orlestone

Gardens, Chelsfield Village.

Also, if you would like to support St. Martins Church and make a cake for their Cake Stall we would be most grateful. Again, cakes made in advance can be left at 7 Orlestone Gardens if it can be frozen or taken on the day to the Village Fair.

Village Society subscriptions are now overdue (£5 per family) so if you have not yet renewed yours the Treasurer, Melanie Stevens would be grateful if you would deliver this to her at Lillys, Chelsfield Lane, Chelsfield Village.

Many thanks and hope to see you all at the Village Fair.

## More Sightings of Jim Ellard's Bird

I was interested in seeing in last months VV that the orange bird first seen in the vicinity of Goddington park by Jim Ellard, is still in the area and has been seen by others.

From reference sources, it looks like a red canary, presumably an escaped fancy cage bird, but the size is not easy to determine. What do those that have seen it think?



## Village Litter Crusade!

Following last months request for village residents to volunteer to adopt a piece of road to keep clear of litter; the response has been mixed. We have half a

dozen people who have shown an interest in keeping the their local area free of litter and this covers an area stretching from Hewitts roundabout to the hospital entrance.

We really need a few more people to volunteer for the areas around the five bells and Cannock House to give good coverage of the village. So if anybody would like

to step forward to help cover these areas it would be much appreciated.

Last month's appeal generated a quick reply from the Bromley councillor Keith Onslow who was supportive and willing to help to bring the issue to the council and make an appeal for resources such as bags

and a collection service of some sort. But first we need to get enough people to make the system workable and I think just a few more would make it all worthwhile.

The effort required will not be too onerous as a quick sweep over your own stretch of road every few weeks should be

enough to keep the village looking good.

I plan to arrange a meeting in a week or so to get ourselves organised so if you would like to help we would be more than happy to see you. Please reply to the voice or myself at [srfuller@sky.com](mailto:srfuller@sky.com).

*Steve Fuller*

## Chelsfield Village Fair

### **Some Good News - Some Not So Good...**

On Saturday 16th July, Chelsfield Village Fair will take over the village once again. We have just this week had some disappointing news from the Civil Aviation Authority in that their new regulations no longer permit us to have a Spitfire display. Most of you will know about the terrible tragedy at Shoreham in Sussex last year when a Hawker Hunter jet crashed into the A27 and an area outside the airfield during their annual airshow causing the deaths of eleven people. As a result, the CAA have imposed a number of restrictions, one of which is a 230m horizontal distance from any place where people could observe a flying display. Despite our protestations that there are very few places close to the

Fair where anyone could view the flying, due to tree cover, lacking of parking etc., the CAA cannot accept these and as a result, they do not consider the open land around Chelsfield a safe display area for the Spitfire.

Our negotiations with regard to the Extra 330SC have been more successful and, weather permitting, it will be displaying, complete with wingtip pyrotechnics during the afternoon. Unfortunately for smaller events such as ours, the CAA do not assess the application until two weeks before the event which is very inconvenient for us. As the flying display director, I am of course personally terribly disappointed and exhausted. I am however extremely relieved that we can still have the Extra

330SC (which will display earlier in the afternoon, so don't be late!) so we hope you will come along and support the event in what has been a very difficult year. There's always a chance that we might see a Spitfire in the sky over the Fair - they normally bat over Chelsfield on most summer afternoons, but there will be no Spitfire display.

If it's any comfort, we are not the only event to have suffered because of the new regulations; a number of airshows have cancelled, so we should perhaps be happy that it has not come to that.

We are though, not short of entertainment. We have the superb Eagle Heights birds of prey display, Class Crew Street Dance, the Green St

Green May Queen and then there's the music. The Croydon Steel Orchestra will welcome you to the Fair and to take us out, we have the amazing Force 10 Big Band. We have more stalls than ever, a Fun Fair, beer tent, food, miniature railway and much more. A full afternoon, even without the Spitfire.

We will be writing to all those of you who live on the routes into the village to ask you to move your cars from kerbside to our Exhibitors and Residents' car park, which is Jane Parkes' field which will be signposted during the week before the Fair. We realise that this is a bit inconvenient and we do appreciate your co-

operation; keeping the traffic moving is really key to the success of this event.

Anyway, we look forward to welcoming you to the Fair on the 16th and we hope you have a marvellous day.

*Dave Griffiths*

[www.facebook.com/chelsfieldfair](http://www.facebook.com/chelsfieldfair)  
[www.chelsfieldfair.com](http://www.chelsfieldfair.com)

## Miss Bo Peep

From Phil Lanes ~"BAR LAMBS"



## Commemorating Chelsfield's Casualties from World War I

This month sees the start of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, so it is not surprising that several of the names on the war memorial in the church are of men killed in that terrible onslaught. Many writers far more knowledgeable than me have written in detail about the battle, and will no doubt do so again over the coming weeks, so I'm focusing on the men from our parish who lost their lives in it. I am indebted to Geoffrey Copus who wrote about these men in his 'Chelsfield Chronicles', and to Pam Temple for information from the school records and other sources.

### OLIVER CORKE

Private G/2202 Oliver Corke was killed in action, aged 28, on the first day of the Somme, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. He was in the 7th Battalion of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, which took part in the 'Battle of Albert', one of the very

first offensive operations in the Battle of the Somme. Corke is buried in the Combles Communal Cemetery Extension in France. He was the son of Thomas & Naomi Corke of Well Hill, and in the 1911 census he was a gatemaker in West Hoathley, Sussex, which is where his parents were born. In 1901 the family were living in Well Hill in a cottage next to the Rock and Fountain pub, and father Thomas is listed as a 'Lath render and park pail cleaver' – the latter is someone who splits wood, particularly chestnut, to make gates, fences etc (thank you to Richard George for this explanation). As a boy Oliver was a member of Chelsfield Church choir and of the Parish Church Sunday School. He attended the village school and in 12 July 1899 he received a prize for proficiency and good conduct from Mr Norman the Chairman of the School Board, at the annual Prizes event.

### ALBERT MILES

Rifleman 551287 Albert John Miles was also killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, aged 31. He was a member of the 16th Battalion of the London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles), who were in action on The Somme taking part in the diversionary attack at Gommecourt, designed to pin German forces to their trenches and attract artillery fire away from the main assault. Albert Miles is buried at the Gommecourt British Cemetery No 2, Hebuterne in France. He was the eldest son of Enos and Harriet Miles of Well Hill; Enos was a 'flower and fruit grower' on the 1901 census, and Albert is a 'house boy'. Albert attended Chelsfield School, and must have been a diligent boy as the school log records he was awarded School Board prizes for good conduct and proficiency three times, with a prize for drawing in 1896. Before enlisting he had been a butler in the household of Raymond Asquith, the Prime Minister's son, who was

himself killed in action later in the war. Pam Temple points out that this in itself is interesting, as in 1915/16 Prime Minister Herbert Asquith was coming under mounting pressure to conscript men like Miles, contrary to his own inclination. The question was whether married men should be forced to go and leave their families as opposed to volunteering, but volunteering wasn't producing enough "cannon fodder" so Asquith had to push it through, as recorded in Roy Jenkins' 1964 biography of him.

**STEWART  
MILLER-HALLETT**



One of the two well-documented of the names on the memorial, (the other being Maurice Asprey), he is commemorated in a stained glass window in the church opposite the South Door, and remembered on the family grave which is to the left of the path into the new churchyard. 2nd Lieutenant Stewart Alexander Miller-Hallett of the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion South Wales Borderers was killed in action on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1916. He has no known grave, and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France, one of the most visually striking monuments of the battlefields.

Stewart Miller-Hallett was the second son of Alexander & Amy Frances Miller-Hallett of Goddington House. He went to Rugby School and there is a lot of information on a site dedicated to ex-Rugbeans who fell in the Great War, from which I quote: He entered the School in 1905, leaving in 1909, and was in the XI in 1908 and 1909 (he was later a member of

the MCC). After leaving Rugby he passed through the Central Technical School of Engineering, South Kensington. In September 1914 he joined the Public Schools Brigade and obtained a Commission in the South Wales Borderers in the summer of 1915. He went to the Front in France in December 1915, and in May 1916 was attached to the Brigade Staff. He was killed in action by machine-gunfire in Mametz Wood on July 11<sup>th</sup> 1916 while carrying an important verbal message from the General, accompanied by a runner who was badly wounded, but escaped. His Colonel wrote :- "I cannot tell you how much I sympathise with you on the loss of your dear boy; he had a charming personality which endeared him to us all, and was in addition a splendid Officer. Not long ago I picked him out to join our General's Staff, and I know how much he appreciated him." The Brigadier-General wrote :- "May I add my sincere sympathy in your grievous loss? Your son was attached to my Staff.

He was a gallant lad, always cheery, bright and willing, and had endeared himself to us all. He was a son I should have been proud of, and his absence causes a great blank here.”

#### WALTER CADE

Private G/4756 Walter Boothby Cade of the 1st Battalion Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment was killed in action on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1916, aged 40. His battalion was involved in an action to capture Wood Lane, near Longueval and Bazentin le Grande; he is also remembered on the Thiepval Memorial as he has no known grave. He is recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission papers as husband of Mrs Rhoda Cade of 1 Ash Road, Green Street Green, and he was father of Edward Cade, who is also on the memorial as he was in the Royal Artillery and died of wounds in September 1916. Mrs Cade lost her husband and eldest son within two months, and was left to bring up five young children. When

Walter Cade signed up in December 1914, he states he was born in St Neots, Huntingdonshire, and lives at 8 Chelsfield Lane, Green Street Green; he gives his occupation as ‘baker and confectioner’. In the 1911 census the family were living at 8 Stearn’s Cottages, World’s End Lane and he was a farm labourer.

#### FREDERICK CHECKSFIELD

Private 18325 Frederick George Checksfield was killed in action on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1916, aged 20. He was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who on that day took part in an attack on enemy strongpoints located in the orchards to the north of Delville Wood, Longueval in France. The attack began at 3.40am and despite early success the battalion was driven back to Pont Road by enemy counter attacks. Checksfield is buried in the cemetery at Delville Wood; his gravestone has the epitaph ‘Death Divides But Memory Clings’. He

was the son of Edward & Rose Checksfield of Hewitts Cottages, and his brother Sidney also joined up but fortunately survived the war. On the 1911 census it shows Frederick was born in Wateringbury and his father is at Hewitts as ‘Farmer’s Bailiff’. In 1901 the census shows they are living at Hewitts Cottages next door to John Collins, who was the focus of this article in the March magazine.

Once again, if you have any more information on these men, or any of the WWI casualties listed on the war memorial in St Martin’s, I’d be very interested to hear from you. I’m particularly keen to find out more about the following people as at the moment I have no definite information on them:

Sidney Davis  
 William Finn  
 William Golding  
 Thomas Graves  
 Noah Hillman  
 Walter Matthewson  
 Frederick Theobald/  
 Theobald

*Philippa Rooke*  
[pjrooke@hotmail.com](mailto:pjrooke@hotmail.com)  
 Tel: 07826 516481

## Village Defibrillator

The defibrillator is now installed in the porch outside the Village Hall.



It is now accredited with the London Ambulance Service, and they hold the contact details of a number of local residents, including the pub, who they can call on to act as first responder with the defibrillator if required.

After suffering a sudden cardiac arrest, the victim's chance of survival falls by around 7 - 10% with every minute that defibrillation is delayed. London Ambulance Service admit that they are extremely unlikely to be able to attend and provide defibrillation early enough, and the best way

of ensuring prompt defibrillation is for someone nearby to use a defibrillator to deliver the shock that can often save a life. Our village defibrillator is available to fill this role

The first training session for the village defibrillator took place on Monday 20th June. This was attended by 12 representatives of Village Hall groups and other local residents. It was impressed upon all of us for the need to get a defibrillator to a potential Cardiac Arrest patient as quickly as possible. All those present had a chance to practice their CPR technique, and learn about using a defibrillator. In all a very busy and useful training session.

Another course is taking place for Friday 22nd July, and is fully booked. If there is further interest in these courses, let us know as others may be possible in the future.

Those who have not been trained can still use the device. The Resuscitation Council (UK) has produced 'Lifesaver', an interactive app, which teaches CPR and basic life support as an interactive and educational programme. Lifesaver is available at:

<https://life-saver.org.uk/> and can be played on a computer, smartphone or tablet. It is completely free and is a useful resource for this type of training.



A short video describing our model is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkcD3Mv9oAU>

You may also like to watch: London Ambulance Service – how to use a defibrillator

[http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/calling\\_999/emergency\\_heart\\_care/cardiaca\\_arrest/how\\_to\\_use\\_a\\_defibrillator.aspx](http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/calling_999/emergency_heart_care/cardiaca_arrest/how_to_use_a_defibrillator.aspx)

There is also a series of videos showing how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator:

<http://www.ipad-aed.com/cpranddefibrillatortraining/>

Ice Cream will be on sale at the forthcoming Chelsfield Fair in support of the Defibrillator and its training.

## Broadband Advancements

There is positive news about superfast broadband for Chelsfield Village residents on the 01689 exchange.

One of the aims of the campaign is to upgrade our Openreach cabinet at the Warren Road crossroads. A contract and estimate have been received from Openreach and Bromley Council Executive has agreed to cover half the cost, the other half being covered by Openreach. A limited company has been set up

and is dealing with the Openreach and Bromley Council contracts. It is hoped to place the Openreach contract by 15<sup>th</sup> July. Subject to contract and any unforeseen obstacles it looks hopeful that we may at last be getting a solution to our poor broadband service.

We are very grateful to Steve Barnes of Downe who has led this campaign for better broadband for rural Bromley relentlessly for

over 2 years.

I have recently been in contact with Chelsfield Village residents on the 01959 exchange in the Bo Peep area who are liaising with Well Hill residents to find a solution. The Openreach cabinet in this case serves properties in Kent and Bromley so requires a different approach.

I hope to have more news of this next month.

*Catherine Gandolfi*  
[cvhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:cvhlettings@gmail.com)

## Local History Group - The Story of Our Bypass

The Orpington Bypass, opened 90 years ago this year, in December 1926, was “the road that changed the local landscape and life”, Patrick Hellyar told the Chelsfield Local History Group at St Martin’s in

June.

A major civil engineering company carried out the earthworks for the arterial road in 1924-25 and the carriageway was laid over 11 months in 1926 by the family firm of

Fordyce Brothers from Middlesbrough.

Running almost six-miles from Crittalls Corner to the Badgers Mount roundabout, it was originally conceived by the local authority as

early as 1920 as a much shorter bypass to ease the narrow main streets of St Paul's Cray, St Mary Cray and Orpington.

The idea was taken up by the Ministry of Transport as part of the Government's programme to cater for rapidly-increasing motor traffic and provide work for the unemployed in the recession years after the First World War. But by late 1923 it had altered the route to form the A224 we know today. Patrick explained how the road scythed through fertile fruit farms of the Cray Valley, providing a north-south link between the major coast-bound routes of the A20 (to Dover) and the A21 (to Hastings).

Bypassing the Crays as intended, it skirted the end of Orpington High Street then drove on to Ramsden, Goddington, Chelsfield, Halstead and Badgers Mount, following almost a straight line, but "dog-legged" after the Goddington estate, brutally cutting off Chelsfield's parish church of St Martin's from the village.

An often-repeated story maintains that an important local landowner

– possibly William Waring – objected to the Ministry's preferred route across his property and so the line was changed, with the bizarre consequence for the church.

But in spite of trawling through parish magazines and scouring Church Council reports from 1922 to 1927, scanning every copy of the local newspapers for the same period, reading years of Bromley Rural District Council minutes and consulting archive material and other records, Patrick has been unable to verify the story.

However, he unearthed angry letters from William Waring in November 1923 to the Clerk of Bromley RDC (of which Waring was a member) complaining that a surveyor had entered his land, without notice, to measure up for the new road line, though he had recently been assured his land was not affected.

This proposal would cut his property in half, he said, describing it as "a serious matter" for him and for George Miller, his tenant farmer at Court Lodge Farm. It was "a most bitter pill". He could

not see the necessity of a road but conceded: "This, however, has to be put up with in these times." Overall, though, Waring was most upset at not being kept informed. People thought he was to blame for the scheme, he raged, and considered him "most incapable for not being able to get the whole thing knocked on the head".

As the road took shape over the following months, a lone voice of protest came in an anonymous letter to the Orpington District Times: "The entrance to the village of Chelsfield is completely spoilt through an utter disregard for all that is beautiful and even sacred," the writer said. "Many fine trees have been felled and the new road cut through as close to the hitherto charmingly situated churchyard as it is possible to get it."

The burial ground had become wedged into the new road, the prospect as regards Court Lodge had been ruined while at the Church Road crossroads "a death-trap would seem to be in course of preparation". Patrick's talk, illustrated with many old photographs of the pre-

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



bypass landscape and the road under construction, also dealt with the history and fortunes of Fordyce Brothers and looked at development along the route.

Today it is Bromley's main industrial and out-of-town retail area as well as its busiest road, he said. But at its southern end, where Chelsfield lies, it's still one of the greenest bits of the borough.

**The Local History group takes a break**

**during July and August. From when it resumes in September, meetings will be held on the LAST Thursday in the month instead of the**

**third Thursday. Starting time remains the same at 10.30 and the venue will be the Brass Crosby Room at St Martin's as usual.**



**USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**

**Bromley Council**

Main switchboard:

020 8464 3333

E-mail:

[csc@bromley.gov.uk](mailto: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.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

John Leach 07711304965.

**NHS Non-Emergency 111**

**BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital**

Main Reception

01689 877855

Helpline

0845 6032932

Physiotherapy

01689 885914

**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)

**Chelsfield Primary School**

01689 825827

**BT Line Faults** 0800 800151

**EDF Electrical Power Failure**

08007838866

**Thames Water Emergencies**

0845 9200800

**Transco Gas Emergency**

Service 0800 111999

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

**Samaritans** 01689 833000

**Safer Neighbourhood**

**Team** 020 8721 2605

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

[@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

#### Yengar 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

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room

#### St Martin's Toddler Group

10.30am-12.00 midday

Contact Sarah Ford:

01689 853415

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

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Pilates Class

09.00am - 10.00am

10.00am - 11.00am and

11.00am to 12.00 midday

Contact Francesca on

07791073445

#### 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](mailto:bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com)

Further classes at:

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

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

(from 13th January 2016)

Christ Church Hall

(Charterhouse Rd)

#### Pilates Class

09:00am-10:15am

Private classes by appointment.

Contact Sally 07786 035640

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am Contact

Pam Keeper on 01732 458930

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Art Class

10.00am -12.00 midday

Contact Leo 07583777065

[leo77ok@hotmail.com](mailto: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

6.30pm-7.30pm

Contact Francesca on

07791073445

#### EVERY FRIDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Pilates Class

3.00pm-4.00pm

Contact Francesca on

07791073445

#### EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive

#### Live Singer

5.00pm-8.00pm

Contact 01689600656

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Wednesday 6th July

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians  
out there, come along and have  
a go!

Starts at 8.30pm

#### Thursday 7th July

Five Bells

#### Jazz Night with Just Friends

Swinging Jazz standards from

1920's onwards

Music from 8.30pm

#### Wednesday 13th July

#### (2nd Wednesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

Contact Gwen on 01689 834879

or Sue on 01689 827407

#### Saturday 16th July

Chelsfield Cricket Green

#### Chelsfield Village Fair

Gates Open at 12.00 noon

Adults £3.50 Under 14's Free

Music until 6.30pm

#### Tuesday 19th July

#### (3rd Tuesday of Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

#### Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

From 7.45pm

Contact Madeline 01689891533

#### Wednesday 20th July

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians out  
there, come along and have a go!

Starts at 8.30pm

#### Tuesday 2nd August

Five Bells

#### Ravensbourne Morris Men

Dance for us at 8.00pm followed

by our charity quiz at 9.00

#### Wednesday 3rd August

Five Bells

#### Open Mic Night

So all you budding musicians out  
there, come along and have a go!

Starts at 8.30pm

#### Thursday 4th August

Five Bells

#### Jazz Night with Just Friends

Swinging Jazz standards from

1920's onwards

Music from 8.30pm

#### Friday 5th August

Five Bells

#### "Something Else" Play Live

Popular Songs

Music from 9.00pm

#### Saturday 13th August

Five Bells

#### Five Bells Annual Dog Show

3.00pm for a 3.30 start

£5.00 registration per dog

All proceeds to PDSA

#### Sunday 18th September

Stripes Farm, Chelsfield Lane

#### Classic Car Show

Tickets £5.00

In aid of St Christopher's Hospice

#### Thursday 29th September

#### (Last Thursday each month)

Brass Crosby Room

#### Local History Group

Starts 10.30am