



March 2013

Supported by



Chelsfield
Park
Hospital

**THE
CHELSFIELD
PLAYERS**
presents

**FAWLTY
TOWERS**

by John Cleese
& Connie Booth

CHELSFIELD VILLAGE
HALL
20-23 MARCH 2013
BUCKS CROSS ROAD, BR6 7RE
TICKETS: £8.00.
CURTAIN 8PM

Box Office:
01689 831187
www.chelsfieldplayers.ticketsource.co.uk
(10% booking fee)
chelsfield.players@gmail.com

An amateur performance by
agreement with Samuel French

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

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Contributions PLEASE !

Send any photos,
articles, jokes, pictures
for the April issue to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or post to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village
BR67RN

To arrive by Thursday 28th
March please

**WE CAN'T DO IT
WITHOUT YOUR HELP!**

Three episodes of this much loved series are brought live to the Village Hall. *Basil the Rat* ("Is not a rat . . . Is Filigree Siberian Hampter"), *Communication Problems* ("What were you hoping to see from a Torquay window? Herds of Wildebeeste?"), *The Hotel Inspectors* (I'm afraid this wine is corked". "Yes I just uncorked it")

See Page 10 for more details

Visit
www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk

Old Man's Beard

Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) is the vigorous woody climbing plant that often covers hedgerows and whose flower remnants consist of white feathery plumes giving the plant its name. Other names include 'Traveller's joy (or Ivy)' given to it by the 16th century English botanist John Gerard. He chose this name because in the days when many people travelled by foot, it decked and adorned the ways and hedges where people travelled. Another name is 'Boy's bacca', as young boys often smoked the dried stems of the plant while emulating the behaviour of their elders. Another use was by beggars who would arouse sympathy by rubbing their legs with its acrid sap. This irritated the skin to give it a sore and ulcerated look. In fact almost all parts of the plant are toxic. This plant grows rapidly, is a prolific seed producer and climbs and covers existing vegetation. It is unusual in that it does not have any petals, only



sepals and this includes the showy petal like structures for which garden species are most valued. It flowers from July to September and the seeds ripen from October to January.

Old man's beard is particularly prevalent in Southern Britain and likes chalky soil and so is well suited to Chelsfield and the surrounding area. In particular, Warren road leading down to the



station has many examples of this plant.

However, the plant has a darker side. Whereas in Britain it is viewed a 'normal' member of the hedgerow, in New Zealand for instance it is viewed with some alarm and is listed in the Na-

tional Pest Plant Accord and cannot be sold, propagated or distributed as it is a threat to native plants. It was introduced as a garden plant but rapidly spread and is now considered a 'pest' species and the authorities will often destroy it once

it has been reported.

Even in Britain, it is sometimes known to kill a hedge and some feel that you can either have a wild hedge or a bank of Old man's beard, but not both!

Steve Fuller

Update - The Bungalow, Skibbs Lane

An update to the restoration of The Bungalow, Skibbs Lane

Almost there now and the warmest winter yet, that reminds me must finish the central heating! Also the wettest as we were flooded in November 2012(update to follow). The Bungalow may look the same from the outside but its been a busy time

for restoration. The front wall was completed in that warm march of 2012 but since then I've plumbed the shower and bathroom, fitted the kitchen and bedroom, finished the plastering, flooring and insulations. Just the oak doors and linings, hardwood floors and floor coverings and then back to full time work, preferably oak framed homes or

restoration work. In the meantime I am looking for a little extra work until that time. If any Village Voice readers or friends require work to be carried out in the restoration or building field, I will be more than happy to advise or estimate your requirements. Call 07966 194216.

Paul Bennett

The A224 - A Divisive Road

The mid 1920's saw an intensive new road building programme begin in much of Britain. Especially in the South. The motor car was really beginning to establish itself as the ideal way for business and private use to flourish and to get about the country, without being constrained by the near-

est railway station or siding. Many main roads were still narrow and windy and not surfaced well enough to deal with the wheels of lorries and cars. Locally this manifested itself in the construction of the new A21 and A224 roads to get traffic out of Bromley and south London, towards

the Kent Coast and towns en route. Prior to the A224 through Chelsfield there were only country lanes winding their way across the North Downs and the valleys. Along the Cray Valley there were mills and industries all producing heavy traffic for raw materials and finished goods. One such

company, Fordyce Brothers at Fordcroft, were already established in the building industry. They managed to pick up the contracts for both the A21 to Farnborough and the A224 to Crittalls Corner. Using the new method of slip-forming concrete roads progress was rapid and materials were taken around the lengthy site using narrow gauge Jubilee Track rescued from WW1 battlefields. There was quite a fascinating railway system in place. The route along the Cray Valley took water meadows and farmland during which time Roman remains were found at Fordcroft. The route from Orpington ponds southwards was relatively easy, I suspect, to acquire the land, only meeting opposition at Goddington where their access road to Orpington Station was severed. As it reached what is now Charterhouse shops the planned line was direct to the south between Court Lodge Farm and the station arriving at Hewitts as it does now. Objections to this were strongly



made by the then owners of The Court Lodge manor house as it severed their fields and spoil their view. Any similar objection from Chelsfield Church or the village seems to have carried little weight. And so between 1926/28 (The A3 Guildford Bypass was built at the same time as

were several around N London) it ploughed it's destructive way along old Goddington Lane (vestiges still exist behind the bus stop) and across Warren Road and then the village recreation and cricket ground. The overgrown field between the village "High Street" and the footpath is one half of



the former. In one fell swoop Chelsfield Village was annexed from the Church and Church Road, a fact that was to become such a bain over the next 8 decades. When the road was first completed there was barely any traffic ironically, and my dad, as a teenager, used to push an engineless motorbike up the hill from Orpington with his friend John Sutton, so that they could merrily freewheel back down again! By the late 1930s as motoring was beginning to take off England was suddenly taken into war again, this time with the real threat of invasion. These “new” roads were seen as easy access for the expected Germans and plans were set in place to deter them, in true “Dad’s Army” fashion. At the junction of Warren Road and church Road there were to be machine guns posts and drums of petroleum



that would be exploded on to the carriageway. I have a copy of the map showing the positions. The local Civil Defence would man it and Vic Webster would have been in charge I believe. So that should have stopped the offensive quite neatly.....! Post War years saw not only a huge increase in traffic but also in speed. Prior to the M25 being built which was hoping to slow this growth down, the road had been planned to be dualled, and the verges are wide enough for this to happen

and plans exist. The two junctions created at Warren Road and Church Road had been causing many accidents and at least 5 fatalities, 4 of whom were members of St Martins. Both crossing are still hazardous and to be treated with fear and care. It is such a shame therefore that the intended route was never taken as I suspect that both roads would have gone over the New Road which would have been in cutting. If only.....

Philip Lane

Advance Notice

April 13th - Ploughman’s Lunch and talk by Patrick Hellicar and Geoffrey Copus about the history

of the Tryhorn Field which is about to be made into an extension of the church yard. Brass Crosby Room

Details from Anne 01689 826349 Tickets £5 in aid of the churchyard

Our March Dining Experience

As we enter The Year of the Snake The restaurant review this month is of:

**The King Palace
Chinese Restaurant,**
346 - 348,
High Street,
Orpington
BR6 0NQ
01689 831 848 or
01689 830 023

The King Palace is one of the longer established restaurants in Orpington High Street. Situated right on the corner of the War Memorial roundabout.

We were a group of five and managed to get a table with only 4 hours advance booking. Even though the restaurant was very busy the staff were polite and helpful, and had a good sense of humour.

The menu is fairly standard for a Chinese



restaurant, however they did have a reasonable selection for the vegetarian in our party. But the food was tasty and service was well timed.

We would be happy to make a return visit to the King Palace.

Atmosphere
Service
Food
Value for £



We must apologise to any readers who wished to visit the Petts Wood restaurant SeShell reviewed in our February issue, sadly SeShell closed its doors for the last time just as our review was published. We understand that it will be reopening as a "Rib Shack".

If you have a favourite restaurant within easy reach of the village, please tell us!

Keys Found

Two keys on a ring (a house key and another) found

outside old bus shelter by village hall.

Enquiries to
01689 831826 or
cvscontact@gmail.com

Consultant Offers Free Varicose Vein Checks

A common misconception about varicose veins is that they only affect middle aged women and are primarily a cosmetic issue. However one vein expert, Mr Eddie Chaloner is challenging this view and encouraging men to seek medical attention for the condition at an earlier stage.

“Around 40% of women will develop varicose veins as some stage of their life, while in men this figure is thought to be around the 25 per cent mark,” Mr Chaloner commented. “Men with varicose veins tend to visit their GP or a specialist at a later stage of the condition – usually when the veins are very painful or when they are starting to cause skin damage. By this stage they are at a higher risk of developing the worst vein problems, such as venous ulcers.”

Vein expert Mr Chaloner, who practices at BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital observes, “Women are far more willing to seek an opinion about varicose veins right away – proba-

bly because of the cosmetic aspect. Men on the other hand will often wait until the problem becomes too painful to ignore and this can lead to skin damage or leg wounds, known as ulcers, that won't heal as a result. Even fit and athletic men are susceptible to venous disease - the important thing is to seek an expert opinion on your varicose veins as soon as symptoms present themselves.”

Varicose veins develop when the small valves inside the veins stop working properly. In a healthy vein, deoxygenated blood flows smoothly to the heart and the blood is prevented from flowing backwards by the series of tiny one way valves that open and close to let blood through. However, when the valves weaken or are damaged, the blood can flow backwards and pool in the vein, causing it to be swollen and enlarged. Any vein in the body can become varicose, but they are most common in the leg

because of the extra pressure put on this part of the body from standing and walking.

“Varicose veins are a medical issue and not solely an issue of vanity. If not dealt with at an early stage the condition will slowly deteriorate. The longer someone waits for treatment, the more extensive the condition becomes and resulting treatment is more troublesome.”

During March Mr Chaloner and his team at BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital are offering men and women in the local community the chance to come in for a free vein consultation. The consultations, which will include a full assessment and onward advice around management and treatment, can be booked by calling: 0800 015 2484.

For more information on varicose veins and the treatments available for the condition please visit: www.bmihealthcare.co.uk/varicose-veins

Farmer Swims for Charity - Please Donate!

My Dad and I run the family farm here in Chelsfield and pleased to say that Dad has recovered from cancer. I wanted to contribute to Cancer Research so have decided to do a 10k swim on the 7th April 2013 at the Walnuts Leisure Centre wearing a bright pink pair of trucks on instructions from my girlfriend. I am training 5 days a week before work to prepare myself. This entails two distance runs, 10k plus, two swims, one 4k plus, one interval training and one day a week cycling plus weight



training. Hopefully this will prepare me for my 3-hour swim!!!!!!

I have set up a Just giving page if you wish to

help this amazing charity. www.justgiving.com/Peter-Miller6

*Thank you
Pete Miller
Court Lodge Farm*

Local History Report

Paul Rason gave us a talk about the interesting career choice of his son Stuart, a local ex Warren Road School pupil. Somewhat late in life he was called to the church and decided to train as a vicar. Whilst at theological college he was attracted to the idea of being a chaplain in the forces and duly found himself on a Royal Marine

course. His abilities were noticed and he was encouraged to train as a Royal Navy Commando. At the age of 42 he is the second oldest ever to have completed the Commando course. This has resulted in a confusing array of different "rigs" depending on his duties – with or without dog collar, cassock, stole, white topped flat

hat and Green Beret. He has different badges from everyone else. Paul showed us photographs of Stuart in his various rigs, the Green Beret with the cassock looking most incongruous. It should certainly earn him a great deal of respect. Stuart is now stationed in Barnstaple, with sole charge of a congregation of 1500.

Due to a sore throat Paul gave us a repeat of the Sheila Mossiman story illustrated by music and scrap books of the time.

This was new to many present but I will not write it up as a report appeared in the May 2010 issue of the Village Voice and is

available on the Village Voice archives on the Internet. Just Google Sheila Mossiman Chelsfield and you will find it.

Lullingstone - The Airport That Never Was

Talking to a resident recently, a proposed airfield at Lullingstone was mentioned.

I had never heard of this before, and was intrigued by the story, and if it were true.

Trying to find out more about this project, I was directed to a local historian who was knowledgeable on all aspects of rail and air travel. He has sent me around 20 pages on its

history, which will become a newsletter article later. Can any of our older residents remember this prewar project, and also the decoy airfield during the war?

Street Art





**THE
CHELSEFIELD
PLAYERS**

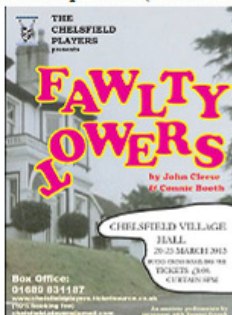
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Booking Notice

Three episodes of this much loved series are brought live to the Village Hall.
Basil the Rat ("Is not a rat . . . Is Filigree Siberian hamster"), *Communication Problems* ("what were you hoping to see from a Torquay window? Herds of wildebeeste?"), *The Hotel Inspectors* ("I'm afraid this wine is corked". "Yes, I just uncorked it")



FAWLTY TOWERS

**by John Cleese
and Connie Booth**

Performances on

**Wednesday 20, Thursday 21, Friday 22,
Saturday 23 March 2013 at 8:00 pm**

in the Chelsfield Village Hall, Bucks Cross Road, Chelsfield BR6 7RE
(opposite the 5 Bells)

Doors open a half hour before the performance starts

You are invited to purchase tickets at **£8.00** each
(including refreshments)
(Please make cheques payable to The Chelsfield Players')

Booking from Monday 18 February 2013

Phone: 01689 831187
email: chelsfield.players@gmail.com
On line (from 18 February) chelsfieldplayers.ticketsource.co.uk
(Note, a 10% booking fee will be applied)

If you would like any flyers please contact the Secretary.
We look forward to seeing you. Thank you for your continued support.

You are receiving this post because you are on our data base. If you no longer wish to receive notification, please contact us.

We would like to thank

CHELSFIELD PARK HOSPITAL for their sponsorship printing the Chelsfield Village Voice



Our Young Photographer!



***Recycling Robin
Frazer Watson
(age 13)***

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

russell.jackson@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Society

cvcontact@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 831826 / 836808** or email to

cvcontact@gmail.com

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 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 Contact Anne
on 01689 826349

EVERY TUESDAY

Outside the Village School
Mobile Library
11.15am-11.45am

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

Brass Crosby Room
Craft Group
2.00pm – 4.00pm All Welcome

EVERY FRIDAY

Brass Crosby Room
St Martin's Toddler Group
10.30am-12.00 midday
Last Day 14th December
Re-Starts 11th January 2013
Contact Sarah Ford:
01689 853415

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 6th March
(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane
Internet Cafe
2.30-4.30pm

Thursday 7th March

Five Bells
**Just Friends, the ever
popular Jazz sextet**

Music from 8.30pm

Sunday 10th March

Five Bells
Mothering Sunday
Book early to secure your place

Sunday 10th March

The Bo-Peep
Mothering Sunday
Try our special menu

Wednesday 13th March

Five Bells
Open Mic Night
Open to everyone. Now's the
chance if you can play or sing
to have a go!
From 8.30pm

Friday 15th March —

Sunday 24th March
Chelsfield Village Hall
Fawly Towers
Chelsfield Players

Saturday 16th March

Five Bells
St Patrick's Day
Fiddlefit will be playing
From 9.00pm

Wednesday 20th March

(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane
Internet Cafe
2.30-4.30pm

Thursday 21st March

(3rd Thursday each month)
Brass Crosby Room
Local History Group
from 10.15am

Sunday 24th March

St Martins Church
Palm Sunday
6.30pm Evensong. Stainer's
Crucifixion will be sung. If you
would like to join in contact
Anne 01689 826349

Wednesday 27th March

Five Bells
Open Mic Night
Open to everyone. Now's the
chance if you can play or sing
to have a go!
From 8.30pm

Good Friday 29th March

Five Bells
Beer Festival Begins
Through to April Fools Day!

Easter Sunday 31st March

Five Bells
Ray Rich Band
Starts 9.00pm

Wednesday 3rd April

(1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
Parish Room-Skibbs Lane
Internet Cafe
2.30-4.30pm

Thursday 4th April

Five Bells
**Just Friends, the ever
popular Jazz sextet**
Music from 8.30pm

Wednesday 10th April

Five Bells
Open Mic Night
Open to everyone. Now's the
chance if you can play or sing
to have a go!
From 8.30pm

Thursday 14th April

Brass Crosby Room
Ploughmans Lunch
and talk by Patrick Hel-
licar & Geoffrey Copus
Tickets £5 contact Anne 01689
826349

Tuesday 14th April

Five Bells
Special Charity Quiz
In aid of Demelza Hospice