

CHELSEFIELD VILLAGE VOICE

March 2020

Supported by



Chelsfield Park Hospital



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

There will also be a clean up **WELL HILL** on the 15th of March at 10.30am at the Rock & Fountain Old Car Park. Please contact Jess at jessnut79@googlemail.com to find out more

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

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We need your stories, memories, thoughts and ideas.

Tell us about your events and include them in our diary

Chelsfield Village Voice is the perfect way to spread your news, publicise your event or share and amusing story!

Please send anything you feel suitable for the

April 2020 issue to:

chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com

or post to:

Chelsfield Village Voice
2 Bucks Cross Cottages
Chelsfield Village BR6 7RN
to arrive by
Thursday 26th March 2020

Lords and Ladies

Once again high winds during early February have brought trees down within the village, mainly along Hawstead Lane. Nothing on the scale of some of the trees that have fallen in recent years and the bus lanes remained open but tree falls do seem to be a recurring theme within the village in recent years.

This month I want to talk about the woodland plant known as 'Lords and Ladies' (*Arum maculatum*). This plant will already have appeared but will soon come into bloom now that spring is on the horizon and this seems like a good time to look into this plant which interestingly has more colloquial names (around one hundred and fifty) than any other plant in Britain. Its scientific name stems from 'Arum' meaning poisonous and 'maculatum' meaning speckled due to the spots which appear on the arrow shaped leaves. Its common names include cuckoo pint (rhyming with pin, not as in a pint of beer) and stems from the 16th century and was used by the herbalist Nicholas

Culpeper in the 17th century. Others names include Jack in the pulpit; cows and bulls; Adam and Eve; sweethearts and even the old Kentish name "Kitty-come-down-the-lane-jump-up-and-kiss-me". Many of the names are gender related and this mirrors the plant's likeness to male and female genitalia (see photo)! The plant's central spadix (fleshy spike) has the interesting ability to generate heat which, along with the odorous smell attracts insects which can become trapped by backward pointing hairs. The ability to produce heat may explain the nature of the cowl which appears to act

as a windbreak and helps to retain the heat generated.

This plant likes shaded places such as woodland and hedgerows. The spadix which incidentally smells of urine is purple or sometimes orange and is surrounded by a protective cowl which withers in the autumn leaving a spike of bright red berries (see photo).

Countryside children were always told to stay away from this plant as all parts are poisonous. In fact this plant is the most common cause of accidental plant poisoning recorded by hospitals in the UK.



Strangely, many historic references state that this plant can be safely eaten once properly cooked. One that I found says that the large tubers, which can be almost half a metre deep, can be used to create something called Portland sago. This is a type of cornstarch which was once made in Dorset by the simple process of collecting and chopping the tubers and mixing with water. One then shakes vigorously and leaves to settle. The fluid is then

poured off with any floating material and the remaining paste is left to dry in the sun. This would render the remains safe to consume and was often used to make a hot drink called saloop before tea and coffee became cheap and popular. As it happens, there is a good example of advertising that had the opposite effect to that intended. In an attempt to maintain the popularity of saloop in the face of cheaper tea and coffee, saloop was promoted as a cure for venereal disease and this led to people refraining from consuming it in public as they did not wish to be associated with the disease!

However, referring back to the ability to consume this plant, a recently published book that I have in my library tells of the author trying as many means of cooking this plant as he could think of. Despite the fact that both the leaves and tubers are delicious, within a few moments he experienced a burning sensation that didn't stop for several hours despite spitting out the leaves and rinsing his mouth repeatedly. The burning sensation is created by calcium oxalate which form needle like raphides. In a book published in 1629 by John Parkinson, the author lists two recipes suggesting that small pieces of the root can be

mixed with lettuce and that the dried root should be sprinkled, sparingly, over meat. He recommends these recipes for the *unbidden and unwelcome guest to a man's table* because *it will so burn and prickle his mouth that he will not be able to eat one bit more or scarce speak for pain.*

There is one other reason to avoid this plant. Lords and ladies leaves, being largish have on occasion inadvertently been used as woodland toilet paper but the poisonous nature affects all parts of the plant and this means the user is unlikely to make that mistake twice! A safer, less contentious and more productive use of saloop was as starch for religious alter cloths, cuffs and ruffs that were popular during the renaissance. This led to another colloquial name 'starchwort'.

So, keep your eyes peeled as these plants should soon be making an appearance in woodlands and hedgerows near you.

Steve Fuller
March 2020



Mutterings From The Millers

Oh dear, do I need to say anything. We are trying to be positive again as the spring seed arrived at the end of February and obviously Peter is now waiting to plant it. No, I



am not going to say when but as you can see from the photographs, sink holes are starting to

appear in the fields.

Peter managed to spray off last years oats that had germinated early one morning in February when there was no wind and rain wasn't forecast until later in the day. It is turning yellow and dying now.

The gable end work has been completed and looking great, just in negotiations still with insurance company but at least it is weather tight and secure.

I'm afraid that there is not much else to say other than Steve had a new knee and is recovering well.

The weather was bad in March 1916 too. George says that they have had

continuous rain and wind. One of the large boughs from the elm tree fell onto the granary roof making a large hole and then the snow arrived. He really did have a tough time not only with the weather but with labourers especially as the married men were now being called up to the war and he had trouble with the market in London too. The mare had lockjaw.

The months weather offering is a quote from Charles Dickens:

It was one of the March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade.

*Chris Miller
Court Lodge Farm*

More Accidents in Court Road

Why we need that roundabout!

Friday 31st January -

Car and motorcycle accident at Court Road/Warren Road junction. Visible damage to both vehicles.

Tuesday 4th February morning -

Two vehicle accident at Church Road / Court Road junction, fire brigade and ambulance at scene.

Saturday 15th February -

A single vehicle incident along Court Road. Court Road closed for some hours. Emergency services and Air ambulance called. One fatality unfortunately.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Please help if you can, no green fingers necessary!

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

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

But most of all we just need you!

Saturday 7th March – 9am to 12 noon

Saturday 4th April – 1pm to 4pm (following
Spring Walk & brunch)

Saturday 2nd May – 9am to 12 noon

To join the Churchyard Working Party email group
please contact the Churchwardens on
churchyard@smartinchelsfield.org.uk



Chelsfield Evening W.I.

Our speaker this month was Sue Duckworth a former volunteer at Sissinghurst Gardens. She gave us a delightful talk on the gardens with some beautiful pictures that she had taken during her time there and through the seasons. She gave us a potted history of the house before Vita and Harold bought it in the 1930s and turned it into the world renowned garden we know today. She took us through their designs and their arguments and read us excerpts from some of the letters they wrote to

each other regarding the garden and the plans they had for it. Usually they disagreed with each other each.

Our ladies have been enjoying their groups the book club is enjoying their latest book, the ladies who lunch are planning their next restaurant visit, the walking group is getting their Wellington boots out for the next walk. Our trip to Orpington Odeon to see the live streaming of the Sleeping Beauty ballet was an absolutely delightful evening.

We are trying to start up a new crafting group inspired by our trip to the craft fair, we are calling ourselves the UFP group unfinished projects !! Hopefully it means we can finally get all those half done craft projects finished.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th March when we will be having a talk on Aromatherapy For more information please call

*Lynne Wakelin
(President)
01689-835897*

Chelsfield Inundations and Puddles

As the UK struggles with the great inundations I bring to mind those that I can recall from many years living in Chelsfield Lane.

The attached clip from a bit of 16mm film I took in 1968 with an Ensign Kinecam is of the Skeet Lane junction with Chesfield Lane. Despite the large drainage pond dug here (but seldom cleared of vegetation), a large and deep puddle would often form which

would stop many an old car with its dodgy electrics. The Ramsden Tower blocks being built

can be seen where the recent scaffolding collapse occurred. Other similar drain ponds



were dug along Maypole Road, now re-piped so as to actually get the run off from the lane! There was also one opposite Bucks Cross Cottage just inside the copse, as there can often be a big lake at that junction. Another was opposite Hewitts Manor House which has recently been cleared and is useable again. For many years there was the Great Rectory Lake in Skibbs Lane until the council set large soakaways into the verge there. These too get blocked and cease to function. Canon Virgo loved having this, his private pond, as it slowed down traffic and indicated that Mother Nature always wins (see picture below)! The dip at Windsor Drive and The Meadway has also for years been another



celebrated boating pond despite the huge soakaways, recently excavated and cleaned out. The pond in Warren Road is so full it will not take run-off anymore, which does at least stop any diesel pollution. The large pond with railings along from the Village Hall did fill to the top when the water main burst in the village, which was rather fun, as I had not seen water in it for

years. Many old postcards show how it was level with the road so that horses and carts could be run into it to slake thirst and make wooden spokes tighten in summer. Craven Road, before being made up, was a fascinating moonscape of pits and puddles with grips dug surreptitiously by house owners to drain water elsewhere....

I write this missive as the Wild Tempestuous Sea is bashing away at Seaford cliffs and beach, and changing the landscape since we moved here. I have sent for some plans for an Ark as it was only about 150 years ago that the sea broke through almost to the gold course at the bottom of our road!



Philip Lane



GUIDED SPRING WALK Saturday 4th April

Circular Walk starting at
St. Martin's Church, Chelsfield
at 10.00am

Approx 4 miles - some stiles to cross

Brunch available at
the church from
11.30 to 12.30 £5



Teas and
coffees served
from 9.30 to
12.30



Followed by Churchyard Working Party
1pm to 4pm
All welcome, no experience necessary



An Early Airman's Tragic Adventure

Early 1930: It had been a depressing English winter – cold, dark and wet for weeks on end. In West Wickham, a young man who had left Australia five years earlier and settled here in the hope of marketing a compound he'd invented to make tyres puncture-proof, was feeling homesick.

That young man was Eric Hook, 27 years-old, living in a newly-built semi in a quiet road off West Wickham High Street with his wife Dorothy – an Anglo-American from Barbados who'd run away from school at the age of 16 to marry him – and their two small daughters, aged four and 2½. Patrick Hellicar told his story at January's Local History Group.

Having quit a promising career with an Australian insurance company, Eric made a lot of money trading in fur and skins before sailing in June 1924 from Adelaide and landing in England in August, shortly before his 22nd birthday. By October that year he was married. Come 1930, though happy with his family and

business, those dreary winter days were discouraging.

Then he saw a film about a disgraced First World



War pilot who redeemed himself in heroic action, and Eric left the cinema fired with an ambition – to fly from England to Australia and beat the Aussie pilot Bert Hinkler's record of 15½ days. A real fortune could be made from a successful flight, he reckoned.

Eric arranged flying lessons at Croydon Airport, found another young man willing to share the Australia adventure and bought a

Gipsy Moth 60M two-seater open-cockpit bi-plane for the flight. But Eric's proposed companion backed out so he asked Jack Matthews, a former mechanic to the record-holding Bert Hinkler, to join him. Hook and Matthews then both qualified as pilots at the end of May 1930.

Disregarding warnings from Air Ministry officials that their plan was "suicidal", they took off from Lympne airport in Kent on 20 June and headed for France. However, a leaking fuel tank forced them to put down for repairs before they reached Lyon. It was the first of many mishaps, setbacks and hold-ups.

Anxious to get back on schedule, they raced over the Mediterranean in two hops to Benghazi, then on to Cairo, Busheir in Persia (Iran) and Karachi. Once, Arab villagers unleashed rifle-fire as they flew over; desert sandstorms engulfed them; getting petrol was difficult; at various stops they faced visa problems, threats of arrest and were locked up in quarantine.

A monsoon cyclone hit them hard and, later, strong winds, engine trouble and cracks in the fuel tank grounded them at Allahabad for two days before they could reach Calcutta and tackle the fearsome 650-mile stretch to Rangoon in Burma (Myanmar) via Akyab.

Leaving Akyab on 3 July, Day 14 of their quest, they chose the shorter but more-dangerous route over the mountains to Rangoon rather than follow the coast. Within an hour they were trapped in a valley with monsoon storms all around. The Moth was swamped and, engine waterlogged, it crashed into a dense forest of bamboo trees. Jack was unhurt but Eric was injured.

They took maps and the plane's compass and set out to find Burma's great Irrawaddy River which they knew would lead them to civilisation. With Jack supporting Eric, they stumbled through the jungle in torrential rain

and met the raging river. On the sixth day, Eric, unable to go on, urged Jack to leave him. Jack struggled on alone for two more days until he came across two native bamboo cutters, who helped him to their village. Eventually, they took him to another village where a storekeeper spoke some English and a search party rushed away to seek Eric, without success.

Back in West Wickham, Dorothy Hook refused to believe her husband might be dead. Jack, meanwhile, reached Prome and told his story. Further searches were made for Eric and on 30 July his body, a mere skeleton mauled by wild animals, was discovered. Next day, he was given a hero's funeral at Prome with full military honours. Jack arrived home at Southampton in mid-September, his passage paid for by a newspaper. Eric had sunk every penny he had into the Australia adventure and as word of the plight of

Dorothy and the children spread in West Wickham the Rev Charles Barry at Emmanuel Church launched the Airman Hook Memorial Fund, which raised £1,700 – over £500,000 in today's money.

Among the hundreds of letters of condolence Dorothy received was one from a 56-year-old retired dentist from Hertfordshire whose wife had died the day Eric was reported missing. They met, he proposed and they married that November. By 1947 the marriage had ended and Dorothy, then living in the Lake District, set up a company to market Eric's puncture-proofing compound. She died in 1977.

In Memoriam notices to Eric Hook appeared in a Sydney newspaper every July for several years. But in West Wickham the memory of this brave – perhaps foolhardy – young man and his Australian exploit seems to have soon faded.

Beware - Recent Break-In

We have had a report that a shed was broken into yesterday on the 2nd February at one

of Kilnfield Cottages in Hollybush Lane. Fortunately not too much stolen but they got away

with a drill in a black Makita bag. Be aware and KEEP ALL DOORS WELL SECURED.



Chelsfield Village Hall,
Bucks Cross Road, BR6 7RL
Box Office-07816 505448
www.ticketsource.co.uk/chelsfieldplayers

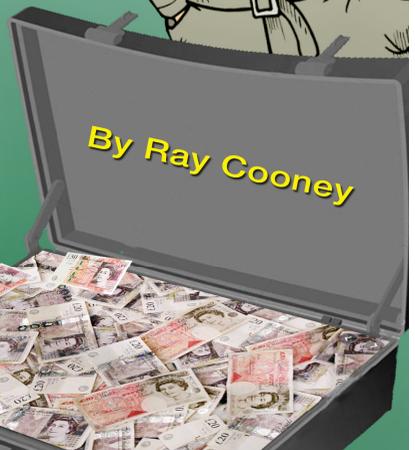


The Chelsfield Players
presents

FUNNY MONEY

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

£8.50 tickets



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. concordtheatricals.co.uk

The Five Bells Annual Charity Shield Quiz 2020

It's time again for all our quizzers to have a go at getting their team name on the Shield

Tuesday 3rd March 2020

(Please note the change of date)

@ 9.00pm

All proceeds, as usual go to charity

Simple rules: Teams are made up of up to 8 members
extra members are penalised by the loss of 2 points each

No phones

Quiz Masters' answers are final

IMPROVING LIVES AFTER A STROKE



RACE NIGHT



CHARITY EVENT FOR ICARE DAY CENTRE TRUST

7.00 - 10.30pm on Saturday 18th April 2020

St Mary's Church Hall, Worlds End Lane

Green Street Green BR6 6AG

Tables of 6

Entrance fee : £5 per punter

Raffle

For more details and bookings contact Sue Chown on

01689 862883 or icare01@hotmail.co.uk

In Memory of Josh

My name is Victoria,

My son Josh was tragically killed on Court Road in April last year by an elderly driver. I have set up a petition for a change in the GP consent on elderly drivers D46P law. We need as many signatures as

possible. To sign the petition please contact me at:

victoria.b.84@icloud.com

For more information if you would like to sign.

We have also set up a charity in memory of Josh if you could share we would be extremely

grateful.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/joshys-heart-of-gold-trust?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Thank you for your time
Victoria Battman

Tree Down in Bucks Cross



The Weather throughout February has been quite atrocious, with high winds and rain causing untold grief and damage throughout the country.

We in Chelsfield had our small share of it too. This picture is of a tree that came down in Bucks Cross Road, close to the entrance to the allotments.

However, it did not stop the bus getting through, and for a couple of days, before the Bromley Council had it reduced to chippings, it served as a very welcome piece of traffic calming!

Much of the rest of the village suffered trees down and power cuts too.

Well Hill Mission Concert - DATE CHANGE!

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

On **SUNDAY 28th June at 2.45pm**

FURTHER DETAILS WILL FOLLOW SO WATCH THIS SPACE

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

We apologise for the incorrect date published in the February issue of the Village Voice

Mother's Day (22nd March) at The 5 Bells

The Five Bells have a special two or three course menu (with chocolates to finish) for this very special day, with three sittings -

1st sitting 12.00 to 14.00
2nd sitting 14.30 to 16.30
and 3rd sitting at 17.00

Please call the 5 Bells on
01689 821044 to reserve

your table
(an £8
deposit per
person is
required)



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council

Main switchboard:
020 8464 3333

E-mail: fixmystreet.com

Opening hours Monday to
Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm

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

Reporting Problems to the Council

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

Neighbourhood Watch

John Leach 07711304965.

NHS Non-Emergency 111
Chelsfield Primary School

01689 825827

BMI Chelsfield Park Hospital

Main Reception
01689 877855

Physiotherapy
01689 885920

Outpatients
01689 885905

Councillors

Mike Botting-
mike.botting@bromley.gov.uk

Angela Page
angela.page@bromley.gov.uk
Samaris Huntington-Thresher
samaris.huntington-thresher@bromley.gov.uk

Chelsfield Village Voice

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

Chelsfield Village Hall

(bookings) **01689 831826** or
email to:
cvhlettings@gmail.com

Chelsfield Players

info@chelsfieldplayers.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY SUNDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive
Live Singer
From 6.30pm Contact 01689 880288

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall,
Windsor Drive
Iyengar Yoga Classes
9.30am-11.00am
Suitable for Beginners
Contact Denise 01689 853215

EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Christ Church Hall,
Charterhouse Rd

Pilates Classes

Monday

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

Tuesday

7.15pm Beginners Pilates
8.25pm Mixed Ability Pilates

Wednesday

9.30am Mixed Ability Pilates
10.40pm Beginners / Improvers

Friday

8.45am Pilates with weights
10.00am Beginners/Improvers
Pilates

Saturday

8.45am Mixed Ability Pilates
10am Beginners/Improvers Pilates
see www.orpingtonpilates.co.uk
for more information contact
sally@orpingtonpilates.co.uk
Ph. 07786 035640

EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room
St Martin's Toddler Group
10.30am-12.00 midday
Contact
stmartinstoddlers@gmail.com

EVERY TUESDAY

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive
Quiz Night
From 8.00pm Info: 01689 880288

EVERY TUESDAY

Five Bells
Charity Quiz Night
from 9.00pm

EVERY TUES WED THURS & FRI Pilates & Pre & Post Natal Pilates Courses

Tues @ Warren Road School

7-8pm Pregnancy Pilates (from 14 weeks)

8.10pm Pilates (Mixed Level)

Wed @ Pratts Bottom Village Hall

9.35am & 10.45am (Mixed Level)

Wed@Chelsfield Methodist Church Hall

7pm (Beginners) & 8.10pm (Mixed Level)
7pm (Mixed Level) & 8.10pm (Intermediate)

Thursday@ Chelsfield Methodist Hall

8.20pm - Pilates (Mixed Level)

Fri @ Chelsfield Methodist Church Hall

9.35am (Mixed Level) & 10.45am
(Intermediate)
12.1pm—Post Natal Pilates (Babies
Welcome)

For further information contact:

bethanylucaspilates.co.uk
bethanylucaspilates@gmail.com
07415 638546

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga Classes

10.30am-12.00am
Contact Pam Keeper
01732 458930

EVERY FRIDAY

The Chelsfield (Windsor Drive)

DJ NIGHT

From 8.30pm Contact
01689 880288

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday 2nd March

(1st Monday of Month)

Brass Crosby Room
St Martins Memory Cafe
2-4pm. Contact Jackie McCann
01689 854119
memorycafe@stmartinchelsfield.org.uk

Tuesday 3rd March

The Five Bells

Annual Charity Shield QUIZ

Starts at 9.00pm

Thursday 5th March

The Five Bells

Jazz Night at The Bells

Music Starts 8.30pm

Saturday 7th March

St. Martins Church
Churchyard Working Party
09.00am to 12 noon

Saturday 7th March

The Chelsfield, Windsor Drive
Singles Karaoke
from 8.30pm

Wednesday 11th March

(2nd Wednesday Every Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

Afternoon W.I.

Newcomers Welcome
Contact Sue on 01689 827407

Wednesday 11th March

The Five Bells

Open Mic Night

Music Starts 8.30pm

Sunday 15th March

Starts at The Five Bells

The BIG Chelsfield Street Clean

Meet at 10.30am

Sunday 15th March

Well Hill

Well Hill Clean-Up Day

Meet at 10.30am

Tuesday 17th March

(3rd Tuesday Every Month)

Chelsfield Village Hall

Evening W.I.

Newcomers Welcome

From 7.45pm Lisa Lobb (Secretary) on
01689 608070

Saturday 21st March

(4th Saturday in Each Month)

Coolings Garden Centre, Knockholt

Knockholt Farmers Market

from 9.00am to 1.00pm

Wednesday 25th March

The Five Bells

Open Mic Night

Music Starts 8.30pm

Thursday 26th March

(Last Thursday of each Month)

Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

Starts 10.30am

Thursday 3rd-Saturday 4th April

Chelsfield Village Hall
Chelsfield Players present

Funny Money

Door Open 7.30pm Tickets £8.50
Box Office 07816 505448

Saturday 4th April

St Martins Church

Guided Spring Walk

Starts 10.30

Saturday 4th April

St. Martins Church

Churchyard Working Party

After Spring Walk and lunch

Saturday 18th April

St Mary's Church Hall, Worlds End Ln.

Race Night

Proceeds to iCARE (See Page 13)

Sunday 28th June

Well Hill Mision Church

Well Hill Musical Concert

Starts 2.45pm

Saturday 11th July

Chelsfield Recreation Ground

CHELSEFIELD VILLAGE FAIR

Starts Midday