



March 2021

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## COULD THIS REALLY BE THE WAY AHEAD?

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

### 8 March

Schools, Colleges and Universities return  
Outdoor exercise with household or support bubble, or one person outside their household permitted.  
Care home residents allowed one regular visitor.

### 29 March

Outdoor gatherings of 6 people or 2 households allowed.  
Outdoor sports facilities and open-air swimming reopen.  
The 'stay at home' rule will end.  
Travel abroad prohibited, other than for permitted reasons.  
Holidays abroad will not be allowed.

### 12 April

Non-essential retail; hairdressers, nail salons, public buildings reopen.  
Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms reopen (for use by single people or household groups).  
Zoos, theme parks etc. reopen  
Self-contained accommodation, campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities aren't shared, reopen.  
Hospitality venues allowed to serve people outdoors but customers must order, eat, drink while seated  
Funerals continue with up to 30 mourners,  
Attendees at weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.

### 17 May

Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply  
Pubs and restaurants will reopen - venues will NOT have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks.  
Customers will, have to order, eat and drink while seated.  
Other indoor locations such as cinemas and children's play areas, hotels, hostels and B&Bs; indoor adult group sports and exercise classes reopen.  
Some larger events in indoor venues reopen  
Up to 30 people may attend weddings, receptions, funerals and wakes.

### 21 June

Remove all legal limits on social contact.  
Reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease all remaining restrictions on large events and performances

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At last there may be light at the end of the tunnel.

Please continue to take care, wear facemasks and keep distancing until all risks are over.

In the mean time share with us your stories and experiences.

Submit anything for inclusion in the April 2021 issue to:

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

or post to:

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

to arrive on or before  
Saturday 27th March 2021

## The Rabbit

Back in January we had a cold Saturday morning and the trees were exhibiting a fine example of 'hoar frost'. This is where tree branches and everything else gets covered in moisture



(usually overnight) which then freezes leaving a very Christmassy look to everything – see photo which shows a neighbour's ornamental beech tree. I'm sure the birds don't enjoy it though. On occasion birds can find their feet are frozen to the spot they have chosen to roost upon and this can often be fatal. But onto other matters. Before I get into this

month's subject I'd like to follow up the preamble by mentioning light pollution. Over the year's I have notice more and more sources of unnecessary light at night in the village. One can argue the case for security but surely a movement sensitive security light that only operates when it detects an intruder is more effective than a light that merely allows thieves to see 'what's on offer'. I bring this subject up as waste light is disorientating for animals and ruins the spectacle of the night sky. In fact a week during February was set aside by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) asking the public to count the number of stars they could see within the constellation of Orion. The greater the light pollution the fewer stars that would be visible. I remember a situation many years ago when one of my neighbours had a very bright light that was left on all night and local

birds would be going about there usual chores at 3 am thinking it was daylight – clearly not a healthy situation. Recent changes to the street lights have helped as the units are lower power and far more effective at directing the light to where it's needed. However, now it seems both houses and small industrial units seem keen to banish the dark and slowly but surely we all lose the gift of seeing the night sky while also disturbing the wildlife. O.K, rant over.

So this month I want to talk about the common, or if you're unlucky, garden rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)! Man has had a long association with the rabbit. Despite many 'just-so' stories about how man domesticated rabbits, nobody knows for sure when this happened. Some sources refer to the Romans or even earlier but the reality is more likely to be a slow evolution of association. First they were hunted

for food, then penned in and treated as fresh food kept for a rainy day, they became pets and then larger, specific warrens were created for the raising and farming of rabbits for the feast table. They were not originally a native species to Britain and it is often said that it was the Romans that bought them here. But however they arrived in Britain, they are now a staple of British wildlife and like mice, act as the one of the base species for predators.

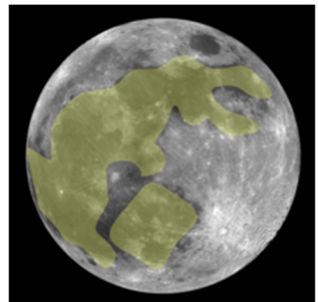
Being herbivores, but small, rabbits need to process their food, chiefly grass, efficiently. Large herbivores such as cows manage this by having multiple stomachs and regurgitating their food

to be re-masticated. This would be impractical for a rabbit so the food is allowed to pass through their system producing two types of droppings at the other end. Some of these are hard and are immediately re-eaten to further remove minerals, vitamins and protein that has not been removed during the first passing. This process is known as Hind-gut fermentation.

Historically rabbits have a long association with folklore. They were sacred to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, beauty, and marriage for rabbits had "the gift of Aphrodite" (fertility). In Greece, the gift of a rabbit was a common love token. While in Rome, the gift of a rabbit was intended to help a

barren wife conceive.

The Romans recorded that rabbits and hares were taboo foods for Celtic tribes who used rabbits and hares for divination and other shamanic practices. It was believed that rabbits burrowed underground in order to better commune with the spirit world and that they could carry messages from the living to the dead and from humankind to the fairies.



In Asia there is a Buddhist story that tells of a monkey, an otter, a jackal and a rabbit who resolved to practice charity on the day of the full moon, believing a demonstration of great virtue would earn a great reward. When an old man begged for food from them, the



monkey gathered fruits from the trees and the otter collected fish, while the jackal found a lizard and a pot of milk-curd. The rabbit, who knew only how to gather grass, instead offered its own body, throwing itself into a fire the man had prepared. The old man revealed that he was Sakra, the ruler of heaven, and touched by the rabbit's virtue, drew the likeness of the rabbit on the Moon for all to see.

No piece about the rabbit would be complete without a reference to Myxomatosis. This

disease originated in the South American tapeti, or cottontail rabbit and is a classic example of a disease passing from one species to another. It is only mild in the tapeti but initially had a lethality of almost 100% in European rabbits. The disease was originally introduced in Australia and Europe in the 1950s and this had unintended consequences for predators such as the Iberian lynx and Spanish Imperial Eagle which were almost driven to extinction. With time the European rabbit population has recovered although I have not seen the numbers that I

remember from my childhood. I do however have a small warren in the field across the lane from me – see photo - but now another disease is threatening them. It's called Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease 'RVHD' and it's already spreading through Britain. It sounds like Ebola for rabbits but there is a vaccination available although it will clearly be of little use to the wild population. Whether it decimates the rabbit population like myxomatosis did or the population quickly builds up resistance is yet to be seen.

*Steve Fuller*

## Mutterings From The Millers

Well at last it has stopped raining, we had 28ml last month and as of the start of March we will be trying to catch up on all the farm work that needs attention. The first job will be to apply a spray on the crops to kill off the weeds and then later in the month apply the first dose of fertiliser as the crops are just starting to grow again. Despite the road being open to traffic, Steve

managed to trim back some of the overgrown hedge at the top of Warren Road, but the window for hedge cutting is now closed so the rest will have to be left until September. If our side of the road is closed, we will have an opportunity to cut back the large overhanging boughs as this is not covered under hedge flailing. The boys have been doing a little bit of maintenance on the

tractors and one of the plastic components on the main value block of the sprayer had broken. Surprise, surprise only £12.40 for the part. As you can see from the photo, a little bit of "gentle persuasion" helped to put it back together. All the straw has been sold, so no deliveries until the next harvest.

The boys completed the





not spring until you can put a foot down on twelve daisies. The garden bulbs have started to bloom and I have winter aconites along with snowdrops, tulips and tete a tete blooming in the garden, the wallflowers are just starting to bud and there will be daffodils for St. David's day and shamrock for St Patrick's day. The birds will start nesting soon and the skylarks have started to sing again which is a great delight to hear.

Most people know the English proverb of March coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb but here is a different one.

***When March blows its horn  
your barn will be filled  
with hay and corn***

*Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm*

on line course with NRoSO successfully thankfully. Have to take back my words from last month as Steve found it easy to complete scoring 93% with 80% as the pass mark.

Although we have deer

here from time to time, we have been surprised to see about 5 or 6 deer throughout the winter grazing in the middle of the big field. You can see them sometimes from the footpath near the station. Spring starts on the 20th March but apparently it is

## Join a Knitting Group?

Does anyone in the village fancy a knit and a chat?

I thought it would be nice to get a group together over zoom, and

maybe one day we can knit together in person!

You may text me on  
**07983 656022**  
if you'd like to join on  
Tuesday 16 March at

5:30pm, and I can talk through using zoom if you haven't used it before. ☺

*Sophie Foreman*

## Chelsfield Snow Memories



*Snow Walk 1935 - Looks like a stills shot from a 1920's gangster film! Presumably in Skibbs Lane. I think it was staff and friends from the Bells. I like the leather high heeled boots she is wearing - quite pricey I reckon!*

*Phil Lane*



*Bob Hogben's final shovelling! December 2009*



*Snow Warren Rd 1960*

## Avoid & Report Internet Scams & Phishing

I have been receiving, in this "lock down period" a lot of scam emails and I forward these to:  
[report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

If we can just forward the emails, then I understand GCHQ get shared the data and they can try to get to the bottom of these gangs. If we do not send the details, we will never stop

this traffic. So please just forward anything suspicious to them, (They send back an acknowledgment email to you)

Report any misleading websites, emails, phone numbers, phone calls or text messages you think may be suspicious. Do not give out private information (such as bank details or

passwords), and do not reply to text messages, download attachments or click on any links in emails if you're not sure they're genuine.

For more information go to:  
<https://www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails-websites-phishing>

*John Leach*

## Good Memories of Chelsfield Village

I enjoyed reading the article in last month's Voice "50 Years Living in Chelsfield". I have lived in the village for 43 years so thought I would write what I have learned about village life.

In 1978 my husband Patrick and I purchased Stonehouse and began our life in what seemed to be the heart of the countryside. We both loved it back then and I still do. We were both working in Blackheath and it was only when our daughter Patricia was born in 1980 that I started to spend more time in the village. I got to know Doug and Ivy Parkes, then landlords of the Five Bells, and became friends with their daughter-in-law Jane as our little daughters played together. Canon Virgo was one of the first people to welcome me to the village we stayed firm friends over the following years.

I too remember the shop in the village. The lady who served there was elderly and I cannot remember very much

about her. The shop closed down about eighteen months after I arrived here and I wished at the time and still do in a way that the shop could have remained open for business as it was a meeting place for villagers.

A lady named Gladys Wells (The Avon Lady) introduced me to the W. I. When trying to persuade me to join she said "It is not all Jam and Jerusalem", and she was right. I joined and made many friends, even served as president for a few years, and enjoyed every minute of the time I was involved. I still attend the meetings whenever I can but I take a back seat now. We have some very nice younger ladies running things. Come and try it (when things go back to normal), you might like it. Ladies only please!

I have been into the village Primary school, especially when the headmaster was a Mr Jerry Jarvis, and Ann Mead would get the

children involved in the Produce Day competitions. The children were encouraged to cook or draw or make some sort of object. I would go to the school and give out the prizes at a later date. My husband Patrick was a one of the judges on the wine stall (in the adult's categories!) and I have to say he always had a really nice day tasting the wine!! It was an enjoyable time but like lots of things after many years the enthusiasm went and sadly it was decided that it was not worth the effort to run it any longer.

Harry Munn the cowman was mentioned in Dan's article. One thing I remember about him was that he liked his Guinness in the Five Bells at a regular time daily (who doesn't).

The Chelsfield Hospital was for a short while a restaurant. Now it is a very nice hospital with pleasant staff. I have been an in-patient twice and although hospital is not a good place to be

I must say I recommend the Chelsfield if it's necessary.

Browns school offers out the children once a year to do various tasks for the villagers. I have found the children I have welcomed onto my home very well behaved. So were the teachers. I look forward to this activity being resumed.

Must mention the Five Bells Public House. I have known 4 sets of publicans in my time in the village, all very different. My family have shared many fun times

with Kay and Ade over the last few years. I hope there are many more to be had in the future. The mournful sound of the sign creaking on a quiet dog walk reminds me of so many novels setting the scene for some drama. I look forward to seeing people making merry sat at the tables outside.

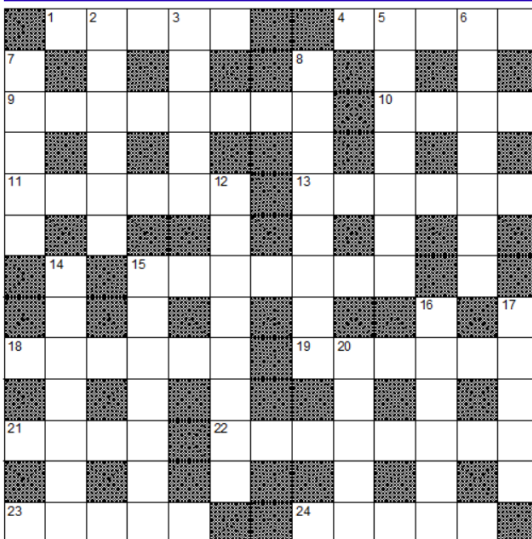
I am sorry John Tranter is leaving the village ( and I am sure he has never rambled on!). He may not know this but I see John every day... on my computer. He officiated over the

wedding of my daughter Patricia and this is my rolling screen saver (and very good he looks too, very smiley just what you want at a wedding. The bride looks good too!) I hope he and Janet enjoy their eventual retirement.

I will end with my final thought that the Village is truly a very nice place to live. A lovely old church and a lovely pub, nice people living around me. I have been so very happy here and hope to continue to be so for quite a while more!

*Bridget O'Donnell*

## Food & Drink Crossword (Solution Page 11)



### ACROSS

1. Butty meat (5)
4. Base ingredient of Tequila (5)
9. Taken to stimulate the appetite (8)
10. Take tea after this (4)
11. A form of measure (6)
13. A cold drink for two (3,3)
15. Swiss coagulation of milk protein casein (7)
18. Scorched dessert (6)
19. Plant substances used for colour or flavour (6)
21. Meat popular in Caribbean and South Asia (4)
22. Mamma used to make this (5,3)
23. From which a plant will grow (1,4)
24. Heinz "Just Like Eddie" singer bakes beans (5)



**DOWN**

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 2. Vibrant orange Spritz ingredient (6)     | 12. Common kitchen utensil (8) |
| 5. A sponge where eggs are beaten whole (7) | 14. King of fish (6)           |
| 6. Flower sometimes used in cooking (7)     | 15. Buckwheat crepe (7)        |
| 7. South Asian spicy noodle soup (5)        | 16. A neutered cockerel (1,5)  |
| 8. They might get in a mess eating here (8) | 17. Beautiful cakes Jane (5)   |
|   | 20. The beat of a legume (5)   |

## Browns Xmas Shoebox Appeal

Dear All,

In these very challenging times I thought I would bring some GOOD news for a change, even though the event took place a couple of months ago.

As I am sure most of you are aware Brown’s School has always participated in as many charitable events that we can throughout the year.

Because of Covid the many charitable events involving the students has unfortunately diminished for obvious reasons. But one that we have managed to continue to deliver over the last 6 years is the Xmas Shoebox Appeal for children in Romania. For these poor children the Xmas present in a shoebox is the only present they will have received for Christmas. So it is with great pleasure to announce that the school managed to send over 100 wrapped Xmas shoebox



presents to our friends in Romania.

For the first time ever I received a picture of the presents being presented to 5 small children in Romania. You can see from the photo just what a hardship such children must be living under! It also should be a reminder that even through the disasters of Covid we are still immeasurably luckier than many others, especially our children.



In this ever changing reality it still shows that a small amount of charity/care/help can mean so much for others we may not even know.

With the coming back to some sort of “Normality” the school hopes to be quickly back on a full load of charitable events to support in the future.

Many Blessings,

*Chris Ponulak  
Deputy Headteacher  
Brown’s School*

## Chelsfield Equestrian Centre - March Update

We are very pleased to announce we shall be opening up on the 29th March.

Our clients and staff are very excited and we are looking forward to welcoming them all back.

We offer a very wide

range of horse sports and are not afraid to try anything, after all riding should be about having fun and we all need some of that at the moment.

We offer riding lessons for all abilities/ages to all levels, jumping, vaulting, horseball, archery on

horseback and equine assisted therapy.

Here are some pictures of our amazing instructors and even more amazing horses/ponies all of whom are raring to go. Even the horses/ponies are getting bored.



## Update Forwarded by Councillor Mike Botting

As coronavirus infection rates continue to fall nationally and across London, it is pleasing to note that this is also happening in our Borough, with work continuing in all our key areas to both minimise the spread of the virus and to support residents and business. In addition to the work programmes underway to support residents and businesses, I want to both **ask for your support with our testing programme** and highlight the NHS vaccination programme, with both these initiatives designed to stop the spread of the virus.

**Testing programme for those without symptoms** – We have tested over 10,000 people now and our frontline staff are going forwards for regular testing to help protect residents and their colleagues at both our Bromley and Penge testing sites. These facilities are not just for Bromley staff but for anyone who is working in a frontline role and whilst you may already have seen some communications about this, I warmly encourage you to share this information with your resident contacts as we need the right people, those who are working outside their home, to come

forwards for testing. Tests can be booked by visiting [www.bromley.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/rapidtesting).

This proactive testing work for those without symptoms is separate from the Government testing facilities which are continuing to be operated within our Borough which are booked via the national portal but the strong advice for those without symptoms and working in the community with direct contact with others is that

they should undergo regular testing, which is something we are providing.

**Vaccination programme** – good progress is now being made with vaccinations locally, with virtually all residents in care homes now vaccinated, apart from where covid infections have prevented this work for instance. As you know, whilst the Council is not responsible for the vaccination programme, we are supporting this

### Crossword Answers

	1	B	A	C	O	N			4	A	G	A	V	E	
7	L	P	N				8	O		E		I			
9	A	P	E	R	I	T	I	F		10	N	O	O	N	
	K	R	O				F		O		L				
11	S	P	O	O	N	S			13	I	C	E	T	E	A
	A	L			A	C			S		T				
	14	T			15	G	R	U	Y	E	R	E		S	
		U		A		C		R			16	A		17	A
18	B	R	U	L	E	E			19	S	P	I	C	E	S
	B		E		P				U		A		H		
21	G	O	A	T			22	A	P	P	L	E	P	I	E
	T		T		N				S		O		R		
23	A	S	E	E	D				24	H	E	I	N	Z	



important programme where we can and plans are advancing for a mass vaccination centre to be opened at the Civic Centre which the Leader announced a few days ago. The opening of this centre is still a few weeks away and we will update you about this in due course.

Also, you may have already picked these details up, with the Government confirming this a few days ago but to confirm those aged over 65 who have not yet received their first COVID vaccination are now being invited to proactively book online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus->

[vaccination/how-you-will-be-contacted/](#) for their vaccination. We understand that the majority of residents over 70 will already have received their vaccination but you can advise your residents that an invitation letter is no longer needed for those aged over 65; people will only need to give either their NHS number or their postcode and date of birth.

**Break covid not the rules** – We have been carefully monitoring activity across the Borough, in High Streets and parks etc and generally we have been pleased that residents have been seeking to follow the guidance. We are aware though in certain busy parks for instance

that sometimes social distancing guidelines are not always being as closely followed as we would like. To assist with this and encourage better social distancing we are introducing new signage 'Break Covid – not the rules' to help underline the need for social distancing at all times, with this message still very much needed even when someone is vaccinated.

Residents can visit [www.bromley.gov.uk/Rapid Testing](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/RapidTesting)

Kind regards

**Ade Adetosoye OBE**  
Chief Executive  
London Borough of  
Bromley

## Recycling Bin Collection March 2021

Monday 1st March	Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,
Monday 8th March	Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.
Monday 15th March	Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,
Monday 22nd March	Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.
Monday 29th March	Plastic, Glass and Tins, Food Waste,
Wednesday 7th April	Non-recyclable refuse, Paper & Cardboard, Food Waste.
Every week	Batteries, Small Electrical Items, Textiles (please only present one small transparent bag each week, and re-present the following week if it is not collected)