

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

October 2010

Antiques and Collectibles Valuation



by Catherine Southon an antiques expert, regularly seen on BBC's "Flog It". She is the former head of scientific instruments at Sotheby's and previously trained in Maritime Art

Saturday October 16th

10am—1.00pm

in the Brass Crosby Room

3 Items for £5.00 - in aid of Church Funds Refreshments will be available Details from Anne 01689 826349

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WANTED!

Amusing stories and anecdotes, old photos, forthcoming events?

SEND IT IN

Contributions for our November issue should be emailed to:

villagevoice@chelsfield.org

or posted to: Chelsfield Village Voice 2 Bucks Cross Cottages Chelsfield Village

BR67RN

Visit www.chelsfieldevents.co.uk



Village Broadband News

The bad news is that CVS have had a reply from Virgin Media about the fibre optic cable infrastructure through the village that they now own. Their email is below:

We have completed our investigation into the area you suggested for cable infill.

To cable this area would require a major network extension. There are no immediate plans to extend the network into new areas if this requires main build - as this is very expensive. As we find new ways of serving areas such as this that are beyond the existing network, we can look at

your request further.

I appreciate this is not good news, but be assured our team have investigated this very thoroughly and will continue to look for other solutions that may help us achieve this in the future.'

The good news is, at a recent meeting between the CVS and our local councillors, the poor general state of our broadband was mentioned. This was recently taken up by our new councillor Russell Jackson who together with our MP Jo Johnson, recently met BT's Head of Public Affairs at the House of Commons earlier in the summer to lobby for

better Broadband access for Chelsfield Village and Pratts Bottom. This was followed by a reply from BT, an extract of which is below

'I'm sure you will be delighted to note that we have added our exchanges in Biggin Hill, Farnborough, Orpington and Sydenham to the programme, ensuring that the vast majority of locations in the London Borough of Bromley are now included in our £2.5bn Super-fast Broadband investment programme. We expect services to be available in these new locations by Autumn 2011.

Post Collections in the Village

A number of village residents have mentioned that the post box opposite the 5 Bells, often appears to be collected before the 5:45 advertised collection time, presumably

so the driver can get home early. This week the van collected around 4:30! This can cause residents to miss the one and only collection we have per day, an annoyance if

it's a letter that really needs to arrive the next day. If any residents notice this, could they please contact the VV or the CVS so we can pursue this with the Royal Mail.



Waitrose Collects for Chelsfield Village Hall

For those who didn't know, Waitrose, Green Street Green, have a local charity scheme, to which customers are offered the opportunity to donate towards any of three local charities.

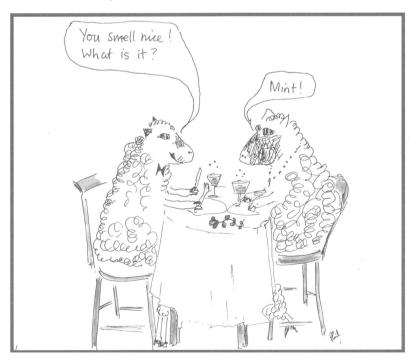
When shoppers have paid for their goods, they may take a / some (I never know how many I'm permitted to take, so a small handful is usually

the way!) green plastic discs, which you may deposit in any of three local charity boxes as you leave. At the end of each month, depending on how many discs each box contains, a donation is made to that charity. The charities are changed each month.

Throughout October one of the three charities is our own Chels-

field Village Hall. So please, please, please, if you are shopping at Waitrose, please donate one, or better still, some of your green discs to the village hall!

If you have a charity in need of support why not pick up one of the application forms in Waitrose, or enquire at the customer services desk.



Cartoon from the collection "Bar Lambs" by Philip Lane



Local History Group

Dr Colin Dawson, the guest speaker at the September meeting, gave us a talk about the history of the Priory. This was very appropriate due to the current plans for the building.

When the Friends of Priory Gardens was formed Dr Dawson became its president. Under the new plans the old library will become part of the museum and LBB artefacts will be available and on display.

The 1086 Doomsday Book shows the Priory and surrounding lands belonging to monks and a stone hut was used as a travellers' staging post. The land was given to Richard of Gloucester. In 1270 Hugh de Mortimer, the rector, held court to settle a dispute between the monks and a local landowner over ownership. The roof of the hut blew off and disappeared. A new hut was built in 1290.

In 1294 there was a water wheel and mill nearby, valued at £6 11s 7d. A self sufficient community settled around the river. Repairs to the hall

required 5s 9d worth of nails and plaster and a new stable block in 1296 cost £7 10s. In 1390 rooms were added and a prior was elected who made improvements.

In 1543 after the dissolution of the monasteries the land and revenue were taken by the crown and leased to the Hart Dykes of Lullingstone with a rent of 100s 1p and 3 farthings. Queen Elizabeth I stayed in the Hart Dyke house opposite the Priory. In 1630 the land was leased to Baron Spencer (THE Spencer family) and from then on was in private ownership. In the old part of All Saints Church memorials can be seen to the gentry of the time. During the Civil War the Spencer family supported the King. The Earl departed for France for his safety, returning later to take over again.

In the 1840s the building was called The Rectory. There is a so called myth that there is a secret passage to the church used by monks and a ghostly monk walks the grounds. There was an under-

ground passage from the kitchens to the hall used by the Spencer family, part of which still remains.

There were frequent changes of ownership in the 1800s. Col. Benjamin Lake, president of the Law Society and life member of the Archaeological Society undertook major alterations, moving window frames and constructing a minstrels gallery and a new staircase. Lake was found guilty of embezzling Law Society funds and was heavily in debt. The next owner installed wood panelling. In 1919 the Hughes family took over ownership. Hughes was a very wealthy publisher and designed and built the gardens. Labour was cheap and plentiful after WWI with the 3 levels being dug entirely by hand. Mrs Hughes produced plays in an open air theatre. Mr Hughes died in 1940 and the building was let to Orpington District Council to use as offices during the WWII. With no thought for the history of the building holes were



made through walls and rooms divided. In 1947 the offices moved out and the new library was built.

Orpington museum was set up in 1965 and more recently became the LBB museum. Few councillors seem to be aware of its existence. Dr Dawson regularly invites the Mayor and Mayoress to the museum and gardens to raise their awareness.

Plans to extend the museum have been shown to the councillors who were impressed. However, success depends on the outcome of grant applications. With the library moving to new premises this is an excellent opportunity to get the museum extended. The new curator has been keeping records of visitors and has shown that the museum currently has the greatest number of visitors of any Bromley attractions and the largest number of visiting children. With a larger museum showing more of the borough's historical artefacts there would be even more visitors.

The Friends of Priory Gardens was the first friends of a park group to be set up in the borough and welcomes new members. If you are interested in joining the Friends of Priory Gardens, please send your name, address and telephone number to:

Mrs H Pender Membership Secretary, 110 Avalon Rd, Orpington, Kent. BR6 9BA

Annual subscription £7.50, Family £10, Senior or under 18 £3

Cheques to The Friends of Priory Gardens, Next subscription due on 1st Jan & annually.

The next local history meeting will be on 21st October in the Brass Crosby Room.

Traffic & Parking - Wish List Progress

We recently heard from our local councillors that Bromley Council had scheduled their proposed response to our wish list on the agenda of a council meeting. This was particularly a surprise to one of our councillors who sits on the committee and knew nothing of his until she received the agenda a few days before the meeting. The councillors have worked with us in presenting our

ideas to the council and have asked for this agenda item to be postponed as the proposals were not regarded as suitable and should have been presented to the residents beforehand. The council's proposals are unimaginative and inappropriate. In particular they seem to want to apply rules that are not applied elsewhere in the borough and to introduce "gateways" far more

suitable to the urban scene than a conservation area. The proposed treatment is also likely to be more costly than what we requested. We are insistent upon a more suitable scheme. Discussions are ongoing and we intend that any scheme will be put before the residents for comment before it is accepted and implemented.



Neighbourhood Watch

We have been asked by our local Safer Neighbourhood Team to be on the lookout for a company called **Reinforced Paving**. They have a website www.reinforcedpaving.net.

One of their vans has been seen in Bromlev, a white VW panel van NA 57 LYY with sign writing of the company details, and it is strongly suspected that this company is a reincarnation of another called Ground Force who were about the Borough earlier this year. They were using a false trading address and other false details. The man behind Ground Force was named John Thompson, believed to be resident somewhere in Bromley. The description

Lost for words

of the man seen with the Reinforced Paving van was remarkably similar to Thompson.

The design of the images on the home page of the website is the same as that of Ground Force....only the phone numbers have been changed.

As yet, we are not aware of any offences by Reinforced Paving. If you have any information regarding the below please contact the SNT on the usual number (020 8721 2605) or the crime rapid response number 07903 852090.

A Chelsfield Village resident recently came home

after only 20 minutes or so away, to find an attempted break in had taken place, with a large shoe print showing where someone had attempted to kick in the front door. Luckily the door frame and the good quality locks were strong enough to resist their efforts. The police were informed After the recent SNT warning on a recent increase in local crime. please ensure that all doors are secure, and any vale locks are replaced with something more secure. Any suspicious behaviour or vehicles in the village should be reported to the SNT.

Dingbat Answers

Here are the answers (in bold) to the remaining Dingbats from the last		14)	Engmadeland	18)	happiness
		15)	Made in England	19)	Spread a little happiness X I S T.
issue.	IIb J		Au pair	,	N
11)	Horobod Robin Hood	16	Ban ana		G
12)	LX:AST		Banana split		10 Downing Street
12)	Last but not least			20)	knee
13)	Lost words words words words words	17)	c o d Lo h L mon		torch lamp candle
			Fish out of water		Inflamed joint

Fish out of water



Letter - Reply Re: Insurance Quotes

I was pleased to see the item regarding insurance comparison web sites. My was well worth it! I urge family was already aware of these sites and recently used them when renewing our house and car

insurances. We saved a total of around £850 so it everyone else to make use of them. Lovalty no longer means reduced premiums. The same applies to interest rates offered on bank and building society accounts. Keep an eye on those too

Catherine Gandolfi

Produce Show Accounts

As promised, the accounts for the Produce Show are as follows:

Income

moonic				
Raffle	£207.90			
Entry fees	£58.35			
Refreshments	£15.75			
Total	£282.00			
Expenditure				
Raffle prizes	£98.00			
Show prizes	£130.00			
Judges' gifts	£35.00			
Judges' refreshments				
& tea and cakes	£25.00			
Hall Hire	£65.00			
Printing	£16.30			
Total	£369.30			

Net cost of show £87.30 Split 50/50 with Well Hill Cost to

Chelsfield Village Society

£43.65

The Bromley Talking **Newspaper for the Blind**

How many of us have heard of Talking Newspapers for the blind? These are a local newspaper as spoken word. on CD or audio cassette specially produced for those with a visual impairment. There are around 500 of these organisations throughout the country, and the Bromley District Talking News is just one of these. This is run from its studio near Bromley North and it produces a weekly edition on either cassette or CD and soon to be on memory stick. specially produced for those who cannot see, or have a visual impairment. It is packed with local news, comment, useful information and interesting articles, designed to keep listeners fully informed about their

local community.

Recipients enjoy listening every week, keeping them just as informed as their sighted friends and relatives. This is a free service staffed by unpaid volunteers that covers the whole of the London Borough of Bromley. Generously the Royal Mail bears the cost of delivery, without which the Talking News could not operate. Over 300 listeners currently receive the Talking News. Most live locally, others live further afield, all keen to catch up with the borough's news if they have moved away or have a connection with the Bromley Borough.

How is it produced?

Each edition is prepared by a panel of editors. using local newspapers



as a source for the news. It is then recorded by one of our reading/ recording teams. Using high speed copying equipment other teams make hundreds of copies onto CD's and audio cassettes which are dispatched by post to listeners. A few days later all cassettes and CD's are returned and these are prepared to go out again with the next week's edition.

Why a talking newspaper?

The Talking Newspaper keeps blind and visually impaired people in touch with their local community. It also enables our listeners to maintain an active interest in life in and around the borough of Bromley.

The arrival of familiar and trusted voices into their homes each week provides a sense of belonging and gives our listeners the independence of keeping in touch with the local community.

How is it organised?

Founded in 1974 and originally named the Bromley Cassette, the Bromley and District Talking Newspaper Association is a registered charity with a board of trustees that meet regularly and is elected each autumn at the AGM. Over 60 volunteers ensure that the Talking News is produced, copied and delivered each week without fail.

What some of our listeners think:

"I cannot read the paper anymore, but I know more about events in the borough than my sighted friends".

"We must be the best informed people in Bromley".

"My mother enjoys it so much, she used to read the local newspaper avidly, and now she hears the friendly voices with great pleasure".

For more details, or to receive the talking news, contact:

The Bromley District Talking News, 'Northlands', Freelands Grove, Bromley BR1 3LH

Tel: 0208 290 0085

or visit

www.bromleytn.org.uk

A History of Chelsfield Village Bakery - Part 3

At this point I would like to include a mention of the family members and local residents who worked in the Smallwood bakery business over its long and distinguished existence in Chelsfield Village. It may well be the case that older readers who remember this era in Chelsfield will be

able to recall other folks at the bakery as well. First of all there was Mr. Thomas Smallwood and his wife Mrs Annie Smallwood who founded the Smallwood Bakery at Crosshall in 1882

Then there was Mr Tom Smallwood (Thomas and Annie's Son) and his wife Mrs. Nell Smallwood and Mr. Jim Smallwood (Thomas and Annie's Son) and his wife Mrs. Phyllis Smallwood. Jim Smallwood and his wife had two children - Patricia and Roger Jim Smallwood and his wife first lived at "Wyche Way" (next door to "Cross House") and then



later moved to "June Cottage" next door to "The Old Bakery". Jim worked inside the Bakery and also undertook deliveries of bakery produce in the wide area around Chelsfield Village. Jim was profoundly deaf following service in the First World War

Also there was Rose Smallwood (Thomas and Annie's Daughter) Rose worked in the Shop at the Bakery and lived at the Bakery And there was Nancy Smallwood and Nell Smallwood (Thomas and Annie 's Daughters.)

Then there was Betty Smallwood (now Betty Owen) - Tom and Nell's Daughter Betty worked both in the Bakery, Shop and Tea Room Also there was Rosemary Smallwood - Tom and Nell's Daughter Rosemary worked both in the Bakery and the Shop business Rosemary married Fred Smith from Crosshall - a friend from childhood. and moved to Australia.

Also there was Tommy Martin - Annie Smallwood's Brother Tommy Martin lived at No.4 Rock Cottages and worked in the Bakery at Crosshall.

Tommy's work in the Bakery at Crosshall involved starting very late at night and/or very early in the morning. Whilst walking across the road to the Bakery on one of these occasions Tommy was stopped by a policeman who was suspicious about him being out and about at such a time of day (or night!)

Also there was Eddie White - who married Alice Mills from the Five Bells Pub Eddie White worked at "The Old Bakery" as one of the bakery operatives at that premises.

Also there was Lily Owen who worked at "The Old Bakery" during the wartime period.

A particularly difficult period in the history of the Smallwood bakery business was during the 1939/45 War and no doubt also during the 1914/18 War.

The wartime hostilities

The wartime hostilities during the 1939/45 period gave rise to severe shortages in the vital

ingredients used in the baking process - particularly flour and yeast but also sugar etc. All supplies to the Bakery were strictly controlled and monitored by Inspectors with a requirement for meticulous recordkeeping by the Smallwood Bakery. Conversely, customers were strictly rationed in terms of the amount of bread etc able to be purchased, which again added to the amount of recordkeeping necessary at the Bakery.

This situation had to be endured not only during the 5/6 years of the War. but also for a number of vears after the end of the hostilities. The constant worry arising from obtaining supplies and dealing with the sales on a ration basis took a great toll on Mrs Nell Smallwood in particular. Sadly, Mrs Smallwood's health deteriorated with the need for constant nursing care over a long period.

The closure of the Small-wood Bakery in Chelsfield Village took place in 1952.

After such an enduring



and distinguished presence in Chelsfield Village, closure came as a cause of very great regret to many customers over the wide area around the Village. I am sure that the Smallwood Family felt the same way after 70 years of successful baking and distribution of produce to generations of Chelsfield families.

The bread from the Smallwood Bakery was always hand made and baked in the traditional ovens, fired by either wood or later coke (I stand to be corrected on the latter points by more knowledgeable readers!). Today I am sure that the Smallwood loaves would be snapped up by customers keen to enjoy real bread and not the tasteless cardboard from some of the modern outlets calling themselves bakeries.

However, events over the years have led us all down another path and we can now only be grateful for all that has gone before. I do hope that although the Smallwood Bakery Business in Chelsfield Village has disappeared now this effort will have enabled such a distinguished history to live on for the future.

Written by Carol Margetts
With the invaluable help and co-operation of Mrs. Betty
Owen (nee Smallwood)

Plus additional detailed information and inspiration from Mrs. Vera Margetts

Village Fair - What We're Doing With The Money!

This year's Fair was the most successful ever financially despite the fact that it was easily the most expensive to put on. The committee have retained a slightly larger amount of money in order to improve cashflow for the 2011 Fair (things got a bit tight at times in the weeks leading up to the 2010 Fair!) and yet we are still able to increase the charitable monies from £5,000 in 2009 to £6,000 this year.

All this is great news for the charities and we are delighted to announce that Help For Heroes, our headline charity this year, will receive £3,000 with the remaining £3,000 being distributed to a number of local causes.

The Village Hall is undergoing significant upgrading and as it is a vital part of our community, it ill be receiving a large sum, as will the Housemartins. The Housemartins is a group run through St Martin's Church to provide services for the elderly and we are delighted to be able to help Anne Mead and her team with the superb volunteer work

they do in this role.

Other beneficiaries will be Chelsfield Village School, St Martin-of-Tours Church, the Well Hill Mission Church and there will be our customary donation to Chelsfield Cricket Club as a thankyou for allowing us to use the green each year.

A huge thankyou to the armies of volunteers who make the Fair possible and if you have your diaries to hand, the 2011 Fair will be on Saturday 9th July.

St Martin Toddler Group

EVERY Tuesday morning 10.30-12.00 (term-time only). Brass Crosby Room St Martins. Chelsfield. We have lots of toys to play with - dolls and pushchairs dressing up clothes, trains, cars, lego. puzzles, books and a different craft each week. We have singing and instruments and stickers for everyone at the end. We also have a carpeted baby area with soft toys. Teas and chats for the

parents and juice and biscuit for the little ones. £1 per child. No need to book, just come along.

Contact: Sarah (Leader) 01689 853415

Volunteer Wanted!

Our toddler group is open every Tuesday morning 10.30-12.00 (term-time only) in the Brass Crosby Room at St Martins. The group is run by 3 volunteers at present but we need 1 more volunteer to complete the team. It involves playing with the children (0.5yrs), chatting to the parents, helping with the craft table and serving refreshments. It also involves getting the toys out at the start and putting them away at the end of the session.

Contact: Sarah (Leader) 01689 853415 or email:

sarahnick.ford@gmail,com

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Bromley Council

Main switchboard: 020 8464 3333

F-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. Books can be reserved from here, or over the Internet via the Bromley library website for later picking up from the mobile library.

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 cvscontact@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



WEEKLY EVENTS

EVERY MONDAY

Chelsfield Methodist Hall Windsor Drive

lyengar Yoga Classes

9.30am-11.00am Suitable for Beginners Contact Denise on 01689 853215

EVERY TUESDAY

Brass Crosby Room

Mums & Tots Group

10.30am-12.00 midday Details 01689 853415

EVERY TUESDAY

Chelsfield Village Hall

Art Workshop "Art for the Fun of it"

4.00pm-5.00pm 5 years and upwards £8.00 per child Details 01959 532761 geraldinefranklin @bt.com

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 WEDNESDAY

Five Bells

Salsa Dancing Lessons

suitable for absolute beginners and improvers £5.00

EVERY WEDNESDAY Rugby for Girls

Any Age
Evening training from
September to May
Contact Kevin 0208 289 8566

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EVERY THURSDAY

St Martin of Tours Church

Viva Acappella Ladies Barbershop Chorus

Practice Contact Helen 07984 961696

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 6th October Parish Room

Internet Cafe

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Thursday 7th October (1st Thursday Each Month) Five Bells

Live Jazz Thursday

"Just Friends" will be playing their monthly set

Sunday 10th October Five Bells

10th of the 10th of the 10th

Any Roast and Any Desert for £10

Monday 11th October Novell's (Polhill Garden Centre)

Tea Dance

with Les Johnson 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Thursday 14th October (2nd Thursday Each Month) Brass Crosby Room

Crafts For All

Come and Try Your Hand at a Range of Crafts 11.00am

Saturday 16th October Brass Crosby Room

Antiques & Collectibles Valuation Day

Catherine Southon (as seen on BBC "Flog It" and other programmes 3 items for £5.00 (in aid of Church Funds) 10.00am - 1.00pm Refreshments available

Details Ann 01689 826349

Thursday 21st October Brass Crosby Room

Local History Group

Tuesday 26th October The Bo Peep

Pudding Pie & Tart

A special one night only menu Phone 01959 534457 to book or further details

Wed 10th November Brass Crosby Room

Village Society AGM followed by Eagle Heights Birds Talk and Demonstration

from 7.30pm

Tues 16th-Sat 20th Nov Village Hall

Chelsfield Players present A Christmas Carol

Details to follow

Thursday 18th November Five Bells

Beaujolais Day

Come and celebrate the new wine with a French meal and a glass of Nouveau 2010

Thursday 18th November Bo Peep

Beaujolais Night Soyez bienvenus a notre Nuit Beaujolis

Come and celebrate the new wine with a French meal

Saturday 27th November Five Bells

Opera Evening

VERY POPULAR - Watch this space for more info!

Wed 22nd December Parish Room

Village Christmas Party/Social Evening

from 8.00pm