



October 2020

Supported by



Chelsfield  
Park  
Hospital

## The Five Bells Chelsfield Tuesday Charity Quiz Nights



### CALLING ALL QUIZZERS OUT THERE - NEW AND REGULARS

Our charity quiz will still take place despite the Government's new time restrictions it will now start at:

**7.45pm**

We, as you know, will be adhering to strict distancing rules and it is imperative you book your table in advance

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

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Articles are rather thin on the ground for this issue, please let us know what you, or your group have done, are up to, or planning?

Please share your thoughts and experiences with us

Please send anything you would like included in the November 2020 issue to:

**chelsfieldvillagevoice@gmail.com**

or post to:  
Chelsfield Village Voice  
2 Bucks Cross Cottages  
Chelsfield Village  
BR6 7RN

**to arrive on or before  
Monday 26th Oct. 2020**

## Herb Robert

Last year I wrote a couple of pieces about the wasp nest I found in my allotment. This year they have not returned to the shed but have appeared in my loft accessing via the gap under the tile felt near the guttering. They have not been a nuisance yet but their numbers have multiplied as the summer has moved on and the odd wasp wandering into the nest now and again has become a constant to and fro. I don't plan to do anything about them as the winter will soon see them die off and they do not have 'ancestral' homes so there's no reason to expect them back again next year.

My other observation this month is the full blooded return of the background noise created by traffic and aircraft but specifically that due to the M25 which was so pleasantly absent during the lock-down. The effects of the virus have been unpleasant and multi-fold all round but I feel that nature received a shot in the arm with the sudden reduction in humanities activities that

can sometimes seem like all out biochemical warfare on nature.

This summer I have found two 'herb' plants in the cottage gardens. I call them herbs because one is known as Herb robert (*Geranium robertianum*) while the other is Herb bennet which I will talk about another time. Both may be called herbs but they are not herbs in the sense that they are useful in cooking. Their names stem from a medieval belief called 'doctrine of signatures' that caused people to believe that curative properties would reveal themselves through their shape and colour. This plant, having bright red stems (see

photo) led early physicians to assume it was good for ailments of the blood so, nosebleeds for instance. It was also useful for headaches, tummy upsets and as an antiseptic.

The plant is a simple opportunist growing in wasteland, hedges and woodland edges. The more sun the plant receives the darker red the plant's stems become. The flowers are a pretty pink, star shaped with five petals. Although often thought of as a weed it is also an attractive plant. It inspired poet William Wordsworth to write "Poor Robin is yet flowerless, but how gay with his red stalks on this





sunny day".

The plant is not however to everybody's liking as the plant smells somewhat of burnt rubber and crushing the leaves creates a paste that can be used as an insect repellent. However, it seems that the leaves can be eaten and can also be used to make tea although I could not find this plant in my book 'The

forager's Handbook' which is usually a good guide to what is edible and what is not. The name Robert probably comes from the Latin *ruber* meaning red. Other local names include stinking Bob, red Robin, ragged Robin, crow's foot or, considering it is edible, the rather surprising name of 'death come quickly'. Perversely this name seems to stem from

its history as a good luck charm as it was frequently carried as such. If however, one takes it into the house or causes it harm a death will quickly follow. As with so many common country plants there is a great deal of folklore associated with herb Robert whose name is thought to have originated from an English folklore goblin called Puck: the very same character that appears in Shakespeare's play 'A Midsummer's dream'. It's scientific name 'Geranium' comes from the Greek 'geranos' which means crane, an obvious reference to the plant's seed pods, which are shaped like a crane's bill. When ripe these seed pods will burst open and eject their seed. Such is its weed-like properties that this wildflower has become invasive in the western USA and efforts are made to remove it from the countryside. It does however have the ability, due to its smell, to keep deer and rabbits from your garden.

Steve Fuller  
October 2020

## Mutterings From The Millers

Phew, harvest over for another year! We restarted combining on the bank holiday Monday although the grain was damp, we decided to just get on with it. The moisture levels did drop slightly over the next few days allowing us to finish cutting the wheat then we moved into the spring barley. The moisture on that was slightly lower because barley is a naked grain ie no husk so the sun and the wind can get at the grain directly. During the last half hour of cutting the barley, it was starting to rain again but there was no way we were going to stop so close to the end.

The data we received back showed that the oats made milling ie porridge, muesli etc showing that the quality was good but the quantity was poor. The wheat surprised us, not a huge crop but the quality was top notch. This all made milling which we were thrilled about. The barley went for animal feed. Obviously due to present circumstances, there is not a huge demand for malting barley. Not a

good harvest but considering the year we have had with the varying weather patterns and the bad harvest throughout the country, we were quite pleased with our little farm.

We were very eager to start planting again while the ground was dry, especially as we had the seed from last year and the experiences from last year. Peter planted the large field by the farm with winter wheat which we hope will make the cake and biscuit market. The barley was drilled in further fields and cover crop in our other fields away from the yard. The days were hot but there

was moisture in the soil, the wheat germinated and showed within 6 days!

The government is to end the 3 crop rule in 2021. We will then not have to grow three different crops so we shall probably not grow barley but will watch the markets and see how things go. I'm sure most farmers in England will be happy that this rule is going. Greening rules are set to change too. A bit complex to explain here but covers crop diversification, ecological focus areas and greening permanent grassland. We are probably going to a spring sown cropping system after this year





simply because of the cost from having a crop for 11 months rather than 5 months. There should be benefits for wildlife from the lack of disturbance of the field with all that stubble surely. We are looking into this decision and will let you know the pros and cons.

On the wildlife front, the

boys enjoyed seeing a family of five deer in the fields during harvest along with the buzzards and occasional kite. Last sighting of the swallows in the farm yard was on the 17th September, always sad to see them go as I feel summer is over without them. I haven't seen a bullfinch for years here but recently Steve found one

a bit dazed. Carefully placed it in a safe area but unfortunately it died. Have you seen any around Chelsfield?

Apparently foggy days in October indicates a hard winter, so let's hope we don't see any of those.

*Chris Miller  
Court Lodge Farm*

## Local IT and Phone Repairs

Recommendation of a local shop for IT and phone repair.

I recently had a fault with my android phone, I thought I knew the problem and was wary of being overcharged. A local resident suggested I try a new IT repair shop in Orpington.

This had only just reopened after lockdown

and was very helpful, with an estimate sent in a couple of hours, and a no repair no fee policy which impressed me. The estimate was £25, which I was happy to pay, and I picked it up the next day. Other local repair shops often charge £20 - £30 just to look at an item.

I also asked about a simple admin Windows 10 machine for use in the

office of a local charity, I was shown two refurbished at £150 each, both with a guarantee. Excellent value for simple Internet desktop PCs.

Orpington IT Centre  
92 High St, Orpington  
BR6 0JY (Opposite  
Aynscombe Angle)  
[Orpingtonitcentre.co.uk](http://Orpingtonitcentre.co.uk)

*Peter Gandolfi*

## Unusual Parking!

Noticed blocking the Village Hall entrance on Sunday 21st Sept, right by the no parking sign.

Overflow parking for the Five Bells presumably!



## My Belgian Forebears - Part 2

Last month I told how my 3rd great grandfather Joseph Ceurvorst came to London in the 1840s and had found via his death certificate that he had been an agent for the West India Company. A search of the internet found that somebody of that name had owned a trading store in British Guyana in the Caribbean in the early days of the 19th century. Later research confirms that this was the very same Joseph that came to London. The first mention of Joseph's name that I can find in the local Guyanan paper occurs in 1804 when Joseph both marries and his business partner dies. In October the following notice is published.

*Thus, through the dying of Mr. Willem Verhagen, the Company of Verhagen & Ceurvorst has ended and the affairs of reported Company must be completely lost as soon as possible. Urges the undersigned to make the greatest haste with regard to all those who have to make payments to the reported*

*Firm, since it would be unpleasant for him to avail himself of rights in an opposite case of the Way, for which the coercion of the circumstances necessitates him. Demerary, October 27, 1804. J. Ceurvorst.*

Joseph then goes it alone which is shown by the following news article the following month.

*For Sale: - A Patent Cable (ship's rope) very little inferior to a New one. 12 Inches and a half thick. For further Particulars apply to Mr. Ceurvorst. Demerary, 17th November 1804*

I would have thought the length of the cable was at least as important as the girth – but what do I know? Other advertisements in 1804 shows that he has a store, or trading post in an area once belonging to a plantation called 'Werk en Rust' which in Dutch means 'Work and Rest'. I think I can guess who gets to work and who gets to rest!

Just prior to the death of Joseph's business partner he marries into the well established Haley family. His marriage to Susanna Catherine Haley in July 1804 means that Joseph is now the son-in-law of Pieter Haley's widow, a lady called Tanna (nee Jeems) who owned a moderate sugar and coffee plantation called 'Peter's Hall' (which originally appears to have been named after her father-in-law) on the banks of the river Demerary. The plantation's name is now a suburb of modern Georgetown – the capital of Guyana, where once the plantation stood. The



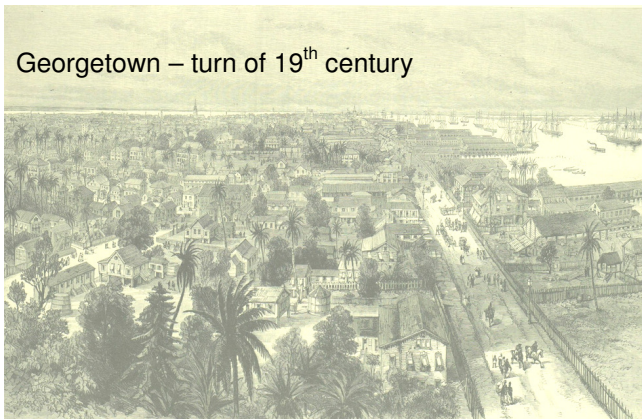
image showing the layout of the plantations in the Demarara territory is probably too small to read when reproduced in the Village newsletter but Peter's Hall plantation runs down to the river just before the 'D' in the title of that river. I have also included an image of the early days of

about £3.60 pounds sterling – not accounting for inflation).

So, clearly Joseph had married into a slave owning family but did he own any slaves himself? Unfortunately yes: an entry for 1810 confirms that suspicion and shows that Joseph paid tax

*Chamber, in consequence of the indisposition of F. A. Vernede, Esq.*

Joseph's name continues to appear in the paper and occasionally appears to be acting as a lawyer, being authorised to wind up bankrupt companies etc. Over the next decade or so Joseph helps his mother-in-law sell the chattels of her inherited plantation and these are also publicised in the local paper, often by a lottery system where goods are won via the purchase of a ticket. Believe it or not, some of these prizes included plantation slaves). War with France, blockades and a series of poor harvests around this time must have made business and life in general difficult. The control of the colony was then fully ceded to Britain (a lot of the legal structure was still however controlled by the Dutch) in 1814 and this may have been the impetus in 1816 for the following notice:



Georgetown – turn of 19<sup>th</sup> century

Georgetown.

This is where the darker side of this particular story arises as records show that in 1813 Peter's Hall owned 252 slaves and produced over 400,000 pounds of sugar and almost 5000 pounds of coffee. Consequently the tax payable to the colony governorship was 418 Joes (a Joe being the colloquial name for the Portuguese gold Johannes coin valued at

levied on one slave for the year 1808. Presumably he worked alongside Joseph within the store. However, Joseph shows his more compassionate side by an association with the local orphanage as is show in the following entry in the local paper.

*May 1806  
J. Ceurvorst, Esq. is appointed, by the Court of Policy, Provisional Recorder of the Orphan*

*Secretary's Office.  
This is to inform the public that the following Persons intend quitting*

*the Colony: - J. Ceurvorst and Lady in 14 days or 6 weeks from Feb. 2. Mrs. the widow Haley, and one servant.*

It was the local law that one should inform the rest of the colony that members were leaving so that any unfinished business could be tied up. Also, note that two potential dates are given for leaving. I have noticed this on a number of notices and assume it has to do with the expected departure dates of ships heading back to Europe. If the first ship cannot accommodate the passengers then the next will.

It seems that the widow Haley then dies in 1843 in Haarlem Holland evidenced by the newspaper cutting below

Translation : *In Harleem died on the 16th of May 1843, at the age of 89 years old, the Widow T Haley born Jeems, deeply regretted by her relatives. Signed by her son-in-law Herm. Poelcke.*

Seven years later Joseph's wife dies but other evidence shows that there has been some sort of split between Joseph and Susanna such that Joseph's name does not appear in the following newspaper cutting and Susanna is described as a widow which she is not (Joseph died 2 years later).

*assumed by the relations of the deceased.*

It appears Susanna separated from her husband Joseph some years earlier. In both public notices the son-in-law's name H Poelcke's appears. This shows that Joseph and Susanna had at least two daughters, both married by 1850.

(8552) Heden ontsliep zacht en kalm onze waarde Moeder en Behuwdmoeder **SUSANNA CATHARINA CEURVORST**, geb. **HALEY**, in den ouderdom van ruim 63 jaren.  
*Rotterdam*,  
 9 November 1850. **W. N. J. VAN DITMAR**,  
**T. A. A. VAN DITMAR** — **CEURVORST**,  
**H. POELCKE**,  
**C. E. POELCKE** — **CEURVORST**.  
*Met onderling goedvinden zullen door de Betrekkingen der Overledene geene uiterlijke teekenen van rouw worden aangenomen.*

Translation: *Today our dear widowed mother Susanna Catharina Ceurvorst, born Haley, passed away softly and calmly, aged over 63 years.*

*Rotterdam 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1850  
 W N J Van Ditmar  
 T A A Van Ditmar –  
 Ceurvorst  
 H Poelcke  
 C E Poelcke – Ceurvorst  
 With mutual consent no external signs of mourning will be*

From there we jump to London where Joseph appears in the 1851 census with a 'wife' Sophia and son, Joseph. I have a note in my records for Joseph Jnr which says 'Born on 27-04-1841 at 8 AM in Antwerp: Josephus Ludovicus Ceurvorst, unlawful recognized son of Josephus Leonardus Clementius, age 67, born and residing at Antwerp'. I do not have a record of where this information came from but about 10 years ago I had a source (Maria) in Belgium who was very helpful

AMSTERDAM, 16 Mei 1843.  
 (6158) Te HAARLEM overleed op den 16den Mei 1843, in den ouderdom van 89 jaren Mevrouw de WED. T. HALEY GEB. JEEMS, diep betreurd door hare Naastbestaanden.  
**HERM. POELCKE, Uit aller Naam.**



searching out information and I can only guess that she supplied that information. The census told that all three were born in Belgium while Sophia was born Santy in Ypres. A year later Joseph dies and that completes the circle of the story that I have been telling.

### Last thoughts

In the 1851 census Joseph is recorded as being 77 while Sophia is 39: half Joseph's age. Joseph Jnr aged 10 in 1851 became my 2<sup>nd</sup> Gt Grandfather. The last sad fact concerning this story is that although the Ceurvorst family seems to have since done quite well for themselves and they appear to have links with the pension industry

in the City, Sophia eventually died in the workhouse infirmary in 1894. That does not necessarily mean she was living there but the poor often spent their last days there as of course, there were no other alternatives unless a private doctor could be afforded.

*Steve Fuller  
Sept 2020*

## New Coronavirus Test Centre in St Paul's Cray

A Coronavirus testing facility is due to be established at Cotmandene Crescent Car Park in St Paul's Cray as a result of a bid to the Government by Bromley Public Health.

Subject to a successful site visit, testing is scheduled to start at the new facility on 18 September 2020.

The permanent testing facility will be run on behalf of the Government by G4S and will complement the mobile facility already established in Norman Park.

The recycling banks on the site will still be fully operational, though

parking will no longer be possible within the car park.

A further suitable site for a testing facility is currently being sought in the North of the Borough.

Anyone with Coronavirus symptoms, however mild, should book a free swab test that takes less than a minute. Tests should be booked or ordered as soon as symptoms begin at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119.

Councillor Diane Smith, Executive Member for Adult Care and Health said: "The work to diminish the spread of Coronavirus goes on in the Borough amongst

fears that the number of rising cases could lead to further restrictions, which none of us would want. The key is to continue to follow the latest guidance and advice from the Government and Public Health England.

"We must continue to work together to combat this virus and do our bit to help prevent it spreading. Please take all possible measures to minimise the risk by keeping your distance, regularly washing your hands and wearing a face covering where required. We welcome this new facility and continue to press for an additional site in the North of the Borough, which we hope to have news on shortly "

## News From St Martin's - Your Parish Church



*St Martin's worships and serves a loving God,  
reaching out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ*



**St Martin's is still open for socially-distanced public worship and everyone is welcome!**

- Sun 4 Oct 10.00am Family Communion – led by Rev David Graham
- Wed 7 Oct 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
– led by Rev Susan Atkinson-Jones
- Sun 11 Oct 10.00am Family Worship – led by Ken l'Anson
- Wed 14 Oct 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
- Sun 18 Oct 10.00am Family Communion  
3.00pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
(on Zoom – see website for details)
- Wed 21 Oct 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
- Sun 25 Oct 10.00am Family Worship - led by Ken l'Anson
- Wed 28 Oct 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

### **Well Hill**

- Sun 25 Oct 10.00am Holy Communion – outdoors\*

\*NB this service is weather dependent and has limited capacity – for more information please contact Anne Ireland on 07767 783189 / anneireland@icloud.com

As you'd expect there are lots of rules and regulations attached to this and it is subject to change. Please keep checking the church website for updates. We are also now able to hold baptisms, weddings and funerals, though under HM Government guidance guest numbers are limited.

We are posting a new Sunday service on our YouTube channel each week, and there is Daily Prayer live on our Facebook page with Jon on Tuesday and Val on Thursday at 8.15am. Both of these are also available via our website.

As this is still a changing situation it's important that we look out for one another. Please let Revd John know of anyone who is ill or in distress, or if you need prayer or spiritual support, or are lonely and just need a short chat please phone 01689 825749.

Thank you very much indeed to everyone who has supported our Giving Appeal! If you would like to contribute, visit the Giving page on our website (link below).

For more information on St Martin's please visit our website and Facebook page, or search for @ChelsfieldStMartins on Twitter and Instagram

[www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk](http://www.stmartinchelsfield.org.uk)



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## The 5 Bells Updated Opening Hours

Over the next few weeks we will be assessing the level of demand for our pub and restaurant services. You will see below our opening hours for both. Booking is essential and we will be allocating a 2-hour time slot for all our diners.

As yet two-hour time slots for drinkers have not been introduced.

**Monday**  
Bar: Midday – 9.30pm  
(garden closes 8pm)  
**Restaurant closed: Pizzas & Pukka Pies available**

**Tuesday**  
Bar: Midday – 9.30pm  
(garden closes 8pm)  
Charity quiz starts at 7.45pm  
(booking required)  
**Restaurant:**  
12.00 – 2.30pm  
**Wednesday**  
Bar:12 midday – 9.30pm

(garden closes 8pm)  
**Restaurant:**  
12.00 –2.30pm  
**Thursday**  
Bar: 12 midday – 9.30pm  
(Garden closes 8pm)  
**Restaurant:**  
12.00 – 2.30pm  
No evening service

**Friday**  
Bar:12 midday–9.30pm  
(Garden closes 8pm)  
**Restaurant:**  
12.00 – 2.30pm  
& 6 – 8pm  
**Saturday**  
Bar: 12 midday - 9.30pm  
(garden closes 8pm)  
**Restaurant:**  
12.00 – 2.30pm  
& 6 – 8pm

**Sunday**  
Bar:12 midday – 9.30pm  
(garden closes 8pm)  
**Restaurant:**  
12.00 – 5.00pm

**Friday take-away**  
**Fish & Chips available**  
**from 5.30pm**

**Don't forget: We will be offering Pizzas and Pukka Pies whenever the pub is open, eat in or take-away**

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**Sunday is traditionally a very busy day for lunches so please book early anytime from 12.00 – 5pm (with 2 hour time slots)**

**Please note last orders will be 9.30pm with 20 minutes drinking up time**

**After 8pm any day if the pub is empty for 15 minutes we will close**

## The REAL Reason “Rule Britannia!” was Written

Here is something you are unlikely to learn via the BBC. In the 17th century the seas around Britain were ruled by North African Muslim Slavers. They stopped British ships and carried off the crews to be sold as slaves in Algiers and Tripoli. The situation became so bad that fishermen from Devon and Cornwall wouldn't put out to

sea in case they were captured by North African Slave Traders. Between 1609 and 1616, 466 British ships were captured by Slave Traders in the English Channel, Irish Sea and North Atlantic, and the crews were sold into slavery.

In 1625 a raiding party landed at Mount's Bay in

Cornwall and 60 people who had taken refuge in a local church were dragged out, loaded up and taken off to Africa to be sold as slaves.

On 12 August 1625 the Mayor of Plymouth wrote to London for military help after 27 ships had been seized by North African Muslim Slave Traders in just 10 days.

In 1645, 240 people were seized as slaves in Cornwall. The situation only began to change after the end of the English Civil War when the Royal Navy was built up under Oliver Cromwell. By 1700, North African Slavers generally knew better than to bother the British Isles in the search for slaves because of the Royal Navy.

It was a triumph that Britain was finally able to control its own coastal waters. It was in commemoration of this that in 1740, James Thompson wrote 'Rule Britannia'. It is a hymn of thanksgiving rather than a proclamation of aggressive Nationalism.

If you get this far and are interested to learn more, its recommended that you read: "**White Gold**" by **Giles Milton**.

**The blurb on Giles Milton's book says:**

This is the forgotten story of the million white Europeans, snatched from their homes and taken in chains to the great slave markets of North Africa to be sold to the highest bidder. Ignored by

their own governments, and forced to endure the harshest of conditions, very few lived to tell the tale. Using the firsthand testimony of a Cornish cabin boy named Thomas Pellow, Giles Milton vividly reconstructs a disturbing, little known chapter of history. Pellow was bought by the tyrannical sultan of Morocco who was constructing an imperial pleasure palace of enormous scale and grandeur, built entirely by Christian slave labour. As his personal slave, he would witness first-hand the barbaric splendour of the imperial court, as well as experience the daily terror of a cruel regime.

Gripping, immaculately researched, and brilliantly realised, **WHITE GOLD** reveals an explosive chapter of popular history, told with all the pace and verve of one of our finest historians' **Thomas Pellow** (1704 – 45), son of Thomas Pellow of **Penryn** and his wife Elizabeth (née Lyttleton),<sup>[1]</sup> was a **Cornish** author best known for the extensive **captivity narrative** entitled

*The History of the Long Captivity and Adventures of Thomas Pellow in **South-Barbary**.*<sup>[2]</sup> Pellow's chronicles his many adventures spent during his 23-year-long captivity (summer 1715 – July 1738) giving a detailed account of his capture by **Barbary pirates**, his experiences as a slave under Sultan **Moulay Ismail**, and his final escape from **Morocco** back to his Cornish origins.

His captivity began at the age of eleven when sailing abroad in the summer of 1716 when his ship was attacked by Barbary pirates after crossing the **Bay of Biscay** traveling with his uncle, John Pellow, who was the ship's captain alongside five Englishmen. Pellow and his shipmates were taken captive and delivered to Sultan Moulay Ismail of Morocco as prisoners. Pellow was one of the individuals hand picked by the sultan along with three others and integrated into one of Ismail's many slaves. <sup>[3]</sup>

*Jim Ellard*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**EVERY MONDAY**  
The Poverest Centre

**LIPREADING CLASSES**

2.00pm to 4.00pm  
Call 01689 822886

**EVERY TUESDAY**

Five Bells  
**CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**  
Starts 7.45pm

**Please let us know as and when you are starting your events and meetings again so we can rebuilt the full guide of local "What's On"**