

## Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

December 2010

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**CHALFONT** St Peter Christmas Fun Night will be the biggest ever! It is on **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December** and the evening will officially start around **6pm**, when Chalfont St Peter Chamber of Commerce President, Nathan Mincham, opens proceedings from a stage outside Budgens. Market Place will once again be closed to traffic from 4.30m and over 40 stalls will be operating on the evening. There will be a kiddies Fun Fair in the precinct. Most shops and businesses will be staying open late to join in the festive atmosphere,

The Chamber of Commerce will be erecting a Christmas tree and lights on Gold Hill Common as usual. Fun Night entertainment will include carol singing from St Joseph's, Lovel End and Robertswood schools, the vocal group from Gold Hill Baptist Church and the Chalfont Wind Band.

**ON** Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December the Parish Church holds it's annual St Nicholas Fayre in the newly refurbished Church Hall at the same time of the Village Fun Night! The hall will be open from about 6pm until the last person leaves and you will be able to enjoy some warming Christmas refreshments, purchase beautiful, hand-made Christmas floral decorations, enjoy lots of pocket-money priced stalls for the children – and if you should so wish, visit the Parish Church which will be open for refreshments and you will be able to listen to the choir practising for the annual Carol Service to be held on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December. Go along and enjoy this traditional Christmas Fayre and help us raise funds for your parish church. For further details please ring the Church Office on 01753 880067 on any weekday morning.'

**SATURDAY** 4<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 for 8pm, there will be a Quiz Night held in aid of The Children's Society in the Church Hall, Church Lane. Tickets £12 to include a hot home-made supper with delicious puddings (vegetarian option available). Take your own drinks. Teams of 8 maximum. Tickets from 07720133031, 01753 885131 and 07759222275.

**CHALFONT Common** WI held its AGM in November, when president Janet Schofield opened the proceedings, followed by a financial report from the treasurer Tina Stockall and from Diana Hollingworth, who gave the secretaries report. A review of other activities – table tennis, book club, cinema visits and walking etc were given. Marian reported on the Parish Council meeting. They have had a varied and rewarding year and look forward to next years planned lunches, outings, clubs and of course the yearly Attic sale in April at the Community Centre.

After the business, coffee refreshments, member Lorna, who works for a mental health charity. Gave an interesting and inspiring talk, providing an insight into the varying degrees of mental health and how it

can affect any one of us.

Many members helped the British Legion to sell poppies in the village and were joined by other members for the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>. Another enjoyable activity was a wonderful walk in Burnham Beeches to see all the beautiful trees in their Autumn splendour, followed by coffee at the café as it was such a sunny morning. The **Barber Shop Singers** will be the entertainment at Christmas meeting in the Tony Graham room, on **December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.45**, New members most welcome,

**CAREERS** Springboard meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30pm each Monday, at St Andrews United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross. New members re always welcome and membership is free. **Dec 6 Breakout Groups / Action Planning** Re-visit some of the topics covered in the past three months and an opportunity to build a well organised and successful action plan for the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

**FRIENDS OF CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM** invite you to an evening of Christmas Past Led by Laurie and Davina Watson, popular re-enactors at COAM and many other venues You are invited, if you wish, to bring along your own Christmas object or other reminiscence **7.30 pm, Wednesday, 8 December** - Chalfont St Peter Community Centre Admission £4.00 for all – visitors very welcome Non-alcoholic Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be served Any enquiries, contact Jenny Ogden, Chesham (01494) 793017,

**MONDAY**, 8th December - 12.30pm - Pub Lunch Club for the over 50's. 2 course meal with tea and coffee in the Village Hall Pub for only £6.00. Contact Madge Holah on 01494 875402 or Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 by 3rd Nov to book.

**MADEIRA** is the name of a new coffee shop that has opened at **9 High Street**, in the village (opposite Budgens car park). Jenny and Maria live in Chalfont St Peter and wanted to provide their own special coffee and food for local people to pop in and enjoy. They have all-day breakfasts and tasty snacks available from 7 – 7 weekdays and 8 – 7 weekends. Offices have already started ordering food to be collected at lunchtime and the venue near the office end of the village makes this convenient.

**THE** Misbourne Art Society's exhibition in the church hall last week was excellent with real quality work. The picture with the most votes, that won the Elaine Butler silver salver, will be featured in the next newsletter.

**WILLIAM'S** Fund Christmas cards now available, fabulous quality original image, painted by William's Grandmother. Can be purchased from Activity Chest in Market Place. £15 for 50 and £25 for 100. Or contact [johanna@williamsfund.co.uk](mailto:johanna@williamsfund.co.uk)

**ALADDIN** by David Swan is the Christmas Pantomime being put on by St Peter Players on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9th - 11th December 7.30 pm, Saturday Matinee at 3.00pm at the Community Centre, Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter All tickets £7.50 Box Office 07928 161419 visit their website [www.stpeterplayers.co.uk](http://www.stpeterplayers.co.uk)

**MYERS** Briggs and the Spiritual is a Day Retreat at New Jordans, Friday 10th December, 10am – 4pm with Hilary Pinder, MBTI practitioner for nearly 20 years. arrivals with coffee from 9.30am £35 or what you can afford. Please bring lunch to share. For further details see [www.newjordans.org](http://www.newjordans.org) or phone [01494 876594](tel:01494876594).

**MONDAY**, 13th December - 12.30pm - Pub Lunch Club for the over 50's. 2 course meal with tea and coffee in the Village Hall Pub for only £6.00. Contact Madge Holah on 01494 875402 or Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 to book, but be aware that the places are taken up very quickly. So book promptly.

**THE** Gerrards Cross Flower Club next meets on Wednesday, December 15 for Christmas lunch and A.G.M. in the Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross at 2.15pm. Guests are always welcome and of course new members. For more details telephone Pam Houchen: 01753 884190 or Chris Edgerton: 01753 884940

**VOPAG** the over 55s group meets in the Community Centre on **Thursday, December 16**. Please note the change of venue for this meeting. The children from St Peter's school will provide the entertainment and everyone is invited to go along 10 for 10.30 to enjoy, sherry and mince pies, lots of people to meet and a friendly welcome.

**WITH** Christmas on the horizon, it might be interesting to try something different if you want a special outing. Frances Chidell, who does theatre reviews for both the Bucks Advertiser and for this newsletter, sent me this piece that paints a tempting choice of evening out.

"I did something exceptional last night and had supper at the newly-opened Savoy Hotel, London. It was so good I told the M d'Hotel I'd put something on the internet. I say this because although it was late shopping and a matinee day, the main restaurant, which serves extremely well-chosen pre- or post-theatre suppers (for matinee-goers), was almost empty! At £24 for 2 courses and £29 for 3 with excellent service I thought it needed publicity! Several people I know didn't realise it had reopened.

We had been to a matinee of The Rivals (Sheridan) at the Haymarket with Penelope Keith and Peter Bowles which was excellent in every way. After supper at the Savoy we were home by 9.15pm so an easy way of doing it."

**CHALFONT** St Peter Garden Club has a Christmas Social on Wednesday. December 15th at 8pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane. This year, for something different, go along and watch a brief demonstration by Claire de Carle on making a Christmas door decoration using fresh plant materials and have a go at making your own to take home. Basic material will be provided, but feel free to bring anything you have in the garden or home to include in the final arrangements. Snacks and goodies to eat and drink will be available, only £5 and visitors £6. You need to book early. Tickets 01753 883800 or call at the Hut.

**S OUTH** Bucks Choral Society's next production is their Carol Concert is on Saturday, 18th December at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Old Amersham. Tickets £15.00 available from **Steve Wilcock - 01494 722122**.

**THE** Friday Market in the Church Hall has, in response to requests, decided on an additional outing once a month on a Saturday, which will be the 13th November and 4th December this year. All the usual terms such as Books, fishing tackle, jewellery, pet food and accessories, household items and gift cards and wrap will be there for your convenience..

**RECENT** donations of £300 each were donated by St Joseph's Furniture Market to: Multiple Sclerosis (Maidenhead & Slough), Bucks Vision (Chalfont Division), Bucks Mind and Aspire (supporting people with spinal injuries), The Furniture Market is on each Saturday from 9am – 12.30 in the market store behind the church hall, park in St Joseph's Church car park and enter the market from Priory Road. [furnituremarket@hotmail.co](mailto:furnituremarket@hotmail.co)

**YOUR** Neighbourhood Police Team is based right in the heart of the Village where we share offices and work in partnership with Chalfont St Peter Parish Council. The Police team consists of Inspector Chris Oliver, Sergeant Nicola Upton, PC Jim Clarke, PCSO's Isabel Brennan and Sue Smith, Special Constable Alasdair McLulich, Special Constable Jen Shraga and Neighbourhood Action Group Chairman Mr Mark Tosh. The team has focussed on Speeding, Anti Social Behaviour and Parking. These priorities are set by you at the "Have Your Say Meetings." held in Budgens and the Library.

**Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)** These are the priorities that the NAG and your Neighbourhood Policing Team are focusing on. These priorities are set by you and the NAG. We will then work together with our local communities, organisations and businesses to deal with these issues. Here is what we're doing.

**Update for Speeding** On the 7th October 2010 your Neighbourhood Police Team carried out speed enforcement. The locations used were the ones identified to us by you. Over the period of the day we dealt with drivers and passengers for the following offences: 15 for exceeding the speed limit. 3 were using mobile phones, 16 drivers plus their passengers failing to wear their seat belts and other motoring offences including no insurance, bald tyre and tinted windows. Our next speed enforcement day is December 10th 2010 (You have been warned).

**Update for Anti Social Behaviour** Anti Social Behaviour in and around the village; we are working alongside other agencies such as Paradigm Housing and the Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) to work with youths who are engaging in Anti Social Behaviour in our area. We are also issuing ABC's (Acceptable Behaviour Contracts) to address the youth's behaviour. Good news is that the overall reported Anti Social Behaviour is down by 5.7% compared to the three months period at the same time last year. **You Said** Drivers are speeding along Denham Lane. **We Did** On the 7th October 2010 we carried out Speed enforcement in Denham Lane where we caught 4 speeders, 2 mobiles, 7 seat belts and 1 tinted window.

**Update for Parking** Chiltern District Council works in partnership with, the police and the Chalfont St Peter community. We continue to enforce the Road Traffic laws. Chiltern Civil Parking Enforcement Officers use education and the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices. The ongoing issue of parking within Chalfont St Peter around the schools is and will continue to be an issue, but with the work carried out by the Neighbourhood Police team and the Chalfont St Peter Community Safety Group we are always seeking to find ways to ease the parking issues around the schools.

We have looked at the priorities for the NAG. Now let's look at the reported crime in our area.

**Crime** The overall trend across the Chiltern district is a decrease in house break ins, break ins to vehicles and anti social behaviour. We are not complacent and are making every effort to maintain this downwards trend.

Goldhill and Austenwood area have seen a reduction of 38.7% in overall reported crime compared to reported crime figures for the same 3 month period from last year. Chalfont Common / Central have seen an increase of 14% compared to reported crime figures for the same 3 month period from last year. The figures quoted are from the Chalfont St Peter Neighbourhood Police Area. The following link will enable you to analyse and view the crime rates within your area, just type in your postcode and all of the information will be displayed.

<http://maps.police.uk/view/thames-valley>

**Good News Story** Man charged with burglary – Chalfont St Peter on Wednesday 20th October 2010. Craig Eyre, an 18 year old man from Leachcroft, Chalfont St Peter, was charged with burglary, theft of a vehicle and arson. The charges relate to a burglary in Seer Green in the early hours of 17/10/2010, in which keys, along with a number of personal items, were stolen. The victims Cherokee Jeep, was parked outside the house, was stolen and later discovered on fire by police in Chipstead, Chalfont St Peter. Eyre appeared at Aylesbury Magistrates' Court and was remanded to prison. His next court appearance is on Tuesday 26 October.

**Community** **“HAVE YOUR SAY”**- Your Police team are always out and about, when you see us please stop and have a chat about any issues locally that you may have alternatively we look forward to meeting you at our “Have Your Say” meeting's.

Budgens, on Wednesday 8th December, between 11am and 1pm.

Chalfont St Peter, Library on Tuesday 14th December, between 10am – 12pm.

Come along and air your views let us know what the issues are that you wish to tell us about, we are here to listen to what you have to say. Your Neighbourhood Team is looking forward to meeting you. Here are examples of things that people tell us and how we have responded.

**We Asked** What are the issues in the Chalfont St Peter area? **You Said** Parking issues around Chalfont Community College.

**We Did:** PCSO Izzy Brennan took the lead on this issue and has held a meeting with the local residents, The Management Team from Chalfont Community College, Chalfont St Peter Community Safety Group, Chalfont leisure Centre and Local Councillors. Chalfont Community college reported back to this forum that they will create a further 30 places on site when the old ATC Hut has been demolished for vehicular parking. This is an ongoing issue and Izzy would like all those affected by this to make contact with her on the Thames Valley Police non emergency number 08458 505505 or alternatively by email on [Isabel.brennan@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Isabel.brennan@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

#### **Have Your Say online**

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link (paste here the link for your neighbourhood form).

Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at certain times of day. NOTE: Have Your Say links can be found on:

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-about-nh-pol-meetings.htm>

All you have to do is click on your neighbourhood, the form will appear.

#### **Pc Jim's thought of the Month**

“Leave a light on and make your home look as though someone is in.” A great way of letting an unsavoury character like burglar Bill think someone is at home, is by leaving a light on or having a timer switch attached to a lamp, this allows your lights and a radio to come on and go off without you actually being there to turn them on and off yourself. As it happens I have some timer switches so if you need one then please do not hesitate give me a call leave me a message with your details on 08458 505505 or drop me an email on

[jim.clarke@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jim.clarke@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) I only have a few left so once they are gone they are gone. Don't worry if you can't get one from me because you can get a timer switch from most DIY stores. Be safe.

**HORN** Hill Village Hall (Chalfont St Peter) is celebrating it's centenary in 2011. To mark this special occasion there will be a celebration event. The Horn Hill Village Committee are in the process of gathering information of the hall over the last 100 years and would like to hear from anyone who has

had any involvement in the hall to share information, pictures etc and also to be part of this great celebration. Please contact Helen on 01494 874269 or Margaret on 01494 873533.

**GERRARDS Cross** Lawn Tennis Club will be holding Neighbourhood Meetings on the following 2011 dates:

**Monday 17th January, Monday 18th April, Monday 18th July** Starting at 8pm in the Clubhouse, Bull Lane

**NEW** initiative for children in care. Six councils have worked together to develop a joint venture to provide residential and educational day care for vulnerable children, including those looked after by local authorities.

Buckinghamshire County Council together with Reading Borough Council, Oxfordshire County Council, the Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes, Bracknell Forest Council and Hertfordshire County Council, has developed a project that focuses on those children with the most complex and challenging needs who need particularly intensive help, including residential care.

Young people currently looked after by local authorities were consulted on the plan and contributed their own ideas and experiences of life in care. They also took an active part in the tender evaluation and selection process. In the past, individual authorities have commissioned services for the children in their region but the providers have often located them outside their home area.

The new arrangement would mean children could be close to their family and friend networks and services provided by their home authorities, which would be a substantial cost saving to the local authorities.

The service aims to begin in the autumn of this year and offer 20 beds across the six authorities and four day places in education, with an option to commission another ten residential and educational places within the contract period.

It is hoped this project might be followed by future joint commissioning on a wider basis covering other relevant services.

For more information Buckinghamshire County Council media team 01296 382444

**HOMEOWNERS** who want to save money on electricity bills will be able to borrow a free kit to see how much energy they are using. The kits will be available at Aylesbury Library from Friday November 29.

The OWL monitor scheme, which is being trialled in Aylesbury, is a joint venture between Buckinghamshire County Council's Sustainability Team and Libraries. The aim is to raise awareness and understanding of how energy is consumed in the home. If successful it will be rolled out to other libraries as part of the county council's objective to reduce carbon dioxide emission across Buckinghamshire.

The OWL monitor provides real-time information about electricity use. When lights and appliances are turned on, OWL's LCD monitor reveals exactly how much electricity is being used, how the cost of electricity per hour changes and how much harmful CO2 is being produced. They can identify simple energy saving practices.

The kits have already been tested by county council staff. More than half who took part in the test believed the monitors had reduced their energy consumption. In addition 90 per cent rated the monitor eight out of ten for effectiveness. The kit also includes a power meter to measure cost and energy usage of individual appliances. Staff found this a useful tool to monitor the amount of energy used for appliances such as kettles.

Buckinghamshire County Council's Deputy Leader, Bill Chapple, said: "By using one of these energy saving kits, we all have the opportunity to find out how much energy we could be saving around our homes - imagine the difference we could make! I invite everyone to use the kits from the library - free of charge - and give us their comments on how we can improve the service."

The first five borrowers will also get a free TV power-down gadget, which helps to save energy lost by leaving items on standby.

**STOP MEANS STOP - IT'S THE MAYOR!** Mayor of Wycombe Jane White is Relief School Crossing Patroller

To support the good work carried out by the County's Patrollers and encourage more people to join the Team, Mayor of Wycombe, Jane White, was on afternoon patrol at Disraeli Combined School wearing a bright orange 'Stop Means Stop' tabard.

The tabards are a reminder to drivers and cyclists that they have a legal duty to stop when they are shown the 'lollipop' sign by a patroller wishing to cross people on the road. Failing to stop can lead to a £1000 fine, three penalty points and disqualification.

Mayor Jane White, who became a Relief School Crossing Patroller last summer, covers the patrols at both Disraeli and Millbrook Combined Schools, High Wycombe. Jane says: "This is one of the most rewarding jobs. I have met some lovely people whilst serving the community."

In Buckinghamshire there are a number of Crossing Patroller vacancies, **so if you feel you could make a difference at your local school please speak to Corrine Randall from Transport for Buckinghamshire's Cycling and Walking Team who can be contacted on 01296 383432.**