

Chalfont Office Direct has kindly printed this newsletter



Village Voice - January 2012

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*Happy New Year to everyone and good wishes for a peaceful and productive 2012.
May Chalfont St Peter residents be successful in achieving the best possible outcome
from the planned development of the village,*



**AMERSHAM
FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC**

AMERSHAM FESTIVAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Friday 6th January 2012
St Mary's Church, Old Amersham at 8 pm

Conductor: Iain Ledingham Oboe: Christopher Hooker Bassoon: Tamsin Rowlinson
Cello: Anne-Isabel Meyer

Join them to celebrate the New Year with a festive programme of Italian Baroque Concertos including brilliant works by Vivaldi for Bassoon and Oboe, two wonderful Concerti Grossi by the Great Corelli (including the much-loved and exquisite Christmas Concerto) and one of Besozzi's witty oboe concertos along with one of Boccherini's virtuosic cello concertos.

Bassoon Concerto: Vivaldi

Oboe Concerto: Besozzi

Christmas Concerto: Corelli

Oboe Concerto: Vivaldi

Concerto Grosso in C major: Corelli

Cello Concerto in G major: Boccherini

Tickets on the door or at the
Box Office: 01494 874884
The Record Shop Amersham
www.amershamfestival.org

FAMILY Caring Trust 8 week parenting courses will be running at Gold Hill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Peter from January as follows: **Monday mornings** – 0 – 6's 10.00am to 11.30pm – 16th January to 12th March, **Thursday mornings** – 7-11's 10.00am to 11.30pm - 19th January to 15th March, **Wednesday evenings** – 7 – 11's 8pm to 10pm – 19th January to 15th March. They are hoping to provide a free crèche for morning courses as normal. The cost will be £30 per person or £40 per couple but discounts are also available if necessary. For more information or to book a place, please contact Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 or katrina.reading@goldhill.org.

GRAPHOLOGY for beginners is a course that is taking place at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden on Saturday 14th January and it offers an enjoyable way of sharing learning with others who are interested in what makes people who they are. Handwriting is 'Brainwriting' and the way we think and feel is reflected in the way we write, whether it is through handwriting or with the writing implement held in the mouth or between the toes, it is the brain that produces the individual script style.

People are fascinating, so handwriting analysis will be so as well. Do join the class to find out what makes people tick and how to enhance interaction and relationships.

You are invited to take along samples that you find very interesting and sharing the class discussions is a great way of learning.

Tutor, Elaine Quigley B.A. Hons, M.B.I.G. (Dip) has been teaching at Missenden Abbey for over 20 years and has many samples of writing of every type and kind that could be imagined, as well as famous and infamous people of history.

To Book: 01296 383582 www.arca.uk.net/missendenabbey

A new Badminton Club for any level of player is being held at Beaconsfield High School, Wattleton Rd on most Friday evenings from 7.30pm – 9pm for over 18's. It only costs around £2.60 to £3.00 depending on numbers and racquets are available for free. For more information please contact Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 or katrina.reading@goldhill.org.

GERRARDS Cross Lawn Tennis Club will be holding a Neighbourhood Meeting on the Monday 16th January, starting at 8pm in the Clubhouse, Bull Lane.

CAMERA enthusiasts may be interested in joining the Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Camera Club. <http://www.candgxcameraclub.org.uk/section321554.html> - If so, the person to contact is Dave Trotter Phone: 01628 524332 E-mail: dave-trotter@tiscali.co.uk

VOPAG – Village Older Persons Action Group has its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, January 17 at 10am for 10.30 in the CSP Community Centre. Coffee is first and then there are two speakers, one on DVD digital switchover and the second on School Aid. All over 55's are invited to participate.

HERE'S a bright idea... leave a light on! As evening descends ever earlier, Chiltern residents are being advised to use timer light switches, to deter burglars who take advantage of darkness.

Chiltern Community Safety Partnership is working on an initiative which targets residents who get home after dark in the winter months, such as commuters and late night shoppers.

Residents are being asked to consider using their timer light switch to leave a light on if they plan to return home after dark. Other advice is to regularly vary the times they set timer switches to turn on and off. Watch our video on YouTube <http://tinyurl.com/6fstds> about the importance of not leaving your house in the dark.

Burglary awareness events take place through to the beginning of January. Staff from Thames Valley Police and Chiltern District Council Community Safety Team will be at locations across the district, such as train stations and supermarkets, handing out timer light switches and providing information about how to secure homes effectively against burglaries. British Transport Police will also be helping out at some of the events.

Deterring burglars does not have to cost you a fortune as you can use your timer light switch with an energy saving light bulb. You can purchase timer light switches and energy saving light bulbs from most large supermarkets and DIY stores.

Our upcoming wintertime events in Chiltern will take place at the following times and locations. Timer light switches will be available while stocks last.

Monday 9th January 11am – 1pm – Sainsbury's, Chesham

Tuesday 10th January 3pm – 5pm – Budgens, Chalfont St Peter

More advice can be found at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crprevor please contact your local community safety officer at Chiltern District Council, Caroline Saunders, on 01494 732089.

CHALFONT Common WI had their last meeting of the year on 1st December, when they invited members from other local WI's and had a great social evening. After the mince pies and wine, they settled down to a games evening, which was very lively as every so often they had to change tables to play a different game. Everyone was a winner and it was a great start to the Christmas season. Several members went to the Scanappeal Ladies Evening at Adams Park in November. December offered Christmas activities and the table tennis club enjoyed Christmas celebrations and a final match in Horn Hill Village Hall.

About 10 new members joined during last year and membership is now nearly 60.

January is the fish and chip lunch, February will see another lunch followed by a beetle drive and bookings are already being taken for the **ATTIC SALE** and coffee morning in the Community Centre on **March 17th 9.30 until 12**. There will be cake and book stalls, bric a brac and lots of children's games and toys and in the main hall a full variety of stalls. Tables are £12 each and anyone wishing to book a table please phone Brenda Aldworth on 01753 885293 - brendaa387@gmail.com

In February there is an outing to Denman College which is the WI residential college set in the glorious Oxfordshire country side. There are plans to have lots of other trips to places in and around the area.

Anyone interested in joining this lively group of ladies please do come along on the first Thursday of the month to the Tony Graham Room at the Community centre – 7.30 for 7.45 or contact Chris on 01494 872133 for more information and we will make you very welcome.

AT the December meeting of St Joseph's Furniture Market, the following donations were made.

South Bucks Association for Speech & Communication Help £400

The Chiltern Cheshire Home £400

The Magdi Yacoub Institute (Harefield Heart) £400

Age Concern (Bucks) £400

The Market is open every Saturday from 9am-12.30 in the Store behind the Church and Social Club. Entry off Priory Road, Austenwood Lane – park in the Church car park. Furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk

GERRARDS CROSS Sailing Association meets in the Colston Hall of the Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre, East Common, SL9 7AD, on Wednesdays at 8.15pm. The bar opens at 7.30. To find out about the illustrated talks that are held at each meeting, please go to <http://www.gxsa.org.uk/prog.htm>

THE local group for National Trust members meets on the 2nd Friday of each month. They meet one month in Gerrards and the next month in Chalfont St Peter. Contact: 01494 872204 to know more.

GERRARDS Cross Flower Club has its January meeting on 18th in the Colston Hall, GX Memorial Centre. The presenter is Angela Turner – 'Party in the Park'. The competition is 'January's Gifts'.

DON'T stand out in the cold this winter - get live bus times direct to your mobile and pc.

CHECK when your bus is coming the smart way this winter, using the nextBus tracking service.

It tracks your bus journey and will tell you exactly when your bus is due to depart from your stop. This can be used anywhere via your mobile phone or pc so you can stay warm and dry as long as possible and less time at the bus stop.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire's Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, said: "As well as providing live information to passengers, nextBus also helps us monitor punctuality so we can work with bus companies to improve reliability, making catching the bus a smarter way to travel."

You can access nextBus in a number of ways:

- The new look website www.nextbus.travel has been improved with an interactive map and easy to use bus stop and route number search facilities.

- To get live bus times via mobile internet go to www.nextbuses.mobi

- Via SMS text your bus stop code (found on your bus stop flag or at www.nextbus.travel) to 84268 and receive a text back with the live times for the next few buses. Texts cost 25p plus your standard network charge

- Through your smart phone. A number of apps exist including NextBuses and MyBus on the App Store and CatchthatBus and TransiCast UK on Android Market

GERRARDS Cross Scottish Country Dancing Club would warmly welcome any newcomers, especially beginners. Classes: Tuesdays at 7.30pm at GX Memorial Centre. Keep fit and have fun! For further information please telephone Celia on GX 884217.



REGISTERED CHARITY No: 1028040

Celebrating 20 years of service to the community

THE CHILTERN, SOUTH BUCKS & HIGH WYCOMBE SELF HELP GROUP FOR MANAGERS AND PROFESSIONALS SEEKING WORK

Careers Springboard meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30pm each Monday at St Andres's United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7 QE. Free Membership. **New Members Welcomed.**

January 9 – Making a Positive Start to your Job Search. Celebrating who you are and gaining confidence.

January 16 – Company/Organisation Values & Culture. What are they, do they matter, How do I find out?

January 23 – Building a Winning CV – How to make your CV an interview winning tool.

January 30 – Tell Me About Yourself! How to polish your response to this frequent and important request.

February 6 – Networking and Direct Letters. Making contacts – the essential ingredient to successful job search.



THIS year marks Scannappeal's 25th anniversary and, currently, every 10 minutes a patient is diagnosed or treated with equipment supplied in the past to Amersham, Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville hospitals. If you, a relative or a friend has had cancer or heart disease, the chances are that they have benefited from Scannappeal's work. You can help mark Scannappeal's special year in 2012 and help ensure the charity can continue to provide the most advanced equipment possible for local patients. If you are celebrating a **special birthday or anniversary** this year, why not share it with Scannappeal and ask for donations in lieu of presents and help the Appeal or hospital of your choice?

Take part in **HOST25** – simply ask 25 people round for coffee, tea, drinks or even a meal, either altogether on one occasion or spread

over several dates. Make a small charge appropriate to your event.

Challenge25 – get sponsored to undertake a 25 themed challenge.

These are just some ideas – click [here](#) to find out more or contact Scannappeal on 01494 734161 or email info.scannappeal@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk.

CHALFONT St Peter London Commuters are being invited to drop off on the way home and hear fellow Chalfont St Peter Resident DAVID MEACOCK's piano recital at the Francis Holland School, just a few minutes walk north of Baker Street on Wednesday 18 January 2012, at 7:30 pm.

David has appeared abroad and at major UK venues, and has had his piano playing favourably compared with Josef Lhevinne (a world famous pianist who was a contemporary of Rachmaninoff) and "the Maestro of pianists Maurizio Pollini."

David will be playing popular pieces by **Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt and Satie**, as well as his own transcriptions - including the premiere of his transcription of **Khatachurian's Adagio** from his *Sparticus Ballet*, better known as the *Onedin Line* theme music.

For tickets (£10 and £5 in advance, £12 and £6 at the door), please see the new A40 Choir London page of the www.a40music.com website.

CHALFONT St Peter Parish Council legally challenges Chiltern District Council's Core Strategy document

Over the last three years, Chalfont St Peter Parish Council have made great diplomatic efforts to try to engage Chiltern District Council to work with the village so that the planned developments that are being imposed upon us may take a more sensitive and conducive form. Sense4csp have also been active in trying to persuade CDC to work with the residents to consider our wishes. Sadly our combined efforts have come to nothing although we are very encouraged that Chiltern District council now has new planning officers who seem much more open to the kinds of ideas that the village has been proposing. However decisions made by the old planning department are still rolling forward and The Parish Council have already had to issue the Judicial review challenge to CDC for their decision to approve the Holy Cross/Gerald Eve planning approval which ignored the existing educational and community use of the site.

On the 15th of November 2011 CDC also ratified their Core Strategy after it was approved by the Government planning Inspector. Both CDC and The Planning Inspector have ignored an alternative development option for the site which would entail moving the Chalfont St Peter Church Of England Academy School and developing the old school site as envisaged in the Arrowcroft plan.

The failure to properly consider this alternative planning option, which was suggested very early on by the Parish Council in 2009, means that the Core Strategy is in breach of planning directives. The Parish Council has had no option but to challenge the approval of the Core Strategy by the Inspector in the High Court.

The Parish Council along with their planning and legal advisers have done an excellent job building the case and highlighting the many legal issues therein. We expect the hearing to take place in Spring 2012.

SENSE along with the Parish Council sincerely hope that the landowner and CDC can see the value of the Arrowcroft proposal or a similar plan should it come forward. The Arrowcroft proposal not only provides new houses but also allows the Academy School to have a better site with playing fields and community sports facilities. It also provides the village with a much better mixed development that will enhance Chalfont St Peter for the future in contrast to the dense unimaginative plan that has already been passed which addresses none of the villages existing problems.

BUDGET proposals pave the way for better roads

Well maintained roads are not just good news for motorists, they help stimulate the local economy and highway improvements have been identified as a top priority by both the public and Buckinghamshire county councillors.

This year, a £25 million two-year investment programme was agreed by the County Council and work started on more than 250 major resurfacing schemes in mid-July. The improvements to Buckinghamshire's roads soon became visible, with highly favourable feedback from the public. [See attachment]

Investment will need to continue over several years, to fully tackle the maintenance backlog. And at the (December) Cabinet, members considering draft budget proposals agreed to add another £5 million to the capital programme to continue the work, bringing the total funding over two years to £30 million.

Over the two-year lifetime of the scheme, the County's 57 Members can each choose five sites in their wards for highway improvements, and are listening to where their electorate want priorities made.

These proposals will now go out for further public consultation, be reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before a final budget is agreed by full Council on 16 February 2012.

Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council, said: "We are a customer-focused authority. The public have told us time after time they want decent roads. Spending money on improving our roads will help boost local businesses and make Buckinghamshire an even more attractive option to visitors and new businesses.

"We have reserves set aside just for these times, and it makes sense to draw on these funds to start getting our highway network up to standard and to help the local economy during these straitened times. However, this is only the beginning of a long programme that will be necessary to truly make our roads meet residents' legitimate expectations."

Peter Hardy, Cabinet Member for Transport said: "The 'We're Working on It' project has been a huge success and communities all over the county have benefited from the improvements. We've received really positive feedback from the public, so the extra funding for the coming financial year is really good news."

For further information on the We're Working on It scheme, please visit the website:

www.transportforbucks.net/Roadworks-Centre/We-re-working-on-it.aspx

IT'S official - it's safe to park in Chiltern. All 19 of our car parks have been awarded the Park Mark award. Each was reassessed during November and found to meet the high standards required by the Safer Parking Scheme. Safer Parking Scheme development manager, Ian Carmichael, has worked closely with us through the reassessment process and praised our positive attitude to the scheme and to the safety of our visitor's vehicles:

"Chiltern District Council takes on board the advice administered by British Parking Association and the Police alike and is always looking to improve the service it provides."

The accredited police assessor deemed some of our car parks at a high enough standard to grant the award for the maximum of three years, demonstrating that we can be relied on to uphold these good standards and keep our car parks safe and free of crime.

Councillor Mike Smith, Cabinet Member for environmental management and engineering added: "Since joining the Safer Parking initiative in 2004, we have been actively pursuing the objectives of the scheme and I would like to give a special mention to Andy Clarke, our Parking Manager for his work in bringing our car parks up to such a high standard

THE CRC Performance League Table has placed Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) 887th out of 2103 organisations nationally. BCC is ranked joint 93rd out of 198 participating local authorities nationally.

The table, from the Environment Agency, ranks participating organisations in terms of how they perform at reducing carbon emissions. Local authorities are ranked against other public and private organisations. 2010/11 is the first reporting year of the scheme, with results to be published annually going forward. Organisations' positions in this first league table are based on whether an organisation has taken early action to reduce energy consumption.

Steven Adams, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "To achieve a position in the top half of the league table in what is the first year of the CRC scheme shows that the commitment we are placing on reducing carbon emissions throughout the Council is starting to garner results. We have been working hard over the last few years on a wide range of sustainability projects; we will continue to work hard to improve, particularly with schools, so that next year we can have achieved an even better result."

Total emissions reported by BCC for 2010-11 were 42,469 tCO₂. Schools and academies are included in the BCC total and account for 68% of the Council's total figure. The County Council's Sustainability team work closely with the county's schools, engaging and supporting them with energy management and carbon reduction with initiatives such as energy workshops, supporting schools with the Eco-Schools award, offering interest free Salix loans for 'invest to save' energy efficiency projects and installing smart meters across the school portfolio. BCC is also participating in the Carbon Trust Collaborative Low Carbon Schools project this year, a scheme in which schools work together with their local authority, to become more energy efficient and develop energy strategies.

As well as the many energy efficiency projects in schools that have been funded by the BCC Salix fund, countywide projects have been implemented, such as replacing traffic lights with LED lamps and upgrading street lighting, as well as large IT projects at County Hall.

THERE is no denying that 2011 has been a tough year with the effects of the Eurozone crisis now having a very negative effect on our own UK economy and locally on our daily lives. Rising costs, difficult trading conditions and continuing financial turbulence, means challenging times for us all, says Martin Tett, Leader, Buckinghamshire County Council

For Councils up and down the country, the pressure of inflation and increasing demand for services is far outstripping the money available. It's challenging, and Councils like Buckinghamshire have to change radically as we collectively deliver the tough savings set by Government to reduce our enormous national spending deficit. As we move into 2012 there will be some tough times ahead. Nevertheless, there are grounds for optimism. For example, our budget plans for a second council tax freeze next year will put real money back in people's pockets; our priority of improving the condition of our roads, helping motorists and businesses, will be maintained and funding increased to £30m; grants to the voluntary and community sectors will continue unaffected and we are making sure we protect the most vulnerable.

Jobs remain one of my highest priorities. It's encouraging that latest data shows Buckinghamshire recording the highest level of business formation of any county council area, joining the 34,000 organisations that form the backbone of our local economy. We are also bucking the trend by beginning to reduce unemployment which again is good news. Nevertheless, I remain very concerned at the level of youth unemployment. Next year one of my top priorities will be to encourage businesses to take on more apprentices, as we have as a Council, to get our young people on the first rung of the career ladder. To encourage job creation we are also investing in a joint project with Hertfordshire to bring High Speed Broadband to rural areas of the county.

2012 also sees the Olympic and Paralympic Games which, as a host county, will bring economic benefits to Buckinghamshire. We can also look forward to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, a chance to celebrate a moment in history. The county council, working with our colleagues in each District Council will be making it as simple and inexpensive as possible to hold street parties and other celebrations across the county.

Lastly, in the last few weeks we have also seen long-awaited Government support for East-West rail, a line from Oxford to Bedford which would link to Aylesbury and southern stations. By contrast we will continue to support our residents' opposition to the proposal for High Speed 2 cutting across the county.

WARM Homes healthy people group win grant.

Residents of Chiltern District can now benefit from Government funding aimed at keeping the most vulnerable people warm and well during the cold winter months.

Chiltern District Council together with partners Buckinghamshire County Council, United Sustainable Energy Agency, Age UK, Bucks Citizens Advice, Community Impact Bucks, Bucks PCT, Bucks Community Foundation and all the other district councils in Bucks have successfully bid to the Department of Health for £125,000 to help keep people well this winter.

The grant money will be used to mobilise a winter task force from each of the organisations as well as volunteers from the community to help people in practical ways. This will include supporting people to get all their eligible benefits, advice on how to make savings on fuel bills, help to improve their home insulation and heating systems and in some cases provide extra support in terms of food boxes. To find out more, call your local Affordable Warmth helpline on 0800 107 0044.

1. Cold homes have a significant impact on people's health and one of the best ways of keeping yourself well during winter is to stay warm. Being warm and well during winter can keep coughs and colds at bay, but can also protect you from serious illnesses such as pneumonia. Severe cold weather brings additional challenges, icy paths and roads severely reducing accessibility to buy food and attend medical appointments. The chances of these problems are higher if you are vulnerable to cold related illnesses because of one or more of the following:

- * You are over 60
- * You are on a low income (so cannot afford heating)
- * You have a long-term health condition such as heart disease
- * You are disabled

2. United Sustainable Energy Agency (USEA) is a not for profit company, based in Milton Keynes, providing services to the Public Sector, Business, and individuals to help them reduce carbon, adapt to climate change and tackle fuel poverty. This project is being coordinated by Jan Deacon, Jan is based in USEA's Witney office telephone 01993 894834.

3. The Affordable Warmth helpline (0800 107 0044) is operated by USEA and supports projects in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. It is staffed Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm .

4. Partner organisations in the bid application included:

- * Age UK Buckinghamshire
- * CAB Bucks
- * Community Impact Bucks
- * Bucks Community Foundation
- * United Sustainable Energy Agency
- * Buckinghamshire County Council
- * Aylesbury Vale District Council
- * Chiltern District Council
- * South Bucks District Council
- * Wycombe District Council
- * Buckinghamshire PCT

For further information please contact:

Rachel Prance, Communications & Public Relations Officer

Tel: 01494 732 903

Email: rprance@chiltern.gov.uk

SOLAR panels will save council £150,000

The installation of 116 new solar panels on Buckinghamshire County Council buildings will generate an income of around £150,000 over 25 years, and save energy normally drawn from the National Grid - enough to make more than 140,000 cups of tea a year.

Installed as part of a government scheme, the council will be guaranteed a payment for every unit of electricity generated by the panels, giving Buckinghamshire taxpayers a return of 13-16 per cent on their investment. The scheme has been introduced to encourage the production of renewable energy by householders and businesses by providing cash benefits.

These solar panels have been installed on the flat roof of the council offices in Aylesbury, at Black Park Country Park, and at Aston Clinton household waste recycling centre.

Steven Adams, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "We have installed these panels just in time as the tariff for new installations has been reduced by 50 per cent. By acting quickly we have secured the best possible long term income for the County Council."

"Energy saving measures like this are good for the environment and good for the Buckinghamshire council tax payer," said Steven. "I hope to be able to install many more across the council estate in the future." Steven explained the three sites would now be able to use the electricity they were generating to meet some of their energy demands. For Black Park Country Park this would generate an income of almost £1,500 a year and reduce the site's electricity bill by more than 30 per cent a year.