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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice,

January 2014

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

THE Annual exhibition of the MISBOURNE ART Society is always most enjoyable and the November show last year was even better than usual, with a much more effective layout and also a very successful candidate as winner of the Elaine Butler Salver. This was won by June Perkins (pictured with the salver) with number 54- "Blue Bell Wood" (right). Not only that, but June outstripped all other exhibitors with 40 per cent of the visitors' votes over all. Number 56- "Borrowdale (Lake District)" came 2nd and, equal 4th, was number 55- "River Chess in Winter". All three by June Perkins! A 'record'!



MISBOURNE Art Society meets next, on February 1st for the AG M, followed by informal discussion of paintings which have a particular interest to members. Sorry this newsletter is too late to advise on the January meeting, but please note that on March 1st the activity is Drawing skills, Pastel - Demonstration by Linda H. Matthews.

V.O.P.A.G. (Village Older Persons Action Group) meets next on **Tuesday, January 15**, 10am for coffee and 10.30, in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. It is an ideal opportunity for over 55's to socialise and find out useful local information.

GERRARDS CROSS FLOWER CLUB meets at the Colston Hall, Memorial Centre East Common, GX, at 2.15pm on Wednesday, **January 15** when Jacqui Arnold will be the speaker.

CHALFONT ST PETER Garden Club has meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 8pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane. The first meeting of the year is on Wednesday, **19th February**, when the talk is on "Growing Fruit in a Small Garden" by Jim Arbury. Visitors are welcome.

HEDGERLEY Historical Society has its first meeting in 2014 at Hedgerley Memorial Hall, Kiln Lane Hedgerley, at 8pm on **Wednesday 15th January** when **Bruce Hicks** from Slough Borough Council will describe the Restoration of Herschel Park. Bruce was going to be joined by Tony Down but he has now left Slough Borough Council so he will be joined instead by **Elias Kupfermann** (see details below). Visitors are welcome to attend the meeting.

Bruce Hicks and Elias Kupfermann will present a short history of Herschel Park, the people and circumstances that came together to create the park and surrounding estate and the parks more recent history, the £2.7m Heritage Lottery Fund restoration, volunteers and how the park is managed today.



Bruce Hicks is Parks Projects Officer and has over 30 years' experience of developing, managing and maintaining parks, open spaces and allotments and is conversant with the importance green infrastructure plays in health, wellbeing and community and business prosperity. He managed Slough's parks and open spaces for 5 years and is very aware of the local and national issues and challenges affecting parks, street scene and the urban outdoor environment. He has given design advice for Slough's £6million High Street regeneration project, designed new landscaped areas for Slough's parks, open spaces, schools and wildlife habitats. Bruce's work has achieved Gold Awards for floral displays in southern UK competitions

Elias Kupfermann is a heritage consultant specialising in the history of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire and has been involved in historical research for over 30 years. He is currently compiling his PhD at the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester. He is also an elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. The subject of which is the role of Windsor during the English Civil War. Elias was Chairman of the Friends of Herschel park for ten years during its restoration. Further details can be found on his web site <http://www.eliaskupfermann.com/>.

I WENT to visit the WORKAID premises in Chesham and was given a tour of this amazing organisation. They collect tools to be sent where they are needed and also have a shop that sells items to raise funds. I took along some unwanted tools and saw people working on the refurbishment of all sorts of items. The huge containers that take out all the items to their destination are expensive and to return them would be even more so, therefore they are kept at their destination and turned into rooms. Nothing is wasted. The shop is worth a browse also. There is fabric and haberdashery, as well as a diverse and interesting stock of everything and anything.

Address: 71 Townsend Rd, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 2AA **Phone:**01494 775220

From WORKAID - How we do it

Unwanted tools and equipment are collected from all over the UK and refurbished by a team of dedicated volunteers at the WORKAID workshop. The refurbished tools are then sent to vocational training to help vulnerable and disadvantaged people to learn trade skills and start their own businesses. Any items which are not suitable for sending overseas can be sold in the WORKAID shop or on e-bay to help fund our projects.

Help break the cycle of poverty

- We accept donations including all trade tools (carpentry, plumbing, electrical, building, blacksmithing, welding, lathes, motor mechanic tools, manual and electric sewing machines, knitting machines, leather working, upholstery, haberdashery, wools and yarns, sturdy adult bicycles, horticultural tools, typewriters and many other items.
- You can support WORKAID by:
 - (1) Donating your unwanted tools.
 - (2) Giving your time as a volunteer.
 - (3) Making a donation



How WORKAID helped Annie

With the tools and equipment donated by WORKAID, Annie is now able to feed her family and earn a living by cultivating a small garden. From this Annie can put food on the table and earn through the sale of any surplus.

CHALFONT COMMON W.I. is in full swing for its Annual Attic Sale and wants to let people know that they can start booking tables. This is the 9th year that that it has been held it and it seems to get better each year. The date is Saturday morning 15th March and, as usual, it will be held in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. To book a table please ring Janet Scholfield on 01494 873331 or email scholfieldjanet@yahoo.co.uk

CHALFONT View is a new eMagazine with news and opinions on national and local issues which affect all of us who live in the Chalfonts community. Whether it is development, roads, potholes, clubs, people or business, Chalfont View provides an interesting slant on what makes our community tick. The first issue has articles on Bucks County Council's proposed council tax increase and why councils need more teeth to ensure 'planning localism' works. Please go to <http://chalfontview.blogspot.co.uk/p/home.html> to read the first issue and register for further issues.

THE Chalfonts Friendship Club aims to provide the opportunity for people who are retired or of retirement age to meet to share company. It is focussed on people in our community whether living on their own or couples and aims to promote companionship and sharing amongst its members. Regular monthly lunches are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and these are currently held at St Josph's parish centre, Chalfont St Peter and there are other varied activities each month. For further info, contact: Pat Kelly: 01753 885534 / Mary Cross: 01494 875264 / Charles Watters: 07966 349945

GERRARDS CROSS & District Committee for **Macmillan Cancer Support** invite you to a Bridge Afternoon at The Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7AD (Parking available) on **Monday 3rd February** at 1.30pm prompt (doors open 1.15pm), £40 a table. Tea included in the price. Chicago Bridge, Raffle. Please reserve your table and purchase tickets in advance from: Pat Chapman: Telephone 01753 883573 Sally Roberts: Telephone 01753 880662 Macmillan Cancer Line 0808 808 2020 www.macmillan.org.uk Helping people living with cancer.

NEW Futures Fund to help not-for-profit organisations be more successful .

Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Buckinghamshire will get a major boost to achieving their long-term objectives with the launch of a new support scheme.

The New Futures Fund, developed and financed by the County Council, aims to help small and medium not-for-profit and voluntary organisations based in Buckinghamshire develop and build their ability to meet the needs of local communities through specialist one-to-one support in the areas they most need help with.

The scheme will enable organisations to benefit from help in identifying their priority needs and producing a development plan, followed by up to three days of specialist support and training in areas such as finance and income generation, ICT and marketing and communications.

The programme marks a significant increase in the Council's investment in supporting Buckinghamshire's voluntary and community sector and builds on the existing agreement the County and District Councils jointly have with Community Impact Bucks to provide support to Buckinghamshire community and voluntary organisations.

Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Communities said: "This is an excellent programme that could really benefit many voluntary groups across our county. It is often the lack of specialist help that these groups cannot afford to pay for that makes them less successful than they should be. I really hope we see a good uptake and can help many well deserving groups."

The scheme will be fully operational from January 2014. Find out more at:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/community/helping-your-community/support-and-training/vcs-new-futures-fund/>

FOSTER carers needed for Bucks children in care outside county

Parents whose children have 'flown the nest' by going to university or pursuing a more independent life are being urged to consider if they could offer vulnerable children and young people a safe and loving home.

With forty per cent of children currently living in care out of county, more foster carers are urgently needed to bring these children home to Buckinghamshire.

June Sutton from Aylesbury, who has two grown up children of her own has been a foster carer for the County Council for almost twenty years.

She said: "It was my sister also a foster carer who originally gave me the idea. I had just been made redundant and had some health issues so really didn't think I would be eligible and my daughter was still living at home.

"But following approval the council's fostering team welcomed me with open arms, and I started looking after children aged 0 - 17 year olds," she says.

June said that she knew very little about fostering before deciding she wanted to do it, believing it was only for children who needed short-term care. So was a little surprised when her first foster child ended up staying with her for over two years.

After successfully adopting a baby boy who came into her care eleven years ago, she now only fosters babies and is currently caring for a 6 month old.

"Angela Macpherson, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services said: "There are many reasons why a child may need to spend time in our care, and foster carers can give them a loving, family environment to grow in.

"We are looking for more foster carers in the Bucks area to come forward. Children thrive on familiarity, so we try to place them with carers in their local area to enable them to remain close to their school and friends, as well as people and places they know.

"People from a variety of backgrounds can apply to foster, regardless of marital status or sexuality. But it is important that our carers have personal skills like patience, a good sense of humour, tolerance, energy and ability to treat children and young people as individuals."

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer or adoptive parent and would like to find out more visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering or call 0800 160 1900.

Permission to appeal the JR decision

The Parish Council has recently received notification from the Royal Courts of Justice that a hearing to argue permission to appeal the Judicial Review decision has been granted. The date for the hearing has been set for 12th March 2014. If it is successful the next hearing will be the appeal itself. SENSE is hopeful that ultimately a positive outcome can still be achieved and the inappropriate development currently being considered for the Holy Cross site will be stopped. The money raised through your generous donations has helped fund the legal costs so far, but further funds are needed to support the PC in the next stage of their fight. The appeal is hugely important for the future of the village in that, if successful, it will give us a real opportunity to make the plans for the village as we want it to be, rather than having hundreds of houses and flats forced upon us.



Persimmon's latest iteration of the 3 storey care home which will be built on the Holy Cross site

Persimmon Homes submit a new reserved matters application for the Holy Cross Site

Persimmon Homes have submitted a revised application for 187 dwellings, a 65 bed care home and the retention of the existing bungalow, graveyard and chapel. Please be aware that the layout differs from the concept drawings presented at the Persimmon exhibition on the 18th November.

Whilst there are some improvements to the original application refused by CDC, there are still many aspects that SENSE recommends residents robustly object to. The density remains too high and the disproportionate number of flats is out of keeping with the existing village. If the Parish Council is unsuccessful in the appeal against the JR decision, this may be our last chance to influence the final development on the Holy Cross site.

A further newsletter giving notification of our objections will be forwarded as soon as the committee have had time to carefully scrutinise the plans and consider the information available.

We urge you to view the detailed application on the CDC planning portal <https://isa.chiltern.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=MX6BFGES09X00>, application reference: CH/2013/1991/DE.

The final date guaranteeing objections will be considered by the planning officer is 16th January 2014.

Thank you for your continued support

SENSE4CSP

GET the benefits of travelling sustainably in 2014. New Year is a great time for making changes. By replacing just one regular solo car journey with a more sustainable mode such as cycling, walking, car share or using public transport, residents can benefit themselves and their community. These benefits can include improvements to health and fitness levels, reductions in stress, money savings, reducing congestion and helping improve the environment.

Transport for Buckinghamshire and Buckinghamshire County Council are encouraging residents in High Wycombe to take a fresh look at their local journeys, offering a limited number of Personalised Travel Plans (PTPs) to help show the choices available. These plans provide all the options for a journey, showing useful comparative information such as journey time, calories burnt, car share partners and levels of carbon dioxide emitted.

To receive your PTP please email travelchoice@buckscc.gov.uk with details of the start and end point of your journey and the times you wish to travel.

Cabinet member for Planning and Transportation, Janet Blake said: "A Personalised Travel Plan is a great way for residents to explore all the options available for their journey, helping them to choose a more sustainable mode which suits their needs."

For information or advice regarding sustainable travel visit High Wycombe library on Friday 24 January between 10:30-14:30 where a travel surgery will be taking place.

FIRM plan for a legal collaboration

Two Buckinghamshire local authority legal teams have applied for permission to set up a collaborative law firm - among the first in the United Kingdom to do so.

Solicitors from Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority plan to join forces to form Buckinghamshire Law + to serve both authorities and to offer legal services to other councils, emergency services and charities.

The move, which is now being considered by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA), will combine the expertise of the teams, create more flexibility, and generate income for the County Council and Fire Authority.

Anne Davies, Head of the County Council's Legal Services, said their application to the SRA was to set up an 'Alternative Business Structure'. It would be a limited company allowing them the flexibility to work for traditional clients as well as to provide legal services to other public sector organisations that would otherwise go without legal advice - something regulations have prohibited until now.

'It'll enable us to move with the times and operate in the new business environment in which local authorities have begun to operate,' said Anne. 'We have considerable legal expertise in the legal department and we already provide a very cost effective legal service to our respective councils. The move will enable us to offer this to a much greater number of clients.'

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, said: 'This puts us in the vanguard of local authority legal service transformation. In these days of Government pressure on council budgets, we need to be creative and forward thinking, which is good news for our taxpayers, for the council, and for the community generally.'

Adrian Busby, Chairman of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority, said: 'I enjoy working with any in-house lawyers who are able to recognise opportunities that the law creates for their employers to be innovative or to cut costs. Here, the legal teams will be applying those same principles to the delivery of a quality legal service itself.'

Mark Jones, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive, said: 'I look forward to exploring these mutually beneficial proposals as they will complement my approach to collaborative working and sharing services.'

Buckinghamshire Law + is expected to be operating by Summer 2014.

MEDIA BRIEFING: Emergency crews on weekend alert

Minor flooding affected 11 roads throughout the county during the wet and windy weekend, keeping Transport for Buckinghamshire's (TfB) emergency crews and teams of gully emptiers busy clearing surface water and three fallen trees.

Of the 42 emergency call-outs, 10 were to flood sites in Aylesbury Vale District, one to a flood in Chiltern District, and three to trees affecting roads in Chiltern District. Other call-outs were to three diesel spills, flytipping and potholes. Since the beginning of Christmas week, crews have cleared more than 120 fallen trees and dealt with flooding on 81 roads.

With forecasts continuing to predict squally showers and gusts of around 60mph, all TfB crews remain on standby to keep the roads throughout Buckinghamshire as clear and safe as possible.

A Flood Warning has been issued by the Environment Agency (EA) for the properties closest to the River Thames from All Saints Church, Bisham, to Little Marlow. Flooding is expected to affect up to 20 properties in this area.

River levels are continuing to rise on the River Thames following the recent rainfall, and will continue to rise for the next 24 hours, say the EA.

The Met Office forecasts heavy showers overnight tonight and through Tuesday.

For more information on flooding in your area, call Floodline on 0845 988 1188, or visit the Environment Agency website - www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

To report any flooded roads or fallen trees in Buckinghamshire, please call 0845 230 2882, and keep up to date with the latest alerts on Twitter - @tfbalerts

Seize the moment and go Smokefree

A hard-hitting new national advertising campaign from Public Health England pulls no punches in showing the damage that toxins from smoking do to blood, lungs, heart and brain.

Every time you smoke, blood that's thick and dirty with toxins circulates through your body in seconds, which increase your chances of a heart attack or stroke. But as well as the smoking-related diseases you may be aware of, did you know that the toxins also affect the brain, leading to accelerated decline in memory and mental abilities in later life? The new Smokefree ad campaign seeks to reveal these uncomfortable truths.

Buckinghamshire County Council is supporting the national campaign, and is encouraging the county's smokers to seize the opportunity and kick the habit. Although the campaign's hard-hitting message is challenging, there is hope.

"It's never too late to quit smoking," confirms Director of Public Health for Buckinghamshire, Dr. Jane O'Grady.

"Quitting smoking at any time is good for your health and wellbeing. As soon as you stop smoking, the health risks associated with the habit begin to reduce.

"After six months the risk of heart attack, cancer and other smoking related diseases begins to fall. After ten years the risk of lung cancer falls to about half that of a smoker, with the risk of heart attack around the same as someone who has never smoked at all."

Although many smokers have successfully quit in recent years, smoking remains the largest cause of preventable ill health and premature death. Around 600 smokers die each year as a result of their habit in Bucks.

"We know the harm that smoking can cause to individuals and their families," says Patricia Birchley, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing at Buckinghamshire County Council, "but we also know how we can help those who do smoke to make a positive change and quit.

"We have excellent smokefree support services in Buckinghamshire, and if smokers use these, they are four times more likely to quit than trying to do it alone. I'd like to appeal to smokers to get in touch with our local services and make 2014 the year that they act to stop their habit seriously damaging their health."

Contact the free Bucks smokefree support service by visiting smokescape.org, calling 0845 27 07 222 or emailing stopsmoking@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk