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Chalfont St Peter Village Voice September 2011

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READERS of this newsletter may remember that a couple of years ago in the September issue (2009) there was an article in Village Voice about our local choir - the South Bucks Choral Society and their trip to Italy. Some readers may have heard the choir at concerts during the annual Amersham Music Festival since its founding in the early 1980's.

In July, this year, the choir returned to Italy for their 6th visit to the Cinque Terre- a World Heritage site on the beautiful coastal region just south of Genoa. They spent a very successful week in Monterosso, one of the coastal villages south of Portofino. The choir was accompanied by opera students from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Iain Ledingham, from Chalfont St Peter, the choir's Music Director is also Professor at the Royal Academy of Music - he has been running his successful Italian Summer School for a number of years to give his students experience of performing arias in Italian. The choir sang Faure's Requiem along with a choral version of Psalm 89 written by Aldo Viviani and Elgar's Ave Verum in the cathedral churches of both Levanto and Monterosso. Each concert ended with the aria Va Pensiero (chorus of the Hebrew Slaves) from Verdi's opera Nabucco. This chorus has become the unofficial Italian National anthem (a bit like Land of Hope and Glory here). This year, 2011, marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of Italy, as we know it today, so it was appropriate to end with Va Pensiero at both concerts. In Monterosso it was sung outside the church to an emotional response from the Italian audience - and they joined in the encore with gusto.

The students from the Royal Academy of Music also gave an open air concert in one of the medieval spacious piazzas in Monterosso where they performed Operatic Arias to a packed audience for one and half hours.

The choir is always on the look out for further singers, especially men. This November we shall be singing Handel's Coronation Anthems (with Zadok the Priest) and Ode on St Cecilia's Day. If you feel you would like to explore this further why not phone the choir Secretary, Gwenda McInnes on 01494 433013 and she can give you more information.

HARD working pupils and staff have led a jump in maths and English results for 11 year-olds across Buckinghamshire schools.

An outstanding 86% of Buckinghamshire's 11 year olds pupils reached the expected level 4 in English this year; a rise of 2% on 2010. Over 84% gained a level 4 in mathematics; again a rise of almost 2% on 2010. Results

for more able mathematicians also jumped by 3% this year with over 43% of Buckinghamshire 11 year olds reaching level 5 in their 2011 tests.

These results were significantly higher than the national results for KS2 tests which found 81% attaining level 4 in English and 80% level 4 in mathematics nationally.

When compared to our statistical neighbours* Buckinghamshire's schools delivered a set of excellent results which placed them first or joint first in all the measures for 11 year olds in mathematics and English.

Martin Tett, Leader of the County Council said: "These are excellent results for the pupils and families in our schools. They represent huge amounts of hard work by staff and pupils across the county and I am delighted that even more pupils move on to their secondary schools with the skills they need to do well. Families in Buckinghamshire should be proud of the schools they have and celebrate, as I will with headteachers, the excellent education pupils in Buckinghamshire schools receive."

THE Chalfont St Peter Garden Club Annual show was held on 20th August. It was a great success with entries up in most classes in spite of the difficult growing conditions experienced this year. The judges were once again very complimentary. The new experimental classes created a lot of interest and were a broad interpretation of the outline in the schedule. The Floral Art classes doubled their exhibits from last year and made a spectacular display. Visitor numbers in the afternoon were gratifying, in spite of the sudden onset of very heavy rain.... Grace Hunter (Show Sec.)

The next Garden Club meeting is on Wednesday 21 September at 8pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane, when Brian Clews will talk about Birds in a village - 100 years of change. Visitors welcome.

THE local branch of the National Trust starts its meetings again after the summer break on September 9 at 8pm in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. The speaker is George Perkins on The Spirit of Gaudi in Barcelona and it should be a super talk. Even if you are not a National Trust Member, you could go along and see if you want to join.

THE Chalfonts Friendship Club ("the C.F.C.") was established in March 2009 to facilitate the opportunity for

people who are retired or of retirement age, whether living on their own or couples, to meet to share company.

It is focussed on reaching out and promoting companionship and sharing amongst people in our local Community. Its Membership is drawn from a wide area encompassing the Chalfonts and extending from Fulmer to Latimer and from Beaconsfield to Denham.

They get together every month over a lunchtime meal on 2nd Wednesday of the month – and also hold Regular Outings, Theatre Trips, Lunches, Quiz Evenings, Talks on Art, Days Out, Visits to Stately Homes and the seaside.

The C.F.C aims to be self-sufficient and self-reliant through its members and welcomes new members being introduced; are you alone or in need of company or know somebody who is?

If you are interested or know someone who might be, or you would like further details, please contact Mary on 01494 875264 or Pat on 01753 885534 - All welcome.

FANCY trying Dodgeball? A new dodgeball course starts on 7 September at Chalfont Leisure Centre. The course is for seven-weeks and costs £14.

Aimed at young people aged eight years and above, dodgeball is a great way to keep fit. The objective of the game is to hit the opposite team with balls, causing them to get off the court; the team with the last person standing wins.

The game is typically played with five to 10 players, in a gym with soft balls made of foam.

If you would like to sign up for the dodgeball course, call Chalfont Leisure Centre on 01753 887812.

A LIFE drawing class at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre is on for five weeks 7-9pm from 21st September. Paper and charcoal on sale. Mixture of poses and a different model each week. No formal tutoring but basic help if you need it. Limited space, so please call Ana on 07855 397620. £10 per session for block bookings or £12 drop-in (but please call in advance to check spaces).

GENESIS in the Precinct, has its summer sale on at the moment and there are lots of items worth browsing through, before the winter Collections arrive in October.

QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 7th October - 7.30pm start at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. Tickets £10, includes fish & chip supper. A great fun night – all proceeds go towards upkeep of Community Centre. Bar facilities open with table service. Please call 01753 885778 for tickets. Teams made up of 6 people. Smaller parties grouped on night.

ON one of the warmest days of July members of **Chalfont Common WI** visited Moore Park Mansion – arriving in time for coffee and then being given a most interesting talk and tour around the mansion by a member of NADFAS. It is amazing how much history is just on our doorstep.

The Group has had a busy summer with a coffee morning, an evening walk around Lane End followed by a delicious supper, a literary lunch, a private showing of Mama Mia with a wonderful meal in aid of Help the Heroes.

The talk for July was given by Graham Laurie on the history of Royal Flying and the annual August social was a splendid occasion and very well attended with lots of

delicious food prepared by members

There is a full programme of events for Autumn, with a visit to Buckingham Palace & Covent garden, a theatre visit to see Harrow Light Opera's version of Half a Sixpence, a Beetle Drive to name but a few.

Also there is a monthly book club and a walk depending on the weather and the weekly table tennis club is thriving.

New faces are always welcome, so if anyone is interested in joining this busy and friendly group, please do go 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.

GERRARDS CROSS Flower Club meets next on Wednesday 14 September, 2pm in the Colston Hall, of GX Memorial Centre, when Alison Gillott will present 'Tales of the Riverbank'. The competition is 'In the Basket',

CHALFONT St Peter WI has its next meeting on Wednesday 14 September in the Church Hall, Church Lane at 2.15pm, when Mr Copeland will present Chiltern Curoisities (Part 1). Produce Cup – Jar of Preserves.

THE Gerrards Cross Scottish Country Dancing Club would warmly welcome any newcomers, especially beginners. Classes re-start Tuesday 6th September at 7.30pm at GX Memorial Centre. Keep fit and have fun! For further information please telephone Celia on GX 884217.

FOLLOWING a complaint from a member of the public, Trading Standards has found quantities of counterfeit Glen's Vodka and Jacobs Creek wine at convenience stores in High Wycombe.

Counterfeit alcohol can be contaminated with dangerous chemicals such as methonal. In extreme cases this has led to blindness and death. We have previously tested counterfeit Vodka which has been found to be unsafe and may cause harm to the people drinking it.

If you have suspicions about alcohol you have purchased contact Consumer Direct 0808 156 2259

For more information

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2008/feb/vodka>

CAREERS Springboard is the Chilterns, South Bucks & High Wycombe self help group for managers and professionals seeking work. Meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30 pm each Monday at St Andrew's United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross, SL9 7QE.

Sep 5 Launching a Positive Job Search/Action Planning - Get yourself in the right upbeat frame of mind.

Guest Speaker: Mary Flavelle (BBC Radio / www.maryflavelle.com)

Sep 12 Get to know your Transferable Skills - Identify your key assets, realise your true value, discover your hidden talents & create your key skills profile as the basis for your job search. Speaker: Tony Hodgson (Volunteer)

Sep 19 Building a Winning CV - How to make your CV an interview winning tool. Speaker: David McMullan (Volunteer)

Sep 26 Tell Me About Yourself ! - How to polish your response to this frequent and important request.

Speaker : Peter Roycroft (Volunteer)

Oct 3 Using the Internet / LinkedIn for your Job Search - Effective use of Online Job Sites and social

media resources. Guest Speaker : Russell Crowe (Business leader)
(www.retailkudos.com, www.cvwow.com)

THE Bridge School at Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre is now taking bookings for new Beginning Bridge classes which are starting in September 2011. The first evening class is on Monday 26 September from 7.30 – 9.30pm, and the day class starts on Wednesday 28 September from 9.30 – 11.30am.

Bridge is fun, keeps the mind active and is a great way to meet new friends. Tutor Tessa Templeton said, "We are also running Continuing (ie second year) and Consolidation classes as well as a Tuesday evening class on card play. There's lots of bridge in Gerrards Cross." The Gerrards Cross Memorial Centre is at 8 East Common, Gerrards Cross SL9 7AD and there is free parking. Visit www.bridgewebs.com/schoolgerrardscross, email bridgeschoolgx@aol.com or call Tess on 01753 885004.

Bridge is one of the most enduring and popular games in the world, played for more than 100 years. In Britain, around 300,000 people play regularly. Bridge can trace its ancestry at least to the early 16th century in England. In 1834 the first signal was invented heralding the first game of duplicate whist in London in 1857.

IN SEPTEMBER at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, Gorelands Lane, Knit One Purl One, is the feature on the 17th. The Museum is open every day from 10am – 5pm.

AT the August meeting of St Joseph's Furniture Market the following donations of £250 each were made to:- Age Concern (GX & Chalfonts), Sense (for deaf & blind people) and CAPD Endowment Fund (Home dialysis).

The market is open each Saturday from 9am – 12.30. Entrance is from Priory Road. Park in the Church Car Park Email details: 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 2012 Games: Is Bucks ready? The public are being encouraged to participate in a cross-party review of Buckinghamshire County Council's preparations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The scrutiny review will take place over two days (5-6 September), during which members of the task and finish group will examine in detail BCC's plans for 2012. With rowing, sprint-canoeing and adaptive rowing events taking place at Dorney Lake, and as the birthplace of the Paralympics, Buckinghamshire has an important role to play in delivering the 2012 Games. Now that the Olympics are less than a year away, the review is an opportunity to ensure BCC is preparing effectively.

People are invited to submit questions on any area of the review, which will look at the County Council's plans in areas such as transport, emergency planning, and how communities will celebrate the Games. The review will explore these key areas and make timely

recommendations to help the County rise to the challenge during the Games. To submit a question to be asked as part of the review process, call the scrutiny team on 01296 382140, or visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/scrutiny by Thursday 25 August.

Cllr Niknam Hussain, Chairman of the Olympic 2012 Games Scrutiny Committee said: "This review is a chance for us to check that the County Council's plans are on track. We want to invite members of the public to contribute their questions so we can make sure the review directly reflects the interests and concerns of Buckinghamshire residents."

Relevant questions will be put forward in the appropriate evidence session - and the member of the public is welcome to attend to ask the question directly, or have the question asked on their behalf if they cannot attend. For further information about the review call the scrutiny team on 01296 382140 or visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/scrutiny.

PARKING - NSL Ltd will take over enforcement duties in Wycombe on Thursday 22 September, followed by Chiltern and Aylesbury Vale over the following six months. The organisation was selected following an extensive procurement process by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB).

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport said: "I welcome NSL Ltd as our new contractor, and look forward to them bringing their expertise to this function. This new contract will enable the county to reduce the cost of parking enforcement.

"The initial decision to ask the private sector to carry out this activity for TfB was not an easy one. By operating the on-street parking services as a countywide function through a contractor, we can offer a level of economy that we could not deliver any other way. TfB has made a commitment to work with NSL to ensure that on-street enforcement is carried out in a consistent, fair but firm manner across all the Districts."

As NCP, NSL operated the town centre parking services in Wycombe for many years up until 2008. NSL regional manager, David Sinclair, who was responsible for the previous operation, said: "We are very pleased to have renewed our association with Bucks, and look forward to helping keep the streets safe and traffic moving in towns and urban centres across the County."

THE public is being asked for their feedback on options proposed by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB), to address **areas at risk of flooding in the county**. A consultation on the proposals for Chesham and High Wycombe is available for review until Friday 23 September.

The surface water management plans that have been produced as a result of a recent study, provide a number of different ways to help reduce the risk of flooding in Chesham and High Wycombe, using sustainable methods. Residents are encouraged to view these options online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/haveyoursay. Feedback received will be valuable in determining the most

appropriate flood prevention for the towns and their priority for implementation.

Surface water flooding can be caused by intense rainfall before it enters a watercourse or sewer, overland flow resulting from high groundwater levels, exceeding of the capacity of the sewer network and 'out of bank flow' from 'ordinary' watercourses which are not designated as Environment Agency Main Rivers.

Peter Hardy, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "The surface water management plans are the first step towards managing the surface water flood risk in Chesham and High Wycombe. By having a robust management plan in place we will be best placed to coordinate maintenance works appropriately and start to identify funding opportunities to see some improvements on the ground. Residents' input is vital in ensuring that we have identified the best options to lower the flood risk and we welcome your views on their priority."

Two levels of options have been identified to tackle flood risk. The first are more generic recommendations around targeting maintenance at higher risk areas, coordinating works with other agencies, and ensuring that planning guidance puts sustainable drainage at the forefront of new developments. The other more specific options relate to schemes and engineering measures that can be introduced to reduce surface water flooding risk, these vary from the provision of increased property resistance such as flood boards to the re profiling of roads and raising of kerbs to redirect flood waters.

Full details of the consultation, and plans showing where options are being considered can be viewed at: www.buckscc.gov.uk/haveyoursay. In addition, exhibitions are being held for the duration of the consultation at both Chesham and High Wycombe library. Comments can also be submitted in writing to floodmanagement@buckscc.gov.uk, or SWMP Consultation, Transport for Buckinghamshire, Floor 9, County Hall, Aylesbury, HP20 1UY. The closing date for all responses is Friday 23 September.

LANGLEY Park and Black Park in south Buckinghamshire are two of the best parks in the country - and that's official!

Both parks have received Green Flag Awards, a sign to visitors that the parks are well-maintained and well-managed, with excellent facilities, and providing a high-quality green space in Iver and Wexham.

Langley Park and Black Park are two of 1,288 parks and green spaces nationally that have received the Green Flag Award this year - the second year for Langley Park and sixth for Black Park.

Tim Williams, Buckinghamshire County Council Country Parks Officer, said: 'Our staff work hard to maintain our parks to a very high standard throughout the year. We want our visitors to find our parks in the same excellent condition as the judges did when they visited.'

Steven Adams, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: 'Black Park and Langley Park are both fantastic places for families to visit. They are kept in tip-top condition by a

great team as demonstrated by these well deserved awards.'

To find out more about country parks in Buckinghamshire, visit: http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/parks/country_parks.page

THE rumble of machinery on highways across the county has signalled the launch of Transport for Buckinghamshire's (TfB) 'We're Working On It' two-year road resurfacing programme.

In the south of the county, Peter Hardy, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, was at Chalfont St Peter, to see a road team start work in The Vale, while at Winslow in the north of the county, David Rowlands, Cabinet Spokesman on Planning and Transport, met the team resurfacing a stretch of the A413.

The 'We're Working On It' programme, driven by County Councillors' priorities, follows the announcement in May by Council Leader Martin Tett that the repair of Buckinghamshire's roads would be a top priority. He announced a £25 million budget to be spent over the next two years on a repair programme drawn from 57 County Council Members' top five priorities.

Peter Hardy said: 'We have significantly increased the amount of money we are spending over the next two years on road repairs. This will help us make a start on addressing a very large backlog of repair work, but even this amount of investment is just one-tenth of what it will cost to bring the county's roads up to spec.'

David Rowlands said: 'The new approach to identify which roads get repaired, directly involves all County Councillors, who have the great advantage of knowing their local areas. They also receive information from their residents so they have been well placed to tell the TfB engineers which roads they feel are most in need of repair.'

Project Manager Kirk Adams said engineers had taken advantage of the school holidays and programmed work during the break to reduce disruption. Other work is taking place at night when little traffic is on the roads. 'This is a large two year programme so some disruption is unavoidable, and we apologise for this,' he said. 'But the benefits for residents will be well worth it!'

In the coming two years TfB expects to work on up to 285 schemes prioritised by Members. Next month (September) every councillor will be updated with the progress of their priority schemes and detail of what will be delivered during the coming financial year.

As the programme progresses information will be made available on the Service Information Centre www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport