

Please read and pass on, thank you.

Chalfont St Peter Village Voice

JULY 2007

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Chalfont St Peter website www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice



THE flags were out in the village all the way along High Steet and Market Place and though St Peter's Feast Day may have been rainy and wet, (not like these sunny picture taken by Anne Leitch before the day) it didn't dampen the spirits of those who visited the stalls in the church grounds and attended the church services, to mark our local celebrations.

THE Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has announced that **Helen Cairns**, a teacher at the **Chalfonts Community College**, has won the TDA Award for Outstanding New Teacher of the Year in the Southern Region category of the DfES Teaching Awards 2007.

Helen has worked at the Chalfonts Community College for three years, her outstanding skills enabling her rise to be head of Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), as well as a respected form tutor. Her lessons are lively, challenging and engaging, incorporating topical items and issues on television – ongoing events the students can relate to and understand. Visitors are often invited to give talks on areas such as fire safety, breast and testicular cancer, cultural awareness and drugs.

Helen is respected for her sympathetic and mature approach, which enables her to assist many individual students and parents. One student who felt unable to go to school was helped, with Helen's support, to return to the classroom. A parent found Helen's help and assistance to be invaluable, when going through a difficult time. This support was summed up by a student who explained that problems aren't pushed to one side, but rather Helen discusses ways to solve them and they feel empowered by this.

Helen was nominated for this award by Sue Tanner, Headteacher at the Chalfonts Community College, who recognised Helen's outstanding skills in raising the profile of PSHE, not only in the classroom but in arranging whole-school initiatives, such as a Healthy Schools Audit, Enterprise Days for 8-13 year-olds, a World Challenge expedition to Ecuador, and organising fundraising activities including Strictly Come Chalfonts, a dance competition for staff.

A passion for PSHE was the reason Helen wanted to teach, believing the skills and values raised in PSHE are fundamental to every child's development. Helen combined PSHE with Religious Education for her teaching course as, she believes, the moral values promoted are very similar. This passion is shown with Helen's additional activities, which include working with charities and other agencies to help students study racism, traffic-calming, cancer and inter-generational activity. An example of this is a No Smoking Day run every year across the college raising awareness with stickers, badges, T-shirts and quizzes.

Helen has found the ethos at Chalfonts Community College to be inspiring. She explains: "Since joining the Chalfonts, I have found that students both challenge me and inspire me on a daily basis. The staff have been nothing short of fantastic, so supportive and encouraging. There is a real 'can do' feel about the college, with many talented members of staff challenging and inspiring each other. Education for me is not about the limited time students are at school, it is about equipping them with the life skills, self-esteem and awareness of others that is essential to students achieving personal successes throughout their whole lives."

ST PETER PLAYERS Present an *Old Time Music Hall* on July 12, 13 and 14 in The CSP Community Centre. Further information from 01494 874431/01895 835392.

CHILTERN OPEN AIR MUSEUM has some super activities in July. Weekend 7/8 - meet Sovereign the Shire Horse, 14/15 - 1940s Home Front (Land Girls & Home Guard, 21/22 - Classic Vehicle Show and 28/29 - Victorian Military Weekend (The Diehards). In August the weekend 3/5 has Noddy and Friends and 11/12 has Medieval Pageant (The Lion Rampant). The Museum is in Gorelands Lane beside the Newland Park campus. www.coam.org.uk 01494 872163.

POP-IN meets every Thursday morning during term time from 10-11.30am in the Gold Hill Baptist Church and there is a creche for babies and activities for pre-school children. Subjects in July are: Fantastic food for kids, Through tough times to good, with Patsy Wyatt. This is a non-denominational group and all ladies are welcome to join the Thursday meetings.

CAREERS Springboard is a self-help group and regular participation in the Monday evening meetings should help to stimulate your job search skills. The meetings also provide the opportunity for you to share your views and problems with others. Volunteers are available to give personal advice and appointments should be booked through the administrator Chris White on careers.springboard@virgin.net The Monday meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30pm at St Andrews United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross.

THE VOPAG meeting on Tuesday 17th July will be taking place **at the Community Centre, 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** and the theme is 'Fit for Living'. There will be lots of interesting and useful stands, in addition to which a number of people will be speaking on a variety of subjects. It is also hoped to show the 3/4 minute film recently made by young people from the Youth Centre and Chalfonts Community College which is great fun - an animated reversal of roles - the young people of the village complaining about the behaviour of the older residents, possibly to draw attention to the fact that antisocial behaviour is not acceptable. Please note the change from the usual venue, for this meeting. Meetings for the rest of the year are Thursday 16th August, Tuesday 18th September, Thursday 18th October, Tuesday 20th November and Thursday 13th December, in the Parish Council Offices.

THE Anchor Staying Put scheme is part of Southern Buckinghamshire Safer Homes. They will undertake small household repairs etc. for disabled adults; anyone over the age of 60 and vulnerable householders at risk of accidents, falls, fire or living in fear of crime who are living in Chiltern. They may well have a stand at the 'Fit for Living' event (above). The service is supported by local District Councils, Fire and Rescue, Police, our Primary Care Trust, the Housing Association and Bucks County Council. It is a valuable service, charging only £10 per hour + VAT and materials and the people carrying out the work are all carefully checked before being employed. The number I use to obtain help is 01628 526367.

THE CSP WI meets on the second Wednesday in the month at the Church Hall, Church Lane at 2.15pm. On July 11 the talk is - London Oddities – speaker : Sally Botwright.

CHALFONT St Peter Garden Club, Meets Wednesday, July 18 in the Church Hall at 8pm, when Christine Hollindale advises on how to Prepare Your Show Entries. **The Annual Summer Show is in the Community Centre on Saturday August 18.**

GERRARDS CROSS Flower Club meets in The Memorial Centre, Gerrards Cross at 2pm and on July 18 will have Edward Asquith presenting 'Summer Extravaganza'.

YOGA classes are at the CSP Community Centre on Thursdays at 1.30pm. Contact numbers 01494 677094 or 07811 138589.

AGE CONCERN provides a two-course lunch on Tuesdays in the Church Hall, Church Lane. The doors open at 12.15 for you to enjoy food cooked by a team who act as hosts to their guests and make the occasion one of friendly sharing. The cost of the lunch is £2 and the number to phone is 01753 882858.

Another benefit of being a pensioner is that you are entitled to use the Chiropodist service that is run by Age Concern. I am told that both of the ladies who work for this are excellent. Cost is also attractive, as it is only about half the usual cost for chiropody locally. The service covers Chalfont St Peter and Gerrards Cross. To book, please phone 01753 885646.

THE Day Centre, run by Age Concern, with the assistance of Gold Hill Baptist Church that provides the building and its resources, is for elderly and infirm pensioners and mostly for people who are housebound. It runs on Wednesdays from 10am-3.30pm and provides coffee, lunch and afternoon tea for those who would benefit from the company and caring that make it a treat to look forward to. It also provides a respite day for families who have an elderly member at home, who needs to be cared for.. Please phone 01753 882858 to learn more about what is on offer. It is certainly a valuable community contribution.

ALL SAINTS' church music festival has a superb programme over the months July to November, starting Thursday 19 July at 7.30pm with the Grenadier Guards. This is one of the world's premier military bands with a long and distinguished history dating back over 300 years. Based in Wellington Barracks London, from where its established strength of 49 professional musicians are able to provide musical support to the British Army, primarily through participation in #State and Ceremonial occasions. They will be performing a variety of music with a light-hearted theme. This concert will include a BBQ supper on the lawn (weather permitting). Tickets £17 adult, £13 child. Bookings on **01753 883384** or 882426.

PILATES classes are provided by Chalfont St Peter experts. Tricia at the Community Centre, CSP on Monday and Friday 10.40am to book phone 01753 885420 and Jackie at the Chalfont St Giles Youth Club, Narcot Lane, CSG, Monday and Wednesday at 1.15pm You can either go along and join in or phone Jackie for more details on 07941 274379. Pilates will improve your flexibility, help increase your strength and muscle tone, lower your stress, help flatten your stomach, help back pain and many other benefits.

MISBOURNE Art Society dates:

July 7 Michael Robinson will give a demonstration - Portrait Artist.

July 9 Sketching day on Gold Hill Common, CSP, with lunch at the Village Hall

August 4 Self Portrait (take a mirror) 'Rogues Gallery

August 6 Sketching Day on GX Common, lunch at The Packhorse

WOMEN Need to Talk breakfasts are a stimulating experience. Held in The Village Hall, Gold Hill Common, they offer a speaker and the chance to exchange views/ the next meeting is on Saturday July 14 and the cost is £5.50. The speaker is Fiona Castle, so this is one not to miss.

THE Community Centre has a carousel with a huge number of leaflets about Village activities and provisions for learning. You just have to browse through and you'll never 'have nothing to do' again.

FRIDAY night is Bingo night at the CSP Community Centre. It is on from 8-9.30pm for some light entertainment and perhaps an exciting win.

ALL SAINTS', Oval Way, runs a Holiday Club, July 23-27 this year. It is a very popular event for local children and, as in previous years, you need to book even if it is just for one morning. Time is 9.15-12.30 each day and to find out more, please phone 01753 883571.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN meets in the CSP Community Centre at 2.15pm on the last Thursday of each month.

ALL SAINTS' Church Hall is the venue for Chalfont Grand Squares every Tuesday at 8pm. Have fun and keep fit doing American squares. Contact number for more information is 01895 259510.

BADMINTON players are needed by a friendly club that plays Wednesday evenings in Chalfont St Peter Middle School. Contact John on 01494 873527 or Linda on 01494 875486.

SHORT Mat Bowls provides enjoyable exercise on Friday afternoons at the community centre. Instruction will be given and bowls will be available to for new members to use. Time is 2-5.30pm and you can either turn up or contact Audrey on 01494 873401.

THE Little Drum music group offers an action packed music and movement group for children aged 4 months to 4 years. Modern and traditional music and rhymes, percussion instruments, puppets and visual themes. Chalfont St Peter on Tuesday mornings. Phone Julie on 01494 792619.

TEMPORARY traffic measures in the area, for July, have been notified to us by the Bucks County Council.

U256 SCHOOL LANE, CHALFONT ST PETER - road closure to facilitate BT access to boxes and ducts to carry out gully cleaning – 2 July to 4 July 2007 (3 days)

MC48 TOWER ROAD, COLESHILL - road closure to facilitate construction of new gas main by National Grid – 9 July to 27 July 2007 (3 weeks)

U292 KING GEORGE V ROAD, CHILTERN AVENUE, STATION APPROACH, A4154 WOODSIDE ROAD, RICKMANSWORTH ROAD, U202 SHORTWAY, U200 SYCAMORE ROAD AND MC23 HILL AVENUE, AMERSHAM – road closure for Amersham Carnival of Nations – 14 July 2007 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm (3 hrs)

MC37 BOTTRELLS LANE, CHALFONT ST GILES – road closure to carry out carriageway structural patching – 16 July to 27 July 2007 (12 days)

U247 BOTTOM LANE, SEER GREEN – road closure to carry out carriageway structural patching (23 July to 2 August 2007)

U196 MONUMENT LANE, CHALFONT ST PETER - road closure to facilitate lifting out existing sub station equipment and replace with new by Marshalls – 28 July 2007 (1 day)

FRIDAY market in the Church Hall, Church Lane is worth a visit. 9am – 2.00pm

THE CSP Garden Club Summer Show is always worth seeing and this year it is Saturday, August 18, 2-4.45pm in the Community Centre. This is an open show and non-members are welcome to enter, so get your plants in and time them to be at their best by August 18. Show secretary is Grace Hunter – 01753 884006 and the assistant show secretary is Bryan Nicholson on 01753 884007, so ask for an entrance form and get planting. There are lots of categories, so there should be one that you can enter and be successful in winning a position.

THIS part of the country has many beautiful places that we can enjoy and just beyond our boundaries is historic Langley Park in Wexham, for which Buckinghamshire County Council has achieved a major Heritage Lottery Fund. The award of just under 2 million will provide a major boost for the Park as part of a 3 million project to restore rare and historic features, including the extensive rhododendron garden, the Lancelot 'Capability' Brown designed lake and to provide better pathways, improved facilities and more information for visitors.

Owned by Buckinghamshire County Council, Langley Park is one of the oldest parks in Buckinghamshire, dating as far back as the 13th Century. A large area of the Park is operated by the Council as a country park, including the popular rhododendron garden set around a stunning viewpoint towards Windsor Castle some 5 miles away. The Park is full of historic features, including many magnificent old trees that provide a stronghold for rare insect wildlife.

Langley Park was acquired by the County Council in 1945 under the powers of the Green Belt Act 1938. It extends to around 190 hectares, including 53 hectares managed by the County Council as Langley Park Country Park. The remaining area is let to agricultural tenants, with public access via pathways and trails. The 18th Century Mansion, outbuildings and surrounding gardens are privately owned, but the Mansion is prominent in views from all round the Park.

It originated as a Royal hunting park, an outlier to Windsor and was later owned by the Dukes of Marlborough. The Park's landscape was redeveloped in the 18th Century by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown concurrently with his work at Blenheim Palace. One of its most popular features is an extensive early 20th Century rhododendron garden, regarded by specialists as a significant 'period piece' example of its kind. A particular feature of the park is its extensive collection of 'veteran' parkland

trees, which provide habitat for a range of rare beetles and Langley Park is ranked as third most important site in Britain for this group of insects.

The award comes as the result of an extensive programme of surveys and research into the Park's history, on-going consultations into what local residents and visitors need to help them access and enjoy the Park, and a considerable amount of support and assistance from local volunteers and partner organisations. Much of this work was funded through an earlier project development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The proposed 3 million project, scheduled to run between 2008 and 2012, will improve features like the rhododendron garden, the Brownian lake and the Arboretum. The main visitor entrance and car park will be improved, including construction of a new building to provide upgraded public toilets, a refreshment kiosk and office/workshop for park maintenance staff and rangers. Paths will be improved around the park, including new surfacing in key areas to enable access by visitors with special needs. A range of new information will also be provided and public events organised during the project.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S ROADS - Following their experiences with last year's exceptionally bad winter, Buckinghamshire County Council carried out a thorough review of the way in which dangerous potholes are repaired. As a result there are now more contractor gangs fixing potholes and they are using hot 'tarmac', which ensures a higher quality, first time permanent repair. This is already proving to be far more effective than the methods previously used, although Council contractors are still working through a large backlog of work.

The prolonged rainfall during the winter caused many roads to suffer badly, with the top layer of tarmac stripping off in many locations. Rural roads in particular have been affected in this way and in addition to pothole repairs our contractors have been carrying out more substantial structural patching repair work during recent weeks as well to arrest the deterioration. Unlike pothole repairs, this method of repair is designed to deal with much larger surface defects where normal pothole repairs would not be technically feasible or cost effective. This work involves replacing the top layers of the road over quite large areas with tarmac designed to withstand most weather and traffic conditions. The finished product produces a cost effective, long lasting repair that will keep road surfaces safe and serviceable for a number of years.

Whole scale re-surfacing programmes, although desirable, are costly and have to be prioritised over the entire county. More local pothole repairs and structural patching is inevitable in the year ahead rather than re-surfacing. The budgets for road repairs are under increasing pressure mainly due to inflationary increases in energy and contractors costs. Limited government central funding has not kept pace with these increases, which means that expenditure on road maintenance in real terms has remained static.

A and B roads are inspected once a month, C roads every 3 months and unclassified roads every 6 months

The council aims to repair defects within the following timescale; . Category 1 defects identified by its highway inspectors - within 24 hours . Category 1 defects identified by other means including reports via Highways On Call - by the end of the following day. . Category 2 potholes (up to 1 squared metre) - in 28 days . Structural patching work - An order will be placed with the council's to be done as soon as possible. In the meantime, the road will be maintained to ensure that no danger is posed to road users

Cabinet Member for Transportation Val Letheren says "We do have limited budgets and we have to assess and prioritise works across a wide area to maximise the use of our available resources. Our task of prioritising work has been made even more difficult this year by the effects of last winter, but we do strive to keep road surfaces safe and serviceable to minimise the risk of damage to car tyres and wheels. However a backlog of work did build up during the winter and some repairs have taken longer to complete than would have been the case normally. Please keep us informed by calling Highways On Call on 0845 230 2882 or by email HOC@buckscc.gov.

Neighbourhood Policing allows Police and the public to work closely together to solve crime and disorder problems, as well as improving conditions across the neighbourhood, and feelings of security.

Please follow crime reduction advice: DO NOT BUY OR SELL AT THE DOOR. Do NOT invite strangers into your home.

Notify the police - 0845 8 505 505 or Trading Standards - 0845 040 506 if people are cold calling in your area.

Chalfont's Neighbourhood Team

Sergeant Steven Slee is heading the Chalfont Teams

Our Chalfont St Peter team is:

PC 4223 Jim Clarke; PC 5664 Janine Richardson, PCSO 9662 Mark Neill; PCSO 9720 Graeme Johnson

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