

Chalfont St Peter Village Voice MAY 2008



Editor: Elaine Quigley 01753 886412 equit.text@virgin.net
ChalfontSt Peter website: www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

FRIENDS OF Chiltern Open Air Museum are running a TOUR OF LONDON Devised and conducted by **Colin Oakes** with the **MILTON CONNECTION** especially in mind. Depart COAM by coach 9.30am, Saturday, 10th May Take in Colnbrook, Putney & Hammersmith on way to wide variety of sites in Westminster, West End and City. (Some short walking breaks included at particular locations.) **2 hours' lunch break by ST PAUL'S** - Those who wish may visit the Cathedral – for others, Colin will lead a short walk round various local sites. In the afternoon, the coach tour continues, reaching beyond the City at Clerkenwell and Bunhill Fields, finally visiting **St Giles Cripplegate**, where Milton is buried, before turning towards home – approx 5 pm. Cost – approx £16 per person (Guide's fee - £6 per head; coach fare dependent on numbers) Contact Jenny Ogden – 01494 793017.

CHILTERN Fuchsia Society will be holding its annual plant sale on Saturday 10th May between 9am and 12 noon. As usual the sale will be in the Reading Room in High Street Chalfont St Giles. A large variety of Fuchsias (bush, trailing and hardy) will be available. Bedding plants, basket plants, fully planted hanging baskets plus many others will be for sale. For further details please contact Peter or Sylvia Anderson 01753882873.

THE Annual General Meeting of Chalfont St Peter Parish Council will take place at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Offices near to the Community Centre on 15th May, 2008. Come and find out what the Parish Council does and at the end of the meeting Tom Oliver who is Head of Rural Policy for the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) will be speaking on , ‘ **How to Preserve Chalfont St Peter as an ideal village in Rural England**’.

ASSERTIVENESS Course – Especially for Parents - Learn how to say “NO” to your children with respect and manage family conflict in a positive way. 7 Thursday mornings from 8 May to 26 June. 10.00am to 11.30am at Gold Hill Baptist Church in Chalfont St Peter. Suitable for all. Contact Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 or email katrina.reading@goldhill.org.

RECOVERY from Divorce and Separation Course – Gives support and tools for coping with the difficult emotional and practical needs arising from these situations. 6 week course on Monday evenings at Gold Hill Baptist Church from 7.30pm to 10.00pm. Begins on 12th May. Places are limited so please contact Katrina Reading on 01753 887173 or email katrina.reading@goldhill.org to book your place

MARRIAGE Course - Improve your relationship and strengthen your family life by attending this 8 week course which will be held in a local home. Begins on 19th May from 7.30 to 10.00 (Including dinner). Places limited, contact address above.

THE CHALFONT FAIR aims to give families of the area an enjoyable day out on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May. It will be held in St Joseph's School grounds in Priory Road, Chalfont St Peter and the main attraction is the Portsmouth Cadet Gun Crew. There are also many more attractions, including a climbing wall, space ball, children's side shows and various stalls. This year, again, they are supplementing their catering facilities with a pig roast. The Raffle is a bumper one with the first prize being the magnificent sum of £5000 cash and the second prize is a laptop computer but there are also many other prizes. You can buy these tickets either from a parishioner or from the Priory by phoning 01753 886581, or by phoning 01753 886412.

PATRICIA HAWES has in the past few years provided osteoporosis testing which was very much appreciated and resulted in her having a full list every time these testing sessions were on. She is now starting Tai Chi classes in Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross in the week of 19th May, which will run every week. Tai Chi is a powerful exercise which will help with balance, core stability, stress, weight loss, arthritis, osteoporosis and type 2 diabetes. At the classes you can be weighed and given advice on your diet. She is starting the Tai Chi classes because osteoporosis patients have asked for exercise to help with their bone building, so she looked into the best form of exercise and Tai Chi fitted the bill. Interested people can phone Patricia Hawes on 01753 886500.

THERE is a Vacancy for Parish Councillor in the Chalfont Common Ward'. If anyone is interested in this vacancy please contact Sue Moffat, Clerk to the Council, on 01753 891582 or email smoffat@chalfontstpeter-pc.gov.uk

THE Chalfont St Peter Tennis Club had a visit from the President of the Lawn Tennis Association on Thursday 1st May in recognition of the Club's Centenary. There are to be Open Days for families to look around on Saturday and Sunday May 17 and 18 and on Monday, May 26, there will be a Bank Holiday Doubles Centenary Tournament starting at 2pm. This will also be an Open Day for non-members.

CHALFONTS CHILDREN'S CENTRE IS HERE! This month sees the start of exciting new services provided by the children's centre. Open to families with babies and children up to the age of 5, they are offering a varied timetable of activities in various locations in the Chalfont's. Activities in Chalfont St Peter include a sign and rhyme every Monday in the library 10.30 to 11.30a.m, Messy Play in the community centre every Monday 1.15p.m. to 2.45p.m. and Family Fun & Learning every Tuesday afternoon until 20th May. Sharing Family Food in the community centre is held Wednesday mornings on 7th, 14th and 21st May - Please book in advance. Other activities held locally include "Kindergym" exercise class every Tuesday until 20th May in Little Chalfont, and in Chalfont St Giles "Fish and Skips" musical fun every Wednesday, and pop in and play on Thursday afternoon. Chalfont's children's centre is part of a growing network of centre's across the country providing a range of services tailored to meet local needs. Parents/carers have the opportunity to enjoy affordable, fun activities together with their children under 5, and to access information and support from a wider range of services, including health. Please pick up your timetable now! They are available from all libraries in the Chalfont's, and Chalfont St Peter community centre, Gravel Hill. Alternatively please contact Caroline - Children's Centre's Co-ordinator on 07867 674024 or Bethany on 07826 892196 for further details. We look forward to seeing you and your under 5 year old soon!

THE Chalfont St Peter Air Training Corps has taken an important initiative to help disaster victims all over the world



by filling two 'Aquaboxes' for The Rotary Club of Misbourne Matins. Misbourne Matins Rotarian Peter Vermeylen attended the CSP's weekly meeting to take delivery of the Aquaboxes and to present Flight Lieutenant Richard Betts with a special certificate to mark the achievement.

The link between Misbourne Matins – the most dynamic Rotary Club in South Bucks – and the Air Training Corps was forged last year when the Rotary Club bought a projector for the Corps. In return, the cadets got together to fill two Aquaboxes which the Rotary movement

sends to refugees of earthquakes, flooding and other natural disasters.

Each Aquabox is filled with household goods, tools, kitchen equipment, toiletries, clothes and children's items – and, crucially, a mechanical water filter and purification tablets, so that when the box is emptied, it can be filled with dirty water which can then be purified. This means that in addition to helping families with essential items, each Aquabox can produce 1100 litres of drinkable water.

Misbourne Matins' Aquabox initiative is run by Peter Vermeylen who is always looking for useful items to fill boxes. Last year alone, Misbourne Matins filled 22 boxes and Peter Vermeylen explained:

"People just don't realise that items like nails, hammers, buckets, loo paper and even packets of sanitary towels can be used to fill these boxes for people in need all over the world. If more people acted like the St Peter cadets, and donated unwanted items like this instead of just taking them to the tip, we could help even more people."

POP-IN meets every Thursday morning during term time from 10-11.30am in the Gold Hill Baptist Church and there is a crèche for babies and activities for pre-school children. This is a non-denominational group and all ladies are welcome to join the meetings. A warm welcome awaits mums with young children who can enjoy a coffee, home-made cake and chat, or simply chill out with a paper / magazine in the Jugglers' Café. For further information call GHBC on 01753 887173, or Joyce Gledhill on 01753 88026.

CHALFONT St Peter Parish Council Chairman, Richard Allen, has sent this message:

"I was invited along with local business people to the Church Middle School to see a presentation on their fund raising week for Kenya. I was very impressed since they are working directly with a school in a Kenyan slum, corresponding with the children and raising money. The school is run by one woman and sadly had all of its furniture, bedding and equipment was bunt by political rioters earlier this year. All the children are orphans and sleep on the floor of the school. Orphans in Kenya are not allowed to have free state education as its a social stigma. They are trying to replace everything and bore a water hole which the woman who runs the school can use the water to sell (water is not free in Kenya) and help fund the school. The aim is to raise £2500 in a week. Not only is this a worthwhile cause but it helps the children at the middle school realize that you can work together as a community locally and globally and raise money. If you want to contribute to this worthwhile project, the contact details are:

Chalfont St.Peter (CofE) School. Penn Road, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire. SL9 9SS
Tel: 01753 883982 Fax: 01753 893360 Email: office@chalfont-st-petercofe.bucks.sch.uk

VOPAG has been set up as part of the Chalfont St Peter Village Appraisal to give the older people of Chalfont St Peter the opportunity to meet together as citizens and exchange views, news and information of interest and concern. It provides an authoritative voice to take up issues with people who can do something about them. The next meeting is **Tuesday 20th May** and members are reminded that meetings now start at 10am for coffee, with business at 10.30am, held in the Parish Council office and new members are always warmly welcomed age group involved is over 55's.

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. The Monday meetings take place 7.15 for 7.30pm at St Andrews United Reformed Church Hall, Packhorse Road, Gerrards Cross. To know more, see their comprehensive website www.careersspringboard.info. Forthcoming meeting information:

May 5th - Bank Holiday, May 12th Staying Positive, May 19th - Alternative ways of making a living., May 26th - Bank Holiday - no meeting., June 2nd - Networking, June 9th- Telephone Networking Practise, June 16th - Using Technology to support your job search., June 23rd - Interviews Part 1., June 30th - Interviews Part 2, July 7th - Break out Groups, July 14th - It's a job to find a job, July 21st - Action Planning for the summer break. A new programme for the autumn will be published in August for meetings starting on Monday 1st September 2008.

ALL the stories of pubs closures don't apply to The Three Pigeons, in Austenwood Lane Chalfont St Peter. It was refurbished a few months ago and is now a most attractive venue at which to both drink and eat. We had a splendid meal there, beautifully cooked and also enjoyed the upgrading of the decor and the quality of the cuisine. The pub has been taken over by Ben and Anouska, who are a local couple, fuelled by a passion to serve ethically sourced, fresh and seasonal food in a relaxed and comfortable environment and they have certainly achieved this aim. You will find the pub to be a good place to meet friends and reverse the trend of people not visiting pubs because it is easier to drink at home. With that sort of attitude, the social side of life will become moribund and people will become more and more isolated.

Pubs are a British tradition and have always offered a chance to meet and learn about others and, in the case of The Three Pigeons especially, to have a lively experience of dining enjoyably as well. The food is a mixture of classic British dishes and some more contemporary and lighter fare. Regular menu changes and daily specials encourage people to keep going back to sample new dishes that come onto the menu and entice them to eat out, rather than having to cook and tidy up afterwards at home. The ambience of a properly run establishment makes it a special treat to be served and sit back and enjoy it. It's worth a visit and if you want to look them up on the website, you can go to www.the3pigeons.com Telephone 01753 889919

THE sails on Lacey Green Windmill will be turning once again on Sunday 11 May. The windmill, which dates from 1650 has been restored by the Chiltern Society and they will be showing it off in all its former glory between 2.30-5.30pm, weather permitting. Visitors will also be able to go inside the structure to see the original wooden machinery. The windmill is the only one in Bucks to be set in motion as part of National Mills Weekend. Visitors will also be able to have a go at being a Radio Amateur, as the windmill is hosting an amateur radio special event on 11 May to make contact with other mills around Britain and abroad. The local Horticultural Society will have a plant stall at the windmill. More details about the windmill can be found on www.laceygreenwindmill.org.uk or on 01844 275871. It is situated behind the Whip Inn, Lacey Green, near Princes Risborough.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Chalfont St Peter Neighbourhood Action Group will take place on Wednesday 7th May at 7 pm in the Goldhill Baptist Church.

It is intended, as last year, that the various village groups should, if they wish, have a table available in order that they may present details of their work in the village and if your group would like to take part in this please contact the Chairman, Martyn Groves at martyn.groves@goldhill.org so that this can be arranged.

The intention is to open the doors at 7 pm for residents to visit the tables and discuss matters of interest, the meeting will then take place and there will be time afterwards to visit the tables again. During the meeting you will hear of the work of NAG during the past year and have an opportunity to indicate which village problems you would like NAG to address during the coming year. Please pass this information to any residents who may be interested.

THE Probus Club is for retired men of all occupations and meets at Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, Gerrards Cross, on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 10am for 10.30, finishing at noon. Enquiries to Guy on 01753 886514, or just turn up and say 'hello' to the host at the door.

PARISH Councillor Linda Smith reports on how the Village Appraisal Environment Group are tackling with the help of their £10,000. Lottery Breathing Spaces grant. "This project is being co-ordinated by BCTV on behalf of this group in partnership with Chiltern Chalk Streams Project, Chiltern Society and input from the Environment Agency who own the river bed. The first step was the tree work which has already been carried out. The next project will be "Operation Declutter" on Saturday, 7th June between 9.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. when it is hoped that villagers, children from local schools, youth club etc. will devote some time to helping to clear the river bed and river bank. Flyers regarding this project are currently being sent to many organisations within the village. The final project will be planting along the river bank. Moving the recycling bins away from the river is also part of this project."

IS A DAY in the tranquil Chilterns about to become a thing of the past? Tranquil areas of the Chilterns are facing significantly more noise nuisance from aircraft flying to and from Luton and Heathrow airports. Proposals for reorganised flight paths by the National Air Traffic Services (NATS) will result in many more planes flying directly over the Chiltern countryside at lower levels. John Taylor, Chairman of the Chiltern Society commented: "We believe NATS' proposals are wrong and that they have not looked properly at the alternatives. The Government is putting commercial strategies from the Treasury and the Department of Transport above the environment of millions who live in and visit the Chilterns. "Yet the same government has given the Chilterns special status for over 40 years, describing this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as 'one of the jewels of the English landscape.' Is a quiet day in the hills about to become a thing of the past?" The Society is urgently preparing a detailed formal response to the NATS consultation document, for submission by 22 May. "If you want to take action, or need more information, look at our website www.chilternsociety.org.uk," said John Taylor. "In particular, I urge everyone who values peace and quiet in the Chilterns to respond urgently to the consultation documents issued by NATS available at www.consultation.nats.co.uk."

CHALFONT COMMON We report that their speaker for the April meeting, Mrs Maureen Dennis, gave a very interesting insight into the life of young women and their future in the nineteenth century. The talk entitled 'Miss Tilbury and Miss Dove' was about education and how they became involved in it. Miss Dove was the founder of Wycombe Abbey girls' school; Miss Tilbury was one of the housemaids at the school and who befriended Mrs Dennis and provided the reminiscences for her talk.

In the 1800s young educated ladies who were married off, lost everything to their husband as they had no legal rights. If you became a governess you were worse off financially (£12 a year) than a housemaid. Jane Dove who was taught languages by her father, a vicar, thought there must be more to life and after three years learning maths and geography started her own school for girls. Discrimination against women was rife at the time and it was thought that education would make girls unfit for marriage. Even Darwin said a woman's place was to serve man. Eventually after teaching at various schools and as a headmistress, in 1896 she started the Wycombe Abbey school for girls. She became a Wycombe town councillor and was nominated for Mayor but defeated by the prejudices of the men on the council. Miss Tilbury, a local Wycombe girl, worked as a housemaid at the school, earning £8 a year. In her conversations with the speaker, she recalled her years at the school including a riot in Wycombe over foreign furniture displacing local woodworking jobs. Mrs Dennis recounted many other interesting anecdotes collected from Mrs Tilbury, and certainly made us realise how life has change in just over 100 years. The group meets on the first Thursday of each month, in the Tony Graham room at the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre 7.30 for 7.45pm.

ALL SAINTS' Church Music Festival is in its fourth year and as ever and they have two confirmed events for May and June, with two more planned during the autumn. For further information and tickets, please contact: Anne Hatton (01753) 882425 or Paddy Hague (01753) 883384. **DANIELLE PERRETT, HARP with, TIMOTHY KIPLING, FLUTE and ELISABETH CLARKE, SOPRANO on Saturday, May 31, 2008, at 8:00 pm. £12/person** This is an opportunity to hear world class musicians on your doorstep: this London –based trio have performed regularly together, as well as being solo artists in their own right. Their preliminary programme for this year's Music Festival will embrace the music of Rogers and Hart, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Handel, Dvorak and others. These experienced musicians have performed all over the world, as well as giving many events at venues such as Kensington Palace, St. John's Smith Square, British Museum, amongst others. Their programme will lend itself to the intimate surroundings of All Saints' Church and its wonderful acoustics. We invite you to join us for a unique evening of chamber music with this talented trio. The second summer performance is **THE BAND OF HM ROYAL MARINES PORTSMOUTH on Saturday, June 14, 2008, at 7:00 pm. £18/adult and £14/under 13 Includes BBQ supper In aid of an Armed Service charity (tbc)** More in next month.

CHALFONT St Peter Chamber of Commerce elected local estate agent and Chartered Surveyor Michael Day as their new President. He is Managing Director of Integra Property Services, has lived in the village for twenty years and steps up having been Vice President last year. The Chamber of Commerce was also celebrating its 60th anniversary and a number of past Presidents were present at the AGM which was held at the Community Centre. Michael Day thanked outgoing President, Liz Royal, for her hard work and success during her year in office and said it was his intention to continue the progress made through increasing the membership and, in particular, developing further the website and communication links, in order to campaign on behalf of, and support, local businesses during what are potentially difficult economic times. He is particularly keen to reach out and involve further the many businesses that operate in Chalfont St Peter away from the High Street and Market Place. The Chamber will continue to be at the forefront on such issues as car parking within the village centre where real progress towards a better and more integrated solution for the benefit of business and customers seems to be happening. It will also continue to organise events such as the Christmas Fun Night which is one of the highlights of the village year. Any business or individual who would like to know more about the Chamber can visit the website at www.cspchamber.org.uk or contact Michael Day directly on 01753 480430.

THE LONDON & SLOUGH Run takes food to the homeless, is struggling to get enough donations of sandwiches, fruit, biscuits and soft drinks, as many of the regular givers are away. Help would be much appreciated if you can take donations of these items, sandwiches labelled please, to St Joseph's Priory in Austenwood by 4pm on Mondays.

GIRLS, if you haven't considered learning to play cricket why not go to Gerrards Cross Cricket Club, Dukes Lane where they have a girls and women's section. Girls from year 5 onwards are most welcome. Kwik cricket is offered to this group with hard ball cricket for the more experienced. They will be entering an ECB U11 competition this summer so they need a team! Women play in the North Bucks league on a Sunday morning and players of all abilities are very welcome. Coaching will start 30 April 7-8pm. For further information contact Eileen Powell 01753 884426

DO YOU have a little spare-time and skills to offer as a volunteer with a local charity or community group? Voluntary Action has over 300 local groups registered with them to help them find volunteers. To find an opportunity to suit your needs, call Joy Johns on 01895 837545 or see www.voluntaryaction.org

THE Guide Hut in Lansdown Road on the 1st Wed. each month at 2pm is where the Trefoil Group welcomes visitors, whether a Guide or Brownie in the past or not. They have a varied programme for the coming year. Talks, a ploughman's lunch, a summer lunch, craft afternoons, an outing in the summer, a Christmas Party, you name it!

THE NATIONAL Council of Women has its Annual Luncheon at CSP Parish Church Hall on Thursday, April 24 and Peter Bayman will give a talk on 'Novelty Salt and Pepper sets.

ALL SAINTS' Church Music Festival is in its fourth year and as ever, they have an exciting line-up of events which should appeal to everyone. They have two confirmed events for May and June, with two more planned during the autumn. Tickets are now on sale for the summer programmes, which are detailed below. For further information and tickets, please contact: Anne Hatton (01753) 882425 or Paddy Hague (01753) 883384. **DANIELLE PERRETT, HARP with, TIMOTHY KIPLING, FLUTE and ELISABETH CLARKE, SOPRANO on Saturday, May 31, 2008, at 8:00 pm. £12/person** This is an opportunity to hear world class musicians on your doorstep: this London-based trio have performed regularly together, as well as being solo artists in their own right. Their preliminary programme for this year's Music Festival will embrace the music of Rogers and Hart, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Handel, Dvorak and others. These experienced musicians have performed all over the world, as well as giving many events at venues such as Kensington Palace, St. John's Smith Square, British Museum, amongst others. Their programme will lend itself to the intimate surroundings of All Saints' Church and its wonderful acoustics. We invite you to join us for a unique evening of chamber music with this talented trio.

The second summer performance is **THE BAND OF HM ROYAL MARINES PORTSMOUTH on Saturday, June 14, 2008, at 7:00 pm. £18/adult and £14/under 13 Includes BBQ supper In aid of an Armed Service charity (tbc)** This concert will round out the Music Festival tradition of inviting an Armed Services band to perform, having previously been entertained with lively concerts from the Central Band of the RAF and the Grenadier Guards from the Army. In addition to a concert of foot-tapping and classic band favourites, they are delighted to announce a thrilling surprise for you: the band will be giving a Beating Retreat ceremony on the lawn. This is a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to see one of the world's premier marching bands literally on our very own doorstep (weather permitting.) This event will be extremely popular, so get your tickets now.

TITHE BARN, on the other side of the bridge across the A413, has rooms to let, if you are looking for a venue for Parties, group meetings or one-off bookings for activities etc. It is very competitive price-wise, for example weekdays and weekends are £8 per hour or £10 per hour after 6pm. Telephone 01753 883712 to book or for more information.

CONTACT the elderly is a charity founded about 30 years ago. It aims to give frail, isolated, elderly people companionship. On the third Sunday of the month, volunteers collect one or two elderly people from their homes and drive them to the home of that month's hostess. About eight elderly folk and their drivers gather at the home of a volunteer host or hostess. A welcoming cup of tea at 3pm is followed by a quiz and chat, then an afternoon tea with savouries, cakes and a cuppa. At about 5pm the drivers take their guest home. The hope is that the elderly have enjoyed the companionship of people their own age and also of the younger drivers. For those who cannot get out much, or whose family lives too far away to visit often, or don't have family, it provides a chance for a relaxed chat in a homely setting. The charity is a national organisation. There are now seven groups in Bucks, but still lots of potential guests who would benefit from a group in their area. If you think you could host a tea party, drive or support, please contact the Buckinghamshire Development Officer, Terry Gibson, on 01276 502611 or email terry.gibson@contact-the-elderly.org.uk. If you think that you'd like to be a guest at such a tea party, contact your doctor in the first instance. All the guests are referred to contact the Elderly by their GP or Age Concern.