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St Joseph's Church

## Chalfont St Peter Village Voice - October 2009

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**ST JOSEPH'S** Church in Austenwood is host to a very special occasion of the visit of the relics of St Therese of Lisieux on 8/9 October. These have travelled around Britain since 16<sup>th</sup> September, when they were in Portsmouth R.C. Cathedral and they will be leaving the UK after their stay at Westminster Cathedral 12/15 October. Full details in <http://littleflowerblog.blogspot.com>

and there is also the likelihood of large crowds wishing to visit the church during the , so it would be wise to check out timings and transport, as parking in the church car park will only be for disabled drivers. It will be a very powerful and impressive occasion. The relics arrive at 6pm on 8<sup>th</sup> October with mass and vespers from 6 – 6.45pm and mass is 8 – 9.30 pm, celebrated by Bishop Peter. The church closes at midnight and then opens again at 7am on the 9<sup>th</sup> for quiet meditation and mass at 9.30. The relics depart at 11am.

**THE** new **A30 Bus** service from Chesham, through Amersham, the Chalfonts, GX and Uxbridge to Heathrow, is a most appreciated addition to local transport. It comes through Chalfont St Peter on weekdays at 06.19, 07.19, 08.44, 09.51, 10.47, 11.46, 12.46, 13.46, 14.46, 15.46, 16.46, 18.10. This is at Marketplace, but it also stops after that at Glebe Road a few minutes later and then goes on to GX station. Saturday times are a bit different, but you may be able to get a timetable from the bus depot, or contact the editor above. The bus that leaves Market Place at 06.19 gets into Heathrow at 06.57, so you can work out the other journeys from that. **IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAKE USE OF THIS BUS SERVICE, OR WE'LL LOSE IT**

**THE** Misbourne and St Giles Surgeries will be holding their annual seasonal flu vaccination clinics in October. The clinics are for patients registered at these surgeries only.

Vaccinations will be available against **seasonal flu only**, not swine flu. The swine flu vaccine will hopefully be available later in the year – watch this space for further details!

The dates of the clinics are:

### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Community Centre

Gravel Hill, Chalfont St Peter

### **Wednesday 21st October**

St Giles Surgery

Townfield Lane

**NO CAR PARKING AVAILABLE**

**Time: 8.30am– 5.00pm. Patients may attend either clinic. For further information contact Misbourne Surgery 01753 891010 or St Giles Surgery 01494 874006**

**THE** Children's Society Box Opening is on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 2pm Chalfont St Peter Church Hall , soup, sausage and crumble lunch and stalls etc. The local fund raising committee for the Children's Society is in danger of folding by Christmas if they cannot find more people willing to help. The first support group of the Children's Society in CSP was started in the 1960s by one lady and a few friends who gave the occasional coffee morning and kept house boxes, collected the money and just sent it straight to the Society. Then in 1979 the then new vicar of CSP, David Murray, called a meeting in the Church hall for anyone interested in helping deprived children and the Children's Society. About 50 people turned up and listened to him telling about the work of the society and then about 12 people signed up to form a committee. Three of those 12 still remain and numerous other people from both GX and CSP have helped over the years. During this time they have raised over £200,000, but it's time for more people to back them up with fresh input and not let this wonderful initiative peter out. Come on those who can find some spare time and use it.

**COMMUNITY** message from Amersham Watch Office. Watch Members are being warned of a recent telephone scam, where callers pose as BT representatives. People have been targeted by the unscrupulous callers, who ask for a payment to be immediately made to clear arrears on their telephone account. People are told that if they don't pay straight away, they will be cut off, and the caller is then asked for their bank or credit card details. Sometimes, the scammer terminates the call mid-way to demonstrate that they are able to cut off the phone line.

Anyone receiving similar calls is reminded not to divulge their banking details, and to report the call to Trading Standards on 0845 4 04 05 06.

**CHALFONT ST. PETER W.I.** is holding a CAKE AND FOOD Stall in the Friday Market on October 16th between 9.30am and noon, in the church Hall. Tasty, heavenly and delicious!

Chalfont St Peter W.I.s next activities are:

October 13 - Autumn Group Meeting – 2pm Community Centre. Hostesses: Chalfont St Giles Evening W.I.

October 14 - Annual General Meeting.

November 11 - Never Had it so Good, 1956 – 1963. Mr C Oakes. Display: Photo from 50s-60s.

**ON SATURDAY** 17th October, a Craft Fair will be held in Chalfont St Peter Community Centre 10.00 am - 2.00 pm. Light refreshments. Start your Christmas shopping early - wide selection of unique gifts with something to please a wide range of tastes.

**ST JOSEPH'S** Events Team will be holding a Quiz Night at 7.30pm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Austenwood Common, SL9 8RY. Tickets are £12 each, to include a fish and chip supper and they are looking for teams of 8. Further information and tickets available from Janet Ridden on 01753 884556 or from the Parish Office on 01753 886581, so get those brains in gear, round up your team and show what you can do!

**GERRARDS** Cross Flower Club will be meeting on October 21st at 2.15pm in The Colston Hall, Memorial Centre, East Common. The demonstration by Gill McGregor is entitled "The Time of Autumn". They welcome new members and guests each month to their meetings. For more details phone Pam Houchen on 884190. With thoughts of Christmas, the meeting on November 18th has a demonstration by Jamie Burnside, a National Demonstrator from Northern Ireland and his title will be "My Christmas Collection". An enjoyable afternoon not to be missed!!

**LEARN** to drive before you are 17. The road safety team at Transport for Buckinghamshire is working in partnership with the 'Chepping 16 plus' young driver scheme to promote a new pre driver course. This will be held on the evening of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm and all day on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009, from 9:00am to 4:30pm. The venue is Derehams Sports Centre, Loudwater, High Wycombe and the course costs £50 for the two days. It is open to 16 – 18 year olds

The course introduces novice and young learner drivers to driving and road safety and includes car handling in a safe, non-highway location and is carried out by experienced local DSA Approved Driving Instructors.

The course includes procedures for obtaining a licence and preparation for the DSA theory and practical Driving Tests. There will also be presentations by representatives from official bodies including, Thames valley Police and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue service. For more details about the course, or to request a booking form contact:- Julie Martin on 01628 523235 or Mick Lewis on 0793 955 7542.

**FRIENDS** of Chiltern Open Air Museum meet next on Wednesday 28 October to hear Chris Ryde, Woodland Ranger, Wycombe District Council talk on "*Beginner's Guide to Fungi*" in the Mary Smithells Room, Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, Gravel Hill at 8 pm. A small admission charge of £2.50 is made - £2 for Friends of the Museum. Light refreshments are available. All welcome – pre-booking not necessary.

**THE** September meeting of the Chalfont Common W.I. commenced with the President highlighting all the activities enjoyed by members during the summer months: a most interesting tour with lunch of the Hearing Dogs Centre at Saunderton, a day at Wyevale Garden Centre, Wendover and their usual book reading meetings. The annual August supper at the Community Centre was excellent and well attended and they had a most successful coffee morning and bring & buy sale at a member's house which raised £140 for the Hearing Dogs' Centre. Finally 9 members took part in a quiz at Great Missenden.

Member, Maureen Marsh, was congratulated as a winner in the WI 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary Apron and Tea Towel line drawings competition.

Their September speaker, Helen Slaymaker, talked about her experiences nursing in the 50s and 60s, giving many examples of how nursing has changed since those times. Then the emphasis was on care of the patient whereas now the approach was more scientific with improved drugs and computer recording. Helen outlined her career with fascinating insights into hospital life which illustrated her total dedication to all the patients in her care. They meet on the first Thursday of each month in the Tony Graham room at the Chalfont Community Centre at 7.30 for 7.45 and our speaker in October is Janet Dineen who will be giving a talk on Old Bucks Cooking. Visitors most welcome.

THE Royal British Legion Club, which uses the Nicol Road premises, is open to members on Monday and Friday evenings as well as at lunch times and in the evenings on Saturdays and Sundays. Activities include darts, cards, Bingo and snooker on a full-size table which is kept in excellent condition. Coach trips to Brighton earlier in the year and to Sandown Races more recently, proved very popular and enjoyable, if not very profitable, outings. The recent Friday evening Quiz Night at Nicol Road was well attended. All Branch Members are eligible to become Club Members and to participate in club activities so, why not drop in and sample the friendly ambience as well as the wines, spirits and beers on offer. Talking of beer, following a change of supplier, prices of draught ales have been reduced. That's another good reason for becoming a Club Member, then!

**CHAIRMAN** of the Chalfont St Peter Parish Council, **Richard Allen**, has sent out the following message:

Chalfont St Peter village is threatened with high-density housing plan

- Chalfont St Peter expected to find space for up to 802 new homes
- 406 planned for estate on Holy Cross convent site in village centre
- Population could increase rapidly by more than 12%
- No effective consultation with local residents
- Work could start in 2010

**The picturesque and ancient village of Chalfont St. Peter in Buckinghamshire - regularly voted one of the most desirable places to live in the UK - could be changed radically under plans by Chiltern District Council to build 720 or more new homes, many as part of a high density housing estate.**

Central government's Local Development Framework has ordered that 2700 new homes be built in the Chiltern District over the next 17 years. Chiltern District Council has decided that 720 of these have to be in Chalfont St.Peter, although sites for 802 potential new homes have been identified.

If plans by Chiltern District Council go ahead then a housing estate with 406 new homes could be built on the historic Holy Cross Convent School site in Chalfont St Peter. This development would completely fill in the ancient heart of the village centre with high density dwellings and have a dramatic effect on the character of the popular Village. Work on the new homes could start as soon as next year.

In addition to the 406 homes on the Holy Cross Convent site, over 200 are targeted for the vacant Newland Park site, 28 in Nortoft Road, 95 in the Austenwood and Gold Hill area and 73 in Chalfont St Peter North.

Chalfont St Peter residents' views will not be recognised by Chiltern District Council, as residents are not considered as 'stakeholders' to the scheme. However, Chalfont St Peter Parish Council, led by Chairman Cllr. Richard Allen, has set up a Working Group to analyse and respond officially and on behalf of residents to the many hundreds of pages of documents that are already in existence surrounding the plans.

Cllr Allen stated "Of course, with a shortage of housing for younger people we are not opposed to the kind of sustainable affordable housing proposals that have been put forward for Penn and Seer Green. However I am very concerned that residents do not seem to realise either the scale of what is being proposed or the fact that housing densities will be applied on the basis that we are a Town. Chalfont St Peter residents have not had a real opportunity to comment on plans that are already a long way towards ratification in the Spring of 2010. The high density of housing proposed could put huge environmental pressures on the village and may even change the village beyond all recognition – not necessarily for the better"

The Working Group is creating a Village Design Statement and Plan to take in all aspects of the proposed development, including environmental issues such as water, sewerage and drainage as well as the additional load on public services that the extra homes will create. Education, traffic and medical facilities are already the source of debate and any additional homes will make all these issues more severe. The excellence of Chalfont St Peter's schools attracts families from all over the country, but most of the schools are full and extra capacity will be needed to accommodate the additional children.

Cllr. John Hatton who is leading the Working Group commented: "The Parish Council is not opposed to development in the village indeed we realise that it is necessary and inevitable but we need to ensure that any development is done in sympathy with the existing village character and should take into consideration all aspects of living here including the basic everyday utilities. Additionally any new building should to be in keeping with the character of the village and must not detract from the excellent environment that we have now. It would be a shame if we have to concrete over the Holy Cross playing fields and lose ancient trees. Our plan, which will take several months to prepare, is expected to try to retain at least some of this beautiful open space. We are due to meet with CDC to discuss this in early September. Any residents who are willing to commit some time are welcome to become involved". Contact: PR - Richard Allen - 07808 808816 [info@villagedesignstatement.com](mailto:info@villagedesignstatement.com) [www.villagedesignstatement.com](http://www.villagedesignstatement.com)

**CAREERS** Springboard meets 7.15 FOR 7.30 pm Mondays at St Andrews United Reformed Church Hall, GX

Oct 5 Tell me about yourself.....How to polish your response to this frequently asked question

Oct 12 Working independently Find out more about a career in interim management or consultancy

Oct 19 Interviews – Part 1 Preparation is the key to a successful interview

Oct 26 Interviews Part 2 Focussing on what happens during the interview, + A discussion on tough interview questions and how to handle them

Nov 2 Networking Making contacts – the essential ingredient to job search.

**A CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LAUNCHED** to encourage young people to play their part in reducing road casualties among their peers.

'In the can' challenges young people to make a road safety film suitable for use on the Internet. The competition is open to anyone under the age of 21 years, working on their own or in teams, or on behalf of their school, college or university.

There are two £1,000 first prizes and two £250 runner up prizes for the best entries from individuals/teams, and from educational establishments.

23 county councils and unitary local authorities are taking part in the campaign, including Buckinghamshire County Council.

Valerie Letheren, Cabinet Member for Transportation said: "Instead of creating a new road safety campaign about the risks and dangers facing young drivers and their passengers, we've decided to throw down the challenge to young people themselves.

"We think that, potentially, they have the best insight into how their peers think about driving and road safety - and the best way to get messages through to them.

"By challenging them to make their own road safety film we think we can learn how to approach young people - the messages and approaches that might work for this vulnerable group."

The competition runs until April 2010, when the best entries will be shortlisted. The final winners in each category will be selected via an online public vote, and the winning film(s) may be used as the basis of a national road safety campaign.

The campaign website, [www.inthecan.org.uk](http://www.inthecan.org.uk), contains full details about the competition and useful advice and information for those thinking of entering, including: tips on how to get started and on film making; road safety information relevant to young people; research into attitudes among young drivers; and the competition rules and judging procedures.

For more information contact the Road Safety Team at Transport for Buckinghamshire on 01296 382450 or e mail [roadsafety@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafety@buckscc.gov.uk)

**THE** young A40 Choir, founded and conducted by Chalfont St. Peter conductor David Meacock, which already has singers of all ages, from recent University leavers to the more experienced, is inviting locals to join in the fun.

Rehearsals take place on Mondays from 7:45 to 9:45, and will restart on 7 September - but if you can't make the first one because of being away on holiday just come as soon as you can! The current term works will be a typical mix of the A40 Choir's eclectic mix of well known and not so familiar choral repertoire: Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Albinoni's *Magnificat*.

The A40 Choir's dynamic and experienced founder conductor David Meacock (pictured), who has also conducted in London and abroad, is also the conductor/editor of the pedagogical *Concerts from Scratch Messiah* edition. As unlike many choral conductors, he has sung solos, not surprisingly basic vocal training is woven into the choir's rehearsals and his impressive three octave range allows him to demonstrate all parts at pitch. David is proud that the choir has always achieved good performance standards within a warm and welcoming, friendly and happy atmosphere - but has no auditions.



He quipped: "The base line, if you'll pardon the pun, is that people need to be able to read music as opposed to being required to sight-read brilliantly, as we have a termly rehearsal schedule to help focus home preparation."

Even with no auditions the choir has an enviable track record. It has broadcast on *Classic FM*, twice sung in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London and when the choir went to France, its recital in Rouen cathedral necessitated an encore. The choir's repertoire has ranged from the Baroque through to the contemporary Karl Jenkins' *An Armed Man* and has included first performances of Meacock's own reduced orchestrations, which have then been performed by others: Parry *I was Glad* is published by Novello and has been performed world-wide, while the Verdi *Requiem* was recently premiered in the USA. The A40 Choir has also sung lighter repertoire such as Gilbert & Sullivan and numbers from the Shows.

Very reasonable membership subscriptions include free music provision. The choir also has always had a free try-us-out-period for new singers. If you'd like to know further information, please have a look at the A40 Choir page of [www.a40music.com](http://www.a40music.com) and call David on 01753 886005.