

Chalfont Office Direct has kindly printed this newsletter
Chalfont St Peter Village Voice, December, 2015

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

VOPAG – Village Older Persons Action Group – will meet next on Tuesday, December 15 in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, 10am for 10.30, when Sue Cherrie will speak on Rennie Grove Hospice Care – 24 hour response Services and the CSP Academy will finish the proceedings with their Christmas Show.

The picture above has been designed for the VOPAG 2016 programme by Diana Jenkins of Chalfont St Peter, Church of England Academy

CHALFONT ST PETER WI meets next on Wednesday, December 9th, at 2pm in the church hall, Church Lane, when Angela May will demonstrate Flower Arranging.

LOOKING for something special and different for a Christmas gift? Marie Cavanagh is a glass artist who has some wonderful items at Fired Works, which is at the top of Market Place in Chalfont St Peter
marie@fired-works.co.uk www.fired-works.co.uk

CHALFONT ST PETER Garden Club has its Christmas Social on Wednesday, 9th December, in the Church Hall Church Lane at. 8pm. Chicken or vegetarian supper -£8 each. After the supper, Claire de Carle, will demonstrate **Make your own door swag**. If you can, try to bring along a little suitable evergreen plant material of any kind and also bring along a friend who may enjoy the activity. Secateurs or garden scissors would also be useful.



Gold Hill Baptist Church Presents
A Midwinter Night's Dream
A Comedy for Christmas
Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 December – 7PM
Recreation Hall, National Society for Epilepsy, Chalfont St Peter

£5 adults £2 children (children receive a gift bag)

Tickets available from
The Breadhouse or Gold Hill Baptist Church

www.goldhill.org • 01753 887173

Gold Hill
Seeking to be an authentic
Christ-like community

BODYWORKS CLINIC, 15 High Street helps you to make your mind and body work for you. It offers Osteopathy, Podiatry, Massage, Counselling, Psychotherapy, Nutrition, Homeopathy, Cosmetic and Reiki.

ELDERLY Targeted by Fake Police Officers.

This information has been sent on behalf of Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau)

<https://www.actionfraudalert.co.uk>,

There has been a recent series of incidents whereby fraudsters either phone or attend the home address of elderly members of the public, claiming to be police officers.

The fake officer/s will claim that they are investigating a fraud which they believe the elderly person to be a victim of. The fake officer/s will then request the bank cards and personal identification numbers (PIN) of the victim and claim these are needed for investigation purposes. If the first contact was made by a phone call, the fake officer/s will tell the victim that someone will be over to collect the evidence. In one case the victim was instructed to attend their local bank and withdraw all of the money from their account. The suspect was left alone in the victim's house whilst the victim carried out the instructions.

Protect Yourself

Before letting anyone into your home who claims to be from any law enforcement agency, ask to see their identity card and check it by calling 101.

Ask if they can attend at a pre-arranged time when a family member or friend can also be present.

If you receive a phone call from a police officer, ask for their name and force and tell them you will call them back. Wait a few minutes and then use 101 to call them back through their force's switchboard and verify their identity.

The Police will **never** ask for your PIN or passwords. Do not give this information to anyone.

The Police will **never** request that you withdraw/transfer any money to them.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online

http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

MISBOURNE RIVER ASSOCIATION – Bob Older

Well informed people are well aware of the special nature of the Chilterns chalk streams and that our river Misbourne is one of only 216 in the world - (there are 5 times this number of wild pandas!). More, you know the river through the Chalfonts and up to Amersham provides a vital environmental corridor between the perennially flowing sections up and down stream, which is prone to becoming blocked by overgrowth and debris. Many Association members have worked hard to maintain this corridor and cherish the fragile flow. It is good to know that several recent petitioners have been carrying this information to the discussions at the HS2 Parliamentary Select Committee.

In their presentations they have attempted to alert the powers-that-be to the risk - however small - that construction local to the river presents to its sustainability. They have also advised how appropriate mitigation of that risk - at no great cost - can be provided by environmentally sensitive lining of vulnerable sections. This safeguard, based on the proposals used in the unsuccessful appeal for Lottery funds a couple of years ago, uses techniques and materials endorsed at the time by all functions within the Environment Agency. These arguments were also put to representatives of one of HS2's consultants last week during a visit to meet Chalfont St Giles Parish Councillors.

Discussion beside the river enabled us to clearly set out the total inadequacy and utter impracticability of HS2's mantra that they would monitor flows and, if necessary take retrospective remedial action.

Knowing what you know about the Misbourne, can you imagine the amount of discussion it would take among the lawyers to agree whether or not any lack of, or reduction in, flow after tunneling was a consequence of the construction or not? And how much more between consultants as to what corrective measures to put in hand? The seeds have been sown: let us now take every opportunity to ensure the Environment Agency requires substantial advance mitigation of the potential increase in porosity of the substrata under the river as a pre-condition of their approval of construction.

Throughout this year there has been regular *discussion* as to whether or not it was likely that we would get to winter without the river drying up through the Chalfonts. Well, I now maintain that we have reached winter! And, if you will allow me to disregard maybe three isolated days in September/October when things looked rather dehydrated around Chalfont St Peter, we seem to have made it. Followers of the Quickview. • data on our website will recognise this as quite a milestone. Groundwater levels and rainfall have been consistently similar to, or even less favourable than, those of 2011 when we last suffered significant loss of flow.

TRADING STANDARDS officers have uncovered a haul of unsafe 'hoverboards' destined to be sold as Christmas presents or used at children's parties.

Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards intercepted a £7,000 consignment of 51 self-balancing boards imported from China and sent them for testing to see if they complied with electrical safety standards. They will now ensure the boards - also known as self-balancing scooters or balance boards - can never be used by the public after checks showed that chargers and battery packs supplied with the products posed a fire risk.

A further consignment of 90 boards has been impounded while officers check they are safe. They will be released to the market only if they meet all required standards.

The seizures come just weeks after a self-balancing board exploded and caught fire in the home of the Ensell family in High Wycombe.

Trading standards officers are investigating the case in which Joann Ensell sustained burns when the board belonging to her 10-year-old son, Henry, exploded and caught fire.

Henry's father, David Ensell, said it had been taken off charge and was on the floor when it suddenly exploded. His wife, he said, was now recovering from her injuries.

'We bought it from a reputable retailer,' said Mr Ensell. 'And my advice is always to use a reputable retailer, follow the operating instructions, which we did, but always to take extra precautions because things can and do go wrong - as we found out.'

Trading Standards officers have sent Henry's charred board for examination to a test laboratory.

The consignment seized by Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards was brought into the country through Heathrow and sent to an inspection point in Surrey where officers spotted possible safety risks.

The Back to the Future-style boards have surged in popularity in recent months and are expected to be one of the biggest-selling gadgets this Christmas.

But reports have emerged of poor quality versions that lack proper safety functions. Shoppers are now being urged to be on their guard when buying a board.

As National Trading Standards yesterday (Thursday) highlighted the scale of safety problems, with 15,000 boards being detained at seaports and airports around the country, Buckinghamshire and Surrey officers issued advice for consumers considering buying a board.

Tips include:

- * Be wary of bargains on boards and prices that seem too good to be true.
- * Look at the shape of the plug – the first unsafe products identified often had a clover-shaped plug.
- * Check for markings or traceable information, such as the manufacturer and importer.

Trading Standards Officer Bharti Gorania-Wood said buyers also needed to be aware that these boards were not classified as toys and could not be used on public highways.

Anyone who has concerns about a product they have seen for sale or have already bought should contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

CHALFONT Neighbourhood Update for December

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

The issues that you tell us that are of the greatest concern to you become the issues your neighborhood policing team (NHPT) focus on. These priorities are set by you at the regular drop in sessions or "Have Your Say Meetings" (HYS) held in Chalfont St Peter, the Library in Chalfont St Giles and Seer Green Baptist Church.

The NAG develops local actions on these priorities. We link with our local communities, organisations and businesses to target these issues. The issues as set by you are anti-social behaviour, speeding and burglary.

Update for Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

There has been a decline in anti- social behaviour during November in the Chalfonts. We received a number of complaints regarding apples being thrown at properties adjoining the Gold Hill Common, after liaising with the Parish Council the Haywarden agreed to “mow” the fallen apples rendering them useless. Whilst the youths involved in this may have found it funny, it actually caused a large amount of concern for residents.

Update for Speeding / Parking

We have received reports of speeding vehicles in Penn Street and Deanway, Chalfont St Giles and Market Place, Chalfont St Peter. We will endeavour to conduct speed surveys in these areas to ascertain if there is a genuine problem or if it perception. The Neighbourhood Action Group in Chalfont St Peter now partake in Community Speed Watch, which is an opportunity for residents to become involved in identifying and educating speeding drivers in their local roads; if this is something you would like to be involved in please let us know.

Other parking issues continue to be a problem in all areas. Parking on double yellow lines is overseen by a company called NSL. If you wish to report this type of parking problem please contact Bucks County Council; abandoned vehicles can be reported to Chiltern District Council. We have received some complaints regarding vehicles parking adjacent to drop curbs which restricts users of mobility scooters, please keep these areas clear at all times.

Vehicles displaying blue disability badges can park on double yellow lines, however, the parking also needs to be legal and considerate. We have seen a number of vehicles parked on the roundabout at the bottom of Market Place, Chalfont St Peter - this is not a safe or reasonable place to park

Update for Burglary

There were a number of burglaries in the area in November, three occurred on the same day in Winchmore Hill / Coleshill and could possibly be the same offenders. Additionally there were burglaries in Church Road, Penn, Seeleys Road, Knotty Green (the vehicle was also stolen off the driveway) and Joiners Lane, Chalfont St Peter.

Before going to bed or leaving your house please ensure all windows and doors are locked, keys are removed from the back door and put out of sight. As the nights are now darker please use timer switches on lamps when leaving your property in the evening. If you have an alarm system, please ensure that you set it every time you leave the house. If you are thinking of getting an alarm installed please look on the Chiltern District Council website that has a list of approved alarm companies in the area.

If you see any suspicious activity in the area please report it immediately, anyone door knocking that is paying too much attention to empty houses let us know, description of the person and any vehicle (with registration number if possible) will help us identify these people.

We host a “Have your Say” meeting every month (please see further down in this newsletter for the dates and times), if you require crime prevention advice then please come along and visit us. Alternatively you can email us at ChalfontsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Crime Advice We regularly attend crime prevention talks in the community. This month we visited the Chalfont St Peter VOPAG, Goldhill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Peter and Edith Bell House, Chalfont St Peter. We also conducted a number of school and cubs talks in the area. By undertaking this engagement we are able to reach all members of the community to help address any problems they may have, to educate them on personal safety and pass relevant crime prevention advice. If you would like a member of the team to come along to any of your events please email us at ChalfontsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

If you are a victim of crime please report it immediately to the police on 101 or in an emergency 999. The following link will enable you to analyse and view the crime rates within your area, just type in your postcode and all of the information will be displayed www.police.uk ([opens new window](#))

Vehicle Crime

Please ensure you lock your vehicles when leaving them unattended and remove all valuables. We now have the winter evenings upon us and we usually see an increase in vehicles being broken into. Please do not leave handbags, purses, wallets or phones in your car whilst popping in to visit someone. Opportunist thieves will have your property in a matter of minutes leaving you with the inconvenience of repairing the window on your car and cancelling contracts etc.

“HAVE YOUR SAY” Your neighbourhood policing team are always out and about, when you see us please stop and have a chat about any issues locally that you may have alternatively we look forward to meeting you at our “Have Your Say” meeting’s.

The next Have your Say events will be held on:

- Wednesday 9th December, 2:00pm until 3:00pm at Crumbs, Market Place, Chalfont St Peter
- Thursday 24th December, 12:00pm until 1:30pm at Chalfont St Giles Library.

Come along and air your views let us know what the issues are that you wish to tell us about, we are here to listen to what you have to say. Your neighbourhood policing team are looking forward to meeting you.

Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighborhood policing team you can call us on the police non emergency number 101 but if your call is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email: chalfontsNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk - please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers charity on 0800 555111. To view information on your neighbourhood team you can visit the force website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk