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Chalfont St Peter

Village Voice

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www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice

PAMELA Bacon (pictured right) died suddenly on Sunday 16th January aged 79, and will be a sad loss to our community as she was a big influence in so many ways in Chalfont St Peter, both as County Councillor (from which she recently retired) and as Parish Councillor. As well as her council work over many years, she also contributed as a serious historian of the history of the village and wrote articles on the subject regularly for the Village Guide.



She was head of History at Holy Cross Convent and her sense of humour made her popular with the pupils. My daughter was taught by her and has happy memories of the lessons. She had a big heart and anyone who went to her for advice was given her time and attention.

Chairman of Chalfont St Peter Conservatives, John Wertheim wrote that she was "a cheerful teacher at the Convent with sunny personality who smiled throughout her many physical problems. She was a stalwart of both our Parish Council and County Council for a number of years. Like her late husband, she was a faithful member of her Catholic Church, St Josephs. She will be missed by everyone who knew her or was taught by her."

Chairman of the Parish Council - Richard Allen said: "She was an inspiration when I first joined the council as she clearly had a total passion for the Village and in particular its history. I know she was very closely involved with the Celfunde Group and in particular had a wish to see the beautiful map she commissioned put up in the village in a permanent form (perhaps enamelled) . I would like to help with that in any way I can."

The funeral is at 11.00am on Thursday 3rd February, at St Josephs Church, Austenwood Lane, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 8RY.

ST PETER Players are always looking for new members in all sorts of capacities to do with their active theatre group. On Monday 7th February 2011 at 8pm in the Mary Smithell's room in the community centre, they will be holding a reading/workshop/improvisation on their summer production - Brighton Beach Memoirs – a comedy play written by the famous American playwright Neil Simon. Auditions will take place on Monday 4th April at 8pm at the Community Centre and this summer show will take place on Thursday 14th July – Saturday 16th July 2011 at the Community Centre

For the above Workshop & Auditions they are looking for men aged between 18 – 35 for a particular part. Please call Ruth Corner on 07815157823 or email sfcorner@hotmail.com

On Monday 21st February 2011 at 8pm in the Mary Smithell's room at the community centre they will be reading Beauty and the Beast based on the Disney story book by Linda Woolverton, music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice. This is their proposed Christmas production which will take place on the Thursday 8th December – Saturday 10th December 2011 with a matinee performance.

If you have any queries or are interested in taking part in any of the above events- please call Ruth Corner on 07815157823 or email sfcorner@hotmail.com

THE next Friends of Chiltern Open Air Museum (FCOAM) meeting is at the CSP Community Centre, 8 pm on Wednesday 23 February, when Colin Oakes will give a talk on "Talking to the Walls - Latimer and Interrogation" - the story of the use of Latimer House as a wartime interrogation centre. Colin is a very engaging speaker and all are welcome to attend.

Advance notice of the next FCOAM Quiz Night, to be held in CSP Parish Church Hall, 7.30 pm on Saturday 19 March. Tickets £12 each, including Fish & Chip Supper, available from Jenny and I on 01494 793017, or email richard.ogden@btinternet.com.

THE Gerrards Cross Flower Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month, except in August, in the Colston Hall, The Memorial Centre, East Common, Gerrards Cross at 2.15pm. On 16th February Angela Merryfield will present "Strictly Come Dancing". Guests are always welcome and of course new members. For more details telephone Chris Edgerton: 01753 884940.

VOPAG meets next on Thursday, 17 February in The **CSP Community Centre** starting at 10am for coffee and the talk by Kareen Stuart a local solicitor, is The Law and the Elderly and starts at 10.30. All over 55's are welcome to attend.

PARISH Councillor, Jenny Brooke attend the consultation meeting regarding the future of the Chalfont St Peter Library and has summarised the information that was explained by the Bucks CC staff:

- 1 Need for cuts
- 2 BCC wishes to work with the community
- 3 Consultation ends 01.02.2011
- 4 3000 replies to consultation to date
- 5 CSP library has 32059 visits per annum
- 6 CSP library issues 67799 books per annum
- 7 CSP library is open 23 hours per week
- 8 CSP library has 2322 active borrowers
- 9 If a community library was to open BCC would fund it as follows :-

£5000 for new books
£9000 for IT support
£15000 start up grant

This compares with the cost of Chalfont St Peter library at present of £84630 per annum

- 10 The premises would be available on a seven year lease on a peppercorn rent
- 11 The upper floor at the library may be rented to The Childrens Centre generating income of £12000/£15000 per annum

The following were ideas suggested by the attendants - some of these are conflicting

- 1 Full time professional librarian plus one other member of staff to be retained
- 2 Consideration of sharing some staff and facilities with Gerrards Cross library
- 3 Increase in opening hours - opening at 9.30 and opening for a full day on Wednesday
- 4 Introduce vending machine
- 5 Rent out upstairs room to generate income
- 6 Income generation by memberships and sponsorships
- 7 Income generation by contribution from the Parish Council and the Rotary club etc
- 8 Get rid of the magazines and the DVDs
- 9 Keep a library in Chalfont St Peter
- 10 Consultation with villagers to find out what they want and provide it
- 11 Form Friends of the Library group
- 12 Consider flexibility of opening hours - early mornings and late evenings
- 13 Aim to open library 40/45 hours per week

The plans will be developed on the basis of what has been discovered through the consultations and should be implemented finally by July 2012.

Chance To Be a Star

CHILTERN Voice has passed on the message that The Beaconsfield Operatic Society is urgently looking for a young male actor/singer to play one of the leading roles, *Motel* in their the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* at the end of March. Tim Pemberton is the director and has asked Chiltern Voice to spread the message because there are lots of talented musical people in Chesham. Anyone interested can email him at tim.pemberton1@virgin.net.

The Beaconsfield Operatic Society was formed in 1910 and has, with occasional interruptions such as wartime, presented productions every year. Since the late 1980s the number of productions has increased per year. Rehearsals are on Mondays and Thursdays at the United Reform Church Hall, Aylesbury End, Old Beaconsfield.

THE Department for Transport has given Buckinghamshire £160,000 to help children learn how to cycle safely on their way to school and in their leisure time.

The money has been awarded for Bikeability Level 2 Cycle Training and is the 10th largest of 105 grants that have been awarded nationally - a considerable achievement as Buckinghamshire is one of the smallest authorities.

The award is testament to the County's cycle trainers' commitment to providing this important life skill to as many children as possible across Buckinghamshire.

Valerie Letheren, Cabinet Member for Transport said "To receive such a large amount of funding is a reflection of the successful model of delivery Transport for Buckinghamshire has developed. Our track record of getting more than 2,000 children trained each year has demonstrated that we are able to deliver and this award will allow us to continue working closely with the 20 local cycle training businesses who provide this training to the school children of Buckinghamshire'.

The money is available for children in Year 5 and above to be trained to Bikeability level 2. Cycling, especially to school, is an easy way for children to contribute to the one hour recommended physical activity per day, and with more children benefitting from the training, Buckinghamshire will look forward to a future of safe cyclists.

Parents who would like their children trained should in the first instance contact their child's school and encourage them to submit a funding bid form to TfB Cycling & Walking Team. More information on how schools can bid for funding is available at www.buckscc.gov.uk/cycletraining.

DEEP BROS LTD is the new off licence that has moved into the Wine Rack premises in High Street. This now provides Chalfont St Peter with this facility again, with a well stocked outlet that offers customers the added benefit of having wines or beers sourced on request. You ask - and they do their best to find it for you. They also will be offering special offers on wines and beers, so it's worth dropping in regularly to see what is available.

CHALFONT COMMON WI had a talk on Westminster Abbey from Geoff Roberts at their January meeting. As an engineer he has worked on the refurbishment programme for the last 4 years and became interested in its history and has collected numerous artifacts that would otherwise have been discarded. His account was historical right up to present day, pointing out some interesting things in the numerous sculptures that abound in the Abbey. It was quite a different approach to the one that has been recently shown on TV. They had a very good turnout for the first meeting of the year as thankfully the weather was good and they also welcomed 4 new members.

They are looking to increase numbers this year so this was a great start. Janet Schofield presided over the business meeting followed, as usual, by coffee and cakes.

On January 18th they gathered in the community centre for a lunch and beetle drive. This was very successful – everyone is amazingly competitive so they will do it again in the Autumn. February is when they will be having a fish and chip lunch and in March they go for lunch to a pub. Now is the time to make bookings for a trip to Watersmeet Theatre to see Calamity Jane. Table tennis and the book club continue to thrive.

At the next meeting Tony Eaton will give a talk on the Curious disappearance of Glen Miller which will be in The Tony Graham Room in the Community Centre on 3rd February 7.30 for 7.45 start. If you would like to go along you can contact Chris on 01494 872133.

The annual Attic Sale will be held on Saturday, 2nd April at 10am at the Community Centre. To book a table please phone Brenda on 01753 885293. There will be all the usual bric a brac, book and cake stalls. Coffee will be available together with our delicious home made cakes.

THAMES Valley Police – Community Messaging receives information about scams, which is shared with the public in the hope they do not fall victim to one of these. If they have published information about a particular scam and have the powers to do so, it is likely they are carrying out investigations. Unless you have been a victim or you can provide them with extra information concerning the scam there is no need to contact Consumer Direct. **BUT DO NOT RESPOND TO THE SCAMS.**

Tax refund scams A number of emails are circulating purporting to be from HM Revenue & Customs. HM Revenue & Customs are aware of the various scams and carry a comprehensive list of scams on their website. HM Revenue & Customs state they would not inform customers of a tax rebate via email or invite them to complete an online form to receive a rebate of tax.

Do not visit websites from any unsolicited emails. Never give personal or bank details to unsolicited emails.

Telephone scam, computers and mobiles

If you receive a telephone call from a company purporting to be from 'Windows Support Team' or 'Microsoft Support Team', be suspicious. They claim your home computer or laptop is running slowly or maybe experiencing problems due to hidden viruses. You will be asked to log on to a remote website which allegedly enables the representative to access their computer and work on it. At this point, it will look like the seller is working on the computer, but in reality they will do nothing of significance. They will ask for a fee via credit or debit card - this can be as much as £200.00.

A similar scam also operates for internet enabled mobile phones.

Never give your bank details or credit card details to any unsolicited seller over the telephone, no matter how authentic they sound. These calls often come from outside the UK, making it very difficult to get redress.

You can contact Consumer Direct (Trading Standards) on 08454 040506 or through the website at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

CONNEXIONS LAUNCHES 'LIVE CHAT' The advice and support service Connexions has launched an online service so that Buckinghamshire's young people can chat confidentially with a personal adviser. Through the Connexions Buckinghamshire website, www.connexionsbucks.org.uk young people can activate the service by clicking on the 'chat to us' feature.

The service is initially running on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2.30pm and 5.30, and there are plans to increase its availability. Outside these hours users can leave a message and a Connexions Personal Adviser will contact them.

In addition to the online chat service young people can choose to contact Connexions by phone or by dropping into a centre.

Connexions Buckinghamshire Delivery Director Bob Harrison said: "The way in which young people are using new technology and how they wish to be contacted is changing. New government policy is also expected to encourage a shift to more online access to information and guidance for many users of public services. As a result, this is an opportunity to get ahead-of-the-game as we develop a service that young people value now and in the future."

OVER 55's are being urged to get internet savvy with Buckinghamshire's Adult Learning Team and the BBC's 'First Click' campaign. The County Council has signed up to the two year campaign which aims to inspire people across the country who are not yet online, to log on.

'First Click' courses are running in Aylesbury, High Wycombe, Stokenchurch, Amersham, and Evesham. Courses cost £12 for four weeks. In addition, people can try the online basics course which teaches users how to stay in touch with friends and family via email, internet shopping, and exploring interests and hobbies. Courses are available at venues across the county. For further details call 0845 045 40 40, or visit www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk.

TRANSPORT for Buckinghamshire helps new drivers on road to safer motoring

Passing your test is not the last step on the road to becoming a good driver - That's the message from Transport for Buckinghamshire who are encouraging new drivers to take part in their Get in Gear (GiG) scheme.

The course for newly qualified drivers consists of a theory session, which is a chance to identify key risks new drivers face, followed by four hours of practical driving, where students get an opportunity to consider ways to deal with risks of the road.

Over 330 have completed GiG since its launch in 2008, Mohammed Saqib, 19, a former pupil at Aylesbury Grammar School was one of the first in Buckinghamshire to take part in the trials.

He said "I'm currently working as a driver for Harmoni, the out of hours GP service, covering the whole Buckinghamshire area which involves driving on all types of roads from town, country to motorway along with night driving. The skills learnt in the Get in Gear training have been very helpful as it made me a much more experienced driver, therefore resulting in me having no crashes etc. I enjoy driving and having better driving skills might help make the difference when applying for future employment".

He is now studying for a Law Degree at university in London and knowing how GiG had helped him he jumped at the chance to complete a TFB Business Driver Assessment to enhance his skills further. The two hour practical assessment offers fuel economy and defensive driving advice to help reduce costs to businesses and improve driver safety.

His Driving Instructor Darren Mundy said "Mohammed has demonstrated a mature and consistent approach to driving which is borne out from the responsible nature of being a driver for Harmoni."

For more information Get in Gear courses and Business Driver Assessments are subsidised by Transport for Buckinghamshire for Buckinghamshire residents. For more information visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport and click on the road safety pages or contact road safety at 0845 230 2882

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S services for safeguarding of children and looked-after children judged 'Good' by Ofsted
An Ofsted inspection which judges both the quality of the safeguarding of children and young people and quality of provision for looked-after children in Buckinghamshire, has judged the County to be "good".

The two main findings of the Ofsted inspection report, published on Monday, January 24, are that the overall effectiveness of services in Buckinghamshire in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is "good"; and that the local authority's capacity for improvement is also "good". The report also found that statutory requirements are met well; that the local authority works well with partners to improve outcomes for children and young people through their safeguarding and child protection work; and that prompt action is taken to safeguard children in need of protection.

Lin Hazell, Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Safeguarding - Children and Young People, said: "This inspection looked at the effectiveness of Buckinghamshire's children and young people's services to safeguard and protect vulnerable children, and to help children in care have a good start in life. This includes the work of our partners in health, police, schools and the voluntary sector.

"We are very pleased to see the positive report from Ofsted and there is much in the report that everyone working in these services should feel very proud of. That said, we can't ever be complacent when it comes to safeguarding our children and young people. We are absolutely committed to continuously improving services and we have already started work to address the small number of areas for improvement identified by the inspectors, to help achieve our aim of excellent services for children in Buckinghamshire."

BOOKLOVERS can now escape to another world at home or on their travels with free audio book downloads straight to the PC, mobile phone or MP3 player, from Buckinghamshire libraries.

The new service offers users more than 600 unabridged titles to choose from, with new titles added each month. The current list of e-audiobook download titles includes the new 2010 Man Booker Prize for Fiction from Howard Jacobson 'The Finkler Question', Stieg Larsson's 'The Millennium Trilogy', Hilary Mantel's 'Wolf Hall', Sophie Kinsella's 'Twenties Girl', Dan Brown's 'The Lost Symbol', plus many others.

Up to 10 audio books can be downloaded for free at any one time. All residents need is a library card and PIN number. If you do not have a Buckinghamshire library card, its quick and easy to join. Just pop into your local library or go online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries.

To find out more about this new service visit www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries.

DEVELOPING community healthcare services Round table discussion feedback on 8 September 2010 – Chalfont St Peter meeting.

Views on integrated teams

- The integrated team model is supported
- The teams must link closely with social care and GPs, especially out of hours
- There must be a single point of access available 24/7
- Good communications between health and social care professionals and with patients and carers very important
- Case managers should be assigned to patients
- Teams should include respite/intermediate care and specialist nurses for long term conditions
- Teams should link with other providers, such as day centres
- There should be a single electronic patient record to avoid duplication.

Views on services which could be provided closer to home, including from the community hospital

- Friends of Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital should be involved in future developments at the hospitals
- Community hospitals should become hubs for the local community
- A minor injuries service should be introduced
- Minor surgery at the community hospital
- Day care services linked to social care
- Community inpatient beds should be provided to provide respite and end of life care
- More blood services, such as a walk-in clinic
- More physiotherapy services
- Weekend services could be provided from the community hospital.

Views on how else we can develop/improve services closer to home

- More support for carers
- Increased health visiting services
- Pre-operative assessments provided locally to reduce the journeys into an acute hospital
- A single point of access should be introduced for healthcare services.

Feedback on how we should engage with the local community in the future

- Facts and figures are needed to enable the local community to make informed suggestions and contribute ideas
- The outcomes from the public engagement sessions should be circulated
- Local people want to be actively involved in moving forward with future developments
- Local people need more information about local healthcare services
- Talk to local Older People's Action Groups.

All the information from the workshops will be used to help finalise our plans to develop community healthcare services. If you have anything else that you would like to feedback to us regarding community healthcare services, please contact communications@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk or call 01494 734959.

SIMPLY Walks, Buckinghamshire's volunteer led walks scheme, has been awarded accreditation by Walking for Health, a Natural England initiative.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Simply Walks has received this award, which particularly celebrates the beginners' walks on offer. Through a network of eager volunteers, Simply Walks provides opportunities for people of all ages to get into walking as a way to improve their health, meet new people and get out and about in the countryside.

Nikki Hussey, a Simply Walks volunteer who leads the Great Missenden 'First Footers' beginners walks, said: "I'm so glad I got involved with Simply Walks. Our walkers are mainly seniors who wouldn't go for a walk by themselves for fear of falling, but walking is a great way to improve your physical and mental health. I would encourage anyone to come along to try a beginners 'First Footers' walk; you'll make new friends and feel fitter too."

Fiona Broadbent, Simply Walks Co-ordinator at Buckinghamshire County Council, said: "Our volunteers lead around 500 walkers a week on nearly 50 walks. Their dedication means people across the county are getting support to increase their levels of physical activity and improve their health. The Walking for Health accreditation is great news for Simply Walks, as it means the hard work of our volunteers is being recognised nationally."

Simply Walks welcomes new walkers throughout the year. If you'd like to walk with Simply Walks or train as a Walking for Health Volunteer Walk Leader, contact Fiona Broadbent, Scheme Co-ordinator on 01494 475367 or visit http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/sites/bcc/row/simply_walk.page