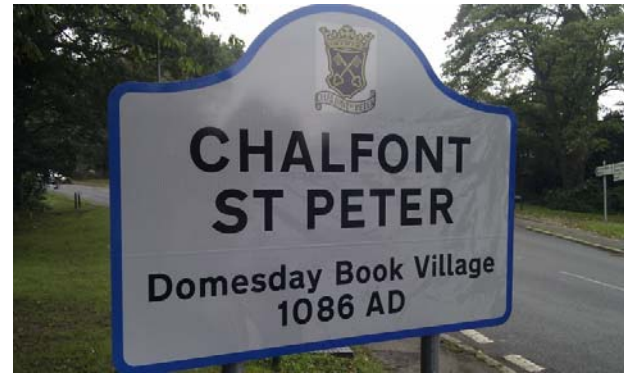


Thank you to Chalfont Office Direct for printing this newsletter

## Chalfont St Peter Village Voice,

### February 2015

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[www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice](http://www.chalfontstpeter.com/villagevoice)



**MISBOURNE AT SOCIETY** meets next on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February for their AGM followed by an informal discussion, "Work in Progress" in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre at 2.15pm. Visitors are welcome, for a small payment. The objective of the Society is to further the interest of artists in the locality, by arranging programmes of regular meetings for discussion, lectures, outdoor sketching and painting and to promote exhibitions of members' work and visits to art centres. If you'd like to further your artistic talent, this is for you.

**A QUIZ AND CURRY NIGHT** is to take place at Joan of Arc School in Rickmansworth on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. Cost is £15 per person and tickets must be purchased in advance (for catering purposes). Please contact the [pfa@joan.herts.sch.org](mailto:pfa@joan.herts.sch.org) for details. Everyone is welcome.

**COMMUNITY Impact Bucks** is in the process of planning their future training programme for Voluntary and Community Organisations in Buckinghamshire - and would be grateful, **if this is relevant to you**, if you could complete the survey below (see link), by **Tuesday 17 February**, consulting with others in your organisation if necessary. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFSVJQK> Your views are extremely important to them, and your help will be much appreciated. This survey should only take a few minutes of your time to complete. If you have any difficulties, please contact us on 0300 1111250. Thank you for your support.

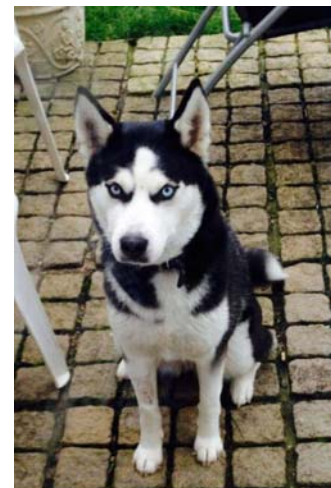
**A PLEA** from Jenni Schafe, who often has to find homes for pets whose owners can no longer look after them. She says:

"Sorry to overload you this early on in the year but there are so many animals out there needing homes at the moment. I thought I'd send them round together as it makes it easier to read all in one go!



1st off we have **Jackson**. A gorgeous 20 month old Labrador. He is looking for a forever home due to a family break up, the owner wishes they could keep him but it's just not possible. He is a fun loving boy with plenty of energy, would fit into most homes that would be prepared to give him plenty of playtime and exercise. We're not sure how he is with cats but that can be tested if anyone with a cat is interested. Jackson has all vacs up to date. He is currently in boarding kennels in Chinnor waiting for his new home.

2nd we have **Ezme**. A 2-year old female huskie. She needs a new home due to her owners being unable to exercise her (and these dogs do need lots) and give her the time she deserves. This gorgeous lady will need a firm hand and patience to start with, but she has basic training and did what she was told on the first time of meeting me. She would be a lovely pet if someone can give her the attention she deserves. She currently lives with another dog, 2 cats and 4 children so is used to pretty much anything life throws at her. Equally I'm sure she would settle with a smaller family and less pets! She isn't neutered but all vacs up to date Ezme lives locally to me.



3rd we have **Barney**. A beautiful cat that is almost 3 years old, his father was half Persian so he has the slightly longer hair. He keeps this in tip top condition himself, so there is no need to worry over hours of grooming.

He is extremely confident, gregarious and very friendly. Barney is used to children and again very at ease around them. He likes the outdoors but always happy to spend most of his days curled up indoors. The reason Barney is looking for a new home is that he has become very dominant over his sister and the owners feel both he and his sister would be better off living separately. He would make someone a lovely pet. Barney currently lives in Slough.



Many thanks for reading all this info, if you could pass it around to your friends

I would be most grateful. [jenni.shafe@foxydog.co.uk](mailto:jenni.shafe@foxydog.co.uk) Willing once again to help out with delivery further afield! “

**CHALFONT ST PETER W.I.** started the New Centenary Year for the W.I. with 3 new members. There will be celebrations throughout the year, run by Bucks Federation. Chalfont Common and Chalfont St Peter WI's will plant the W.I. Centenary rose bush outside the Library, with a plaque to commemorate the 100 years.

Their last speaker, Gilly Pusey, showed demonstrated how to spin wool, silk, angora, mohair, on a spindle and spinning wheel using wool from British fleeces and other yarns. She had many examples plus silk scarves dyed by her, using natural products (rose madder plants and/or onion skins) etc. The group has plans underway for their stall on Feast Day on Gold Hill Common.

Hilary Chamberlain was congratulated for winning the County Competition for a new Bucks Badge. The next meeting is on 11th February at 2pm in the Church Hall, Church and the speaker is Leon Cox, giving a talk on Hearing Loss. The display will be 'School Memories. Visitors welcome.

**V.O.P.A.G.** (Village Older Persons Action Group) meets next in the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre, on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February** - 10am for coffee and 10.30. The talk will be by Fiona Castle - "Life after Roy". Fiona has also been very active in charitable work locally. VOPAG meetings are an ideal opportunity for over 55's to socialise and find out useful local information.

**CHALFONT ST PETER GARDEN CLUB** meets next on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, in St Peter's Church Hall, Church Lane at 8pm, to hear a talk by JOHN TYLER whose subject is " Life in a Nutshell"

John is a very popular speaker who has been giving interesting Talks for 10 years and has previously given excellent illustrated talks to the Garden Club.

"Life in a Nutshell" tells us that nature is full of small & detailed things, most of which go completely unnoticed by busy humans.

Everything illustrated in this talk whether a flower, fungus, a caterpillar, would fit inside a nutshell and most live within a mile or so of your front door, just waiting to be discovered !

Meetings are well attended and John's Talk commences at 8pm, finishing at around 9.30pm.

The Church Hall Church Lane Chalfont St. Peter, SL9 9RJ In the interval there will be a Raffle  
Also free tea, coffee, & chocolate biscuits. Admission for non-members is £1.

## **DATES FOR YOUR 2015 DIARY IN APRIL, MAY, JUNE & JULY SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS AT ALL SAINTS**

**26th April Decadent Brass** Sparkling Spring Serenade. A welcome return by the 10-piece brass ensemble, Decadent Brass will entertain and educate with Handel to Hazell, Bach and Bizet to the Beatles, music for royalty and dances for all.

**17th May The Amberley Wind Ensemble** May time music involving flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn. Be entertained by a concert as sunny as the weather outside and dance tunes from French and English composers, including favourites such as An English Country Garden, all accompanied by Fiona's sparkling commentary.

**14th June Cornucopia Horn Quartet** Horn of plenty and plenty of horns! Cornucopia will perform a selection of pieces and explain the development of the World's most beautiful instrument.

**5th July The Minerva String Quartet** Mozart and much more. Fiona and The Minerva Quartet will perform Mozart's Quintet for horn and strings, plus musical "lollipops".



**Decadent Brass**

Fiona learned to play the organ at All Saints thanks to the expert tuition of Dennis Franklin, whom many will remember with fondness as All Saints organist for over 30 years and generous benefactor. At the Royal College of Music, she went on to study the organ with Denys Darlow and the French Horn with Douglas Moore (a colleague of Dennis Brain) and has forged a successful career as a freelance performer and teacher based in Hampshire. Fiona is a founder member of the Salisbury Sinfonia and, in addition to her leading involvement with several eminent music groups, has played with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and appeared on national television and radio. She returns frequently to All Saints and is pleased to be making music for us again this year in celebration of Dennis Franklin's legacy to All Saints vibrant musical tradition.

The concerts in April, May and July start at 3 pm and finish with a delicious afternoon tea. On 14th June, a BBQ lunch will be available from 12.30 pm and followed by the concert at 2 pm. Tickets will be available from March, with details in the Parish Magazine, pew sheets and local press. The All Saints Sunday Afternoon concert series promises to be a memorable musical extravaganza, so make a date for your diaries. Even better, pencil-in all four!

**CHALFONT COMMON W.I.** Annual Attic Sale is being held this year on Saturday on 14th March at the Chalfont St Peter Community Centre in Gravel Hill. To book a table at 12.50 each, please ring Chris Coteman on 01494 872133 or email at [chriscoteman@gmail.com](mailto:chriscoteman@gmail.com). This annual event has now been going since 2003 and continues to be very successful. There will be a variety of tables in the main hall and the WI will have lots of bric a brac in the members room, with cake and book stalls in the entrance hall. We are as ever serving up delicious homemade cakes and coffee all morning so do come along and have a browse anytime from 9.30 - 12noon. The entrance fee will be a bargain at 50p, children come free and of course there is plenty of free parking. We look forward to seeing you.



## **CHALFONT COMMON WI report**

After a very busy year we are now looking forward to our version of Sleeping Beauty for our Christmas pantomime at our December meeting and we will be having a Christmas lunch at a local hotel the following week.

We have had a very interesting Autumn. We had a back stage tour of Aylesbury Riverside Theatre and then some of us stayed on to see The Importance of Being Ernest. It is fascinating behind the scenes and we got to see some of the actors and costumes being prepared for the afternoon performance.

In September the Sunday Club visited the Odney Club at Cookham, which is owned by John Lewis and only open to the public once a year and in October they went to Ruislip Lido for lunch. We had a very successful lunch followed by a Beetle Drive and the next day we went to see Aspects of Love at Watersmeet theatre.

Several of us spent many hours selling poppies for the British Legion and on Remembrance Sunday took part in the parade to the church which was followed by a service after the wreath laying. We organized a trip to Worlds End garden centre where we had a talk followed by lunch leaving plenty of time to shop. We have coffee and croissants in The Greyhound every month.

It is such a busy lively group and we are always pleased to see new faces, so come along and have a chat or contact us on 01494 872133. Our meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month in the Tony Graham Room at the community centre 7.30 for 7.45.

Our book clubs, cinema visits, table tennis and walking groups are all thriving.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP & NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP**

### **REPORT TO VILLAGE APPRAISAL (20.01.2015)**

**1 THE TWO GROUPS** continue to meet bi-monthly, alternating so that NAG meets one month, Safety Group ('CSG') the next and so on. The CSG plays an increasing role in Neighbourhood Watch schemes. It must be recorded that restrictions placed by Thames valley Neighbourhood Watch on access to coordinator contact details are not helpful and are a hindrance to the task of annual monitoring. Tony King is also area coordinator and recently secured good coverage in the local newspaper

**2 NAG** is now taking delivery of its long awaited community **Speedwatch** equipment funded by Chiltern DC and the TV Police community fund. This should be in use from early February subject to weather. It is intended to carry out at least weekly exercises of 2 hours + with the speedwatch device and to involve CSP NHW schemes and Residents Associations. The local Police Team has access to the equipment but otherwise it will remain in the village

**3 Crime & Anti-social behaviour (ASB)** stats suggest the village remains a relatively safe place with a handful of burglaries/break-ins. It is thought the presence in the village of the local police team is a considerable help

**4 NAG** has recently set up an extension group to take an overall look at the serious **parking issues** in the village. It is likely the remit will be widened to take in speeding and traffic flow issues as well as it soon became obvious that the three are interlinked and that isolating 'Parking' as issue was not realistic.

The aim of this group is to look for **ways of managing parking and speeding** which do not necessarily involve spending large pots of money. Meeting with businesses, retail traders, and encouraging NHW and Resident

Assoc. scheme to get involved will be part of that. The CSG will use their experience of school parking surveys to meet with staff governors and PTA's where a school does not have an adequate scheme

**5 Another CSG member (John Long) reports on Pubwatch** which he continues to chair. Sadly a number of the licensees do not participate actively but at the same time numbers of those on the banned list have dwindled and there are now no names on the provisional banned list.

**6 CSG & NAG** are working with the Road & Transport Group whose report will appear separately.

**Tony SHINNER**

**Chairman of CSG & NAG**

**January 2015**

**MISBOURNE RIVER ACTION**

**Report to VAG Steering Group 21 January 2015**

Clearly, the river is flowing well and although the weather has been helpful, we believe our activities have helped maximise the potential. Working parties continue approximately every five weeks and, while turnouts have been down, goods progress has been quickly made each time, as we are now building on the work of previous years. The Group had a very enjoyable dinner at The Greyhound in December and other functions – newsletter, groundwater and invertebrate surveys, maintenance of website involvement in local fluvial and drainage matters – continues.

Our first outing in 2015 will be at the end of the month when we hope to be joined by Chalfont St Giles Youth Club.

**VISITOR STRATEGY GROUP**

**Report to VAG Steering Group 21 January 2015**

The main focus of the Group has continued to be the development of a re-launch of the Chalfont St Peter Visitor Guide. Slow but steady progress is being made with securing promises of money from potential advertisers to match grants already committed. Text and some artwork is being revised. Thought is also being given to development of a complementary "Visitor" section and links to the new Parish Council website and to seeking publication of articles in magazines targeting, for instance, walkers, cyclists, history buffs etc. The Group has also discussed the possibility of creating some themed events during the week of Feast Day involving coordinated displays and special offers from local businesses, societies and bodies such as churches. Little enthusiasm has been received for the Group's ideas regarding a "Visitor Centre"

**Youth Centre**

*The CSP Youth Centre continues to maintain its popularity among local young people. Attendances remain encouraging and new young people are continuing to join. We have a great group of volunteers who are showing remarkable dedication and commitment.*

*The Sports Court fence has been adjusted to prevent footballs going over into neighbours' gardens. This had caused some tension with neighbours, but the matter has been mitigated. The court is regularly used outside of youth club nights and is a popular destination for young people outside of school hours. It is hired by two local football teams and a small income is generated for the maintenance of the court.*

*We continue to partner with Chalfont St Peter Parish Council to support the development of a skatepark/integrated play area on the location of the current one. Intensive interventions continue to feature in the work. There are many vulnerable young people in our village who need one-to-one work. This is very time consuming for volunteers but the rewards are remarkable.*

*We look to an exciting year of opportunities to make a difference in the lives of many young people and their families.*

### **January 2015 – update on events for Change4Chalfont**

Most of our recent changes and developments were set out in our review at the VAG AGM in August. Developments and events since then include:

1. Change4Chalfont is hosting a talk on ground source heat pumps. This will take place on 26 January in The Space, Gold Hill Baptist Church, from 8pm. Please see the poster attached and forward to your members!
2. We are working with Chiltern District Council to obtain consent to plant nut trees in Chalfont St Peter. We have presented to the Open Spaces Committee of the Parish Council about this too.
3. We have the loan of the heat sensitive camera once more. We have it till the end of February – and would be happy to scan local houses to show householders where they are losing heat! If you or your members would be interested in having your houses scanned, please let us know.
4. We are hoping to arrange a family bike ride around Chalfont St Peter in April.

### **CSP Chamber of Commerce report for VAG Jan 2015**

Our focus in 2014 was the village 'street decorations'. The Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the provision of them and they make the village centre such an attractive place to live, work and to shop. The hanging baskets, flags, Christmas lights and tree on the common are an integral part of Chalfont St Peter and beloved by all. A couple of years ago, we took back the responsibility for them. Traditionally the cost has been met through contributions from the village centre businesses, but times change and we embarked on a fundraising programme to keep them going and then extend and improve them.

We've been very successful, raising close to £10,000 by the year end, via grants, donations and fund raising events – including grants from CDC, CSP Parish and VAG for which we were very grateful. As a result, as I hope you will have noticed, Christmas lights appeared in St. Peter's Court last year, the first time in many years that the precinct had been part of the decorations. In 2015 baskets and flags will also appear there. We were also able to purchase new lights for the tree on the common.

The money was not all spent and our plan now is to update and modernise the lights along Market Place, and replace worn flags. Businesses and individuals can donate by sending a cheque to our registered office at York House, 18 Church Lane, Chalfont St Peter, SL9 9RE or by making a payment to the Street Decoration Fund at NatWest Bank, CSP branch, 65 St Peter's Court, SL9 9RH, sort code: 60 05 50 account no. 66711657. We're raffle prizes for our events too.

### **Keep it Local**

We're actively involved in bringing together the business community and their customers via [www.keepitlocalcsp.co.uk](http://www.keepitlocalcsp.co.uk) which is a 'Yellow Pages' just for Chalfont St Peter. Any business can be listed without charge, but Chamber members get an enhanced profile. Please let people know this resource exists – and help drive more business into our village. Members also get a free advertisement placed on the noticeboard outside HSBC. We'll even create the artwork for them.

**Andrew Welch**

**Chamber President**

**Library**

## Report to VAG Meeting, 21 January 2015

Two projects have been completed since the last meeting. Garden seats have been placed in the front area and were well used by our customers during the summer and autumn months. We are grateful to Councillor David Martin for arranging funding from the BCC Leaders Fund for this project which was matched by funding and resources from the volunteers of the Community Library.

The second project completed is the replacement of the carpets in the public areas of the Library. This was completed over the weekend of 10/11 January by the local firm First FloorCarpets and we are very grateful to the company for the support they have given to our Community Library for this project. The major part of the funding was provided by a grant of £3000 from the Buckinghamshire Community Foundation and we are grateful to this organisation for their support.

Rather than send the old carpeting to landfill we are delighted that we have been able to donate this to the Chalfont St Peter Parish Council which will use the carpets to cover non-used allotments to prevent weed growth.

Our next project is to introduce a season of film shows in the Community Library for the coming Spring. Planning on this by our volunteers is underway and further details will be shared as they become available. The various other activities of the Community Library continue to thrive and feedback from volunteers and customers indicates that the Community Library plays a vital role in the life of the village.

**Steve Poole**

**Chairman, The Chalfont St Peter Community Library.**

**January 2015**

### **VOPAG REPORT for MEETING WED JAN 21.**

THE Autumn and Winter period has seen VOPAG hold monthly meetings as in our new printed programme; we managed to get our 2015 programme out by November which has enabled us to generate more interest in our activities. This is the first time we have published a 6 month forward programme and the innovation has been welcomed ; all print work is done locally. Our Christmas meeting was very successful. Cllr. Isobel Darby came along and supported us all .We were yet again entertained by the Children from the Academy. A truly wonderful local asset. All our Members believe that the denial of the Grange site to the Academy by housing development is a great shame. Our monthly lunches at the Village Hall are still very popular with a regular attendance 25-30 each month.

Our **2015** programme was published shortly before Christmas; this reflects greater emphasis on excursions which are proving popular. An important impact will hopefully be our policy of **only accepting bookings at our meetings**. We hope this will increase our attendance levels.

Our priorities are unchanged reflecting our members concerns about both transport and the local NHS. Sadly there has been no progress on either front; the bus service issue to HW Hospital still remains ; despite surveys by Healthwatch on hospital transport we have heard nothing; Concern about our local NHS service remains. A recent study of primary care at 2 Surgeries in the Village revealed that some **12000** patients are registered at the Misbourne surgery and **18100** at the two Calcot centre practices. Whilst satisfaction levels are high the facilities and space provided is poor. We believe the Hospital should play a greater role in primary Healthcare for **all** these 30000 patients..

Financially we are well funded at the moment ; however we face running costs of **approximately £1700 p.a** and will be seeking further assistance in due course.

The group is run by a small Committee of 5. Our AGM [ Very brief..is held at the April meeting.]

Our website is still sadly under-utilised ...we are at VOPAG on Google...first page !

Membership of the Bucks 50 = Forum continues and we will work towards extending our Links with the other Bucks OPAGs in the year ahead.

**M.McDonald - CHAIR**